

Mayor Unopposed; 8 Out For Council

Raeford Municipal Elections Tuesday

Around Town
BY SAM C. MORRIS

The rains have arrived in Hoke County and it seems that everyone has a smile on their face. It started raining Saturday night and as this is being written Monday afternoon it is still raining.

Robert Gatlin was by the office a few minutes ago and stated that at 3 p.m. 1.95 inches of rain had fallen since Saturday night. If it keeps up, we should have over two inches before night. Gatlin said that the rain had finally softened the soil enough to let the disk harrows get into the fields. Of course most of the folks want it to continue raining for awhile. I believe we are about 10 inches short of rain this year.

The temperature was in the 40s and 50s Saturday and Sunday, but warmed up during the day Monday.

I don't know for sure if it was as cold as it felt Saturday at Chapel Hill, but it seemed to me that it was near freezing when the wind blew through the stands. Maybe the score on the field had something to do with it, because the Tar Heels didn't seem to warm up at all.

The Hoke High Booster Club is sponsoring an auction Saturday, October 31 at the Gibson Cafeteria. The auction will be from three until six p.m.

Linda Huff, music director at Hoke High, said that proceeds would go to the benefit of the Hoke High Chorus and Chorale.

She also stated that hot dogs would be sold and that a Bake Sale would also be in progress. Items to be sold include a pony, pigs and appliances. Danny DeVane will be the auctioneer.

See advertisement inside the paper for further details.

When mistakes start appearing it seems it is almost impossible to stop them. Several years ago we made a mistake in J. A. Baucom's ad for five weeks straight.

I corrected an error in this column last week and must do the same this week. Why I would write Jack Pope's name, "Jack Poole" is something that I can't understand. Anyway, I did.

A member of the Norton family called me last week and said that Neill Currie had made a mistake when he stated the Nortons belonged to the Baptist Church. She said that this family of Nortons were Methodists and hadn't ever been Baptists.

So we will have to send people to the Methodist Church rather than to see the Rev. Billy Beaver. Sorry about these mistakes.

The following letter is self-explanatory:

Dear Sam,
The Raeford Woman's Club is this year coordinating Christmas giving in Hoke County through a new service project, "Share Your Christmas."

We have been told that even though citizens are very generous with their Christmas giving, many people go without while others may be showered from several directions.

Our efforts will be directed towards seeking out the needs in the county with emphasis on small children, the sick or handicapped, and the elderly. We will take referrals from teachers, churches, groups and individuals. The referrals will be screened. We will receive gifts and use them to meet the needs without duplication.

Woman's Club members will be at the Hoke County Library on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from one to five and on Saturday morning, nine to twelve December 1-12 to receive referrals and gifts of good children's clothing, toys, and

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Mayor J.K. McNeill, Jr.



Robert L. (Bobby) Turner



Graham Clark



B.M. (Bob) Gentry



Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr.



Earl McDuffie, Jr.



James B. McLeod



Sam C. Morris



Thomas J. (Joe) Upchurch

City, Council, Guard Officials Attend

Ground Broken For New Armory In Raeford

Ground for the new Army National Guard Armory was broken formally the afternoon of October 21 on the five-acre site in Raeford.

Those attending included Maj. George Paris of Red Springs, commander of the Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, whose Headquarters and Headquarters Company will be based in the new building; and Hoke County and Raeford City government officials; and Lt. Col. Elbert McPhaul, Jr., director of facilities for the State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Paris is mayor of Red Springs. McPhaul is a native of Hoke County.

Taking part in the ceremonial ground-breaking were National Guard CW 3 Jesse Jones of Raeford, Raeford Mayor Pro Team Graham Clark, and John Balfour, chairman of the Board of Hoke County Commissioners.

The new building will be erected on the west side Teal Drive and between N.C. 211 west cutoff and the U.S. 401 south bypass. A street, named Upchurch, will be opened eventually between the new building and the 211 cutoff.

The building will contain 20,002 square feet, about 4,000 square feet more than the East Central Avenue building which it will replace.

If the weather during the construction period is favorable, the building will be completed for use by next April.

The U.S. National Guard Bureau has approved \$712,000 for the construction.

The building will include space for four offices for battalion headquarters, and areas for training facilities, equipment storage, an assembly hall of 6,300 square feet, a rifle range, food preparation and scullery areas, locker and rest rooms, and shower sections.

Part of the building will be two stories high and the rest one-story. It will be heated by natural gas, and the offices and classrooms will be air-conditioned, with the rest of the building ventilated mechanically.

The present building will revert to the Hoke County government after the new building is occupied. Headquarters and Headquarters Company is composed of 136 officers and enlisted people.

Paris succeeded Lt. Col. Fred McKenzie of Southern Pines as battalion commander in September.

Raeford voters next Tuesday will choose five of eight candidates to serve on the City Council for the next two years, and also elected a mayor.

Mayor John K. McNeill, III, is unopposed for reelection. He is completing his sixth two-year term.

All the present members of the council are running for new terms, and three who haven't served before are out to win seats.

The present members running are Mayor Pro Team Graham Clark, Sam Morris, Bob Gentry, Vardell Hedgpeth, Jr., and James E. (Benne) McLeod. The other candidates are Earl McDuffie, Jr., Robert L. (Bobby) Carter, and Thomas J. (Joe) Upchurch.

Clark is running for his seventh term, McLeod for his sixth, Morris for his fifth, and Gentry and Hedgpeth for their third. Gentry served the unexpired term of David Lovette one-year unexpired portion of the term of David Lovette and was elected to his first regular term in 1977.

Except for some write-in votes, all the incumbents were unopposed for reelection in the 1979 voting. In the last city election, only about 128 of the city's 1,408 registered voters cast ballots, but the size of the turnout could be blamed on the lack of opposition the five council candidates and the mayor had.

The voting places on election day will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

Registered voters of the three precincts within the city limits are eligible to vote.

The precincts and their voting places are:

Raeford Precinct One -- Court-house; Two -- old County Office Building on West Elwood Avenue, across the street from the post office; and Four -- Hoke Civic Center, off the east side of U.S. 401 south.

The registrars are Allen Edwards, Precinct One; Mary Lee Matherly, Two; and Wanda Monroe, Four.

3 Injured In Traffic Crash

Three people were injured about 7 p.m. Sunday when two cars collided at East Central Avenue and Highland Street, Raeford. Police Chief Leonard Wiggins reported.

He said they were Julius Jones of Rt. 1, Red Springs, Johnny Jones (no relation) of Rt. 1, Raeford, the drivers; and Johnny Jones's passenger, Robert Lee Graham of Rt. 1, Lumber Bridge.

Wiggins said they were treated at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville.

He said a 1972 Buick being driven by Johnny Jones failed to yield the right of way on Highland and was struck by a 1974 Lincoln being driven by Julius Jones.

Wiggins said the Buick was a total loss, and about \$2,500 damage was done to the Lincoln.



GROUND BROKEN -- At the ground-breaking ceremony for the new National Guard Armory were, front, with shovels, L-R, CW 3 Jesse Jones of Raeford, Raeford Mayor Pro Team Graham Clark, and John Balfour, chairman of the board of Hoke County Commissioners. The others are, L-R, Maj. George Paris, commander of the Guard's Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, SFC Richard Wolf of Raeford; SSG Frank Brown of Lumberton; Earl Fowler, executive vice president of the Raeford-Hoke County Chamber of Commerce; County Commissioners James A. Hunt, Mabel Riley and Neill McPhatter; MSG Charles Hurvill; Lt. Col. Elbert McPhaul, Jr., director of facilities, State Crime Control and Public Safety Department; Sgt. Cooper, and Gilbert M. Slack of White and Slack, Raleigh architect firm which designed the building. [Staff photo by Pam Foderick.]

Boosters' Chicken Dinner November 5

The Hoke Music Boosters annual Fried Chicken Dinner will be held November 5 with the Hoke High and Upchurch Junior High choruses and bands giving separate performances.

The dinner will be served from 5 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. in Gibson Cafeteria at Hoke High. Dinners also may be bought to take out.

The schedule of performances of the bands and choruses is:

6 p.m. -- Upchurch Eighth Grade Band, directed by Jimmy James; 6:45 p.m. -- Hoke High Chorus and Chorale, Linda Huff, director; 7:15 p.m. -- Upchurch Chorus and Vocal Ensemble, Anne

Freeze, director; and 7:45 p.m. -- Hoke High Marching Band, Jimmy James, director.

The Hoke High and Upchurch choruses and the Upchurch band will perform in Gibson Court, and the Hoke High band, in Hoke Stadium.

Cake walks also are on the schedule.

Tickets may be obtained from members of Music Boosters for \$3 each or at the door the evening of the dinner for \$3.50.

Hot homemade yeast rolls and a dessert will be served with the chicken.