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RAEFORD & HOKE COUNTY N.C.

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

Double ice storms bring Hoke to frozen halt

Roads treacherous, schools close for three days, businesses run on skeleton crews if at all

BY VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

Some Hoke motorists inched along in their vehicles on Monday and Tuesday in the grooved paths formed on primary roads already partially cleared by the N.C. Department of Transportation. Others stayed at home rather than venture out in the ice storm that swept through Hoke on Sunday.

After crippling snow and sleet gripped the central North Carolina and Sandhills regions over the weekend, rural roads in Hoke remained "close to impassable" without any thaw in sight, according to Roy Pittman, county maintenance supervisor for the

Temperatures plummeted from 64 degrees on Saturday to a low of 21 on Sunday. Today the major arteries appear to relatively clear, except patches of black ice remain as well as ice on shoulders of the highways.

Most workers stayed home from their jobs, many businesses closed, and Hoke students were not required to attend school, preventing many potential accidents.

Pittman said no roads were closed in Hoke. However, Interstate-95 North in Johnston County was closed down because of disabled tractor-trailers and several collisions.

"We have fought a tough battle," Pittman said yesterday. "By dark, the primary roads should be in pretty good shape.

"We are still concerned because there are some roads like just one sheet of ice in the country. The ice has just bonded solid.

"In my more than 30 years of working for the DOT, I have never seen our rural roads in such dangerous shape," he said.

"This is an extreme, extreme situation. If folks do not really need to stay on the highways, they need to stay at home."

DOT crews on Sunday began salting down major (See ICE STORM, page 3A)



Aubrey Mayhew pushes her friend ordan Oliphant along Elwood Avenue Monday. The girls, both 14, found the quarter-inch layer of ice on the road perfec for sledding, if not for walking.



Sunday 'cool' at Raeford UMC page 1B

Hoke man dies in fiery crash page 3A

Raeford Kiwanis mark 80 years page 5A

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Hoke's top stories are on the web; send us stories, subscribe

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City reins in operation of treatment plant

Fines House of Raeford \$8,000 and places plant under supervision of public works director

BY PALALLIN WILSON Editor

City Council members are keeping a close eye on operations at the city's wastewater treatment plant, specifically concerning discharge from the House of Raeford turkey processing plant.

In most recent developments, the city levied a fine of \$8,000 against the House of Raeford for failing to install a required monitor and \$100 for violations of a discharge permit. The plant has appealed the \$8,000 fine, according to City Attorney William Fields.

gallons of sewage daily and uses one lege, Mayor Pro Tem John Jordan said. million gallons of city water each day.

At a special meeting called last Thursday at 2 p.m., a closed session was held, citing pending litigation against House of Raeford as well as personnel and attorney-client privilege.

Councilmen met in closed session for approximately a half hour and returned to open session to vote unanimously to place the sewage plant operation in the hands of the public works director. No action was taken regarding the city vs. House of

Garland Pierce, pastor of Bright Hopewell

Missionary Baptist Church and president

of the Scotland County Branch of the

NAACP, says he wants to make a differ-

which also includes Scotland and

Parts of Hoke are in the 48th District,

Bonner has publicly stated he will not

seek election for the 2005-2006 legisla-

tive term, citing health problems he and

(See PIERCE, page 6A)

House of Raeford discharges 800,000 Raeford matter or the attorney-client privimanager for seven years.

PWC Director Mike Lucas will report on the sewage operation to Interim City Manager Betty Smith, who was assistant city manager until the resignation on January 5 of Mike McNeill, who had been city

The city's wastewater treatment plant is operated by Hydro Management, which came under fire from Commissioner Wayne Mills at the January 5 meeting. Mills questioned unpaid bills, wells that (See TREATMENT PLANT, page 7A)

State: plant improves compliance

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS Staff writer

against the City of Raeford for industrial wastewater treatment violations in 2003, him the sewer plant has made significant strides

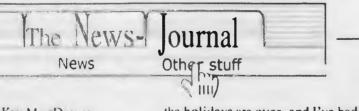
been working not only with the waste treatment plant, but local industries."

According to Rawls, Raeford has tices of violations to Raeford officials. moved toward almost "total compliance." ager who resigned two weeks ago, was

always "extremely communicative" in responding to any questions from his agency. He said the outside contractor, In spite of repeated violations levied Hydro Management Services hired by Raeford, has also worked closely with

Rawls, researched the total amount of toward improving its compliance, accord- fines Raeford paid during the past two ing to Paul Rawls, director of the water years. To his knowledge, Raeford offiquality division for the N.C. Department cials have "paid up" all of its penalties of Environment and Natural Resources. that were assessed. Nine penalties were "There have been a number of viola- levied between August 2002-2003. The tions they have been working on during five penalties charged to Raeford in 2002 the last year," Rawls said. "They have totaled \$14,766. Four other fines totaled approximately \$17,000 in 2003. Since August 2003, Rawls has issued other no-

In February, 2000 when Hydro Man-He said Mike McNeill, former city man- agement Services entered into a contract (See COMPLIANCE, page 7A)



Wagram minister eyes 48th House District

BY PALALLEN

WILSON

Editor

A minister

from Wagram

who worked in

Hoke County for

many years has

announced he

BY KEN MACDONALD General Manager

will run for the 48th House District scat

held by Donald A. Bonner. The Rev.

Because of an error last week, most of this column vanished into computer-land. This terribly upset regular readers, who jammed up our phone system when they both called at the same time to see what happened So I'm going to start over. [U, hum] Like I was saying, everyone holidays is the opportunity to sit around as a family and recount stories. Now that (See OTHER STUFF (Really!), page 7A)

the holidays are over, and I've had some time to do some reflecting on those moments and on a couple of stories from others, I'd like to pass on for younger families my suggested Family Statute of Limitations – the time that should pass before it's safe for children to confess to various misdeeds:

Using homemade (is there any other kind?) potato guns to fire spuds - and knows one of the nicest things about the other debris - into the neighbors' yards. 3



Frigid frosting A trio of tobacco barns make a lonely but lovely picture just outside of Raeford.