

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rain last Saturday was welcomed by everyone in the county, but it wasn't enough to make folks not want more. Some parts of the county got over a half inch, but from reports only two-tenths of an inch fell in Raeford.

The forecast was for approximately 30 percent chance of rain for Tuesday night, is the best chance in almost two months. With only about two inches in over two months, things are really dry in Hoke County.

The Hoke County Music Booster Club will have their annual turkey dinner and bazaar on Friday, November 17 from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Gibson Cafeteria.

The plates are \$3.00 and tickets may be purchased at the offices at Upchurch and Hoke High School or at Joyce's Beauty Shop. If you would like a ticket or tickets to be delivered to your home, you can call 875-2315, 875-2673 or 875-4528 and someone will get the tickets to you.

The club is a booster for music groups at the schools and all music groups will be performing at different times during the evening.

There will also be drawings for a lace tablecloth, afghan, and baby quilt if you get a ticket by donating \$1.00.

Be sure to mark this date down on your calendar to help a worthy cause and also get a good meal and enjoy the fellowship.

There will be more information and pictures about this event in next week's paper.

Hope to see you there!

The Hoke High School Bucks completed their season last Friday not going down to a defeat at the hands of the strong Scotland team in Laurinburg. This meant that the Scots will move on into the play offs.

The coaching staff and the entire squad of the Bucks should receive a big hand from everyone in the county. Their record far surpasses what most of us expected. Of course I must say that John Pecora picked the Bucks to win 7 and lose 3. This was the season record for the Bucks. The only thing that John did wrong was pick a wrong winner and loser. But he hit the record on the head. You can't beat experience or know-how!

The governing body of Raeford passed a resolution Monday night commenting the Bucks on their five record. So if you see any of the coaching staff or players, tell them they did an outstanding job this year. They have heard from all of us for the past few years the other way, so let's make amends.

Now the basketball season will get underway at the school and we should be getting a report before long on what the prospects are for the coming season.

This writer went by the polling place at 6:30 Tuesday morning and cast the first ballot in Raeford Precinct 1. So my candidates had a lead for a few seconds.

The election as far as I am concerned has been very quiet and most candidates have been very low key about their races.

The race that held the most interest in the county was the Board of Education and all the men should be commended for offering to serve on this board. It is a thankless job and the pay is not enough for the one cursing you will receive when someone disagrees with you.

As the manager of a baseball team once said, you win some and lose some. That is right and it is the same in a political race. Only in one like the school board maybe the losers are the winners in the long run.

So when you read this you will know who the winners are and all you can do is offer them your support.

The Hoke County United Fund is now underway and we should be getting reports from the drive before long. If you haven't been contacted or if pledge cards haven't been received at your business place, get in touch with Mr. or Mrs. Earl Fowler, drive co-chairmen, and they will see that you are contacted.

Jordan Leads School Board Pack

New Industry Invited To Locate In Raeford

Raeford - Hoke Chamber of Commerce Manager Earl Fowler said Tuesday he is optimistic a new textile plant will come to Raeford in spite of reports that it is leaning heavily toward a site in Sanford.

The company, Russ Knits, which would eventually employ up to 300, wanted to locate in Raeford, Fowler said, but has been forced to look at another site because of problems with the city's sewer system.

The local wastewater treatment plant has been operating since last November on a state permit that prohibits the addition of any more industrial wastes. The system does not meet environmental limits in suspended solids, most of which are said to come from The House of Raeford turkey plant.

At a special meeting last Thursday, the city council voted to invite the company to locate here in spite of the restrictions.

Fowler said he thought an official invitation might sway the company in Raeford's favor. He was appointed by the board to meet with company officials and see if they could be persuaded to come here. As of Tuesday a time for the meeting had not been set.

If the industry decides to come here and the system hasn't been cleaned up, the city could be fined up to \$15,000 a day for violating the terms of the permit, according to state statute.

"All these government agencies intimidate you, but they don't understand the situation. In September we had 8.3 percent unemployment here, the highest in the state," said Councilman Bob Gentry. "I don't think we ought to let some government agency control our destiny as a town. We need more jobs, more industry."

"The key to the situation is existing industry and what they're willing to do to pre-treat the effluent before putting it in the system," said City Manager Ron Matthews. "This is nothing new to them. They know it's a problem down here."

"The regulations are expected to get tougher in the future," Mayor J.K. McNeill, Jr. observed. "Each one of the industries here will eventually have to meet EPA (Environmental Protection Administration) regulations, and I think the state will enforce them. The EPA has allotted between \$2 and \$3 million to Raeford for expansion of the sewer system, but they aren't going to give us one cent to treat effluent that ought to be treated at the source."

The mayor pointed out that Raeford will be subject to a daily fine if the city lets the new industry in without cleaning up the system.

Jobless Rate Drops

The unemployment rate in Hoke County dropped to its lowest level this year in September according to recently released figures from the Employment Security Commission.

Although the 8.3 unemployment rate reflects a 1.2 percent drop from last month, Hoke County still holds the highest unemployment rate in the state. Statewide, unemployment stands at 3.4 percent, the figures said.

24-Hour Medical Service Announced

Wyatt Upchurch, president of the Hoke County Medical Betterment Association, Inc., announced Tuesday that "after hours" medical services are now available on an "on-call" basis.

Those needing medical attention when neither the Medical Services Clinic or local doctors' offices are open should call the Raeford Police Department (875-4251) or the Hoke County Sheriff's Department (875-5111).

The dispatcher on duty will log the person's name, address, and telephone number and then contact

"We're already paying a fine -- 8.3 percent unemployment," said Councilman Vardell Hedgpeth.

According to a spokesman, Russ Knits plans to build a 30,000 square foot plant and expand it to 110,000 within two years. It would employ 75 initially and up to 300 later on.

"They make popular, high quality knits," Gentry said.

"It's a blue chip company, in my opinion," Hedgpeth agreed.

Fowler said the Chamber of Commerce had checked out the firm and was confident it would be an asset to the community.



BURLINGTON DONATION - Gilbert Bernhardt (left) presents a check to Lewis Upchurch on behalf of Burlington Industries toward development of a new Boy Scout Camp. Upchurch is local special gifts chairman. Looking on are James Ollis, head of the special gifts division, and general campaign chairman Lawrence Bowers.

Burlington Makes \$25,000 Donation To Boy Scout Camp

Cub Scout - Family picnic area, Webelos Father - and - Son overnight campsite, rifle, archery and Shotgun Ranges, twelve troop campsites, Cub Scout Lodge, Chapel, Health Lodge and Athletic Field.

The minimum estimated costs for land purchase, camp construction, and all related financing totals \$1,070,000 broken down as land cost \$220,000, Camp development \$525,000, Camp equipment \$35,000, architectural, engineering and campaign cost \$95,000, and sustaining membership enrollment of \$195,000.

Burlington Industries, Inc., last week presented the Cape Fear Area Council, Boy Scouts of America a gift of \$25,000 to be used in the construction of a new Scout Camp in Bladen County.

The presentation was made during a luncheon at the Burlington Facilities in Raeford by Gib Bernhardt, plant manager of the Dyeing Plant.

While making the presentation to Lewis Upchurch, local fund raiser, Bernhardt stated that this gift to Scouting is representative of

the type gifts the Burlington Foundation has made to other organizations in the past.

"Burlington wants to help those organizations that help the most people in the geographical areas where our plants are located, he said. "We have a rapidly expanding Scouting program locally, some of our employees' dependents are Scouts. We support the good work that is done through Scouting for all socio-economic levels of our citizenry and are proud that we are able to help in this way."

In July, 1977, the Cape Fear Area Council acquired a 585 acre tract of land just north of White

County Board Votes Not To Pay COG Fee

After hearing that other counties aren't paying their dues to the Region N Council of Governments (COG) but are continuing to receive services from the council, the Hoke County Board of Commissioners voted Monday not to pay a 9 percent fee to the COG for the processing of public safety grant applications.

The board asked Commissioner Danny DeVane, who also serves on the COG board, to bring the matter up at the next meeting of the COG board. The sentiment was that other counties might not be paying their fair share for services provided by the COG.

In an executive session, the board voted to make Tax Supervisor Les Simpson assistant county manager, with additional duties and an increase in salary of \$150 a month.

The board awarded \$1,600 of a \$2,600 grant to the Hoke County Rescue Squad for the purchase of equipment. The remainder of the

Oak, in Bladen County. The new Scout Camp will allow a complete camping program to become a reality for all boys in the eight county Cape Fear Council, which includes Hoke.

It is considered by the Engineering Service of the National Council, B.S.A., to be 95 percent usable for camping facilities. Projected membership growth for the Cape Fear Area Council indicates that the new Scout Camp property will serve the needs of area boys for the next 50 years and far beyond.

Some of the major features planned for the new camp include: a 40-acre stream-fed lake (to permit swimming and boating), a

grant will go to the county ambulance service. All of the equipment bought with the grant money will actually be the property of the county and will be on loan to the rescue squad and ambulance service.

Commissioner James Hunt was appointed to serve on the Four-County Board of Directors.

It was announced that an open house will be held at the newly completed South Hoke Community Center on December 3. The building was financed through a \$100,000 federal grant. A church homecoming was held there last Sunday.

The board voted to increase county inspection fees as of January 1.

County Extension Chairman Wendell Young said in his report to the board that Hoke won second place for its 4-H booth at the N.C. State Fair. He said this had been the best year on record in Hoke (See COUNTY BOARD, Page 4)

Incumbent Dr. Riley M. Jordan led the field of eight candidates for three seats on the Hoke County Board of Education in Tuesday's general election. He will be joined on the board by two newcomers, W.W. Cameron, Jr. and Walter N. Coley.

In other local races, W.R. (Bill) Boyles and Kenneth Hendrix were selected Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors.

N.C. Insurance Commissioner John Ingram led incumbent Republican Jesse Helms in the U.S. Senate race by 1,649 to 1,121 in Hoke County. Statewide, Helms was reelected with 54 percent of the vote.

Seventh District Congressman Charles Rose easily defeated Republican challenger Ray Schrupp. In Hoke County the vote was 2,255 for Rose and 469 for Schrupp.

A number of local candidates ran without opposition. Among them, Juanita Edmund was reelected clerk of court with 2,606 votes, G. Franklin Crumpler was reelected county coroner with 2,576, Sheriff David M. Barrington was reelected with 2,607, as were three candidates for the county board of commissioners: incumbents John Balfour (2,499) and James A. Hunt (2,553) and newcomer Mabel M. Riley (2,536).

Hoke County voters elected a straight Democratic ticket for state judicial offices.

District Court Judge Joseph Dupree, running unopposed, was reelected with 2,474. Four other district court judges were also unopposed. They were D.S. Carter (2,404), Sol Cherry (2,386), Charles Lee Guy (2,410) and Lacy Hair (2,360).

District Attorney Edward Granis, Jr. also ran unopposed and got 2,480 votes.

N.C. Senator Sam Noble, unopposed, got 2,409 votes. State Representatives were also unopposed. They were: Robert Davis (2,421), Horace Locklear (2,431) and David Parnell (2,466).

Voting in the local school board race went like this: Riley Jordan 1,354, Walter Coley, 1,213, W.W. Cameron, Jr., 1,203, Richard Coker 995, D.R. Huff, Jr., 959, William Poole, Jr., 910, Elias Rogers, 552, and S.W. Benkosky, Jr., 199.

The last of 13 precincts in Hoke County reported the vote totals between 12:30 and 1 a.m. Wednesday. A small crowd braved a chilly rain to watch the results as they were posted on The News-Journal election board.

The rain held off until after the polls had closed. The voter turnout was not as heavy as during the May primary but was considered fairly good for an off-year election.

Offices To Close

Veteran's Day, which will fall on Saturday, brings with it the closing of many local offices.

The post office will be closed on Saturday, while the Hoke County Library will remain open for its regular weekend hours, but will close Monday.

Court house offices will close Monday as well the Department of Social Services and county offices, although city offices and the Hoke County Board of Education will remain open.

Local banks will be open both Monday and Friday.

BOE Meeting Brief

The Hoke County Board of Education met in what may have been the shortest meeting on record Monday night.

The regular monthly meeting was moved up to one week to give all of the board members an opportunity to meet together before Tuesday's election.

Monday night's meeting was the last for W.L. Howell and R.L. Gibson, board chairman. The two men opted not to run for reelection this term.

Board members Mina Townsend (See MEETING, Page 4)