

Today's rains eased forest fire threats in the Sandhills and from one to two inches were predicted before it ends tonight. The temperature at 10 a.m. was 50 degrees.

THE PILOT

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SANDHILLS ABLOOM—Bees were buzzing, as shown above, as the Sandhills burst into bloom this week, with flowering dogwood and azaleas everywhere.—(Photo by Jim Kirkpatrick).

\$18 Million US 1 Job Gets Started In May

Preliminary work on a 12-mile four-lane expressway for U.S. 1 from Lakeview to Quail Ridge will get under way in May.

The first hearing on the project, estimated to cost \$18,010,000, will probably be held in the Cameron school auditorium next month.

Martha S. Hollers of Candor, member of the State Board of Transportation, revealed the long-awaited U.S. 1 project at a luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club of the Sandhills this past week.

The No. 1 expressway is now in the planning stages, she said, and several hearings will be held before construction can be started in 1982.

One important hearing will be the route the expressway is to take, but before that is held maps of five proposed routes will be posted in this area.

Mrs. Hollers, who gave an overall view on North Carolina and Moore County road-building, said that "It takes seven years to get a road ready to ride on."

Environmental impact studies and various regulations are time-consuming," she said. The \$18 million construction will be mostly borne by 60 to 70 percent from the U.S. government.

"We have the largest number of state-maintained highways in the whole United States," said Mrs. Hollers. "There are over 75,000 miles of these roads in our State. Fifty-five percent of the people in North Carolina live on a paved road. This is an unusually high State average for our nation."

Among the secondary roads (SR number) in Moore County over 75 percent are paved. However, there are still 219 miles of unpaved secondary roads. The total allocation of money for Moore County secondary roads is \$429,398, but it costs \$60,000 per mile to black-top an unpaved road," said Mrs. Hollers. "If all that money is just used for paving, we can pave only seven miles this year. But there are many other needs including repairs and widening of roads. We are going to try to widen part of Midland Road to make it less dangerous."

Nine road projects are listed to (Continued on Page 12-A)

Communications Proposal Gets OK--But No Money

Informal approval of the concept of a central communications system was voiced Monday by the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

Implementation of such a system appears to be some time away, however, and the proposal offered by the Communications Control Board carries no price tag at this point.

The finances did not escape the board's attention during the special meeting, held at the close of the commissioners' regular all-day session Monday.

Money was high on the list of attention-getters throughout the meeting. The commissioners received 1979-80 budget requests from the Department of Social Services—up \$216,666 from the initial unamended budget for this year—and the Sandhills Mental Health Center, Inc., the latter with a \$103,447 request which is approximately double the amount sought last year.

No action was taken on the two budget requests, which will be considered at later meetings, along with other departmental budget materials.

The board did take action on a special equipment request from Sheriff Jerome Whipple, in keeping with a previous promise. The equipment, to cost more than \$10,000, will be paid from the remains of various funds, with some coming from next year's budget.

County Finance Officer Estelle Wicker was instructed to find the funds. She reported that the sheriff's department will probably end the year with about \$3000 to spare in salaries and there "is a little left in contingency." The remainder will be logged against the 1979-80 budget.

Assorted Equipment Equipment described by the sheriff includes everything from raincoats and short-sleeved shirts to fingerprint kits and riot gear. The list includes riot sticks and batons, riot helmets, two megaphones (for crowd control), flashlights, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, gas masks, spotlights, tear gas grenades, shotguns, walkie-talkies, bulletproof vests, and binoculars, among other things.

Sheriff Whipple said his department has almost no equipment for use in time of emergency, such as the radiation problem at Harrisburg, Pa. or in case of riot. He noted that the patrol car which was destroyed by fire last week might have been saved if the deputy had had a fire extinguisher available.

Whipple added that he hopes the federal Law Enforcement Assistance Administration will pick up the cost on some of the equipment. (Continued on Page 10-A)

Postmaster Robert E. Peele of Southern Pines said that needed space by the Post Office cannot be obtained by remodeling or expanding at the present location and a new site must be sought.

Peele issued a lengthy statement, in which he said: "The Postal Service badly needs new facilities to relieve the congestion at present location, and to provide adequate working conditions for its employees. More room is immediately needed to

work an ever-increasing volume of mail for a growing community. A part of mail received each day is worked on outside on the docks. There is inadequate parking for employees and during business hours of day, there is inadequate parking for our customers.

"The Postal Service is attempting to plan and build facilities that will not only relieve our present conditions, (Continued on Page 12-A)

Truancy Problem Faced In Different Ways Here

The word "truant" is obtrusively outdated; in part because actions taken against the children who skip school have changed so much. Today, a child cannot be taken to juvenile court for skipping school. Instead, his parents may be charged with the misdemeanor offense of their child's skipping.

In neighboring Richmond County, parents have been placed on probation following a court session where they were charged with their offspring's truancy—defined as five or more consecutive days absence from school without a medical reason, or frequent inclusion on the absence list of his school.

The truancy policy used in the Moore County public schools is one set by the state. The truancy officer for Moore County is also the public relations liaison, Bob Dalton.

Dalton in this particular capacity must visit each school (Continued on Page 12-A)

Council Meet

The Southern Pines Town Council will meet April 10 at 8 p.m. with several items for discussion being continuations of past business.

A public hearing was continued from the March 13 meeting in regard to a conditional use permit for the Terminex Company to construct broadcasting equipment on top of the town's water tank.

Work Is Under Way Here To Make Crossings Safer

Railroad cross-gates have been going up for the past week at the crossings in Southern Pines that already had some sort of signal.

An arrangement was made whereby if a crossroad already had some sort of warning, it would be upgraded, said Mildred McDonald, town manager.

The crossing at Massachusetts Avenue and New York Avenue have already been done. Similar bars, which fall into place to prevent cars from passing at the approach of a train are being installed at Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Vermont Avenues.

People Here Are Drinking Less

Restaurant and club managers in the area that are now licensed to serve liquor by the drink all agree that the new law is good for the area.

Mid Pines reported that as they were basically in the room and golf business and had not allowed brown bagging in the dining room anyway that they had seen little change in the drinking patterns of their guests.

John Warren, dining room manager at Pine Needles, stated that as their dining facilities are just for guests they had seen no change in beer or wine sales as some establishments reported.

"JFR Barn had a drop in beer and wine sales at first but that has leveled off now," said manager Lee Thomas. "It has all been very smooth. It hasn't really made that much difference because we're still in the food business first. It has," he continued, "cut down on people trying to finish up a bottle before they leave, so it has definitely helped in crowd control."

Holiday Inn, The Sheraton, Cheese 'N Things all agreed that the law has not changed their clientele and they had not had any problems.

Legislature - Rep. T. Clyde Auman's bill (HR 631) to amend the local option mixed beverage law ran into opposition on the floor of the House on Tuesday.

Auman succeeded, however, in getting the bill referred to the House ABC Committee before a vote was taken. The House committee had given approval to the bill last week.

The bill would allow Pinehurst to vote on the sale of liquor-by-the-drink, which is not permitted to do under present legislation.

The Institute of Government sees the Auman bill as "the one with greatest significance" of all mixed drink bills introduced this session.

Two local bills introduced by Rep. Auman some weeks ago have now passed the Senate after House approval. They would amend the Pinebluff charter, and



FIGHT FIRES—N.C. Forestry Service fire fighters are shown trying to control one of several fires along the railroad tracks this past week. This one was near the Hyland Hills Golf Course.—(Photo by Glenn M. Sides).

Fires Sweep Area During Dry Spell

A rash of fires throughout southern Moore County were partly attributable to dry conditions in the area before Tuesday's rain.

Lester Graham, Southern Pines fire representative, said March and April are in the fire season when brush fires in particular often take place.

Two brush fires were reported on March 27, one along the railroad tracks at Morganton Road, the other in the early

evening in a yard at 251 N. Hardin Street, which did not approach a house.

Similar brush fires were reported March 29 between Aberdeen and Pinebluff and along the railroad tracks near Hyland Hills Golf Course, which was answered by the Vass Fire Department and the Forestry Service.

The next day another fire occurred in almost the same (Continued on Page 10-A)

Holshouser Is Elected To UNC Governors Board

Former Governor James E. Holshouser Jr., of Southern Pines has been elected to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina.

Holshouser said this week he was pleased and honored to be chosen for the board and a University official declared, "He will be invaluable as a member, and his dedication to the University system is well known."

Holshouser, as a member of the Legislature, played a key role in the establishment of the University system and this week he said, "It was probably the best thing I have done for the state."

When the consolidation of the 16 state supported campuses into one system was under consideration by the General Assembly during the ad-



James E. Holshouser Jr. administration of Governor Robert Scott, Holshouser went at his own (Continued on Page 12-A)

Gas Usage Is Cut For County Units

The current energy crisis has precipitated a cutback in Moore County's gasoline allocation, the county commissioners were advised Monday by Assistant County Administrator Martin Chriscoe.

The board agreed to Chriscoe's recommendation that all county departments be asked to reduce gas usage by 15 percent.

As of March 1, the county's allocation has been cut from 10,500 gallons to 8000 gallons a month. Chriscoe predicted a cutback of from 95 to 90 percent but recommended the 15 percent reduction because of the possibility of even greater reductions in coming months.

The allocation was cut by the Gulf Oil Co., the county's supplier. Chriscoe pointed out that almost 7000 gallons of the 10,500 is used by the sheriff's department. He proposed that the best answer is to ask all departments to do their best to cut back 15 percent.

Commissioner Tony Parker pointed out that some employees are driving county vehicles home at night, and he asked if a saving (Continued on Page 12-A)

Mobile Homes Will Make Up 25% Of Dwellings For Moore

BY FLORENCE GILKESON Young couples get started in them, older couples retire to them. Mobile homes, of course.

In Moore County an estimated 500 mobile homes provide housing for residents of all ages, varying social and economic standing. Most people think of

Dewitt Purvis, county assistant tax supervisor, who has issued about that number of tax stickers for mobile homes. Of this number perhaps 300 are doublewide units, which, if they are 24 feet wide or larger, are taxed as if they were houses.

Purvis does not know the exact (Continued on Page 9-A)

HOMES FOR MANY—A line-up of mail boxes signals a mobile home park, one of many which accommodate hundreds of Moore County families. The county tax office estimates there are 2500 mobile homes throughout Moore.—(Photo by Florence Gilkeson).

THE PILOT LIGHT

LIQUOR—Motel and hotel owners gathered in Charlotte last week and got a report on the first few months experience with liquor-by-the-drink sales.

Bill Hester, administrator of the State ABC Board, said that 22 cities or counties have thus far approved mixed drink sales and eight have voted them down.

Of 520 establishments that have been licensed to sell mixed drinks, 156 are in Mecklenburg and 65 are in Wake County. Hester estimated that within a year the state will have licensed 850 establishments.

Most of those present said they have had no problems with mixed drink sales, it has helped business and there are fewer (Continued on Page 12-A)