

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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County To Crack Down On Social Services Fraud

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners agreed to hire two investigators last week to crack down on fraud in the food stamp, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Medicaid programs.

The investigators, assigned to the county Social Services Department, each will be paid \$11,784 per year with \$4,000 each in annual fringe benefits. Travel expenses will add \$3,000 yearly and supplies, \$1,000.

Social Services Director Millie Brown said the federal government will pay 75 percent, or \$23,931, of the cost, leaving \$7,877 for the county to fund. The actual additional cost to the county this year will be \$1,820, with the rest absorbed by unspent funds

in the social services budget.

Mrs. Brown said the county will receive half of the money recovered by the investigators.

Last year the county distributed \$1.5 million worth of food stamps, of which Mrs. Brown estimated 3-5 percent was fraudulently claimed. She said 2,084 families, or about 6,000 people received the stamps.

The county has a population of about 40,000.

Mrs. Brown said the Social Services Department has two investigators to seek out absent parents who are failing to make child support payments. They collected \$85,000 in the past six months, and the county received half of that sum. She said the department knows of

1,159 absent parents, adding that most are making the required payments.

The board also approved Mrs. Brown's application to the state for 25,000 pounds of surplus cheese to be distributed by the federal government. Food stamp recipients are eligible to receive some of the cheese.

Gail Bailey, vice-president of Univision Cable Television Co. of Richlands, reported to the board that the company had a letter of credit for \$100,000 in the Gastonia branch of Branch Bank & Trust Co. as performance bond guarantee. Ed Holt, manager of the bank's Warsaw branch, confirmed this.

The letter of credit was required before the county would sign a franchise con-

tract with the company to establish cable television service in rural areas. In other action, the board approved:

— A plastic card system for the Dorothy Wightman-Duplin County Library at a cost of \$3,042.50. The money will come from \$32,000 in unused funds from a state library grant to the county.

— April 13, 14, 15 and 21 for department heads to present their budget requests. Each meeting will start at 7 p.m.

— Payment of \$300 a month to the new Pin Hook volunteer fire department southeast of Wallace.

— Use of the civil court room at 5 p.m. Thursday by the State Wildlife Commission for a game law meeting.



KENANSVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INSTALLS OFFICERS - Carey Wrenn was installed as president of the Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce Thursday night at the annual membership meeting. Other officers and directors installed included: Douglas Judge,

vice president: Thomas Rouse, treasurer: Carolyn Hall, executive secretary, and Directors Kay Stroud, Alice Rich, Bill McKay, Hilda Booth and Alice Worthington. Pictured above: Rouse, Judge and Wrenn. Earl Stroud, outgoing president, presided at the installation.

Board Of Education Meets

Duplin County Schools Snow Makeup Days

According to information received from the Duplin County office, The Duplin County schools had a regular school day Jan. 26, (this past Tuesday), which was formerly scheduled as a teacher workday, and school will be in session Feb. 26 (Friday), which was scheduled as a vacation day. If for some reason one additional day is missed prior to April 9, April 9 (Friday) will be utilized to make up the last school day. Any additional days lost because of snow will be scheduled at a later date.

Workshops scheduled for Monday, Jan. 25, will be

rescheduled and the 25th was retained purely as a teacher workday.

The number of students using the school lunch program decreased to 81 percent of average daily attendance this year from 84 percent last year because of increased charges and stiffer eligibility requirements for free lunches, according to Shelby Kilpatrick, school food services supervisor. She gave these figures last week at the board of education meeting Tuesday night.

Lunches for senior high students rose from 65 cents each last year to 75 cents this

year; for elementary students the price rose from 60 to 70 cents. The price of breakfasts increased from 35 cents last year to 45 cents.

The average daily attendance from September through December was 8,106 students, of which 6,465 participated in the lunch program. Mrs. Kilpatrick said 2,423 students paid full prices, 587 paid reduced prices, and 3,455 paid nothing. Last year, 3,778 students received free lunches.

During December, an average of 1,995 students ate breakfast at the schools. An average of 200 students paid

full price, 152 paid reduced prices and 1,643 students paid nothing.

In other action, the board announced a schedule for meetings to deal with curriculum matters. The meetings will be Feb. 2 at East Duplin High School at Beulaville, March 2 at the O.P. Johnson Building in Kenansville, April 6 at Wallace Elementary School, May 4 at Chinquapin Primary School, and June 1 at Charity Middle School east of Rose Hill.

Meetings on business matters will be held in the O.P. Johnson building on the third Monday of each month.

James Sprunt Foundation Sponsors Lunch Matinee And Dinner Theatre

The James Sprunt Foundation will present a lunch-matinee and dinner-theatre featuring the Carolina Regional Theatre in Neil Simon's comedy, "The Good Doctor." Both performances are scheduled for Feb. 20 at The Country Squire in Kenansville. Matinee-lunch

will begin at 11:30 a.m. and tickets are available through members of the James Sprunt Foundation board of directors, or from Joe West at The Country Squire.

Tickets for the dinner-theatre are available through the Foundation

board of directors. Tickets may also be purchased through Foundation executive secretary Donna Thigpen at James Sprunt Technical College. Members of the Foundation include: Ellen Brewer, Prudence Smith, Tom Yates and Charles Albertson. Members of the Matinee and dinner-theatre committee are J. Willard Hoffer, Pearl S. McGowan, Emmett Wickline, Riddick E. Wilkins, Harold Precythe, Edd Dudley Monk, Dr. Corbett Quinn, Allen Nethercutt, Robert Lee, Dixon S. Hall and Winifred T. Wells.

Jaycees Honor Jean Stephens As Boss Of The Year

The Mount Olive Jaycees named Jean Stephens of Kenansville as Boss of the Year at their annual DSA banquet last Thursday night. Rick Kraft was given the DSA award and Cletus Brock, former editor of the Mount Olive Tribune, was selected as Senior Citizen of the Year. Terry McPherson was named Outstanding Educator and E.J. Bundy Jr. as Outstanding Young Farmer.

Mrs. Stephens, 35, was named Boss of the Year. A resident of Country Club Estates in Kenansville, she is

vice president and branch manager of Southern Bank and Trust Company in Warsaw.

She began working with Southern Bank in June, 1966 as a teller and bookkeeper and has gradually worked her way through the ranks overcoming — in the words of her nominator — "many stereotypes and prejudices" concerning women in the business world. Many of the positions she has held have traditionally been held only by men, her nominator noted.

While employed at

Southern Bank she has held the positions of teller, Bookkeeper, loan clerk, assistant cashier and assistant vice president before being named branch manager and vice president. Her present duties consist of recruiting new customers, overseeing loans to present customers and overseeing day-to-day activities of employees under her management. "Jean has accomplished what no other female has done with Southern Bank and Trust Co.," her nominator said.

"In banking," her nominator said, "as in many other

professions, the upper level positions have been traditionally held by men. It is in this field that Jean C. Stephens has made her mark. In her 15-year career with Southern Bank, she has held practically every position within her branch."

Mrs. Stephens is a member of Unity Methodist Church and is active in the town of Warsaw's recreation program. She is a member of the board of directors of Duplin County Club where she was social committee chairman last year.

The town board at Wallace assured a Greensboro construction company Monday night last week that water and sewer service will be provided to a 44-unit town-house project the firm plans to build.

Harris Brown of Weaver Construction Co. of Greensboro received a letter of assurance from the board.

Wallace has been under a virtual no-growth order from the state Environmental Management Commission because of limited sewage treatment capacity. By taking steps to limit the amount of storm runoff getting into the sewer system, the town has been

able to keep sewage within the plant's limits.

EMC approved service to the new development last year.

The \$1.5 million development will be on a six-acre site South Raleigh Street in the southern part of town. It will be medium-income development with no subsidized rental units.

The project will include 24 one-room and 20 two-room apartments. The smaller units will rent for about \$160 per month.

Construction is scheduled to start in midsummer.

Weaver Construction has 300 similar units in the state

managed by its real estate division.

In other action, the board:

— Voted to sign a franchise contract with Univision Cable Television Co. upon receipt of a construction schedule. In the contract, the firm agrees to make 21 channels available to customers for \$8.95 a month. It will provide five other channels for additional fees. The firm will pay the town 3 percent of its gross income from service in the town.

— Agreed to study street needs to determine how to allocate \$49,000 from the Powell Bill fund. This is the 1-cent share of the state

Margolis Certified By Board



To become board certified, a licensed physician must have completed a three-year residency program in internal medicine and must pass a rigorous two-day examination encompassing areas of both clinical internal medicine and patient management problems.

This award certifies Dr. Margolis as a specialist in internal medicine. He becomes the first board certified internist practicing in Duplin County. He received his M.D. from UNC School of Medicine in Chapel Hill. His three years of residency training were completed at Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

A native of New Bern, Dr. Margolis now practices at Goshen Medical Center in Faison. He is on the staff of Duplin General Hospital and also serves as a Duplin medical examiner.

Dr. Margolis, his wife Barbara and son Joshua live in Faison.

The Rev. Sheldon Howard, 44, was returned to jail last Friday to be sentenced in Duplin County Superior Court for second-degree murder this Friday.

Howard had been charged with first-degree murder in the death of Inez Quinn Jernigan, 53, a prominent Kenansville businesswoman, whose beaten and stabbed body was found in her home

north of Kenansville April 22.

Howard pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of second-degree murder last Nov. 17 after a plea bargain was reached between his attorneys and District Attorney William Andrews. The penalty for second-degree murder is two years to life in prison. If sentenced to life, the prisoner becomes eligible

Howard Returns To Jail

for parole in 20 years.

Judge Henry L. Stevens III delayed sentencing pending a mental examination of Howard at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh.

Following the plea in November, Andrews said a \$20,000 loan made by Mrs. Jernigan to Howard figured prominently in the state's case. Howard claimed he repaid the loan but did not have a receipt.

asked those favoring wildlife commission control to say "yes," a loud chorus responded, drowning out opponents.

"The wildlife people are much more capable of managing the season than the county," Blanchard said. "I think we should keep wildlife separate from this political football (of county regulation)."

Commission Chairman Woodrow Price said it was the largest crowd at any of the panel's hearings so far.

Through local laws approved by the state legislature, the Duplin County Board of Commissioners barred a doe hunting season last year. Many Duplin County farmers claim deer are overrunning their fields, damaging crops.

Another local law bars the use of leg-holding traps in the county. The law is favored by many hunters who fear steel traps will cripple their hunting hounds, but trappers said they want the law repealed.

Jack Brinson of Kenansville suggested a doe hunting season should be permitted in a triangular area between N.C. 11 and N.C. 25 from Kenansville, to the county lines near Wallace and at Onslow County line east of Beulaville.

The wildlife commission had recommended doe hunting be allowed in this area last year, but the county board objected.

Winifred Mobley, a Duplin hunter, said the area involved in Blanchard's request is too large. Milton Bradshaw and Norwood Blanchard of Chinquapin, a member of the Pender Hunting Club, both opposed any doe days in the Cypress Creek area of southeastern

Audience Divided On Hunting Policies At Wildlife Hearing

Duplin County.

Charles Slemenda of Rose Hill said he doubted the accuracy of deer kill county and herd counts.

Price agreed, saying, "We do not have accurate counts, but we can get the general trend. We figure we get one out of five, or at very best, one out of three (deer counted)."

Theodore Rouse of Rose Hill said, "We pay a lot of rent for hunting (areas) and we should be able to determine the way we harvest (deer) ourselves."

Rouse said he knew of more than 100 deer killed out of season by farmers last year to protect their crops. "These deer had to be left for the vultures," he added.

Tommy Potter of Kenansville said he knew of many deer shot out of season and that there should be a doe hunting period.