

Duplin Times

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Amos "Doc" Brinson



Lillie Sanders



Riddick Wilkins



James F. Strickland



William J. Costin



J. Frank Steed



D.J. Fussell



George N. Ammons

Five Offices On Ballot In Duplin Election

Four Duplin County elective offices are being contested in the May 8 primary election.

In a fifth election, Christine Williams is unopposed for her ninth term as register of deeds.

Winning the Democratic primary will be tantamount to election as the Democratic candidates have no Republican opposition in November.

Two candidates are seeking each of the two Board of Commissioners and two Board of Education seats that will be open. Commissioners are paid \$1,800 a year plus in-county travel allowances of \$2,000 each. Board of Education members are paid \$1,000 each.

Vying for the newly constituted Board of Education District 5 seat are Amos Q. "Doc" Brinson, 33, of Kenansville, and Lillie Frederick Sanders, 39, of Magnolia. The district includes Kenansville, Rose Hill, Magnolia, Register's Crossroad and Charity areas.

It is the last of five school board districts to be constituted. Now, district seats from the Board of Education and Board of Commissioners will cover the same areas.

Before 1980, Duplin school board members were elected at-large for six-year terms. The terms have been reduced to four years with members elected by districts as terms expired. At present the Warsaw area is represented by two members, both of whom are seeking that district's seat.

Ms. Sanders lives in Magnolia and manages the Duplin Apartments complexes in Magnolia and Rose Hill. She wants to help improve education opportunities.

"I want to see the children represented," she said. "I think we should just listen to children a little more. I believe the board needs a woman's point of view. I heard someone say that you need a woman around to keep the men working. I want to work for better education."

Brinson was born and raised in Duplin County and has two sons in county schools.

"I am concerned that they get a quality education," Brinson said. "We need better communication between parents and teachers. I'm concerned that teachers don't contact parents soon enough if something goes wrong. Teachers should call parents and parents should call teachers. It can get better. I'm not blaming anyone for the fact it's not better."

"The board can do a lot to open lines of communication," he said. "It needs to tell the advisory boards and people of the county what's going on."

Two incumbents are vying for the District 1 seat, which includes the Warsaw-Faison area. They are Riddick E. Wilkins, 61, and James F. Strickland, both of Warsaw.

Wilkins, a retired county agricultural extension agent, was appointed to the board in 1981 to

replace a member who had resigned. Wilkins believes he can help solve problems such as those of slower students. Being retired, he said he has the time to put into the job.

On consolidation of James Kenan and North Duplin High schools, an issue in the northwestern and central areas of the county, Wilkins said: "I lean toward consolidation, although not everything is firm in my mind. I know larger units can afford broader and stronger curriculums."

"When I was coming up there were two strong values. One of them was religion and the other was education and I still believe that way," Wilkins said.

Strickland, when asked why he is seeking re-election, said, "I asked myself that question. It's that we have a chance to do something now. There was a time when we couldn't do anything. I've been on the school board 24 years. I like the idea of merit pay but I don't know how to do it. Good teachers need rewarding."

Strickland does not favor consolidating James Kenan and North Duplin High schools until people of the two school areas want to join hands. "When you take a school out of a community, the community loses," he added.

Two veteran office holders are seeking the District 1 seat on the Board of Commissioners.

William J. Costin, 58, of Warsaw, a farmer, is running for this third term on the board.

Costin wants another term because of his experience. He said: "It takes a period of time to get in position to do something. It's that time for me. I think I can do as much in the next four years as I have in the past eight. We need reasonably priced medical care and we need to work on programs for the elderly."

J. Frank Steed, 53, owns and operates Steed's Tire Service in Warsaw. He served as a Warsaw town commissioner for 12 years before leaving office after he moved outside the town limits.

Frank Steed said, "I have always been interested in government as my past shows. I am greatly concerned about the hospital. We have good doctors coming to Duplin and then we lose them. When they are gone, we miss them more ways than just the doctor. They are good citizens. This needs some close looking at and changing. As far as education goes, we need to put our time, money and energies on the child."

D.J. Fussell, 70, of Rose Hill, a 16-year member of the board of commissioners for District 5 is opposed by George N. Ammons, 35, of Kenansville. Fussell is a retired contractor and is a vintner. Ammons is a farmer.

Fussell said he has a special reason for running again. "I don't want to see taxes skyrocket."

He said James Kenan High School facility improvements are one of his priorities.

Child Shoots Himself At Rose Hill Magnolia Elementary School

A 12-year-old boy shot himself Thursday morning in a classroom at Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School, officials said.

Duplin County Sheriff's Department Detective E.G. Baker said the boy shot himself around 8:25 a.m. after he left his classroom and went to another classroom. Baker said students and the teacher were in the room when the shooting occurred.

The boy apparently did not attract any attention to himself before the shooting, Baker said.

The youth was reported in satisfactory condition in Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville Thursday

night. He was wounded in the side.

Baker said the boy carried a handgun to school in his brother's book sack, which he had borrowed.

"There had been no indication of any problem beforehand," said Duplin County School Superintendent L.S. Guy. "During the investigation some things probably will show up and we're going to try to find out what and why it happened so maybe we can prevent another student from doing the same thing."

"I'm saddened and shocked," Guy said. "We're going to make every attempt to see that this does not take place again, but we don't exactly know how to proceed."

Duplin Man Charged With Manslaughter

A man was charged with manslaughter Saturday following a traffic accident that left a 63-year-old woman dead in Jones County.

William Henry Hudson of Route 2 near Pink Hill was arrested at his home within an hour of the accident that occurred at 6:45 p.m. Saturday. The accident happened at Rural Route 1147 and Rural Route 1148 about 23 miles southwest of Trenton in Jones County.

According to Highway Patrolman William Swindell, Hudson was driving a pickup truck west on Route 1147 when he ran a stop sign. Carrie Heath Quinn, 22, of Pink Hill was driving south on Route 1148 and ran off the road to avoid hitting the pickup.

She hit a chain link fence and sheared 550 feet of the links before the car stopped, according to Swindell.

The bar across the top of the fence crashed through the front window on the passenger's side and came out the rear windshield.

Mrs. Quinn's 63-year-old mother, Pearl Heath of Albertson, was sitting in the front passenger's side. The bar struck her head and killed her. Mrs. Quinn and her two children, who were in the back seat, were uninjured.

One witness said Hudson briefly stopped and then left the scene, according to Swindell.

Hudson was arrested at his home about 40 minutes after the accident and charged with manslaughter, driving under the influence, driving while his license was permanently revoked and running a stop sign.

He was taken to Jones County Jail in Trenton and released Sunday under a \$2,000 bond.

Duplin County schools will be celebrating Heritage Week May 1-3. A schedule of Duplin folk artists are to appear in the public school along with a visit from Mary Martha Phillips, wife of Craig Phillips, North Carolina Superintendent of Education.

Mrs. Phillips is the chairperson of the North Carolina Heritage Week and has served in that capacity since 1975. She will arrive May 3 in Duplin County for a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at Wallace Elementary School and later activities are planned at Chinquapin

Primary and Elementary schools and conclude with a tour of Liberty Hall in Kenansville.

Scheduled local guests at the Wallace Elementary School will include George Cowan, curator of the Cowan Museum in Kenansville, and folk artists demonstrating soap-making and doll-crafting. Folk artists Stacey Andrews and Lonnie Andrews will be at Chinquapin Primary and George Cowan and another local dollmaker are to be at Chinquapin Elementary School. Mrs. Phillips will arrive at Chinquapin Primary at

10:30 a.m. and leave for Chinquapin Elementary at 12:45 p.m. The tour of Duplin schools will end at 3:45 p.m. and Liberty Hall in Kenansville will be the final stop.

According to Austin Carter of the Duplin County schools, students from Duplin's high school folk art class will participate in the activities scheduled for the Heritage Week celebration. The folk art students will appear with the Duplin artists during the presentations beginning May 1 at the Rose Hill-Magnolia School and concluding May 3 at

Chinquapin.

Students from the folk art class participating in the Heritage Week celebration in Duplin public schools include Carlton Smith, Mitchell Kernstine, Cynthia Middleton, John Lewis, Camille Grady, Andy Maready, Karen Hanchey, Anita Conrad and Nanda English.

Appearing in Duplin schools will be basketweavers, corn shuck craftsmen, soap makers, quilters, musical instrument makers, woodworkers, a taxidermist, wooden shingle craftsman and a turpentine distiller.

Magnolia Man Killed

A Duplin County man died Monday night of last week in an automobile accident about a mile west of Wallace on N.C. 41.

Frank Bryant, 75, of Magnolia, was reported dead on arrival at Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville, said N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper W.F. Sandy.

Bryant was traveling west on the

highway about 7 p.m. when he drifted across the center lane and collided with the car belonging to Ira Alan Johnson of Teachey, Sandy said. Teachey was treated and released, Sandy said.

Bryant may have had a heart attack, which caused him to lose control of the vehicle. An autopsy was to be performed.

Warsaw Man Killed

A man driving a moped was killed early Sunday when he ran a traffic light in Warsaw and struck a Trailways tour bus.

At 3 a.m. Sunday, Jamie Ray Jones, 22, of Route 2, in Warsaw, ran a red light at N.C. 24 and U.S. 117, according to a police report. Jones was traveling south on U.S. 117. Harley Lantz, 55, of Jacksonville was driving a Seashore Trailways bus east on N.C. 24.

Lantz was proceeding through the

green light when Jones hit the bus. The impact threw Jones 68 feet into the parking lot of a nearby gas station, according to the police report.

No one was injured on the bus with 35 passengers. No charges were filed against Lantz. Police are investigating the case as an accidental death.

A blood test on Jones indicated he had been drinking, according to the report.



Students Learn Twilling At Kenansville Elementary

Duplin County Agricultural Extension Service home economics agent Mae Spicer is pictured above instructing Sara Williamson in twilling. The students used their new skill to construct a quilt as a project in celebration of North Carolina Heritage Week, April 30 - May 4. The school also constructed a

Maypole and learned the dance associated with the pole. Instructors at the school set up exhibits in their rooms Monday showing antique agricultural and household furnishings, and elementary students traveled room-to-room viewing the artifacts and demonstrations of their uses.