

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXV NO. 21 USPS 162-860 KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 MAY 21, 1981 20 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX



County Budget Tentatively OK'd

The Duplin County governmental units will operate on \$6,587,439 for the next fiscal year if the tentatively approved budget receives final approval.

The current tax rate of 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation will remain unchanged.

The tentative budget is \$835,437 under the original departmental requests for the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30, 1982.

The board tentatively adopted the budget at a special meeting in Kenansville Thursday night after County Manager Ralph Cottle said anticipated income for the 1981-82 fiscal year will total \$6,587,439 — a four percent or \$263,426 increase over the current fiscal year.

Another budget meeting was scheduled for Tuesday night in the board room in the courthouse.

The property tax is expected to bring in \$4,280,822 during the next fiscal year; federal revenue-sharing grants, \$931,765, and the county's share of the 1-cent local sales tax, \$730,000.

The tentative budget calls for a 5 percent pay increase for county employees which would total \$98,000, and a 4 percent increase for the school system and for James Sprunt Technical College.

In addition to the general pay increase, the 74 employees in the two lowest county pay grades will receive pay increases totaling \$38,203. Another 23 employees qualified for merit increases totaling \$17,302. The county has 225 employees.

Three positions will be added — two in the new building inspection department which will open in the next fiscal year and one for the sheriff's department. The chief building inspector will be paid \$14,009 per year and the general inspector, \$12,802. The new narcotics agent in the sheriff's department will receive \$12,263 a year.

Capital outlay increases will include \$36,300 for four pickup trucks, two for the new inspection department, one for the dog warden and one for the landfill; \$25,000 for three new sheriff's department cars (eight were requested, but only three allowed); \$25,000 for a new ambulance for Chinquapin and 10 pocket pagers for several rescue squads and \$50,000 for airport runway extension.

The board approved a total of \$1,976,000 for the school system, an increase of \$76,000 from the present fiscal year. The board of education had asked for \$2,333,000. Of the total approved, \$1,747,200 is for current expense, an increase of \$67,200. The board of education had asked for \$2,072,761. The board approved \$20,800, an increase of \$800 from county tax funds for the school system's capital outlay budget, and \$208,000, an increase of \$8,000 from the current year, from revenue-sharing funds.

Credit Associations To Show Facility Thursday, May 21

The annual stockholders meeting of the Coastal Production Credit Association will coincide with the open house at the new headquarters building in Kenansville May 21.

The \$500,000 structure is occupied jointly by the PCA and the Federal Land Bank Association of Kenansville, two major agricultural financing agencies. Despite the name "Federal" in the land bank's title, neither is associated with the federal government.

The PCA annual meeting will be held in Kenan Memorial Auditorium about two blocks from the new headquarters.

Coastal PCA serves Duplin, Pender, New Hanover and Brunswick counties with branch offices in Kenansville, Wallace, Burgaw and Shallotte. PCAs across the country provide farmers with much of their intermediate credit (mostly two to seven year terms) needs.

Directors of Coastal PCA are Arthur Kennedy of Beulaville, chairman; Woodrow Maready of Chinquapin; Taft Herring and Ralph Britt of Albemarle, area vice-presidents; Charles Duplin County; Charles Highsmith of Rocky Point; Albert Cox of Wrightsville Beach; and Wilbur Earp of Winnabow. President of the organization is Roy A. Houston of Kenansville.

The land bank which provides long-term credit to farmers for capital improve-

THE DUPLIN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION held dedication ceremonies and had open house for the medical building in Warsaw Sunday afternoon. Two hundred or so people were on hand as Gerald Quinn, chairman of the board of the Duplin Medical Association, opened the ceremonies. Reverend Mac Thompson of the Warsaw Baptist Church gave the dedication of the new facility. Doctors Steve Griffith and Clark Hanmer also spoke and introduced their

families. Mrs. Debra Hanmer is a nurse practitioner also working in the family clinic, which is on call 24 hours. H.E. Bowden, principal of Warsaw Junior High School and a board member of the medical association, made a few comments as well. W. E. Smith delivered the closing prayer. Open house was then held until five o'clock.

Warsaw Board Told Of Sewage Plant Plans

Bids for the long-awaited Warsaw sewage treatment plant could be opened by late June. Charles Joyner, project engineer with McDavid Associates of Goldsboro, has said.

He told the Warsaw town board last week that construction could begin in September, "if everything goes according to plan."

Warsaw has been under Environmental Protection Administration order to build an adequate sewage treatment plant for several years. Planning for the project began in the early 1970s, according to Town Administrator Alfred Herring.

A \$400,000 bond issue was approved about two years ago to finance the town's share of this and some allied projects.

Cost of the 610,000-gallon sewage treatment plant was estimated at from \$1.5 million to \$2 million. The plant size is based on an estimated population of 3,600 in 20 years.

The town will pay 12.5 percent of the total cost and the state and federal governments the remainder.

The town board set priorities on use of the \$400,000 in bond money at the meeting. The first priority will be to cover the town's share of the sewage treatment plant cost. The second priority will be an outfall line (a 12-inch sewer to extend from the west side of the town to the new plant on the southeast side of town.) The third priority will

be to annex an area on the northeast side of Warsaw. Last on the priority list will be annexation of West Hill Street Extension.

In other business, the Tommie Phillips lot on Wards Bridge Road was rezoned from restricted business to residential. The lot had been rezoned from residential to restricted business about two years ago. Home

owners in the area protested. The protests were heard in two hearings. Action on the question was tabled following a public hearing and board meeting in April.

The board agreed to sell the former Branch Banking & Trust Building on the corner of Front and College streets to Mrs. Ralph Jones for \$4,296.63. The building was used as a town hall after

being given to the town by the bank about 10 years ago. The building was put up for sale after the new town hall was opened.

The new owner will have to repair the deteriorating structure or face possible condemnation. Portions of the roof have collapsed. The windows are broken. Current dwellers in the structure are many of the town's pigeons.

elaborate on the charges to be made in the beating death of Mrs. Jernigan. An autopsy has indicated death came as the result of crushing blows to the head. The amount of blood at the stab wounds indicated she was already dead when stabbed.

Mrs. Jernigan was found beaten and stabbed to death

Prime Suspect In Jernigan Murder Out-Of-County Man

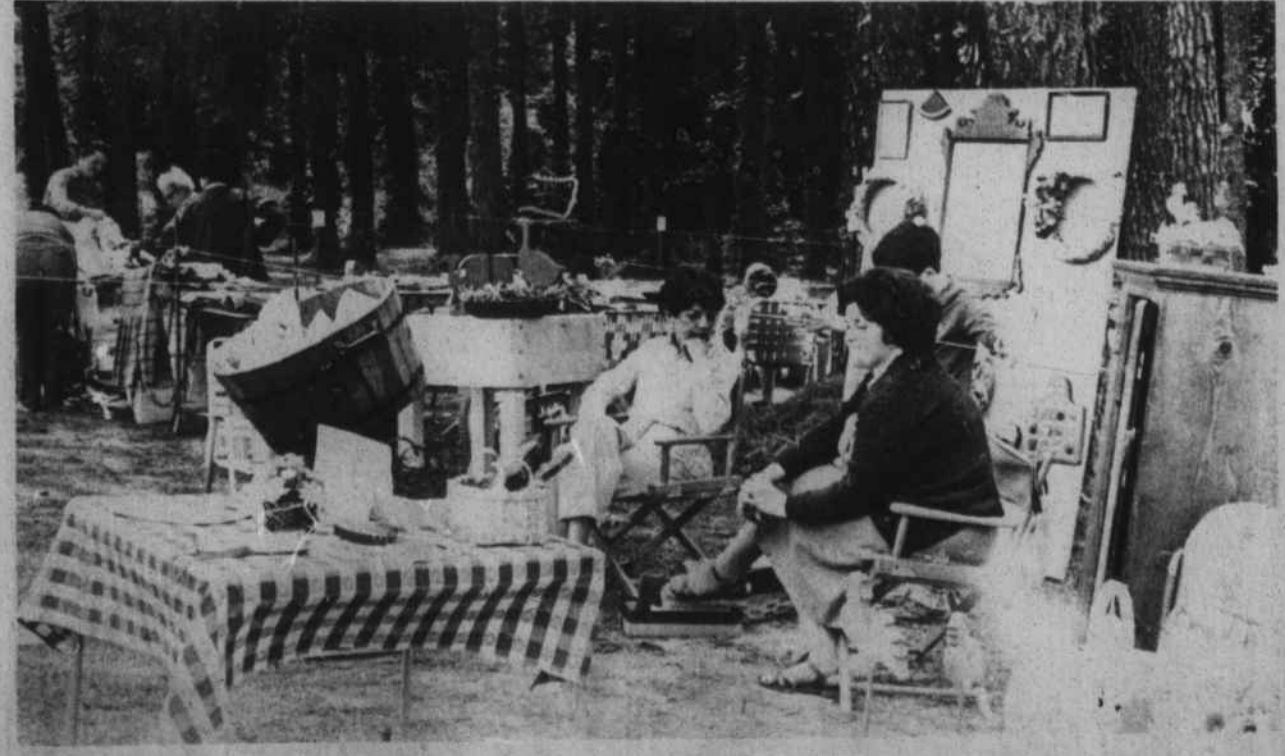
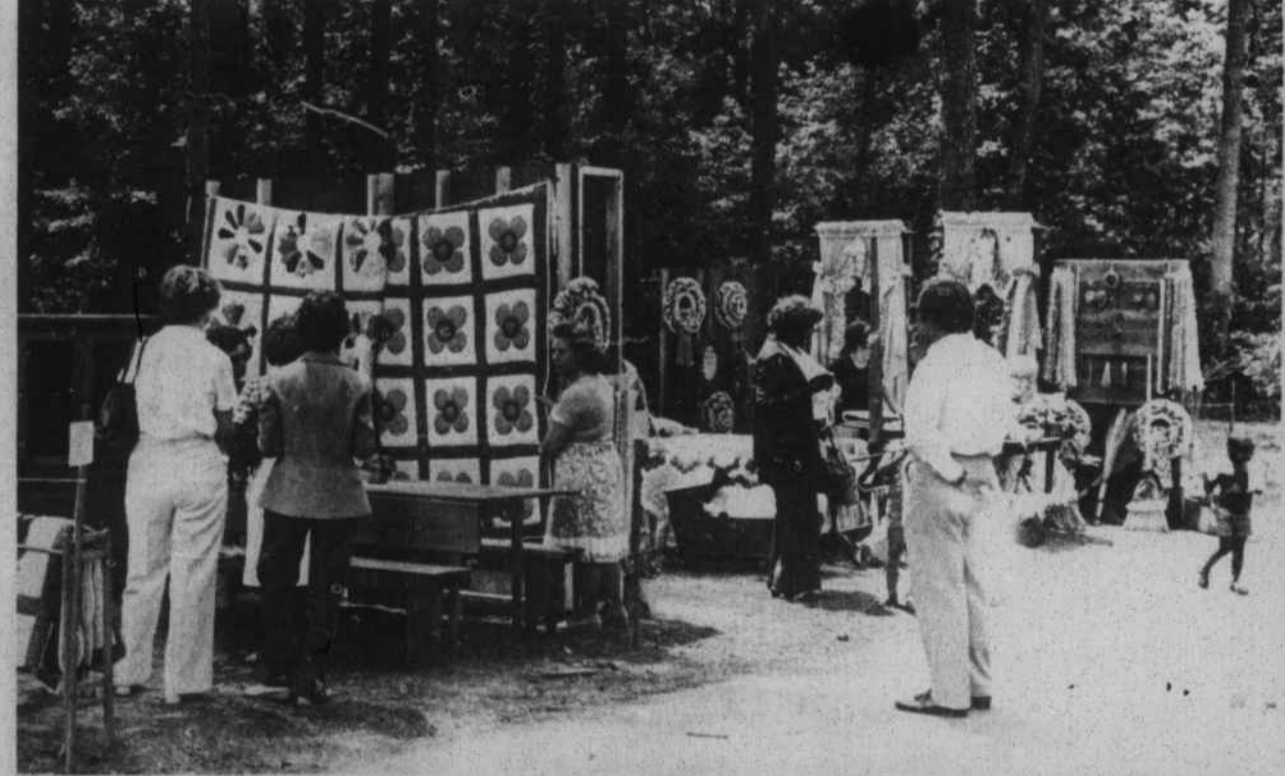
Duplin County Sheriff Elwood Revelle revealed late Tuesday the prime suspect in the Inez Jernigan murder case is not from Duplin County. However, the suspect is a man. Revelle also indicated an arrest is expected within the next few days.

"There is no doubt in our minds," Revelle said. "We have thoroughly investigated and our evidence clearly points to one suspect. We are now taking legal steps for an arrest. No names will be released until charges have been made, and if there is one, bond set."

Sheriff Revelle would not

Schools Lose Federal Funds

Duplin County will lose four teacher and 34 teacher aide positions for the next school year due to cutbacks in federal funds, the board of education learned last week. The county will lose about \$250,000 in grants from Title I and the migrant program of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, according to Anne Jackson, director of these programs in Duplin County.



THE SECOND ANNUAL SPRING ARTS, CRAFTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL was held Saturday at the William Rand Kenan Memorial Amphitheatre in Kenansville. Providing musical enjoyment throughout the day were bands representing James Kenan, East Duplin, North Duplin and Wallace-Rose Hill High Schools. This event, sponsored by the James Kenan District Band, features artists and craftsmen. Several were on hand to enjoy the entertainment as well as the many handmade items on sale by local clubs and churches, as well as craftsmanship displayed by area businesses.