

Parade On Tap For Saturday

The lights are up and beaming, would-be Santas are crouched in their chairs awaiting the hordes of youngsters armed with wish lists, and shoppers are attempting to squeeze into the overpacked stores to pick up last minute gifts.

While the hoopla and frenzy associated with the Christmas holiday abounds throughout the streets of Raeford, the Merchants' Association calmly prepares for Hoke County's sign that Christmas is just around the corner.

The Merchants' Association Christmas parade will strike up Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m., in what everyone hopes will be bright, sunny weather.

"We are expecting a big turn out for this parade," Parade Director Raz Autry said.

"It is going to be a really big event," Autry added.

Sixty-two units make up the Christmas parade ensemble with five bands participating.

According to Autry, two gubernatorial candidates, Eddie Knox and Tom Gilmore, will be riding in the parade.

"There are going to be 14 floats involved with this parade," Autry said.

Representatives Daniel DeVane and Pete Hasty, along with state Senator David Parnell, will also be available for the parade activities.

Saturday will be the first time the Hoke High Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) unit will be on display in full dress uniform, Autry said.

In addition, Mayor John K. McNeill and County Commission Chairman John Balfour will be on hand for the festivities.

Members representing all of the county's fire departments will kick off the festivities Saturday with a mini parade in the Hoke-Raeford Village Shopping Center at 1 p.m.

In addition to the dignitaries who will be on hand, most of the crowd, especially the youngsters, will be waiting less than patiently for the arrival of Santa Claus.

This year Santa will make his appearance on Raeford's Main Street in a buggy. Just before Santa makes his entrance, Mrs. Santa Claus will parade through town on the Merchants' Association float.

"We are expecting this to be a really great parade," Autry said.

"I think it is one everybody will enjoy," Autry added.



Taking a break

Construction workers attempt to finish the re-paving process at the post office parking lot last Tuesday while the apparent crew foreman

takes a break to discuss a completion date with Postmaster Joseph Carver.

School Blue Ribbon Committee Holds Organization Meeting

The Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee appointed by the Boards of Commissioners and Education of Hoke County held its initial and organizational meeting Monday at the Hoke County High

School Library.

Dr. Darrell Spencer, who is with State Division of School Planning, presented to the committee a Participatory Planning Model for Boards of Education.

The model will enable the committee to determine how to best use the half cents sale tax revenue which is to be used for physical facilities (school building).

The model is designed to help the committee conduct a study and develop a planning process by which the needs both long-range and short-range will be identified. The committee will then develop

an improvement plan to be presented to the Board of Education and at a public hearing.

A total of 19 of 21 members were present with County Commission Chairman John Balfour presiding.

School Board Chairman Bill Cameron read the charge to the committee following comments by Dr. Nelson.

Former Hoke School Board Chairman Bobby Gibson was elected Chairman and former

Associate Superintendent John D. McAllister was elected Vice-Chairman.

The initial steps will be to visit each school and other facilities and hold public hearings in each attendance area.

From information gathered the committee will develop a philosophy that will give structure to the process.

Rolf Seifert will serve as consulting architect and Floyd Barnes will serve as consulting engineer.

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