

**Your chance
to be heard!**

East Hoke Middle School
Monday, 7 p.m.
Be there.

The News-Journal

The 47th issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, March 3, 1993

Lost golf balls basis for new recycling business coming to town

Did you ever wonder what happened to those golf balls that never quite make it to the hole? Local entrepreneur Doc Scheffler will recycle and sell them in Raeford.

Located at 409 E. Central Ave., Out of the Rough debuted as Hoke's newest business yesterday in a ceremony at the Depot.

Scheffler will hire 10 people immediately for

his business, and he said he plans to expand the number to 30 within three years in light industrial capacities.

He has a five-year lease with the option to buy on his building and said he's "here to stay."

The idea of refurbishing golf balls came from a friend, he said. After his friend encountered other, unrelated problems, he was offered the

purchase of the business. "I thought it made such total sense," he said of recycling golf balls.

A former Army tank operator who served in Korea, Germany and Desert Storm, Scheffler said he found himself an unlikely businessman and transplant North Carolinian.

"In 1979 I joined the Army and I never thought I'd end up in North Carolina. When I got out last

year, I never thought about starting my own business."

The Chicago native currently lives in Fayetteville with his wife, Nanhi, and daughter, Heidi. He said had he known about Raeford a year and one-half ago, he would have moved here instead.

(See GOLF BALLS, page 9)



Enough golf balls to last even the worst golfer for awhile: Doc Scheffler stands with approximately 60,000 ready for recycling in Raeford's newest business.

Ross back on the air

Probably not after today

After about a three-month hiatus, the Rev. James Ross went back on the airwaves last week. But today may see the end of his Raeford radio career. At 10:30 a foreclosure hearing was scheduled for Hoke's only radio station, 1400 AM.

The hearing followed an unending financial battle for Ross' Gospel Tabernacle Enterprises, Inc.

Earlier this year, Hoke Sheriff's Deputies cleared out the gospel station as the first step of foreclosure proceeding. One station employee went off the air so equipment could be removed from the 401 Business site.

According to Sheriff's Sgt. David Smith, Ross borrowed equipment to put his gospel station back on the air after receiving approval from the foreclosers. Smith said the confiscated equipment will go on the auction block on March 13.

A portion of the \$25,000 worth of equipment was removed in 1991 to pay an \$8,000 debt to Washington Coleman Jr.

Ross left Raeford with a trail of over \$93,000 in defaulted business debts.

Officials said they weren't sure of Ross' whereabouts, but Smith said Ross "had been around Raeford" for the past two weeks.

Ross told The News-Journal last September he would move to Georgia to eventually become a T.V. evangelist and ordained minister. Monday Sheriff Wayne Byrd said Ross "got himself a church in South Carolina."

In the fall interview, Ross said a group known as the Delta Pioneers of Fayetteville would assume \$85,000 in debts and would take over management and ownership.

However, the Sheriff's Department's Smith said no such organization could be located in Fayetteville, Raeford, Southern Pines, or the surrounding area.

In the fall interview, Ross said a husband and wife team would take over the church services at the station.

Odessa Copeland said she and her husband, Pastor Alvin Copeland, initially planned to take over the station in a lease to own agreement, but too much "red tape" changed their minds.

(See RADIO, page 9)

Citizens to speak their minds Monday

Hoke leaders hope citizens will get involved in the grass-roots effort to map out Hoke's future.

Monday, the newly-formed strategic planning steering committee will host a public forum at East Hoke Middle School at 7 p.m.

Committee president Kay Thomas said she hopes people will show up and get involved in forming a blueprint for Hoke development.

"The forum is an opportunity for people to

initiate topics of discussion," she said. The committee will then use the most common topics as a base for setting developmental goals.

Thomas stressed the goals will be realistically attainable.

"The purpose is to give citizens the opportunity to contribute their ideas and concerns for a plan for the future," she said.

She said the forum should encourage the aver-

"This provides the opportunity for Hoke County to act, and not react." — Kay Thomas

age citizen — who usually "don't have a voice" in public policy — to express their views. (See INPUT, page 5)



Jackie Lynch

Kiwanis club admits first woman

She sees herself as "just another Raeford Kiwanian." For the first time, the traditionally male organization admitted a female member: Jackie Lynch.

With an unanimous vote by the organization's board, Lynch made Hoke history as the club moves into the 1990s. The civically-minded service organi-

zation nationally approved the admittance of females to clubs' rosters a few years ago, members said, but left the decision ultimately with individual clubs.

A long-time participant in public service projects such as Share Your Christmas, Lynch said she joined the Kiwanis Club because she supports their mission

100 percent. "Everything they're involved in benefits Hoke County so much, especially their work with kids."

Lynch said the club's focus on helping children primarily motivated her to join. "Anything that works with kids, I love to get involved."

(See FIRST LADY, page 12)



Derby winner: Toby Johnson, second place winner in the local Cub Scout Pinewood Derby, is about to place his car beside his competition last Thursday. Overall winner was Ryan Bullock; third place winner was David Jacobs. Seventeen boys from Cub Scout Pack 404 entered the race at Raeford United Methodist Church.

Mammoth trash collection planned

You've got one last chance! If you live in Raeford and have garbage, trash, junk — you name it — you have one last chance to get rid of it painlessly.

As the City prepares to end an era of burying mounds of garbage in the local landfill, it's going to make one mammoth collection next week to help residents get rid

of old things such as refrigerators, furniture, stoves, washers and dryers.

Haven't known what to do with paint? How about used oil?

Mike McNeill, director of public works, says March 8-13 the City will try to make arrangements to remove whatever remains. (See TRASH, page 8)

Red Springs wants local phone service to Raeford

Local telephone service to Red Springs? Red Springs wants it. And Raeford City Council went on record Monday night endorsing the idea, and the idea of putting the question to voters.

In a letter from George Paris, mayor of Red Springs, Council was asked to support the idea saying there are 575 Hoke County residents who are on the Red Springs 8-4-3 exchange. They currently pay long distance charges if they phone Raeford. The letter also said 34 percent of Hoke subscribers phone Red Springs at least once a month.

If local service is approved, residential customers on the 8-7-5 exchange (See PHONES, page 8)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

We missed the snow, but we did have ice on the trees, fences, cars, etc. last Friday. The roads stayed clear, so school and other businesses were able to operate that day. It was cold and didn't get out of the 30s all day. It was also cold Saturday and Sunday, but the wind had died down and the sun was shining, so it didn't feel as cold. On Monday and Tuesday the temperatures were in the high 50s and low 60s. March came in like a lamb.

The forecast calls for the high on Wednesday to be in the 60s and the low will be in the 40s. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday we will see the highs in the 50s and the lows in the 30s. There will be rain starting on Wednesday and stopping Friday morning.

Robert Gatlin called Monday night and he asked me if I knew what hap-

pened 66 years ago today? I said no. He said that on March 1 and 2, 1927, there were 27 inches of snow on the ground in Raeford. After he said that, I did remember.

Last Wednesday afternoon I attended the funeral of Mrs. Kathryn Campbell McCall in Laurel Hill. We were classmates at Raeford High School and we graduated in the Class of 1935. I had seen her several times over the past 58 years at funerals and at our class reunions. It amazes me at how few the times were that our paths had crossed since graduation, living just a few miles apart.

Kathryn was killed in an automobile wreck on US74 in Laurel Hill. She had been to see someone from her church who had just returned from the hospital. You don't realize what old friends have (See AROUND, page 12)