

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Agribusiness Council Meets Carnival Signed For Fair

The carnival is coming to the county fair!

After a lot of searching, the Duplin fair committee of the Agribusiness Council has finally signed a carnival to come to the county fair scheduled for this October. DNP Amusements has been contracted to provide midway rides, games and lots of fair food for the six-day event.

As the tents and rides go up, it will mark the first year midway amusements have been featured in a Duplin County fair since the close of the 1965 Beulaville fair.

More essential to the nature of the fair, however, are the display booths to be set up in the old Kenansville

Elementary School and Kenan Memorial Auditorium. The committee decided on fees for the booths at their meeting Thursday night, June 10. Booths designed for non-profit display in the school will be free of charge. However, a \$10 fee is required for booths operating for a profit. The rate in the auditorium is higher, with a \$55 fee charged for non-organizations and \$65 for profit-making booths. The fair will also claim 20 percent of all money made on the fairgrounds, excluding the 22 booths in the auditorium.

As of last week, letters advertising the fair and encouraging businesses to set up displays had been sent to

over 50 area industries and merchants. Kay Williamson of the Agribusiness Council said she plans to send out 50-100 more of these letters within the next few weeks. Any business not contacted, may receive information about setting up exhibits from Lloyd Stevens in Kenansville or Roy Houston at Coastal Production Credit Association.

Committee members will also begin contacting businesses in Duplin and Wayne counties later this month about advertising in the fair catalog. The catalog will contain 16 pages and will be circulated in over 16,500 newspapers. Classes at James Sprunt Technical

College have volunteered to do the lay-out work at a savings of approximately \$400. The tentative deadline for submitting ads is August 1.

Along with the support from local businesses, the fair also hopes to solicit help from the community. After looking into the costs of hiring professional entertainment, the committee decided Thursday night to involve area talent in the fair. They hope to schedule a different attraction for each night in the auditorium. Some suggestions have included corn shucking and cheerleader contests, high school bands, and local country and rock groups.



BLOCKING THE SCENE - Liberty Cart director David Thomas gives instructions to a few young local players during rehearsals last week. The professional cast arrived

in Kenansville this past weekend. The combined cast of 53 will have less than three weeks to rehearse before opening night on Friday, July 9.

Slemenda To Leave Wallace-Rose Hill School

Charles J. Slemenda, principal of Wallace-Rose Hill High School, will become superintendent of the Madison-Mayoden city school system in Rockingham County July 1.

Slemenda, 37, has served in the Duplin County system for 10 years, starting as principal of the Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School where he remained until last year.

"I believe it is an excellent

opportunity and as customer-made for me as possible," he said Friday.

Madison-Mayoden resulted from the merger of the two towns, he said. The school system has 3,000 students with about 780 in the high school. It has 140 teachers, five principals and a central office staff of 11.

The Wallace-Rose Hill High School has an enrollment of about 780 students with 47 teachers.

Slemenda said he likes the relatively small size of the Madison-Mayoden system.

"It will allow me to spend time with my teachers. I'm determined to get out into the classrooms, not to do 'snooping' but to do public relations."

He expects to spend a half a day, three times a week in the various schools and classrooms.

One of the innovations Slemenda made in Duplin County is the nature trail

project begin in 1972 at the Rose Hill-Magnolia School. "We used it as a supplemental classroom and as a teaching tool," he said. Expansion and use of the trail has continued, he added.

Slemenda is married and he and his wife have two children, Charles Jr., 12, and Christine, 14. "My daughter's happy that she won't have her father as principal of her school next year," he said.

Young Duplin Director Pushing Cart Into Seventh Season

By Sharon Overton

At 23, David Thomas is probably the youngest director in outdoor drama, but he's not going to let that become a handicap. This fall he took over the directing responsibilities at the Liberty Cart in Kenansville and armed with over eight years of experience in drama and two years as the Cart's production stage manager, he plans to make this season the best ever.

Thomas is a Beulaville native, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenwood Thomas. He was a active member of the drama club at East Duplin High School, where he graduated in 1977. His fondness for the stage led him to the North Carolina School of the Arts following graduation. After deciding that his aptitude was not strongest in acting, he left Winston Salem after one quarter and transferred to Appalachian State University in Boone.

Thomas changed his mind once more at Appalachian,

switching from a music major to directing, where he finally discovered his niche. He is presently doing work on his master's degree at Virginia Tech.

In the fall, Thomas tentatively plans to be working in New York at the Foundation for the Extension and Development of the American Professional Theater. Traveling all over the U.S., he will do consultation work with non-profit theaters. He has already received three offers from theaters for work in the spring. Center Stage in Baltimore, Delaware Theater Co., and the Virginia Stage Co.

Thomas believes that many of these doors have been opened to him through his association with the Liberty Cart.

"The Liberty Cart may seem comparatively small," said Thomas. "But we still have to go to meetings with the larger theaters. I've met many people and made good connections at these meetings. It's a way to get your foot in the door."

One connection Thomas is putting to good use is Liberty Cart playwright Ralph Umberger. He and Umberger have worked together closely over the past months, trying to bring the show back to the original script as much as possible.

"I told him (Umberger) that he's the most important thing out here," said Thomas. "At first the show was four hours long. That's too long. But then the story started getting wacked to save time. I've made no changes this year without consulting him first."

The few changes that Thomas and Umberger did decide on are mostly to put back things that have been taken out over the years. For instance, the character of Felix Kenan, Old Thomas' brother, will be brought back. Also, John Grady and his love Abigail will once again be united in marriage.

This year, Thomas is trying to use as much of the original music as possible. The music had been dropped for the most part because of poor

recording. With the help of music director Brian Hoxie, Thomas plans for the cast to do it live this season.

Despite his additions, Thomas claims that audiences will still see a show that is under two hours long. The season has been extended a week and will include at least two additional shows, Godspell and Golliwoppers.

When asked how it felt to be directing an outdoor drama with a cast of almost 55, Thomas replied, "Real scary. It's a huge responsibility and it happened very fast. I think I'm ready for it; I've been well prepared. But it's still scary."

The Liberty Cart opens its season July 9 at 8:15 p.m. in the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Memorial Amphitheatre, Kenansville. Performances of Godspell will play on five consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning July 21. Golliwoppers will be performed on three Sunday afternoons, August 1st, 8th, and 15th, at the "Spring".

Cable Hooks To Begin

Installation of the cable television system for Warsaw will begin this week, town clerk Alfred Herring told the Town Board last week.

Herring said Beasley Broadcasting Co. of Goldsboro said it would have the work completed by Aug. 12.

The board took under study the request of J.B. Johnson, chairman of the Board of Pinecrest Cemetery, southwest of Warsaw, to hire a part-time caretaker for the cemetery. The association has been paying the city \$2,800 a year for upkeep. The money comes from interest on \$32,000 the asso-

ciation has received in donations from lot owners. Johnson said the association has paid Warsaw \$11,209.78 since the arrangement with the city was made in 1977.

A 1979 model police car with 87,000 miles on its

odometer was sold to L&K Motors, owned by Billy Kennedy, on his high bid of \$1,505. The second highest bid came from W.C. Martin at \$1,500.

The board approved a resolution asking the state to

take over W.L. Hill Street and add it to the state system. The street connects U.S. 117 with a sewing plant being built on the north side of town.

Rescue Squad Building in the new Town Hall on the corner of Bay and South Front streets.

Warsaw Voting Place Changed

Due to the sale of the building used as the voting place (the old police station building) in Warsaw Precinct

to a private business, the new voting place for the June 29, 1982 primary election and future elections will be the

Rescue Squad Building in the new Town Hall on the corner of Bay and South Front streets.

Employees To Receive 5% Raise

Wallace Board Approves Budget

After paring nearly \$20,000 from its 1982-83 budget proposal, the Wallace Town Board last Thursday night rebuffed an attempt to cut the town's property tax rate by 2 cents but agreed to give town employees a 5 percent raise.

The board approved a budget of \$1,563,631, which it will adopt following the annual budget hearing in Town Hall.

With reserves and transfers of \$445,812 deducted, the budget stands at \$1,117,819 — \$170,000 less than the 1982-82 expenditures.

The tax rate will remain at 67 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. It was raised from 65 to 67 cents last year. The owner of property valued at \$50,000 will be billed for \$335 in city property taxes.

Reduced income from water and sewer fees will be balanced by a reduction in expenditures for the service,

town administrator Steven Routh said.

Commissioners Arnold Duncan and David Jordan called for the 2-cent tax reduction. Their motion was defeated on a 3-2 vote with Commissioners N.H. Carter, Luther Powell and Charles Blanchard opposing it.

Mayor Melvin Cording said Friday he would have preferred the 2-cent cut. Any tax reduction "would just about have made Wallace unique among cities this year," he said.

With the town's 51 employees getting a 5 percent raise, personnel costs, including benefits, salaries and other items, are expected to total about \$590,000.

The board cut about \$10,000 from the recommended water department allocation, which now stands at \$197,945.

The sanitation department will get \$8,000 less than it requested since the board

approved an allocation of \$92,990.

Routh said that reduction will slow building a reserve to buy a new garbage truck for commercial garbage pickup. He said the city hopes to obtain a new truck next year, probably on a lease-purchase arrangement.

The present truck has cost the town \$15,600 for repairs in the last 18 months. A new truck would cost about \$90,000.

The residential garbage collection rate will increase from \$3 per month to \$4 to strengthen the capital reserve. Commercial rates will increase 30 percent to replace dumpsters, which cost \$600 each for 8-cubic-yard capacity units, Routh said.

The ad valorem tax is expected to bring in \$291,835 based on a 91.7 percent collection rate and an assessed valuation of \$47.5 million. Each cent of tax levy is expected to bring in

\$4,750. The current fiscal year's valuation is estimated at \$46.5 million. The ad valorem tax is expected to bring in \$296,000 based on a 95 percent collection rate.

Routh said income projections are conservative.

Major revenue sources in the budget include garbage collection fees, \$104,000; franchise taxes, \$94,000; local option sales tax, \$55,000; state gasoline taxes, \$50,600; ABC store revenue, \$49,500; water and sewer fees, \$354,587; and revenue sharing, \$70,000.

Major expenditures are \$214,016 for police, \$92,990 for sanitation, \$345,302 for water and sewer, \$283,687 for capital reserve, \$164,252 for streets, \$45,648 for the library, \$60,369 for administration, \$30,448 for the garage, \$20,115 for the governing board and \$51,595 for the recreation department.



DISTRICT DAY WINNERS - Duplin 4-H'ers were well represented at the Southeastern 4-H District Activity Day, coming back with seven winners and six runners-up. The event was held Tuesday, June 15, at Eastern Wayne High School in Goldsboro. Seventeen counties participated. Duplin winners and runners-up are: Row 1, l-r, Lori Costin, small animals; Pam Kelly, artistic arrangement; Laurie Swain, egg cookery; Andrea Kenan, crafts; Amy West, sewing; and Nancy

Williamson, horse; 4-H Director Ray Rhuehart, Row 2, Arthur Hall, entomology; James Carter, pork cookery; Veronica Williams, bread; Mark Craft, beef car-grill; and Lita Fennell, poultry barbecue. Lori Costin, Pam Kelly, Laurie Swain, Andrea Kenan, Amy West, Nancy Williamson and Charles Denning will go on to compete in state competition during 4-H Congress in Raleigh July 19-23.