

# The News-Journal

The 51st issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, March 31, 1993

## Public hearing on proposed annexation by City is Monday

On April 5, Thomasfield and Shawtown residents can tell the City Council whether they want to be adopted by the City of Raeford.

Next Monday night, city officials will hold a public hearing at City Hall on the annexation of those two areas into Raeford City limits.

The proposed annexation came on the heels of the 1990 Census. After the Census, Raeford lost

funding from several sources after state-estimated figures were adjusted to more accurately reflect Raeford's smaller population.

The previous funding figure estimated Raeford's population at 4,397, almost 1,000 people more than actually live in the area. With fewer people, less money is available.

Raeford proposes to bring 651 new residents

under its wing, with 248 homes, 397.5 acres on 362 parcels with an assessed value of \$16,268,410.

City Manager Tom Phillips said residents within the proposed annexation boundaries can expect things to be "just wonderful."

The City will extend fire and police protection to these areas, decreasing residents' fire insur-

ance premiums by about one third, Phillips said.

"They'll have more intensified police protection," Phillips said since the City has more patrolmen per person, compared with the county.

The City will also unburden prospective residents from their solid waste woes.

As the County scurries to make plans to handle (See ANNEXATION, page 4)



Hoke Rescue Squad and EMS workers aid Karl R. Rice (top), 51, of Lumberton after an auto accident Thursday on Shannon Rd. His car collided with another driven by Angel S. Rios of Red Springs when Rios allegedly ran a stop sign. At left, Rios aids his wife, Tammy, before she was taken to a hospital.

## Two killed, others injured in accidents

Auto accidents last week killed two and seriously injured several others in Hoke County.

The State Highway Patrol charged Veronica Sweeney, 30, of Highland Village Mobile Home Park in Laurinburg with death by vehicle after her one and one-half month old daughter died at Duffie Road and Old Maxton Road Friday night.

Trooper E.D. Pender said Sweeney registered a .10 on an alcohol breath test and was charged with death of her daughter, Robin Mack.

Sweeney's car overturned into a ditch full of water as she tried to stop at the intersection. Sweeney and three of her other children were able to get out of the car.

In an accident early Sunday morn-

ing, Curtis Van Allen Ray, 27, of Hillcrest Mobile Home Park died when the car he was driving went off the left side of Hobson Road and struck a tree.

Passengers James Evans, 27, of Fayetteville and Carl Delk, 24, of Lumber Bridge were taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.

Four people were seriously injured Thursday in a two-car collision at Shannon Rd. and State Road 1436.

Highway Patrol Trooper K.W. Weston charged Angel S. Rios of Red Springs with a stop sign violation in the 2:15 p.m. accident that injured Rios' wife Tammy. (See ACCIDENTS, page 4)

## McLaughlin hospitalized

### Commission chairman suffers second heart attack in one year

The chairman of the Hoke Board of Commissioners suffered a heart attack Sunday and is reported in serious condition at Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst.

L.E. McLaughlin, 70, reportedly suffered his second heart attack within a year's time.

Gary Greene with Moore Regional Hospital said McLaughlin was in serious condition this morning and is going into his fourth day in intensive care.

Neither hospital representatives nor family members would elaborate on what triggered the heart attack.

County Manager Barry Reed said doctors performed a catheterization procedure to determine what level of blockage McLaughlin's suffering, and found 90 percent blockage or better in three arteries.

Reed said doctors probably will decide at the end of the week whether to do a by-pass surgery or perform a balloon surgery.

But while he's waiting, Reed said McLaughlin appears to be in good spirits, and no longer appeared to be suffering the pain of the attack. How long recuperation will take remains uncertain, Reed said. After doctors determine which surgical procedure to use, they will have a better idea how long recovery will take.

Last fall McLaughlin suffered a heart attack and a stroke within a week's time. According to McLaughlin's grandson, Lawrence Gilchrist, the mild stroke was caused by a blood clot.

While McLaughlin is recuperating, Reed said, Vice-Chairman Riley Jordan will step in as acting chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Monday's morning meeting.

As for county business, Reed said he anticipates no problems as a result of McLaughlin's condition.

"We'll go forward with Monday's meeting. We'll continue to function, just like we did after his heart attack last year and just like we did after (former Chairman) Wyatt Upchurch's heart attack."

## Company that will burn Hoke's trash gets necessary permit

Hoke County's trash moved one step closer to becoming fuel for the Du Pont plant in Fayetteville.

VEDCO Energy Corporation of Houston, Tx. received an air permit for a facility that will use trash for fuel.

"We've overcome a major hurdle," County Manager Barry Reed said of the approval. "Skeptics said we would never get an air permit."

The corporation, under a tri-

county agreement, will begin construction of a cogeneration facility in 1993 and will use trash from Hoke, Bladen and Cumberland counties to provide steam power for Du Pont.

The three counties signed a 21-year contract last year to form the BCH Energy project and expect to open the facility in the first quarter of 1995.

(See GARBAGE, page 6)

## Families soon to occupy 801 homes

Fort Bragg officials hope to start moving low-ranking military families into the newly constructed 801 housing unit by mid-April.

The move will begin if the project receives final approval to end the first of 17 phases at the development.

Spokesman Mike Ackerman, director of housing at Fort Bragg, said the first phase involves the opening of 16 homes.

He projects completion of the final phase by mid-August.

"Hopefully we'll have all the families moved in by the end of the year."

The 250-unit site of two- and four-bedroom houses is located off Rockfish road in the eastern part of the county.

He said 178 two-bedroom homes and 37 four-bedroom homes will be assigned to pay ranks E-4 through E-6. Thirty-five four-bedroom units will be assigned to E-7 through E-9.

Originally the Heritage Place Development, or 801, was slated to house military personnel of pay rank E-1 through E-9. But after concern arose for the junior enlisted personnel, the housing department decided to re-allocate the housing to pay ranks of E-4 and above.

The re-allocation, Ackerman said, stemmed from a concern for the junior enlisted person's ability to make the commute to the base without leaving family members without transportation.

"We're more concerned about the

junior enlisted that maybe only have one car," he said.

Ackerman said by reallocating the housing, the lower-ranking personnel will have less expense and will be located on post.

"I think it's feasible," he said. And so do county officials.

"The higher the disposable income, the more potential money is spent locally," County Manager Barry Reed said.

County officials predicted at last year's groundbreaking ceremonies that the project will add \$15 million to Hoke County's tax base, generating \$108,000 in tax revenue per fiscal year.

Commissioners also estimated the (See 801, page 6)

## Three sentenced for indecent liberties charges

One Hoke County man was sentenced to 80 years in prison for three counts of second degree sexual offense and two counts of taking indecent liberties with children. His father was given a 10 year suspended jail term for an indecent liberties charge. And another man was given a 30 year suspended term for three counts of taking indecent liberties with a child.

Donald Greg Wilson, 31, of Route 5, Raeford was given 80 years in prison plus a 40-year suspended jail term to follow the 80 year term, and five years proba- (See COURT, page 6)

## Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather has been like spring for the past week. The highs have been in the 60s and 70s and the lows at night in the 40s and 50s. The thunderstorm last Wednesday night was certainly like spring. We are getting the rain in March that usually comes in April. Let's hope that it will stop so that the farmers can get into their fields.

The forecast calls for the temperatures on Wednesday and Thursday to have highs in the 70s and the lows in the low 50s or high 40s. On Friday and Saturday we will see the thermometer drop and the highs for both days will be in the 60s and the low will be in the low 40s or high 30s. There is a chance of rain on Thursday and Friday.

The warm weather has brought forth the blossoms on the peach trees. Let's hope the cold weather is gone and that

we will have a peach crop this year.

Recently a story ran in *The News-Journal* about the illness of Cricket Rhodes. She is in need of medical treatment and the costs for these treatments are tremendous. The family of Cricket states that the people of Hoke County have truly been an inspiration to them. They thank people for their kindness and generosity.

"Friends of Cricket" are sponsoring a Turkey Dinner Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. in the Edinborough Shopping Center. These plates will be \$5.00 and they will be taken out only. Proceeds will go to the medical fund.

If you haven't had a chance to help this young lady, now is a good time to do so. The dinner is worth \$5.00, but think of the thrill that will come to you if the medical aid to Cricket will bring forth a (See AROUND, page 7)