

Happy New Year

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL



VOL. XXXVIII NO. 52 USPS 162-860 KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 DECEMBER 26, 1985 10 PAGES THIS WEEK 10 CENTS PLUS TAX



Live Nativity Scene Part Of The Kenansville Celebration

A live nativity pageant was presented by the Kenansville United Methodist Parish as part of the Twelve Days of Christmas celebration. The nativity pageant was held at the Kenansville United Methodist Church on December 19, the seventh day of the celebration. The Kenansville United Methodist

Parish is made up of four local churches and Pastor Jim Harris led the service. Pictured above, shepherds and Mary and Joseph from the nativity pageant.

Fire Victim Critical, Burned Child Released

Glennie Pearsall, a crippled 69-year-old woman who was rescued from her burning mobile home Friday a.m., over a week ago, remained in critical condition at the N.C. Memorial Hospital burn center in Chapel Hill.

Her three-year-old granddaughter Dorrie Pearsall was released from Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville last week.

Mrs. Pearsall was in the bedroom of her mobile home north of Kenansville around 8 a.m. when the fire broke out. Edward Graham, a passerby, and neighbor Ricky Sutton

noticed the fire and used an axe to tear into the burning mobile home. Graham crawled through the hole, found the little girl and handed her through the hole to Sutton, according to Hiram Brinson, the county emergency management coordinator. Graham then heard Mrs. Pearsall moaning on the bedroom floor. The women, whose legs had been amputated, had fallen from the bed in an attempt to escape.

Graham carried her to safety just before the mobile home was engulfed in flames, Brinson said. Graham was treated for smoke inhalation.

Hospice Volunteer Training Available

Home Health and Hospice Care, Inc. is developing a hospice program for Duplin County, and is seeking interested individuals who desire training as a hospice volunteer.

Hospice is a program to provide support to terminally ill patients and their families. To qualify as a hospice volunteer, one must complete a training program designed specifically

for hospice volunteers, and then be individually interviewed. This will prepare the volunteer for dealing with the patient and his family and through careful screening and interviewing, appropriate and compatible assignments can be made.

The hospice training program will consist of five sessions, each dealing with various aspects of hospice care. The first session will deal with hospice concepts such as the history of hospice, an overview of the program, and the role of volunteers.

There will also be a panel of religious leaders to discuss religious and cultural views about death and dying.

Session two will deal with getting in touch with your own feelings about death. The third session will involve a discussion of communication skills and frustrations faced by patients and their families, and basic physical care of the terminally ill. Session four deals with funeral planning and bereavement counseling, and five will be "The Working Volunteer."

The training program is scheduled for the following dates: Tuesday, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28; and Thursday, Jan. 30. It will be held in room 107 of the McGowan Building at James Sprunt Technical College in Kenansville from 6:30-9:30 p.m. each evening.

There is no fee for the training program, but pre-registration is required. This must be done prior to Jan. 3 by calling 1-800-722-3842.

Proposed \$10 Million Referendum

Duplin Voters To Face School Issue In May

Duplin County voters will decide a \$10 million school bond proposal during the May primary election.

The Board of Commissioners authorized the referendum by a 3-2 vote last week. Voting to hold the referendum were Commissioners Allen Nethercutt, W.J. Costin and Dovie Penney. Voting against were Commissioners D.J. Fussell and Calvin Turner.

The Board of Education asked for a referendum to be held separately from the state and county primary for general elections so people could concentrate on the school situation.

County Manager Ralph Cottle said

a special election would cost \$12,000. He said special elections draw small voter turn-outs.

Election board records show that in a 1966 referendum on a \$1.25 million Duplin County hospital bond issue, only 1,127 people voted for it and 365 against it out of a voter registration of 18,844. In a 1951 referendum, a hospital bond issue was approved by 1,920 to 460.

Cottle said that although the entire \$10 million worth of bonds would not be sold at once, a bond issue could be costly. If \$10 million worth of bonds were sold at 8.5 percent interest over 20 years, the total

payback would be \$18.9 million.

Board of Education Member James F. Strickland said, "I would like to have a special election so we could concentrate just on education."

Costin said the school board was elected to maintain the schools and the board believes it needs to update buildings. "So, I move we hold a referendum with the primary in May, because more voters will be there then in a special election."

Nethercutt seconded the motion but said he does not support or oppose the bond issue. "I have obligations to put it to the people.

It's too much money for me" to decide.

In other business, County Finance Officer Russell Tucker told the board the county's insurance bill had increased \$42,000. The county had budgeted \$46,399 for insurance but has been billed for \$89,358.

Extension Chairman Lois Britt discussed a proposal for the extension offices to move into the former Kenansville Elementary School building, which has been turned over to the county. The plan would require remodeling and installing heating and air conditioning. She said the Agribusiness Council will determine if it is interested in the plan within 90 days.

Nethercutt said, "We have to make a decision. We need to know what you want to do. It looks like somebody's dragging their feet."

Mrs. Britt said she agreed, but that it is hard to get all the various boards in agreement.

The board approved reducing the standard declaration of the value of a homeowner's personal property from 10 percent of the home's value to seven percent, because of the forthcoming revaluation of real property. Renters would still use 10 times their monthly rent as a standard valuation.

The standards allow taxpayers to avoid itemizing all their personal property for tax purposes.

Rose Hill Poultry Plant Pollution Case Gets Hearing, No Action

A turkey plant's appeal of a \$27,000 fine by the state Division of Environmental Management will keep papers shuffling until spring, the hearing officer said Wednesday after listening to testimony in the case.

The House of Raeford in July was fined \$15,000 for discharging treated waste into Cabin Branch for 15 months without a permit; \$10,000 for making an outlet for the untreated waste to pour into state waters June 8; \$1,000 for operating the treatment plant June 8; and \$1,000 for causing or allowing waste to discharge into state waters in violation of water quality standards.

The company contends it has a valid permit to operate its wastewater treatment plant.

After Wednesday's hearing adjourned, Jim Holloway, administrative hearing officer with the state Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, said he will study a transcript and lawyers' comments and will make a

recommendation to the Environmental Management Commission.

The commission probably will not rule until spring, Holloway said. The ruling could be appealed to superior Court.

Company officials deny they had anything to do with the discharge of untreated waste water into Cabin Branch. It happened when the cap on a pipe was removed, allowing untreated waste water from a treatment lagoon to flow into the swamp branch instead of being sprayed onto a 30-acre filtration field for purification.

Henry Jones of Raleigh represented the company, implying that a third party opened the pipe.

Thomas Hilliard III of Raleigh, representing the DEM, insisted company employees opened the pipe. He attempted to show that it was done to save money, a charge denied by company employees.

The case has two parts — the water pollution question and the permit question.

The permit question stems from

the January 1984 merger of Nash Johnson & Sons Farms' Rose Hill Poultry Processing Co. with its House of Raeford firm. A DEM permit was issued to Rose Hill Poultry, but is not transferrable. The state contends a new permit is required for the Rose Hill broiler plant even though management, ownership and operation remain the same.

The Johnsons owned 98 percent of the House of Raeford and 100 percent of the Rose Hill plant when they merged them. Marvin Johnson, president of House of Raeford and Nash Johnson & Sons, testified the merger was made to put the Raeford name on its broilers.

The pollution question came up when Colton Wells of Rose Hill, who owns land on Cabin Branch near the poultry plant north of Rose Hill, complained to the DEM. After a call from Wells June 8, DEM inspectors found a dark, odorous substance discharging from the pipe into the swamp branch, according to testimony.



Twelve Days Of Christmas Begins

The annual Twelve Days of Christmas in Historic Kenansville began last Saturday with the lighting of the community Christmas tree and caroling around a bonfire. Participating in the tree-lighting and caroling along with the townspeople was the North Carolina 3rd Battalion Civil War soldiers camped across from

Liberty Hall during the weekend. The soldiers represented a living history as they acted as escorts during the open house at Liberty Hall on the second day of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Pictured above, soldiers and townspeople gather around the bonfire and sing carols.