

The News-Journal

Volume LXXIX Number 10

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Thursday, June 25, 1987

Extended Area Service begins Saturday at 7 a.m.

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County residents will be able to call thousands of new telephone numbers toll-free in the Fayetteville area beginning this Saturday at 7 a.m. when Extended Area Service (EAS) goes into effect. Area leaders say the new service will bring needed benefits to the community.

Chamber of Commerce Director Lawanna Hayes said last week that the service will "make a big difference," helping the community in many ways.

"It will make a big difference in the Rockfish area," Hayes said. "This area is really going to take off and start booming."

Hayes said that increased communications will cause the area's population to grow and in turn have an adverse effect on traffic on Highway 401. The increased traffic from growth in the area will make the necessity for four laning the highway even greater than

before, she said.

EAS was approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) last year after a majority of customers in the Raeford exchange endorsed the plan in a mail survey ordered by the commission and conducted by Carolina Telephone.

Nearly three-fourths of the customers responding said they favored EAS. In a public hearing, over 800 residents came to voice their support of the service.

Bernice Barrett, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone, said beginning June 27, residents will only have to dial the seven-digit number they want to reach in Fayetteville.

Barrett said residential rates for a one-party telephone service will increase \$4.52 and for business one-party telephone service rates will increase \$10.78.

The new rates will appear for the first time on Raeford customers' next monthly bill. A partial month's charge will also be included in the "Other Charges

and Credits" portion of that bill to charge for the increased rate from June 27 to the date of the bill.

Some residents have questioned the rate increase. Yet most who have voiced their opinions on the subject have said that the benefits from the service far outweigh the additional cost.

Economic Development Commission Director John Howard said last week that he is elated that the service has finally become a reality.

"I have a special feeling after 18 months since the initial proceedings by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and Carolina Telephone, that the reality of EAS is finally here," Howard said.

"I have anticipated since the beginning of our efforts that it (EAS) will provide new opportunities for those seeking to locate in our community to now go ahead and make that decision," Howard said.

Howard said he felt the benefits would be felt in the industrial, commercial and residential areas of the county.

"It will become, I feel, one of the most significant happenings in this community in this decade as far as helping to create progress and positive change for this county's benefit," Howard said.

Howard also said that the service will bring about the ultimate widening of Highway 401.

Although the Board of County Commissioners, the EDC office and other leaders of the community were involved in the efforts to establish the service, Howard stressed that it was "the people that made it happen."

"It took a number of people to make it happen," Howard said. "We saw a need and rallied to get the need met."

Local supporter Buddy Blue, who has been involved with EAS efforts since their inception, said that he was "very happy" about the service going into effect.

"I started with the project in 1975 and we're finally getting there," Blue said. "Naturally, I feel good about it."

(See EAS, page 10)

Runners to carry US Olympic torch

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

On July 5, 13 runners will carry the U.S. Olympic torch in Hoke County as part of the 1987 U.S. Olympic games celebration.

Chamber of Commerce Director Lawanna Hayes said last Thursday that 13 local runners had been found to carry the torch six and two-tenths miles through Hoke County on its way from Wilmington to Raleigh for the Olympic Games starting July 13.

The torch run began its 26-day, 2,800 mile journey through 400 North Carolina communities on June 22. The final destination is Raleigh's Carter-Finley stadium on Friday, July 17 for the games' opening ceremonies.

North Carolina is the first state to sponsor the Olympic Games. Previously, only major cities have taken on this responsibility.

"Every community in the state is within 50 miles of the torch run," Hayes said. "The Olympic Torch Committee gave each community the responsibility to arrange the torch run through their area."

"We'll never get this chance again," she said. Hayes said fill-in runners will be used to carry the torch through the rest of the county.

The torch run will come into the county by Aberdeen on Highway 211 at 7:50 a.m. on Sunday, July 5, Hayes said. It will come up the Highway 211 cut-off and by the National Guard Armory building and then to the Hoke High School Stadium.

Ceremonies for the torch run will be held at the stadium at 9:50 a.m., Hayes said. A brief morning service is being tentatively planned for 9 a.m. since it is in

(See TORCH, page 11)

Wagon train



Jerry Harris leads the Hoke County Wagon Train on Friday, June 19. Driving the first wagon is Pete Harris with his daughters, Marie and Diane; Iris Smith drives the second

wagon. The wagon train, a tradition in Hoke County for over 20 years, camped at Jimmy Plummer's farm over the weekend.

Hoke losing Betty High

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County will be losing one of its finest assets when Betty High leaves her position as director of the satellite campus of Sandhills Community College, according to a Sandhills spokesman.

Wes Williams, demonstration computer teacher for Sandhills, said that High seems to understand the needs of the county.

"She cares about this county," Williams said. "She appreciates our problems and has some indication of what needs to be done."

"She has empathy and objectivity, qualities that we need in education," he said. "It's great to work with people like her."

High herself said she couldn't imagine not having had the chance to work in the county.

"I'll be sad to not be here," High said. "But I'm looking forward to some new things."

She learned last Friday that she will become the new Dean of the Evening College. She will have the responsibility of planning, organizing and supervising courses which Sandhills Community College offers in the evening.

High came to the Sandhills campus in 1976 as a teacher and has held several positions in the twelve years since she arrived. She has been a child development instructor, coordinator for continuing education classes and the child care program director.

In 1985, she became director for the Raeford branch of the college.

High holds bachelors and masters degrees in Child Development and Family Relations from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro.

Looking back over her time here, High said that she has greatly enjoyed her experience of working in Hoke County.

"What I've liked about being here is working with the people. It's what I'll miss most," High said. "There are sterling people here. This is what makes it special."

"I love to see people com-

(See HIGH, page 10)

Hoke County Commissioners cut proposed budget

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

County Commissioners on Monday worked for over three hours cutting out over \$88,000 from the proposed budget and arrived at an 82-cent tax rate per \$100 in property value.

If Monday's cuts are approved next week, the county's tax rate will increase one cent. Originally a three-cent tax rate increase was proposed.

Chairman Wyatt Upchurch said the original three-cent rate increase was considered because the county had lost revenues from the personal property household tax and from revenue sharing funds. These programs were discontinued last year.

Additional work session planned by board

Commissioners will have another budget work session and try to reduce the rate even lower by the time the budget is adopted on June 29.

County Manager William (Bub) Cowan said the commissioners need only cut \$26,382 from the budget in order to arrive at last year's tax rate of 81 cents.

The proposed budget of \$7.1 million received cuts in several areas, including the controversial central communications system.

Commissioners proposed to cut the \$184,756 communications budget by \$14,952. The figure represents one dispatcher's salary.

Under the revised budget, employees would include one working supervisor and three dispatchers.

Originally the system was planned as a separate department. With the changes, the system would be under the supervision of the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioners are still considering the possibility of housing the system in an existing office at the Sheriff's Department rather than building a completely new structure. This would save the county about \$28,000.

Other areas where budget cuts occurred were in the Health

Department where only one of two positions, a sanitarian, will be granted this year.

Previously, commissioners had moved to not grant Sandhills Community College \$14,000 for the establishment of a horticultural program in the county.

Upchurch said that although he thought skills which this program would provide are needed by residents, such as farmers, in order to supplement incomes he felt the instruction could be obtained either from expanding the school system horticultural program or utilizing the existing program at Fayetteville Technical Institute.

A lower garbage collection rate of 89 cents per cubic yard proposed by the county's new collection company will reduce budget expenditures by \$20,000.

Included in other budget cuts were the county's contribution to the Agricultural Extension Service salaries, \$2,244 and a part-time position at the recreation department, \$1,290.

A \$10,000 figure for a proposed Department of Social Services Transportation program was eliminated. Cowan said the state may not mandate this program.

Other cuts still being considered are a Hoke County Library position, \$12,534, and a fire department liability insurance fee of \$15,700.

Committee holds 3rd open meeting

The Hoke County Committee of 100's will hold its third open meeting this Monday, June 29 in the public library on Main Street beginning at 7 p.m.

Anyone interested in joining the committee is encouraged to attend the meeting. Charter memberships are still available in the organization that has approximately 125 members.

"We have had a successful membership drive, and it's not over," said Steve Parker, acting committee president.

"I'm pleased that we are ready to officially elect our board of directors and officers," he said. "We are working to improve the quality of life in Hoke County."

The goal of the committee is to make life better in the county by promoting economic development and growth.

Celebration set for Fourth Plans include picnic, play and music

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County will observe Independence Day this year with a celebration on the courthouse lawn.

The Fourth of July celebration is inspired by the year's commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Constitution.

The event will be coordinated by Hoke Literacy Council Director Barbara Buie. Instrumental in the celebrations plans is Anna Jordan, program Chairman of the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee for Hoke County.

Buie said the event will be for the whole family. The celebration will include entertainment, the performance of an original play and a costume contest.

Buie said people are welcome to bring a family-style picnic to eat on the courthouse grounds at 6 p.m. Entertainment during the picnic will be provided by Sammy Scrivens, the Purcell Family

Singers and the Once In A While Band.

The play Town Meeting, written by Leland Smith, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the courthouse, Buie said.

The play in the form of a debate on the constitution features an all-male cast made up of Mac Sessoms, Steve Phillips, Bob Nelson, Charles Hostetler and Phil Diehl, she said.

Cast members also include Ray Phillips, Sam Morris, Wes Williams and Harold Gillis.

The costume contest held later in the evening will feature first and second prizes for the best period costume and also for the most patriotic costume, Buie said. All age groups are encouraged to enter the contest.

The N.C. Commission of the U.S. Constitution is charged with the goal to reach every North Carolinian with programs and projects that tell the story of the Constitution and excite people about



Plans for the Fourth

The Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke County with Glenn Langdon, chairman, (third from right), presiding, meets to make plans for the 4th of July celebration.

their roles in the story, according to Commission Chairman Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan.

The commission was created in 1985 by an act of the N.C. General

Assembly and is authorized to plan and coordinate the celebration of the 200th anniversary of our Federal Constitution, said Anne Hostetler, Drama Committee (See 4th, page 11)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Summer officially came in Sunday, June 21. The hot weather has been around for a few weeks. The humidity is so high that it feels even hotter than the thermometer registers.

Most of the county had a nice rain last Thursday and according to reports, high winds and lightning caused some damage in the county. This rain should bring on the early corn and other garden crops.

The forecast is for continued hot weather for the remainder of the week.

Don't forget about the Constitutional Bicentennial Committee of Hoke event on Saturday, July 4th. There should be complete details elsewhere in the paper. So read of the things that will take place and also mark your calendar so that you will be in attendance.

(See AROUND, page 10)