

Democrats, Incumbents Take Races Here

Hefner Captures Hoke, District

Democratic U.S. Rep. W.G. (Bill) Hefner of Kannapolis won reelection in Tuesday's voting in the Eighth District.

Hoke County, returned to the district last winter, handed him a heavy majority.

Complete, unofficial returns from the county's 13 precincts show Hefner with 3,561 votes to Republican Harris Blake's 648.

The nearly complete, unofficial returns from the district's 12 counties show Hefner with 59,503 and Blake 39,477.

The only counties which gave Blake majorities and only narrow ones at that, were Moore -- Blake 5,079 and Hefner 4,943, with three of the county's 15 precincts unreported; Davie -- Blake 4,078 and Hefner 3,853; and Yadkin -- Blake 2,910 and Hefner 2,765.

Moore is Blake's home county. Blake is a Pinehurst businessman and was making his first try for an elective public office.

Hefner had trouble in his heavily Republican home county of Rowan. There he received 11,803 votes to Blake's 11,136.

Hefner got a fat majority in (See CONGRESS, page 2)



CASTING BALLOTS -- Voters turned out at Raeford Precinct No. 2 polling place in the Old County Office Building about 9 a.m. Tuesday. Here, ABC Officer Sam Motley [right center] places his marked ballots about to drop them in the right boxes, while another voter exits the booth [left].

Over 50% Cast Ballots To Return School Board, Commission Members

Just over 50% of the registered voters in Hoke County turned out to the polls Tuesday and gave incumbent Democrats the nod to return to office.

In both the Hoke County Commission and Board of Education races, incumbents were returned to office for another term and one Democratic newcomer was elected.

In the commission race, political newcomer Cleo Bratcher lead the voting, garnering 2,931 votes.

Bratcher will replace incumbent Mabel Riley, who he defeated in the primary runoff election in July.

Democratic Party incumbents John Balfour and James A. Hunt also staved off a challenge for Republican Evelyn Manning to retain their seats on the commission.

In the school board race, incumbent Chairman Bill Cameron lead the balloting with almost 400 votes more than incumbent member Bobby Wright who finished second in the contest.

Board member Walter Coley held off a challenge from newcomer Charlotte Kelly, and was able to retain his seat by a 193-vote margin.

Stonewall Precinct was the last vote to be counted and those returns came in just after midnight.

Out of 8,807 registered voters here, 4,447 cast ballots.

The turnout in Stonewall was fairly typical of the vote in the rest of the county. There about 48% of the registered voters cast ballots.

Despite poor economic conditions and high unemployment here, Hoke County also did not see unusually strong turnouts in the predominantly black and Indian precincts as did the rest of the state and nation.

The vote in Raeford Precinct 5 also was about 48%, with the commission vote going to Bratcher, who received over 300 ballots more than any other candidate.

Bratcher also captured the tally in Buchan and Raeford Precinct 3. Balfour won the largest number of precincts and finished only 48 votes behind the leader. The incumbent commission chairman won McCain, Puppy Creek, Raeford number 1, Raeford number 2, Raeford number 4, Rockfish, Stonewall and the absentee balloting.

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Commissioners Take Steps Toward Building New Pound

by Bill Lindau

Members of the Hoke County Commission voted Monday to correct inhumane conditions at the county Dog Pound and took steps toward building a new facility.

Also during the regular meeting, members accepted the resignation of Commissioner Daniel H. DeVane and appointed tax mapper Larry J. Holt as Hoke County Tax Supervisor.

DeVane in a letter addressed to the chairman and members of the Board of County Commissioners said that "With mixed emotions, I hereby resign as a Hoke County commissioner effective November 4, in order to devote my full time in preparing for the North Carolina House of Representatives."

DeVane won a Democratic nomination to a House seat of the 16th District, which includes Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties, in the runoff primary of July 27.

He and the two other Democratic nominees were assured of election when the lone Republican candidate dropped out.

"I have enjoyed serving Hoke County for the past six years, as a commissioner and look forward to serving this District in Raleigh."

On the dog pound, the commissioners adopted a motion request-

ing the County Health Department to winterize the pound now at county expense, and authorized John Balfour, chairman of the board of commissioners, to appoint a committee to study the matter of establishing a new pound in conjunction with building a shelter for the landfill equipment. Balfour said he would seek the input of the Health Department before making the committee appointments.

The winterizing will solve the problem of the animals' water freezing during winter when the temperature drops to or below the freezing point.

The dog pound itself, operated by the city and county and financed principally by county funds has been termed among other things overcrowded at certain times and lacking facilities to segregate animals.

More space has been cited by Health Department Director Lloyd Horne as one of the pressing needs of the pound.

Parking Ordinance

In other business related to the Health Department, the commissioners adopted an ordinance authorizing the County Health Board to establish rules and regulations controlling parking in the Health

Center area and to erect parking signs on the lands now used for parking around the building.

A motion adopted authorizes County Manager James Martin to submit bids for resurfacing the parking area and for defining and marking each parking space so that it will be clear which parking spaces are reserved for the department.

Spaces for the County Parks and Recreation Department will also be reserved for participants and spectators at games on the nearby playing field.

Horne told the commissioners the department has put up with the parking conditions in which principally some employees of the House of Raeford, which is across the road from the health department, deprive department people, including patients, of space intended for them.

He said that some spaces are occupied all day.

Spaces reserved for handicapped people with Health Department business are occupied by people not on department business, Horne said.

Some of the people at the games nearby also use Health Center parking, he added.

The commissioners in other business discussed possible Christmas

bonuses for the county's 107 full-time and parttime salaried employees but decided to postpone till the November 15 board meeting making a decision on the subject.

The commissioners were given a suggested list of bonuses ranging from one-half of 1% to 2% of the employees' pay.

Including county contributions to FICA and the employees' retirement fund, the total costs of the bonuses would run from \$6,762.62 for the smallest percentage to \$27,046.13 to the two per cent level.

The commissioners, however, also could divide the bonus money equally among permanent employees, and each fulltime-equivalent employee would receive \$57.72 if the half per cent plan is adopted and \$230.89 if the 2% suggestion is adopted.

The employee would receive \$115.45 on a 1% basis, and \$173.17 on a 1 1/2% basis.

The bonus payments on the percentage of pay plan would be for all employees working for a year up to October 31; an employee working less than 12 months by that date would receive a pro-rate bonus on the basis of one-12th per month for each month of continuous employment.

Tax Supervisor

Larry Holt, who is 35, had been named June 1 to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Tax Supervisor Les Simpson.

Before joining the county tax office as a mapper Holt had been with Allen & Associates, a property appraisal firm which did work for Hoke County.

Before joining Allen, he had worked five years with the Scotland County tax office as a tax mapper. Holt was born and raised in Biscoe, Montgomery County, and is a graduate of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte.

He and his wife have two children, both girls, ages 12 and 14. The family is living in Hamlet and will move to Hoke County, as the county rule requires, within the next 12 months.

Officially, Holt was appointed to serve the unexpired portion of Simpson's term, which runs to July 1.

The commissioners turned down a motion by DeVane to allow Holt till July 1, 1984, the date which would be the end of Holt's first full term in the position, to allow him more time to find a home for his family. Balfour, however, told Holt that if he ran into a problem in finding a home before the allowed

period ended that Holt could come back to the commissioners to get more time.

Technically, the rejection of DeVane's motion came in the form of the motion to get a "second."

DeVane's Position

The commissioners accepted DeVane's resignation and adopted a motion asking the Hoke County Democratic Party Executive Committee Chairman Harold Gillis to present a slate of candidates for election by the commissioners to serve the remainder of DeVane's term.

The term will expire in November 1984, when a new commissioner will be elected.

The commissioners, however, are not obligated to choose any of the candidates offered by the Democratic Party, but are free to go outside the list to choose DeVane's successor.

DeVane was reelected to a new four-year term in November 1980.

Work Session

The commissioners also agreed on November 8 as a tentative date

(See DEVANE, page 3)

Around Town

by Sam Morris

Last weekend was certainly different from the weekend of October 23 and 24. The temperatures were in the 70s and I believe that they could have reached the 80s Monday. It was cloudy, but as of late Monday afternoon, no rain had fallen.

The forecast is for rain during the week, but the weatherman has been wrong many times during the past several weeks.

The election Tuesday will be history by the time this column is in the hands of the readers. The weather forecast was for a sunny day and the temperature in the 80s. If that held true, then we should have a good turnout for the election.

Usually the voting is light on an off-year election, but with the school board election being contested, this should have made more people come out than would usually be the case.

The first primary election brought out 5,009 voters in Hoke County out of 8,733 registered, so this was 57% of the voters.

In the second primary it was for (See AROUND TOWN, page 2)



TALK IS SHEEP -- These two woolly friends seem to be chatting, though sheepishly, during a break on a farm near Aberdeen. The photographer never found out what the break was from. Anyway, it is nice to see a couple of sheep getting their heads together over something without bleating about it.

September Sales Highest Of Year

Gross retail sales were up in Hoke County during September, a recent North Carolina Department of Revenue report showed.

During September retail sales increase more than \$300,000 over August figures and were up almost \$500,000 over the same period in 1981.

September figures showed that sales were \$4.2 million with tax

collections of more than \$88,000.

Sales in September were highest for the year, topping the July mark of \$4.1 million and the largest volume since April, 1981 when the county's retailers grossed more than \$4.3 million.

The local 1% sales and use tax collections for September were \$32,968.90.

Those funds will be returned to the county by the state.

State Eases Deadline For Raeford, Plant

State health officials will ease off a November 1 deadline to allow Raeford engineers to "fine tune" the city's newly renovated sewage treatment plant, a spokesman said.

The city must bring the plant into compliance during November, however, or face fines up to \$10,000 per day, Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) Regional Supervisor Dennis Ramsey said.

State officials are also working with the House of Raeford turkey processing plant to develop its pre-treatment facilities, Ramsey said, noting that plant owner Marvin Johnson is apparently making an effort to clean up the facilities sewage discharge.

City and state officials have placed the blame for much of Raeford's sewage treatment woes on the discharge from the turkey plant.

Some efforts are being made to correct the pre-treatment problems at the plant, "but there is still a lot of room for improvement," Ramsey said.

House of Raeford is working with an engineering firm from Charlotte to develop a pre-treatment plant.

"We're going to let them have a shake down during the next couple of weeks and get the treatment plant working like it is supposed to," Ramsey said.

If the Raeford plant can meet the discharge requirements, then some of the problems with the turkey plant might be eased, Ramsey said.

The state health department has declared an unofficial moratorium on industrial development in Hoke County until the sewer treatment problems are corrected.

As a result of the ban, at least one industry has been lost to the county, development officials have said.

City engineers attributed a recent blowout in one of the plant's pumping stations to a blockage caused by nine turkey necks.

Frequent truck loads of grease and feathers that have to be removed from the treatment facility are also attributed to the turkey plant.

Raeford has been cited for dumping polluted effluent into Rockfish Creek, and has been warned that the city will be fined if the levels of non-complying discharges are not cut in half.



This spectator seemed a little bored while waiting for the homecoming parade to begin Friday. The parade kicked off the weekend's Halloween events. Please turn to page 1 Section II for complete coverage of the activities.