

Scottish Heritage Group Planning Ceilidh June 11

NEW BERN — The New Bern Scottish Heritage Society is sponsoring a ceilidh (kay-lee) June 11 from 7 to 10 p.m. at New Bern Senior High School.

Tickets are \$6 per person and are available from the members of the Society or from the Craven County Arts Council. The Arts Council is located at 317 Middle St. and can be reached at 638-2577. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by writing the New Bern Scottish Heritage Society, P.O. Box 1075, New Bern, N.C., 28560. To arrange tickets by phone or for more information, call Marianne Stewart at 637-3216.

The North Carolina State University Pipes and Drums will provide entertainment along with the "Mac Rowdie Ceilidh Band, sword dancers, solo pipers and others.

The event celebrates the Scottish heritage and serves as a social function for area people of Scottish descent.



Cooling Off

When the mercury starts rising in thermometers, thoughts of how to cool off start rising in children. These children found a nice way to have fun and cool off at the same time on a recent hot

day. All you need is a little plastic, smooth yard and water. With a running start, a belly-flop and good extension, a youngster can go along way in having fun and cooling off. (Terri Jamieson photo)

Strawberries Take Over Vanceboro

Sixth Festival Draws Hundreds To Parade, Races And Music

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

Strawberries, smiles, sunshine and heat were abundant Saturday as the sixth annual Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day came and went about as fast as the strawberries that were sold and eaten.

Hundreds and hundreds of visitors flooded Vanceboro, swelling the population and clogging the streets.

The festival got off to an early start — 7:30 a.m. to be exact — with a 5K road race through the streets of Vanceboro. That race was followed with a 10K race at 8 a.m. Fifty-three runners from across the state took part in the

races. Kirk Maness was the finished first in the 5K race.

The obligatory parade began snaking its way through town at 10 a.m. The Marine Corps band headed the parade and strutted with military precision down Main Street. Floats, bands, cars

(See FESTIVAL, Page 5)

Study Progressing, Says Director

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

The first director of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study says the first year of the five-year, \$5 million study was successful.

A summary of the project's first year was prepared by Douglas N. Rader, who resigned recently to work for an environmental group in Raleigh. The report was prepared for the project's policy committee and the Environmental Protection Agency, which is paying for the study of water quality in the Pamlico and Albemarle watersheds.

The report says the study appears to have made strong progress in all of its major activities during its first year. It says funded projects are in progress and a citizens' monitoring network will be in place by early summer.

The Washington-based Pamlico-Tar River Foundation is establishing the monitoring program.

"The continued success of the project depends upon the continuing flexibility and collaborative spirit shown to date by state, federal, local officials, and the people of the State of North Carolina," the report says. "The beginnings have in some ways been painful, but a solid foundation has been laid to produce long-term program of which citizens of North Carolina can be proud."

It adds that, "The public involvement portion of the APES program may well be the most important in the long term, since education and personal involvement are critical to build the consensus needed to reach the stated objectives. The majority of this effort depends upon building

public and local government confidence in the APES program."

The project features two citizens' advisory committees that meet regularly, a local government liaison network, a newsletter, projects funded to citizen groups and universities and media relations.

The reports notes that the project has received newspaper coverage nationwide, national magazine exposure and environmental periodicals. The report said media relations are "currently excellent, with lots of time dedicated to building such connections."

Several publications and audio-visual shows are available for public use. Several workshops have been held and will be held during the APES project.

News reporters recently com-

pleted a three-day tour of the APES study area. The tour focused on several factors that affect the estuaries — agriculture, fisheries, forestry, development and land use.

Twelve publications on APES projects, workshops and studies have been or will be published soon.

APES is the first national estuary program in the nation to be designated consistent with the Clean Water Bill of 1987. Receiving the designation requires the program to meet specific objectives during the life of the APES project. Among the objectives are reports on the status and trends in water quality and living resources by 1990 and a comprehensive conservation and management plan by 1992.

(See STUDY, Page 5)



Joey Whitford hooks up equipment

Bass Population Receives Boost At Fish Hatchery

WELDON — Just a couple of miles down the river from Roanoke Rapids sits the small North Carolina town of Weldon.

It isn't known much for its plush hotels or night life. But it is sprinkled with a few bait shops and small hardware stores, and it boasts a fishing history worthy of being passed on for generations.

Weldon is also home to one of the state's more unique fish hatcheries operated by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. In a long, narrow cinderblock building that sits on the bank of the Roanoke River, biologists work 24 hours a day during the spring to raise striped bass and striped bass-white bass hybrids. From this hatchery, the Wildlife Commission expects to stock about 1.6 million young fish in the state's reservoirs and the Albemarle Sound this year.

The hatchery operation itself is more than a century old. In 1872, biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began taking female striped

bass, commonly known as rock fish, from the Roanoke River during their annual spawning run. Those fish were caught the regular fishing way — with hook and line.

In the late 1800s, eggs were taken from the female strippers, fertilized by the male, then put back into the river to hatch. But with new technology, biologists can produce more fish by hatching the eggs in special hatchery jars. The young fish are then raised up to the size desired before they are stocked.

Today, biologists use an electrofishing method in which charges of electricity are sent through the water from a boat. The fish are temporarily stunned and are scooped up in nets when they bob to the surface.

About 15 males and 15 females weighing between 12 and 17 pounds are placed in holding tanks filled with water from the Roanoke River at the Weldon hatchery. Biolog-

(See FISH, Page 5)



Eggs of 17-pound striped bass tested

Nine Hits Not Enough

Lady Eagles Drop 9-7 Playoff Slugfest To Southern Nash

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

STANHOPE — West Craven's Lady Eagles surprised themselves and the Lady Firebirds of Southern Nash by putting seven runs across the plate in the first inning of an opening round game in the state 3-A softball playoffs.

But the surprise turned to dismay when the Lady Firebirds rallied for seven runs of their own in the third inning that put them in the driver's seat for a 9-7 win.

"After they put those runs across in the first inning I was real nervous," said Southern Nash Coach Patrick Miller. But Miller's squad, trailing 7-1 going into the bottom of the third, put five consecutive singles and a homerun by Marian Pegram to tie the score to take an 8-7 lead.

West Craven Coach Gaye Hines said she moved her outfielders back toward the fence "when their big girls came up." But the Lady Firebirds took advantage of the move and began dropping the ball in front of the outfielders. "I moved them back and their hitters just dropped the ball in front of them. They just hit the ball well," said Coach Hines.

Things looked good for the third-seeded Lady Eagles when lead-off hitter Evelyn Brimmer started the top of the first inning with a home run off Pegram. Jennifer Peele followed with a triple. She scored when shortstop Sharon Singletary bobbled a ball hit by Stacey Bergman. The Lady Eagles added added four more hits to take a 7-0 early lead.

Southern Nash scored in the bottom of the first when centerfielder Donna Winstead scored on a single by Linda Crumel.

West Craven sent just three batters up to the plate in both the second and third innings and Southern Nash sent them back to the bench.

Singletary began the Lady Firebirds' half of the third by reaching first on an error by Chandra Crouell. Five straight

singles and the homerun by Pegram put the Lady Firebirds on top for good.

West Craven threatened in the fourth when Shona Wilkins drew a walk and Brimmer singled with one out. But they were left stranded when the next batters popped up and grounded out.

The Lady Firebirds threatened again when they loaded the bases in the fourth. Winstead singled for the Lady Firebirds to lead of their half of the fourth, but Gail Crumel hit into a double play.

The Lady Firebirds then used a Lady Eagle error and two singles to load the bases, but Pegram's pop fly was caught to retire the side.

West Craven tried to find its offense in the fifth when Crouell drew a walk. With one out, Tammy Wolfe's smash to the shortstop was mishandled, leaving the Lady Eagles with baserunners on first and third. But the Lady Eagles couldn't move the baserunners as Marcie Blades popped up for the second out and Patricia Daugherty grounded out to the pitcher for the third out.

Southern Nash added another run in the sixth. With two outs, Gail Crumel reached first on a fielder's choice. A single by Tracy Small gave the Lady Firebirds runners on second and first. Gail Crumel scored when Linda Crumel singled over the West Craven second baseman. Cynthia Thorne popped up to retired the side.

West Craven's Peele led off the seventh with a single. Bergman, the potential tying run, flied out to centerfield. Crouell hit the ball to the shortstop, who flipped the ball to second for the force out. Theresa Dillahunt was substituted as a pinch runner for Crouell and Amy Bizzell was called in to hit for Patricia Bryant. Bizzell hit to the shortstop who again flipped the ball to second for the force out to end the game.

(See EAGLES, Page 5)

Texasgulf Final Leg Of Estuarine Tour Company's Draft Permit Should Cut Discharge, Officials Say

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Reporters were told on the final leg of a three-day tour through the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds region that cooperation between Texasgulf Chemicals Co., state agencies and environmental groups has led to a draft permit that cuts by 90 percent the amount of phosphorus Texasgulf puts into the Pamlico River at its Lee Creek site.

The reporters from North Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia were also told by the owner of a crab house that

diseases affecting fish and crabs did not appear to be as prevalent this year as last year. Last year large numbers of fish were reported to have and some crabs had holes through their shells.

The reporters were on a tour of the area as part of a program to educate them about the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study that began about 1 1/2 years ago. The \$5-million, 5-year APES program is being funded by the Environmental Protection Agency.

A public hearing on the draft permit for Texasgulf was held

May 9 at 7 p.m. at Beaufort County Community College. The permit limit the amounts of nutrients and chemicals released into the river.

Reporters were told that Texasgulf officials, state officials and environmental interest groups met for 12 months to devise the draft permit.

"The result of those meetings was new direction," said J. Randolph Carpenter, director of governmental affairs and public relations at Texasgulf.

Carpenter said the Lee Creek operation from 1980 through

1987 averaged putting 538 tons of phosphorus per year into the Pamlico. Under the proposed permit, the company would discharge about 50 tons per year, said Carpenter. The proposed permit calls for a 75 percent reduction in the average 348 tons of fluoride discharged into the Pamlico each year.

Carpenter said actual discharge from the company was only about 30 percent of what was allowed under its old permit. That permit expired in 1984 and

(See TOUR, Page 5)