

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXVIII NO. 26

USPS 162-860

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349

JUNE 27, 1985

16 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX



EMC Youth Tourists Visit Washington

Four high school students representing Four County Electric Membership Corporation, Burgaw, prepare to leave Raleigh for a week-long visit to Washington, D.C. as part of North Carolina's 1985 Rural Electric Youth Tour. They are, from the left, Sassy Newkirk, Route 1, Willard; Wendy Pait, Route 2, Bladenboro; Claudette Hayes, Route 1, Atkinson; and Marty Futrell, Route 1, Wallace. A total of 37 youths were selected to participate in the tour through contests sponsored by

various EMCs across the state. The Tar Hell group joined about 1,000 young people throughout the country for various programs in the nation's capital. While on the tour, the group visited members of the N.C. congressional delegation, various government agencies, the Smithsonian Institution museums, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the White House and other points of interest.

Wallace Water-Sewer Bills To Increase

Wallace residents will pay the same 70 cents per \$100 assessed valuation property tax this year but will pay more for water and sewer service starting July 1.

The town board adopted the 1985-86 budget Thursday night. It provides a five percent pay increase for town employees, money for completing a well project and money to buy several vehicles.

The general fund totals \$1,000,921 an increase of \$75,144 from the 1984-85 budget.

With the new sewage treatment plant in operation and a new well project under way, the budget provides \$781,752 for water, sewer and non-departmental expenditures compared with \$625,841 last year.

The base rate for the 90 percent of the town's residences that have three-quarter-inch meters will be \$9.27 per month. That does not include water or sewer gallonage. Residents will pay 19 cents per 1,000 gallons for water and 45 cents per 1,000 gallons for sewer, a total of 64 cents per 1,000 gallons for town utilities.

The old rate was \$7.20 for use of 3,000 gallons. A customer using 3,000 gallons of water now will pay

\$11.19, an increase of \$3.99 per month. A user of 5,000 gallons of water will pay \$1.79 per month more under the new schedule.

The town's largest industrial water customer, J.P. Stevens Co., will be billed a minimum of \$20,800 a month for a minimum of 80 million gallons of water. The additional charge will be 26 cents per 1,000 gallons. The company paid the town about \$250,000 last year for water.

Water fees are expected to bring in \$365,000 and sewer fees, \$120,000. In addition to the fees, the water and sewer budget includes \$257,452 from capital reserve and retained earnings.

The new rate structure is being established to meet government requirements that the system be self-sustaining and provide repair and replacement funds.

The new budget provides \$350,765 for completion of the well project near Tin City, \$21,000 for a garbage truck container body, \$14,000 for new pickup trucks, \$11,000 for two used police cars, \$5,000 for the community gymnasium fund, \$6,000 for tennis court repairs in Clement Street Park, \$15,000 into a computer reserve fund and \$2,400 for three

dumpsters.

Major general fund items are \$270,343 for police, \$136,816 for streets from town's share of state gasoline taxes and \$63,550 from town funds for streets, \$107,462 for sanitation, \$78,480 for recreation, \$57,925 for the library, \$76,475 for non-departmental expenses and \$66,675 for administration.

General fund revenue includes \$350,000 from current property taxes and \$16,725 from prior year taxes, \$86,000 from refuse collection fees, \$82,000 from revenue sharing, \$68,000 from utility franchise taxes, \$63,200 from the state's allocation of gasoline tax money, \$67,300 from the one-cent local option sales tax, \$32,800 from the half-cent local option sales tax, \$39,600 from Alcoholic Beverage Control store profits, \$11,600 from beer and wine taxes, \$20,000 from water and sewer administration fees, \$13,000 from intangible taxes, \$2,900 from recreation fees, \$47,846 from the water and sewer fund and \$37,000 from fund balances.

The assessed valuation of taxable property in the town is \$53,781,613. The budget is based on a property tax collection rate of 93 percent.

Duplin Board Votes To Close A School

After a public hearing last week, the Duplin County Board of Education decided to close the North Duplin Junior High School on N.C. 403 west of Faison and transfer the students to the North Duplin High School campus, starting this fall.

About 40 residents of the district attended the hearing, with many expressing opposition to or support of the step.

Superintendent L.S. Guy said 164 seventh and eighth grade students attended the school — 77 seventh graders and 87 eighth graders — during the 1984-85 school year.

Guy said projections show enrollment in those two grades dropping to 88 by 1992, with 43 in the seventh grade and 45 in the eighth. The district's population is declining, he said.

The building is in good condition. For short-term use it needs roof repairs estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000. For long-term use it needs a new roof, estimated to cost \$38,000.

The building was designed for 350 to 370 students. The superintendent said using it at the present attendance is uneconomic. Even through half or less of the building might be needed, it all must be heated, he said.

Guy conceded that having the seventh and eighth graders on the high school campus near Calypso "is not an ideal situation."

He said the junior high school students will be separated as much as possible from the older students.

Answering a question by Kent Southerland about possible lunch problems, Guy said the lunches for the junior high school have been prepared in the North Duplin High School kitchen and transported by van to the smaller school. The transfer of students won't create any special burden on the lunch program, he said.

The closing will reduce school bus traffic across the county's busiest highway, U.S. 117, which should reduce chances of bus accidents, he said.

"I support it and can see the saving," said Paul Rose, a district

parent.

Southerland asked if any money saved could be used to improve education.

Guy said there would be some savings. He said the combined enrollment of 450 students will be enough for the school to rate a state-paid assistant principal for the junior high grades.

Two modular classrooms are being moved to the high school campus for the seventh and eighth grades.

Wilma Jones, a parent in the district, asked if the modular units

were to be permanent. Guy said the long-range plan calls for a \$300,000 expansion of the school.

Linda Beavers, another parent from the district, said she doesn't like mingling the younger children with the high school students and she doesn't like the modular units. "I'd just as soon my child be in a pasteboard box," she said. "The modular units are not safe."

Randy Holland, also a parent, opposed mobile units as unsafe and tacky in appearance.

School Board Blasts Budget Cuts

Duplin school board members and administrators, bitterly disappointed over the county commissioners' severe slash in the school system's budget request, called a special meeting to discuss the matter.

Board member Amos Brinson of Kenansville said the board should go back to the county commissioners and ask for at least enough money to cover the proposed 10 percent pay increases for county-paid school employees. The board anticipates that the state will provide a 10 percent increase for the school employees paid by the state. Brinson made the suggestion last week following a public hearing on closing North Duplin Junior High School.

Superintendent L.S. Guy told the board: "I don't know what I should do. Cry, I guess. Disappointment is an understatement. We asked (the county commissioners) for \$2,810,422 in current expense. Yesterday afternoon the county manager called and said we got \$2,173,500. That's \$600,000 short of our request."

Guy noted that the school budget asked for \$426,574 for capital outlay.

The commissioners cut the request by \$79,849 and provided \$346,725.

The commissioners restricted use of the capital reserve fund of just over \$1 million to construction at James Kenan High School, Guy said.

Guy said the school request included \$154,000 in pay increases for the county-paid school employees. The 3.5 percent increase the commissioners allowed in the school budget provided only \$73,549. This amount covers less than half the pay increase alone, he added.

Brinson followed Guy's statement with the comment that the board should go back to the commissioners and ask for more money.

The board planned to discuss its next moves and to rework its budget in a meeting in the system headquarters in Kenansville this week.

The school board's original request to the county included an increase of about \$600,000 from its 1984-85 current expense budget.

Its requested increase was equivalent to 9.6 cents per \$100 assessed property valuation, or \$48 a year more on property valued at \$50,000. The county tax rate is 75 cents per \$100.

Warsaw Board Maintains 73¢ Tax Rate

Warsaw's tax rate of 73 cents per \$100 assessed valuation will remain the same in the 1985-86 fiscal year, the town board decided last week as it approved the year's budget.

It approved spending \$738,411 for the fiscal year beginning July 1 and continuing through June 30, 1986. The total is \$44,800 greater than the current budget of \$693,611.

Included is a five percent pay increase for town employees, which is expected to cost \$20,000. Also included in the new budget is \$11,000 on a lease option for a backhoe, \$11,300 for a police car and \$2,500 for a flatbed truck for the

Police Department.

Water, sewer and garbage fees will remain the same with the minimum charge \$16.30 per month for 4,000 gallons of water.

Some of the major revenue amounts and sources are: \$250,000 from property taxes, \$49,000 in utility and franchise taxes, \$53,000 in state Powell Bill allocation for streets, \$90,000 from local-option sales tax, \$50,000 in garbage collection fees, \$83,000 from revenue sharing and \$20,000 from the utility fund.

Town employee salaries, including those of the self-supporting Utility Department, will amount to about

\$425,000.

The budget includes \$196,273 for law enforcement, including the \$11,300 for a police car and the pay increase. It includes \$125,624 for the Street Department, \$79,191 for administration, \$67,528 for sanitation and \$33,815 for the Recreation Department.

The utilities budget totals slightly more than \$300,585, with provision for \$68,145 in salaries and wages and \$93,000 for payment of bond interest and principal. Utility Department income for the current fiscal year is estimated at almost \$305,000.

Livestock Theft Bill Heads To Senate Committee

A House of Representatives bill to reduce livestock theft in North Carolina will be taken up by the Senate committee on agriculture, a clerk in the office of committee chairman Sen. James Speed said.

The bill was introduced in the House last month by Representative Wendell Murphy. Murphy had introduced a companion bill to apply to grain dealers. He withdrew it, saying that he might try to have the Senate combine it with the livestock bill and another bill that would require immediate reporting of the theft of agricultural products.

The livestock bill would require livestock dealers to show the amount of money paid for livestock; to record the license number of any vehicle used to deliver livestock to market; to demand and record identification from people selling livestock; to keep permanent records instead of keeping them for just one year; and to post prominent signs stating "Our records are inspected by the sheriff."

Murphy said livestock and grain thieves has become a major problem, particularly in eastern North Carolina. He said thieves usually transport stolen animals or grain some distance before selling them.

If potential thieves know that the recorded identification is readily available to law enforcement personnel, they may be discouraged from stealing grain and livestock in the first place, Murphy said.

The proposed requirements would make it easier for law enforcement

officers to trace thieves and the stolen items, he added.

Murphy said his main intent, however, is to reduce the number and amount of such thefts.

The livestock bill, House Bill 1153, was referred to the Senate agriculture committee following approval by the House.

The committee gave a favorable report to a farm machinery bill, HB 762, that had been introduced in the

House by Rep. E. David Redwine of Brunswick. The bill had been referred to the committee upon its arrival in the Senate after passage in the House.

The Redwine bill would require franchisers to repurchase inventory from dealers upon termination of a contract.

The bill passed its second reading in the full Senate and is scheduled for a third reading.

Offices To Be Combined For Tax Services

The offices of Duplin County tax supervisor and tax collector will be combined in the coming fiscal year.

The board of commissioners agreed to the change in adopting its 1985-86 budget.

The veteran's service office will be removed from the tax supervisor's office. Tax supervisor Frank T. Moore has held that as a part-time job.

The tax administrator's position will pay \$27,620 and the deputy's position, \$20,888 per year.

Tom Howell of Rivers & Associates, engineers, and James H. Parker Jr., chairman of the Albertson Sewer and Water District, discussed water quality problems and said individual water bills may be higher than the estimated \$12 to

\$15 per month for the first 2,000 gallons of water.

Excessive manganese and iron in the water, they said, will require additional treatment facilities costing \$50,000 to \$100,000 and additional maintenance. This may delay completion from the December 21 anticipated date.

The original cost estimate was \$1,325,000.

The board decided to insure the former C.W. Dobbins school at Wallace for \$300,000. It plans to offer the building for sale in January.

Because some board members may attend the National Association of County Commissioners meeting in mid-July in Orlando, Fla., the second July meeting date was moved from July 15 to 9 a.m. July 22.

Aeromedical Service Cuts High Risk Time By Half

The East Care emergency aeromedical service based at Pitt Memorial Hospital will cut high risk time in half on a trip from Duplin General in Kenansville.

Even through the aeromedical service transports to any medical facility from any location in the East Care area, emergency transfer from Duplin General Hospital to Pitt Memorial will be cut in half with the use of the helicopter.

"There is about 18-22 minutes flight time to Duplin General Hospital," Duplin Director of Emergency Services Hiram Brinson said.

"With the use of the service the patient is not out of the emergency room or intensive care unit in the hospital but about 25 minutes before being in another medical facility. Transport by ambulance takes at least an hour from Duplin General to Pitt Memorial.

"It costs about double an ambulance trip, but the helicopter cuts the high risk time in half," Brinson said. "The equipment in the helicopter is the same as we (Duplin Emergency Services) have in an ambulance, except on the helicopter some of the

equipment is a little more advanced." Brinson pointed out the service is available to assist Emergency Services teams in the East Care area and can be contacted directly by radio.

The East Care teams consist of a pilot and two flight nurses on each trip. The helicopter is designed to transport one patient, but can be adapted to carry a second victim. In flight the team is in constant communication with physicians and emergency personnel at Pitt Memorial Hospital.

The flight team is trained to react quickly in emergency situations of any type. Patients of any type can be properly cared for by the team. Currently the team is undergoing training in the area of obstetrics and preneonatal care. Each member of the team has completed a 10-week extensive training course under the supervision of the Pitt Memorial Hospital emergency Department and the East Carolina Medical School. East Care Flight Nurse Cindy Raiser, R.N. pointed out the team is trained to react beyond the normal function of a licensed nurse.

During the June 11 public showing of the East Care helicopter at Duplin General Hospital, Raiser explained the team had responded to 84 calls since April 8 when the service began operation. The service area of East Care extends into 34 counties and over a 120-mile radius. Calls to on-site emergencies by the East Care team has a service area of only 40 miles. Each call requires about a five-minute lift-off time. Among the calls East Care has serviced include trips to transport patients from Duplin General Hospital to other medical facilities.

The East Care service has been in the planning stages since 1982 and began as a project spearheaded by the Neuse River Council of Governments, Duplin Emergency Services Director Hiram Brinson explained. Working with the Council of Governments to establish the service was the East Carolina Emergency Medical Services, which represents 29 of the counties in the down east area, including Duplin, and the Pitt Memorial Hospital Emergency Department and the East Carolina Medical School.