

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Volume LXXVI Number 26

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

Thursday, October 18, 1984

County voters increase by 300 last week

By Ed Miller

About 300 residents registered to vote last week in Hoke County, figures released by the county Board of Elections show.

"What's surprising is that in the last month, there have been at least 100 people to register as Republicans," said Hoke County Board of Elections Director Rose Sturgeon.

Last week's registration increase brought the total number of voters eligible to cast ballots in the November 6 election to 9,050, which is up almost 500 since June.

Figures released last week show that there are now 487 Republicans registered in the county. In June there were 387.

Those registered as Democrats

have increased from 8,246 in June to 8,502.

In recent months, more females than males have registered. There are now 4,812 women registered and 4,238 men registered.

More white voters have signed up recently than blacks or Indians.

As of this week, there are 4,364 white voters registered, up about 300 since June, 3,831 blacks, up

about 60, and 854 Indians, which is up 34.

The unaffiliated voters have increased from 42 in June to 61.

According to Sturgeon, there are a number of reasons why the last week of registration was so successful.

Some older people have come in to register who have not been voting, she said.

There have also been some people moving into the county who had to register.

Some of the new voter population are college students who have been away from home and came back to Hoke County, she said.

There was also a push to get people who just turned 18-years-old to register, said Sturgeon.

Sturgeon attributes much of the

new voter interest to the media.

"They have put celebrities on television urging people to register and telling them it is their duty as citizens to vote," she said.

Radio has also been a big help, said the Director.

The Board of Elections is asking people who cannot be in town on election day to either apply for an

(See VOTER, page 2A)



The face of the crowd

From the varying expressions of the faces of these fans who attended last Friday's Homecoming game at Hoke High Stadium it is difficult to tell what is

happening on the field. We take a look at the game on page 8 and other of the weekend's activities on page 10 in today's News-Journal.

Photo by Tetsy Houston

City treating more sewage than water customers buy

By Ed Miller

Over 1 million gallons per day more of waste is flowing into the Raeford sewer plant for treatment than is being sold to water customers, a recent study of the system has shown.

City officials expect to treat about 85% of the 2.55 million gallons of water that is sold each day, but instead, about 3.29 million gallons is being received by the sewer plant.

City Manager Tom Phillips is puzzled by the extra effluent and has been working on the problem for several months.

Industry standards say that, under ideal conditions, a city sewer plant should only be treating about 85% of what is pumped into the system.

If that is the case, the local sewer plant is treating about 1.5 million gallons of water per day more than it should be, Phillips said.

In Raeford, the plant is treating

37% more water than is put into the system, Phillips said.

These facts in themselves lead Phillips to believe something to be wrong with the sewage system in the city.

The city has already begun to examine some sewer lines in the city where exterior clues have surfaced, said Phillips.

Large "sink holes" had begun forming in spots on the ground surface above the pipe.

Some of the holes were old evidenced by moss that had started growing on their sides.

At the last City Council meeting, Phillips informed councilmen that an 18 inch, 800 foot long section of pipe would have to be closed because of its condition.

The pipe runs under a brook that empties into Rockfish Creek and was taking on a tremendous amount of water from that brook, Phillips said.

However, water from the brook

was not the only trouble spot in the line.

There was another pipe, a 24 inch line installed later beside that pipe, Phillips said, adding that many problems could have been caused by that later construction.

The ditch dug to allow the later pipe to be laid may have weakened the 18 inch due to the release of pressure on one side of the pipe.

Bowing in the four foot sections caused the pipe to break down and shatter, said Phillips.

Pressure from heavy equipment could have also caused some damage to the pipe, he said.

One end of that line has already been shut off, Phillips said.

The manager had hoped that the majority of the extra water being processed at the sewer plant was coming from that line; however, there was not as much water coming in as he thought.

There is much more left to do, he said.

Tax supervisor's slot added to county's available jobs

By Ed Miller

Members of the Hoke County Commission unanimously accepted the resignation of Tax Supervisor Larry Holt Monday night.

The resignation is to be effective on October 31, said a letter to Commission Chairman John Balfour from Holt.

The short letter gave no reason other than "the Lord has other plans for me elsewhere" for his resignation; however, Balfour said after the meeting that the resignation was an alternative to Holt's

compliance to a ruling saying that all department heads must live in the county.

Holt's letter said that he had enjoyed his job in Hoke County.

Holt, 37, now lives in Richmond County, according to county officials.

In a public meeting before he was hired, Holt agreed that he would move to the county when he accepted the job but, as of last week, he had not.

Holt had been working for the county three years in April.

"It's just an unfortunate situation," Holt said Tuesday.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch, the resignation was accepted "with regrets."

In another matter, the commission voted to replace one of the "Welcome to Hoke County" signs that was recently stolen off Highway 211.

The commission just voted earlier this year to have the signs made and erected.

They have been up only about

two months and one of them is already missing.

The county will have to spend \$175 to have the sign replaced, according to Balfour.

The commission also heard from Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Director William Niven on matters of uncollected bills.

According to a report made by Niven and his staff, the service has \$42,357.55 in unpaid bills on their books.

There is little way to collect these bills, Niven said.

Some of the patients work at dif-

ferent places from time to time and do not give correct addresses at the time of transport.

This makes the patients hard to find when billing time comes, said Niven.

Patients are usually given 90 days or three billings to pay before action to collect the fees are taken, said EMS Secretary Joy McNeill.

If they have received no word from them at all, attempts are made to have wages garnished or to collect the fees in some manner, McNeill said.

If the ambulance service were on

the county's computer, there could be a bill added to the tax bills of non-payers, said Niven.

Commissioner Upchurch moved to have Finance Officer Charles Davis check into the possibility and economic feasibility of hooking the EMS into the main line of the county's computer.

Davis was also instructed to check into getting a personal computer with lines into the county's storage and memory banks.

Initial estimates by Davis put the

(See AMBULANCE, page 2A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the past week has been perfect. The days have had temperatures in the 70s and 80s and the nights have been in the 50s. So far we haven't had any rain and I believe that it is becoming dry once again.

I haven't talked to any farmers in the past week, but it would seem that this weather would be right for cotton. The Oakdale Gin is in operation and some bales are on the lot. Trucks have been going to the Hoke Cotton Warehouse with bales of cotton. It would seem that the cotton season is in full swing.

The forecast is for the weather to continue as it has been for the next week.

Every once in awhile someone will mention to me that a native of Hoke County has died and that they didn't see a notice in *The News-Journal*. I try to inform the editor when I see a death of this kind, but it is hard to know about all of them.

One death occurred recently in Sumter, S.C. and I didn't see the obit in a daily paper and the local paper didn't receive an obit from the funeral home. The death was of Jim Howell of Sumter who worked at the Shelley Bronson Funeral Home there.

Jim was born in Raeford and, I believe, graduated in the class of

(See AROUND, page 2A)



Photo by E. W. Miller, III

Just hanging around

This garden spider, commonly called a "writing spider" was sitting in the afternoon sun in its web. Due to the complexity of their webs, some have often imagined that they saw a word written in the webs of these spiders, hence the nickname. The spider in the book *Charlotte's Web* could have been a cousin to this fellow. His web is rather amazing. It was about two feet round and was hanging from the eave of the Hoke County Annex Building by about three strands of silk. There were another two or three strands going all the way to the ground from the bottom of the web.

McCain worker arrested

By Ed Miller

A long-term employee of McCain Hospital was arrested on September 28 and charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell and deliver, according to Hoke County Sheriff's reports. John Henry Love, of Raeford, was stopped at the front door of

the prison hospital and searched upon orders of the Hospital Superintendent, Nancy C. Lowe, reports say.

Two bags of marijuana, which were allegedly to be smuggled inside the prison hospital to inmates, were found inside the collar of

(See MCCAIN, page 3A)

Goldsboro plant will help Hoke County job picture

A multi-million dollar turkey processing plant which is planned to be constructed in the Goldsboro area will mean more jobs for Hoke County residents, a co-owner in the operation said this week.

The plant, which is being constructed by Goldsboro Milling Company, will mean an increase in local production of turkey chicks

and grown birds, co-owner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Goldsboro Milling is a partnership between Tarheel Turkey Hatchery, whose home office is in Raeford, and Carroll's Foods, Inc. Upchurch is a partner in both operations.

Although Upchurch said there will be an increase in Hoke County employment as a result of the new

processing plant, he would not speculate on the exact number of new jobs which will be created.

The facility will be built at a site convenient to both company operations, said Louis Maxwell, president of Goldsboro Milling Company and F.J. Faison Jr., President of Carroll's Foods, Inc. According to Maxwell and

(See TURKEY, page 3A)

Commissioners queried for 'business' at airport

By Ed Miller

Two members of the Raeford-Hoke Airport Commission were recently approached and questioned about their presence on airport property by jumpers at a parachuting school operating at the facility.

Within the last month, Commission Vice-Chairman Wayne Byrd and Commissioner L.E. McLaughlin were approached, and asked their business at the public facility, the members said during a meeting Thursday.

A jumper approached McLaughlin and asked him who he was and what he was doing there, said the commissioner.

Byrd was making an inspection

of the airport's taxiway when a jumper walked up and asked: "What the hell are you doing here?"

In another recent incident, a visiting pilot landed at the airport for fuel and, upon entering the terminal building where a parachute ground school was in session, was told that there was a jump school going on and that they did not deal in gas.

Members of the jump party did not even direct the pilot to the hangar housing Furches Aircraft Service, where fuel could be obtained, said the commissioner.

"There seems to be a feeling that the jumpers run the place..." said

(See AIRPORT, page 2A)



Honored

Textile workers in Hoke County and the nation will be honored next week. We take a look at the planned festivities and the industries contribution to the local economy on page 1 of Section B in today's News-Journal.