

# Duplin Times

## PROGRESS SENTINEL

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### Duplin Schools Graduate 582 Seniors Wednesday Night

By Emily Killete

Duplin County public schools graduated 582 seniors during commencement exercises held June 11th.

North Duplin High School held commencement exercises in the school gymnasium; 82 were awarded high school diplomas. Speaking for the senior class were Valedictorian Luther Eddice Taylor III, and Salutatorian Timothy James Bell.

James Kenan High school awarded 135 diplomas to graduating seniors during commencement exercises in the Kenan Memorial Auditorium. Representing the 1980 class as valedictorian was Sandra Herring and as salutatorian, Teresa Garris.

Wallace-Rose Hill High School held commencement exercises in the school gymnasium; 160 seniors were awarded high school diplomas. Addressing the senior class were Valedictorian Mary Susan Phillips and Salutatorian Kim Mills.

East Duplin High School awarded 184 diplomas to graduating seniors during exercises held on the school football field. Speaking for the senior class were Valedictorian Penelope Esther Boyette and Salutatorian Joey Lynn Jones.

According to figures from the Duplin high school guidance counselors, 194 seniors plan to attend four-year universities and colleges, 195 will be entering technical and community colleges, 58 seniors plan to join the military services, and 135 will be entering the work force.

Duplin County will be graduating 42 less seniors this year than in 1979 when 624 diplomas were awarded. And, the number of seniors entering the military, technical or community colleges and four-year colleges increased, while seniors entering the work force decreased. Seniors entering the work force decreased 98 from the 233 last year to 135 high school graduates in 1980. Seniors attending four-year colleges and universities represented the largest increase when compared to the 1979 graduates. An increase of 36 students will enter four-year institutions. Those joining the military services represented the next largest increase with 13, while technical or community colleges rose only by three seniors.



**HAY DAYS** - Farmers throughout the County have been busy gathering hay over the past few days. Out in the 90 degree temperatures of the past week, farmers could be seen in the fields cutting and baling hay. Even with the modern machines that cut the hay and bale it, gathering hay is no easy job. There is no machine to replace the hard work of loading the bales on trucks and trailers and then unloading the hay in a barn. But, what about the days when the hay to be cut by hand and was tossed around by a pitchfork instead of in a nice, neat little bale. Some of the hard work involved in gathering hay has been taken out and sped up by machines, but not all of it, and that is the way everything in life should be.

Photo by Emily Killete

### Board Of Education Run - Off

## Swinson Elected

With just over one out of five registered Democrats voting, Hilbert Swinson of Glisson Township was elected to the open seat on the Board of Education.

Swinson received 2,575 votes to 1,537 for Faye Bryant of Rose Hill in the run-off primary last week. The winner will automatically take office next April as he is unopposed in the November general election. Members serve six-year terms.

The incumbent, Fred Rhodes, ran third in the May primary. However, Ms. Bryant, who topped Swinson in May, failed to obtain enough votes for a clear majority and was challenged by Swinson.

In the May primary, Ms. Bryant received 2,344 votes and Swinson 1,721.

Swinson is assistant principal of Beulaville Elementary School and has been in the Duplin school system 16 years.

Election Supervisor Claude Hepler said 4,120 voted of the 18,600 Democrats registered.

## Warsaw To Receive Community Award

Warsaw last Thursday became the first city this year to qualify for the Governor's Community of Excellence Award, officials here were informed following an inspection of the city by a rating team Thursday. The award will be presented officially Oct. 29 in Raleigh.

Qualification for the award is based on community effort to "dress up" its appearance and develop leadership and facilities to attract industry.

Chamber of Commerce President Graham Hood represented the city before the rating team and presented community leaders who described various phases of the town's activities in preparation for the award.

John Weatherly, Jr. gave a slide program; Hugh Carlton the financial situation; Neale Turlington, the parks and recreation facilities and plans; Tom Rabon, a description of land and labor potential; John Gurganus, the industrial bond possibility, noting three industrial bond applications already have been approved; and Paul Brewer, the industrial site and utilities situation.

Warsaw received the award last year, the first year the awards had been presented. Last year 77 communities received awards out of 107 applying.

John Radford, deputy director of the governor's small community economic development task force, led the inspection team. He said 69 of the communities that received awards last year had re-entered the program this year. Fifty additional communities have applied. Names of the communities receiving the awards are advanced in the state's advertising and promotion efforts to attract new industry, Radford said.

Team members included Lew Dunn of Burgaw, Pender County industrial development director; Tom Cornwell of Fayetteville, southeastern regional director of the governor's program; and Jack Steward of Raleigh of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

### Wreck Kills Kenansville Girl

Claudia Ann Grady, 17, of Kenansville and Michael John Hairr, 20 of Route 5, Clinton, were killed early Friday morning in a single car accident in Sampson County.

According to State Trooper Larry Harrington, the car, driven by Hairr, went out of control in a curve and overturned several times nine miles west of Clinton on Boykins Bridge Road, state road 1214. The trooper said both Hairr and Miss Grady were thrown from the car.

Miss Grady was pronounced dead at the scene and Hairr died shortly after being taken to Sampson Memorial Hospital.

### Receive Grants

A \$15,000 grant for the Town of Kenansville from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem has been approved, along with a \$5,000 grant for the Town of Rose Hill, according to Thomas Lambeth, Foundation director.

Kenansville Mayor Douglas Judge said the funds will be used in conjunction with a N.C. Community Development grant to construct two lighted tennis courts at Kenansville Municipal Park. Some small park improvements also will be made.

The Rose Hill grant will be used for the town library.

## Wallace Seeks Funds For Rescue Building

The Wallace Rescue Squad has asked the town board for \$4,000 to help finance a new squad vehicle building and to turn the deed to the building site over to the Rescue Squad so it can borrow money to build a structure.

Squad spokesman Ruby Rich said the Farmers Home Administration had informed the squad it could loan the unit money for the building if the squad held the deed.

Tommy Davis of the squad said it now received \$4,200 annually from Duplin County, \$200 annually from J.P. Stevens Co., which has two plants in Wallace. He said if the squad had to buy a site and construct a building, the cost was estimated at \$80,000 with a \$4,000 annual payment. Davis said Wallace "is the only town in the county without a decent rescue squad building."

Mrs. Rich asked the board to appeal to the Pender County commissioners to provide some payment and to allow Duplin County rescue equipment to respond to calls in northern Pender County.

"Just across the bridge (Rockfish Creek Bridge), half a mile south of the city lies in Pender County," she said. "People, over there are blaming the Wallace Rescue Squad and Duplin commis-

ioners for not answering calls from the Pender County side of the county lines, but it's the Pender commissioners' fault."

The state attorney general has ruled it illegal for county-subsidized equipment to operate in another county without an agreement or contract between the counties involved. The Duplin commissioners have agreed to allow the cross-county service for a token payment, she said. The county has agreements with other neighboring counties and pays Wayne and Lenoir county rescue units for services to the northern end of Duplin as there is no Duplin rescue squad in that area. It pays the Mount Olive, Seven Springs and Pink Hill squads \$50 per month.

Gladys Sikes, a squad member, said the squad could not serve the Wallace airport, Henderson Field, because it lies in Pender County.

**AGLOW MEETING**  
Aglow Women's Fellowship will meet Saturday, June 14 at 9 am for coffee and a 9:30 meeting at Brown's Restaurant in Kenansville. Guest speaker is Martha Saint Berberian of Guatemala.

## Building Permit Denied Board Of Education Annex

A building permit for a 12x12 ft. expansion to the Board of Education Annex was rejected by the Kenansville board of commissioners during their meeting on June 2nd.

According to Kenansville zoning ordinances, the board would be in violation if a room were added on the building. An addition of the 12x12 ft. room, to be used as office space, would leave only five feet from the finished expansion to the property line. Kenansville zoning ordinances require 10 feet. The estimated cost of the expansion would be \$3,500.

Kenansville Police Chief Tyson Bostic added that the Board of Education is in violation of Kenansville parking ordinances, and the addition of new space would create further parking violations. According to Bostic, the board failed to provide adequate parking for the new office created when the annex was purchased. He added that many complaints have been called in to the Kenansville Police Department due to Board of Education employees blocking the driveways of residents near the education office buildings.

Mayor Doug Judge instructed Building Inspector Larry Hoffman to turn down the permit to expand the Board of Education Annex and advise Superintendent C.H. Yelverton of his right to appeal the decision to the Kenansville Planning Board.

This is the second building permit denied the Board of Education; the first was for the construction of a storage building. According to the former building inspector, Tyson Bostic, the Board of Education ignored the denial of the building permit and constructed a storage facility.

Ann Craft and Principal J.G. Henry of E.E. Smith Jr. High appeared before the board to request sidewalks be placed along Highway 24 between the school and the Highway 11 intersection. Craft, a teacher at E.E. Smith, stated that \$10,000 had been appropriated for sidewalks at one time but none were installed. According to Town Administrator Woody Brinson, the \$10,000 was allocated in the 1977-78 budget, but the funds were needed for emergency improvements to the town's sewage facility. The \$10,000 was part of \$22,000 needed for improvements to the sewage facility during that year, Brinson said.

"With the four-laning of the road, where will the children walk? Where they had walked will now be part of the road. This needs some immediate attention," Henry said.

The board acknowledged the problem and Mayor Judge added that the request for sidewalks would have to be worked into the budget for 1980-81.

The board passed a no-parking ordinance for the sides of Highway 11 from Lodge Street to Hill Street. The ordinance was adopted as part of the plan to add a turning lane through downtown Kenansville. The town administrator was instructed to send a copy of the parking ordinance to the Department of Transportation and request traffic studies be made for the intersections between the Highways 24 and 11 intersection and the Lodge Street and Highway 11 and Hill Street and Highway 11 intersections. The board also adopted an ordinance to raise the speed limit from 35 to 45 miles per hour on Highway 11 from Kenan Street to the city limits near James Sprunt Technical College.

### Faison Commissioners Discuss Budget

## Recreation Funds Cut In Half

By Emily Killete

The Faison town commissioners voted three to two in favor of reducing the recreation budget by \$10,500, cutting the budget in half during their meeting June 4.

As the board studied the proposed 1980-81 town budget, Commissioner William Igoe explained that no change in water and sewer rates, and no tax increase would be needed to balance the proposed budget. The present tax rate in Faison is 57 cents per \$100 valuation. When a possible tax increase was suggested, Igoe stated that each penny increase would generate about \$1,400 and a five-cent increase would yield only \$7,000.

Commissioner Rachel Clifton proposed that revenue sharing funds designated for recreation be used for some other project such as sidewalks, and the \$16,500 budgeted to recreation be cut to \$10,000. Clifton said \$21,500, or six percent of the total budget for recreation could be of more use to more people if spent for sidewalks. Commissioner Helen Britt agreed and proposed that the recreation department consider cutting back to part-time in the winter and full-time in the summer.

Recreation Commission Director Ken Avent asked the board to consider the success of the Faison recreation department.

According to Avent, the town recreation facility is serving the entire northern end of Duplin County and over 200 townspeople participate in the programs year-round. He added that 500-600 spectators turn out for the recreation games and these people spend money while in Faison. And, the recreation department has a \$200,000 facility, Avent said, and the town has contributed only \$5,000 toward the facility.

However, Commissioners Britt, Clifton and Fred Wheelless voted to reduce the recreation budget to \$10,000. The recreation department had a projected income of \$3,000 which may drop to \$2,000 because of the cut in the recreation budget. The total budget for the recreation department is \$13,000. Commissioners Igoe and Billie Hollingsworth voted against the cut.

The \$5,000 of revenue sharing monies taken from recreation was divided to allot \$2,000 for sidewalks and \$3,000 for the rescue department. The \$6,500 taken from the recreation budget was designated to the capital reserve fund for the future purchase of a trash truck.

A seven percent salary increase for the town employees was indicated in the proposed budget. Commissioner Hollingsworth asked that another raise be added for the public works employees. Commissioner Britt added that a \$15 raise should be added to the department heads. The board approved an additional 10-cent raise for two of the public works employees, and a 15-cent raise for the third employee, totaling \$700 a year. The board voted an additional increase of \$15 for department heads, totaling \$225 a year.

Faison Mayor Bill Carter added that discounts on taxes for the elderly totaled \$15,000 last year and is expected to be higher in the coming year. And, \$300 in revenue was dropped from the general fund from the sale of license tags. The board had passed a motion early in the year to give the 1981 town license tags to Faison automobile owners.

A public hearing was held to discuss the proposed budget on June 11 at the town hall. A copy of the proposed budget and the changes made during the June 4 meeting of the board was available at the town hall before the public hearing. The proposed budget was scheduled to be adopted following the public hearing, and the new fiscal year will begin July 1.

Faced with a \$616,000 reduction in its requested appropriation, the Board of Education last Tuesday night invited the chairman of the Board of Commissioners to a meeting June 10 to explain the commissioners' stand. The county commissioners reduced the school system's requested total of \$2.5 million to \$1,890,000.

The county commissioners last week adopted the 1980-81 fiscal year budget and set the tax rate at 70 cents.

In establishing the new budget, the Board reduced the school board's request for \$2,016,142 in current expenses to \$1,555,000 and its request for \$500,000 in capital outlay funds to \$345,000.

The school system's 1979-80 budget provided \$1,509,130 for current expense. Capital outlay funds for the current year came from revenue sharing allocations.

Earlier in the spring, the county commissioners had sent a letter to the Board of Education requesting the school system to limit pay increases for county-paid school employees to the 7 percent level planned for other employees; to avoid adding any more county-paid employees to the system's roster this year; to eliminate payment of any county money in salary supplement to the county superintendent; to eliminate money for two tennis courts; and to eliminate a planned new telephone system for the school administration building.

The Board of Education's budget proposal to the commissioners included a 10 percent increase (the anticipated state increase) in salaries of county-paid school employees. It also included nine new county-funded positions in the school system, two tennis courts and the \$4,200 supplement to the superintendent's salary.

Earlier in the year the Board of Education had also been studying installation of a new telephone system in the administration building. Yelverton Tuesday night defended the school system's budget request as being "within the ability of the county to meet, based on what counties around us are doing."

## School Board Wants To Discuss Cuts