



West Craven Highlights

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SIX PAGES

Leaf Growers Visit Brazil, Remember Family Farms

Farmer and businessman Lawrence Davenport of Greenville has a new appreciation for his major competitor for world markets following a two-week tour of Brazilian farms and agricultural industries.

"The Brazilian farmers are up-to-date in some areas and behind in others," said Davenport, "but the potential is there. The climate for agricultural production and the quality and quantity of soil are unbelievable," he added.

Davenport operates a tobacco, grain, soybean and peanut farm and has a fertilizer dealership.

He and 26 other farmers and agribusiness leaders from five flue-cured tobacco producing states visited tobacco and soybean farms, as well as processing and manufacturing plants, in the three states in southern Brazil

that account for 40 percent of that nation's agriculture and nearly all of its cigarette tobacco.

The South American tour is part of the training the 25 U.S. men and two women received as participants in a two-year Philip Morris Agricultural Leadership Development program conducted by the Agricultural Extension Service at North Carolina State University.

The U.S. group, which visited Brazil in January, met top industry executives, operators of large soybean and grain farms, and family members operating small, subsistence farms. The North Americans were greeted warmly.

Brazil, which has risen rapidly in recent years to compete for world markets head-to-head with the U.S., is the second largest exporter of total farm

goods and the second largest exporter of tobacco and soybeans.

Davenport and the other travelers from the Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia and Florida agreed that the intensity of the competition isn't likely to subside. "We definitely operate in a global economy," said Davenport. "Quality is the name of the game with tobacco, and that is the advantage we have," Davenport said.

The visitors saw cured leaf in the packhouse and green tobacco in the field on the Brazilian farms. These farms average less than 50 acres, usually with four to five acres of flue-cured or burley tobacco, or a combination of the two types.

The tobacco is grown with

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Lawrence Davenport helps a Brazilian family on barning day

Eagle Boys Down Pack To Advance

By JIM GREEN
Sports Writer

VANCEBORO — The West Craven boys' basketball team and the girls' teams from West Carteret and West Craven advanced to the second round of the Class 3-A Coastal Conference Tournament by posting victories Monday night at West Craven.

Steve Harris, who burned Washington with 21 points the last time the two teams met about a week ago, responded with 24 points — 12 on three pointers — as the Eagle boys eliminated the Pam Pack 65-58.

Meanwhile, the West Carteret girls, led by Wendi Nelson's 19 points and Kim Nelson's 13, eased past North Lenoir 54-39 in the first game. The Lady Patriots, which improved to 14-7 overall, face top-seeded Havelock, 21-2, in the first girls' semifinal Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The West Craven girls also got a 24-point performance — by

Chundra Croell — to pull away from D.H. Conley late in the first quarter and roll to a 65-28 win. West Craven, 16-8 overall, faces the winner of tonight's first round girls' game between No. 2 seed Washington and No. 7 seed East Carteret in the Thursday girls' semifinal at 6:30 p.m.

The Washington boys and the North Lenoir girls (9-13) will continue their seasons as the No. 5 seeds in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Sectional playoffs as the top five regular-season finishers continue — unless a lower seeded team were to capture the tournament championship. The D.H. Conley girls, however, finished sixth in the conference standings and completed the season with a 8-16 worksheet.

It's Harris Again
Steve Harris, who buried Washington with the three-point

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Washington's Bob Rhodes looks to pass as West Craven's Delton Harris (33) and William Brown apply pressure during first round Coastal Tournament action Monday night.

Tourney Requires Planning

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

VANCEBORO — While fans watch dunks, three-point shots and zone presses at the Coastal Conference Tournament at West Craven High School this week, Don Hughes is busy watching gate receipts, carrying hot pizza to the hospitality room and finding a second or two to sit down and watch the games.

Hughes, athletic director at West Craven, also has to provide announcers, timekeepers, and the official scorer. Details are important. Important to the players, the fans, the coaches and the schools. It is Hughes' job to make sure things run smoothly.

The tournament eventually translates into money for the schools in the conference. Hughes said the tournament, rotated between West Craven and Havelock high schools, clears about \$3,000. Each school receives \$250 of the money to pay for dues. The plaques, trophies and other awards are paid for by the tournament receipts. Even the

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2 Finalists For Awards From Area

Two West Craven High School students and six other Craven County students will participate in the regional finals for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship Awards.

Deanna Hawkins and Sharon Respass will represent West Craven at the regional finals. Ms. Hawkins plans to attend East Carolina University and major in elementary education. Ms. Respass plans to attend ECU and major in math.

The scholarship program was established by the North Carolina General Assembly and is designed to fully subsidize the college costs of up to 500 talented high school graduates each year who agree to pursue a career in teaching. Teaching Fellows award winners will receive \$5,000 per year for each year of their four years in college. Applicants



Regional finalists from left, top row, Ms. Lane, Ms. Respass, Ms. Horne; bottom row, Ms. Hawkins, Peryca, Ms. Coulson and Ms. Bell

cants chosen for the awards will have to exhibit several characteristics that are inherent to effective teaching: sensitivity to people, strength of character, an ability to motivate others, creativity and a dedication to learning. There were 617 regional finalists chosen from a pool of 2,230 applicants.

Havelock High School finalists are: Melissa Bell, who plans to attend ECU and major in music; Meli Coulson, who plans to attend Elon College and major in biology and Deidre Horne, who

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Precinct Meeting Tonight

The Vanceboro Democratic Precinct will meet at 8 p.m. today at the Vanceboro Town Hall to elect delegates to the Craven County Democratic Convention.

Scott Thomas, precinct chairman, said, "This meeting is to give Democrats an opportunity to participate in the decisions of their party... The party is the party of the people..."

The precinct will also make plans for the 1988 election.

Thomas invites all Democrats to attend and take part in the party's campaign process.

Thomas Endorses Jordan Candidacy

RALEIGH — East Carolina University Student Body President Scott Thomas is one of 14 student body presidents in the University of North Carolina system that endorsed Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan for governor.

"I am so glad to have this group supporting me because these people are the future of our state. It's great to have more young people, more young ideas and more young energy in my campaign for governor," said Jordan.

"I want to make it clear that our support for Bob Jordan is based on more than just our own interests. One of the most important reasons we support him is that we believe he is the candidate best prepared to address the challenges that face our future in North Carolina," said Thomas, son of former state senator and Mrs. Joe Thomas of Vanceboro.

"Bob Jordan is not just a big talker. He is a listener and he is a

problem solver. He does more than make speeches and try to get on tv all the time. He rolls up his sleeves, gets to work on a problem and brings people together to solve it. This is the kind of leader our generation is looking for," said Thomas.

"We are impressed by his business background. We are impressed by a man who has been able to build a lumber company the way he has. He knows something about creating jobs and helping businesses grow because he has done it. We think his proposals for North Carolina's economic growth are the kind of ideas our state needs. He is willing to call for bold changes, such as abolishing the Department of Commerce and creating a new type of public-private partnership to guide economic growth. We agree with him that

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Duke Professors Say Incidents Pull Plug On 'Televangelism'

By DEBBIE SELINSKY
Duke News Service

DURHAM — The latest blow to U.S. religious broadcasters — television evangelist Jimmy Swaggart's admission to episodes with a prostitute — continues to chip away at already limping credibility of television ministries, according to three Duke Divinity School professors.

"We're starting to see a trend in which almost all of the big TV evangelists are either tarnished or out. Bakker and Swaggart are out — at least for now. Even though Falwell's backed off, he was tarnished by association. And Robertson is denying any association at all with television evangelists," said Dr. George Marsden.

He said he sees evangelist Billy

Graham, known early in his career for his television crusades, as having escaped any negative association.

Marsden believes that the emerging trend has generated a "great skepticism" — a crisis of confidence that will continue to hurt financially all television evangelists.

On the other hand, he said he sees a tendency in a certain constituency committed to Swaggart's television ministry to be more tolerant of the erring pastor than they might be of others.

"Among television evangelists there seems to be a certain amount of posturing that is characteristic of the job. It's a little like professional wrestling in that respect... What bothers me is that this phoniness doesn't seem to matter to a lot of people.

"It seems to me that certain groups don't judge people like Swaggart by the same standards as they do others. They're quicker to forgive him than someone they don't like... Ironically, someone like Gary Hart will probably be permanently disabled."

Dr. Paul Mickey agrees that there are people who will remain loyal to Swaggart. He also believes Swaggart will "get off easier" with Assemblies of God leaders than Jim Bakker did last year after Bakker's affair with former church secretary Jessica Hahn became known.

"I think Swaggart is shrewd. He handled this thing well, both politically and theologically. And while I think the national Assemblies of God will have to be tougher on him than the local

church is recommending, I think he will get off easier than Bakker did for two reasons.

"One, because he went directly to the church governing body, openly confessed and asked forgiveness on television. We don't have any way of knowing for sure that he was sincere, I guess, but I admire the fact that he had enough strength and ego to make that kind of confession in front of his organization.

"The second reason I think he will get off easy is the fatigue factor. That group of people (the Assemblies of God governing body) can't emotionally go through another thing like they did with Bakker."

But if it seems that Swaggart could emerge from the scandal with relatively few unpleasant consequences, Mickey said, he

thinks there's a deeper message behind a story that began last year when Swaggart loudly criticized Bakker for his moral collapse.

"There's a remarkable correlation between evangelists who use negative things about other churches, leaders and denominations in their ministries and this kind of tragedy.

"If you can't preach the gospel without preaching negative things, then you're laying the groundwork for your own destruction."

Mickey, who said last year's events involving television evangelists have depressed him greatly, said he has another concern.

"There are those of us who are depressed, embarrassed and upset by all this, but we have other

things in place in our lives.

"What scares me is that Swaggart and Bakker were able to hold and bridle a certain segment of the population. What's going to happen to those people now that the leader who held their world together has fallen? My fear is that some cultist - purist - fundamentalist figure — not unlike Hitler, who promised absolute religious and moral purity to those disappointed by the Kaiser — may emerge and claim that he's the true successor to Bakker, Swaggart and Roberts, and that out of desperation, the disillusioned will follow him like lemmings to the sea."

Dr. James M. Efrid said he believes the "fallout" from this incident and others like it in the past

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