

By Hoke Commissioners At Public Hearing

Protests Against New Tax Bills Heard

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather has been, as one would expect for June. The days are warm and it cools off at night. The thundershowers have been with us most afternoons.

Reports from some sections of the county are that many fields have been hit with hail. A section near Galatia Church is said to have been hit really hard and the crops were completely destroyed in many fields.

We have been lucky as far as the wind is concerned because only a few limbs have been blown off some trees. A freak tornado killed a man in Wake County Sunday.

As this is being written Monday afternoon, I haven't seen the weatherman since my return to Hoke County last Tuesday. Maybe someone told him something about me and he is staying away on purpose.

It seems many people read my account of the trip to Florida and the Caribbean. I cannot answer some of the questions raised about my writeup and will not attempt to justify what I did write.

Something that was a surprise to me on the trip was that our bus driver to Miami and on the return trip to Raeford was born and raised in Red Springs. His name was Welton Pittman and he said that his mother still lives in Red Springs and he told me exactly how to get to his home coming from Raeford.

He now lives in Suitland, Md. and drives from Baltimore to Miami every week. Pittman is a good driver, and as far as I could tell, never took a chance while we were on the trip.

Yes, he was the only person that knew where Raeford was located.

Mr. Will Monroe of the Puppy Creek-Rockfish section of the county brought me two clippings from Dick Brown's column in the Fayetteville Observer. Mr. Will had mentioned some of the items in the columns and I was very interested in them. Many thanks for bringing them by the office.

Maybe you have seen or maybe you have heard what the final registration figures were for Hoke County. The books closed June 1, 1982 and approximately 2000 new names were added to the books.

The total registration for the county is 8733. This number includes 8260 Democrats; 407 Republicans; and 66 unaffiliated.

The largest precinct in the county is Raeford I with 1238 registered. Second is Raeford 5 with 916 registered. The smallest precinct is Allendale with 225 registered voters.

Now how many of these people will vote? I have heard estimates from 5000 to 7000. It would be great if over 8000 would vote.

The primary election is less than two weeks away. As has been stated in this column many times there are many ways to cast your ballot. You can vote absentee by making an application or you can go by the board of elections office on West Elwood Avenue and vote any day now if you are going to be away on election day.

Then of course you can go to your polling place on Tuesday, June 29th and VOTE.

There is no excuse for you not to vote. So please take time to do so. Your vote may be the ballot that makes someone win or lose.

This is about the only thing you can do now and not be charged for it.

So Be Sure to VOTE.

Next week *The News-Journal* will have what we call our election section, there will be ads from the candidates and we will print all the ballots that will be given you in the

(See AROUND TOWN, page 15)

At 8th Annual Banquet

Judge Civic League Speaker Friday

The Hoke County Civic League will sponsor its Eighth Annual Banquet on Friday, June 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Gibson Cafeteria of Hoke County High School.

The guest speaker will be Herbert L. Richardson, District Court judge of the 16th Judicial District.

Judge Richardson is a native of Nashville, N.C. He received his B.A. degree in 1973 from North Carolina Central University, and graduated from North Carolina Central University in 1976 with a Juris Doctor Degree.

He practiced law in Durham for two years, and in 1978 became the first black member of the Robeson County district attorney's office in 1978. In 1979, Judge Richardson became the first black judge to serve in Robeson county.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the N.C. Black Lawyers Association and the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers. He has been admitted to practice before the North Carolina Supreme Court, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond,

Virginia and the United States Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

Judge Richardson lives in Lumberton with wife, Patricia, and son, Herbert L. Richardson, Jr.

The Banquet is open to the public, and tickets may be purchased from ministers and members of various churches in the county making up the League.

Rev. J.W. Gorham, president of Hoke County Civic League, invites all interested persons to attend.



Judge Herbert Richardson

Hoke County property owners will pay a lower tax rate in 1982-83 but most will pay more in taxes than they did the past year, and displeasure was expressed by practically everyone of the more than a dozen of the people who spoke Monday night at the county commissioners' public hearing. Most will pay more because 1981-82 eight-year taxable property evaluation put higher values on their property.

More than 100 people, including county officials, teachers and school administrators and other public employees and private citizens attended the 75 minute hearing on the proposed budget and proposed tax rate, 72 cents per \$100 evaluation. The current rate is \$101, based on property values of the past year.

Much of the 75 minutes the hearing in the Courthouse courtroom consumed was spent in explanations of tax types by county officials in replying to questions put by property owners. At one point, County Manager James Martin, former County Tax Supervisor Les Simpson, and John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, each helped explain land use value compared with others, as a basis for taxation, relating mainly to land use in cultivation by farming.

During the discussion, Jimmy Plummer of Rt. 4, Raeford, a farmer, quoted figures showing prices farmers received for most commodities produced in Hoke County were lower than they were a year ago, though higher evaluation for tax purposes is put on farmland and homes.

Martin informed the audience that the average home owner and average farm owner will pay more taxes. He said the total increase in the taxable value of property is 43 per cent more for 1982-83 than it was the past year.

Some taxpayers will pay less than or about the same as they did before the re-evaluation. Balfour said he hated to say so but industry will be among those paying less. The proposed budget shows the new evaluation puts the taxable property at \$307 million.

A written description of the proposed budget distributed to the people attending the meeting shows that of the proposed budget the general fund expenditures would amount of \$3,729,429. The rest of the budget is made up of debt service, fund for the 1990 reevaluation, federal revenue-sharing facility fee fund, and fund balance. The proposed 72-cent tax on the new tax base and based on 92 per cent collections will bring \$2,033,568 in revenue, it is estimated. The second largest single source of revenue is estimated to be \$573,468 coming from federal revenue-sharing funds.

After hearing protests against the proposed tax and reevaluation, Balfour told the audience, "Tell us (the commissioner) what services to cut." A man in the audience replied, "All of them," and the answer drew laughter. "Across the board," said another.

Meanwhile, the County Board of Education planned to ask the county commissioners at a meeting of the two boards Tuesday night to add \$100,000 to the county school system budget for the new fiscal year. The system is in the proposed county budget for \$835,412 for current expense (operating expenses), \$153,000 for capital outlay (construction and repairs and new equipment), besides \$103,113 for debt service. The extra money is wanted for current expenses, the school administration says.

The school board at a meeting before going to the public hearing was told by County Schools Supt. Raz Autry that without the extra \$100,000 these are some of the reductions which have to be made:

Four teachers in cultural arts, \$10,000 from the maintenance budget; \$5,000 from the programs for exceptional children (including the physically and mentally handicapped) and all audio-visual and instructional supplies.

Regarding maintenance, Autry said this budget has had to be cut for the past three years, but in five or six years the school system will need \$6 million to \$7 million, not \$100,000 (if "preventive maintenance" cannot be carried on).

Don Steed, school system business manager, said...

At Achievement Night

Hoke Adults Receive SCC Certificates

"Someone cares about you," Chester L. Jefferson told the audience at the May 12 Continuing Education Achievement Night program at Sandhills Community College to sum up his feelings about the adult basic education class he participated in.

That statement set the tone for the evening of celebrating students' hard work and achievements.

More than 500 persons from Moore and Hoke counties attended the Wednesday evening program, which traditionally features student speakers. One hundred and forty students received high school equivalency (GED) diplomas, or certificates for participation in the adult basic education (ABE) program at Sandhills.

J.E. Causey, chairman of the Board of Trustees, welcomed the audience and students and stated how proud the trustees are of the programs for adults that the College offers.

Harlan McCaskill, dean of Continuing Education, cited 1981-82 as a very successful school year with increases in enrollment. Dean McCaskill recognized the fulltime staff members and part-time instructors and supervisors with the program.

Class offerings include adult basic education, which teaches reading, writing, math skills and consumer information. The GED classes prepare students for the high school equivalency examination. The College operates a Learning Lab day and night for students to work individually to finish high school, or brush up on particular skills.

In Hoke County, Sandhills offers an adult high school diploma program in conjunction with the Hoke County Schools. Students completing this program receive their high school diploma through the Hoke system.

Sandhills Community College President Raymond Stone recognized guests Florence Taylor and Marsellette Morgan of the Department of Community Colleges in Raleigh and State Sen. Russell Walker of Asheboro.

Retha Long, a graduate of the adult high school program in Hoke County, said her supervisor encouraged her to return to school after filling out forms for a promotion revealed she did not have a high school diploma.

"I'll be honest," Long stated, "I did not want to go back to school. But I wanted that job, and I wanted that promotion." The Hoke resident praised the attitude and encouragement of her teachers which helped change her mind about continuing her education.

The South Hoke Singers sang the hymn, "Standing on the Promises." Members of the class at the Hoke County Education Center in Raeford presented a lively and realistic skit about fears that adults have about coming back to school and encouragement other students can give.

Certificates were presented to students while mothers, fathers, children, or other family members looked on.

The following Hoke County students received certificates:

--Education Center, Raeford, Carol Page, instructor -- Annie Alford, Neil Gilchrist, David Goodman, Sally Jones, Myra Legrande, Augustina Lloyd, David Virgil, Dorothy Ellerbe, Marice Galloway, Patsy Lupo, Linda Torrence, and Rosa Woods.

--Mt. Pisgah Church, Geraldine Munn and William Munn, instructors -- Frances Boahn, Jeannie Boahn, Polly Bethune, Mary Campbell, Willie Ed McLean, Jo Ann Oliphant, Bertha Pridgett, Mildred Pridgett, and Cynthia Smith.

--Raeford, Barbara Buie, instructor -- Anna Campbell.

--Cameron Heights, Bettie York, instructor -- Lillie Mae Arnold, Mary M. Johnson, Pearl Rodgers, Maggie Smith, Retta Thomas, Isadore White, and Jessie Willis.

--Education Center, Raeford, Carrie Carter, instructor -- Andre Austin, Jeffery Baldwin, Robert Blue, Lora Francis, Sandra Mcfadigon, William McMillian, Wallace Morrison, and Herald Murchison.



Student speakers for Achievement Night at Sandhills Community College, L-R -- Chester L. Jefferson, Retha Long of Hoke County, Michael Allen Frye and Student Government Association President Mark Chester-Ciechowski, and Louise Cox, soloist.

--Antioch, Jan Dial, instructor -- Hannah Berry, Pearl Brooks, Billie Bullard, Delois Bullard, Nellis Jacobs, Kathy Locklear, Lena Locklear, Tommy Locklear, Wanda Locklear, and Rosa Belle Woods.

--West Hoke, Barbara and Jim Lupo, instructors -- Margaret Brower, Josephine Bethae, Minnie Bell Blue, Ruthie Bryant, Wilbert Fairley, and Pearl McRae.

--South Hoke, Betty York, instructor -- Rosie B. Gillespie, Ollie Johnson, Elisia McBrady, and Pearl McLean.

--South Hoke Community Center Mitchell Tyler, instructor -- Peggy Doak, Bobby Lowery, Francis Lowery, and Alice Tyler.

--Scurlock School, Marilyn Semones, instructor -- Linda Hendrix, Phyllis Locklear, and Jessie Thompson.

--Hoke County Adult High School graduates were announced in *The News-Journal* of June 3. They received their diplomas at the high school's commencement June 4.

They had attended the Sandhills Community College classes conducted at Hoke High.

The Hoke County GED graduates, who studied in the Learning Lab on the college campus from May 12, 1981, to May 12, 1982, are: Vivian Blackburn, Michael Frye, Gregory Furr, Betty Gardner, Melody Garrison, Anthony Henriques, Frances Jesse, Donna Kelly, Rufus Kennedy, Beverly Ritter Livengood, Barbara Jean McKinnon, Venus Medlin, Estella Pratt, Denise Sandig, Viola Stefanacci, and Svbil Wallace.

Hoke GED graduates who studied in Larry Allen's class on the college campus: Michael Anthony Bennett, Olivia Brown, Gabriel Farmer, Rufus Frye, Renee Elizabeth McLaurin, Derrie Ross, and Joanne Short.

Larry Cameron's class, Vass-Lakeview -- Vickie Hicks, Mary Margaret Leach, Percy Page, and Mike Stine.

Carrie Smith's class, Raeford -- Joann Carter, James Easterling, Frederick Hutchison, Debbie Lee, Nathaniel Luckie, Bernice Moser, William Patterson, Tara Smith, Mary Virginia Willis.

Louise Cox's class, Addor -- Gloria Ackerman.

Jan Dial's class, Antioch Church -- Hannah Berry, Pearl Brooks, and Wanda Locklear.

Judith Glenn's class, Highfalls -- Brenda Allred, Terry Britt, and Freida Spivey.

Bruce Hurst's class, Raeford -- Rulinda Monroe and Johnny Taylor.

Yvonne Morrison's class, Southern Pines -- Michael Berry, Wilbert Harris, Mamie McCauley, and Evelyn Shaw.

Carol Page's class, Raeford -- Johnny Bratcher and Geraldine Love.

Faith Riggs's class, Sarra, and -- Joseph Canady, Tyrone-Valentine, Jeannette Crawley, Brian Wallace and Timothy Wrenn.

Ray Vaughn's class, Elise -- Esther Lee and Vicki Maness Phillips.

Judge Dupree 'Shaken Up' In Accident

District Court Judge Joseph Dupree of Raeford was "shaken up" but not injured in a two-car collision about 4 p.m. June 9 in Fayetteville at a street intersection in the Massey Hill section, the Fayetteville Police Department reported.

No citation was issued. Judge Dupree and a passenger in the other car were X-rayed at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville. The other man was riding with his brother, Albert Smith of Rt. 2, Lumberton, the driver.

The judge said Monday that he had some "real sore muscles" for a couple of days. The damages to the cars totaled about several thousand dollars.

The collision occurred at the intersection of May and Trade Streets, where three other streets also enter Trade and near an

intersection of Trade and Southern Avenue.

Judge Dupree, riding alone and traveling east on May, stopped at the intersection, then continued, and his car was struck by Smith's vehicle, which was traveling south on Trade. Dupree said he didn't see Smith's car till the accident happened. He said Smith's car was in a hollow about 500 feet north of the May intersection and is a low-

profile when he checked that part of the street, and consequently he failed to see it. He said shrubbery and houses also partly obscure a few of Trade at that point.

Judge Dupree, a Democrat running for reelection, was in Fayetteville on a campaign trip and had just left one place and was driving to another when the accident occurred.

Commissioners, School Board To Meet

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners held a special meeting in the Conference Room of the Courthouse Annex Building at

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 15, to discuss the 1982-83 school budget with the Hoke County Board of Education.