

# Hoke adds funds to budget

By Jen Osborn  
Staff writer

Hoke County commissioners made no final decisions but recorded several changes during its second workshop to balance the proposed 1996-97 budget Monday night.

If adopted, the board additions and other changes made to more accurately reflect spending in certain departments amount to \$112,000. That \$112,000 must be taken from the county's contingency fund, said County Manager Mike Wood, reducing it from more than \$688,000 to less than \$576,000.

Throughout the budget, amendments were made in several departments to increase areas such as telephone and postage costs. Wood said in looking at this year's budget, Bernice McPhatter, the county's finance director, felt there wasn't enough money set aside for those items next year. Rather than amend the budget later to make up for these costs, she decided to add them to the proposed budget before it's decided.

Also, in some departments, increases were seen for vehicle maintenance. In the sheriff's department, for example, more than \$23,000 was added to account for anticipated maintenance and repair costs of county-owned vehicles.

Three other areas of the budget made up large portions of the \$112,000 increase, Wood said.

The 4-H Life Skills program, a pro-

ventative program for young children that was cut this year from the Community Based Alternative programs, has been added to the county's budget at the request of commissioners. Salaries and fringes of more than \$19,000 will fall on the county if commissioners decide to include the program in the budget.

When the gymnasium at Turlington Alternative School was recently condemned by the city, the county was forced to add more than \$26,000 into the budget to tear it down.

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—Mike Wood

Another large chunk of the budget was realized when \$40,000 was taken out of the school capital reserve fund and placed in the school capital outlay budget. Wood said although the money in the school capital reserve fund is earmarked for education, it's still part of the county's budget.

Even though none of the changes are final and commissioners have yet to make concrete decisions on any of the budget requests, two groups — the Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation and the

Literacy Council — met with commissioners once more on Monday night in a final plea for funds.

"We have a problem," said Lauchlin MacDonald, board of director chairman for the Literacy Council. "You have allotted us \$12,000. We need twice that."

MacDonald tried one last time to explain to commissioners the need for services the Literacy Council offers.

"They struggle and pretend and get through...But once they learn to read, it's like someone turned a light on,"

MacDonald said. After their regular meeting on Monday night, commissioners are expected to make final revisions and/or decisions on the 1996-97 budget. Wood told commissioners even though the budget is in good shape, it's still tight. "The budgets are estimates, obviously, but hopefully you can see you're making progress," Wood said. "The worst thing you can do is assume we're over the hump. I think you need to continue to make very tough decisions."



Photo by Kristin Guthrie

## New traffic light

Workers finish connecting the electricity to a stoplight on Business 401. The light will make it easier for trucks coming from the new House of Raeford expansion to gain access to U.S. 401.

# Students remember fathers

Wide ties and gold balls may be at the top of shopping lists this week as the nation honors fathers and grandfathers on Sunday. Yet while many people across the country pay tribute to the men in their lives with prepared sentiments on store-bought cards, some local school children found their own special words of love.

Students in Ms. Coleman's third grade class at Scurlock Elementary School had many nice things to say about their fathers and grandfathers.

"He helps me with my baseball practice," Gregory Leggett said of his father, Rufus. "He helps me with my batting and catching."

"He helps me fix my bike and their goes riding with me," Traven Harrington said of his father, Emmanuel.

"My dad takes me to work with him and shows me all his things — like Army trucks," Brittany Davis said of her father, Dave.

"My dad took me to Discovery Zone," said Tiffany Lathan of her father, Morgan. "When I went there I was happy."

"He played in the game with me," Daniel Escobar said of his father, Benjamin. "We had a state fight. He won."

"He used to take me to Fat Daddy's," Antonius McRae said of his late father, Tommy Brinson. "Me and my daddy used to play football with each other."

"My dad, he takes me to his games," said Johnathan Contreras of his father, Kenneth. "He plays softball. I like getting the ball without it flies over the fence."

"He takes us to Pizza Inn and most of the time we shove pizza in each other's faces," Tiffany Ziegler said of her father, Gary.

"I remember my dad got me my first dog," said Jeremy Barnes of his father, Paul. "He was a mott and we named him Mutley. I always wanted one and we found him on the side of the road."

"When I was pumking in the pool he got me out," Lamar Payne said of his father, Art.

"My grandfather takes me to the stores and when I beg for stuff he gives it to me," Sibany McGee said of her grandfather, Larry.

"When I was a baby he used to kiss

me on the forehead," Traven Harrington said of his grandfather, Emmanuel.

"Whenever I got sick my granddaddy would send me a card with money in it and wish me good luck," Brittany Davis said of her grandfather, Richard.

"My granddaddy, he's not on me like my dad," David Burns said of his grandfather, Sidney. "He goes fishing with me."

"He plays cops with me and he lets me use his handcuffs," Lamar Payne said of his grandfather, Leo.

"When my granddaddy takes me fishing with him, I just have fun," Charles Brown said of his grandfather, Johnny.

"He gives all of his grandchildren \$5 every day he sees them," Desi Livingston said of her grandfather, Donald.

"My grandpa taught me how to bait a hook," David Burns said of his grandfather, Doug. "It's important because I like to go fishing."

"He takes us to Toys R Us," Marter Scomers said of her grandfather, Steve. "I can get toys but he doesn't let me get whatever I want."

# Keane

(Continued from page 1A)

and introduced county leaders — Mike Wood, county manager and Commissioner Jean Hodges.

About 50 people gathered in the council chambers to greet the general. For his part, Keane said he has been living around small towns like Raeford for most of his Army career.

"I appreciate your values, your strength of character," Keane said. "You are a part of the soul of this country and represent the best this country has to offer."

Keane acknowledged that life near an Army post can be "a bruising experience," but said for the most part, Army soldiers are the best the country has to offer.

"I know there are bad things that go on around post," he said. "There are young men, aggressive, full of life. But for all the terrible things a few soldiers have done, there are thousands more who represent the best the country has."

Keane noted that about half the people who apply to enter the Army are turned down — most of them because of intelligence or conviction of a crime. He said he was proud to be associated with the soldiers at Fort Bragg and noted their involvement in



Photo by Jen Osborn

Lt. Gen. John Keane speaks with Judy Sheets, past president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

the community. "Some of our soldiers volunteer in your schools," he said. "Many of them live here. If there is anything we can do, just let us know. We want our soldiers to be exposed to a broad range of experiences and we want them to be able to help Americans."

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