

Duplin Times

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10 CENTS PLUS TAX

County Tax Rate To Drop By Four Cents

Duplin County's 1979-80 property tax rate will drop 4 cents from the present 72 cents to 68 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The rate is based on a 1979-80 assessed valuation of \$564 million, an increase of \$5 million from last year.

The county's total 1979-80 budget will be \$9.4 million compared with the current budget of \$10.83 million.

The property tax is scheduled to raise \$3,643,000 for the new fiscal year, compared with \$3,782,000 for last year.

County Finance Officer Russell Tucker said the original budget requests of \$10,332 million would have required a county property tax of 93.5 cents and a total county contribution of \$5 million.

The new budget provides a 3 percent across-the-board pay increase for county employees and a step increase for some. It also provides merit increases of 5 percent for 25 percent of the em-

ployees in other pay steps.

One new department has been added — that of county manager, funded at \$61,000. Ralph Cottle will take over the new post June 15.

The budget will provide the school system \$1.5 million in current funding and \$145,000 in capital outlay. In addition, the county board will turn \$650,000 in revenue sharing money over to the school system's capital outlay fund. The schools received \$1,488 million in current funding last year. James Sprunt Institute will receive \$210,000 in current funding from the county compared with \$216,000 last year.

The law enforcement department will receive \$517,000 compared with \$428,000 last year. There is some uncertainty as to the needs of the department for the new law enforcement center's utilities for the coming year, board members were told, as the new structure has only been in use about a month.

The social services department will receive \$80,000 from the county. The department's budget is \$620,000 from state, federal and county funds.

Despite a state request that the county budget \$261,000 for its share of Medicaid expenses for the next fiscal year, the county board appropriated only 10 percent more than for the

current year at \$160,692. The county has informed the state it cannot pay a portion of the current year's Medicaid demand from the state due to an increase in the percentage of the total mandated to the counties.

The budget provides \$296,000 for the landfill operation compared with \$283,000 last year.

The county will provide

\$95,000 for the mental health department, the same amount as last year.

Tucker said debt service for the new fiscal year will be \$115,714. This is on a total debt of \$900,000, all that remains of a hospital bond issue approved several years ago.

The budget also provides an increase of \$46,800 for county employee medical insurance premiums.

KENAN SCHOLARSHIPS - Tom Kehan, center, presented the William Rand Kenan Athletic Scholarship to Norwood Vann, left, and the Kenan Scholarship to Bennie Roberts, right, during the James Kenan High School graduation ceremonies Friday night.



ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP - H. C. Allen, president of the Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club, presented the Rotary's Scholarship to Todd Price.



HASTY AWARD - The first annual Bobby Hasty Memorial Football Award was presented Friday night during graduation at James Kenan High School. The football award was presented to Paul Yelverton by Joe Lee Costin. Yelverton was presented \$100 and a plaque. Also, a plaque will be housed at James Kenan with the names of recipients.

Faison Market Opens For Spring

The Faison Market has opened for the spring season, which will continue until late July or early August.

During this period, farmers are expected to bring about 56 million worth of green bell peppers, 100 million green cucumbers, 100 million green beans and other vegetables to grocery outlets throughout the eastern United States.

The opening week is usually slow. At present, Stewart Erecythe of Southern Produce said only 1,000 to 1,200 containers of squash and 800 to 1,200 bushels of beans are going through the market each day.

Yellow squash were bringing \$3.50 to \$4.50 per half-

bushel container at the end of the week, while green squash were bringing \$3.50 to \$2.75.

Two weeks ago, however, bidders offered mostly \$2 to \$2.85 for zucchini squash and \$2 to \$3.00 per half bushel for yellow squash, grading 85 percent No. 1.

Green bean volume fell off with none offered before noon Monday, last week, according to the Federal-State Market News Service. At the end of the week before, beans were bringing up to \$8.85 per bushel.

Cucumbers will begin coming to market in volume about the middle of the month, with peppers coming in volume late in the month.

Cucumbers and peppers normally make up the largest volume of the market offerings, with farmers from Duplin, Sampson, Pender, Johnston and Wayne counties providing most of the produce offered.

Last year they sold 900,000 packages through the auction market, according to Elva Cottle, chief bookkeeper. They received about \$6 million for the items.

Competency Test Scores

Out of the 685 junior students who took the competency test this year in Duplin County, 94 percent passed the reading section of the test and 90 percent passed the math section. Board of Education officials announced Friday.

There were 685 students tested in November and 593 passed the reading section of the test and 556 passed the math section.

In May, those who had failed the competency test were tested again. Out of the 92 students who were tested in reading, 49 passed. There were 121 students tested in the math section and 57 passed.

Duplin Summer School

Duplin County will offer Summer School classes for grades 9-12 in each of the four Duplin high schools if the enrollment for the local school is great enough to permit operation of classes. If enrollment is low for an individual school, the students may attend at another Duplin High School. Classes will be held June 25, July 27 from 8 a.m. until 3

18 - August 1 from 8 a.m. There is no fee for students (parents must pay for transportation to the Extended Day School). Interested students are urged to go to the high school and see the Summer School administrator available at each school. Classes will begin June 18. Registration will be held at each school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Deputy Williams Found Guilty Of Larceny

George Williams, 34, a Deputy Sheriff for ten years, was found guilty on two counts of larceny Wednesday in Superior Court in Kenansville.

He was fined \$100 and costs of court on each count by Judge Thomas B. Cooper, Jr. of Burlington.

Williams had pleaded not guilty to the charges, claiming he was working under-cover to solve what he believed was inside stealing at the store. His attorney, Bruce Robinson, gave notice of appeal.

Sheriff Edwood Revelle said he would have to obtain legal advice to determine Williams' status pending the appeal. Williams has been under suspension with pay since being charged last month by the SBI.

State witnesses testified that Williams took a power booster for a radio from Whaley's Furniture and Appliance Store on N.C. 11 between Tin City and Charity Crossroads on May 5. They also testified they saw Williams take a bracket for the power booster from the store on May 9. Virgil (BooBoo) Chester of Route 1, Teachey, testified he saw Williams take the item and told the store owner's wife, Mrs. R.J. Whaley. When Whaley returned to the store on May 9, Chester, Whaley's daughter, Mrs. Myra Lynn Faircloth, and Mrs. Allie Cavanaugh of Route 1, Teachey, were in the store.

Both Virgil and Mrs. Cavanaugh said they saw Williams put the bracket in his left pocket. Mrs. Faircloth testified that when she gave him change for a purchase, she heard the money clink against an object in the pocket. She said she could see the outline of the bracket

in the pocket.

Whaley was away on a buying trip on May 9th, but called the store while Williams was in it. Mrs. Faircloth said she told him about the incident and Whaley talked to Williams on the phone while Chester listened on another phone. Chester told Whaley at that time he had seen Williams take the booster. Williams denied stealing, but said he would pay for the item if Whaley believed he stole it. He paid \$25 on it and received a receipt.

On May 10 Williams called the store. Mrs. Cavanaugh answered. He told her he had a hip pain and asked for

inside stealing at the store. He did not name the man. Williams told Whaley he was working undercover and had picked up items to see if someone would either report it or try to make a deal.

James (Bud) Hatcher, testifying for Williams, said he told Williams that while coming back from Kenansville one day, he saw a short man put something in a car at the side of the store. SBI Agent Jim Wilson testified he had talked with Williams and was told by Williams he had been working undercover.

Prosecutor Charles Ingram of Kenansville called Williams' statements "self-serving."

Duplin 4-H'er To Attend Camp



Thomas Outlaw will be attending 4-H Forestry-Wildlife Camp July 9-14 at Camp Millstone. He is the

son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Outlaw of Kenansville and a member of the Kenansville Youth In Action 4-H Club.

This is an awards camp designed for 4-H'ers who have been outstanding in the forestry or wildlife field.

Thomas has been the county winner for two years with a gun safety demonstration and was runner-up in district competition last year. He has also done radio spots on this topic and worked in the 4-H wildlife project books for several years.

Various aspects of forest and wildlife resources, archery and hunter safety will be covered by instructors from the Extension Forest Resources and Wildlife Resources Commission. Related programs and recreational events are also scheduled.

JK Students Receive \$94714 In Scholarship Aid

Seventy of the approximately 172 1979 James Kenan High School graduates are to receive \$94,714 in scholarships, grants and financial aid. It was announced during commencement exercises held last Friday.

Highlighting the scholarship awarding was the presentation of the Kenan Scholarship of \$1,200 per year for four years to Bennie Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Roberts of Warsaw. He plans to enter the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Norwood Vann was the William Rand Kenan Athletic Scholarship winner which \$1,000 per year for four years. He plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Vann was also the recipient of the \$1,000

Norwood Vann of Magnolia. Todd Price, son of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Price of Warsaw, was the recipient of the \$300 Rotary Scholarship presented by H. C. Allen, representing the Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary Club.

Other scholarships, grants and financial aid earned by James Kenan include the following: Karen Koenig, Century III leaders, \$1,500; Glenda Bryan, Presidential Campbell, \$3,200; and Delta Kappa Gamma, \$200; Beverly Cavanaugh, Campbell (Presidential), \$1,200; and Foundation, \$2,000; Martin Best, Campbell Admissions, \$2,000; Carl Pritchard, Campbell Band, \$200; and others. Other financial aid includes: \$200; Vann's book, Modern Mathematics, \$150; and \$100 from the W. H. H.

Barnette, Business and Professional Women's Club, \$500; and Paul Yelverton, Hasty Memorial Football, \$100.

Fifty-three other students will receive financial aid, grants, etc. in the amount of \$60,000 for a total of \$94,714.

NOTE BURNING CONTINUES - Bethel Wesleyan Church is planning a note burning ceremony on Sunday, June 17 at 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. The church is located on Highway 11 South of Charity, near the intersection of Highway 11 and 11A.

Home church, a new building was built in April of 1976. The church is open through the night with a sales, and other activities of the new building.