

## Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather was kind of a mixture last weekend but the afternoons were nice enough for most people to get out and enjoy a little recreation.

The forecast is of course for rain Tuesday night and Wednesday, but it should be nice again for the weekend holiday.

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The chorus from Upchurch Junior High School gave a program at the Thursday night meeting of the Raeford Kiwanis Club. Ralph Huff was program chairman for the night and this could be why the Kiwanians were able to have such an outstanding group perform for them. To come straight to the point, it so happens that Linda Huff, Ralph's wife, is the director of the chorus.

I must say that the minor league is certainly providing talent for the majors if the high school chorus and chorale can be so called. One Kiwanian stated that he was sure now that the kids learned something in school.

This group did real well and certainly represented the schools in an excellent way.

Thanks, Linda and group for a job well done.

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By the time this column reaches most of the readers, schools will be closed for the holiday season. Students will be out and about, and we should be on the lookout for them as we drive for the next few days.

Many will receive wheeled toys and will be out on the streets with them and we would not want to spoil anyone's Christmas this year by hurting a small child. So be extra careful as you drive.

Also remember if you are celebrating at this time of year, let the last one for the road be black coffee. The life you save, may be your own.

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I understand that some people from Hoke County saw Mrs. Carter and Amy at Cross Creek Mall doing some shopping over the weekend. Someone said that a woman would take time off to come 300 to 400 miles for a wedding, but she also would have to get in a few hours of shopping. Amen!

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Christmas closings for most businesses will be on Monday, December 26, but others will also close Friday and Monday, opening for business on Tuesday, December 27. So to be sure about when a place you do business with will be closed, maybe you should check with them.

The newspaper office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and will be closed Saturday, December 24 as usual.

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The following item was sent to me by Mrs. Bob (Eleanor) Gentry and we think we will pass it along to the readers.

### A Mother's Letter To Santa

Dear Santa: As I have been working on the toys and doll clothes

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Christmas means many things: laughing children, smiling Santas, the color of poinsettias and pines. It's a time for warmth and gentleness, kindness and good feeling. May all of the season's finest joys be yours this yuletide. We're hoping just the nicest kinds of things come your way!

A very happy Christmas to all our Friends!

The News Journal

## Injuries Reported In Area Accidents

A Wagram man was hospitalized and damages estimated at \$11,000 were sustained in a wreck that occurred Dec. 11, according to Trooper R.V. Lee. The accident was one of five investigated by the Highway Patrol here in the last two weeks.

Curtis McNeil, 53, Box 235, Wagram, was taken to Scotland Memorial Hospital in Laurinburg following the Sunday afternoon collision. He was transferred to Moore Memorial in Southern Pines where he remained in intensive care for two days. He was expected to be released this week.

According to witnesses, Evelyn Hill Thomas, 33, Rt. 1 Box 61, Wagram, stopped at the intersection of Harris and Highway 401, checked for traffic, and turned

onto Highway 401 headed south. The 1976 Oldsmobile driven by Mrs. Thomas then struck the McNeil vehicle, the report said.

Damage was estimated at \$7,000 to McNeil's 1978 Ford truck and \$4,000 to the Thomas vehicle. Mrs. Thomas and her daughter, Bilvetta Romona Thomas, 14, were treated at Scotland Memorial and released.

Mrs. Thomas was charged with failing to yield the right of way. On Dec. 17, another accident occurred involving one vehicle, according to Trooper Lee. Pamela Rose Harris, 16, Rt. 3 Box 55B, Raeford, ran off rural paved road 1403 down the right shoulder and hit a guard rail and an embankment before stopping. She was traveling at approximately 60 m.p.h. at the time of the accident,

according to the trooper.

The driver and a passenger, Susan Caulder, 507 W. 6th St., Raeford, were admitted to Cape Fear Valley Hospital. Each suffered a broken leg, according to reports.

Charges are pending, according to the Highway Patrol. Damage to the Harris vehicle was estimated at \$800.

Trooper R.V. Lee reported that a 1964 Ford driven by Edward Lee Key, Jr., 327 Central Ave., Raeford, hit a bridge abutment on Highway 211 East the morning of Dec. 19.

Key and a passenger, Gerry Pate, 17, Rt. 1, Box 72, Red Springs, were taken to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton. (See INJURIES, Page 11)



COLLISION -- A wreck at the intersection of Harris Ave. and Highway 401 Dec. 11 resulted in damages estimated at \$11,000. Curtis McNeil of Wagram was hospitalized after the wreck, but is expected to be released this week.

## Hoke Board Of Education Places Teacher On Probationary Status

A South Hoke Elementary School teacher charged earlier this year with driving under the influence was returned to probationary status in Monday night's special meeting of the Hoke County Board of Education.

Arlicia T. Raye, 46, was charged on the morning of Oct. 19 with driving under the influence of alcohol by the State Highway Patrol. She was reported stopped while driving to school. Her breathalyzer reading was .18 per cent, according to the warrant.

Raye has been with the school system for 15 years, and, according to Superintendent of Schools Raz Autry, she has never been on school

grounds in an intoxicated condition nor has she ever been convicted of any offense.

"She has worked for three principals and received a good evaluation from each of them," Autry said. "She has no record whatsoever, and has never been in or charged in this condition before."

Raye had requested a professional review panel, but the hearing was cancelled after her attorney, James Fuller of Charlotte, met with Board attorney Bill Moses Monday morning. Moses drew up a resolution that was acceptable to Raye and her attorney.

Autry explained that under the

Teacher Tenure Act, the Board could "sort of pat a teacher on the back and say don't do it again, or recommend that the teacher be fired." He said he thought the Board was looking for some middle ground. The resolution takes away a tenure and reduces her to probationary status.

It stated that "the policy of the Board is that no educator employed by the Board shall appear on school grounds after having consumed intoxicants."

The resolution further stated that the teacher would be retained in her present position and the prior administrative action would be withdrawn; that the teacher

would be removed from tenure and placed on probation until the end of the 1978 - 1979 school year.

The final provision stated that she may be immediately terminated for a violation of the Board's policy regarding consumption of intoxicants. Autry refused to renew the contract of any teacher on probationary status for any reason at the end of a school year.

The resolution was approved by the Board. It reads as follows:

This Memorandum and Agreement is entered into between ARLICIA T. RAYE (hereafter, Teacher), RAZ AUTRY (hereafter, Superintendent), and HOKE (See TEACHER, Page 11)

## County Seeks More Bids On Patrol Car

The Hoke County Board of Commissioners decided Monday night to seek out of town bids for a new patrol car for the Sheriff's Department.

The decision came after only one bid was received locally for the car. That bid came from Raeford Auto Co. It was not opened at the meeting. Board members said they felt they might get a better price if they asked for bids from companies in Red Springs.

In other business at the board's regular meeting, Lillie Bratcher and Elga Langdon were appointed to the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission on the recommendation of commission

head Don Slaughter, who appeared at the meeting representing chairman W.K. Morgan.

The board gave approval for the state to accept for maintenance a road in the Rockfish community. The road, named Kirkland Place, is in a subdivision on the Townsend estate in Rockfish, the board was told. As board chairman John Balfour explained, the state highway department must have the county's stamp of approval before it will accept a road. All property owners along the street signed a petition requesting the action.

The board voted last night to

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