

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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reminisces
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N.C.
TURKEY
FESTIVAL



Volume LXXVIII Number 18

Thursday, August 21, 1986

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Residents to vote on school bond issue Nov. 4

By Sally Jamir

Members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners agreed on Monday to put a \$3.35 million school bond issue to a public vote on November 4. The commissioners also set a public hearing for the bond issue on September 2nd at 9 a.m.

The school bond referendum, if approved, will be used for the improvement of facilities and equipment acquisitions.

The bond issue plus \$576,084 in outstanding debts will incur a \$3.9 million gross debt, according to

Charles Davis, county finance officer.

The \$3.9 million represents 1.15 percent of the total property value in the county, according to Davis. A maximum of eight percent debt ratio is allowed by law.

A review of legal expenses to be incurred by the school bond was presented by Duncan McFayden, county attorney.

McFayden conveyed information in correspondence from bond attorneys Brown & Wood stating that if the bond issue failed there would be \$15,000 in legal expenses.

If the bond issue passes and the \$3.35 million is issued all at one time, the legal expenses would be less than if the funds were issued at two or three different times.

Board Chairman John Balfour presented to the commissioners a recommendation from the Hoke County School Board that commissioners use revenues from the 1983 and 1986 half-cent sales tax to retire the school bond debt.

In other business, the school board heard an update report on public assistance program by Ken Witherspoon, Department of

Social Services (DSS) director.

Witherspoon gave a review of government policies which have recently been changed as well as the recent addition of emergency assistance in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Witherspoon anticipates that these recent changes and additions to programs along with heavy routine case intake and processing duties will cause stress in the workforce and lead to deterioration in the quality of work.

"Bureaucracy has gotten more

and more difficult to manage."

Witherspoon said after explaining the escalating trend of penalty fees the agency is required to pay when its workforce is not able to process applications in given amounts of time.

In answer to a question posed by Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch in reference to requests of the agency, Witherspoon said "the need for another eligibility specialist is very relevant."

Witherspoon was reluctant to make the request after the July approval of the 1986-87 budget but

did so in anticipation of a heavy workload in the future.

The commissioners will give the matter special consideration and discuss it at a future meeting.

In further business, the commissioners heard a presentation by residents in favor of reconsidering the county-funding of the Extension Service Family Education Aid position.

John D. McAllister, a member of the Extension County Advisory Council, spoke on behalf of the education program.

(See VOTE, page 8A)

Half-cent sales tax should retire bond, school board says

By Sally Jamir

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education last Tuesday moved to make a recommendation to the county commissioners that revenue from two local option half-cent sales taxes be used to retire the \$3.35 million school bond debt.

The first half-cent sales tax went into effect in 1983; another half-cent tax, adopted by the commissioners in July, is to be levied September 1.

The recommendation came after the board rescinded the previous \$3.6 million bond resolution and adopted the amended \$3.35 million bond resolution.

The amended resolution does not include \$250,000 originally intended for site acquisition for future facilities construction.

Hoke County Schools Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson presented to the board an analysis of anticipated revenues from both half-cent sales taxes prepared by County Manager William (Bub) Cowan.

The school board used this information in their decision to make the recommendation to the commissioners.

In other administrative action, the board moved to change the attendance zones in the St. James Hill area. Twenty-two elementary

school students from this area will be reassigned back to McLauchlin who had been moved to West Hoke last year.

According to Nelson, West Hoke had run out of space for the number of students enrolled and McLauchlin has an empty classroom.

However, even with the change Nelson voiced the concern that "it will still be crowded at West Hoke."

A number of school policies were acted upon during the board meeting with much discussion centering on revisions to the attendance policy.

According to Nelson, the attendance policy used in the 1985-86 school year "did not work as we had intended, it did not improve attendance."

Nelson said that the previous policy "made it sound like the students had five freebies" or unexcused absences per six weeks period.

The policy which the board adopted Tuesday clarifies the nature of absences allowed and taken and promotes regular attendance at school.

The board acted on a motion by board member Eddie McNeill suggesting revisions for the policy on (See TAX, page 8A)



Practice jump

A jumper practices at the Raeford Airport for the World Sport Parachute Jumping Championships to be held in Turkey next month.

More digits needed for Raeford calls

Beginning Saturday, telephone customers on the 875 exchange will be required to dial two additional numbers to make local calls in Raeford, according to a Carolina Telephone news release.

No longer will customers be able to make local calls by dialing 5 plus four additional numbers; callers will have to dial the complete seven-digit telephone number.

The reason for the change in service is new computer-controlled digital electronic switching equipment that will go into operation on Saturday.

"Carolina Telephone is installing the new digital equipment to handle the increasing number of telephone customers in Raeford," said Bernice Barrett, district commercial manager for the telephone company.

Also, because of the installation of new switching equipment, the number for calling local directory assistance will change from 7 plus 411 to 411.

For party-line customers, in order to call another party on their line, they will need to dial only their seven digit telephone number. It will no longer be necessary to

dial the digits "560" plus the number.

"This equipment will make available custom calling features long desired by our customers," Barrett said.

For an additional cost, customers will be able to choose several new features including:

- Call forwarding, which permits a customer to transfer incoming calls to another local number.

- Call waiting, which alerts a customer already using the phone to an incoming call. The customer can then put the first caller on hold to answer the second call.

- Three-party conference, which permits a three-way local or long-distance conversation with persons on two other lines.

- Speed calling eight (or 30), which lets customers call eight (or 30) of their most frequently dialed numbers by dialing a one-digit or two-digit code.

The new 5,400-line switching equipment cost nearly \$3 million, according to Barrett. The cost included the new equipment, building modification, power and outside plant facilities.

Round flying object injures Raeford woman

A Raeford woman was struck in the mouth by a flying object while she was driving toward town on Harris Avenue last Thursday, according to Police Department records.

Records say, Blanche Wright of Route 5, was driving east on Harris Avenue between Bethel Road and Magnolia Street at 7:30 p.m. when she was struck and slightly injured in the mouth by an object, apparently a black walnut.

Chief Zeke Wiggins said that as a result of the incident, two juveniles were turned over to the juvenile authorities for possible petition for assault.

In an unrelated incident, a bicycle was reported missing from the

storage room at the residence of Lorenzo Kearns, Yadkin Trail, Raeford.

The bicycle, valued at \$126, was missing sometime between August 8 and August 12, according to records.

Chief Wiggins reported that on the morning of the 18th that the bicycle had been found. Wiggins said the bicycle had been disassembled and reassembled with parts of other bicycles in order to disguise its identity.

On August 13 at 11:58 a.m. a shoplifter was apprehended at the A&P Store, after concealing a pack of cigarettes and not paying for it.

Records say Terry Maynor, 18,

of Raeford was arrested and charged with shoplifting.

Records at the Sheriff's Department say that Ruby Stephens, McKay Village MHP, Raeford, reported that a break-in had occurred at her residence between 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. August 14.

The report states that the front door had been pried open using a sharp object. Nothing was missing or upset in the mobile home.

In an unrelated incident, Kenneth Jackson, Oregon Trail, Raeford, reported that someone had stolen the speakers from his car which was parked in the front yard of his residence.

The break-in occurred at 6:30

p.m. on August 16 while Jackson was asleep in the mobile home.

Apparently someone opened the doors, removed the wires from the speakers and removed the speakers.

Records say a suspect was seen taking the speakers from the car which had previously been locked.

Property taken from the car was one set of Sparkomatic speakers and one set of Jensen triaxial speakers.

Doris Jay Smith, Philippi Church Road, Raeford, reported the larceny of a \$60 lawnmower from her residence.

Records say the lawnmower was taken between 6:00 p.m. August 12 and 5:00 a.m. August 13.

Sanford to visit Hoke

U.S. Senatorial candidate Terry Sanford is scheduled to visit Hoke County on Monday, August 25. Sanford will speak at a lunch in the Edinborough Restaurant. The luncheon begins at 12 noon.

Sanford, a Democrat and former governor of North Carolina, is running for the Senate seat against Sen. James Broyhill, R-N.C., who is filling the office left vacant by the death of Sen. John East, R-N.C.

A past president of Duke University, Sanford has served as a N.C. Senator, president of N.C. Young Democrats and secretary-treasurer of N.C. Ports Authority.

The public is invited to attend the luncheon.



Terry Sanford

Around Town

Sam Morris

The weather has been more like our usual summer for the past week. We have had rain and the temperature has been in the high 80s and the low 90s.

The forecast for this week is for the same type of weather.

Ever so often you will see a picture in a daily paper that will cause you to take a second glance. This happened to me last Sunday morning as I was reading the Sunday paper. It was a picture under the heading of "Business People."

The picture was of J.F. "Nick" Nicholson, son of Mrs. Jesse Jones of Magnolia Street and the late John Nicholson. The Nicholsons lived behind me on Adams Street when Nicky was in grade school. Nicky and my son, John, finished Hoke High in the same class and also finished at UNC Chapel Hill in 1973.

The write up with the picture states that Nicky was now a vice president and credit administrator in the Raleigh office of United Carolina Bank of Whiteville.

We hope him the best in his new assignment.

Thanks to all the folks that had a nice comment about the vacation articles. One other item that I think should be mentioned is that on the start of the trip Harold Gillis stated he wouldn't get lost if I let him drive. I wrote in this column several years ago about Harold getting us lost in Raleigh. Now to set the records straight. As we took the by-pass around Warrenton, Va. on the return trip I was driving and as one would expect I took the wrong road and drove about 20 miles out of the way. So

(See AROUND, page 2A)

Mayors challenged

By Sally Jamir

Raeford Mayor John McNeill has challenged the mayors in surrounding towns to a Mayors Challenge Derby to be held during the N.C. Turkey Festival September 18-19, according to Festival Committee officials.

Speaking on behalf of the turkey olympics, Ann Pate said that the official invitation to the mayors would be "made in the near future."

Pate said the specific towns to be invited "will be up to the mayor" and may include Maxton, Red Springs, Aberdeen and Southern Pines.

"We'll ask some of the neighboring mayors to come down and have a race together," McNeill said. "We

haven't quite figured out all of the logistics yet."

Pate said that plans are underway for the five-lane turkey race which will be a new addition to the olympic events of last year.

"If we get a good response we'd like to make it a regular event in the olympics," Pate said.

The Turkey Olympic group is providing the turkeys for the olympics. House of Raeford and Tarheel Turkey Hatchery are each providing one-half of the turkeys for the event as they did last year, according to Pate.

Turkeys are available for the Mayors race and for anyone who would like to participate in



Mayor John McNeill

the olympics.

"If you don't have a turkey, register, we'll get you one," Pate said.

Prizes will be awarded at the September 20 olympics for the best turkey costume, the slalom

race, the fastest turkey and for the most original turkey name.

Pate said that McNeill thinks there will be no problem in getting five or six mayors to participate in the Mayors Challenge Derby.