

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Editor's note: Items should be submitted for the community calendar by noon Friday before the publication date. You are asked to keep in mind that paste-up of the calendar page is done on Monday before publication. Also, if an ongoing item has been discontinued or needs to be changed, you are asked to contact the editor as soon as possible.

November 29

PEMBROKE SENIOR HIGH CLASS OF '73 is planning a reunion November 29 in Porter Plaza. For information, contact Marilyn Deese (910) 521-7879; Herlon Sampson (910) 521-3358 at home or (910) 738-1101 at work; Thorton and Fannie Lowery, (910) 521-9031; or Jo Ann Woodell (910) 521-8696.

December 1

WORLD AIDS DAY CANDLELIGHT OBSERVANCE will be held at the Hoke County Public Library at 5:30-6:15 p.m. Monday, December 1. The public is invited to remember loved one and support family and friends still here.

ROCKFISH FIRE DEPT.'s annual board of directors meeting and officer election is scheduled at the fire department at 7:30 p.m. Monday, December 1. LIBERTY HOSPICE'S ANNUAL LOVE LIGHT service will be held at the Hoke County Public Library at 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 1. A tree will be illuminated as a symbol, commemorating the lives of Hoke residents. A memorial service will follow at Raeford Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. followed by a reception in McKeithan Fellowship Hall and provided by Hospice volunteers and staff. The community is invited to participate in these activities.

SANTA ARRIVES on a fire engine at 5:00 p.m. and will light at the Santa House in front of the Hoke County Public Library. He will be there about 15 minutes then return Fridays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19 at 3-5 p.m.; and Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20 at 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

December 4

KIWANIS PANCAKE SUPPER and raffle will be December 4 at 5-7 p.m. at Hoke High's Gibson Cafeteria.

H.E.L.P. FISH FRY, a fund-raiser for the Share Your Christmas program, is scheduled for Thursday, December 4 at 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Edinburgh Shopping Center. Eat in or take out at \$5 a plate. Free delivery with 10 or more orders. You can pick up your tickets at the H.E.L.P. Store on Main Street.

December 5

THE 48TH ANNUAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHRISTMAS PARADE will be held in St. Pauls on Friday, December 5, beginning at 4:30 p.m. Entries are being sought. The entry fee for kings and queens is \$25. The fee for commercial entries is \$50 and there is no charge for non-profit groups. To enter, call the Chamber at 865-3489 or the St. Pauls Review newspaper at 865-4179 and ask for Paul.

December 10

HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED Wednesday, December 10 for their annual Sandhill Region Library System staff training day. No books or other materials will be due on this date. Videos checked out on Tuesday, December 9 will be due on Thursday, December 11.

December 13

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP is Saturday, December 13 at the Hoke County Library at 10 a.m.-noon. This is the third such fellowship meeting. All are invited.

December 15

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP meets at the Senior Services Center in the former Armory Building at 7 p.m. Monday, December 15. Sponsored by Liberty Hospice for members of the community who are caregivers, the support group meets monthly. For additional information, call 875-8198.

December 16

HOKE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 16.

December 15, 16, 17

HUNTER EDUCATION COURSES are being offered in December on the 15th, 16th and 17th. It is required that registration be done one week prior to the course starting date. All classes are at 6-9:30 p.m. at a Hoke County site to be announced later. Call Aric Clark at 875-2180 to register.

December 18

THE UNITED WAY OF HOKE COUNTY will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 18 at the Hoke County Public Library beginning at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be for the purpose of electing new officers and welcoming new directors to the board. The public is invited to attend.

December 20

CLOTHROOM REUNION is planned for Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. at the Vocational Options of Hoke building, located on Turnpike Road -- it's the light blue building on the right after turning off Highway 211 Aberdeen Road and coming from West Hoke Elementary School, it's on the left near the Aberdeen Road intersection. Cost is \$25 per person and that includes a meal, dancing and a fashion/talent show. Make checks or money orders payable to Clothroom Reunion. The deadline is December 16. For more information, contact Odessa McLinniham at 843-5856; or Dorothy Hollingsworth at 875-6222.

Call The News-Journal

or bring calendar items

to the office before noon on Friday

Lumbee housing rehabilitation applications taken through Jan.

The Lumbee Tribal Council Housing Program is accepting applications for housing rehabilitation services until Friday, January 30, 2004. The program provides services for repairs, renovations and/or replacement of existing substandard housing conditions for qualified low-income Lumbee families. The rehabilitation program is designed to eliminate substandard conditions that address health and safety housing issues.

All applications previously filed with the Tribal Council from November 2002 do not have to update their application until further notices. Updates will be required at the time applications are pulled for services. In order to apply for rehabilitation services, the following information on all members in the household will be required: copies of birth certificates, picture identifications, tribal enrollment and social security cards.

current property tax statement or deed to property, income verification, and current bank statements. Applications will not be accepted without all supporting documentation for each member of the household.

Outreach assistance for members who may have difficulty making arrangements for travel to the Tribal Office in Pembroke will begin in December at selected sites throughout the tribal territory of Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties.

Members who place an application during the upcoming filing period will not have their application reviewed for services until after the end of the January 30, 2004 filing period.

Contact the Lumbee Tribal Housing Program at (910) 521-1341 for more information.

Christmas at Mill Prong celebrated Sunday

Mill Prong House is planning a Christmas open house on Saturday, November 30, from 2 to 5 p.m. and the public is invited.

Docents will be there to tell how Christmas was celebrated here over 150 years ago. Music of that era will be presented and refreshments served. There will be something for the children, too. The house is beautifully decorated by the Red Springs Garden Club using what materials were available so long ago. "It is heartwarming to open the house again in the same hospitable way that the season was celebrated here in the 1800s, knowing that Mill Prong was known for its Christmas spirit and hospitality in the old days," says a spokesperson for Mill Prong Preservation.

"We look forward to having participants of the Carolina Scots Celebration visit with us. A large number of descendants of the Scottish emigrants of 200-plus years ago are gathering at the Fair Barn in Pinchurst this weekend."

From Scotland

John Gilchrist of Kentyre, Argyleshire, Scotland, who built the house, came to America in 1770. His new house was built for his second wife. His son, farmer, professor and attorney, John Gilchrist, who sold it in order to move close to Floral College, where he was a founder and president of the woman's college, inherited it.

Mill Prong was then sold to John

Peterson, who soon moved to Georgia. It is said that his wife only agreed to the move if he promised to build her a home in Georgia as nice as Mill Prong. Then Colonel Archibald McEachern bought the house and enlarged it in 1834. Mill Prong was still in the hands of his heirs when the foundation acquired it.

Restoration

The beautiful old house, built about 1795, has been restored by Mill Prong Preservation, Inc., an organization of concerned citizens who wanted to preserve this bit of history of the region. It is one of the oldest houses still standing in this area, an example of a Scottish settler of the Cape Fear Valley who prospered to the point that he could move from his original log dwelling to a fine home. The restoration was done so that all could enjoy a look into the past and have a taste of our local history. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Restoration is ongoing, however, as archeology digging is in the hands of Dr. Margaret Houston of St. Andrews Presbyterian College. When it is completed, it is hoped that farm buildings can be added to the yard. Also, for anyone who is seeking a home for their old family furnishings, Mill Prong is open to accepting gifts of the period circa 1830 to 1860, particularly of this region. Monetary contributions are encouraged, also. Organized as a non-profit group, any gift is eligible for a tax deduction.



The Mill Prong House

Mail to: Mill Prong Preservation Inc., PO Box 2878, Lumberton, NC 28359.

Hector McLean of Lumberton is chairman of the board. William Massengale of Chapel Hill is the president and William S. McLean of Lumberton is the treasurer. Harold Gillis of Raeford is a member of board.

Open on Sunday

Starting in January, Mill Prong will be open on the first Sunday of the month from 2 to 5 p.m. A docent will be present to guide you through the

house. Come and see how our ancestors lived.

To locate Mill Prong in southern Hoke County: There are signs on NC 211 at Antioch; turn west on Old Wire Road and immediately right on Walter Gibson Road, after about three miles turn left on Edinburgh Road and cross the swamp. From US 401 about two miles north of Wagram and eight miles south of Raeford: turn east on Edinburgh Road, and Mill Prong is about two miles on your right.

North Carolina small grain referendum is explained

There will be a North Carolina Small Grain Referendum on Monday, December 1, 2003. You can vote at the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Hoke County Center, located at 116 West Prospect Avenue, Raeford, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The mission of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association Inc. is to assist small grain growers in producing high quality grains at the most economical cost through adoption of Best Management Practices derived from research, on-farm testing and continuous education; to market and promote North Carolina small grains and small grains based products; and to support and cooperate with other agricultural entities to promote general farm welfare, and enable farmers to conduct business with fair legislative and environmental framework.

The small grain referendum is on a self-assessment program for three years at a rate of 1/2 of one percent on each bushel of wheat, rye, oats, barley and grain sorghum.

Questions and answers

Q. Why is the referendum held?

A. North Carolina law declares it to be in the public interest that the farmers engage in the production of small grains may have an opportunity and privilege to act jointly in raising reasonable and necessary funds to promote all phases of marketing, production, and use.

Q. Upon what question does the small grain producer vote?

A. The producers vote for, or against, an assessment of 1/2 of one percent on each bushel of wheat, rye, oats, barley and grain sorghum.

Q. Under what authority is the referendum held?

A. Article 50, Chapter 106 of the General Statutes, approved by the 1947 session of the North Carolina General Assembly as amended through 1983, and known as the Enabling Act.

Q. Who will conduct the referendum?

A. The North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association Inc. has been designated by the State Board of Agriculture under authority of the law to conduct this referendum.

Q. Who is eligible to vote in the referendum?

A. All farmers currently engaged in the production of small grains including tenants, sharecroppers or other persons sharing in the production income of small grains.

Q. If a person cannot be present on the date of the referendum, is there anywhere he can vote?

A. No, he must vote at all the places and times designated in the referendum. It is not possible to vote by mail, proxy, or agent during this referendum.

Q. What time can I vote?

A. Polling places will be open between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. local time, or as determined by local extension offices.

Q. May a person who has more than one farm production vote for each farm?

A. No. No farmer, whether an individual, partnership, corporation firm, association, or other legal entity, will be entitled to more than one vote.

Q. What number of favorable votes are required to carry the referendum?

A. Two-thirds of the votes cast

Q. Can I get a refund?

A. Yes, the law provides that any producer who does not wish to support the program may apply for a refund or any money collected by the buyer under the assessment program, by writing within 30 days directly to North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association Inc. 109 Hobson Pl., Louisburg, NC 27549.

Q. How is the assessment money collected?

A. The money will be collected by the buyer from the farmer at the time of sale of the small grain. The buyer remits the money to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Q. What does the Commissioner do with the money?



Extension Today

Keith Walters

A. The Commissioner remits the money to the treasurer of the North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association Inc.

Q. Who will administer the program after the referendum carries?

A. The Association's Board of Directors and Executive Committee will formulate a budget to be used in promotion and market development program funding.

Q. Will the small grain producers know how much money is collected as a result of the assessment?

A. The North Carolina Small Grain Growers Association, Inc. will make an annual report at its scheduled Annual Meeting as required by law. Also, a copy of the certified accountants audit is filed in the office of the Commissioner of Agriculture each year.

Q. How long will the assessment be in effect?

A. For a three-year period beginning with the 2004 small grain harvest season and continuing through the 2007 crop.

If you have any questions, call Keith Walters of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Hoke County Center at 910-875-2162.

Happy Holidays!

'Tis the Season... and time once again for our annual

Holiday Greetings Special Section.

What better way to send your holiday greetings and special thank you's to all your customers and friends than with a holiday greeting in our 2003 Holiday Greeting section.

Deadline for Advertising is:
December 9th.

Our Special Section will appear in
The News-Journal
on December 17th.

1/8	\$75.00
1/4	\$120.00
1/2	\$190.00
Full	\$330.00

Spot Color	\$100.00
Full Color	\$250.00

To reserve your Holiday Greeting space,

Contact Susan Stauffer-Fast
at The News-Journal
910-875-2121
Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 12 noon