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armed robber
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The News-Journal

'If it happened, it's news to us'

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HOKE COUNTY 50 CENTS

Wednesday, January 22, 1997

Deputies make arrest

■ Three men arrested in robbery of Hispanics

By Nicole Gabriel
Staff writer

Hoke County Sheriff's Department and Raeford City Police officials arrested three men in Fayetteville last Monday for the alleged robberies of county Hispanics.

Two other men are still at large. Sheriff detective David Newton said sheriff deputies arrested Carlos Garcia, David Rivera and Hector Felix, all of Fayetteville, in connection with the robberies targeting local Hispanics.

In all of the cases, the victims were robbed at gun point by men claiming to be Immigration and Naturalization Service and other law officials.

Raeford City Police Detective Mack High said Luis Colon Lebron and Felix E. Diaz Casas



Luis Colon Lebron
are still at large.

Newton said Garcia faces two counts of robbery with a dangerous weapon, one count of first degree kidnapping, two counts of impersonating a law enforcement officer and four counts of attempted armed robbery.

Rivera is charged with five
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Liquor by drink to go to voters

By Nicole Gabriel
Staff writer

Hoke County voters will have to decide whether they want liquor by the drink in the county.

The County Board of Commissioners voted 3 to 2 at last night's meeting to add the issue to the Phase III Water Bond referendum.

Lynn Worley-Davis, who owns the Old Mill Restaurant with her husband, proposed the idea, saying the voters should make the decision.

Chairman Jean Hodges, who was absent from last February's meeting when the issue of putting the sale of mixed beverages to the voters failed, voted for it this time.

Commissioners Cleo Bratcher Jr., and Thomas Howell also voted for putting the issue on the ballot, while vice-chairman James Leach and commissioner

L. E. McLaughlin Jr. voted against putting it on the ballot.

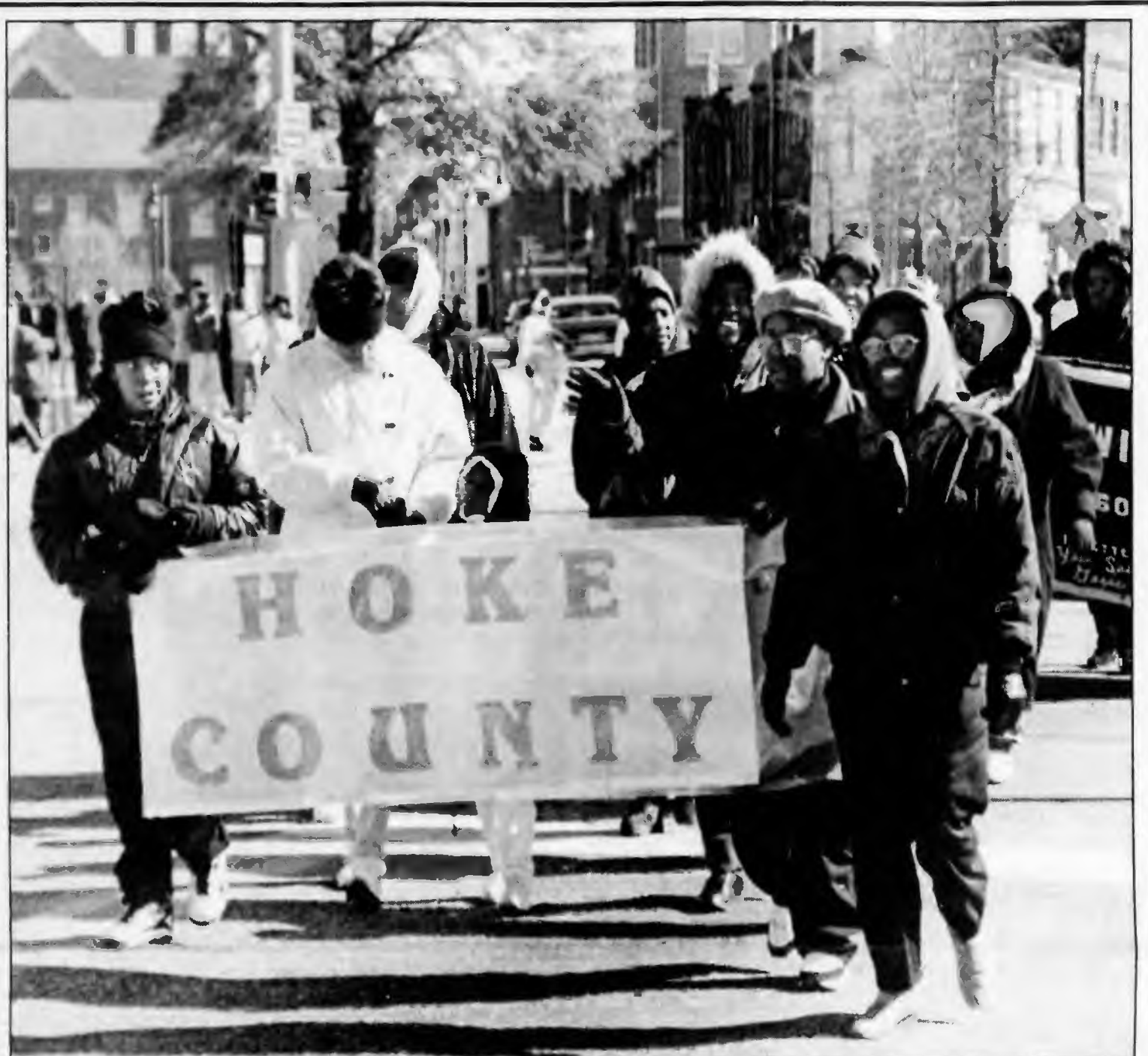
After Davis proposed the idea, Leach asked her if the citizens really supported liquor by the drink.

Davis started "Citizens For the Right to Vote For or Against Liquor By the Drink" last year after the board backed out of previous decision to put it on the ballot. Davis rushed to get a petition with 35 percent of the registered voters, but succeeded in acquiring 1,900 valid signatures, she said. She needed 4,000 signatures.

Leach asked her then if this was really what the citizens wanted.

Howell said he thought the issues were being confused.

"The issue is, is this board going to allow the people of the county to decide for themselves on the sale of mixed beverages,"
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Photos by Amy Clarkson

County celebrates King's birthday

"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hoke County residents gathered to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. this week. From a parade in Fayetteville in freezing cold temperatures to projects of school children and a banquet held at Hoke County High School, the county marked the memory of a man who stood for equality for all people.

Above, the Hoke County delegation to the Martin Luther King Jr. parade bundles up against the cold temperatures to remember King. Holding posters with King's picture, the group was enthusiastic about the parade, despite chilly temperatures. Right, the Rev. Elle Graham leads the delegation with a lively tune on his drums.

Nor was the parade the only event in which Hoke residents participated. School children around the county learned about King's philosophies and his struggles. A banquet at Hoke County High School also commemorated King's life and the changes he helped bring about during the Civil Rights Movement.



Around Town

By Sam C. Morris
Contributing editor

The coldest days of winter came over the weekend. It was in the teens at night and got up to about freezing temperatures during the day. The wind was blowing and this made the wind chill factor seem about zero. It warmed up Monday and the thermometer registered in the 50s. I hope that this is the cold weather for the year.

The forecast calls for the temperatures to rise Wednesday and Thursday with the highs in the 60s and the lows in the 40s. Fri-

day and Saturday a cold front will come through and the highs will be in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. There is a good chance of rain on Thursday.

Last Saturday afternoon, I was watching the North Carolina State-Clemson basketball game and all of a sudden the television screen was covered with snow. The picture would fade in and then snow covered the screen for a long time. I went into another room and I watched the game on a set that has rabbit ears.

On Monday afternoon, on
(See AROUND, page 7A)

Habitat plans new year start

By Kristin Guthrie
Staff writer

Efforts to establish a local branch of the nationally recognized organization of Habitat for Humanity are well under way. After two public meetings, the group has formed a steering committee.

The steering committee met last night at Antioch Presbyterian Church to discuss some of their more pressing issues. Before becoming affiliated with the international organization of Habitat for Humanity, some local issues must be resolved.

To begin, the local branch of Habitat for Humanity had to come up with an appropriate name. Last night the steering committee voted to name the local branch the Raeford-Hoke Habitat for Humanity.

The steering committee also needs to send an official request to use the Habitat for Humanity International name. This request is also in the process of being completed.

In addition to coming up with an official name, the steering committee was also notified that they needed to submit a housing assessment form with an esti-

mate of the needs in the county. This information is currently being processed by Carol Birkhead, director of the Hoke County branch of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

The steering committee also needs to work on forming a board of directors and five committees entitled family selection, family nurture, development, site selection and building. These positions are open to all interested parties at this time, so if there are any people who would like to be nominated to serve they should
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