

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rains came again last Friday and Saturday and things are beginning to look green again. As this is being written Tuesday morning it is raining and the reports are that it should rain most of the day.

Now if it will warm up at night things should start growing again.

Don't forget that the Lions Club Golf Tournament has been rescheduled for Saturday and Sunday, May 22 and 23. The tournament was rained out the week of May 1 and 2. Tee times that were originally set will be honored and there are still tee times available if you didn't sign up the first time. Ashwell Harward or Raz Autry will be glad to take your money.

Mrs. Bill Cameron, coordinator of Exceptional Children Program at Hoke High, gave the program at the Raeford Kiwanis Club last Thursday night. J.D. McAllister was in charge of the program. I was impressed with the work Mrs. Cameron is doing with these children, but more impressed with the way she is wrapped up in this work. She certainly has her heart and soul with these children.

If you can find time it would pay you to go by the Hoke High Stadium Friday night and attend the State Girls' High School track meet. The Hoke High girls have won this meet for the past four years and will be the top choice this year.

It will also give you a chance to see Kathy McMillan perform for the last time at Hoke High. Just to see her will be worth your time.

The item about the record book from the post office in this column last week brought forth some phone calls.

The first call came from Mrs. Floyd Monroe and she gave me some information about the postmaster and also where the post office was located in 1910. Mrs. Monroe called last Friday and it was nice to talk to her, not only about the post office, but other people and events that took place in the early part of this century.

Monday, Mrs. Scott McFadyen of Fayetteville called and later came over and gave me many details about the post office item.

D.J. Currie was her father and they lived in Raeford for a number of years. She was the former Hattie Currie and said that she also worked in the post office. Her father died in December, 1910 and her sister Annie C. Currie was appointed acting postmaster and served for awhile.

The post office was located on Main Street where the Raeford Cleaners is now. The clerk that worked in the post office was J.C. Currie and he was a brother to the late Arch Currie and Mrs. Ed Bethune nee Margaret Currie.

Mrs. McFadyen said they lived in the Williford house on Main Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wes Williams. Later after the death of her father they built a house on Stewart Street behind the Walter Baker home. This house is not standing now. She said my mother and father lived in front of their home when they were first married.

The book was of much interest to her and she wanted to know if Jesse Gullege would sell it to her. This of course would be Jesse's decision.

The conversation about the old post office with these two ladies will always be remembered by me. A book could be written about this county and community after talking to them.

Thanks, Mrs. Monroe and Mrs. McFadyen for your help on this subject, but many thanks for giving me an hour or so of enjoyment in talking to each of you.

Tommy Upchurch was by the office Monday and had a picture of the campus of Raeford Institute. I had a copy made of it and will try to print it before the Bicentennial year is over.

Council Gets Look

'77 City Budget: 'No Tax Hike'

Sports Banquet May 18

The Hoke High School athletic banquet is scheduled May 18 at 6:30 P.M. in the Hoke High gym, Noah Hendrix Sr. announced.

Only 250 tickets are available on a "first come" basis, at \$2.50 each. Tickets may be purchased at Hoke Drug Co., or from athletic director John Pecora or any Booster Club officer.

Pranksters Sought

Authorities are seeking pranksters who felled a large pine tree Thursday night which blocked N.C. 211 for more than two hours and caused damage to a 1972 Cadillac when the driver was unable to stop before hitting the tree.

Highway patrolman J.D. Thigpen reported the pine was sawed and left across the highway about two miles south of Raeford about 10 P.M. The Cadillac, operated by Ernest Black, Rt. 3, Red Springs, was damaged when it collided with the tree. The driver was shaken up but not injured.

Thigpen, assisted by sheriff's deputies and an off-duty highway patrolman, guided northbound and southbound vehicles around the shoulder until shortly after mid-

State Allots \$219,443

The North Carolina Board of Transportation last week awarded a \$219,443 contract for resurfacing work on 13 miles of road in Hoke County.

The Board, in its monthly meeting in Raleigh, awarded the contract to Crowell Constructors of Fayetteville.

Construction on one section of primary road and three sections of secondary road in Hoke County may begin as early as this month as is scheduled for completion in October 1976.

The Transportation Board, chaired by Secretary of Transportation G. Perry Greene, approved a total of 30 different contracts that were let on April 27, for a total of \$6,791,221 in new expenditures for highway improvements in North Carolina.

Present for the meeting was the Transportation Board's newest member, Joseph R. Kaylor of Marion. Kaylor was sworn in as a member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation by Special Superior Court Judge Donald Smith.

Second Candidate Files For Commissioners Seat

Charlie Anderson Pendergrass, a Hoke County native and farmer, became the second person to file for county commissioner Friday.

He said he was running so that there would be a representative from his part of the county. He is from the Buchan section.

"I feel like we need someone to represent our end of the county," he said.

"I'll do the best I can to help everybody in the county."

"I can do the job," he added confidently.

Pendergrass and his wife, Lucille, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

He is a member of Shiloh Presbyterian Church where he was an elder for several years. He was also a member of the board of the Lumbee River EMC for nine years and was a member of the Southeastern Production Credit Association for thirteen years, and is a member of Farm Bureau.

This is the first time Pendergrass has run for public office.

The only other person who has filed for the two seats that will become open this year is Neil McPhatter, who was appointed to finish out the unexpired term of J. A. Webb, who died late last year.

Pendergrass was one of three nominated by the Democratic committee to fill out Webb's term.



Charlie Pendergrass

City Council members reviewed a \$1.7 million proposed city budget for the coming fiscal year which holds the line on the property tax rate but agreed to reduce the overall total by slashing five per cent across-the-board pay hikes for city employees.

City manager Robert Drumwright presented the proposed budget to the full council during a two and one half hour special meeting Monday night.

The complete budget, which was prepared with the pay increases, includes General Fund appropriation of \$629,545, water and sewer fund appropriation of \$498,860, a capital reserve fund of \$517,500 and the 1977 federal revenue sharing award of \$58,787.

The amount of revenue sharing funds included was reduced by nearly one half over this year's appropriation since Congress has not acted yet to renew the program beyond December, Drumwright explained.

Drumwright also warned councilmen the city expects to lose some \$3.5 million in tax valuation, or about \$20,000 due to reduced inventories in the Burlington and Knit-Away textile plants.

The capital reserve fund includes a fund balance of \$350,000 from this year's budget, with new contributions of \$75,000 from both the General Fund and water and sewer fund, plus interest earned. \$150,000 is earmarked for construction of new municipal offices and \$367,500 remains for future unspecified expenditures.

Projected revenues in the water and sewer fund are increased by over \$20,000 from estimates made last July 1, although Drumwright termed the figures "conservative", anticipating continued cutbacks in the area's textile plants.

Estimated ad valorem tax revenue for the coming year was put at \$360,344, up from \$351,746 budgeted last July 1. Actual receipts through March 31 of this year are listed as \$383,984.

Requests from most agencies, including the police department, fire department, and municipal garage, were trimmed by Drumwright in drawing up the budget. Exact comparisons with this year's budget on totals could not be made Tuesday, as totals contained the five per cent pay hikes the council rejected.

The move to reject the increases was tied to the changeover to Integon Insurance Co. for city employees' combined life and hospitalization insurance. Under the new plan, to become effective July 1, the city will pay 100 per cent of the premium costs, so workers' take-home pay will rise since they no longer will pay a portion.

The council adjourned without scheduling a date for another budget session. By law, a public hearing must be held before the final budget is adopted July 1 and the tax rate set.

Next regular meeting of the council is Monday, June 7.

Hoke Still On Justice Dept. List For Minority Language Ballot

The county board of elections was notified last week Hoke is still one of four Tar Heel counties affected by the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1975 regarding language minorities, and may be required to print bi-lingual ballots, according to a letter from J. Stanley Pottinger, assistant attorney general.

Hoke, along with Robeson, Jackson, and Swain counties, is named in the Department of Justice proposed guidelines published April 21 in the Federal Register, which will become permanent after a 30 day period for public comment.

When the county was first specified last year by the Justice Department because of the Lumbee Indian population, the announcement created some bewilderment among officials here, since the Indians do not speak any other language than English.

The county is included under the proposed new Part 55, section 203 (c) of the Act, which establishes coverage through Aug. 6, 1985, if within the political subdivision more than five per cent of voting age citizens are members of a single language minority whose illiteracy rate is greater than the national illiteracy rate.

For identification purposes, the Justice Department defines illiteracy as failure to complete the fifth grade.

With respect to unwritten languages, the Justice Department proposed rules cite as examples some American Indians and Alaskan Natives, and advises that only "oral assistance" is required to comply with the Act. It is the responsibility of the jurisdiction to determine whether a language is considered written or unwritten.

Harold Brock, board of elections

chairman, said Monday he thought the matter ended when officials here wrote the Justice Department last year after the initial announcement.

"We will comply with whatever is required, but as far as a language other than English, we haven't come up with one", he said.

"I can see what they're trying to do, assure that every American has the opportunity to vote and I fully agree with that philosophy, but I think they're trying to cover it all with one blanket deal, and they don't realize what will turn up", he said.

"With respect to illiterate persons, there is already provision for any voter to have assistance from a member of their family, any qualified person within the precinct, as well as officials at the polls, to interpret," Brock said.

\$10,000 Check Arrives For Library

A check for \$10,000 for the new Hoke County public library was received here Tuesday, a matching grant from the state through the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

The announcement was made by Ruth McEachern, named treasurer of the library building fund following the death of R.B. Lewis.

The state award will go into the building fund which was begun with a \$100,000 goal to match \$200,000 in revenue sharing funds allotted by the country.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new library, the county's official Bicentennial project and termed one of the most outstanding

in the state, were held last August. The building is nearing completion and officials expect to plan a July 4 opening ceremony.

Meeting Canceled

The regular monthly meeting of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners scheduled for Monday night, May 17, 1976 has been canceled due to conflict with annual banquet of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Ralph Barnhart announced Tuesday.

Clarification

In the last regular meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education, Rhonda Cameron was employed as coordinator of exceptional children programs for the 1976-77 school

year.

In last week's edition, it was reported that she was hired as a teacher.

Chamber Banquet To Hear Hodges



Luther Hodges

The annual Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held Monday, May 17, at the Gibson Cafeteria of the high school.

Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 and dinner will begin at 7 P.M. Advance tickets for \$5 are available at the Chamber office.

Guest speaker for the banquet will be Luther B. Hodges Jr., chairman of the board of North Carolina National Bank and son of former Gov. Luther H. Hodges Sr.

Hodges, a native of Eden, earned his A.B. degree in economics at the University of North Carolina in 1957. After service as an officer in the U.S. Navy, he earned the M.B.A. degree at Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1961.

Two years after joining North Carolina National Bank, he was named vice president in charge of

the eastern area of the national division. He later was named a senior vice president and returned to Charlotte to supervise the region.

In 1970, he was promoted to executive vice president with responsibility for all NCNB offices in North Carolina. He was named vice chairman of the bank board in 1973, and chairman in 1974.

He is on the board of governors of the University of North Carolina and is chairman of the board of the North Carolina Manpower Development Corporation.

Hodges is chairman of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce and a director of the North Carolina Citizens Association, the Business Foundation of North Carolina, and the Research Triangle Foundation.

He is also director of Burlington Industries, J.B. Ivey and Company, Burriss Industries, and the Asso-

ciated Council of the Arts.

He is also a trustee of Johnson C. Smith University, a member of the central selection committee of the Morehead Foundation, and chairman of the public affairs committee of the Association of Reserve City Bankers, and he was named to TIME magazine's list of 200 emerging leaders in America in 1974.

Hodges will be introduced by Raeford native J. Kenneth Clark, senior vice president and director of corporate communications for the NCNB Corporation.

Clark graduated from the University of North Carolina with a journalism degree in 1957.

Following graduation, he worked five years with The Charlotte Observer as a deskman, reporter, and editorial writer. He was also



Ken Clark