



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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Good pickin's are expected at Strawberry Festival set for May 21

## Festival Brings Good Pickin's To Vanceboro

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

Pickin's at the Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day on May 21 in Vanceboro should offer something for almost anyone's taste when it comes to festivals. And, yes, there will be plenty of strawberries on hand this year.

"I think we'll have plenty of strawberries this year. We kind of ran out early last year," said Mrs. Jimmie R. Whitford, one of the co-chairmen from the Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club. The club and the Vanceboro Rescue Squad sponsor the annual event.

The other co-chairmen, Sandra McCandless, was out of town and not available for comment. "It is our major fundraiser. It's one of our most important ones in the year," said Mrs. Whitford. She said the festival is the biggest project of the club. Club and rescue squad members have been meeting together in the last months to plan the event and recently had their last joint meeting. The clubs meet separately again before the festival.

"The whole town appears to have something to do with it," said Mrs. Whitford. The community has increased its support over the life of the festival, she said. Civic groups, churches and other organizations participate in the festival in various methods, said Mrs. Whitford.

"This year we will have over 30 craftsmen," she said of the crafts fair. "I hope so," she said when asked if she felt this year's festival would be bigger than last year.

The rescue squad is in charge of the parade and barbecuing the pork and chicken for the afternoon meal. Mrs. Whitford said the addition of the 5K and 10K races early in the morning, along

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## Farm Life Alumni Gathering May 13

The 68th annual alumni banquet and dance sponsored by the Farm Life School Alumni Association will be held at 7 p.m. May 13 at the school in Vanceboro.

Dinner will be served in the Farm Life School cafeteria, followed by the reunion dance at 9 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

The event will be the 50th-year reunion for the graduating class of 1938. Special recognition will be given to these alumni.

There will be tables reserved for the classes of 1928, 1938, 1948, 1958 and 1968.

All graduates and others who attended Farm Life School but graduated from other high schools are invited to attend the banquet and bring a guest. Tickets for the dance will be provided by the Sea Breeze band from Morehead City Association. President Beverly Bryan urges all

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## Pepper, Thomas Named To Posts At Vanceboro Bank

Former state senator Joe Thomas of Vanceboro has been elected to the Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. in Vanceboro. James E. Pepper has been elected vice president of Wachovia's banking office in Vanceboro.

Pepper announced Thomas' election and William C. Baggett, regional vice president of Wachovia's eastern region announced Pepper's election.

Thomas, a native of Craven County and a 1983 graduate of North Carolina State University, has been active in numerous civic programs. Currently, he serves on the University of North

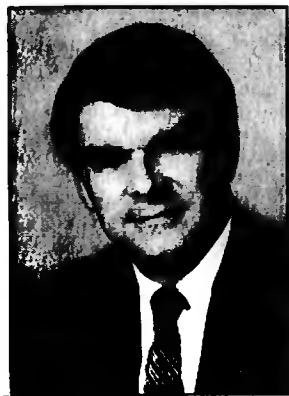
Carolina Board of Governors and the Elizabeth City State University Development Board. He served as a state senator, representing the 3rd District, from 1979 to 1986. He was named Legislator of the Year in 1984 by the National Wildlife and North Carolina Wildlife federations.

Thomas is vice president of Westminster Co., a division of Weyerhaeuser and has received the President's Award from company head George Weyerhaeuser.

Pepper, a Salisbury native, joined Wachovia in 1969 as a part-time employee while attending East Carolina University. After



Pepper



Thomas

graduating in 1973, he became a Personal Banker and relocated in Washington. In 1975 he accepted additional responsibilities as retail banking manager of the Ahoskie office, being elected assistant vice president in 1978.

Currently, he serves as the city manager in Vanceboro, assuming that role in 1982.

He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Craven

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## West Craven's Dizon Slams The Door Shut On Patriots In 3-2 Win

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

West Carteret knocked on the door in the seventh inning, but West Craven's southpaw starter John Dizon slammed it shut with a strike to give the host Eagles a 3-2 Coastal Conference win over the Patriots Monday afternoon.

With the tying run on third and two outs, Dizon fanned Mark Wojciechowski as the Eagles improved to 8-8 overall and 3-4 in the Coastal Conference.

West Craven scored twice in the fourth inning and once in the fifth for its total. The Eagles had five hits and gave up four in a game that saw several errors on each side.

The Patriots took an early one-run lead when they scored in the top of the first inning. Lead-off hitter Darin Stafford scored with one out when Bobby Lassiter singled to left center. Lassiter, who moved to second on a ground out by designated hitter Jamie Boyd, was left stranded when Jamie Garner was picked off at first by Dizon. Boyd singled to reach first.

The Eagles got a one-out bunt single off centerfielder Kip

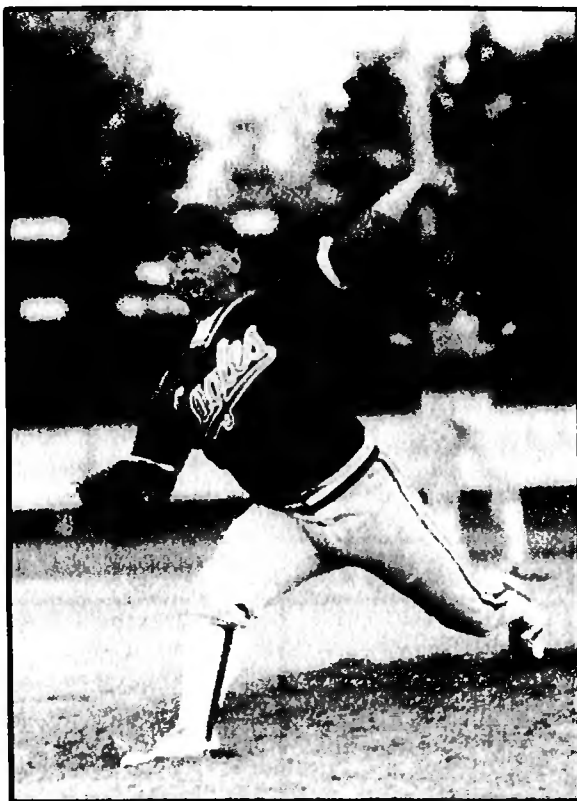
Bryan. The baserunner stole second but Patriot pitcher Brinkley Willis struck out Monty Brown and got David Boyd grounded out to retire the side.

West Carteret flied out, grounded out and struck out in the top of the second. Willis fanned the first batter for the Eagles in the bottom of the second, got the second batter to pop up to the second baseman and retired the third batter and a ground ball to first.

West Carteret threatened in the third when Danny Mills singled and moved to second and third following a sacrifice by Stafford and ground out by Wojciechowski. Dizon fanned Lassiter to retire the side and leave Mills stranded on third.

West Carteret looked ready to add to its 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth, but was unable to score. With one out, Jamie Garner singled and was forced out at second on a fielder's choice by Willis. Willis advanced to second when a pick-off attempt by Dizon was wide. Dennis Brinson grounded out to shortstop Brown to end

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West Craven's John Dizon

(By Carter photo)

## Wildlife Official Warns Of Setting Out Poison

By MICHAEL ADAMS

A game warden says some farmers in the eastern part of the state are using a dangerous means to keep marauding birds away from their crops.

Sgt. William Warren of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Division said his office has received reports that some grain growers have been using highly poisonous pesticides to kill birds that pull up young plants around the edges of fields.

In addition to being dangerous, he said, the practice is illegal, and the incidents are under

investigation.

Warren said the farmers have been soaking grain in the poisons and scattering it around the edges of fields for birds to eat.

When the birds eat the corn and die, Warren said, a dangerous situation is created for pets and small children. He said a dog could eat the poisoned bird and die or a small child could be sickened — or even killed — by handling a poisoned bird's corpse.

"There has already been some poisoning of birds and animals,"

(See POISON, Page 2)

## Liberty Bell, Gettysburg Visited By Tour Group

Nineteen students and three parents accompanied Doris McDuffie's government/economics class from West Craven High School on a trip to historical points of interest in Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. recently.

In Washington, the group toured the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and Washington Monument. They also viewed the cherry blossoms

along the banks of the Potomac.

In Philadelphia, the group toured Independence Hall, viewed the Liberty Bell, toured the Independence Historical Park and City Hall. The group sat in the mayor's personal reception room where such famous people as Queen Elizabeth II and Michael Jackson visited.

The group then traveled to Val-

(See TRIP, Page 2)

## Media Study Tour Turns Focus To Water Quality Of Estuary

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

News reporters from North Carolina, Virginia and the District of Columbia stopped in eastern North Carolina last week to continue their education on water quality.

The reporters were on a three-day tour that is designed to acquaint them with the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study and with some of the concerns about the two sounds and their rivers, including the Neuse River.

Last Thursday they were given information on a disease found in some fish in the Pamlico River, a

citizens' water-quality monitoring program and a report on citizen participation in environmental regulatory programs.

The Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, APES for short, formally started a little over a year ago with funding of about \$5 million from the Environmental Protection Agency for five years. The study relies heavily on citizen participation and includes a 30-member panel from the area surrounding each sound.

It was unveiled last February to over 500 people at Beaufort County Community College

One of the suggestions of the citizen panels was a media tour.

After a visit to Ocracoke and several programs on Hyde County's mainland — on wetlands, water quality, management practices in agriculture and nursery area trawling — the group came to Washington.

The reporters had been given an overview of the APES program after leaving Morehead City Wednesday morning. Today's agenda included a visit to a crab house, a tour of the Texasgulf Chemicals Co. operation near Aurora and a forestry demonstration by Weverhaeuser.

One of the speakers in Washington Thursday night was Dr. Ed Noga, a research scientist from N.C. State University. He said that since 1984 the Pamlico has experienced problems with diseased fish. Certain species — menhaden and flounder — seem to be affected by open sores caused by ulcerative mycosis, he said.

Noga said the "series of problems we're seeing here in the Pamlico" was becoming more prevalent. He said there was little conclusive evidence of what was causing the fungal disease.

Other state research and en-

vironmental officials said there were some indications of what might be causing the problems, but much of the data collected was inconclusive. They agreed that the environmental conditions affect any change from healthy fish to diseased fish.

The ulcerative mycosis "appears to have shown up out of nowhere in the 1980s," said Noga.

Jess Hawkins, who works for the state Division of Marine Fisheries, said data indicated crabs with holes in their shells were more prevalent last year between Durham and South creeks

on the south side of the river near Texasgulf. But he said tests were inconclusive on any effects waters near Texasgulf had on the crabs. He also said officials were concerned with non-point sources of pollution such as farm runoff and municipally treated wastewater.

"We don't have any conclusions" about water quality affecting crabs, said Jim Mulligan, head of the Division of Environmental Management's Washington office.

Hawkins said commercial

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