

Couple faces charges in infant's death

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

A New Bern couple charged in the death of their 8-month-old daughter will appear in Craven County Superior Court Friday, Oct. 14.

Reginald Mumford, 37, of Apt. 252 in the D2 building of Craven Terrace Apartments, is charged with one count of murder in the girl's death. His wife, 27-year-old Ethel Mumford, faces a charge of accessory after the fact, according to the New Bern Police Department.

One of the parents called 911 from the apartment Sept. 27, telling an emergency dispatcher that the girl was not breathing, police said. After the girl was pronounced dead at Craven Regional Medical Center, hospital staff contacted New Bern police.

A subsequent investigation by the department's major case unit



R. Mumford

"led us to believe that Mr. Mumford was directly responsible for the child's death," said police spokesman Chris Stansbury. "The mother played a role in trying to protect him from being caught."

Police are waiting for autopsy results before releasing information on how the 8-month-old girl died, Stansbury said. The



E. Mumford

Independent Register is not publishing the girl's name.

"What we're waiting on now is an autopsy to provide us with more information on the cause," Stansbury said Oct. 7.

In June 2004, Reginald and Ethel Mumford were charged with contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and exposing a child to fire for leaving the deceased child's brother in the apartment without adult supervision, according to police.

Craven County's Department of Social Services initially removed

the boy, now 18 months old, from the home as a result of these charges.

The Mumfords made their first appearance in district court Sept. 29, where each received a court-appointed attorney. Walter Paramore was appointed to represent Reginald Mumford, while Ethel Mumford will be represented by Joshua Willey.

Craven County Superior Court will convene at 9 a.m. Friday, Oct. 14 in Courtroom 4 of the Craven County Courthouse on Broad Street.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/COREY FRIEDMAN

Festival-goers on Broad Street enjoy a dry second day of Mumfest Sunday after showers dampened Saturday's festivities.

Flower Power

Downpours rain out first day, but Mumfest still draws crowd

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

After Saturday's washout, Libbie Griffin wasn't taking any chances.

A hobbyist photographer selling framed prints, Griffin rolled a plastic tarp over her Broad Street kiosk as the sky over New Bern's premier outdoor festival darkened Sunday afternoon.

But the cloudbursts that flooded city streets and held down attendance on the first day of Mumfest never returned, allowing families to explore the 25th annual downtown street festival and vendors to recover from a slippery start.

"Today has made up for it a little bit, but even today's crowd isn't as good as we normally see," Griffin said on Sunday. "It's still light. I think the weather is still impacting things today."

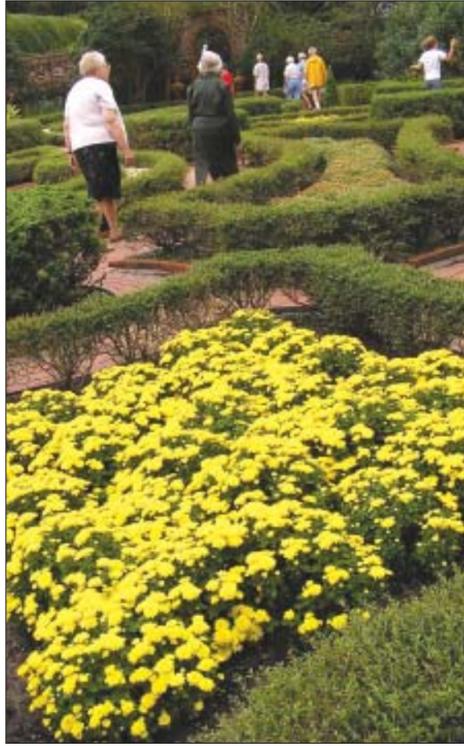
More than 6 inches of rain fell on New Bern Saturday, according to National Weather Service data, halting planned entertainment and keeping local residents indoors. At noon Saturday, more poncho-clad policemen than festival-goers paced Broad Street, although a few diehards braved the torrents to browse rows of vendors' booths.

A more familiar atmosphere dominated Mumfest on Sunday, with crowds swarming New Bern's historic downtown district and sampling an array of food, beverages and merchandise from hundreds of merchants.

"It's still a great festival," Griffin said. "It's really terrific, and it's still a shame that this year, so much was planned for the 25th annual and it was just a washout."

Mumfest, named for the colorful chrysanthemums that bloom in the fall, is

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER/COREY FRIEDMAN

Mumfest's namesake flowers were in bloom Sunday at Tryon Palace Historic Sites and Gardens.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/EVAN BRINKLEY

Vendors pack up their wares Saturday as steady showers rain out the first day of Mumfest.

Vote tallies anticipated

Polling for city leaders in New Bern ends Tuesday

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Polling for municipal elections in New Bern ends Tuesday, Oct. 11, while voters in other Craven County towns have until Oct. 14 to register for November balloting, said county Elections Director Tiffney Miller.

New Bern's seven polling places are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 11, Miller said, with final tallies expected shortly after the polls close.

Mayor Tom Bayliss and two aldermen are running unopposed, leaving four alderman races for the city's 17,556 registered voters to decide, said Miller.

"We always hope for a big turnout for municipal

Election results

Log on to the Independent Register's Election 2005 blog for the results of New Bern's municipal elections.



www.independentregister.blogspot.com

elections, but we don't always get that," she said. "We just encourage people to vote, because municipal elections are important."

Miller said municipalities see spikes in voter turnout during national election years, mirroring a larger United States trend.

New Bern is divided into six wards, with each ward

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Chili cooks set to stirring task

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

HAVELOCK — For fans of the hearty stew, Havelock's Chili Festival offers a sampling of the area's best recipes.

For chili cooks, the heat is on, with the first place winner advancing to compete in the World's Championship Chili Cook-Off.

And for local charities, the Chili Festival — scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at Walter B. Jones Park — provides a benevolent boost in the form

of Chil Festival Committee grants.

"It's good food, good entertainment, and we're all out there to help people, because it benefits charities in eastern North Carolina," said Mary Eastman, the festival committee president.

An International Chili Society-sanctioned event, the 24th annual Chili Festival combines a judged chili cook-off with children's games, live entertainment and foods from the spicy to

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W. Craven Park funds approved

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Plans to build a public park on 90 acres adjacent to West Craven High School got another push forward Oct. 3, when Craven County commissioners approved an extra \$15,460 for the land purchase.

Adding to a \$131,250 budget including a matching North Carolina Parks and Recreation grant, commissioners enabled the Craven County Recreation and Parks Department to

buy the land "as soon as the papers are drawn up," said department Director Jan Parker.

"Once we have the land purchased, we'll need to secure some more money for development, so it may be several years before we actually have facilities here for people to use," she said.

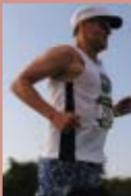
The proposed facility, currently being called West Craven Park, would have a multi-use baseball field, a

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Local & State

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News Briefs

Andretti to make local appearance

Open-wheel racing legend Mario Andretti will sign autographs on Oct. 20 as part of the grand opening celebration for Family Tire & Auto Service in New Bern.

Andretti is scheduled to sign autographs from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Family Tire & Auto Service is located at 2615 U.S. 70 East.

As part of its grand opening week Oct. 15-22, Family Tire & Auto is offering free car clinics and hosting the Red Cross Bloodmobile and an antique and custom car show.

CCC holds registration

Craven Community College will hold B-Term registration from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 18, a day before classes in the condensed 12-week term begin.

Students must register prior to the starting time of each class. Tuition must be paid by 6 p.m. Oct. 18.

Term B begins on Oct. 19 and continues until Dec. 19.

ECU to host literary event

GREENVILLE — Fifteen award-winning authors with regional roots will speak at East Carolina University's second Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming Oct. 14 and 15.

The event will feature lectures, discussions and book signings with an emphasis on storytelling and writing about eastern North Carolina.

Admission for this public event is free, but ECU requests that those who plan to attend register online at www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/ncc/registration.cfm Registration at the door will be allowed as space permits.

Visitors can also choose to attend a barbeque luncheon with featured authors on Saturday, Oct. 15 for a \$7 per-person charge.

Argentinian singer plans performance

Argentinian singer-songwriter Gabo Ferro will hold a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 21 at Craven Community College's Orringer Auditorium.

Hailed by *Rolling Stone* magazine as a songwriter who "unthreads allegories and moving stories," Ferro will be performing songs from his new CD, "Canciones que un hombre no debería cantar," which translates to "songs that a man should not have to sing."

CDs can be purchased at the concert.

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

Neuse River Bridge Run is held

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Breast Cancer Awareness Month got off to a running start Oct. 1, with more than 1000 runners and walkers hoofing it across the Neuse River Bridge to benefit 12 local nonprofit and community groups.

Formerly the Think Pink Bridge Run/Walk, the event still funds breast cancer treatment through the Craven Regional Medical Center foundation, but in its new incarnation, the Bridge Run divvies up proceeds

between charities with other causes as well.

"Money that is raised here today is going back to the foundations," said Anne Healy, Bridge Run co-director.

Healy estimated that 750 runners participated in the event last year, and under its new moniker in 2005, the event drew more than 1000 runners.

The 10 kilometer run began at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 1, with the 5K run beginning at 8:45. Walkers started after the runners in each race.

One lane of the Neuse River and Trent River bridges was closed during the run/walk, allowing the bridges to remain operational. Healy said the N.C. Department of Transportation permits one such event per year.

Entry fees for the Bridge Run helped bankroll efforts for 12 area nonprofits, including Coastal Women's Shelter, Community Coalition Against Family Violence, Habitat for Humanity and the Twin Rivers YMCA.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

Runners sprint across New Bern's Neuse River Bridge Oct. 1. Proceeds from the Bridge Run benefited 12 local charities.

Wylder vies for stardom

New Bern singer auditions for FOX's 'American Idol'

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

GREENSBORO — Danelle Wylder couldn't decide which tune would resonate best with producers at auditions for the fifth season of "American Idol."

When the New Bern vocalist belted out a rendition of 4 Non Blondes' 1993 hit "What's Up," however, it struck a chord with another "Idol" hopeful seated a row behind her in the Greensboro Coliseum Oct. 3, who told Wylder not to sing the song she planned on performing.

"So I sang it anyway, just because she told me not to," said Wylder.

One of several thousand singers vying for a slot on the FOX show, Wylder didn't advance past the first round of auditions, but she did perform for an "American Idol" producer and ultimately, left the audition with more satisfaction than disappointment.

"You grow each time you perform, I believe," she said, "and I believe you get better or you learn something about yourself. You get more confident each time."

Audiences aren't intimidating to the precocious 20-year-old, who sings in the Encore! show choir at Craven Community College and has performed in talent shows since she was 3.

Wylder also plays guitar and piano, reflecting her interest in and appreciation of an eclectic blend of recorded music.

She's also no stranger to the world of "American Idol," where thousands compete for the opportunity to appear on television, where singers will be critiqued by a panel of judges that ultimately winnows the talent pool down to a lone idol each season.

Wylder first tried out for "American Idol" in 2002, where she "slept in line for like two or three days" in order to audition.

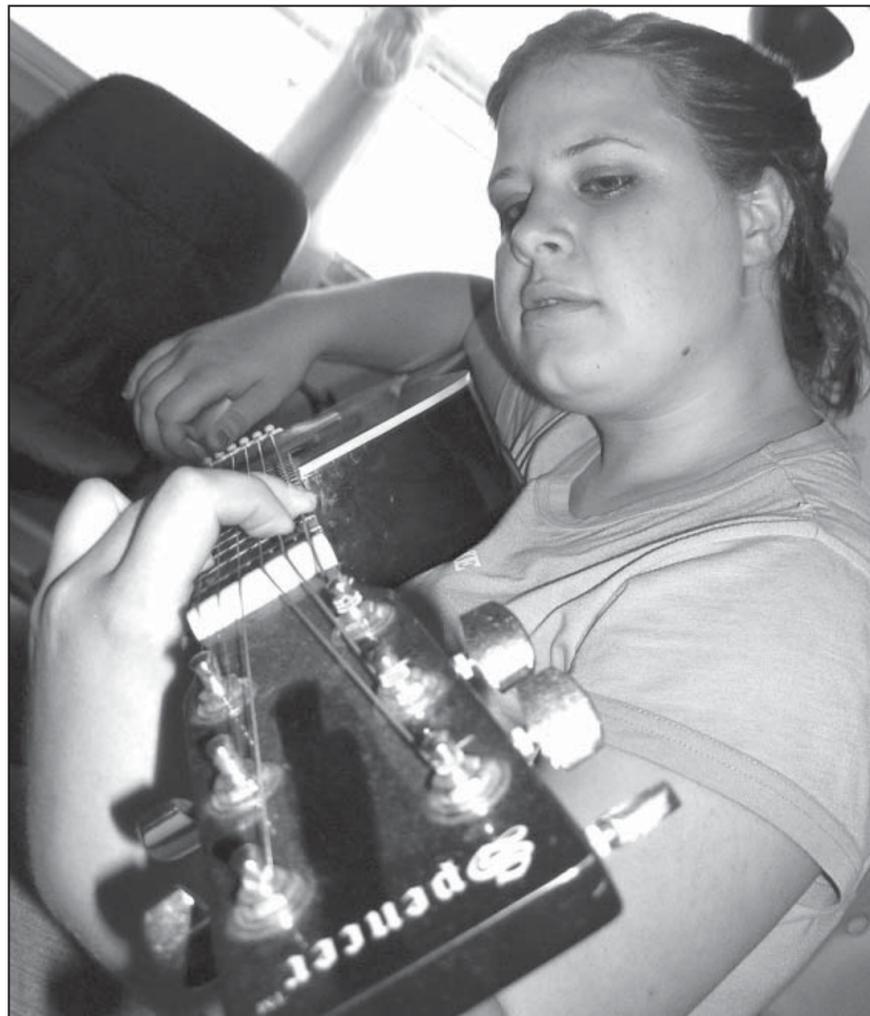
"It was a lot less organized this year, but it was easier to get in," she said. "You didn't have to wait in line for really that long. The auditions were less private, and not as many people made it through to the next round this year."

"Idol" auditions in several cities were scrapped due to Hurricane Katrina. Greensboro wasn't originally scheduled as an audition site, and when the show announced its producers would arrive in the Tar Heel State, Wylder said she got the itch to try out.

"I didn't count on making it, but I figured it was just a small chance that it might speed things up a bit. I'm going to be famous eventually anyway," she said with a laugh.

Wylder, who lists Madonna, Pat Benatar, Janis Joplin, Billie Holliday and Queen among her influences, said she has always enjoyed singing, whether she's on stage or whether she's singing along with the radio.

"It makes me happy when I sing," she said. "I'm



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/COREY FRIEDMAN

Danelle Wylder strums a friend's guitar days after returning from 'American Idol' auditions in Greensboro. Wylder has been performing since she was 3 years old.

not sure what it is about singing that makes me happy. I like music. I like to sing in front of people, but I also like to sing by myself."

A proclivity for the performing arts runs in the family for Wylder. Her brother, Matt Wylder, is a gigging guitarist and accordionist in Bloomington, Ill., and sister Krystee Wylder is lead singer for the band 86 Barbee in Chicago.

Danelle Wylder's experiments in songwriting have yielded mixed results, but she said her best work is the result of a combined effort between her and her musical siblings.

"My sister wants to write my songs for me when I become famous," she said. "Maybe someday, me and my brother and sister can be in a band together."

For all Wylder's talk about pop stardom, the maturing musician is considering various paths for her future. She said she may pursue musical theater or become a music teacher, but any career she chooses will be heavily influenced by music.

"In one way or another, I'm deciding whether I want to sing or whether I want to use music in another form, like becoming a music teacher or getting into

musical theater," she explained. "Whatever I do will have something to do with music."

Although waiting some 7 hours for a 30-second audition was taxing, Wylder considers her road trip to Greensboro a positive experience — time well-spent for an aspiring singer.

"I wasn't really expecting to make it through anyway. I just knew that there was this chance that I might," she said. "I wasn't disappointed. It was definitely worth it to go."

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

Dare schools' publications policy irks student editors

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Student newspapers in Dare County are prohibited from printing images of students violating the school system's dress code under a set of new guidelines that state and national scholastic press groups call "restrictive."

The revised guidelines for Dare County Schools student publications were released at the beginning of the 2005-06 school year and also included bans on "content that associates the school with anything other than neutral political stances and advertising or promotion of any product, service or activity unlawful for minors," according to the Student Press Law Center.

Dani Landskroener, an editor at First Flight High School's *Nighthawk News*, told the Arlington, Va.-based

SPLC that she, along with fellow student journalists, plans to fight the regulations, which she called a slap in the face.

"You always hear about other school systems having to deal with this stuff and you never think it could happen to you," Landskroener said in an SPLC news release. "It was really unexpected. Up to this point we haven't been censored."

Dare County Schools superintendent Sue Burgess told the *Outer Banks Sentinel* that the new policy isn't intended to muzzle student speech.

"These regulations provide guidelines for students and principals, where in the past there may have been many disagreements over what should be published," she said in the *Sentinel*. "This

just makes the process a lot easier."

But the SPLC and North Carolina Scholastic Media Association say the policy carries undertones of censorship.

Monica Hill, director of the N.C. Scholastic Media Association, said in the news release that she scrutinized the new guidelines and "found that some of them were a bit restrictive and somewhat unclear."

Adam Goldstein, new media legal fellow for the SPLC, said the policy seems designed to suppress students' expressive rights and control newspaper content.

Student journalists from First Flight High School plan to ask the county board of education to adopt the SPLC's model guidelines for student publications at its next meeting.

Traffic stop yields arrest for cocaine

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

New Bern police stopped a city man Oct. 5 for driving on a suspended license and recovered a bag containing 25 individually wrapped bags of crack cocaine, authorities said.

A police officer stopped Levar Shannon, 26, of 131 Quarterdeck Townes, on Tatum Drive past the intersection of Third Avenue and Broad Street at about 2 p.m.

As the officer approached the vehicle, he observed Shannon attempting to swallow a bag filled with a white substance, according to police.

Upon further inspection, the bag contained 25 smaller bags of crack cocaine, with a

total weight of about 11 grams, according to a police department news release.

Police arrested Shannon and charged him with one count of possession with intent to sell/deliver/manufacture cocaine, one count of felony maintaining a vehicle for the purpose of a controlled substance and one count of driving without a license.

Shannon was held in Craven County Jail under a \$100,000 secured bond and was scheduled to appear in Craven County district court Oct. 6.



Shannon

Opinion

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Editorials

Choose carefully

Awareness of city government boosts voter rolls

Disaffected citizens who say you can't fight City Hall are usually hamstrung not by a lack of opportunity to be heard, but by a lack of understanding of municipal government and its myriad processes.

It's this same unawareness, we believe, that accounts for the low voter turnout that Craven County elections officials are predicting for New Bern's Oct. 11 municipal balloting — not voter apathy.

Citizens don't stay home on Election Day because they don't care, but because they don't get it.

Local elected officials pass ordinances and shape policies that are more likely to affect us on a daily basis than anything to come out of our nation's capital. Property and sales taxes originate on the municipal level, as do leash laws, zoning regulations and contracts for utility service providers.

New Bern voters this week will decide four races for the city Board of Aldermen, with two incumbent aldermen and Mayor Tom Bayliss running unopposed.

While Bayliss and aldermen Julius Parham (Ward 1) and Joseph E. Mattingly Jr. (Ward 4) have excelled at their posts, we're not sure whether the absence of challengers indicates that

residents are overwhelmingly satisfied with their performance or whether a muted indifference holds sway.

New Bernians unfamiliar with the public bodies that steer their city owe it to themselves to bone up on what's really at stake before their opportunity to vote passes for another four years.

Adult voter education efforts are crucial, but residents should have a working knowledge of municipal government before they reach legal voting age.

Students in Craven County middle and high school civics classes should be required to attend at least one meeting of the county Board of Commissioners and New Bern Board of Aldermen.

Although we encourage comprehensive education in civics and political science, gaining a good understanding of local government will certainly be a greater boon to county students than learning that a vote for cloture can end a congressional filibuster.

We hope each of New Bern's 17,556 registered voters will report to their respective polling places Oct. 11 and cast their ballots for the Board of Aldermen.

Voters, the future of this great city's leadership is in your hands.

A short-term setback

Budget crunches *Register's* publication schedule

In lean times, small businesses often are forced to trim costs and tighten their belts in order to keep their doors open. Independent newspapers, including this one, are no exception.

We regretfully announce this week that in order to remain in print, the *Independent Register* will reduce its printing schedule from weekly to biweekly publication. The newspaper will be distributed every other Tuesday at locations across New Bern and Craven County.

This reduction in frequency should not herald a reduction in quality. We understand that timeliness is a major aspect of news value, and we will explore various options to ensure continued relevance, including the expansion of our Web site, www.indieregister.com, to include periodic updates between publication weeks.

Without disparaging established community media, we strongly feel Craven County needs an alternative publication that will invigorate public discourse with fresh voices and new ideas. In any market, the goal of an

alternative newspaper is not to replace the venerated daily broadsheet, but to complement existing media and diversify the range of news and commentary in print.

In order to become the region's alternative voice, this newspaper needs a steady diet of feedback from its readers.

We accept news tips, story suggestions, press releases and letters to the editor via phone, fax and e-mail, and we encourage local businesses, nonprofits, charities and community organizations to keep us informed of their work in Craven County.

Although we cannot predict the duration of this switch to biweekly printing, we hope it will only be a temporary measure; one that will allow the *Independent Register* to secure the financial support from advertisers it needs to resume weekly publication.

The *Independent Register* remains committed to its readers and to responsible and objective coverage of New Bern and Craven County.

As long as you keep reading, we'll keep writing.



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

Soapbox

Columbus Day celebrates dubious accomplishments

By WILLIAM R. TOLER
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

"In 1492, natives discovered Columbus lost at sea."

That's a quote from a T-shirt I acquired several years ago at a pow-wow at the fairgrounds in New Bern. I bought the shirt specifically for that quote.

Ever since I learned the truth in the eighth grade from then-history teacher David Rackley, the thought of Columbus Day being a holiday has irked me.

Why does the American government perpetuate a lie through its holiday system, which spills over into the schools?

This may come as a shock to some people, but Christopher Columbus did not discover America.

For one, there were already people at the places

he "discovered." So if people were already there, how could he discover it?

One may raise the point that he was the first European to traverse the Atlantic.

Wrong again.

Leif Erikson would take that claim, landing somewhere between Newfoundland and Cape Cod hundreds of years before Columbus was even born.

President Lyndon B. Johnson, in 1964, commemorated Erikson for being the first European to reach North America by declaring Oct. 9 as Leif Erikson Day, just before Columbus Day.

So why don't we just get European discovery week off?

I will give Columbus points for sticking to his belief that the world was

round. That fact we now know is true. So, with that frame of mind, he set forth to find a new route to China.

He thought he did.

And we give a man who never knew he didn't reach Asia such credence?

Columbus never even reached mainland [North] America. Truth be told, his voyages landed him in the islands south of America, including Cuba and Jamaica and later to parts of Central America. Close Chris, but no cigar...well...

History teachers: Please tell your students the truth, not lies. Disregard the falsehoods and half-truths found in the standard textbooks and teach what you really know.

Contact William R. Toler at 633-2757 or william@indieregister.com.

Marijuana addiction affects users' families, community

By ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

There are things in this world that people will continue to agree to disagree on — McDonald's or Burger King, better health care or better social security, and the highly controversial legalization of marijuana or the push to keep it a banned substance.

While most medical research on the long-term effects of the plant on humans remains inconclusive, there are social and economic factors that have a much more profound impact on individuals and their families' physical and emotional health as a whole — meaning it doesn't just hurt the user, but the family and friends of the user, too.

What I want to know is if college students are always complaining about being broke and not having enough time to study for exams, where do they find the money and time to smoke marijuana? I guess that would explain, though, why they're always broke and never able to study — they're too high to study.

I'm a college student, and I just don't see how it's possible for any student with my means to be able to afford to throw money away on drugs. Somebody, tell me how they do it.

And now it's not just college kids, but high school kids as well...

"In 2002, over 14 million Americans age 12 and older used marijuana at least once in the month prior to being surveyed, and 12.2 percent of past year marijuana users used marijuana on 300 or more days in the past 12 months," according to a survey conducted by the

As with all vices, anything in excess is harmful. What is pleasing at the moment may not always be what is leading you to what is pleasing tomorrow.

National Institute on Drug Abuse.

These figures roughly translate into an almost daily usage of marijuana by a stunningly high percentage of not only adults, but pre-teens and teenagers as well.

These numbers obtained from NIDA suggest that the war on drugs, specifically marijuana, is in a large part failing due to the American public's lax perception of banned substances and their long-term effects on society.

The health risks of marijuana will continue to be debated, but just like alcohol and tobacco, it does its damage... to the wallet and the body.

As with all vices, anything in excess is harmful. What is pleasing at the moment may not always be what is leading you to what is pleasing tomorrow. Cancer and asthma don't just develop overnight, it takes years of exposure to cause cells to mutate and become cancerous.

I thoroughly believe in, and uphold, the right for people as individuals to make their own independent choices, such as the right to choose your own religious beliefs, or the right to not wear a seatbelt in your own vehicle, but any major decision should be made with knowledge and wisdom.

Our lives are proof that actions have consequences — positive or negative, there are always consequences.

I myself have seen families fall apart and lives ruined because of substance abuse. I won't name any of them, but they have lost every job they ever held because of their drug abuse, and have lost custody of their children because they were deemed unfit parents because of their addictions.

Perhaps that's why I am writing this — to express my belief that all people are connected to everyone else in a tightly woven, intricate kind of extended family, where each person's actions affect all those whose lives they come in contact with — especially our children. Sometimes our simple pleasures that we believe lead us to a better existence, lead ourselves, and those around us, in the opposite direction.

Sometimes what we glorify as being good turns out to be unworthy.

"Many people have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self gratification, but through fidelity to a worthy purpose." —Helen Keller

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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.

Mumfest stays afloat despite Saturday storms

Continued from Page A1

presented by the Swiss Bear Downtown Development Corp., a nonprofit organization dedicated to revitalization in New Bern's historic district.

Swiss Bear executive director Susan Moffat-Thomas said the rain forced organizers to cancel events and entertainment planned for Saturday, and the likelihood of more showers put a damper on Sunday's slate.

"It certainly had an impact on the event, but fortunately, today was great," she said on Sunday. "We didn't have everything there, but we had a lot of vendors. It worked, but it wasn't what was originally planned."

Moffat-Thomas said about 300 vendors had signed up, and

organizers estimated 80,000 people would attend the two-day festival. Saturday is usually the peak attendance day, she said.

"When you have an outdoor event, you are totally dependent on weather," she said. "I just want to thank people for coming out and supporting Mumfest in spite of the trying situation. This is just a great community that extends great support. We appreciate it very much."

Swiss Bear purchased more than \$80,000 worth of regional advertising for the festival, Moffat-Thomas said, including in-kind and media partnerships. The Tourism Development Authority distributed 20,000 Mumfest brochures across North Carolina.

"Everybody was so thrilled to have nice weather that they all

came out [Sunday]," she said. "Those that were there said they enjoyed it, and that's what it's all about, bringing enjoyment to people."

Mumfest brought enjoyment to 16-year-old Crystal Buddbill, who said the carnival rides and the food lured her to town for the festival.

"I like it here, it's pretty cool," she said. "It gets better every year, except the prices keep going up on food and tickets."

Buddbill said the difference in attitudes and atmosphere between Saturday and Sunday was jarring.

"Everything was underwater yesterday," she said Sunday. "It was crazy."

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



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ COREY FRIEDMAN

The debut performance of the Tryon Palace Fife and Drum Corps at Mumfest draws a crowd Sunday afternoon.

New Bern to elect aldermen

Continued from Page A1

represented by a seat on the city Board of Aldermen. Ward 1 alderman Julius Parham is running unopposed. The Ward 2 race pits incumbent Robert G. Raynor against Marshall Williams, president of the Greater Duffyfield Residents Council.

In Ward 3, Alderman Mack L. "Max" Freeze faces a challenge from Robert P. "Chick" Natella. Ward 4 Alderman Joseph E. Mattingly Jr. has no opposition. Barbara Lee and Bernard White are vying for the Ward 5 seat, while Ward 6 will elect either incumbent William H. Ballenger or contenders Frank Kerr or Dana E. Outlaw.

The city elects its Board of Aldermen and mayor every four years. Other Craven County municipalities, including River Bend, Bridgeton, Havelock, Trent Woods and Dover, will hold elections on Nov. 8.

Cove City and Vanceboro hold municipal elections every two years.

In order to vote in municipal elections, citizens must be registered by Oct. 14, Miller said. There are 60,122 registered voters in Craven County, according to current county Board of Elections figures.

Registered Libertarians in all North Carolina counties have until Oct. 17 to switch their registration to a recognized political party

after the state stripped the Libertarian Party of official recognition for failing to receive the required 10 percent of votes in 2004 elections.

Miller said there are 113 Libertarians registered in Craven County, but she doesn't expect the party's status to affect municipal elections in New Bern, which are nonpartisan.

"All of our municipal elections are nonpartisan in Craven County, so it didn't really affect us that much," she said.

The North Carolina Libertarian Party has filed a lawsuit against the State Board of Elections in Wake County, petitioning for the party's right to remain on state ballots.

In New Bern, alderman and mayoral candidates were required to file for candidacy in July and pay a filing fee of \$5, \$10 or \$20, depending on the political office sought. Candidates must be at least 21 years old and must be registered voters.

Miller said the Craven County Board of Elections hopes to identify the causes of low voter turnout and encourage more county residents to vote in their respective municipalities.

"I think if we knew the reason, we'd certainly do everything we could to fix it," she said.

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

Commissioners vote to fund new park

Continued from Page A1

picnic shelter, walking trails, tennis courts and a playground, Parker said.

The county Recreation and Parks Department plans to purchase a 70-acre tract of land, which borders 20 acres of land owned by the Craven County Board of Education. Parker said the school board has said it will donate its land for the park.

"We feel like this is a good partnership to be near the high school," she said. "The location, we

feel, will serve the people in western Craven County with the opportunity to participate in recreation activities without having to drive all the way to New Bern."

The next steps toward making West Craven Park a reality would be clearing the land, completing a wetlands survey and applying for another state grant, Parker explained.

The Recreation and Parks Department has scheduled a public meeting for 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 11 at West Craven High School. General

recreation questions will be addressed during the first half-hour, with discussion on West Craven Park set to begin at 7:30.

Another public meeting will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 13 in the Craven County Administration Building to discuss the department's updated master plan.

The Craven County Board of Commissioners will hold its regular meeting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 17 in the county administration building. All meetings are open to the public.

Chili Festival to benefit charities

Event also serves as qualifier for world chili championships

Continued from Page A1

the mild on sale from local vendors.

The festival will feature performances by Craven Community College's Encore! show choir, the Havelock Community Band, a contingent from the Marine Corps Band and musicians from New Song United Methodist Church.

Local palates are employed to judge the chili samples, but Eastman stressed that there is no chance of favoritism, because "they have no idea whose stuff is whose."

Eastman said between 10,000 and 12,000 people are expected to attend the free festival, which grows in size and attracts more vendors and chili cooks each year.

"Hopefully we're going to have awesome weather and hopefully we'll get about 10 to 12,000

people," she said. "We want this year to be better than last year and next year better than next year."

The Chili Festival Committee sells event merchandise and rents booth space to vendors, using its proceeds to furnish the local cook-off champion with airfare to the World's Championship Chili Cook-Off. Remaining funds are distributed to local charities by committee vote.

Nonprofit groups wishing to be considered for Chili Festival funding can send their written requests to P.O. Box 967, Havelock, NC 28532, Eastman said.

The Chili Festival is also accepting applications for chili competitors and vendors. For more information, Eastman can be reached at 447-2895.

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

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