

The News-Journal

Inside
Annual Business
and Industry
Directory

The 52nd issue of our 84th year

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, April 7, 1993

Impasse pulls Hoke into lawsuit over jail conditions

Prison Legal Services filed a class action suit this week in federal court against Hoke County for jail inadequacies.

PLS attorney Michael Hamden said despite warnings, Hoke's snail's pace in resolving jail overcrowding and staffing shortages led the organization to file a civil lawsuit on behalf of Hoke prisoners.

Hamden declined to comment on which three pris-

oners' names appear on the case, but said overcrowding and staff shortages led to PLS' decision.

Hoke Sheriff Wayne Byrd said the county could have avoided the lawsuit, but it's too late.

"I regret it has gone this far, that the county has to be sued and made to do something it can't afford to do," he said.

"It's time for the county commissioners to do more

than make a good faith effort at tax time."

Byrd asked the Hoke Commissioners for more staff and jail improvements in the past with no success, and Hamden earlier said his efforts delayed the suit.

But now with what Hamden described as an impasse with the county, PLS felt compelled to file suit.

"There's a really good sheriff and an excellent jail administrator, and they just do not have the resources.

It's come to an impasse. Maybe this will help break the logjam."

Hamden said the jail conditions have violated former inmates' rights, and will continue to violate rights until something is done.

In an ominous address to the Commission at Monday's meeting, Sheriff Byrd warned of the costs (See JAIL, page 4)



There were no seats left in the room as a crowd appeared for Raeford City Council's hearing on the possible annexation of several outlying areas. Here, Avery Connell speaks to councilmen.

Crowd tells Council city has nothing to offer

Seventy-five people crowded Raeford City Council's chambers Monday night, most to object to Council's plans to bring them into the City.

"You really don't have anything to offer us," was what one man said, and it seemed to be the

refrain for the evening. Another objection was the assertion that Council didn't seem to be listening to the citizens.

Council is considering the annexation of three general areas — Thomasfield and College Drive on the westside, Shawtown and a small

area off Prospect Ave. on the east side, and a small tract of land behind Andy Anderson Mobile Homes.

Monday's public hearing was required by law before Council could proceed.

The crowd first listened to a 30-

minute explanation of the annexation procedures and a list of benefits they'd receive as residents of Raeford. Then, local real estate agent Avery Connell was first to speak: "Your estimation of savings is hogwash," he said. "It'll cost me four hundred and ninety-six dol-

lars more a year, and I'll get nothing in return. I'm against it one hundred percent," he said.

A Shawtown resident said people in his area already lobbied for and received from other sources such typical city amenities (See CITY, page 6)

Reed quits post

County manager takes new job

During an executive session of the Hoke Board of Commissioners Monday, County Manager Barry Reed submitted a letter of resignation effective April 30.

Person County already hired Reed, who will fill their county manager position May 3.

Describing the move as a career advancement, Reed leaves Hoke after nearly four years as Hoke's top administrator.



Barry Reed

In a letter dated April 2, Reed states the decision was "extremely difficult and emotional."

Due to what he described as divergent philosophies of county government, Reed said he and the Board differ on the format of a county manager form of government.

"I think the direction the board wants to go is incompatible with what I as a person and I as a county manager believe in," he told *The News-Journal* Monday.

"I think the Board wants to violate what a county-manager form of government is about. It creates a professional problem for me — my choice is in response to that."

Reed said a year ago he would "never have dreamed of leaving," but in light of changes in personnel policy and the budget process which occurred under the new Board, he's looking forward to the move.

During the Monday morning Commissioners' meeting, the Board approved a new way of handling the budget process, essentially by-passing the old method of (See MANAGER, page 5)



Hoke Sheriff's deputies interrupted Ross Friday as he tried to make arrangements to take down the station's tower.

Ross claims tower FCC to investigate station's status

The building housing Hoke's only radio station and the surrounding property may have been auctioned last Wednesday, but the former owner, the Rev. James Ross said the tower still belongs to him, and he began steps Friday to claim the tower.

Meanwhile, the Federal Communications Commission said it

will send a team to Raeford to investigate the status of the station and how its period "since it went dark," or off the air, is being handled.

On Friday Hoke Sheriff's Deputies interrupted Ross and a crane company representative from Raleigh in estimating removal prices (See STATION, page 10)

School Board shifts principals for next year

Hoke School officials shifted three more principalships around for the upcoming school year last night.

Jack Burgess of West Hoke Middle School requested a transfer to an elementary school position, Superintendent Bill Harrison said.

Next fall Burgess will take over as McLauchlin Elementary's principal, with current principal Linda Steed switching roles to secondary instructor and media coordinator.

The West Hoke Middle School principalship will be filled by Glen Langdon, who is currently media supervisor, teacher center director

and a key overseer of curriculum.

Board member Charlotte Kelly opposed Langdon's appointment with no offer of explanation.

At last month's board meeting, South Hoke Elementary's Hank Richards won the coveted principalship of the newly-approved year-round school to be housed at Upchurch Elementary. Harrison said he's received several applications to fill the vacated South Hoke position, but no decisions have yet been made. Harrison said the switch of principals were to make them more comfortable in their positions. The changes take effect July 1.

Western residents say phone plan leaves them ostracized

Some western residents of Hoke County say once again, they feel like the unwanted stepchild.

The Hoke County Commissioners, following the lead of Raeford City Council, recently supported the addition of the Red Springs phone exchange onto the Raeford-Fayetteville system. While south Hoke would no longer pay long distance rates to call the county seat, western Hoke residents would continue to be charged long-distance rates.

And many say it's not fair.

"It doesn't make sense to ostracize part of your county," McCain resident Sally Hopkinson said.

Western residents often complain the county ignores their needs until tax time.

"I think they've forgotten western Hoke County even exists until its time to send out the tax notices, then they don't have trouble finding us," Ruth Green said. Green, who lives in the McCain area, said her area does not receive Hoke area cable, water, or sewage and that local government brings basic services at a painfully slow pace.

County Manager Barry Reed said the county tried to add the Hoke Aberdeen customers onto the Raeford exchange, but to no avail. (See PHONES, page 16)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather was nice over the week end, but Monday was another story

The rain came in after 6 a.m. and with the wind the 40-degree weather felt like the low 30s.

The rain ended Tuesday and the temperatures began to rise.

We have had enough rain for this time of year. The fields are almost impossible to work. Let's hope it doesn't freeze.

The forecast calls for the temperatures Wednesday and Thursday to have highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. On Friday and Saturday the readings will have highs in the 70s and the lows in the 50s. There is a chance of rain on Saturday.

The warm weather last week has most of the peach trees in bloom. If the freezing weather will hold off

for a couple of weeks, we should have plenty of peaches this year.

Two deaths over the past two weeks caught my attention. One was Mrs. Mable Tapp, who was 102 years of age. She had come to this county in the early 1900s when tobacco was first being grown here. Not many people live to be this old.

The other was Bootsie Barrington who was in high school with me. She finished the year after me, but in a school where there were only about 50 to a class, and everyone knew all the people in the high school. She was a nurse for many years here in Raeford. A remark made at her funeral was that she and Dr. R. A. Matheson had at one time delivered about 50 percent of the babies in the county. That was when most babies were delivered in the home.

(See AROUND, page 16)