

Independent Register

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Elections slated for Nov. 8

Several county municipalities to elect leaders

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Municipal elections for most Craven County towns and a runoff election for New Bern's Ward 6 alderman seat will be decided Nov. 8, with polling places set to open at 6:30 a.m.

Less than 10 percent of registered voters participated in New Bern's Oct. 11 municipal elections, and Tiffney Miller, Craven County elections director, is hoping for a more robust turnout in the county's remaining elections.

"I would like to have a large turnout, but as far as predicting it, that's impossible," she said. "It just really depends on if they have a lot of candidates running or on the issues."

Preliminary results from all county races will be tabulated at the Board of Elections after the polls close at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 8. Election results will be certified at a vote canvass the following Tuesday, Nov. 15.

New Bern Ward 6

The runoff between incumbent Alderman William H. Ballenger and challenger Dana Outlaw is closed to the 3,723 voters in Ward 6.

Voters will report to one polling place — the West New Bern Recreation Department on Pinetree Drive.

Havelock

Voters in this military town will elect a mayor and two commissioners.

Havelock mayor George Griffin did not file for reelection, leaving a two-man race between Matthew "Sugar Bear" Jones and Jimmy A. Sanders Sr.

Jack Deaton, Richard C. Evey, Will Lewis, Alan L. "Big Al" Reid Sr., Trina Sage, Eva G. Sermons and Jim Stuart have all thrown their hats in the ring for the two open Board of Commissioners seats.

Polling places in Havelock include the Havelock High School Performing Arts Center and Tucker Creek Middle School.

Dover

Five seats on the Dover Board of Aldermen are up for grabs, as is the office of mayor.

Malcolm S. Johnson and Alexander S. White filed to run for mayor, while voters

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Amy Holliday, a cystic fibrosis patient in need of a double-lung transplant, is shown in this portrait at Union Point Park.

INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ WILLIAM R. TOLER

Amy's story

Cystic fibrosis weakened her lungs, but not her resolve

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER



Green 'Donate Life' ribbons are available for purchase from the Children's Organ Transplant Association.

Amy Holliday is living on borrowed time. Her crimson cheeks and wide smile don't suggest serious illness. But the vivacious New Bern 28-year-old was born with cystic fibrosis, a debilitating disease affecting the exocrine glands.

"People hear me cough now, and they think I smoke," she said. "They see me run out of breath, and they think I'm out of shape."

Cystic fibrosis has slowly eroded Holliday's lungs, a process that accelerated after she reached her 20th birthday. Her lung capacity is now 43 percent, while healthy levels range between 95 and 100 percent. When her lung capacity slides to 30 percent, she will be unable to breathe on her own.

"You cannot look at me and tell I'm sick," she said. "Everything on the outside is fine, but on the inside, my lungs are so severely damaged. You don't see anything wrong with me, yet I could walk to the corner and not be able to breathe."

Growing up with cystic fibrosis meant frequent trips to the hospital and sacrificing rites of passage that other children experienced.

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How to help

Donations are accepted at Bank of America branches in New Bern and various local businesses displaying collection boxes. Check writers should make checks out to COTA for Amy H.

Charity coordinators have scheduled several events to benefit the Amy Holliday transplant fund, including:

■ Yard sale at CrossRoads Baptist Church on U.S. 70; all day Oct. 29

■ 'Change of Time,' loose change collection at CrossRoads Baptist Church, all day Oct. 30

■ Craft show at Township 7 Volunteer Fire Department; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 5

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Flooding irks city residents

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

J.R. Bland has seen hurricanes pelt New Bern with torrential downpours, and he's seen the Neuse River spill onto East Front Street and engulf Union Point Park.

But Bland has never seen the city flood like it did on the second weekend of October.

City residents asked the New Bern Board of Aldermen on Oct. 12 to make widespread improvements to stormwater collection and drainage resources after more than six inches of rain in a 24-hour period left neighborhoods and some major thoroughfares underwater.

"What is happening now has not happened before," said Bland, who said he will have to pay a \$1000 deductible to his insurance company to replace ductwork beneath his home. "Something has changed that is causing it to be this way."

Bland said his Hainesville Avenue home fared better during Hurricane Floyd in 1999. He wasn't quickly reassured by aldermen's pledges to begin work on the problem.

"The main thing I want to know is if we can find a solution to this, how long is it going to take?" he asked the board. "Please do something, and do it quick."

About two dozen residents attended the Oct. 12 meeting, many bringing photos and videotapes that showed the floodwaters at their peak and storm damage in local homes.

"Please listen to community members who live here," Kendra Myers implored. "They know what they're talking about. They've been begging the city to do something about this for years, and there is a problem."

City leaders agreed flooding poses a significant problem in New Bern, but admitted confusion over how best to stem the tide.

"We all believe it needs to be fixed, we just don't know how," said Mayor Tom Bayliss. "It's not about the money. If we knew that it would cost \$10 million and that would fix it, I think the city would lock down and do it."

Aldermen who toured their wards during and after the Oct. 8 rainstorms said they saw frustrated and

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School board to keep old Bridgeton Elementary property

New Bern High's Fuhrman honored as county's top principal

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The Craven County school board has no plans to sell the old Bridgeton Elementary School property, board members agreed Oct. 20.

Inquiries into potential sale of the property received little enthusiasm at a Craven County Board of Education meeting, as Superintendent Bill Rivenbark dismissed an informal offer as insufficient.

"We're not just selling dirt," he said. "We as a board

would have to factor in the value of that building, which is worth millions of dollars. My recommendation is we need to hold onto that right now for a future purpose."

That future purpose, Rivenbark said, is the expansion of a Craven County Schools program known as PRIDE — an acronym for Preparation, Responsibility, Integrity, Dedication and Effort — which serves exceptional needs children from throughout the county. The old Bridgeton Elementary

building would need significant renovations before PRIDE could move in, however.

Board member Sandy Kafer noted that the old Bridgeton Elementary was replaced because "we didn't feel like it was adequate" for students, and needed renovations would likely cost millions.

"We don't have a reason to be selling it," said Carroll Ippock, board chairman.

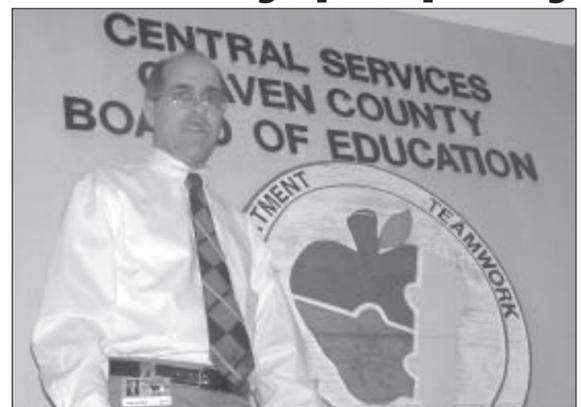
Rivenbark explained that in order for the property to be sold, the board would first

have to offer it to the Craven County Board of Commissioners for fair market value. If the property proceeded to public sale, the school board would have to initiate a bid process.

In its consent agenda, the board approved a series of nine budget amendments that increased the total local budget to \$22.8 million.

The Board of Education also announced its partnership with Craven Community College for an

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER/ WILLIAM R. TOLER

New Bern High School principal Terry Fuhrman was named the 2005 Craven County Principal of the Year on Oct. 20.

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Local & State

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News Briefs

Bridgeton OKs new ordinances

BRIDGETON — The Bridgeton Board of Commissioners adopted a new code of ordinances at a town meeting Oct. 11.

Town commissioners also considered a planning and zoning board recommendation that would increase the permit fee from \$15 to \$35. The issue did not reach a vote and is expected to be discussed in a public hearing at a later date.

Commissioners rescheduled the next town meeting for 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7 due to a scheduling conflict with municipal elections, which take place Nov. 8.

CRMC's auxiliary joins storm relief effort

The Craven Regional Medical Center Auxiliary recently donated \$1000 to The Care Fund, a group providing aid to hospital employees impacted by Gulf Coast hurricanes.

"We are very conscious of the needs of hospital employees who have suffered as a result of hurricanes Katrina and Rita," auxiliary president Tom Ragland said in a news release. "Being located in eastern North Carolina, we have experienced firsthand the severe devastation that can result from a direct hurricane hit."

The auxiliary is a group of nearly 200 volunteers who organize fund-raisers and operate the Reflections Gift Shop at Craven Regional Medical Center to help enhance patient services.

Film critic Mondello to give lecture

National Public Radio film critic Bob Mondello is scheduled to appear at Craven Community College Oct. 27.

Mondello will discuss Hollywood's depictions of the South through movies. The free-admission lecture is set to begin at 7:30 p.m. in CCC's Orringer Auditorium.

Arts auction scheduled

The Craven Arts Council & Gallery will hold its annual Arts Auction and Gala at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 29 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center, featuring live and silent art auctions.

Admission is \$40 for Craven Arts Council members and \$50 for non-members. Tickets are available at the Bank of the Arts, 317 Middle Street.

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

County passes on FEMA program

Voluntary program deemed unnecessary

BY COREY FRIEDMAN
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Craven County could meet the needs of hurricane evacuees from the Gulf Coast without participating in a new Federal Emergency Management Agency project, county commissioners decided Oct. 17.

Administered voluntarily by cities and counties in North Carolina, the FEMA program would extend aid to evacuees from hurricanes Katrina and Rita living in the area. Only two or three affected households remain in the county, according to

Department of Social Services data, down from a peak of 33 households with 65 people.

Commissioners said the county's municipal and nonprofit resources were sufficient to meet the needs of evacuees living in Craven County temporarily.

"We pretty much managed without this program," said District 7 commissioner Bill Harper.

County Manager Harold Blizzard explained that the FEMA program would require the county to act as an agent for evacuees, signing leases and paying

utility bills as well as providing evacuees with transportation, food and medical needs. The county would then seek reimbursement from FEMA.

"Frankly, in my opinion, it's a bit risky for cities and counties who wish to participate," he said, noting that delays or reductions in the amount of FEMA's reimbursement could drain the county coffers.

District 3 commissioner Johnnie Sampson urged the board to consider the FEMA program, saying the hurricanes' impact in Louisiana and Mississippi

was cause for "direct action."

"The way I see it, we're trying to take the easy way out," he said. "I think we should be involved. As elected officials, we should know what our constituents need."

Sampson cast the lone dissenting vote as commissioners voted not to participate in the program.

County commissioners also green-lighted plans for Safe Schools Month events, including a Craven County Safe Schools Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 25 at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center.

Craven County Emergency Management

assistant director Tim Harvey told commissioners that county agencies are better prepared to contend with a crisis on school grounds.

"All the schools have had plans," he said. "We've finally come up with one standardized plan. The plans are basically the same with little nuances for each school itself."

The Craven County Board of Commissioners will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7 in the county administration building. All meetings are open to the public.

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

Craven to get a fourth high school

School to open on CCC campus

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

A new Craven County high school on the campus of Craven Community College is expected to enroll its first freshman class next fall.

The school is one of 23 Learn and Earn high schools opening across the state with the aid of planning grants from Gov. Mike Easley's N.C. New Schools Project, the governor's office announced Oct. 18.

Learn and Earn schools allow students to attend high school for an extra year and earn an associate's degree or two years of college credit.

Craven County Board of Education chairman Carroll Ipock said Superintendent Bill Rivenbark and CCC President Scott Ralls had spent considerable time planning for the new school.

"We are thrilled about that," Ipock said. "Mr. Rivenbark has worked with Dr. Ralls with all the pre-work and the application, and we're just really excited. We see it being a benefit to our students."

The school will be housed in CCC's Business and Technology Building, a new facility that will also house the college's business program and computer labs.

In its first year, the school will only enroll ninth graders and is hoping for a minimum enrollment of 30 students, according to Larry Moser, associate superintendent.

"It's certainly expected to grow, but being its first year and being brand-new, we didn't have a real good feel of interest levels at this time," he said.

Moser said the school has not yet been named, but the Board of Education should be prepared to release a name in early 2006.

Craven Community College's Board of Trustees on Oct. 18 voted to award a \$749,000 construction contract to Kinston-based Fasco for the planned Kelso Hall shop addition and approved a \$15 million budget for the 3,000-student community college.

Trustees also increased the mileage reimbursement rate for college employees to 45.8 cents per mile, the business standard mileage rate as set by the Internal Revenue Service. CCC had been offering employees a 30 cent reimbursement rate.

Trustees recommended hiring a part-time, temporary project manager to act as a liaison between the college and its contractors for the Advanced Manufacturing Center and Business and Technology Building projects.



INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

A landmark's farewell

Workers from R.H. Griffin Wrecking Co. continue demolition on the McLellan Building on the corner of Pollock and Middle streets in downtown New Bern Oct. 18. Owned by the First Baptist Church, the building was once home to a thriving department store. The church razed the building after a one-year moratorium on demolition imposed by the Historic Preservation Commission expired.

Library launches fall fund-raiser

Widespread renovations planned for children's, adult sections

BY JAMIE SCHARBROUGH
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

In the weeks to come, the New Bern-Craven County Public Library will forgo its customary quiet for the sake of hammers, saws and shelves. Renovations are still in the planning stages, but work should begin soon, according to head librarian Joanne Straight.

After a fund request from the Craven County Board of Commissioners was denied, the library decided to seek alternate sources of funding.

"The county provides for day-to-day operations, and they've been good about ensuring that we keep going," Straight said. "The

library board of trustees decided we'd try to raise the funds ourselves."

To help finance the renovations needed, a fund-raiser, "Renovation Project" is being held. Library trustees have also approved interior designer Allen Smith to come on board. Smith, who holds a degree in library science, specializes in libraries and is already responsible for several other renovations in the state.

"He's done work for Cove City, Havelock, and Western Carteret [libraries]," Straight said.

The library's last major addition was in 1992, and no noticeable work has been

done since then. With lack of space being the main concern, Straight says that the renovations will concentrate on painting and reconfiguring the library's shelves, tables, computers and carrels to maximize the amount of space used.

To help make the library more user friendly, plans are being made to replace the shelving in the children's department with shelves that can accommodate larger books. "The picture books are bigger, and they often fall [out of the shelves]," Straight said.

The original walnut shelving will be relocated to the adult department. Other

plans for the children's area include more computer consoles and sitting room.

The adult section is also undergoing major changes, especially since the young adult section has been added. Thanks to a grant, more fiction and nonfiction that appeals to teens has been added as well. And it seems the grant was well spent.

"Fiction [checkout] increased 30 percent, and nonfiction increased 100 percent," Straight said.

Checkout in the large print section of the adult

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Crop Walk draws 300 local volunteers

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Priscilla Miller walked because she had seen hunger.

Serving in the Peace Corps, Miller saw malnourished children and starving families withering away in Nigeria. She did her part to alleviate world hunger at New Bern's 24th annual Crop Walk Oct. 16.

"You don't have the chance to experience it here, you really have to be in it to understand it," she said. "You get pictures and you get

the footage, but when it surrounds you, it's a completely different feeling."

Crop Walk drew about 300 participants this year. The walk begins and ends at Union Point Park, with participants snaking through New Bern's historic downtown district.

The event is sponsored by Church World Service, which receives 75 percent of proceeds to distribute to various world hunger charities. The remaining 25 percent is donated to

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER/WILLIAM R. TOLER

Participants return to Union Point Park after trekking through New Bern on Oct. 16 for the 24th annual Crop Walk.

Opinion

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Editorials

A worthy cause

New Bern woman needs community support

Amy Holliday is grateful for every breath — and every dollar. With her lung capacity hovering around 43 percent, the 28-year-old New Bern woman and lifetime cystic fibrosis patient is slowly losing the ability to breathe.

Holliday needs a double-lung transplant to stay alive — if her lung capacity slips below 30 percent, she will need 24-hour assistance from a respirator — and she is turning to the community for help.

The Children's Organ Transplant Association has set a primary fund-raising goal of \$55,000 to pay for the lung transplant and short-term care at the University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill. An additional \$100,000 will need to be raised to provide Holliday with medication to ensure that her body will not reject the new lungs.

COTA and local volunteers have placed donation boxes in various locations throughout New Bern and scheduled nine fund-raising events in

Craven County between October and February.

Donations are accepted at all Bank of America branches in New Bern, with checks made out to COTA for Amy H. Cellular One is pitching in by donating \$3 to Holliday's transplant fund for every used cellular phone.

Those who wish to show their support for Holliday can purchase "Donate Life" wristbands and magnetic ribbons from local volunteers or online from www.cota.org.

Holliday's name has already been placed on the organ recipients' list, and while there is no deadline to raise the initial expenses for surgery, she said COTA hopes to secure funding for the operation "as soon as possible."

Determined to overcome the daily obstacles of living with cystic fibrosis, Holliday serves as an inspiration to anyone facing a life-threatening illness. We hope county residents will give generously and support Holliday and her family through the transplant surgery and recovery period.

Dress code mess

County schools needlessly ban baggy clothing

In their fervor to get teenagers' drooping pant legs off the floor, Craven County school board members stepped on students' toes this summer.

The county Board of Education in July approved a revised dress code that included bans on baggy jeans and overlarge T-shirts, which Superintendent Bill Rivenbark characterized as "gang-related clothing."

"We feel it sends a bad message and encourages behavior problems," he said.

While the school board did hear testimony from at least one expert on gang violence before making its decision, we don't believe most pragmatists in law enforcement or public safety would classify baggy clothing as telltale signs of gang membership.

Gangs often choose distinctive apparel — such as solid-color bandanas — to identify their members. Baggy jeans and long T-shirts are so ubiquitous among middle and high school students that it would be impossible for gang members to pick their peers out of a crowd by scanning the masses for billowing pant legs.

We strongly discourage any public school system from infringing on its students' expressive rights. The Supreme Court upheld these rights in

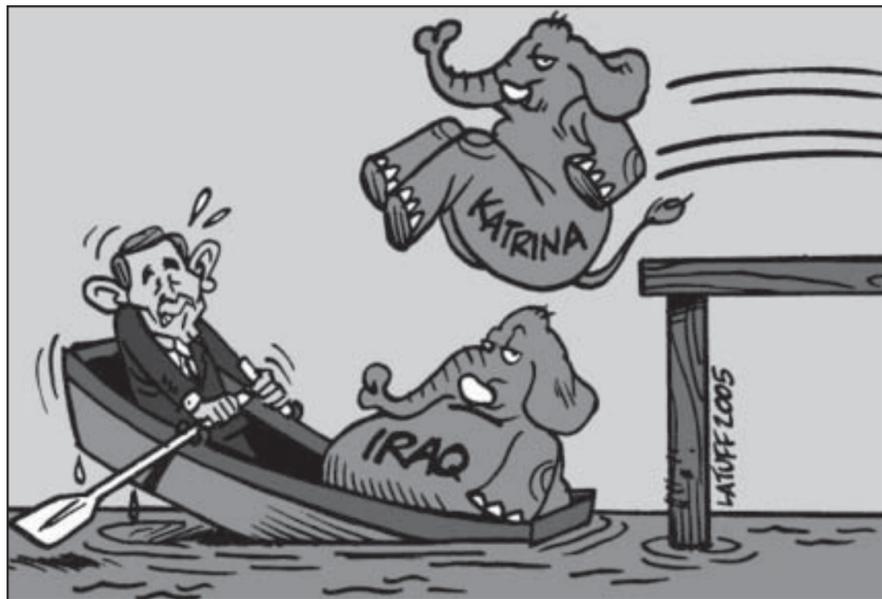
the 1969 case *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, when it found that the district could not legally forbid students from wearing black armbands in protest of United States military action in Vietnam.

"First Amendment rights applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment are available to teachers and students," wrote Justice Abe Fortas for the majority opinion. "It can hardly be argued either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate."

The court recognized that schools can restrict student expression only when doing so is necessary to prevent material disruption. That wasn't the case in *Des Moines* in 1969, and it isn't the case in Craven County today.

The ban on baggy clothing will have absolutely no impact on whether county teens choose to join gangs or emulate those who do. The only effect this rule will have is to further stifle free speech on school grounds and needlessly turn teachers and administrators into fashion police.

We believe Craven County educators have better things to do than monitor pants length. This well-intentioned but shortsighted decision should promptly be reversed.



Cartoon by Carlos Latuff

Soapbox

Low-income workers should take a stand

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

I've wondered for a long time about something: why do most people work two jobs just to survive?

I just spent the longest time in recent memory filling out an application that inquired every last thing about me, down to every single traffic ticket I've had in the past seven years, just to earn \$7.15 an hour buffing floors.

So the question remains: why do we work so much just to have so little?

This has always baffled me. Why don't people band together and demand better working conditions and pay? Why do we allow ourselves to fall victim to corporate America and settle for less money than we're worth?

It bothers me that I have to get a second job just to get by — even splitting the bills three ways. I don't see any daylight, and yet, bosses expect us to be their slaves,

at work and away from work, and pay us slave wages.

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not eating out every day or wasting money on absurd things that I don't need. The only money I've spent in the past week is \$20 for gas, and it got me 6.5 gallons.

I'm not going to mortgage my life away for just enough money to get by on. I just don't see the hope, or the reason, to be a slave to money. I would rather lie down and give up than allow someone to use me to make them thousands of dollars while only giving me pennies.

People wonder why there are so many individuals on welfare. It's because they're not willing to allow themselves to be used. And I'm on their side — I'm not going to spend 14 hours a day at work and one hour a day with my family.

What would I be working for?

Some use the argument that I'm making money to survive, but all I see is that

I'm working to make them more money — I'm doing the job they don't want, and they're making money from me doing it. Somehow, I don't see the humanity in that.

You know, every day that we spend working for someone else, our children get that much closer to leaving. It's another day they'll never get to spend with you; another day they'll regret when they're old enough to understand it.

I believe that people will become so fed up with how they're having to waste all their precious time surviving that there will be a working men's revolution, where the working poor will demand to be paid what they're worth.

I believe the time we spend away from our wives and children is worth more than \$5.15 an hour, and certainly worth more respect.

Contact Eric Voliva at 633-2757 or at eric@indieregister.com.

Christianity should purge itself of pagan influences

I once attended a big fat Greek wedding in Piscataway, N.J., and the first thing I noticed about the coldly ornate Orthodox church was that portraits of the old gods decorated the assembly hall's massive cornice.

Zeus, Poseidon, Artemis...they stared down at the boisterous wedding revelers as they drank and ate, all the old gods like illegal Chinese immigrants packed into a boathold. The gorgeous irony delighted me: here was Poseidon, a brazen stowaway in Christ's temple. It was ironic because Christianity is one of the most virulently expandable religions. It proselytizes fanatically.

We've all been accosted by tract-thumpers. Probably a good many of us have been told that we have an eternity submerged in a lake of fire to look forward to. And yet even the tract-thumpers are no better than Hindus kneeling before that god with the elephant head and half a dozen waving, braceleted arms. They may as well be polytheists.

The Greeks aren't the only offenders. Walk into a Roman Catholic church and you can feast upon all the Druidic fixings you want. Statues of virgins and saints, votive candles, rosary beads, holy fonts. Protestants are guilty too, with their unhealthy fixation on images. We are incapable

of sloughing off our heathen skins. Watch an episode of the six o'clock news if you don't believe me.

Consider the fish. Jesus performs miracles with loaves and fishes. He instructs his disciples to become fishers of men.

Early Christians painted the symbol of the fish — recognizable even today on the rear bumpers of Camries and Caravans and 10-year-old Ford Tauruses — along the walls of the catacombs of Rome in order to identify each another in a hostile world.

And yet the fish is one of the oldest, most venerated heathen symbols, showing up in cultures both literate and pre-civilized, worshiped as a giver and sustainer of life, respected as a portent of wisdom — a fertility symbol before which our pagan forbears would fall prostrate, and to which they occasionally offered up their own children as sacrifice.

Monotheism is supposed to be the Fabled Automatic, like not diving into the shal-

low end of the pool, or not getting plastered before picking up your prom date.

So the next time you decide to hand me a tract while I'm pumping gas, think about this: there are only two solutions: embrace your pagan roots (or at the least pay them homage) or purge your religious practice of all vestiges of pagan influence.

No more fake evergreens in December. Hell, no more December.

No more gaily-painted eggs for your spawn to hunt.

No more Trinity. Either God is one, or It is many. There can be no middle ground. You must decide.

Tract-thumpers take the liberty of filtering God's voice through their own. So, I will return the impertinence. Jesus tells me that thou most certainly shall stop celebrating His nativity with fat white men dressed in red and His death with anthropomorphized rabbits (perhaps the most vulgar fertility symbol of all).

Thou shall not endorse any more Roman execution symbols bearing the image of an agonized God.

Thou shall be good little monotheists, like He instructed you to since the days of Abraham.

Oh, and He also says His birthday isn't in December.

Contact Stephen Lewis at stephen@indieregister.com.

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Operating Structure and Standard Protocol

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

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INDEPENDENT REGISTER / WILLIAM R. TOLER

Pit stop in New Bern

Mario Andretti autographs a book Oct. 20 at Family Tire & Auto Service in New Bern. Andretti, a racing legend who won both the Daytona 500 and Indianapolis 500 races, made a local appearance for Family Tire & Auto's grand opening.

Floods flummox city aldermen

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helpless residents surrounded by floodwater.

"On every street in this town as you left your house Saturday or Sunday, you were backing up and having to turn around," said Ward 5 alderman Barbara Lee.

"I looked around, and what I saw was disturbing,"

said Ward 2 alderman Robert Raynor. "Their houses were islands surrounded by water. I have never seen the kind of water that I saw on 10/8."

Aldermen discussed inviting concerned residents to a planning session with engineers and New Bern public works director Danny

Meadows but did not set a date.

Residents whose homes sustained water damage are encouraged to contact Craven County Emergency Management at 636-6699 for information on seeking local or state assistance.

Fuhrman named top principal

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early college high school on CCC's campus, with enrollment set to begin in fall 2006. The county received a state grant for the school under Gov. Mike

Easley's New Schools Project.

In other business, the board announced that New Bern High School principal Terry Fuhrman had been named the county's Principal of the Year.

"We're all very proud of Terry," Rivenbark said during the board meeting. "He will compete regionally and statewide. Everybody here supports Terry."

Library to fund fall renovations

Continued from Page A2

department has also increased by about 7 percent. Unfortunately, the section, while large, is in the furthest corner of the room and is inconvenient

for many patrons. The library plans on relocating it for easy access.

The wireless Internet access, while a recent addition, is not part of the renovations. The library's server had been suffering

malfunctions since 2004, and later on it was replaced with DSL.

Renovations to the New Bern-Craven County Public Library will provide more space, more shelving, and easier access to books.

Resilient Holliday hopes for successful transplant

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"I was in the hospital a lot," Holliday recalled. "I had to do homebound schooling a lot. It was hard to make friends because I missed so much school and it was very hard on my family as well."

Between the ages of 4 and 19, she was hospitalized for seven sinus surgeries. After completing high school, Holliday enrolled at Craven Community College, but as her health began deteriorating, she couldn't attend class and eventually had to drop out.

Today, she spends nearly five months out of every year in the hospital.

Holliday and her team of doctors are pinning their hopes on a double-lung transplant. It won't cure her cystic fibrosis, but it will extend her lifespan and enable her to breathe on her own.

Without the transplant, Holliday said she has about five years to live.

"I've lost about seven friends to cystic fibrosis, one just as recently as 6 months ago," she said. "I'm very blessed. I've been blessed until the age of 20, that's when mine started to get worse."

To fund what could be a life-saving operation, Holliday turned to the Children's Organ Transplant Association, which is helping her plan fund-raisers to reach a \$55,000 goal for immediate expenses and an additional \$100,000 for long-term care.

"These donations will enable me to get new lungs and have life. These donations will allow me to have hope," she said. "It really is a matter of life or death."

Holliday said about \$3,000 has been raised since

COTA began its fund drive in late September. There is no deadline to raise the initial \$55,000, but Holliday said she hopes to reach the goal "as soon as possible," since her name has already been placed on the waiting list for organ recipients.

The \$55,000 for surgical expenses will cover the procedure itself — scheduled at University of North Carolina Hospital in Chapel Hill — and pick up the tab for an extended stay in Chapel Hill for follow-up care.

Following the surgery, Holliday will need to take medication to prevent her body from rejecting the new lungs. The medicine will cost between \$1000 and \$1500 per month.

"Once you receive the new lungs, your CF does not destroy the new lungs, but you're susceptible to infection because the medication lowers your immunity," she explained.

Donations are accepted at Bank of America and in COTA boxes placed in numerous locations around New Bern. Several fund-raising activities are also planned through February 2006, including Amy Day at The Courtyards at Berne Village, which features live music, a bake sale, silent auction and pig pickin'.

Holliday's brother, Jason Millard, works at The Courtyards at Berne Village, an independent and assisted living facility on Amhurst Boulevard, and helped plan and organize the Amy Day event.

"It means a whole lot to me that my brother's doing this for me," she said.

Holliday said she's already received an outpouring of support from family friends and

How to help

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■ Raffle at S&D Gun Show in New Bern; Nov. 5 and 6

■ Amy Day at The Courtyards at Berne Village featuring live music, bake sale, silent auction and pig pickin'; Nov. 12

■ Youth hot dog sale at CrossRoads Baptist Church; Dec. 4

■ Love offering, Fifth Sunday Sing at CrossRoads Baptist Church, Jan. 29, 2006

■ 'Donating our Hearts for Amy's Lungs,' at CrossRoads Baptist Church; Feb. 11, 2006

■ \$3 donation to Holliday transplant fund for each old cellular phone; Cellular One stores

■ Online donations to COTA for Amy H at www.cota.org.

community members. She's optimistic about her chances of reaching the \$55,000 goal.

"I have complete faith that everything is going to be provided for," she said. "I think to make it this far, to get put on the list and to get the support I have, God will make a way to make this happen. I don't have any doubts."

A study in humility, Holliday is grateful for every donation and expresses her sincere thanks to the individuals and businesses who have pledged their support.

"I'd like to be able to thank every single person, but I just can't do that," she said. "I really appreciate it. There's just been a whole lot of kindness from people who don't even know me."

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

County voters to decide six municipal elections

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will decide between aldermen candidates Doodle Arnette, Charles Barrow, Stella J. Brown, John F. Galog Jr., Richard C. Giddings, Bobby Pollard, Charles "Mike" Traylor and John Percy Wetherington Jr.

Voting will take place at the Dover Town Hall on Main Street.

River Bend

River Bend citizens will elect a mayor and five councilmen.

Mayor John R. Kirkland is running unopposed. Candidates Audra R. Albert, Charles T. Bodo, George

Fetrow, Brenda D. Garvey, Princeton Lloyd McDowell, Phil Seymour, Charles W. Sharpe and Irving "Bud" Van Slyke are running for the five councilman seats.

Polls will be open at the River Bend Town Hall on Shoreline Drive.

Trent Woods

Town of Trent Woods mayor Don Day is running for reelection unopposed, and Harry Lassiter, Ron Oliver and Shane Turney are running to fill three open seats on the Trent Woods Board of Commissioners.

Voters in Trent Woods will report to the West New Bern

Fire Department on Chelsea Road to cast their ballots.

First Craven Sanitary District

Two candidates are vying for a lone open seat in the First Craven Sanitary District, which decides waste management and sanitation issues. Joe Anderson and Eddie Rowe have filed to run for the elected office.

Residents in the district will vote at the Little Swift Creek Fire Department on Aurora Road in Ernul.

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

Classifieds

Rates and Disclaimer

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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1993 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE needs transmission, engine smokes. Body is fair. \$300. Call (252) 633-2757.

1968 CHEVILLE -- 350 Chevy engine, 350 turbo trans. Solid Body, some rust, interior good. \$5,000 neg. Call (252) 633-2757.

Help Wanted

ADVERTISING SALES

The Independent Register is seeking a capable and motivated sales professional to sell display advertisements. Pay is commission only, but earnings are unlimited! Call Advertising Manager William R. Toler at (252) 633-2757.

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.

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.

TAG HEUER WATCH

Chromeplate, blue face watch has seen about a year of use. Needs new battery, otherwise clean and ready to keep time. \$50 or best offer. Call (252) 637-3636.

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

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