

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

VOLUME LXXIII NUMBER 9

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$8 PER YEAR

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1981

Tax Rate Not Increased

\$3,499,884 Hoke County Budget Adopted

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is hot and I don't even remember a June this hot. When people say that is has cooled off, and it is still in the 90s, then it is truly hot.

A picture in a daily paper was of a small child sitting in a cake of ice and the caption said it was really hot in California with the temperatures in the 80s. Maybe they should spend a day in North Carolina so they could warm up.

As far as the forecast is concerned, it doesn't show much relief in sight.

In an item in this column last week concerning the redistricting, a word was left out of a sentence that changed the meaning of the sentence enough for me to make a correction this week.

In the second paragraph it should have read: "Of course this is NOT the first time we have been changed." We have been in the 8th district before.

Mrs. Alfred Quick, who resides at the Open Arms Rest Home, was by the office last week and had an old clipping from a newspaper that she wanted published in the paper. When asked why she wanted the article published, she said that people kept saying what a good president this man was, or that man was, but they never mentioned Franklin D. Roosevelt. She said this article stated how people here felt about Roosevelt.

The article or editorial is as follows:

Franklin D. Roosevelt

"On April 12th, 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt, the only man ever elected President four times, died at the 'little white house' in Georgia; thus ended the political career of a man both bitterly detested by some opponents and idolized by millions.

"Roosevelt was president during the World War II and died shortly before the German surrender and a few months, the Japanese surrender.

"As for domestic policies a vast number of reforms and social services resulted from the Roosevelt years. It is to Roosevelt's everlasting credit that he brought new hope to a nation sunk deep in despair and depression when he took office in 1933. The little man who was fighting to keep his home, or to get food for his family in those days, always afterward felt Roosevelt his champion -- which indeed he was to millions."

Yes many people remember the great depression and how Roosevelt turned the tables on it.

In the May 21 issue of *The News-Journal* was a letter from Mrs. Barbara A. Purifoy of New Bern and she was wanting help in tracing the Edwards family tree.

Last Thursday night Mrs. Frank Culbreth of Raeford called and said that she was writing to Mrs. Purifoy and giving her some of the information that she was asking for in the letter. Mrs. Culbreth stated that she had some information that would correct some of the dates listed in the letter.

She also said that Mrs. Ed Mercer was also a descendant of the Edwards'.

So you see that a letter to the editor sometimes pay off.

Joe Huffman, Bill Lancaster, Harvey Warlick and Neill McFadyen belong to the Senior Golfers Association of North Carolina and they are away on tour every month or so for a couple of days on the weekends.

On June 14th the tournament was played at the Foxfire Country Club above Pinehurst and we had a winner from the group.

Joe Huffman won his flight at (See AROUND TOWN, page 11)

The Hoke County commissioners Monday night adopted a 1981-82 county budget totaling \$3,499,884 for the general fund, about \$99,000 greater than the 1980-81 budget.

The commissioners also voted to keep the tax rate at the 1980-81 figure of \$1.01 per \$100 property evaluation.

The new budget provides for a five percent pay raise for employees including the county manager.

The total budget is composed of the general fund, \$556,500 expected in federal revenue-sharing money, and \$74,754.12 for the county's share of the costs of building a new National

Guard Armory. The armory money has been appropriated at the rate of \$20,000 per year. At their mid-month June meeting, the commissioners approved the \$74,754.12 for the armory. The National Guard Bureau is providing \$712,000 of the cost.

The general fund figure approved Monday night is \$46,460 greater than the total approved at the June 15 meeting because Assistant County Manager Lester Simpson came up with newly acquired data which raises the county's total evaluation of property subject to the \$1.01 tax to \$209 million from the \$204 million estimated

earlier and included in the budget proposal approved June 1.

Applying the \$1.01 tax rate, the increase in the evaluation will add the \$46,500 in revenue.

The increase also allowed the commissioners to approve the five percent pay raise for employees, higher than that proposed previously -- four percent if starting October 1, and three percent if starting July 1.

After adding amendments, the general fund for 1980-81 amounts to \$3,397,896, about \$40,000 more than it did when the budget was adopted last year.

The \$99,000 difference between the past year's and the new budget consists principally of \$58,000 in employees' pay raises and added fringe benefits, including increases in the Social Security and retirement funds; about \$23,000 addition for the county school system's current-expense budget; and more for medical and aid to dependent children in the Department of Social Services budget.

The upward revision of the property evaluation means the county's \$1.01 tax will yield \$1,942,028 in revenue in 1981-82, instead of \$1,895,568.

The budget adopted Monday

night leaves unchanged the \$773,627 budgeted for current expenses for the county school system in the new fiscal year, about \$23,000 more than in 1980-81.

The commissioners provided \$20,000 in the new budget for development into a public park the 6.7 acres donated last spring by Burlington Industries to the county for public recreation. The commissioners however, agreed Monday night to require the county Parks and Recreation Commission to show them, before the money is turned over, a complete outline of what is to be done to the property and a plan of the site.

The commissioners also decided that money for the Hoke County Reading/Literacy Council program to teach Hoke illiterate adults to read and write should be requested by the county Board of Education but at the same time they added \$5,000 to the county contingency fund to leave the door open to the council for a new request.

The council has asked the commissioners for \$5,000 for 1981-82, which is \$4,000 more than the county has provided each of the past two years through a county Board of Education budget line item.

Barbara Buie, director of the council, explained to a reporter last week that the larger amount was being requested because federal funds will not be provided for the program after this fiscal year, which ends June 30. The program has been receiving federal money for the past three years, and three years is the maximum time the money is available for this purpose.

County Manager James Martin explained Tuesday morning to a reporter that Miss Buie was to confer with him that day on the next step the Reading/Literacy Council was to take in the effort to get county funds through the school board.

It was understood that it was up to the school board to make the request to the county for the literacy funds.

The commissioners also Monday night approved an installment-purchase arrangement for obtaining a new computer to replace the present one. The county is looking for a machine which will allow several people to feed the computer different kinds of information at the same time, where the present computer can accommodate only one operator and feeder at a time. The machine the county is looking for will save time for the county's financial operations.

Martin said the estimated cost of the new computer is \$65,000 to \$70,000, depending on the type of equipment and how much programming it can handle.

The county will advertise for bids, then open the bids received and let the contract to the company which will have filed what the commissioners consider the best bid.

The commissioners also approved buying a new compacter for the city-county landfill in the next fiscal year. Martin said the county probably can get one for \$165,000, though one list price is \$177,000. The money will come from federal revenue-sharing.

The commissioners approved a \$3,700 addition to the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce 1981-82 budget for industrial and economic development efforts. This provides a total of \$14,000. The increase was approved after it was learned that the expenses of the effort would run higher than the \$10,300 the chamber had requested.

Soybeans, Cotton 'Seem All Right'

Heat Brings Problems To Farmers

The recent hot weather has been hard particularly on Hoke County corn, and a few swine have died from the heat, Wendell Young, county Agricultural Extension Service chairman, reported Tuesday in an interview.

He said there's also been some burning of tobacco leaves but it's been erratic and the damage hasn't been assessed yet.

Temperatures as high as 104 degrees were reached Monday in Raeford. This was the same as Fayetteville's highest, which was reported the state's highest of the day.

Young said it is hard to evaluate just yet how much damage the Hoke corn crop has suffered.

"It's the first time I've seen

leaves of corn burn at the top," he said. Usually the burning starts at the bottom and moves upward, Young said.

Swine producers also are having some trouble keeping their animals cool. The Blue Springs area had most of the heat deaths, Young said.

No serious losses have been reported at the turkey hatcheries, Young added. He said most of the houses in Wyatt Upchurch's Tarheel Turkey Hatchery can be opened at the sides, providing more ventilation, though the high temperatures still can be troublesome.

Soybeans and cotton seem to be doing all right. "No problems," he said. "Real high" counts of boll weevils have been found in some

cotton, he said, but most of the Hoke growers have sprayed at least twice to control the insects.

The county still has some real dry areas, he also said, because the rainfall has been spotty.

Wheat yields have ranged from a low of 10 acres per bushel to a high of 55, he said, with the lack of rain early in the season blamed for the lowest yields. In a season of normal weather, he said, the yield averages about 35 bushels per acre.

"We need another inch of rain sometime this week, if we can get it," for the crops generally, Young added.

He said the northern and north-eastern sections of the county seem drier than the others.

By State Senate, House Separately

Hoke-Scotland District Plan Approved

Hoke and Scotland counties' voters probably will elect a member to the State House of Representatives in 1982 to represent both counties in the lower chamber of the North Carolina General Assembly.

Majorities in the State House and Senate, acting on separate but identical plans to redistrict the area, recently approved the plans to have the two counties compose a

new district. Both have been in a three-county district which included Robeson County and represented by three members of the State House.

The bills are expected to be enacted formally into law.

Robeson County in the new arrangement would be in a district of its own and will have two people representing it in the State House.

The new Hoke-Scotland district

officially is the 21st. Robeson's is the 10th.

The present three-county district is the 21st, and its representatives are David Parnell, William Gay, and Horace Locklear, all Democrats and all residents of Robeson.

So far, the present 12th State Senatorial District, which is composed of Hoke and Robeson counties is not up for changing. Sam Noble, a Robeson Democrat, is the district's senator.

Federal Funding Stops

Literacy Program Needs More Help

Miss Barbara Buie has asked the Hoke County commissioners to provide \$5,000 in the county's 1981-82 budget for the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council and Hoke Education for Literacy Project (HELP) program to teach illiterate adults how to read and write. The program prepares its students to take the Sandhills

Community College Adult Basic Education courses.

But the county has not been providing \$5,000 a year in the past for the project, Miss Buie, director of the council, said Thursday, as *The News-Journal* report in Thursday's edition says.

She said the county has been providing \$1,000 a year for the

past two fiscal years. She explained she has asked the county for \$5,000 for the new fiscal year because the literacy program will not get anymore funds from the Library Services and Construction Act of the Federal Title One, after this fiscal year, which ends June 30. The assistance from this source is limited to three years.

The federal money has been provided to the Literacy Council through the Sandhills Regional Library System, of which the Hoke County Public Library is a member.

Miss Buie said that the Literacy Council has gotten about \$58,000 altogether in its 3½ years of existence, and of this about \$55,000 has come from Library Services and Construction Act funds.

A total of \$1,000 has been donated by private citizens and organizations, and \$2,000 (in the past two years) by the county. The county gave nothing the first year and a half because all public funds came from federal Title I.

She said the literacy program's 1981-82 budget has been set at \$21,600, and "we hope" the difference between what the county provides and the total budget will be made up by private donations.

She explained that the higher local budget is necessary because of the stoppage of federal money. Local money, for example, Miss Buie explained, would have to pay for library materials, since the

literacy program because of the stoppage will no longer be qualified to use the public library's materials; and insurance, which has been available under the library's policy.

The literacy program is needed for adults who cannot read or write, or can read and write but below the level of the fourth grade of school, Miss Buie explained. She said the reason is that Sandhills Community College "picks up" adults for the basic education courses who have had the equivalent of fourth to fifth grade educations.

Miss Buie calls the literacy program "reading readiness," teaching adults to prepare them for the community college classes.

The literacy program has a full course of five "skill books," but students set their own goals and stop whenever they feel they have gotten the benefits they need. Miss Buie said completion of three of the five leaves a student prepared to handle the community college course. If a student doesn't miss a class, he or she can complete the three skill-books lessons in six months.

The classes are held twice a week for an hour and a half each.

It takes a total of 18 months to complete all five-book lessons, she said, if the student attends every class. The last two books, of 24

(See LITERACY, page 11)



NEW PASTOR -- The Rev. Arthur W. Winstead, the new pastor of Raeford United Methodist Church, is shown in his office in the Raeford church. He and his wife arrived last week. Winstead has been a Methodist minister the past 23 years and was transferred to Raeford from the pastorate of First United Methodist Church of Williamston. The Rev. Kelly Wilson, whom he succeeded here, was transferred to the pastorate of St. James Church of Tarboro. This picture was taken Monday afternoon. (Staff photo.)