



\$26 Million Approved For Schools

By MIKE VOSS
Editor
NEW BERN — Voters in Craven County approved a \$26 million school bond by almost a 3-1 margin Tuesday and that left county school officials happy late Tuesday and early Wednesday morning.

Unofficially, 4,034 voters approved the bond referendum and 1,748 voters cast their ballots against the measure.

The official canvass of the votes was to have taken place at 11 a.m. today, said a spokesman with the Craven County Board of Elections Wednesday morning. The vote total is not official until approved by the Board of Elections.

Western Craven County voters were split over the bond proposal.

According to the Board of Elections, Vanceboro voters cast 105 ballots in favor of the bond referendum and 86 voters cast their ballots against the proposal.

The majority of voters in Cove City and Dover voted against the proposal. Cove City voters rejected the bond referendum as 80 ballots were cast against the proposal and 61 were cast in favor of the proposal. Dover voters cast 57 votes against the bond referendum and 33 voters cast favorable ballots.

In Bridgeton there were 165 voters who voted for the measure and 136 who voted against it.

Dr. Ben Quinn, superintendent of the New Bern-Craven County Schools, said he thought the bond referendum passed because "those wanting better schools got out and worked hard for it." Quinn said the county schools had projected it would take \$37 million to meet the facility needs. "We're going to do the best we can with what we've got," said Quinn of the \$26 million approved by the voters Tuesday.

"We're tremendously pleased. I think they (voters) were aware of our needs," said Quinn in a telephone interview Wednesday morning.

Quinn said planning for meeting the school system's facility needs was already started and it would be about six or eight months before the first projects began. Quinn said the \$26 million would not meet all of the school system's needs, but would go a long way in helping to meet them.

School officials and other groups pushed for the bond's passage, citing the condition of old buildings and growth of student population as reasons more

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Up On The Roof

Up on the roof was apparently the place to be for many Vanceboro area residents recently as they put a new roof on the Vanceboro Community Center. Work continues on renovating the center and there was plenty of work to do as the top photo shows. Experts and the no-so-expert helped and on the ground others were busy preparing food for the hungry workers higher up. At left, one man marks off a piece of wood and another prepares to do work around the eaves. (Terri Jamieson photo)

Cove City Okays Hiring Of Part-Time Dog Control Officer

COVE CITY — Cove City has gone to the dogs. That's what some residents in the western Craven County town believe. Others feel the problem's bark is worse than its bite. Still others called for a dog ordinance to control Fido's comings and goings.

Eugene Massey, a town board member, says the town has a real problem. By the way he says it, one suspects the size of the problem is closer to a Great Dane than a chihuahua.

Monday night the town board hired a part-time animal control officer and appointed Massey animal control director. Terry Avery will work weekends only as animal control officer. The town board set a six-month period to see if its approach will work. Complaints about animals are to be made to the town hall, said Town Clerk Evelyn Hood.

"We have one particular man who has several dogs that are allowed to run free. Several of

them are female dogs and when they're in season you can count 15 or 16 dogs in the pack around them... They come in from out in the country as well as in the city," explained Massey last week.

State law requires female dogs in season to be confined. But Cove City faces the question of who enforces the law.

Before the town addressed the problem Monday night, Massey noted the town did not have a dog catcher. He said the county dog pound was called but it was "busy enough as it is."

County Rabies Control Officer Kathryn McCray Smith agreed Cove City had a problem with animal control. Ms. Smith's office has received and investigated several complaints from the area. "You can't drive half a block without having two or three packs of dogs biting at your tires," she said.

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Eagles Last Shot Falls Short Against North Lenoir Boys

The varsity boys' basketball teams from North Lenoir and D.H. Conley won games in the closing moments, while the West Craven and West Carteret girls' teams won easily as Coastal Conference action continued Tuesday night.

In LaGrange, North Lenoir used a late shot by Norwood Kittrell to hold off West Craven 64-62, but the Lady Hawks lost 50-34 to the Lady Eagles.

In Hollywood, Conley had to withstand a fourth-quarter rally by West Carteret to win the boys' game 44-42, while the Patriot girls rolled past the Lady Vikings 43-24 to even their league mark at 3-3.

The Conley junior varsity squad defeated the West Carteret Jayvees 60-48.

Kittrell, a 6-0 junior forward, canned a short jumper with six seconds left to give the Hawks the two-point lead. The Eagles threw the ball to mid-court and called time with three seconds remaining. After the timeout, North Lenoir fouled West Craven, but the Eagles weren't

over the limit — thus no one-and-one free-throw opportunity. West Craven's inbounds pass went to Steve Harris, whose shot was blocked by Kittrell and rebounded by Morgan to preserve the victory.

Leon Morgan, a 6-0 junior swingman, converted 6-of-9 field-goal attempts and made seven free throws for 21 points to lead all scorers. William Brown led West Craven with 14 points.

In the girls' game, the Lady Eagles pulled away to win after leading 26-23 at halftime.

In Hollywood, the Conley boys led West Carteret most of the way until Eric Lewis' two free throws cut it to one, 40-39, with 1:12 to play.

But Sherwood Wilder scored a basket with 35 seconds remaining and added two free throws 17 seconds later gave the Vikings a 44-39 edge. David Bennett swished a three-pointer to cut the Conley lead to 44-42 with three seconds left, but the Patriots couldn't foul before the time ex-

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Residents Asked To Help Pitch In On Trash Woes

Vanceboro's garbage truck has malfunctioned, but that won't prevent the town from collecting garbage.

Town residents are being asked for help, though. Town Clerk Carol Ipock asks that residents bag or box their trash.

"It can be put out as normal and we'll pick it up," said Mrs. Ipock. "But it will have to be

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Taylor Citizen Of The Month

Being presented the New Bern Jaycees' Outstanding Teenager Award was a surprise to Vanceboro's Jonathan Taylor. Although Taylor knew he was a candidate for the award, he did not expect to receive the award.

Taylor is a 17-year-old senior at West Craven High School and is in the top 10 percent of his class. And when not cutting it in the classroom, he can be found cutting it in the lawn-care business he operates. The student-athlete maintains a 3.5 grade-point average. The person who presented Taylor his award at the Jaycee

banquet said Taylor was one of the finest examples of the term "student-athlete."

The blonde-haired, blue-eyed Taylor is involved in a wide spectrum of activities. He served as captain of the West Craven football team and was honored during the season by the West Craven Highlights as its Flying Eagle Award winner. Taylor played on the offensive line and as a linebacker.

Taylor also plays as a guard on the West Craven basketball team, but missed a game the night he picked up the award presented to

him by the Jaycees. Taylor also holds down the third base spot on the Eagle baseball team.

Taylor has been named second-team all conference as a junior. He received All East honorable-mention status this year and was named to the Washington Daily News all-area team on defense.

"I'm looking to become a teacher in the math or science field and that I am leaning toward the biological sciences. I am also planning to teach and

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Pressure

West Craven's Tarsha Raynor applies defensive pressure to Washington's Katherine Occhipinti in last week's basketball game. The Lady Eagles

dropped a 39-32 decision to the Lady Pam Pack. For complete game results see page 4. (Mo Krochmal photo)

Jobless Numbers Increase

Except In Craven With 1% Decline

RAEIGH — Craven County bucked the trend but Jones and Pamlico counties' jobless rates increased from November to December, as did the rates in 64 of the state's 100 counties.

Craven County's unemployment rate fell from 4.0 percent in November to 3.9 percent in December.

Jones County saw its unemployment rate of 3.9 percent in November increase to 4.7 percent in December.

The rate in Pamlico County increased from 1.9 percent to 2.8 percent in December, one of the lower rates in the state.

Craven County's work force in December was estimated at 31,420 people. Of those, 30,180 were on the job and 1,240 unemployed.

Jones County's work force in December totaled 4,020 with 3,830 employed. There were 190 workers unable to find jobs.

Pamlico County's labor force in December totaled 4,670 people and 4,540 were working. December saw 130 people unable to find jobs.

North Carolina's seasonally unadjusted rate of unemployment for December was 4.2 percent, up from the 4 percent in November.

The U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in December was 5.4 percent.

Up the road in Hyde County, one of four counties with an unemployment rate over 10 percent, the county saw its jobless rate increase from 12.8 percent to

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