

The News - Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXXI NUMBER 9

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1979

Mental Health Center Operation Guaranteed

Hoke Budget, \$1.01 Tax Set Tentatively

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Summer came in by the calendar but fall weather has been the weather each morning this week. A cold front came down from the north and has almost brought back winter weather.

The forecast is for warm weather for the remainder of the week.

The item in this column last week about the weather reporter on TV brought forth a visit from Mary Cameron. Mary came by the office and asked did I see the weather report at 11 o'clock the night that I had commented about. Of course Mary should know that this writer doesn't stay up many nights until eleven o'clock.

She said that the reporter corrected the Fayetteville temperature on the late news report. The newscaster said that a mistake had been made according to the report from Mary.

So maybe someone else caught the error and called in before the late broadcast.

While on the subject of mistakes, we in this office make them and most of the time they are called to our attention. Many other times people come by the office, with fire coming from their eyes, and commence to lay us out for an article in the paper that lo and behold they haven't read. This puts us on the spot for a few minutes because we don't know what they are talking about.

Nine times out of ten we check most of our stories two or three times to be sure that our facts are correct. The folks that usually come flying through the front door or call you at home at night haven't taken time to check the story thoroughly. This we wish they would do because sometimes it is hard to stay friends with people after they have pulled you over the coals.

We are not perfect but we strive to present the news truthfully and factually.

The truck strike could end before this item hits the street, but it came home to this office this week when the driver of a truck that brings us newsprint was relating an experience he had around Greensboro recently. He said that nails were thrown in the road and that he had also been shot at on a trip in that part of the state.

We have sympathy for the truck drivers and believe strongly that they have a right to park their trucks if they want to, but we don't believe that they have a right to stop a driver that wants to use his truck.

The farmers were on strike last fall and winter and now the truckers are causing the farmers many hardships. Do strikes help or hurt?

The parking lot in front of The News-Journal office is a one-way entrance off Elwood and has an entrance and exit on Edinborough. Most of the folks who use it observe the one-way but occasionally someone will come the wrong way and this of course causes problems.

Watching from my desk Monday afternoon it was hard to see a highway patrolman going the wrong way. Now it would have been worse if someone had run into him.

Please observe the traffic laws and this means all citizens.

The gas shortage will soon have folks staying home on weekends. This will mean they will be looking for other means of recreation. Of course we all need plenty of exercise but if you are around on Sunday morning most of the churches in the community have empty seats and would be glad for you to put in an appearance. I have found out over the years that it is almost impossible to get in trouble at church.

Succeeds Cassie Wasko

Joseph Holt Joins N-J As Reporter



Cassie Wasko
... Going to Sandhill Citizen

Joseph V. (Joe) Holt, a 42-year-old retired Army sergeant, joined The News-Journal Monday morning as a reporter, succeeding Mrs. Cassie (Jerry) Wasko, who is starting work Tuesday morning as a reporter for the Aberdeen weekly newspaper, The Sandhill Citizen.

Holt's wife is the former Patricia Clark, born and reared in Hoke County, daughter of Mrs. Agnes Lunsford Clark and the late Archie Clark. Her father was named Hoke County Officer of the Year for 1978 by the county Law Enforcement Officers Association. He had served 17 years as county dog warden when he died in office last January 13.

Mrs. Wasko has served as a reporter and photographer for The

News-Journal and manager of Countryside Apartments here the past 20 months. Her husband is a purchasing agent for McDonald Brothers, of Southern Pines, a building materials supplier. The Waskos have two children, sons Jay, 10, and Carl, 8. Mrs. Wasko is the daughter of Mrs. Doris Goerch Horton of Pittsboro and the late District Court Judge Harry Horton. Mrs. Wasko spent the first two weeks of her life in Raleigh. The family will live in Southern Pines.

The Holts have been living in Wilson's Mills, Johnston County, since 1974 when Holt retired from service as a sergeant first class, but had lived in Hoke County during three Army tours of duty Holt served at Ft. Bragg.

He was directing the Helpline Information and Referral Program, for Community Action and the Johnston County Department of Social Services when he applied for The News-Journal job. Holt had been a program director for the Johnston-Lee Community Action before that, starting in 1975, after working as an announcer for a Smithfield radio station WMPM.

Among the people he came to know in Social Services was the former director of the Hoke County department, Ben Niblock, who went to Smithfield last winter as director of the Johnston County department.

In the Army, Holt worked at many jobs in many places throughout the world, including Vietnam, between the time he enlisted at 17 and the time he retired -- top chef, tugboat crewman on the Chesapeake, advisory to National Guard units in five states, helicopter crewman, aerial photographer, stevedore, planner, leadership instructor, historian, speech writer, public information specialist, career counselor, and all-around administrative staff man.

Holt was wounded in action in Vietnam. He was hit in the left calf by fragments from a Viet Cong 80 mm mortar shell in Saigon during

(See REPORTER, page 11)



Joseph V. (Joe) Holt

Next Week's News-Journal Out On July 3

The News-Journal for next week will be published on July 3, a day earlier than usual, because Independence Day falls on Wednesday, the customary publication day.

Consequently, everyone wanting news articles published in next week's edition must have them in the News-Journal office by 1 p.m. Monday.

The News-Journal office will be closed July 4.

Proposed FmHA Apartment Project Gets COG Approval

The Lumber River Council of Governments approved and use of land of N.C. 211 adjacent to Holly Park Subdivision for the construction of a 48-unit Farmer's Home Administration in a hearing in Lumberton Thursday night, according to Graham Clark, local representative to the council.

Local realtor Julian Wright is seeking a \$1,000,000 F.H.M.A. loan to build the complex and plans to add \$75,000 to the loan, making a total of \$1,075,000 for the project. The first step in acquiring the loan is to win approval from the council for land use and indicating that the project would not be duplicating

any other program in the county.

Citizens of Holly Park Subdivision reportedly circulated a petition last weekend opposing construction of apartments on the land. A majority of homeowners signed the petition, a spokesman for the groups said. The petition cites the traffic problems involved with adding 48 families to the neighborhood and the duplication of programs as reasons for not placing the complex in that area. A 40-unit F.H.M.A. complex already exists in Raeford, according to the petition. Local F.H.M.A. officials say that the complex would be similar to Countryside Apartments, the existing complex.

Raeford Native, Ex-Hoke High Player

Sally Austin Wins State Women's Golf Title

by Bill Lindau

Sally Austin, a native of Raeford, who tied for second in last year's North Carolina Women's Amateur Golf Tournament, won this year's 30th annual event on the Mid-Pines course near Southern Pines Thursday.

She said this was her first victory in a major tournament. Now 24, she's been playing tournament golf since she was about 14. That was about three years after she took her first lesson.

Miss Austin, daughter of Doris and J.H. (Jake) Austin of 308 W. Elwood Ave., provided in an interview Friday morning at The News-Journal.

She stopped by at a reporter's request on her way to the course at Pine Needles, near Mid-Pines Club, for more golf.

Miss Austin's "professional" job is that of assistant greens keeper for Boca Del Mar at Boca Raton, Fla., but calls Mid-Pines her home club when she is staying in North Carolina.

It was at the Southern Pines Elks and Country Club about six miles southeast of the Mid-Pines club that she took her first lesson.

She said it was the Boca Raton pro, Bob Grant who "really turned my game around," but she also said Andy Page, the Southern Pines club pro, Peggy Kirk Bell, a former LPGA tour star, have been a great help to her.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bell, who own Pine Needles, have been "real nice to me," she said, though Mrs. Bell's husband, Warren, "Bullet" Bell, isn't a golfer. (His game was basketball; he played pro in Ohio, his home state, before going into the resort business near Southern Pines.

Of Mrs. Bell's help with her golf, Miss Austin told a Fayetteville sportswriter Thursday after winning the tournament that day, "I wouldn't be where I am without her." She said Mrs. Bell "has always helped me with my golf problems."

Replying to another question in Friday's interview, Miss Austin said her rounds in last week's tournament were the best three she has played in her career so far.

She said she wanted to thank the several people from Raeford who watched her play and "the support of the Raeford people helped a lot."

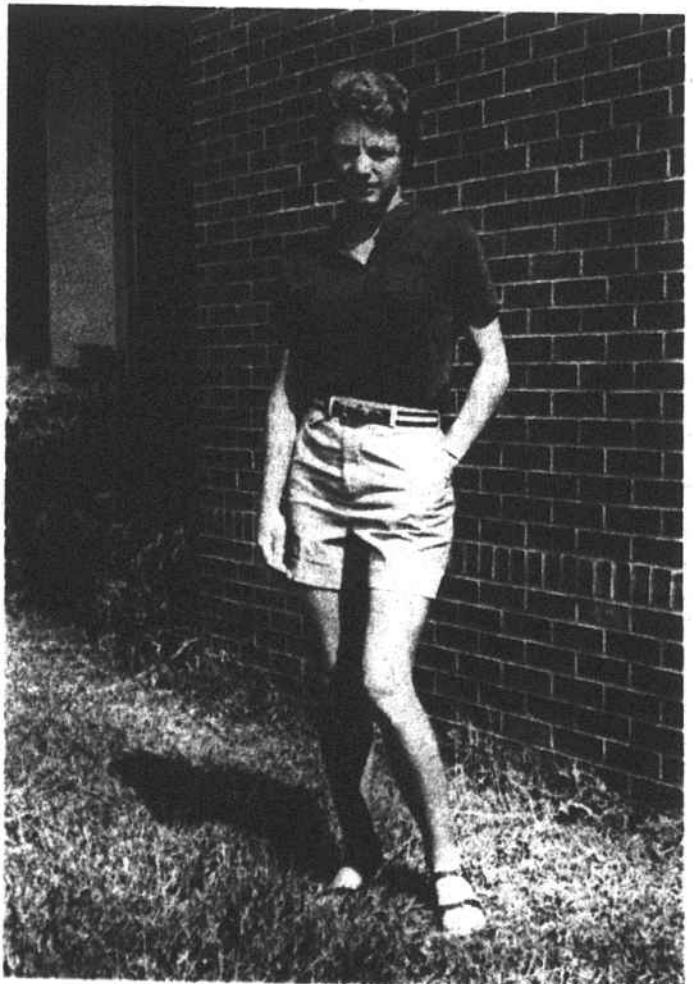
Miss Austin shot a two-under-par 73 in each of her first two rounds on the 5,627-yard course June 19 and 20, then a par on the final round Thursday for her winning total of 221. She finished six strokes ahead of runner-up Nina Foust of Siler City. Defending champion Diane Dailey of Winston-Salem and Lucy Lofland of Newton tied for third with 230. Candy Robertson of Charlotte was fifth with 231, and 15-year-old Page Marsh of Thomasville, sixth with 237.

Miss Austin said after winning the tournament, "It feels great, but I wish I could have finished better."

She credits her father with getting her interested in golf. She'd been playing "back yard" basketball, baseball and football," she said. One day her father said she couldn't play either the rest of her life but there was a future for women in golf, both amateur and professional.

When Miss Austin went to Hoke County High School, it had no

(See GOLF, page 11)



Sally Austin...State Champion

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday night tentatively adopted a tax rate of \$1.01 per \$100 property evaluation, 9 cents higher than the current year's and a budget of about \$3.6 million, for the new fiscal year, which starts July 1.

Shortly before acting on the budget, the commissioners guaranteed provision of enough funds to keep the Hoke County Mental Health Center operating through the new year.

The tentative action on the proposed budget was taken so County Manager James Martin could draw up a budget ordinance that could be adopted by July 1.

The board took the tentative action after holding a public hearing in the Courthouse. It was attended by about 150 people, including heads and other employees of county departments, but no opposition to the increase in the tax rate was expressed, though questions about it were asked.

At the outset, after John Balfour, chairman of the board of county commissioners, explained the reasons for the proposed increase, Herbert Gillis of Antioch asked why the commissioners always raise the property tax when more funds are needed, and what about a sales tax?

The answer he received was the only other tax authority the state allows a county government is the option of levying a one-cent sales tax, which the Hoke County government already levies.

Gillis also asked why Carolina Power and Light Co. doesn't have to pay taxes on land it leases for right of way for power lines, but the owner of the property does. Balfour replied that "the only place that can be changed is in Raleigh," meaning by the General Assembly.

An appeal for more funds, to keep the mental health center from closing, was made by Philip A. Diehl, chairman of the unit's board of directors. He asked the commissioners how much was recommended for mental health in the proposed budget. The reply was \$22,260. Then Diehl asked for a half-cent higher tax rate to retain the \$6,000 to \$7,000 extra which would make the difference between services the unit could afford and removing the unit.

After the Courthouse hearing, which was held in the courtroom, ended, the commissioners returned to their conference room in the courthouse annex to resume their mid-month regular meeting which they had been holding there starting at 7 p.m. before recessing to hold the public service.

During the latter part of the mid-month session, the commissioners adopted a motion to increase by \$6,000 the amount labeled for the mental health unit, raising the proposed total to \$28,260.

This was done after Diehl said, replying to a question put by a commissioner, that the unit "could make it on \$28,260. If we can get it, we'll find some way to live with it."

He said ways to cut \$2,000 from the total mental health budget would have to be found but that he believed this could be done by

(See BUDGET, page 10)

Report Skylab Fragments, People Advised

Anyone in Hoke County who sees fragments of Skylab on the ground is advised to notify the sheriff's department or the county Civil Preparedness office immediately.

Skylab is scheduled to land between July 7 and 17, with a 50 percent chance it will land July 12.

The sheriff's department's telephone number is 875-5111, and the CP office's is 875-3632. Each office will receive calls 24 hours daily.

There is no danger of radiation from any part of Skylab, the federal government has advised. The site where fragments land must be protected till National Aeronautics and Space Administration representatives reach it because NASA wants to make technical analysis of the fragments.

Sheriff's officers will go to a site immediately after an observer telephones a fragment has landed and rope off the area to keep the general public out till NASA representatives arrive.