

Approved By Board of Education

School Budget \$855,627 In County Funds

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The thunderstorms for the past several days have made the weather extremely humid. When the wind isn't blowing, it seems that moisture just forms on your body.

The forecast is for more thunderstorms, but the temperature is supposed to be in the 80s, instead of the 90s.

Sgt. Joe Rockholt, who is stationed at Ft. Rucker in Dothan, Ala., was by the office last week. He was tracing his family tree through the pages of newspapers. According to Sgt. Joe he could find more about his grandparents and older relatives, than he could about his mother and father.

He said that he had been awaiting a phone call since the controller strike, because that is his primary duty in the Air Force. This seemed kind of a strange way to spend a leave. Back during the time of World War II you would be awaiting orders to go overseas, not to pull some kind of a duty in a civilian job.

After talking with Rockholt for a few minutes, he left the office and I began to wonder what if the courts said that the controllers had a right to strike. Then, wouldn't Sgt. Rockholt have the same right, since he took about the same oath? Maybe some folks hadn't thought of this.

It seems to me that the controller have two choices. They are, go back to work or quit. That is what I would have to do, if I didn't follow the policies of this newspaper.

Maybe it has come to the point that a man's word isn't his bond.

C.J. McNeill came by the house last Saturday morning and gave me a "Final Edition" of *The Washington Star*. He said that he bought the paper in Washington on Friday. The price on the paper was 20 cents, but C.J. said that at the end of the day people were paying \$4 for a paper. It was very thoughtful of him to bring me the paper and again I say "Thank you."

The issue has current news, but also has pictures and cartoons that have been run over the 128 years that it has been published. The paper was founded on December 16, 1852.

I always hate to see a large city lose one or more of its newspapers and have only one newspaper in the city. Usually they are run by someone that owns many newspapers and the same editorial policy is in all papers.

Maybe the small weekly can hold out and give readers more than one man's viewpoint.

If you would like to see this issue, it is at the office, so come by and take a look.

The 1975 graduating class of Hoke High School will have its first class reunion on September 5, 1981 at 8:00 p.m. at the Bordeaux Motor Inn in Fayetteville. If you have not been contacted please get in touch with either of the following persons: Gwendlyn McIntyre - 875-3401 day, Marie McCollum Dobbins 875-8593 night.

Now for all you folks that haven't been to a class reunion, now is the time to find out how to have a fine time. So call, and make arrangements to attend.

The rain Saturday night was heavy in some parts of the county and light in other parts. The rainfall in Raeford was from 1 1/2 to 2 1/4 inches, according to which side of town you lived. Blue Springs had only 1/2 inch and this was also true in the area known as Gold Hill or near Shankle's or Jim McBryde's. The Wayside community had 1.2 inches, according to Dick Neeley.

So you see it is hard to report the rainfall of the county accurately.

The Hoke County school system will get \$885,627 from county funds, \$5,434,340 from the state, and \$1,628,809 from the federal government to pay operational expenses during the current fiscal year which runs through June 30, 1982.

The past year the totals were about \$850,521 budgeted from local funds.

Of the local funds for 1981-82, a total \$773,627 is coming from county revenue, \$100,000 is expected from court fines and forfeitures, \$8,000 from interest on school funds on deposit, and \$4,000 in indirect costs.

Of the 1980-81 current - expense budget \$755,521 came from county revenue, about \$95,000 from fines and forfeitures, and the remainder from the other sources.

In addition, the commissioners have pledged \$5,000 from the county contingency fund to the board of education for the specific use of the Hoke Reading/Literacy Council, to teach the county's illiterate and near-illiterate people to read and write at least competently enough to handle their essential needs.

In reference to the county schools' 1981-82 capital - outlay budget, which is used to finance

purchases of new equipment and pay for new construction and repairs, Don Steed, the system's business manager, said the specific amount depends on whether the county commissioners grant a request he is to make to them Monday night for \$25,000 to increase the school board's matching fund to obtain a federal energy grant totaling \$89,062. The school board budgeted \$19,531 last year as the total local matching fund of a total \$195,310. Of the latter, at the time, the federal government's Department of Energy would have paid 90 per cent of the total with the county board paying the remaining portion.

Since then, however, the Reagan presidential administration reduced the ratio so that local boards and the Energy Department split the costs between them evenly. The total fund now possible would consist of \$44,531 each from the county board and the Energy Department.

The money will be used to make county school buildings more efficient in the use of energy, by improving insulation and eliminating defects in heating systems, among other things.

The commissioners also will be

asked to apply the \$20,500 received from the sale of the house at 705 Harris Ave. formerly occupied by Hoke County High School principals and their families to the school capital outlay budget. This, Steed indicated, would be the only other fund in capital outlay besides the requested \$25,000 for the energy-grant matching fund.

The money from the house sale the board wants to help pay the approximately \$35,000 bill for repairing the roof of the Upchurch Junior High School Eighth Grade building. The work is under contract and is to be completed before classes start September 3 of the new school year.

The budget for the new year generally reflects reductions in county money for travel expenses, intramural sports at Upchurch and other sports at Hoke High, janitorial supplies, and the county funds used in lieu of the fees which formerly were charged to students for such things as certain science laboratory, music, and classroom supplies, among other categories.

The "in-lieu-of" fees budget item was reduced to \$20,230 from \$25,750.

In travel, cuts included board of education expenses, to a total of \$1,000 for the year from the

previous \$2,000. Through the whole system, Steed said, travel allowances were cut about 10 per cent. Travel allowances the past year totaled \$27,645.

A saving also was affected when one employee in maintenance resigned and was not replaced, Steed said.

The budget for energy -- fuel oil, water and sewage, and natural gas -- was increased to \$62,800 in county funds for the new year from the past year's \$26,606. The state is due to pay \$33,806 to the school budget, which will bring the total for energy to \$96,606. The inflation in energy costs is blamed for the increase in the budget needs.

Also increased for the new year were the funds for the county's programs for exceptional children, which includes the gifted and talented, and the physically and mentally handicapped. The state is providing \$424,030 and the county \$30,685.

Federal funds for two of three major programs were reduced from last year's totals. Only the Indian Education Act program was given an increase -- to \$101,899 from \$93,218. The program for educating children of migrant agricultural workers is getting \$29,400,

compared with last year's \$40,528; and the Title I (remedial reading) program, \$435,719, compared with last year's \$532,317.

Budgeted for teachers' salaries for the new year are \$140,441 in local, \$2,660,295 in state, and \$389,630 in federal funds.

School Food Service is due to get a total of \$1,054,626, which consists of \$29,366 in state and the rest in federal funds.

The new budget also provides salaries paid by state, county, or federal funds, or some of both, and annual supplements paid by county funds for school system personnel, including the following. The salary is listed first, with the state or federal source indicated, and the supplement paid.

Superintendent (Raz Autry) -- \$32,000 state, and \$6,000; associate superintendent (J.D. McAllister) -- \$32,332 (half state, half federal); federal program liaison officer (new title for Earl Oxendine, formerly director of compensatory programs) -- \$30,742 federal; vocational education director (Harold Gillis) -- \$22,428, state pays 74 per cent, county 26 per cent, and \$1,000 local supplement.

School Food Service director (Clara Pope) -- \$22,248 federal; cultural arts director (Mary Archie McNeill) -- \$20,412 state and \$500 local supplement; business manager -- \$22,428 state and \$1,200; community school services (Hank Richards) -- \$23,556 state; audio-visual coordinator (Glenn Langdon) -- \$21,420 all county.

Bands director (Jimmy James) -- \$17,010 state and \$2,000; exceptional children's programs coordinator (Rhenda Cameron) -- \$15,510 state; Hoke High choral director (Linda Huff) -- \$14,190 state and \$1,000; instructional director (Florence Cohen) -- \$24,164 state and \$500; instructional director (Gloria Williams) -- \$23,566 state and \$500.

Principals (all salaries paid by state funds): Hoke High (Dr. Lenwood Simpson) -- \$32,196 and \$2,500 (local supplement); Upchurch Junior High (Allen Edwards) -- \$29,652 and \$1,500; J.W. Turlington (Emma Mims) -- \$24,684 and \$1,000; Scurlcock (George Wood) -- \$25,908 and \$600; South Hoke (Woodrow Westall) -- \$25,908 and \$600; McLauchlin (Floyd Caldwell) -- \$24,684 and \$600; and West Hoke (Milton Williams) -- \$20,412 and \$600.

Among the others, the Hoke High athletics director (Billy Colston) receives \$18,690 total pay for 10 months from the state and \$3,738 for the two other months, in the summer, in county money, though he is paid no supplement. Colston also teaches. Hoke High's head football coach (Tom Jones) also is receiving a state salary of \$16,230 for 10 months, \$3,246 in county funds for the remaining months of the year, and a county supplement of \$2,480, which is for coaching. His salary is his pay for his physical education teaching work.

Other coaches' pay and supplement include: girls' basketball (Audrey Long) -- \$17,010 and \$1,450; boys' basketball (Ron Parsons) -- \$13,150 and \$1,150. Miss Long also received a county fund supplement of \$810 for coaching girls' track, and Parsons \$765 supplement for coaching boys' track and \$740 for coaching Ninth Grade football. The supplements, like Jones's, is for coaching.

Their regular salaries are for their teaching other subjects. Athletics supplements for Hoke High coaches and assistants total \$21,078, consisting of the following for each activity listed:

Football -- \$7,760; basketball -- \$4,075; cross-country -- \$450; volleyball -- \$480; tennis -- \$924; cheerleader sponsor -- \$756; trainer -- \$595; baseball -- \$1,704; track -- \$1,998; softball -- \$612; wrestling -- \$1,350; and weight training -- \$374.

Upchurch athletic supplements are: football -- head coach \$700, assistants \$350 and \$300; basketball -- \$700 each, boys' head coach and girls' head coach; baseball -- head coach \$700; volleyball -- head coach \$350; and cheerleader sponsor \$325.

The board of education approved the final revision of the new year's budget at its monthly meeting August 4.

Stockholders Informed By President

Bank Merger Feasibility Probed

The directors of The Bank of Raeford are investigating the feasibility of the bank's merging with another North Carolina bank.

The stockholders of the local bank were informed of this by W.E. (Gene) Carter, the institution's president, in a letter written August 4.

Carter writes the practicality of a merger is being explored because "It appears that shortly all rules and regulations on savings and time deposit accounts will be eliminated allowing interest rates to soar."

He adds, "The small community bank could be at a severe disadvantage."

Questioned by a reporter Mon-

day morning about the letter, Carter replied that as the letter says the feasibility is being investigated. The decision may be that a merger would be impractical, or that it would be, he indicated.

The letter does not mention a possible merger partner by name, only "with one of the larger well run banks in this state."

The Bank of Raeford has been an independent community institution since its organization at a public meeting May 12, 1903. The bank started business with a capital of \$12,000. Its assets now total over \$9.25 million. The bank's new main office building on South Main Street was opened formally September 23, 1979, but the three-

story building erected for it in 1911 continues being used. The bank's first home was a brick building. Raeford's first, on the approximate location of the present Hoke Drug Co. The bank also has the Sunset drive-in branch in Sunset Hills.

The complete text of Carter's letter to the stockholders follows.

Dear Stockholder:

As you know, there are many changes taking place in banking today and many more scheduled for the next few years. It appears that shortly all rules and regulations on savings and time deposit accounts will be eliminated allowing interest rates to soar. The small community bank could be at a severe disadvantage.

With these thoughts in mind, the Directors, today, decided to investigate the feasibility of merging The Bank of Raeford with one of the larger well run banks in this state.

The Bank of Raeford has always served its customers in the best manner possible; we intend to continue this tradition.

You will be advised as soon as possible as to whether merging is practical or advisable.

We sincerely request your support and objectivity in the upcoming investigation. Your comments or questions are welcomed.

Sincerely,
W.E. Carter
President

No Probable Cause For Murder Charge Found

4 Assessed Burial Costs In Gun Fight

Hoke County District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree found no probable cause Friday for a murder charge in the gunfight May 10 at the Hour Glass Club that took two lives.

He ordered the defendant and four other men, however, to pay \$500 each for the burial expenses of the two victims and to pay court costs on separate charges of participating in a fight in which dangerous weapons were used.

Dupree sentenced each to 12 months to two years but suspended the sentences on conditions they

pay the court costs and the share of the burial expenses. Each also was placed on probation for three years.

The judge found Donald Locklear of Rt. 1, Red Springs, not guilty of a similar charge filed following the fight.

The murder charge had been filed against Harold Gene Brooks of Rt. 1, Shannon, in the shooting of Charles Ray McNeill, 25, of Rt. 2, Shannon. The other man who died after being wounded in the fight was Ronnie Jacobs, 26, of Rt. 2, Raeford, who had been shot in the head. No one was charged in

Jacob's death.

The others ordered to help pay the burial expenses for Jacobs and Ray were Clayton Bullard, Jr., Rt. 2, Red Springs; Harvey Lee Jacobs, Rt. 1, Red Springs; Jerry Ray Locklear, Rt. 1, Shannon; Anthony Bryant, Rt. 3, Laurinburg.

Brooks, Bullard, James Luther Hammonds, and Junior Lee Jones were the others wounded in the fight. Hammonds allegedly was shot by McNeill before the other guns were fired, and McNeill was stabbed before he was shot but no charge was filed in the stabbing.

To Complete Energy Grant Matching Fund

School Board To Ask For \$25,000 Extra

The Hoke County Board of Education will ask the county commissioners Monday night for an extra \$25,000 to complete matching funds to get a \$44,062 federal energy grant to make county school buildings more efficient in use of energy.

The reason why more money is needed, it was explained at the school board's monthly meeting August 4, is the switch in the federal funding formula made by the Reagan administration in the course of cutting federal spending.

The original local fund would have been sufficient matching money under the old system which had the federal Department of Energy paying 90 per cent and local school boards 10 per cent of the costs.

The Reagan administration, however, changed the ratio so that the local boards and the federal agency each pay half the costs.

The total also was under the federal economizing to the present figure, which is approximate, from about \$195,310 expected originally with the 90-10 per cent ratio working.

The energy-use improvement work is scheduled for the Upchurch Junior High School classroom and auditorium buildings, the South Hoke School classroom building, the McLauchlin School classroom and cafeteria buildings, and the West Hoke kindergarten, media center, and classroom buildings.

In a separate project, the Upchurch roof is being repaired for about \$35,000. The school board

will ask the county commissioners Monday night also to apply the \$26,500 received from the sale of the board-owned house at 705 Harris Ave. to the budget fund for helping pay the cost. The remaining money will be taken from the school system maintenance fund.

The Harris Avenue house until about a year ago was used as a residence for the Hoke County

High School principal. The last principal to live in the residence, with his family, was Earl Oxendine, since promoted to director of compensatory education, a title changed by the board at its August 4 meeting to "federal program liaison officer."

The commissioners will hold their regular mid-month meeting Monday night.

Fire Units' Lists

Elwood Baker, president of the Hoke County Firemen's Association, asks all Hoke fire departments to give him lists of their officers and their equipment with identification of each piece of

equipment.

Baker provides auditors and other authorized people with information from the lists when they request it.