

The News - Journal

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Around Town

By SAM MORRIS

The Hoke High Booster Club met Monday and formulated plans for a night of basketball "fun" according to a report from Charlie Hottel, Booster president. The event is scheduled for Friday night, March 19. Hottel asks that everyone mark the calendar now because this is rated "GP" for all ages. We don't know the complete details of this night, but Hottel said that full details will be forthcoming.

Dick Neeley, squire of Puppy Creek, was by the office last week and brought me a "hello" from the Rev. W.B. Heyward of Dunedin, Fla. Of course we know that Bill Heyward would send us a "hello", but it is hard to realize that Neeley would take time to come by and deliver the message. Anyway while he was here we questioned him about his trip.

He was out of the county for ten days and his first stop was in Atlanta where he saw President Nixon and his wife who were attending the funeral of Senator Richard Russell. Dick and his wife then went by Dunedin to see the Heywards and after a visit with them went on down the coast of Florida until they arrived at Key West.

On the return trip they stopped by Cape Kennedy and watched the launching of Apollo 14. Dick didn't go into much detail about the moon shot because he was in a hurry to get back to work. Anyway he and his wife had a wonderful time on their trip.

We heard that Eli Shankle commented about Neeley's trip to Florida. Eli said that Neeley should have gone by plane instead of by car. When asked why? he said: "The Cubans could have hijacked the plane with Neeley on it and when the people in Cuba saw what was on the plane that would have ended hijacking forever."

Now we always thought Neeley and Shankle were friends.

Bernard Bray, auto dealer and Wall Street tycoon, was asking about the picture of Lonnie Bledsoe and the caption as "Boss of the Year." Bray said that Lonnie would have to get the award in Pembroke because the judges there didn't know his wife. Now what Bray meant by this remark we don't know, but he did say that the only time Lonnie could leave home by himself was to go to "Prayer Meeting."

Now these are Brays remarks. We would like to say "Congratulations to Lonnie Bledsoe."

Bill Andrews was by the office this week and was telling me that he had received a letter from someone in New Jersey telling him that his brother, William Staley Andrews, had died in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. We know that some of the people in Hoke County that are older than myself will remember Staley. We can remember hearing his father talk of Staley, but we can't remember ever seeing him. Bill said that Staley used to drive a taxi here before he left the county in 1916. Bill stated that the last time he saw his brother was in 1933. He hadn't heard from him since that time.

He said that the informers were going to send him a copy of the death certificate and that he would let us know when it arrived. We will pass along the information when we receive it.

Mrs. Martin Webb, advertising saleswoman, told us last week that Neil Senter had sent some news to us. We can't get up with Senter to get the full details but hope to before next week's paper. The message was that Senter had relieved Hugh Lowe at his job or was assisting Hugh with his work. Also that Crawford Thomas, Jr. had accepted a position and was now working.

We hope to have full facts about these two Big news items next week.



Betty Wishart

Piano Concert At Civic Center On February 18

Betty Wishart, daughter of a former Raeford resident, will be presented in a piano concert Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center.

The program is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the Chaminade Music Club.

Miss Wishart is performing in a series of seven concerts throughout the state this spring prior to receiving her Masters degree in piano performance from the University of North Carolina. She is a member of the piano staff at UNC as a graduate assistant.

Miss Wishart is the daughter of Hallie Freeman Wishart, formerly of Raeford and the late Gen. Eli Wishart of Lumberton. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. W.E. Freeman of Raeford.

She received a Bachelor of Music in piano performance at Queens College in Charlotte in 1969. Miss Wishart has presented original compositions at several performances throughout the Southeast. She will appear this spring in concerts at Raeford, Queens College, Brevard College, Lumberton, Rockingham, Columbia, S.C. and the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va. before she is presented in her formal recital for her degree at UNC.

The concert will begin during the Kiwanis hour. The public is invited to come to the Civic Center at 7 p.m. There will be an intermission at 7:30 to allow Kiwanians who have other appointments to leave. The Kiwanis meeting ends at 7:30.

Road Projects Approved For Hoke County

One new secondary road project for Hoke County was approved this month by the State Highway Commission and bids were called for on resurfacing 21 miles of primary and secondary roads in Hoke and Scotland counties.

The Commission has asked for bids on 30 projects containing 665 miles in 27 counties. The 21 miles approved for Hoke and Scotland counties will include resurfacing two sections of primary roads and 14 sections of secondary roads on U.S. 401 and NC 79.

An allocation of \$11,700 for one secondary road construction project was approved at the February meeting of the State Highway Commissioners in Raleigh. This will include grading and draining about four miles of roads on SR 1140, 1442, 1454 and 1127.

Other funds approved at the meeting were Wake County, \$50,000; Warren County, \$7,000; Cumberland County \$27,000; Moore County, \$19,000; Randolph County, \$8,000; Davidson County, \$28,000 and Stokes County, \$25,000.

Postmaster Charlie Morrison said today proposed new postal rates increases will place the nation's postal system on a sound financial basis and shift more of the costs from taxpayers generally to those who use the mails the most. He explained that recent Postal Service proposals submitted Feb. 1 to the Postal Rate Commission would yield additional revenue of \$1.45 billion during fiscal year 1972, starting July 1.

The proposals call for increases in virtually all mail categories except parcel post.

If the Rate Commission does not present to the Governors of the Postal Service a recommended decision of rate changes within 90 days, it is anticipated that a temporary rate increase will be put into effect by the Postal Service, the Postmaster said.

Financial Troubles May Stop Summer Recreation Program

The summer recreation program may be cancelled this year unless funds to operate it are soon found.

W.K. Morgan, director of the program for the past several years, said this week that financing will have to be assured by the end of April if the program is to operate this year.

The recreation program, which provides activities for about a thousand persons a year, has been financed by the United Fund. This year, fund officials asked the city and county governments to assume financial responsibility for the program, as the United Fund anticipated difficulties in meeting its goal.

A supplement of \$1,000 was included in the Fund budget to help carry the program until the local governments could take over at the beginning of the fiscal year in July. The United Fund failed by \$700 to meet its goal.

So far, the city council has approved \$1,500 for the program on the condition that "funds sufficient to provide an adequate program are secured from other sources."

County commissioners promised that part of the return from the one cent sales tax would be spent on recreation if the tax was approved in a special election set for Feb. 9. However, the sales tax election was cancelled when the State Supreme Court ruled the local option tax unconstitutional and county officials are left with several projects dependent upon the tax revenue now stranded.

"I don't know what to say about the recreation," county manager T.B. Lester commented. "Nobody really knows what to do until the legislature does something to get the counties some revenue."

The recreation program will be set for discussion on the agenda of the commissioner's meeting in March, Lester said. However, he said it was doubtful that anything definite would be decided until the meetings on next year's budget are held in April and May.

Kenneth Free, recreation consultant for the State Department of Local Affairs, has held several meetings with city officials to discuss establishing a recreation commission here.

According to a Local Affairs spokesman, state tax funds are returned to counties for recreation if the county qualifies under the states master recreation plan. Other state and federal funds are also available through a variety of departments such as Housing and Urban Development, land and water conservation, natural resources.

Cities and counties may set aside tax revenues for recreation the spokesman said. North Carolina law states that "the creation, establishment and operation of a recreation system is a governmental function and a necessary expense we defined by Article VII, Section seven of the Constitution of North Carolina." In addition, a recreation enabling law empowers local governments to call for a special tax election for recreation.

John Gaddy, city manager, who helped get a \$225,000 recreation project to develop 17 acres of land in Bessemer City, this week discussed the recreation program here.

Probably the first thing to do is to appoint a recreation commission, something on the order of the new housing authority. But before we do that, we have to get back to the basic question, who is going to run it? The city? The county? A joint commission?

"I don't see much point in the city having a program by itself," he said. The Local Affairs department recommends two or more governments participate in establishing a recreation district, he said. Suggested recreation by-laws and a model ordinance or resolution to create a recreation commission have already been provided by the state and are available at Gaddy's office.

John K. McNeill, mayor of Raeford, suggested that while the city might possibly be able to provide a program for city residents, many of the persons who participate in the present recreation in the program is about 50 per cent city residents and 50 per cent county.

"They come from all sections of the county," he said. "And I'd say it was 50-50 participation from city and county."

Besides those on teams, the summer program, especially the adult softball league, draws many thousand spectators, Morgan said.

About 75 to 100 boys are involved in the Pee-Wee Baseball league for 7 to 9-year-olds. There are six Little League teams and one Junior Tar Heel League team. A Senior Tar Heel team was not fielded last year for lack of interest but Morgan said he will attempt one this year if players want it.

Eight adult teams play in the Slow Pitch Softball League. Last year several tournaments were also played at Raeford.

In addition to the organized sports, there is a summer basketball program at Upchurch gymnasium and organized play at Raeford Elementary School.

Paid workers in the program include Morgan, Howard Barkley, assistant recreation director; two PACE students and four or five Neighborhood Youth Corps workers. Volunteers act as coaches and managers.

Last year the program cost \$13,765.67, Morgan said. Funds included approximately \$4,800 from the United Fund, \$9,000 from Advancement, Inc. and \$2,164.44 made at the concession stand. Money from the concession is used to pay officials and concession workers. About \$40 a day must be earned to meet expenses, Morgan said.

Included in the budget last year was \$722.81 for maintenance. New lighting for Armory Park was financed from this. Two new ball parks were also built last year.

Salaries amounted to \$2708.44 and equipment totaled \$1420.42. Insurance and taxes amounted to \$197.56.

This year new equipment, such as replacement of the 12 year old trampoline at Raeford Elementary, is needed and one more ball park is planned, Morgan said. He said he also would like to resume the popular ten dances if a place can be found to have them. Other plans for the program include an adult basketball league in the winter, a 16-inch softball league and a ladies league.

"There's a lot we could do here," he said. "We could have a really good program if we just had the money. Every year, it's been the same. I couldn't make plans until I go before the United Fund officials, then-I didn't know how much money I'll have and now I can't even get started planning."

Much of Morgan's work is done in the early spring, after the end of basketball season at Upchurch. He had planned to start construction on a new ball park soon. The Slow Pitch Softball League begins in early May, he said, and planning gets underway in April.

"If I don't know something by the end of April," he said, "I don't know what we'll do. A recreation program doesn't just start up without any work."

Churchmen Meet Tues

The annual joint meeting of the Men of the Church from Raeford Presbyterian, Raeford United Methodist and First Baptist Churches will be held next Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Raeford Presbyterian Church.

The program, sponsored by the First Baptist Church, will include the Senior High Choir.

Mayor Appoints Joe Upchurch

T. Joe Upchurch was appointed chairman of the Raeford-Hoke Housing Authority last week by Mayor John K. McNeill.

Other members appointed to the authority are Ken W. McNeill, for one year; Henry Dial for two years; W.T. McAllister for three years and Bobby Carter for four years. Upchurch was appointed to a five year term.

Terms will be five years each after the first appointment.

The members will be sworn in on Feb. 23, McNeill said. Then they can apply to the Secretary of State for a housing authority charter.

When this is received, McNeill said, the authority will be able to apply to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for a survey to determine the number of low-income housing units needed in the county.

Four Arrested For Break-Ins

Four arrests in two separate break-ins were reported this week by the sheriff's department.

Three men have been charged in connection with a break-in and theft at Robert Park's grocery store near McCain last Thursday night.

They are Charles McRae, James B. Harris and Johnny Lee Harris, all of Rt. 3, Raeford.

Deputy Sheriff Robert Locklear discovered a window at the grocery store broken during the break-in.

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Churchmen Newton Resigns; Lewis Is New Battalion Commander

LTC Edwin D. Newton resigned his commission Jan. 31 after more than thirty years of Army and National Guard service.

He succeeded as commander of the Second Battalion, 252d Armor by Maj. Charles E. Lewis, Jr. of Raleigh.

LTC Newton commanded the battalion since December 1968. He enlisted in Co. L, 120th Infantry in Parkton in January 1936. In May of 1938 he joined Battery F, 252d Coast Artillery in Raeford and went into active duty with the battery in September 1940. He served overseas in



LTC Newton

Teachers Play Ball

The faculties of Hoke High and Upchurch will battle it out on the basketball court in a game to benefit the athletic fund at Upchurch.

Game time is Tuesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Upchurch gym. Admission is 50 cents for students and \$1 for adults.

City Sells Water Notes

North Carolina National Bank has purchased 120 day water notes totaling \$50,000 from the City of Raeford.

The notes, purchased on the first bid, were bought at five per cent interest.

the West Indies and in Europe as a first sergeant of combat engineers. He was separated in June, 1945 with four campaign stars and five overseas bars.

LTC Newton rejoined the National Guard in May, 1948 as a second lieutenant in the unit here, which was then Battery A, 130th Anti-Aircraft Battalion. He became commander of this unit in 1950 and later commanded it as a tank company. He was promoted to major in 1962 and served as executive officer. LTC Newton attended the Armor School at Ft. Knox, Ky. and is a graduate of the Armor Officer Advanced Course by extension.

LTC Newton is a resident of Seventy-First Township in Cumberland County and owns a trailer sales there. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Raeford.

Maj. Lewis is the first commander not to serve in the old Battery F that left from Raeford for overseas duty at the start of World War II. The previous battalion commanders from Battery F are Younger Sneed, William Lamont, T.B. Lester, Paul Dickson and Newton.

The new commander is not a stranger to the battalion; having served some years ago as commander of the tank company in Rockingham when it was part of the unit. At that time, Maj. Lewis was a farm extension agent in Richmond County and upon his return to North Carolina State University for more study, he joined Headquarters 30th Infantry Division where he has recently served as Headquarters Commandant.

He is now a member of the faculty at N.C. State.

The second battalion has headquarters here and units in Red Springs, Lumberton, Laurinburg, Sanford and Southern Pines.

GOP To Meet At Courthouse

Hoke County Republicans will meet Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the county courthouse, Mrs. Edith Nixon, county Republican chairman announced.

John Thompson, 7th Congressional District chairman from Whiteville, will speak at the meeting, which has been called to organize the GOP party in the county.

Precinct meetings will be held beginning at 7:30 and the county convention will be held immediately after them at the courthouse.

Fire Destroys Virgil Home

Fire that started underneath the house in the heating system swept up between the walls and destroyed a five-room frame house on Rockfish Road Feb. 4.

Five members of the Carl Virgil family escaped with just the clothing they were wearing.

Freezing rain and ice hampered firemen from Hillcrest, Puppy Creek and Rockfish fire departments as they fought the blaze. Ice on the roof of the home repelled water from fire hoses, Hillcrest chief Ed McNeill said. The fire, which began about 2:30 a.m., burned for about two hours.

Two persons have died in home fires in the county and five homes have been destroyed since Christmas. Several more homes have been damaged by fires during that period.

New Proposed Postal Rates Are Announced

been sought by the Post Office Department under both the current and previous administrations, but no action was taken. In addition the long-standing Postal Service proposal for a 2-cent boost for letters from 6 to 8 cents, advertising mail (regular bulk rate third-class) would be increased to a minimum of 5 cents per piece, plus additional increases for heavier weights.

Substantial increases also are proposed for magazines, newspapers and other categories of second-class mail Mr. Morrison said. These rather steep increases will be phased in over five years to soften the impact on the mailers.

Other highlights of the proposal: Airmail rates would go up a penny, from 10 to 11 cents, and airmail cards, from 8 to 9 cents each. If temporary rates are placed into

effect, post cards will go from 5 to 6 cents although the proposal provides for a full increase to 7 cents each.

Concerning "Priority Mail" - packages weighing more than 12 ounces and receiving first-class treatment - higher rates are proposed only for parcels weighing less than 5 pounds. For a 5-pound priority mail package sent across the U.S., the rates would remain \$4.08, under the proposal. However, for a 1-pound package, an increase of from 80 cents to \$1 is proposed.

Regular second-class publications - those mailed for delivery outside the publisher's county, excluding certain categories - will be raised 1.9 cents per piece plus higher advertising rates ranging from 9.1 to 20.9 cents per pound. Non-advertising will be at a new rate of 7.2 cents per pound.

Controlled circulation publications -- usually periodicals without subscription fees mailed to specific audiences or markets - face an increase in only their minimum per piece rate to 5 cents from the existing 3.8 cents postage fee. The pound rate remains the same.

In third-class, the rates for single pieces - often a circular or small parcel - would raise to 8 cents for the first 2 ounces and the fee for each additional ounce would be raised from 2 to 4 cents under the permanent-rate proposal.

Mailers holding bulk third-class permits would find their rates per pound raised from 16 and 22, to 22 and 28 cents per pound, respectively, when the proposal is fully effected, and the minimum per-piece charge would be raised to 5 cents.

Special delivery and registered mail fees would both be increased. The minimum fee for a special delivery letter would rise from 45 to 60 cents, while the

rate for registered mail valued up to \$100 would increase from 80 to 95 cents under the proposal. There would be proportionate hikes in the fees for shipments registered at higher values.

When the proposed domestic changes go into effect, similar increases in letter mail rates to Canada and Mexico are planned.

The total yield under the proposal, when fully effective, is estimated at \$2,125.8 million, including all the rates to be phased over a period of years.

In the first year \$670 million of the \$2,125.8 million would be provided from appropriations by Congress under the Postal Reorganization Act.