



The News-Journal

Early for New Year's
The News-Journal
deadline Mon. noon

The Hoke County News - Established, 1928

Volume LXXVII Number 36

RAEFORD, HOKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

\$10 PER YEAR

25 CENTS

The Hoke County Journal - Established 1905

Thursday, December 26, 1985

January EAS polling ordered for Hoke County

By Ron Anderson

Telephone subscribers on the 875-exchange will receive ballots with their January bills and will be asked to vote "yes" or "no" on Extended Area Service (EAS) between the Raeford and Fayetteville exchanges, a spokesman for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company said Friday.

Self-addressed stamped postcards will be mailed on January 8 with the bills and must be received by the phone company by January 27 in order to be counted, Vice President-General Counsel and Secretary Dwight W. Allen said.

No cards received after January

27 will be considered in the polling.

"We encourage all customers to mail the ballots back as soon as they can," Allen said.

The polling was ordered by the North Carolina Utilities Commission on December 19.

"We don't have any disagreements with Raeford being polled," Allen said. "The commission did what we thought they ought to do."

"The commission issued the order requiring a polling of subscribers in Raeford to see whether they are willing to have their rates increased," staff attorney with the North Carolina Utilities Commission Carolyn

Johnson said on Thursday.

The increase would amount to a monthly matrix charge of \$4.25 for residence one-party subscribers and \$10.78 for business one-party subscribers.

By paying the matrix rates, the 4,700 customers on the Raeford exchange would be able to call over 90,000 telephones for local rates.

After the results of the polling are tabulated by Carolina Telephone Company, they will be sent to the public staff and the utilities commission for review, Johnson said.

A decision on the fate of EAS will be made by the utilities com-

mission based on results of the polling.

"The polling will tell the commission if the people are in fact willing to pay a rate increase," Johnson said.

"This is probably the last time Raeford people will speak on the matter," Johnson added.

Polling is a standard commission procedure and was only ordered because of the number of residents who expressed approval of EAS during a public hearing on the matter before the entire North Carolina Utilities Commission on October 29, according to Johnson. More than 800 residents attend-

ed that hearing held at J.W. Tur- ington School.

"If no one had come out to the meetings there wouldn't be a polling," Johnson said.

Residents of Raeford seem to believe that if they were able to call and be called by Fayetteville subscribers without paying a toll, more businesses, industries and home owners would locate in Hoke County thus increasing the tax base and improving the quality of life for Raeford citizens," the utilities commission's order states.

"The commission makes no decision now as to whether Fayetteville should also be polled," Johnson said.

Also, the commission's order in no way addresses the question of whether Fayetteville customers would be levied a matrix charge of \$1.22 if the utilities commission rules in favor of EAS.

"It could go either way with Fayetteville as to whether they would pay an increase if Raeford was given the rate increase," Johnson said.

In a brief submitted to the commission by Allen on December 11, the attorney says the phone company is in favor of implementing EAS between the two exchanges if a matrix increase is levied to both

(See EAS, page 10)

Yule closings bring time off

Most employees working in local businesses and government offices will have two days off during the Christmas holidays.

All county offices will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

County offices include the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Social Services, Extension Service and the courthouse.

The Hoke County Public Library will also be closed the three days.

Hoke County Public School students are out until January 6, but the school administration office will reopen on December 27.

The City of Raeford will close its offices on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The N.C. Motor Vehicle licensing bureau will be closed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Offices at *The News-Journal* will be closed on Wednesday and Thursday.

There will be no garbage pickup in the City of Raeford on Wednesday or Thursday of this week and also on New Year's Day.

The Hoke County landfill will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Local banks (Southern National, United Carolina and Heritage Federal) will all be closed on Wednesday and Thursday.



Happy holidays

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

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The winter weather has been with us for over a week and from all reports, it will be around on Christmas Day.

I haven't heard anything of a white Christmas!

The following article was clipped from the Christmas issue of *The News-Journal* of 1929. We thought it might be of interest to our readers.

Reminiscences Of Civil War Times

By Mrs. Frances W. Dickson

Every day you hear the strenuous times discussed — and truly so — which in a large measure can be attributed to three consecutive wet years and the ravages of the boll weevil. But to one who can remember anything of Civil War, and reconstruction days, we are not on the edge even of poverty.

What would you think if you had not had a biscuit, nor a cup of coffee in several years, nor sugar, nor salt even to go in your corn pone. This writer, then a small child, remembers to have seen the dirt smoke house floor taken up and a portion boiled each day, to get a little salty water for seasoning. No child, no matter how wealthy, could expect a toy and not even a doll or a bit of candy, and to them Christmas was a disappointment. Neither were there any firecrackers or other explosives. For extreme winter weather your daddy tanned a beef hide and a shoe cobbler would come to your home, and in an hour or two, knocked up a pair of shoes that would, at least, keep your feet from the frost and your mother would knit your hood from yarn (See AROUND, page 3)

Hearing for home could be moved up

A hearing date for an appeal of a state ruling filed by one of the two firms fighting to build a nursing home in Hoke County could be moved forward, a spokesman for the North Carolina Division of Facility Services said last week.

The appeal, filed by Brithaven Inc. after it lost the last round of a state certificate of need application process to Autumn Care Corp., is scheduled for October 1986.

Until the case is heard, no one may build a nursing home in the county.

"It remains to be seen whether it can be moved up, but we're going to attempt to move the Hoke County case," special assistant to the director of legal affairs for the state Division of Facility Services Jim Stephenson said Thursday.

The reason the case could be moved is because the division is getting withdrawals of some of the other contested cases, Stephenson explained.

"Things are looking a little better, everyone needs to have their fingers crossed," Stephenson said. "We are aware of the problem in Hoke County and are attempting to do everything possible."

Most of the problems with scheduling appeal cases are because of the large number of

them, Stephenson said.

"We're getting through them just as fast as we can," Stephenson said.

Another problem is that only six or seven firms handle certificate of need cases in the state, according to Stephenson.

Also, the cases take a long time to be heard.

"The minimum amount of time it takes to finish an appeals case is two to three weeks; we have one in Raleigh now that has been going on for five weeks," Stephenson said.

"It's an extremely complex process and we're not happy about the backlog," Stephenson added.

The state approved 62 beds for Hoke County over a year ago.

Both Brithaven and Autumn Care filed for applications for those beds.

Although Hoke County was awarded beds earlier than some other counties, the local case has been placed towards the end of the hearing schedule.

If the hearing date remains in October, and no appeals are filed, construction would probably begin on the facility in the spring of 1987, which is over two years after the beds were designated as needed in Hoke County.

Communications study scheduled for January

A study of Hoke County emergency communications is scheduled to begin on January 2, according to Hoke County Emergency Services Director William T. Niven.

The one-day study on the emergency operations center concept and a central dispatch system will be conducted by Dick Wooten, an emergency management communications engineer for the state.

Wooten will provide written recommendations on how to improve communications in the county.

Assistant Director of North Carolina Emergency Management Agency Vance Kee suggested the study be done during a conference for public officials held at the Edinborough Restaurant on November 25.

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners unanimously agreed to authorize the study during a meeting on December 2.

"We need an emergency operations center, and we also need central dispatch" Niven said.

Teenage pregnancies cause problems for county

Local task force seeks answers to county's woes

By Ron Anderson

Adolescent pregnancies are being recognized as one of the largest social problems facing the United States today.

In Hoke County, an adolescent pregnancy task force has been formed to study the problem locally and to look for solutions.

"We want folks to know that the problem exists in Hoke County, and we all want to work together to remedy it," Millicent G. Diehl said.

Diehl co-chairs the task force with Jodi Willis.

"We're going to be gathering information as to the occurrence of this problem in the county and see

what can be done about it," Diehl said.

"Also, we're going to be looking at other counties and see how they are dealing with the problem," Diehl added.

The task force, which has been meeting twice monthly, is made up of 12 people representing a broad spectrum of the community including educators, health department and mental health officials and church leaders.

"The goal of the task force is to study the problem and develop effective alternatives in dealing with the problem," Hoke County Health Department Director and

(See GROUP, page 3)



Hoke teens offer views on reasons for problem

Surveys have shown that each year more than a million American teenagers will become pregnant; four out of five will be unmarried.

According to Planned Parenthood statistics, 40% of all girls who are now 14 will get pregnant before they are 20.

Hoke County has not escaped the problem.

In 1982, the county had the fourth highest proportion of births to teenagers 18 and under in the state of North Carolina.

In order to better understand the problem, a survey of local teenagers was conducted by the Hoke County health department.

Teens were asked to respond to a number of questions pertaining to

the problems of adolescent pregnancies.

When asked why adolescent girls get pregnant, the responses ranged from one teenager saying that girls don't take the time to take birth control to another saying becoming pregnant is a method of obtaining food stamps and money.

"Many girls don't have a good home life and feel the need for love and attention. This may be an easy way to achieve these needs," answered one participant in the survey.

Often teenage girls face problems they didn't expect after the baby is born.

(See LOCAL, page 3)