

Duplin County Commission Takes No Action On Medicaid Notice

The action was taken Monday on a Medicaid bill of \$14,718 presented Duplin County Board of Commissioners by the N.C. Department of Human Resources. Chairman W.J. Costin said, "We don't intend to do anything more about it."

The Board was already holding a \$22,414 Medicaid bill from the state that was submitted last month. The state pays the Medicaid bills when presented and bills the counties for their share of the payments.

Duplin's troubles began when the county's portion of Medicaid payments exceeded the amount established in the 1978-79 budget. The county budgeted \$146,000 for the purpose last June. That was the amount requested by the state for the 1978-79 budget. The county overwrote its Medicaid

budget by \$18,000 in April when it paid the state's bill of \$20,856.

The state changed the ratio of state and county funding for Medicaid last July after county budgets had been approved. This resulted in counties having to pay a greater amount than expected.

Commissioner Franklin Williams said, "The state had already approved the amount we budgeted last year for Medicaid. It was the amount the state had requested."

At present, the state is paying the Medicaid bills and billing the counties for their share.

Dr. Sarah T. Morrow, secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, has written counties that have protested the excess Medicaid bills that

the state would lose them the money to make up the difference between their budgeted amounts and the billings. She also said in the letter that the state will not pay these bills for the counties — that the counties will have to repay the state.

The Department requested Duplin County to budget \$261,000 for Medicaid for 1978-80. The Board budgeted \$160,000 for this purpose, an increase of about 10 percent over the previous budget.

The Board approved a resolution supporting the effort of Faison-Wolfscrape-Gilson residents to establish the Goshen Comprehensive Health Service in Faison. Construction on the center is scheduled to start in September. Plans call for two physicians, a physician extender and a dentist to staff the center.

The possibility of building a 5,000-square-foot library building, designed so it can later be expanded on either end, for the \$200,000 available, was outlined by architect Charles Orlor of Charlotte.

However, he said, another \$50,000 would be needed for architect's fees and furniture. Library Board members Sally Jordan, Celia Stroud and Dorothy Thigpen asked the Board for the \$50,000.

The Board told the library group if it would set up its contracts so the last \$50,000 would not be needed until the 1980-81 budget year, the Board would appropriate the money at that time.

The contract for five monitoring units for the intensive care wing of Duplin General Hospital was awarded to General Electric Co. of Char-



Miss Duplin County Ready For Pageant

Since receiving her crown at Kenan Auditorium on January 20, Miss Duplin County Tina Brewer of Faison has been busy representing Duplin County and getting ready for competition in the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

Tina, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Brewer, will compete for the Miss North Carolina crown in Raleigh at Memorial Auditorium June 27-30. Miss Duplin County will be judged in evening gown on Wednesday, June 27; in talent on Thursday, June 28; and in swimsuit on Friday, June 29. She will compete in private interview with the judges on Wednesday morning, June 27.

Preparing for the state pageant has involved hours of work with voice coach Mrs. Beth Marshburn Bell of Wilmington; numerous trips to gown designers in Raleigh and in Atlanta, Georgia; photograph sessions in Greenville, S.C.; and music taping sessions in Greenville.

For her talent presentation, Tina Brewer will sing "I Got Love" from the Broadway show "Purlie." If Miss Brewer is one of the "top ten" girls out of the field of 47 in the pageant, her talent presentation as well as swimsuit and evening gown presentations will be repeated on statewide television on Saturday, June 30, beginning at 9 p.m. WRAL television in Raleigh will televise the Miss North Carolina Pageant direct from Memorial Auditorium.

Tickets to the pageant may be purchased on a "season" basis (Wednesday thru Saturday night) or on a single ticket single night basis. They may be obtained by writing "Tickets," The Miss North Carolina Pageant, PO Box 17205, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Tina Brewer has made eleven appearances since January across the state representing Duplin County and the Calypso and Warsaw Jaycees. She has appeared at the Miss Capitol City Pageant in Raleigh, the Miss Durham Pageant in Durham, the Miss Spivey's Corner Pageant, the N.C. Azalea Festival Teenage Princess Pageant in Wilmington, the Miss Pender County Pageant in Burgaw, and the Atlanta Dogwood Festival Pageant in Atlanta, Ga. In addition, she has participated in the Salem Advent Church Sweetheart banquet in Mount Olive, the Miss Hobbs High School Pageant, and the Calypso Jaycee Installation banquet in Calypso.

As part of the preparation for the Miss North Carolina Pageant, Tina attended a regional seminar in Kinston in February, and the Miss North Carolina Work Weekend in Raleigh March 24 and 25.

Most recently, Tina appeared for the weekend at the Pleasure Island Spring Festival at Carolina-Kure Beaches. The festival, held every May, honors North Carolina professional and volunteer firemen and features a parade, dance and firemen's field events.

The Miss Duplin County Scholarship Pageant, held in January for the first time in three years, is a joint effort of the Calypso and Warsaw Jaycees. The Miss Duplin County Pageant 1980 will be held on January 19.

Warsaw Road Work May Be Five Times Predicted Cost

A state highway improvement project in Warsaw that was expected to cost the town about \$20,000 will cost much more, possibly as much as \$100,000, officials have discovered.

The project was to be a 20 percent of the right-of-way cost and take full responsibility for replacing or repairing water or sewer lines involved in the right-of-way.

The project was completed in 1978. The town had to move from the roadbed. This was unexpected. As the earth is removed, the water and sewer lines break from lack of ground support.

The town's share of the cost has already topped \$5,000, and Mayor Sam Gudwin fears the end is in sight.

The project is the widening of N.C. 24 from the railroad track west 1.2 miles to the city limits. The town signed a standard municipal agreement with the state under which the town agreed to pay

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Most Competency Test Repeaters Pass

More than half of the regular students who failed the competency test last fall passed on their second try this spring, Superintendent C.H. Yelverton reported.

When the test was given last fall, 67 regular students failed the reading test and 96 failed the math section.

On the second try, 48 (72%) passed the reading test and 56 (57%) passed the math test.

In addition, 25 educable mentally retarded students took the reading test. One student passed. Twenty-five also took the math test and one passed it as well.

In November, 685 juniors in the county took the competency tests. Of those, 593, or 87 percent, passed the reading section, and 556, or 82%, passed the math.

Yelverton reported 48 regular students have failed one or both sections of the tests two times. The system has one remedial math and one or two remedial reading teachers in each high school to aid students having achievement problems.

In the second round of testing:

- At James Kenan, 18 regular students took the reading test and 12 passed; 30 took the math test and 22 passed. Nine educable retarded students took the reading test and 10 took the math test, with one passing each.
- At North Duplin High, 12 regular and two educable

retarded students took the reading test and 9 passed; 14 regular and two educable retarded took the math test and 8 passed.

- At East Duplin, 18 regular and 7 educable retarded took the reading test and 10 passed. Twenty-nine regular and 8 educable retarded took the math test and 16 passed.
- At Wallace-Rose Hill 11 regular and 7 educable retarded took the reading test and 10 passed. Twelve regular and 7 educable retarded students took the math test, and 6 passed.
- Eight Extended Day School students took the reading test, with 7 passing and 9 took the math test, with 4 passing.

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Cottle Speaks On County Manager Position

I have accepted the responsible position as Duplin's first County Manager in its history. Almost three-fourths of North Carolina's counties have already taken this step.

My last 13 years have been in Personnel Management with one of Duplin's leading and very reputable major industries.

Prior to the last 13 years (1966-1969) I was employed with Duplin County. Now I am returning & look forward to doing those things which hopefully will (1) help provide more efficient use of each tax dollar, (2) to improve communications to our citizens as to what is going on in county government, (3) to help minimize the costs of various requests for additional services so that the public can help us determine if these extra ser-

I do not profess to know all of the answers nor all of the problems. I do pledge to all citizens to be honest and diligent in my tasks and to be politically neutral in the management of the taxpayers funds. My first task, which will require a lot of time, is to spend adequate time in each department to ascertain what is presently being done and attempt to help reduce costs where possible.

The success of these goals will depend to a large degree on how Duplin's employees and all citizens accept this new approach. I ask by the support of each employee and all citizens to help. I have been assured by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners of their backing.

Thank You

Whitley Favors Registration

Congressman Charlie Whitley announced he will support the proposal in Congress to require registration for selective service.

Whitley, from Mount Olive, said, "The all-volunteer force has provided minimum manpower for our active forces, but our reserves are currently dangerously low and shrinking every day."

"Without support of a strong ready reserve, a small active force of volunteers would have to be supplemented quickly by a draft if we became involved in a significant armed conflict. We can minimize the time lag and confusion by resuming our peacetime registration."

Whitley said there is no reason to believe the nation would have advance warning of an enemy attack on it or on its NATO allies.

Faison Market Summary

Week of June 11-15

For the Faison area cucumber market, volume increased sharply this week and expected to remain heavy next week. Light supplies of squash and snap beans will continue, with the bell pepper harvest beginning. On June 14 for 10 packages or more of 85 percent No. one quality at the Faison Auction Market cucumbers, medium size brought nearly \$5.00-5.50; snap beans \$7.25 to \$8.00; acchini 5/9 bushel crates \$4.25 to \$6.70, yellow \$4.25 to \$5.00.

Many firms are encountering difficulties in locating trucks for loading.