

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

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Two injured in accident

A Raeford woman and a Shannon man sustained minor injuries in a two-car accident on RP 1406, according to a spokeswoman at the State Highway Patrol Office in Rockingham.

Leon Locklear, 31, and a passenger, Verinda Graham, 27, were injured in a two-car accident which took place at 8:30 a.m. last Thursday near the intersection of RP 1406 and 1408.

Alvin Blake, 41, of Raeford was driving a 1978 Ford Station Wagon and traveling south on RP 1408. Records say Blake stopped for a stop sign and then pulled into the roadway in front of Locklear, who was driving a 1977 Chrysler.

Locklear and Graham had minor injuries and were taken to Cape Fear Valley Hospital.

Blake's car sustained \$2,000 damage and Graham's car received \$3,000 damage.

Records say that Blake was charged with failure to look before starting.

On December 20 at 6:30 p.m., records say there was a two-car accident on N.C. 211.

Martha Locklear Bullard, 28, of Lumberton, driving a 1977 AMC was turning left onto RP 1447 and pulled into the path of a 1983 Buick, driven by Vivian Parker, 37, of Red Springs.

Records say Bullard struck Parker causing \$400 damage to her car.

A passenger in Parker's car, Ken Ora Parker, 14, was slightly injured.

Records say Bullard was charged with an unsafe movement violation.

Thurs. chase ends in couple's arrest

A high-speed chase through northern Hoke County last Thursday resulted in the arrest of a Hope Mills couple, according to a Raeford Police Department spokesman.

Police Chief Zeke Wiggins said Timothy Whalen, 21, and Patricia Ann Whalen, 25 of Hope Mills, were apprehended by city and county law officers at the fish hatchery at Lake Rim inside the Cumberland County line after the couple were pursued on business Hwy. 401.

Wiggins said he got a call from Southern National Bank at 1:30 p.m. saying that the Whalens were at the drive-in of the bank attempting to cash a bad check.

Wiggins said SNB personnel knew that checks answering the description of those that the Whalens had were forged checks which had been cashed at other banks both earlier in the month (See COUPLE, page 3)

Around Town

By Sam Morris

Winter officially came in Sunday and the cold wind let you know that it had arrived. It will be with us until March 21 when spring officially arrives.

The forecast for this week and Christmas Day is for the temperature to be in the high 40s during the day and around freezing during the night. There is a chance of rain on Wednesday before Christmas.

According to the weather experts, this is about the normal temperature for this time of the year.

Last week Mary Alice and I rode around Raeford to look at Christmas decorations at the homes. I don't believe any place in North Carolina has put forth the effort to show the Christmas season more than the citizens of Raeford. The outside white lights on the shrubs and trees are out-of-this-world. They display a unique sight that is hard to imagine. If you haven't rode around at night, then (See AROUND, page 3)



The News-Journal

New Hoke Co. land use plan to be considered next year

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

A new land use plan for Hoke County will be considered in 1987 by the county Planning Board, a board spokesman said last week.

Planning Board chairman Brown Hendrix said that conducting an update of the Land Use Plan done in 1976 will be considered at their January meeting as a preliminary step to possible zoning in the county.

The plan, which was adopted by the board in March of 1979, has the intent of combining several numerous cultural, social and economic elements into a land use plan that recommends the most appropriate uses within the planning area.

According to Hendrix, the board has not at the present time made a determination on whether or not there should be residential, commercial or other types of zoning.

Hendrix could not speculate on whether or not the board was inclined toward recommending that zoning be established in the county.

"As the chairman of the Planning Board, I can only help in the decision," Hendrix said. "Rather

than lead them in any specific direction."

"As a citizen," Hendrix continued, "I must say that I think zoning will be necessary in order to have orderly growth in the community."

County Manager William (Bub) Cowan commented on zoning and the Land Use Plan by saying that "implementing a plan such as this would promote orderly growth in the county, similar to that which can result from the mobile home ordinance."

"A public hearing would need to be held to determine what the needs of the people are," Cowan said.

Cowan said the Land Use Plan uses sources, such as the latest census data to update the knowledge on the physical aspects of the county.

The plan was prepared by staff at the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources. Cowan said financial assistance was obtained through an economic development grant provided by the federal government.

He said that funds for the update of the plan would most likely not come from the same government sources.

Although Hendrix could not indicate what funds, or how long, it would take to compile the study, he said he felt confident the funds will be available at some government level to assist with the research needed for the update.

"You have to look at the county real closely," Hendrix said. "There is a lot of leg work involved in doing the update. It's not a job that can be done from a desk."

The thoroughness of the land use plan is expressed by the statement of purpose at the beginning of the document.

"In such a plan, the cultural, social, and economic characteristics of a community are examined to determine more about the people who reside there," the plan states.

It further states that the "employment base and training of the available labor force are studied to learn more about the type of employers likely to be attracted to such a community."

Cowan said that counties in this area of the state have a wide range of zoning status.

"In Cabarrus County, a considerable amount of development occurred before zoning took (See LAND, page 12)

School architect to be hired soon

By Sally Jamir
News-Journal Staff Writer

Members of the Hoke County Board of Education may soon hire an architect to plan the numerous renovations and additions to school facilities in the county, a county spokesman said last Thursday.

Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson said that board members met last Wednesday evening to decide on three architects with whom to initiate their search for a candidate to plan construction on Hoke County school buildings.

Nelson said the board would like to make a decision by January 13 on which architect will be hired to do the work.

Originally, there were approximately 18 firms that were being considered, Nelson said. He said if board members were not satisfied with any of the three choices, they would continue to look for an architect among those remaining on the original list of architects.

The construction will be funded by \$3.35 million worth of bonds authorized by county voters in the referendum held during the November 4 elections.

Nelson said board members "asked for on-site interviews with the architects chosen."

"Representatives of the architect's firm will meet us at the sight where the architect has done work," Nelson said. "We'll be able to see what they've done."

The board has planned to schedule interviews during the first week of January for the professional who will design school facilities and supervise construction.

Although Nelson was not able to comment on who the candidates were he did say that they were from an area within 100 miles of Hoke County.

Nelson said that although he did not know the consensus of the board on the subject, his impres-

sion was that the same architect would do all of the construction planning.

Nelson said that in additional business, board members approved the proposed model for an after school detention program.

The program, to be conducted at J.W. Turlington school, would use school transportation.

Nelson said that proposal is scheduled to be presented to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners on January 5 for their approval.

In further business, board members discussed the current lawsuit being brought against the board by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Nelson said the board voted to permit county attorney Duncan McFadyen to act on behalf of the board of education, performing any activities necessary in responding to the Justice Department.

The department has brought a lawsuit against local boards of education and local boards of elections in 22 North Carolina counties as well as the State of North Carolina, the N.C. State Board of Elections and the N.C. State Board of Education for alleged violation against the Voting Rights Act of 1964.

In addition, Nelson said it was announced at the board meeting that the custodial contract which the board had taken out with the Crothall-American custodial company has been terminated on the company's request.

"Over the six-month period in which they were here they said they could not perform the contract that they had agreed to, and they wanted out," Nelson said.

"We had a great deal of optimism going into the contract," Nelson said, expressing the disappointment of the board.

Nelson said custodial procedures used before the contract was entered into on July 1 will be used again.

Closed for the holidays

Several offices in Raeford will be closed this week so that city and county employees can enjoy the holidays with their families.

County offices will be closed Wednesday through Friday, December 24-26.

The Sheriff's Department will be open, but the office area will be closed Wednesday through Friday.

Hoke County Social Services Department will be closed Wednesday through Friday.

The Agricultural Extension offices will also be closed Wednesday through Friday.

The library will be closed Wednesday through Friday, but

open for regular hours on Saturday.

School will be in recess December 22 until January 5. The education central office will be closed Monday, December 22 through Friday, December 26.

The county landfill will be closed December 25. There will be one pick-up during this week on Monday and Tuesday.

Both Southern National Bank and United Carolina Bank will be closed both Thursday and Friday.

City offices will be closed from Wednesday at noon and open again on Monday at 8 a.m.

Thieves hit Carolina Turf

A Hoke County business was broken into last week and \$1,000 worth of tools were taken, according to Sheriff's Department records.

A garage at Carolina Turf, Route 1, Aberdeen, was broken into sometime between 6 p.m., December 15 and 7:30 a.m., December 16.

Records say three tool boxes and their contents were taken by someone who apparently broke a window in order to enter the building.

According to records, the subject left by a rear door.

Records say the Bill Everleigh residence at Route 1, Red Springs, was broken into October 21 and \$600 worth of property and cash was stolen.

Regina Bullard McMillan, Route 1, Red Springs, reported a break-in at her residence.

Records say that sometime between 6:45 a.m. and 2 p.m., December 17, someone apparently forced open the rear door of the building and removed \$430.

William Kelchner, Route 2, Raeford, reported a break-in at his residence.

(See THIEVES, page 3)



Rev. Billy C. Beaver

Rev. Beaver resigns from First Baptist

This Sunday will mark the Rev. Billy C. Beaver's last official service as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Raeford, but the South Carolina native has no intention of retiring.

"I'm not retiring, I'm just resigning as pastor of this church," Beaver said. "Retiring is stopping work, I don't ever intend to do that."

Beaver not only intends to keep working, he intends to do his work right here in Raeford.

After serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Maiden for nine years, Beaver and his wife, Doris, came to Raeford in 1977. They have grown so fond of the area over the years, they decided to stay here after Beaver's resignation.

The couple originally planned to move back home to Lancaster, South Carolina, but, according to Beaver, "Raeford grows on you."

"It's my kind of town with my kind of people," Beaver said.

One of the things Beaver likes most about Hoke County is the progress that has been made in

the community since his arrival.

Beaver mentioned renovations to the courthouse, the new armory and new doctors' offices as examples of progress in the community. "All that has happened since we came here," Beaver said.

"I'm especially happy with our record at the church."

Highlights of Beaver's ministry here include: 400 new church members, the addition of a full-time minister of music and education to the church staff, an increase in Sunday School attendance and the building of a new 460-seat sanctuary.

Beaver, however, doesn't take credit for the accomplishments of First Baptist Church. "The people did it," he said. "They were ready."

Beaver said he is resigning as pastor because he has reached the age of 65 and no longer feels he has the energy to do a job that takes "12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week."

His resignation doesn't mean that members of the congregation won't be seeing a lot of him

around the church. Beaver intends to stay active in interim and supply work. Sunday School enlargement campaigns and revivals.

Beaver also plans to continue his work in the community.

For three years, he served on the board of directors of the local Chamber of Commerce. He was president of the chamber for one of those three years and vice-president another year.

Although his busy schedule has prevented him from becoming an active member of any civic organization, Beaver said he has spoken to all of them at one time or another.

Beaver earned a bachelor's degree from Furman University and holds a master's degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has been the pastor of five churches and served in the U.S. Army in the Philippines and Japan for three years.

For ten years, he was associated with Springs Cotton Mills, Lancaster, South Carolina, and for three years