

The News-Journal

The 40th issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, January 13, 1993

Company moving to industrial park; bringing 30 jobs to Hoke

Hoke's plans for water expansion worked in bringing new businesses to the area. Officials lured a Fayetteville company to move from Cumberland County to Hoke's new industrial park on U.S. 401.

Nilson Van and Storage announced the move from its Fayetteville site to the Parker Industrial Park yesterday. The company will be located

adjacent to the Fayetteville Transformer Company. Company president David Nilson cited Hoke's "infrastructure" as the primary reason for relocating here.

"We had much success in Fayetteville," he said, "but we were in a leased facility and now's the time to look."

Nilson said the company originally searched

Cumberland County for another site, but County Manager Barry Reed and park planner D.B. Parker made an offer that couldn't be refused. He also cited reasonable land prices and the county's new water tank in the area as strong enticements for his company.

The company, headquartered in Columbia, S.C. purchased six acres of land in the park and

plans to begin construction on a 22,000 square-foot facility in "three or four months," or as soon as it can receive the proper permits and complete plans, he said. The company has tentative plans to move in by the end of the year. "We're on the fast track," Nilson said.

The company, he said, works with several (See INDUSTRY, page 4)



The accidents continue on Highway 401. Yet another occurred Friday afternoon at the County line when this tractor-trailer belonging to Atlanta Land Carriers and two cars collided. There were no serious injuries.

Accidents have always plagued the highway, but seem more numerous as construction takes place to widen the road to four lanes. Regular rains since the first of December haven't helped either.

Investigation of Head Start follows reports of incidents

Local Head Start officials placed two staff members on suspension and the Hoke Department of Social Services and other agencies are investigating the Head Start center in Duffie. According to one parent, the two employees overmedicated her son with Ritalin in November of 1992 without reporting the incident to her.

An official with the abuse and neglect office of the North Carolina Day Care Licensing Agency in Raleigh said the agency received a report on December 30 regarding the Duffie center in Southern Hoke County and is currently conducting an investigation in cooperation with Social Services.

Four County Community Services executive director Richard Greene said his agency, the grantee agency for the center, is also currently investigating claims of wrongdoing at the center.

Though officials would not discuss the nature of the investigations, *The News-Journal* obtained a document showing that in addition to the problems regarding overmedication, there was at least one report that a child had been struck with a stick by a teacher, and subsequently removed from her classroom.

Meanwhile, Tammy Kahabak said her son, who began attending the center this fall, was given too much of his prescribed medicine by teachers. And, she said, they never told her or the administrator on the day of the incident.

"They overdosed him back in November, and instead of calling 911, they called my future mother-in-law and talked to her daughter, Sheryl Miller," Kahabak said. "They never contacted me. The teacher never reported it to the administrator."

Sheryl Miller said she received a phone call from teacher Shelly Smith in November asking what to do because Kahabak's son was mistakenly given too much medicine.

"Shelly Smith called me here one day and she said: 'One of the teachers gave him his medicine and I accidentally gave him another dose. What should I do?'"

Miller said she instructed Smith to call a pharmacist to find out the effects of Ritalin. Miller said Smith then called back after speaking with the pharmacist.

"She never did tell the operator of Head Start," Miller said.

Although Kahabak said her son only became drowsy from the extra dose and appears to be physically fine following the incident, she said this wasn't the first time Head Start employees incorrectly administered his (See HEAD START, page 8)

Quality of program not affected, says Head Start director

Although Duffie Head Start staff remain under investigation, executive director Richard Greene said parents should not worry about the quality of the program.

"They reported this offense on the fifth (of January) and they (the staff members) were immediately taken out of the classroom."

He said the Four County Community Services operates a "good responsible program" and have been in business for over 27 years.

"We're concerned with our agency's reputation and we feel we've got a good reputation and we deserve it. We don't want the community at large to judge us (See REPUTATION, page 5)

Report Card shows Hoke is improving

Hoke County appears to have made further gains in test scores as a system, further cementing the transition from the state's potential takeover list, Superintendent Dr. Bill Harrison said.

The number of Hoke students scoring above the 90th percentile in the California Achievement Tests rose overall in the 1991-92 school year. Third graders doubled their percentage, moving from 9.1 percent to 19.7 percent for this year.

Sixth graders scoring above the 90th per-

centile jumped 3.7 points, from 7.2 to 10.9, while eight graders rose from 2.8 percent to 6.2 percent.

The number of students scoring in the lower 25th percentile decreased in 1991-92, Harrison said.

Only 22.7 percent of Hoke third graders scored in the lower 25, down from 31.4 percent last year.

More modest decreases were made with sixth graders dropping from 27.6 in the lower category to 25.2.

Eighth graders dropped from 25.2 percent to 21.8 percent.

Although the CAT scores are one criteria for the state Report Card, Harrison said other gains were made as well.

In overall achievement, Hoke made gains in reading and language tests scores, science, social studies and mathematics, bringing the system closer to state averages.

But Hoke still needs to improve its Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, which plummeted 40 points this year from 796 to 754.

Board ponders Upchurch's long-term future

Cost projections will remain uncertain for proposed renovations to Upchurch School until the School Board decides how long the facility will be used.

The abandoned school came back into use when the completion time for Rockfish-Hoke Elementary was pushed back after the beginning of school.

Representatives from the architectural firm LSV Partnership told the board at last night's

meeting costs for the renovations to the old school will depend largely on the length of time the board plans to use the site.

A critical factor in the price tag for renovations hinges on the cost of bringing the air-conditioning system up to par for the short or long term, said Walter Vicks of LSV.

If the facility is to remain an interim one only, he said, the county's allocation of \$50,000 for

air units (window units) will carry the costs. But if Upchurch will become a permanent home to students due to the recent population surge, the board will need \$34,000 more.

If installed for the long-term, he said, the building would call for a three phase system requiring more extensive electrical repairs.

Vicks said part of the increases, if necessary, could be offset by remaining well below budget on

other areas of renovation.

For instance, of the \$40,000 allocated for bathroom adaptations, Vicks said, he anticipates lowering the price by at least \$10,000, and possibly even more.

"We can beat that," he said of the original price estimates.

Later in the meeting, the Board gave "the green light" to Superintendent Dr. Bill Harrison for further research into using (See UPCHURCH, page 5)

Elvis fans line Post Office for limited supply of stamps

Several Hoke Countians played hookey last Friday to catch a glimpse of Elvis. Don't get too worked up; no one saw the living Elvis (as far as we know), just the long-awaited Elvis stamp.

Last Friday fans and collectors alike filled the Raeford Post Office in hopes of purchasing at least one of the 300 million original print stamps which went on sale at 12 p.m.

According to Raeford Postmistress Clara Robinson, 3600 stamps sold-out in Raeford within 35 minutes of going on sale.

"About 12:35 we sold out. People called and oohh."

Robinson said those that were too

late were upset, but the early-birds in line were an orderly and pleasant group.

"The people that waited, they didn't mind waiting. They were real excited," she said.

One customer, she said, told her she could hardly sleep because she had to get to the Post Office to get her stamps.

The excitement to get their hands on the stamps didn't end last week either, she said.

"People are calling, even now, asking about the stamp," she said Monday.

She was surprised the lengths fans (See ELVIS, page 6)



The line was long for Raeford's limited supply; the stamp (inset).

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

I hope that the rain ends sometime this week. It seems that it has been raining all this year.

One weather reporter stated that we have had only two days of the sun shining this year.

Someone asked me Monday if this had set a record for the number of cloudy days. I couldn't answer him, so maybe one of you readers can let me know.

The weather, besides being cloudy and rainy, has been cold.

The temperatures have been in the 40s and low 50s for the past few days, but the lows haven't been much lower so we haven't had any freezing weather; sleet or snow.

The forecast calls for the sun to

shine Thursday, but rain on Wednesday with the highs being in the 50s and the lows in the 30s.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday will see the highs in the 40s and the lows in the 20s. There is a chance of rain again on Saturday.

I missed a call from Mrs. Leslie Middleton of Broomhall, Penn. She is a sister of the late Heston Rose of Raeford.

She is 84 years of age and has been crippled for some time. She said she could not attend Heston's funeral, but had read the obit and what was said in this column.

I would liked to have talked (See AROUND, page 5)