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TRYON, N. C. 28782

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The weather Monday, high 92, low 66, hum. 62 percent.

There were about 15 hunters facing down the Polk County Board of Commissioners Monday, asking for relief from an ordinance which restricts the firing of guns to safe distances from other people.

People have been finding bullets in their yards, or hearing them whiz by.

No one disputes that that is unacceptable. They just disagree over the need for a county ordinance to address the problem.

It was disappointing to find a former county commissioner, Ken Faulkner, in the audience making nonsensical statements which might have the effect of stirring up the emotional side of the issue.

"Those people who complained phoned other authorities and didn't get any satisfaction, right?" he asked the board members. "So every time someone here (on the county board) gets a phone call, we get an ordinance?"

Faulkner served on the board and knows this issue has been around for years. And he certainly knows how ordinances

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County Hunters Want To Bag New Firearms Ordinance

Claiming that public sentiment runs "100 to 1" against it, Polk County hunters on Monday asked the Board of Commissioners to rescind its new firearms ordinance.

State laws already protect Polk County residents, they argued.

The board members disagreed, but told the hunters that if they could show where state laws are adequate, the board will consider rescinding its ordinance.

If hunters cannot make their case, the board said it intends to ask the state legislature to pass a "local bill" enacting the county's restrictions so that state wildlife officers can begin enforcing them. Only the Sheriff can enforce the Polk ordinance.

Among other things, the Polk County firearms ordinance passed in August makes it a crime for anyone to fire a gun if he "reasonably believes" the bullet might land within 200 feet of a residence, or within 50 yards of a roadway.

"People have experienced problems in the past with gunshots in their yard," explained board chairman Jeannie Martin. "We're not trying to take anything away. We are only trying to protect citizens who live in areas where people hunt."

Commissioner Tim McCor-

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Ruth McNichol

St. John's Bazaar Set For Oct. 17

St. John's Catholic Church will hold its annual bazaar in the church hall on Thursday, Oct. 17. Ruth McNichol, pictured, president of the Altar Guild which sponsors the event, says that the bazaar this year, as last, will again be an all-day affair, open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., with Terry Smoke serving as chairman.

Terry will be coordinating the efforts of the eight bazaar committees which will be headed up by the following Altar Guild members: Raffle Tickets, Kathleen Rogers; Jewelry, Martha Moran and Joan Sikes; Something of Value, Eleanore O'Connor and Edwina Watson; Crafts, Thelma Burns and Mary Glading; Pantry, Fran Wilson and Joanne Frank; Cafe, Joan McAdams and Dorothy Dergance; Publicity, Mary Hughes and Carlyn Tucker; Decorations, Pat Hunter and Pat Ryan.

-Community Reporter

Stearns Park Wins Award

Two Polk County organizations and one family were recognized at the WNC Beautification Awards Program at Lake Junaluska last Wednesday. The WNC Beautiful Awards Program is an annual program that recognizes citizens and communities for their beautification efforts. The participants were from the 18 most western counties.

Stearns Park was the top local organization earning a second place award in the adult organization division. The award was based on the improvements and additions made to the 2.3 acre park in Columbus. Accepting the award for Stearns Park was Catherine Feagan and Homar Jones of the Stearns Park Committee and John Lewis, County Manager for Polk County. The award included a decorative plaque and a check for \$75.

The Saluda Community Club was also recognized for their efforts in beautifying their community. The club received an honorable mention recognition and a cash award of \$50. Accepting the award for the Saluda Community Club was Dorothy Kline, Margaret Mofat, Martha Ashley, Elizabeth Greiner, Janice Honeycutt, Katie Rigsby, Bobbi and Don Smith.

The individual family recognition was given to Robert and Charles Forney of the Stony

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