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Warsaw Fireman Puts Out Grass Fire

Warsaw and Magnolia fire departments were called to a grass fire that burned down a tobacco barn at the old Ritter Farm east of Warsaw near

Johnson's Church. The fire began when an electric fence fell and started a grassfire. The fireman with the hose is Robert Earl Price.

Dr. Jeff Margolis, M.D.

Resigns From Faison Medical Clinic

Goshen Medical Center opened in Faison with Dr. Jeff Margolis, M.D. on staff in 1981, but when his contract ends June 30, the internist plans to leave the Duplin facility.

Disturbed by the guidelines of operation established by Rural Health Initiative of Atlanta for the federally funded Goshen Medical Center, Margolis said physicians are pushed beyond reasonable limits to meet the regulations. Adding up his time sheet for an average seven-day work week, Margolis totals at least 87 hours from seeing patients at the Center, attending to hospital rounds, and emergency calls.

Doctors at federally funded medical centers such as Goshen are required to see 10 patients on site each day. On site visits are used by Rural Health Initiative in determining the number of doctors

needed per health facility and Goshen Medical Center has just been refused the addition of a third physician. Currently Margolis and Dr. Ken Lee, M.D., are working both Goshen Medical Center and Plain View Medical Center, another federally funded health facility located in Greeneville. The additional workload of the Greeneville clinic prompted the request of a third physician by the Goshen Medical Center Board of Directors.

"If I was an office practitioner only, Atlanta's goal would be easy to meet," Dr. Jeff Margolis said. "But with a hospital practice, consulting and emergency calls, a doctor cannot always meet the required on-site encounters."

"I think the most ludicrous policy of all is the philosophy that only patients seen on site inside the center have merit. Much of my work

goes on away from this building and after its hours of scheduled operation. To ignore such contribution in the compilation of statistics is absurd," Margolis wrote in his letter of resignation to the Goshen Medical Center Board of Directors.

According to Margolis, a staff physician at Sampson Memorial Hospital, six or more patients from the Goshen Medical Center service area are hospitalized and require attention as well as walk-in patients at the clinic. He added, Dr. Lee is responsible for patients admitted to Duplin General Hospital.

In his resignation Margolis requests the Goshen Medical Center directors waive the distance exclusion in the contract between him and the clinic. The contract prohibited a physician from establishing a medical practice within 30 miles of the medical facility in which formerly

employed.

Margolis hopes to gain a waiver of the distance exclusion clause and set up practice in Clinton. The physician and his wife and son plan to remain residents of Faison. Setting up a private practice in Faison is an option, Margolis said, open but "at the present time it is not the most attractive offer received."

Concerned about neglecting family obligations, Margolis stated consideration of joining another physician in a private practice in Sampson County. However, he stated no definite plans.

Through his resignation, Margolis hopes the Atlanta office of Rural Health Initiative will begin to review their guidelines for physicians and in the future include work the doctor does outside the federally funded medical facility in compilation of statistics.

Duplin Still First In Farming

Duplin County's 1983 agricultural production plus government payments brought a gross return of \$234.8 million, according to estimates by the county Agricultural Extension Service.

For more than a decade the county's gross return from agricultural production has made it the No. 1 farming county in the state.

For several years, it has ranked among the top 50 agricultural counties of the United States. It has been called the top poultry-producing county of the nation for several years.

The county's poultry industry, which also creates hundreds of agribusiness jobs, began developing in the late 1950s. The 1983 return of \$2.1 million from commercial eggs almost equaled the 1956 estimate of \$2.35 million for all poultry and poultry products.

The estimated return from all poultry in 1983 was \$125.9 million. The report shows 9.9 million turkeys weighing a total 172 million pounds were sold for \$73.9 million.

Producers sold 31.2 million broilers weighing 134.4 million pounds for a total of \$31.3 million.

The county's producers are involved in all phases of poultry production.

The industry provides the raw material for the Swift & Co. turkey processing plant in Wallace, the House of Raeford, owned by the Nash Johnson & Sons firm of Rose Hill and for several Virginia processors.

Poultry and eggs are produced by farmers who own the facilities. The birds are owned by the program operators or producers who provide the birds, feed, medication and markets. Growers are paid by the unit and/or pound.

Among poultry companies operating in Duplin are Perdue, Country Pride, Carroll's Foods of Warsaw and the Johnson and Swift firms.

While the return from poultry in 1956 was only \$2.35 million, it

increased sevenfold in five years to \$16.76 million in 1961. The rate of increase slowed between 1961 and 1966 with the return in the latter year estimated at \$26 million.

The return increased to \$42.3 million in 1971 and \$82.4 million in 1975. By 1981 the return from poultry was estimated at \$110.8 million.

The return from poultry began topping tobacco in the early 1960s. By 1966 poultry had become the leading gross farm income producer with \$26 million compared with \$19 million for tobacco.

Tobacco has fallen on hard times with weak demand causing successive production quota decreases. In 1982 tobacco brought a record \$41.6 million to county farmers. Because of severe quota cuts and a relatively poor crop, the 1983 return fell to \$32.1 million.

The value of hog production is approaching that of tobacco. The return from hogs in 1983 was estimated at \$31.1 million. Swine production has steadily increased in the past 27 years. The gross return rose from \$2.27 million in 1956 to \$9.3 million in 1971 and \$27.3 million in 1975.

Duplin farmers grossed \$12 million last year from vegetable and fruit crops. These crops have been important in the county's farm economy for many years. Their share of the total gross farm income has decreased, however, as poultry and swine production have soared.

Duplin was a major cotton-producing county in the 19th century and early 20th century, but that crop has disappeared in the county. By 1971, the return from cotton was estimated at only \$14,150.

Corn has been the major grain crop. Last year farmers gained \$17.3 million from corn they produced and were credited with \$4.3 million, mostly in corn, under the federal government payment-in-kind program.

Fair Plans Underway For 1984

Plans for a horse exhibition and riding show have been included in the 1984 Duplin County Fair. The fair is scheduled for October 1-6.

The 1984 Duplin County Fair committee met Feb. 21 to begin planning the third annual event. The fair will be held in Kenansville at the fairgrounds surrounding Kenan Auditorium. Along with the fair day set exclusively for horse competition and exhibition, the Duplin County Livestock Association plans to increase farm animal shows. According to David Byrd, chairman of the Duplin County Fair livestock exhibitions, shows for swine and junior and yearling heifers are planned by the Livestock Association. Each category is expected to have as many as 15 entries, Byrd said.

The fair committee also agreed to sell tickets at the back gate this year in order to increase the traffic through the old elementary school exhibition hall. In the past only the front gate sold admission to the fair which opens into the Kenan Auditorium exhibition hall.

According to Duplin County Fair general manager Jim Johnson, a

carnival group has been signed for the 1984 fair and will provide a greater variety of rides and games for the midway than was available in 1983. An estimated 10,000 people attended the 1983 Duplin County Fair and Johnson said the addition of new exhibitions for horses and the increased competition planned for livestock will bring even more visitors to the 1984 fair.

Plans to begin renting commercial exhibit booths are scheduled to get underway in early summer and will be assigned on a first come basis. Chairperson for the 1984 commercial exhibitions is Emily Killete. Outside exhibitions, including farm implements, will be handled by Larry Sanderson. Concession booth chairman is Tom Rouse.

The 1984 Duplin Fair chairman is Lewis Smith; other officers include: educational exhibits, Mae Spicer; public school exhibits, Austin Carter; treasurer, John Smith; horse show and exhibition, Donna and Carey Wrenn; entertainment, Yvonne Patterson; and Billy Knowles; and catalog sales, Lewis Smith and Cathy Fonville; and publicity, Ruth Wells.

JSTC Fills Several Needs

James Sprunt Technical College will celebrate its 20th year on its campus south of Kenansville April 26. William Wagoner, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, will be the speaker.

JSTC began as a branch of Wayne Technical Institute of Goldsboro. Until it obtained its own campus, its courses were taught in whatever buildings were available throughout Duplin County.

Dr. Carl Price, president, said 1,833 students have graduated from the school's curriculum programs and 868 from the high school diploma equivalency program.

"We're putting a lot of emphasis on the basic education program," Price said. "We have 100 students enrolled in basic education this quarter."

"We're just scratching the surface of needs in this field," he said. "Duplin County has about 9,600 people 25 years or older with less than an eighth-grade education."

That is almost one-fourth of the county's population of about 40,000.

The school offers 22 vocational and technical courses. Vocational courses usually can be completed in one year or less and technical courses, which lead to associate degrees, in two years.

"We're heading into computer programs as fast as we can," Price said. "We now have computer instruction available to all of our two-year technical course students and hope to have a data processing curriculum in place by this fall."

The local board has approved the data processing curriculum. The program is now before the state

department of community colleges for approval, which is expected, Price said.

Students are showing much interest in the computer field, he said.

The school received a federal grant of \$500,000, to be spread across three years, to buy equipment for its computer program and finance some faculty training. It received the first installment of \$187,000 in October.

The school also has a \$40,000 Jobs Training Partnership Act grant to train up to 20 machinists for North Carolina Hydraulics Corp. in Beulaville.

One of the significant steps in the school's history, Price said, has been the contract with UNCW, begun in 1971, to offer the first two years of college courses on campus. UNCW

accepts the credits when students transfer there for their junior and senior years. About 100 students are enrolled in the college transfer program.

Price said many teachers in Duplin County took their first two years of college work at JSTC, transferred to UNCW to get their degrees and returned home to teach. "My wife is one of them," he added.

The school enrolled 800 students in its on-campus curriculum programs last fall and 3,000 students in its extension programs. It has 45 full-time faculty members and 50 to 60 part-time instructors.

JSTC is operating on a \$3 million budget, of which \$2.5 million comes from the state. The school has established a students services career and job placement center to help students into jobs and careers.

Duplin Approves Albertson Sewer District Money

Resolutions authorizing grants and loans for the Albertson Water and Sewer District were approved by the Duplin County Board of Commissioners Monday.

About a month will be required to complete all the paperwork, said Ron Sessoms of Rivers & Associates, a Greenville engineering firm overseeing the water and sewer project. He expects to advertise for bids on the project in about six weeks.

The board also awarded a \$78,750 contract for repairing the roof of the southern wing of Duplin County Hospital. The contract went to Curtis Roofing Co. of Kinston.

The Curtis company also entered the lowest bid for repair of the Herring building roof at James Sprunt Technical College. The bid was for \$30,840. JSTC officials will award the contract.

"The county should never permit a flat roof to be built on any of its buildings again," said Commissioner D.J. Fussell. "They just cost and cost us money."

Both of the buildings getting roof

repairs have flat roofs.

By approving the resolutions on the Albertson Water and Sewer District, the board enabled the project to begin.

One resolution authorized a \$314,000 loan from the Farmers Home Administration, to be repaid over a 38-year period. Other resolutions accepted a FmHA grant of \$697,900 and a state clean water bond grant of \$325,000.

Last year, voters in the district approved a referendum authorizing a bond issue of up to \$425,000.

March 15 will be the last day the water district residents can sign up for water at low cost. They must pay \$10 when signing up and \$15 when the water line is brought to their meters. Those signing for water later will have to pay the cost of extending water pipes from the main line to the individuals' meters.

With the approach of spring, the commissioners have begun to think about the budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The board set dates to hear departments' budget

requests.

The Duplin County Board of Education will present its budget request to the commissioners at 3 p.m. April 16. Department heads will appear from 1 to 5 p.m. April 10, 18 and 19 to justify their budget requests.

Departments' "wish lists" must be turned in to the county manager by March 15.

The board authorized Norman Sandlin, tax collector, to hire an additional employee at \$8,368 a year to help collect delinquent taxes.

Earlier this month the board appropriated an extra \$3,300 for the tax office to cover costs of postage, telephone and supplies in its drive to collect delinquent taxes, mostly personal property taxes.

At the beginning of February, \$893,371 in 1983 property taxes, mostly on real property, were delinquent. Property tax billings in 1983 totaled \$4 million.

In other action, the board:

• Awarded a contract to make

soil test borings on a proposed landfill site to McDavid Associates for \$6,000.

• Eliminated a chain saw operator's position, paying \$8,745, at the county landfill and authorized a mosquito control supervisor's position at 11,698 a year.

• Asked the state to install a blinking traffic light at N.C. 11 and N.C. 111 near Kornegay and B.F. Grady School in northeastern Duplin County. Several accidents have been reported at the intersection.

• Agreed to ask for a \$750,000 insurance policy on the former Kenansville Elementary School.

• Appointed Russell Tucker, county auditor, to the Neuse River Council of Governments board.

• Agreed to sit as a board of equalization and review at 9:15 a.m. May 7 and 21 in the commissioners' room of the courthouse.

• Scheduled a public hearing on the county's revenue sharing budget for 9:15 a.m. April 2 during the board's regular meeting.

Will Go To Convention Duplin Commissioners

All but two counties in South-eastern North Carolina will be represented at the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference March 17-20 in Washington.

Pender County Finance Director Howard Holly said the board decided not to send members.

Duplin County Manager Ralph

Cottle said commissioners Allen Nethercutt, Calvin C. Turner, Dovie Penney and D.J. Fussell plan to attend, along with county finance officer Russell Tucker.

"I do think it is beneficial," Cottle said. "It helps them understand local government better because it does get complicated."

Ferry Launched With Duplin Cellars Champagne

The ferry, Governor James Baxter Hunt Jr., was launched last Thursday in Palatka, Fla., following a christening with a bottle of champagne from Duplin Wine Cellars of Duplin County.

Frances Roberson christened the vessel as her husband, Transportation Secretary William R. Roberson Jr., and Jeanette Carl, a member of the state Board of Transportation,

looked on.

The ferry should be in service by May, when it will run between Hatteras and Ocracoke Island. The date of the dedication ceremonies will be announced later.

The ferry is 129 feet long and 40 feet wide and can carry 20 vehicles. It was built in Palatka by Offshore Shipbuilding Inc. at a cost of \$1.4 million.