

# Duplin Times

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## Kenansville Dedicates Town Hall

The town of Kenansville held open house and dedication services for the first town hall in its history. The services were held February 3 with guest speaker Congressman Charlie Whitley. Cutting the ribbon to officially open the town hall were Congressman Whitley and Miss Liberty Tina Long of Kenansville. Among the special guests were Senator Harold Hardison. The new town hall is located on Highway 27 East in Kenansville and is the former Federal Land Bank building. The town hall is pictured above. And, right, are the local queens that were present for the dedication and open house ceremonies. Pictured, left to right, are Little Miss Liberty Jennifer Stroud of Kenansville and Miss Liberty Tina Long.



## Arts Fund Drive Opened

The annual fund drive in the schools for the Duplin County Arts Council were launched Monday (Feb. 11) in all schools of the county. The drive will run one week and this will precede community and corporate drives allowing businesses and individuals associated with various schools to give their contributions through the schools. Schools collecting the most money per person will receive a bonus concert for the spring.

Helping with the drive will be respective school liaisons, as well as Board members, student Board members and volunteers as needed. "As an incentive to do good work in telling their families and relatives about the work of the Arts Council and in bringing in special contributions, we are having special

rewards for the homerooms that collect the most money over a \$50 minimum," said Merle Creech, DCAC executive director. "To the room that is the top collector, percentagewise, we are offering a 'Red Sneaker' special surprise. And to the school that collects the most money percentagewise, we are providing an extra special spring performance. We appreciate the community's awareness of the Council and its good work in the schools."

The fund drive provides the base funds necessary to provide programming in the schools and other county events. Persons having questions or wishing to contribute may do so by calling 296-1922 and leaving a message, or mailing directly to Duplin County Arts Council, Inc., P.O. Box 36, Kenansville, NC 28349.

## Registration For Courses At James Kenan Next Week

Parents of students planning to attend James Kenan High School next year should be aware that registration for courses will take place during the weeks of Feb. 11-15 and Feb. 18-22.

Each student has been given a course offerings guide which includes such information as: detailed course descriptions, grade levels and prerequisites; suggested programs of study; requirements for graduation; requirements for promotion; and requirements for college entrance.

Guidance Counselor Debbie Smith will register each student individually. Each will be required to sign up for five courses and a study hall or six courses, along with two alternates. Alternates are courses the

student would be willing to take if their schedule would not work out so they could take each of their first six choices.

After registration students will be given a form to be signed by the student AND the parent stating that the student has registered for those courses he/she wishes to take, and no changes will be requested.

Parents and students should be aware that careful thought and planning should be done in registering for next year's courses. Parents are urged to read the Course Offerings Guide which has been distributed and to keep it for future reference.

Any questions or concerns will be gladly addressed by Debby Smith at 293-4271.

## Farm Offices Are Strangely Quiet

The Duplin County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office was virtually devoid of tobacco customers last week at a time of year it is ordinarily crowded.

The scene is typical throughout the tobacco growing area. Farmers record leases and transfers of tobacco production quotas and other information in their county ASCS offices. The ASCS administers the tobacco production control program.

"I expect we have about 30 leases and transfers on record now," said David English, Duplin County ASCS executive director. "Last year we had about 300 by this time."

The lack of activity stems from un-

certainly over the tobacco program's future. "Farmers don't know what the support price will be and they don't know how much the assessment to finance the tobacco program will be on tobacco sold next summer," said J. Michael Moore, Duplin County tobacco extension agent.

Tobacco growers don't know where to turn or what to do, he added.

"Farmers are totally confused," Moore said. "People don't have enough information at this point to make decisions intelligently on leasing or buying quotas."

"I urge farmers to get into the process that's going to affect how

they make their living by joining and taking part in their commodity organizations' activities.

"Other than that, the only thing they can do is try to stay informed and stay in touch with their ASCS office."

Moore said tobacco program changes are likely to come and warned, "The tobacco economy's likely to be in an uproar. It may mean many people will not be able to continue in their accustomed lifestyle."

English noted that April 15 is the deadline for leasing and transferring tobacco production quotas. He ex-

pects a rush at the ASCS office in the last few days of the leasing period.

The tobacco legislation requiring that lease payments be delayed until the tobacco is sold is also slowing the leasing process, English said. In previous years, a grower paid an owner at the time he leased the tobacco quota.

English said more quotas are being sold than leased now, but that most sales involve quotas of 2,000 pounds or less.

Duplin is a county of small farms and small tobacco quotas. The average quota is 4,506 pounds, about 2.2 acres of allotment, English said. The county has 3,746 tobacco allotments and quotas. Last year, 1,602 farms were planted in tobacco, he added. The county has a 1985 production quota of 16,595,519 pounds from 8,110 acres of allotment.

## Faircloth Urges Wallace To Back Industry Group

Former N.C. Commerce Secretary Lauch Faircloth urged members of the Wallace Chamber of Commerce to support the newly-formed Wallace Committee of 100 in its industry-seeking efforts.

Speaking at the annual Wallace Chamber of Commerce dinner last week, he also urged the committee to continue seeking industrial development sites.

"Your Committee of 100 must have sites pinned down. You should begin now to buy land. A good site is the first thing you have to find when you are trying to recruit industry," Faircloth said.

He said the town should consider hiring an industrial developer to act as a liaison between the N.C.

Department of Commerce, the town and industrial clients.

Faircloth said completion of Interstate 40, linking Wilmington to the Piedmont by 1990, would "change the industrial posture" of Wallace and Duplin County.

"In the last six years, 78 percent of the industries that have come to North Carolina have located in counties which are touched by an interstate highway. Industry doesn't want to locate in a town that is 40 or 50 miles and 38 stoplights from the nearest interstate," Faircloth said.

Faircloth predicted that Southeastern North Carolina would "enter the 21st century with a background of new industry and capability we never dreamed of."

## Lawmakers Oppose Repeal Of Food And Drug Taxes

Two state legislators representing Duplin County have come out against repeal of the sales tax on food and drugs.

But they support at least partial repeal of the intangibles and inventories taxes, proceeds of which go to the county and town governments.

Senator Harold Hardison and Representative Wendell Murphy assured members of the Duplin Municipal Association last week they would oppose any further state "mandates to counties and towns" that failed to provide necessary funding. The association met in the Rose Hill Restaurant.

Hardison's 5th district includes Duplin, Lenoir, Jones and part of Pender counties. Murphy's 10th district includes Duplin and Jones counties.

Gov. Jim Martin wants to repeal all three taxes.

The legislators said they doubt the legislature will repeal the sales tax on food. They said it is likely to approve repeal of all or part of the inventories and intangibles taxes.

Wallace Commissioner Arnold Duncan, chairman of the association, expressed the concern of many local officials that if the taxes are repealed, the legislature might not replace the lost money.

"We'd be in a bad situation unless you made up the money," he said. Hardison told the group that while

he opposes repeal of the tax on food and drugs, he favors repeal of the intangibles tax on money on deposit. He said he favors some form of inventory tax repeal.

"I can't be tied down on that just yet. Things have to be worked out," he said.

Murphy said he supports repeal of the inventory tax "at all levels and repeal of the intangibles tax on money on deposit." He said he opposed repeal of the tax on food and drugs.

"If there is any way to change the method of distribution of the one-cent local option sales tax from point of collection to a population basis I'll fight for it," Murphy said.

Counties such as Duplin would receive a larger share of the one-cent tax if it were distributed on a population basis, Murphy said.

The total inventory tax for Duplin County amounts to an estimated \$490,387 annually with the manufacturing inventory portion amounting to \$234,687. Duplin County towns divide \$152,000 from the total inventories tax with the manufacturing inventories portion amounting to \$57,156.

The county receives about \$140,000 annually from the intangibles tax.

Officials from Duplin County and the town told the legislators they want the sales tax left on food and

drugs. They favor repeal of the other two taxes as long as the lost money is replaced. They plan to send resolutions to this effect to the legislators.

"Resolutions won't hurt," Hardison said. "It always helps to have something (resolutions) in your back pocket."

Hardison told the group, "We're not going to send down any mandates to local governments without funding. The message we get is cities and local governments can't stand any more costs without more money."

But he said, "There's going to be a concerted effort from the Governor Martin people for repeal."

"The real thing for us will be to figure out how to replace the lost funds," Hardison added.

## Rally

Janice M. Johnson, NAACP national membership director, of Brooklyn, N.Y., will keynote the 74th NAACP birthday rally at the West Hill First Baptist Church in Warsaw on Sunday, Feb. 10. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. and will culminate the 1985 membership drive.



United States National Achievement Winners

Three students at E.E. Smith Jr. High in Kenansville have been selected as United States National Award Winners for 1984-85. The English awards are made through recommendation by local teachers through the Academy. Each year the selection is based on academic performance, interest and aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, enthusiasm, motivation to learn and improve citizenship, attitude and cooperative spirit and dependability. The students were nominated

through the Academy by E.E. Smith English teacher Zettie Williams. Pictured above, E.E. Smith Principal J.G. Henry congratulates the student winners, left to right, J.G. Henry, Donna Hall, Gigi Ammar and Carolyn Wilson. Donna Hall is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hall of Magnolia. Gigi Ammar is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. M.I. Ammar of Kenansville. Carolyn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Snodie Wilson of Kenansville.