

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The warm weather for the past two weeks has been setting records for this time of year. New York City had the highest reading Saturday of 66 degrees breaking a record that was established in 1903. Many other places reported the same over the United States.

The golf course, tennis courts and any other place for outdoor activities were jammed over the weekend and reports are that this warm weather will continue for this week.

It will be hard to take cold weather again, but if my memory serves me right, March brings forth more snow and sleet than any other month in this county. So don't pack up the winter togs yet, cold weather hasn't left us completely.

The program at the Kiwanis Club meeting last Thursday was given by the Vocational Dept. of Hoke County with Harold Gillis in charge. The teachers of this subject from Upchurch Junior High School gave a very informative program concerning their work with the students at the school.

This work does not go into the skillful operation of machines or tools but acquaints the students with the things so that they will be prepared to take the full course when they enter Hoke High.

This is one course that seems to me that is well worth the time and money that it takes to carry it out. We still must have reading, writing and arithmetic, but in this day and time we also need to know some trade or skill to get along.

Don't forget that World Day of Prayer observance is Friday, March 5. Go by the Raeford Presbyterian Church any time during the day and use it for this day. Literature will be available and the sanctuary is available for your use.

The annual Booster Club Golf tournament will be held at the Arabia Golf course next Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14. If you like to play tournament golf and will be in town for that weekend get in touch with Ashwell Harward or Raz Autry and make a date to play.

Don't forget the County Democratic convention to be held at the courthouse Saturday, March 6, at one o'clock. This is the second step on the nomination for president of the United States on the Democratic ticket.

Be sure to attend! More details elsewhere in the paper.

For all the basketball fans in this area don't forget that the ACC tournament is on for the weekend. The semi-finals and finals, Friday and Saturday night, will be on television. The tournament is being played in Maryland this year and it is the first time it hasn't been played in North Carolina.

One reason this is being mentioned in this column is to prepare wives who don't like basketball to either take a trip home to visit relatives or go out and purchase another television set, of course to the wives who like basketball, just forget that the above was written.

If Carolina loses the tournament would you people that have been sending sympathy cards and flowers to Hoke Drug, when this has happened before, please save your money because Mike and Walter have stopped taking the game or the Tar Heels serious.

Gets 'Yes'

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners officially endorsed the industrial revenue bonus, constitutional amendment number two, and urged passage of the issue which is on the March 23 ballot.

The unanimous vote of the commissioners came on a motion from John Balfour during their Monday meeting, who declared it would bring in a broader tax base from increased industry and would not cost taxpayers anything.

150 Jobs To Open Up

Burlington Invests \$5 Million



BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSS BUDGET - Hoke County School Superintendent G. Raz Autry goes over the proposed budget for the 1976-77 school year with members of the Hoke County Board of Education at their regular meeting Monday night. Pictured are: (left to right) Wilton Wood, Asst. Supt. J.D. McAllister, asst. Supt. Ernest Sutton, Autry, Robert L. Gibson, and Dr. Riley Jordan.

Burlington Industries' Raeford menswear plant announced Monday a five million dollar new equipment installation which will create another 150 jobs locally within the next 60 days.

"The future looks the best it has in three years," Jack Bradford, plant manager, told a group of about 12 dignitaries invited to the luncheon announcement.

Bradford said the new investment will be primarily for shuttleless weaving equipment. Some units are already being installed and all will be in operation by summer, he said.

The added employment will be in both wage and salaried ranks, and combined with the 450 workers employed at the Raeford Dyeing Plant, will bring Burlington's total local employment to nearly 1,700.

Menswear division is a major manufacturer of both woven and knitted fabrics for the apparel market, with headquarters in Clarksville, Va.

"The new equipment is the very latest on the market, it's fast, it's quiet, it's versatile and especially suited to our production," Bradford said.

"We're already interviewing for job slots, and we'll be in training as equipment moves in. By mid-summer we should have these units in full production," he said.

Board Of Education Approves Possible Record Budget

The Hoke County Board of Education approved a tentative budget for the 1976-77 school year at their regular meeting Monday night.

If approved by the Hoke County Commissioners next month, the budget, totaling \$1,976,804.43 excluding a total for the school debt service, may be a record amount. School Supt. G. Raz Autry said the current expense fund is budgeted at \$1,799,304.43 and the capital outlay fund was set at \$177,500.

He said these figures, made up of local, state, and federal funds, will be added to the debt service budget, which can not yet be compiled.

Autry made it clear that this was not the final budget, but only that the board of education had approved it to be brought before the Hoke County Commissioners.

The total for the current year budget is \$2,108,929.30 which includes the debt service fund of \$105,712.

Autry said he hopes to approach the county commissioners on a "one-to-one" basis before he met with the full group because he felt he could explain the budget better individually.

In other business, the board approved the hiring of June Dolan, Arteria Osling, Sandra White and Jesse Bratcher for lunchroom positions in various schools.

A standard nutrition policy of the state was also approved by the board.

The final action of the board was to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting was reopened after about ten minutes and was then adjourned.

In other business, two members of the SAE Club of Hoke High School attended the meeting along with their advisor in order to observe the procedure of a board of education meeting.

Autry and board members explained the procedure of the

meeting and how the board is structured.

"We are a very congenial board, more or less non-partisan," said D.R. Huff, board chairman.

"Politics don't enter into it at all," he added.

Action Urged On City Blight

The city council agreed to nudge owners of dilapidated buildings and make a renewed appeal to the A&R Railroad to clean up property in the downtown area after a womens group and the local Bicentennial commission declared action should be taken to clean up eyesores on the eve of the Bicentennial observance.

The appeal to clean up the downtown area came during the council's three hour Monday night meeting from Iris Davis, co-chairman of the Bicentennial commission, and Eloise Carter, head of the Raeford Womens Club steering committee for Bicentennial Week in April.

"The unsightliness is very apparent to newcomers," Mrs. Davis told the council. She listed the area around the A&R depot on Main St. and Central Ave., and a dilapidated house owned by Neil McDonald on Central Ave. as particularly unattractive in the downtown area.

"We would like to see the area cleaned up, even if it takes condemnation proceedings, or whatever. Those potholes behind Home Food Market, we understand all that is

owned by the A&R," she said.

Mrs. Carter said she had contacted A&R president William Formyduval and said he was sympathetic to the problem and promised to help, but Mayor John K. McNeill expressed skepticism.

"We've asked him time and time again. All he's got to do is lease it to us, and we'll clean it up," McNeill said, referring to the railroad property and depot, which was permanently closed last spring.

Building and zoning administrator Bill Sellars argued against condemnation, saying "it'll be 18 months before you get them torn down," while Bicentennial commission co-chairman Carson Davis, Jr. urged vigorous enforcement of the city code.

"We've got buildings that need to be condemned and removed," he said.

Mrs. Carter told the council mutual cooperation would be more desirable than the threat of legal action, a view shared by councilman David Lovette.

"Perhaps you ladies have hit on something, sometimes when government makes requests, people have a tendency to become hard-

Executive Committee, and two members to the Congressional District Executive Committee, the Judicial District Executive Committee, the State Senatorial District Executive Committee, and the House of Representatives District Executive Committee.

The Congressional District Convention will be May 8 in Lumberton and the state convention is scheduled June 12 in Raleigh.

nosed. There's a good chance you may get more cooperation than the mayor," Lovette commented.

Three decaying structures built along the A&R tracks which came under criticism are not owned by the railroad, Mrs. Carter told the council, and the railroad claimed it had no authority to tear them down because the railroad doesn't know who built them, she said.

Mrs. Davis urged the House of Raeford Farms poultry plant on Central Ave. be required to control turkey feathers from scattering outside the plant grounds.

Cablevision
In other business, the council agreed to allow Raeford Cable TV to use city hall as a bill collection point and close their Raeford office on E. Edinborough Ave., but was reluctant to grant a two-step increase in monthly rates requested.

Charles Carter of the Cablevision franchise told the council the amount of business here did not justify keeping an office open two days a week, and said the move would in no way affect service, because the telephone number for

See ACTION URGED, page 11

Ground Hog Was Wrong

Unusual weather occurred here for February, which made the month the driest and warmest on record, according to meteorology buff Robert Gatlin.

The scant 1.5 inches of rainfall was the least since daily records have been kept, and only one night of below freezing temperatures on Feb. 23 is believed to have made February the warmest February

ever in Raeford, according to Gatlin.

Although no daily temperature readings are made here, new highs were recorded for Fayetteville, Wilmington, and Raleigh during the month.

"The legend has been turned around. The ground hog came out on Feb. 2 and saw his shadow but we will not have six more weeks of winter", Gatlin observed.

County Cool To West Hoke Fire District Proposal

County commissioners backed off from endorsing the West Hoke Fire Department's planned FmHA loan, a request from the sheriff to boost a secretary's annual salary by \$1,000, and a request for approval of salaries for Sandhills Mental Health Center during their three-hour monthly meeting Monday morning.

The request from the fire department, a plan to purchase a pumper truck and meet state requirements for a 9-A rating, drew concern from Chairman Ralph Barnhart and Commissioner John Balfour, since the amount of the loan is \$25,000.

"How are they going to pay the interest on that and still have enough left to operate?" Commissioner Tom McBryde asked.

County manager T.B. Lester said the current tax levy for the district was \$2,400, but by increasing to a four mile radius, this amount would rise.

The board agreed to table the matter on a motion from McBryde until further details on the FmHA financing could be learned.

Also tabled on a motion from McBryde was Sheriff D.M. Barrington's request to raise the salary of his office secretary from \$6,500 to \$7,500. Four deputies last month received increases ranging up to

\$600 yearly after the commissioners approved a similar request.

McBryde's motion calls for the board to take up the request again in April.

Approval of proposed salaries for the Sandhills Mental Health Center, which Lester described as conforming to a state standard plan, failed when commissioners agreed they didn't have enough information about the costs.

"They're asking us to approve it, and then they'll decide later what it is we've approved," Barnhart said.

In other action, the board:
Formally approved a resolution not to charge a tap-on fee to low income persons in the area planned for sewer extensions under the application for community development funds;

Agreed to follow the recommendations of the recent grand jury report and paint rooms in the courthouse and carpet the Clerk of Court's office;

Appointed McBryde, Balfour, and Lester to the land committee created by the city last month to find a suitable tract for the proposed new National Guard Armory;

Set April 5 as date for meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review;

Received notice from state utilities commission that Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co. will submit proposed rates for Fayetteville-Ft. Bragg-Raeford extended area service request by March 19;

Approved a state request for a hike in the county's share of the Local Government Employees Retirement contribution from 7.09 per cent to 7.26 per cent;

Accepted a bid from Western Auto in the amount of \$589.65 for a lawnmower for use on the county office building grounds;

Requested Lester to obtain price quotations on venetian blinds for the county office building offices after hearing complaints about sunlight;

Gave authorization for finance officer to attend conference in Chapel Hill and tax collector to attend school in Chapel Hill;

Requested the state add to its road system the Culbreth Road of Hwy. 211 and route 1468 connecting U.S. 401 and 401-B in the Hillcrest community;

Okayed tax releases in amounts of \$447.63 and \$2,852.24 for deceased and insolvents lists, respectively;

Set an all-day hearing for April 13 and a half-day hearing for April 15 on the budget for fiscal 1976-77.

Tabled

A request from Jimmy Morrissy that the county give United Independent Credit Union, a minority lender cooperative, office space in the old county office building on W. Elwood Ave. was tabled after county attorney Charles Hostetler expressed doubts.

"The county, in the past, has not provided office space to any charitable organizations," Hostetler said after determining the credit union was non-profit, but not charitable.

Morrissy, who said the credit union has assets of about \$5,000, told the board he had been advised by Four County Community Ser-

vices to ask the county for space.

Hostetler agreed to investigate the possibility and report back his findings.

Commissioners also tabled a request from Raeford Auto Co. to buy a small tract of land adjacent to the civil defense office, and a planned discussion of the evaluation report of the Council of Governments.

Barnhart presented a copy of a petition asking for Sheriff D.M. Barrington's resignation which he said he received by registered mail last week. The board had no discussion of it.

The next regular meeting of the commissioners is April 5.

World Prayer Day

On Friday, March 5, Raeford will join in observing World Day of Prayer.

This is an observance that began in the U.S.A. in 1887 and is now celebrated in 169 countries to show united faith among Christians. The World Day of Prayer is sponsored by Church Women United who, this year, chose as the theme "Education - For All Of Life."

The sanctuary of the Raeford Presbyterian Church will be open all day in order that everyone will

be able to enter and pray and meditate privately and personally. Ladies from the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches will welcome all who come, provide them with a suggested Prayer program, give them an opportunity to sign a register of those who pray and provide an opportunity for a free - will offering. The offering will go to a fund used by Church Women United for Intercontinental Missions which is interdenominational.