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Decision eyed soon on schools' future

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Commission and Board of Education are expected to decide within the next two weeks whether a proposed \$6.2 million plan for revamping the schools is feasible.

The proposal, which was received Monday night by both boards following a public hearing, calls for the approval and sale of a \$2.5 million bond issue and would "probably" result in an ad valorem tax increase, county officials said.

Final approval was given to the proposal Monday by the 21-member Long Range School

Facilities Committee, who authored the recommendations after five months of study.

Under the plan, the bonds would be repaid from the proceeds currently being received by the county from the one-half cent sales tax, Facilities Committee Chairman Robert Gibson said.

However, the proposal calls for the use of a portion of the sales tax funds now earmarked for services other than the schools.

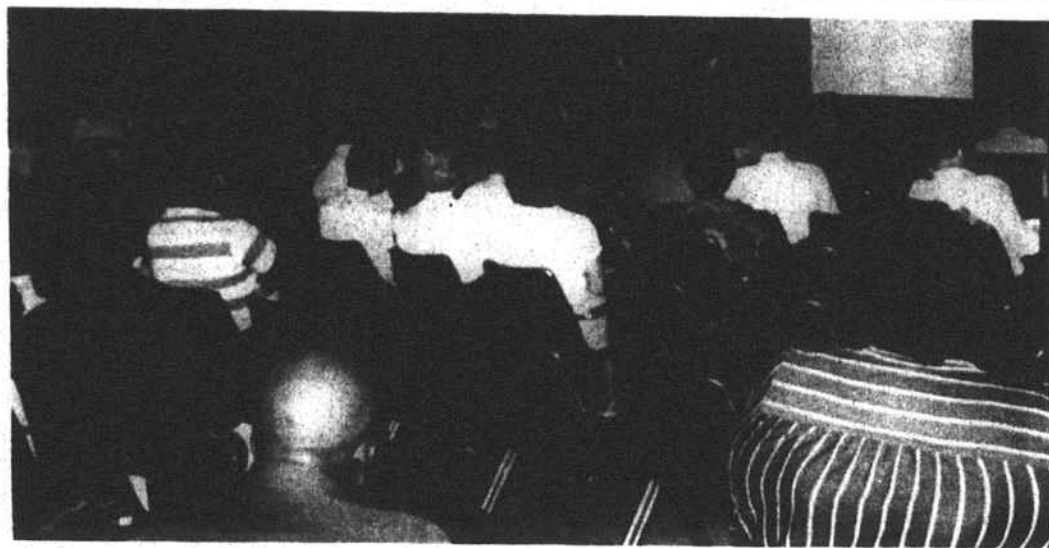
If the recommendation is approved as it now stands, the county would use 60% of the one-half cent sales tax revenue until the year 1990 to pay for the "much

needed" improvements for the schools, Gibson told about 80 county residents gathered at the hearing Monday.

One of the committee's key points was that it found a way to make needed improvements without raising ad valorem property taxes; however, according to County Commission Chairman John Balfour, "if we take an additional 20% (of the sales tax revenues) for schools, down the road it could mean a tax increase."

"The commissioners had planned to spend some of this money to

(See SCHOOL, page 2A)



Explaining the plan

School Facilities Committee Robert Gibson explains the details of a \$6.5 million school revitalization plan

to about 80 residents who gathered Monday for a public hearing held at the Hoke County Courthouse.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past few days has been about normal for this time of year. In talking to some of the farmers out in the county, they said that if the weather stayed this way they could come close to catching up with their planting. We hope so, but it might have rained before this is printed.

Anyway, it is good to turn the heater off and at this time I haven't turned on my air conditioner.

Two of the candidates for state office were in the city last week and I had a chance to talk with each of them.

Bob Jordan, candidate for lieutenant governor, was in town Thursday morning and Jim Long, candidate for Commissioner of Insurance, was by on Thursday afternoon. I have known Bob for many years, but this was my first meeting of Long.

It is always good to see and meet the men that might be our state leaders later on in the year.

Don't forget that the important day for voters is May 8. That is the primary for the Democrats and Republicans. Also you will have an amendment to vote either for or against that day.

There are approximately 8500 registered voters in Hoke County. It would be a fine election if 7000 would turn out and vote. There have been about 600 new voters registered for this election. We hope that each one of them will vote on May 8. When you ask folks how many will vote, they usually say about 4000. Now this is less than 50%. That is not good. This means less than half the registered voters are saying who will hold office.

So mark your calendar now to vote on Tuesday, May 8. If you are going out of town, then vote absentee. This absentee ballot must be in the Board of Election office by five o'clock, Monday afternoon, May 7.

The Hoke Heritage Hobnob started Monday and will run through Sunday, May 6. It is impossible to tell you in this column all the exhibits and events that will be taking place. The committee has published a program that you can pick up at many places in the city, that tells about the many things that will be going on. Be sure to get a program and check it out.

On Friday night, May 4 at Hoke High MacDonald Cafeteria a chicken dinner will be served. The price is only \$3.50 and the fellowship will be worth that much. The serving is from 5 to 8 p.m.

During this time Raz Autry, a newly licenced auctioneer will sell art and craft pieces. Now this will be worth more than \$3.50. See you there!

Don't forget the black and white (See AROUND, page 11A)



Get fresh air

These Raeford firefighters take a break after fighting a smoky house fire at 705 Saunders Street. There were no injuries in the blaze which erupted mysteriously around 9:25 a.m. Thursday at the home of Brenda D. Swain. It was the first dwelling fire for the Raeford Fire Department in more than a year, Chief Crawford Thomas said. Near one of the

firemen's feet is a telephone used by the owner of the home to report the blaze. There were three family members home at the time of the fire. No one was in the front bedroom where the fire started. The cause was probably not linked to faulty wiring, Thomas said. The incident was under investigation.

Hobnob underway, big events on tap

A jazz group from Fayetteville got things started Monday as the first annual Hoke Heritage Hobnob got underway.

During the week, activities are expected to build each day with such events as the Embers in concert, fried chicken and barbecue dinners, arts and crafts and the Big Zucchini Bandits Washboard Band. The finale will come on Sunday with the opening of the Picture North Carolina black and white photography show at the Hoke County Library.

The festival, which is designed to promote Hoke County, will feature a local arts and crafts display at the library all week, as well as a Heritage Home Tour and a luncheon on the green Thursday. "Jubilation T. Picnic" will be held on the library grounds Thursday and will feature the Country Boys, a group from Sanford. A light lunch will be served for \$1. The music is free and can be heard from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Bring a lawn chair.

At 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, those interested will gather at the parking lot of the Raeford Presbyterian Church for the Heritage Home Tour.

The tour, which is being sponsored by the Hoke Home Economics Extension Service, will make 10 stops. Transportation is provided. Tickets are \$3.

On Friday, Olive Jenkins will perform harp music at the Hoke County Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The MacDonald Gym at Hoke High will come alive Friday from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with arts and crafts demonstrations.

The evening is being billed as a family outing and will challenge festival goers with fried chicken and barbecue, music from the Big Zucchini Band, an arts and crafts auction and other performances.

On Saturday the gym will be filled with local entertainment, along with the arts and crafts.

At 1 p.m., the Embers will crank up at the old Raeford Armory ball field. Tickets are \$5 and are still available.

On Sunday, the library will again be the center of the Hobnob, as a statewide black and white photography show goes on display.

About 50 photos from some of the state's best photographers will be featured. Admission is free.

Voter registration increases by more than 600

By Ed Miller

Voter registration in Hoke County has been on the rise about 1% per month since last October, a spokesman for the county Election Board said Friday.

The number of registered voters in the county has gone up from 8,031 to 8,666 during the period, Hoke County Election Board Director Rose Sturgeon said.

There have apparently been no official drives in the county to register voters, but many election judges, especially in the black com-

munity, have been actively recruiting voters, Sturgeon said.

Although it is too late to register to vote in the upcoming May 8 primary, residents can still register for the November general election, she said.

According to the latest available voter registration figures, there are 8,246 registered Democrats in Hoke County.

There are 378 Republicans and 42 unaffiliated voters, records say.

In a precinct breakdown of the registered voters in the county,

Allendale has 237 Democrats and one Republican.

Of these, 114 are male, 124 are female, 145 are black, 28 are white and 65 are Indian.

The Antioch Precinct has the strongest Indian vote with 300.

There are 221 white voters and 212 black voters in the precinct.

The Democrat-Republican breakdown in Antioch is 712 to 19 of which 386 are female and 347 are male.

Blue Springs boasts 756 Democrats and 17 Republicans

with 381 of these black, 278 Indian, and 116 white. There are 381 males and 394 females in this precinct.

In the Buchan Precinct there are 391 voters, with 195 male and 196 female.

Of that total, 193 are black, 173 are white and 25 Indian.

McCain showed an increase 47 voters. Of those six are Republicans. White voters declined in the precinct by 24, blacks in-

creased by 14 and Indians by 12. Puppy Creek saw an increase of three voters, and a shift from white and Indians to blacks.

Raeford One declined by 39 voters.

Raeford Two dropped by 54 voters.

Raeford Three increased by 18.

Raeford Four dropped by 88 voters. Most were evenly divided between black and white voters.

Raeford 5 decreased by 55.

Rockfish increased by 32.

Stonewall dropped by 5.

Raeford youths sentenced for breakins

By Ed Miller

Two Raeford school students were fined and sentenced to short jail terms last week in Hoke County District Court.

Roy Lee McLean and Neil Roger McLean, both of S. Stewart St. in Raeford, were found guilty of breaking into and entering Caddell's Grocery and Nasir's Launderette on December 21 last year.

Court records say that the defendants took \$141 in currency and food from the store.

District Court Judge Warren Pate sentenced Roy McLean to two years in jail but suspended it for four years supervised probation and 48 hours community service plus 10 days in the Hoke County Jail to begin when school is out.

He was also made to pay \$1,000 fine and \$95 restitution, court records say.

Neil McLean was sentenced to no more or less than two years in

jail suspended for three years supervised probation as well as a \$500 fine and \$95 restitution.

He also must serve 48 hours community service and serve four days in the Hoke County Jail when school is out.

In an unrelated matter, Sylvia Elaine Baldwin, aka, Sylvia Purdie of Raeford was sentenced to Hoke County Jail for six months suspended for one year supervised probation for passing a check belonging to a Cynthia Baldwin, court records show.

The apparently forged check was passed at the Jiffy Stop in Raeford.

Baldwin was also made to pay a \$100 fine and \$182 restitution, court records show.

Judge Pate also stipulated that the 18-year-old youth enroll and remain in school next year.

In other court business, Deldra R. Shaw, of Fuller St. in Raeford plead guilty to welfare fraud, records say.

According to her arrest warrant,

the apparent crime was committed in March of last year.

Shaw was sentenced to not less than six months and not more than one year suspended for two years supervised probation, records show.

She was also fined \$200 and made to pay \$333 restitution to be used as reimbursement to the Hoke County Department of Social Services.

The court took action last week in the case of Randy Musselwhite, aka Ronald, who apparently attacked and injured a Shannon resident by cutting him on and about the throat and neck.

Pate gave the Robeson County resident a year suspended for two years of unsupervised probation, records show.

He was fined \$150 and made to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,000 to be turned over to Harold Bell.

Court records show that the cutting occurred early in March.

The court sentenced a Raeford man to 90 days in jail for driving while his driver's license was revoked.

Court records show that Jerry McNeill was arrested on February 20.

Pate stipulated that the defendant show up for jail in "a sober manner."

The 27-year-old man has appealed his case to Hoke County Superior Court.

In another case, Pate sentenced Roscoe Stevens to a year in jail for his second conviction of driving while impaired (DWI), court records say.

The 24-year-old man was arrested on February 20 and is to serve his time in the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

Stevens has also appealed his case to Superior Court. His petition is a part of court record.

Two Raeford residents had been put on unsupervised proba-



VOTE

Inside Today

The campaigns are down to the wire and by Tuesday night it will be over. We take a look at the local and state races on tap for the May 8 primary in Section B of today's News-Journal.