

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

As I write this column Tuesday morning the sun is shining and it looks as if the weather will be good for a few days. I don't know how much rain fell over the weekend but as reported in this column last week we had 6.4 inches in the first 20 days.

I noticed in the Raleigh paper this morning that over seven inches had fallen in Wake County already this month.

If Bill Bailey comes by before the paper goes to press, I will give you his figures at the end of this column.

An advertisement appearing in this week's paper is signed by concerned Hoke County businesses and citizens urging everyone to vote in the runoff primary next Tuesday, June 4. They are not asking any voter to vote for any certain candidate, just go to the polls and perform your duty as an American citizen.

Maybe the reason we don't go to the polls and vote is because that we have always during our time had the right to exercise this privilege. Many people in the world don't have the right to choose the elected officials and in other countries only one name is on the ballot for the position to be filled.

As I stated last week, if my health is still the same I will cast my ballot before writing this column. Join me and do the same. It's your duty.

Once again The News-Journal has the Graduation Section in this weeks issue. The numerous congratulation ads just goes to show that the business people of this county stand behind the schools. There are almost 300 in the 1974 graduating class and this is a few more than the 48 that I finished with in the Class of 1935.

The commencement exercises have been changed this year and it will come about on Sunday, June 2 at 4:00 p.m. in the Hoke High Stadium. The Senior Class will have a luncheon at one o'clock in the Gibson gym before the exercises in the stadium.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally congratulate all members of the Class of 1974. I know I will come in contact with some of you in the years ahead and I wish for you many years of success.

I haven't been out to Armory Park this year to see any of the softball games but from talking with some of the folks that have and with players it seems that all teams are well balanced and on any given night could beat another. This is well and good. I just hope that the players will remember that this is a recreation program and not "play for pay."

Anyway with school getting out the recreation program will soon be getting into full swing and this is a good thing for the young and old of Hoke County.

While writing this column Bill Bailey called and was telling me about the record set in Wake County for May rainfall of something over seven inches. He seemed to think that a record was also set in Raeford with rainfall 9.2 inches so far in May.

He had records for 1973 when 3.2 inches fell in May, in May 1969 rainfall for May was 2.6 inches and in May 1970 it was 2 inches.

So from these figures it would seem that May is supposed to be a dry month. If anyone has any corrections bring them forward.

Also Bill stated that in April, 1969 that 5.2 inches of rain fell and that in June of that year 10 inches fell. Also in 1970 in March rainfall was 4.1 inches and in June of that year 4 inches fell.

Maybe Dick Neeley is right. Bill Bailey has the records for rainfall in Raeford.

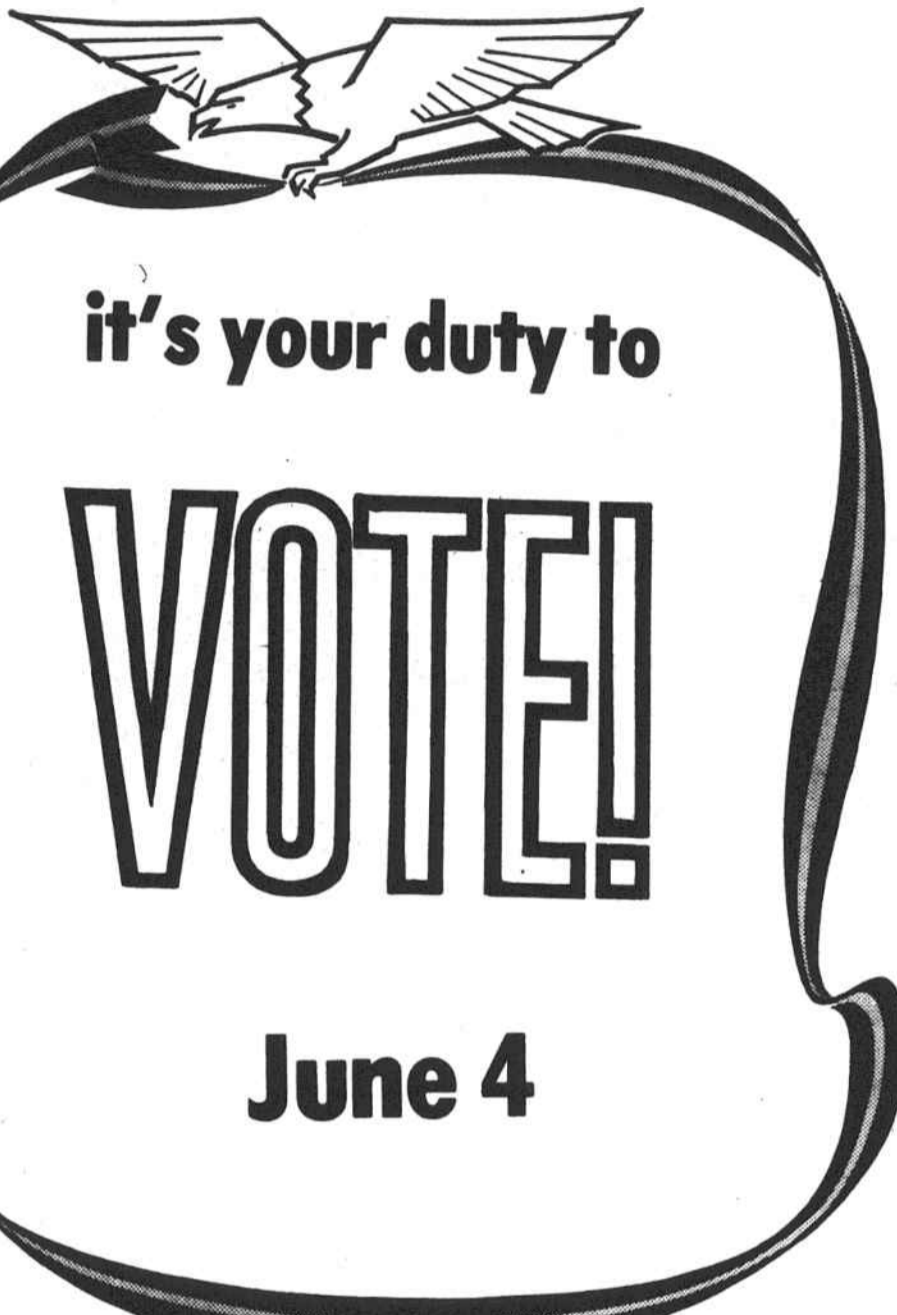
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Senior Citizen Meeting Slated

The Raeford Senior Citizens Friendship Club meets at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Raeford United Methodist Church.

Members may take old postcards or group pictures showing Raeford Citizens and hobby collections such as dolls or stamps, for a show-and-tell program. Old newspapers will be collected for the newspaper drive.

Voters Have Second Chance



Moved Voters Should Contact Elections Office

"Any resident who has moved since registering to vote in Hoke County and who has not notified elections office of address change should do so immediately in order to be able to vote in the proper precinct in Tuesday's Democratic primary election, says Rose Sturgeon, elections board executive secretary.

Mrs. Sturgeon also reports any one who feels he may not be listed in the proper precinct should contact the elections office, 107 W. Elwood Ave. The phone number is 875-4526. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Turkey Farms And SCC Present Unique Program

Raeford Turkey Farms Inc. and Sandhills Community College (SCC) joined forces to present a unique program for employees of the turkey processing firm.

Adult basic education (ABE) courses are offered to Turkey Farm employees at the plant during hours convenient to the workers. Approximately 35 people have taken advantage of the program.

Instructors are furnished by (SCC). The turkey processing plant furnished classroom space and pays a \$2 materials fee for each student who participates.

"Since very few of our employees were involved in other adult basic education classes we wanted to try to reach them at work...to make it easy as possible for them," reports Larry Phillips, Turkey Farms personnel manager.

Tax Rate Drops By 23 Percent

City fathers met in special session Tuesday and voted to lower the city tax rate to 55 cents per \$100 of 100 percent assessed value for the 1974-75 fiscal year. The tax rate drop means taxes on \$10,000 valuation will be \$55 this year instead of the \$71.50 paid in 1973-74. Current taxes are based on \$1.10 per \$100 on 65 percent of assessed value.

The 23 percent tax rate drop was made possible by transferring approximately \$58,000 from a capital revenue project fund balance carryover from this fiscal year. The remaining approximately \$150,000 in capital revenue project funds will be placed in two reserve accounts, one to help pay

for the city's planned water-sewer expansion program, and one for general fund.

City fathers also okayed the payment of \$46,666 to Burlington Industries and \$85,000 to Crowell Construction, Lumberton. The payment to Burlington will pay off a water facility expansion project the industry enabled the city to undertake by pre-paying for city water.

The payment to Crowell Construction is for planned curbing and guttering work on city streets. Funds to make the two payments were available because of what City Manager John Gaddy describes as "unanticipated revenue received from state and federal grants."

The council also made changes in the city's proposed budget for the 1974-75 fiscal year. The city's donation to the Hoke County Rescue Squad was placed at \$3,000, up \$1,000.

City fathers did away with the \$4,000 general fund appropriation to the Hoke County Library and recommended \$20,000 in revenue sharing money be allocated to the library; \$5,000 to be spent as the library board decides, and \$15,000 to be earmarked for the library building fund.

Other Revenue Sharing Funds, totaling approximately \$231,089 allocated in the proposed budget included \$6,000 for fire truck

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Rose's Mobile Office Visits Here Friday

Congressman Charlie Rose's mobile district office will be in Raeford from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. The office, staffed by Rose's administrative assistant Rip Collins, will be parked near the post office.

Hoke County Democrats have a second chance in Tuesday's runoff election to cast ballots for county commissioner and district judgeship candidates. The second primary will also give local Democrats a chance to improve their poor voter turnout record chalked up in the May 7 primary. In that first primary only about one-third of Hoke County's registered voters cast ballots. The 13 polling places open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Allendale residents vote at Allendale Community House, Antioch at Antioch Community House; Buchan, Odams Store; Blue Springs, South Hoke School; McCain, Shiloh Community House; Puppy Creek, Wayside Community House; Rockfish, Rockfish Community House, Stonewall, Stonewall Community House; Raeford 1, Hoke County Courthouse; Raeford 2, County Office Building (across from U.S. Post Office); Raeford 3, Hillcrest Fire Station; Raeford 4, Hoke Civic Center; and Raeford 5, Upchurch Junior High School.

Paper Changes Copy Deadlines

THE NEWS JOURNAL set new deadlines this week. Writeups to be published before an event occurs must be received by the paper by noon Thursday in order to appear in the next week's edition. Included are information or writeups announcing meetings, church activities, civic organization functions, recitals and school activities.

Shooting Victim On Critical List

A Raeford man was reported in critical condition Wednesday at Cape Fear Valley Hospital after suffering a bullet wound in the head during a shooting incident at the Raeford Hotel Monday.

The victim, identified as Ronnie D. Tatum, 19, general delivery Raeford, allegedly shot himself in the mouth and chin with a .22 caliber rifle while visiting a friend's room at the hotel, police say. He reportedly underwent surgery Monday afternoon. Raeford police took testimony from three witnesses following the incident.

Hoke Changes Budget Funds

At a special budget meeting Tuesday evening county commissioners made a few changes in the proposed budget.

Commissioners decided to raise county attorney's salary from \$600 to \$1,200 on condition the attorney attend all county commissioners meetings.

In other changes commissioners voted to include increases for two clerks at the extension service in order to match part of state portion of salary and to keep salaries in line with comparable jobs in the state. These increases now included in the proposed budget total \$707.

Commissioners reduced funds in proposed budget allotted for election officials salaries from \$9,000 annually to \$5,000.

Death Probe Underway

The State Bureau of Investigation and the Richmond County Sheriff's Department are continuing an investigation into the May 18 stabbing death of a Hoke County man, reported Chief Deputy Sheriff Earl Dunn of

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BIKE REGISTRATION - Bicycle owners in the Rockfish Community area of Hoke County may bring their bicycles to the Rockfish Community Building between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday for inspection and registration. According to Mrs. Bill Moses, center, chairman of the Bicycle Safety Committee, approximately 50 bicycles were registered at Upchurch School Tuesday. The program is sponsored by the Raeford Woman's Club Education Department, the 4-H, and the Raeford Police Department. Mrs. Moses urged all children, youth and adult bike owners in the Rockfish Community to "pass the word" on Saturday's free registration effort.

The commissioners race finds four people vying for two spaces on the November ballot. The runoff was called by two incumbents after they placed fourth and fifth in the battle for three seats in the May 7 primary.

Incumbent commissioners on Tuesday's ballot are John G. Balfour and Ralph W. Barnhart. They face Mrs. Kermit (Mabel) Riley and Dannie Deloris McCollum.

In the first primary James Albert Hunt swept the field of ten candidates with 1,422 votes which assured him a spot on the November ballot.

Mrs. Riley placed second with 785, McCollum third with 713, Balfour fourth with 710 and Barnhart fifth with 620.

Since neither Mrs. Riley nor McCollum drew more than the 1,028 votes needed for a majority, Balfour and Barnhart, the next two highest vote getters, held the right to call for a runoff.

In the district court race Mrs. Sylvia X. Allen, called for the runoff after official tallies indicated front runner Charles Lee Guy did not draw a majority vote among the four candidates vying for the judgeship nomination. Mrs. Allen polled 8,100 votes in the 12th judicial district (Hoke-Cumberland) and Guy received 8,762. Hoke County voters gave Mrs. Allen 862 to Guy's 700.

In response to the call for the second primary Mrs. Riley said, "I'm still in there campaigning. If the people of Hoke County still want me, I am available and willing to serve."

This is her second start for a position on the county's governing body. With two seats open in the 1972 primary she polled third highest votes in a field of seven candidates.

Mrs. Riley is running on a platform supporting additional assistance to rural fire departments and law enforcement agencies. She stresses the need for "closer communication and cooperation between citizens and local government."

The Hoke High School graduate and auto mechanic says, "I want no discrimination based on sex or race in hiring and pay policies for county employees." She won the endorsement of the Hoke County Firemen's Association in the May primary.

McCollum said, "If I were in their (incumbent's) position with such a close vote I would also have called for a runoff election."

The Hoke County native is employed by Proctor Silex in Southern Pines. He said he decided to run in an effort to "pep up" the office after he had approached the commissioners on speed zone and road condition problems with no visible results.

McCollum also voiced a desire to give relief to rural fire departments. He is West Hoke Fire District chairman, and has served on a social services committee.

In calling for the runoff, Balfour who was originally appointed to fill an unexpired term and is seeking his third 4-year term said, "Because of my genuine concern for Hoke County and

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