

The News-Journal

Volume LXXIX Number 37

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Thursday, December 31, 1987

1987 in review

The year in review: From the front pages of 1987:

- **January 8:** Hoke Drug goes out of business on the last day of 1986. The store's history dated back to 1911 when it was opened as McPherson Brother Drug Company.
- **January 22:** A new nursing home will be built in Raeford. The \$1.4 million facility will provide 70 beds.
- **February 5:** A public hearing is set as the county considers a subdivision ordinance to regulate Hoke County's growth.
- **February 19:** A winter storm leaves Hoke County frozen with a wind chill factor of zero and about an inch of frozen precipitation. County offices and local businesses closed.
- **February 26:** McLaughlin Hardware and Lock Company re-opens in a former cotton warehouse. The store burned in early 1986. Hoke Commissioners set a second public hearing on the subdivision ordinance after strong reaction from the public during the first hearing.
- **March 5:** The county okays the subdivision ordinance. City Council begins reviewing improvements at the wastewater treatment plant including a grit chamber and equipment for grease removal.
- **March 12:** Hoke County will get a new 100 unit prison facility adjacent to McCain Correctional Facility. Funds to come from emergency legislation enacted by the state General Assembly.
- **March 26:** A site is found in Hoke County along Highway 211 for two intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded. The group homes failed to get rezoning necessary for them to locate in Raeford.
- **April 9:** Jury selection begins in the murder trial of Edward Cummings, accused of killing Karen Puryear and burying her body in a shallow grave near McCain.
- **May 7:** Edward Cummings is found guilty of killing Karen Puryear.
- **May 14:** Edward Cummings is sentenced to death for killing Karen Puryear. The sentence is automatically appealed.
- **May 28:** Widening Highway 401 to four lanes gets a push from local leaders at a public hearing. The leaders are told the highway should be under construction by 1991 with completion set for 1995.
- **June 4:** Raeford City Council approves a \$3.7 million budget that includes no tax increase. The rate is left at 58 cents per hundred dollar valuation.
- **June 11:** The Hoke County Firefighters Association endorses a centralized communications system. Jailers would no longer dispatch emergency calls as well, but those duties would be turned over to full time dispatchers.
- **June 25:** Raeford gets extended area phone service to Fayetteville exchanges. Local leaders tout the service as a major inducement to growth in Hoke County.
- **July 2:** Hoke County commissioners adopt a \$6.9 million budget that leaves the tax rate at 81 cents per hundred dollar valuation and reflects no increase in taxes. The commission whittled 3 cents off its proposal after encountering public opposition.
- **July 2:** Local citizens get new phone books with Fayetteville numbers after the town got extended area phone service. But the new books did not have Fayetteville yellow pages.
- **July 9:** The Olympic Torch passed through Hoke County, stopping briefly for a ceremony at the high school.
- **July 16:** Hoke County's judicial district is to be split. A result of state legislation, Hoke and Scotland counties would be aligned in a new Superior Court district, but for other court purposes, Hoke would stay aligned with Cumberland County.
- **July 23:** Rockfish will get \$5,000 for a community park.
- **August 6:** The president of the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce asks Hoke County Commissioners for an ordinance to regulate the appearance and safety of junkyards.
- **August 13:** Hoke Representative Danny DeVane and Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Manager Lawanna Hayes work to set up a utilities collection center where Hoke Citizens can pay utility bills.
- **August 27:** Hoke County gets a \$500,000 community development block grant to rehabilitate 40 residences in Tylertown.
- **September 10:** Raeford gets a \$457,200 Economic Development grant to provide 60 percent of \$762,000 to be used on improvements to the waste water treatment plant, and to extend utilities to a proposed industrial plant.
- **September 17:** 40,000 people flock to town (pardon the pun) for the annual Turkey Festival.
- **September 24:** Hoke County could get a sizeable share of critical needs funding for school construction from the state legislature because of the county's poor economy.
- **October 1:** 165 charges involving drug violations are filed against 47 people. In the first phase of the arrest roundup, 37 are arrested.
- **October 22:** Hoke County Commissioners pass the Junkyard Ordinance. Sandhills Center begins looking for a new building.
- **October 29:** Burlington Industries in Raeford announces it will hire about 100 new employees by around the first of the year.
- **November 5:** City Council incumbents Joe Upchurch, Vardell Hedgpeh, and Earl McDuffie are re-elected. The Hoke County School Board deliberates changing to a middle school system.
- **November 19:** Dr. George Barth confirms that he is leaving after finishing contractual obligations in Hoke County.
- **December 3:** Owners of L&S Auto are charged with violating the county's new junkyard ordinance by locating a mobile home on premises of their Highway 211 business.
- **December 10:** Fire damages the Page Trust building on Main Street. The building is left standing after a kerosene heater apparently sparked the fire. The Maxway store in the Edinborough Shopping Center confirmed its closing at the end of the year.

Hearing set on widening 401

By June Lancaster
News-Journal Staff Writer

Hoke County leaders and residents will have another opportunity to push along the widening of Highway 401 next month. A public hearing on the project will be held on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the 71st High School Auditorium in Fayetteville.

The proposed widening to four lanes of the road from the intersection of 401 Bypass and 401 Business in Raeford to 71st High School in Fayetteville is still in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), according to W. A. Garrett Jr. of the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) in Raleigh.

The project is now in the planning phase, although some design work has been done. It is expected the land acquisition phase of the project will take place in fiscal year 88-89, probably in early 1989. Construction is scheduled to begin in 1991.

Garrett will moderate the public hearing which will include an explanation of the proposed design and also right-of-way requirements and procedures.

The proposed design will add an additional 28-foot roadway with a 46-foot median to the existing two

lanes from the beginning of the project in Raeford to SR 1400 (Cliffdale Road) in Cumberland County. From that point the proposed road will swing south of the existing US 401. The relocated segment of the road is designed to go around the state fish hatchery at Lake Rim.

The relocated segment will re-

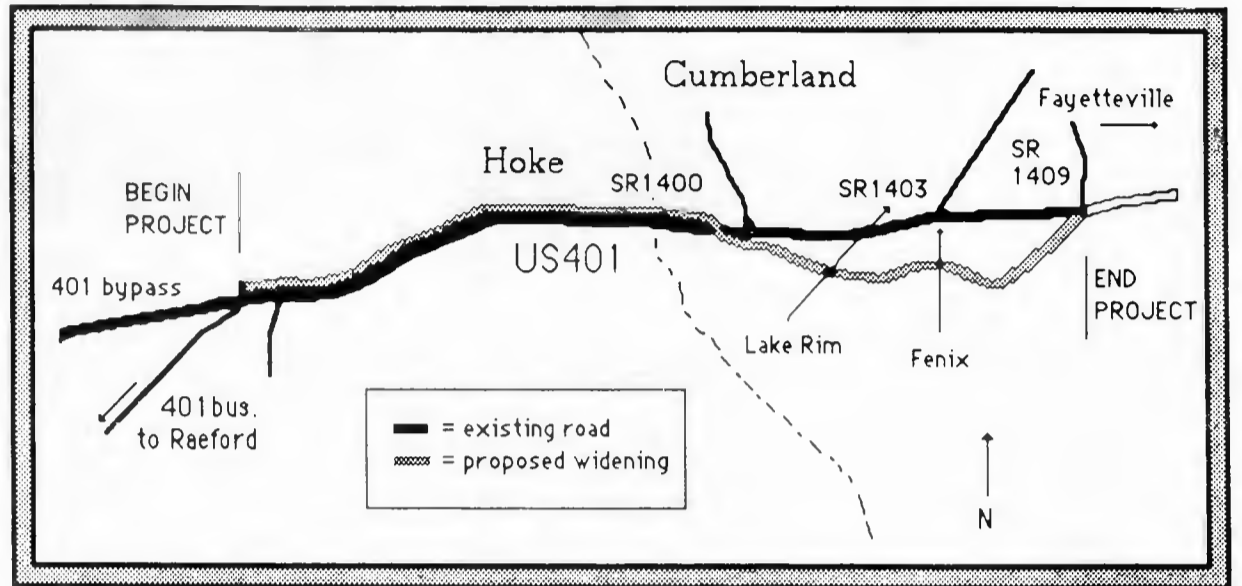
join the existing road at the Trinity United Methodist Church. An additional two lanes will be added from that point to SR 1409 (School Road) which runs between 71st Elementary School and 71st High School.

US 401 is already four lanes from that point all the way into Fayetteville.

There are no immediate plans to widen US 401 from Raeford to the Scotland County line. Garrett says the current TIP is for the years 1988-1996 and the US 401 South widening is not included.

In addition to making the road safer for traffic, the widening of

(See ROAD, page 3)



Proposed widening
Map shows changes planned for US 401 between Raeford and Fayetteville. To accommodate four lanes, engineers plan to divert the road south of the

fish hatchery at Lake Rim. The project is still years away from completion.

School board to consider improvements

By June Lancaster
News-Journal Staff Writer

A special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education has been called for Wednesday, December 30 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the next steps the board will take in the planned additions and renovations to six Hoke County schools.

On the advice of architects, the board did not include the total

package of planned improvements when bids were advertised. The architects had thought there was insufficient money to undertake all the improvement projects at one time.

When bids were opened on December 17 and came in lower than expected it was realized some additional projects could be returned to the list of planned improvements.

Board Chairman Bobby Wright

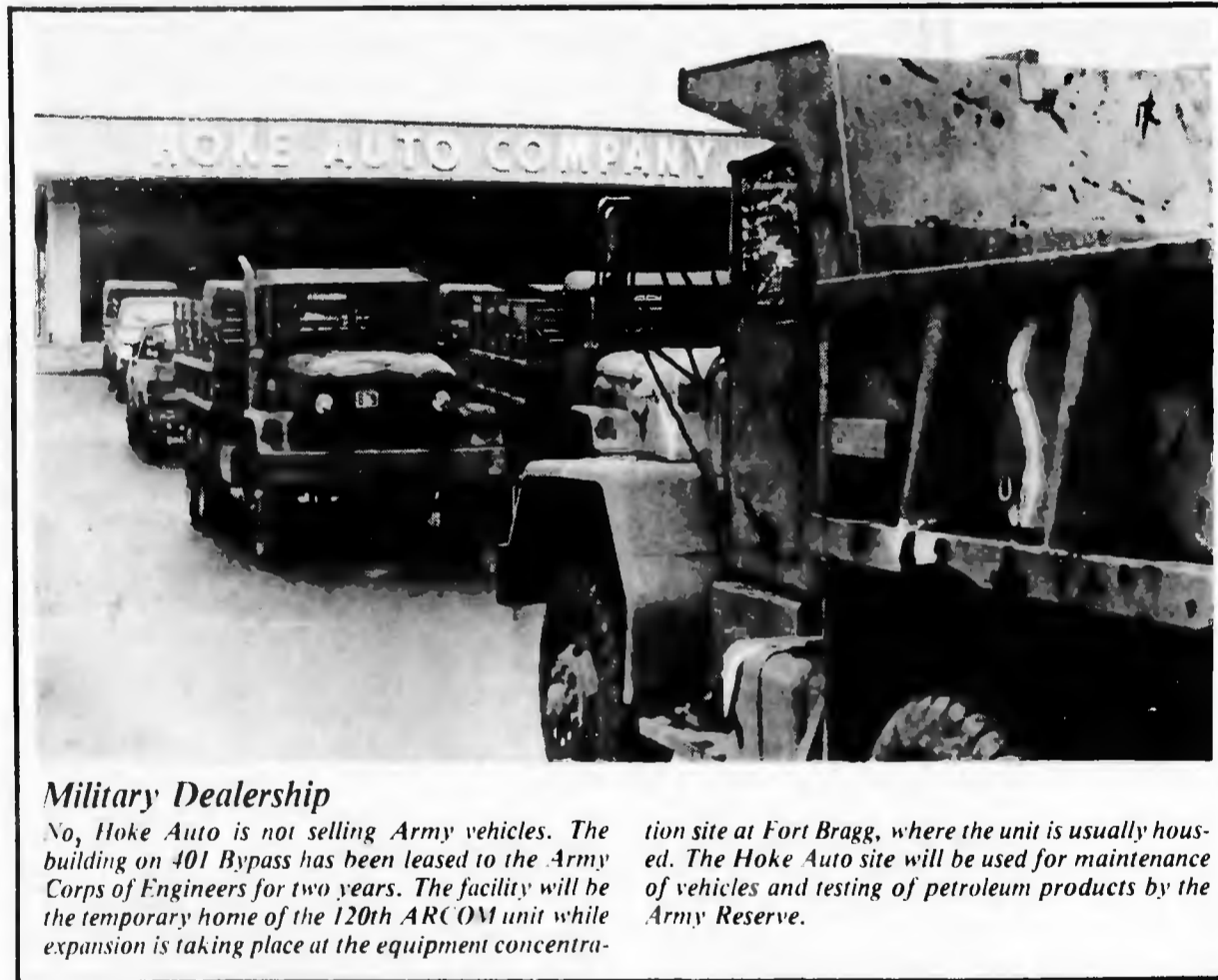
said the additional improvements which are under consideration include multipurpose rooms at West Hoke and Scurlock Elementary Schools, renovations to the cafeteria at South Hoke Elementary School, additional improvements at Burlington Elementary School and improvements to the shop at Upchurch Junior High School.

The Board of Education will present their decision to the Board

of County Commissioners at the next commissioner's meeting on January 4.

Contracts have been awarded for \$2,175,480 in additions and renovations to six schools. That figure was approximately \$90,000 less than architects had projected.

The county is scheduled to sell bonds to finance the school construction and renovations on February 2.



Military Dealership

No, Hoke Auto is not selling Army vehicles. The building on 401 Bypass has been leased to the Army Corps of Engineers for two years. The facility will be the temporary home of the 120th ARC unit while expansion is taking place at the equipment concentra-

tion site at Fort Bragg, where the unit is usually housed. The Hoke Auto site will be used for maintenance of vehicles and testing of petroleum products by the Army Reserve.

Around Town

By Sam Morris

The weather Christmas Day was nice and most of the day children could get outside and play with their Christmas gifts. The day after Christmas was about as warm as I can remember for this time of year. The thermometer reached approximately 75° and it was hot even into the night. We had windows up most of the afternoon and evening. This didn't seem like December.

Sunday and Monday the rain came and it looks as if it will remain into Tuesday.

The forecast is for the temperature to drop to below freezing Tuesday night and then the high on Wednesday will stay in the 30s, and with high winds, the wind chill factor could make it seem 10 degrees colder.

The temperatures should begin to rise on Thursday and then get into the 50s on Friday and Saturday.

(See AROUND, page 3)

People in review

- **January 1:** Mary Archie McNeill was one of 400 nominees honored from across the state for her work in the schools and contributions to the county.
- **January 8:** The Rev. J. Max Evington preached his first sermon as new pastor of Raeford's First Baptist Church on Sunday.
- **January 29:** Over 500 people attend a banquet honoring Jimmy James, called "the father of the Hoke High Band."
- **March 14:** Raeford gets a new postmaster. She is Clara Robinson.
- **March 19:** Pam Foster, Hoke County's new Home Economist, will soon begin work.
- **June 18:** Hank Richards, Principal of South Hoke School, is named Principal of the Year for the South Central Educational District.
- **June 25:** Betty High no longer is director of Sandhills Community College's Raeford satellite campus.
- **August 13:** Gary Stemple is named Hoke High School's new band director.
- **September 10:** Economic Developer John Howard announces his resignation.
- **September 24:** Richard Travis becomes the new head of the Hoke County Department of Social Services.
- **October 15:** Sarah Schmidt is named the new Director of the Hoke County Public Library.
- **November 26:** The John G. Balfour and Earl Hendrix families are named Hoke County Farm Families of the Year. In addition, the Hendrix family is a district winner.
- **December 24:** Delia McNeill is Hoke County Teacher of the Year.

Hoke group travels to hear Jordan announce

A group of supporters from Hoke County will travel to Mount Gilead on Monday, January 4, to hear Lieutenant Governor Bob Jordan announce his candidacy for governor.

Jordan will make his announcement at noon at Jordan Lumber Company, the family business of

which the lieutenant governor is president.

Jordan is married to the former Sarah Cole of Raeford.

Anyone interested in being part of the delegation from Hoke County going to Mount Gilead should call Betsy Ann McNeill at 875-2169. McNeill is Jordan's sister-in-law.

Filing period opens

The filing period for candidates seeking nomination for office in 1988 will open at 12 noon on January 4, 1988. The filing period will close at 12 noon on February 1, 1988.

The first primary will be conducted on Tuesday, May 3, and a

second primary (if needed) will be held on Tuesday, May 31.

Hoke County offices becoming vacant this year include two seats on the Board of County Commissioners; two seats on the Board of Education; the Register of Deeds and a Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor.



Joshua Warren and Jonas J. Pate

Pate is Morehead finalist; brother is alternate

Joshua Warren Pate of Raeford has been selected as one of seven district finalists in competition for 1988 Morehead Awards to study at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His twin brother, Jonas James Pate, has been selected first alternate. The Pates, who are seniors at Hoke High School, are the sons of Warren and Ann Pate of Raeford and Dayna and Dick Elliott of Charleston, S.C.

The announcement was made by Charles E. Lovelace Jr., executive director of the John Motley Morehead Foundation.

Seven finalists and two alternates were selected in District Eight, which is made up of Anson, Hoke, Mecklenburg, Richmond, Scotland, and Union Counties.

Each of ten Morehead Districts throughout the state select seven finalists to appear for interviews

(See PATES, page 3)