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Lack Of Funds Blocks Ninth Grade At JK

Money remains the principal obstacle to adding a ninth grade and making additions to over-crowded James Kenan High School, officials told 50 Boosters Club members last week.

The high school, located on N.C. 24 about four miles east of Warsaw, serves the Warsaw and Kenansville and Magnolia areas of Duplin County. It is the only one of the county's four high schools that does not have a ninth grade. The approximately 200 ninth-grade students of the district now attend Warsaw Junior High School and Kenansville's E.E. Smith School.

Duplin school officials said Tuesday of last week that a building of at least 10 rooms would be needed at James Kenan to curtail overcrowding and house a ninth grade. No one has estimated the cost of such a project because nobody has determined exactly what the school would need.

Several mobile classroom units are now spread about

the campus.

The county's plan to consolidate James Kenan and North Duplin high schools several years ago drew strong opposition, and Booster Club members say that proposal has delayed development of James Kenan. The plan has been in limbo for more than two years.

Phyllis Ellenberg of Warsaw said James Kenan hasn't received its fair share of improvements because of the consolidation plan.

But Board of Education member Jimmy Strickland of Warsaw said James Kenan has the top priority for a new media center/library and new classrooms.

"Money is so tight, we might lose accreditation because of the media center problem and possible cut-backs in money," Strickland said. "We have to plan on what we can finance, and in the next 60 days we'll have to determine what we can do."

County Commissioners' Chairman W.J. Costin of

Warsaw said the county's ability to contribute money for school expansion is a problem.

Low crop prices have put the county's farmers in a financial bind, he said.

"I really dread to go to work on this year's budget," he said. "I don't think we can raise taxes on \$2 corn or \$5 soybeans and cut in tobacco production. Unemployment is 15 percent. Things just don't look good."

Costin said the commissioners appropriated \$100,000 in a capital reserve fund last year and hope to add more this year.

"If the Board of Education will do its part, I'll do my part to get the money. I may be sticking my foot in my mouth," Costin said.

Mack Johnson, a turkey farmer and former teacher at Warsaw Junior High School, said a ninth-grade student is more akin to 10th graders than to eighth-graders and should be with the high school students.

Linda Kitchin of Warsaw

called the James Kenan library "disgraceful."

In a related issue, the Onslow County Board of Education heard a proposal by a committee to take the ninth grade out of two Jacksonville junior high schools and send ninth-grade students to Jacksonville Senior High.

Superintendent E.L. Waters said he supports the change for academic reasons but said he will have to study the situation to see if the high school can accommodate the extra students, particularly in its cafeteria and band room.

About 330 students at Jacksonville and Northwoods Park junior high schools would be affected, Waters said. The committee recommended the change for the next school year, he said.

The school board is expected to make a decision on the matter by Feb. 1. If a decision cannot be reached by then he said, the school system would have to wait until next year.



STUDENTS PURCHASE BOOKS for new quarter at JSTC.



STUDENTS RECEIVE IDENTIFICATION CARDS on Registration Day at JSTC.

Union Signs Stevens Contract In Wallace

The Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union has signed a collective bargaining contract covering 550 workers at two J.P. Stevens & Co. textile plants in Wallace, ending an eight-year effort by the union to obtain a contract.

The National Labor Relations Board and federal courts ordered Stevens to bargain with the union after the union lost a 1975 election at Wallace by a 540-404 vote.

The board's order cited Stevens for unfair labor practices it said had caused "serious and irreparable disruptions to the election

process."

J.P. Stevens has been a major employer in the Wallace area since building the first major textile plant, its Carter mill, in Duplin County in 1951. In 1971 it built its second mill, the Holly plant, adjacent to the first on the south side of Wallace.

Employment has decreased in recent years, but the company is in the process of multimillion-dollar renovations in the two plants to change their products.

The new contract brings to 11 the number of Stevens plants covered by ACTWU contracts.

In October 1980, the com-

pany and the union signed a collective bargaining agreement covering 3,500 workers at Stevens plants in Roanoke Rapids, High Point, Allendale, S.C., and W. Boylston, Ala.

That agreement ended a 17-year battle that earned Stevens a national reputation as a staunchly anti-union company.

The Wallace contract is "basically the same contract (as the one signed in 1980) with some minor modifications," said union representative Robert Ross.

Under the 30-month contract agreed to in late November, Wallace workers re-

ceived a 5.5 percent pay increase with provisions to reopen wage negotiations every six months.

The firm recently received approval of Duplin County for issuance of \$7 million in tax-free industrial revenue bonds for new equipment and worker re-training in the Carter mill. When the work is completed, the mill will dye and finish cotton and cotton-blend single-knit fabrics.

The company plans further expansion in the mill's capacity that will increase employment to 350 to 400 people.

Freezer Work To Begin When Ground Dries At Wallace Site

Construction of a 62,000-square-foot freezer warehouse near Wallace will begin as soon as ground at the site dries out, Duplin County Economic Development Director John Gurganus said last Friday.

Gurganus said recent heavy rainfall has prevented earth-moving and foundation work in the area.

Williams Refrigeration Express Inc., headed by Charles Williams of Federalburg, Md., will build the structure on an industrial site

owned by Duplin County. The plant will be adjacent to the Swift & Co. turkey processing plant west of Wallace.

Financing for the plant was completed in December by the Duplin County Development Authority, which arranged with the state the sale of up to \$3.7 million in tax-free bonds.

The authority is a non-profit corporation established in 1982, originally to apply for a community block grant of \$750,000 for economic development. That

plan fell through because the proposed freezer plant's employment would be low in relation to the investment.

Gurganus said the bonds were sold at interest rates of 8 to 9 percent, about 4 percent under the rate for taxable interest bonds at the time of sale.

Gurganus and other backers of the freezer believe area poultry, hog and horticulture industries can use it to freeze and store their products, especially those destined for export through the port of Wilmington.

It may lead to expansion of the region's poultry industry, they have said.

Major poultry-processing plants of the area are active in export trade. If the United States can work out trade agreements to limit government subsidies to foreign competitors and ease restrictions on exports of poultry and meat, foreign trade could benefit.

Gurganus said Swift & Co. has agreed to lease space in the new freezer for its frozen turkeys.

Duplin Ambulance Bills Unpaid

A poor rate of ambulance fee collections led the Duplin County Board of Commissioners to ask the county's legislator to seek a local bill permitting garnisheeing of wages for uncollected ambulance bills.

The board voted last week to ask Wendell Murphy of Rose Hill, new representative for the 10th District comprising Duplin and Jones counties, to introduce the garnishment bill when local legislation is considered by the N.C. General Assembly this winter. Forty-five North Carolina counties can garnishee wages for ambulance bills.

Ambulance patients were billed \$69,163.71 for the first

nine months of 1982, according to Hiram Brinson, county emergency services director. He said about 40 percent of the bills, or about

\$27,000, has not been collected.

Commissioner Calvin Turner, who made the motion, said, "I feel like it's

foolish to garnishee wages for taxes, some of which support the hospital (Duplin General in Kenansville), and not garnishee them for ambulance bills."

Margolis Receives Award

Dr. Jeffrey Margolis of Goshen Medical Center in Faison has received the American Medical Association's "Physician Recognition" award.

Given tri-annually, this award recognizes excellence in continuing medical education activities. To qualify, a

physician must obtain at least 150 hours of study through participation in scientific meetings and courses over a three-year period. Dr. Margolis has completed the requirements for this award in 12 months.

Dr. Margolis, a native of New Bern, is a graduate of

the University of North Carolina school of medicine in Chapel Hill and did his residency at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. He came to Goshen Medical Center in July 1981 and is Duplin County's first board certified internist. He and his wife, Barbara, and son, Joshua, live in Faison.

Winter Enrollment Increased At JSTC

James Sprunt Technical College has experienced an increase in enrollment this winter quarter thus far. Over 670 students have enrolled, an increase over the number who registered for winter quarter last year.

Mrs. Debra Morrissey, recruiter placement coordinator for the College, projects that by the end of late registration, the number of students enrolled will be at least 50-75 more than last year. She stated that the

College has worked hard to inform prospective students about the College. Recruitment efforts included home visits, participation in high school career days, recruitment posters around the county, publication of a

newsletter, and local newspaper and radio advertisements.

Dr. Carl Price, JSTC president, stated that he was very pleased with the increase in enrollment which began in the fall and is continuing this quarter.

Tart, Vocational Director, Appeared Before School Board

Duplin Program Aids 2,848

Duplin County's public school vocational instruction programs have 2,848 students, according to Robert Tart, vocational director.

He conducted a program on the system's vocational training at a board of education meeting Tuesday last week at Charity Middle School near Rose Hill.

More than 150 people attended the public program, the largest number to turn out for any of the board's community meetings. The board rotates its first meeting each month, held on the first Tuesday, among the various schools. The second meeting each month, on the third Tuesday, is held at the system's headquarters in Kenansville.

The vocational program attempts to provide students with practical skills, Tart said. Students from the seventh through 12th grades are enrolled.

Tart said the current voca-

tional budget totals \$1,479,825, of which the state provides \$965,357, the county \$350,246 and the federal government \$164,220. About 95 percent of the budget goes for teaching personnel, he added.

Twelve teachers are paid entirely by state and federal funds. Another 51 are paid by a combination of 72 percent state and 28 percent local funding.

The program offers courses in business, office procedures, vocational agriculture, home economics, welding, mechanics, bricklaying, building trades and electrical trades.

Students who have taken vocational courses and who enroll at James Sprunt Technical College are not required to repeat their high school work, according to an agreement between the college and the public school system, he added.

The program opened with

a memorial service for William Joseph Powers, principal of Charity Middle School, who died Christmas Day. He had been a principal in the Duplin system for 30½ years. Charlie Blanchard, assistant principal, was appointed acting principal.

The board awarded a replacement-cost insurance

contract on \$40,884,000 worth of buildings to Carlton Insurance Co. of Warsaw on a bid of \$30,255 for the year; a vehicle insurance contract to Ralph Carlton Insurance Co. of Wallace for \$8,554, and an insurance contract on boilers and cafeteria steam cookers to Associated Insurance of Wallace for \$609.

Two Injured In Wreck Near Wallace

Two people were injured when a car ran a stop sign south of Wallace last Monday.

Hattie Moore, 79, of Atkinson, was charged with failure to yield for a stop sign.

The cars crashed at the intersection of State Road 1309 and State Road 1345, 1½ miles south of Wallace.

Ms. Moore's sister, Katherine Liles, 82, was a

passenger and was admitted to New Hanover Memorial Hospital for treatment of injuries. Ms. Liles was listed in satisfactory condition Monday night.

The driver of the other car, Theodore Brown, 67, of Rose Hill, received a jaw and teeth injuries and was treated by a Wilmington dental surgeon, said John Paul Keon, state trooper on the scene.