

The News-Journal

The Hoke County News - Established 1928

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

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RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Thursday, October 3, 1985

Community meeting slated for EAS

Hoke County residents, living in the 875 telephone exchange area, are being encouraged to attend a community meeting scheduled for Turlington School on October 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting is designed to explain extended telephone service (EAS) between the Raeford exchange and Fayetteville and to lay the groundwork for an upcoming public hearing before the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

The entire commission will meet in Raeford on October 29 at Turlington to gather local opinions on the need for EAS.

The commission cleared the way for the October 29 public hearing Monday in a 3-2 vote by passing an order which includes a favorable argument for Hoke County's case.

Utilities commissioners have acknowledged that rates in the Fayetteville exchange may not have to be increased due to a finding of the commission's Public Staff.

"The Public Staff, after review of the cost study filed by Carolina (Telephone), has concluded that the cost of providing EAS between Raeford and Fayetteville, excluding the toll revenue loss and savings, can more than offset by increasing the basic monthly rates at Raeford by \$4.52 for residence customers and \$10.78 for business customers with no increase for subscribers in the Fayetteville exchange," according to the order.

Once EAS is established, the approximately 4,700 customers on the Raeford exchange would be able to call over 90,000 telephones for local rates.

Backers of EAS see it as the most expedient way of increasing the

tax base of Hoke County and stimulating economic growth.

Hoke County currently has the lowest per capita income in the state and one of the lowest per capita retail sales figures.

In addition, Hoke County has the fewest number of telephones per capita in the state.

A recent survey of the calling patterns in Hoke County indicates that more funds are spent each month to call long distance between the Raeford and Fayetteville exchanges, than is spent by 875 exchange customers on basic monthly charges.

Customers on the 875 exchange spent less than \$500,000 for basic service last year.

Toll charges between the exchanges were in excess of \$600,000 for the same period.

Supporters of EAS believe the disparity in the figures supports the need for the extended local service.

An increase in rates for Raeford subscribers has been expected by supporters of the service, but a hike in the rate for Fayetteville customers could possibly kill efforts to establish EAS.

A rate hike of the Cumberland exchanges would mean a vote by Fayetteville subscribers would be necessary, and supporters are not optimistic about EAS gaining approval from Cumberland County customers.

Carolina Telephone wants to increase rates in both cities by using a "matrix" which is based on companywide averages of costs.

Widespread backing from 875 customers is needed to make EAS a reality, supporters believe.

Customers' need great for phone service

Many customers in Hoke County 875 exchange need extended area service, but few as badly as Mary Lowry.

With her husband in the military and an acute medical condition, Lowry spends a great deal of money on phone calls to Ft. Bragg, she said Monday.

The Hoke County resident has a skin disorder which covers about 70% of her body, arthritis associated with the skin problem and a pinched nerve in her back, she said.

"If it's not raining, I can get

around with medication," Lowry said.

Because of calls to hospital clinics, her phone bills average over \$150 per month.

"About 90% of my calls are to Fayetteville doctors," she said.

"My long distance, out of state calls may have been \$15 last month," said Lowry.

"I'd be glad to speak before a public hearing in favor of the extended service," she said.

"I spend a minimum of about \$1,500 a year for phone bills," she said.

"I'm hoping for more than the benefit of my pocketbook that we get it (EAS)," said Lowry.

Rebecca Huggins, another Hoke County resident, would be in favor of the service because of her 10-year-old son who is diabetic.

"It's not unusual for me to have a \$200 phone bill," Huggins said.

Huggins, who is a resident of the Harmony Heights area of the county, says she also frequently has trouble with her phone going out of order.

"If the phones go out, it's long distance to call a repairman," she said.

In the last two years, phone service has gone out on Huggins an estimated dozen times, she said.

"In the two-and-a-half years we've been here, only once have we had a bill as low as \$70 or \$80," she said.

"I call Fayetteville a lot because of my daughter," said Carolyn Peck.

Her daughter Caroline, 9, is also diabetic and has to spend time at Womack Army Hospital.

Each of the women said they would speak in the community gathering.



Developer John Howard

Economic group backs phone move

By Ed Miller

Members of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission passed a resolution Tuesday afternoon favoring extended area telephone service between Raeford and Fayetteville.

The resolution was passed by members of the commission as a vehicle for letting the population know they are concerned for the progress of Raeford and Hoke County.

Extended area service (EAS) is needed in Raeford and the rest of

the 875 exchange because of its close proximity to Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

"The pattern of economic growth for Hoke County lies in the geographical corridor between greater Fayetteville and the City of Raeford and its adjoining areas in Hoke County," according to the resolution.

In the resolution, commission members went on to say that new growth for this area will be coming from Fayetteville and that growth in industry and residential areas is

needed to relieve the tax burdens of all of the county's residents.

With growth in industry and residential communities in the county, the tax base will be raised and taxes can remain the same or be lowered.

There are also preparations being made to educate the public on the need for EAS, said Economic Developer John Howard.

Currently, the names of about 20 "key people" in the county have been selected to testify in support of EAS. (See GROUP, page 12A)

DSS garners funds for child day care

By Ed Miller

Although the Hoke County Department of Social Services (DSS) currently serves 43 children with day care, more services are in the planning because of an additional \$38,996 allotted the county by the state.

The state annually allows \$77,004 for day care in Hoke County, but this year, the county will receive \$115,000, according to Marianne Sheply of the local DSS.

Of the children being served now, 32 of them are taken care of while their parents work, three are cared for while a parent returns to school, four are being monitored by a protective services program and four are in special centers for the developmentally disabled, Sheply told members of the DSS Board in a meeting Monday.

Monthly, \$5,857 is being spent for day care, said Sheply.

There is now a waiting list of 11

children to be cared for by DSS, she said.

Most of those children belong to parents that work second and third shifts.

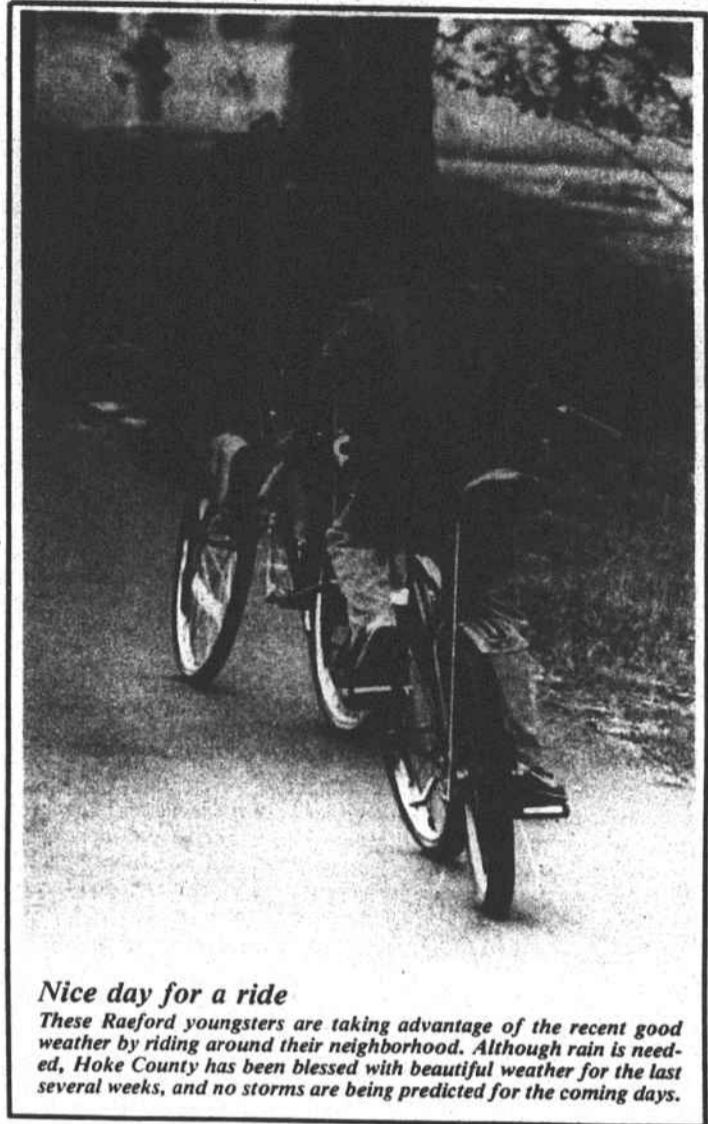
Those kinds of children can be serviced by the DSS but an "Individual Child Care Arrangement or ICCA" must be set up by workers, said Sheply.

Parents who work at night are the only ones helped with ICCA's, she said.

In the last two weeks, four people have contacted DSS offering to be "family home providers," or places where ICCA's can be made for children.

In action during Monday's meeting, DSS board members voted to prosecute another case of food stamp fraud in Hoke County.

Recently, a case was successfully prosecuted and the department (See DSS, page 12A)



Nice day for a ride

These Raeford youngsters are taking advantage of the recent good weather by riding around their neighborhood. Although rain is needed, Hoke County has been blessed with beautiful weather for the last several weeks, and no storms are being predicted for the coming days.

Victim is critical following shooting

By Ed Miller

A Red Springs man was in critical condition Tuesday in the intensive care unit of a Chapel Hill Hospital while the man charged with his shooting was freed from the Hoke County Jail on the same day of his arrest.

Raymond Henderson, 24, of Rt. 1, Red Springs was admitted to Moore County Memorial Hospital last Friday night with a bullet wound to the right of his neck, according to Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington.

Johnny Lee Scott, 38, of Rt. 1, Box 306C, Shannon, has been charged with the shooting.

Scott is out of jail under \$7,500 bond, according to sheriff's department officials.

Hoke County sheriff's deputies were alerted to the shooting after a witness to the crime was run off the road by Henderson as he apparently ran from the driver of a brown car with a different colored hood.

As the witness was run off the South Hoke Road, Henderson's truck stopped in front of him and the brown car pulled up just as Henderson jumped from the truck to run.

A gun was hung from the window of the brown car and a shot was fired, witnesses told sheriff's deputies.

Scott was the alleged driver of the car.

The brown car took off quickly, according to the witness.

The person went to Henderson's aid and, upon request, turned the victim over.

Henderson said: "Johnny did it," according to the witness.

Henderson also told Hoke County Detective J.R. Riley that Scott shot him, according to Barrington.

"He's got a record about a mile long," the sheriff said of Scott.

In Hoke County alone, Scott has been charged with crimes ranging from resisting arrest in 1967 to larceny in 1969 to assault on a female this year.

Although not convicted on all of the 11 charges made against him, Scott has served time for assaulting an officer, Hoke County Deputy Ronnie Lowry, and breaking, entering and larceny from convictions in Hoke County.

Scott also served time in 1980 on drug charges made in another county, according to Barrington.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Most folks in Hoke County were awaiting the rains that would come when the hurricane hit the North Carolina coast last Thursday. The course of the hurricane changed and we didn't get any rain.

The nights have been cool for the past few days, but the temperature has been in the 70s during the daylight hours. The forecast is for rain Tuesday or Wednesday and the temperature to stay about as it has been for the past few days.

I was talking recently with Julian Johnson about the cotton crop this year. He is in charge of the Oakdale Gin and we were talking about the number of bales of (See AROUND, page 12A)



United Way

Goal for 1985

\$28,853

United Fund starts drive

A \$28,853 budget has been proposed for this year's drive of the Hoke County United Fund, which kicks off this week.

This year's proposed budget was cut \$2,381 from \$31,234 as was requested by a total of 27 local and state agencies.

Hoke County agencies include Boy Scouts, the Lion's Club, the Red Cross, Girl Scouts, 4-H, the Rescue Squad, Senior Citizens, the Developmentally Disabled, Home Health Agency, the Hoke County Reading and Literacy Council and Share Your Christmas.

State agencies that will be funded are the North Carolina United Way, the Children's Home Society, the American Social Health Association, the Epilepsy Association of North Carolina, International Social Services, Florence Crittenton, the National Council on Aging, United Health Services, the Research Fund of North

Carolina United Way, the Hospice of North Carolina, the Advocacy Center for Children's Education and Parent Training and the North Carolina Society for Autistic Adults and Children.

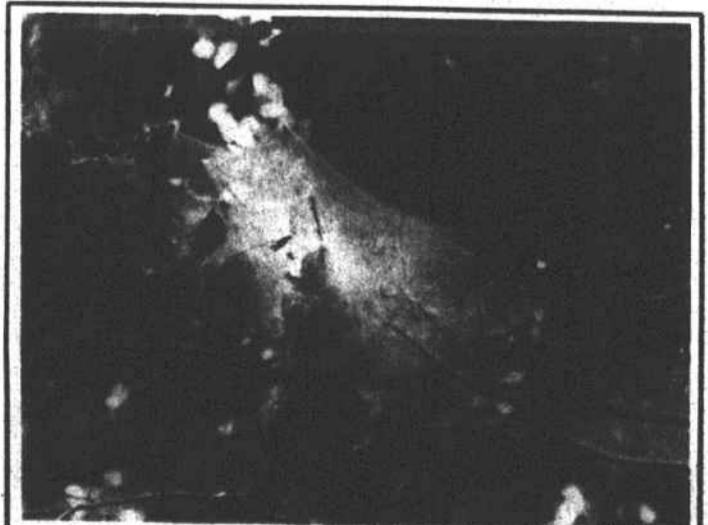
According to the budget, only about \$3,105 has been designated to go to state leaving a budgeted total of \$25,748 for local causes.

The Arthritis Foundation has been cut from the state budget this year because of funding from other sources, said Hoke County Department of Social Services Director Ken Witherspoon.

The Red Cross will get the largest amount of all those funded and will be receiving \$5,000.

Boy Scouts will be getting \$4,950 and the Girl Scouts will receive \$3,300.

Other agencies getting \$2,000 and above will be the Developmentally Disabled, 4-H and the Hoke Literacy Council.



Worms galore

One might spot a worms nest such as this one especially on pecan trees and walnut trees. They may be attractive in a strange sort of way, but they will harm a tree. The limbs which house such nests will die and nests have been known to get large enough to almost cover a small tree.