

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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## Duplin Schools Open Aug. 25

The Duplin County school system expects about 8,500 students this year, about the same as for the 1981-82 year, according to Dr. Alice Scott, assistant superintendent in charge of personnel.

Classes will begin Aug. 25. Teachers will report Aug. 17. Student orientation day will be Aug. 23. Graduation now is scheduled for June 3.

The system will operate on

a 1982-83 fiscal year budget of \$17,845,405, of which \$1,912,010 will come from county tax funds and \$485,846 from fines, forfeitures and other fees collected by the county.

The system lost three state and seven federally funded teaching positions because of fund cutbacks, Ms. Scott said. The system will start the year with 525 teachers.

Last year, 8,514 children enrolled in the county's schools. Average daily attendance was 8,100. The 1980-82 enrollment totaled 8,634.

Ms. Scott expects future enrollment to stabilize at about the present level. However, the expected kindergarten enrollment this year of slightly more than 500 students will be about 70

less than last year's 570. Kindergarten enrollment in the 1980-81 school year was 581.

Although limited in funds, the high schools business departments will offer a new course in computer operations along with the conventional typing, shorthand and bookkeeping courses.

Allen Wood, transportation supervisor, said 138

buses will operate on the school routes. Last year the buses traveled 1,236,187 miles, transporting about 6,900 students and using about 1,500 gallons of gasoline a day.

He reported 10 school bus accidents last year. No injuries were reported. Three bus drivers were faulted in the accidents. Drivers of other vehicles were faulted in the other seven.

## Beulaville Board Argues Effectiveness Of Unmarked Cars

By Sharon Overton  
Staff Writer

Arguments concerning the effectiveness of unmarked cars in town police work followed a vote by the Beulaville Town Board last week on Monday night to purchase a new police vehicle.

Police Chief Aubrey Murphy had requested that the town also buy a blue light for one of its three police cars, leaving two marked and one unmarked.

Commissioner Elvis Schaner argued against the use of unmarked police vehicles (those without flashing lights or stickers), saying that citizens had complained to him that the car might then be used for illegal purposes.

Murphy replied that unmarked cars were used only for police work and served the same function as a marked vehicle.

When asked why the department needed both types, Murphy said that the unmarked car had "certain advantages."

"If you don't trust the law enforcement people you have, maybe it's time to get rid of them and get some new ones."

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the purchase of the blue light and keep one unmarked car.

According to Mayor Wilbur Hussey, town policy in recent years has been to replace one car annually so that the department will be operating only three-year-old vehicles. Beulaville policemen are now driving one 1978 and two 1980 models. Murphy stated that this practice has all but eliminated maintenance expenses, with costs dropping from \$4,000 per year to \$400.

Murphy also recommended that the town buy only full-size vehicles. He stated that the difference in operating costs over a mid-size is minimal; however, the quality of the ride is far superior.

In further business Woody Brinson, who is handling Beulaville's block grant application, reported that the Farmer's Home Administra-

tion has purchased all of the town's bonds for funding the new sewage treatment plant. The sale of the bonds, which amount to \$625,000, will be finalized on August 25.

Under an agreement with the FmHA, the town is allowed to hold up to two years' interest on the bonds. They can then invest the money at the current market interest rate while owing the FmHA only the 5 percent.

Brinson also submitted bills from East Coast Construction, Boney & Assoc., and McDavid & Assoc., firms involved in the construction of the water and sewer system. The board approved payment of McDavid & Assoc. for \$12,026, Boney for almost \$12,000 and East Coast for \$36,629.99.

Concerned over Boney's definition of "substantial complete on" of the project, the commissioners decided to hold payment on his firm's bill for inspection during the liquidated damages period. The bill totaled \$1,932.

The board will discuss next month plans to begin charging Beulaville schools and

the National Spinning plant for water and sewer services according to their usage. The town has been charging both a flat rate based on an estimate of the number of

## Duplin To Keep Same Meal Fees

The Duplin County Board of Education last week voted to keep school breakfast and lunch prices at last year's level.

Shelby Kilpatrick, food services supervisor, recommended the action. Prices for lunch will be 70 cents for elementary students, 75 cents for high school students, 40 cents for those eligible for reduced rates and \$1.20 for adults. Breakfast prices will be 45 cents for students, 30 cents for those eligible for the reduced rate and 65 cents for adults.

The board agreed to build the first metal building for a classroom in the county at North Duplin High School. The structure, to cost \$13,000, will replace the mobile unit used for the drafting class that burned last year. All of the school's drafting class equipment was lost in the fire. The new structure will be 24-by-32 feet, heavily insulated, air conditioned and finished on the inside with paneling. The board expects to receive

the insurance settlement on the burned building.

Superintendent L.S. Guy reported the Wallace Elementary School "Direction Sports" team won the national championship at Los Angeles. The team won the state championship at Greensboro in June. The program is designed to increase interest in school among some poor achievers. The competition featured basketball.

The board upheld the decision of Wallace Elementary School teachers and Principal Cecil Beaman not to promote two children to the next grade following protest by the children's parents.

Edmonia Gore appealed the school's decision to retain her daughter in the first grade to the board, claiming the child received satisfactory grades for all but the first grading period. At the

end of the first grading period it was found the child needed glasses. After obtaining the glasses, her school work improved. However, her teacher and the principal believed the child would benefit by going over the first grade reading work again.

Voting to uphold the hold-back were E.L. Boyette, Jimmy Strickland and Joe Swinson. R.E. Wilkins abstained. An abstention is listed as a yes vote.

Twenty-four of 125 first-graders in the school were held back last spring.

Jimmy Matthews questioned the decision to keep his daughter in kindergarten for the second year. Gary Sanderson, assistant superintendent, explained the child's work was at the three- or four-year-old level. He said both children took the California achievement test for their grade levels and the results bore out the decision to hold them back. The board voted unanimously to uphold the school decision.

A study will be made of the time of each school bus route so drivers can be paid a flat amount each month, based on \$3.65 an hour. The drivers will work with supervisors in making the study.

## Area Man Killed On Highway

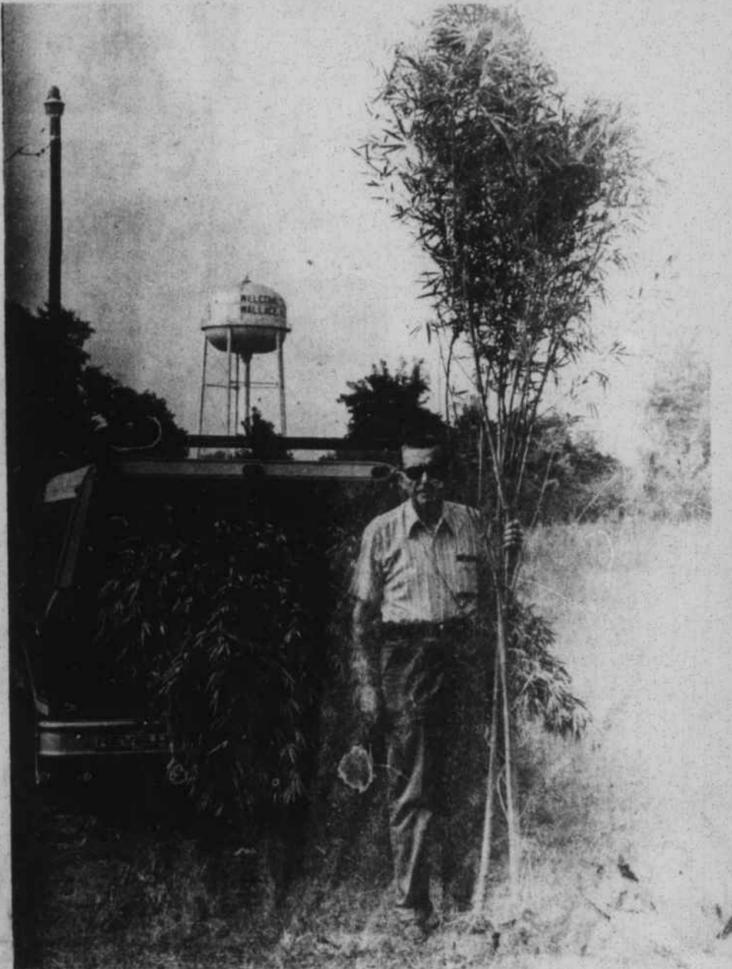
A 22-year-old Faison man was among eight persons who died on the state's highways this past weekend, the N.C. Highway Patrol reported.

Larry Hobbs of Route 1, Faison, died when his 1982 Toyota crossed the centerline and struck a 1982 Ford van head-on about 10 p.m. Friday.

The accident occurred approximately 8 miles south of Clinton, as Hobbs traveled south on U.S. 701 toward Elizabethtown.

The driver of the van, Mary Elizabeth Mills, 61, and her husband, Daniel Mills, were injured in the accident. Mrs. Mills suffered several broken ribs and a broken clavical, while her husband was treated for a concussion. The couple, residents of Georgetown, S.C., are in stable condition at N.C. Memorial Hospital at Chapel Hill.

Both the Toyota and the van were completely demolished, said Mark Dalton of the N.C. Highway Patrol.



**MARIJUANA - TALL WEED - ILLEGAL WEED** - Duplin Deputy Rodney Thigpen holds upright some of the 12-foot tall marijuana plants discovered in a wooded area just north of the Wallace city limits on

the west side of Highway 117. Duplin drug enforcement officers uprooted 75 of the tall plants. They were taken to the Duplin county landfill, burned and buried.

## Marijuana Plants Burned In Duplin

The Duplin County Sheriff's Department Thursday discovered a marijuana patch in a wooded area near the northern city limits of Wallace and U.S. 117.

Deputies found 75 plants about 12 feet high. They estimated the street value of the marijuana at \$20,000. The found evidence of harvesting. Some plants had

been cut and some leaves stripped.

Officers cut down the 75 plants and burned them at the county landfill.

## Faison Board Raises Water Meter Deposit

## Ok's Sewage Plant Equipment

By Sharon Overton  
Staff Writer

The Faison Town Board approved last Wednesday the purchase of approximately \$13,763 worth of equipment to be used in conjunction with the sewage treatment plant following an earlier vote to increase meter deposits for city water users from \$15 to \$35.

The town has received and awarded a low bid of \$9,614 on a farm tractor from Brewer Motor & Equip. Co. in Wallace and of \$1,649 on a mower from Clinton Truck and Tractor. Bids for lab equipment are to be evaluated by the engineer on the project. The equipment is expected to cost from \$2-3,000.

Finance manager Neil Mallory explained that 92.5 percent of the monies allocated for the new equipment will be reimbursed through an EPA sewer improvement grant.

Acting on an earlier motion by Commissioner Bill Igoe, the board voted to raise water meter deposits by \$10 in an effort to defray losses incurred when temporary residents leave town without paying their water bills. According to town Clerk Hazel Kelly, Faison lost almost \$70 last year in such cases. She added that residents may obtain up to 50 days of water before the service is discontinued.

Igoe recommended that the board raise the deposit by an amount sufficient to cover an average monthly

water bill, which runs from \$25 to \$30. The commissioners voted unanimously to increase the deposit from \$15 to \$35.

Faison residents who use city sewer but pump their own water may have to start paying for sewer services after next month.

The board discussed plans Wednesday to begin billing sewer-only residents a flat charge based on an average household usage. According to the sewer ordinance, the minimum sewer bill is \$3.60. The town has been unable to charge these people for sewer since there is no water meter on the house to record what they use.

The town board compromised on a request from Faison resident Donald Rhodes that a 6-in. water line be run from his house near Ellis and Solomon streets. Rhodes claims that the 3/4-in. line that exists there is not large enough to handle the three homes that draw from it.

Saying the "money is tight," Commissioner Helen Britt moved that the town install a 2-in. line to Rhodes' house instead at a cost of \$45 to the town and \$361.04 to Rhodes. The board approved the motion.

In further business, the commissioners accepted the resignation of Board of Adjustments member C.C. Rouse, appointing two new members to fill that vacancy and the one left by L.S. Guy, who resigned last month.

In a letter to Mayor Francis McColman, Rouse stated that the "contradict-

ing language" in the rules caused his "inability to render a competent decision" in zoning problems.

The board appointed Ethel Bowden, Jake Atkinson and Walter Thomas (alternate) to fill the positions, subject to their acceptance.

The board also voted to continue reimbursing town policemen during court duty. Police Chief Randy Brock estimated that the town pays less than \$6 per month for such expenses. Policemen also receive an additional \$25 a month to cover off-duty time spent in court.

## JSTC Approves New Program

James Sprunt Technical College of Kenansville has approved for the fall quarter of 1982, a 12-month technical specialty program in general office technology. The purpose of the four-quarter diploma program is to provide a concentration of training in skill areas designed to provide the basic skills and knowledge necessary to seek employment as a clerical office worker in a variety of office situations.

Registration for this program will be Sept. 28 on campus. For further information, call Retha Brown at 296-1341, ext. 213, or the registrar's office at 296-1341, ext. 236.

## Kenansville Replaces Burned Garbage Truck

The Kenansville Town Board obtained a garbage truck under a lease-purchase agreement last week to replace one destroyed by fire earlier this year.

The board also agreed to ask state Sen. Harold Hardison for assistance in settling a \$17,000 payment demand, received Monday, from the state department of transportation.

The statement was based on a March 7, 1977, agreement under which the town was to pay 30 percent of the cost to widen, curb, gutter and pave on Seminary Street near the Duplin County courthouse. No bill was received until early this year, according to board members. That statement said the bill was for inspections.

The board has received no answer from its queries to the state about the matter.

The bill received Monday read, "... for cost incurred for storm drainage improvements on Seminary Street."

The DOT demanded the town pay the bill by Aug. 1 or the state would take the money out of the town's Powell Bill allocation for street work. The town expects to receive about \$19,000 in the Powell Bill allocation this year.

No action was taken on the question pending a response from Hardison, the district's senator.

The garbage truck is an 18-cubic yard side loader. It is a 1982 Ford F-600 demonstrator obtained from Truxmore of Richmond, Va. for

\$29,500 plus interest.

Under the lease-purchase agreement with United Carolina Leasing Corp. the town paid \$7,484.62 in advance. It will make four annual payments of \$7,364.62.

The equipment was put into use after the Truxmore company agreed to allow the town to try out the vehicle before firming up an agreement.

Recently, Kenansville has been renting Magnolia's garbage truck at \$150 a week. Grady-Hall Associates picked up garbage for four weeks while attempting to negotiate contracts for garbage pick-up with county towns. Other county towns rejected the commercial firm's offer.

James Newkirk was appointed to the town Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (ABC) by a 3-1 vote. Commissioners Betty Long, Earl Hatcher and Jimmy Johnson voted for the appointment. Commissioner Ronnie Bostic voted against it. His motion to appoint James Farrior failed for lack of a second motion. Newkirk is the first black to sit on the board. He replaces Don Suttles, who was appointed mayor to succeed the late Carolyn Hall as mayor until December 1985. Newkirk's term expires in December. Long made the appointment motion which was seconded by Hatcher.

The board received word health and accident insurance premiums for the seven town employees will increase

82 percent Sept. 1 — from \$27 to \$46.90 per employee. When it adopted the current budget the board decided if the insurance premium increased by more than 20 percent, the employees would have to pay the difference between that figure and the actual increase. The city has paid the entire premium for an employee in the past. Durham Life Insurance Co. is the carrier. The policies have been purchased through the American Institute of Management Services.

The board agreed to fund a laborer's position at \$3,35 per hour to replace a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act position lost in fund cutbacks.

Because the Labor Day holiday coincides with their regular meetings on the first Monday of the month, the next board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13.

## Eight Months Late Where's Your Plate?

Faison Mayor Francis McColman thinks eight months is long enough for Faison residents to purchase their city plates. Although the town gave them away last year, this year's plates went on sale in January for \$1.00.

The plates went up after February 15 to \$2.00. Plates can be purchased at this price for the rest of the month. Starting September 1, Residents not displaying Faison plates will be given a ticket and fined the cost of court, \$31.00.