

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

Summer school
is in session
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Legion holds
awards banquet
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Enjoying the rain

A local morning glory enjoys the moisture provided by thunderstorms that have recently moved through Hoke County. Although the storms brought much needed rain, they also brought heavy winds which knocked out power lines and tore branches from trees. The storms brought some relief to thirsty crops, but what farmers say they really need is a sign, steady rain.

Commissioners OK half-cent sales tax

Local sales tax to increase from 4.5 to 5 cents on the dollar

By Sally Jamir

A resolution enacting the additional half-cent local option sales tax was passed by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners after a public hearing held for the tax Thursday night.

Commissioner James Hunt made the motion to enact the tax which passed unanimously, raising the sales tax in the county from 4.5 to 5 cents on the dollar.

The new tax, which goes into effect on September 1, will generate an additional \$534,000 a year for the county.

The figure is based on an estimated 8% increase in retail sales, according to County Manager William K. "Bub" Cowan.

"The tax really helps the small counties that don't have as much retail sales," Cowan said.

Previously projected sales revenues growth per year by the N.C. Association of County Commissioners on the half-cent tax

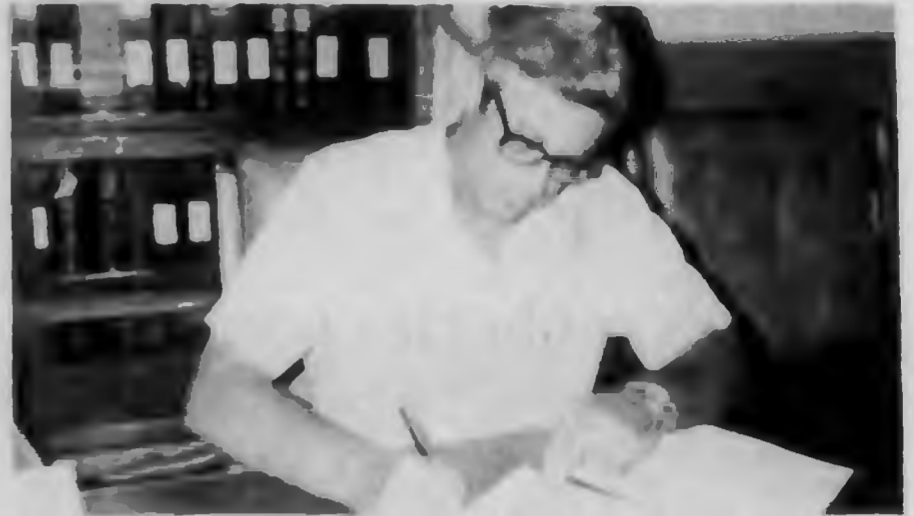
already in effect have been fairly accurate, county finance officer Charles Davis said.

Last year, actual growth in retail sales was 12%. According to Davis, projected retail sales growth is based on several indicators including consumer price index, statewide trends in salaries, unemployment rates and factors affecting private and commercial transportation.

The current half-cent tax sales tax plus the additional half-cent tax will bring in \$534,000 each for a total of \$1,068,000.

Since the tax will be effective September 1, it will only generate an expected 60% of the total figure (\$320,000) this year, according to Davis. Sixty percent of these revenues will go to the schools, or \$192,000 and 40%, \$128,000, will go to the county to be used at their discretion.

The General Assembly stipulated that 60% of the additional half-cent tax must go for



Half-cent tax

Chairman of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners John Balfour signs a document to adopt the additional half-cent sales tax.

schools' capital improvements or construction when it gave the counties the option of imposing the new tax.

The commissioners agreed that the 60% designated for school improvements should pay for a proposed \$3.5 million school bond issue thus preventing the need for a tax increase.

How to spend the additional

\$128,000 -- or 40% of the revenue generated by the additional half-cent tax each year -- is a decision that will be made by the commissioners.

Section 105-501 of the ratified HB1542 on the sales and use tax states "The amount distributed to a taxing county shall then be divided." (See COMMISSIONERS, page 2A)

Hoke County High School principal resigns

A new principal is being sought for Hoke County High School due to the resignation of Dr. Lenwood D. Simpson, superintendent of schools Dr. Bob Nelson said last week.

Simpson, who became principal of Hoke High in 1977, submitted a formal letter of resignation Friday. Simpson gave no reason for his resignation in the letter.

On Monday, the school system began sending letters informing educators that the principal's position is open. Nelson said he was

confident the school system will find someone qualified for the job. "We're going to do the very best we can to find an outstanding principal," Nelson said. "We'll be ready for school when school opens."

The circumstances of Simpson's resignation are "a little unusual," Nelson said.

Normally, principals resign on the first of July rather than close to the first of August, according to Nelson. Also, the standard practice is for principals to make their intentions known to ad-

ministrators in the spring of the year.

"We are late getting the word on it (the resignation)," Nelson said.

Simpson left his office and Raeford soon after his resignation on Friday, according to the superintendent.

"It's my understanding he (Simpson) is living in Greenville with his family," Nelson said.

Nelson said he had no idea what the former principal has planned for the future.

The principal's office doesn't close for summer vacation. In fact,

Nelson said the summer months are usually the most hectic because of the work involved in ending one year and beginning another.

To see that the office runs efficiently until a new principal can be found, Nelson has assigned the school's three assistant principals the duty of "functioning as a team to keep the operations going until such time as we find a replacement." The three assistant principals are Locke MacDonald, Harold Livingston and Linda Steed.

\$800 taken from local woman

A Hoke County woman was robbed of \$800 last Tuesday, July 15, according to records at the Sheriff's Department.

Patricia Kay Sparks, Rt. 1, Aberdeen, reported that on July 15 at 10 p.m. Edwin Parks, 31, Box 134 West End, took \$800 from her. Sparks also stated in the report that Parks pulled her out of her pick-up truck before he took the money out of her pocket and that he put her pocketbook back into her mobile home after taking the money.

Records say Parks was arrested for larceny of a person.

Barbra Monroe, Rt. 3, Raeford reported a larceny at her store The Ditch Bank Grocery in South Hoke, Rt. 1 Red Springs, at 4:30 p.m. July 15.

A subject broke into the through the side window and entered through the door. Records say beer, cigarettes and change was taken. Property is valued at \$91.80 value.

Karen Wilson of Century 21, Harris Avenue, Raeford reported that between 7:00 p.m. July 18 and 2:45 p.m. July 21 someone broke a window out of the bathroom at

the back side of the houses they have on the market located on Rt. 1, June Johnson Road, Raeford.

A push lawn mower and a Sears riding lawn mower were stolen. The two machines are worth \$325.

Stenson Oxendine, Rt. 1, Red Springs reported that between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. July 23 someone broke into his trailer by breaking the glass out of the back door.

Records say that \$25 was stolen. Lucy Dockery, Rt. 1 Raeford, reported that between 3:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. July 22, someone broke into his home by kicking the back door open and stole a television set worth \$75.

Ethel M. Baldwin, Rt. 1 Lumber Bridge, reported a burglary at her residence by a subject who entered through an open window.

Records say Baldwin reported the incident at 2:45 a.m. July 2.

Bell Earlethe, Rt. 1, Red Springs reported that between 5:00 p.m. July 22 and 2:30 p.m. July 23 someone stole a Western Flyer lawnmower worth \$225 from the Collins' residence on Rt. 1, Red Springs.

Alma Barefoot, Rt. 2, Raeford, (See AREA, page 2A)

Assault cases are heard in district court

Several assault cases were heard in district court last week.

Fredrick Lee Leach, 31, 804 Saunders Street, Raeford, pleaded guilty to assaulting an officer, driving while not being licensed, and resisting and delaying and obstructing an officer, offenses committed on April 7.

According to records, Leach also pleaded guilty to failing to comply with restrictions on his operating license, an offense committed on February 18.

Records say Leach was given a sentence of one year to be imposed at the expiration of sentences given for previous offenses.

Barbara Townsend, Rt. 3 Box 199C, Red Springs, pleaded not guilty and was found guilty on assault charges. Townsend also pleaded guilty to trespassing on a school bus. Both cases were consolidated into one judgement.

Records say Townsend, 24, was sentenced to 60 days, suspended two years and placed on unsupervised probation for two years for this offense committed on April 30.

Townsend must also pay \$130 restitution to the victim.

Raymond King, 32, Hwy. 211 MHP, Raeford pleaded not guilty to the charge of assaulting a female, committed on March 5, and was sentenced to 90 days.

Records say King must serve this sentence while he serves a two-year sentence given to him for the offense of DWI and driving while his license was revoked, committed on March 26, to which he pleaded guilty.

King was arrested for these charges at 401 By-Pass and Cole Street.

Nathaniel LeGrand, Raeford, violated the terms and conditions

of the suspended sentence given to him on February 28 for an assault and battery charge, an offense committed on January 17.

Records say LeGrand pleaded not guilty to this charge and was sentenced to 30 days.

Louis Melvin Roper, Lot 133 Nevada Drive, Harmony Heights MHP, Raeford, pleaded guilty to DWI and was sentenced to six months, suspended and put on unsupervised probation for two years.

Records say that as a condition of probation Roper, 29, was fined \$100 and ordered to perform 72 hours of community service and complete Alcohol, Drug Education and Traffic (ADET) School. Also he must pay \$200 restitution for damage he caused to the victim's property.

Roper was arrested at U.S. 401 and RP1303 on May 18.

Jackie Bryant, 23, Rt. 12 Box 711C, Fayetteville pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting a driver who was operating a vehicle who was impaired. Hed was fined \$50, sentenced to 60 days, suspended and placed on unsupervised probation for one year.

Otis William Monroe, Rt. 1 Box 658E, Red Springs, pleaded guilty to DWI and was sentenced to 60 days, suspended and placed on unsupervised probation for one year.

Monroe, 27, was also fined \$100 and ordered to surrender his license. According to records, he must perform 24 hours of community service and complete ADET school to fulfill probation conditions.

Monroe was arrested at Main Street and Edinborough on June 8.

Richard Wayne Loving, Rt. 2 Box 11686, Raeford, pleaded guilty. (See DWI, page 10A)

Jerry Clower sets date for Raeford appearance

Jerry Clower, world-famed comic entertainer from Yazoo City, Mississippi, will give a performance in Raeford on Friday, August 29th.

The show is being produced by the N.C. Turkey Festival, Incorporated.

In announcing this event, Evelyn Manning, Chairman of the 1986 NC Turkey Festival said, "We are extremely pleased to have a professional humorist of this quality to perform in our community." She added that "Mr. Clower's style of humor is right in line with the fun-making that surrounds our Turkey Festival activities in mid-September."

The show, billed "An Evening With Jerry Clower," will be held on Friday, August 29th, 8 p.m., at Hoke High School Stadium in Raeford.

Also appearing on the program will be a multi-talented

vocal and instrumental group -- The Tennessee River Boys. Their music is a contemporary blend of fast-paced, up-tempo country ballads. Besides appearing on a number of TV specials, they have had a three-year stand at Nashville, Tennessee's famed Opryland, USA.

Tickets for this program will go on advance sale on Friday, August 1 at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce offices on Main Street in Raeford. They may also be ordered by mail via Clower Tickets, P.O. Box 1260, Raeford, NC 28376. A stamped, self-addressed envelope must be enclosed with each order. Checks are to be payable to N.C. Turkey Festival, Inc.

In announcing this show, Mrs. Manning said that only 1500 advance sale tickets will be sold. "This guarantees seating for these ticket-holders indoors



Jerry Clower

at the McDonald Gymnasium at Hoke High School in the event of bad weather."

Advance sale tickets will be \$10 per person. Tickets sold at the gate the night of the performance will be \$12 for adults and

\$5 for children 12 years old and under.

For additional information, please call the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce, (919) 875-5929.

Around Town

Sam Morris

The summer weather is still with us in Hoke County. The temperatures have been above 90° for over two months and the forecast is for the same to continue this week. I don't know what will happen in August as it is usually our hottest month.

The rain over the weekend helped a lot. It seemed to be a more general rain than most we have had recently. The rainfall was approximately an inch over most of the county. There was also rain in South Carolina and Georgia. They haven't had nearly as much rain as in Hoke County, so you can imagine the condition of their crops.

I just hope that my air conditioner will hold out for the remainder of the summer. Of course, if the bill keeps going up every month, I might have to turn it off. It sure costs to run an air conditioner.

According to Raz Autry the dry weather will shorten the peach crop. This week may be the last big week for the local peach growers, he did say that the hot weather stopped the growth of some of the peaches. All I can say is that they did taste like peaches.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners approved the 1/2 cent sales tax for the county at a meeting last Thursday night. It seems that they are convinced that this tax will pay for the school bond issue that the Hoke County Board of Education has requested.

The bond issue would call for \$3.35 million to be used to update the existing buildings in the county. There wasn't any school board members at the meeting last week, but the commissioners asked that someone get with the superintendent.

(See AROUND, page 2A)