



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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## What Was That Noise?

Rabbits may have to learn to be even more alert these days. Small game animals have been on the decline in North Carolina. Naturalists say the chief cause is change in habitat management. The trend toward clearing vast areas for farmland has done away

with windrows, brush piles and other forms of cover important to small animals like quail and rabbits. If there's no place to hide and raise families, the animals disappear.

(Ric Carter photo)

## Investigation Of Accident Not Finished

Safety Of Employees Paramount, Says Weyerhaeuser Spokesman

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

A Weyerhaeuser official said Wednesday that the investigation into an accident at the company's New Bern pulp mill that killed one and injured eight others is still continuing.

"No, it hasn't. It's still proceeding," said Weyerhaeuser spokesman Carl Tyer in a telephone interview. He said the company might know by Friday when the investigation into the cause of the accident might be completed.

A little over two weeks ago a tank containing a bleach-like substance and wood fiber erupted, spewing its contents on employees working on a nearby pump. One man died from complications from suffocation. Two other employees, Clarence Field and George Buick, were still in Craven Regional Medical Center this week, said Tyer. The other six employees were treated and released the day of the accident or the day after it.

Tyer said the company is taking its time with the investigation and that the state's Department of Labor is still investigating the accident. Two department representatives were at the

accident site within hours of the accident.

"No, not that I'm aware of at this time," said Tyer when asked if the investigation thus far has suggested a cause behind the accident.

He said the company was keeping its investigation broad in scope so it will not overlook any evidence or information. Because the investigation is so broad, it will take more time "so you don't miss anything," said Tyer.

The plant has not resumed operations and will not until the safety of employees can be guaranteed, said Tyer. There have been no layoffs as a result of the inactivity, he said.

"I don't think we could have asked for anything better," he said about the response from emergency personnel. "The response of the community was almost overwhelming," he added.

"We are taking a close look with what happened and won't start back up until we know what happened. The safety of our employees is paramount," said Tyer.

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## Kamburis Hooked On Bass Fishing, B.A.S.S.



Kathy Kamburis  
B.A.S.S. Official

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By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

In a sport dominated by sun-browned, leathery-skinned men, Kathy Kamburis could easily stand out just because she is a woman. But Ms. Kamburis stands out because she is hooked on bass fishing.

As promotion director for the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Ms. Kamburis travels the country keeping up with bass tournaments, special programs and trying to remember what town is next on the itinerary. She and several other B.A.S.S. personnel left South Dakota early Saturday morning, drove to St. Louis, flew to Charlotte and then to Greenville, arriving in Washington Sunday.

One major function of her job is to get bass fishing before the public. She said her job is "get-

ting fishermen to the media and media to fishermen." She also serves as publisher of B.A.S.S. TIMES, a 24-page magazine, when not writing press releases, working with tournament sponsors and taking photographs. Then she finds the time to write a column for another bass magazine.

But why would a woman want to promote what is mostly a man's sport? She answered, "This position has always been filled by a woman at B.A.S.S." Maybe federation officials have found women have more energy, something her job apparently requires in abundance.

"This is the perfect job for me," said Ms. Kamburis.

If she likes lots of travel, weeks away from home, living out of a suitcase and working from before dawn to after sunset, then maybe the job is just right for her.

Women can't compete beyond the state tournament level in the federation. How does she feel about that? "That doesn't bother me. I've never been big on the women's liberation thing," she said. Women anglers also have other organizations that sponsor regional and national tournaments.

One part of the job that appeals to her is getting the chance to "meet lots of people I have talked to on the phone but have never met in person." It's those amateur fishermen she talks to and meets that impress her the most.

"To leave their job for a week, this is dedication," she said of the tournament participants. Many take their vacations so they can fish the tournaments, she added. "It's for the love of bass fishing" that the fishermen give up vacation time to fish. Many fishermen make the tournaments a family

affair, bringing wives and children along.

Actually, said Ms. Kamburis, the travel isn't so bad. "We've turned into a little family," she said. Checking, double checking and triple checking preparations, calling the home office in Montgomery, Ala., and handling problems that always seem to arise. Mental exhaustion is more prevalent than physical exhaustion.

A typical tournament day begins at 4 a.m. for Ms. Kamburis and other tournament officials. By 5 a.m. they are on the water checking equipment mandated by B.A.S.S. tournament rules. If the equipment isn't on the boat, the boat doesn't go out.

"For B.A.S.S., safety is the number one priority," she said.

Setting a computer to keep tabs on tournament results, going out with the media in the photo boat and running the

weigh-in station take up the rest of the day. Then at night there are banquets and other functions to prepare for and attend. If she is lucky, she can go to bed about 11 p.m.

"I didn't know a lot about fishing when I first started," she said. The first time she tried bass fishing was in Florida and she said she wound up with more line wrapped around her than on the reel.

"I pulled in probably a whole lake of grass and no bass at all. That was fun," she said of her first attempt.

Afterwards, she said she understood why it is "important to promote and preserve the sport of bass fishing."

Ms. Kamburis' first bass was "a little over a pound." But she said it was not the size but the "thrill of catching it" that excited her.

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## Freshman Makes Trip To Track Championship

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

RALEIGH — Qualifying for the state high school championship track meet is a tough hurdle for any athlete to clear. But to qualify for the meet as a freshman — as in ninth grade — is almost like finding a diamond in the rough.

West Craven High School's Lee Becton is one of those gems.

The freshman competed in the triple jump event in the Class 3-A state championship meet Friday.

He finished eighth but said the spongy tartan track at the North Carolina State University track and field complex gave him problems. Becton executed a best jump of 43 feet, 2 1/2 inches. His personal best this year, his first year in track, was 45-10. The

winning jump at the state meet Friday was the 45-6 1/4 effort of Graham's Chris Stone.

One of Becton's better jumps did not count as he fouled on his take off.

Becton said his coaches talked him into triple jumping this year and he decided to do it because "it is something different."

Although his school's lone representative at the meet, he said, "I wish my other teammates could have been here with me." Becton said he could have performed better if they had been with him.

Becton had trouble getting his jumping form and the softer tartan track to come together. "I can get as good as a spring as on some-

(See BECTON, Page 2)

## Gummow, Maness Win Festival Racing Events

Jim Gummow won the 10K race at the Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day held May 21 in Vanceboro and Kirk Maness won the 5K event. Gummow posted a winning time of 36:37 and Maness crossed the finish line first in the 5K with a time of 16:41.

The two road races were run through Vanceboro and were sponsored by the Vanceboro Junior Woman's Club.

Both races features six divisions, with first-, second- and third-place finishers in each age

division given an award. The top women racers in each race and division were also recognized with awards.

In the 10K race, Sean Unwin took first place in the 15 and under age group.

James Tarpley took first place in the 16-19 age group. Peter West and Van Wyser finished first and second respectively in the 20-29 age group. Joy Forbes was first in the age group's women's divi-

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## Baby Takes A Peek At The World Below

The red-tailed is our most common hawk in eastern North Carolina. We often see them soaring high above farm land with eyes peering down for scurrying rats or mice that would make a meal. It's

not often, though, that we get lucky enough to spot one of their nests. Hidden high in the top of a pine, this young hawk peers down at the world he will hunt in a few short weeks. (Photo by Ric Carter)