

The News-Journal

The 46th issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, February 24, 1993

Group threatens suit against County if jail doesn't comply

If County officials don't resolve jail overcrowding, they will face a lawsuit.

Representatives of Prison Legal Services said they are prepared to take Hoke to court if it won't make legally-mandated improvements.

Suggested improvements range from providing a small law library and room to exercise, to safety features.

Attorney Michael S. Hamden with PLS said the jail

overcrowding places too much strain on the old building and the prisoners.

"Prisoners reported to me they couldn't shower or if they did it was a cold shower," he said, because the facility lacks adequate plumbing to meet the heavy use.

Chief Jailer Al Schwarchber said he submitted three proposals to the county for plumbing improvements within the last year.

No improvements were made.

"The shower's still a problem," he said.

County Manager Barry Reed said the county fixes plumbing problems as they arise, but a new jail or regional jail may make the replacements moot.

He said the \$13,000 to \$15,000 replacements would cost the county too much if it builds a new jail this summer (an option before the County Commissioners).

"We're not going to ignore the problem," Reed said. "As something occurs, we fix it."

But the continually rising jail population places the need for new jail facilities on the critical list.

"The jail has a rated capacity of 31 and they often have twice that. In terms of what that does to the facility, the building wears out. That has an impact on the quality of life in the jail," Hamden said.

(See JAIL, page 4)



Corie Haskins practices calligraphy. She is one of Hoke County's home school students, whose parents have opted for teaching their children at home instead of sending them to public or private schools.

They take school into own hands, homes

When Jan and Dan Stanley moved to North Carolina from Indianapolis they enrolled their nine-year-old son, Nathan, in private school. A product of the Indianapolis public schools, Nathan couldn't read.

After being told their son needed additional tutoring, the Stanleys decided to take their son's education into their own hands - and home.

The Stanleys are only one of an estimated 6,000 North Carolina families who made the

leap from traditional schools to home school.

This grassroots approach to education isn't new to Hoke County, but it is gaining momentum. "We're very seriously thinking about it," said local prosecutor Mike Schmidt with the District Attorney's office. "I prosecute and I know what can happen in the public schools."

Another parent said her son suffered mental abuse for two and a half years at the hands of his teachers in public school. After at least a year of

"It's not a school at home, it's a lifestyle. You don't just learn between eight and three. Everything's educational." —Harriet Shooter

therapy, she said home school would prevent her son from further harm.

(See HOME SCHOOL, page 10)

Raeford's cable television rates going up again

Cablevision Industries, which provides cable T.V. service to Raeford is raising rates beginning in May. The company says yet another increase may come in 1993 because of new legislation.

CVI General Manager Ted Crane said the company is increasing its

monthly charge for the Expanded Service tier by \$2 to \$11.45. Expanded Service is a 19-channel tier including CNN, EXPN, and USA Network, which is offered in addition to the company's Basic Reception Service.

Starting June 1st, the Expanded

Service Tier will also include The Sci-Fi Channel. Sci-Fi offers science fiction movies, series and original programs. This is a service requested by many in the CVI viewing area, Crane said.

The monthly rate for CVI's Basic Reception Service will remain at its

1992 level of \$11.50. Basic Reception Service, channels 4-13, includes local broadcast stations and the cable superstations WTBS-Atlanta and WGN-Chicago.

Basic Reception Service and the Expanded Service tier, in combination (See CABLE, page 4)

Man charged with shooting half brother

A Hoke County man was shot allegedly by his half-brother on Friday.

According to Sheriff's Detective Wayne Gardner, 29-year-old Bobby Mims and Douglas Thomas went to a local pond off Chisolm Road to relax Friday afternoon.

The two men, and a friend, were drinking beer, Gardner said, when the two men began to argue. Allegedly Thomas pulled out a pistol and shot Mims in the stomach.

Mims was taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and is reported to be in satisfactory condition.

Thomas, 42, was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury. He's being held (See CRIME, page 5)

Sexual abuse four times more frequent

In the three months since December, the number of reported sexual abuse cases of Hoke children nears the total for all of last year's reports, law enforcement officials and social service workers said.

"Sexual abuse is on the rise, either because more are reporting it or it's (incidences) on the rise," Susan Moss said.

Moss serves as the Hoke Department of Social Services social work supervisor.

Moss said in 1990-91 fiscal year, 15 sexual abuse cases were reported compared to the 14 made since December of 1992.

"I think we're seeing an increase in the number of male victims that we investigate," Moss said.

Classically, Moss and her staff said, Hoke's most rampant abuse case as neglect. But they said that trend is shifting to sexual abuse.

Substantiated sexual abuse cases of children rose statewide 14.42 percent from the 1990-91 fiscal year to the 1991-1992 fiscal year, according to the North Carolina Division of Social Services Central Registry Data.

Overall abuse reported statewide rose during the same period 123.08 percent.

(See ABUSE, page 5)

Family's hope fades as child nears death

Seven-year-old Christian Rhodes walked into pre-op at Duke Medical Center playing her keyboard and dancing. Hours later on that October day, she didn't walk out.

Now her keyboard sits idle as she lost most muscle control and she can no longer sing or dance; she can't even walk or speak, except to say a warbled "hi."

"Cricket," as she's known to family and friends, sits propped on pillows as her mother waits eagerly to help her move - they cannot afford the specialized wheelchair for the child. And with Medicare only partially covering medical expenses and no insurance to offset the over \$8,000 in medical bills, Cricket's family can't establish credit to borrow money to purchase her equipment.

"She went into the operating room playing her keyboard that morning and dancing," mother Debbie Manning said. "Everyone knew her at Duke because of her

key-board. She used to be able to do everything with it. Now she just can't get up there at it."

Cricket has so far survived a breech birth, hydrocephalus, several tumors, seizures, pneumonia in both lungs, paralysis of the vocal chords, blood clots, chemotherapy, hearing loss, hormone treatments, and bleeding on the brain.

She missed her first birthday party due to a three and one-half hour grand mal seizure.

Cricket first adopted the keyboard about a year ago, Manning said. She claimed it from her older sister. (See FADES, page 5)



Christian Rhodes

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather goes from one extreme to another. Last Friday the temperature showed a high of 40 degrees.

On Monday the high was in the 70s. There was a thunderstorm early Monday morning and the thunder and lightning was rough for about 45 minutes. If it didn't wake you up, then you are a sound sleeper. I don't know how much rain we had, but it must have been more than a quarter of an inch.

There was snow in the northern and eastern part of the state Saturday. This is the first recorded snowfall in three years. Jacksonville, on the coast, had one inch of snow. We had only rain.

The forecast calls for a cold front to come into the state Tuesday and the mercury will drop in the thermometer. The highs on Wednesday and Thursday will be in the 40s and the lows in the 20s. On Friday and Saturday we will see the

highs in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. There is a chance of rain on Thursday and Friday. So far the winter weather hasn't been too rough.

I found the following note on my desk Monday morning.

Dear Sam:

Just an update on the "Covington Deer." We are diligently contacting artists in regard to the restoration of the deer and are ready to accept contributions toward this endeavor. A bank account has been opened through the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce and gifts may be left at the Chamber or mailed to 101 North Main St., Raeford, NC 28376. Make checks payable to Deer Restoration (tax deductible).

Thanks,
Gladdie Harrison.

If you are interested in the restoration of these deer, then send your check to (See AROUND, page 10)



Open Arms Rest Home resident Mabel Tapp turned 102 last year, but in all her years, she had never seen herself on T.V. That changed when Willard Scott honored her Wednesday on NBC. Watching with her are two of her children, Ebooks and J.D.