

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, March 4, 1992

Two clinics compete to open here for kidney patients

As a local real estate developer plans a medical complex, two out-of-town clinics are vying for Raeford patients who require dialysis, a treatment for people whose kidneys have failed.

Patients suffering kidney failure are hooked up to dialysis machines which filter their blood in a process that takes three to four hours three times a week.

Without dialysis, the patients would die of blood poisoning as their kidneys fail to filter waste.

Dialysis Care of North Carolina, based in Raleigh, will offer free transportation from Raeford to its dialysis clinic in Pinehurst starting Thursday, a company administrator said.

Dialysis Care is hoping to boost the number of

Raeford patients who use their services in hopes of later building a dialysis center in town. Five patients from Raeford now travel to Pinehurst three days a week for dialysis and treatment by kidney specialist Mark Aarons, said administrator James Bondurant.

Meanwhile, Nephrology Associates of Fayetteville is already planning to open a dialysis

center near other medical offices on S. Main Street in Raeford, said Tommy Wright of J. H. Wright Realtors. Nephrology Associates boast 26 Hoke County patients who come to the Fayetteville clinic for dialysis.

Wright is planning Wright Medical Park on S. Main Street, across from Robert Townsend's (See CLINICS, page 12)



Spring ritual

With the temperature reaching 80 Tuesday, young boys' thoughts turned to ...the playground. David McNeill, Zachary McGougan, James Edmund Culp, Taylor Brown and Zeb Cobbler found the

weather perfect for a game of football and a moment or two on the playground equipment behind the Raeford Library.

Sandhills can move into Turlington

Sandhills Community College's Hoke County branch finally has permission to move into the largely abandoned Turlington school.

On a motion by Joe Upchurch, Raeford's City Council voted Monday night to change a zoning law to allow community colleges in residential neighborhoods with special permits.

The Council next voted to grant Hoke County, Turlington's owner, a conditional

use permit for Sandhills Community College on a motion by Eddie McNeill.

The votes came after a February 13 Raeford-Hoke Planning Board recommendation to change the city's zoning law to allow community colleges, business and trade schools in residential neighborhoods.

The county first requested Turlington be approved for Sandhills, now sited in the old county offices on W. Elwood Avenue, late

last year among other requests for uses of the site.

The city approved the use of the campus for Cooperative Extension offices but turned down a request for a recreation center at the school's gym after neighbors protested.

The city was unable to approve the request to make the school Sandhills' Hoke site because the zoning law then did not permit it.

Last minute filers crowd local races

County Commission attracts 11

Eight last-minute candidates rushed to the county Board of Elections office last week to sign up for local races; seven are running for the Board of Commissioners.

The only other local candidate to join the race filed for School Board.

Howard R. Sinclair and Herman L. Sanders filed Thursday for the two seats open on the county commission.

Jim Knott, who ran unsuccessfully in 1990, joined them Friday.

Les Sandy, James A. Leach, Jean Hodges and Charles Crowder threw their hats in the ring Monday before filing closed at noon.

Both commission seats will go to newcomers; Chairman Wyatt Upchurch and Vice-Chairman Neill McPhatter announced earlier they would not run this year.

All candidates for the County Commission are registered Democrats.

Daniel Davis filed Monday for School Board, bringing to three the number of candidates for two seats.

Shirley Gibson, chairman of the School Board, is leaving one of those seats vacant.

In state races, Danny DeVane, a Democrat from Raeford, will run unopposed for the new 16th State House District.

DeVane, in his tenth year in the House, drew some grumbling during the redistricting process last year from political spectators who surmised he could win at others' expense. But no one showed up to challenge him.

Fellow House member John C. "Pete" Hasty of Maxton, who will run for the new 87th District, won't have it so easy; he is challenged in the Democratic Primary by Frances Cummings of Lumberton, who ran for the (then) three-seat 16th District last year and failed.

But Hasty, a white, is now in a

district made of over 50 percent black population; Cummings, a black, was among those who spoke out sharply against DeVane's proposed redistricting plan which would have divided Robeson into two districts and put Hoke into a single-member district with Scotland County.

DeVane's plan would have created a majority Indian district but would not have guaranteed a black majority.

DeVane later credited black opposition with crushing his proposal. The plan that emerged instead parted Hoke into three districts and gave each district a majority for each of three races: black, Indian and white.

The 87th District includes portions of western and northern Hoke.

In the Indian-dominated 85th District (which includes Antioch and Stonewall Precincts), two Indian democrats from Robeson County — Clifton Sampson and Ron Sutton — announced early they would run. They were recently joined by Bob Brewington, a Republican also from Robeson County.

Redistricting also left Hoke parted out into two state senate districts: the 30th (which formerly included the whole county) and the 17th, a two-member district that now includes Buchan, McCain, Puppy Creek and Rockfish Precincts.

In the 30th District, long-time incumbent David Parnell, a Democrat from Parkton, finds himself challenged in the Democratic Primary by David Weinstein of Lumberton.

Recently, George G. "Jerry" Thompson, a Robeson Republican, also joined the race.

In the 17th District, incumbents Aaron Plyler of Union County and J. Richard Conder of Rockingham, both Democrats, are challenged by William P. Davis and Edward Price, Republicans from Union County, and Prentice H. Dawkins, a Republican (See FILING, page 4)

Girl Scouts to paint town

Girl Scouts from eight area troops are going to celebrate their organization's 80th birthday by painting the town.

No, not like that. They're really going to paint the town, you know, with brushes and all that.

On March 8 at 2 p.m., after a downtown ceremony in which Raeford Mayor Bob Gentry will proclaim that week Girl Scout Week, assembled girl scouts will paint store windows with slogans and pictures of "what girl scouts do," said organizer Barbara Lippard.

Members of the Downtown Revitalization Commission are lining up volunteer store owners now for the project, in which up to 50 girls are likely to take part.

City Council tables ethics code

Saying they need more time to look over the code, city councilmen Monday night voted to table an ethics law proposed by the mayor.

Two councilman, Ken Booker and Joe Upchurch, complained about Mayor Bob Gentry's timing in bringing the ethics proposal before the council shortly after Booker and Steve Phillips joined the board.

Gentry hastened to add the proposal was not meant to slight Phillips, who had become the center of attention in early February when it was learned his business, Deer Track Athletic Club, accepted a loan from Marvin Johnson, president of House of Raeford Turkey Farms, Inc., which is still involved in a lawsuit against the city.

"I mean no reflection on you on

this thing," he told Phillips.

Among other things, the proposed law forbids city officials from taking gifts — including loans — "under circumstances in which it could reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence him or her...or was intended as a reward for any official action...."

On February 5, Phillips told *The News-Journal* a \$42,000 loan from House of Raeford would not influence him as the city pursues fines against the company. He also said he would not abstain from voting on matters relating to the company.

But Booker was the councilman who took exception publicly. He said it looked like Gentry was trying to place new restrictions on the board just when two new members joined

it — Booker and Phillips.

Council rejects contract for manager

The council also voted to reject the mayor's proposal of a contract for City Manager Tom Phillips.

"I felt like we needed something," Mayor Gentry said.

Councilman Steve Phillips objected to the contract, saying Phillips duties were spelled out in the city code.

Ken Booker took exception with the notice required under the proposed contract should the council vote to fire Phillips: 12 months.

On the other hand, Joe Upchurch noted, Phillips would have to give only 60 days notice if he quits. (See ETHICS, page 12)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weekend was nice weatherwise, but Monday and Tuesday were perfect. The thermometer reached 80 degrees Monday and Tuesday. This is during the six-week period that followed the groundhog seeing his shadow a month ago. I wonder now if the prediction of Robert Gatlin that we will have snow by March 6th will hold up.

The forecast calls for cooler weather Wednesday through Saturday, but don't get alarmed. The highs will be in the 60s and the lows will be in the 50s. This is above the average for this time of year. There is a chance of rain on Thursday night and early Friday morning.

February was enough month that was above average. * * *

The Business Section, that runs in *The News-Journal* once a year, will make its appearance this year in the issue of

Wednesday, March 25. Forms have been received from local businesses and they will be compiled giving the history of the business, number of employees, top executives, phone number and address.

The section is also delivered to the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and they send the section to newcomers to the community and they also send it to people who inquire about Hoke County.

The section has advertisements from many of the businesses and if you haven't been contacted, there is still time for you to get an ad in this section. The deadline for ads is Wednesday, March 11. So contact Tammie Ellis, sales representative to place your ad. If you haven't received a form to list your business in this section, then call 875-2121 or come by the office and pick up one. * * *

The warm weather has caused the (See AROUND, page 12)