

# The News-Journal

The 39th issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, January 6, 1993

## Violence at Civic Center leaves deputy injured, neighbors upset

A Saturday night fracas at the Raeford Civic Center left a deputy with a broken leg, several party-goers frightened and a disgruntled neighborhood.

According to reports by Deputy J.P. Brock of the Hoke Sheriff's Department, Deputy Arnold Wilson was the first to arrive on the scene to investigate reports of gunshots at a private birthday party at the center. Wilson attempted to break-up a scuffle

between party-goers and a group of party-crashers, the report said, when he broke his leg trying to detain a rioter.

Two city police cars and a patrolman also arrived at the party.

A shotgun was fired inside the building, but only minor damage was done. And the officers at one point found themselves surrounded, accord-

ing to the report. Wilson was taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, treated for a broken leg, and one guest reported minor injuries from gun pellets.

One of the party's hosts, Angela McKoy of Raeford, said she was surprised the fights began.

Although McKoy said she heard of the shootings and disturbances at the civic center in recent

months, she was "very shocked" fights occurred at her party.

The 20-year-old host said she tried to prevent a disruptive scene by keeping the birthday party for a friend private.

But her plan didn't work.

A group of uninvited guests tried to crash the (See VIOLENCE, page 9)



Top: Will Scott and William Gibson inside the aging building; Scott is removing light fixtures. Left: Mike Scott removes the building's electrical meter.



## Hillcrest Fire building to be razed for growth

Hoke County's oldest rural fire building is about to be history — in more ways than one.

Hillcrest Fire Department's Highway 401 Business building will be demolished beginning today to make way for a new, larger structure.

Fire Chief Mike McNeill says growth in the eastern part of the County makes it necessary for the department to have more space.

He says a clear-span metal building covering 5,400 square feet will be nearly triple the size of the current concrete block structure.

"We can't buy another truck without a building to put it in," he said.

The department currently has three trucks (and 24 members), but new construction in the Hillcrest district is forcing expansion.

He lists the 801 housing project, a planned 60-house development, possible Air Force housing, and the new East Hoke Middle School.

McNeill says the new building will be capable of housing up to eight trucks if they're ever needed.

The new building should be completed in a few months, he said. In the meantime, the department has moved to quarters on Central Avenue at the intersection of Highway 20.

"Our response time will be about the same," he said, "because we go down Highway 20 to the south end or 401 to the eastern part of the district."

Furnishings were moved over the weekend and trucks were moved last night.

(See HILLCREST, page 5)

## Band prepares to march in Hunt's inaugural parade

Most high school students have never witnessed a gubernatorial inauguration, much less asked to take part in the festivities. But the "Pride of Hoke County," a.k.a. Hoke High School's marching band, was invited to perform at the inauguration of Governor-elect Jim Hunt this weekend.

According to the band's director, Mark Mabe, he's not quite sure how they were picked to perform in the inaugural parade, but he's sure they belong there.

He said he was contacted about a week before the Christmas holidays, so the group hasn't had much practice time.

But that doesn't bother this group

The Pride of Hoke County took 32 trophies at five band competitions this school year.

"I'm excited myself," junior Chris McIntyre said. And his peers echoed that excitement.

"I think it's a pretty good honor," senior Russchelle Hendrix said.

"I just feel privileged being invited to something that prestigious," Jan Hughs said.

Anxious Hoke Countians who can't make it to Raleigh or who prefer the comfort of home to possible chilly temperatures can catch the parade on Public Broadcasting and possibly on NBC around 1 p.m.

The parade is scheduled to last 90 (See BAND, page 12)

## Public gets hearing on annexation

Raeford City Council is about ready to hear from the public concerning plans to annex several outlying areas into the City.

Council scheduled a public hearing for Feb. 1 to hear what citizens have to say about annexing the College Drive-Old Farm Rd. and Shawtown areas.

Meanwhile, City staff continue gathering information to determine the pros and cons of enlarging the City.

For example, City Manager (See ANNEXATION, page 4)

## Radio station forced off air

### Deputies take equipment

Sheriff's deputies cleaned house at Hoke's only radio station last week as the first step in foreclosure proceedings.

Legal representatives of Service Media, Inc. of Dunn issued a notice of hearing prior to foreclosure on gospel radio station, WHIL.

The hearing is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., January 27 in the clerk of Superior Court's office.

According to court records and county tax listing information, the station is owned by Gospel Tabernacle Enterprises, Inc. of Raeford and lists Rev. James Ross as the president.

Sheriff's deputies Chris Fee and David Smith began clearing out the station last week, with a station employee having to leave the air so equipment could be removed. The station's equipment was valued at around \$25,000 for 1991 taxes, but deputies confiscated a large portion of it in 1991 to pay off an \$8,000 debt to Washington Coleman Jr.

Officials are trying to follow the murky trail left by Ross after he defaulted in over \$93,000 in business debts, which precipitated the recent proceedings.

Officials said a shroud of confusion covers the dealings of the station and the reverend, whose whereabouts are in question.

In a September 1992 interview with *The News-Journal*, Ross said he was cleaning up his rather messy act by transferring management and ownership of the scandal-plagued 1400 AM station.

Ross said the Delta Pioneers of Fayetteville would assume the amassed debt of \$85,000 while he prepared to move to Atlanta to join the LoveJoy Outreach Ministry there.

Ross has been involved in numerous fiscal and legal entanglements since coming to Hoke County in 1988 to carry out his ministry; and LoveJoy has popped up as the title listed on bank accounts and churches repeatedly.

In 1988 a judge convicted Ross of writing three worthless checks to Grady Hardin's Grocery and Price-Rite Building Supply. The court ordered him to pay \$962.88 in restitution after pleading guilty to the charges. Ross wrote the checks on a Love-Joy Ministries account. He was also given a 60-day suspended sentence.

In the September interview, Ross told *The News-Journal* he would be leaving his clouded record in Raeford to become an ordained minister and begin an apostleship in November 1992 at the LoveJoy Outreach Ministry in Atlanta, Ga.

Although a LoveJoy Outreach Church in Atlanta exists, *The News-Journal* was unable to contact anyone with the church. Ross was apparently driving an auto registered to LoveJoy Outreach when he was involved in an August accident, but the car was registered to LoveJoy Outreach Church, 1085 E. Central Ave. in Raeford.

Mary Matherly with the Hoke County tax listing office (See STATION, page 5)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

On Monday it felt like summertime with the 70-degree reading on the thermometer. A cold front moved in Tuesday, but all it brought was some rain.

The forecast calls for the temperatures to be in the 50s Wednesday through Saturday. The lows Wednesday through Friday will be in the 40s and on Saturday the low will be in the 30s. There is a chance of rain on Friday and Saturday.

Jackie Kicklighter, who is in charge of the Children's Developmental Center at 202 N. Jackson St., called me last week and she said that she had been trying to get up with me for two weeks. She wants to thank the people of the county for the re-

sponse given for the children's Christmas party.

Jackie said that enough money was donated so that the Civic Center could be rented, refreshments were served and each child was given two gifts.

So, thanks to all the good people who donated and as can be expected, the people of Hoke County will give to a worthy cause.

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I received the following letter last week. It follows:

Dear Sam:  
During the Christmas holidays I saw a video of Raeford in 1937 and then interesting items that happened at later times.

One historical segment was on (See AROUND, page 12)

Band members rehearsing last week