



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

Aldermen Address Code, Water Issues

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

COVE CITY — A minimum housing code is in the works for Cove City after the town's Board of Aldermen unanimously voted Monday night in a called meeting to appoint a committee to draw up the minimum housing code. Alderman Eugene Massey asked that the committee review a minimum housing code obtained from another town and develop a minimum housing code tailored for Cove City. Mas-

sey and other aldermen agreed that some parts of the sample minimum housing code might not be suitable or apply to Cove City.

Alderman Charlton Mitchell said the sample minimum housing code "made it so tight" and he suggested the committee, when appointed, try to write a minimum housing code that addresses the situations and needs of Cove City. Mitchell said he wanted a committee to develop the minimum housing

code in order to allow the public to have input into the minimum housing code.

The aldermen suggested the committee use the sample minimum housing code as a guide while writing the town's minimum housing code. Housing codes require specific conditions be met and sets any action the town can take to ensure adequate and safe housing. In some instances a town or city can condemn, tear down or require repairs be made to houses.

"I want our inspectors to be from Cove City, not from New Bern," said Mitchell.

The alderman agreed to meet with county officials to discuss possibly tying into the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District water line. If the town elects to tie into the system while the contractor installing it has equipment in the area, the cost of the hook up is estimated at about \$20,000. The hook up would be made near Wintergreen Church, about three miles north of town.

The town is also in the process of drilling a well for its water system, but is considering using the hook up with the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District as an emergency source of water supply.

In February, Cove City filed a lawsuit against the City of New Bern and City Manager Walter B. Hartman Jr. after the town and city were unable to reach an agreement on a water rate increase and New Bern threatened to shut off Cove City's water

supply. A letter from Craven County Manager Tyler Harris to Cove City Mayor L.D. Davis stated: "It is not the intention of the county and the district to intervene in any kind of legal action between the Town of Cove City and the City of New Bern. Our intent is to sell water to people wishing to become a part of the customer base of our new system. As you probably know, the district be-

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Dominic's Debuts 'Doctored Chekhov' At Dinner Theater

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Some diners at Dominic's Restaurant over the weekend not only got their checks, they got a little Chekhov also.

The restaurant added dinner theatre to its menu Friday and Saturday night as the Cabaret Players presented "Doctored Chekhov," three one-act plays by the Russian playwright Anton Chekhov.

The New Bern-based troupe presented "The Boor," "In A Music Shop" and "The Marriage Proposal" at two 8:15 p.m. performances last weekend.

The Cabaret Players — Robert Hennon, Lorraine Hale and Leslie John Lee — are from Craven County. Friday night's show didn't draw too many people, but Saturday night's performance necessitated the addition of tables and seating.

The in-the-round production was held in the main room of the restaurant that is located south of Vanceboro on U.S. 17.

The production continues this weekend at O. Marks in downtown New Bern. Shows

are set for 8 p.m. April 14-16. Tickets are \$6.

The players present two of Chekhov's one-act plays and a one-act adaptation of one of Chekhov's short stories. The production's name reflects the first career of Chekhov — a physician and as a reminder of the troupe's first performance, a comic adaptation of Chekhov stories by Neil Simon in a show called "The Good Doctor."

The one-act presentations are:

The Boor. Lee plays a man who seeks to recover a debt from a romantically-inclined widow. The widow, still in mourning, is portrayed by Ms. Hale. The troupe clings to a most-popular traditional translation of the script.

The Marriage Proposal. An extremely excitable and nervous suitor (Lee) begins proposing to a young and beautiful woman (Ms. Hale) with the approval of her father (Hennon), but before long a quarrel erupts over a boundary line.

In A Music Shop. A music shop is the setting for this farce in

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Ft. Barnwell Educator Gets Principal's Award

With a strong belief that students, teachers and community must work together to provide a positive school atmosphere, Valeria Barrow, principal of Fort Barnwell Elementary School and New Bern-Craven County's Principal of the Year, provides an environment in which that philosophy prevails.

Students are the focus and positive reinforcement in the foundation of the instructional program. Mrs. Barrow has initiated several programs that encourage and reward good behavior, academic achievement, and positive character growth. Teachers are proud of their positive work environment and are encouraged to share in the decision-making process at Fort Barnwell. Mrs. Barrow believes in an open-door policy with her faculty and parents. Parents have many opportunities to participate in school activities and to give input into the successful operation of the school. Home visits are also part of Barrow's activities as principal of the school. The school participates in community events and encourages the community to be active in the school events. Mrs. Barrow attributes much of her success at Fort Barnwell School to the over-

whelming support of students, staff and community people.

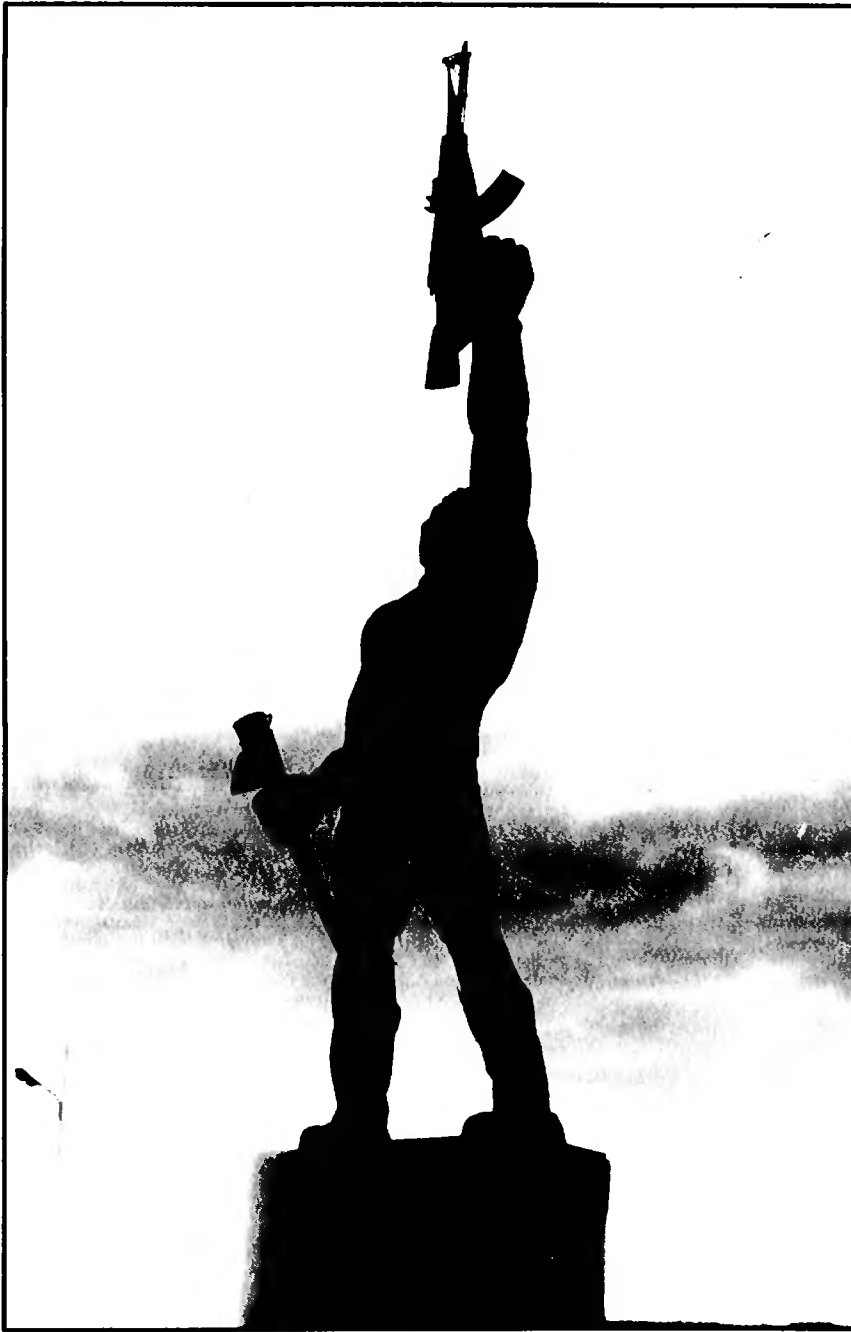
Barrow believes strongly in open communication on a systemwide level sharing ideas often with central office supervisors and other principals. She enjoys a challenge and views herself as a very goal-oriented person. "Most effective principalship is a juggling act," according to Barrow, "You never know what you're going to face from day to day."

Barrow received a B.S. and M.S. from East Carolina University. She is certified in exceptional children as well as supervision and administration. A highlight of her educational background was the completion of the Principal's Executive Program at UNC at Chapel Hill. Past professional experiences include teaching in the Exceptional Children's Program, serving as assistant principal at J.T. Barber Junior High School and providing mentor teacher services to all initially certified personnel in the New Bern-Craven County School System. She has been the principal of Fort Barnwell Elementary School for two years. A supportive family consisting

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Barrow with students



(Walter Krochmal photo)

Statue of the Combatant in Managua

Sandinista caption reads: "Only the workers and the peasants will last until the end."

Eye-Opening Visit American's Adventures In Managua

By Mike Hughes

When an American thinks of Nicaragua, he is probably more likely to conjure images of battle-torn buildings and jungle warriors than of street musicians and artisans.

After all, the Central American nation has been in the throes of war for more than just a few years, what with its sweeping revolution in the 1970s and with a seven-year fight between the Sandinista government and the anti-government Contra rebels.

An American who returned from the region recently says, however, that contrary to popular belief, a trip to the capital is far more likely to be characterized by the sound of music than the sight of war.

"Americans have a lot of preconceptions and misconceptions about Nicaragua," says Walter Krochmal of New York, who spent 10 days in January in the capital city, Managua.

Part of his Central American trip was spent in neighboring Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where he grew up and where his mother still lives. Krochmal lived in the

Honduran capital from 1969-78. More recently, he visited his brother, Maurice, who lives in Washington.

Krochmal, 28, an actor in New York's Spanish theatre, says he traveled to Managua in part to gather information and ideas for a theatrical endeavor he is creating and hopes to perform in the near future.

"I went to Nicaragua out of curiosity and out of a sense of adventure," he says. "I wanted to see what kinds of things the people were doing artistically since the revolution."

He saw much more than that. Managua today, a city of about a half-million in southwestern Nicaragua, is a shattered remnant of the capital under former leader Anastasio Somoza. Krochmal says. Set on a vast flatland, the city is doughnut-shaped, a series of isolated outthrusts practically without a center.

The city's hub fell prey to a tremendous earthquake in 1972 and the revolutionary war throughout the decade, and has not yet been rebuilt, leaving the terrain spotted with gutted buildings. Moreover, with seven faults running through the center of Managua, it is unlikely the

city will be restored to its pre-earthquake shape.

Many of Managua's wide boulevards — paved under the Somoza regime — are barren. There is little industry. Poverty and unemployment are high, and many citizens rely on the black market for necessities. The Sandinista government, named after revolutionary leader Augusto Sandino, issues ration coupons for food, fuel and other commodities, but food staples — beans and rice — are in short supply on the open market.

Double- and sometimes triple-digit inflation has left the nation's economy in turmoil. U.S. dollars are a precious resource, so much so that all American visitors to Nicaragua are required at the airport in Managua to exchange \$60 U.S. for its equivalent in Nicaraguan Cordobas. Current exchange rates are about 16,000 Cordobas for \$1 or between 25,000 and 30,000 per \$1 on the black market.

Economic woes are to be expected in a war-torn country. But there also were a few surprises, Krochmal says.

For instance, there is no diffi-

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Tourism Big Bucks In Craven

Just Small Change In Jones, Pamlico

GREENVILLE — Gov. Jim Martin released statistics Monday that indicated that counties in the Neuse River area had a mixed bag of participation in a travel and tourism boom in the state.

Martin said that tourism was "a very strong part of the economy in 1987," generating \$5.7 billion in total revenue and \$210 million in state and local taxes. That was a 12 percent increase over 1986, Martin said.

Of the total, about \$1.6 billion was spent by North Carolinians traveling within the state and \$4.1 billion was from out-of-state visitors, Martin said.

According to figures released at Martin's news conference at the Governor's Conference on Travel and Tourism, Craven County fared well while Pamlico and Jones counties were not greatly affected by the boom.

Between them, the three counties represented less than one percent of the total revenue from tourism in the state.

Martin said that the red tide — an algae which closed shell-fishing waters — reduced tourism in coastal areas because some travelers were afraid to eat seafood.

Still, he said, coastal counties with good tourist attractions, like beaches, drew more tourists in 1987.

"Just think what we could have done if the red tide hadn't been here," he said.

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Vanceboro Educator Honored

The New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the New Bern-Craven County Board of Education spotlights "Educators of the Month" for March 1988. Myra Lewis, Physical Education teacher at Trent Park Elementary School and F.R. Danyus Elementary School; Merlyn Rodenberg, sixth grade Language Arts teacher at Havelock Middle School; and Barbara Forrest, kindergarten teacher at Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary School, are the honorees.

Miss Lewis received her B.S. and M.A. Ed. in the field of physical education from East Carolina University. She taught high school physical education as well as elementary physical education in Craven County. A few of the outstanding programs implemented at Trent Park School under the direction of Myra Lewis are the 25 mile club for students interested in participating before school starts in the mornings, a Winter Olympics Program for kindergarten through fourth grade, and field day programs which include ribbons for the finalists. Open communication with students and teachers create a positive environment for the physical education program at Trent Park and Miss Lewis strives for each child to experience success. Myra Lewis lives in New Bern and enjoys hang gliding, white water rafting, traveling, computers and her two puppies.

Mrs. Merlyn Rodenburg holds a B.S. degree in education from Texas A & M University with teaching fields in English, social

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