

The News-Journal

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Residents push for widening US Highway 401

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Area residents and leaders are contributing to the push for the completion of the widening of US Highway 401 which is on schedule for 1995, according to state officials.

Richard K. Pugh, a commissioner on the NC Board of Transportation for Division 8 in which Hoke County is included, said last week that, "nothing has changed" since last year in regard to the schedule for the 401 project. The NC Department of Transportation (DOT) is holding public hearings this spring for the purpose of receiving comments on the project.

"I want to get input from everyone in the division 1 represent," Pugh said, in

reference to the hearing for Division 8 in Asheboro on Wednesday.

Along with Hoke, Division 8 includes the counties of Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery, Scotland, Lee and Richmond.

Hoke County leaders attended the hearing during which DOT representatives gleaned information which will go into a statewide evaluation of roads project priorities to be published in late 1987.

Earlier this month, the county commissioners passed a resolution in support of the widening of 401 which addresses the issues of safety and economic growth in the area.

Pugh said the project could be moved up on the schedule if the results of this study

indicate it should be, but Pugh was not hopeful on this count.

"I don't want to imply it will be speeded up," Pugh said. "We want to keep it on schedule, and at least make sure it doesn't slip. This is the only commitment I can make now."

Pugh said that currently the project is in the design stages and that right-of-way acquisitions will begin in 1989. He said actual construction will begin in 1991; with the projects' completion scheduled for 1995.

During the hearings, community representatives may present new projects for the Transportation Improvement Program. Pugh said usually these newly proposed projects get into the program "on the tail end" and work their way up in

priority.

Pugh said that the project, which will entail the widening of US 401 from 71st High School in Cumberland County to the Raeford Bypass, is "in better shape now than it was a year ago", referring to work that had been done on designing the project.

The progress of each DOT project will depend on available federal funding. In early April, the House and Senate passed the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act, more commonly known as the Federal Highway Bill.

Kevin Brown, DOT federal program coordinator, said that the bill resulted in \$288 million coming to North Carolina for roads improvement projects with a similar

amount coming to the state each year for the next four years.

However, this funding is significantly less than the \$400 million that North Carolina is paying in the form of the gasoline tax, Brown said.

"We will still be getting back far less than we are paying in," Brown said. "The state hoped to receive a larger return in relation to the state's cost through the tax."

Brown said the bill was a compromise between the House and Senate and that an earlier version of the bill passed by the Senate would have meant more money for road improvement in North Carolina.

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Satellite campus in state of flux

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

The future of the Sandhills Community College satellite in Hoke County is currently in a state of flux, according to a college spokesman.

Sandhills President Dr. Raymond Stone said that the future of the satellite depends on budgetary allocations from the state which have recently been cut two percent across the board.

Stone stressed that Sandhills wants to keep ties with Hoke County. However, he said recent financial considerations have required that the college administration reexamine any marginal activity they have been conducting "within the context of whether or not it can be carried on."

"We are considering several different options," Stone said.

On the main campus, the Licensed Practical Nurse Program may be suspended for a year, while concentrating on building up enrollment for the program, Stone said.

He said enrollment in Hoke County has decreased in recent months and this will be a consideration in continuing existing programs or starting new ones.

"Sandhills will continue to operate the literacy and occupational extension programs," Stone said. "It will be organized from the main campus."

We are considering the establishment of a one-year horticulture program for farmers in the area which will build on their knowledge of plant production.

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Dusty days

A local farmer stirs up a cloud of dust Monday as he plows a field off Bethel Road. Because of the recent dry weather, farmers throughout the county have been dealing with similar dust storms.

Committee increases momentum

The Hoke County Committee of 100's is growing, according to acting chairman Steve Parker. More than 75 persons have now signed up and many more have pledged to participate.

Parker and Harold Gillis, acting secretary-treasurer, have been active since early March as part of a formation team seeking to get the local economic development booster established.

The Hoke County Committee of 100's has as its goal to improve the quality of life in Hoke County by promoting economic development and growth. It will be a non-profit corporation composed of area citizens and friends to this community who have an interest in assisting with positive growth and change.

"Change is inevitable," said Parker, "and our aim is to do it in concert with existing agencies of government and the Chamber of Commerce. We want to be especially supportive of the plans and objectives of the Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission."

Gillis added, "our best successes will come from a unified effort of hundreds of members participating. With a large county population, we should be able to do that. Other communities do, and so can we."

Parker announced that a second general membership meeting is now scheduled for Monday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the Hoke County Library on Main Street in Raeford. He discussed the purpose of the meeting to be for establishing the election of officers and setting up a charter. This meeting will also permit a further discussion of objectives.

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Production to increase this summer at House of Raeford

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Production at the House of Raeford will be increased at the end of June when equipment scheduled for installation results in a second shift, according to a company spokesman.

"Currently, production at the House of Raeford is at 600,000 pounds of product per week," said Joe Zaleskas, director of research and development. "With the new equipment, production could be upped to one million pounds per

week."

Zaleskas described the equipment and some of the production process at the turkey plant. A new turkey thigh scorer cuts up the surface of the meat on the turkey thighs so it will be more readily used for ham, he said. Use of the machine results in more tender ham and improves its quality for selling.

The vertical high-speed brine mixer will have the capacity to mix meat-basting solution which is made up of water, phosphates and

and salt, he said.

The double-needle meat injector will be able to inject the solution into the meat more efficiently.

A tenderizer with 900 surgical needles will cut the muscle fiber of the meat before it is sent to mixers, Zaleskas said.

New hydraulically-driven mixers with modified lids will mix the meat under vacuum pressure, he said. The new mixers both have a 7,000 pound capacity and can mix up to 25 revolutions per minute.

The two mixers will be able to

mix 14,000 pounds of product per hour, he said. One older model mixer will still be used which has a 2,500-pound capacity. Two tumblers will still be used which will be able to mix 7,500 of meat every four hours.

Large frozen blocks of stored poultry products will be broken by a roto claw frozen block breaker. Zaleskas said the machine can break the large blocks into fist-size pieces for easy processing and temperature control.

An automatic dispenser will weigh out a pre-set amount of product and be packaged by a roll stock machine which will ready the meat for cooking, according to Zaleskas.

Five new ovens will each have a capacity to cook 33,000 pounds of product per day, Zaleskas said. Products such as turkey breast, turkey ham and pastrami, turkey bologna and rolls and chicken breast will be affected by the increased capacity for processing.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather has been hot for the past week. The temperature has been in the high 80s and with the readings being in the 60s at night, it doesn't get to cool off before it is hot again.

The forecast is for the same kind of weather for the remainder of the week, and of course we could have afternoon thunderstorms any day.

The deadline for advertisements in the Graduation Section of *The News-Journal* is May 28 (Thursday noon). It is hard to get in touch with every business, so if you haven't been contacted, please get in touch with Pam Frederick at *The News-Journal* office. The phone number is 875-2121.

Over the years, by dealing in politics you make many friends. By the same token you can make some enemies.

Monday, Leon Lewis, whom I have become acquainted with in politics, was by the office and wanted me to do him a favor. He explained that it was not of a political nature, but something

(See AROUND, page 10)

Extended telephone service goes into effect on June 27

The Extended Area Service for phone customers in Hoke and Cumberland counties is scheduled to begin serving the area on June 27, a Carolina Telephone Company spokesman said last Friday.

"According to previous studies of areas where EAS has been established, there will be a 500 percent increase of phone service usage in this area over the next one to two years," said Bernice Barrett, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone.

The new service will allow county residents to call Fayetteville toll

free.

Major changes in the equipment used for the present service will need to be made, according Barrett.

"We will need to rearrange the Fayetteville trunking network, increase circuit quantities and make software changes in digital and electronic switches," Barrett said.

EAS was passed last spring after numerous public hearings were held for the service in Hoke County.

Support for EAS by area residents was overwhelming.

Hoke man injured in accident

A Hoke County man was seriously injured in a single-car traffic accident over the Memorial Day weekend, according to a Highway Patrol spokesperson.

Betty MacDonald of the N.C. Highway Patrol Headquarters, said records show that Louis Sherman, 38, of 638 Edgehill Rd., Fayetteville, was involved in a single-vehicle accident on U.S. 401 at noon, May 23.

Records say that Sherman, driving a 1975 Oldsmobile, was traveling east on US 401 nine and a half miles north of Raeford when

he ran off the left shoulder and struck a tree.

Sherman was injured and taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville. According to a hospital spokesperson, Sherman is in serious condition in the intensive care unit.

The car received \$2,500 worth of damage.

According to records, Sherman was charged with Driving While Impaired.

"I'm glad we didn't have any fatalities in any of our counties," said MacDonald.

"AMERICA'S FIRST FEATHERED LADY"

Turkey Festival
A patriotic Turkey Festival is planned for September 17-19. The Bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17 has inspired the Board of the North Carolina Turkey Festival to adopt a patriotic theme for the 1987 festival. The festival logo which proclaims "Strut Your Stuffin'" will feature "America's First Feathered Lady" this year. The feminine figure is wearing jewelry and looks as though she is ready to burst into "God Bless America." She will be featured on blue T-shirts this year with red, white and blue colors.