

# Currents

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## A Colonial Christmas



Patrick Houser, seen here portraying Governor Tryon's footman and bodyguard, will later become Union Army soldier Pvt. Henry Clapp during Tryon Palace's holiday events.

BY COREY FRIEDMAN  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM R. TOLER  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

**P**ortraying Union soldier Pvt. Henry A. Clapp is no great stretch for Patrick Houser.

Not only has the veteran Tryon Palace re-enactor donned Clapp's blue coat and shouldered his musket in years past, Houser has also taken marching orders during a yearlong deployment with the U.S. Army Reserves.

Houser, who returns to portray the whiny Harvard-educated Union private on Dec. 3 for A Civil War Christmas at Tryon Palace, said he noticed many similarities between the armies of America's past and present.

"Some of the drill and ceremony, the marching styles are a little different," he said. "But it all goes back to the same thing: you have order, you have a chain of command, and you have to follow that. It's pretty much about the same."

Clapp was a Harvard University

graduate who enlisted with the Union Army in his native Dorchester, Mass. and came to the Tar Heel State in late 1862, explained Houser, who describes Clapp as "a likeable character" despite his tendency to complain about almost anything — for example, the length of time it took for mail to be delivered.

"He's very fun to play," Houser said. "He's very easy to play for me. Even though I'm not rich or snotty, I can play it pretty well."

A Civil War Christmas allows visitors to join Union soldiers occupying Tryon Palace's Robert Hay House and Confederate soldiers encamped on the palace grounds. The experience will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 3, with admission \$15 for adults and \$6 for students.

Tryon Palace is presenting several other holiday events, beginning with Harvest Celebrations from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 25 and 26. Since Royal Gov. William Tryon would not have celebrated Thanksgiving, he and Mrs. Tryon are preparing a bountiful harvest feast, explained Nancy Hawley, marketing and communications manager for the palace.

"The weather is going to be nippy, but good," she said. "It's going to be a great time for families to come out and bring their kids."

To achieve historical accuracy, Tryon Palace is bussing in several Narragansett turkeys from Henderson for the harvest celebrations. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$6 for students.

Tryon Palace's visitor center auditorium will host a dramatic

presentation, "The Lion, the Eagle and Dixie (or Yankeedom to Secession)" at 2 p.m. on Dec. 3. Howard Burnham will portray a Civil War journalist and artist and deliver a first-person account of the war from a British perspective. Admission is \$4 per person.

The palace's popular Christmas Candlelight Tours and fireworks display are set to return from 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10 and Dec. 16.

"We have all kinds of local townspeople in costume who will be portraying local New Bern citizens," said Hawley. "You never know who you might see out here in costume. Around every corner, you're going to find something wonderful going on, something to dazzle and amaze."

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Suzanne Barnes sits knitting by the window, just off from the stairs in the floor above the kitchen.



Margaret Fowler as Peggy Gow pounds away in the blacksmith shop.

## Holiday happenings offer family fun across the area

STAFF REPORTS  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

### Rivertowne Repertory Players present 'The Best Christmas Pageant Ever'

Christmas and comedy join forces in New Bern as the Rivertowne Repertory Players present "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

Shows will be held Dec. 2, 8 and 9 at the Shrine Auditorium at 8 p.m. with matinee performances Dec. 3, 4 and 10 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door and are available at the Shrine Center weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 633-6298.

### Festival of Trees to benefit tri-county residents

The New Bern Riverfront Convention Center will host the fifth annual Craven Regional Medical Center Foundation Festival of Trees Dec. 1-3.

The event opens on Thursday with performances from area choral groups singing seasonal selections. Friday will offer fun for the young and old starting with Story Time

with Mrs. Claus for preschoolers in the morning and a Senior Luncheon and Fashion Show around noon.

That evening, festival-goers will be able to take part in the Holiday Gala (featuring Bob Tyson and the Rock-its) and the Auction of Trees.

Other treats on-site include the Gingerbread Haus Gift Shop and the Nell Norwood "Kid Zone."

Proceeds will go to assist families who need help with health care and medical services and non-profit health care programs and organizations in Craven, Jones and Pamlico counties.

### Craven Community Chorus to perform Christmas concert

The Craven Community Chorus will present "Sing a Song of Merry Christmas" Dec. 3 and 4 in Orringer Auditorium at Craven Community College.

The Saturday performance will begin at 8 p.m. and the Sunday show will be at 3 p.m. Tickets, which are available at the Bank of the Arts, Fuller's Music, Riverbend Market and the Orringer box office, are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door and \$5 for students.

### Elvis returns to the Bear City

Mark Reno returns as "the King" to New Bern Saturday, Nov. 26 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center of a dinner show. Tickets for the event, which begins at 6 p.m., are \$40 per person and include a full dinner, three bar drinks and unlimited soft drinks. For tickets or more information, call 636-0845.

### Area Parades

New Bern  
Saturday Dec. 3, 3 p.m.  
Havelock  
Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 p.m.  
Trent Woods  
Sunday Dec. 4  
Fort Barnwell  
Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.  
Ernul  
Saturday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.  
Cove City  
Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

Craven County is getting in the holiday spirit, as demonstrated by this wreath hanging on a light pole on Pollock Street in New Bern.

# Joaquin Phoenix walks the line as Johnny Cash in new movie

REVIEW BY EVAN BRINKLEY  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Holy crap. This is the first time in a while that I've walked out of a movie theater and felt satisfied. The reason for my satisfaction? "Walk the Line."

In a roundabout way, this is the movie for which I've been waiting for for years. See, back in my high school days, I was musically confused. It was nothing but a dark tunnel of pop, rap, and rap-rock. I wanted no part of it.

So, I suffered my way to an end. The end of that tunnel came not as a light, but as a voice. I swear, it could have been the voice of God himself, but it turned out to be one of God's greatest gifts to the world. I had discovered Johnny Cash.

No, I'm not one of these hipster, emo kids that like Cash just because it's cool to do so. I am a genuine fan. I could tell you anything from his birthday to most of the musicians he's worked with.

That's why "Walk the Line" is special to me because of its pinpoint accuracy in most parts.

The film tells the story of Cash from his days on the farm in Arkansas and his brother's death, to his Air Force service, to his rise in the music world and romance with fellow country songbird June Carter, and finally, to his publicized battle with pills and booze.

Joaquin Phoenix plays the title role with class and swagger. And I have fallen absolutely head-over-heels for Reese Witherspoon after seeing her in this movie. Her portrayal of June Carter will most likely be a bear to beat come Oscar time.

My favorite parts were his years with the Sun Records label. Seeing him with the likes of Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison is like watching an American rock 'n' roll history lesson.

I'm sorry. I've gotten carried away. This sounds more like an uneven appreciation piece than a review.



IMAGE COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX

I'll just say this: if you like Johnny Cash, you'll like the movie; if you like movies, you'll like the movie. Go see it.

## Tryon Palace to offer special, historical holiday happenings in December

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Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for students, and are good for both days, Hawley said.

Finally, Tryon Palace is planning a celebration of Jonkonnu, an African-American yuletide tradition that originated among slaves in eastern North Carolina.

Jonkonnu will be celebrated at the palace from 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 10 and Dec. 17.

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



Nov. 25  
*Snatch Apple/Absynth*  
Salty Dawg, New Bern  
9 p.m.  
\$5

Tuesday Nights  
*Eddie Kwasnick*  
Open-mic Night  
Harvey Mansion,  
New Bern  
Free

Dec. 3  
*Nickel Wound Poets*  
Salty Dawg, New Bern  
9 p.m.  
\$5  
*Two Weeks Notice*  
Hot Shotz, Havelock  
9:30 p.m.  
\$5

Wednesday Nights  
*Stretch*  
Island Grille,  
Bridgepointe Inn  
New Bern  
Free

Bands: Send your gig announcements to [william@indieregister.com](mailto:william@indieregister.com)

## Pamlico Community College to hold Native American History Month event

STAFF REPORTS  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

GRANTSBORO — As Native American History Month comes to a close, Pamlico Community College will hold a small celebration with informational displays and special guests from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 29.

New Bern Alderman Max Freeze will be on campus to share and explain his extensive, personal collection of Indian artifacts including arrowheads, pipes and pipe stems, along with other rare items.

Also from New Bern will be Gill Respass. Respass has a large collection of Indian bead work and will demonstrate the different styles of beadwork and explain the significance, pattern and history of each.

Sarah Whitford, vice president of the Coastal Carolina Indian

Center in Emerald Isle, will also be on hand to discuss the various tribes of the region. The CCIC is dedicated to "engage in, as well as offer support and assistance to, research projects that focus on the history, culture and traditions of the Indians of Coastal North Carolina, including the documentation of such history," according to its Web site.

Another guest will be Fred Willard from the Lost Colony Center for Science and Research. The center began as the Croatan Group in 1993, after the discovery of the capital of the Croatan Indians. According to the center's Web site, researchers, technicians and instructors have bound together, using a multidisciplinary approach, to uncover one of the "greatest mysteries of America: What happened to the Lost Colonists of 1587?"

## CCC organization slates annual filmmakers' confab

BY WILLIAM R. TOLER  
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The Forensic Society of Craven Community College is now accepting entries for the fourth annual New Bern Independent Filmmakers' Conference to be held on Saturday, March 4, 2006.

Projects should be 30 minutes or less in length. Entries will be accepted on VHS or DVD. There is no entry fee. Deadline for entries is Feb. 1.

Send entries to: New Bern Filmmakers' Conference c/o Kerry Cox, Craven Community College, 800 College Court, New Bern, NC 28562. For more information, contact Cox at (252) 638-7318 or [coxk@cravencc.edu](mailto:coxk@cravencc.edu).

# YARD SALE

Saturday, Dec. 3rd 2005

8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rain or Shine

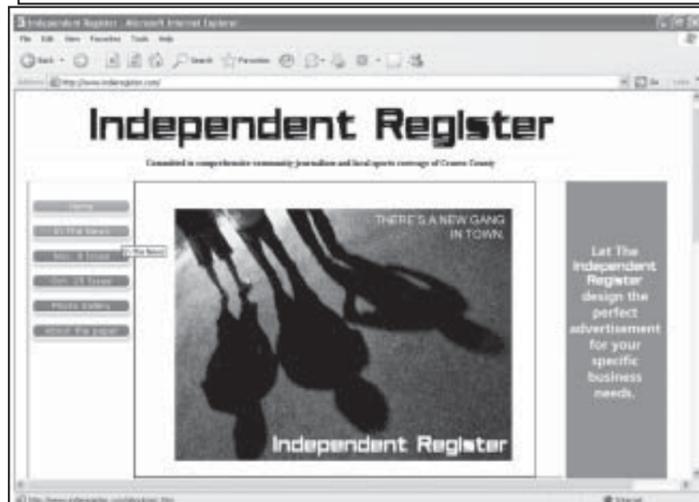
Senior Center on George St., Downtown, New Bern

Something for Everyone:  
Furniture, Small Appliances, Toys,  
Books, Home Decor, Pictures,  
Holiday Decorations, and more

All Proceeds go to support our blind and visually impaired people in the surrounding area



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# Got Back Pain?

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## Don't forget about our annual COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE

Going on now through December 20

Bring in a **NEW** coat (with price tag attached) and receive a **FREE** Bone Density Test (\$75 value).

Coats will be distributed through Craven County Foster Care Program.

Please join us in the Spirit of the Holidays and help keep a child warm this winter!

