



West Craven Highlights

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District Panel Sets Higher Water Rates

Commissioners Decline Rates Proposed By Advisory Board

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

NEW BERN — Declining the advice of the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District's advisory board, the Craven County commissioners set the district's water rates at \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons last week.

The advisory board in a February meeting suggested the commissioners adopt a \$10 per month user fee and charge customers \$1.20 for every 1,000 gallons.

The action concluded a two-hour special called meeting held before the commissioners departed Saturday for the National Association of County Commissioners conference in Washington D.C.

The commissioners act as the board of directors for the four water districts in the county. Supporting the proposed

Northwest Craven system budget setting the rates at \$1.50 for every 1,000 gallons and a \$10 availability fee were County Manager Tyler Harris, accountant Lou Cannon and Water and Sewer Supervisor Robert Gaskins.

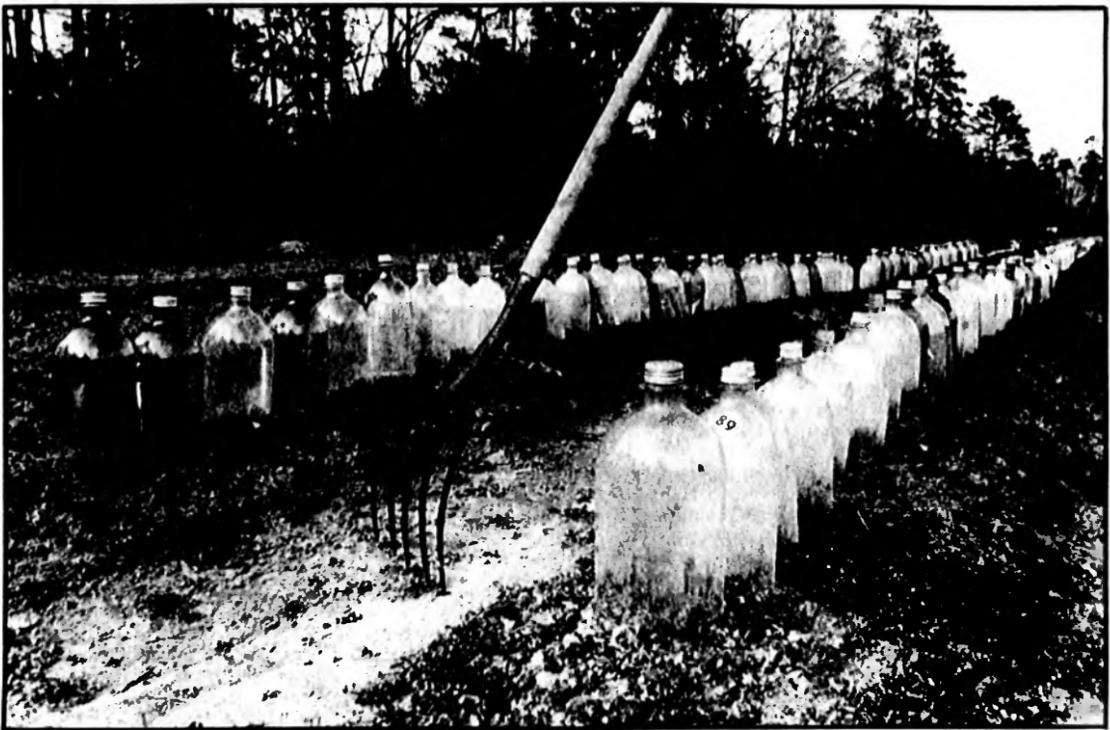
Opponents to the proposed budget said the rates were not what was promised prospective customers during a sign-up campaign about two years ago.

The district advisory board failed to set a rate Feb. 17. Board members were split over a rate that would have charged customers the original proposed rate (\$15 a month) and a higher (\$17.50 a month) rate for 5,000 gallons.

A week later the board recommended that the commissioners adopt the \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons rate.

The advisory board contended

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Bottle Gardening

Here's a novel approach to getting your own soft drink distributorship. It's unclear how it all works as the bottle gardener was nowhere to be found. Our best guess is that bottle caps or slivers of

bottles are planted in neat rows. Bottles apparently grow from these sets. As the bottle fruit ripens, it must fill with the planted beverage. That's how we figure it works anyway. (Ric Carter photo)



Students view photos illustrating dangers of drugs

Program Illustrates Drugs' Deadly Side

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Forget the soft sell, says Lt. J.C. "Rusty" Woolard. When it comes to educating young people about the dangers of drugs, this Craven County Sheriff's Department investigator takes a no-holds-barred approach.

"It's real," Woolard said of drugs and the crime that surrounds their trade. "It happens. And it happens right down the road," he told a group of junior-high-aged students at an area high school last Thursday.

His hands-on presentation is designed to shock students into realizing the deadly side of drugs, he said.

"I'm going to show you what 'Miami Vice' doesn't show you. They show you some fake killings. I'm going to show you some real killings," said Woolard. "The dealer presents a pretty package. He doesn't tell you about what I am fixing to

show you."

Woolard uses graphic color photographs of drug-related killings. A photograph of an infant lying on a table after an autopsy with the coarse stitching on its body turned several heads. "Oh, gross!" said one student. The infant's mother was under the influence of drugs when she killed the infant, said Woolard.

Another photograph of a severely deformed infant brought gasps and "Oh, no!" from the students. The deformity was blamed on heavy drug use by the infant's parents.

A series of photographs of a man killed in during a sour drug deal and left in the woods for two weeks before his body was discovered also turned some heads.

Another series of photographs show a mother lying dead in a pool of blood after being murdered by her three

children. Woolard said the children thought they could kill her and just a small circle of blood would appear and they could drag her into the woods. "They thought it would be like 'Miami Vice' but found out different," said Woolard.

"I'm not trying to scare the kids. I am trying to show them that it can happen to their brothers, sisters and parents. I am trying to show them that the bad side of drugs can come into their home," said Woolard.

Woolard said the drug problem begins with television. "You might not agree with me, but until you can show me different I am going to still believe the way I do," he said. He said television made alcoholic beverages attractive to young people. About 30 students raised their hands when asked if they had ever had wine coolers. Eight students admitted to trying beer and 10 said they had

seen drugs on the school grounds.

One student said that television commercials made beer look attractive to him.

"It begins here (with wine coolers) and ends up here," said Woolard showing a chart of a person in jail, a dead person and a person in rehabilitation.

"The whole nation is going to have to go through a rehabilitation program," said Woolard.

Woolard, supervisor of investigations for the Craven County Sheriff's Department, said the last two years have seen a marked increase in drug-related killings. "I've seen a lot of blood and gore in the last two years and just about all of it's drug-related," he said.

Students can view photographs of someone killed in a sour drug deal and not be affected too much, but when

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Diamond In The Rough Now A Sparkling Gem For Baseball Program

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

It was once a diamond in the rough but now it is a real gem of a ballpark.

Fans who haven't seen a baseball game at West Craven High School in the last two years might think they are at the wrong location if they show up at the school this year. Gone is the old red clay infield. Gone is the sandlot look of the baseball field. In its place is a well-manicured, attractive field.

West Craven baseball coach Tim Hardison has been at the school less than two years, but the field looks as if he spent a

lifetime on it. Lush, freshly-mowed green grass, an infield free of ruts and that drains well after a heavy rain replace a field that once looked like a major battle was waged there. Hardison also has eyes on improving the caliber of play on the improved field.

"It's no comparison," he said of the present condition of the field to what it was two years ago.

Hardison said he came to West Craven to "totally upgrade the whole program." To him that meant improving facilities as well as ballplayers. He even

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Boys, Girls End Season; Havelock Teams Sweep

West Craven's basketball teams ended their season Tuesday night but five Coastal basketball teams are still alive after quarterfinal action in the Class 3-A NCHSAA Sectional tournament action concluded Tuesday night.

West Craven's boys' team was another quarterfinal casualty as Burlington Williams defeated the Eagles 68-54.

The West Craven girls lost to the Lady Cavaliers of Warren County, 72-64 while The Lady Patriots from West Carteret fell to Western Alamance, 58-48.

In the girls' bracket, Havelock defeated Southwest Halifax 84-57 to move into the semifinals against Harnett Central, a 48-29 winner over Northwest Halifax.

The Havelock boys held off Northwest Halifax 72-65 in the second game of a home doubleheader in which both Ram teams dedicate their efforts to Kevin Godette, a varsity boys' basketball player that was killed in an automobile accident this past weekend.

In a ceremony before the twin-bill started, Godette's jerseys for home and away games were hung at the two ends of the Havelock gym. The players on both Havelock team are wearing black bands on their jerseys in memory of Godette.

Elsewhere around the league, North Lenoir's girls lost their quarterfinal game to Southwest

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Not enough

West Craven's Delton Harris, 33, applies defensive pressure against Havelock's Derrek Borden in the championship game of the Coastal Conference Friday night. The Eagles' efforts came up short as Havelock took the championship 80-74. (Jim Green photo)

Just Briefly 70-Year-Old Facing Drug, Liquor Charges

BRIDGETON — A tip on the Crimestoppers telephone network led to the arrest last week of a 70-year-old Bridgeton man on drug and alcohol charges.

James M. Frazier of 1612 U.S. 17 North in Bridgeton was charged with several felonies, including manufacturing of a controlled substance; possession with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver marijuana and possession of marijuana. Misdemeanor charges of possessing drug paraphernalia and possession of equipment and ingredients to manufacture liquor were also brought against him.

Frazier is out on bond and awaiting trial. Law enforcement officers found a copper still, 35 marijuana plants and drug paraphernalia during their search of Frazier's trailer. Officers alleged that Frazier was growing the marijuana in the trailer. Officers acted on the information received through the Crimestoppers and a confidential informant about the alleged growing of the plants.

Officers said Frazier agreed to a search of the trailer. Along with the 35 plants, automatic times, lights and about three ounces of a white powder was found. The State Bureau of Investigation is analyzing the white substance for possible cocaine content, said Sheriff Pete Bland.

Police Chief's Post Open

Vanceboro is still in the market for a police chief. The one-man department became vacant when former chief Herman Lewis resigned last month and moved for family reasons, said Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie L. Morris.

Town Clerk Carolyn Ipock said about three or four qualifying applications had been received. Applications are cleared through the state's Criminal Justice Department after the town receives the applications. Police Commissioner A.F. Whitley is in charge of interviewing applicants.

Two of the applicants are from Craven County, according to Mrs. Ipock.

Baby Wouldn't Wait

COVE CITY — Too late, the baby would not wait. That's what happened to the Cove City Rescue Squad last week when Camille Chapman's son was born. The boy was reported in good condition following his birth early Friday morning.

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