

# The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

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## Judge says House of Raeford must pay \$50,000 in City fines

House of Raeford has lost another battle in its war against the City of Raeford over fines for sewer violations. A superior court judge on Monday ruled the turkey processing company must pay \$50,000 in fines levied against it in 1990 by the City. The judge also ruled House of Raeford must pay court costs.

Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips fined the

company for repeated violations of its waste permits. The company sent stronger effluents than allowed into the City's waste treatment plant on numerous occasions before it rebuilt its pre-treatment facility in 1989.

Because the City was unable to adequately treat the strong waste, the City began violating its state waste permits.

The state placed Raeford under a sewer tap moratorium that meant no businesses could get sewer service if they had decided to build in Raeford.

Even after the waste problem was fixed, the battle dragged out in the courts as House of Raeford refused to pay the fines.

Suits and counter-suits, motions and appeals

have played out in the courts since 1990.

Whether the company will again appeal is not known.

House of Raeford President Marvin Johnson wasn't available for comment this morning but has said on many occasions he has no intentions of paying the fines. Eric Wowra said the company wouldn't yet comment on the decision.



## Rockfish residents might incorporate

Raeford has been Hoke County's only municipality for 91 years, but that may change. A group of Rockfish residents is moving to incorporate.

The move toward incorporation as a city rides on the tide of residents' zoning complaints in recent Planning Board meetings.

"We're looking at the feasibility of incorporating an area that includes Rockfish," Harold Brock said. "A lot of people in Rockfish want to incorporate."

"We've been trying to get information on it," Ervin Beasley said. "We need some control in Rockfish. We don't have any control in Rockfish and it's growing so fast and so big that we don't have a spokesperson to have some control."

Recent requests to rezone some areas in the community from R20 to R15 disturbed residents who said they want to preserve community integrity.

Eddie Brock said Fayetteville's expansion creeps upon Hoke County, and Rockfish residents worry they'll be enveloped.

What some residents consider uncontrolled growth and lax zoning by the county spurred their move for incorporation.

"As far as I'm concerned the zoning is not worth two cents," Beasley said.

"I see Rockfish growing much faster than we'd like to see," Eddie Brock said. "We feel we need to have controlled growth. If we incorporate we feel like we could control it more."

Although Beasley said his community's not exactly "fed up with the county government", it feels neglected.

"It seems like when we go and protest to the County Commissioners there's nothing done about it," he said. "They go ahead and do what they make up their minds to do. We've got to have some part in it."

The County doesn't seem to mind the move. "We have no formal position," County Manager Barry Reed said. "It's for them to decide and it's too

early for us to speculate."

Reed said the area, if incorporated, will probably still ask the County for services and it will cooperate as much as possible.

"There are possible implications for the County," Reed said, "but we can't say what until we know what territory they're specifically talking about. There are good and bad possible implications, depending on what services they want to provide."

One such service discussed by disgruntled residents revolves around police protection.

"We're having more break-ins, so we'd like to have our own police," Eddie Brock said.

"Crime is raging every day," Beasley said. "I feel like if we get our own police department we could get a handle on it. Things are just growing so fast down here."

And the growth probably will continue to accelerate, State Representative Danny DeVane said.

"The eastern part of the county is growing at a tremendous pace," he said. "Their incorporating is not going to stop growth. There's going to be growth regardless of what they do."

For the community to become a city it must present a charter to the legislature for approval. The charter should define what services the city will provide its citizens. But no direct action can be taken until the legislature meets next year.

"The Rockfish issue is probably a divided issue," DeVane said. "They need to look at the benefits and drawbacks. It might just be another tax. They'll have to look at the benefits weighed against the tax."

DeVane recommends the organizers of the community conduct an in-depth study of potential repercussions before making conclusive decisions.

"They need to put the facts on the table and let the people decide," he said.

DeVane said he received phone calls from many residents opposed to the move.

Whatever the outcome, DeVane said he would support "the wishes of the majority of the people."

### Riding in style

They call him "Cadillac" because of the high style in which he drives. David McIntosh doesn't mind the ribbing; he finds his 12-horsepower riding mower plenty sufficient for cruising Raeford's roads. He just added an umbrella instead of air conditioning and a car horn for effect. Now with the flick of one lever he can stop driving and start working.

## The sport of 'paintballing' arrives in Quewhiffle area

Back in a dark corner in Western Hoke County stands a simple wooden edifice, filled with racks of guns. At first glance you may think

you've stumbled upon terrorist headquarters, but when you find a large supply of colored balls, you realize your mistake.

No, it's not a center for war games or Nazis, but a facility housing the newest sport to hit Hoke — paintballing.

Paintballing?

"It's a sport, one of the safest," said Tom Collins, general manager of Renegade Paintball Games Inc. "More people get hurt playing golf or bowling by percentage of people playing than paintballing."

Paintballing?

The sport, according to the four men of RPG — Kris Walker, Steven Kleckner, Tom Collins and Dave Vertress — involves people shooting soap-like "paint" balls at either another person or a target.

The quartet said the sport originated from logging.

"In 1981 it started in the logging country with foresters marking trees," Kleckner said.

The foresters shot paint onto trees with guns. Then, he said, they must have been bored one day and shot one of the other guys. And paintball

(See PAINTBALL, page 14)



Paintballers ease toward each other; one is about to become green.

## Still no medical building

The newly-found home of the Hoke Family Medical Center comes with too high a price tag, said board members and organizers Tuesday night.

The board, after reaching a preliminary compromise two weeks ago with the Hoke County Medical Complex Inc., decided the \$3,500 rent request of the HCMC does not pro-

vide for the new group's expenditures for improvements to the building and will submit a second proposal before signing a lease agreement.

Dr. E. Harvey Estes, representative of the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation and a project organizer, said he met with the North Carolina Office of Rural Health and formed a

new rent proposal.

"I called Younger Snead," he said, "and proposed that the first year we would set the rent at about \$2,000 or between that figure and \$3,500."

"We consider the difference (between their request and ours) to be offset by some of the grant money to be spent in the building."

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## Perot backers change course

The Ross Perot campaign may be dead, but the grass roots movement keeps on breathing — at least in North Carolina.

Former Perot supporters from the region, including Hoke County, met Tuesday at a Fayetteville nightspot to carve a political future for a politically disenfranchised public.

"We decided we're going to hold the organization together," Lawson Bennett said. Bennett, the former coordinator for Hoke, said the Perot fairy tale ended, but the hope for responsible government didn't.

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### Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

Once again the forecasters were wrong about the temperatures dropping into the 80s during the week. The temperatures have been in the 90s and Sunday the temperatures registered in the high 90s. The lows at night have been in the 70s. We have had some rain, but it has been spotty. Every little bit helps, so we shouldn't complain.

The forecast once again calls for the temperatures to be in the 80s during the day Wednesday through Saturday and the lows will be in the low 70s. There is a chance of rain about any afternoon, but the best time seems to be Friday.

The tobacco markets have opened and according to the news in the papers and television the prices are lower than last year.

Maybe the prices will pick up as

the better leaf gets to market.

The lawmakers decided late Saturday night or early Sunday morning that they had done enough damage for this year. The short session turned into a long session because the house and senate couldn't agree on some simple items of the budget and other issues.

Someone said several years ago that the legislature shouldn't be allowed to meet except every 10 years. Maybe this person knows more than most of us.

Last Tuesday morning I attended a breakfast at the Burlington Menswear plant here. The breakfast was given "for some of our community leaders." Those in attendance were served a "first-class" breakfast with all the trimmings. Most of us were

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