

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was perfect last weekend but it looks like rain for the next few days. The thermometer has been around, or above 90 degrees for the past couple of days. If it holds off for a couple of more days maybe the farmers will be able to get the grass out of their beans. We hope so!

The Hoke County Democratic Convention will convene at 12 o'clock noon, Saturday, June 18 at the courthouse. The time is new, but was set by State headquarters. The convention in this county has been held at one o'clock but is changed this year.

If you plan to attend, or know of anyone that will attend, please mention the time change to them.

Every year in this column something is mentioned about the closing of schools for the summer and the kids that will be running around during their vacation. This we are doing again and give notice to all drivers to please be careful and be on the lookout for the children.

When kids are playing and having a big time, they will dart out into the street before you know it. So be on the lookout for these kids all during the summer.

Sam Snead of Red Springs was by the office last week and said that the article in this column about giving a donation to the Antler Club in memory of a former athlete at the high school had brought forth a check. Snead said that A.S. "Bud" McKeithan, an athlete at Raeford High School in the 1920s, had joined the club and donated it in memory of John Dunc McNeill.

Bud played football at Raeford High School and is now retired. He worked at McLaughlin Company here for many years before going to Red Springs to open up McKeithan's Hardware. He is a brother of John D. (Slew) and Annie McKeithan who live on West Donaldson Avenue.

Thanks Bud and if anyone else wants to help the club, send your check on in. It will cost you only \$25, and is tax deductible.

Last Thursday night, the Rev. Billy Beaver, pastor of the First Baptist Church spoke to the Raeford Kiwanis Club. The program was under the leadership of Bill Lancaster and the preacher was introduced by Robert Gatlin.

The talk was filled with humor but also had plenty of meat for the Kiwanians to chew on in the days ahead.

Someone asked me how the Upchurches were doing in fishing this week. I will say that Clyde and Joe didn't bring pictures by or show me fish in a cooler. They invited me to a fish fry at Gatlin's Pond and the fish were fixed to the perfection of a seafood chef.

I heard that Gatlin was along on the trip with Joe and Clyde, so I guess he must have been running the motor in the boat as Joe said he caught most of the fish.

Anyway it was a fine evening at the Pond, even if Neeley was missing.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam: You are to be commended for opposing the return of two way traffic to Elwood Avenue. Between Magnolia and Main, in addition to parking on Elwood, we have off street parking around the old county building, Post Office, Southern National Bank, and from the back of the old Page building to the railroad. With taxi service coming into Elwood makes it almost impossible to get out of these areas.

I surmise you did what you thought was best for the community and I admire you for it. H.R. McLean

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Bond Interest Levy

City Budget: 2 Cent Tax Hike

McMillan Off To Europe On AAU Women's Team, Victor Award Latest Cup

Just back from Las Vegas, Nev., where she picked up another trophy to add to the collection, Kathy McMillan left Raeford again this Tuesday enroute to Europe with the A.A.U. national track and field team.

Miss McMillan, who has just

completed her freshman year at Tennessee State University, traveled to Nevada June 4 to receive the women's Victor Award in track and field from *Sports Illustrated* magazine. Her mother, Mrs. Alexander McMillan, flew out for the awards banquet.

Miss McMillan qualified for a berth on the U.S. women's team by placing second in the long jump at the AAU national meet June 11 in Los Angeles. Her 21'5" mark was well off the 21'10 1/2" effort which earned her the silver medal for the United States at the 1976 Summer Olympics.

The team will depart New York and arrive in Turin, Italy, June 17 and compete there June 20-21. The team goes on to Gelsenkirchen, Germany for competition June 25-26, and from there goes on to Sochi, Russia for a meet July 1-2. The athletes are scheduled to return to the United States after the Russian meet.

Two of Miss McMillan's teammates from Tennessee State University, sprinters Candra Cheeseborgh and Brenda Morhead, also are members of the U.S. team.

Summer School

Summer school will begin at Hoke High School on June 20 and run through July 29, principal Allen Edwards announced.

Any interested student should contact assistant principal Emma Mims at the high school. The cost for the summer program will be \$40. Any course in which enough students register will be taught. Summer school will begin at 7 a.m. and end at 12 noon. On the first day, school will start at eight a.m.

All students will meet in the Gibson lunchroom the first day.

Public Hearing Tuesday

Hoke Budget Tops \$3 Million

Unless county commissioners do some trimming, the total county budget for the 1977-78 fiscal year, including state and federal revenues, will top \$3 million for the first time. This figure does not include federal revenue sharing funds.

The combined budget for all departments proposes \$3,021,143 for the coming year, up from the current year's \$2,867,613. However, a \$200,000 surplus from this year's General Fund is anticipated and has been re-budgeted.

The proposed budget calls for a 2.8 cents increase in the tax rate. The complete budget is on file in the courthouse annex and available for public inspection. The public hearing on the budget will be next Tuesday night at 7:30 in the main courtroom of the courthouse.

The largest share of the proposed new budget goes to the schools, \$988,344 for operating expense and \$98,995 for school debt service,

plus \$127,000 of federal revenue sharing funds for building repair and capital projects.

The next largest fund is \$514,433 for the Department of Social Services, with \$272,831 of that amount reimbursed from federal and state sources, followed by the health department, \$219,000, with \$75,341 of that amount reimbursible.

Among the federal public service jobs programs, \$539,000 is budgeted, which is 100 per cent refundable.

Summary of expenditures contained in the budget for all departments is shown, with the recommended total given first, followed by the amount requested by each department supervisor in parentheses, and the amount budgeted for the current year.

Governing Body — \$38,434 (\$38,434) \$59,222.



LATEST ACHIEVEMENT -- Kathy McMillan clutches her latest trophy, the Victors Award for track and field, which she received in Las Vegas, Nev. earlier this month. McMillan left again Tuesday, bound for Europe and the AAU summer tour.

Elections —	\$19,960	(\$19,960)
\$35,361.		
Finance —	\$41,125	(\$40,325)
\$32,478.		
Tax Listing —	\$36,900	(\$43,400)
\$31,415.		
Legal —	\$1,200	(\$1,200) \$1,200.
Register of Deeds —	\$24,893	(\$24,093) \$20,280.
Public Buildings —	\$81,036	(\$81,036) \$66,990.
Sheriff —	\$210,410	(\$210,010)
\$189,642.		
Public Safety —	\$5,945	(\$5,945)
\$5,600.		
Jail —	\$30,500	(\$30,500) \$28,900.
Fire —	\$29,375	(\$29,375) \$24,253.
Inspection —	\$16,160	(\$15,530).
Sanitation —	\$66,000	(\$66,000)
\$62,500.		
Health —	\$219,461	(\$226,522)
\$194,461.		
Medical Examiner —	\$4,300	(\$4,300) \$3,800.
Social Services —	\$514,433	(\$515,091) \$436,413.
Civil Preparedness —	\$25,979	(\$25,979) \$21,590.
Extension Service —	\$31,145	(\$32,156) \$29,827.
Veteran Service —	\$15,180	(\$15,260) \$14,592.
Recreation —	\$41,408	(\$105,432) \$33,243.
Library —	\$41,408	(\$53,978)
\$35,600.		
Soil Conservation —	\$4,325	(\$4,325) \$4,325.
County Development —	\$10,874	(\$12,874) \$12,144.

Non-Departmental —	\$108,635	(\$108,635) \$159,240.
Contingency —	\$30,000	(\$30,000) \$28,800.
Jury Commission —	\$1,300	(\$1,300) \$200.
Title I C.E.T.A. —	\$27,901	(\$27,901) \$36,302.
Title VI PSE C.E.T.A. —	\$379,182	(\$379,182) \$241,892.
Title II C.E.T.A. —	\$131,970	(\$131,970) \$285,970.
County Debt Service —	\$7,258	(\$7,258) \$6,040.
School Debt Service —	\$98,995	(\$98,995) \$94,033.
Reappraisal Reserve —	\$6,000	(\$6,000) \$5,000.
Armory Reserve Fund —	\$20,000	(\$20,000) \$20,000.
School Current Expense —	\$668,344	(\$668,344) \$596,262.

Salaries

Outlined below are the proposed annual salaries for county department supervisors. In parentheses is the current salary.

County manager and finance manager T.B. Lester -- \$15,750. (\$15,000)

Tax listing supervisor Lester G. Simpson Jr. -- \$12,500. (\$10,775)

Tax collector Elizabeth Livingston -- \$11,600. (\$10,775)

Register of Deeds Della Maynor -- \$10,070. (\$9,500)

Sheriff D.M. Barrington -- \$15,600. (\$15,000)

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No Cuts Made Monday, Chamber Subsidy Upped

All five county commissioners met Monday night in a special session to go over the proposed 1977-78 budget and after three hours they failed to make any cuts but did increase one item.

The \$3.01 million total budget, if adopted as it stands, will require a three cents hike in the present 89 cents per \$100 ad valorem tax rate.

The proposed budget contains an average seven per cent pay hike for county workers, with some ranging much higher.

The commissioners rejected a recommended \$12,500 salary for the tax listing supervisor, rolling back the increase to \$12,000, and increased the recommended raise for the tax collector from \$11,600 to \$12,000. Both positions are currently paid the same, \$10,775, and county manager T.B. Lester said the commissioners wished to avoid any appearance of discrimination, since one position is held by a man and the other is held by a woman.

Commissioners ordered that an extra \$2,000 be put into the budget

for county development to go to the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, \$5,000, the same as this year, had been put in the budget and the Chamber had requested \$7,000.

Commissioner Danny DeVane urged making the change, praising the work of Chamber manager Dayna Pate, and commissioner Ralph Barnhart agreed, saying that supporting the Chamber is "one of the best investments we can make".

Barnhart also expressed a desire to see the city government continue its subsidy of the Chamber and he said he thought if the county contributes funds, the city ought to, too.

At the same time commissioners were meeting, the city council was meeting and it voted 3-2 to deny the Chamber request for \$4,000 in city funds under the conditions specified. The matter is expected to be decided later this month.

Lester estimated the budget would have to be cut by \$44,000 in order to keep the tax rate the same as this year.

Demo Convention Saturday At Noon

The Hoke County Democratic Party will hold its annual county convention Saturday, June 18 beginning at noon in the courthouse.

Chief item of business will be the election of the officers of the county executive committee. Current chairman Sam C. Morris cannot succeed himself for another term under party rules and two men, Ken McNeill and Ernest Sutton Jr., are actively seeking the post.

Besides a chairman, the convention delegates will also choose three vice-chairmen, a secretary and a treasurer for the executive committee, and one member for the State Executive Committee.

The county executive committee is composed of the six officers and the chairman and first vice-chairman of each of the 13 precinct committees. Terms of office are two years.

The city council Monday night reviewed the proposed 1977-78 city budget which calls for a two cents tax hike to pay the interest on the fire station bonds, but requires no general tax increase.

The budget proposes a seven per cent pay raise for city workers but the mayor and councilmen agreed to leave their salaries at the present level -- \$1,500 for the mayor and \$500 for council members yearly.

The two cents per \$100 valuation additional tax levy is to repay the interest on the general obligation bonds issued by the city for the construction of the new fire station. Under the law, debt payments must be a separate tax levy apart from the general property tax. The new levy will generate \$12,000 - \$13,000 in collections.

The current property tax rate for city residents is 55 cents per \$100 valuation.

The total city budget, not including federal revenue sharing funds, estimates \$4,711,000 in the various funds. General Fund expenditures are estimated at \$653,900 and the water and sewer department budget is estimated at \$600,100. The fire station project is budgeted at \$212,000. Debt service fund is budgeted at \$10,000. \$512,000 is earmarked as a capital reserve fund.

City manager Robert Drumwright estimated that General Fund revenues will drop by about \$47,000 next year due to a decreased tax base.

The surplus from the current year's General Fund, estimated at \$50,000 - \$60,000, has not been put back into the new budget, the city manager said. General Fund revenues have also been used to build up the capital reserve fund, making the actual surplus amount much smaller this year than in prior years.

In the federal revenue sharing fund, a \$69,000 surplus from projects in this current year, plus \$50,000 from the last half of this fiscal year's award which was not appropriated, is combined with the estimated 1977-78 entitlement of \$98,000 to make a \$227,000 total fund.

Proposed uses of the revenue sharing are outlined in order of priority in the budget: Home visitor, \$6,500; Sewer line construction, \$154,000; Fire station contingency, \$10,000; copier and computer, \$12,700; Packer and truck, \$11,000; police care, \$5,000; encoder and paging equipment, \$16,000; tennis court lights, \$10,000; hydraulic sewer line, \$2,300; miscellaneous \$200.

The city manager made two recommendations regarding water and sewer service to councilmen. He recommends initiating a water and/or sewer assessment policy for the extension of lines outside the corporate limits because an assessment policy would be more equitable than a rate increase in his view. A plan to raise the outside limits rate to 200 per cent of the inside rates rather than the present 150 per cent is also proposed.

Councilmen approved a change in the use of city-owned vehicles. Drumwright said he "couldn't see" spending \$6,000 for a car for himself, so the council authorized a \$50 a month allowance for him to use his personal car. Under the plan, the Chevrolet now assigned to the city manager will be turned over to the planning and inspection department.

Cost of the seven per cent pay boosts to the city is estimated at \$20,000.

Councilmen failed to approve a budget item for the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Monday night. The Chamber,

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