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Garden Club decorates for tour — 1B

482-4418

Wednesday, December 17, 2014

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## Is there river herring in our future?

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor

A local business rooted in the area's river herring fishing tradition has collected some 5,000 signatures on a petition backing the continuation of fishing — on a limited scale — for river herring in the state's coastal rivers.

Fishery regulators, meanwhile, indicate that it will take a decade or more by the most optimistic estimates before the river herring might rebound enough to warrant fishing.

All sides in this discussion understand that the once bountiful river herring has fallen on hard times — very hard times.

But Chris McCaffity, a commercial fishing activist from Carteret County, met with Ricky Nixon of Murray L. Nixon Fishery in Rocky Hock last year and asked Nixon to join McCaffity's petition drive on behalf of continued limited landings of river herring.

Nixon said he was glad to participate.

McCaffity said he has gathered about 10,000 signatures, including those collected through the Nixon Fishery.

The petition opposes planned state action — based on fisheries management plans developed through the New Jersey-based Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Management Council — to stop river herring fishing in the state's rivers altogether.

The state has been under a moratorium on river herring fishing, with only strictly limited landings allowed during a very short season, since 2007. Proposed new rules would end even that limited fishing.

Nixon said the Chowan River is the historic center of river herring fishing in the state, and customers of his business regularly ask about the fish.

"The local people here are the ones that are missing it," Nixon said. "This is the area for the herrings. This is a heritage for Chowan County."

The petition reads: "I support allowing the N.C. River Herring fishery to continue as we work to rebuild stocks. Please do not let this be the last year your constituents get to enjoy an ancient spring tradition that dates back 10,000 years. Thank you for listening to these concerned citizens who signed this petition to show their public support for our freedom to

See HERRING, 2A



PHOTO COURTESY ENDOLYMPH.BLOGSPOT.COM/

Researchers gather river herring in the Chowan River as part of a scientific study.

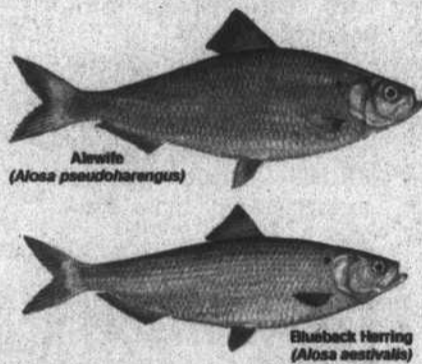
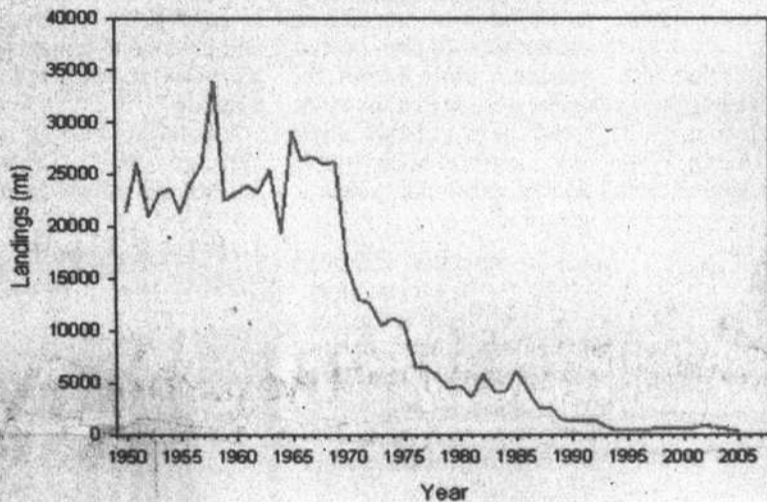


PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

These photos show adult Alewife and Blueback Herring with their scientific names.

### River Herring Commercial Landings



COURTESY MID-ATLANTIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

This graph shows the steep decline in commercial landings of river herring in East Coast states from a peak in the late 1950s to a low in 2005.

## Hospital holds grand opening

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor

Vidant Chowan Hospital last week held a grand opening for its new, larger behavioral health center.



ALTOVILLA

The Behavioral Health area at the hospital has grown from 600 square feet on the second floor of the hospital to 4,000 square feet in the Administration Building.

Jeffery Dial, the hospital's vice president of operations, said during a brief ceremony last Thursday that the behavioral health program ensures adults and senior citizens will have access to services without lengthy travel being necessary.

"We have the great pleasure — our team — of making sure that these services are

See OPENING, 2A

## CANDLE LIGHT TOUR SHINES



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

A large Christmas tree greets guests at Pembroke Hall as they arrive during last weekend's Candlelight Tour.

## Bond connects with neighborhood

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 Editor

Town Councilman Elton Bond told residents at a meeting of the North Edenton Community Watch last week that he wants them to keep him informed about the neighborhood's concerns.

"I'm just here listening, and I'm being informed of a lot of things that are going on," Bond said during the meeting, held Thursday night at the Edenton-Chowan Campus of College of The Albemarle.

Bond told the group he wants people to call him with their concerns.

"Bring your complaints to me and I'll do everything I can to make sure that your voice is heard," Bond said.

Bond said it's good that the neighborhood is concerned. The town wants every neighborhood to be safe and clean.



BOND

See COUNCILMAN, 3A

## Council backs car charging station

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
 Staff Writer

The town council voted 5-1 last week to approve the installation of an electric car charging station in Edenton.

Councilman Elton Bond Jr. cast the lone "no" vote at the council's Dec. 8 monthly meeting.

Bond had stated at previous meetings that people in town he was hearing from did not favor the idea. He said they had trouble understanding why the town would agree to give away electric power as part of a pilot program in which it was selected to participate while citizens struggled to pay their utility bills.

In response to a question from Councilman Bob Quinn, Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said the double pedestal GE Durastation designed to accommodate two ve-

See STATION, 3A

"Come Join Us As We Celebrate Our Lord's Birth"

ST. PAUL'S, 101 W. CHURCH ST.  
 Rev. James G. Reed, Interim Rector

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

invites you to our

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:30 PM CHILDREN'S SERVICE  
 10:30 PM SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC  
 11:00 PM CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION  
 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE  
 The Rev. Dr. Rob MacSwain | 10:00 AM



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