

# Pink Hill's Sixth Annual Liberty Festival July 3 & 4

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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BEEKEEPER JULIAN ARMSTRONG, dressed in protective gear, persuades a swarm of bees to make their new home in his hive. In the upper photo, he is exhibiting a frame of beeswax and honey.

## Beekeeper Armstrong Stays Busy As A Bee During Swarming Season

Julian Armstrong of Warsaw "captures" bees. Armstrong says many people, knowing of his interest in bees, now call him during bee-swarming season to remove an unwanted swarm from their property. Recently, he gently disengaged a swarm of bees hanging on a neighbor's tree, to add one more hive to his apiary near Warsaw. Bees seek to establish new hives by swarming, usually in the spring, Armstrong said. The swarm may include a new queen bee. If Armstrong gets a queen bee into one of his white, wooden hives, the swarm will make that hive its home, he said. Retired as manager of the Warsaw A&P store in 1972, after 32 years with the company, Armstrong said he needed something to do. He saw a swarm of bees settle on a neighbor's dogwood tree and captured some of the swarm. Since then, he has obtained other swarms from neighbors who didn't want them around. He learned beekeeping from his father, J.B. Armstrong, who raised bees in Pender County many years ago. When Armstrong finds a swarm on a low tree branch, he captures the bees by enticing them into a hive. Armstrong's bees are in demand from cucumber and blueberry growers who need them to pollenate their crops. Without bees to carry the pollen, the plants' flowers would fail to produce berries and cucumbers.

## Wallace Approves Budget, 2-Cent Tax Hike

The Wallace board of commissioners approved a 1981-82 budget of \$1,326,900 Thursday night, an increase of about \$130,000 over the 1980-82 figure. The largest percentage increase, 31 percent, is for cost of electricity. The budget provides \$171,600 for electric light and power. A year ago the board approved \$130,992 for this utility. The new budget requires an increase of two cents per \$100 assessed valuation in the ad valorem tax. The new rate will be 67 cents. It is expected to bring in \$295,973 from a property assessment of about \$45 million. The new budget provides for salary increases ranging from 7 percent for employees paid between \$6,500 and \$7,500 per year to 3 percent for those paid \$12,000 or more per year. Commissioner Arnold Duncan voted against the 67-cent tax rate. Commissioners L.J. Boone, Charles Blanchard, N.H. Carter and W.M. Biggs voted for it. The proposed increase in salary of the mayor and commissioners was voted down by a 3-2 margin. The mayor, Melvin Cording, receives \$100 a month and the commissioners, \$50 per month. The proposed increase would have added \$25 a month to the mayor's salary and \$15 to the commissioners' pay. Biggs and Duncan favored the increase and Blanchard, Carter and Boone opposed it. The board approved capital outlay funds totaling \$214,419 after deleting a proposal to convert two city vehicles from gasoline to propane fuel at a cost of \$900 each. Maintenance Supervisor Tom Davidson said such a conversion would pay for itself within 15 months. Conversion of police cars to propane for fuel would repay the cost in eight months, according to Davidson. Steve Routh, consulting town administrator, reported to the board the Duplin County election department could manage the town elections at lower cost than the town could handle them as the county department is maintained year around. He said the county would handle a city election for \$300 to \$350 while one costs the town \$840.

## Duplin 4-H'ers Participate In District Activity Day

Duplin County 4-H members were among hundreds of 4-H'ers from 17 counties in the southeastern district who participated in the annual District 4-H Activity Day competition on June 23 at Jacksonville. The day was held to select winners to vie for top honors during North Carolina 4-H Congress July 20-23 at North Carolina State University, according to Ray Rhinehart, county 4-H agent. Similar events were held at five other locations in the state. The 4-H'ers competed in some 30 events, ranging from archery, cooking and sewing to landscaping, automotive skill driving, crop production and wildlife conservation. Duplin County 4-H'ers who participated and their programs were: Jeff Houston, safety; Julie Carlton, senior public speaking; Kelly Eves Jr., breads; David Jones, junior open class; Brenda Rochelle, crafts; Craig Tucker, junior American business system; Kenneth Cline, junior American business system; Kim Howard, pork cookery; Cece Williams, beef char grill; Nancy Williamson, horse; Ralph Britt, Jr., wildlife; Mark Craft, junior dairy foods; Laurie Swain, junior egg cookery; Charles Denning, electric; Roxane Pearsall, junior public speaking; Mark Williams, junior archery; Denise Sutton, photography; Bernard Hall, home environment; Pam Kelly, artistic arrangement; Cicero Hall, landscaping; William Monk, forestry; Valerie Robinson, senior fruit and vegetable use; Deborah Mathis, junior peanut foods; Renee Leverett, senior dairy foods; Veronica Williams, senior breads; Arthur Hall, electric; Leon Robinson, automotive skill driving; Glenn Brinson, automotive skill driving; Marcia Boone, talent; Lita Fennell, talent; Roxane Pearsall, talent; Veronica Williams, talent; and Pam Kelly, talent.

## Kenansville Tax Rate To Rise 4 Cents

The Kenansville town board adopted an interim budget for 1981-82 totaling \$171,452 and calling for an ad valorem tax increase of four cents per \$100 assessed valuation last week. The new tax rate will be 69 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The final budget will be adopted July 13. Town Clerk Mary Ann Jenkins said the board believed townspeople needed more time to study the budget. State law requires adoption of a budget before July 1. She said she expects the board to readopt the interim budget next month. An earlier budget proposal called for a tax increase of 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. The increase was reduced to four cents by cutting \$4,200 from proposed sanitation department salaries, \$2,400 from proposed vehicle expense, and a reduction in garbage pick-up services. Last year's budget totaled \$189,011. The increased tax rate, despite the lower 1981-82 budget, is due to a lower than expected tax collection rate last year and reduction of the expected collection rate from about 95 percent to 90 percent. To make up for the reduced collection the town used up its reserve funds in the current fiscal year. Each cent of ad valorem tax brings in \$1,200. The city's assessed valuation is approximately \$12 million, according to Mayor Doug Judge. The ad valorem tax is expected to bring in \$74,921, based on a 90 percent collection rate. Residential garbage collection will be reduced from twice a week to once a week. The weekly pick-up of tree limbs, debris, furniture and other items not in a garbage bag or can will be eliminated Wednesday. The minimum sewerage rate will rise to \$6 per month from \$3. The sewerage charge will be the same amount as the water charge. The minimum rate covers up to 5,000 gallons of water per month. The charge for more than minimum water use increases on a graduated rate. A charge of 90 cents per 1,000 gallons is applied between 5,000 and 10,000 gallons. The sewerage charge will increase at the same rate as the water charge. The largest user is Guardian Care Nursing Home. It uses an average of 205,000 gallons of water a month and pays \$175.50 for water alone. The combined utility rate will average \$351 per month under the new fee schedule. The city expects to obtain an additional \$18,539.79 from the increased sewerage fee. With the increase, the anticipated revenue from water and sewerage fees will be \$66,742. In addition, the utility department expects to take in \$700 for water sold to farmers and \$2,825 from new connections. Operating costs of the department will be \$93,909. The difference between anticipated revenue and operating costs will be made up by transfer of \$23,642 from the general fund to the utility department. Last year the utilities department's operating cost was \$101,570.

## Road Closed

N.C. 50 over Persimmon Branch near Kenansville will be closed June 29 for three weeks. The closing will allow N.C. Department of Transportation maintenance workers to replace a drainage pipe under the road. Traffic will be detoured onto N.C. 11, Browntown Road (Secondary Road 1957) and Ridge Street & Register (Secondary Road 1141) also called Cross Roads. W.C. Casteen, bridge supervisor, said that every effort will be made to complete road repairs as soon as possible to minimize any inconvenience to the traveling public. WHITLEY'S MOBILE OFFICE Congressman Charlie Whitley's mobile office will be in Duplin Tuesday, July 7th with Rodney Knowles. He will be available to anyone having matters they wish brought to the attending of the Con-

## Duplin County Red Cross Chapter Meets

The annual meeting of the Duplin County Chapter of the American Red Cross was held in the fellowship hall of Grove Presbyterian Church in Kenansville June 25. The Rev. Troy D. Mullis, retiring chairman, welcomed those present and presided over the meeting. The opening prayer was made by the Rev. Worth Pearce, pastor of the Kenansville United Methodist Parish. Mrs. N.B. Boney, secretary, read the minutes of the semi-annual meeting held in January, which were duly approved. She also gave the report of the vacationing treasurer, G. Harold Rose. He was presented a pin in absentia for his five years of service. The youth activities report was given by Mrs. W.M. Ingram, due to the absence of that chairperson. Mrs. Viola W. Quinn reported on the work of community services for camps and hospitals. She gave a detailed report of articles sent to Camp Lejeune for Christmas at the U.S.N. hospital there and thanked the participating organizations. Under safety services, Mrs. Mattie W. Barbee reported 19 classes taught during the past 12 months and 153 certificates issued. Mrs. Boney reported that she had handled 104 cases during the past year with only two requiring financial assistance. She then introduced Chris Rowe of Greenville, who is the blood recruitment representative for the Tar River Blood Sub-