

SPORTS



Sponsors needed
Sponsors are needed for the Hoke County Amateur Athletic Union basketball teams. Contact Rodney Fairley at 875-9221 or 476-1499; or email The News-Journal Sports Dept. at sports@thenews-journal.com. See the related story on page 6A.

Victorian home engulfed by flames

Main Street landmark gone

By VICTORIANA SUMMERS
AND
PAT ALLEN WILSON

A Raeford residential landmark is ruined, but no loss of life occurred. The Victorian-style home of James and Florence Weaver on North Main Street was destroyed after an early morning fire swept through it at around 9:15 a.m. today. Towering billows of smoke and flickering flames rapidly engulfed the stately, two-story home with its Victorian tower at one end of the wrap-around veranda. Only a shell of the wood-frame structure remained.

The Weavers were rescued by firefighters from Raeford and North Raeford fire departments and Raeford police. Initial reports indicated a loss of life was possible, but tragedy was averted by a quick response from fire fighting teams.

The Weavers escaped from the home along with another household member who was shaken. It is unknown if there were any other occupants at this time. The status on injuries is also unknown. The couple, who were alert, were placed on stretchers and treated at the scene by medical technicians prior to being transported

to an area hospital.

The intense blaze produced clouds of smoke seen throughout town. As firefighters entered the residence, flames crackled loudly as electrical wires in contact with the fire popped overhead. Firefighters climbed ladders, entering the second-story balcony to fight the fire.

A black Labrador retriever dog dashed around the yard with a twig in his mouth as Raeford residents gathered around the block to witness the spectacle.

The Weavers reside next door to Raeford Attorney Gregory Thompson, but his home did not appear to be in the path of the fire.

Among assisting agencies, were the Raeford Police Department, the N.C. Highway Patrol, the Sheriff's Office, EMSFirst Health of the Carolinas and the Fire Marshal's office.

History

Raeford historian Luke McNeill said the home is one of the earliest built in Raeford. "I was born in 1927 and it existed then," he said.

McNeill remembers the dwelling when it was the home of Hugh Archie and Florrie Upchurch Cameron. "As we grew up, there were five children in that family. They had built a summer room outside. We were forever



Florence Weaver is treated in front of her blazing home on North Main Street by a medical technician.

having get-togethers for young people out there."

McNeill said youngsters played football in the large front yard when he was growing up.

Unknown are where the Weavers

clan of approximately 15 Manx cats could be, or if they perished in the home and were unable to escape. Their tiny Chihuahua-mix dog attempted to scamper back into the burning home, but was rescued by a fireman.

Parks & Rec standings

Novice League (ages 7-9)

End-of-season standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Lakers	8	1
Bucks	7	2
Heat	5	4
Sixers	5	4
Magic	4	5
Nets	4	5
Mavericks	2	7
Hornets	1	8

Midget League (ages 10-12)

End-of-season standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Nets	8	0
Lakers	7	1
Magic	4	4
T-Wolves	4	4
Celtics	3	5
Knicks	3	5
Clippers	2	5
Kings	1	7

Standings compiled by Hal Num

Parks & Rec offers activities for youth

Sponsorship

Parks & Rec is beginning a new season of baseball/softball. In order to make this the best season, sponsors (individuals or businesses) are being sought.

The sponsorship fee will be \$150. Call 875-4035 and help make the program a success.

Youth officials

If you are interested in officiating during the Youth Baseball/Softball season, call 875-4035. Training will be provided.

Senior Bowling

Seniors continue to enjoy bowling at B&B Lanes in Fayetteville every Thursday. Call Patricia Graham at 875-4035 on Tuesdays before 12 p.m.

Food Lion

(Continued from page 2A)

"It will allow us to serve an expanded area," Wood said. "It will be a great thing to embrace further development."

"We would be opening the entire quadrant or intersection. From the estimated budget, we think this is opening up a great deal of land for the money."

Wood said a lift station will be installed to accommodate the sewer needs of East Hoke Middle and the shopping plaza. It will replace the lift station currently being used by the school. The station pumps to Scurlock Elementary School on Rockfish Road and back to the Raeford waste water treatment facility. The new lift station will provide a greater capacity for the schools and business expansion, he added.

The engineering plans will be completed by The Wooten Company, engineering firm for the City of Raeford. Approximately \$38,000 for the plans will be withdrawn from the county's water and sewer fund for the project along with the nearly \$300,000 later required to extend the sewer lines.

"We estimated with the gravity flow that it will provide sewer for 400 feet on U.S. 401 Bypass," Wood said. "It will provide 5,000 more feet on U.S. 401 Business and on up U.S. 401 North an additional 1,800 feet will be available for sewer."

Hoke Landing, also to feature a Mi Casita Mexican restaurant and other retail stores, will be located on 14.4 acres. It will encompass the east side of U.S. 401 at the intersection of highway 401 and Club Pond Road.

Fayetteville developer Joe Riddle III of Riddle Commercial Properties plans to exercise an option he acquired to purchase the land from Hoke resident William McNeill. Raeford real estate broker Buddy Blue was instrumental in arranging the pending sale.

"We have been planning to build this shopping center for three years," Riddle said. "I am finally at the finish line."

"Forty-seven thousand square feet

is the initial phase. It will be a nice center — one of the nicer projects in Hoke County."

Riddle announced last week his intentions to possibly construct a Golden Corral restaurant in the second phase on an out-parcel if a drug store chain does not build on it. He reiterated his plans Monday night.

According to Riddle, preliminary work on the shopping center could begin as early as April with October, 2003 as the anticipated completion date.

Commission Chairman Bobby Wright and other commissioners welcomed Riddle's commitment to the Hoke community.

"We are certainly glad to have you come to Hoke County and provide this shopping center," Wright said. "If we can help you speed it up, let us know."

Commission Vice Chairman Charles V. Daniels and Wright also thanked Raeford City Manager Mike Wood for his expertise.

"It is nice to have a working relationship with Mike (McNeill) and the city," Wright said.

The board also commended other city officials for all of their cooperation on the project.

McNeill told the board that the project is feasible because of a sewer capacity agreement signed previously by the county with the city. He said Riddle's shopping plaza — using only a fraction of sewer pumping capability available — could be easily accommodated. About one million gallons of capacity a day is currently reserved for the county's use, McNeill said.

In other discussions, commissioners:

- Approved a fixed-asset policy to monitor purchases and inventory of equipment owned by the county. Commissioner Bill Cameron praised Hoke Finance Director Scott Edwards for his "thoroughness" in preparing the new procedures. The policy is intended to keep better track of county computers, furniture and other items,

according to Edwards.

- Closed out the Silver City sewer project after a public hearing was held during the meeting. Vance McGougan, engineer with Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates in Southern Pines, said the \$850,000 project successfully provided sewer infrastructure for 140 homes that supplied 271 people in the low to moderate income housing area with sewer.

- The total construction of the project cost \$1 million and was paid for through a community development block grant. The county provided \$591,000 for the project in local, matching funds.

- Approved budget workshops for April 14 and 15 at 8 a.m. to discuss the budget preparation for the upcoming 2003 fiscal year which begins July 1. These all-day sessions are open to the public in the commissioners' assembly room.

- Approved seeking a grant from the state Department of Transportation to help construct a Hoke Area Transit building next to the Depart-

ment of Social Services where the county's transportation vans will be parked. The proposed building will include a 30 by 40 square-foot, wood frame building and parking to accommodate 48 vehicles.

DSS is administering the HATS program directly, providing rural transportation and assistance for senior citizens to commute to doctor's appointments and other necessary trips around the county.

- Heard a request from Rockfish resident Renate Dahlin to consider policies to prevent citizens from dumping trash in illegal areas or around private homes. No action was taken.

- Considered a presentation by computer programmer Mike Smith from Logan Systems, Inc., proposing to install a new computer system for the Register of Deeds office. The system would include making deed information available via the Internet. The board will reach a decision on whether to contract with Logan at the first meeting it holds in April.

Martin

(Continued from page 2A)

United Nations to help justify war on the basis of Iraq's failure to abide by United Nations resolutions.

It is not about disarmament. It is

about oil and the use of oil money to endanger the United States. After this war with Iraq is over, after that country is disarmed, and after the President is sure that Iraq's oil money is permanently directed away from arms and terrorism, what will be the next step? There is an "ocean" of oil in the Middle East, and it is not just the oil from Iraq that is funding operations that endanger the United States.

Will the "lesson of Iraq" keep the rulers of Iran, Libya, Saudi Arabia, and other such countries, from allowing their oil money to fund other Middle East based anti-American operations?

Or, will this conflict with Iraq just be our first war to beat back this "ocean of oil"?

Correction

There were a couple of errors in a write-up in last week's issue in which two teens were charged with felony breaking and entering, larceny and other related charges.

The address we gave should have given was the 5000 block of Phillip Church Road, and the date the alleged break-in and arrests occurred should have been Monday, March 10.

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CITY OF RAEFORD PUBLIC NOTICE

A Budget Hearing for the 2003-2004 Proposed Budget will be held during the regular meeting of the City Council on April 7, 2003 for all interested citizens of the City of Raeford.

This hearing will be held in the Council Chamber of City Hall for the purpose of discussion of possible uses of all revenues at 7:30 p.m. All interested citizens will have the opportunity to give written and oral comment on uses of the funds. (GS 159-12b).

Maintenance Man Needed

for mobile home parks. Need person who has some knowledge in electrical work, carpentry and plumbing. Good pay on a weekly basis.

Call (910) 875-6664 for more information.

ATTENTION

Raeford Precinct 3 Registered Democratic Voters Meeting March 24th 7:00 p.m. Hillcrest Fire Department

Paid for by the president of Precinct 3

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