

# Duplin Times

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## Board Approves JSTC Utility Fund

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners approved transferring up to \$30,000 from James Sprunt Technical College cash reserves to its utility budget last week.

Because of increases in electric rates since the budget was set last spring, the institution emptied its utilities and fuel budget this month. The budget provided \$61,671 for electricity.

Bob Lee, James Sprunt business manager, made the request to the county board. He said the school had \$41,455 in its uncommitted reserves.

The board also approved Lee's request to seek bids on repairing the roof of the Herring Building on the campus. He estimated the cost at about \$30,000. Lee said repairs had begun on a portion of the roof. The

school has spent \$12,000 on that work. Lee said the ceiling collapsed in the welding shop due to severe leakage.

Lee said the school's proposed 1981-82 budget calls for \$30,000 for the roof project.

The board accepted the district highway engineer's proposal for use of the county's state highway bond allocation of \$124,269. Bobby Powell, assistant district highway engineer, presented the proposal. It calls for spot stabilization on 14 unpaved school bus routes at a cost of \$45,000; base, pave and erosion control on State Road (SR) 1338 for .8 of a mile near Bowdens and the Sampson County line, \$30,000; base, pave and erosion control on SR 1903 for .9 of a mile near James Kenan High School between Kenansville and Warsaw, \$35,000; driveway

additions and to cover overdrafts in existing work orders, \$14,269.

The board agreed to sale of the Alma E. Parker land in Beulaville for \$300 to Elwood R. Lanier of Chinquapin. The county obtained the land for taxes in 1970 and had \$224.80 in the property.

The board asked the State Highway Patrol, sheriff's department and city police to strictly enforce the state anti-littering law.

The board will meet as a board of equalization and review at 11:45 on May 4 and 18.

David Underhill received permission to get 10 acres of covered landfill property planted to corn and soybeans to see how such crops will fare on old landfill ground. Whoever plants the crops will receive whatever is produced.



**OPEN HOUSE** - The new Coastal Production Credit Association and Federal Land Bank building, located behind the Farm Bureau on Highway 11 in Kenansville, will have open house May 21 from 2-5 p.m. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 3 p.m. Stockholders will meet at 7

p.m., after which the building will be open to the public. Federal Land Bank and Coastal Production Credit Association will move to the new location on April 23 and 24.

## Wallace To Hold Fete

Wallace will stage Spring-fest '81 May 1-9.

A spring sales promotion, a golf tournament, one-mile and three-mile runs, entertainment, a puppet show, crafts exhibit, children's games and a sidewalk art show will be features of the event.

The two-man, best-ball golf tournament will be held at Rockfish Country Club west of Wallace May 2 and 3.

The two rounds will start at 9 a.m. May 9 in Clement Street Park. Registration will open at 7:45 a.m. and close at 8:30 a.m.

A day in the park begins at 10 a.m. May 9 in the Clement Street Park. An entertainment group will appear every hour on the hour through 3 p.m. Three puppet shows will be staged. The craft exhibit and sidewalk art show will also be held in the park starting at 10 a.m.

A farm, garden and lawn

equipment exhibition will be staged from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 9 at Rockfish Shopping Plaza.

The Wallace Chamber of Commerce will coordinate the event. Participating organizations will be the Wallace Women's Club, the Junior Women's Club, the Rotary Club, Lions Club, American Business Women's Association and Beta Sigma Phi.

## Kenansville Contracts OK'd

The Kenansville Board of Commissioners approved contracts totaling \$781,155 for a new city water system at its meeting last week.

The board's approval will be subject to approval by the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA). If FmHA approval comes as expected, construction could start by June 1, according to Tyndall Lewis, consulting engineer with McDavid Associates Consulting Engineers of Goldsboro.

T.A. Loving of Goldsboro submitted the low bid of \$294,960 for the distribution system. Low bid for the well was \$96,008 from East Coast Construction Co. of Jacksonville. Low bid for the elevated water storage tank was \$250,465 from Taylor Iron Works of Atlanta, Ga. The board also approved \$65,722 in contracts for miscellaneous work in connection with the project and \$74,000 for the engineering.

Money for the project came from six grants and loans, including a \$73,000 Coastal Plain Regional Commission grant, \$171,655 from two state clean water bond grants, \$356,500 from an FmHA grant, \$170,000 from a local bond issue sold to FmHA and \$10,000 from sales tax refunds.

In other actions, the board turned the request of Gerald Miehaux of Clear-tel Cable Television of Hope Mills for a cable television franchise from the city over to the city attorney, W.E. Craft, for review.

The proposal would provide 14 channels for a base fee of \$9.50 per month

and four other channels at additional cost.

A public hearing was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. May 4 on rezoning Briarwood Hills from multi-family dwellings to single-family dwellings.

The board approved a resolution to state Rep. Doug Clark asking for a bill to

permit the town to increase its city automobile license tag fees to as much as \$5. It now charges \$1. The board wants to raise the fee to \$2 starting in 1982.

The city audit contract was let to Pittard & Perry Certified Public Accountants of Raeford for \$950.

The city was ordered to

stop filling farmers' water tanks with oil using a special vacuum-lock nozzle to prevent possible contamination of the city water system. The city has been filling farmers' tanks from city water hydrants using ordinary fire hoses. The order came from the N.C. Department of Human Resources.

## Lack Of Quorum Delays Wallace Board Action

Lack of a quorum delayed any action by the Wallace town board of commissioners last week. But the Town board members and Mayor Melvin Cording, who were present, heard reports of departments.

Cording also reported the city will not place a well site in the Plantation Acres subdivision southeast of the city.

An engineer's report recommended abandonment of the planned well site since the well would lower the water table enough to dry up the wells of the residential subdivision homes.

Weaver Construction Co. of Greensboro is planning a 44-apartment complex on the east side of U.S. 117 south of Wallace, Cording said. The firm would like to have the city annex the area so its property could be serviced by city utilities, he said.

Police Chief Roscoe Rich told the board the April 1 robbery of the Bank of North Carolina NA branch in Wallace involved a bomb threat. The lone robber laid a foil-wrapped package on the counter and had a box taped to his hand which he told the teller was a bomb, the chief

said. If she didn't do what he ordered, the robber said, he would explode the apparatus. Rich said the robber went straight to the vault and forced her to open the vault. He took a large amount of money from the vault, Rich added.

Besides the mayor, Commissioners O.C. Blanchard Jr. and Armond Duncanson were present. Absent were Commissioners Willie Biggs, Lloyd Boone and N. H. Carter.

No date was set for a make-up meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting date would be May 14.



**THE MERCY RIVER BOYS IN CONCERT** - The Tar Heel Fine Arts Society will present The Mercy River Boys April 23 in the Kenan Memorial Auditorium. The performance

begins at 8 p.m., and members of the Society are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to hear these dynamic musicians.

## Tar Heel Fine Arts Society Presents The Mercy River Boys

The Tar Heel Fine Arts Society will present the fourth concert of the season when The Mercy River Boys appear on stage at Kenan Memorial Auditorium at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 23.

The Mercy River Boys travel tens of thousands of miles annually presenting concerts across the country and because of this, they are emerging as one of gospel music's most successful emissaries. They form a bridge from the best of the old to the best of the new.

Long-time lovers of gospel music remember lead singer

Wayne Christian and his father James. They've been singing gospel for 12 years and they've cut eight albums, the last four for Canaan Records of Waco, Texas.

Wayne and his dad still co-manage the group, and they keep a lot of good 'ol gospel crowd-pleasers ready for every performance. But when they create their more progressive sounds, style and stage presence, The Mercy River Boys attract an audience of new-generation listeners who cut their teeth on country singers

like Kenny Rogers and Larry Gatlin.

Gatlin, incidentally, gave the group their name when he wrote "Mercy River," a gospel song that crossed over into country acceptance.

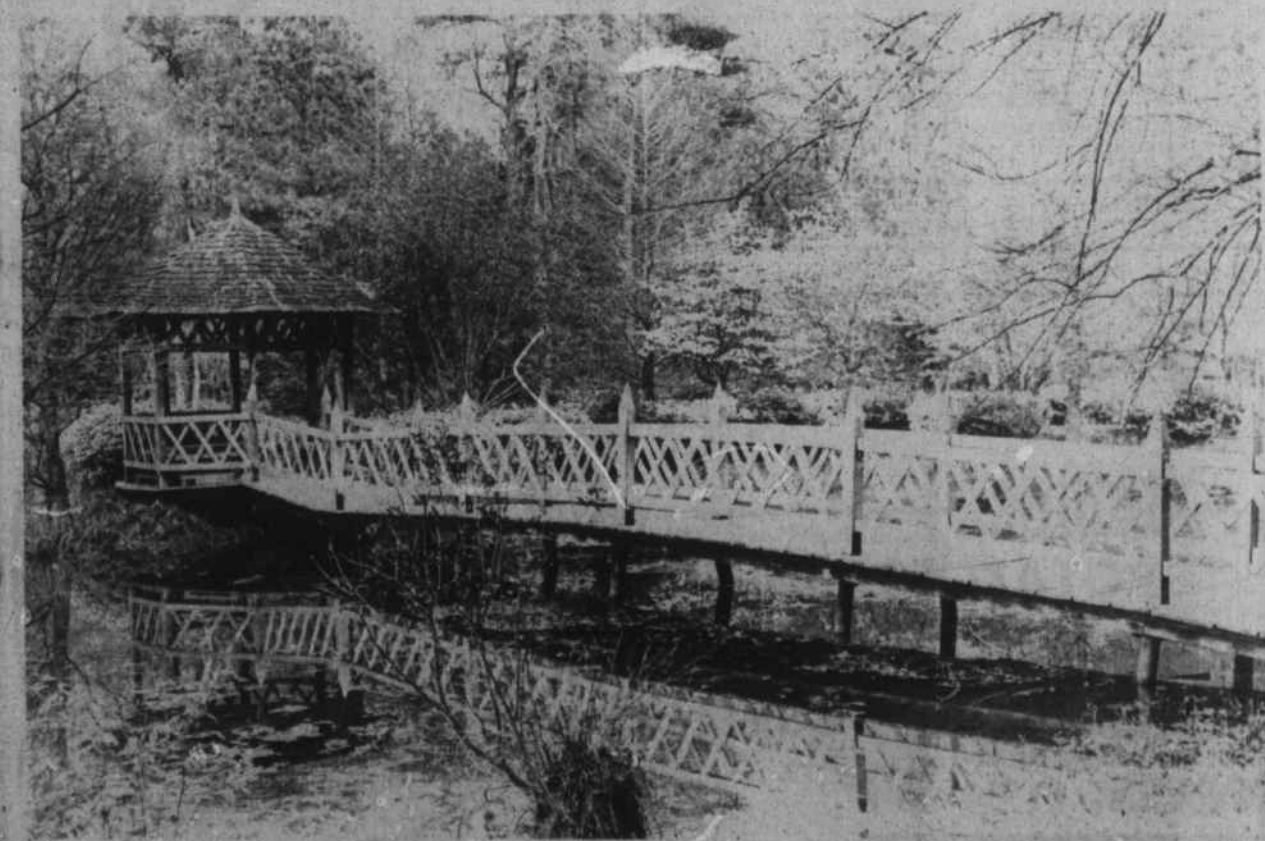
Like the song, The Mercy River Boys are crossing over into acceptance by country music fans.

They've appeared on all the major gospel concert stages, including "Gospel Singing Jubilee," the nationally syndicated TV program. But they've also performed at the Grand Ole Opry and they have been the

featured gospel act at country concerts with headliners like Mel Tillis, Johnny Rodriguez and Tom T. Hall.

From their roots in the East Texas Piney Woods, The Mercy River Boys are branching out to bring old and new gospel sounds to the rapidly growing audiences that pack auditoriums for their coast-to-coast tours.

HOLDERS OF Tar Heel Fine Arts Society membership tickets will have an opportunity to hear these outstanding accomplished musicians in a gospel concert right here in Duplin County.



**Westwater Gardens In Full Bloom**

(Photo by Donna Lanier)