

# Harnett County News

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TWENTY CENTS

## around town

by Steve Plummer

### SPORTS SPRING PROGRAM

All adults who were connected with Johnsonville School during the principalships of Messrs. Ledbetter, Powell, Evans and Marsh, either as students, parents, PTA members, teachers, employees and lay citizens are invited to attend a fellowship program at Spouts Spring United Presbyterian Church on N.C. highway 24 Sunday at 3:45 p.m.

### CAROLERS READY

The Lillington Carolers and Junior Girl Scouts will meet Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Lillington Baptist Church to prepare for a night of caroling. Make plans to attend.

### CHANGE IN DEADLINE

Because Christmas Eve and Christmas Day fall on the two busiest, most aggravating days of the week for a weekly newspaper, the Harnett County News will observe the following changes in deadlines:

Everything, including classified ads, legal ads, display ads and any and all news should be turned in by 12 noon Friday. Don't keep staring folks, that's it—all the changes I'm going to make. Because they are so simple, they should be easy to remember, but just wait - someone will call my house about 10:30 p.m. wanting to put in a classified.

Also, be forewarned: there will be no (and I really mean it this year, people), repeat, no exceptions to the deadline. If it's not here by 12 on Friday, it doesn't go in next week's paper. (Boy, I sounded so mean just then I even scared myself.)

We will be working Saturday to get the composition end wrapped up and we will be closed (just like normal people!) Monday and Tuesday. Printing and mailing will be done on Wednesday, same as every week.

### BLOODMOBILE VISIT

The Red Cross bloodmobile collected 57 pints in their visit here last Tuesday. That's out of 61 prospective donors who showed up.

Several people were honored with pins, including Bank of North Carolina manager Charlie Sikes, who received a four-gallon pin. That's a tremendous achievement, Charlie, and you deserve everyone's congratulations.

Receiving one-year pins were Harold D. Collins of Lillington, Carolyn Partin of Bunnlevel and Helen Crews of Lillington.

The volunteers of the Red Cross wish to thank all the RSPV volunteers who served as callers prior to the visit, reminding past donors to give again.

One even called me to remind me of the visit, but much to my chagrin, I completely forgot they were here last Tuesday. You see, as I have mentioned thousands of times (well, at least once) in this column, my brain turns to jello on Tuesday and all I can think of is getting through with this newspaper's edition for the week.

A thousand apologies to my friends with the bloodmobile. I promise to make it up later.

### NOTE OF THANKS

W.H. Lee of Lillington, a longtime, popular resident of the area, is out of the hospital and he wishes to express his appreciation to all the people who remembered him during his stay there.

Some folks say that people have lost the capacity to care for anyone but themselves, but judging from the number of thank you notes that appear in these pages, I'm convinced that's just not true.

### CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

The first annual Western Harnett High School Christmas Classic basketball tournament will be held Dec. 27-28, with four schools, Western, Harnett Central, Erwin and Fuquay Varina, invited.

Central faces off against Erwin at 7 p.m. Thursday and Western plays Fuquay at 8:30 p.m. On Friday, the consolation game will be at 7 and the championship round will be at 8:30.

Tickets are two dollars each per night. Trophies will be awarded to the winning team, to members of the winning team, to the second and third place finishers and to the most valuable player.

An all-tourney team will also be announced. It's some of the best basketball in the area, folks, so don't miss it.

### CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCES

Andy Collins of Chatham's did it this year by giving his wife a 1979 Cadillac Coupe DeVille, complete with all the accessories. It's an absolutely beautiful machine and Mrs. Collins is really thrilled with it.

My old college roommate, Bob (the Knob) Umberger, also had his own particular way of observing one particular Christmas.

Seems that good old Bob, who worked the coal mines of West Virginia during the summers, decided that the money he was making during 1973 was too good to pass up so he stayed up in the Mountain State until that particular job was over.

Of course, by that time it was too late in the term to enroll back in school, so he went to his hometown of Durham to find some work to keep him busy until the next term began.

Well, the job he found was perfect for a jolly old soul such as he - a local shopping center wanted Robert for their very own Santa Claus. Of course, competition was stiff for the job, but Bob got it when the shopping center people found out he had his own Santa suit. (Don't ask me why he had one, he just did.)

So for about three weeks of work, Bob was going to make \$500 and all he had to do was sit in his little house in the shopping center.

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## Town Board Asks DOT For Original Truck Route

by STEVE PLUMMER

A resolution asking the N.C. Department of Transportation for enough funds to construct a truck route to accommodate both north and southbound traffic was approved unanimously Dec. 11 by the Lillington board of commissioners.

The proposed truck route was originally designed to divert north and southbound truck traffic from the busy intersection of Main and Front streets in Lillington.

The truck traffic would be detoured down Tenth and Duncan streets and would intersect with Main Street near the Cape Fear River bridge.

However, in a public hearing in Lillington two weeks ago to discuss the necessary improvements to Tenth and Duncan streets, local officials discovered that the original plan had been modified by highway officials to accommodate northbound traffic only.

The reason for the change, according to state highway officials, is a 10 percent grade that exists on the median between the north and southbound lanes of Main Street near the river.

Highway officials said many trucks would be in danger of overturning if they attempted to negotiate the grade in its present condition.

Highway officials also said the cost of modifying the grade would be about \$100,000 more than the \$520,000 estimated for implementing a route to accommodate northbound traffic only.

The modified plan, according to DOT officials, would resolve most of Lillington's present traffic and noise problems by allowing incoming trucks to avoid the seven percent grade at the intersection of Main and Front streets.

The state highway representatives also assured local leaders

that the modified plan would only be temporary. They indicated that the grade could be corrected at a later date.

Local officials and community leaders disagreed with that assessment, however, saying the new plan would resolve only half the problem.

They also expressed the fear that once the problem of the median is deferred, it will never be reconsidered because inflation would increase the expense of modification to a point where it would no longer be feasible.

Chamber leaders and local citizens met with the town board at its regular meeting last week to seek approval of a resolution asking the DOT to reconsider the plan.

Town officials warned last week that because of the increasing scarcity of highway funds, a controversy in Lillington could result in the whole plan being dropped in favor of less troublesome construction

elsewhere in the state.

The resolution passed by the board, reflecting that fear, was worded to indicate that local residents want the truck route as the plan presently calls for if no other alternative can be found.

The resolution, in its entirety, is as follows:

### RESOLVED

WHEREAS, the town of Lillington originally proposed that a truck route be established along the business area of the Town of Lillington with such truck route to follow along 10th Street and Duncan Street leading from Front Street to Main Street in the Town of Lillington; and

WHEREAS, the proposal by the Town Board for such truck route was for the truck route to serve both the north and south bound traffic along U.S. highway 421; and

WHEREAS, it has been brought to the attention of the

Town of Lillington that the Department of Transportation proposed to construct such truck route with it to serve only north bound traffic along U.S. highway 421; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation proposal for such project is by virtue of the fact of an additional \$100,000 needed in changing the grade on Main Street near the Cape Fear River; and

WHEREAS, the total cost for the proposed truck route would be approximately \$500,000 and the additional cost to make such facilities serve both north and south bound traffic is relatively nominal in connection with the total cost; and

WHEREAS, the construction of such truck bypass so as to serve only north bound traffic would only solve half the problem of the Town of Lillington and the town desires for the total problem to be solved; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Lillington does not desire to jeopardize the truck bypass construction but it does desire for the Department of Transportation if at all possible to make such truck bypass serve both north and south bound traffic on U.S. highway 421 so as to relieve the tremendous traffic problem in the downtown area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Transportation be urged to consider investing additional funds needed in order to make the proposed truck route in the Town of Lillington serve both the north and south bound traffic along U.S. highway 421; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the town desires for such project to be built as presently proposed if there is not another way to abide by the request to make such truck route to serve north and south bound traffic.

## Lack of Fuel Funds May Lead to Crueler Winter

by STEVE PLUMMER

To many, Christmas is a time of love, a high point of the year, but to hundreds of Harnett County residents, it means nothing but another day of struggling to keep warm.

According to Helen Crews, director of the Harnett County Department of Social Services, more local residents than ever before will be worrying about the cold unless more aid comes in from the rest of Harnett's citizens.

"In the past several years we have had lots of help from area churches and civic groups, all of whom have donated money to the county's fuel fund," she said.

"We haven't had that kind of response this year and there is practically no money in the fund for anyone," she said.

More than 300 Harnett residents were on hand last Wednesday at the Harnett County Community Development office in Lillington, hoping to get a portion of the \$45,000 in fuel funds allotted to Harnett County from the federal government.

According to Jerry Bullock, CD director, about 200 people received the funds on a first-come, first-served basis.

He estimated that around 400 were turned away.

"We helped about four percent of all those eligible, but what would they do without this assistance?" Bullock asked. "I don't know what they've been heating their homes with."

Both Bullock and Mrs. Crews agree that the biggest majority of people who need help are the elderly and shut-ins, but all person eligible for assistance have incomes at or below the poverty level.

Mrs. Crews said persons currently receiving government aid through the Supplemental Security Income program or Aid to Families with

Dependent Children will automatically receive fuel assistance funds from the government.

That still leaves over 400 people who, without exaggeration, could literally freeze in their beds if help doesn't come in from somewhere.

"Because of inflation, money is tight; this year than ever before, we understand that," Mrs. Crews said. "But we've had inflation in the past and still had good response from the communities."

Bernice Ballance serves as Harnett County's chairman of the Community Emergency Fuel Fund, the organization Continued on page 14



NEW OFFICERS for Summerville Volunteer Fire Department were announced Dec. 9 at the organization's annual banquet. Seen here are, l-r, Elliott Johnson, treasurer; Carl Johnson, assistant chief; Melvin Yow captain;

David Miller, training officer; Danny Matthews, secretary; and Thurman Brown, chief. Not pictured is Jack Webb, lieutenant. (Photo by Hamilton Brown)

## One of Two Pedestrians Hit by Car Sat. Dies

One of two pedestrians struck by a car late Saturday night on E. McNeil Street Extension (Prison Camp Road) died Sunday morning of severe head injuries.

Lincoln Neal, chief of the Lillington Police Department, which is investigating the incident, said Monday the other victim remains hospitalized in a Chapel Hill hospital.

The dead man is identified as Craig Parson, 32 of Rt. 1,

Clinton. He died about 11 a.m. Sunday in Chapel Hill Memorial Hospital. The other victim, Lloyd George, 21 of Lillington, remains in the Chapel Hill hospital.

The driver of the car that struck the two men is Marshall Clayton Gainey, 27 of Rt. 2, Lillington. Neal said that while no charges have been filed so far against Gainey, the incident is still under investigation.

According to Neal, the

incident happened Saturday between 11 and 11:15 p.m. in front of Hawley's Trailer Park on E. McNeil Street.

Neal said a car was stopped in the westbound lane with its headlights on while the driver conducted a conversation with the two men, who were standing beside the driver's window.

Gainey, who was headed east on McNeil Street, told Neal that when he saw the other

vehicle with its lights on, he thought it was driving towards him.

He told Neal he "never saw anyone until the bodies landed on the hood" of the car, Neal said.

The Harnett County Ambulance Service of Buies Creek transported both victims to Good Hope Hospital in Erwin. The two men were immediately evacuated to Chapel Hill, Neal said.

The police chief said Monday that there was no indication of excessive speed on the part of Gainey, but he said interviews with witnesses were still being conducted earlier this week.

In an unrelated incident Friday afternoon, Lillington policemen investigated a three-car pileup at the intersection of West Old Road (N.C. highway 27) and 10th Street.

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## COIN Offers Career Info

A new machine, nicknamed COIN, has been purchased by Harnett Vocational Job Placement Service director Don Damon and will be used in local schools to help high school seniors discover their job potential and abilities.

The Coordinated Occupational Information Network (COIN) is a complete and comprehensive career information system.

It was designed by educators, manpower planners and media specialists for use by high schools, colleges, libraries, vocational rehabilitation offices, correction institutions, CETA offices and other social agencies involved with assisting persons with their career planning.

Its purpose is to provide users with current, accurate and

relevant occupational and educational information and to provide services designed to assist them in using information more efficiently with those individuals whom they serve.

Vocational Job Placement Service was implemented this year with the primary purpose of helping vocational high school graduates keep good jobs.

Damon has been busy mailing surveys, making telephone calls and going on personal visits contacting employers, Chambers of Commerce, civic and professional organizations to gain support and participation for the program.

The COIN system will be made available for the first time in Harnett County high

schools. Its resources, provided with vocational funds to help students headed for the job market make decisions, are vast, with a microfiche file containing over 9,000 regularly updated pages of information on everything students need to know about jobs but do not know how to ask.

There are employment opportunities for graduating seniors that they are often unaware of until years after graduation. Damon pointed out that a vocational carpentry student may simply believe that a carpenter is a carpenter as far as jobs go.

"However, in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles, there are 31 different specific carpentry

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TWO CLUBS TIED for the National 4-H Week award at last week's Harnett 4-H Achievement Night program. Seen here are representatives from the Shawtown 4-H Club and the Happy Hearts Club of Coats. L-r are Geraldine McLaughlin, Carolyn Blanding,

Chipolla Street and Antone Foxworth, all of Shawtown; Margie Peasant and daughter Lynn, Betty Sullivan and daughter Ramona, Scott Stevens and Teresa Pleasanti, all of Happy Hearts. (Photo by Dan Cook)

# Merry Christmas