

Council Is Criticized For Closing Crossing

BY ELLEN WELLES

The Southern Pines Town Council in special meeting Tuesday night heard discussion concerning its March 14 resolution to leave the New York Avenue railroad crossing closed temporarily rather than install flashing lights and gates as planned.

It was barricaded recently because of several accidents, which resulted in one death and several critical injuries.

Two motions died for lack of a second, requiring that the matter be dropped until entered on the agenda of a regular Council meeting in the future.

Out of the approximately half-filled council chamber, not a single citizen spoke on behalf of the Council's recent action. Many spoke against it.

At the March 14 meeting, the Council decided also to close the New Hampshire Ave. crossing for a six month trial period after the new fire station is occupied and a count of the traffic load at the crossings the length of Broad St. is made.

Those speaking in favor of opening the New York Ave. crossing cited as reasons the fact that this intersection is busy because the Post Office is on one corner, the police station on another and two businesses on the other corners.

C.A. McLaughlin, who owns a business on the corner of Pennsylvania and Broad St., said traffic is building up at Pennsylvania because New York is closed. Jack Carter, whose

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Mrs. McPhaul Is Named To NC Hospital Board

Jane H. McPhaul of Southern Pines has been appointed by Governor Jim Hunt to the North Carolina Specialty Hospitals Board of Directors.

The state specialty hospitals includes the facility at nearby McCain.

Mrs. McPhaul, a counselor in the Division of Student Development Services at Sandhills Community College and wife of John McPhaul, was one of four members appointed this week to the board by Governor



SEAGULLS IN SANDHILLS — It's rare when seagulls come this far inland, but a flock of them were flying over the area this past weekend. They were seen feeding at the Town and Country Shopping Center on Monday.

Grant Under Study For Mental Health

Grants totaling \$489,218 for Sandhills Mental Health Center and new, sophisticated diagnostic equipment for Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst are two of the five projects to be reviewed by Cardinal Health Agency at Lumberton today (Wednesday).

The Cardinal Evaluation Committee will conduct public hearings on the application at 1:30 p.m. in the agency's offices

at 202 West 27th Street in Lumberton. The full Board of Directors will hear the committee's recommendations at 7 o'clock this evening in the Southern National Bank Building at 500 North Chestnut Street.

Fayetteville Neurodiagnostics, Inc., is seeking approval under Section 1122 of the Social Security Act to install a computerized tomographic body scanner at Moore Memorial.

Leasing and operating costs for one year are estimated at \$475,159. Final approval by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) would make the service eligible for reimbursement under Medicare and Medicaid.

Sandhills Mental Health Center is applying for the last of eight annual grants from HEW to operate clinics in Anson, Hoke, Montgomery, Moore, and Richmond Counties. The total cost of providing comprehensive mental health services in the five counties is projected to be \$1.2 million.

Other projects to be reviewed March 29 under Section 1122 are \$170,000 for X-ray equipment and

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Water Study Begun

Following recommendations from their staff and area residents, the Environmental Management Commission voted to continue with a water capacity use study in Moore, Richmond and Hoke Counties.

The study area includes the towns of Pinehurst, Southern Pines and Aberdeen, seeking a new raw water supply.

The Environmental Management Division staff reported to the Commission on the possible effects of proposed municipal and regional water supply projects on Drowning Creek, Little River and other streams on downstream conditions, especially during drought periods.

John Wray, head of the Water Resources Planning Branch, said, "The preliminary findings indicate that each of the proposed alternatives have potentially severe impacts on the water resources of the area, unless proper safeguards are taken." The staff will investigate the effect of proposed withdrawals under different conditions on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and downstream water supply sources. A study of the ground water resources of the area will be included.

Formal public hearings will be (Continued on Page 16-A)

Annexation, Dog Control On Agenda At Pinebluff

BY HERBERT C. TILLEY
A public hearing to annex 13 acres of town-owned land, recommendations for strengthening the town's dog ordinance and a consideration of a proposal to create a board of architectural review to control future residential and commercial development are expected to highlight the regular monthly meeting of the Pinebluff

Board of Commissioners scheduled for Thursday, April 6, at 8 p.m. in Town Hall.

Although referred to by some officials as "just a formality," the public hearing at which very few persons if any are expected to attend, is required by law and is being held to comply with it.

The land already owned by the town which is to be annexed is situated south of Pinebluff lake and west of S.R. 1104. It is bounded on the north by the former corporate limit of the town and on the east by S.R. 1104 and McCaskill and on the south by a 13 acre tract now or formerly owned by Byrd.

The purpose of the annexation is to formally place the land in the corporate limits of the town, thereby permitting the town to police the area and exercise greater control over its future.

The board was advised by Commissioner H.D. Russell at a former meeting that several persons have indicated an interest in purchasing the property.

Dog Ordinance
Commissioner Harlan Crab (Continued on Page 16-A)

Moore Tourism Up One-Fourth In 1977, State Report Reveals

The tourist business grew by more than one-fourth in Moore County last year over 1976, according to a report this week by the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Travel expenditures in Moore County in 1977 amounted to \$23,593,000, an increase of \$5,371,000 over the 1976 figure of \$18,222,000.

Floyd Sayre of the Sandhills Area Chamber of Commerce said the expenditures were actually considerably higher, because the state figures do not include golf course spending, as well as other items which the Chamber includes in its estimates.

State figures show that tourism represents 16.2 percent of the

retail business in Moore County. Sayre says, however, that Chamber estimates are 25 percent of the total.

"The resort business is much more important than the state figures indicate," Sayre said.

According to the state report, there are 261 resort firms in Moore County, employing 2,460

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GOLFING WEATHER — The first Spring days found the golf courses of the Sandhills full of players. Here's a scene at Whispering Pines this week.



STONEBROOK SCENE — Horses gather in the shade of a pasture tree at Michael Walsh's Stonebrook Farm, where the annual Stonebrook Races will be held on Saturday, April 15. — (Photo by Glenn M. Sides)

Beer-Wine Move Is Halted At Vass When Petition Is Short Of Names

A movement to hold a beer-wine election in Vass was stalled this week after a petition for a referendum was found to be short of the required number of signatures of registered voters.

Mrs. Lois Bullock, chairman of the Vass Board of Elections, said the petition was submitted to her on Friday.

She checked the signatures with Johnnie Bridgers, the registrar, and found that many of those who signed were not registered as voters or were not

residents of the town of Vass. There were 90 names on the petition, she said, but most of them were not qualified.

Under the law a petition for a special referendum must carry the signatures of 20 percent of the registered voters on the day the petition is filed. In this case 69 names would have been necessary.

Mrs. Bullock said that the petition was submitted by Bobby Ivey, who was accompanied by Randy Cameron and J.P. Richardson. All are Vass residents.

They had wanted to hold the referendum on the sale of off premise consumption of beer and wine at the same time as the party primaries on May 2.

Mrs. Bullock said that there is no way this can be done now. An election can be held 45 days before or after a primary election.

She said she informed Ivey and the others that the petition

was short of qualified signatures and they said they would discuss it with their lawyer. Presumably another petition will be circulated, she said. If they had secured a list of the registered voters and worked

with that in obtaining signatures there would have been no problem, she said.

Other members of the Vass Board of Elections are Bobby Hudson and Ruth Klingenschmidt.

Whispering Pines Sets Hearing On Annexation

Public hearings have been called for April 13 at 9 a.m. by the Whispering Pines Village Council on annexing three new areas.

The first tract is east of NC 22 and south of Rural Road 1841 and the second starts at the intersection of the Vass-Carriage Road and Niagara Road and consists of about an acre owned by W. H. Matthews and his wife, Gracie Mae.

Another tract near Camp Easter is to be included in the

hearing. A third amendment to the zoning map starts near the Wedgwood development at Foxcroft Road.

Copies of the amended ordinance and map are on file in the office of the Village Clerk, Doris H. Byrd, and may be seen Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Protests to the proposed change must be in writing and in the hands of the clerk two days before the hearing.

\$6 Million Is Paid To Hospital But Claims Here Below Average

North Carolina Blue Cross-Blue Shield Vice President Bill Moffitt spoke to Moore Memorial trustees last week, and reported nearly \$6 million in claims paid by his company for Moore Memorial patients in 1977.

In a free and open conversational manner, Moffitt praised North Carolina's insurance programs generally, and fired some shots at government health care programs, including Medicare-Medicaid, Champus, and

National Health Insurance plans. "North Carolina has come a long way from the fly-by-night insurance companies of the 1950s and 1960s," he said, "and has kept the lid on shoddy insurance activity."

During an informal board meeting of Hospital trustees, Moffitt said that nearly 36 percent of Moore County's population is covered by Blue Cross or by programs administered by Blue Cross for the government. The company's

largest N.C. government program is Medicare, for which Blue Cross is the fiscal intermediary.

Forty-five percent of the state's population is covered by Blue Cross, Moffitt said, and the percentage is higher for the state than for Moore County because of many areas in the state which have heavy industrialization with large insurance groups.

In Moore County, 10,237 (Continued on Page 16-A)

THE PILOT LIGHT

CANDIDATES—Predictions of a light vote in the Democratic primary on May 2 have caused some of the candidates for the U.S. Senate nomination to work harder on organization.

The thinking is that the candidate with the best organization will get a better turn-out of voters.

That is usually the case in most elections.

DAVIS—State Senator Lawrence Davis has appointed Alan Butler of Southern Pines to his statewide finance committee in his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the

U.S. Senate. People from all parts of the state are on the fund raising committee. Among them are Hargrove (Skipper) Bowles of Greensboro, the 1972 Democratic candidate for Governor.

HELMS—The interesting thing about Tuesday afternoon's announcement of the "Democrats for Jesse" organization by the Helms for Senate Committee is its timing.

Senator Jesse Helms has no opponent in the primary for the Republican nomination for the Senate, but his announcement comes right in the midst of the (Continued on Page 16-A)



ALONE AT ADDOR — A cow grazes aloof and alone, a single silhouette against the sky, in a pasture near Addor as Spring days arrive. — (Photo by Glenn M. Sides)