



Contribution To JSF

Richard Miller, left, and Riddick Wilkins, right, present Dr. Carl Price, president of James Sprunt Technical College, a check for \$100 from the Duplin County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The contribution will go to the scholarship fund of the James Sprunt Foundation,

which supports the funding of academic scholarships to curriculum students at JSTC. Miller is president of the Duplin County NAACP, and Wilkins is state chairman of membership and finance. Wilkins also serves as a member of the JSF Board of Directors.

Duplin Commissioners

Approve Test Well

Members of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners were two hats during their meeting last week.

First the commissioners met as the Albertson Sewer and Water District Board and approved \$8,661 for an additional test well for the proposed water system in northeastern Duplin County. Ron Sessoms, engineer with Rivers & Associates, reported excessive manganese was found in two test wells.

He said a well near Deep Run, four miles from the failed test site, showed no manganese. If water from the new test well meets standards, the cost of the well will be included in a general contract, he said. Otherwise, each additional test well will cost \$8,661, he said. The new test well will be drilled on property owned by Milo Harper.

In a related matter, the board agreed to pay \$3,500 to Alfred Howard for land at Albertson for an elevated water tank.

Because of the distance involved to the new test well site, the size of the planned main water line may have to be increased from six inches in diameter to as much as 10 inches.

Returning to their usual role as the county Board of Commissioners, the commissioners endorsed Duplin General Hospital's plans to seek state permission to provide 20 to 31 skilled care or nursing-home beds. The N.C. Department of Human Resources has reported Duplin County needs 70 skilled care beds.

The hospital is licensed for 101 acute care beds and maintains about 80 beds. Administrator Richard Harrell said the hospital board wants to cut costs by converting some of these beds to skilled care beds.

Harrell said some patients in the acute care section could be treated in a less expensive skilled care section, if it were available. He said there is a shortage of skilled care or nursing home beds in the county. Harrell said acute care in the hospital costs about \$230 a day and skilled care about \$58 a day.

In other business, the board allocated community block grant funds set up by the state for unmet housing needs of victims of the March 1984 tornadoes.

The board approved \$13,752 for Rabon Hardison and \$15,300 for Kathy Guilford to buy mobile homes to replace their homes destroyed in the March 28, 1984, tornadoes. The board approved \$4,300 for relocation of Robert and Ann Smith, whose rented home was destroyed.

Ballard, McKim & Sawyer Architects of Wilmington were hired to draw plans for the addition to the social services building. The architects' fee will be 7.225 percent of the estimated \$500,000 cost. If the cost increases, the architects' percentage decreases.

The board will ask state Rep. Wendell Murphy to introduce a local bill that would allow the county to spend up to \$120,000 on an addition to the Health Department building without hiring an architect. It now must hire an architect for any construction exceeding \$50,000.

As have other governmental boards in the area, the County Commissioners reduced county employees' travel allowance to 20.5 cents per mile. The previous rate was 22 cents a mile.

The change avoids paper work from a new Internal Revenue Service rule that counts compensation over

Stockholders

Meeting

The joint annual stockholders meeting of Cape Fear Federal Land Bank Association and Cape Fear Production Credit Association will be held on Friday, March 29 at the Cumberland County memorial Auditorium in Fayetteville at 7 p.m.

The auditorium is located on the left of 301 S., approximately three miles from the intersection of 301 and 95 Business.

Entertainment will be provided following the business session.

20.5 cents a mile as income.

The board made an agreement with the state for use of the Warsaw National Guard Armory for a nutrition site for the aged. The site has been in the Baptist Church, which needs the space for church purposes.

Worship Service On Tornado Anniversary

Mount Olive has planned a community-wide worship service to be held on the anniversary of the tornado that struck the area last March. The service will be held on Thursday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in Mount Olive College Hall.

The service is being planned in connection with Mount Olive Mayor D.F. Odom's proclamation that March 28 be set aside to recognize volunteers and victims, and to give thanks for the area's continuing recovery from the storm.

The program includes recognition of volunteers, a memorial service, singing by local church choirs, and speeches by several area ministers. Congregational singing is also planned.

All ministers in the area were asked to announce the service last Sunday to their congregations.

Mayor Odom said that plans for the service are almost complete. He said he had been pleased so far with the program for the service.

"It's not a festive get together or a celebration, but a service to thank God we got through the tornado. We want people to know we're thinking about them," he said. "And we want the volunteers to know we appreciate their help."

Mount Olive Chamber of Commerce president Lillian Langley, who is also a member of the publicity committee for the special day, said the service should be an event everyone marks on their calendar and plans to attend.

"I don't mean to capitalize on the tornado, but that disaster brought this community together as one. If there was any selfishness then, it went out the door. I think this service will reiterate the warmth and good feeling we had when we were one community," she said.

"I also think it will reunite a lot of those people who had formed friendships as a result of working together after the storm. The auditorium

should seat about 1,300 people and I think it will be filled," she said.

Mayor Odom appointed a 17-member committee last month to plan an appropriate activity for the tornado anniversary.

The intent of the service will not be a celebration or festival, but a solemn occasion to remember reverently those injured in the storm and a time to remember volunteers who helped Mount Olive recover.

As Mayor Odom has said, there will be no parades, loud hurrahs or town-wide sales promotions. A memorial service, congregational hymns and a litany have also been planned, and local choirs have been asked to sing.

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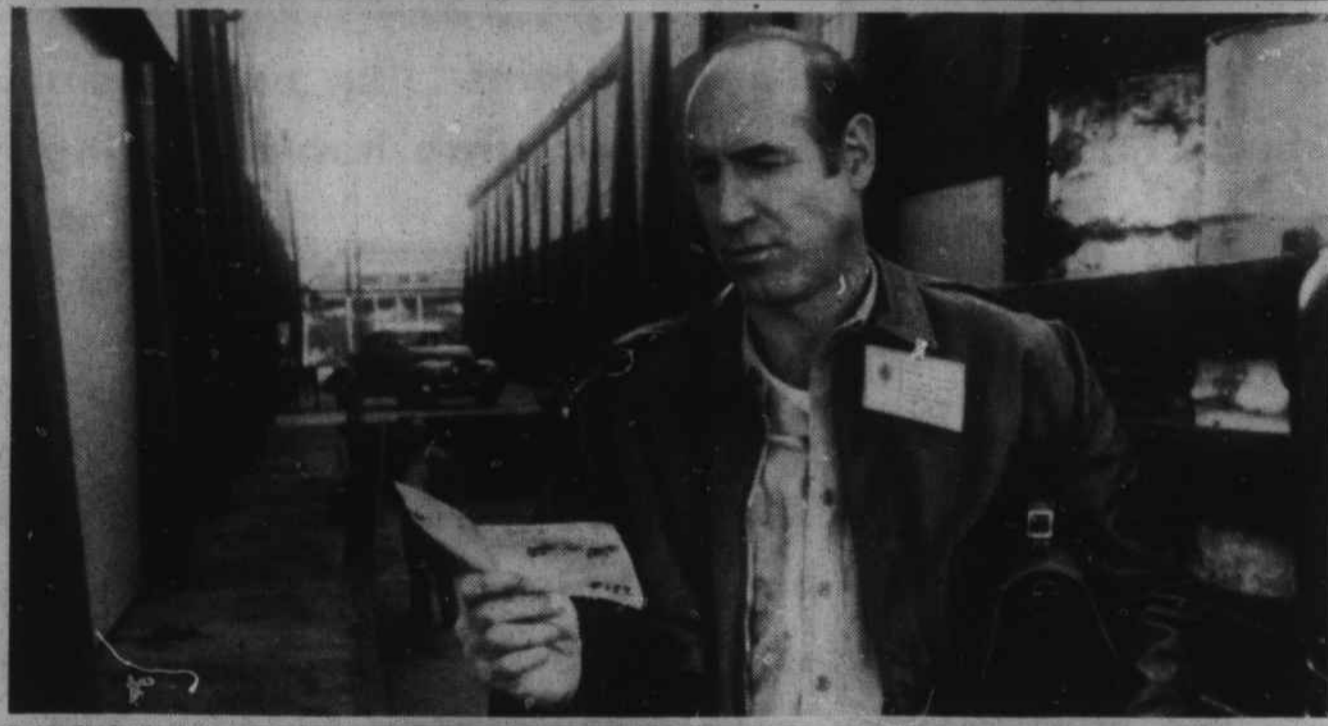
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