

# Duplin Times

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## Stroud Crowned 1984 Miss Duplin County

Mary Allyson Stroud, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Stroud of Kenansville, was crowned Miss Duplin County 1984 in Kenan Memorial Auditorium Feb. 11. Angela Joy Norman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warner W. Norman III of Rose Hill, was named first runner-up to Miss Duplin County 1984. The Shari Jones Stewart Congeniality trophy was awarded to contestant Oscara Carter of Wallace. Miss Duplin County 1984

performed a ballet in talent competition and Allyson is a senior at James Kenan High School. Pictured above, left to right, first runner-up Angela Joy Norman, Allyson Stroud Miss Duplin County 1984, Julia Spicer Miss Duplin County 1981 and Miss Congeniality Oscara Carter. Allyson will compete later this year for the title of Miss North Carolina.

## Beulaville Board Awards Fencing Bids

Commissioner Rabon Maready opposed the action by the Beulaville Town Board to award Furnie R. Wood and Son a fencing contract. According to Maready the process showed "implications of bid rigging."

The bid to fence ball fields at Beulaville Elementary School was awarded to Wood and Son of Chinquapin by the Beulaville Town Board at the February 6 meeting. Wood submitted the low bid of \$13,550, followed by Baker Fence Company at \$13,876.40; Seegars, \$15,123; and Lowes, \$21,158.

The project was increased by 120 feet of fence and town attorney Russell Lanier advised the town board to reject original bids and open a second bidding for the revised plans. Among the companies submitting bids in the first process were Baker Fence Company at \$13,577,

and Wood and Son at \$13,995. Wood was the only contractor submitting a bid which included the additional 120 feet of fence during the first bidding process.

Recreation Commission Chairman Alfred Basden reported the recommendation from Commission members to award the fencing contract to the low bidder, Wood and Son. Basden reported \$7,507 in the recreation budget for fencing. The Beulaville Town Board voted unanimously to fund the additional cost of \$6,000. Beulaville Elementary School Principal Douglas Hunter agreed to upgrade the three proposed diamonds by preparing the infield. Seeding and leveling the fields had been done last year by the Duplin Board of Education.

The Recreation Commission's plan to enter into a use agreement for the athletic field with the Duplin Board

of Education was approved by the town board in November of last year. The facility is proposed for use by the elementary school students as a playground and the citizens of Beulaville as a softball and baseball field.

Police protection after 2 a.m. is a concern of merchant Patsy Smith who appeared before the Beulaville Commissioners. Smith told Commissioners the recent robbery at her business was the second within one year and both occurred during the early morning hours when no Beulaville police officer is on duty. Three police officers provide scheduled protection from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. According to Beulaville police officer Aubrey Murphy, a fourth officer would be needed in order to provide continuous coverage for the town. Service hours of the Beulaville police department are equal to the Duplin County Sheriff's Department.

Beulaville Commissioner Joe Edwards was appointed by Mayor Wilbur Hussey to work with officer Murphy to study the possibility of staggering police shifts in order to provide protection during the night hours.

Commissioners approved the installation of a third telephone line into the Beulaville Town Hall. Currently two lines carry the load of calls to the town offices and the police departments. The additional line will increase the monthly service fee from approximately \$99 to \$135.

The town hall was approved as the site of a voter registration drive scheduled March 3. Lucille Blizzard, a member of the Committee of Concerned Citizens for Morality, requested the organization be allowed the use of the town hall meeting room for the morning registration drive.

## Faison Reviews Trash Collection Fees

Faison's commercial customers may face a rate hike in garbage collection fees. The Faison town board appointed Commissioner Melvin Rogers and town superintendent Fred Wheelless at the Feb. 1 meeting to study a proposed rate hike for commercial trash collection.

According to Mayor Francis McColman, town workers spend two or more hours a week collecting garbage at some of the businesses and industries in Faison. The current rate for commercial trash collection is \$2, the same amount residential customers pay.

The town of Faison received a

request from Univision cable television to reduce their company's performance bond from \$10,000 to \$2,000. McColman reported the company had completed all specified construction on the cable system. Commissioner Bill Igoe made a motion that upon receipt of the \$2,000 bond, the \$10,000 letter of credit be returned to Univision. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion to extend a water line outside the city limits on Faison Avenue was unanimously passed. The six-inch water line will connect a building to become part of the Charles F. Cates & Sons, Inc. pickle

company. Complaints were brought before the Board by Commissioner Jane Hollingsworth about citizens getting rusty-colored water in their homes. Mayor McColman agreed to work with Superintendent Wheelless and town Engineer Finley Boney to try and find a solution to the rust-tainted water in the system.

Upon the conclusion of a public hearing on the allocation of \$7,088, the Board voted to fund drainage and tile improvements, fire and rescue services, the community building and contribute to the town's general funds. The fire and rescue depart-

ments will receive \$1,500 each, drainage and tile improvements, \$1,000; the community building fund will be increased by \$1,000; and the remaining \$2,088 will be allocated to the town's general fund from the revenue sharing monies.

## Duplin Board Rejects Request For Hospital Loan

A request for a \$75,000 loan by the Duplin General Hospital Board was rejected by the county commissioners last week.

The commissioners also failed to take up the hospital board's request for an increase of \$120,000 in the unrestricted fund appropriation from the county.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell's motion to approve the loan request died for lack of a second.

Hospital board chairman Ray Sanderson, board members Dr. E.L. Boyette, Wade Carlton and Albert Davis and administrator Richard Harrell presented the request. They asked for \$75,000 for six months, saying it would be repaid from Medicaid-Medicare reimbursements from the federal government. Harrell said the hospital is owed \$178,000 from the federal government.

In a letter to the commissioners, the hospital board requested its \$75,000 unrestricted fund appropriation be increased to \$195,000. Most of the additional money was to have been used as partial payment on \$294,885 worth of equipment purchased by the hospital in the past year.

Commissioner W.J. Costin said the hospital's biggest problem is that local physicians do not send patients to it. "If the doctors don't send patients there," Costin said, "no matter how

much (money) we put in it, it won't make any difference. . . I understand three doctors in Warsaw are leaving and that upsets me."

Boyette said part of the problem is many of these new doctors are from out of State and have no ties to the county.

"What has the county got to offer, as a whole? What has the county done? Some of these doctors are trained at government expense and sent here and we know they'll only be here a couple of years," Boyette said. "We can't make doctors practice at Duplin General."

Free care to indigent patients cost the hospital \$67,944 in the past fiscal year and \$58,498 in the previous year.

The county will pay an estimated \$80,000 for a new roof on the south wing of the hospital this year.

Harrell answered a question about hospital use by saying it had 45 to 50 patients' beds occupied in the past two weeks. The hospital has about 80 beds.

Boyette said average cost per patient can be determined by dividing the operating budget by the number of admissions. On this basis, he said, the average for Duplin in the past year was \$1,576; for Sampson Memorial at Clinton, \$2,102; New Hanover Memorial, \$2,006; Pender Memorial, \$1,638; Duke Medical Center at Durham, \$5,696, and Pitt Memorial at Greenville, \$2,690.

## Duplin Board Authorizes Bids For Airport Work

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners last week authorized the airport commission to advertise for bids to complete the long-delayed paving of the airport runway extension.

The airport commission contends that the 1,100-foot extension was improperly paved. The county is constructing the contractor, Blaylock Construction Co. of Lillington, and its bonding firm, Balboa Insurance Co., either for damages or for satisfactory completion of the paving.

County Attorney Russell Lanier, said Wednesday the extension is "probably dangerous because of the uneven surface."

He said "birdbaths" of water remain in low areas of the surface after a rain.

The cost of work needed to bring the surface up to specifications is estimated at \$30,000 to \$39,000.

Lanier recommended that the county go ahead with the project and recoup its money when the lawsuit with the contractor is settled. "We'll know what the actual damages are in that situation," he said.

The contract for the airport work was about \$100,000, he said.

During the commissioners' meeting, it was revealed that the county has retained \$11,000 from payment to the contractor. This money will be applied to completion of the project.

The extension increased the runway length to 4,800 feet.

Bennie Wilson, chairman of the airport commission, told the board a 30-acre buffer zone at the end of the runway is being cleared and sodded. An electronic guidance system is being installed to help pilots land. The project is being financed through grants and contributions from airport users, he added.

## School Bus Must Pass

Although a school bus passes in front of her home, a North Duplin School ninth-grader will continue walking or riding a mile to board the bus.

The Duplin County Board of Education ruled the school bus that passes the family's home cannot stop there because the residence is located outside North Duplin's school district. The board decided

that if it granted the family's request, similar requests might have to be granted.

Last year, the family of Faye and John Jones moved a mile east of their earlier residence near Britt's Store. Their former residence was in the North Duplin district.

The child still attends North Duplin School, although the Jones' present residence is in the B.F. Grady School area.

A school bus traveling to North Duplin School every day passes in front of their home. The bus carries special education students from the B.F. Grady district to the North Duplin School, which has programs for "exceptional children."

The bus stopped for the Jones child earlier in the year, but the service ended when a check revealed the residence to be outside of the North Duplin district.

## Duplin 4-H'er To Represent State

Charles Denning will represent North Carolina at a national 4-H conference in April in Washington, D.C., Duplin County Extension Chairman Lois Britt announced last week.

Denning has been active in Duplin County 4-H programs for several

years. About 50 outstanding 4-H members were guests of the county Board of Commissioners last Wednesday at the 13th annual recognition banquet. Roxanne Pearsall, county 4-H president, said the commissioners' 4-H recognition banquet is unique in the state.

Other 4-H members recognized were:

- Angie Hood of Warsaw and Bryant Murphy of Rose Hill, selected for junior achievement.

- Amy West of Warsaw and Eleanor Wade of Wallace, recognized for senior achievement.



## Denning Goes To National 4-H Congress

Charles Denning, a North Duplin senior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvis Denning of Faison, was named among the North Carolina delegates to attend National 4-H Congress in Washington, D.C. later this year. According to Duplin Agricultural Extension 4-H Agent Ray Rhinehart, Denning will be the first local representative to be selected as a delegate to National

Congress in about 15 years. Pictured above, Duplin Agricultural Extension 4-H Agent Ray Rhinehart, Charles Denning and County Commissioner D.J. Fussell. Denning was recognized by Duplin County Commissioners, along with other outstanding 4-H'ers during the annual winner's circle banquet held Feb. 8 in Rose Hill.