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US 401 back on DOT construction list

By Ed Miller

The four laning of six miles of U.S. Highway 401, from Raeford to the Cumberland County line, was put back on the state Department of Transportation's (DOT) construction schedule, a spokesman for the department said.

Aquisition of right-of-way for the \$8 million project will begin in fiscal year 1987, Highway Administrator Billy Rose said, adding that construction is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 1989.

The fiscal year actually begins in July; therefore, July of 1986 will

be the starting point for right-of-way aquisition, Rose said.

The project was only funded to the Cumberland County line, said Rose.

"I'm sure they stopped there because funding ran out," he said.

The total costs for all projects on the 10-year TIP is \$3.6 billion.

Funding for the project is to be taken from federal aid primary funds previously earmarked for the construction of Interstate 40 from Benson to Wilmington, according to a N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) press release.

The I-40 project is now eligible for money from interstate rehabilitation funds, the release says.

"This project in Hoke County is part of my goal to upgrade and improve our transportation system throughout the state," said Governor Jim Hunt in the release.

"This four-laning is a much needed project due to the congestion of commuters from Raeford to Fayetteville and I am delighted with the board's decision," Hoke County DOT Board Representative Martha C. Hollers said.

The 401 project was first put on

the 10-year plan more than a decade ago.

Hoke County officials have been trying to get the road four-laned for over 20 years.

Some engineering of the project was done in 1972, but the project was blackballed and removed from the 10-year plan in 1981.

As late as last August, members of the Hoke County Commission, the Raeford City Council, the Chamber of Commerce and State Representative Daniel H. DeVane met with state DOT officials and Governor Hunt to discuss the 401 project.

After that meeting, the local delegation returned with new optimism saying that state officials recognized the danger of the road and seemed willing to help get the four-laning project moved onto the priority list.

Figures gathered earlier this year indicate that the 15.87 mile stretch from Raeford to 71st High School in Fayetteville has an accident rate higher than the state average.

During the years between January 1, 1978, and May 31, 1984, there were 809 accidents on the road.

Last month, a letter from the

Post Commander of Ft. Bragg, Lieutenant General James J. Lindsay "strongly" endorsed the 401 project.

Lindsay cited safety as the main reason for his backing of the project.

"The Ft. Bragg community places utmost importance on the safety of its civilian and military personnel," said Lindsay in a letter to DOT Secretary William R. Roberson.

"We feel the same way the people in Raeford feel," Public Relations officer Lieutenant Colonel Thomas R. Gravette said.

Hoke nursing home given green light

By Ed Miller

After a hard fought battle last Wednesday, Raeford and Hoke County officials won approval from this area's health agency to allow Britthaven, Inc. to build a 100-bed combination nursing home facility in Raeford.

Despite a recommendation from the staff of Cardinal Health Agency asking that the Rocky Mount firm Autumn Care Corporation be allowed to build the facility, the agency's Board of Directors overturned that decision and recommended Britthaven, according to Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips.

Construction is expected to begin this spring on the \$1.59 million project, a company spokesman said.

The key to overturning the staff's recommendation was the public support put behind Britthaven, Phillips said.

Britthaven is proposing to build a 100-bed facility that will include 38 resthome beds as well as nursing home beds. Autumn Care's proposal was for a 77-bed complex with 10 of those beds to be resthome beds, Phillips said.

According to the manager, there is a lower level of care needed for resthome beds than for nursing home beds.

A spokesman for Cardinal Health Agency said their staff recommended Autumn Care because there are already 77 rest

home beds in Raeford and the county did not need as many additional beds of that type as Britthaven is proposing.

Public officials fought for Britthaven because that company has been working to build public support for some time, County Manager William Cowan said.

"I, along with everyone else, had never heard of Autumn Care until the day before the public hearing," said Cowan.

Earlier this year, members of the Hoke County Commission were taken on a tour of a Britthaven facility in Raleigh.

Autumn Care had done little to promote themselves in Hoke County, both Cowan and Phillips said.

Both managers said that, during the public hearing to decide which company would be allowed to build in Hoke, Autumn Care representatives said that city hall and the county office building had been contacted about a proposal.

In each case, Autumn representatives were told that the matter had already been decided in favor of Britthaven.

That is not true, said Phillips.

Cowan and Phillips also said that Autumn accused the county and city of being biased toward Britthaven because they were proposing a larger facility that would provide more tax dollars.

See (NURSING, 8A)

Zoning plan eyed

By Ed Miller

During the first meeting of 1985, Hoke County Commissioners will review a proposed ordinance which could set the groundwork for countywide zoning.

Duncan McFadyen, Hoke County Attorney and County Manager William Cowan were instructed by commissioners Monday to have a proposed ordinance setting up the Hoke County Planning Board prepared by the January 7 meeting.

According to McFadyen, the ordinance proposal will be basically the same as one which was passed in 1967 except for the changing of Planning Board members.

Fast action on the part of the County Commission has been spurred by growing community concern over the lack of countywide zoning and an offer by this area's Council of Government (COG) to educate Planning Board members along with the members of a similar board set up recently in Robeson County.

A number of special sessions dealing with county zoning and other planning board matters have been set up by the COG for Robeson County, Cowan said he was told by COG Director Jim Perry.

If the Planning Board is established by early January, they will be able to attend sessions with Robeson, Cowan said.

In other business at the last 1984 meeting, the commissioners voted to accept an additional \$5,960 in crisis intervention funds.

The funds will be used to help people in the county who are out

of heating fuel and cannot buy any, according to Department of Social Services (DSS) Director Ken Witherspoon.

The additional money will increase Hoke County's allotment of money to \$30,992, Witherspoon said.

In a letter from Witherspoon, the commissioners were told that the federal money would need no local matching funds.

After extensive discussion, the commissioners also voted to allow the DSS Director to hire an additional staff member to fill in for a current employee out on maternity leave.

The temporary employee will take on the role of an Aid to Families with Dependant Children (AFDC) specialist, Witherspoon said.

The temporary employee is needed to keep up with the constant inflow of AFDC applications, according to Witherspoon.

The action will cost the county about \$866.50, said the Director.

According to Witherspoon, there is a certain time period allowed for applications into the AFDC program to be processed.

A \$50 penalty fee has to be paid to all applicants whose applications are not finished within the allotted time.

"My vulnerability to penalties is already significant when everybody is at work," Witherspoon said in a letter to commissioners explaining the request.

A temporary employee who has been used by DSS before and who knows the AFDC program is

See (COUNTY, page 2A)



Holiday sunrise

The sun rising through fog gives a special warmth much like that gotten around Christmas. One feels special but does not know why. With the warmer weather we have been having, there may be more fog to come.

One nice thing about the unseasonal temperature is that it will make early Christmas church services a bit easier to attend. A number of area churches will be having Christmas services.

Photo by E.W. Miller, III

Newspaper, others take holiday break

Next week *The News-Journal* staff will take Monday and Tuesday off to celebrate Christmas.

As a result of the vacation, next week's newspaper will be published a day later than usual and will come out on Thursday morning.

Display advertising and

editorial deadlines will be Wednesday at noon.

Classified advertising should be received by the newspaper no later than 4 p.m. on this Friday.

The staff of *The News-Journal* wishes our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In addition, the City of

Raeford has rearranged its sanitation pick-up schedule for the week of Christmas.

In an effort to get yards clean for the holidays, sanitation crews will be working overtime if needed to make bulk pick-ups of leaves and limbs the week before Christmas.

During the holiday week,

there will be no trash pick-up of any kind on Monday or Tuesday.

Pick-ups will resume on Wednesday and Thursday with those homes usually serviced at the beginning of the week being picked up first.

Friday, those homes usually

(See CLOSING, 8A)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather for the last few days doesn't make you think of the Christmas season. With Christmas just a week away and the temperature in the 70s, it seems more like summer is starting over again.

I don't believe that there has ever been as many foggy mornings as in the past few days. I can't recall hearing of schools starting an hour later because of the fog. Also the airports at Fayetteville and Raleigh have stopped flights for a few hours in the past few days.

As this is being written on Monday the forecast is for cooler air to move in Tuesday night, and this should get rid of the fog.

A note on my desk last week from Mary Cameron stated that Mrs. Mary Lee Christopher had died in Florida. Mary Lee was the wife of the late Clyde Christopher who lived in Raeford for many summers and did crop dusting with his airplane.

In fact Clyde was the first to do

(See AROUND, 8A)



Lady and apple

This dancer and the apple are two of the many decorations which adorn local trees. We take a look at some of the county's Christmas fixins in a special section in today's News-Journal. We also glance back at Yule festivities of old Hoke County on page 1 of Section B.

Accident victim dies of injuries

A Raeford man injured on August 30 when the ambulance he was riding in was broadsided, died last Wednesday from injuries suffered during that wreck.

Robert Jackson Daniels, 69, never returned home from Moore Memorial Hospital after the wreck.

Daniels had been riding in the ambulance with his wife who was being taken to the hospital for heart tests.

Horace Michell Hayes, 40, the driver of the ambulance, was charged with failing to stop for a red light after the accident.

According to Hoke County Attorney Duncan McFadyen, Hayes was found not guilty of the charges by a Moore County District Court Judge last month.

According to reports, the ambulance being driven by Hayes was in route to Moore Memorial Hospital.

There was apparently some construction being done on the road near the hospital and Hayes was waved through the red light by a flagman controlling traffic.

When the ambulance was hit by

(See DEATHS, page 2A)