

Lightning destroys

Although the rains that fell on Hoke County last week were much needed and appreciated, some of the thunderstorms that passed through the area last Wednesday destroyed a Hoke County man's barn and tractor. According to Elwood Baker, his barn caught on fire after lightning struck a pine

tree near the facility. The fire demolished the barn and its contents, including Baker's tractor. According to Baker, the blaze was nearly out of control. Several pine trees behind the shelter were burned, too. Hillcrest and other county fire departments assisted in putting out the blaze.

Bid Launched To Save ROTC

By Sherry Matthews

Although program funds were trimmed from the budget earlier, members of the Hoke County Board of Education voted Tuesday night to make another bid to save the ROTC program planned for Hoke High School.

School board members will request a joint session with the Hoke County Commission to discuss a "compromise" budget figure that will provide funds for the ROTC program.

At last week's budget session, county commissioners cut the school board's requested 17.2% increase to only 10% which eliminated the \$20,000 earmarked to start the ROTC program.

"I think we should go back to the county board and discuss a 2.3% increase over the approved funds to allow for ROTC," board member Bobby Wright said.

"That program is something we need. I think it is worth our efforts to try," Wright added.

ROTC was placed in the school budget this year and drew "considerable" support from the community and students.

"If the program is cut, we will have to wait another three years before becoming eligible again," board Chairman W.W. Cameron Jr., said in an earlier interview.

"It is just very disappointing," Cameron added.

Since the plans for ROTC were announced, more than 100 Hoke

High students have expressed an interest in the program, school officials have said.

The approved budget, which provides the school system with \$961,650, is 7.2% less than the \$1,024,799 that was originally requested.

"We were notified of the budget cut and an increase in expenditures. We will have to work against those figures," Superintendent Robert Nelson said.

"We spread the decreases over a lot of different areas. Everyone will feel the pinch, but it won't be too painful," Nelson said.

At Tuesday night's meeting, Nelson told board members that the ROTC program was presently deleted from the new budget.

"We did that in an attempt to balance the budget that the commissioners gave us to work with," Nelson said.

In order to add the ROTC program back into the budget, Nelson said the commissioners would have to allow for a 2.3% increase over the already approved figure.

"There are ways to keep the program and appealing to the commissioners is our right," Nelson said.

"It does not, however, seem reasonable to eliminate services we are presently providing to add a new service," Nelson added.

Board members voted unanimously to go back to the

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Courthouse Remodeling Grant Likely

By Sherry Matthews

Members of the Hoke County Commission were told Tuesday that grant monies for the preservation of the county courthouse may be forthcoming.

County Manager James Martin, who applied for the Federal Jobs Act Preservation Grant, told the commissioners during a regular meeting Tuesday morning that there was a "good" chance that Hoke County would be funded.

Grant monies of more than \$189,000 were applied for in the Jobs Act application. That money will be provided on a 50-50 matching grant with the county paying half of the total amount.

According to Martin, Hoke County has also applied for an \$85,000 North Carolina Legislative Grant.

If both the state and federal grants are awarded to the county some of that money can be used for the 50-50 matching funds that the county must pay, Martin said.

"We may have a pretty good shot at getting those (Jobs Act) funds," Martin said.

The project, which was apparently started some months ago, is to upgrade the condition of the Hoke Courthouse.

According to the Jobs application prepared by Martin, monies will go towards repairing the roof and windows along with masonry work that apparently needs to be done.

Other work includes extensive painting and plaster repair of more than \$39,000 and improvements in the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems at a cost of over \$80,000.

According to Martin, Hoke was "further along" in the process than most counties when the Jobs grant became available.

"I think we may have some good luck with this project," Martin said.

In other action, the commis-

sioners unanimously voted to endorse the addition of five new housing units that may be made available through the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs.

According to Martin, 30 additional housing units will apparently be available in North Carolina, five of which may come to Hoke.

The units are privately owned and leased to low income families in the area.

According to Commissioner James A. Hunt, these houses must be kept in good condition and are checked annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"It is a good thing for everyone," Hunt said.

According to Martin, there are already some 155 similar housing units in the Hoke area.

In further business, the commissioners:

--Voted to forward a resolution

to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) asking that Andrews and McLaughlin roads be added to the state system.

--Decided to cancel their July 18 board meeting.

--Authorized the county manager to approve the annual certification of firemen if the fire district board of directors failed to do so.

--Voted to change the "temporary" designation of new positions included in the budget to meet benefit requirements.

--Agreed that all county appointed boards present the minutes of their meetings to the county commissioners. Commission members serving on those boards will also report action back to the full body as a result of the move.

--Approved a two year term for tax supervisor Larry Holt that will expire July 1, 1985.

--Appointed five members to the Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Faces Robeson Co. Charges

By Sherry Matthews

After stints in the Hoke and Scotland county jails last week, Hoke Commissioner James Albert Hunt was taken into custody Monday on a third arrest warrant.

Under the third warrant, issued in Robeson County, Hunt was arrested and placed under a \$3,500 secured bond.

The commissioner was taken into custody on Monday by Hoke Sheriff's deputies, but was not taken to the Robeson County Jail.

According to Hoke Sheriff's records, Hunt paid the \$3,500 bond through his own bonding agency.

Records show that the arrest order was issued after Hunt failed to appear in Robeson County Court June 24 on worthless check charges.

Hunt must now appear in Robeson County District Court July 13 for failing to appear earlier in June, sheriff's records show.

In addition to the arrest warrant, Hoke sheriff's reports show that four new criminal summonses have been issued against Hunt in Harnett and Robeson Counties for worthless checks totaling \$2,354.67.

Harnett County Court records

show that there are three other worthless check charges pending against Hunt for over \$500.

Hunt, who was in the Scotland County Jail under a "no bond" order, was released last Thursday afternoon following an appearance in district court on eight worthless check charges.

Hunt apparently requested a speedy trial to avoid spending some three weeks behind bars.

Scotland County District Court Judge Charles G. McLean gave Hunt a six month suspended sentence with two years probation in each of the eight cases tried Thursday.

In addition to the sentence, Judge McLean ordered that Hunt repay the checks as well as pay court cost and eight \$10 fines.

Hunt, who has served on the county board for the past nine years and is presently vice-chairman of the County Commissioners, has been plagued with financial troubles since January when he was first charged with passing bad checks in Robeson and Hoke counties for more than \$13,000.

The South Hoke Commissioner attended Tuesday's regular county commission meeting.

Around Town

by Sam Morris

It is impossible for me to give you a weather report for Hoke County and Raeford. I can write that it has stopped raining in Texas, that is in western Texas. This is being written from El Paso and the temperature is near 100 degrees.

Just hope that some rain has fallen in Hoke County.

Now to get on with our trip west: We left Natchez, Miss. on Saturday morning and came to Vicksburg. The rest area is just before you cross the Mississippi River and as it is on a hill you have a wonderful view of the river. Many boats with barges were on the river. It was not at flood stage like you read about the rivers further west.

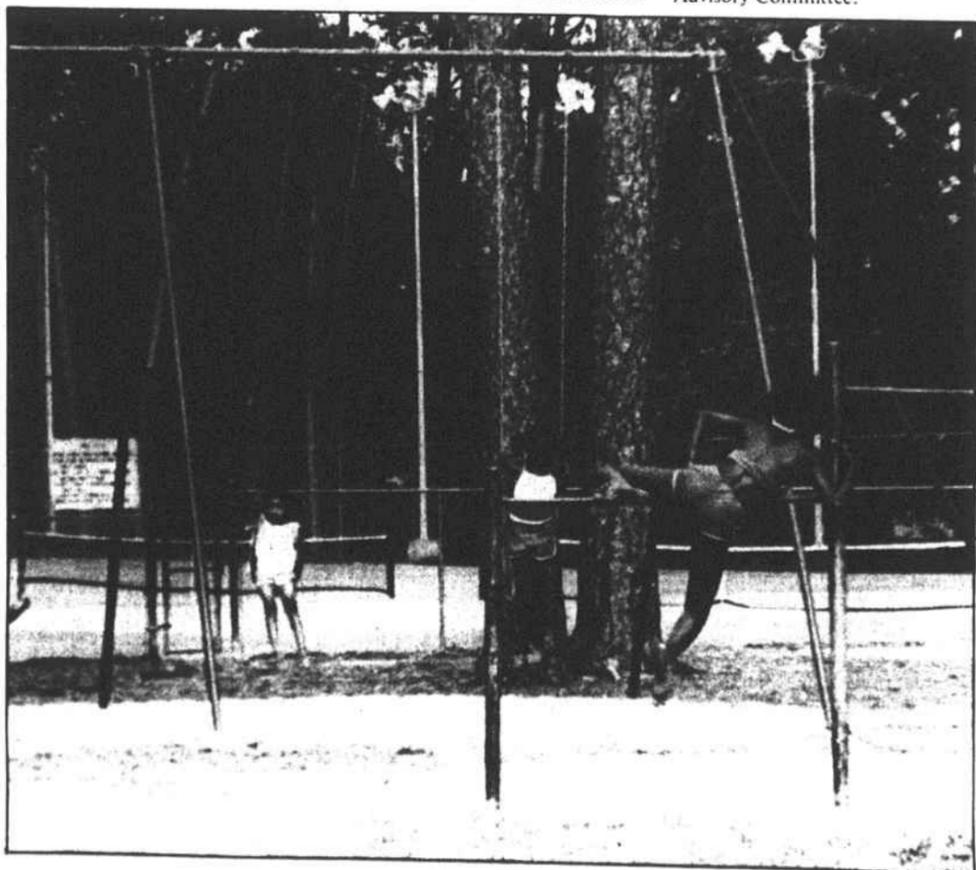
After sightseeing on the river banks, we crossed the river and headed for Gilmer, Texas. My brother, Spec, lives in Gilmer, so besides the visit with the Texas Morrisises, it was also free lodging and good food.

Early Sunday morning we left for San Antonio, Texas and stopped for a visit at the home of the Alamo. We toured the Alamo area of the city late Sunday afternoon.

On Monday morning we parked the car in a parking lot and took a bus tour of several old Spanish missions in and around San Antonio.

The missions on the tour were Mission Immaculate Conception, which featured the oldest unrec-

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Play time

With school out and the sun encouraging youngsters to head for the outdoors, these kids have apparently decided to take advantage of the summer months. Play time at the area park means swinging, sliding or just monkeying around until the sun falls behind the clouds.

Crash Kills Raeford Man

By Sherry Matthews

A Raeford man was killed instantly Monday night when the car he was driving struck another vehicle on U.S. 401 about five miles north of the city, State Trooper A.J. Beason said Tuesday.

George Maynor, of Rt. 1, Raeford, was killed after colliding head-on with a tractor-trailer truck around 9:55 p.m. Monday night.

The driver of the truck was uninjured, according to Beason.

This was the first traffic fatality of the year for Hoke County, eight less than last year's total of nine deaths on area highways.

According to Beason, who witnessed the accident, Maynor was headed north on Highway 401 when he was spotted "swerving" across the lane.

Beason says he turned around to follow Maynor's car and saw it swerve across the center line and hit an "oncoming" vehicle head-on.

"Maynor was killed instantly," Beason said, adding that it was raining lightly at the time of the accident.

Blood alcohol tests have been sent to the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) lab in Raleigh, but no results had been returned by Tuesday, Beason said.

Maynor was a former 15-year employee of Hoke Auto Company of Raeford.