



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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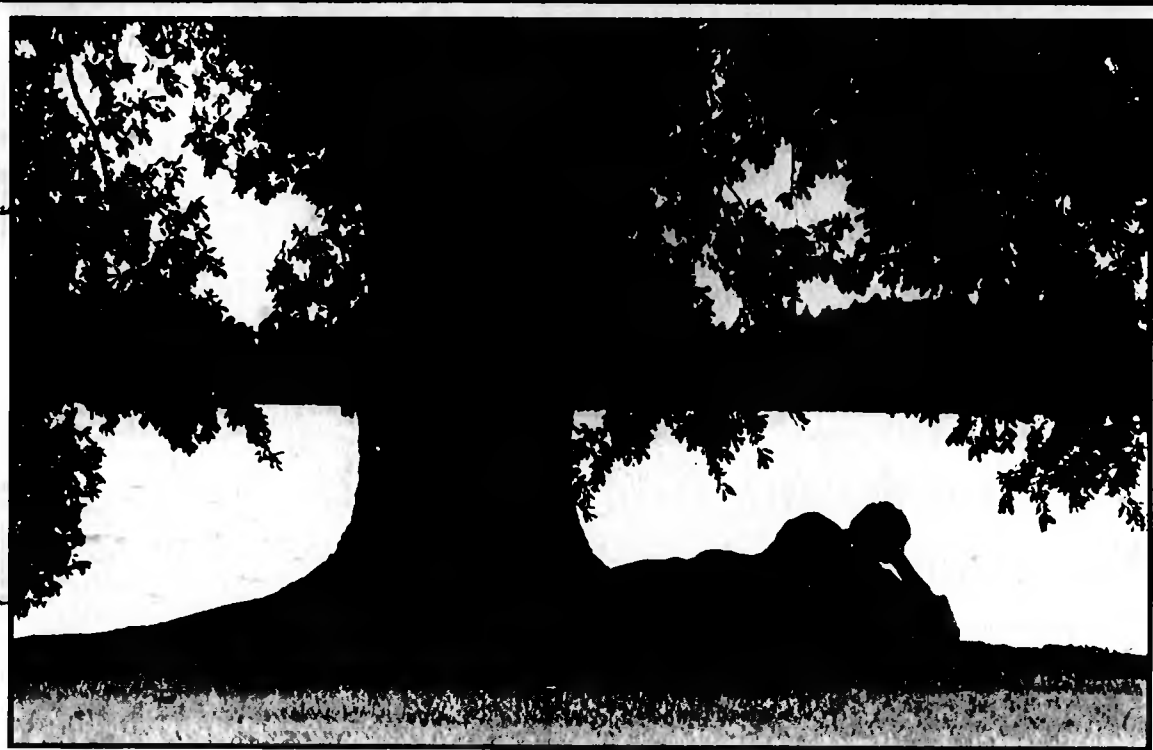
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Under The Protective Arms Of An Old Oak

There are few places outdoors where you can feel as protected as under the limbs of an ancient live oak. Its trunk and surface roots may take on shapes that make movement seem possible. Its leaves

reach down and around gracefully, like a mother hen sheltering her chicks with her wings. Here you can lie peacefully and watch the river flow by. (Photo by Ric Carter)

Becton Wins Silver Medal At Nationals

West Craven Sophomore Misses Gold By A Fraction

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Lee Becton's success in the triple jump this year may have college coaches hopping, skipping and jumping over each other in three years when Becton will be ready to take his jumping ability to a new height.

Becton, a sophomore at West Craven High School near Vanceboro, is only 15 years old. But he already has experience at the state and national levels in triple jumping. As a freshman this past spring, Becton finished eighth in the state class 3-A track championships with a leap of 43 feet, 2 1/4 inches. Before the state meet, he recorded a jump of 45 feet, 10 inches. The best effort at the state meet was 45 feet, 8 1/4 inches.

But Becton waited until July to pick up his personal best—in the TAC/USA Junior Olympic Nationals meet in Gainesville,

Fla. Although he finished second and earned a silver medal, he came up with his best effort ever—a jump of 46 feet, 1 inch. Nigel Brown of Cincinnati, Ohio, fared a little better with his last jump of 46 feet, 3 inches to edge out Becton for the gold.

Qualifying for a state track meet is a tough hurdle for any athlete to clear, much less a freshman. Qualifying for the national Junior Olympics is almost akin to hurdling the pole vault bar.

David Simpson, coach of the East Carolina Track Club and an employee with the New Bern Recreation Department, noticed Becton's ability at a conference track meet involving West Craven. Becton said Simpson approached him and asked to him to attend a Junior Olympic

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State Revokes Key Texasgulf Air Emissions Permit

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

The state's Division of Environmental Management has revoked one of Texasgulf Chemicals Co.'s key permits, saying the company emitted air pollutants at its Lee Creek operation near Aurora.

Texasgulf said it had revealed the emissions to the state. J. Randolph Carpenter, director of governmental affairs and public relations for Texasgulf, said the company was unaware of the revocation until contacted by reporters late Friday. Tom Regan, vice

president in charge of the Lee Creek plant, said the company had not received written notification of the revocation by Friday.

"The key to this is that this information was not previously known by anyone," said Regan in a telephone interview with a reporter early Saturday morning. Regan said testing of the emissions from its phosphoric acid plants indicated sulfur dioxide was being released. He said the permitting of sulfur dioxide emissions has never been allowed at any phosphoric acid plant in the world.

"We recognize our responsibility to continually evaluate our operation... to determine if we are impacting the environment," said Regan. Texasgulf submitted the information to the state based on that commitment, he said.

There is no fine connected with the revocation and the company's other 21 air emission permits and water discharge permits are not affected. The mining operation is also unaffected.

The company mines phosphate and manufactures fertilizer at Aurora.

Texasgulf has 60 days from Aug. 3 to appeal the revocation or resolve the case, said state officials. Loss of the permit could force the company to close portions of its plant.

Company officials said the revocation could adversely affect the Lee Creek operation.

"If we were unable to produce phosphoric acid, it would have serious consequences for our operations," said Carpenter. "All of our various operations are an integral part of the total operation."

"There are four phosphoric acid plants at our facility. The

phosphoric acid can be sold as a product by itself. And it can be used internally to manufacture other fertilizers," said Carpenter.

The company will soon begin producing food-grade phosphoric acid, used in products such as soft drinks as a preservative. Phosphoric acid is also used in making fertilizer and animal feed.

"They can't operate without a permit. That means they might have to shut down some of their plants if they don't get their act together," said Don Follmer, spokesman for the Department

of Natural Resources and Community Development. The Division of Environmental Management is a part of NRCD.

Texasgulf will be issued another permit if it can comply with air emission guidelines, said Follmer. He said the state does not want to shut Texasgulf down, but wants it to follow pollution control measures regarding air, soil and water.

State officials pointedly said permit revocation is a serious step, a step they don't take often.

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Solid Waste Keeps Mounting; Answers To Problem Unclear

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Tighter rules on solid waste disposal and increasing amounts of waste have towns and counties scurrying to find ways to keep expenses down and service up.

These problems, if not solved, may force cities and towns to throw their sanitation services on the trash pile.

Municipal and county officials responsible for waste disposal met last week at a conference sponsored by the Solid Waste Division of the N.C. Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Craven County officials, along with the Cherry Point Marine Corps base and two other counties, are looking into ways to handle the 750 tons of waste per day. One consideration is a waste-to-energy facility that turns garbage into energy—steam, electricity of both. The steam and power can be sold.

But county and city officials agree that something must be done to help alleviate ever-increasing amounts of waste.

The officials agreed that problems of solid waste can be overcome with new technology, improved recycling programs and good management.

The sanitation directors said that landfills, usually run by counties, are getting more and more expensive to build and operate. Guidelines on landfills have been tightened and finding land for them can be a problem, said Terry Anderson, sanitation supervisor for Greenville and president of the division.

Many landfills in eastern North Carolina are running out of room for waste. New and proposed landfills have to go through a permitting process and are required to be double-lined. The lining

helps prevent seepage from the landfill into underground water sources. The tighter rules make the new and proposed landfills more expensive to operate.

And although counties usually provide landfills, they are not required to do so. But the sanitation directors said they were concerned that counties will find landfills too expensive to operate and stop providing them. That would leave the municipalities with a state-mandated responsibility to find a way to dispose of the waste. That would mean added costs for them, and could cause waste collection to change from a town-provided service to a contracted service.

Cities and towns take differing approaches to the waste disposal problem, said Anderson. Tarboro contracts for all of its waste disposal and Kinston does not allow any outside collectors. Other towns take in-between approaches.

In fact, the directors said the biggest anticipated changes in their field to be in the way waste is disposed of. Collection by private companies looms as an increasing possibility, they said. But they said they felt a municipality could compete or do a better job than private sources if they were able to obtain the equipment they needed.

Gerald Jones, sanitation supervisor of the city of Jacksonville, said the amount of solid waste generated in his area had increased by about 25 percent over the last few years. Kinston's Sebastian Cruz, Hickory's Edward Bowman and Reidsville's Billy Watlington all said their towns had experiences similar growth.

That growth means landfill (See WASTE, Page 5)



Fancy Footwork

West Craven's Darrin Bizzell goes through the paces during a practice session last week at the Eagles' practice field. About 75 players turned out for Coach Clay Jordan. The Eagles hope to improve on their 7-4-1 record last season. The squad appears to have size and strength at the running back positions. The Eagles open the season Aug. 27 with an away game against North Pitt. See photo feature on page 4. (Mike Voss photo)

West Craven Prepares For '88 Gridiron Season

By MO KROCHMAL
Special to the West Craven Highlights

Clay Jordan found himself doing a different type of coaching last Wednesday night.

Jordan, the head football coach at West Craven High School, was not at the Eagles' third practice of this season. Instead, Jordan was with his wife, who is preparing to deliver a baby.

The coach now has a new baby boy, and was picking up his wife and son yesterday from the hospital to bring them home.

Jordan's staff, consisting of Tony Caprara, Ed Wall, Francis Felder, Tim Hardison, Eddie Jordan and Tommy Gaskins, carried on in his absence last week.

Last Wednesday night, the 75 candidates for the junior varsity and varsity squads donned helmets and continued conditioning drills—using the spoke drill which the Eagles' coaching staff

refers to as the Fair drill—because it goes round and round like the Ferris wheel at the fair.

In the two-hour session which began at 7 p.m., the Eagle candidates took turns at the various stations that included: agility drills on tackling dummies; bench jumps; agility through a cone course; and agility drills through the rope station.

Then the team split into position drills.

Assistant coach Tim Hardison said the prospects reported in good condition.

Hardison noted that even the linemen—of which West Craven appeared to have in "large" numbers—seemed to be in good shape.

Volunteer assistant coach Tony Caprara said the turnout was the largest he could recall. "This is the most ever. I guess they're out here because of the

(See EAGLES, Page 2)

3 From West Craven Receive Scholarships

Three West Craven High School students and six other Craven County high school students have been named recipients of scholarships by the Awards Committee for Education, an Asheville-based foundation. Nominations were made by school counselors and were based on national achievement tests.

The students earning the scholarships are Stacy Nicole McCarter, Nedra Richardson and Adrian W. Cameron of West Craven, Kenneth Allen and Jonathan Travis James of Havelock High School and Robin Jefferson Stanly Jr., Joel Sanders Reed and Tonny Patrice White of New Bern High School. Scholarship recipients attend

programs this summer at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, N.C. State University, Davidson College, Wake Forest University, Bowdoin College, UNC-Asheville, Appalachian State University, Western Carolina University, Duke University, Brevard College, Esperance in Statesville, Concordia College Language Villages, universities cooperating with project LEAD and the North Carolina Outward Bound School.

Funding for the scholarships, one of the largest minority-student programs in the nation, comes from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and the

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