



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

Russian Journalist, N.C. Students Have 'Summit'

By BETTY GRAY
Special to the
West Craven Highlights

Glasnost, the new spirit of openness in the USSR, came alive Friday in eastern North Carolina.

Students from Betsy Hodges' third-grade class at John Cotton Tayloe School had an impromptu social studies lesson from a news editor from Moscow.

Ms. Hodges' pupils were on a routine tour of the West Craven

Highlights' office in Washington and the Washington Daily News office.

The Soviet newsman, Alexander Podakin, was visiting Washington with Hal Sharpe, publisher of the The Graphic of Nashville, N.C., as part of a National Newspaper Association exchange program.

The two groups crossed paths adjacent to the Highlights' office next to the newsroom of the Daily News and a curious exchange

of questions and answers followed.

"How many languages do you speak?" asked one child.

"Say something in Russian!"

"How do you write?"

The entranced group of eight- and nine-year olds asked questions, and Podakin obligingly answered.

Podakin arrived in the state Sunday from Moscow, where he works as an editor and writer for the Novosti news agency. His

visit is the second part of an exchange that took Sharpe to Krasnodar in the USSR last fall.

Podakin, a member of the Communist Party who served as a press and information officer at the Soviet embassy in Ottawa, Canada, said the purpose of the exchange is to give newspapers in smaller towns a good look at the outside world.

"Small newspapers tend to occupy themselves with local news. Period," he said. "This is a

luxury they can no longer afford."

"This is perestroika, restructuring, in full swing. It has a great effect on all of us whether we see it or not," he said.

The exchange between Sharpe and Podakin is the first exchange between a Soviet and an American sponsored by the newspaper association.

Podakin's visit to Nashville has been like "sticking a lighted match to dynamite," Sharpe

said, and has included visits to the local Lions Club, a Voice of America site, a political science class at N.C. Wesleyan College and a meeting of the John Birch Society.

Podakin said his visit to a small town has more effect than a visit to a larger city where Russians come and go as part of daily events.

His visit "becomes an ex- (See RUSSIAN, Page 2)

Wrestlers Advance To 3-A Regionals

By MO KROCHMAL
Sports Editor

WASHINGTON — West Craven will be represented by seven wrestlers in this weekend's North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Class 3-A Eastern Regional Wrestling tournament Friday and Saturday at East Wake High School.

The Eagles' standard will be born by two Coastal Conference weight-class finalists — and a champion, Eddie McKeel, who earned his title in the conference tournament last weekend in the Washington High School gym-

nasium. West Craven head coach Clay Jordan said he was surprised by the success his wrestlers had individually in the tournament which was dominated by D.H. Conley, which advanced 11 finalists to eight weight class championships.

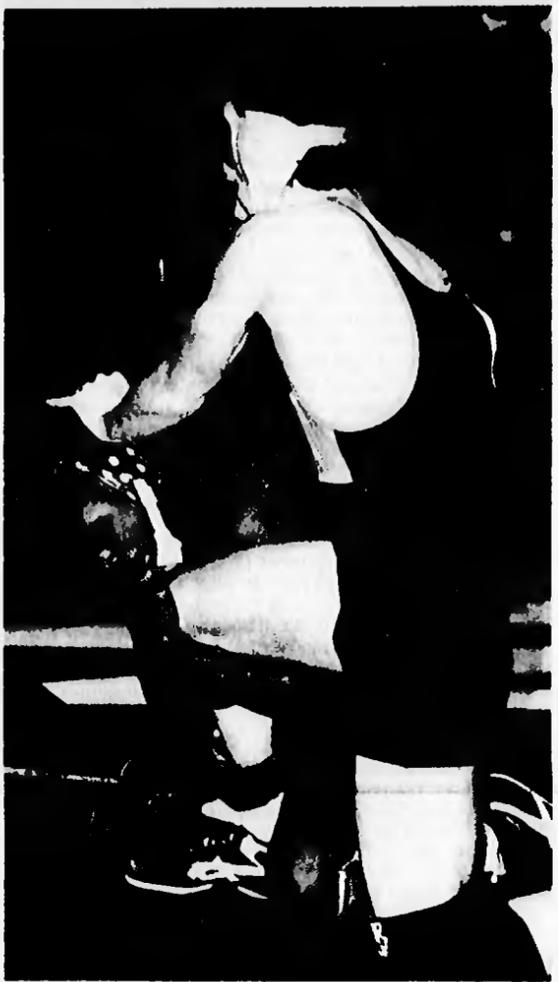
West Craven finished fifth while West Carteret was second, Havelock third and Washington fourth in the one-day affair.

"I was surprised by how we did," said Jordan. "Three in the finals is quite a few for our

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McKeel (left photo) seeks advantage and Allen (right photo) goes for leg



Rate Dispute Over Water Brought Suit

Lawyer Says Bills Paid, Rate Hike Not Justified

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

COVE CITY — The lawyer handling Cove City's lawsuit against the City of New Bern over water said it is based on a disagreement over water rates rather than alleged non-payment of water bills.

The suit was scheduled for last week's session of Superior Court was continued, said Kenneth R. Wooten, the lawyer handling the case for Cove City. No date has been set on when the case will be heard, said Wooten.

Wooten said New Bern has not provided a complete set of documents it said pertains to the case. "They were supposed to provide the documents at the end of January. They said last week they had some more but they were not ready," Wooten wants to review the documents before going back to court.

The town was recently turned down on its grant request of \$600,000, part of which was targeted for drilling a well and hooking up to the Northwest Craven water system. The denial of the grant has left the town

seeking its own water source instead of depending on New Bern.

The town's water woes came to light last February when it filed suit against the City of New Bern and City Manager Walter B. Hartman Jr. after the town and New Bern were unable to reach an agreement on a water rate increase and New Bern threatened to shut off Cove City's water supply.

In March, 1987, the New Bern City Council increased the rate it charged Cove City for water to 99 cents per 1,000 gallons of water, plus a surcharge each month based on meter size.

The town obtained a temporary restraining order to keep New Bern from shutting off the water.

The town still gets its water from New Bern.

Wooten said the contract between Cove City and New Bern requires New Bern to justify any increase. "They haven't done that," said Wooten. The lawyer said New Bern could only cut off water to Cove City under certain

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Area S&L Head Recommends Sticking To Original Concept

In 1831 Comly Rich, a lamplighter and comb maker, borrowed \$375 to buy a home on Orchard Street in Philadelphia.

The lender was the Oxford Provident Building Association, formed by 37 people who made an initial deposit of \$5 each and pledged to deposit \$3 a month into the new institution.

Oxford Provident's loan to Rich is thought to be the first home loan by a savings associa-

tion in America. Oxford Provident had been founded for two reasons — to provide a way for its members to save money and a place for them to borrow money to buy or build homes. From there, the savings-and-loan industry grew with those two functions as their primary objectives.

Thomas Vann, president and chief executive officer of Home Savings & Loan Association,

said that sticking to the concept on which they were founded — a pool of savings from which home loans could be made to local families — has kept Craven County savings and loans from suffering the financial problems affecting some of those in the Southwest.

"The stated purpose of Home Savings & Loan is to build houses to the benefit of the public and to encourage thrift," he

said. William F. Taylor Jr., an area branch manager of Cooperative Savings & Loan Association, said local savings and loans like the ones in Craven County continue to do well "because we have never lost sight of our original mission — to be a safe haven for savings and to provide home loans for the people of eastern North Carolina."

Vann said his customers are in-

terested in the savings and loan situation and some have asked questions, but "they are healthy questions."

Crises in the banking and savings institutions are "crises of confidence," he said. "And there is no crisis of confidence today."

Home Savings & Loan, with offices in New Bern, Kill Devil Hills, Washington and Elizabeth City, lent more than \$37,294,000 on homes and businesses in east-

ern North Carolina in 1988. It paid almost \$4,415,000 in interest to its savings customers, according to the association's statement of condition.

The association's profits were more than \$919,000 and its reserves are more than \$8,726,000.

Taylor said a few customers have asked questions but a letter mailed Dec. 12 to customers by

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Texasgulf Workers Turn Down Union

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

A group of Texasgulf Chemicals Co. employees at Aurora voted overwhelmingly Thursday to reject an attempt to unionize.

With about a 3-to-1 margin, maintenance workers in the Production and Maintenance Division of the Lee Creek operation voted against letting the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers be their bargaining voice.

The final tally was 253 votes against the union and 89 for it. The vote count was completed about 5:45 p.m. The 253 votes represents 74 percent of the votes cast.

The election affected about 360 employees. Had the union been approved, IBEW Local 495 from Wilmington would have represented the workers.

Under National Labor Relations Board rules, a year must pass before the same employees can be approached by union officials in another organizing attempt.

The vote was held between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. and between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. It was observed by two company officials, two union officials and an agent from the NLRB. R.W. Hatcher, business manager of Local 495, attended the pre-voting conference held 30 mi-

nutes before the election and the vote count afterwards.

"We've very pleased that large a percentage of our employees expressed their support for the company," said Rann Carpenter, manager of public relations and governmental affairs at the Lee Creek site. "We look forward to continuing our business and working together with all employees to address all issues of concern," said Carpenter.

"We weren't trying to guess or speculate about the outcome," said Carpenter when asked if the vote was what the company expected. He said the company wanted to work with the employees to continue making strides in improvements and "we want that message to come across to our employees."

The vote came after several months of organizing efforts. Hatcher had said the union was approached by Texasgulf employees. The union originally targeted workers in the instrumentation and electrical division, but later Texasgulf and IBEW agreed that the proposed bargaining unit would be the maintenance workers in the production and maintenance division at Texasgulf. That stipulation was agreed to at a Jan. 3 meeting at NLRB offices.

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'What's Up Doc?'

That may be the question these two tykes asked the rabbit in the young girl's arms. The two unidentified children appear engrossed in their tour of a petting zoo. Wonder if the rabbit found a new home?

Lady Eagles Stumble, Fall Out Of Top Spot

D.H. Conley's girls took over first place in the Coastal Conference standings by routing co-leader West Craven Tuesday night. The other co-leader, West Carteret, also fell from the league's top spot after its loss to Havelock. East Carteret lost to Class 2-A Ayden-Grifton in a non-conference battle.

West Craven played slowdown basketball in its game with Coastal leader D.H. Conley and almost pulled off a monumental upset, but Viking forward Terry Williams stole a pass underneath with two seconds left to seal the 37-35 victory.

In the girls' game, Glenda Hardy, a 5-6 sophomore, tallied a season-high 22 points while Lendora Tyson, the league's second-leading scorer, scored a game-high 27 as the Valkyries took over first with a 69-33 triumph.

In the boys' game, West Craven held for the final minute and attempted a shot. Conley rebounded but the Eagles came through with a steal which set up the final defense.

Conley's defense held West Craven guard Linetta Bryant to just eight points in the girls' game. Bryant entered as the con-

ference's third-leading scorer.

At Havelock, the Lady Rams pulled within a half-game of third place by beating West Carteret 52-43 behind Dee Godette's 19 point outing.

Wendi Nelson led the Lady Patriots with 16 points.

In the boys' game, Havelock won easily, 89-57, despite foul trouble to the Rams' 6-9 senior center Anthony Robinson. With Robinson on the bench with three fouls in the first quarter, Ledel George scored outside while Kimbreu Morris battled inside to spark the Havelock romp that kept it in second place behind leader D.H. Conley.

George, a 6-3 senior headed to North Carolina State on a football grant-in-aid, led the Rams with 20 points while Morris added 14.

West Carteret won the junior varsity game 62-55.

In Ayden, Billy Ellison and Joe Montford, both seniors, continued their scoring tear for the East Carteret boys, scoring 32 and 20 points, respectively, but Ayden-Grifton topped the Mariners 84-74 as Leon Dixon scored 34 points and Ronnell Peterson added 20.

No details were available on the girls game, which East Carteret lost.