

# Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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## Warsaw Wants Ok To Expand Project

The Warsaw town board will seek Farmers Home Administration approval to add another well and tie-in pipe line to its water system project.

The \$100,000 cost would be paid from an estimated \$145,000 that will remain in the project fund after completion of the system.

FmHA provided \$590,000 of the \$1.7 million accumulated for the water system project and must approve any changes in plans. The town provided \$690,000 through a bond issue, and the state clean water bond fund provided the remaining \$420,000.

The water system project included drilling two wells, installing 12 miles of water line and constructing an elevated water tank. Last week, Tyndal Lewis, an engineer with McDavid Associates of

Goldsboro, recommended the town put its old wells on stand-by because of the high iron content of the water.

Another construction project, a town sewage treatment plant, is behind schedule. It was scheduled for completion Nov. 22. Lewis said Miller Building Co. of Wilmington expects to get the plant into operation in January.

Miller has requested a 60-day extension because of bad weather. Lewis recommended the town board delay action on approval of the extension until the project is finished, then decide whether to grant an extension or impose a penalty. The contract includes a late penalty of \$350 per day.

McDavid's project engineer inspector, Charles Joyner, told the board he could document 23 days of

bad weather that delayed the work.

The \$2.2 million project includes construction of a 610,000 gallon-per-day sewage treatment plant southwest of the city and installation of 3,300 feet of 12-inch pipe and 500 feet of 18-inch pipe.

The project is being financed by \$400,000 from a town bond issue, \$250,000 from the state clean water bond and \$1.5 million from an Environmental Protection Agency grant.

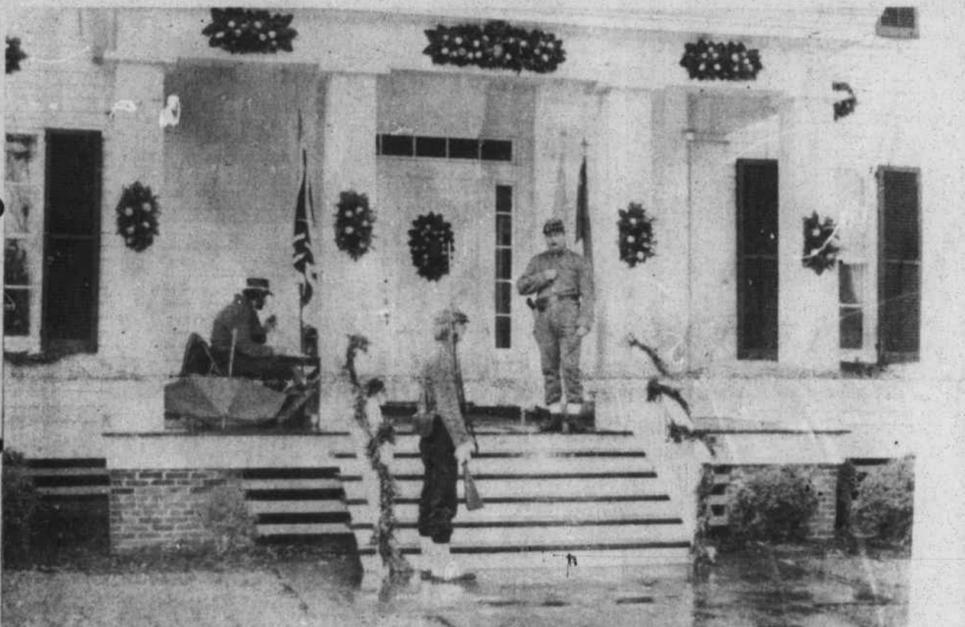
In other business, Brian Beasley of Beasley Cablevision reported 265 Warsaw households have cable television connections. He estimated 400 customers will have cable television in the town by the end of the year. Beasley told the board the system's Channel 4 was opened Tuesday as a public

service channel for free notices of meetings, benefits and other activities.

He said because of extensive channel interference the system would switch from Channel 39 with its transmitter near Wilmington, to Channel 16 for University of North Carolina public television programming. Channel 16, one of the UNC-TV system's nine transmitters, has its antenna on the WCTI commercial television tower in Jones County. WCTI, Channel 12, is the New Bern ABC affiliate.

The board approved replacing a chair barrier with 25 old railroad ties at a cost of \$4 each to keep vehicles out of the ball park at the recreation center.

The board re-appointed Roy Barwick to a three-year term on the town alcoholic beverage control board.



## Faison Children Die In Fire Despite Rescue Efforts

Two children died in a house fire three miles west of Faison Tuesday morning despite rescue efforts by their grandmother and neighbors.

It was the second serious house fire in the area in a week. Two children were seriously burned in a fire south of Faison a week before.

Killed were Monolita Johnson, 4, daughter of Lillie P. Johnson, 22, of Mount Olive, and Kindrad E. Johnson, 2, son of Mrs. Gerath A. Johnson, 19, also of Mount Olive.

The children were visiting their grandmother, Helen Dobson, the owner of the frame house on State Road 1900, known as Brewer Road. The house was destroyed.

Intense smoke and flames drove back would-be rescuers, including two firemen with breathing apparatuses, each time they attempted to enter the children's room, Assistant Fire Chief Sprunt Hall of the Faison Fire Department said.

Mrs. Dobson suffered a cut on her right hand when she broke a window trying to get into the children's room.

Other occupants of the house at the time of the fire were Rosa Johnson, 18, Junior Johnson, 17, Loretta Johnson, 11, and Emma Johnson, 20, all of the Faison area.

Hall said Mrs. Dobson told him she saw smoke coming from the roof when she went outside to get firewood for a stove in the children's room.

She told him she rushed inside and woke up the older people and broke a window to get into the children's room. Smoke and flames drove her back from the window, she said.

Hall said Junior Johnson and two neighbors, Calvin Hill and Frank Taylor, all attempted several times to get into the children's room.

Firemen Bobby Kennedy and Charles Kirkland, wearing breathing equipment, made three attempts to get into the room but were driven back by flames.

The children's bodies were found together behind a chair in a corner of the room, Hall said. He said he believes they died of smoke inhalation.

Hall said the Fire Department

was called at 9:30 a.m. Firemen found the house engulfed in flames when they arrived four minutes later, he said.

Fire Chief Glenn Jernigan said the fire was caused by a poorly built chimney which had no flue liner. Mortar had fallen out, allowing flames to pass between the bricks.

In the fire the week before, Shawn Fryar, 2 months, and Timothy Earl Fryar, 2, children of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Earl Fryar, suffered severe burns and were taken to the North Carolina Burn Center in Chapel Hill for treatment. Hall said they were reported in improved condition at the center Sunday.

That fire also was blamed on a faulty chimney.



## Historic Liberty Hall Holds Party For Christmas Visitors

Liberty Hall displayed the idyllic side of mid-19th century Christmas decor when its doors opened for the annual public open house at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The ancestral home of the Kenan family in Kenansville is decorated as it might have been in 1850 with materials of the time, including the then rare and expensive pineapple, symbolic of hospitality. The open house from 2 to 6 p.m. was free to the public.

The Kenansville beautification committee served traditional refreshments to

guests as they toured the house, the newly-restored overseer's office and other plantation support buildings. Hosts of the open house were the committee and the Liberty Hall Restoration Commission.

Decorations of the period were made by hand, mostly from readily available native materials, according to Rich Boyd, who returned to Kenansville from Nashville, Tenn. for the Christmas decoration project. Boyd formerly worked for the Kenan family in Liberty Hall and THE LIBERTY CART.

the historic outdoor drama presented in Kenansville.

"They used greenery from the nearby woods and gardens and a lot of fruit which was expensive at the time," he said. "The fruit in the decorations made them practical as well as colorful. Guests were encouraged to eat the fruit."

"The decorations included 24 dozen apples and eight dozen pears, fruit that was grown in the region in the mid-19th century; 10 dozen limes and 10 dozen lemons; six or seven dozen oranges and 10 pineapples. Dried

okra was used in wreaths along with other native greenery. A native plant, yarrow, was dyed and used on the Christmas tree.

"We used lots of boxwood, magnolia leaves, holly, yew and nuts," Boyd said.

The Liberty Hall Christmas display has been a traditional highlight of the annual Kenansville "Twelve Days of Christmas." In connection with the Liberty Hall event was a historic reenactment of a Civil War camp and battle action on the Kenan grounds near the mansion on Saturday and Sunday.

The Rose Hill Town Board has appointed a committee to determine how much a 78-day delay in completion of the town water system has cost and to report to the board in January.

The contractor for the project was Hawley Construction Co. of Kenly.

The board also authorized L.E. Wooten Co. of Raleigh to go ahead with the engineering design of the town's proposed sewage treatment plant. The project has been approved for funding.

The board expects the money to become available by July. The town is to

receive an Environmental Protection Agency grant of \$1,211,250 and a state grant of \$201,875 for the project.

Named to the water system overrun study committee were Richard Burrows, the town attorney; Woody Brinson, a former town official who works for McDavid Associates; and C.T. Fussell, town clerk.

Buck Kennedy, project engineer of the Wooten firm, said the delay added \$2,684.43 in engineering costs. The town will also have additional administrative and legal costs.

Mayor Ben Harrell told the board the town had been offered a used 200,000-gallon

elevated water tank for \$125,000 from Used Water Tanks Inc. of Madison, including installation on a prepared site. He said that was about half the cost of a new tank.

Town officials fear the town's 75,000-gallon elevated water tank doesn't provide sufficient water for fire protection. Voters defeated a bond issue proposal that would have included a new tank two years ago. They later approved a scaled-down water and sewer project that eliminated the tank.

Harrell said the used water tank was originally installed at Bel Air Beach, Fla. in 1952.

Town Commissioner Keith Hinson reported the medical center project has \$11,000 of the \$28,000 needed as a local matching fund for building such a center. The state will provide \$140,000 for the proposed center if local interests can provide \$28,000 from the 700 families in the service area.

The state requires broad local participation in financing rural medical centers, to ensure local interest in using them. Town officials hope to have the center ready by July, when a physician, Dr. Carl Haynes, is expected to set up practice.

## Duplin Man Dies In Wreck

A 56-year-old Duplin County man was killed early Saturday when he drove his car off a rural road south of Kenansville.

The body of William Henry Smith of Route 1, Magnolia was found Saturday morning by deer hunters. Smith's car struck the bank of a ditch and overturned, pinning him under the vehicle, said State Highway Patrol Trooper Jimmy Ray.

Although the Highway Patrol did not receive the report until after 7 a.m., Ray said he believes the accident occurred on a deserted stretch of Rural Paved Road 1959, three miles south of

Kenansville. Smith, who was alone in the car was traveling east when he ran off the right side

of the road "at a high rate of speed," the trooper said. Smith had been drinking, Ray said.

The exact cause of death has not been determined, he said.

Blessings of CHRISTMAS

May the wonder of Christ's birth fill your hearts with joy, peace and happy hopes.

