

Business Of Week



Richard Byrd is trying to find the trouble inside the motor of this truck

Flea market to open soon

By Kristin Guthrie
Staff writer

Over the years the Byrd family has built a good reputation in Raeford, first at Byrd's Alignment and then at Byrd's U-Lox-It.

They plan to extend their family business into an open-air flea market by mid-summer.

"Raeford's been good to our family since we move here 25 years ago," said Richard Byrd, part-owner of the establishments.

The family's first business, Byrd's Alignment, offers services on cars for alignments, oil changes, brakes, belts and other minor mechanical jobs. They are open Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

two owners of the business, are two of the six full-time and one part-time employees that run the business.

Before moving to Highway 211, the business began in July 1985 in a location on Campus Avenue and was operated more as a service station.

Since moving in 1991, Richard said, "now we're more into mechanics." As for Byrd's U-Lox-It, this business is composed of 80 storage units to be rented out by the public. The units range from five feet by seven feet, to eight feet by 15 feet, to 10 feet by 15 feet and rent for \$25 a month with an initial deposit.

"We only have one storage unit empty now," said Richard. "Most people who rent are moving locally from one house to another... but most people think in military."

It's easy to run the storage unit business from the alignment shop,

said Richard, and that's exactly what they've been doing since it opened in 1994. This business is owned by eight other family members as well as Richard and Robin.

Storage unit renters can enter their units from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and can begin renting by going to Byrd's Alignment. These two businesses as well as the flea market to come this summer are located on Highway 211 West toward Aberdeen and can be reached by calling 875-6346.

In planning for the flea market, Richard said he hopes it will be up and running by May or June. He said he is in the process of ordering the materials for the market that will house 20 vending units, a total of 40 feet by 100 feet. The units will rent for \$10 per day and will be available for rent on the weekdays or weekends.

Area gardening events to be held

There are two big fun events coming up soon in Fayetteville.

The first is the Spring Nature Fair in Clark Park. The affair is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 13.

Although I've never been to this event, I've heard it has much to offer. The Spring Nature Fair consists of booths put up by various groups in the community. Come, enjoy and find out what is going on.

Of course, the main feature will be a table set up by the Cumberland and Hoke County master gardeners. The master gardeners have just completed 36 hours of horticulture training at the Extension Office in Fayetteville. Topics covered include insects and diseases, lawn maintenance, pruning, composting and soils to name a few. With classroom instruction behind them, now is the time they practice what was taught.

At the Spring Nature Fair, master gardeners will feature a plant clinic to identify insects, diseases and answer questions. They will be glad to diagnose problems in your turf, flower beds and shrubs. North Carolina Extension publications on horticulture related topics will also be available.



Nancy Anderson
Agricultural Extension Agent

Soil sampling boxes will be available, or bring soil samples to the Spring Event. Having soil samples taken will tell you what the soil pH is, indicating if lime is needed or not.

Soil sample results will also indicate if fertilizer is required and how much. The soil sample is a free service provided by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service.

The other big event is the Dogwood Festival. The Cape Fear Botanical Garden will be decked out in its best spring finery when it flings open the gates for Dogwood Daze '96 on Saturday, April 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The day-long program will offer plenty of family fun with something to please everybody: live music on stage at the new Garden Gazebo; art exhibits by students and the pros; Kay Hindsley

with everything you need to get hooked on bluebirds and butterflies; Flora the Clown with fact paints and balloons for the kids; and Dr. Floyd Waddle with his snakes. Other critters the kids might bump into along the way are Limmie the Tree, Smokey Bear and Willy Water Drop. Kids of all ages will enjoy a view of the Garden from Nancy's Hay Wagon as well as walking tours of the Garden trails — with or without a guide.

Shopping has never been better for everything from orchids, herbs and daylilies to a garden shop stocked with garden-related items from our own gift shop and with items donated by local businesses and individuals. The Master Gardeners will again be answering questions on horticulture related items, and selling all types of wonderful plant material. Bring the kids to carry home lots of new plants. Did we mention food and drinks? Lots of both will be for sale, but if you are into picnicking, bring your blanket and basket, plopp down in the middle of it all and enjoy!!

To get into the beautiful new Garden Gates is only \$5 all day for adults (members \$3), kids under 12 free.

Use care when saving food

How long will food keep in the refrigerator?

That depends on several factors — the freshness of the food when it reaches the grocery store, the length of time it is in the store before you purchase it and the way the food was processed.

We, as consumers, can not do much about how the food is handled before we purchase it but we can control what we purchase the storage conditions in our homes.

Keep the refrigerator clean. Do a quick check each day for foods that need to be discarded. Clean shelves and other surfaces with warm, soapy water every couple of weeks and wipe



Carol Birkhead
Director, Hoke County Cooperative Extension

the shelf should be sanitized.

Use fresh meat, fish or poultry within two days of purchase. Recommended storage times for fresh meat are short. If you want to keep these items longer, wrap tightly, label and freeze.

Leftover foods should be refrigerated immediately after a meal, in a shallow, covered container. Cut large pieces of meat or poultry into smaller pieces. This allows these items to cool quickly. Large quantities of stew, soup, beans or similar foods should be chilled quickly by placing the cooking container in a clean sink with ice water in it. Stir frequently while the food cools, then put in shallow containers, cover and refrigerate or freeze.

News-Journal Weather Watch

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| | Wed-Thu | Thu-Fri | Fri-Sat | Sat-Sun | Sun-Mon | Mon-Tue | Tue-Wed |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|---------------|
| Precipitation (inch) | 00.00 | 00.00 | 00.00 | 00.20 | NA | 00.10 | 00.00 |
| High Temp. | 79(15:079) | 83(15:067) | 75(15:114) | 52(08:435) | NA | 62(16:039) | 56(15:009) |
| Low Temp. | 49(08:020) | 58(04:482) | 49(05:237) | 38(04:307) | NA | 40(09:009) | 36(05:428) |
| High Avg. Wind | 12(12:270) | 14(17:119) | 12(03:376) | 9(16:004) | NA | 12(02:168) | 14(14:477) |
| High Wind Gust | 25(15:314) | 26(17:086) | 24(03:377) | 16(21:331) | NA | 23(16:295) | 28(14:182) |
| High Wind Dir. | SSW | SSW | ENE | NNE | NA | NW | N |
| HighBarom. | 30.09(08:001) | 29.95(08:002) | 29.97(20:080) | 29.95(10:061) | NA | 30.05(08:204) | 30.01(07:533) |
| Low Barom. | 29.91(01:26) | 29.78(18:30) | 29.86(08:00) | 29.80(17:10) | NA | 29.76(01:36) | 29.78(08:23) |
| High Humidity | 85(15:524) | 84(13:574) | 81(15:265) | 99(17:364) | NA | 99(02:180) | 97(08:099) |

Remarks: All readings recorded downtown. Figures are for period ending at 8 a.m. on day indicated.

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