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JSTC NURSING INSTRUCTOR RETIRES WITH 19 YEARS' SERVICE - Susan H. Saunders, a nursing instructor at James Sprunt Technical College, was honored with a service plaque from the institution during a reception held last week. The reception was given by the JSTC Health Occupations Department in honor of the

retiring instructor. Pictured, left to right, JSTC Dean of Instruction Gene Ballard presents Susan Saunders with a plaque for 19 years of service at James Sprunt. She is accompanied by her brother, Dallas Herring, and JSTC Director of Health Education Gayle Weeks.

Heat Killing Poultry And Swine In Duplin Area

Area losses of poultry and swine mounted, state agricultural officials warned farmers to protect their livestock, and power companies called for conservation as unseasonable high temperatures toasted North Carolina. The hot and humid days have tied the records set in 1943.

WBLA, an Elizabethtown radio station, reported a high of 102 last week and C.M. Outlaw, state weather observer for the N.C. Department of Agriculture, reported 105 degrees at his home west of Kenansville.

Katie Perry, agricultural meteorologist with the N.C. Extension Service, said the livestock weather safety index reached the "emergency" level last week, the most critical. She said it meant

quick action was essential to prevent heavy losses of poultry, cattle and swine.

"What makes it so bad is that both temperatures and humidity are so high," she said. "Farmers have to be extremely careful under such conditions because they can really be deadly."

The sustained hot weather has begun to take a toll of eastern North Carolina poultry and livestock and may cause prices of poultry and eggs to increase later in the year.

Temperatures in excess of 100 degrees were reported last week in Duplin County, heart of the state's huge turkey and broiler industry.

Keith Hinson of Watson Poultry and Seafood of Rose Hill said his firm had lost 3-4,000 breeder hens out of a

breeding flock of 85,000 birds. He said his growers had lost at least 2-3,000 broilers. Most growers are losing 50 to 60 birds per house per day, he said.

"Take last week on Monday afternoon. The sun just hung up there until 8:30 p.m. with little or no breeze and high humidity. You're just going to lose birds under those conditions."

Bizzell Johnson of Nash Johnson & Sons Farms, Rose Hill, said "We're losing broilers and some turkeys." Johnson said he knew of 3,000 turkeys and 5,000 broilers lost so far through midday Tuesday.

Poultry production has become Duplin County's major business. Last year the gross return was estimated at \$125 million. The county is also a

major hog producer in the state, with swine adding \$15 million to \$20 million to the gross income of farmers.

Losses so far have been much lighter than during a heat wave three years ago as growers have insulated poultry houses and installed large fans to stir the hot, humid air. Swine producers have insulated some houses and have installed fogging or misting equipment to cool their animals.

Wendell Murphy of Rose Hill, a large market hog producer, said hog losses have been higher than normal, but "our pigs are getting along much better now than under the same situation years back," he said. "If we have some 80-degree nights, we'll have a more severe loss."

Helms Ridicules Claims Of Influence On I-40

Sen. Jesse Helms ridiculed claims he either could guarantee or block funding of the I-40 project in the state and questioned the wisdom of new interstate highway projects in a letter to the Duplin County Board of Commissioners.

The letter, read to the board last week by County Manager Ralph Cottle, was in response to the board's request to the senator for support of the Interstate 40 project between Benson and Wilmington.

The letter stated, "I have been surprised at some of the purely political comments I have noted in the media concerning this project. Someone sent me a state-

ment published in the Wilmington paper recently to the effect that all I had to do was pick up the telephone and call President (Ronald) Reagan and the highway would be completed. This was an absurd statement regardless of which politician motivated it. On the other hand, some citizens who oppose the project have been led to believe I can block completion of I-40."

Helms wrote, "The decisions on this project and all other highway projects in North Carolina are made in Raleigh and not Washington. This is the truth regardless of how ill-advised or wasteful a highway project may be."

Helms denied elimination of the discretionary highway

fund would kill the I-40 project. His letter stated, "Ray Barnhart, the new federal highway administrator, has emphasized that this simply is not so."

Helms said the state will continue to receive federal highway funds and if I-40 is the high priority highway as been stated, it can be funded.

The letter added, "I confess I do question the wisdom of spending millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on a brand new highway. It seems to be a more prudent course would be to upgrade existing highways."

Sen. John East filed to comment directly on the I-40 situation in a letter he sent to

the board in response to its request for I-40 support.

Gov. Jim Hunt and Rep. Charles G. Rose III have said the \$300 million highway probably won't be built without the special fund. The federal discretionary fund has provided \$50.8 million for the highway, and the state has matched that with \$25.8 million for a total investment of \$77.6 million.

Hunt declared the completion of I-40 one of his top priorities during his re-election bid last year, but his public statements on the project have become less frequent in the face of the Reagan administration's efforts to slash federal funding to highway projects.

New County Library Facility To Open June 29

By Joni Nethercutt

"We will be ready," said Roberta (Bobbie) Williams as she sat amid stacks of books piled all over the floor. Williams, director of the Dorothy Wightman Duplin County Library, announced that the library will reopen on Monday, June 29 at its new location in Kenansville. The Duplin County Library closed June 12 and began the moving process the following week.

"This new facility is a vast improvement over what we had," said Williams.

Before, a lot of our equipment was not readily accessible due to lack of space, Williams said, adding that several of their books, etc. had been cramped in the aisles and reading areas.

Most of the furniture and shelving in the new library are the same as were in the old library with some new additions, some of which the library had, but had lacked the room to use prior to the move. There are portable shelves that make more readily accessible fiction and paperback books, commented Williams. There is also new record storage for the numerous albums in the library, with the children's records also more accessible, Williams added.

Added in the new library will be some additional shelving and a circulation desk which were built at Omega Enterprises in Rose Hill. The circulation desk is beautifully made and well

equipped. "We have grown considerably in this area and definitely needed the room," remarked Williams. "We will be able to do a lot more things more efficiently."

On Friday, everything had been moved to the new facility and the children's section was completed, with four sections of children's books and two reading tables. The library staff was busily working replacing all of the books on the shelves. Library assistant Mrs. Ethel Kelly remarked, "We have really shifted and moved boxes this week."

The audio-visual equipment has a place of its own now in a large storage closet where it can be efficiently filed and more readily accessible. There is also a

reference room.

Williams commented on the energy efficiency of the new building with an automatic time set controlling the air conditioning and heating for off hours and weekends. The new library has good lighting and offers separate restroom facilities.

"For the first time we have a separate work area," said Williams. "Before, our work room-lunch room was located in the reading rooms."

There will also be a new photocopy machine, she said, with the charge for use remaining at ten cents.

Williams expressed that "without the cooperation of the staff, the county maintenance crew and the boys from the correctional center, we wouldn't be ready. They

have really worked hard."

The full library staff will be working in the new county library, and they include Miss Williams and her assistants, Mrs. Ethel Kelly, Mrs. Eva Miller and Mrs. Marie C. Todd. Included also among the staff is housekeeper Viola Moore and one summer youth worker from CETA, Marvella Johnson.

Miss Williams noted that the opening day, June 29th, is also the beginning date of the library's summer story hour. The programs, locations and scheduled times were listed in last week's Duplin Times.

One final note — Williams said that during the first week after re-opening, the library will offer a "fine free" book return.



Wallace Fails To Get Quorum To Set Tax Rate

Only the mayor and two town commissioners turned out for the special town budget meeting in Wallace last week, and adoption of the 1981-82 fiscal year budget was delayed.

Mayor Melvin Cording said four board members must attend a meeting to set a tax rate. The proposed budget calls for an increase in the town tax rate of 2 cents, from 65 to 67 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

Cording set 7:30 p.m. Thursday as a new special budget meeting date.

Commissioners Lloyd Boone and Arnold Duncan

were present Thursday night. Absent were Commissioners N.H. Carter, Charlie Blanchard and Willie Biggs.

The 67-cent levy, if adopted, will bring in \$295,973 from property assessed at about \$45 million.

The town's proposed budget totals \$1,326,780. The difference of slightly more than \$1 million between the ad valorem tax receipts and the budget total will be made up from federal and state grants, receipts of the water department and sales and excise tax rebates. The owner of property valued at \$50,000 will pay a city property tax of \$335 if the

rate is approved.

The budget proposes an increase of \$130,000 over the 1980-81 budget. Among major increases are electricity, \$30,000 and gasoline and oil, \$15,000.

Salary increase will range from 3 to 5 percent, with the lowest paid receiving the highest percentage of increase. The total amount of the salary increase cannot be determined until final approval of the budget by the board.

The water and sewer base rates will be increased 15 percent. The minimum bill has been \$2.75 for 3,000 gallons per month. The

sewer rate is the same as the water rate. The new minimum for both will be \$6.33 per month. The garbage fee will remain \$3 per month.

The capital outlay budget of \$210,000 includes \$119,000 for a new well, \$49,000 to complete Clement Park and \$19,000 for new police cars.

The proposed budget calls for one new full-time position in the recreation department at \$9,000 a year and converting a part-time position at the library to a full-time position at an annual salary of \$7,600.

James Sprunt Summer Quarter Begins June 30

James Sprunt Technical College will hold summer quarter registration on Monday, June 29. Classes will begin on Tuesday, June 30. Some summer classes are divided into two six-week sessions, enabling students to schedule classes around other activities and job commitments. And some of the UNC-Wilmington courses (general education college transfer) are scheduled for eight weeks beginning June 30 and ending August 21.

Evening courses offer a variety of opportunities for advancement and updating skills in the business and secretarial fields. The courses begin June 30, end

September 16, and offer an introduction to business, beginning and advanced typing, accounting, office

and transcription machines, and office management. More information can be obtained through business

education technology instructors Marty Fife and Kathy Wrenn at 296-1341, Ext. 215.

Kenansville Delinquent Tax Collections

Kenansville Mayor Douglas Judge, on behalf of the town commissioners, has authorized the town tax collector to use all legal means to collect delinquent taxes due the town. The tax collector is authorized to levy on and sell any real and personal property of such taxpayers to satisfy said tax indebtedness due. The town

board at its May regular meeting appointed the police department as assistant tax collectors and authorized its members to carry out any levy necessary to collect delinquent taxes due the town.

Judge stated that the town is making an all-out effort to collect these taxes so that the town will be able to operate within its budget and keep

the tax rate at the lowest possible figure. He is asking all citizens to check with the town collector at the town hall and make sure that their taxes are current so that no type of levy or sale for delinquent taxes will be necessary.

Mary Anne Jenkins, town tax collector, stated that she would start actual levy within the next few days.