

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

Remember last January when we were saying "I don't care how hot it gets next summer, it will suit me fine." From the looks of the thermostats most of us are getting our wish about hot weather, but are we enjoying it like we said last winter?

Scattered showers have been around for a few days but it is becoming dry again and the forecast is for hot weather and little chance of rain.

So when you get hot, just remember the cold days last winter.

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Ernest Sutton was in charge of the program at the Raeford Kiwanis Club meeting last Thursday night and he had as his speaker, Billy Colston, teacher and coach at Hoke High School. Colston talked about his trip to Auburn, Ala. with some of his track stars to compete in the Junior Olympics.

The talk by the coach was very interesting and informative and Billy, like so many other coaches who have had outstanding performers, was asked about his former star, Kathy McMillan.

As will always happen, his face lit up and he related his experience with her at the Olympics in Montreal last year.

He would not predict how far Kathy would jump, or what records she would set, but you could look at him and see that he had high hopes for his former pupil.

Thanks Billy, for a fine program.

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While on the subject of Kathy McMillan, she is now in Europe competing with other U.S. track stars against the European stars. So far, she has jumped in Italy, Germany and Russia. She came in first in Italy and Germany, and last Saturday finished second in Russia behind another U.S. jumper. Kathy jumped 21 feet, 8 1/4 inches last week.

She was written up in the state papers last week when they were telling about her getting a Victor award in Los Vegas.

Yes, Kathy is still an ambassador for Hoke County and Raeford, and she still has many years to compete in track events.

Best of luck Kathy!

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Most people are asking why the street had to be changed on Thursday afternoon. According to City Manager Bob Drumwright, it was when the state workers came to change it. So that is the reason.

If you want complete details on how the change-over went, just contact any of the Raeford Police Department. Of course, stand off from them, or better still, call them on the phone and ask them.

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From the looks of everything around the city on July 4th, everything was very orderly. Of course, as this is being written, the police and sheriff reports have not reached the office.

The golf course was crowded early Monday morning and the July 4th tournament went off with a bang. The course was in excellent condition and if the management could have controlled the hot weather, everything would have been perfect.

The winners will be announced later.

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There was a fine write-up in *The Charlotte Observer* on Sunday, June 26, about the Raeford Airport and the operation of Gene Thacker and his parachute school.

The article was written by Jim Dumbell of the *Observer* and was a feature story with pictures. If you haven't read the article, it would be worth your time to do so.

Gross Retail Sales Climb During May

Gross retail sales in Hoke County during May climbed to \$3,249,692, according to the N.C. Department of Revenue. The total represented an increase over the April sales of \$3.06 million.

One per cent sales and use tax collections for May amounted to \$20,359.

State Plan To Utilize Jail Not Practical, Sheriff Warns

Faced with the prospect of having to house state prisoners under a new law effective this month, Sheriff D.M. Barrington warned county commissioners Tuesday morning that the jail facilities will become overcrowded and the additional inmates will be costly.

Barrington presented cost figures to the board based on the additional expenses of clothing, shoes, medical examinations and other state requirements, and estimated that the county would need at least \$11.80 per diem reimbursement for each state prisoner in order to break even. The sheriff called it a "conservative" figure and said \$15 per day would be more reasonable.

"Not knocking the governor, but it appears he's trying to take them out of the overcrowded prison system and put them in overcrowded jails," the sheriff said. "We had 30 (prisoners) the weekend before last. The bed capacity of the jail is only 30. We get anymore and we'll be sleeping them on the floor."

"The state claims we have an average population of nine a day. I don't know how they arrived at that. My figures are 15 a day," Barrington said.

The sheriff said that under the plan, persons convicted of misdemeanors in Hoke County court would be sent directly to the local jail. Only those who receive sentences of six months or less would be involved. The sheriff added that if there is a requirement to house convicted persons apart from those awaiting trial, it will cause more overcrowding.

County manager T.B. Lester said he had checked with Scotland and Robeson County and officials in both of those counties intended to ask for \$15 per diem from the state.

Barrington said the only way a jurisdiction could get out of accepting the prisoners would be if the jail doesn't meet state standards, or if there was some "local consideration." Since the Hoke County Jail meets both state and federal standards, the sheriff urged commissioners to explore any other options to thwart the state plan.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners ordered a correction made in the minutes of their June 13 meeting. At that meeting, the board adopted a motion made by Danny DeVane to award the ambulance contract provided the company is state certified and "has radios." Commissioners unanimously approved a change and ordered the radio phrase deleted.

DeVane, who arrived one hour late for Tuesday's meeting, did not take part in the discussion concerning the change.

The board rejected a request from Sanitary Container Service, a division of Brenner Industries, for higher rates for private residential garbage service in the county after commissioner James A. Hunt claimed that "the public is going to jump on our backs about it."

Pickup Sanitation Service, which terminated private service in the county last month, had charged \$4.50 monthly for once a week service. Pickup had about 200 private customers, county sanitarian M.R. Mills said.

The Brenner firm, which was also awarded the contract for servicing the county-owned container sites for this year, requested a \$6 monthly rate.

"I feel like we should leave it the way it is. First thing you know, they'll be wanting an increase every year," Hunt said.

Mills also announced that the health department will be making regular checks on the condition of the container sites and special forms for that purpose have been printed. Mills said the new system should give the health department a more accurate picture of the frequency and thoroughness of the garbage disposal.

Commissioners also formally adopted an ordinance regulating massage parlors and similar businesses on a motion from Hunt. The new ordinance, the first of its kind for Hoke County, is to take effect 20 days from the date of its passage.

The ordinance, patterned after the Durham city ordinance, sets forth strict licensing requirements for masseuses and masseurs and prohibits a massage given by a member of the opposite sex.

On a motion from commissioner Neil McPhatter, the board unanimously approved L.E. McLaughlin Jr. for appointment to the Hoke County Board of Social Services. McLaughlin is scheduled to replace Juanita McAllister, also a black, whose term has expired.

DSS Director Benjamin Niblock discussed some legislative actions taken last week concerning social services. Niblock said the foster care rate was cut which will bring about \$2,100 in savings to the county, and also the county will release an extra \$9,000 a year in reimbursement because of a new rule allowing depreciation of the office space.

The board also received notice from the Department of Transportation that the state has classed service road 1468 as a subdivision road, and therefore, will not pave it.

Next regular meeting of the board is Monday, July 18, at 7:30 p.m.

Judge's Special License Law Shelved By Assembly For Year

Proposed legislation to allow law enforcement officers to temporarily seize licenses of traffic offenders has been shelved by the state legislature for at least one year.

A House judiciary committee tentatively voted to kill the bill last Thursday, the last day of the 1977 session, then decided to freeze action instead on the measure until the General Assembly convenes again next year.

The proposal was the brainchild of District Court Judge Joe Dupree, who formulated the plan this spring after becoming increasingly concerned over the number of "called and failed" defendants cited to court.

Dupree claimed that the number of "no shows" in the state's courts was costing taxpayers millions of dollars annually in extra administrative costs.

Dupree's proposal, which was

introduced by Sen. John D. Henly (D-Cumberland), would have allowed police officers to take a driver's license at the time of writing a ticket. Officers would issue an official receipt to the offender which would allow him to continue driving until his scheduled court date. Then, if an offender failed to come to court, the state would keep the license until the case was disposed of.

Under present law, defendants who do not come to court are assessed only points on their driving record and may avoid fines and other costs. Dupree maintained that this encourages defendants to skip court.

The bill would only have applied to Hoke and Cumberland counties, which make up the 12th Judicial District.

Committee chairman Rep. John Davenport (D-Nash) said there was some question as to whether the legislature could legally enact the measure in only two counties. Davenport said the committee had tentatively voted to give the bill an unfavorable report, but then decided to stall the matter.

By agreeing to hold the bill for one year, the committee keeps it alive and it will not have to be returned for a Senate vote. The measure had passed the Senate earlier.



WRONG WAY -- Police Chief V.L. Wiggins motions another driver out of the center lane as the public attempted to learn that what used to be the right way is now the wrong way on Elwood Ave. The street officially changed back to two-way traffic last Thursday, catching many people by surprise, and the change-over kept police busy all day Thursday and Friday as they turned errant drivers around.

State Patrol Notes Quiet Holiday Period

The Highway Patrol reported a quiet weekend over the long Fourth of July holiday period with no fatalities or serious injuries on Hoke County roads.

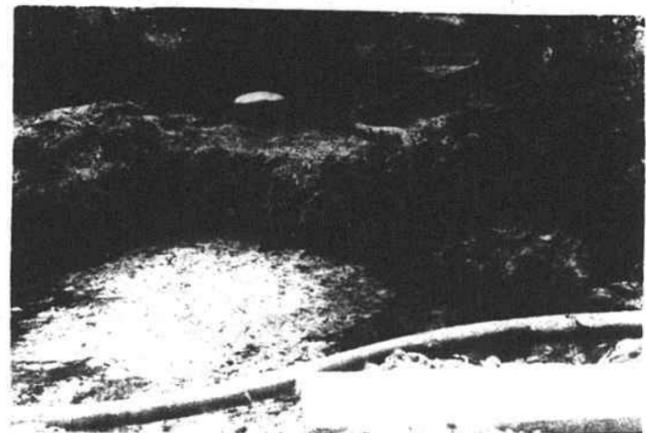
A woman pedestrian was charged with public drunkenness following a two-car mishap about 10:30 p.m. Friday, a Patrol spokeswoman reported.

According to the Patrol, a car being operated by William H. McArn, 38, of Rt. 2, Shannon, was traveling east on RPR 1404 about one tenth of a mile west of Raeford

when it crossed the center line to avoid the pedestrian. The car collided with a vehicle being driven by Clarence McIntosh, 20, of Rt. 1, Raeford, which was traveling west.

No injuries were reported and damage to the vehicles was estimated at \$300. McIntosh was charged with no financial responsibility, according to the Patrol, and the pedestrian, identified as Emmie M. Locklear, 49, of Rt. 2, Red Springs, was

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VANDALS -- Raeford Oil Company suffered a loss of 10,000 gallons of gasoline after vandals entered a locked compound on U.S. 401 South and loosened 32 bolts on two manhole covers on the tanks. The situation was described as potentially dangerous by a company spokesman.

10,000 Gallons Of Gas Unleashed By Vandals

Vandals nearly got their own just desserts without benefit of a trial the weekend of June 25-26.

Intruders climbed a six-foot fence topped with barbed wire at the Raeford Oil Company's propane storage location on U.S. 401 South and nearly got themselves roasted for their efforts.

"It was a dangerous thing to do. It was a very dangerous situation," said oil company manager Randall Ashburn. The vandals entered the secured compound containing two propane storage tanks and two 30,000 gallon gasoline tanks and loosened all the bolts on the manhole plates on the gas tanks.

According to Ashburn, a lighted match would have created a disaster. He even suggested that the spark from two stones knocked together by the intruders' feet might have ignited the whole area.

The incident apparently happened over the weekend and by the time of its discovery Monday, the Raeford Oil Co. had lost 10,000 gallons of gasoline valued at between \$5,500 and \$6,000.

Ashburn admits that they have no idea what the possible motive for the incident could have been, other than simple vandalism. The intruders apparently entered the scene armed with the tools to unscrew the 32 bolts.

Clean-Up

State environment protection investigators inspected the gasoline leak and advised Raeford Oil on clean-up procedures, which Ashburn says may take two or three weeks to finish. A hole has been prepared in the woods near the tanks for the gasoline to drain into. The area has been roped off and workmen check several times daily. Raeford Oil is pumping off the collected oil, but according to Ashburn, they will not recover much of the lost fuel.

Sheriff's deputies are now patrolling the area and Raeford Oil has added another security light in the compound.

City Council Meeting Off

This week's scheduled meeting of the Raeford City Council has been postponed until next Monday, July 11, city manager Robert Drumwright announced.

The council was scheduled to meet Tuesday night at 7:30, one

day later due to the Independence Day holiday, but Drumwright said the mayor and some councilmen were out of town.

The council will meet next Monday at 7:30 p.m. at city hall.