

The News-Journal

The 4th issue of our 85th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, May 5, 1993

Tax increases on the table so far total 24 cents or more

Hoke County taxpayers: brace yourselves. It's likely to be an expensive tax year.

As county budget time approaches a picture of drastically higher taxes is unfolding. Budget season is just beginning and already one project and one depart-

ment may raise the tax rate 24 cents or more.

A proposed new jail and increased needs from the Hoke Board of Education account for at least 12 cent increases for each.

If passed, these two increases alone would raise the

current tax rate from 80 cents to \$1.04 per \$100 property valuation.

The marked increases result from a burgeoning jail and school population, and don't include requests from other county departments.

"We don't have any fluff in that budget," Hoke Schools Superintendent Dr. William Harrison said yesterday.

Substantial increases in the school budget is com- (See TAXES, page 6)

City allows Hoke to join trash plan

The Hoke County Commissioners and Raeford City Council reached a tentative agreement for handling Hoke's trash on Monday.

The two agreed in principle to jointly construct and operate a temporary transfer station indefinitely.

The decision came with only four weeks left before the city-owned landfill must close, and offered Hoke County a way out of a messy situation: the County scrapped a transfer station last week that was key to a plan to handle garbage for years.

With no other site currently available and the impending closure of the landfill, the new agreement offered the best solution to Hoke's trash problems.

The city already planned its own temporary transfer station at the landfill to handle Raeford's 60 tons of garbage a week.

City Utilities Director Mike McNeill said the city already submitted plans to the state for a transfer station and it expects a reply this week. McNeill said construction will probably take four weeks.

Now it must expand to accommodate the county's 480 tons per week.

"Is it going to be such a structure that we can accommodate the county?" Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry asked at Council's regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Originally the city planned to haul 20 tons of waste to Sampson three times a week. They purchased their own truck to cut costs. The county must decide to follow suit and buy its own trucks, lease trucks or contract out.

Where does the waste go after leaving the transfer station? The city already made arrange-

ments for Sampson County to accept its solid waste, but the County had no such agreement, until Monday. Now it plans to join the City in that respect as well.

Although the Cumberland County Commissioners agreed to accept Hoke's garbage, the earliest it will receive a permit for accepting out-of-county garbage is six months, Terry Dover said.

Dover works with the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources.

"It's my concern today that Cumberland County will not have an enlarged service area in the time frame you're working in," Dover warned the Commission at its biweekly meeting Monday afternoon.

The cost of merging the projects remains unknown.

While City Councilman Joe Upchurch recommended a funding split of 12.5 percent for the city and 87.5 percent for the county — based on tonnage of garbage — Wood suggested the standard 25-75 percent funding split.

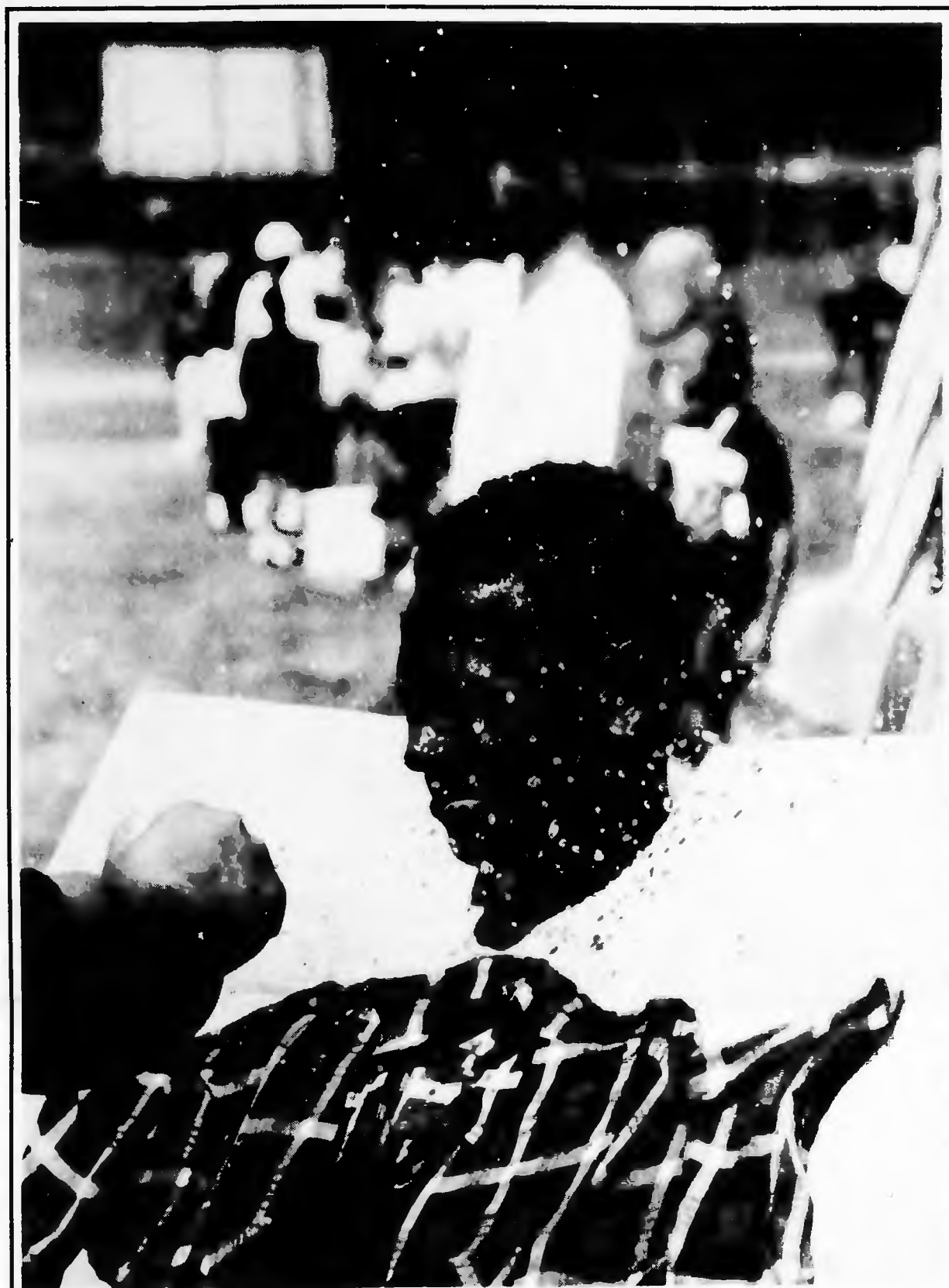
McNeill, Wood and City Manager Tom Phillips will work on the funding formula.

Sampson County agreed to accept Raeford's trash for \$20 a ton through October, and the County hopes to get the same price.

Meanwhile, commissioners must decide whether Hoke will work with Cumberland in six months, build its own transfer site as planned at a later date, or convert the landfill transfer station to a permanent site.

Most of those questions will remain unanswered until Thursday's Commission meeting recessed from Monday.

Wood answered one question firmly: the county (See TRASH, page 13)



"Here's mud (or water) in your eye."

A helper takes a face full of water from Exceptional Children in the wet sponge toss, a very popular event at Special Olympics, held last Wednesday. Story, photos on page 12.

Planning task forces ready to work

Approximately 175 people will go to work in the next phase of Hoke's strategic planning process, in progress since January.

Last night, most of them attended an official kick-off dinner at Gibson Cafeteria.

The group divided into six task forces, which over the next four months, will study health and human services, crime and public safety, economic development, recreation, education and growth management — categories that were determined based on comments from input by nearly 400 Hoke citizens at a public forum held in early March.

What the task forces are supposed to produce is a list of specific recommendations to address problems and opportunities in each issue. The recommendations are then intended to be carried out.

"Instead of outsiders coming in and telling you what's wrong with your county, it's you taking charge," said Jim Dougherty, chief planner with the N.C. Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development office in Fayetteville.

He said though the process will entail a lot of work, it will be fun and rewarding.

The night's keynote speaker, Bill Ray Hall, direc-

tor of N.C. Rural Economic Development, told the group there's a lot of help waiting for Hoke just for the asking.

"I've got \$3.6 million in ... a bank waiting for you to decide if you want it for your businesses," he said as an example.

He said Hoke has strong legislative representatives, growth in progress, and a strong industrial base, but must build on it. "I'll say you haven't got your act together yet," he said.

Ushering in the "hard work phase" of intensive (See PLANNING, page 13)



One task force at work last night at Gibson cafeteria.

Moms today struggle to balance jobs, home, needs of children

Linda Atkinson couldn't stand to leave her daughter to go back to work, while Marie McNeill couldn't wait to get back to the office.

Balancing corporate budgets or 4-H projects, mod-

ern mothers struggle to find that proverbial happy medium between roles of mother, wife and individual.

Banker Barbara Lippard went back to work after only six weeks with her son.

"There's the guilt in the back of your mind that people think you're a bonbon soap opera queen." —Carol Wood, stay home mom.

Twenty-one years and one child later, Lippard said juggling children's schedules and professional duties proves challenging.

With a career that often takes her out of town, Lippard said she and her husband had to defy the traditional way mothers were viewed.

"He took care of the baby duties while I did household duties," Lippard said. "If you're going to work, people have got to accept equal responsibility. You've got to share your lives."

Dr. Karen Smith agreed shared responsibilities decrease maternal stress.

Smith, who practices family medicine at the Hoke Medical Complex, said her husband stays home with their two young children during the day.

He attends night school full-time at Methodist College in Fayetteville, and depends on a sitter during the afternoon while he studies.

"It has to be organized," Smith said, who also works with Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

She should know. She carried her first child, Marcus, during her residency with the Fayetteville Area Health Education Center.

During that final training, Smith worked several (See MOMS, page 6)



Karen Smith, on the job at her family medicine practice.



Carol Wood, at home with daughter, Katie.

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather for the past week makes us feel like summer is with us. The 80-degree weather during the day has most people looking for outdoor activities. The nights have been nice with the lows in the high 40s and low 50s. The only drawback is that the wind has been blowing like it was March. Our weather reporter stated last week that for several days in April the winds were stronger in Raleigh than in the windy city of Chicago. Rain has also been light.

The forecast calls for the remainder of the week, Wednesday through Saturday, to have highs in the 80s and the lows in the 50s; very little chance of rain.

Lovely weather!

(See AROUND, page 10)