



Winter Coating

An ice storm during the weekend coated trees with ice, making a crystalline scene. But that same ice that brought an artistic look also brought problems. A Carolina Power & Light spokesman said the ice storm caused minor, scattered cases of individual power outages

in the Vanceboro area. No major blocks of customers were without power for a long time. Power was restored in most cases within one or two hours, said Bob McCarn.

(Ric Carter photo)

## 3 Grapplers Making Trip To Seek Titles

Allen, McKeel And Wooten Headed To Championships

WENDELL — West Craven's Eddie McKeel qualified for the state 2-A wrestling championships in the heavyweight division with a third-place finish in regional competition held Saturday.

Also qualifying were Jason Allen at 171 pounds and Toby Wooten at 103 pounds.

Coastal Conference matmen performed well at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Class 3-A Regional at East Wake High School in Wendell as D.H. Conley claimed the title. West Carteret placed third, Washington placed eighth and Havelock was twelfth.

West Craven finished 13th with 48 points.

Coastal champion D.H. Conley won with 187½ points followed by Eastern Alamance with 118 points. West Carteret was third with 104, followed by Burlington Cummings with 101 and Graham

with 85.

Washington, which finished fourth in the Coastal Conference tournament, finished eighth out of 16 teams with 61½ points.

Washington's Tim Tuck pinned Richard Harvey of Western Harnett 4:45 in the consolation round. Then, he decisioned Jeff French of Burlington Williams 8-3 before losing to McKeel of West Craven 8-5 in the consolation finals. McKeel entered the regional meet as the Coastal 3-A conference champion.

Coach Billy Ray Brown said Tuck was Washington's first heavyweight competitor to qualify for the state meet.

Havelock's finish was buoyed by Kenny Frazier, who captured the 160-pound championship. Frazier finished with an unblemished record of 4-0 in the regional.

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## Scientists Suggest Farmers Use Test-Proven Seeds

There's no seed like certified seed.

So say crop science specialists at N.C. State University, who would like someday to see all North Carolina farmers planting certified seeds. Unlike the uncertified "bin run seed," certified seed is grown under special conditions and subjected to a battery of tests before it hits the market

in specially marked bags.

"Certified seed offers farmers a product that is high in germination, true to variety, with few weed seeds and free from many seed diseases," Dr. Jan Ferguson said. Ferguson is a seed specialist with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Each bag of certified seed wears a label that tells farmers

*"The farmer will have better stands, fewer weed problems and a crop that is uniform in maturity and growth habit"*

— Jan Ferguson

the percentage of pure seed, inert matter, other crop seed, weed seed and noxious weeds con-

tained in the sack. In addition, germination information and the testing date can be found on ev-

ery bag of certified seed.

Certified seed's counterparts, "bin run seed" and "brown bag seed," are harvested when a farmer decides to make seed from his own commercial crop. Some farmers clean and test the seed; others don't.

"They know little about the quality of the seed and tests prove that these seeds have less

quality than certified seed," said Foil McLaughlin, director of the N.C. Crop Improvement Association and a faculty member in the NCSU crop science department.

According to McLaughlin, tests show a link between higher crop production and the use of

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## Officials Predict Battle For Funds

By MICHAEL ADAMS  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

Area school officials dined on oysters and predictions of hard times ahead when they met last week for their annual oyster roast and conference.

The state schools superintendent, Bobby Etheridge, and Gene Causby, director of the N.C. School Boards Association, spoke to school administrators from several northeastern counties gathered for a regional superintendents' council meeting. They said the Basic Education Program will face tough battles in this session of the General Assembly.

Causby said the recent pay raise rally in Raleigh attended by 5,000 teachers may not have helped the situation.

The council meeting was followed by an oyster roast in the high school gymnasium.

Etheridge said that maintaining funding for the Basic Education Plan, or BEP, will not be easy this year because many of the legislators who voted for it in 1985 are no longer in office.

The BEP is an 8-year, \$800-

million plan to upgrade public elementary and secondary schools. Etheridge called it "the most important piece of legislation for young people ... that we've had in this state for 50 years."

He said that some people, including legislators and even some school personnel, did not realize the importance of the program. "We've got to do a better job educating the public about what the BEP program really is," he said.

Causby, who serves as a liaison between school systems and the General Assembly, said, "We're going to have the toughest year legislatively that we've had in the last 10 or 12 years."

He said the BEP had strong competitors — prisons, community colleges and roads — for its share of the budget. "It's going to be hard to hang on to it."

Gov. Jim Martin proposed Monday using half of the \$113 million scheduled for use in implementing the program in 1989-90 to speed up a pay increase for teachers and other state em-

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## Problem Of Nutrients In Area Rivers Puzzling

In previous news accounts the problem of "nutrient overloading" in the several eastern North Carolina Rivers has been mentioned. While nutrient overload is certainly one of a river's chief pollution threats, and while the term is familiar to many who follow water quality issues, exactly why it is a problem often is not clearly understood.

As regards the issue of water quality, nutrients are simply elements which make vegetation grow. This sounds harmless enough, and to some degree it is. But when nutrient levels get too high troubles begin.

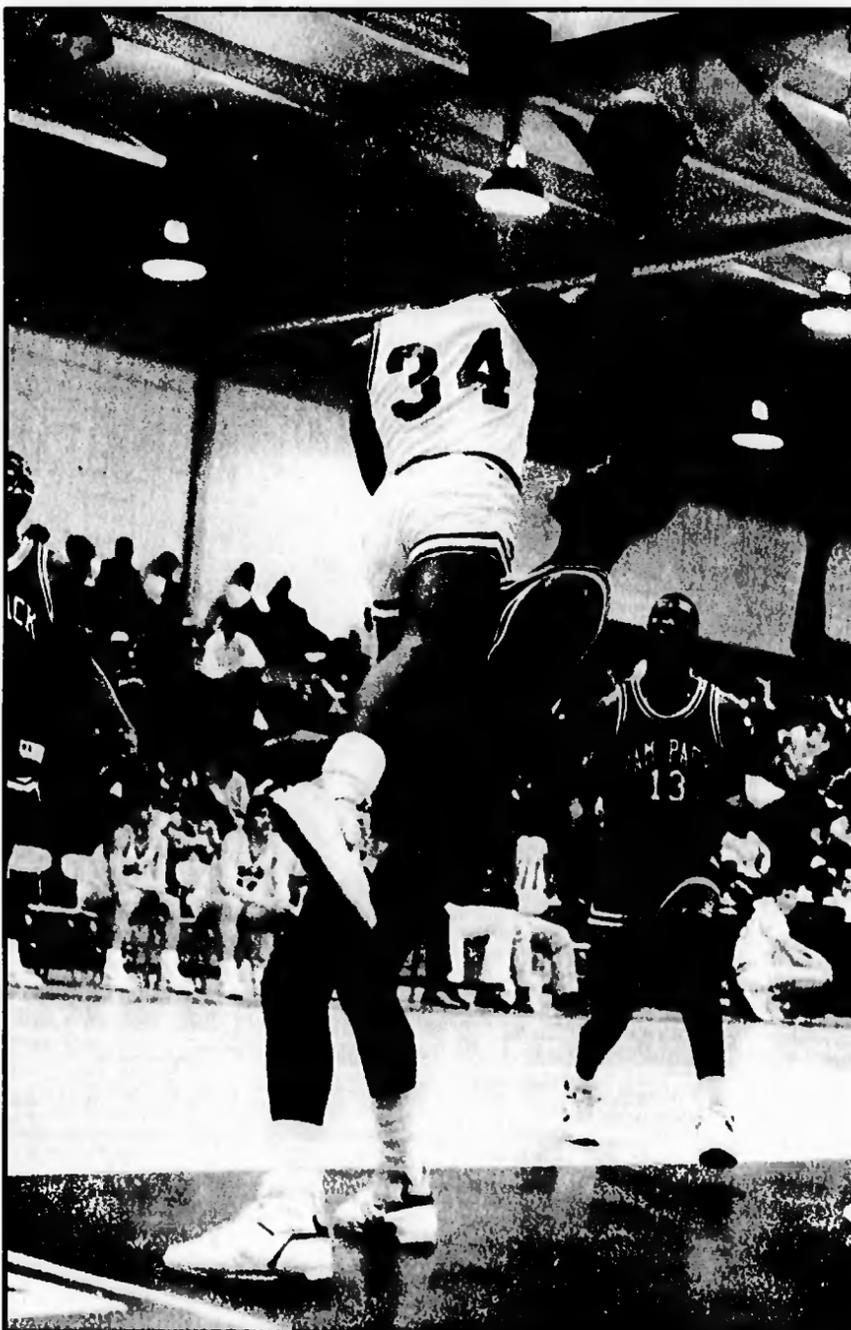
The nutrients most affecting the local watersheds are nitrogen and phosphorus. Both occur

naturally in local rivers, though phosphorus is decidedly more prevalent.

Thus, according to researchers, high levels of added phosphorus generally will not create nutrient overload problems since the water is conditioned to it. It is excess nitrogen that has the most effect on the Pamlico River, and so nitrogen is referred to as the "limiting factor" in the river's nutrient stress (making it different from most coastal North Carolina rivers, which are usually "phosphorus-limited").

There are two main ways in which nitrogen gets into the Tar-Pamlico. By far the largest source, accounting for more than

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Harris (34) goes up for shot against Pam Pack defender

## Pack Nips Eagles

Lady Eagles Fall Short After Rally

By MO KROCHMAL  
Sports Editor

Donald Gibbs reached into his coaching bag of tricks and came up with a defense that baffled West Craven long enough for Washington's girls to take a 42-35 Class 3-A Coastal Conference win Tuesday night.

The win, which gives Washington a chance at the Coastal regular-season championship, capped a tripleheader sweep.

In the boys' game, Washington could only watch as West Craven went to the line for two free throws with no time remaining and the score knotted at 49.

But luck was with the Pack and West Craven missed both tosses. Washington then pulled out a 50-49 overtime win to remain in the running for the No. 2 seeding in the Coastal tournament which begins next week at Havelock.

Washington's junior varsity won its second straight and improved to 7-12 and 5-6 in the conference with a 38-34 win over West Craven.

For the Pack girls to win or, at least, get a share of the conference title and force a draw for the No. 1 seeding in the tournament, they will have to defeat East Carteret (2-9, 3-16) in the home finale Friday night and West Carteret (7-4, 14-5) will have to beat pacesetter Conley (8-3, 17-5).

Tuesday night, Washington, which was picked to finish fifth in the conference preseason, played "great defense" said Gibbs.

The Lady Pack executed a 1-3 zone with a chaser on West Craven point guard Linetta Bryant, the No. 3 scorer in the conference averaging 15.7 points a game. Hawked man-to-man by Towanna Spruill, Bryant finished with six points.

Washington, on the other hand, rolled offensively as Gibbs

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