

Around

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large as some years.

If the tobacco tax goes through and the ban on smoking keeps increasing, maybe cotton will return as king again in Hoke County.

The Leadership/Hoke Course that is given each year by the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and Sandhills Community College is now in progress. There are 14 people attending the class this year. This month the group had a course in Hoke County history. They invited the old Glen Echo School. Mill Prong, Bethel Church and Longstreet Church, Robert Gatlin and Mrs. Clea Newton gave an overview before the start of the tour. Della Maynor and John D. McAllister gave a talk on Native American History and Black History during the noon lunchbreak. There are 14 in the class.

Don't forget that the City election will be held on Tuesday, November 2. The polls will be open from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. There will be a race for Mayor and for two seats in the council. There will also be a ballot for bonds to be voted on at this election.

I stated recently that if you can't find

out anything about this bond referendum you should vote NO or AGAINST. After the item came out in my column, someone left a paper on my desk about the Economic Development issue. I read the five-page article and I was almost convinced that this was a good thing until I came to a paragraph on the bottom of page four. It was as follows:

"An important factor for voters to keep in mind is that the investors or purchasers of these bonds ultimately assume the economic risk of repayment. Most economic development bonds are sold to sophisticated financial institutions or private investors. These purchasers can assess and underwrite the risk of repayment from the information contained in a bond prospectus. Never is the county, city or state of North Carolina legally responsible for the repayment of economic development bonds. Although a county or city may undertake to repay defaulted economic development bonds due to the impact on future credit rating, there is no legal obligation to do so."

That is the trouble with our country today. As long as it's legal, it is okay.

Just forget about the moral obligations. I will still vote NO.

The road work on US 401 between

Raeford and Fayetteville is moving at a fast pace. Approximately half of the work is finished and it is a lonely ride on the bypass around Lake Rim at night.

This road should be completed by 1994.

I understand that the Tom Cameron murder trial came to a close last Friday. I haven't seen it in a daily paper, but I understand that the defendant got life imprisonment.

I thought after reading the article in last week's paper that the verdict would call for a death penalty. I still think that should have been the sentence.

I wrote this article after seeing the Atlanta Braves lose their third game to the Philadelphia Phillies. It seems the Braves' bats are either hot or cold. They scored more runs in two games than the Phillies scored in their three wins. Maybe they can repeat the 1991 season and win the final two games in Philadelphia like they did at Pittsburgh. Let's hope so!

The Carolina Tar Heel football team has given up 74 points in the last two games, but they have come out the winners by scoring 90 points.

David Smith and Jimmy Conoly went with me Saturday to see Carolina defeat Wake Forest 45-35.

Planning

(Continued from page 1)

The Planning Commission steadily weakened over the director controversy since early this year with the resignation of County Manager Barry Reed, citing differences of philosophy and how much control the Board of County Commissioners exert over county employees. One of the first actions of the new commissioner's chairman was to issue a memo ordering a hiring and firing freeze of county employees. The memo was later rescinded.

Then in early summer the Commissioners requested an executive session of the Planning Commission to fire or reprimand Burd. The Planning Commission voted unanimously to take no action against her.

About 200 people turned out for an August public hearing, many protesting any changes to or dissolution of the Planning Ordinance or the planning director's position.

The resignation of three county-appointed Planning Commission members followed, along with that of County Attorney Duncan McFadyen.

Only a handful of people turned out Monday to raise protests before the final rites of the ordinance.

Resident Jean Hodges called the move regressive and destructive to the county, while resident Lawanna Hayes asked the Commissioners why they were "picking on" the Planning Board and leaving the Department of Social Services, Parks and Recreation, and others alone.

Commissioner Howell, who vehemently opposed the proposed dissolution, said the Monday meeting was "only a public announcement of what the majority of this Board intends to do."

"For three commissioners to say the system's been out of control, they are grossly misinformed and completely out of touch with this county," Howell said. He said that any change would place the

planner under the will of political pressures, helping foster "cronyism in the so-called good ol' boy system."

Jordan said the County will have a Planning Commission to replace the joint commission, and a county planner.

Just where Raeford figures in that scheme remains in question.

The Raeford City Council has collectively gone on the record several times opposing any change to the planning ordinance.

While Mayor Bob Gentry said this week's decision by the county will not jeopardize other joint projects, he "hates to see it dissolved."

"I feel like this is a detriment to Hoke County. I just feel like a lot of progress has gone down."

He said he does not know how Council will handle it's own planning problems.

"We need a planning director for the city, but we can't afford one ourselves."

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