



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse

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## Texasgulf Is Celebrating 25 Years In Eastern N.C.

By MICHAEL ADAMS  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

The head of Texasgulf's Aurora operation promised a "commitment for tomorrow" Monday as he announced plans to celebrate the company's 25th anniversary in eastern North Carolina.

Thomas J. Regan, vice president, in charge of production, said the anniversary is an occasion "to show how we will continue to work and cooperate in making this a progressive and spirited place to live while preserving the balance of nature."

Regan spoke at a press conference at the Washington Yacht &

Country Club.

He said the company plans to stage celebrations at the plant itself, in Aurora, in Washington and at the state port in Morehead City.

Texasgulf's ties with eastern North Carolina began officially April 2, 1964, when the company's Board of Directors approved construction of a \$45 million mine and plant.

"Texasgulf's presence in eastern North Carolina makes a difference, a positive difference," Regan said. "Because of us, the economy is stronger."

Regan said that the company is one of the largest employers in the east, providing approximate-

ly 1,200 jobs. It has a \$48 million annual payroll and paid \$1.5 million in 1988 county property taxes — about 28 percent of the total for Beaufort County.

The theme of the celebration is "Commitment for Tomorrow." Regan said that theme is evident in the new ideas the company is putting into practice.

The company will open a purified acid facility this year, demonstrating a "commitment to product diversification to stabilize our business cycles," Regan said. Also, new bucket wheels will be used as part of the mining process, eliminating the need for flooding and increasing efficiency, he said.

Texasgulf is scheduled to begin construction on a multi-million dollar water recycling system that is intended to be reduced by 90 percent the amount of phosphorus the company discharges into the Pamlico River. The recycling system was designed as part of the commitment that the company made to receive a discharge permit from the N.C. Division of Environmental Management, which must approve the system before construction begins.

Also, the company has applied for a permit to mine through 234 acres of wetlands in the process of mining about 4,300 acres over the next 20 years. Currently, an

environmental study is under way to assess the effects of such mining on the area's ecology.

Regan said the expansion, which is intended to take place over the next 20 years, represents "our commitment to continue our mining operation."

He said, "We are at an exciting time at Texasgulf and are looking forward to our new methods of operation as a springboard into the future."

Regan said the planned celebrations include a ceremony honoring Aurora and Richland Township officials next Monday, a dinner in Washington for Pamlico area civic and business leaders and an observance honoring

Carteret County officials at the state port in Morehead City.

He said the relationship between eastern North Carolina and Beaufort County and Texasgulf has been profitable for both parties. "As the Pamlico area prospers, Texasgulf prospers, and as Texasgulf prospers, so does the Pamlico area."

At the conclusion of the press conference, local government officials praised the company for its years of service in the county.

Grace Bonner, mayor of Aurora, said the company has made a lot of progress over the years. She said the townspeople are

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## Clean Sweep Prepares

Craven County Clean Sweep is asking every citizen of the county to participate in some type of beautification project this month.

April is National Keep America Beautiful Month. April is also Clean Sweep Month throughout the state.

The following are some things that can be done to clean up the county, state and nation:

— Adopt a spot — Adopt a location such as a vacant lot or other areas in a neighborhood.

— Make it green or colorful — Plant flowers or other plants in front of a business, home or other locations.

— Clean it up — Increase the number of trash cans at a location and even make the trash cans better looking with a fresh coat of paint, changing styles or just cleaning them up.

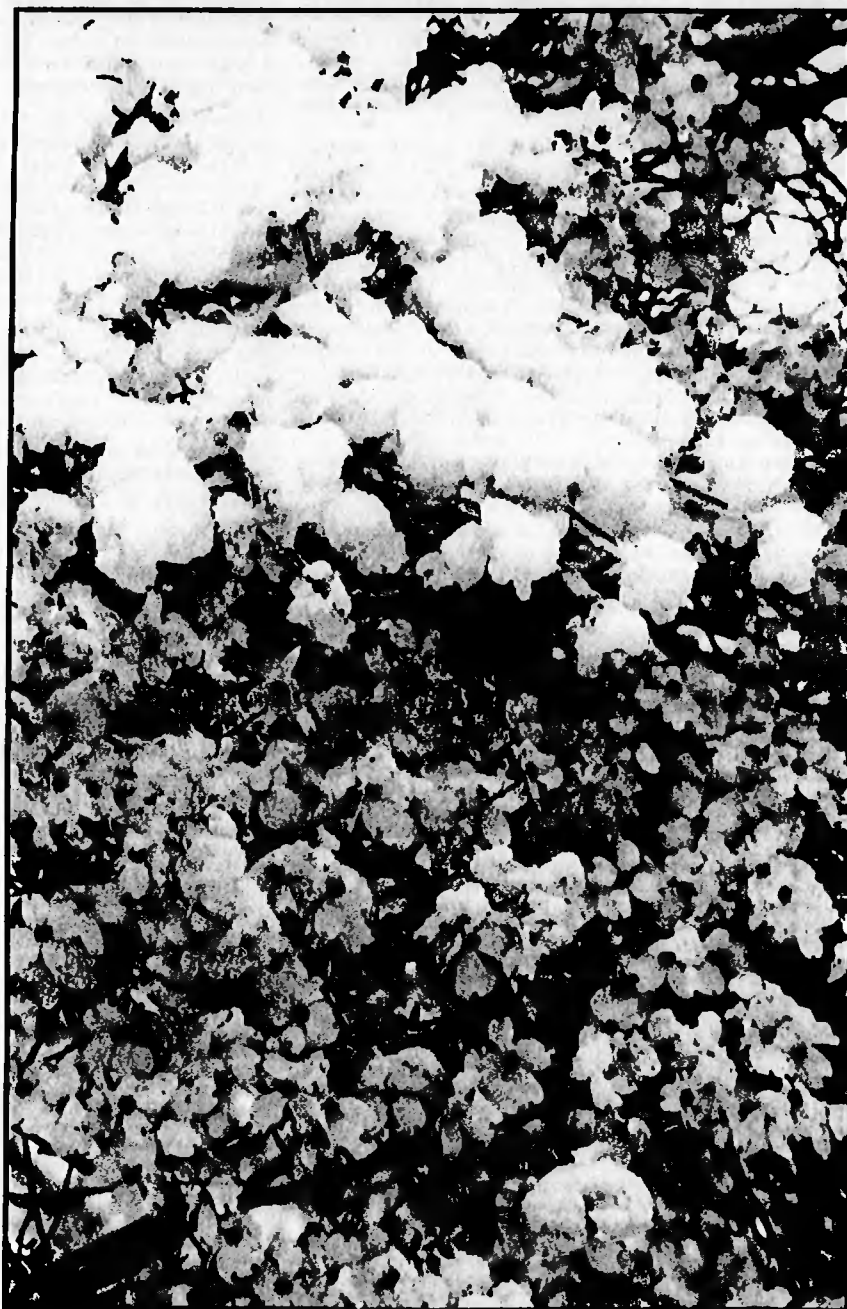
— At school — Students can clean a school nature trail, school property and roads leading to schools.

The Clean Sweep office has forms for groups to report their activities. The forms will be turned back in to the office and then sent to Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful in Raleigh. In turn, participants will receive certificates of appreciation from the state organization.

There are several events that will highlight Clean Sweep Month. The Craven County Clean Sweep mascot will make its debut April 15. Officials are not saying what the mascot will be, only that it will hatch at the Sheraton Hotel and Marina at 2 p.m.

Craven and Carteret counties will join forces April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to clean up a section of Croatan National Forest. The area to be cleaned is located in Greenfield Heights in Havelock. It

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Snow on white dogwood tree — mixed signals on winter and spring

## Snow Falls, Area Gets Big Surprise

### Late Accumulation Possible Record, Says One Observer

A surprise snow blanketed the Down East area Tuesday morning, causing power outages, school delays and traffic accidents.

About two inches of snow had accumulated in areas of Craven County by 10 a.m. with about an inch reported in the northeastern areas of the county. The temperature in Vanceboro was a few degrees below freezing, with one location reporting 29 degrees at 7:30 a.m.

The unexpected snow forced the cancellation of area sporting events, wiping out many high school baseball and softball games.

Snow-laden tree limbs caused power outages in scattered areas, mostly in the county's rural areas and communities in the northwest and western parts.

Vanceboro Town Clerk Carolyn Ipock reported power outages in town that lasted for a few seconds. She said she was unaware of any major problems the storm may have caused.

School was canceled Tuesday after first being delayed for two hours, said a spokesman at West Craven High School. He said about 2 inches of snow fell at the school.

Classes at area community colleges were also delayed for two hours or canceled, said college officials.

The N.C. Highway Patrol was dispatched to about several traffic accidents in the county Tuesday morning, said a dispatcher with the sheriff's office.

The accidents were still under investigation and no further details were available Tuesday morning.

K.B. Taylor, a dispatcher for the Highway Patrol communications center in Williamston, said snow and slush were reported on roads from Morehead City north to the Virginia line.

"Driving is hazardous," Taylor said. "I had to come to work this morning, but I don't recommend that people drive unless they absolutely have to."

Flights were delayed at Pitt-Greenville airport early Tuesday morning but by 9 a.m. the flights were back on schedule, a spokesman for the airport said.

Gale force winds on the coast caused interruption of ferry service to Ocracoke Island.

S.A. Oliver, a spokesman for the U.S. Coast Guard at Ocracoke said gale warnings had been issued at the station by 7:30 a.m. Tuesday. The station was reporting winds at 20 to 35 knots with gusts up to 40 knots and seas at 10 feet. The winds were expected to decrease tonight to 10 to 15 knots and seas to subside to six feet, Oliver said.

The Cedar Island-Ocracoke ferry had not left Cedar Island Tuesday morning, according to Faye Womack of the Department of Transportation in Ocracoke.

The Ocracoke-Swan Quarter ferry arrived late at Swan Quarter. It was not known Tuesday

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## Teacher At Farm Life An Educator Of Month

A teacher at Farm Life Elementary School in Vanceboro is one of three educators in Craven County honored by being selected as an Educator of the Month.

The New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the New Bern-Craven County Board of Education selected Cynthia Ann Johnston of Farm Life, Betty Jo Riggle of Trent Park Elementary School and Sarah D. Varner of Havelock Middle School as the Educators of the Month for March.

Mrs. Johnston, a second grade teacher, graduated from East Carolina University. She received her degree in child development and family relations with a minor in psychology. She later completed her work for her teaching certificate and a master's degree and is currently taking classes in mentor training.

Mrs. Johnston said her goal is to teach each student on his or her own level and at a pace that is challenging but not frustrating. Questions from students in the classroom are often answered with thought-provoking questions that will help the student solve his or her problem and therefore feel successful.

The lines of communication

between Mrs. Johnston and her students are open — whether the students need academic help or just a hug to start the day. Parents are made aware of classroom happenings by frequent notes and phone calls in her attempt to develop open communication with parents as well as students.

Mrs. Johnston and her co-workers will soon be opening a classroom store for the children to practice handling money.

Mrs. Johnston is a member of Bell Arthur Christian Church. She is a member of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. She is married to Timothy Johnston of Greenville. She has a son and stepdaughter.

Mrs. Varner, a native of North Carolina and a sixth grade teacher, graduated from St. Andrew's College in Laurinburg with a degree in elementary education. After teaching in Virginia for 17 years, she returned to North Carolina and has taught sixth graders at Havelock Middle School for the past five years.

Mrs. Varner said she places a strong emphasis on oral and written communication in her classroom teaching. Students make speeches that are videotaped and writing in all forms is encouraged. Students keep journals,



Mrs. Johnston

write compositions and poetry among many other activities. Mrs. Varner's professionalism, interest in each individual child and her organized manner enables her to establish good rapport and open communication with students, parents and co-workers.

Mrs. Varner is a member of several professional organizations including Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary educators' sorority. She and her husband, Michael, live in Morehead City. Her hobbies including boating, traveling, bridge, gardening and reading.

Mrs. Riggle, a second and third grade teacher at Trent Park Elementary, graduated from

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## 'This Reminds Me Of Home,' Says Dutch Exchange Student

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By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

Hanneke Van Der Meer got a taste of home Saturday — and she didn't have to travel thousands of miles back to her home in the Netherlands.

Just a short drive up from Vanceboro to the Tulip Festival in Washington gave the Dutch exchange student a chance to see familiar sights and hear familiar sounds. And while some at the festival wore Dutch costumes, Hanneke wore a smile during her visit.

"This is fun," she said, strolling along Washington's waterfront and taking in everything from a stiltwalker to doggies dressed in Dutch costumes. Her eyes lit up at the sound of Dutch conversation coming from the Terra Ceia Christian School's food booths.

While Judy McLawhorn, Hanneke's "mother" while she is in the United States, watched oliebollen (a Dutch pastry) being prepared, Hanneke spent minutes conversing in Dutch with William Van Staalduinen. The grandfatherly tulip grower's voice boomed as the conversation continued. Hanneke's smile broadened.

She told him that she was from Heiloo, a small town about 45 miles from Amsterdam. He told her to go talk to his wife. He said he left the Netherlands when he was three, but his wife left when she was in her 20s. When the stranger approached Mrs. Van Staalduinen and greeted her in Dutch, the woman's face broke into a wide grin.

Mrs. McLawhorn, sampling an oliebollen.

asked Hanneke why she had not fixed the Dutch treat for her and husband John. Hanneke said she hadn't thought of it. As Mrs. McLawhorn sampled some Dutch soup later, Hanneke explained how it was made.

"This reminds me of home a little bit. In some towns, the people still wear clothes like the costumes these people are wearing," she said, pointing to a group of women and children. Hanneke and Mrs. McLawhorn did some window shopping at tables displaying imported Dutch food.

Mrs. McLawhorn bought some oliebollen mix and Hanneke promised to help cook the treat.

"The tulips back home are blooming now too," she said.

Hanneke took part in the festival's morning parade. As the car she was in moved down Main Street, parade watchers would burst into applause when they read the sign on the car identifying the rider as a Dutch exchange student. A voice from the crowd asked a question in Dutch. "He asked me if I spoke Dutch. I told him I did," she explained to her driver.

She was greeted with "Welcome," "Glad you're here," "We hope you like it."

"I really like the kindness of the people," she said. In fact, that's what she likes best about America — the friendliness of the people. "What she likes least about the United States are the fast-food restaurants."

Meal time is a time for the family to gather for fellowship, she explains. Fast-food establishments, in her opinion, take away from that time

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