

Full N.C. Symphony to perform here see page 2A

# The News-Journal

City stickers must be displayed by Monday see page 4A

Volume LXXIX Number 43

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Thursday, February 11, 1988



photo by Mike McNeill

## Ranger station fire

Fire destroyed a portion of ranger station number one Monday night at the intersection of Plank and Vass Roads on the Fort Bragg Reservation. A Fort Bragg spokesman said the 5:30 p.m. blaze burned for

20 minutes before Fort Bragg, Raeford and Pope Air Force Base firemen extinguished it. Damage was estimated to be \$5,000. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

## Middle school attendance zones decided by Hoke School Board

Attendance districts for the two proposed Hoke County middle schools were decided at Tuesday night's school board meeting.

Rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who live in the area served by McLaughlin and South Hoke Elementary Schools will attend Turlington Middle School in the 1988-89 school year.

Rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students who live in the area served by Scurlock and West Hoke

Elementary Schools will attend middle school at Upchurch.

Superintendent Bob Nelson said the staff had tried every combination of students before arriving at the one he recommended to the board. He said this is "the easiest solution and the best. We couldn't find any arrangement that worked better than his."

Based on an actual head count of students in January, Nelson said the grade groupings at Turlington

and Upchurch this fall would put 519 students at Turlington and 654 students at Upchurch.

This school year there are 765 fifth and sixth grade students at Turlington and 830 seventh and eighth grade students at Upchurch.

Classroom additions at the four elementary schools will house the rising fifth graders who will continue to attend elementary school this fall as part of the new grade (see MIDDLE, page 4a)

## Hoke top contender for education money from N.C. General Assembly

Hoke County has emerged as a top contender for critical needs funding, money designated by the state General Assembly to be used for education by the most needy counties in N.C.

While there still is no official ranking of deserving counties, one top administrator in the Department of Public Instruction says

Hoke's economic indicators, one of three categories used to judge which counties are most deserving, are worse than all other counties in N.C.

Dr. T. Darell Spencer, Assistant State Superintendent, School Planning, says Hoke ranks 100th in the state in per-capita income and 99th in per pupil tax base, leaving the

county in last place behind Robeson County in economic indicators. But at least two other criteria also will be used to judge which counties get a slice of the \$95 million Critical Needs pie: which counties have the greatest school-related needs, and which have the greatest non-school (see CRITICAL, page 12a)

## County government

### Bond ratings mixed news

Despite months of hard work by county officials and a well-prepared official statement, Hoke County received an improved rating of its ability to repay debt from only one of the two bond agencies which rated the county in connection with the scheduled sale of \$3.35 million in school bonds.

The last time Hoke County was rated by a bond agency was in 1973 when the county was rated BBB plus by Standard and Poors and Baa 1 by Moodys. County officials were confident their rating would be increased this year because of the county's more diversified economy and its improved fiscal management.

Moodys did improve the county's rating to an A; however, Standard and Poors again-rated the county BBB plus.

Reasons given by Standard and Poors for not improving the rating included the fact that employment in Hoke County is heavily concentrated in industry and the per capita income is very low.

The BBB plus rating means the county is judged to have "an adequate capacity to pay interest and repay principal." An A rating would mean the county is judged to have "a strong capacity to pay interest and repay principal."

Had both agencies given the county an A rating, it would have meant a savings of \$160,000 in interest over the 20-year life of the bonds which are scheduled to be sold on February 16.

County Manager William Cowan says the impact of the lower than expected rating still depends on the investor. Cowan says he has been told by the Local Government Commission that the rating may still have only a minor impact.

(see BONDS, page 2a)

### Industrial site considered

A 10-acre tract of land on 401 Business owned by House of Raeford President Marvin Johnson is being developed as an industrial site to show prospective clients, according to Committee of 100's President Harold Gillis.

Gillis said the Committee of 100's obtained a 90-day option on the land last year and the option was recently renewed with a view to purchasing the site. Gillis says the Committee of 100's is developing a financial plan to present to its members for future development of the site. Under consideration is the erection of a spec or shell building.

The site has a 300 foot road frontage and is 1400 feet deep. It is contiguous to the city line, Gillis says, and has water and sewer service available.

Established to support efforts of the Economic Development Commission and the Chamber of Commerce, the Committee of 100's sees itself in a partnership with those organizations and with city and county government in boosting Hoke County's economy.

Now 140 members strong just one year after its formation, the Hoke County Committee of 100's can feel good about the progress the private, non-profit, organization has made, according to Gillis.

Late last summer the Committee of 100's joined together with a group of city and county officials and with Chamber and EDC representatives to try to fill the gap created when economic developer John Howard left Hoke County.

(see INDUSTRIAL, page 12a)



Frank Teal

### Commission race

#### Teal announces

Frank Teal, vice-president and manager of the Raeford office of Progressive Savings and Loan Association and a former city councilman, says he has entered the race for county commissioner out of a desire to be involved in events affecting the future growth of Hoke County.

Teal said, "My background in business and my deep concern for

(see TEAL, page 12a)

#### McLaughlin runs

Saying he would like to see some improvements in Hoke County "so that it could rise to the heights of excellence in my lifetime," L.E. McLaughlin has filed for election to the Hoke County Board of Commissioners.

McLaughlin says, "If elected I would provide leadership and quality service to all citizens."

McLaughlin said "We could improve our tax base by developing, acquiring, adapting and implementing the most efficient technology, techniques and scientific engineering services which would support

(see McLAUGHLIN, page 12a)



L.E. McLaughlin



Shirley Gibson



Eddie McNeill

### Three in race for school board

Three candidates, two incumbents and a challenger, have filed for two seats coming vacant on the Hoke County Board of Education. Since the school board election is non-partisan, the candidates will not be on the primary ballot on May 3. They will be on the ballot in the November general election.

The two incumbents, Shirley Gibson and Eddie McNeill, are (see SCHOOL BOARD, page 12a)



John D. McAllister

### John K. move over for Moose

If the Mayor of Raeford were running for re-election this year he would have had some opposition - if only the state election laws were written differently.

Vincent Taylor "Moose" Myers was serious enough about running for the office of mayor that he visited City Hall last week to look into the matter.

He was directed to the Board of Elections' office where Supervisor Carolyn Shook hunted up the statute which governs candidacy and filing fees.

Moose learned that every qualified voter who is 21 years of age, except convicted felons, may be elected to a public of-



Vincent Taylor "Moose" Myers

fice. Unfortunately Moose is only seven.

(see MOOSE, page 12a)

## Around Town

By Sam Morris

The spring weather didn't stay around long. It was cold over the weekend and it hasn't warmed up too much so far this week. The low of 15 degrees Sunday morning felt colder with the wind blowing from the north.

The forecast is for 50 degree weather Tuesday and Wednesday and then another cold front will come through and the temperature will be in the 30s and 40s for the remainder of the week.

We can be thankful that we didn't have snow and ice along with the cold weather.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Betty McDuffie was by the office again this week and left an old Raleigh paper dated May 16, 1965. She said that her son, Billy Conoly, was delivering the paper at that time in Raeford.

The paper weighed 4 1/2 pounds and had 232 pages in it. It was entitled "North Carolina's Incredible Century," from 1865 to 1965.

Lyndon B. Johnson was president and a letter to the Daniels brothers, owner of the paper, was on the front page.

Thanks Betty, it was a large paper.

(see AROUND, page 2a)



### Going...

A bulldozer from R and W Demolishing Co. of Fayetteville rests against the old Marks store building on Main Street Monday afternoon.



### Going...

A little nudge and the front wall collapses into rubble.



### Gone

No match for the bulldozer, the building is brought down wall by wall. The weight of January's snow caused the roof to cave in.