

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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May 4
See page 2A



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Candidates express opinions on issues

By Linda M. Gibson

Seven candidates are running for three seats on the county board of commissioners in the Democratic primary elections on May 6.

During interviews last week, incumbents Cleo Bratcher Jr. and James Albert Hunt along with candidates Thomas P. (Tom) Howell, Clyde A. Leach, Thomas M. (Tommy) Macko, Lawrence E. McLaughlin Jr., and Mabel M. Riley answered questions pertaining to local issues.

The responses follow:
To the question, "Next year, the county will lose \$420,000 in federal revenue sharing. Would you favor eliminating some of the services now provided by the county or a tax increase to continue providing those services?"

Macko replied, "When the problem arises then I will examine it and deal with it at that time."

Bratcher answered, "I would be in favor of cutting the services rather than raising the taxes."

"I really could not give a definite answer now without an in-depth study," Howell said.

Howell continued, "I feel we must work toward bringing more industries and residents into Hoke County to broaden our tax base and possibly prevent the necessity of raising taxes."

"If we lose the money and keep the same services then taxes will have to be raised," Hunt said, "we have no choice."

McLaughlin said, "I would like to review all existing requirements and then check to see if there are any additional state or federal funds available."

"I would need to examine the services to see if any of them can be eliminated. If raising taxes is necessary then that's what will have to be done," Leach.

Riley remarked, "I would reassess the present services and cut those that we could do without."

(See CANDIDATES, page 3A)



Welcome

Open doors at the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Depot on Main Street welcome visitors to the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission Offices. The new depot offices will be dedicated on Monday, May 5 at 10 a.m.

Commission and Chamber offices move into depot

"It's a dream turned into reality," said Tom Howell, local president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, who also serves as chairman of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission.

Howell was referring to the move this week of the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Commission offices into the restored Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Depot on Main Street.

The offices began full operation in their new facility this past Monday.

The chamber had its offices on Edenborough Avenue and the Economic Development office has been in space provided by Southern National Bank for the past year.

The depot was donated by the Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad Company to Hoke County and the City of Raeford jointly in December 1984.

Almost immediately, citizen support for renovation work was secured by the chamber through monetary donations, equipment and supplies and numerous offerings of local volunteers who gave their time and talent to the project.

Planning for the restoration began in February 1985 with Mrs. Sandy Johnston, herself a volunteer, taking over the task.

"We knew from the work she had done in restoring her own home on Main Street that she would be able to bring dignity to this fine structure," said Steve Parker, past president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Parker and Benny McLeod, another former chamber president, were part of the leadership in conceiving the project in 1984.

The interior of the building, which dates to the turn of the century, has been completely remodeled. All the space has been utilized to bring function and purpose together.

"I know it's been said before, but this place truly is a labor of love by many, many people in the community," said Economic Developer John Howard, who with Sherry Kirkland, are the building's new residents.

"We want everyone to know that it is their building, a public place to be proud of and enjoy."

Kay Thomas, Chairman of the Raeford Downtown Revitalization Commission, sees the building as "a new landmark on Raeford's Main Street that will help to maintain the vigor of our downtown area."

Funding for the reconstruction has come from several sources.

The North Carolina General Assembly, in its special appropriations bill last summer, appropriated \$13,000 toward the project with an aim of helping to create a climate tending to improved employment in the area.

Over \$15,000 was raised by personal, business and industry donations in the area.

"An additional amount, over \$5,000, has come through special fund raisers such as the riding lawn mower raffle almost a year ago now," said Bobby Gibson, chairman of the finance committee for the project.

Finally, a special grant of \$6,500 from Advancement Inc., a Federal, Small Business Agency in Lumberton, provided the funds necessary to "bridge the gap and permit us to finish and move in," said Gene Carter, treasurer of Advancement and a Hoke County representative to the Advancement Board of Directors.

Bobby Conoly, chairman of the building committee during the renovations, observed that the final result, after about 12 years of effort, reflects "pride, pledges, prayers and patience on the part of the total community."

Conoly added that it would just be impossible to list all those in Hoke County who willingly volunteered their skills, services, and supplies to make this happen.

"The donations of these items, if otherwise paid for, would have added significant cost to this project," Conoly stated.

Howell, as chamber president, noted that "We're not through yet."

Consideration is being given to necessary guttering and downspouting and repointing the bricks where mortar is loose or weak.

"More importantly," said Howell, "we badly need furnishings now to make it complete on the inside."

"We expect to have to get a nice conference table," he said "but anyone having items of the period to match the decor that would loan or donate these things would be appreciated."

Items needed include stuffed chairs or small sofas, oak or brass coat trees, wooden side chairs, end tables, decorative clocks, pictures or wall hangings of the period, and area rugs.

"We will try to put some kind of appropriate marker on loaned or donated items to recognize this," (See OFFICES, page 2A)

Woman is killed in accident

An Aberdeen woman was killed Sunday night after being thrown from a car on Highway 491, approximately one mile from the Cumberland County line, according to North Carolina State Trooper Brent White.

Four passengers were injured in the accident which occurred at approximately 9:40 p.m.

Beverly K. Cain, 21, of 410 Midway Road, the driver of the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Cain was traveling towards Raeford when her 1980 Ford ran off the right shoulder, came back on the roadway, then skidded off the right shoulder again.

Cain was thrown from the vehicle when it began to overturn.

Rosiland Williams, 19, Christina Williams, 3, and Tiffany Williams, 4, all of Southern Pines, and Sarah Hill, 19, of Aberdeen were all taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said on Monday that Christina Williams was in satisfactory condition.

The other three passengers were treated and released the night of the accident.

None of the passengers were wearing seatbelts at the time of the accident, according to White.

"They were returning home from church," White said.

Petition to prohibit junkyards presented to commissioners

A petition to prohibit the operation of junkyards in residential areas was presented by a local resident during a county commissioners meeting on Monday.

The petition, presented by Chalmers Parks, contained about 200 signatures from residents of Quehuffle Township and states, "We make this request out of concern for the health and safety of ourselves, our families and the public."

According to the petition, the junkyards are unsightly and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes, snakes, rats and other vermin.

The petition also states the junkyards are a source of "noise pollution" and a source of toxic and hazardous wastes.

In addition, the petition states the junkyards pose a fire hazard, attract thieves and burglars, and

attract young children to play in their dangerous confines.

Final points taken were the degradation of the residential homes in the neighborhood, the loss of tax valuation of surrounding property and lower resale value of the homes in the vicinity of the junkyards.

"We believe this petition paper has demonstrated the clear and present danger to public health and safety from the operation of junkyards in residential areas," the petition states at closing.

The petition was accepted by the board of commissioners and will be passed on to the planning board for further action.

In other business:

A request was made for the residents in the area between the airport and Highway 401 to present a petition for paving at (See PETITION, page 2A)

Trials held for dog fight

Four people pleaded guilty to charges of encouraging pit bull fighting in Hoke County District Court last week.

Johnny Jackson, 28, of Rt. 1, Box 290, Shannon was sentenced to six months, suspended for five years, and placed on unsupervised probation. He was fined \$200.

Also charged with the same violation of general statute 14-362, was Robert Anderson, 25, of Old Trail Mobile Home Park.

Anderson received the same sentence as Jackson.

Nancy May Reed of Rt. 4, Box 454, Raeford, was sentenced to 90 days, suspended for three years and placed on unsupervised probation. Reed was fined \$100.

Carlos Goodman Jr., 29, of Rt. 5, Box 174, Raeford, was sentenced to six months, suspended for five years, and placed on unsupervised probation. Goodman was fined \$400.

Goodman was also ordered to (See DOG FIGHT, page 2A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The rains came early Monday morning. We haven't heard what the official measurement amounted to, but it must have been between $\frac{1}{2}$ and an inch. The rain did take the pollen off the trees and it shouldn't be too long before we can breath fresh air again.

The temperature was in the 80s Sunday and in the 70s Monday. The forecast is for the thermometer to read in the low 60s Tuesday and Wednesday and then get back into the 70s by Saturday.

We still need more help, but every little bit helps.

It is only a week and a half until the start of the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Hoke County. The committee has completed plans for the event and now the loose ends must be pulled together to get everything started.

The tickets for the Hoke Diamond are moving faster each day and if the sales continue at the pace of the past week, they will all be gone before the week arrives.

Freddie Williams, who is in charge of these tickets, said Monday that he would soon check

every ticket seller and maybe move some to places that are selling more tickets. He said that only 750 tickets would be sold and advises people to get their tickets before they are all gone.

Paul Dickson, who is on the Reunion Day Committee, called me last week and stated that some of the old National Guardsmen of Hoke County were working hard to have a big turn out on Reunion Day, May 9 at the National Guard Armory.

He is running an Open Letter in the form of an advertisement in this week's News-Journal. He states in the letter that there have been National Guard units in Raeford and Hoke County for at least 72 of the past 75 years.

There have been reunions by some of the units, but according to Dickson's letter there has never been any sort of a reunion for them all.

The units that have been in the county are as follows: Company G, 200th Arty Battery F, 252nd EA, First Battalion Headquarters Battery and Combat Train, 252nd

(See AROUND, page 2A)



75th pageant

"Golden Echoes" cast members, from left, Yvonne Shodja, who is playing "Rhoda"; Lisa Potts, who is playing "Crystal" and Prentice McBride, who is playing "C.J.," pose for a photograph during a recent pageant rehearsal. The pageant will be presented at Turlington School on Thursday and Friday evenings during Diamond Jubilee Week.

Pageant rehearsals going well

In 1911, North Carolina's 99th county was created with 268,000 acres from Cumberland and Robeson Counties.

This year, 75 year's later, Hoke County will remember its beginnings during the celebration, "Golden Echoes," a pageant written especially for the county's 75th anniversary by Grace Ellis of

Cameron will be presented at Turlington School beginning at 8 p.m.

The local actors in the cast have been hard at work preparing for the two performances.

"Rehearsals are going well," said Mary Archie McNeill, who is directing the pageant with Dr. Ray Harris.

"The participants are having a grand time. We are having a wonderful time working and creating together," McNeill said. (See PAGEANT, page 2A)



JUBILEE HIGHLIGHTS

•Are you a current Hoke County resident having a 75th birthday this year? If so, the Diamond Jubilee Committee wants to know about it. You're a very special person to the county's total celebration. Call Diamond Jubilee Headquarters at 875-DJ75 and let us know. So far we know about these local "diamonds."

- Dan McInnis
- Neill McFadyen Sr.
- Pollie B. Johnson
- Jensie Willis
- Odessa Harris
- Duncan D. McCraney
- Alice Almond

•Joni Parker, Miss North Carolina, will be in our parade on Monday, May 5th and performing that evening before the fireworks. The Kiwanis Club of Raeford is sponsoring her appearance.

•Open House Tours of Faberge, JRA Industries and Tarheel Turkey Hatchery are now part of the plans for "Government-Industry" Day. Call the Jubilee Headquarters at 875-DJ75 for a reservation and pass to participate. Visitation is limited.

•The Woodmen of the World are making a great, patriotic contribution of many American flags for our celebration! Wait until you see Main Street during Jubilee Week. You'll be proud to be a citizen of Raeford and Hoke County.

•An exhibit of our local artists "Masterpieces" will be on display in the A&R Depot offices all during Jubilee Week. Please come take a look and tour the Depot.

•We will have some "honorary" officials during Jubilee Week - Chairman of the County Board of Commissioners, County Manager, Sheriff, Mayor and City Manager. Watch for more information.