

Around Town

By Sam C. Morris

The old year came to an end Wednesday and I hope that the New Year will have more in store for us than 1974. I will recall a few of the events that caused me to make this statement.

The corruption in government certainly could be one thing that we hope won't happen again anytime soon. The people of our country have almost lost all confidence in the leaders and this makes things tough for all of us. I certainly hope that Watergate and all other such things will be behind us in 1975.

The energy shortage has caused hardship on most of the people and could come back again unless we all strive to conserve fuel in every way that we can. Let us be such that this doesn't turn up again in 1975.

Inflation and recession were both with us in 1974. This of course created problems for everyone that tried to find a solution to these problems.

The layoff at many plants has hit very hard in 1974 and when the problem of inflation is whipped, maybe the cure will be found for recession.

Law and order which has been a top problem for many years seems to have been before us again in 1974. The crime rate for the country has risen and it doesn't look good for the coming year.

These are just a few of the problems that caused so many hardships in the year just past. Watergate, energy, inflation, recession, layoffs and crime. All of these problems have solutions but I believe that no one man or a committee can make it work. It will take all of us to see the job done right. It may cause hardships to some of us but if the problems are solved all of us can look forward to years ahead with a bright hope.

Let's all try.

As I write this column it seems that Raeford and Hoke County was exceptionally quiet over the holiday season. I haven't heard of any violence and there were few incidents of any kind. I hope this will continue throughout the New Year.

Russell Davis, former Hoke High football and basketball star, is making the headlines every week playing basketball for V.P.I. in Virginia. I will not go into the accomplishments of Russell as they have appeared elsewhere in the paper, but will offer to him, Congratulations, as a goodwill ambassador for Hoke County.

To all of you, Happy New Year.

Meetings Set

Regular meetings will be held next Monday for the county board of commissioners, the city council and the board of education.

The county commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. on Jan. 6 at the old board of education building on Edinborough Avenue.

The city council will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at city hall.

The board of education will meet at 8 p.m. at the new board of education building on Woolley Street.

All meetings are open to the public.

The Old Order Changes . . .

1974 Was A Year Of Conflict, Of Shortage, Of Change In The County

1974 - A year of conflicts, of shortages, or change. The county nearly ran out of gas and long lines to buy what was available became commonplace. Squabbles over the airport, over revenue sharing funds, over the leash law erupted periodically. New faces replaced old as the leadership of many agencies changed.

1974 was also a year of accomplishments, as the fund drive for the new library moved forward and the Bicentennial Committee began planning for the nation's 200th birthday celebration. The Forum, arranged by the Raeford Woman's Club, pricked the intellect and stirred the conscience of the community.

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**PROSPERITY
IN THE
COMING
YEAR**

*May all the good things in life be yours
throughout 1975... and along with prosperity,
may you enjoy that which makes life worthwhile...
love, good health, and friends.*

Staff Of The News Journal

Donations Brightened Holidays

The generosity of Hoke County and others at Christmas was praised this week by a spokesman for the county Department of Social Services.

A total of 37 individuals and families were "adopted" and many others received toys and gifts.

Four persons donated a total of \$50, and toys were contributed by HHQ, 35th Signal Gp., Fort Bragg.

Burlington, Knit-Away and House of Raeford all donated toys and gifts, and the Open Arms Rest Home, which received an overabundance of fruit as gifts, shared the overload with those less fortunate.

The Raeford Ministerial Association contributed food which members of the citizens' hand radio club and health department workers helped distribute.

Families were adopted by Sunday school classes at First Baptist Church, Raeford-Presbyterian and Raeford United Methodist Church as well as by the Kiwanis and Key Clubs, Hoke County Jaycees, Cadette Girl Scouts and Third Area Training Squad at Pope AFB.

In a statement from the county DSS, the spokesman said "We want to thank everyone who shared with someone less fortunate and especially we appreciate people using the department as a clearing house to coordinate donations. "However, need doesn't end at

Christmas and many persons are facing a cold winter without adequate heat or food."

The department would like to start an emergency fuel fund and any donations will be welcome.

McMillian Seeks Spot At '76 Olympics

Kathy McMillian, the Hoke High junior who won the long jump at the Junior Olympics this summer, spent part of the Christmas vacation at a training clinic for prospective 1976 Olympic athletes.

McMillian and Hoke High coach William Colston were invited to attend the three-day session at Widener College in Chester, Pa. Three other girls specializing in the long jump, including Olympic athlete Willye White of Chicago, were invited.

Approximately nine other women athletes and their coaches also attended

the camp, which was sponsored by the U.S. Olympic Committee for Women's Athletics.

Coaches for the camp included 1976 Olympic coach and athletic director for N.C. Central University, Dr. Leroy Walker, as head coach, and Jim Flynn, University of Delaware, for the long jump. Rhodesian Olympic coach Dr. John Cheffers coached high jump and Jean Roberts, Australian Olympic thrower coached the shot put.

Colston said the next step on the Olympic path for Kathy was to compete in an AAU-sanctioned meet to try to qualify for the U.S. indoor national

Hot Lunches Set For Sr. Citizens

***** New Laws In Effect

A number of new traffic laws greeted motorists when the New Year was rung in, including the end of right turns on red and stiffer penalties for speeding.

As of Jan. 1, right turns at a red light are not allowed, although the state legislature is expected to re-enact the law in the coming session.

Raeford Police Chief Leonard Wiggins said his department "is in no hurry" to write tickets, and will give warnings instead to forgetful drivers.

The city council is expected to consider enacting a local ordinance permitting the turn.

A new speeding measure also went into effect Jan. 1 and drivers face the automatic loss of license for one year for driving 15 miles per hour over the posted speed limit in any zone. Under the old law, the speed must have been at least 70 M.P.H. Thus a conviction of speeding 50 M.P.H. in a 35 M.P.H. zone would result in loss of license.

Anyone attempting to elude a police officer in pursuit at a speed of at least 55 M.P.H., and also 15 M.P.H. over the limit, could receive a \$1,000 fine and two years in jail.

Maximum penalties for speeding or driving the wrong way on a one-way street will be doubled. A \$100 fine and 60 days in jail is the top punishment.

Also doubled under the new law is the penalty for motorcyclists traveling more than 10 miles above. Violators may be subject to a \$100 fine and 60 days in jail.

Financial responsibility requirements have been raised. The minimum amount of liability insurance will go from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for each injury or death resulting from an accident.

It will be a misdemeanor to unintentionally cause a death while driving if the death is the result of violating a traffic law. Maximum punishment is a \$500 fine and two years in prison.

Motorbikes with less than one-horsepower engines that cannot go faster than 20 M.P.H. will be exempt from title and registration laws.

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A program that will provide hot lunches for senior citizens is expected to begin Raeford in mid-January.

Thirty hot lunches will be served daily Monday through Friday on a first come basis at the old Masonic lodge on North Main Street extended.

The meals will be provided at no cost for all persons over 60, however, the program is aimed primarily at those with low incomes.

The program is being financed by a federal grant matched by a portion of local funds, Helen Jones, from Lumber River Council of Governments, is project director.

According to Mrs. Debi Weinstein, staff member at Lumber River COG, the project to begin in Raeford is an extension of a year-long program now being operated in four other towns in the four-county region, Raeford and a site in Bladen County are being included for the first time.

The meals will be prepared in Lumberton by Technical Services Enterprises and will be transported in hot and cold containers to the old lodge, now owned by Tri-County Community Action agency.

Mrs. Weinstein said they were hoping for good participation.

"We just wish we could serve more meals," she said.

According to the project report prepared for COG members, the program will be given \$110,825 from the North Carolina Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging, which \$5,816.50 in regional funds would be added. The meals are to cost \$1.47 each. The project is being funded for a year, Mrs. Weinstein said, and is expected to be approved for a longer period.

She said that in addition to meals, other activities at the lodge are being planned.

"We want people to come about 11:30 and stay to around 2 p.m. We'll have programs, like information on social security and arts and crafts, things like that."

To encourage participation, Mrs. Weinstein said "if someone who has a car will bring two more people, we'll pay him gas mileage from his house to the center and back."

Starting date for the lunch program is uncertain, she said. Work on the kitchen is needed, among other details to be decided. However, the opening date is expected to be decided at a meeting in Raeford this week between project leaders and community action agency officials.

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Tags Ready For Car, Dog

City automobile and dog tags will go on sale Jan. 2 at the municipal building.

All automobiles registered to city residents must display a 1975 city tag no later than Feb. 15, 1975. The cost is \$1.00.

Dogs age four months or older as of Jan. 1 who are kept within the city limits must be registered. Dog tags are \$2.50. Dogs must be vaccinated against rabies prior to obtaining the tag.

meet to be held the end of February in New York.

McMillian must at least meet the standard jump of 18 feet to qualify for the national meet, Colston said. Her longest jump so far is 19-9 feet.

"The problem is we don't have any local meets that are AAU-sanctioned," Colston said. He said he was writing directors of meets in Greensboro and Richmond to see if she could compete.

From competitors at the U.S. national, about the athletes in each event will be chosen for additional competition in the Pan American Games in 1975 and then the Olympics.

and Harold Brock was named to fill the position. Allen Edwards, a native of Greensboro, was named to fill Raz Aubrey's former post as principal of Hoke High. With the school year closing, more than 90 outstanding seniors were honored at a banquet at the high school.

School news dominated the month of May. A state commission recommended the closing of Raeford Elementary and Hoke High played host to a sectional girls track meet. The girls later brought home the state crown, with Kathy McMillian setting records in four events.

Hoke voters, in a very tight turnout, set a record by choosing in the Democratic primary the first Indian, the first woman and the first black to serve on the board of commissioners, as James Albert Hunt, Mable Riley and Dannie McCollum led the ticket. However, a runoff election for the county board and a district judge's post was scheduled.

The firemen finally got their revenue sharing funds, possibly in response to the election outcome, as the county board in a special meeting allotted \$200,000 to the library building and \$45,000 to public safety. The latter

included \$5,000 to the rescue squad and the rest for the fire departments.

The county set a tentative budget of \$1.4 million and the city reduced their tax rate by 23 per cent. The library fund gained a \$3,000 donation from the Raeford Woman's Club.

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The Hoke County Historical Association was formed in June.

(The roundup of top events in Hoke County during 1974 will be concluded next week.)

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