



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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## Environmental 'Alphabet Soup' Words Explained

Last week we looked at the alphabet soup of agencies and laws which govern environmental regulation in North Carolina, including the divisions of Environmental Management (DEM) and Coastal Management (DCM), the Environmental Management and Coastal Resources Commissions (EMC and CRC) and the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA).

This complex network of agencies is guided by regulations which are complex in themselves and which, of course, make up a confusing alphabet soup of their own. This week we will try to unscramble a few of the regulations that have a signi-

### Analysis

ficant affect on the Tar-Pamlico and coastal North Carolina.

AECs (Areas of Environmental Concern) — AECs are areas of coastal North Carolina identified by the CRC as having particular environmental importance and thus deserving of added regulatory protection. AECs include all estuarine waters and ocean waters to three miles offshore, estuarine shorelines and coastal wetlands, unique habitats, signi-

ficant cultural or geological sites, and a variety of other areas.

Most developments proposed in an AEC must obtain a CAMA permit from DCM before proceeding, which occasionally means a full environmental impact study will have to be conducted. Agriculture, forestry, and road and utility maintenance are usually exempt from needing permits to operate in AECs.

EIS (Environmental Impact Study) — An EIS is an analysis of the effects a proposed project may have on its surrounding environment. A number of state agencies, such as DEM and DCM, can require an EIS as part of the permitting process,

though the persons seeking the permit are actually responsible for preparing the study.

An EIS may examine secondary and cumulative effects of a project that are not addressed in a general permit reviews, and it may have to discuss the need for the project and reasonable alternatives to proposed procedures.

There are "windows" for public response to EISs where concerned citizens can comment about items they feel are not fully or appropriately addressed in the EIS.

Some federal agencies, such as the Army Corps of Engineers, can also require an EIS of a pro-

ject.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit) — An NPDES permit must be obtained for any project that will discharge pollution into surface waters. It is important to note that NPDES permits do not require an absence of pollution from discharges, but merely set a limit on the amount of pollution which the permittee can release.

NPDES is a federal program which is administered in North Carolina by the EMC and DEM.

NSW (Nutrient Sensitive Waters) — The NSW designation is applied by the EMC to any waters in the state which are being threatened by nutrient overload.

When NSW is applied, the EMC will set specific limits for the amount of nutrients which can be discharged into the river, and various matching funds and grants become available from the state to nutrient polluters in the watershed (e.g., grants to help farmers establish runoff controls on their cropland).

The Tar-Pamlico is being considered for NSW designation by the EMC and DEM.

PNAs (Primary Nursery Areas) — PNAs are areas of rivers and lakes that are so productive as fish nurseries that they are given special protective status. PNAs,

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## CAMA May Include Rules On Airspace

### Panel Suggests Changes; Hears Noise Discussions

By MIKE VOSS

Editor

The Coastal Area Management Act could include regulations on airspace and underground space under a proposal made Tuesday in Washington.

The Coastal Resources Commission's Military Activities Task Force, after hearing discussion of noise and its effects on people and animals, suggested that legislation be introduced in the General Assembly to clarify CAMA's scope.

The task force was created this year to review environmental problems related to military activity. It includes members from the Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Kate Benkert, an official from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-

vice's Raleigh office, told the panel Tuesday that although knowledge on how noise affects wildlife is limited, there are specific responses that animals have to noise. She said most studies had been done with domestic and laboratory animals and it is difficult to compare that information with how wildlife might react.

She said noise can cause physical damage to hearing and affect breeding activities.

She said kangaroo rats in U.S. deserts have been partly deafened by off-road vehicles. The rats adjust their hearing to a different threshold, and they can no longer hear an approaching sidewinder rattlesnake.

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Dirty Trickster At Work?

(Ric Carter photo)

Someone might think this fellow is up to no good, punching holes in some guy's tires. Wrong. Kenny Ray Barber is just doing his job at a service station. He's fishing a nail out of a tubless tire

so he can plug it and return his customer to the road. And those suds aren't to keep Kenny Ray's hands clean. Escaping air blows bubbles in the soapy water to show him the leak.

## Part Of \$125 Million Payment Distributed To Corn Growers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will make about \$125 million in deficiency and 0/92 provision payments in commodity certificates to eligible producers of 1988 crop corn and sorghum.

The payments will be made this month.

Sorghum producers will receive about \$25 million in deficiency payments. Sorghum producers who requested advance deficiency payments during the 1988 feed grain program sign-up have already received payments of about \$218 million, according to Milton Hertz commodity credit executive vice president.

Most corn producers requested advance deficiency payments and were paid about \$2.6

billion at sign-up.

"Corn producers who did not request advance payments will receive approximately \$1 million in deficiency payments in March," Hertz said.

Deficiency payments are required under the 1988 corn and sorghum programs because the national weighted average market price received by producers during the first five months of the marketing year were below the established "target" price levels.

Deficiency payment rates are the difference between the target price for the commodity and the higher of the five month average market price or the basic price support loan rate for the commodity.

The target price for corn is \$2.93 per bushel and for sorghum

is \$2.78 per bushel.

The basic loan level is \$2.21 for corn and \$2.10 for sorghum. Five-month market price is \$2.57 for corn and \$2.30 for sorghum.

Five-month final deficiency payment rate is .36 for corn and .48 for sorghum. Advance payment rate is \$.44 for corn and \$.432 for sorghum.

Producers who did not request advance deficiency payments will receive .36 per bushel in corn payments and .48 per bushel in sorghum payments.

Sorghum producers who received advance deficiency payments will receive .048 per bushel while corn producers who received advance deficiency payments will be required to refund .08 per bushel.

(See FARM, Page 5)

## Pirate To Visit Library

The Vanceboro-Craven County Public Library will be invaded by a pirate March 29. The legendary Blackbeard is expected to drop anchor and appear at the Children's Story Hour at 4 p.m.

Portraying the famous, or infamous, pirate will be Ben Cherry, who portrayed Blackbeard in the production of "Blackbeard: Knight of the Black Flag" at Bath.

Cherry comes dressed in the full Blackbeard regalia — a ruffled shirt, black breeches, a knee-length coat and boots. Cherry even has a few red ribbons in his hair and beard. Cherry will tell the children

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## Farm Life Teacher Plans Math Club For Students

A Farm Life Elementary School teacher is one of two teachers in Craven County awarded a mini-grant by the N.C. Council of Mathematics.

Loretta Lawson, a fifth-grade math teacher at Farm Life in Vanceboro, and Annette Garner, an assistant principal at Havelock Elementary School, were awarded the grants recently.

The money received by Mrs. Lawson, to be used at Farm Life, will be used to develop an after-school math club for fifth-grade students. The aim of the club will be to present activities to promote leadership skills.

Plans include a family "math night" for interested parents to sharpen their math skills and to teach parents activities and games that are at their children's skill level, said Mrs. Lawson.

There will be a meeting for parents and other members of the

public to discuss how mathematics relates to their occupations. Speakers will include a seamstress and pharmacist and they will be asked to discuss how mathematics are used or applied by adults in their day-to-day experiences.

April is Math Month and the proposed club has started its membership selection and plans to begin its kickoff campaign in April. Mrs. Lawson said the purpose of the club is to let boys and girls know that math is fun and to get students interested in math.

The mini-grant from the N.C. Council of Mathematics will be split among Mrs. Lawson and Ms. Garner. Part of the mini-grant will be used to establish a math-related program for second-grade students.

Teachers and other school per-

(See GRANT, Page 5)

## Homes, Gardens And Palace Brighten Up Tours With Color

NEW BERN — The brilliant colors of flowers against the new green of springtime; strolling through hand-carved entrances into private historic treasure homes; and enjoying the interiors and gardens of Tryon Palace in a first-ever Tulips-By-Twilight Tour are sights offered April 7-9 during New Bern's Historic Homes Tour and Garden Festival. Visitors can pick an event or enjoy all of them during the three-day festival.

New Bern, rich in early architecture, opens its doors to visitors April 7 and April 8 with its Historic Homes and Gardens Tour. Featured are 13 vintage private homes and gardens, two local landmarks, gardens of Tryon Palace and 11 churches. All are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and all easily by walking with ticket map in the New Bern peninsular historic district.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for both days. Advance tickets for the Historic Home and Gardens Tour are \$10 and tickets sold on tour days are \$12. Phone the New Bern Preservation Foundation at (919) 633-6448 for information on the homes tour, including group discounts. Proceeds go to local historic preservation projects.

The private homes on the Historic Homes and Gardens Tour reveal and exciting variety in architectural styles and interior decors. For example, the "captain's walk" that spans the chimneys of the Brinson-Fulshire House is an interesting prelude to a fascinating interior, that was begun before the Revolutionary War. Discover a "hidden" cottage built just before the Civil War in the unique Carpenter Gothic style and now restored as a guest house.

Experience the elegance of old

New Bern when touring the interiors of the Federal-style James Bryan House and office (circa 1803). Enjoy the sweeping view of the mighty Neuse River from Gull Harbor, built about 1815. An early cooking fireplace remains in the full-brick basement of the restored home.

A new event, Historic Tryon Palace and Tulips By Twilight is a new event scheduled for 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. April 8. Designed to show Tryon Palace in all its spring finery, ladies in satin will escort guests through both public rooms and bedrooms where candlelight flickers over seasonal flower arrangements and antique furnishings. Musical entertainment of the 18th century period will be provided inside Tryon Palace and outside in the lush gardens, expected to be at spring peak.

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Gardens of Tryon Palace feature 35,000 tulips during tours weekend