



Gourds, pumpkins and dried corn are becoming familiar sights once again along the roads of Pamlico County as

fall approaches. At Elizabeth Potter's home in Reelsboro many types, not to mention

shapes and sizes, of pumpkins, gourds and squash can be found.

Rescue Squad Decides No More Non-Emergency Transports

The board of directors and officers of the Pamlico County Rescue Squad made a decision on September 5: they will no longer provide transport to doctors' offices for routine appointments.

The new policy was necessary, said squad captain Randy Beeman, because of a lack of manpower during daytime hours and will go into effect October 1. The board of directors, Beeman said, questioned why the rescue squad had been providing services that were not emergency in nature.

Coincidentally with the rescue squad's decision, Beeman commented, two other organizations will be providing medical transportation for non-emergencies-- Christian Aid Services, located in Alliance, and a

new Red Cross program, Cross Wheels.

Regarding the new policy, Beeman said, "We're one of the last (squads in the area) that's finally...having to throw in the towel, so to speak."

In the past, the rescue squad has also transported patients from the hospital home to the county. This, too, will cease as a result of the board's decision, said Beeman, adding that he would like the option of reviewing these on a case-by-case basis.

The Cross Wheels program, according to Nancy Morton of the Craven-Pamlico Chapter of the American Red Cross, will provide necessity transportation for the frail, indigent or elderly. Cross Wheels is funded by a grant from the Public Welfare Foundation, a

private foundation in Washington, D.C.

Morton said she is trying to locate volunteers who would be willing to use their personal cars to transport clients to such places as the grocery store or pharmacy or to doctor's appointments. Volunteers would receive mileage payments of 20 and one-half cents per mile.

The first person to use the program, Morton said, was a Pamlico County resident, Woodrow Wilson, 71, of Merritt.

Most referrals come from social services or the health department, she said, but anyone who thinks he or someone he knows could use this service can call the Red Cross office in New Bern at 637-2640. People interested in volunteering are also encouraged to call.

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Arnolds Sentenced To 35 Years, \$200,000 Fine

Friday the thirteenth last week lived up to its reputation and proved to be an unlucky day for two brothers convicted in August of drug smuggling.

Following the sentencing hearing, Judge Thomas Watt sentenced Buddy Arnold of New Bern and Billy Arnold of Gales Creek to 35 years in prison and a \$200,000 fine each. After sentencing, the Arnolds' attorney motioned for appropriate relief, in this case, a new trial, alleging errors in the two-week trial which began July 23 in Craven County Superior Court. Watt did not rule on the motion, continuing it until November due to the unavailability of a witness deemed essential by the defense.

District attorney David McFadyen said that sixty to seventy individuals were arrested in the 1981 "Misty Blue" and 1982 "Mermaid" cases. The cases, known as "Operation Pamlico," were part of the investigations of the Presidential Drug Task Force, McFadyen said. All the defendants arrested were offered the opportunity to provide assistance as part of a plea bargaining arrangement. Buddy and Billy Arnold, he said, were the only ones who did not take advantage of the offer.

Regarding the Arnolds, McFadyen commented that "the evidence is strong as to the guilt of these defendants."

He added that he provided a complete file of the state's investigation, "about a foot-thick file," to the defendants' attorneys. This was the first time he had done this, McFadyen commented,

and "I did so because I thought the evidence was so overwhelming."

Up to and even during the trial, the defendants were offered the opportunity to enter a plea "and they refused to do so," McFadyen said. In addition, McFadyen said that it appeared that others in the Arnolds' family may possibly have been involved and he agreed not to prosecute them if the Arnold brothers cooperated.

"It's important for the public to know...that these defendants were offered every opportunity. The state bent over backwards to make sure they were treated the same as the other defendants."

Thomas Loflin of Durham, attorney for the defense, commented that Earl Whitted, one of the defense attorneys during the trial, had filed a motion attacking the constitutionality of the trafficking law since it calls for the defendant, if convicted, to receive a minimum sentence unless substantial assistance is rendered. He added that, in addition to the motion already filed by Marc Chesnut, another of the trial attorneys, he was also filing a motion that the law be declared unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment.

The evidence presented showed only that the Arnolds would have been "muscle in" as laborers and that they didn't purchase the marijuana or finance the operation, he commented.

The brothers had worked hard all their lives, continued Loflin, and then "someone shows up with a great big satchel of money" that would enable them to "catch up on debts and get their families

ahead." It was understandable that this would be a great temptation, he commented.

"People like Buddy and Billy Arnold do not have the opportunity to provide substantial assistance...therefore the person who is more capable has an out under the statute," he said. In addition, the law permits the district attorney, who acts in the role of prosecutor, to decide "what is and what isn't substantial assistance." The drug trafficking law also "offends" the Eighth Amendment, he said, in that the sentence is disproportionate to the offense. Loflin said he felt the law also violated the separation of powers, specifically executive and judicial, required by the state constitution.

Judge Watt said, "I feel somewhat compelled to observe that most of the issues have already been answered by the appellate division." Regarding the issue of assistance, Watt said he had the authority to reduce or suspend the sentence or the fine or both if he found there had been substantial cooperation.

As for those more culpable being able to provide greater assistance, "obviously, this is true...but it's not the quantity of the assistance that is important but the quality of assistance," he stated.

Watt added that the drug trafficking statute had resulted in the bringing to trial major drug smuggling cases and had had the effect of deterring "the large scale distribution of those substances which influence our society."

He continued, "Those who prey

upon society, but those people who have developed a dependency on controlled substances" do so from a "profit motive".

He agreed that people are drawn in by the money but that their participation is a "calculated risk" that most people aren't willing to take.

He then denied Loflin's motion.

Loflin consequently asked that a sentence no greater than the mandatory be imposed since the evidence showed that the brothers

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Pictured are Rosa Arnold (far left) and other relatives as they leave the Craven County Courthouse following Friday's sentencing of Buddy and Billy Arnold on drug smuggling charges.

Chocowinity Advisory Council Airs Complaints Before School Board

The Chocowinity School Advisory Council was present Tuesday night at the Beaufort County Board of Education's meeting to discuss, according to the agenda, the policies relating to the advisory council. Much of their discussion, however, centered around James Henderson, the principal of the high school.

School board chairman Jimmy Raper asked advisory council Martin Mayo if he planned to act as spokesperson for the group. Mayo replied that all the advisory council members intended to speak. Raper explained that board policies permitted groups to delegate one person to speak for them for a maximum of five minutes.

Board member Calvin Pittman made a motion that all the advisory council members be heard but it died for lack of a second. The group then excused themselves to discuss the matter.

Later in the meeting, Mayo told the board that, since the advisory council did not come prepared to have only one person speak, they would prefer to reschedule.

Pittman asked if each advisory council member submitted a request if each would be able to be heard.

Raper reiterated that the policy stated one person per group. Pittman pointed out that the form on which a group requests to be heard does not specify any certain number of people to which Raper replied that the form stated "person" not "persons".

A motion was made by Pittman that all the advisory council members be heard at the October meeting if each submitted a request.

Board member Olin Midgette

agreed that each would then have an opportunity to speak.

"Do you go along with that, Mr. (Garry) Jordan?" asked Pittman. Jordan nodded.

Pittman then again made a motion that each be heard Tuesday night.

Midgette commented that perhaps the advisory council members should be heard.

Allen said he would second the motion provided each speaker was limited to five minutes; the motion passed.

Mayo said that in April when he was appointed to the advisory council Midgette had asked if the council could work with the school's administration. "We assured you we could," he said. Since that time, he continued, the members had talked with those on other advisory councils, and with Midgette, a former advisory council member, to find out "how they solved problems."

It was important, Mayo said he was told, to get to know the faculty, visit the schools and get involved in school activities and to thoroughly review the financial statements. But the Chocowinity advisory council has not been allowed by Henderson to ask questions regarding the school or its finances, Mayo said. "As long as we do not harass or intimidate Mr. Henderson, there's no way he should refuse" to provide the information requested, Mayo commented.

Other councils receive such information routinely, he said, as well as information on such things as staff changes. Henderson, Mayo continued, told the council that that was not the concern of the advisory council but of administration.

"Why isn't the Chocowinity advisory council afforded the same privileges as the other advisory councils?" he asked.

Dennis Daughtery said he thought the advisory council members understood their duties and responsibilities but asked "what relationship should the advisory council have with the board of education and what is the board's view of the duties of the advisory council?"

Midgette replied that when he on the advisory council, they reviewed the schools' financial reports each meeting and also reviewed the needs of the schools. "We worked in an advisory capacity with the county board," he said, and did not make policy but recommendations.

Daughtery said that, according to the council's written handbook, their purpose is to serve as an extension of the board of education by providing advice and counsel for the schools' administrations. "No one has asked me for any advice whatsoever," he stated.

Midgette said that the advisory council's advice might not be sought by a principal unless he felt he had a problem he could not handle alone.

Daughtery said that the council members feel "restrained" against visiting the school--that Henderson has told them that they could only see teachers from 3:05 to 3:30 in the afternoon. That time period is a problem since many of the council members work, he commented.

"I'm not going to ask you anything 'cause I can see I won't get anywhere," said council member Terry Alligood.

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Deadline For Filing For Municipal Elections Nearing

As of Monday, only one town had a full slate of candidates for the November elections and the filing period for municipal offices closes at noon on Friday, September 20.

Arapahoe is ahead of the other towns and so far is also the only one where there will be a contested race for commissioner. Incumbent Larry Ford has filed for the mayor's seat and incumbent commissioners Woodrow Boyd, Harvey Hardison, George Harper and Charles Brinson have indicated that they plan to run again. Vernon J. Daniels has also filed for commissioner.

In Minnesot Beach, incumbent mayor Ottis Peele has filed as have incumbents John Anthes and Bill Luck.

Bob Cowden, Stonewall's present mayor, is again seeking his office and incumbent commissioners Albert Earl Edwards and Leroy Lupton want to continue in their positions.

Ferrell McKinney, filing for commissioner, is Bayboro's only candidate to date.

In Aurora, Grace Bonner has filed for the mayor's office again but as of Monday there were no candidates for the two commissioners' seats up for grabs this

year.

In Alliance, where the highest vote-getter becomes mayor, incumbents Edward Spencer and Frank Willis, who is presently serving as mayor, have filed, along with Lee Toler.

There had been no filings in Vandemere as of Monday and Mesic's elections chairman could not be reached. Since last week's

report, there had been no changes in Oriental's present slate where Grace Evans had filed for mayor and incumbents Brantley Norman and Dennis Barkley for commissioners.