



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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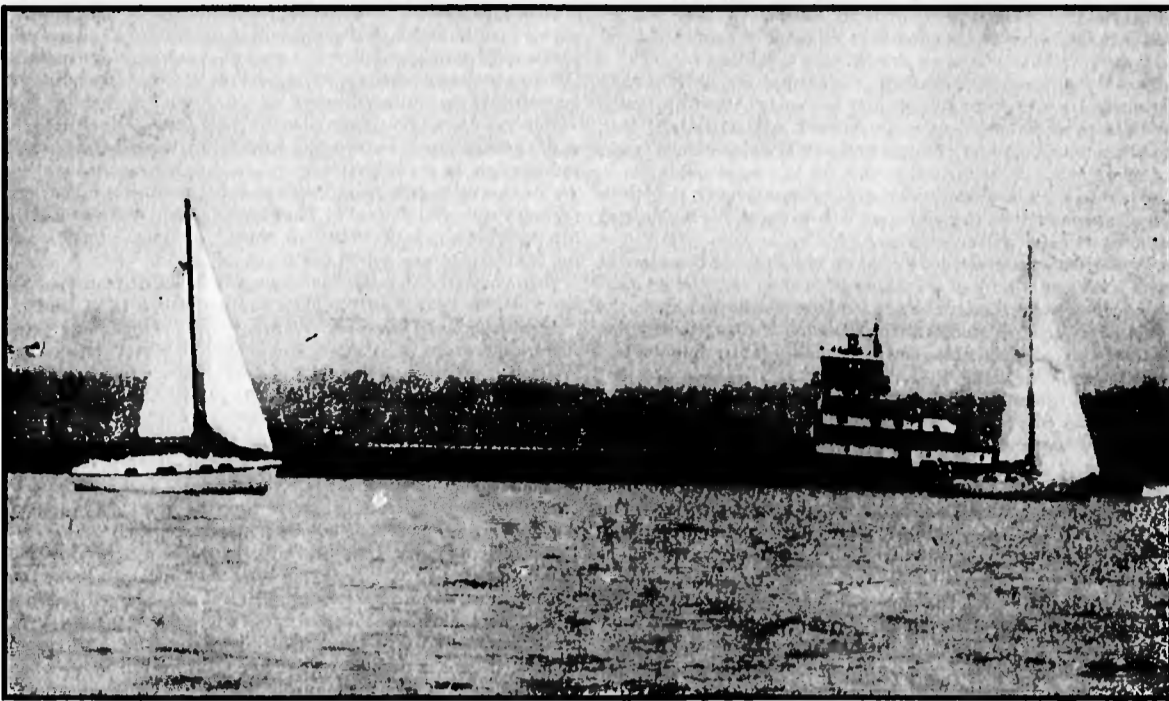
VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

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Mo Krochmal photo

Harris Keeps Job; Forfeiting A Month's Pay Allegation Admitted By County Manager

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

The Craven County Board of Commissioners decided on Monday evening to reject the resignation of County Manager Tyler Harris.

Harris will be allowed to keep his job, but must serve thirty days community service for the county without pay.

Harris recently admitted involvement in an affair with former county employee Betty Jo Braxton. The matter became public knowledge when Mrs. Braxton's husband, Michael, filed suit July 10 for divorce alleging that his wife had affairs with two married men during the past five years. Although the suit does not name the two men involved, sources close to the family named Roger Forrest, county commissioner, and Harris.

Forrest declines to comment on the issue at this time.

Harris, who was visibly pleased with the decision, said, "I'm extremely appreciative of the decision. I'm relieved. I'm ready to put this behind myself and my family and ready to move on to more of the positive things of the job and other things I'd like to be associated with."

"It has been the most difficult experience I've ever had to deal with," Harris concluded.

Originally, both men denied the allegations. Harris, however, submitted a letter of resignation to the Craven County Board of Commissioners, which was tabled at a meeting on July 28. On July 31, Harris wrote another letter to the board ad-

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Contrast

The smaller sailboats using wind for power pass a larger tugboat and barges on the river. While the sailboats are at the mercy of

the wind for moving to and fro on the river, the tugboat gets its power from huge diesel engines below decks. Sailboats, for the most part, are for pleasure and the tugboat is for work. But you can find those who will disagree.

Transition For Students Can Be An Adventure

It's almost that time of year again. Moms and Dads are taking their children school shopping as they prepare for yet another school year.

Sixth graders wait in anxious anticipation of upcoming school changes. Not only will they be in a higher grade, but they also will have many adjustments to make.

Miss Oakley, vice principal of West Craven Middle School pointed out some of the changes.

"The students have an increased amount of responsibility, not only for getting to classes on time, but also for finishing assignments and for making up missed assignments."

Changing classes is something that will be done in the middle school. The students are assigned to a "home base," which is similar to a homeroom. (Homebase is a guidance/social development period.) Physical education classes vary greatly from elementary school. They are done on a daily basis, with each student being expected to dress out daily for class.

The larger school size means that the students are more in contact with people. Middle School offers the opportunity for those interested to participate in various clubs and athletic activities such as intramural sports.

Ms. Oakley said, "As children are given more responsibility for making their own decisions, they naturally give the opinion of their fellow peers carries greater weight."

She went on to say that there are some things that parents can do to help students with the transition.

"Parents need to stay on top of what is going on from day one. The student still needs the support of their parents and so do the teachers."

She also suggested that parents try to help their child find activities in which he or she can excel. It is important that the parent keep up with what is happening in the child's classes. The parents should work with their child to set realistic

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Students Read Volumes In Game At Libraries

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

There are not many games in life that claim to have no losers, but this past week, the Craven-Pamlico-Carteret Regional Library made just such a claim.

The library just completed a month-long summer reading game which encouraged local children to hopefully foster a life-long interest in reading.

Vanceboro had 21 participants this year in the project. Similar programs were held statewide.

Children participating received prizes based on the number of books that they read and reported on. All children who read at least 10 books received a certificate signed by the governor.

The following Vanceboro children participated. The number of books read is indicated beside their names: Jamie Campbell, 75; Charity Hughes, 75; Iman Moore, 75; Jason Campbell, 75; Elizabeth Brinkley, 50; Shemica Stanley, 30; Tanita Cox, 30; Cheryl Brinkley, 30; Brandy Simpkins, 30; Betsy McCandless, 20; Amanda Hayes,

20; Karin Borrer, 10; Leslie Mills, 10; Derrick Mills, 10; Casey Ippock, 10; Della Bryant, 10; Eleanor Bryant, 10; Ashley McCandless, 10; Stephanie Elks, 10; Hud Jordan, 10; and Kristy Wood, 10.

Cove City Public Library also participated. The following children

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Water Signups Being Accepted

Petitions are now circulating to residents in the Swift Creek area in Township 2 concerning the proposed water system to be installed in the area.

The average water bill for residents in this area is estimated at between \$22-25 per month. There will be a \$30 tap-on fee, \$30 deposit and \$10 inspection fee to have access to the water line. Those persons interested should contact Jimmie Whitford at 244-0249 to sign the petition.

Perdue, Anderson Won't Support Veto

As the state House of Representatives last Thursday voted 60-43 against placing the gubernatorial veto referendum on the ballot, members of the Third House District, who voted with the majority, said the veto would have given the executive branch of state government unbridled powers.

Rep. Beverly Perdue, D-Craven, said, "With the veto, the powers of the executive branch would be excessive and unbalanced. The voters elected members to the Legislature

to be their voice in state government and with the veto, our voting power and the voice of the people would be dissolved."

Rep. Gerald Anderson, D-Craven, also representing the Third House District, said, "The House today did a lot to preserve our form of government. The state constitution says the legislative, executive and judicial branches should be separate and distinct. We have maintained

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Ric Carter photo

Chilling out

The promise that Monday was the last of the recent heat wave wasn't enough to cool anyone off. That's why there was no shortage of kids

taking a dip in this pool. While diving and playing "shark" in the deep end may not be exactly restful, it goes a long way toward letting you forget the brutal temperatures of August.

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Plant Is Tops In Reducing Air Emissions: Report

By Betty Gray
Staff Writer

The Texasgulf phosphate plant in Aurora recorded the greatest reduction in toxic air emissions last year of any industry in the state, according to an environmental report just

released.

The report was compiled by the N.C. Environmental Defense Fund.

Thomas Regan, operations vice president at Aurora, said today the company "recognizes the importance of being very pro-active in reducing our responsibility to the

environment."

The company concentrated its efforts on reducing the amount of released ammonia from its fertilizer operations, Regan said, spending \$300,000 to upgrade its ammonia system "with the direct intent of reducing air emissions."

The company also discarded some outmoded equipment, began manufacturing fertilizer in larger pieces and re-evaluated its policy on stack scrubbers.

These improved housekeeping ef-

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Ric Carter photo

Fleet's in

These fishing vessels appear to have taken at least a day off from crossing the waters of the area in search of fish, crabs and other

seafood. The crews and captains might be repairing equipment, finding provisions ashore to stock the boats for another trip or just taking it easy at home. But you can be sure the boats will be active soon as they search for full nets and high profits.