

The News-Journal

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RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

25 CENTS

Wednesday, April 28, 1993

Commissioners accused of meddling in hiring

Hoke County Commissioners will soon get a directive from their attorney advising them to abide by personnel policy. That's the word from a commissioner who is the latest to be accused of violating it. James Leach said County Attorney Duncan

McFadyen told him he and other commissioners would be receiving "a copy of the rules or something" following a second controversy over commissioners' involvement in hiring and firing.

In the latest incident, two sources, who spoke on

condition of anonymity, said Leach breached county policy and ethics by trying to influence the hiring of an inspector.

They said Leach went to Linda Revels, an inspection department employee, and left her with the im-

pression County Planner Karen Burd may lose her job if she didn't hire "the right person" for the inspector position.

Leach said he never intimidated, intentionally or (See HIRING, page 5)



When firemen arrived, the depot was already engulfed in flames and sending sparks and flaming debris over other downtown buildings. The fire was so hot, cross ties of the adjacent railroad track caught fire.

Building believed oldest in town destroyed by arsonist

Fire turned one of Hoke's oldest buildings into a memory on Saturday.

Flames engulfed the original wooden depot this weekend destroying what some say was the oldest building in the town.

Raeford Police Detective Lloyd Leazer said the State Bureau of Investigation determined the fire was the work of an arsonist.

Police are offering a \$500 reward for information on the case. The long leaf pine structure, es-

timated built between 1895-97 according to Hoke sources, linked the area to the rest of the world before the automobile gained headway.

State Representative Danny DeVane purchased the building

about three years ago and planned to refurbish it as a Hoke landmark.

DeVane said it was a "sad, sad occasion" as he stood in the alley adjacent to Main Street and watched the old building burn.

"When I got here, it was fully in

flames," he said. "It sounded like fireworks going off."

Ironically DeVane, a volunteer fireman, kept the trash and undergrowth cleaned out under and around the building to prevent an accidental fire from destroying the

building. But he left his fire pager in his truck that night, and received a phone call about his building.

He stood aghast, he said, as he watched the newly restored deck and steps turn to ashes.

(See FIRE, page 4)



Duncan McFadyen with Charlie Hostetler (right).



Neill McFadyen with plaque from Friday meeting.

Democrats honor former legislators

Hoke Democrats filled the gym at West Hoke Middle School Friday night to reminisce about two former N.C. legislators and talk politics.

Charles Hostetler and Neill McFadyen were honored as local and state leaders lauded their service in the General Assembly three decades ago.

Rep. Dan Blue, speaker of the N.C. House, said the pair helped mold the state, and Hoke, for the future.

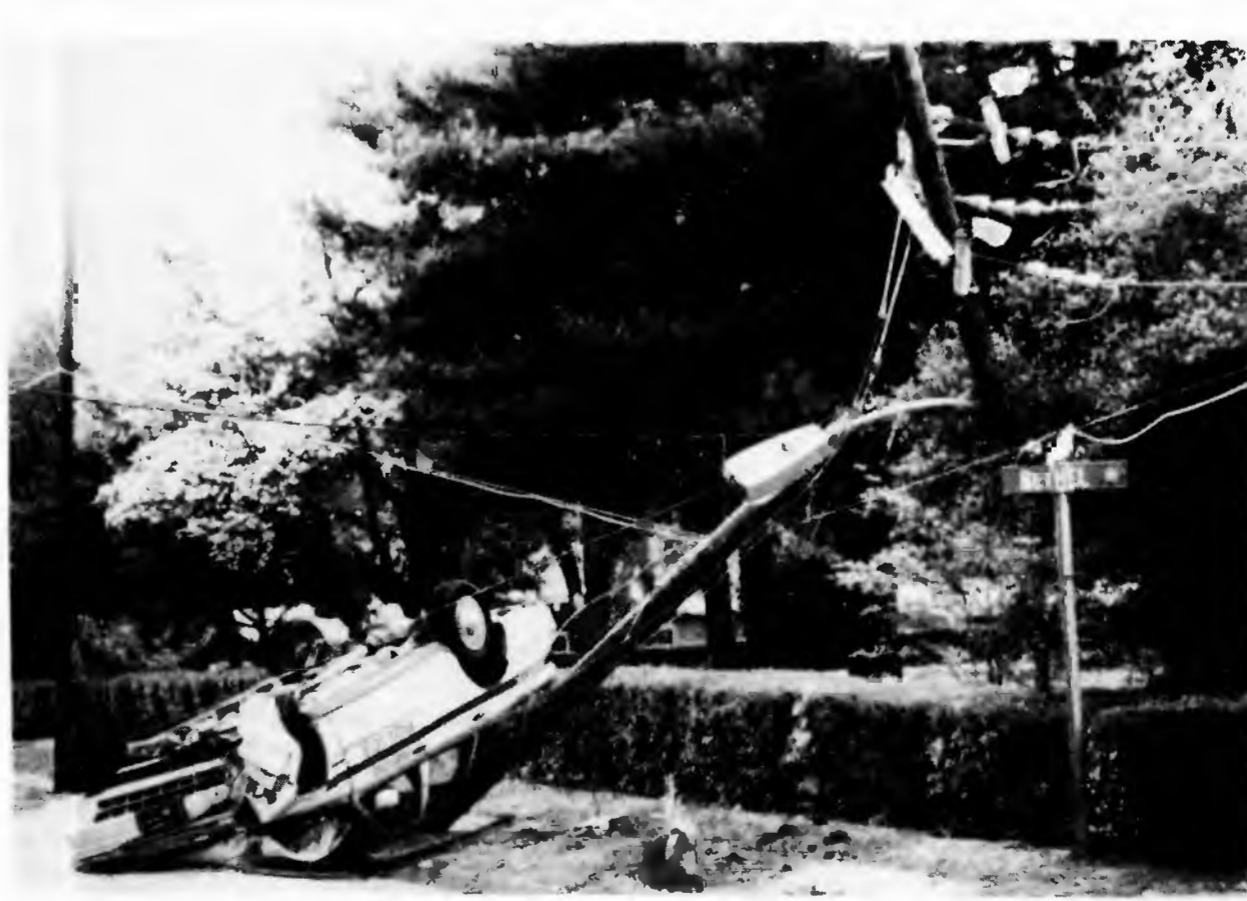
"As they set the target for the kind of state we ought to be-

described as gracious and thoughtful leaders by their friends and peers, the pair moved the county forward on several issues such as

education and the community. "They set the state on the path that sets it now to move on to greatness," Blue told the throng.

Both men were very active on several campaigns as well as participating in their respective churches and the Raeford-Hoke community.

Described as gracious and thoughtful leaders by their friends and peers, the pair moved the county forward on several issues such as (See DEMOCRATS, page 5)



Raeford Police Officer Robert E. Reaves, 23, was only slightly hurt in this accident early Friday morning on Prospect

Officer slightly hurt in accident

A Raeford Police officer escaped serious injury early Friday morning when the police cruiser he was driving struck a utility pole on Prospect Avenue.

Robert E. Reaves, 23, was driving east on Prospect at about 5 a.m., according to a report by investigat-

ing Highway patrolman K.W. Weston, when the accident happened. Weston reported Reaves told him he felt the vehicle pull to the right. The car struck a pole at Prospect and Bethel knocking it into several sections and knocking power out in several sections of

Raeford. Reaves escaped, though the car, which landed upside down, was wrapped in live power lines.

Weston said the pole was only a foot from the roadway. He did not file charges.

Damages to the car, a 1993 Ford, were estimated at \$12,000.

Youths charged with break-ins

Raeford City Police, in conjunction with the Hoke Sheriff's Department, arrested and charged three local teens with several break-ins.

Police Det. Lloyd Leazer said police arrested Harold Teal, 18, Tripp Cox, 17, and Robert Williams, 18, and charged each with 13 counts of breaking and entering of motor vehicles in the area, felony offenses. The teens also received charges of misdemeanor larceny.

Allegedly, the boys broke into several cars in January, from homes (See CRIME, page 4)

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The weather over the weekend was perfect. The temperatures were in the 80s during the day and the lows at night were in the 50s and 60s. A cold front moved through on Monday and it brought with it some rain, but not enough to soak the fields again. The temperatures dropped some, but it didn't get anywhere near freezing.

The forecast calls for the temperatures Wednesday through Saturday to have highs in the 70s and (See AROUND, page 12)