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Driver Charged With DUI Chemical Truck Hits Bridge

By Emily Killette

ving the 1974 tractor truck

rth on N.C. 11 at about

-50 miles an hour when the ehicle malfunctioned

tractor truck pulling a tainerized trailer overned eight miles south of nansville at the Island ek Bridge last Tuesday d spilled sodium bi-romate dry, an industrial emical, onto the sides of road and into the creek. The accident occurred paid his bond. ortly after 5 p.m.. Officer acCorquodale reported that arlos Manuel Hernandez of irginia Beach, Va., was

Hernandez was not seriously injured. Upon further investigation, Hernandez was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and was taken to the Duplin County Jail and put under a \$200 bond. He was released the next day after relatives

The tractor truck is owned by Thomas Hayter of Virginia Beach and leased through Sea Wheels Truck

bichromate dry, which is entire next day adding water

Commissioners Vote

causing the truck to hit the used to chrome-plate metal bridge and overturn. and in industrial dyeing operations. The chemical was being shipped from the Diamond Shamrock Co. of Castle Hayne to Norfolk, Va., where the containerized trailer was to be loaded and shipped to China.

According to Ron West, employee relations director at Diamond Shamrock Co., the chemical was a mild dilution of sodium bichromate and would not harm the fish in Island Creek. However, fire departments from Hernandez was hauling 90 Rose Hill, Greenevers and 50-gallon barrels of sodium Wallace worked almost the Rose Hill, Greenevers and

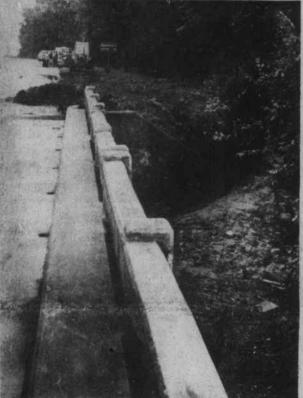
was washed off the road and onto the sides where the dirt containing the chemical was removed and transported to the Diamond Shamrock Co. for treatment. According to West, the dirt will be treated with hydrochloric acid which will neutralize the sodium bichromate. Hiram Brinson, director of

emergency services in Duplin County, said new dirt would be brought in by the state to replace the contaminated soil.

According to Brinson, a team of about 20 men from the Duplin County Emergency Services; Rose Hill, Wallace and Greenevers Fire Departments; Wallace Rescue; and Duplin Civil Preparedness worked all night and into the next day cleaning the site of the accident. Along with the team of 20 Duplin workers were representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Natural Resources Department in Wilmington. Also present were 10 Diamond Shamrock Co. em-

ployees.
"Water samples were taken by the EPA but they don't expect any problems with the creek water being contaminated," West said. He explained that the chemical was highly visible even in small quantities, but that there would be no danger to the environment. He added that the biggest problem with the chemical spill was





Liberty Cart Attendance

Hurt By Gas Crisis

Duplin County's outdoor his- decreases of up to 32-35

CHEMICAL SPILL - The Rose Hill Fire Department continues to wash sodium bichlormate dry from the Island Creek bridge Wednesday after an accident the night before when a truck overturned and spilled 90 barrels of the chemical. Workers removed the dirt from the roadside which had been contaminated with the chemical and hauled water which they added to Island Creek to dilute the effects of the chemical.

Public Invited To Hospital Dedication

attend the dedication of the Intensive/Coronary Care Building at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville on Sunday. August 26 at

Immediately upon conclusion of the program, tours of the unit will be conducted until 5 p.m.

The new addition prides 9 intensive/coronary resingle patient rooms related support facilities. The new unit is designed, equipped and staffed to care for critically ill patients and seriously ill cardiac patients with monitoring equipment located at the bedside and at the central nursing station. Visual access will be continuous from any point in the nurses' station. Medical direction for the unit is provided by Dr. Edward Lee Boyette, who also serves as

Chief of the Medical Staff. Duplin General Hospital had its beginning November 6, 1951 when the citizens voted in a special election to authorize the issuance of county hospital bonds for funds to erect and equip a 50-bed hospital. In 1955, the state granted a charter to 17 citizens to incorporate Duplin General Hospital. The formal dedication was held February 27, 1955, and on March 4. the same year, the hospital admitted its first patient.

In 1971 a major expansion project was completed which provided additional beds and services bringing it to its present operating complement of 92 beds with space to accommodate an additional 15 beds for the future.

The hospital is owned by the County. It is a non-profit

The public is invited to institution governed by a board of trustees who are appointed by the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Trustees serves without pay. Duplin General is licensed by the state and is approved by the joint commission on accreditation of hospitals, and is a member of the American Hospital Association and N.C. Hospital Association, according to Richard E. Harrell,

Road Closed

Administrator.

The Division of Highways Transportation has closed SR 1501 to through traffic for approximately 2 weeks, according to Division Engineer Ted Funderburk.

The road, located south of the Cape Fear River, has been closed since August 14 and the closing is expected to last through Tuesday, August 28.

Maintenance crews are replacing the pipeline 1.3 miles north on SR 1519. Traffic is being detoured over local roads.

W.C. Casteen, bridge supervisor, said that every effort is being made to complete the project as soon as possible to minimize any inconvenience to the public.

DUPLIN TIMES/ **DUPLIN TODAY** -DEADLINES-**NEWS-MONDAY** 12 O'CLOCK NOON ADVERTISING MONDAY - 3 O'CLOCK

To Pay Medicaid Bills General Hospital Board of after the school no longer The Board of Commis-Trustees, asked the Board needs it. ioners appropriated 37,124.97 Monday to pay its A motion by Franklin Williams to eliminate the

werdue May and June Medicaid bills. The bills exceeded the udget for Medicaid because

a change in the state's ween counties and the

However, the budget calls by \$167, 70 for the current fiscal year, an increase of 10 percent over last year. The state demanded the county appropriate \$261,267 as its hare of 1979-80 fiscal year Medicaid costs.

The Board took no action to increase the appropria-

Chairman William J. ostinesaid the county does of have the nearly \$100,000 more the state wants. He said the tax rate has already been set. He said the state is asking for an increase of 48 percent from the 1978-79

Duplin was one of 17 cunties in the state that had Len no action to pay the additional Medicaid charges for the 1978-79 fiscal year. Costin said he was not

against Medicaid, but he clieves these payments should not come out of property taxes, but out of state funds. He noted the state claims it is providing residents a tax break, but all it is really doing is passing costs from the state to the counties.

State Sen. Harold Hardison said he agreed with the idea of the state taking over more of the Medicaid payments. He said he didn't know if the \$5 million suggested at the N.C. Association of County Commissioners last week would be sufficient.

H. M. Price of Rose Hill and Earl Hatcher of Kenansville, members of Duplin for a piece of property in front of the north wing of the hospital. The property in question measures 100 by 447 feet. It is now part of the Kenansville Elementary school property. The school will be abandoned when the new school, now under consouction, opens this winter. said they hope to put up an office building on the site for physicians' offices. The com/hisioners voted to turn this de over to the hospital

present planning board and appoint a new one with two members from each commissioner's district was approved. The present planning board has 15 members, some of whom will be reappointed, according to commission members. The motion also specified the Duplin Development Commission be a part of the planning board.

New Trial Expected For Former Deputy

The trial of George Williams, former deputy sheriff. charged with larceny, was declared a mistrial Friday.

Judge Richard B. Allsbrook threw out the case against Williams, accused of stealing two items from a furniture store, following the dismissal of two jurors.

Allsbrook dismissed one juror for talking with a trial lawyer during a recess in the trial in Superior Court. The judge dismissed another juror Friday for riding to the courthouse with a state wit-

Bruce Robinson, an attorney for Williams, asked for the mistrial. In granting the request. Allsbrook said both the defense and prosecution's cases had been

District Attorney Dewey Hudson is expected to file a motion to change the location of the new trial. In an earlier trial in District Court. Williams was found guilty of the

two larceny counts. He ttems to see if the man would appealed to Superior Court. He had been charged with taking a radio power booster and mounting brackets May 9th from Buck Whaley's Store on NC 11

near Wallace. Williams said he was

approach him. He later offered to pay for the items. according to District Court

Williams had served in the Sheriff's Department 12 years. He was suspended with pay pending trial. Folworking undercover to catch lowing the conviction, his a thief and that he took the pay was stopped.

Appeal For Local Industry In Wallace

industry in an available lina industrial development staff in Raleigh. John H. Gurganus, Jr., of the Duplin Development Commission; structed by David & Jones Graham A. Phillips. Jr., with support from the Indus-State Economic Development trial Corporation of Wallace, board member from Wallace: State Department of Com-

Special efforts to locate an Ed Dunn of Davidson & Jones. Inc. of Raleigh; and building at Wallace were Julian Ford of Carolina outlined for the North Caro- Power & Light Co. made the presentation.

The 40,000 sq. ft. building south of Wallace was con-

Regional Commission

THE LIBERTY CART.

torical drama, closed its

fourth season earlier this

month with a 20 percent drop

in attendance from last year.

Production personnel blamed

the decrease on the gas crisis

and continuing inclement

We consider the facility in Wallace the premier site in the basic building program across the state." said Jack Stewart of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

The building is on a 13-acre site served by water

"I am disappointed that more people did not enjoy the show. We have something to be proud of and to show the rest of the area.

They noted, however, that

percent in attendance were

common at many other area

attended this year's produc-

tion, which rathrom June 29

to August 5 with an average

nightly attendance of 189.

Although only one perfor-

mance at the Kenan Amphi-

theatre was canceled be-

cause of rain, organizers said

the threat of rain on many

nights depressed audience

reception and the reviews it

received." said Rich Boyd.

general manager and

director. "Our only com-

plaint was the length, which

will be definitely cut for the

"We are pleased with the

More than 4,000 persons

tourist attractions

figures.

1980 season.

Law Requires Educable Mentally Retarded To Pass Competency Test

By Emily Killette An Educable Mentally Retarded student seldom has an education expectancy of the fifth grade level, while the competency test is a sixth to ninth grade level test, commented Duplin County school officials Lynda Day, Director of Exceptional Children's Programs, and Gary Sanderson, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Edu-

The 1980 high school graduates will be required to pass the competency test in order to receive a diploma, and those not prising will receive a certificate of attendance. In 1979, Duplin County had 28 EMR students taking the test and only two

dents passing one of the two parts of the test.

"It is hard to put an exact grade level on the competency test, but I would say it is somewhere between the sixth and ninth grade." Sanderson said.

The EMR students almost never have an education expectancy of above the fifth grade, and there are very few who reach as high as that," Mrs. Day said. "But the real question is what effect will not having diploma have upon the EMR students. The doors that will be closed, which would have originally been opened if the child had a high school diploma. There are countless bs that require a diploma ciore you can even apply,

she commented.

Even with the copy of the students' transcript and competency test scores. which will be required with each diploma or certificate in 1980, students may have trouble finding jobs. Many employers are not going to be able to translate the test scores, so the student may have scored high on the particular skill required for the job, and the employed

cials commerted. "We are concerned about the EMR students, and we are going to do the best we can to provide help so as many of these children as possible can pass the compe-tency test." Sanderson con-

would never know, the offi-

their child not have to take the competency test, but this would automatically forfeit that child's diploma and instead, a certificate of attendance would be re-

"We provide remedial help for students whom we foresee will have difficulty with the test, and for those' who fail the test the first time." Sanderson said.

However, there are certain modifications of the competency test which aid the lowfunctioning child. One is the large print books without a score sheet where small dots are marked to indicate the correct answer. According to Mrs. Day, students who have problems with their motor

tinued. "Parents can request response have difficulty with the small print in the test books and the score sheets with small color-in answer blocks. Also, there are audiocassettes which have the questions recorded and a special teacher helps the child complete the test.

'The audio and visually impaired children are not having problems with the test, it is the EMR students." Mrs. Day said, "The EMR students are conditioned to failure. They are the ones who have been held back in the same grade year after year and they are really not expecting to pass."

"Last spring, students who were not EMR students and did not pass the competency test, showed more out-

ward emotional concern than the EMR students." Sanderson continued. "I don't know what June will bring when it becomes mandatory to pass the competency test in order to receive a diploma, so the trauma will probably hit this spring. We have some EMR students who passed this year. I mean, just because a student is EMR doesn't mean he can't pass the test. But the real question is, what doors will be closed to the students with only the cer-tificate of attendance?" Sanderson said.

Alternatives to the certificates of attendance were discussed by the officials. Vocational programs such as brick-laying, auto mechanics or carpentry were mentioned

as alternatives. An EMR test, 1,400 passed, or about student could enter these programs and receive a certificate of a vocational skill. The present educational system scores students in their report cards on vocational courses, which enables them to go to a technical institute and begin training in the vocational skill at the level completed in high

Last year, about 94% of the students in the state who took the competency test passed. Of the students who failed one or both parts of the tests, almost half were exceptional children. Over 3,000 exceptional children took the test. Of the exceptional students taking the

46%. However, the EMR students had the most trouble, and only 506 of the 1.900 passed, or about 17%.

According to the 1977 law, no provisions were made to exempt children with limited learning abilities from the competency test, and the child still receive a diploma. A public hearing will be held August 25th in Asheville to receive input from concerned citizens about EMR students and the competency test, Dr. James Gallagher, chairman of the competency testing. said in a recent news release.

Both Mrs. Day and Sanderson expressed hope that similar meetings would spread throughout the state.