



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

Florist Invited To Decorate For Inauguration Balls

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

If they're lucky, two area women might catch a glimpse of president-elect George Bush at one of the inaugural balls after he is sworn in as president Friday. Elva Matthews and Georgia Van Norwick will rub shoulders with some of the nation's elite — a reward for helping spruce up the inauguration. But before the numerous balls begin, Mrs. Matthews and Mrs.

Van Norwick will have decorated one of the ball sites — or maybe the White House. Mrs. Matthews, owner of Farm Life Florist and Gift Shop in Vanceboro, has been invited to help with floral decorations at the inauguration. She and Georgia Van Norwick of Williamston are the only florists from eastern North Carolina asked to bring their skills to the inauguration. "It's just an honor. It'll never happen again in my lifetime,"

said Mrs. Matthews. "We go up Friday and Saturday. There is another group that worked Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. All of us couldn't be in there at the same time working." Those invited must pay their own way, except for two meals a day and motel rooms. And to sweeten the pot, Mrs. Matthews said invitations to one of the inaugural balls have been extended. Mrs. Matthews found out Mon-

day that she had been selected. The selections of state florists were made with the assistance of American Academy of Floriculture, the Society of Florists and the state floral association. Does she expect it to be both fun and educational? "I hope it will be." She doesn't expect any problems obtaining clearance to do her work. "I had clearance before when I was a civil service employee," she said. "I hope I can work at the White House, but just

being up there is good enough," she said. "It's (the selection) just from your work. You work for it," she said. Apparently the florists are chosen for their abilities and not their politics. "Oh, no," she responded when asked if she is a Republican. "My husband's a Republican. I'm a registered Democrat." She has been to Washington, D.C., before but this trip is spe-

cial. "I'm just flabbergasted," she said. She and the other florists will be given their assignments upon their arrival Friday night. "They pretty much have in mind what they want done. I don't know how much freedom we will have. We'll work all night Friday night, I'm sure," she said. "I heard that President Bush plans to attend all of the balls for (See FLORISTS, Page 5)

Winning Ways Resume

Eagle Girls Back On Track, 70-37

BEAUFORT — Despite seeing an 11-game win streak come to an end Saturday night, the West Craven girls' basketball team held on to the No. 1 ranking in the East and rebounded with a win Tuesday night. Liz Cox's Lady Eagles pounded Class 3-A Coastal Conference opponent East Beaufort 70-37 and improved to 12-1 overall.

Coach Cox said her girls were surprised at retaining the No. 1 ranking.

"They thought they would drop after the loss," she said. "They aren't cocky about being ranked No. 1."

She said being top-ranked was a motivation for remaining at the top.

How did the top-ranked squad accept the loss Saturday night? "They weren't too excited," said Cox. Even though the team had hoped for an undefeated season, particularly in conference action, Cox said some good may have come from the loss. "They know why they lost and were upset about the loss."

"We were kind of surprised at that. The girls were shocked to learn they were still ranked No. 1 and it was kind of exciting for them," she said of remaining at the top of the poll.

Against the Lady Mariners, West Craven opened a 21-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and Cox went to her bench.

Chundra Croell finished with 17 points while Evelyn Brimmer added 17 in leading the individual scoring.

Cox said she went to her bench starting in the middle of the first quarter.

The West Craven boys saw a one-game win streak ended as East Carteret earned a 73-64

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Reflections On A Foggy Morning

A heavy fog always adds to the mystery of Spanish moss-draped cypresses. Their ghostly silhouettes pierce the water, moss gray hair pointing to the still surface. Lone tree behind lone tree disappearing into the white distance. (Photo by Ric Carter)

360 Cast Ballots Feb. 9

Texasgulf Workers Will Vote On Union

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

About 360 employees of Texasgulf Chemicals Co. at Aurora will vote Feb. 9 on whether to be represented by Local 495 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

The election will affect maintenance workers in the production and maintenance division.

Rann Carpenter, manager of public relations and governmental affairs at the Lee Creek operation, said the company opposes the unionization. There are no unions now at the complex, which employs about 1,200 people.

Russell Hatcher, an official of Local 495 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, said the union was approached by Texasgulf workers.

He said union officials have held several meetings with interested Texasgulf employees.

Hatcher said the union originally targeted workers in the instrumentation and electrical division, but later Texasgulf and IBEW agreed that the proposed

bargaining unit will be the maintenance workers in the production and maintenance division at Texasgulf. Hatcher said the stipulation was agreed to at a Jan. 3 meeting at National Labor Relations Board offices.

Carpenter confirmed that the maintenance workers in the P&M division, about 356 employees, will be the bargaining unit if the union is voted in. He said the union originally filed a petition with the NLRB for 68 employees in the instrumentation and electrical division.

"We do not feel that is an appropriate group," Carpenter said. "We feel any decision should be expanded plantwide." The union and company discussed and agreed to the change, he said.

"Texasgulf maintains a very strong opposition to any unionization effort and we will oppose the attempt by IBEW by using every legal and proper means available to us," Carpenter said. He said the company felt no need for third-party repre-

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Poverty Project Tries To Find Unmet Needs

GREENVILLE—Completing a wide-ranging study of poverty in a 41-county area of eastern North Carolina, a task force of the N.C. Poverty Project, Inc. recently presented its findings and recommendations in a formal report this week.

Keyed to findings on root causes of poverty during two years of study, the report attempts to identify unmet needs of the poor and to recommend remedial action, according to the co-chairs of the committee.

"Dynamic, sometimes heated, heart-felt revelations came forth as the group considered provok-

ing questions," said Deryl W. Torbert of Reidsville, education coordinator for the Poverty Project.

Studies show that more than 40 percent of North Carolina's poor—an estimated 12 percent of the state's population—live in eastern North Carolina.

In Tyrrell County, for example, where the per capita income is \$7,117., 27.4 percent of the population is below the poverty level, according to the office of state budget and management.

"Not all of the questions are

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Death Of Woman Found Near Vanceboro Still A Mystery

NEW BERN — Investigators said last week they were awaiting the final results of the autopsy that was performed last month on the body of 37-year-old Sandra Foy of Route 2, Trenton, before they could release any information about the cause of her death.

But Craven County District Attorney W. David McFadyen Jr. said in a telephone interview that Miss Foy's death probably occurred about the time of her disappearance early on Nov. 24.

Sandra Foy's body was found in Swift Creek near Spruill's Landing outside Vanceboro on

the morning of Dec. 22 by a Kinston duck hunter.

The final autopsy results are expected to be available by late this month or early February, McFadyen added.

Sandra Foy last was seen alive by a family member about 1:30 a.m. Nov. 24, when she left the parking lot of the Sheraton Motel and Marina in New Bern in a car in the company of a person who has not been identified. She had been at the Sheraton lounge for several hours with her younger sister, Jan.

Both women lived at home with their parents, Jan Foy said

in an earlier interview, so she drove back to Trenton, thinking her sister would return later. The women's mother said that Sandra never had stayed away from home overnight without letting someone in the family know her plans.

When Sandra Foy still had not returned home by Nov. 26, Jan Foy and another family member contacted the New Bern Police Department.

In response to a telephoned request for an interview, an administrative assistant in the N.C. Chief Medical Examiner's Office in Chapel Hill said that the only

positive results that office had found in the toxicology testing done to this date in relation to Miss Foy's death had shown she had a blood alcohol level of 90 milligrams, which is equivalent to a .09 on a breathalyzer test.

State law has set .10 as the level at which a person is considered legally drunk.

Asked what other drug testing had been performed, Nancy Moore said the records she had did not specify any other drugs. Details would be provided in the final autopsy report, she added.

Later, a law enforcement officer investigating the case said pre-

liminary results showed no evidence of illegal drugs in Miss Foy's body.

The autopsy on Miss Foy's body was performed by Dr. Page Hudson in Greenville just before Christmas. At that time, New Bern law enforcement authorities would say only that Miss Foy had died of unnatural causes.

Miss Foy's sister-in-law, Vonabe Foy of Trenton, said last week that she had worked with Hudson many times when he was the chief medical examiner for North Carolina and she was a police officer with the Jackson-

ville Police Department. (He recently retired to Greenville.)

"He is just the best," she said of Hudson. "If there's anything there that's findable, he'll find it," she added.

Mrs. Foy, who is married to Sandra Foy's brother Randy, said that Sandra's parents, Randolph and Grace Foy of Route 2, Trenton, were "doing fairly well. They have good days and bad days."

It had been very upsetting for all the family members, Mrs. Foy said, that Sandra's body had

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Bridgeton Teacher Receives Honor

A Bridgeton teacher is one of two Educators of the Month for December. The selections are made by the New Bern-Craven County Board of Education in cooperation with the New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Educators of the Month are Joan Tyson of Bridgeton Elementary School and Janet Perego of Havelock High School.

Mrs. Tyson, an exceptional-children's teacher at Bridgeton Elementary, received her Bachelor of Music degree from Youngstown (Ohio) State University and her masters degree of education in learning disabilities from East Carolina University in 1987.

Mrs. Tyson said her goal is to incorporate academics with the teaching of appropriate behavior to enable the student with "special needs" to function within the

regular classroom. She strives to teach that every person has value and something to offer and that love and caring of one's self and others are the most important values a person will ever learn.

According to Mrs. Tyson, "Educating children means giving all you have to them in order to make them responsible citizens in today's society."

Mrs. Tyson, along with her husband, wrote and recorded an album, "His Love." She has also written songs for a syndicated children's television. She enjoys travelling. She and her husband have two children, Miriam, 10, and Joshua, nine.

Mrs. Perego received her bachelor of science degree in mathematics from N.C. State University. She has taught for 18 years, eight of which have been

at Havelock High School. According to Mrs. Perego's students, Algebra II can actually be fun. "Before I start teaching the subject, I try to convince the students they like to be in the room. Soon, without realizing, they will be enjoying their work," she said.

As well as committing her time to teaching and tutoring math, Mrs. Perego is a class sponsor and the Computer Club sponsor.

Active in her church, Mrs. Perego is on the Christ Episcopal Church planning board and often leads the music at Christian retreats. She is presently a member of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

A native of Oak City, Mrs. Perego is married and has two children — a son in the third grade and a daughter in the eighth grade.



Janet Perego



Joan Tyson