

1982, A Year Of Politics, Deaths And Higher Taxes

by Bill Lindau

With 1982 closing at midnight Friday and 1983 arriving a second later, *The News-Journal* takes a look backward to recall the most significant or interesting -- or both -- events that occurred in the past year.

Here they are, month by month, from the year's editions of *The News-Journal*.

January

The *News-Journal* started the new year with a new publisher, Louis H. Fogleman, Jr., vice president of Dickson Press, Inc.

The newspaper also started the new year without its general manager, Sam Morris. He retired New Year's Eve after working with the paper since 1935. Though retired, he continues serving the paper as a consultant and works occasionally to get it ready for its press run.

The period for candidates to file for the 1982 Republican and Democratic primaries and the general elections opened January 4, and will run through February 1. The terms of three county commissioners, three members of the County Board of Education, the sheriff, coroner, and clerk of Superior Court are expiring this year.

The county voters will fill the offices this year.

The 1982 Christmas season sales were "good" to "fantastic," in downtown Raeford stores, a survey shows.

The Raeford Rangerettes Unit have been rated No. 1 in the state.

The old year ended wet and the new year started wet in Raeford. A half inch of rain fell in the last 12 hours of 1981, and 4½ inches in the first four days of 1982. Robert Gatlin, Raeford observer for the National Weather Service, reported.

Two assistant agents for the Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service were appointed by the county commissioner to fill vacancies.

Richard Melton was hired as livestock agent, and Banks Wamnamaker as field crops agent. Both are Clemson University graduates.

County Commissioner James Albert Hunt was the first candidate to file in Hoke County for this year's election. He filed January 4 to run for his third four-year term.

Raeford Savings & Loan Association, founded 68 years ago, became the Raeford branch of Heritage Federal Savings & Loan Association, which is based in Monroe.

The Hoke County commissioners voted to appropriate \$10,000 to help pay the cost of extending a 12-inch sewer line to the site of an expansion of Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery.

Sam Motley, retired Hoke County deputy sheriff, was sworn in as the county ABC law-enforcement officer.

William Hales was reinstated, without loss of pay or seniority, as county dog warden on recommendation of the Hoke County Advisory Personnel Board.

Hales had been dismissed November 23 but the grounds were not made public, and neither were the reasons for the Advisory Personnel Board's recommendations.

The Raeford City Council decided to notify the House of Raeford that the city would no longer be able to receive the plant's waste water into the city sewage system if the company did not have a pre-treatment system installed by November.

County Commissioner Danny DeVane announced he would run for the State House of Representatives. If elected, he would be the first Hoke County resident to serve in the General Assembly in 10 years.

Juanita Edmund filed for reelection to her third four-year term as Hoke Superior Court clerk.

Hoke High's varsity Bucks started their New Year in the basketball season with a victory over Terry Sanford. The Hoke girls and the Junior Varsity boys lost, however.

Mabel Riley filed for reelection to her second term as county commissioner.

Kimberly Ann McNeill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken McNeill of Raeford, won the essay contest sponsored by the Upper Cape Fear River Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The weather on January 11 sent

Raeford's temperature to a record low of 4 degrees above zero. The mercury climbed no higher than 24 later in the day.

Hoke County food stamp overpayments from October 1979 through March 1981 amounted to 18.34%.

District Court Judge Joseph E. Dupree filed for reelection. He has been serving in that office since 1966 after serving two years as judge of County Recorder's Court.

The Hoke Bucks kept their lead in the Southeastern Conference basketball standings by beating Reid Ross, 80-76, in a game that went through three overtime periods.

John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, filed for reelection to his fifth term as a county commissioner.

Tom Howell, a Raeford pharmacist, also filed as a Democratic candidate for commissioner. It's his first try for elective public office.

Rain followed by sleet and sub-freezing weather, then snow, hit Hoke County. The snow kept schools closed the rest of the week after January 13, caused some businesses to stay closed Friday and shortened the work day for county employees Thursday afternoon.

Chairman Bill Cameron, and members Bobby Wright and Walter Coley filed for the County Board of Education. The election is nonpartisan, so it is held in the regular November general elections.

Ed Lumbley, a retired Army master sergeant, Jimmy Plummer and Cleo Bratcher filed for county commissioners. They are Democrats.

Three Hoke County sheriff's officers and two civilians were injured near Scurlock School in a fight that started when an officer tried to arrest a car driver who was allegedly driving under the influence.

David Barrington, a Democrat, filed for reelection to his sixth term as sheriff.

February

Charlotte Kelly, Onnie Dudley and Willie J. McCaskill filed for the County Board of Education.

Former Hoke County Deputy Sheriff James Peterkin, Jr., filed for election as sheriff. He is a Democrat. His filing guaranteed a primary for the party's nomination.

Retired County Agricultural Extension Chairman Wendell S. Young, Sr., Julius Vanner, and Evelyn Manning filed for county commissioners. Manning is a Republican, the others are Democrats.

Denise Evans of Hoke County won gold and silver medals in the State Class III Junior Olympics gymnastics tournament held in Winston-Salem.

W.E. "Gene" Carter announced he will leave the presidency of the Bank of Raeford to enter another business. He will be succeeded at the bank by Robert L. Conoly, the bank's senior vice president.

Eight Hoke County High School students were arrested and charged with drug violations.

Clarence Paul Kinlaw, a Raeford businessman and former mayor pro tem, was named the Raeford Kiwanis Club's Man of the Year for 1981.

Hoke County's gross income from agriculture in 1981 was estimated at \$22,516,751.21 by Extension Chairman Willie Featherstone. This would be about \$1 million more than the previous year's gross.

March

Les Simpson resigned as county tax supervisor and assistant county manager. He had gone to work in the tax job in November 1976.

Hoke County's unemployment rate hit 13.4% in January, the first time it had gone double-digit since April 1981 when it reached 11.6%. The January figure was contained in the State Employment Security Commission report issued this month.

The Hoke County Board of Education approved making Scurlock, South and West Hoke and McLaughlin Kindergarten through Grade 4 schools. The board also adopted revised attendance areas to go with the changes.

Construction of the Raeford-Hoke Village shopping center will start within 30 days, says a

representative of Edens & McTeer of Columbia, S.C., the developer.

The Hoke High boys' track team won its first meet in three years. The victim was Lee County's squad.

April

Hoke's unemployment rate dropped in February to 11.4% from January's 13.4.

The Hoke County Democrats at their convention expressed support of the two-year terms for members of the General Assembly and met the county's "new" congressman, Bill Hefner. Hefner will become Hoke's congressman effective officially in January 1983 by congressional redistricting.

The General Assembly moved Hoke into Hefner's Eighth District from Congressman Charlie Rose's Seventh.

Rose Marie Parrish, a Hoke County High School senior, has won a Pogue Scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Former Hoke High girls' basketball star Jill Capps was credited with helping her UNC-Greensboro team to its best season, the 1981-82 campaign. She's a freshman.

The eighth Hoke High students charged in February with drug violations were given suspended sentences except for brief terms in the county jail, the latter to be served at the end of the school year.

The Hoke County Commissioners will be asked to provide \$1,161,991 in county funds for the 1982-83 school system budget.

Nadine Wadsworth, Eric Coley and Ashley Jones, all Hoke High students, have been selected to attend the 1982 session of the Governor's School, for gifted and talented students.

May

Part of McCain Hospital would be used for mental health patients' programs if proposals presented by Dr. Steven Dingfelder, administrator of the five-county Sandhills Center for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services is adopted by the state. The proposals were sent to Dr. R.J. Blackley, director of the State Division of the mental health services.

Hoke's unemployment rate dropped to 10.3% in March.

Mary James of the Hoke High principal's staff has been named the county school system's Secretary of the Year for 1981.

The United Way campaign of 1982 raised \$21,555.60, which is \$1,274.60 more than the goal.

Hundreds of spectators saw the Hoke County's Special Olympics of 1982 in Hoke High Stadium.

Cynthia Smith, a Hoke High senior, has been awarded a \$4,400 Presidential Scholarship by Campbell University.

The Raeford-based National Guard Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 252nd Armor, came out of the annual spring training with high marks, a rating of Excellent and a declaration from the evaluators that the company was ready for its job of supporting the battalion in combat, if the occasion arises.

Strong winds, heavy rainfall, and hail struck Hoke County, damaging field crops and gardens, and knocking down trees. A boat was damaged by a falling tree.

June

Two Hoke County students are heading for West Point by appointment. They are Thomas C. Gilchrist, Jr., a senior at the North Carolina High School of Science and Mathematics, and Earl "Bucky" Oxendine, Jr., a Hoke High senior.

The News-Journal has been given the 1982 Willard G. Cole Award "for distinguished coverage of the Heart Story."

A tax rate of 72 cents per \$100 property evaluation and a general-fund budget of \$3,575,690 for fiscal 1982-83 have been recommended for adoption by the Hoke County commissioners.

Many people expressed displeasure to the commissioners with the property tax bills they'll be getting. Though the tax rate is 29 cents per \$100 less than the 1981-82 rate, most people's bills will be higher this fiscal year because the eight-year re-evaluation of taxable property raised the values of much of Hoke County real estate.

Five people were wounded by gunfire in two separate shootings in county areas outside Raeford.

One man was charged with three counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, inflicting serious injuries, inflicted by shotgun pellets.

The other victims were hit by pistol bullets, but no arrest was made because no one wanted to prosecute.

One of the people was shot accidentally, according to witnesses.

An off-duty Raeford policeman, George E. Baker, Jr., was killed by a rifle bullet in an accident that apparently resulted from a prank played to scare some campers. Baker's cousin, Charles Ronald Wilson, Jr., was charged with involuntary manslaughter.

The county commissioners adopted a 72-cent tax rate and a budget of \$3.7 million for fiscal 1982-83.

County Commissioner John Balfour won a clear majority for Democratic renomination in the June 29 primary, but the results in the contests for the two other commissioners' posts left the way open for a runoff primary. Cleo Bratcher, Jr., Commissioner Mabel Riley, Commissioner James Albert Hunt and Tom Howell followed Balfour in the tallies.

Sheriff David Barrington won the Democrat renomination over his former deputy, James Peterkin, Jr. He's assured of reelection in November because he has no opposition from other political parties.

July

Commissioner Mabel Riley and Tom Howell called for a runoff primary for two commissioners' posts. Cleo Bratcher, Jr., and James Albert Hunt won the nominations in the July 27 runoff.

Before the runoff, Bratcher, who had come within two votes of getting a clear majority, requested a recount, and Peterkin challenged the results of the contest for the nomination for sheriff.

The county elections board turned down Bratcher's request, and the state elections board rejected Peterkin's challenge.

Hoke County was awarded a \$255,495 state grant to help pay for construction of a water-supply system.

The commissioners later agreed to ask for a \$750,000 federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant for phases of the planned \$4.2 million county water system.

County Commissioner Danny DeVane won a Democratic nomination and certain election as a state representative in the runoff primary. He and the other winners -- Sidney Locks and John "Pete" Hasty -- have no opposition in the November general election.

They'll fill the three House seats of the 16th District, composed of Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. Republican Steve Strickland left the November election field clear when he withdrew later in the year before the general election.

July brought 6.4 inches of rain to Raeford.

August

Florence Ree McCray was reported missing. She was last heard from by her mother in a telephone call from Mrs. McCray's home.

Hoke County is allocated \$44,896 in local, federal and state money for child day-care services.

The County Board of Education sent the school system back to the fee system following the county commissioners' rejection of a school board request for \$20,230 more in the budget to continue the fee-less system.

The county commissioners adopted a resolution supporting establishment of 51 units for housing elderly people in the South Hoke-Rockfish area.

William Archer was named manager of the Raeford Plant of Burlington Industries. He succeeds Cecil Bond, who has been named Menswear Division product development manager working out of Burlington's Clarksville, Va., Division offices.

September

Assistant District Attorney Jean Powell was named 1981-82 Officer of the Year by the Hoke County Law Enforcement Officers Association.

Warren Johnston, news editor

of *The Marlboro Herald-Advocate*, joined *The News-Journal* as news editor.

The old, unoccupied house on West Donaldson Avenue will become the clubhouse of the new Deer Track Racquet Club being developed about seven miles south of Raeford.

The house was bought from First Baptist Church by Steve Phillips of the Racquet Club and moved to the Deer Track site.

An Employment Security Commission report received this month says Hoke County's unemployment rate dropped in July to 10.4% from June's 11.2, which in turn was down from the May figure of 11.4%.

Hoke High's football Bucks beat South View 9-6 in their second game of the season after dropping their opener to Cape Fear 7-6.

The Hoke County commissioners authorized employment of a worker to help prepare suspected food stamp fraud cases for the County Board of Social Services.

The federal budget ax fell on Hoke County again, cutting 30 elderly and disabled people from a biweekly chore service program, which was designed to help disabled elderly to remain in their homes rather than having to go to rest or nursing homes.

A state summary of test scores show Hoke County students in the four elementary grades performed on the whole better than or equal to their grades but ninth graders fell below.

A program to put teeth into the enforcement of Raeford's sewage pre-treatment ordinance was approved by the City Council.

The Hoke County commissioners moved toward establishing a county zoning ordinance after hearing a request from 27 residents of a subdivision.

A Hoke County man was freed of a charge of first-degree rape of his 6-year-old daughter after the child failed to reply to questions put by the prosecutor during the trial in Hoke County Superior Court.

Judge Sam Britt of Lumberton allowed the defense motion of nonsuit for the defendant, Bobby Louis Green of Rt. 2, Raeford.

Later, officials said they'd been called by concerned Hoke people. The callers were advised to contact their legislators to get the law changed.

October

Alexander McQueen, 113 years old, was honored at a special meeting. He was presented with a certificate of membership in Gov. Jim Hunt's 100 Year Club. Ernest Messer, chief of the State Division on Aging, came to Raeford for the occasion.

The *News-Journal* describes conditions at the Hoke County Dog Pound. The pound is overcrowded at times, consequently sick animals can't be isolated from the healthy, and large dogs from the small. More protection from the weather is needed.

The Raeford City Council has provided \$7,000 in its budget to help pay for building a new pound but the county has yet to put up its \$20,000 share of the cost.

A weekend search for Mrs. Florence McCray, reported missing August 1, failed to locate her. The search was the most recent in several that have been conducted in investigating reports since she was declared missing.

Hoke High's Bucks upset unbeaten, fourth-ranked Pinecrest, 10-8. This gave the Bucks their second win of the football campaign. They've lost their six other games.

Charles Wilson changed his plea to guilty from not guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the shooting of his cousin, George Ernest Baker, and was sentenced to three years, with all but six months of the term suspended. Judge Sam Britt imposed the sentence in Hoke County Superior Court.

November

Bill Cameron, Walter Coley, and Bobby Wright kept their seats on the County Board of Education in November's general election. The school board contests were nonpartisan.

In the county commissioners' elections, Democrats Cleo Bratcher, James Albert Hunt, and John Balfour won. The loser was Republican Evelyn Manning.

State health officials eased off a November 1 deadline to allow

Raeford engineers to "fine tune" the city's newly renovated sewage treatment plant. The city must bring the plant into compliance with state standards or face penalties of up to \$10,000, a day for every day it is not in compliance.

The county commissioners voted to correct undesirable conditions at the dog pound, requesting the County Health Department to winterize it.

A committee to study establishment of a new pound was appointed by John Balfour, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Danny DeVane, newly elected state representative, resigned as a county commissioner.

The commissioners appointed Larry J. Holt county tax supervisor, filling the vacancy created by Les Simpson's resignation.

Sky City, a discount department store, became the first business to open in the new Raeford-Hoke Village shopping center.

Ethelyn Baker of West Hoke School was named Hoke County Teacher of the Year.

Gov. Jim Hunt formally presented Raeford a Governor's Community of Excellence Award.

Wyatt Upchurch was elected by the Hoke County commissioners as a county commissioner, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Danny DeVane.

Hoke County sheriff's officers are investigating to determine the cause of the accident that left Glenn Howard Ellington, 20, dead in a house, apparently from smoke inhalation. Ben Ellington, his brother, was found unconscious but still living and was admitted to Cape Fear Hospital for treatment.

Perry Wayne Lowery of Pembroke was sentenced in Superior Court to life for the fatal shooting of Terry Wayne Locklear, also of Pembroke, in May at a Hoke County club.

HUD turned down a Hoke County effort to establish 50 housing units for the elderly in the South Hoke and Rockfish areas at least partly on grounds the sites would not be conveniently close to medical service and stores. HUD is encouraging locating the sites in the Raeford area.

A live, 50-plus-pound tom turkey born and raised on a Tar Heel Turkey Hatchery farm in Hoke County, was presented to President Reagan as a gift for Thanksgiving at the White House by Bill Prestage of Clinton, a Hatchery partner and president of the National Turkey Federation.

The turkey, however, did not end up on the presidential dinner table. Reagan gave it to a children's petting zoo near Washington.

December

Gov. Jim Hunt is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the kidnapping or murder of Florence Ree McCray of Raeford, missing from her home since August 1.

Members of the Hoke County Board of Social Services approved requests to increase subsidies for specialized foster care of two multihandicapped children. A total of \$284 had been allocated monthly for each child before the raises were approved -- \$100 monthly for one and \$50 for the other, who is less handicapped than the other.

Hoke County's unemployment rate dropped in October to 10.3%, the third consecutive month of decline, the Employment Security Commission reported this month.

County Schools Supt. Raz Autry announced he will retire on March 17, 1983.

A fire set deliberately destroyed the Nashville Music club on N.C. 211 close to the Robeson County border.

Hoke County's traffic toll for 1982 rose to nine with the deaths of two people in separate accidents, both on the same day. Despite the increase in fatalities, the State Highway Patrol sees no extra help coming from the patrol's undermanned Hoke County force.

The State Department of Transportation is planning to widen 500 feet of the U.S. 401 bypass to three lanes in the area of the new Raeford-Hoke Village shopping center, Department Secretary William R. Robeson, Jr., advised State Rep.-elect Danny DeVane of Raeford.

Happy New Year.