

Editorials

Just pounds and cents

A committee set up to study the feasibility of constructing a new dog pound should be praised for the speed that they carried out their duties.

The group completed its task in three weeks and is prepared to recommend a location and the type of building at next Monday's Hoke County Commission meeting.

After months of foot dragging, the commission finally appointed the study committee during the last meeting in February.

During its tenure, the group, under the leadership of Chairman Jack McGinnis, has looked at pounds in surrounding counties, studied costs of construction and selected one of three proposed locations.

The site chosen is a good one.

Although serious consideration was given to constructing a new pound at the present landfill, the group decided on a location at the end of North Main Street.

This site, which will be donated for a pound, is 2.5 acres and adjoins a 23-acre practically landlocked city-owned tract.

A pound in this location will be easily accessible and will have good visibility from the U.S. 401 bypass. By constructing a facility on the site, the county will also provide an entrance for the city to the larger tract, which at some future date could be developed for recreational purposes.

There is some economic justification, however, for locating the new pound at the existing landfill.

That justification is overridden by the remoteness of the site and the unappealing image it evokes.

One of the purposes for building a new pound is the hope that the facility would entice more county residents and others to adopt animals. A remote location could defeat that purpose.

The issue of a new pound is not only one of providing a humane facility, but one of economics.

At the present pound, almost 90% of all of the animals captured are being exterminated.

In a new facility, officials hope the percentage of animals that have to be killed will be lowered, and that some of the costs of the pound can be recouped by charging a small adoption fee.

It is hoped the county commission will act with as much speed as the study committee and adopt the group's recommendations.

To do otherwise, would be an affront, not only to the committee members who donated their time to develop the recommendations, but also to the taxpayers, who are footing the bill for the project.

An intoxicated bill

Watching Governor Jim Hunt's Safe Roads Act make its way through the state General Assembly is like watching a drunk trying to cross an interstate highway during rush hour.

The spectacle is a nerve-racking experience, which could at any moment end tragically.

In the case of the DUI bill, the tragedy would be legislators failing to pass a measure because of overriding political considerations.

The way the legislation is going, the drunk has a better chance of making it through on-coming traffic.

Each day the bill seems doomed to failure as a new obstacle is placed in its path, but staggering, it weaves past the hurdle and moves closer to passage.

After being mired in the "Dram Shop" issue since January, the legislation finally cleared that measure last week, only to find itself knocked off the track by an approved change in the drinking age.

Last week after Senate members voted 27-21 to bump the beer and wine consumption age from 18 to 21 years old, the safe roads bill appeared destined to spend the remainder of this year's session in committee.

On Thursday, after a strenuous night of lobbying by the governor and other supporters of the bill, the Senators realized their error, and voted 48-0 to move the age limit back to 19.

After the first vote, somebody apparently figured out that moving the drinking age to 21 would cost the state \$3.2 million in tax revenues.

In the House of Representatives, a similar version of the bill, which has been heavily laden with amendments, is laboriously moving from committee to committee waiting on the arrival of the Senate's package.

Back in the Senate, members are swearing to tack on additional amendments and to eliminate a provision which mandates an automatic 10-day suspension of driving privileges for motorist caught "under the influence."

In order for the bill to beat the adjournment deadline and get to the governor's desk, the salons must put it on a sober course.

However, if the present path is maintained and with other time consuming matters on the agenda, like the budget, it is unlikely that when the final horn is honked that North Carolina will have the strongest drunk driving legislation in the nation.

Letters Policy

Letters to the editor are encouraged and welcomed. Writers should keep letters as short as possible. Names, addresses and telephone numbers should be included and all letters must be signed. Names will be printed, however, other information will be kept confidential. We reserve the right to edit letters for good taste and brevity. Letters should be received by *The News-Journal* by noon on the Monday of the publication week.



DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT AS MANY DOGS AS THEY BRING IN HERE, THERE OUGHT TO BE MORE OF US...?

Letters To The Editor

Officers applauded

To the Editors

We would like to commend the Hoke County Sheriff Department and the Raeford Police Department for the outstanding job done concerning the robbery of Jack Tucker on March 2.

These men worked day and night constantly until the culprits were apprehended.

Detective Hart and Detective Riley kept us well informed at all times.

With the help of the Police and Sheriff Department working together, the men were arrested in just a few days.

We would like to thank these officers and, we feel safe knowing we have these men working in our county.

Jack Tucker and family

Bingoers thanked

Dear Editor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those folks who came out to support our Bingo games Saturday night. We had a wonderful turnout and everyone enjoyed the fun.

We'd like to remind everyone that we'll continue our Bingo games each Saturday this month.

We continue to give away \$105 each night, including our \$50 jackpot.

Come on out this Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. Bring some friends, play 20 games for \$1 and you might win big!

Sonya Falls, Publicity
Raeford Jr. Woman's Club

DUI Bill supported

To the Editor

Please allow me to appeal to Hoke Countians to support Governor Hunt's proposed safe roads legislation.

I realize that this is a controversial piece of legislation with many facets to be argued pro and con.

The wearing of the green, symbolizes noble life

by Lucien Coleman

It must be some form of temporary madness, this irresistible urge to wear something green.

Every March 17 it strikes us, young and old, regardless of social class or ethnic origin. It evokes parades, parties, and an unusually high degree of gaiety.

They call it St. Paddy's day. St. Patrick's Day has a venerable history in this country, going back at least as far as the French and Indian Wars.

A celebration in honor of Ireland's patron saint took place in the garrison at Fort William Henry on March 17, 1757. And, during the Revolutionary War, both the American and British armies observed St. Patrick's Day. In fact, the Americans celebrated the occasion on March 17, 1776, by driving the British out of Boston.

When you go into the ancient origins of this annual occasion, it's hard to separate fact from legend. For example, tradition has it that St. Patrick performed amazing feats, such as driving all the snakes

The central idea cannot be argued: drunk drivers kill people. We need penalties so stiff that individuals would not dare drink, then drive.

We can support the creation of such laws by encouraging our representatives to do so. We know Danny DeVane, let's write to him.

We need laws that will help protect ourselves and our children.

Sincerely,
Kay Thomas

Please write:
Representative Daniel H. DeVane
State Legislative Office Building
Office 1319
Raleigh, N.C. 27611

McCain advice sought

To The Editor:

Legislators need to receive local input on both legislative matters and local issues.

A subtle issue to date is our State Department of Human Resources determination to close McCain Hospital.

If you are concerned about this matter you have a right to express your position. Hoke County has one of the finest State Representatives ever elected in Dan DeVane.

However, he nor Representative Hasty, Senator David Parnell nor myself can do very much about McCain unless we hear from you the voters. Phone calls, letters, cards, etc. will help.

Let us hear from you before something happens as opposed to after the fact.

Sincerely,
Sidney A. Locks
Representative
Legislative Office Building
Room 538

Puppy Creek Philosopher

Dear editor:
I don't think it'll have any

serious effect on economic recovery, but according to an article I read last night sideshows are going out of business.

"There just aren't very many country bumpkins left who want to stare at freaks," a veteran circus worker said.

The decline of country bumpkins if there ever were any can be blamed on television.

For instance, if you live in the smallest and most remote hamlet in the country and your TV set works you can find out as soon as people in a big city that the Queen of England, on her first five days in this country, showed up in five different hats.

It used to be that a U.S. Senator in far-off Washington was considered a mysterious giant of a man, but most of them have been seen on television so often saying so little that we've discovered they're just ordinary people hoping to hold on to a good job for the rest of their life.

There are very few small town people left, but there are lots of people living in small towns. There's a difference.

It should be understood that I speak here of country bumpkins, not city bumpkins. For all I know cities are full of bumpkins, some of them serving on city councils or working as grammar school principals.

Occasionally one of them gets into Congress.

It no longer makes sense to say somebody was wrong by a country mile. If he was monumentally wrong, more than likely it was by a city mile. A country mile is about 60 seconds long, while a city mile, due to the crazy traffic, sometimes is an hour long.

The sideshows are doomed. Why would anybody pay to get into one when he can stay at home and see a better quality of freaks free on television? What's on for tonight?

Yours faithfully,
J.A.

Things That Matter

out of the Emerald Isle, and making fire out of ice and snow balls.

What can be known with reasonable certainty is that a missionary named Patrick came to Ireland about the year 433 and labored there for the next three decades with extraordinary results. He founded something like 385 churches and placed a school by the side of each, established at least two colleges, and civilized the people in general.

Despite the fact that he and his many converts suffered persecution at the hands of Druid priests and the Celtic rulers, his preaching attracted great masses among the common people. When he came to Ireland, it is said, there were no Christians; when he left there were no heathens.

The shamrock is a symbolic of Irish culture to this very day because St. Patrick used this little three-leaved plant to explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

As in the case of other holidays, like Thanksgiving and Easter, we tend to carry on the celebration

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues

SANFORD & HOLLINGS...

We were interested to read that former Governor Terry Sanford, was going to head U.S. Senator Ernest Hollings' campaign for President in North Carolina.

Sanford says he will be "less than a manager's job and a little more than figurehead, and will not give up his job as President of Duke University."

Hollings was Governor of South Carolina the same time Sanford was Governor of North Carolina, and for the past several years has served as U.S. Senator from South Carolina. While there are several other candidates for the Democratic nomination, Hollings with an early start should be able to lead in the North Carolina primary.

SOCIAL SECURITY... It appears that Congress can never come forward with a sound Social Security program.

The U.S. Senate put off raising the retirement age to 67 in the next century 17 years from now! It's a pity we don't have more statesmen in Congress who would face up to the problems of the Social Security program.

The longer they put off on making the program sound, the harder it will be in the years to come -- if it last's that long.

We think Congress should have the backbone to face up to the needs of the system immediately and make it sound by cutting social security payments, if necessary, to put on a solid basis.

POST OFFICES... We notice that seven Eastern North Carolina Post Offices have been directed to end Sunday mail service, and surveys are underway to determine whether Sunday service will be discontinued at about 25 others.

Until a few years ago mail was dispatched from Aberdeen and put up in the local boxes every Sunday.

However, you can drop mail in an outside box at the post office and it will be picked up about 5 p.m. on Sundays and carried to Fayetteville where it is dispatched.

We have gotten used to not going to the post office on Sundays, but occasionally, we dispatch a letter that day.

Evidently, the U.S. Postal Service is cutting down on expenses and we understand that the U.S. Postal Service is now on a "pay as you go service" and we have no quarrel with that.

If Uncle Sam can put more and more Federal services on a pay as you go basis, we think the people will put up with it, without too much bickering.

OIL... If the cut-throat competition rules in the oil market in the rest of 1983 and prices continue to fall some bankers will be nervous. But for the vast majority of Americans the oil glut is welcome relief at a critical time. New taxes on gas, next month, and new state taxes -- likely in many states in 1983 -- are to be offset, in effect, by lower prices at the fuel pump and for oil heating eventually.

Some in the oil industry, however are being hurt by falling prices. Yet lower prices and the recovery are almost certain to increase demand in time. Oil companies have enjoyed fine profits in recent years and there's no threat to survival among the giants. Smaller affiliated companies, however, are in a more critical position.

Their fate and the fate of many western economies are tied, in part, the current price disarray among oil exporters.

SOBRIETY TEST... The Supreme Court told the states recently they can fight the "carnage caused by drunk drivers" by using a motorist's refusal to take a sobriety test as evidence of guilt.

The News - Journal

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