

The News-Journal

Volume LXXIX Number 46

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Thursday, March 3, 1988

Polls to open Tuesday

About 3,900 or 45 percent of Hoke County's registered voters are expected at the polls Tuesday as North Carolina participates for the first time in Super Tuesday.

Elections Supervisor Caroline Shook says the election process should be fairly routine with no changes except for a new provision in state law which allows indepen-

dent voters to participate in the primary.

The law, enacted last year by the state General Assembly to comply with a US Supreme Court ruling, gives parties participating in primaries the option of allowing unaffiliated voters to participate. The N.C. Democratic party turned down the option, but the Republican party, in hopes that unaf-

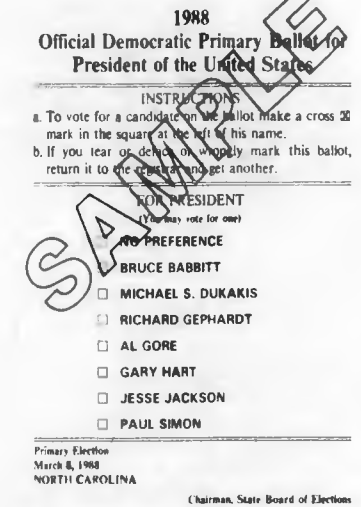
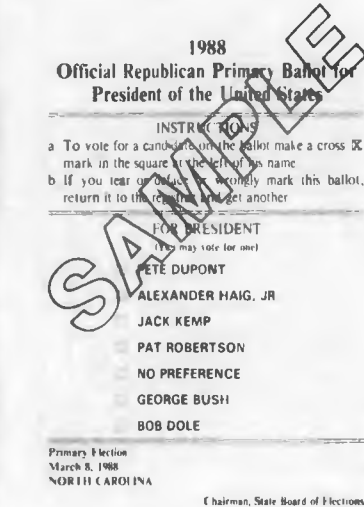
filiated voters will be swayed in the fall election, approved letting them vote in Republican primaries, March 8th, May 3rd, and May 31st (if needed).

Hoke County will participate in the election with 55 percent of eligible citizens registered. That's up slightly from November. Shook says attempts will be made to add more voters to the rolls before the May 3rd primary. The deadline for registering for that election is April 4. She says there are plans to conduct a registration drive at the high school sometime in mid-March. She says a similar effort at the school conducted before a recent election failed to add significant numbers of voters. But she says that was probably because the registration drive was limited to a lunch hour. "Maybe after hearing publicity on Super Tuesday on TV there'll be a little more interest among young people," Shook said.

Polls will open at 6:30 a.m. at the county's 13 precincts and will (see ELECTION, page 14)



Four injured
Hoke County school bus 111 lies on its side after a student, who allegedly wasn't supposed to be driving, lost control of the bus near Rockfish last Thursday. According to the Highway Patrol the bus ran off the road into a ditch, and overturned when it hit a driveway culvert. Four students were injured, one seriously.



Hoke prepared for bus ruling

Although the U.S. Department of Labor decision to step up the deadline for replacing student school bus drivers with adults took Hoke County school officials as much by surprise as it did those in other systems in North and South Carolina, local educators find themselves in a much better position to comply with the ruling than do officials in most other systems.

Don Steed, school business manager, said by the accelerated deadline of April 1, Hoke County will have only three bus drivers who are under age 18. The school system will replace the three with

adult drivers by the deadline, he said.

He said the system may currently have some 17 year-old drivers but all but three of them will have reached their 18th birthday by April 1.

There are 5,100 students in the Hoke County School System and 63 per cent of them ride the 61 buses the system owns.

Steed said the system planned to have all adult drivers by the start of the next school year in August, ahead of the original December 31 deadline. He said he thinks the deadline was moved up because of

some irregularities which were discovered in the way some systems in the two Carolinas were operating their bus program.

Steed said he wanted to give credit to Dwight Jackson, bus license examiner in the transportation division of the State Department of Public Instruction, for helping Hoke County move so far ahead in the changeover.

Steed said Jackson "bent over backwards to get our people trained and ready. Anytime we had a group ready, he would give the training and do the testing. He's been extremely helpful."

Driver not at wheel at time of wreck

Hoke school bus turns over

Not only was the Hoke County school bus which wrecked last Thursday afternoon on RPR 1415 near Rockfish not being driven by the authorized driver at the time of the accident, it was being driven by a 17 year-old who is not even licensed to drive a car, and this was not the first time he has driven the bus.

The licensed bus driver, 18 year-old Vincent Hollingsworth, has been charged by the State Highway Patrol with allowing a non-licensed driver to drive the bus and with giving a false report to an officer.

The driver at the time of the wreck, 17 year-old Jeffrey Bernard Melvin of Raeford, has been charged with having no operator's license and failing to give his name to an officer.

According to school officials and State Trooper D.H. Monroe who investigated the accident,

there were only four students left on bus 111 when the wreck occurred about 4 p.m. In addition to Melvin and Hollingsworth, there were two girls on the bus, 14 year-old Camellitha Ray and 16 year-old Dawn McNair. All were students at Hoke High School.

According to one report, Melvin told investigators Hollingsworth pulled off the road and went to the back of the bus to talk to the girls, telling Melvin to drive the bus.

One of the girls then went to the front of the bus and disturbed Melvin as he was driving. Melvin said this caused him to run off the road, hit a driveway culvert and overturn the bus which came to rest on its side. The 1987 Ford bus had an estimated \$8,000 in damages.

Melvin admitted to investigators this was the fourth time he had driven the bus under similar circumstances.

Hollingsworth told investigators

that he had stopped the bus because the passengers were creating a disturbance and Melvin drove the bus without his permission.

Hollingsworth sustained a hairline fracture of his skull. He was taken to Moore Regional Hospital for treatment and later released. He is reportedly recovering from his injury. The other three students sustained only minor injuries.

Don Steed, school's business manager, said the last time such an incident occurred in Hoke County was eight years ago and that involved a non-authorized driver, too.

He said there are no monitors on the buses and it is difficult to guard against such incidents.

He said, "We try to instill integrity and moral responsibility in our drivers but that doesn't always work and it clearly didn't in this case."

Federal fugitive arrested

A Moore County man wanted by the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department was arrested last Wednesday in Hoke County by ATF Agent Larry Craven and Hoke County Sheriff's Department Detective Ed Harris.

James David "BoBo" Cummings, 30, of Rt.2, Vass, was wanted on a federal warrant. Federal agents and area law enforcement officers had been looking for him for several weeks, said Sam Lewis, agent in charge of the Fayetteville office (see FUGITIVE, page 4)

Downtown store padlocked

A men's clothing store on Raeford's Main Street was padlocked by the Hoke County Sheriff's Department on February 11 after a lawsuit was filed in Robeson County against Jamshid Rafeian, the store operator, who has apparently left town.

Rafeian operated his business here at 120 Main Street under the name Manhattan Man in the former Hoke Drug Store. He

reportedly operated similar stores in Red Springs and Southern Pines and may have operated one in Florence, S.C.

Rafeian vacated the premises of the Red Springs store, which he began in October 1986, owing several month's rent to the store owner, Myrtle Graham. Before she could file her lawsuit against him, Rafeian moved all the merchandise (see PADLOCKED, page 4)

Fight at civic center here ends with arrest of youth

Beer cans and broken wine bottles littered the floor and damage was done to rear door windows at the Hoke Civic Center after a fight broke out during a birthday party held there on Saturday night.

Sheriff's deputies investigating the incident about 11:30 p.m. Saturday were told people at the party panicked and tried to get out of the building after one of the guests pulled out a handgun and started waving it about.

According to a sheriff's department report, a fight broke out between two of the male

guests at the party and other guests started pushing and shoving trying to get out of the way of the fight.

When another male at the party pulled out a gun people started trying to get out of the building and the damage was done to the rear door.

A nineteen year-old Hoke High School student, Michael Andre McPhaul, of Rt.1, Raeford, was arrested and charged with going armed to the terror of the people and carrying a concealed weapon in connection with the incident.

KFC comes to Raeford soon

The Kentucky Colonel is bringing his fried chicken to Raeford, according to an announcement this week by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Commission.

Scottish Food Systems of Laurinburg signed the franchise papers for their 16th Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant last week and have leased property on 401 Bypass from Danny DeVane. Charles Mullins of Scottish

Food Systems told Lawanna Hayes, manager of the Chamber of Commerce, his company is "excited about coming to Raeford and is looking forward to working with this community."

Construction of the restaurant is scheduled to begin May 1 and be completed by August.

The restaurant will be located on property formerly occupied by Howard's Daytona Service Station (see KENTUCKY, page 4)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather the past weekend was perfect. It was warm enough to get outside and most folks did just that.

The forecast is for the temperatures to be in the 50s for the remainder of the week. The lowest will be in the 30s. It could rain on Thursday and Saturday.

Most folks like this warm weather, but the peach growers are hoping that it doesn't stay warm long enough to start the peach trees to budding. This is just the (see AROUND, page 14)

Moore Regional gets imaging system

By June Lancaster

A \$2.4 million diagnostic facility which opened in January at Moore Regional Hospital is, in more ways than one, attracting patients from as far away as Virginia and South Carolina.

The new Magnetic Resonance Imager (MRI) at Moore Regional makes it possible for doctors to see inside the human body in ways never before possible, and without exposing patients to possibly harmful radiation or "invasive surgical procedures."



Preliminaries

The News-Journal's June Lancaster is prepared for imaging in Moore Regional Hospital's Magnetic Resonance Imager. (Nothing unusual was found during the test.)

Dr. Steve Strasser, an American Board of Radiology certified specialist in diagnostic radiology, says the MRI allows a diagnosis to be so much more specific than regular X-rays or even CAT scans. Strasser says MRI is "the screen modality of choice for diagnosing diseases or abnormalities of the brain, the spine and the joints."

MRI gives images which are so specific it is possible for doctors to see bone marrow and spinal disc fluid and to determine whether it is normal or not.

Orthopedists looking for confirmation of a preliminary diagnosis of cartilage, ligament or bone abnormalities, or neurologists looking for confirmation of Multiple Sclerosis, or some other neurological disease, are recommending MRI for their patients.

Even though the Moore facility has only been in operation for two months, doctors from other regions of the state and even from out of state are choosing Moore Regional because, Strasser says, "As one neurosurgeon told us, we had the best MR image."

The personalized approach Strasser and his team of highly trained technicians have adopted is designed to put the patient at ease as he experiences the very latest in diagnostic tools.

Everything is done to create a soothing atmosphere for the patient who is asked to arrive about 30 minutes ahead of actual test time so there is no need to rush through the pre-test procedure, and so he can view a short videotape presentation about MRI.

The tape, produced by General Electric, makers of the Signa MRI, explains what magnetic resonance imaging is and what the patient will experience during the diagnostic procedure in such a way that he feels relaxed and comfortable.

Even before he sees the videotape, the patient is put at ease in what is designed to be an attractive and comfortable reception area with its soft pink and blue decor. Strasser says he and his staff make every effort to create "an atmosphere of some tranquility" for each patient.

That involves treating each patient as an individual, taking the time and trouble to help him feel relaxed. It means the staff sees fewer patients in a day but it also means the patients who are seen are relieved of their anxieties.

To thoroughly understand the MRI procedure one would need a knowledge of physics far beyond the basics. Put simply, the technique involves listening to the hydrogen atoms in the body (hydrogen atoms are plentiful since the human body is 90 percent water) after having "pulsed" those atoms with radio frequency waves.

Gary Green, director of public relations for Moore Regional, issued some background information on MRI which explains that "when a body

(see IMAGING, page 14)