

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The storm that hit the coast of North Carolina over the weekend did damage to many cottages and the beaches had erosion. The meetings of the two fronts caused the weekend in Hoke County to be bad. It was cold and rainy the entire time. As this is being written late Monday afternoon, it is still cold and it is very misty outside.

We will say that the forecast is for warmer weather Wednesday and on into the weekend.

The Raeford Kiwanis Club is helping to sponsor the Halloween Carnival that will be held at the Upchurch school on Saturday, October 30 starting at five o'clock and lasting until 10 that night.

There will be games, prizes, food, entertainment, radio show, costume judging, country store and raffles. The admission is free and the games will be 25 cents & 50 cents.

The Carnival is for the TMH special classes at Hoke County Schools.

So for a night of fun on Halloween, go to the Upchurch School.

The Hoke County Athletic Booster Club will have its annual Barbecue Supper Friday night, October 29 starting at 3 o'clock and continuing to 7 o'clock. The meal will be served at the Hoke High Cafeteria and it will be TAKE OUT ONLY. The price per plate will be \$3.50. You can't beat this price.

All proceeds will be used for the athletic programs at Hoke High and Upchurch schools.

Don't forget that Election Day is Tuesday, November 2. The polls will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

The final time for getting an absentee ballot application is Thursday, October 28 at five p.m. The absentee ballots must be in the Board of Elections office by five p.m. Monday, November 1. So if you are going to be out of town on that day, Nov. 2, go by and pick up your ballot.

If you become ill, there is a way to vote and it will be explained to you by the supervisor of Elections. So if you don't vote it will be your fault, not the election officials.

It came to me from a reliable source that a group of our local citizens that gather around the table at a local restaurant decided to go fishing at Bogue Sound. The group that went last Wednesday were all Methodists and their names are Vernon Hubbard, Neil Senter, John Haire, Irvin Currie, and Joe and Clyde Upchurch. They went to the Upchurch cottage at Bogue.

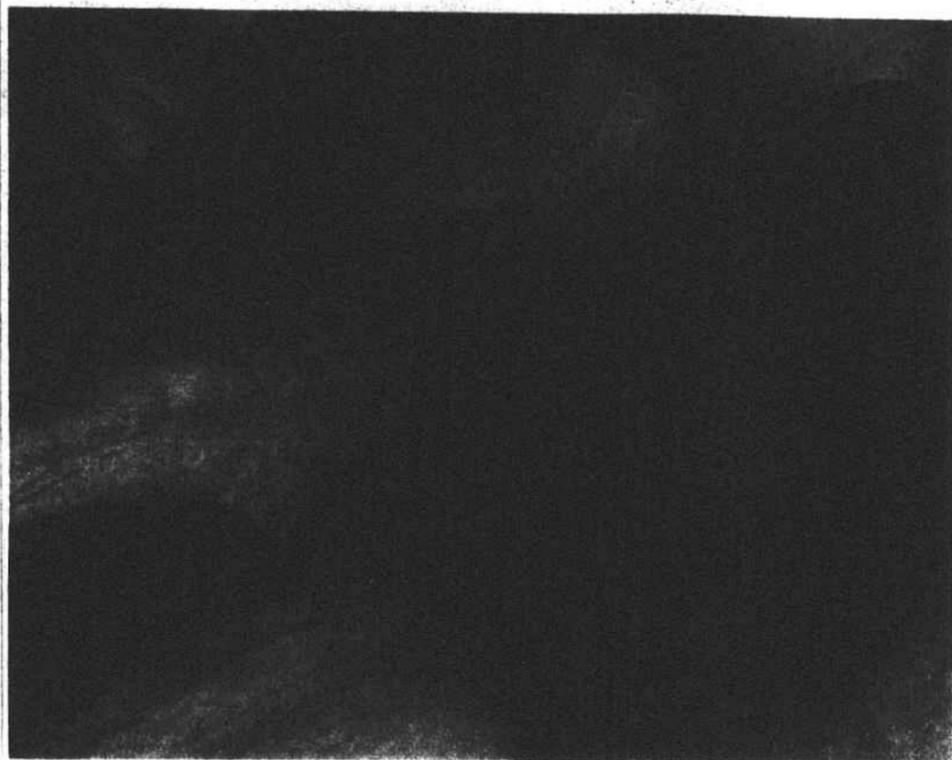
It seems that they went out in a boat to fish in the sound and that the water was somewhat choppy. I don't know if they caught any fish that day or not, but they all got seasick and had to return to shore.

On Thursday another fellow, Robert Gatlin, arrived and joined the group. Now as most folks in Hoke County know, Gatlin is a Baptist, so this made the group consist of six Methodist and one Baptist.

Now the next event has not been explained to me very well, but it seems that while Currie was on the pier with a net catching minnows for bait with Gatlin, he ended up in the sound and Gatlin was standing on the pier. It would seem that he was pushed into the water.

A Presbyterian, a good friend of both and also a coffee drinker, stated that Gatlin was trying to make a Baptist out of Currie. When I questioned Gatlin, all he would say was that they returned Saturday because all the group was in the same Sunday school class at the Methodist Church.

Anyway reports are that they caught plenty of spots and mullets.



Events Slated For Halloween

The witches are riding and the hobjoblins and spooks will prowl and shriek and moan in Hoke County as everywhere else next weekend. The traditional trick-or-treating is scheduled for Sunday night, Halloween.

Some special events are planned, besides the trick-or-treat visiting by costumed youngsters going from door to door.

The Hoke County Community Halloween Carnival is scheduled for Saturday from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Upchurch Junior High School. It is a benefit for the children in the Trainable Multi-handicapped classes.

The Raeford Jaycees are hosting their Haunted House from Thursday through Sunday, from 7 till 10:30 nightly, in the old house at the corner of Edinborough Avenue and Stewart Street, across the street from the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

The Raeford Police Department injected a warning into the anticipation of traditional fun: children going trick-or-treating should be accompanied by their parents or other responsible adults while they are making their calls.

Police Chief Leonard Wiggins Monday said children should not go to houses that are not lighted on the outside, and that people who welcome children on trick-or-treat visits should have their outdoor lights on.

Wiggins said the Police Department has not had any problems with Halloween night as other communities have and doesn't foresee any for Sunday night. Elsewhere, some people have given trick-or-treat visitors fruit containing razor blades or other sharp objects buried in them.

The Carnival is being sponsored by the Parent and Volunteers Committee for the TMH Students of the Hoke County school system in cooperation with the Raeford Kiwanis Club.

There will be costume-judging, a Cake Walk, a Haunted House, raffles, games, pie-in-the-face, an artist at work, a dance exhibition, Target Practice, pumpkin judging, and an old fashioned country store among other attractions.

Church, civic and youth organizations and businesses of Hoke County are supporting the Carnival.

Local Races Key To Voter Turnout

Hoke County voters in the general election Tuesday will elect three county commissioners and three members of the county board of education and help choose a congressman and officers in district-wide contests.

The voting booths will open in the 13 Hoke precincts at 6:30 a.m. and remain open till 7:30 p.m.

Rose Sturgeon, supervisor of county elections, said a total of 8,804 people are registered to vote in the county, and of these 8,324 are Democrats, 414 Republicans and 66 others. Mrs. Sturgeon said indications are the turnout will be light.

Of the total registered, 4,369 are white, 3,556 are black, and 879 are Indian.

Six candidates are running for the three school board positions, and four, including one Republican, are running for the board of county commissioners.

In the school board races are three incumbents -- board chairman Bill Cameron and Walter N. Coley and Roberts (Bobby) Wright. The other candidates are J.H. (Buddy) Blue, Onnie Bratcher Dudley, and Charlotte R. Kelly. The terms are for four years. The winners will join Mina Townsend and Ruth McNair on the board. Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. McNair were reelected in 1980 under the staggered-term system to four-year terms.

The school board election is non-partisan.

The county commissioners' race has Republican Evelyn Manning trying for a seat in the face of Democratic opposition. The other candidates include board chairman John Balfour and Commissioner James A. Hunt, and Cleo Bratcher, a Raeford businessman up for his first try for elective office.

Three other county officials are

up for reelection but are unopposed. They are Sheriff David Barrington, Clerk of Superior Court Juanita Edmund, and Coroner G. Frank Crumpler.

Hoke County voters will be participating in an Eighth District congressional election Tuesday, thanks to the redistricting made by the General Assembly because of the population changes shown by the 1980 U.S. Census. Hoke has been voting in the Seventh District in recent years, though at one time the county was in the Eighth.

U.S. Rep. William G. (Bill) Hefner of Kannapolis, a Democrat, is running for reelection against Republican Harris Blake, a Pinehurst merchant. Don Scoggin, the Libertarian Party candidate also is on the ballot.

Candidates for six 12th District judges and a district attorney are on the ballot also but only one

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Day Care Homes Get Raise

Members of the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) voted unanimously Monday to increase payments made for day care service to four homes here.

The increase is needed to cover the cost of providing the service and transportation to four family day care units located around Raeford, DSS Director Ken Witherspoon said.

Payments will be increased from \$120 per child per month to \$140 per child per month for care. Transportation payments will be increased to \$34 from \$30.

Some of the homes are barely making a living from the care service, and the children in the program need special attention, Witherspoon said.

Increased cost of providing

transportation has hurt the income of the day care providers, he added. DSS also uses the South Hoke Day Care Center for children in the county, however, that facility does not provide transportation and department staff are finding it difficult to fill all of the vacancies there.

That center will not be effected by the payment increase.

South Hoke has 11 slots for DSS children, but only five or six are being used, program coordinator Robin Russell said.

DSS may also be facing the possible loss of the South Hoke Center, Russell said, adding that changes in state regulations may affect the accreditation of the center.

Under the new regulations, the

day care staff in centers must have high school degree, and some of the South Hoke staff do not have degrees, Russell said.

In other business, Witherspoon said a recent survey of the DSS staff showed that 81% of those working in the Hoke County office live in the county.

The survey was conducted in response to questions from other residents about where local DSS workers live, Witherspoon said. Since Witherspoon assumed the directorship in 1979, he had hired 16 employees, of those 13 or 81% were county residents.

Presently at DSS there are 31 employees, 15 of those are white, 13 black and three are Indians.

Of the Hoke County residents 11 are white, 12 black and two Indians, Witherspoon said.

NG Sergeants Charged In SBI Probe Here

Two fulltime Raeford National Guard sergeants will be given probable-cause hearings November 4 in Hoke County District Court on felony charges of misapplying state property -- money, court records show.

Sgt. First Class Richard Alfred Wolf, 32, of Rt. 3, Box 36C, Raeford is charged in three warrants with taking a total of \$1,037 last August 31 "and prior dates," and March 31, 1982.

Staff Sgt. Franklin C. Brown, 40, of Rt. 3, Box 46, Lumberton, is charged in one warrant with taking \$540 on September 1, 1982, "and prior dates."

The complaints were filed by SBI Agent K.R. Snead of Rockingham, and the warrants were signed by Maj. J.M. Hall.

The warrants were served October 25, and the accused were released from custody on unsecured bonds, Wolf under \$30,000, and Brown under \$10,000 for their appearances at the preliminary hearings.

The hearings are held on felony charges to determine whether sufficient evidence against the defendant exists to bound him or her over to Superior Court for grand jury action.

Wolf and Brown are on the staff of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 252nd Armor. They were still on the unit staff Tuesday. Wolf was on leave, and Brown declined to comment in view of the legal situation.

Brown is supply sergeant for the Guard unit, and Wolf is unit administrator, supervisor of the fulltime personnel.

Former Deputy Pleads Guilty To Charges

Charles (Ronnie) Wilson changed his plea in Hoke Superior Court from not guilty to guilty of involuntary manslaughter Tuesday afternoon on the second day of his trial in the shooting of his first cousin, George Ernest Baker, 28.

Judge Britt sentenced Wilson to three years and suspended the term but ordered that Wilson serve six months of it. The judge recommended work release and made conditions of the suspension to include payment of the \$3,000 for the funeral expenses for Baker.

The judge also recommended work release for Wilson and ordered him to report to the sheriff Wednesday morning to be taken to Piedmont Correctional Center in Salisbury for processing. The judge said, however, that this doesn't mean Wilson will serve his term there, that he may be sent to any other unit in the prison system.

The judge imposed the sentence after hearing Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell summarize state's evidence and defense attorney Phil Diehl describe Wilson's record of volunteer public service, with the Rescue Squad and the North Raeford Volunteer Fire Department, among other organizations.

The judge placed Wilson on probation for five years, suspending the sentence for the same period.

He ordered Wilson to report to the probation officer no more than 30 days after Wilson finished

serving the six-months sentence. Wilson made his guilty plea in the absence of the jury, which had left the courtroom on the judge's order.

Wilson pleaded not guilty Monday, and selection of a jury was completed about 3:30 p.m. after about 3½ hours of interviewing members of the jury panel for the prosecution and the defense to agree on the 12 regular and one alternate.

The jury finally chosen consists of nine women. Two whites, six blacks and one Indian on the body hearing the evidence.

The opening statements of the prosecutor, Jean Powell, assistant district attorney, and the defense counsel, Phil Diehl, to the jury indicate the jurors will have to decide essentially whether Wilson acted recklessly and with indifference to the safety of the people at the campsite when he fired his AR 15 semiautomatic rifle, reportedly to scare the campers early in the morning of last June 26.

Diehl said the defense evidence will show that Wilson did not act indifferently and recklessly.

The first witness, Lawrence Conoly, took the stand for the state at about 4 p.m. Monday and testified in direct examination from Miss Powell and in cross examination by Diehl, then answered questions put later by Miss Powell and Diehl alternately till nearly 5

(See DEPUTY, page 2)

Low Income Energy Loans Open Here

An estimated 950 low-income households in Hoke County will be eligible for financial help with their heating bills this winter through the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.

Ken Witherspoon, Director of the Hoke County Department of Social Services, said the program provides a one-time payment to help eligible households pay their heating bills.

"It is not the purpose of the program to pay all of the household's heating bills, but to provide some relief from the high cost of

(See LOW INCOME, page 2)



Inside Today

In today's Section II of *The News-Journal*, we take a look at the issues and answers of the upcoming election.