



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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Ric Carter photo

As if rising from the mists of time, a replica of the Half Moon sits at her new home in eastern North Carolina. The vessel arrived for

at least a six-month stay Monday. For a closer look at this sailing vessel, turn to page 4.

Ship from past sails to Down East

By Mike Voss
Editor

Firing a cannon salute to her new home port as she glided by Stewart Parkway, the Half Moon commanded the attention of those who dotted Washington's waterfront Monday to watch her nestle into her new home at Havens Wharf.

Before long, the ship is expected to become a hands-on history lesson for area students and others in eastern North Carolina once final preparations are made and a museum is opened.

Escorted by a flotilla of about 10 boats, the replica of explorer Henry Hudson's original Half Moon made its way up the Pamlico River with assistance from the tugboat Norfolk Rebel as about 100 people

watched from the parkway. The Half Moon, sporting 17th Century Dutch flags of orange, blue and white from its masts, came to a stop at Havens Wharf about 2 p.m.

Standing on the ship's main deck and wearing blue-and-orange crew shirts were Washingtonians City Manager Bruce Radford, Louis Sloan, Dick Leach, Wayland Sermons Jr. and newly arrived Simon Spalding.

The Washington contingent met the ship in Norfolk, Va., during the weekend. They were on the ship when she left at daybreak Sunday for her new home.

Spalding is making plans for a museum that will house 29 panels depicting Dutch history. Spalding, an historian who will be curator of the museum, plays several instru-

ments that date back hundreds of years. He arrived last week from San Francisco, along with several boxes of historical material that will be used at the museum or aboard the Half Moon.

The vessel will be open to the public for an admission fee once final preparations for her stay in Washington are completed. Plans call for the Half Moon to spend six months in Washington.

A press party is planned for Friday night and a mini-Dutch festival is planned Saturday at Havens Wharf. Authentic Dutch food and pastries will be available from members of the Terra Ceia Christian School Ladies' Auxiliary from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Included in the entertainment will be Jake Zwaal, who will play

Dutch tunes on an harmonica, and other musical entertainment. Spalding is expected to play his instruments and sing.

The original Half Moon was used by Hudson to explore the New York and mid-Atlantic coastal area in 1609. Hudson briefly looked for what is termed the Northeast Passage, as he did on other trips, but decided to try to find the Northwest Passage to China. Instead, he discovered something different.

Hudson's exploration of the North American coast was for Holland. The Hudson River is named for him.

While the Half Moon's Captain Nicholas Miller secured the vessel to the dock, Spalding led Washing-

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Environmental offices may move to Greenville

By Mike Voss
Editor

A recommendation to move the Washington regional office of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources to Greenville will be made to EHNHR Secretary William W. Cobey Jr. on Dec. 1.

The move could affect Craven County in that it might take longer for the department to respond to environmental emergencies in area rivers and coastal waters.

A memo dated Nov. 20 from EHNHR Director R. Paul Wilms to section chiefs and regional supervisors recommends several changes including this one concerning Washington:

"Northampton County would be added to the Washington Region and Jones County would be moved to the Wilmington Region. The regional office itself would be moved to Greenville."

The regional office, which has

been in Washington since 1973, has been located in Greenville in the past.

The EHNHR Washington office played a significant role two months ago in uncovering the eight-year presence of cancer-producing chemicals in the Washington water supply.

The Washington regional office is the only regional office the working group recommends moving. The other changes recommended are moving jurisdiction over counties from one region to another.

"We are looking right now at the full scope of programs provided by the new Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources," Wilms told a reporter when asked why the recommendation is being considered when Pitt County is not included in the Coastal Area Management Act.

Several agencies — Coastal Management, Water Quality, Land

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Striped bass harvesting closes after brief opening

The commercial harvest of striped bass in the state's inland waters has been closed less than two weeks after it opened, state fisheries officials announced last week.

Commercial striped bass fishing closed at sunset last Wednesday while recreational striped bass fishing will close at sunset Sunday, state fisheries director William T. Hogarth said in a proclamation released last week.

The inland waters are being closed to conserve the large numbers of year-old striped bass being harvested, he said.

"It is vital that we avoid taking too many of the young 14- to 16-inch fish now," Hogarth said. "We are beginning to see the striper make a comeback from recent low numbers and it's important that we help that

trend continue."

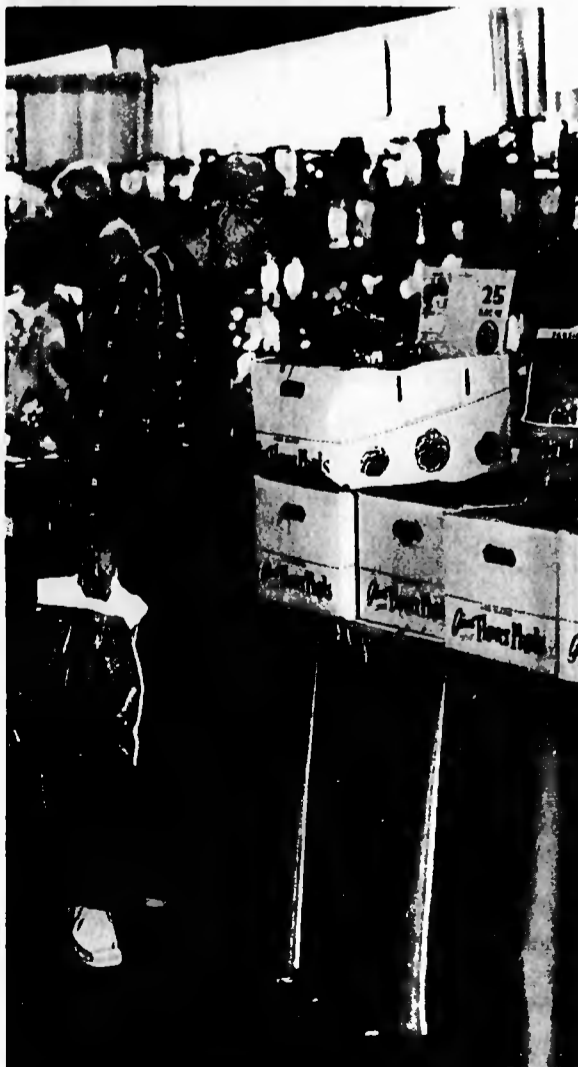
He said the season "will probably reopen" in January for commercial and recreational fishing.

The 1989 population of striped bass is encouraging because of a good 1988 catch, fisheries officials said. But because it takes four to five years for the fish to mature, fisheries officials want to reduce the amount of year-old fish being caught this year before they reach maturity.

The Albemarle Sound and its adjacent waters contain most of North Carolina's striped bass, Hogarth said.

The fisheries division is monitoring the striped bass population in the Albemarle Sound and is trying

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Betty Gray photo

Close look

A farmer takes a close look at bulbs at the recent farm show held for area farmers. The show unveiled new equipment, new seeds and provided farmers with the latest in agricultural news and trends. The three-day event attracted hundreds.

Turnout slight, many complain about meeting

Not enough notice given, say some of 35 attending meeting

NEW BERN — Only 35 people attended Monday night's public hearing on tougher water quality standards proposed for about 1,134 miles of the state's streams and rivers. And many of those who were there complained that the state had not given them enough notice about the hearing.

Zachery Taylor of New Bern told hearing officer Charles A. Brady, "These proposals are telling people what they can and cannot do with their property. This deserves more thought and attention than that given to these people here tonight."

Pointing to the group attending the hearing in the New Bern High School auditorium, Taylor said, "If proper notice had been given, this place would be overflowing."

The proposal to classify the waterways "high quality waters" would affect three percent of the state's fresh waters and one percent of the state's salt waters, state officials said.

Those tributaries of the Pamlico-Tar River nominated for high quality water, or HQW designation, include Ashon Gut, Flax Pond, Battalina Creek, Tooleys Creek, Vales Creek, Juniper Bay Creek, Hyde-land Canal, Far Creek, Kitty Creek, Waupopin Creek, Waupopin Canal and Cumberland Creek.

Those tributaries of the Neuse River nominated include Little River, South Fork Little River, Rays Creek, two sections of Forrest Creek, North Fork Little River, Buffalo Creek, Greens Creek, Little Saucapan Creek and Old Mill Creek.

Tom Perlic, representing the Sierra Club, said, "The North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club and its 10,000 statewide members heartily endorse the Division of Environmental Management proposal."

Weyerhaeuser Co. spokesman Michael Garrett said he received information on the proposal the day of the hearing and was not prepared to

comment on it. The company will submit a written statement to DEM, he said.

The state Environmental Management Commission is expected to consider the the proposed stream upgrading at its March 8, 1990 meeting. If approved, the classifications would be effective April 1, 1990.

The HQW classification can apply to primary nursery areas as designated by the Marine Fisheries Commission, native and special native trout waters as designated by the Wildlife Resources Commission and waters rated as excellent based on biological, physical or chemical characteristics, said Gregory J. Thorpe of the state Division of Environmental Management last night.

The waterways in the Pamlico-Tar River basin proposed for the designation are primary nursery areas. The waters in the Neuse River basin are either primary nursery areas or have excellent water quality.

The recommendations include more than 1,134 miles of streams that have high quality water, provide habitat for trout or harbor endangered species. Also recommended are 16,527 acres of primary nursery waters, which provide breeding and feeding grounds for many commercially valuable species of fish along the coast.

The commission adopted the new classification last summer, but its staff only recently compiled a list of waters recommended for protection under the rule.

Dan Besse, chairman of the state's Coastal Resources Commission, told the hearing officer the one-mile restriction on development should be more flexible.

"This gives you no flexibility to examine larger projects outside the one-mile limit," Besse said. "Given

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Family, friends at top of area Christmas lists

By John Perry
Staff Writer

Like the Peanuts Gang tells us every year, Christmas time is here again.

Here again also are flooded shopping malls and grocery stores, long stoplights, crowded highways and long waiting lines. With all of these things going on, one would think most people will be disgusted by the time the Christmas Eve rolls around. But one town that doesn't really let these setbacks bother them is undoubtedly Vanceboro.

Judging from several interviews conducted by the Highlights, the people of Vanceboro look at Christmas as a time to be with their families. Tradition sparks at this time of year, and the citizens of Vanceboro tend to look over these "minor setbacks," as one woman chose to put it. The interviews indicated they feel one has to make certain sacrifices for things that one really wants — and that Christmas is the best day

of the year.

One woman, who just moved from Connecticut, commented on what she liked about Christmas. She noted how everyone seemed to be happier at this time of the year. This young lady will be spending her Christmas with her husband in Vanceboro, and relatives are expected to come and visit. She said she has really fallen in love with the Southern hospitality and the slower pace of life. She will also be involved in some church functions and all she wants for Christmas is some more blank video tapes.

A young, single man discussed plans to spend Christmas at home and let all of the relatives come see him. Most of the people interviewed said that is all that they were going to do. People said that as long as they were together, nothing else really mattered.

One woman at the post office said she will enjoy the job of cooking for

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Patience, more patience key to job, says Bowers

By John Perry
Staff Writer

To be an elementary school principal the needed ingredients are: patience, motivation, patience, know-how, patience, workhorse attitude, honesty, fairness, and oh yeah, patience.

Anyone could say this, but hearing it from a principal like Vanceboro Farm Life Elementary School's Principal Richard Bowers is more than just interesting. And it helps if the principal in question likes his or her job. Does Bowers like his?

"I wouldn't be here if I didn't!" he replied. Patience is a virtue, one Benjamin Franklin put high on his list of virtues. Bowers puts it high on his too, although he says patience isn't

needed as far as discipline goes.

"Discipline isn't really a big problem, I mean you have your small problems, but nothing big," he said. He has found that motivation is the biggest problem over the years, which sometimes may lead to disciplinary problems. "With the television set on at home, and everything else going on, the kids kinda get sidetracked," he admits.

But why would someone want to be an elementary school principal? "When I was going to college, I didn't want to be a principal, or even a teacher. It was just something that, over the years, I fell in love with," he said. Bowers went to undergraduate school at Catawba College and majored in math and

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