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## **Croatan High School Band to Meet Red Clay Ramblers**

OCEAN - The Red Clay Ramblers appeared with the Carolina Ballet in 2005 and the N.C. Symphony two years later. In March, the famed N.C. string band will perform in Carteret County and will be joined by high-school musicians.

The curtain will rise at 7:30 p.m. on March 17 in the auditorium at Croatan High School off N.C. 24 in Ocean. The school's Jazz Band will perform an opening set before the Ramblers take over the stage for a memorable night of music.

"We are thrilled that our auditorium is the venue for a performance by a North Carolina musical institution such as the Red Clay Ramblers," said Joe Poletti, the school's principal. "Moreover, we are ecstatic for this unique learning and performing opportunity in which our own talented students team with the Ramblers on stage. The Croatan High School Jazz Band and the Croatan High School Vocal Ensemble will learn from professional musicians. It doesn't get better than that."

Now in their 40th year, the Tony Award-winning Ramblers are a North Carolina band whose repertoire reflects its roots in old-time mountain music, bluegrass, country, rock, New Orleans jazz, gospel and the American musical. Perhaps the Ramblers are best known for the spirited versatility of the six musicians who play a variety of instruments and fill the stage with excitement.

"We're very excited to play this show for the N.C. Coastal Federation," said Ramblers bassist Jack Herrick, "and we're especially looking forward to joining with the jazz band and the chorus in presenting world premier arrangements of a number of Ramblers' favorites."

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The concert is a project of the Croatan High School and the federation and benefits both groups.

Todd Miller, the federation's executive director, explains the federation's role, "We enjoy partnering with good groups in the community," he said. "The concert is a great chance for us to introduce the Coastal Federation to people who live in the area and benefit from our work. We hope that once they hear about our projects they will become members and volunteer."

Tickets are available through the federation's web site, [www.nccoast.org](http://www.nccoast.org), and from any Croatan High School Booster Club member. Tickets may also be purchased at the federation's headquarters at 3609 N.C. 24 in Ocean.

*The Carteret County News-Times* and Emerald Isle Realty are concert sponsors.