

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, March 18, 1992

## Builders can resume construction on Rockfish school

Hoke County Schools got permission again this week to work on Rockfish Elementary School, whose construction was stopped at an early stage last week.

The building permit was revoked when soil tests showed the site was not suitable for a septic system.

The schools have agreed to buy five or six more acres nearby from the family who gave and sold land for the school site last year, said Superintendent Bill Harrison, making room for its septic system.

"We talked to the Williams family and they're going to sell us some land," he said.

The schools will buy land from Deborah Williams Robinson, Harrison said, though he said negotiations had not begun on price or the exact amount of land.

The agreement with Robinson and a letter from architect Owen Smith landed the school system a 90-day building permit; the schools

have until its expiration to work out all the details of the land deal, he said.

"It's unfortunate that this was a misunderstanding on the part of our architect," the superintendent said. "We should have bought the land that we needed back then rather than waiting until now."



Renee (left) and Teresa Shaw pick up trash that has blown into their mother's yard from the dumpster site across the street.

## Queenmore residents fight dumpsters

Residents in the Queenmore area near North Raeford Fire Department are angry about trash blowing into their yards from a dumpster site across the street.

The county health director said Monday he would send crews to clean up the site and pick up trash that has blown into a field behind neighbors' homes.

But this is not the first time residents say they have gotten angry about the site; they got up a petition around two years ago to have the dumpsters removed.

That petition, residents say, was thrown away or ignored; nothing was done about the dumpsters. Now, some say they are finding rats on their property they suspect come from the dumpsters.

County officials say they never saw the petition and theorized it may have been given to (since ousted) Health Director Bobby Rodgers three years ago.

"We got a fence up, but the trash comes all the way up in here," said Polly Morris, who lives just across from the site. Her

yard and those of her neighbors were littered with foam peanuts, bits of paper, even a dog food can that had blown across Mockingbird Hill Road from the dumpsters.

And blowing trash, especially bad in March winds, is not the only problem.

"A couple of weeks ago they found a dead body out there," Morris said. The smell was terrible, she said, and it gets bad every summer.

(See TRASH, page 10)

## Second primary likely says election official

Voters are likely to have to go through two primaries before they'll know who their two new county commissioners will be, Hoke's elections supervisor said last week.

A new state law goes into effect for the first time in this year's election requiring candidates to get fewer votes (over 40 percent instead of over 50 percent) in order to win an election.

In order to win the May 5 primary, a candidate must get over 40 percent of all votes cast. With two seats open, each voter will be able to cast up to two votes.

But even with the lesser 40 percent requirement, said Elections Supervisor Caroline Shook, a second primary is likely given the large number of candidates in the Democratic primary.

Eleven Democrats have thrown

their hats in the ring for two seats on the county commission; the incumbents, Chairman Wyatt Upchurch and Vice Chairman Neill McPhatter, did not run.

"It's supposed to make it easier for candidates to get elected," Shook said, "and maybe to eliminate second primaries."

"I don't know if it's going to work that way," she said.

In the commissioners' race,

second, third or fourth place finishers will be able to call for a second primary if one or no candidates gets over forty percent of the vote.

If that happens, the second primary will be held June 2, Shook said.

The Democratic Primary will decide the two new commissioners because no Republicans ran.

## 401 widening brings asphalt plant to Hoke

The widening of U.S. 401 from Fayetteville into Hoke will bring an unexpected new business into the county — an asphalt plant.

County Commissioners approved a request to rezone property (on U.S. 401 Business in the Hillcrest area) from residential-agricultural to industrial for the new plant, which will make asphalt for the widening project. They also granted a permit for extraction and asphalt mixing.

Barnhill Contracting Co., which is widening the highway, will build the plant to mix asphalt for the project.

But the plant will be a permanent addition to Hoke County, Barnhill representative Jean P. Berry said at Thurs-

day night's Planning Board meeting.

At a public hearing at that meeting, some neighbors spoke in favor of the plant; none spoke against it.

In other zoning matters, commissioners:

- voted to deny a request from Tony Creed to change property on Ashmont Road from residential-agricultural to highway commercial.

Creed had planned to put an office for a construction company on the property.

Some residents spoke against the change before both the Planning Board and the commissioners, saying they worried about loss of property value.

(See PLANT, page 12)

## Man charged in shooting

A Hoke man was charged with shooting a neighbor twice Monday evening.

Don Tyler of Jackson's Mobile Home Park allegedly shot neighbor Graylon Revels after a dispute, said Mike Underwood, a detective with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

"Don Tyler shot the victim in the leg," Underwood said, "and he was shot again below his stomach area."

Tyler was arrested later that night and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injuries.

Revels was treated, then released yesterday from a hospital.

### Man allegedly robs neighbors at gunpoint

A Hoke County man is charged with robbing his neighbors at gunpoint Saturday night after kicking in their front door.

Tony Jerome Harris, 28, of Route 3, Raeford, was charged with first degree burglary, larceny of a car and two counts armed robbery, Underwood said.

Lucy Dockery, 78, who lives down the road from Harris, awoke along with her son and daughter due to noises at their front door about 11:30 p.m.

Then a man kicked in the door brandishing what appeared to be a rifle or shotgun wrapped in a jacket, Underwood said.

The man said he had just escaped from prison and that he was trying to get to Virginia, Underwood said. The robber told the three to give him money and car keys at gunpoint; they obeyed.

The man ripped the telephone from the wall and fled in Dockery's car with \$80 cash.

Aberdeen police spotted Dockery's car at a store; they arrested Harris as he

(See CRIME, page 5)

## Law changes would control night clubs

Hoke Commissioners agreed Monday night to consider changes to county laws which three officials say will help control Hoke County's night clubs.

Area night clubs are often notorious, weekend scenes of violence, illegal drug use and sales, and loud noise that keeps neighbors awake until 3 or 4 a.m.

Commissioners gave County Attorney Duncan McFadyen the go-ahead to draft changes to the county noise law and a new law to protect club neighbors who have cars belonging to patrons towed away.

"We have met twice about the matter," McFadyen said.

He, District Attorney Jean Powell and Sheriff Wayne Byrd rejected a tax on nightclubs as a possible weapon. That was "not available" according to a source at the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, McFadyen said.

But state lawmakers recently passed a law allowing local authorities to raise fines for noise violations from \$50 to \$500, he said.

Another proposed change to the noise law would extend penalties to drivers of cars with loud stereos.

Often, even after night clubs close or turn down their music, cars with very loud stereos blast the neighborhood, Byrd said.

Another problem caused by Hoke's nightclubs, McFadyen said, is club patrons parking on club neighbors' property.

The group asked the board "to adopt an ordinance allowing landowners to post their land ... to be able to have those vehicles removed from their property" and make club patrons pay for the towing.

McFadyen cited one instance where a child had broken his arm; his parents were unable to take him to the hospital because their driveway was blocked by patrons of a nearby club.

Elisha Dial, owner of the controversial Cousins Club in Antioch, said the proposed law changes would not "solve the problems in the clubs."

"We need preventive measures," he told commissioners.

His club, which was shut down temporarily last year as a public nuisance, needs more protection from the Sheriff's Department, he said.

"The reason people come to Cousins is they know there's no enforcement," he said.

Byrd said Dial can't expect every club to have a deputy on duty outside; he has only three deputies working at night and eight nightclubs in the county to cover.

"I do not have the manpower to do what he's asking," he said.

### New haz mats law

In other business, commissioners (See CLUBS, page 5)

## The Club Scene

Items making the news in the last two years at, or affecting local night clubs.

June 10, 1990

William McGougan, 18, and Darryl Love, 22, Lumber Bridge men, were injured early Saturday morning in a shooting at the Unique Lounge, a Raeford club.

According to one Sheriff's report, Unique Lounge operator Ernest Luckett said "someone had started firing a weapon inside the club and everyone started running out of the club."

July 7, 1990

More than 200 people join in a fray in the Jones Hill area, throwing rocks and bricks at deputies' cars after a 69-year old black man was (See SCENE, page 12)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Summer didn't stay around long. The cold weather came last weekend and it was still around Monday, with the cold wind out of the northwest. Snow fell in the state on Sunday, but I haven't heard of any around this area. The temperatures warmed up some on Tuesday. The rain was needed, but we could use some more.

The forecast calls for rain on Wednesday and Thursday. The temperatures will be in the 60s and the lows at night will be in the 40s. On Friday and Saturday the thermometer will register in the 50s during the day and the lows will be in the 30s.

Spring comes in Friday, March 20. Usually the weather is warmer with the beginning of spring, but Easter is late in April and we usually have some cold weather until after Easter. Anyway the winter hasn't been very bad this year.

I talked with Raz Autry Monday night and he said that the peach crop in Hoke County has been hurt, but it will be a couple of days before the damage can be estimated. Many of the blossoms were killed on some varieties of peaches. Of course the growers like for some of the blossoms to be killed, because this will keep the thinning expenses low.

Raz said the critical period will be in about two weeks. At that time the blossoms will have dropped off and the young peaches will be bare on the trees. If the weather turns cold at that time, it will freeze the peaches and will destroy them.

So let's hope that the cold weather or freezing weather is over for the year and then we can expect peaches like we had last year.

(See AROUND, page 13)