

# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

## Atypical Traveling Preacher

### Satan Worshiper Has A New Life As Christian Comic

By CONNIE SPIVEY  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

The scene could have been a rock concert or a comedy show: People in the aisles and along the walls, shouting, clapping, laughing and waving their arms. Some cried.

Mike Warnke, a Satanic priest-turned Christian comic evangelist, shared his beliefs and selected scenes from his life recently with a crowd that packed an area high school's auditorium.

Introduced by Jim Watters of Covenant Community Church in Washington as a man who "will make you laugh until you hurt," Warnke shared with the audience his life as a Christian. He spoke little of his life as a Satan worshiper, saying his love of Christ was the important matter these days.

Warnke is not the typical traveling preacher. Heavy-set with frizzy hair that hangs down past the shoulders of his black T-shirt, he wears an earring in his left ear and round wire glasses reminiscent of the '60s.

By his own admission, people on the street would sooner mistake him for a drug pusher than a Christian speaker. "Jesus changed my heart and did not change my shirt," he says.

The closest Warnke comes to the classical preacher model is when he inserts an "Amen?" to replace a "Right?" after asking a question.

Warnke relishes his oddity, beginning his stage act by letting the audience get a good look at him before saying, "Get used to me. I'll be in Heaven with you for a long time."

He wasn't always so firm in those beliefs. In the early '60s, Warnke was a Satanic priest, the result of a fascination with all things spiritual.

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Mike Warnke gestures during his show in Washington recently

## Residents Vote For Annexation Into New Bern

### Pleasant Hill Seeks Solution To Six-Year Water Problem

Residents in the Pleasant Hill community aren't facing the drought that the Midwest is facing. But they have a water problem of their own. The problem is not lack of water; it's lack of good water.

And to solve the problem, residents voted earlier this week to seek annexation by New Bern in an attempt to get good water flowing in their homes. In a related matter, the county commissioners voted Monday to complete by the end of the month an engineering study for county water service to the community.

Studies have been left undone, said residents. They said they are tired of waiting. They are "fed up" with the county. They are looking elsewhere for help.

A spokesman for the community, the Rev. Leamon Dillahunt, said the residents will go with "whichever one can get us water the quickest."

With water that smells bad, leaves yellow and brown stains on clothes and dishes and is full of other impurities you try to find a new water source. Residents' hopes over the last six years of trying on to either a Craven County or New Bern water system are yet to be realized.

Some residents say drinking their water is like taking chances with their lives.

Those who live in the community on the west side of New Bern claim most of the water from wells is overly rich in iron. And that causes brown rust to be found on faucets that are less than a year old.

Residents are worried about health problems caused or aggravated by the impure water.

A random sampling taken by the health department in 1987 from the community showed an iron level over 80 times that recommended by state standards for drinking water. According to

state toxicologist Ted Taylor, that is the highest reading he has ever heard about.

Above-normal concentrations of iron are often stored in the pancreas, liver, kidneys and bone marrow, said pathologist Robert Newell of Craven Regional Medical Center. High dosages of iron can cause iron overload that can lead to diabetes and sclerosis of the liver.

The sample that showed the high level of iron also showed a manganese level nearly twice the state standard. The sample also had a low pH level, indicating metals such as lead might be entering the water sources around the community.

Some residents are refraining from using their wells for water at the request of the health department. Some have been told to keep their children from brushing their teeth with the water because it will damage the teeth. Many residents are having wells chlorinated and boiling water before drinking it.

The six-year wait to hook up to a water system has angered many in the community.

The eastern edge of the community is about the length of a football field away from the end of a New Bern water line. West of the community, the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District line stops about a half-mile away.

Where they are looking is toward New Bern. The residents are hoping to tie on with the city's water line just yards down the road. Annexation by New Bern is even being considered by the residents.

A city official said it could take eight or nine months for the city to make its studies and extend the line to the community. Residents said they will remain vocal about their problem until it is solved.

## Some Residents Say Septic Tank Guidelines Just Don't Flush

Several residents raised a stink over septic tank problems at a meeting that was supposed to deal with Craven County's proposed budget. The budget discussion was soon flushed away and replaced with discussion about septic tanks.

Some county residents complained that the sanitarians of the health department are too strict in interpreting guidelines concerning the placement of septic tanks. Others said the sanitarians were just doing their jobs.

In a telephone interview Wednesday morning, Health Director Beth Joyner said about

15 percent of septic tank permits are turned down. And she said some of those complaining at last week's meeting were upset not from being turned down but having to install alternative systems to the traditional septic tank. Almost all of the alternatives are more expensive to install and the expense factor may have been what upset some residents, she said.

Ms. Joyner said even though the sanitarians must abide by stringent state guidelines, "They use their own good judgement." The sanitarians consider other things — topography, drainage

and vegetation — when inspecting a site for a septic tank. Often a site can meet the guidelines with some alterations. "We are forever designing alternative systems," she said.

Commissioner Roger Forrest said he would not vote for a \$420,000 allocation for the health department until it could "show us how they're going to change their ways." Forrest's remarks touched upon the proposed budget and the septic tank problems.

People in the audience wanted to talk about septic tanks. A Vanceboro resident, Buster

Connor, said he believed some of the employees of the health department had negative attitudes.

The Vanceboro resident said soil tests made on his property in three different years — 1980, 1988 and this year — all had different results. He said those tests said the water table was from 2 1/2 to 5 feet below the surface. Connor was critical of sanitarians, saying they are incompetent and don't know how to read (soil) colors.

He asked that the department's request to increase the allotment for sanitarians in the proposed budget be denied.

Connor and another Vance-

boro resident, Rodney Boyd, said negative soil tests on their property were reversed earlier this year when the local sanitarians met with consultant Bob Carlile, who had been hired by the county to recommend changes in the testing procedures that would make allowances for the types of soil found in the eastern part of the state as well as new technology in getting rid of solid waste.

"What ya'll are calling a water table is not a water table," Boyd said to the sanitarians attending the meeting. "There are some things going on that just aren't right."

Commissioner Ed Armstrong said, "It's an easy thing to kick a private in the rear for a decision the general makes."

Sanitarians who oversee the permitting process for septic tanks are county employees following state regulations. Armstrong and others at the meeting said they could understand the problems the sanitarians faced by having two governmental bodies with seemingly different needs to answer to.

Armstrong said Craven County by itself has decided to challenge.

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## Dizon, Boyd Head All-Area Selections From West Craven

By JIM GREEN  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

Two West Craven baseball players made the first team of the Washington Daily News all-area squad and several others were also honored. Southpaw hurler John Dizon made the team for his pitching and battery mate David Boyd used his bat to earn his way onto the team.

Monty Brown was named to the all-area second team while Adrian Cameron, Kevin Holzworth and Jerry Dean made the honorable-mention list.

Trying to pick an all-area team in the Washington Daily News coverage area is similar to picking a needle out of a haystack — a very big haystack, that is.

Selecting a team is a nerve-racking, head-scratching, paper-shuffling, memory-jogging and just downright-difficult process.

Add to it the fact that this newspaper covers 16 teams that are all within a 60-mile drive and it becomes obvious that picking 26 standouts from 300 candidates

isn't a walk in the park.

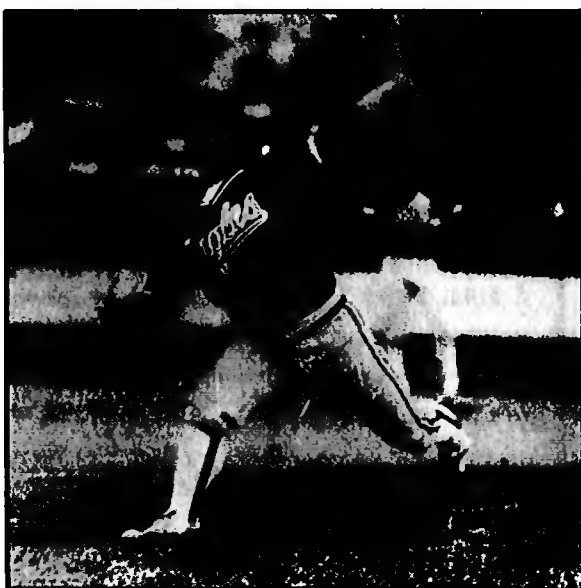
These selections were arrived at after much thought and consideration. The teams were broken down into three top players; first teams, second teams and honorable mentions. Players were judged on overall accomplishments. The first and second teams consisted of the players judged to be best overall — divided into a pitching staff of three players and a squad of 10 players.

**Player Of The Year**

Franz Holscher's overall play, accomplishments, consistency and leadership made this award the easiest of the top-three baseball awards to select.

Holscher, a senior heading to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was Washington's team leader in every offensive statistical category except at-bats and runs scored.

Holscher batted .508 for the season to lead all area performers. He was the area leader in doubles (11) and slugging percentage (.920). He was Washington's pacesetter in homers (4),



Dizon at work this year for Eagles

RBI's (24) and hits (32).

Defensively, Holscher committed just five throwing errors as the Pack's catcher. During the course of the season, Holscher gunned down 13 baserunners attempting to steal.

Holscher struck out just six times and walked 31 times and had 62 official at-bats for the Pam

Pack this season. He also had a 13-game hitting streak and only went hitless in three of Washington's 22 games.

While Holscher's numbers might not be eye-popping, his coach, Ron Massey said Holscher's work habits as well as his

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## 4 Lady Eagles Earn Post-Season Laurels For Softball Efforts

By JIM GREEN  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

Four West Craven softball players were named to the Washington Daily News all-area team as honorable mentions. The four — Chandra Crouell, Evelyn Brimmer, Jennifer Peele and Tammy Wolfe — helped propel the Lady Eagles to a 12-10 record and an appearance in the state playoffs. The team dropped a 9-7 decision to Southern Nash in the opening round of the playoffs.

Perhaps the only thing harder than winning a state championship is winning back-to-back state championships.

But that is exactly what the Class 1-A Tobacco Belt Conference accomplished this season as Aurora followed Bath in winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 1-A softball title.

The two squads split during the regular season and finished tied for the regular-season championship.

Both squads played a team brand of ball and reflected the

nature of their head coaches. They were stocked with outstanding players — thus making the job of picking the Washington Daily News All-Area softball team a little easier.

The sports department selected three top award winners — Player Of The Year, Golden Glove (for the top defensive player) and the Top Offensive Player, in addition to first and second squads as well as honorable mention selections.

The selections were made according to overall performance and ability — not by position.

**Player Of The Year**

Jeanie Carrow, a junior first baseman, provided the spark for Aurora throughout the season.

She contributed to Aurora's rise to the championship offensively and defensively in earning her selection as the 1988 WDN Softball Player of the Year.

Carrow finished the season with a .562 batting average. She led the area in hits (50), RBI's (50),

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