

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Red Cross assists tornado victims

By Sally Jamir

Hoke County residents whose property was damaged by the tornado which touched down on May 24 benefited greatly from the efforts of Red Cross workers in the area, according to Clyde Upchurch, chapter chairman.

Five families were given immediate aid in the form of clothing, food and other items, totaling \$1,675, as well as medical aid and temporary housing, according to Upchurch.

Red Cross offers emergency assistance to people whose safety and welfare is in danger from disasters such as fires, hurricanes and tornadoes.

They provide basic needs as well as household needs, medical care, temporary home repairs, replacement of occupational supplies and equipment and information about private or government agencies that may offer additional help.

National Red Cross is available to people in an area where more than five families have been affected by a disaster.

Monday evening after the storm, Upchurch assessed that there were more than five families affected by the storm and therefore people were eligible for the National Red Cross assistance.

The families received \$1,675 in national assistance funds through the Cumberland County Red Cross Chapter because the chapter had the funds with which to write the check. (See FLOODS, page 7A)



Storm damage

The top half of an oak tree fell on a 1985 station wagon belonging to Anne Jordan during a violent thunderstorm on Friday. The vehicle was parked in the driveway of Jordan's home at 315 Edinborough Avenue. Emergency Services Director Bill Niven said that other cars in the county were damaged in

the storm which began approximately at 4 p.m. and lasted an hour. High winds also ripped the roofs off barns. Extension Agent Willie Featherstone said local farmers considered themselves lucky because damage to crops was not severe.

Proposed county budget would require six cents tax increase

By Sally Jamir

Members of the Hoke County Board of County Commissioners reviewed the proposed fiscal year 1986-87 budget at their regular meeting Monday morning.

William Cowan, county manager, presented the budget. He explained that the Hoke County general fund budget for fiscal next year, as requested by all agencies, is \$6,276,817.23. Cowan's recommended budget is \$5,783,029.

To fund the budget, an 87 cent tax rate, an increase of six cents, is needed, the value of which will be \$348,000,000. An \$8,000 growth over last year's budget is represented by this tax base, according to Cowan.

The general fund budget is supported by an ad valorem tax totaling \$2,785,392, federal and state grants of \$1,193,725, fees and revenues of \$1,412,912 and an appropriated fund balance of \$390,000.

There is an increase of the tax rate of six cents mainly as a result of a decline in the one-cent sales tax and a loss of revenue from interest income.

According to Cowan, the Social

Service's Public Assistance budget increase of 12% to \$59,516 is recommended. The largest increase in the Public Assistance budget is in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Cowan related that the budget includes a pay classification plan "that will provide for a 5.5% pay increase for staff." The pay increase includes fringe benefits and a 2% cost-of-living adjustment.

Three new positions were requested. These positions were not recommended in the budget. It was also recommended that two existing permanent positions be left vacant.

Also included in the proposed budget is a 4% increase in the School Current Expense Fund, \$15,000 in the Public Safety budget for overtime and holiday pay, a 9% projected increase in utility costs and a 30% projected increase in liability insurance premiums, according to Cowan.

There are two major items not included in the budget recommendation, according to Cowan. They are a Central Communications system at a projected minimum cost of \$60,000 annually and the

EMT-I Advance Program at a projected cost of \$28,000.

The contribution annually of \$23,000 by the General Fund in order to establish a Reserve Fund was recommended. These funds would be used for revaluation

Revenue Sharing will end in October with the final payment of \$71,725. The balance of the proposed \$365,182 budget will be funded from \$20,000 in projected interest earnings, the recommended fund appropriation of \$282,457 and a tax mapping assistance grant of \$90,000.

The proposed budget recommends major items such as the purchase of an IBM System 36 computer, a countywide tax mapping program, the purchase of four new cars for the Sheriff's Department, an appropriation to the Hoke County Board of Education for capital outlay equipment and operational costs for the Hoke County Landfill.

The proposed budget also provides for a facility fee fund, which is to be used for the maintenance (See COMMISSIONERS, page 2A)

Council approves budget for 1986-87

By Sally Jamir

Members of the City Council approved the 1986-87 budget at their regular meeting Monday night.

Tom Phillips, city manager, gave an overview of the \$1,726,810 budget. Compared with last year's budget of \$1,361,627 there is an increase of \$365,183.

Property taxes were increased three cents over last year. Property valuation this year is \$138,000,000, which is an increase over last year of \$9,000,000.

This year revenue sharing comprises \$83,500 of the total budget. The revenue sharing program ends in October and its loss is equal to approximately 20 cents on the tax rate.

The current budget proposes to expend \$328,355 in general fund capital needed citywide. Revenue sharing this year amounts to \$83,500 of this capital.

One time expenses being funded out of revenue sharing this year are the rescue squad at \$6,000 and \$500 to the Highland Plains Economic Development Association.

The budget provides for a capital reserve of \$610,000 to be set aside for general capital improvements.

The budget states that there will be no general cost of living increase for employees but a 3% allowance to each department is to be used for merit increases for some employees.

Major equipment expenditures for the coming year are two police cars at \$10,000 each, a maintenance packer at \$80,000, one fire truck at \$100,000 and other fire department needs, \$26,525.

A proposed figure of \$50,000 is included for paving streets, \$15,000 for phase I of the drainage program, and for repair of sidewalks, \$10,000. A front-end

loader will be purchased for \$95,000, provided that Hoke County contributes 75% of the cost for this item.

Water and Sewer Department expenditures include \$11,000 for pumps at the waste treatment plant and \$167,000 for replacement of the grit chamber and improvements of sludge handling.

In other business council members:

•Voted against accepting the Super Basic cable television package offered by the Alert Cable T.V. Inc. company and recommended that a customer survey on the service be done.

•Accepted the Blue Cross Blue Shield proposal.

•Accepted a proposal for the Interlocal Risk Financing Fund of North Carolina which is sponsored by the League of Municipalities for a self-insured liability program.

•Tabled consideration of the Highway Funding resolution number 1986-8.

•Received notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that effective June 3, Raeford has been converted to the Regular phase of the National Flood Insurance Program which indicates that the full limits of flood insurance coverage are now available to any property owner located within the city limits.

•Received notice from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, Division of Environmental Management reporting on the monitoring data received from the

•Received appreciation from the National Flag Day Foundation Incorporated, for joining in the National Flag Day "Pause for the Pledge" ceremony on June 14 at 7:00 p.m., at which time the city of Raeford will display 50 flags in the downtown area.

Riley wins

Mabel M. Riley won the Democratic nomination to run for a seat on the Hoke County Commissioners by winning a runoff primary election on Tuesday.

Riley defeated Lawrence E. McLaughlin by a vote of 970 to 766, according to unofficial election returns.

Riley garnered the majority of votes in 9 of the county's 13 precincts. McLaughlin received more votes than Riley in the Allendale, Buchan, Blue Springs and Raeford No. 3 precincts.

Turnout for the runoff was light with 1,736 of the county's 7,543 registered Democrats voting in the election, according to the unofficial returns.

Three seats are open in the county commissioners race. Riley will run with fellow Democrats Thomas P. (Tom) Howell and Cleo Bratcher Jr. in the November elections. Julian H. "Buddy" Blue is running for a seat on the Republican ticket.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The thermometer has gotten up to 90° for the past several days and it would seem that summer has arrived a few weeks ahead of time. The forecast is for it to be in the 70s on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The rain, hail, lightning and wind last Friday afternoon did right much damage in and around Raeford. I haven't heard of any crops being damaged too badly but we did have plenty of water. It has been estimated that between four to five inches of rain fell during the afternoon. If we were behind in rainfall, this should bring us up to about normal.

One person said that he didn't see the hailstones that were the size of tennis balls, but that on East prospect the ditches were filled with hail. We can all be thankful more damage was not done by the storm.

Ann Webb gave me a picture last (See AROUND, page 2A)

Raeford woman injured in accident

A Raeford woman was injured last Thursday in an accident between two cars on North Main Street in Raeford.

According to records at the Sheriff's Department Deputy Debbie Dean Brewer of Rt. 1, Box 623, Red Springs, was responding to a burglar alarm at Pete's Exxon gas station, SR 1405, at 10:54 p.m., traveling north on North Main Street. Deputy Clarence Patterson, also responding to the call, preceded Brewer through a green light.

Brewer, whose vehicle had on its blue light and siren, followed but went through the light after it had turned red.

Carolyn Nedine Morris of Rt. 3, Raeford, driving east on Prosper Avenue had the green light and was hit by Brewer as she went through the intersection.

The vehicle which Morris was driving, a '71 Dodge, sustained damages of \$1,500. Damage to the Sheriff's Department '82 Chevy

was worth \$2,500. Brewer was treated and released.

Sheriff Barrington stated that the accident "was our fault. Costs for repairs to the county's vehicle will come out of our budget, if we elect to do that, since we do not have collision insurance."

The Hoke County Sheriff's Department collision insurance was discontinued because of the high number of collisions involving the county vehicles.

Couple travel through Hoke County as part of honeymoon bicycle journey

Not every couple decides to bicycle from Blenheim, Ontario, Canada, to Myrtle Beach on their honeymoon, but that's exactly what Duane and Thea Hiemstra are doing.

The Hiemstras' trip to the South Carolina beach brought them through Hoke County this Sunday. After spending Saturday night camped behind a store in Southern Pines, they rode down Highway 211 and stopped in Raeford to attend worship services at First Baptist Church.

At the services, the Hiemstras met church members Steve and Terry Parker. The couple ended up spending a day of their honey-

moon with the Parkers and their children.

The couple from London, Ontario, began their journey on May 17, the day after they were married. Duane, 21, an electrician, recently took a bicycle trip half way across Canada.

But the Canada to Myrtle Beach trip is the first long distance bicycle journey for Thea, 20, who is a physical fitness instructor.

The Hiemstras travel an average of 60 miles a day on their 18-speed bicycles. "The bikes give you a good low gear for mountains," Duane said. Their journey has taken them through Ohio, West Virginia and Virginia.

The Hiemstras didn't plan a route before they left on their bike trip. They decide which roads to take each morning.

"We have a general idea of the direction we are headed, but we change it from day to day," Duane said.

They also hear of good roads from people working in bicycle shops along the way. They learned of the Hoke County route in a bicycle shop in Greensboro.

"I'm glad they put us on a good route," Thea said.

Besides an occasional flat tire, the Hiemstras have encountered

(See HONEYMOON, page 2A)



Honeymoon

Duane and Thea Hiemstra make a stop in Raeford Sunday. The couple are on a honeymoon bicycle tour from Canada to Myrtle Beach.