



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



VOLUME 12 No. 20

MAY 18, 1989

VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

25 CENTS

SIX PAGES



Old Baldy

Outer Banks Residents Say No To Old Baldy

By Mike Voss
Editor

A proposal to name Old Baldy as the official state lighthouse has people along the Outer Banks wanting to pull their hair out — along with pulling the plug on the resolution in the General Assembly.

The suggestion that Old Baldy, located on privately-owned Bald Head Island at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, be named the official state lighthouse has drawn criticism from residents from Manteo to Murphy.

Although Old Baldy just might

be the oldest lighthouse in North Carolina, some coastal residents said others might better serve as the state's official lighthouse — in particular, the well-known light at Cape Hatteras.

The resolution, introduced by Reps. David Redwine and George Robinson and adopted by the House on May 9, is awaiting Senate consideration.

The resolution states that Aug. 7, 1989, is the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Lighthouse Act by President George Washington. Bald Head Island was the site of the first lighthouse funded by

the federal government on North Carolina soil. Old Baldy was built in 1817, a direct descendant of the original lighthouse finished in 1795.

Advocates point out that while Bald Head Island is privately owned, its more than 10,000 acres of marsh and estuarine areas belong to the state.

But one expert points out there is a great deal of uncertainty over Bald Head Island, formerly Smith Island and before that Cape Fear Island.

"Even the name is misleading; for while some apply it to an

entire island and others only to part of an island, there are still others to whom Bald Head is no more than a small part of a part of a single island," says David Stick in his 1985 book on the area.

Sen. Marc Basnight of Dare County, whose district includes four lighthouses, said if Old Baldy is named the official state lighthouse, "I imagine there will be some questions from people all across the state." Basnight expects residents of the northern coastal area of the state to be cool

(See LIGHTHOUSE, Page 5)



Hatteras Lighthouse



West Craven Marching Band appearing in festival parade

Strawberry Will Reign At Festival

Families Find Fruit, Fun, Festival Fabulous, Fantastic

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

It's that time of year again.

Get your picking fingers in shape and prepare to do a lot of picking Saturday as the strawberry takes over Vanceboro Saturday for the annual Strawberry Festival/Rescue Day. Get ready to pick a day's worth of excitement.

Vanceboro is busily preparing for the upcoming seventh annual Strawberry Festival/Rescue Day to be held Saturday in Vanceboro. The festivities will begin sweetening the day at 10 a.m. with a pa-

rade down Main Street. The parade procession will include the West Craven High School Band, floats and a plethora of parade participants.

Over on Farm Life Avenue, there will be a craft extravaganza, church bazaars with baked goods, and of course many strawberry delights like shortcake, ice cream, and other culinary masterpieces.

After the parade, focus will turn to activities at the fire house. Fire and rescue personnel will be spon-

(See FESTIVAL, Page 5)

Vanceboro Business Closing After 31 Years

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

After 31 years, Cannon's Variety Store is closing its doors.

Sewing notions, toys, household goods and gifts are only a few of the items that could be bought at the store. Walk in the store now and half-empty shelves will confirm that the store is going out of business.

The business opened its doors for the first time on April 12, 1958. Opening those doors were Richard and Janis Cannon. The store was originally located on Main Street in Vanceboro where Edward's Small Engine Repair is presently located.

"I practically raised my two youngest (children) in a playpen in the back of the store until they could walk; then they went to stay with Mrs. Cora Lewis," said Mrs. Cannon about her early years in the store.

"The Cannon children worked in the store on weekends during their college years, except for their son, Rick, who was attending a college farther away.

Cannon began teaching in 1964, leaving Mrs. Cannon to run the store with assistance from her husband when possible. She later turned to two employees — and friends — for help operating the store.

"Mrs. Helen Gaskins and Mrs. Reba Mitchell have been faithful employees working with Cannon's throughout the years," she said.

Meanwhile, her husband was using his years of teaching to build one of the nation's top marketing education programs at West Craven High School. He is director of the program and advisor to the school's chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America.

"The store also provided employment for DECA students giving them the chance to learn hands-on business skills as well as work experience. It also gave us the chance to keep in touch with young people throughout the community," said Mrs. Cannon.

She discussed the store and what she felt were its contribu-

(See CANNON'S, Page 5)

Farm Life's Alumni Gather For Reunion

By TERRI JAMIESON
Staff Writer

For one night every year the halls, rooms and cafeteria at Farm Life Elementary School in Vanceboro might seem to be more like the old Farm Life School that many in the area knew as a high school.

But when West Craven High School opened its doors, Farm Life was no longer a high school. Only in the memories of former students. And those memories were refreshed last Friday night at the annual Farm Life High School Alumni Banquet.

This year's banquet brought together about 300 people. A roll call was taken by the year of gra-

duation. Donald Wetherington represented the earliest graduating class at the reunion — the Class of 1920.

The annual banquet is one of the top social events of the year for the Vanceboro community and allows grandmothers — even great-grandmothers — to recall the days of their youth when they were courted by what are today's grandfathers and great-grandfathers.

The school opened in 1913 and when West Craven opened in 1971 it ceased as a high school. Anyone eavesdropping at the banquet could have heard the following statements:

(See REUNION, Page 5)



Math Club members enjoy outside

Students Discover Reading 'Bearable'

The theme for National Library Week observed at Farm Life Elementary School in Vanceboro was "Books Are Bear-y Special."

"Teddy Bears" was the theme in Lori Jones' kindergarten class. The students listened to stories about a different bear each day, including Winnie the Pooh, Corduroy, the Berenstain Bears and others. The class also listened to "The First Teddy Bear."

The class' color word for the week was brown. The students brought a toy brown bear to school and each child introduced their bears to the class and told about an experience they had shared with their bears.

Students also wore their pajamas and gowns and slippers to school and they brought their favorite bear. The children wore nametags with their names and their bears' names on them. The bears received awards for being the fuzziest, biggest, smallest and others. The class' nes reading book is titled "The Bear Picnic." The students later had a picnic with their bears.

Mrs. Stanforth's kindergarten class celebrated National Library Week by reading books about bears and making teddy-bear shaped books that told of adventures of their favorite bears.

The entire school participated in a coloring contest with winners chosen from each homeroom. The winners were awarded paperback books. Students also took part in a 15-minute read-in at the school to end one day.

A new math club for fifth-grade students has been started at Farm Life Elementary School.

The club meets every Thursday afternoon from 3 to 4 p.m. Four leaders were chosen by their classmates to represent each of the fifth-grade classes. The leaders are Jeremy Mills, Eric Phillips, Camessa Edwards and Keahia Harris. Chosen as secretaries from each of the classes are Deondra McCaffity, Iman Moore, Jessica Swindell and Pretrice Davis.

(See FARM LIFE, Page 5)

Vanceboro Selects New Police Chief

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

The town of Vanceboro will soon see a new face enforcing the laws and providing safety for her residents. Donald Greenwaldt, a police veteran with the New Bern Police Department for over 14 years, has accepted a position with the Vanceboro Police Department.

Greenwaldt, who currently lives in New Bern, will begin full time work starting Saturday at the Strawberry Festival.

Greenwaldt, originally from Springfield, Mass., is looking forward to starting his law enforcement career again. When asked what motivated him to accept the position, he replied, "I feel like it will be a good opportunity to get back into law enforcement. I'm impressed with the sense of civic

pride in the people of Vanceboro." He went on to say Vanceboro is known in the law enforcement community as a town that takes care of its police department. He called it one of the "best equipped police departments for its size town in North Carolina."

Greenwaldt said that law enforcement had appealed to him for a long time and had been a childhood dream which he started to fulfill twenty years ago in New Bern.

A.F. Whitley, who acts as the police commissioner for Vanceboro said, "Vanceboro is fortunate to find someone with the experience and caliber of Greenwaldt." Whitley and Mayor Jimmie Morris are responsible for the hiring of Greenwaldt.

(See POLICEMAN, Page 5)

Stroud Joining Staff As Part-Time Writer

There's a new face at the Highlights. Greg Stroud, a native of eastern North Carolina, returns after an 11-year stay in Fayetteville and joins the Highlights as a staff writer.

Stroud said he is excited about his new post. "I am really looking forward to meeting all of the people of Vanceboro and becoming part of the community. I have really been impressed with how cooperative and friendly everyone has been so far."

Stroud returned to the New Bern area when diabetes caused him to have to leave Methodist College in midsemester. "My parents had moved to the area from Fayetteville because my mother received a transfer from her employer, Carolina Telephone. It just seemed natural to come to where my parents were. I'm happy to be back in the eastern part of the state," he said.

Stroud, originally from between

Robersonville and Stokes, spent most of his elementary years in Williamston. From there he moved to Fayetteville, where he graduated from Westover Senior High School.

"My goal here at the Highlights is to serve the people of Vanceboro and the surrounding areas as a voice to things happening in their community. In order to accomplish this goal, I am counting on the support of local residents and community leaders to keep me informed. I am always delighted to receive newsletters and invitations to the various functions going on in the area."

Editor Mike Voss said he was pleased to have Stroud on the staff and that Stroud's experience working for The Fayetteville Times will hopefully add to and improve coverage of local events and news.