



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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Poking Around

This great egret finds his long neck just the thing for poking around in tall grass while searching for food. The coastal and inland waters of the area are home to a variety of water fowl. One would have to

think that with the abundance of food in area waters, this egret has no regrets about making his home in eastern North Carolina. (Ric Carter photo)

Water Supply Still An Issue In Cove City

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

COVE CITY — After being turned down for a \$600,000 grant, part of which was targeted for drilling a well and hooking up to the Northwest Craven water system, Cove City still finds itself behind the dam on its water issue.

Attempts to confirm with court officials that a lawsuit filed by Cove City against New Bern concerning water rates is scheduled for Craven County Superior Court next month were unsuccessful. An unofficial source said the case was on the court calendar for early February.

The town still gets its water from New Bern.

Last April, the town's aldermen appropriated \$7,500 to help obtain the \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant the town applied for. The town's commitment would have been split into \$3,750 a year for two years, if the grant had been funded.

The grant was turned down,

said City Clerk Evelyn Hood on Monday. She said the town board is "still working toward that end" to provide a water system for residents.

The town's consultant on the town well estimated a town well would cost about \$70,000 to install.

The town did tie into the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District's water line near the town last summer, said Mayor L.D. Davis.

The mayor said in an interview Wednesday that the well has not been drilled and the town is still studying the issue. "We haven't done anything yet," said Davis. He said he favors the town getting water from its own well, if it is feasible.

The town is not using water from the tie-in with the Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District line and plans to use that water only in case of an emergency, said Davis.

The town's water woes came to

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Ground Is Broken For CCC Buildings

Ground was broken at noon Monday for two facilities at Craven Community College, enabling the college to move all of its New Bern-based programs onto campus and make a dent in current curriculum space needs.

Participating in the groundbreaking ceremony were the college's Board of Trustees, the county commissioners, the local delegation to the General Assembly and directors of the Craven Community College Foundation.

The buildings are expected to be completed by June 30, 1990.

The buildings will be constructed on the South Glenburnie Road campus near the tennis courts. Architect John N. Peterson of New Bern designed the buildings and Eastern Construction Co. of Greenville is the general contractor. The Craven County Board of Commissioners provided \$1,587,330 and the N.C. General Assembly provided \$1.5 million to round out the project's \$3.08 million budget.

"This allows for continuity of instruction. The opportunity for students to participate in other college activities is greatly enhanced," said Dr. Lewis S. Redd,

dean of the college. Until the buildings are complete, students have to travel from their program's facilities to campus to visit the library and often to take courses supporting their degree requirements, explained Redd.

Building D, at 18,885 square feet, will house programs in electronics engineering technology, machine shop, tooling and cosmetology. Building E is 20,307 square feet and includes a 290-seat performance auditorium, a business computer programming area and a fine arts section.

Cosmetology, masonry and carpentry programs are housed off campus in rented facilities. With the completion of the two buildings, they will come onto campus.

Electronics and machinist programs have outgrown current space at the college. Building D will allow room for two programs to run concurrently in each of those areas, with the machine shop further expanding its advanced offering into a two-year tooling program, said college officials.

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Airlifted To Hospital

Train, Car Accident Leaves One Injured

A 50-year-old woman was listed in serious condition Monday, four days after a collision with a train.

The accident left her in critical condition Thursday night after her car was hit by a train and dragged 125 feet down the tracks, officials said.

Ethelene Shands, whose hometown was listed as Rt. 3, Vanceboro, was taken to Pitt County Memorial Hospital

around 2 p.m. last Thursday by Eastcare air ambulance, officials said.

Her car was struck by a Norfolk & Western freight train about 1:40 p.m. last Thursday, according to the Highway Patrol. The patrol said there were no signals at the intersection where the accident occurred.

The accident occurred about

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A Weekend For Being Prepared

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

CAMP PETERSON — Smoke from campfires drifted among the trees and boys and men warmed themselves before the crackling fires. Although the sun was shining, the morning chill still had its bite.

For 200 Scouts and adult leaders, this past weekend was a learning experience. Learning who, what, when,

where, how and why for merit badges and learning how to cope "in the wild."

The annual camporee for the Neuse Basin and Croatan Trail districts of the East Carolina Council of the Boy Scouts of America was held over the weekend at Camp Peterson, a few miles south of Vanceboro. This was the first time in 12 years the annual camporee was held somewhere other than Camp Sam Hatcher near

Newport, said Frankie Buck, camporee chief.

Buck said 16 troops took part in the camporee, with Troop 58 and Troop 208 from Vanceboro acting as hosts. The troop from Davis covered the most miles in making it to the camporee and a troop from Greenville, not part of the Croatan Trail or Neuse Basin districts, made an appearance after asking permission.

Scouts were still arriving on

foot, by bans and by car after lunch. Earlier arrivals had already set up camp, complete with tents, fires and makeshift kitchens. Others were setting up camp, looking for the right spot to set up weekend housekeeping in the woods.

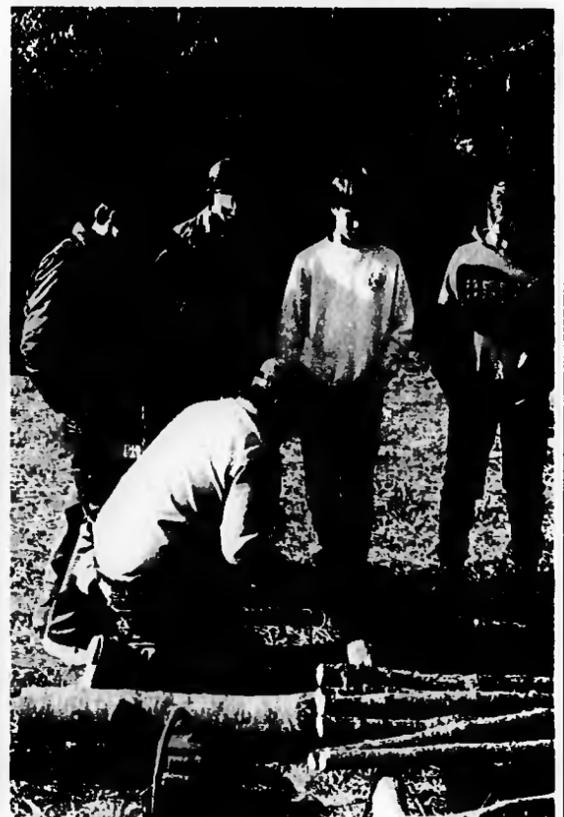
"Your tent needs a little housekeeping," said one leader to a scout.

"What's this supposed to

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Colin James, left, James Brown inspect "ladder"



Henry Goodson explains raft-making

'Greenhouse Effect' Gives Coastal Areas Cause For Concern

Of all the dire warnings the public has heard recently about the failing environment, one of the most ominous for coastal North Carolina is the predicted rise in sea level due to the "greenhouse effect."

Scientists understood years ago that due to our constant burning of fossil fuels (oil, coal, gasoline), carbon dioxide levels in the earth's atmosphere would rise. The scientists also knew that this carbon dioxide, along with methane and other gases, could absorb heat that once reflected back into space. The result of this absorption would be

Analysis

warming temperatures generated similar to the way a garden greenhouse works, hence the term "greenhouse effect."

Though predictions about the extent of the future warming vary, researchers know a gradual warming of the earth has been occurring in the past 100 years, and they feel a more rapid rise is inevitable over the next 100 years as well. If they are correct, one of the results will be a meltback of polar icecaps and glaciers, and

subsequent to that a raising of sea levels around the world.

That would certainly cause major damage to beaches and other coastal areas, and it would also pose a grave threat to coastal wetlands, including those here in North Carolina. Again, while scientists differ on the level the problem may reach, they agree that by the year 2050, 60 years away, the effects of global warming will be felt and will be severe.

Based on this grim prospect, two major challenges face the public today regarding wetlands: (1) to determine how the sea level rise will affect wetlands, and (2)

to make regulatory decisions that give wetlands the best chance against the rise.

As noted earlier, recorded data show the Earth has been gradually warming over the past 100 years. Geologic studies indicate this trend has also been occurring from natural causes for some 15,000 years, and that sea level has been rising at a steady pace with the warming.

Since this natural rise in both temperature and sea level has been gradual, wetlands have been able to sustain and even increase their area since they had the room and time to migrate

landward ahead of the water. Sediment washed from uplands filled in low-lying areas and gave the wetlands a base on which to build and recreate their natural characteristics.

What scientists fear from the greenhouse effect is that sea level rise will become so rapid that many wetlands will be unable to keep up this gentle retreat. Especially in areas where development and bulkheading have already encroached on existing wetlands, the wetlands will have little room and less time in which to re-establish themselves. And even in areas where there is

room, researchers feel other factors may lead to a net loss in wetland acreage.

In eastern North Carolina's coastland area the potential for wetland loss is high because many existing wetlands border higher land and have no room for retreat. One study states that by the year 2100 the Neuse River in western Craven County and the lower Tar River in Pitt County may be coastal rivers much like the Pamlico is in eastern Beaufort County now. Without functioning wetlands, however,

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