

Bond referendum OK'd

By Sally Jamir

After months of negotiation, the long-awaited school bond referendum was approved Monday by members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners. Voters will voice their opinions on the referendum in the November elections.

A joint session was held between the commissioners and the Hoke County Board of Education so that the board could present the \$3.35 million proposal and field any questions the commissioners had.

Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson included in his presentation references to the changes in the proposal made at the July 1 meeting in saying "We have deleted the item of the \$250,000 from the bond issue. We ask that the bond referendum be called for at the time of the general election."

The \$250,000 had been included in the proposal as a provision for purchasing land for future school facilities. Inclusion of the figure without specified use met opposition from the commissioners during previous considerations of the bond.

Following Nelson's presentation, the commissioners were unanimous in their approval of the bond. Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch was absent from the meeting due to an out of town trip.

Chairman John Balfour asked Nelson if it was the intention of the school board to use the school's share of the additional half-cent

sales tax revenues to retire the bond debt.

"We have not discussed this in terms of official action," Nelson responded. However, he added that he thought doing so was "the gut level feeling of the board."

After the publication today (Thursday) of a notice of intent, the board will need to pass an amendatory resolution by August 18 requesting the commissioners to provide additional school facilities.

In order for the bond to be authorized by the Local Government Commission, the commission must receive an application by August 18.

Also, a public hearing on the bond referendum must be held no later than September 2, according to New York bond attorneys Brown and Wood.

Following approval of the bond issue, Hoke County School System Business Manager Don Steed presented a request from the school board to establish a fines and forfeiture reserve-loan fund in order to stabilize the amount of funds the schools receive from the courts system.

In a statement to the commissioners, Steed explained that "the figure that the Board of Education puts into its budget for this expected revenue would be the actual figure that the Board of Education would receive. Any excess would be put into the 'Reserve Fund' for the next fiscal year."

Any amount under the proposed figures would be "loaned" to the

Board of Education and taken out of next year's budget. The Reserve-Loan fund would be adjusted before each budget year to insure the maximum benefit for each board."

Chairman of the county commissioners John Balfour said there was "no real urgent need that we take action (on the request) at this time."

Steed responded that the board "would like to see action taken on it before the end of the year."

After a suggestion by Commissioner James Hunt that the commissioners wait until a later date when all members would be present action on the matter was tabled until the September first meeting.

Also at the Monday morning session, a report was given on the Economic Development Commission (EDC) by its director, John Howard.

Howard reported that 10% or \$5,000 of the EDC budget was not being used in fiscal year 1985-86. Howard said the budget for that year was a no-growth budget.

The Chamber of Commerce is now contributing funds to the EDC to provide for the clerical assistance needed for the increased work load in the form of data collection and public contact, according to Howard.

Howard recapped last year's EDC activities and gave a rundown of what future activities would be.

These activities include the establishment of the Extended (See EDC, page 11)



Dundarrach Trading Company

Pictured above is the Dundarrach Trading Company as seen by local photographer Luke McNeill. The store is one of the oldest in Hoke County. The photo (original in color) is one of a series of

photographs of familiar structures taken by McNeill. We take a closer look at McNeill and his work on page 13 of this week's The News-Journal.

Farmers facing mixed conditions

By Sally Jamir

The state of farming throughout the county ranges from good to poor as a result of erratic rainfall, according to agricultural spokesmen.

Hoke County is not categorized as a disaster county and thereby does not qualify for relief of this kind, according to Thomas Starling, county executive director with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Counties primarily in the western part of the state did receive assistance in the form of hay from other states in the county.

County farmers must suffer a collective loss of 30% in crops before they qualify for disaster relief, Starling said.

"There has been some loss in the corn, but not near 30%," Starling said. "We have a good crop of tobacco, although some of the

lower stalks are not looking as good as they did last year. We need more rain to get the fertilizer through the plant so it will cure well."

The rainfall has been sporadic through the county causing the inconsistent quality in the crops.

"The western portion of the county is the most severely hurt. Some sections of the county have good yields and some have had bad yields," said Willie Featherstone, Agricultural Extension Chairman. "Averaged out the loss is not enough for disaster relief but some individuals have had a substantial loss. This is where the problem comes in."

To help alleviate this problem there are agricultural assistance programs of which farmers can take advantage.

The emergency feed program is an ASCS program in which a pro-

ducer must have suffered a 50% loss of livestock feed to qualify. Also low interest loans are available from this office.

"I expect that a few farmers will apply," Starling said. "I've talked to a few and they say they'll assess their situation."

The losses in hay will not be known until the crop has been cut. However, hay growers in the county who are not having a good crop are able to contact those in the county who are and may buy hay from these farmers.

The Extension office is putting together a list of "people who have surplus hay and will sell it to those who do not have enough," Featherstone said and encouraged farmers to call the Extension office for information regarding this list.

Featherstone made reference to (See ASSISTANCE, page 8)

Hoke-Rubber to begin production this month

By Sally Jamir

Hoke Rubber Products, which has been planned for several months, will become a reality in mid-August when it begins producing rubber products for Presti Rubber Products, New Britain, Pennsylvania, according to Rick Gilligan, plant manager.

The plant will begin by producing 100,000 pounds of rubber a month in one shift per day in order to satisfy Presti's company's current needs.

Gilligan said the reason Presti wanted to start a factory for rubber production is that the company was having trouble getting the quality of rubber it needs for use in making tire envelopes at the Pennsylvania factory.

The plant will be producing 40 batches of rubber per day at 135 pounds a batch. The finished product will be strips of rubber to be used in the manufacture of tire envelopes in Pennsylvania.

The last thing to be done before the plant goes into production is the construction of a cooling tank



Getting ready for production

Larry Chason (left) and Mark Mosterette work on construction of the cooling tank for Hoke Rubber Products scheduled to go into production the middle of this month.

needed in the manufacturing process. Gilligan opted to build the tank instead of modifying already existing tanks in order to get one with the specific capabilities the company requires.

"We decided to do this rather than buy one," Gilligan said. "It would cost just as much to modify existing tanks as it would to build

it. So, why not build it and get exactly what we want."

Initially, 10 people will be employed in this shift that is expected to last through 1986, "unless the demand is so great that we couldn't keep up with it," Gilligan said.

The establishment of a second (See COMPANY, page 8)

Council approves super basic service

By Sally Jamir

Members of the City Council approved the Alert Cable T.V. super basic service, after a second reading of the proposal during a public hearing held at their regular meeting Monday night.

The second vote on the service will change the franchise on the service currently being used in Raeford.

The new service combines both the basic service and the expanded service to include the channels 3-13 and 15, 17, 19, 21, and 22, at a cost of \$13 to the consumer.

In other business, council members approved the request of Marshall T. Wilson for a conditional use permit after a public hearing held for the request.

Wilson plans to place a double-wide mobile home in an "R-6" residential district located in Oakdale Estates Subdivision.

In other business, council members discussed central depository bid proposals from area banks.

The city is required by law to

have the central depository where all city operations funds are kept.

City Manager Tom Phillips and Finance Officer Helen Huffman reviewed information gathered from comparing bids as received from Southern National Bank, United Carolina Bank and Heritage Federal Savings and Loan Association.

According to Phillips, Southern National Bank was the recommended bank due to the "no minimum balance" proposed by the bank.

In a report from Huffman, she stated that taking advantage of this "will allow the city to keep all excess funds invested at the highest rate and at the same time receive 5% interest on funds remaining in the Central Depository until checks are cleared."

Council members raised questions relating to the minimum balance and the daily minimum balance as well as other factors in the choice of Southern National Bank.

Phillips related that Huffman

and he had "preferred United Carolina Bank but couldn't make the numbers come out right."

Phillips said he would get more information for the council for a decision on this matter on a later date.

In other business council members:

- Received an Economic Development Commission report by Director John Howard.

- Accepted a bid from Bennett's Inc. of \$36,380 for providing one 1987 Custom Cab Chassis for the Fire Department which was requested in a letter submitted in a letter from Fire Chief Crawford Thomas.

- Moved to award the contract for providing street construction for the city to low bidder, Lee Paving Company for \$49,760 (\$24.88 per ton).

- Moved to award the contract for providing sidewalk construction for the city to low bidder, Barnes Paving Company for \$23,128.

French exchange student visits

By Sally Jamir

Emmanuel Bussiere is spending a summer far away from home.

Bussiere, 16, is from Paris, France - he lives a short distance from the Eiffel Tower which you can see from his bedroom window. He is in the Naacel Cultural Exchange program by spending a summer in Raeford with the O'Tuel family, a host family in the program.

The exchange program has centers in the United States, France, Spain, Ireland and England and links students with host families in these countries so they are able to have the experience of learning the language of that country from the people who speak it.

This is Bussiere's third year in the program. He began studying English when he was twelve and

began putting his knowledge to the test in English-speaking countries when he visited a family in Ireland in 1984 and 1985. His 18-year-old brother was in the program last year and spent the summer in northern New York.

Kay O'Tuel said that her family does not speak French so it is an excellent opportunity for Bussiere to learn the English.

(See EXCHANGE, page 11)



Big haul

Law enforcement officers truck marijuana plants to the county landfill. Close to 300 plants were spotted in Hoke County last Wednesday.

Marijuana found in county

Close to 300 marijuana plants were discovered growing in Hoke County last Wednesday, according to Detective Ed Harris of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

The plants, estimated to be worth \$256,000, were found in six locations throughout the county.

"The majority of what was found was in the western part of the county in a patch off of the southern end of Turnpike Road," Harris said.

The plants were spotted from an

airplane during a countywide aerial spotting mission conducted by the Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation. Some of the plants were 15 ft. tall.

Law enforcement officials trucked the marijuana to the county landfill where the plants were soaked with gas and diesel fuel and burned. Ashes from the plants were buried at the landfill.

Harris said no arrests have been made at this point.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has cooled off a little and with the afternoon thunder-showers, we don't need rain as bad as we did a few weeks ago. The temperature Monday was in the 80s and this made it seem cool from the 100° weather a couple of weeks ago.

The forecast is for the weather to remain about normal for the remainder of the week.

Monday, July 28, Harold and Peggy Gillis and Mary Alice and I left Raeford for Lancaster County in Pennsylvania. We went up Interstate 95 to Baltimore and then hit 183 into York, PA, and out of York took US 30 to Lancaster. Our motel was on Hwy. 272 that connected Lancaster and Hershey.

We stayed all three nights at the same motel and worked out of it to visit the Amish country. The maps that they give you at their information center shows all the highways and small roads through the area.

Before we left Raeford, Dell Karshner, who works with Dickson Press, said that she had a sister-in-law that lived at Leola in (See AROUND, page 8)