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Carolina Telephone given stay on EAS study

By Ed Miller

Carolina Telephone Company has been granted a 30-day extension to prepare a study of the costs of providing Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Raeford and Fayetteville exchanges.

The telephone firm will have until September 1 to present its figures, according to a ruling handed down last week by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

The extension will not hurt ef-

forts being made by a local group to obtain the service at a reasonable cost, Hoke County Economic Developer John Howard said Monday.

"It is not a set back," said Howard.

"It is reasonable to think that the work required should be detailed enough for a fair evaluation of cost for all parties," Howard said.

"Certainly, we would expect the costs to be accurate and not

general, ballpark averages, which would accomplish nothing," he said.

The ruling was made by the Utilities Commission at the request of Carolina Telephone.

In a letter requesting an extension until September 15, Carolina Telephone Vice-President Dwight W. Allen said there is not enough time before August 1, the original deadline, to prepare the study.

"The preparation of a meaningful EAS cost study is a com-

prehensive project requiring input from a number of departments within the company," Allen told commissioners in the letter.

Howard said the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff had originally requested September 1 as the date for submission of the cost study.

Further in his letter to the Utilities Commission, Allen said: "While the Company (Carolina Telephone) is proceeding to prepare the cost study based on the

May 22, 1985, Order, it wishes to emphasize its belief that it would be inappropriate and unreasonably discriminatory to structure EAS rates in one area on the basis of a specific cost study while EAS rates in all remaining areas are determined by an EAS matrix."

The "matrix" is a rate system used by Carolina Telephone for EAS and is based on averages from the companywide costs of providing extended service.

"It is disappointing that

Carolina Telephone still sees this request as a move to change the matrix," said Howard.

"We believe we have a unique economic circumstance here requiring that EAS be implemented to promote residential growth in our county and industrial expansion," said Howard.

"Without an improved telephone arrangement with growing Fayetteville, we are severely limited as to those wanting to come to our county," said Howard.

Commissioners heading to Fla.

Hoke County taxpayers will be spending about \$755 per person to send four members of the Hoke County Commission and the county manager to this year's National Association of Counties (NACo) Conference.

The meetings will be held in Orlando, Florida, said Hoke County Manager William Cowan.

Attending the meetings from Hoke County will be Cowan, County Commission Chairman John Balfour, Vice-Chairman Neill McPhatter, Commissioner Cleo Bratcher and Commissioner James Albert Hunt.

Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch is not going, Cowan said.

The conference will last from Saturday, July 14 through the next Tuesday, said the manager.

Plane reservations for the commissioners and Cowan were made months ago for lower rates and will cost \$148 per person.

All commissioners have elected to drive, said Cowan, but will only be reimbursed for the price of the plane ticket.

Milage to and from Orlando would be over \$200, he said.

Registration fees for the conference is \$175.

Meals will be paid for when commissioners turn in receipts, Cowan said.

Commissioners will be paid a \$50 conference fee for every day of meetings.

Cowan will not be paid this fee.

Final costs are hotel rooms which are \$58 per day or \$232 for the entire stay per commissioner.

The total cost for sending the county commission to the conference will be at least \$3,020 depending on meals and excluding Cowan's expenses, said the manager.

Two Hoke County Commissioners still owe money to the county for previous trips taken, and two others for meals.

Commissioner James Albert Hunt owes the county about \$17.93 for earlier trip expenses not chargeable to the county, reports show.

Cleo Bratcher also owes the county \$622.37, but is repaying his debt at a rate of \$100 per month, according to financial reports.

Commission Chairman John Balfour owes \$10 as does Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch. The county paid for meals for their wives and were not reimbursed.

Expenses for Bratcher and Hunt go back to past national conventions.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The scattered showers over the past week have kept things green and the grass continues to grow. We had a good shower last Friday afternoon, but since that time the temperature has gone up to the 90 degree mark.

Monday afternoon, at about four o'clock, the temperature was 94 degrees in my back yard. This was in the shade. According to the forecast, it is supposed to be hotter Tuesday, so it could get close to 100 degrees. Now this is summer.

The forecast calls for showers on Wednesday and again on Friday. Both of these days are my golf

(See AROUND, page 10)



Waiting to burn

Area residents have complained to Raeford and Hoke County officials about this massive pile of lumber in the Queenmore area. There are houses on at least two sides of the vacant lot full of the lumber. County Fire Marshall William Niven, Raeford Fire Marshall Terry Tapp and County Health Director Bobby Rogers inspected the pile Monday afternoon. According to Rogers, the pile poses no health hazard "yet," but it could become one. The pile would burn, but the houses around the lot are in little danger, said Niven. The man who placed the pile in the area is currently being contacted about having the pile moved, said Rogers.

Turkey Festival plans taking shape

Plans for the First Annual North Carolina Turkey Festival are taking shape as the event nears the September kickoff.

However, winning recipes are still being sought before the July 15 deadline for the statewide Turkey Cooking Contest.

According to a spokesman for the North Carolina Poultry Federation, few entries have been received.

Finals for the event will be held in Raeford on September 18, and \$500 will be presented to the winner.

Entries have been slow arriving at federation headquarters in Raleigh, spokesman Emmie S. Whitley said, noting that few have been received from Hoke County.

Entry blanks are available at the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and at the Hoke County Extension Office.

On Wednesday September 18, five finalists in the cooking contest

will be in Raeford to determine who is the champ.

The final cooking competition will be held on the opening day of the three-day first annual North Carolina Turkey Festival.

Here is how the festival is shaping up:

Wednesday--North Carolina Department of Agriculture Secretary James A. Graham has been invited to kick off the festivities at the official opening on Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the area surrounding the Hoke County Library.

At 11 a.m., a cooking seminar will be conducted by a nationally known chef, while the five contestants prepare recipes for judging.

A panel of five judges will taste and compare each recipe before making the final decision.

During the judging, samples of other turkey products and tasty

morsels will be provided for those attending the event.

Music and entertainment will also be on tap.

Following the cooking contest, the first annual turkey parade will be held at 6 p.m. on Main Street. Those interested in taking part in the parade should contact the Chamber office.

Thursday--Plans are still underway for a Thursday tennis tournament at Deer Track Racquet Club, a bridge tournament and a golf tournament.

Details are being worked out for a Thursday night Turkey Stuffin', Stompin' and Shootin', or a turkey dinner, square dance and turkey shoot.

Friday--On Friday, a pancake breakfast will start the day and the golf, tennis and bridge tournaments will conclude in time for the Embers, who are scheduled to appear in concert Friday night at Armory Park.

Saturday--Saturday morning starts with a trot or fun run. Arts and crafts displays will line Main Street. Food and refreshment vendors will sell their wares while name entertainment groups perform.

At 1 p.m. on Saturday, the Turkey Olympics will pit local racers against challengers from other parts of the state and nation.

Turkeys will race, jump, weigh in and dress up during an afternoon of excitement.

Saturday night, Star Farms on U.S. Highway 401 will host a Turkey Horse Show to wrap up the festivities.

The Turkey Festival committee is looking for hundreds of volunteers to help work and plan the events.

Anyone interested should contact the Chamber of Commerce or attend a meeting to be held on July 25 at 7 p.m. at the Hoke County Library.

Economic group approves grant application

By Ed Miller

Approval was given Tuesday for Economic Director John Howard to apply for a \$25,000 grant to study the feasibility of an industrial park.

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission gave unanimous approval to the application which will require "at least" an \$8,500 match of local funds.

Funding for the grant will come through the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

(EDA), and must be used for economic development.

Hoke County's chances for getting the grant are good, Howard said.

Only Henderson and Raeford are being offered the grants, Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips said.

The \$8,500 that must be used to match the grant will not have to be added onto a \$50,000 operating budget recently approved by the Hoke County Board of Commissioners, said Howard.

Money paid Howard in salary is

money being spent for economic development and therefore qualified as match money, Phillips said.

Also money currently budgeted for advertising can be used as part of the match money.

Economic Development Commissioners passed as a part of the motion allowing Howard to apply for the grant a clause that will allow him to use one-half, or \$1,000, of his advertising budget as a cash match for the grant if needed.

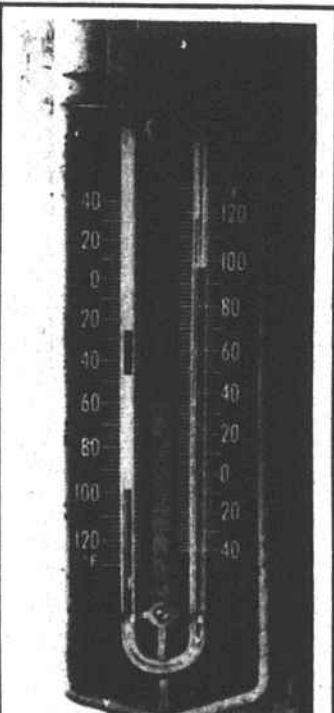
According to Phillips, four

other grants from EDA have been used in Raeford and Hoke County for various projects.

"This is a pretty liberal grant program," said Phillips in answer to questions by Commissioner Frank Teal pertaining to obligations placed on the commission once the grant has been accepted.

All money paid out by EDA will be for projects that have already been approved by that agency so members of the commission, the county or the city will not be stuck with bills slated for payment with

(See GRANT, page 11)



Scorcher

The day was still young Tuesday when Robert Gatlin said: "Boys you're missing history being made out there." Gatlin, who has been watching thermometers and rain and wind gauges for 40 years, said it was the first time he could remember the temperature reaching 100° at 9:30 a.m. sun-time. Sun-time runs one hour behind daylight saving time. The thermometer pictured reads about 98°, but the sun was shaded by a roof over the gauge required by the National Weather Service. According to Gatlin, that bit of shade had caused the temperature to drop about 2° since he last read it.