

Independent Register

TUESDAY, December 20, 2005

Providing biweekly coverage of New Bern and Craven County

Single copy free

Meth lab blaze nets one arrest

BY WILLIAM R. TOLER
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

BRIDGETON — What started out as a call from a concerned citizen about a motorcycle at an unoccupied residence turned out to be a hot case for Craven County deputies Saturday, Dec. 17.

When Deputy Dan Garden, who also Bridgeton's police chief, responded to the call at 525 N B St., he overheard voices coming from a shed behind the neighboring house, according to Sgt. J.W. Heckman of the Craven County Sheriff's Office.

The occupants were Robert Brown and a woman whose name was not released. Brown was recently released from prison after a previous methamphetamine arrest in James City.

After Garden apprehended the woman, Brown shut the door and allegedly started a fire in the shed, which deputies believe was to destroy evidence of a meth lab. Garden then arrested Brown and reported the fire. Crews from the Tri-Community and Little Swift Creek volunteer fire departments responded to extinguish the blaze.

The State Bureau of Investigation was called in to inspect the scene and document evidence of methamphetamine production.

Heckman said that Brown was charged for arson and manufacturing methamphetamines.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

The reason for the season

Volunteers re-enact the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem on the opening night of Brices Creek Bible Church's Live Nativity Drive-Through on Monday, Dec. 19. The seven-scene presentation on church-owned land off U.S. 70 in the Grantham community featured audio broadcasts from two local radio affiliates. The free drive-through event runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and continues through Thursday, Dec. 22.

County to buy land for school

Architect for new jail also selected

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Craven County Schools can appropriate as much as \$375,000 to purchase land for a new elementary school in the Carolina Colours subdivision, county commissioners said Monday, Dec. 19.

The transaction will take place "as soon as possible," according to County Manager Harold Blizzard, but there is currently no timetable for selecting an architect or preparing a funding schedule.

In a previous joint meeting of the county commissioners and Craven County Board of Education, school officials said the swelling school district ideally would add a new elementary, middle and high school to relieve overcrowding.

"The elementary school seemed to be the most pressing, and it was probably the most reasonable thing to be done as far as cost," Blizzard said.

Carroll Ippock, chairman of the Board of Education, indicated that the new school would be modeled after Bridgeton and Havelock elementary schools.

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New Bern amps up electric rates

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Electric bills for City of New Bern utility subscribers will swell by an average of \$9 per month after city aldermen approved a rate increase on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The 7 1/2 percent increase covered the city's supplemental power purchase from Progress Energy due to projections that exceeded New Bern's power allotment and rate increases that were passed on to the city.

"If we don't up the rate, then we don't pay the bill," said Mayor Tom Bayliss. "And generally, when you don't pay the bill, people have a tendency to cut you off."

The motion to approve the 7 1/2 percent rise passed unanimously, with newly

elected Ward 6 Alderman Dana Outlaw abstaining from the vote after expressing chagrin that he was not provided with information on the rate increase.

"I haven't had any dialogue with anyone regarding the rate increase," he said. "Nobody from the city has called me to ask my opinion or to make me aware of anything."

Outlaw also objected to the rate increase being placed on the consent agenda, which is customarily approved in a single vote. Aldermen discussed the increase after Outlaw pulled the item off the consent agenda for further consideration.

Murmurs of tabling discussion until the board's Jan. 10 meeting were quickly abandoned when City Manager Bill Hartman

"All of us don't like the increase; all of us don't want the increase, but when they give us a bill, the people that use it have to pay it. That's just the way that America works."

Tom Bayliss
New Bern mayor

explained that waiting a month could cost the city an extra \$150,000.

Bayliss told the junior member of the Board of Aldermen, elected Nov. 8 in a runoff election, that further information on the rate increase had been made available to the entire board. He said the aldermen who voted in favor of the increase did not do so lightly.

"All of us don't like the increase; all of us don't want the increase," he said. "But

when they give us a bill, the people that use it have to pay it. That's just the way that America works."

The 7 1/2 percent rise will take effect in January.

After lengthy discussion, aldermen also approved an urban redevelopment plan for the Riverstation neighborhood after adopting a change to the ordinance that lowered the height limitation from four stories to

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City police warn of foreign lottery scam

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

A New Bern man was bilked out of nearly \$10,000 in a foreign lottery scam last month, and city police are encouraging residents to critically evaluate offers that seem too good to be true.

The man, whose identity was not revealed, received a phone call on Nov. 30 by someone who claimed to be a Canadian lawyer, who told him he had \$1.3 million in lottery winnings.

However, he could not receive the money until he paid taxes on the winnings, the caller told him.

After making three wire transfers totaling \$9,800 to Quebec, the man dialed a phone number provided by the caller to complete the

transaction and receive his winnings.

The man reached an answering service and has had no further contact with the "lawyer," according to a New Bern Police Department news release.

"This type of lottery scam is not new, nor is it original," read the release signed by Chief of Police Frank Palombo. "Many people have heard of Nigerian lottery scams, but calls are also coming frequently from people representing Canadian lottery officials."

New Bern police are urging residents who have received similar phone calls or e-mails to report such correspondence to local law enforcement immediately.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

Jonkonnu celebration

A Tryon Palace character interpreter portrays the Ragman during annual Jonkonnu festivities on Saturday, Dec. 17.

Displaced seasonal workers should prepare early to reenter job market

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Dozens of seasonal workers hired for the Christmas shopping rush ring in the New Year with a pink slip.

But finding a suitable permanent full-time or part-time position can be a swift process for well-prepared job applicants, according to Mary Brown, manager of the Employment Security Commission and Craven County Job/Link office in New Bern.

Smith suggested that all job seekers register with the

ESC, a state agency that provides free job referrals and vocational counseling, matching employers with prospective employees.

Temporary workers should begin seeking a permanent job before the term of their seasonal employment ends, she said.

"I've always heard it's easier to find a job if you've got one," she said. "Continue to look for permanent work while you work your temporary job."

Smith said before applying for a particular position, prospective

employees should research the company as much as possible. Applicants should update resumes, contact information and references and be prepared to provide an employer with their Social Security number, mailing address, work history and education summary.

Yet the most important job-hunting tools, Smith said, are a smile and a positive attitude.

"Go in with a positive attitude and with a smile on your face," she said. "When you go in looking for work, go in and present yourself in a

positive manner in an effort to show them that you want to work."

Statistics on the number of seasonal employees in Craven County were unavailable, but Smith said many retail stores will bolster their workforce to meet anticipated sales increases during the holiday season.

The average weekly wage for the county is \$593, she said, which includes wages of both temporary and permanent employees.

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Local & State

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News Briefs

Bridgeton sets public workshop

BRIDGETON — The Town of Bridgeton has scheduled a public workshop for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3 at Town Hall.

The purpose of the workshop is to review the town's fire protection service contract, e-mail procedures, floodplain management administration, zoning and other miscellaneous issues.

For more information, contact Elaine G. Bryan, town clerk, at 637-3697.

Dover town officials are sworn in

DOVER — Town aldermen here voted to approve the 2005-06 North Carolina Interlocal Insurance Property and Liability and workers' compensation policies Monday, Dec. 5.

The town clerk administered the oath of office to Dover Mayor Malcolm Johnson and to each of the new aldermen who will serve two-year terms, expiring in 2008.

Herman Arnette was selected to be mayor pro-tempore and water commissioner. John Wetherington was appointed finance officer, Robert Pollard got the nod for health and welfare officer, Mike Traylor was named parks and recreation officer, and Richard Giddings was appointed street commissioner and zoning board advisor.

The mayor expressed his gratitude to outgoing aldermen Charles Barrow and D.L. White for their service to the community.

The Board of Aldermen will hold its first meeting of 2006 on Jan. 2 in the Dover Town Hall.

UNC-G is accused of censorship

GREENSBORO — The University of North Carolina at Greensboro has disciplined two students who staged a demonstration protesting the existence of designated "free-speech zones" on campus outside the free-speech zones.

Allison Jaynes and Robert Sinott, members of UNC-G's College Libertarians, organized a 40-person rally on Nov. 16, according to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a Philadelphia-based advocacy center for student expressive rights. When the students did not comply with an administrator's request to move the protest to one of the designated speech zones, they were each charged with a violation of respect, FIRE said in a press release.

Disciplinary hearings for Jaynes and Sinott are scheduled to take place in January.

Briefs are compiled from *Independent Register* staff reports. To submit information for this space, e-mail news@indieregister.com.

Sewer project may exceed budget

New Bern city engineer: total hinges on Victoria Lane and engineers' increase

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

TRENT WOODS — An ongoing project to connect residents here to the city of New Bern's sewer system may be as much as \$110,000 over budget.

New Bern city engineer David Muse told town officials at the Thursday, Dec. 8 Board of Commissioners meeting that the projected budget overrun "includes a hefty increase that the engineers have asked for that [city manager] Mr. [Bill] Hartman has contention with."

Muse reported on the city Department of Public Works' progress in completing sewer hook-

ups, anticipating that the entire town will receive sewer service from New Bern by the end of January.

He said the project should be on budget if the engineers do not receive their requested increase and if residents on Virginia Lane do not receive service.

"We're pretty well close to budget, to be honest with you," Muse said. "Take Virginia Lane out and deny the engineers' increase, and we'll be right around budget."

Trent Woods Mayor Don Day noted that New Bern is "obligated by contract to offer sewer service to Virginia Lane," which falls inside town limits.

Muse explained that the city may not be able to extend service to Virginia Lane because of easement concerns, but said New Bern engineers will work closely with town officials to serve as many residents as possible.

Trent Woods resident Thomas Hartman reported dissatisfaction in his dealings with Muse's office, telling town commissioners that he had difficulty contacting city engineers and that a secretary mistakenly told him that work on his property was done when it had not taken place.

"It doesn't develop much confidence in me when I hear that type of response off the cuff just to get rid of me,"

he said. "I just have to think that if I'm having problems, that everyone else is, too."

Residents quizzed Muse on the replacement of trees that were cleared from public easements in order to complete sewer hook-ups. Although some Trent Woods homeowners had paid to trim the trees on adjacent easements, Muse said New Bern will only replace trees and shrubbery cleared from private property.

Commissioners pledged to use available funding to beautify public land, including easements, that was cleared during the sewer project.

"If it looks like the city of New Bern is not going to

satisfy everyone...the town is going to pay some money to make things right," Day said.

Trent Woods commissioners also approved a resolution to continue the town's membership in the North Carolina Municipal Insurance Trust, which provides insurance for town employees.

Commissioners thanked volunteers who participated in the town Christmas parade.

"I think we had a wonderful parade. Anyone who doesn't think so, you're entitled to your opinion, but you're wrong," parade coordinator Charlene Parrotte said with a smile.



Santa on the move

INDEPENDENT REGISTER PHOTOS BY WILLIAM R. TOLER

Jolly old Saint Nick made the rounds this month, appearing at Christmas parades Sunday, Dec. 11 in Cove City, above, arriving in style in a classic Ford Falcon, and Saturday, Dec. 10 in Ermul, riding in a traditional sleigh. One of Santa's reindeer -- or is that a reingoa? -- watches the crowds disperse after the conclusion of Cove City's annual Christmas Parade.



Off the Wall Jonkonnu reflects colonial capital's heritage

I waited a whole year for Jonkonnu (emphasis on the last syllable). All year long, I would hum and sing the words from one of the songs, over and over. "Hello somebody, hello," would replay in my brain, along with an accompanying thrill for having danced in the street one cold evening last December.

Here it is that time again, and I am back on the corner across from Tryon Palace, waiting. Suddenly, a lady in old timey dress and head covering appears, carrying a parasol. "Jonkonnu is coming, Jonkonnu is coming," she shouts to bystanders. Wide eyes and open hearts are ready for the approaching revelry.

A young man standing directly in front of the palace

gate, asks, "Who is Jonkonnu?"

"WHO is Jonkonnu?" she counters, "Well, you will see this evening who Jonkonnu is."

Behind her, a merry procession of about 25 children and adults follow a lanky, towering man wearing a black top hat and black suit. They sing along with him, and so do I, without knowing the correct pronunciation of some of the words. "Hello, somebody," he yells.

We yell back to him. Words from the familiar song flow from our mouths, as well as

"The winter soon be over, children," "Come along, Moses, don't get lost," and "Ragman, ragman." Drummers set the beat for

us. After each song we clap and whoop.

Women dancers extend hands to us to join in the dancing. I accept t h e a n d move my b o d y back and forth as s h e s w e a t s and long underwear do not shield my aching legs from the cold, but I press onward in the spirit of the dance, knowing it will be short-lived. It ends only when she says to me, "Let's rest."

Women dancers



SANDRA ERVIN ADAMS

A teenage boy is dancing with his partner, his fast feet bridging the gap between present-day dance steps and those of the past. A lady to my right says she would like to dance but doesn't know how. "Just get out there and do it," I tell her.

Meanwhile, the man in the black top hat is making his rounds, holding out a tin cup in the old tradition, asking for money, goes to a door next to the palace gate and solicits an offering from the "wealthy homeowner," in period dress. He smiles as a child dances.

We call for the ragman to dance, and he responds as soon as he can get the drum strap around his body. Grinning, he shakes and shimmers to the music, his brightly colored, tattered

clothes quivering in the air, his horned headdress crowning his head.

All too soon the fun is over, this joyous occasion which, in actuality, likely came from Jamaica to North Carolina around 1770. This festival is based upon many possible derivations of the African language, and there may have been someone named John Canoe or John Cooner who was an African slave trader.

Regardless of its origins, this custom has a firm hold on the holiday season here in North Carolina's first capital city, and a place, as well, in this writer's heart.

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Opinion

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Editorial

Resolution time

New year presents opportunity for positive change

With the fresh start that only the passage of another year can confer, many individuals make New Year's resolutions — pledges to stamp out destructive habits or to pursue a long-term goal with renewed vigor.

In anticipation of New Year's Eve 2005, the *Independent Register* has compiled a list of resolutions we'd like to see made and kept by local governments, businesses, schools and other groups within Craven County.

Beginning with our public school system, the **Craven County Board of Education** should resolve to lift its needless and repressive ban on long T-shirts and baggy pants. School board officials claim the clothing, which is ubiquitous in teenage circles, indicates gang membership, but we doubt that declaring war on urban fashion will deter county teens from joining gangs or wanting to do so.

Youths have long associated clothing with self-expression, and educators shouldn't meddle with that expression without a clear and compelling reason. Teens should have the right to express themselves through their clothing choices, even if that expression makes some of us uncomfortable.

Bangert Elementary School in Trent Woods should resolve to better promote and defend students' religious liberty. In November, a 10-year-old Bangert student received a five-day suspension after bringing a deck of Goddess Guidance Oracle Cards to school. The student, who studies witchcraft and pagan faiths, was reprimanded for violating the school's ban on cards.

While discouraging poker and gin rummy on the school bus seems reasonable enough, no school policy should ever supersede students' right to practice the religion of their choice in the way they see fit.

Craven Community College should resolve to end its campaign of repression and intimidation, which began when the campus resource officer warned students engaged in heated social and political debates that their speech was unacceptable and bordered on disorderly conduct.

A discussion on slavery that allegedly spurred some racist invective from one student offended several eavesdroppers, who complained to campus security. Problem is, racism isn't illegal, and no one is guaranteed the right to be free from offense.

As Greg Lukianoff of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education told us in November, "Polite, agreeable speech doesn't need a separate amendment to protect it. We need the First Amendment in order to protect speech that can anger or provoke."

When confronted with similar situations in the future, we hope CCC officials parrot E. Beatrice Hall, who famously said, "I disagree with what you have to say, but will defend to the death your right to say it."

Moving on to our Craven County municipalities, the **City of New Bern** should resolve to court North Carolina's burgeoning film and television industry and offer filmmakers ample incentives to make this photogenic burg a star on the silver screen.

Screen Gems Studios president Frank Capra Jr. suggested Tryon Palace as a natural draw for the state's moviemakers, most of whom are based in Wilmington. We couldn't agree more. New Bern is an ideal location to make movies, and the city should find it in its best interest to help get the word out.

The **Craven County Board of Commissioners** should resolve to cut all support to the Global TransPark, a commercial air depot in Kinston that hasn't taken off despite steady support from nearby municipalities and a yearly feast of pork from the N.C. General Assembly.

Even if the GTP was beneficial to Lenoir County — which thus far hasn't been the case — we fail to see why Craven County should help foot the bill for a commercial project that doesn't involve it and won't bring work or prestige to Craven County.

County Commissioner Bill Harper just about got it right when he called GTP board members "well-dressed thieves." But these thieves don't pilfer money from the county coffers, they have it freely given to them.

Craven Regional Medical Center should resolve to obtain Level III trauma center certification from the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management Services as soon as possible. Hospital officials told us that CRMC provides care that is equivalent to that available at a Level III trauma center but does not perceive trauma designation as a priority. We wonder why the hospital is dragging its feet when trauma patients injured in Craven County are customarily airlifted to Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville — which has a Level I trauma center designation—when many such patients could be treated effectively at CRMC if it met minimum criteria for trauma center designation.

In the private sector, **Twin Rivers Mall** and its new owner, Hull Storey Retail Group, should resolve to fill at least half of the mall's empty stores by the end of 2006. If New Bern's teenagers had a reason to shop locally instead of spending money in larger shopping centers, the colonial capital's economy might further strengthen.



Graphic illustration by William R. Toler

What do YOU think?

Letters to the editor are accepted for publication in this space each issue. Letters should be 350 words or fewer and should contain the author's name and telephone number for verification purposes.

Mail letters to the Independent Register, 1734 Elmwood Street New Bern, NC 28560, fax them to (252) 636-0616 or e-mail them to letters@indieregister.com.

Verbatim

“If anyone doesn't believe in Scrooge, they haven't bought any gas lately.”

Lee K. Allen
Craven County commissioner

“Bill Ballenger is a man of impeccable reputation. He has never made a promise to me that he did not keep. I want him to know that he will always be my friend.”

Julius Parham
New Bern alderman

“I think we had a wonderful parade. Anyone who doesn't think so, you're entitled to your opinion, but you're wrong.”

Charlene Parrotte
Trent Woods Christmas Parade coordinator

Spunky Diablo's Laundromat

Jealousy just an affirmation of mates' alpha male status

Guys, does your mate rouse your jealousy, on purpose, in a thousand little ways? If so, there's good reason.

Studies show that your testicles produce 30 percent more sperm cells when you're jealous. Your brain tricks your scrotum into gearing up for the Great Testicle Olympics. Every nation is represented. The Swedes are here, as are the Germans — look, see them warming up? — you got your Chinese, your Hondurans, even *gasp!* some Nigerians and Somalians.

Thirty-five years ago, most of these nations would've been asked to find another pool, but it's clear today that your testicles are nowhere near as valuable as you once thought — sorry, but there's *plenty* of room in the fishing hole, and if you're not careful you just might find yourself posted out.

You see, jealousy is one of evolution's most essential tools. It allows a woman to test the confidence (substitute *sexual potency*) of her potential mate and gives her the chance to ensure that his facilities are in prime working order once they're coupled.

This is important, because although your wife

adores you, her vagina does not: It will splash your army of invading Turks with acid, then force them to trek across thousands of miles of hostile terrain, a Bataan death march of love whose mortality rates make the worst thing Hitler did look like an act of charity.

Only one of your tadpoles will survive this mass spermicide, if you're lucky (or unlucky, depending on how you look at it)...and the pitiful truth is that that single soldier was the only one capable of doing the job anyway.

That's right, out of 30 million or so sperm cells, only one is equipped to get 'er done. The rest are fodder. Grist.

Meat for the beast. Religious life asks us to frustrate evolution. The Almighty wants us to remember that time means nothing to It. It sits back and watches ape morph into man

in scant nanoseconds. The interstices are of no consequence — only humans care about the in-between moments of their own evolution, and with good reason: we are probably an interstitial moment ourselves, a means to an end like the Neanderthal was a means to an end.

There are more incarnations of us yet to come; perhaps the Bible is a treatise on how to subvert evolution, to stand up and demonstrate that we are the creature an undecided God really wants.

That's why the concept of free will is so important. It's not just a means by which we can be happy — it's a means by which we can achieve a premature escape velocity from our simian selves.

Men, if you are letting yourselves be manipulated by jealousy, you belong back in the trees with the rest of the herd. Recognize her subtle attacks for what they really are: an affirmation of your Alpha Male status. Recognize, and be flattered.

And if that doesn't work, remember Spunky Diablo's *Rule No. 13: If she persists, you must dismiss!*

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“At its best, journalism illuminates the human condition, publicizes societal inequities and provides the public with the unvarnished truth -- a record of events untainted by personal bias. It is this admirable and noteworthy form of journalism that the *Independent Register* strives to practice.”

- The Independent Register
Operating Structure and Standard Protocol

Letters to the Editor Policy

The *Independent Register* accepts editorial submissions and letters to the editor for publication. All submissions become property of the *Independent Register* upon receipt.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words. Letters must be signed and must include the author's ad-

dress and telephone number for verification purposes. The *Independent Register* does not accept anonymous letters, open letters or letters to a third party. The *Independent Register* reserves the right to reject submissions and will edit all submissions for spelling, grammar, clarity, accuracy and Associated Press style.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

A 1993 Chevrolet Blazer is loaded onto a wrecker after overturning on the Pembroke exit overpass on Wednesday, Dec. 14. The Blazer, driven by David Beardsley, was struck by a Dodge sedan that ran a red light, according to New Bern police.

County to secure land for a new elementary school

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Commissioners also earmarked \$1.25 million for a lump sum payment to the architect awarded the contract for the new Craven County jail, which will also house the sheriff's office, the magistrate's office and chambers for the county district court.

Blizzard said county administrators determined a lump sum payment would be more cost effective than negotiating an overall percentage to be paid to the architect.

Responding to a comment from Commissioner Lee K. Allen regarding change orders — which could push a construction project over budget — Blizzard said the county had negotiated a cap on change orders. Money spent exceeding that amount would come out of the architect's pocket, he said.

"We have pored over this and feel confident with it," Blizzard assured the board. "We think that it will be satisfactory."

Craven's board of elections will have to purchase new voting machines and replace the current models in time for May primaries, Elections Director Tiffney Miller told commissioners.

All North Carolina counties are facing similar

crossroads, she said, because the state board of elections decertified the equipment currently in use. Election reforms passed in the General Assembly mandate a paper trail for all ballots, which Craven's current direct-recording equipment does not provide.

"I feel Craven County is in good shape in regards to our elections office," Miller said. "We have worked closely with the state. The one thing we can all be proud of is our state is moving ahead. Our state is really trying to make this a uniform system."

State elections officials have certified just two voting systems vendors to sell the approved equipment, which may carry a hefty price tag. The county paid \$600,000 to purchase its current DRE voting machines in 1997.

Miller said federal grants totaling \$350,000 may be available to defray county expenses.

The Craven County Board of Elections has scheduled a public forum on the new voting systems for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 28, in the county courthouse annex building.

"We don't want this to be a Board of Elections or Board of Commissioners project," Miller said. "This is a Craven County project."

The elections director said additional funding will also be needed to train precinct officials and bolster public awareness of new voting systems and regulations.

Also during their Dec. 19 meeting, commissioners viewed a presentation on the Citizen-Soldier Support Program, a federally funded North Carolina initiative to garner community support for deployed National Guard soldiers and military reservists.

About 47 percent of all troops deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq are from North Carolina, said Crystal Moore, Citizen-Soldier community liaison. The Tar Heel State claims 37,150 of all National Guard and reserve servicemen.

Moore explained that "citizen-soldiers" are pressed into duty in times of need, and families are usually less prepared to cope with deployment than families of full-time enlisted soldiers, sailors and Marines.

"When they're called up to active duty, they leave a family behind in our community," Moore said. "We really need to take care of the families they leave behind."

Aldermen vote to hike electric rates

Continued from Page A1

three stories in order to preserve the area's uniformity.

The compromise followed a parliamentary rarity — a motion to table discussion until the next meeting was superseded by a substitute motion, which in turn was upstaged by another substitute motion.

Aldermen reached a 3-3 stalemate over a motion to

table discussion, with Bayliss breaking the tie and forcing immediate consideration of the redevelopment plan.

Citizens had expressed concern that the addition of some 2,700 households in the Riverstation district would strain the city's police and fire agencies as well as the already overcrowded Craven County Schools.

"As the city's responsibility expands, as the need expands, we will do our very best to guarantee

that there is going to be adequate police protection, adequate fire protection and adequate recreational facilities for the citizens of New Bern," said Alderman Mack L. Freeze.

"We will not let the citizens of this community go to bed terrified...we won't shortchange this neighborhood or any other."

Contact Corey Friedman at 633-2757 or at corey@indieregister.com.

Seasonal workers seek jobs

Continued from Page A1

After submitting an application or interviewing for a position, Smith recommends that job seekers contact the prospective employer to communicate their continued interest.

"Follow up with the company after you fill out the application," she said. "This shows the employer that you are seriously interested in the job."

The ESC does not charge employers to list open positions. The New Bern office, located on 1305 Simmons St., matches employers and job seekers in Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties, Smith explained.

Open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, the ESC and Job/Link office offers free registration and an array of job placement services. Those looking for work can also register online at <http://www.ncesc.com>.

Classifieds

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Basic classified advertisements for individuals and businesses are \$5 for five lines of copy with the first line bolded, with \$0.50 added for each additional line of ad copy. Business logos, icons or clip art can be added for an extra \$1.

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FREELANCE WRITER

wanted to cover community events and write concise, accurate and engaging news and feature stories for the Independent Register, an alternative biweekly newspaper covering New Bern and Craven County. Call Corey Friedman, editor, at (252) 633-2757 for more information.

For Sale

COMPUTER MONITOR

15-inch color screen, compatible with most desktop PCs. Good condition, \$30 firm. Call (252) 349-9066.

BB GUN -- DAISY

Eagle model BB/pellet gun with aftermarket scope. Loads 100 BBs or 1 pellet at a time. Good condition, asking \$65 or best offer. Call (252) 349-9066.

USED TEXTBOOKS --

Current editions used for several classes at Craven Community College including English 111, Math 070 and 080, political science. Some books like new, some bought used. Don't pay bookstore prices! \$10 -- \$20 apiece. Call (252) 349-9066.

ELECTRIC PIANO --

Pushbutton tuning, good quality, about 10 years old and rarely used. Asking \$450. Call (252) 626-1949.

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Custom Hand Made Bass Guitars, Electric Guitars, Amplifiers, Effects Units, Stands, Gig Bags and Microphones. Call Tony at 635-2684 between 10am to 6pm Mon - Sat. or Email acarta@cox.net

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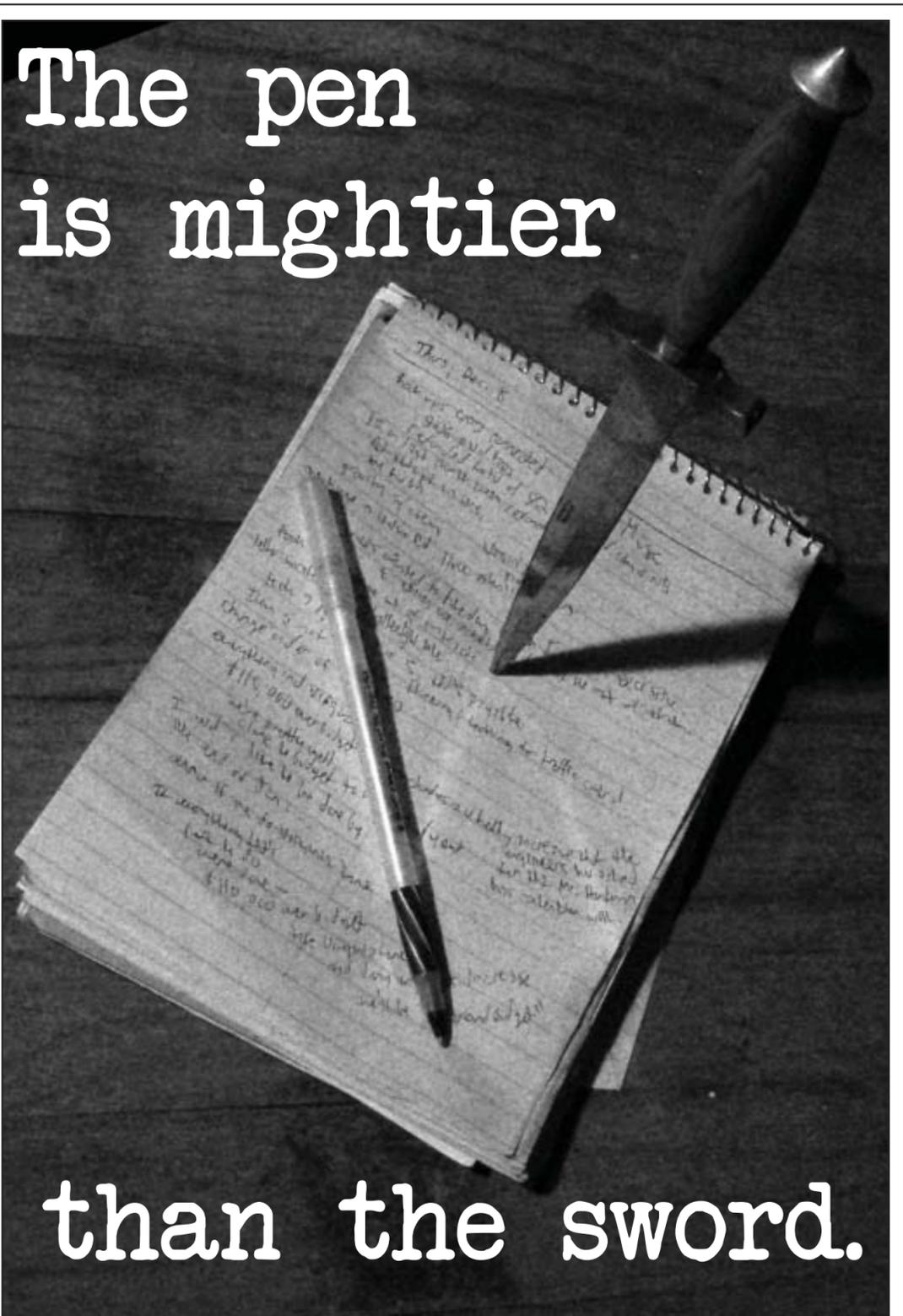
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