



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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Panels Request More Actions, Fewer Studies

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

The two citizens' advisory committees of the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study say action, legislative leadership and public awareness are key to understanding and correcting the problems in the Albemarle and Pamlico estuaries.

Proposed action includes several studies of the Neuse River and problems it is experiencing. Several Craven County people serve on the local advisory committee. One proposed study will investigate algal blooms on the Neuse and why they occur.

The two committees, one from the Pamlico Sound area and the other from the Albemarle Sound area, took study officials to task Friday for what they perceived as concentrating on additional study when implementation of management action is needed.

Several advisory committee members told the members of the other two committees — the policy and technical panels — that the public is demanding action. They tempered their requests for immediate action by

noting that the research needs to continue.

The position papers issued by the two citizens' committees — particularly the Pamlico committee paper — resulted in the substance of much of the discussion and interaction between the four committees.

Derb Carter, chairman of the Pamlico committee, said he heard some people were characterizing its paper as "damaging and could kill the program." Carter said he resented the remarks. Ernie Larkin of the Pamlico committee said, "The public wants to see things done."

The Albemarle committee's paper noted concerns that some phases of APES are not making progress and some areas are not being given proper attention. It echoed the Pamlico panel's call for action. The Albemarle group called for enforcement and management of existing programs and the formation of a legislative liaison committee.

Paul Wilms, director of the Division of Environmental Man-

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Keeping A Lookout For His Master

Most dogs like to go for a ride. They at least prefer it to being left home. His job remains unclear. Perhaps he watches for submerged stumps. Does he bark at fish? Maybe he makes sure his

master doesn't miss any of his crab pots. At any rate, he must make a pleasant passenger. Otherwise he wouldn't be welcome in a canoe. (Ric Carter photo)

Vikings Scuttle Eagles

Six Interceptions Seal Team's Fate

HOLLYWOOD — West Craven's Eagles lived by the pass and died by the pass Friday night as the Vikings of D.H. Conley intercepted six aerials and cruised to a 40-13 Coastal Conference win.

The Viking defenders, lead by strong safety Paul Merritt's three interceptions, gave their offense good field position. The defense returned several interceptions — several that bounced off Eagle receivers — deep into Eagle territory. Merritt has six interceptions on the year.

West Craven's two scores came on passes, but they weren't enough to overcome a 20-0 outburst by Conley in the third period that enabled the Vikings to pull away from a 14-7 lead at halftime. West Craven drew first blood when sophomore quarterback Kevin Holzworth hit end Thomas McGhee for a 20-yard scoring strike. Jay Gaskins booted the extra point for a short-



Some of the Eagle offense take a breather in recent game

lived 7-0 lead. Holzworth hit Tony Bryan in the final period with a 12-yard touchdown pass. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

"We never did stop them all night," said Eagle coach Clay Jordan. "It was 14-7 at the half the we came apart. Everything we did backfired. We got behind and had to throw. They picked off some passes and some hit our

receivers and bounced off." Jordan said the Eagles were lethargic and played poorly. "I look for them to improve. I don't know if it was us being young, inconsistent or what," said Jordan.

"I hope it was just one of those (games) you're going to have during the year," he added. "Our kids played well. We put four quarters together for a

change," said Conley head coach Steve Craft, whose squad is 3-1 in the conference and 5-2 overall.

Craft said he expected a closer game and could not figure out why West Craven was sluggish. "We expected ... a function at the junction," he said. "We played the best football game we've played all year."

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Air Space Proposals May Bring Dogfight

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

Unless the military curbs its appetite to control more air space in eastern North Carolina, it may find itself in a legal dogfight.

Members of the Eastern Aviation & Airspace Association, meeting last week, criticized the proposed takeover attempt by the military. They are specifically concerned with low-level flying, electronic warfare training (use of lasers) and restrictions on civilian aircraft.

They said they were concerned enough to take their fight to court and they expect it's what they will have to do to stop the proposed takeover. They said the fight would be led by the state attorney general. His office filed a Freedom of Information request with the Defense Department asking for details for plans at the Navy's Piney Island range in Dare County. Several other state departments and agencies have expressed desire to fight the proposals at a series of meetings over the last several months.

Other groups in eastern North Carolina, particularly coastal areas and one headed by W.A. Runner of New Bern, are joining Eastern Aviation and Airspace

Association in attempts to block the proposed military operation areas, called MOAs, and other restricted air spaces. Municipalities and counties have joined the fight.

The members said the military has used red tape and other tactics to slow the opposition. "It looks like they planned the thing to aggravate us to death to get us to go home and forget about it," said J.T. Keech who, like many in the group, is a private pilot.

Keech, along with association Chairman Cecil Bradley, said the group is having trouble getting information from the military and Federal Aviation Administration concerning the proposed takeover and electronic warfare ranges.

Bradley said the FAA admits having problems dealing with the issue, having little knowledge of military plans. Bradley and Keech are afraid if the air space is lost or restricted, other areas will fall into the military's hand.

A similar group in Pamlico County, Home on the Range, is one of the leading active groups fighting the proposal. It lists the following concerns about the

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Staring Into A Misty Morning

Fall mornings often witness quiet, rolling fogs that rise with the sun. They float from the warm water into the cool morning air tumbling silently on imperceptible breezes. One may see phantoms

of all sorts as the rising sun sifts and shifts through the shuddering, white curtain hung over a creek.

(Ric Carter photo)

'Great Spirit' Defense Has Mark Of Koonce

MURFREESBORO — The spearhead of Chowan College's "Great Spirit" defense may very well be from Craven County.

Former West Craven High standout George Koonce, an All-American candidate for the Murfreesboro junior college, has been a leader of the defense that gave up only two touchdowns and 31 points in the Braves' first six games of the season. Koonce, a middle linebacker, made 38 solo tackles and 20 assisted tackles coming into this past weekend's game with Potomac State.

This past weekend the Braves handed Potomac State a 25-0 whipping, limiting the visitors from West Virginia to minus five yards on the ground and 120 yards in the air. Again, it was Koonce who led the defense to the shutout.

The Braves, ranked as high as 11th in the nation this year among junior colleges, dropped a one-point game two weekends ago to Fork Union Military Academy but Koonce still had some bright spots. He had 10 solo tackles, five assists, returned a fumble 34 yards for a touchdown and intercepted a pass and returned it 48 yards.

With the score 21-19 in favor of Chowan, Fork Union tried a two-point conversion pass that a Koonce intercepted. Hesitating just a second, Koonce remem-

bered that he could score two points because of a new rule change and took off, but was finally tackled at the 50.

A three-year starter for Clay Jordan at West Craven, the touchdown against Fork Union was his first ever. "We lost only two regular season games in three years and went 10-2 my senior season but I never came close to scoring before. I did not play any offense, just outside linebacker," said Koonce.

As an all-conference selectee in his junior and senior years and as an all-East selection, Koonce signed with Appalachian State University.

But grades kept him out of Appalachian and sent him to Chowan.

"I did not qualify under Proposition 48, so Coach Jordan told me about Chowan," said Koonce. At 6-2, 230 pounds, with a 4.8 time in the 40-yard dash, the physical-education major is a mobile "Dick Butkus" in the Braves' pro-style 4-3 defense.

"I came to Chowan in the summer of my freshman year and met Timmy Cofield (a Murfreesboro native who plays linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs). Timmy told me that college ball would be a big adjustment from high school and that I would have to learn how to read certain

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