

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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Raeford Hotel may be auctioned; owner entitled to hearing

The Raeford Hotel, the downtown building whose empty shell is barely a reminder of its past as center of Raeford society, may be about to change hands.

The hotel may be auctioned at the courthouse steps following foreclosure.

Owner Reginald Dawson, a former Fayetteville pharmacist who now lives in Jacksonville,

Florida, has a right to a foreclosure hearing this morning. He has failed to pay off a \$70,000 loan from a Fayetteville bank which allowed him to buy the building.

If Dawson does not show cause why the building shouldn't be auctioned off to pay his debt, the building will be sold on the Hoke Courthouse steps August 7.

There is speculation that First Citizens Bank, with a branch on Campus Avenue, would like to move to the Raeford Hotel lot. The bank has not made a formal statement it would like to move.

But that would mean tearing down the old building, which Raeford Downtown Revitalization Commission President Kay Thomas called one of the cornerstones of Raeford's architecture.

Nonetheless, she lent support to the idea. "It's heartbreaking to think of losing that building, but my responsibility to the community is to revitalize downtown," she said.

She called the bank's apparent wishes "a very positive comment on downtown."

Downtown Revitalization has worked with (See HOTEL, page 4)



...had a little lamb

Judy Baker, 13, accepts delivery of a little lamb to raise as a 4-H project. Three Hoke County youths will enter their lambs in a regional show in Fayetteville in September,

and possibly in the State Fair in October. The lambs were provided by the Fayetteville Jaycees. Also getting lambs are Megan Willis and Matthew Hendrix.



SBI agents called in bloodhounds from Cumberland and Scotland counties to aid in the search for James Edward Hunt Friday.

Drug bust nets guard 2nd man escapes

An SBI drug bust Friday morning caught a Hoke Correctional Institute guard with 12 pounds of marijuana.

Harold Kellis, 40, of Saunders Road, Raeford, was charged with conspiracy to possess marijuana, possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, maintaining a drug vehicle and carrying a concealed weapon, said Ray Davis, area director of the State Bureau of Investigation in Fayetteville.

Davis himself was in the field searching for a second man who escaped the drug bust in a pickup truck, then abandoned it and ran on foot through fields and woods near the 401 Sand Co.'s sandpit.

Searchers for the man, James Edward Hunt of Raeford, included sheriff's deputies, Hoke-Robeson Drug Task Force members, state highway patrolmen, Raeford police and several SBI agents.

Hunt was spotted on several occasions as a helicopter and airplane circled above the sandpit and surrounding woods and fields. He appeared to be heading toward Rockfish Creek.

(See CRIME, page 5)

Assistant principals system-wide lose duties

Revert to teachers; may reapply for jobs

Hoke County assistant principals reverted to being teachers, at least for awhile, last week.

Hoke County's new superintendent of schools, Bill Harrison, decided to let principals choose their assistants anew.

"We're allowing principals to interview assistant principals that have been on board and interview people in the county that have their principal's certification," Harrison said.

"We're not looking outside."

Assistant principals, Harrison said, are teachers with extra duties assigned. Any assistant principals who don't get their assignments back will still keep their jobs as teachers.

He said no one would be fired due to any changes.

The assistant principals will be allowed to reapply for their old jobs.

Harrison originally made the decision in order to accommodate two new principals who will run Hoke's new middle schools.

"We had a couple of new principals coming in, ...it came up, would they be able to select their assistant principals?" he said.

"We felt that would be fair to them."

When Jim Spencer, principal of Scurlock

Elementary, announced he was quitting, it would only be fair, Harrison said, to give his replacement the same chance.

Then he made the decision system-wide. That way, all principals would get the chance the new ones would have, and all assistant principals would face the same risks.

"I'm expecting a lot out of the principals and I want them to have a say in who helps them produce for me."

One principal, Mitch Tyler of Hoke County High School, has already re-appointed his three assistant principals; one of those, Tony DiNapoli, has already taken a job in Cumberland County, however.

"It's going to give the folks an opportunity to develop leadership within their groups," Tyler said.

He realized some principals had "some tough decisions to be made," he said, "but I can see where a lot of positive things can happen."

"Sometimes when you walk into situations, you don't have a lot of say-so about assistant principals or teachers," he said.

Tyler said he saw the move as an attempt "to give the principals as much opportunity to institute change in the fairest way possible."

Chemical sellers gather here for preview of new regulations

Representatives from sellers of fertilizers and other chemicals from across the state gathered yesterday at Hoke County's Farm Chemical, Inc. to learn about new regulations likely to go into effect soon affecting the handling of chemicals.

The new regulations would require methods and equipment to ensure that ground and surface water are not contaminated by fertilizer or pesticides handled by dealers or large farms.

Dooie Leach, president of Farm Chemicals, said he has been working in that direction for over two years at the company's site on Highway 20.

To introduce the industry to the regulations, which have been proposed in the General Assembly, state officials decided to come to Leach's operation so industry officials can get a look at what they will have to do.

Concrete dikes surround tanks of Leach's chemicals; Cape Fear Construction of Lumberton tore up Farm Chemical's old concrete apron at the end of last year and laid a new loading pad designed to funnel any spillage into a drain where it can be pumped back to the plant's mixing



Industry officials look over changes made at Farm Chemicals, Inc. to contain accidental spills.

facility.

"All the materials are diked, so if there's a spill at any of the tanks, it would be recovered and recycled," Leach said.

A spill would result in "no net loss of any nutrients," he said.

(See CHEMICALS, page 10)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather has been hot for the past week and over the weekend. The thermometer has registered in the mid or high 90s during the day and the lows at night have been in the 70s. The humidity has been high during this period and the heat index makes it feel like it is over 100 degrees. We also have been missing the afternoon thundershowers that have hit other parts of this section of the state.

The forecast calls for cooler weather the first of the week with the highs being in the 80s and the lows at night in the 60s. Thursday it will

warm up again and by the weekend we should have 90-degree weather in the daytime and the lows again will be in the 70s.

Most people don't like the weather this hot, but after getting my electric bill for July, I would predict that the stockholders of CP&L are happy.

I was out of town Monday, July 8 and when I came to the office Tuesday I found the following note in the office.

Sam,
I came by this a.m. Sorry to hear Mary Alice's sister is ailing. I hope that her condition improves. Some

day I will catch you in the office. Come see us when you are in Raleigh.

Joe Dupree

Sorry to have missed you, Joe. Maybe if you could arrive in Raeford and the office before 9 a.m. you would catch me in the office. For readers who don't know, Joe Dupree is a retired district court judge and he lived in Raeford for many years. As many grandparents do when they retire, he and his wife, Helen, moved to Raleigh to be near their grandchildren.

One day last week YoungerSnead came by the office and wanted to see (See AROUND, page 12)