

Establish Fraud Unit At Duplin Social Services

Recently the Duplin Social Services Department has successfully brought fraud suits against four individuals and Ponda Byrd, head of the County Social Services Fraud unit, said more than 30 other cases are under investigation.

The four court convictions within the past few months are more than Duplin Social Services had handled in 10 years, Byrd pointed out. Restitution ordered in the cases totaled \$5,112.

"Until the fraud unit was established within the past year, fraud cases went uninvestigated," Duplin Social Services Fraud Unit Coordinator Ponda Byrd said. "Social Service workers cannot handle their regular cases and investigate fraud too; they just do not have the time."

Most fraud cases involve individuals receiving funds under one or more social service programs who fail to report income or another wage-earning person living in the household. Monies received from social service overpayments due to willful failure to report income or wage-earners within the household is fraud, Byrd pointed out. If the

overpayment totals \$400 or more, the offense becomes a felony and may include a jail sentence as well as restitution, temporary or permanent disqualification from Social Service programs, and a fine.

"The unit is trying to publicize what we are doing in hopes of discouraging some fraud attempts," Ponda Byrd said. "The unit relies heavily on calls from the general public giving us tips on potential fraud cases. But, a lot of leads come from our computer that is connected with the Employment Security Commission network which reports any income earned. Workers in our office can run a wage match and if income information reported at the department does not match the Employment Security print-out, the case is referred to the fraud unit."

Not all fraud cases reach the court system, Byrd said. Cases involving overpayment can often be settled at the social services office by working out a schedule of restitution payments. And, Byrd added, not all overpayments are intentional fraud.

"Each time an individual comes to the Social Services office, their rights

are explained to them," Byrd said. "And, most of the time fraud is deliberate, because 'fraud' is explained in detail during each visit. But, there are times when a misunderstanding leads to overpayments." Intentional fraud or overpayments due to misunderstandings must be repaid.

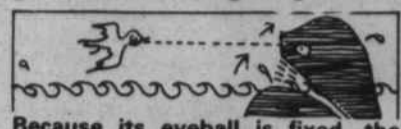
The most recent of the four fraud convictions carried a sentence of \$3,400 in restitution, a three-month active prison sentence and temporary suspension from Social Service programs. According to Byrd, the case involved two years' of deliberate fraud resulting in an overpayment of approximately \$180 per month. And, like most cases, the fraud was due to an unreported wage-earner in the household.

"We hope the progress the fraud unit has made in Duplin County will serve as a reminder that the department is investigating potential fraud situations that are brought to our attention," Byrd said. "We don't expect fraud to stop, but the department does expect to reduce the total number of cases."

OBITUARIES

EFFIE K. CANNON
KINSTON - Mrs. Effie Koonce Cannon, 81, died Tuesday. Funeral, Howard & Carter Funeral Home. Burial, Westview Cemetery.

Surviving: daughter, Mrs. Virginia Thompson of Kinston; sons, Clyde Jackson of Orlando, Fla., Horace Jackson of Pink Hill, J. Ray Jackson of Longwood, Fla., Roland Jackson and Ronald Jackson, both of Colonial Heights, Va., Kenneth Jackson of Lake Mary, Fla.; stepdaughters, Mrs. Lois Huggins and Mrs. Nora Pate, both of Kinston, Mrs. Dorothy Williams of Youngsville, Mrs. Shirley Marshall of Wake Forest; brother, George Koonce of Kinston; 32 grandchildren; 10 step-grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren.



Because its eyeball is fixed, the whale must move its huge body to shift its line of sight.

HENRY L. SERVANCE
ROSE HILL - Spec. 4 Henry L. Servance, 20, U.S. Army, died Saturday. Funeral, First Baptist Church.

Burial, Rose Hill Funeral Home Cemetery.
Surviving: father, Virgil Servance of Rose Hill; brothers, Virgil Servance Jr. of Wallace, Michael Servance of Rose Hill, Alexander Servance of Kentucky.

Dr. Marshall Jay Barker
announces the opening of his office specializing in
Obstetrics and Gynecology
at Kinston Clinic Suite 15
400 Glenwood Avenue
Kinston, N.C. 28501
527-7208

Murphy Appointed To Special Commission

Representative Wendell H. Murphy was appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to a special commission to evaluate proposals for establishing an air ambulance system in North Carolina.

The study will be conducted by the legislative research commission under the authorization of Ramsey

and Senate President Pro Tem Craig Lawing of Mecklenburg County. The group will study the need and feasibility of a statewide air ambulance service and report its findings to the General Assembly.

Murphy, an agribusiness executive in Rose Hill, represents Duplin and Jones counties in the 10th House District.

Duplin General Hospital Admissions

August 22 - Bernice Moore of Faison, Gearldene M. Murray and Baby of Beulaville, Estelle W. Horne of Magnolia, Mary M. Brumleve of Warsaw, Johnny Hicks of Rose Hill, Mary Overton of Wallace, Lori Wright of Warsaw, Billy Varker of Rose Hill, Woody Gurganus of Faison

August 23 - Margaret Williamson of Kenansville, Evelena M. Oliver of Faison, Louise J. Brown of Beulaville, Fred Boney of Rose Hill, Mary Robinson of Rose Hill, Doris H. Flynn of Wallace, Sharon D. Smith of Warsaw, Mary M. Matthews of Wallace

August 24 - Derrell D. Davis of Wallace, Brenda L. Pierce and Baby of Watha, George I. Brock of Kenansville, Esther L. Wilson and Baby of Warsaw, Atlas Abel Baker of Magnolia, Novie M. Sholar of Wallace

August 25 - Manley W. Turner of Teachey, Mary E. Cavelaugh of Rose Hill, Donald Ball Jr. of Pink Hill, William M. Conway of Wallace, Leroy Carter of Teachey, Jacob C. Potter of Albertson, Peggy B. Sholar of Wallace

August 26 - William C. King of Faison, Mabel B. Evans of Chinquapin, Shelby J. Brock and Baby of Kenansville, Marqueta L. Batchelor of Warsaw

August 27 - Thelma R. Murray of Wallace, Leslie Kennedy of Beula-

ville, Freida K. Jackson and Baby of Rose Hill, Shirley A. Lamb and Baby of Wallace, Virginia Maxwell of Warsaw, Rodney Lanier of Wallace, Donna S. Thigpen of Beulaville, Janice D. Watkins of Richlands, Katrina L. Miller of Pink Hill, Sandra A. Downam of Warsaw, Melissa A. Williams of Kinston, Lucy W. Smith of Kenansville, Samuel A. Williams of Kenansville.

August 28 - Paul S. Carr of Teachey, Sudie G. Caton of Warsaw, Rose Ann Pickett of Chinquapin, Juanita L. Savage of Magnolia, Ruth Mae Boney of Wallace, Franklin D. Cooper of Warsaw, George F. Kille of Warsaw, Willie G. Hare of Faison

August 29 - Edell Blakney of Rose Hill, Carrie H. Quinn of Pink Hill, Phil T. Rhodes of Beulaville, Mamie L. Brown of Warsaw, Dan Lewis of Beulaville, Lillian A. Miller of Beulaville, Daisy L. Hatch of Warsaw, Linda D. Taylor of Faison, Ila H. Moore of Rose Hill, Margarita Lozano and Baby of Faison, Jonathan M. Brown Jr. of Wallace

August 30 - Pearl C. McGowen of Kenansville, Donna M. Henderson and Baby of Beulaville, Katherine M. Hayes of Pink Hill, Luella T. Smith of Kenansville, Carol P. Pierce of Wallace, Kathryn K. Bostic of Kenansville, James A. Barwick Jr. of Mount Olive, Christopher D. Pate of Warsaw

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

A MAN CALLED "BELOVED"

ONE OF THE MEANINGS OF THE NAME DAVID IS "BELOVED." THE SON OF JESSE WAS THE SECOND KING OF ISRAEL. HE WAS THE YOUNGEST OF EIGHT BROTHERS (1 SAMUEL 16:10-11; 17:12-14). MANY OF THE GOOD TRAITS IN DAVID'S CHARACTER WERE, NO DOUBT, INFLUENCED BY HIS MOTHER, WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HER GODLINESS. SOME OF THE PSALMS THAT DAVID WROTE WERE IN REMEMBRANCE OF HIS MOTHER'S DEVOUTNESS. (PSALMS 86:16; 116:16) DAVID'S ANCESTRAL HISTORY WAS PICTURESQUE AND INSPIRING ALTHOUGH, AT TIMES TAINTED BY SINFUL ACTS. (GEN. 37:26-27,38) IN PERSON, DAVID WAS RUDDY AND BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK UPON AND AS THE YOUNGEST SON, HE WAS CHARGED WITH THE DUTY AND CARE OF HIS FATHER'S SHEEP. HIS DISPLAY OF COURAGE IN THIS OCCUPATION, BY SLAYING BOTH A LION AND A BEAR WHICH ATTACKED THE FLOCKS, POINTED UP HIS GREAT BRAVERY. HE WAS ALSO POSSESSED OF MUSICAL GIFTS OF THE HIGHEST ORDER AND HE PLAYED SKILLFULLY ON THE LYRE AND WAS VERY ADEPT AT COMPOSING PSALMS. THESE NATURAL GIFTS WOULD CERTAINLY STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD WHEN DESTINY BROUGHT HIM TO THE THRONE OF ISRAEL!



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