

# THE Northampton County TIMES-NEWS

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## Commissioners Restore School's \$50,000; Northampton Tax \$1.60



**SMOLDERING REMAINS** of the new addition to Woodland Manufacturing Company's casket mill were still ablaze at mid-morning Friday after a 6 a.m. alarm had brought four surrounding fire companies. The new addition was completely destroyed although the older part of the plant (in background) escaped with only minor smoke and water damage.

### Fire Destroys Addition To Woodland Casket Firm

GEORGE — A fire believed to have been started by spontaneous combustion destroyed the recently completed 2,500 square foot addition to the Woodland Manufacturing Company's casket millroom early Friday morning.

Charles H. Swift, plant manager, said the blaze was discovered at approximately 6 a.m. by a workman at the plant and he theorized "spontaneous combustion in the millroom probably caused the fire although we do not know for sure and will have to investigate further."

Swift added the addition was just completed Thursday afternoon and was to house the millroom and box department. Both operations had been carried on in another plant some distance from the main site.

The plant manager commented no estimate of damage has been made and a check with the firm's accountants will have to be made before a figure can be determined. Part of the building and equipment was covered by insurance.

terials from other plants and assemble the caskets in the older part of the plant that escaped damage.

James Lee of the Woodland Fire Department said the company received the call "a little after 6 a.m." and when they arrived on the scene "the complete back portion of the company was covered by fire."

Lee added the roof on the new addition "fell in shortly after we arrived." He reported that firemen's efforts were directed to prevent damage to the front part of the plant where the offices and storage facilities are located.

"We were able to confine the fire to the back portion of the building and there was only slight water and smoke damage to the front part," concluded Lee.

Fire companies from Woodland, Rich Square, Conway and Murfreesboro were on the scene and a truck from the Woodland department remained until well after 9 a.m. to extinguish small blazes that rekindled.

### 1,798 Persons Receive Aid To Dependent Children

(This is the fourth in a series of articles on public welfare in Northampton County. The second and third articles explained two of the three monthly financial aid programs administered by the Northampton County Department of Public Welfare — aid to the aged and aid to the disabled.)

Today's article will present the facts about the third and final monthly financial aid program — aid to families with dependent children.)

By JAMES CLARK  
Northampton County  
Welfare Director

**JACKSON** — The financial aid to families with dependent children program is a program designed by Congress to assist needy children. However, it would be of little service to help the children and let the parent be without subsistence. Therefore, in these cases one adult family member normally is included in the monthly grant.

**JACKSON** — The Northampton County Board of Commissioners, acting in regular session Tuesday, restored a \$50,000 cut to the school outlay budget but stipulated the funds are to be used to repair existing buildings and grounds. The tax rate is expected to remain at \$1.60.

The school board met with the commissioners in the afternoon session and indicated the cut would have to be restored if the county was to have all the buildings that will be necessary ready for occupancy this fall.

School superintendent Roy F. Lowry appealed to the commissioners to provide funds for a new school bus garage which he said "is outdated and completely inadequate."

Lowry said the existing facility does not have adequate heating and "ought not to be put off." He said, "The boys down at the garage are getting on edge."

But the commissioners seemed intent that no new school buildings or facilities be built in the county in the coming year. Chairman J. Guy Revelle said, "We don't think it is the proper time to construct any new buildings in the county but we agree you do

need to repair existing buildings to prepare for the fall term."

School board chairman W. C. Conner told the commissioners, "We cut the budget to a minimum originally and when you cut \$50,000 and with the desegregation order, we just do not have enough money to operate the system."

Conner said the federal court order will cause the school board to have to use several buildings and rooms that have not been used in some time and "they just have to be repaired."

Chairman Revelle asked Lowry if there are any buildings which are to be repaired that are expected to be abandoned in the near future. Lowry replied, "We just don't know but we hope the repairs will help alleviate some of the problems we have."

School board member L. H. Taylor commented, "We feel an allegiance to the taxpayers in the county who cannot afford to send their children to a private school. We want to make sure the people who send the children to public schools will be sending them to a school they can feel proud of."

And school board member Cliff

ton Parker told the commissioners, "Now is the time to take the responsibility. We are going to have to run a public school system and we just can't throw up our hands to the responsibility. We have to do as fine a job as possible."

Revelle then asked Lowry if the present work force is enough to have all the buildings ready for the fall term. Lowry commented, "We don't know but we will make every effort and it may be that we will have to hire additional workers or call in a construction firm to have the buildings ready for the opening."

The commissioners decided to add the \$50,000 to current expenses originally, but Lowry said the money could not be used for certain necessary projects such as repairing toilets if the money was not placed in capital outlay.

The commissioners also acted on five requests by Sheriff E. Frank Outland Tuesday. First, the commissioners raised the salary of the cook for the jail from \$75 a month to \$100.

Second, they increased the clothing allowance for the dispatcher in the jail, who also serves as assistant jailer, from \$100 a year to \$200. Next, they increased the salary of Deputy Jimmy Lane by \$500 to \$5,720 annually.

The commissioners rejected the sheriff's request that special deputies receive a \$3 arrest fee. The money will continue to go into the general fund and they also rejected a request that Deputy Mrs. Swannie Williamson receive a \$200 a year clothing allowance, which is what other deputies receive. She will continue to receive \$100 a year for uniforms.

Industrial Development Commissioner Bill Howell presented the commissioners with the apparent low bid on the Seaboard water project of \$24,731 by the John L. MacNeill Construction Company of Roanoke Rapids. The commissioners accepted the bid which Howell said "is considerably higher than original estimates."

The commissioners also asked Howell to send a letter to the board of directors of Leggett's clothing company, which is closing its store in Jackson, asking the firm to reconsider and keep the Jackson store open.

In other action Tuesday the commissioners adopted a plan similar to one that all state em-

(See COMMISSIONERS, Page 8)

### Traffic Cases Highlight Wednesday Court Session

**JACKSON** — Traffic cases dominated Wednesday's session of Northampton County District Court with Judge Joseph D. Blythe presiding.

The following traffic cases were heard before the court:

John Charles Key, driving under influence, \$100 and costs, not operate a motor vehicle in North Carolina for 12 months and surrender his license to court; Allen Warren Squire, speeding 75 mph in 55 mph zone, driving under influence and improper brakes, sentence of six months in Northampton County jail, assigned to work under direction of State Department of Correction, court recommends the defendant be placed on Work Release Program.

Leslie Canty Jr., speeding 80 mph in 55 mph zone, \$35 and costs; Joseph Britt Jr., speeding 45 mph in 35 mph zone and having no operator's license, fined \$5 and costs on the first charge and found not guilty on the second; Willie Lubie Woodley, speeding 60 mph in 50 mph zone and having no valid chauffeur's license, \$10 and costs on the first charge and \$25 and costs on the second.

James M. Massey, driving under influence, \$100 and costs and notation made on license that he was found guilty; Allen Warren Squire, driving under influence, six months imprisonment in the public jail of Northampton County, assigned to work under direction of the State Department of Correction on the Work Release Program; James Therman Edmonds, driving under influence, \$100 and costs and turn in license for revocation; John Russell Burnette, driving under influence, \$100 and costs and turn in license for revocation.

David Glenn Moseley, no valid operator's license in possession, no-pros; Cola Burke, reckless driving, \$10 and costs; Leslie Edward Bowen, fail to operate on right half of highway, \$5 and costs; Howard Eugene Vaughan, never having been licensed as operator or chauffeur by the DMV, prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs.

Other cases disposed of were the following:

Ardell Calvin Everett, indecent exposure and molesting a female, not guilty on both charges; Shirley Glover Warren, assault, prayer for judgment continued upon payment of costs, defendant

given notice of appeal in open court, bond fixed at \$100 and costs for approval at the August term of Northampton County Superior Court; Marlon Brown, assault with a deadly weapon, no-pros with leave.

St. John Banks, trespassing after being forbidden, \$10 and costs; Moses Anderson, possession of nontax-paid whiskey for purpose of sale, \$50 and costs, the defendant is not to violate any ABC laws of North Carolina for a period of two years; Lois-teen Powell, possession of tax-paid whiskey with seal broken and disbursing ABC whiskey without valid permit, \$25 and costs.

### Rich Square Special School Tax Repealed

Equipment destroyed in the fire included several saws and two steam engines, Swift said the equipment "is very costly and will cost a lot of money if we have to buy all new equipment."

He said the firm hopes to find some used equipment that will enable the plant to get back in full operation with "very little delay."

"We have vacations planned next week so we do not think we will have to lay anyone off work until we can get the addition rebuilt." The plant employs approximately 50 persons. He added that the casket company can purchase prefabricated ma-

terials from other plants and assemble the caskets in the older part of the plant that escaped damage.

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Sentiment turned against the levy after the federal court ordered integration in the county.

Parents had voted for the special levy to support farm and home economics courses when the high school was still in operation and to add teachers where the state allotment would have required combined classes based on total enrollment.

There are no special levies now throughout the county.

It is a program to help only needy children who have been deprived of parental care and support because of the death, physical or mental incapacity, or continued absence from the home of one or both parents either normal or adoptive.

There is no program of financial assistance in North Carolina for families where there are two able-bodied parents. Some states do have an optional program to allow assistance where both the father and mother are in the home but unemployed. This state has not chosen to implement this program. The vast majority of these cases involve a mother and her children. In some cases a grandmother or other relative has assumed the responsibility for providing parental care and support for the children and would be eligible under these circumstances.

This program like the two other financial aid programs is a federal program which is financed with approximately 70 per cent federal funds. The remainder is appropriated from state and county funds.

There are eligibility requirements other than the need for support due to being deprived of parental care by one or both parents. The child must have lived in the state for one year prior to the date of application.

The child must be under 18 years of age or between 18 and 21 years and attending school. If the

child is between 16 and 18 years of age, he must be enrolled and regularly attending school. If he is not in school and is mentally and physically able to work, he must be employed if a job is available. The parent must be registered for employment and accept a bona fide job offer unless she is mentally or physically unable to work, needed in the home for continuous care of the children or there is no gainful employment available. In cases where a parent abandoned the children, the applicant must agree to institute criminal nonsupport action against the deserting parent or parents.

When families apply for this assistance at the Northampton County Welfare Department, a welfare worker will help prepare a budget for them using the standard budget allowances established by the State Board of Public Welfare. Local welfare departments cannot allow amounts above these maximum allowances. The budget allowances for basic necessities of living are on a scale that reduces the amount allowed per person as the number in the family increases.

The maximum monthly allowance for one person is \$35.50 for necessities which include food, clothing, medicine chest supplies, household supplies, household equipment and personal expenses. For a family of four the total allowance for these

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### Nine County 4-H District Winners

**CONWAY** — More than 700 persons attended the Northeastern District 4-H Activity Day at Northampton County High School near here Friday at which a number of Roanoke-Chowan teenagers won honors.

Fourteen counties compose the district and all were represented except Dare County.

Nine Northampton County 4-H'ers won district titles in the district demonstration day judging. They, with the other winners, will compete in Raleigh for state championships next month. This was the second year in a row that Northampton 4-H'ers reaped the most honors at the annual event.

Hertford County had six winners and Bertie three.

Winners from the Northeastern District will join those from five other districts across the state in competition for state championships in 4-H in Raleigh during North Carolina 4-H Congress in July.

District officers elected at the all-day meeting are Carmen Sutton of Perquimans, president; Arthur Jenkins, Northampton, vice president; Don Morgan, Perquimans, secretary-treasurer; and Dale Alston, Bertie, reporter.

The 29 demonstrations were conducted before judges during the morning session.

Demonstration and activity winners were announced at the afternoon assembly by Mary Sue

Moser, assistant director 4-H work, Northeastern District 4-H specialist; and E. L. Norton, district extension chairman.

The new officers were installed during the assembly by Mrs. Josephine Patterson, district home economics agent.

Dr. T. C. Blalock, state 4-H director, spoke to the 4-H'ers, their leaders, parents and other guests attending the annual program.

Tommy Cahoon of Tyrrell County, outgoing district president, presided. Dianne Bowen, Bertie County, led the singing and Susan Coleman, Currituck County, gave the 4-H pledge.

Carl R. Britt, assistant principal of Northampton County High School, welcomed the guests to the school; Roy F. Lowry, county school superintendent, extended greetings; and J. Guy Revelle, chairman of the county commissioners, extended a welcome from the county commissioners.

Special guests at the event were four 4-H'ers and their leader from Pueblo County, Colo. They are currently visiting in Pasquotank County as part of a 4-H exchange program originated two years ago under the directorship of Jimmy Vaughan, assistant county agricultural extension agent. Vaughan, a native of Northampton County, was assistant agent in Bertie County for two years before taking the Pas-



**DISTRICT 4-H WINNER** Jo Ann Nance is presented with a blue ribbon by Mrs. Justine Rozier, home management specialist, after she was judged district winner in the home improvement demon-

stration at the District 4-H Activity Day last Friday. Miss Nance will compete with the other district winners for state championships in Raleigh next month.



**DISTRICT 4-H OFFICERS**, named at Friday's Activity Day, are installed by Mrs. Josephine Patterson, district home economics agent. Debra McDowell, left, of Jackson stood in for Arthur Jenkins

of Potecasi, who was named vice president. Other officers are, from left, Don Morgan, Perquimans, secretary-treasurer; Dale Alston, Bertie, reporter; and Carmel Sutton, Perquimans, president.