



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



VOLUME 12 NO. 13

MARCH 30, 1989

VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

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## Highways Plan Would Add To Towns' Street Funds

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

Under a proposed \$8.6 billion highways bill, Craven County towns and cities would see their portion of street money increased.

The improvements will begin next year, and if the highways package is passed, the increased money should continue for 12 years. Vanceboro, Cove City, Dover, Bridgeton will see about a

25-percent increase in Powell Bill funds. Powell Bill funds are monies that are returned the towns and cities. The money comes from tax on gasoline.

Vanceboro received \$24,752 in Powell Bill funds this year. The allocation for 1990 has Vanceboro receiving \$34,444. Under the proposed highways plan, the town would see an average of \$40,831 each year during the next 12 years.

Dover, with a current allocation of \$13,124, has \$18,283 allocated for 1990. Its yearly average over the 12-year period would be \$21,649. Cove City received \$12,068 this year and has been appropriate \$16,794 for 1990. Its yearly average would be \$19,908 over the 12-year period. Bridgeton's current Powell Bill funding allotment is \$12,368 and it is allocated \$17,210 in 1990. It would receive an average of \$20,402 a

year during the 12-year period.

Eastern and northeastern North Carolina will benefit greatly from the proposed highway trust fund bill that is now before the General Assembly, said state Transportation Secretary James E. Harrington last week at a regional briefing on the proposed bill. Harrington began crossing the state last week to explain the bill's provisions.

For more than a year, the High-

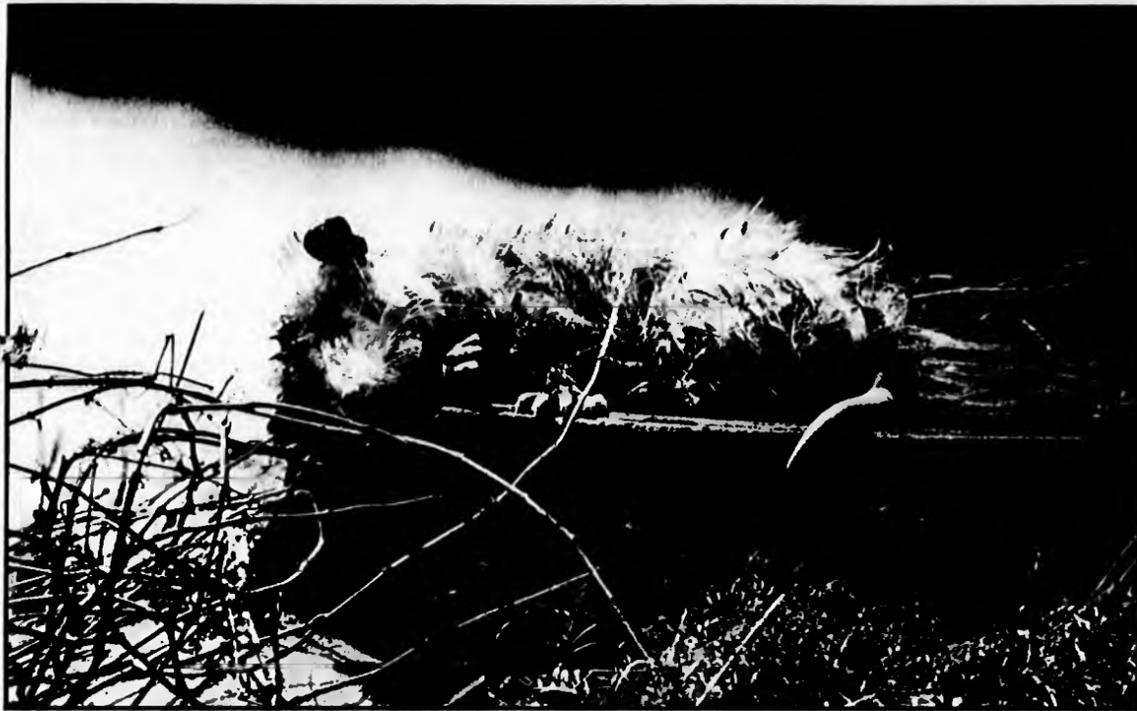
way Study Commission — a bipartisan group of legislative and administrative appointees — studied North Carolina's highway construction needs. The group came to a unanimous conclusion: North Carolina faces a major backlog in vital highway construction. Therefore, the commission unanimously recommended the \$8.6 billion, 12-year building program.

The plan calls for establishing

a highway trust fund to pay for an "intrastate" road system that will unite all regions in the state. The trust fund also would pay for portions of outer loops around seven major cities.

The trust fund will supplement the secondary roads appropriation and allow the state Department of Transportation to pave almost 10,000 miles of unpaved

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### Spring Weather Pleasant For Playing Possum

It's not just people who are glad to see the return of reasonable weather. This opossum found a sun-warmed manhole cover just the place for a morning nap Monday. Down on the bank of a

rain-swollen creek the traffic going by on a nearby highway meant nothing to a fellow tucked out from a night's foraging. (Ric Carter photo)

## Weyerhaeuser Is Monitoring Dioxin Levels

### Contaminated Fish Unsafe To Eat Say Some Scientists

By BETTY GRAY  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

Poisons have been found in fish in the Neuse River and a tributary of the Roanoke in concentrations that some scientists consider dangerous.

Chemicals called dioxins were found near Weyerhaeuser plants near Vanceboro and Plymouth. The company planned to start this week monitoring fish from the water in response to a request from the N.C. Division of Environmental Management.

Wastes from the Weyerhaeuser plant at Vanceboro flows into the Neuse. The company discharges waste from its Plymouth plant into the Roanoke.

The dioxins were found by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Welch Creek on the

Roanoke in December of 1987. At that time Welch Creek was the discharge area for the Plymouth plant. The company now discharges into the river, and its monitoring program includes the river as well as the creek.

The EPA found the dioxin in the Neuse last September.

The tests were part of the National Dioxin Study, begun in 1984, which the EPA conducted to identify any dioxins in fish below discharges from pulp and paper facilities.

The EPA notified the state Division of Environmental Management of its findings, and the DEM notified Weyerhaeuser and asked for a monitoring plan. A Weyerhaeuser scientist, Bob Herrmann, told the Daily News

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## Species Fall Prey To Mysterious, Complex Cycle Of Nature

"For every creature there is a paradox at the heart of the 'struggle for existence,' and the paradox is simply this: Neither man nor any other animal can afford to triumph in that struggle too completely." —Joseph Wood Krutch

Throughout the 3.5 billion or so years of life on Earth the "struggle for existence" has been unending. And in those eons countless plant and animal species have lost that struggle completely; indeed, the history of earth can well be told by the appearance and disappearance of different life forms.

For most of time these species fell victim to the mysterious

turns of nature. Cyclical changes in the earth's climate and evolutionary enhancement within species allowed some types of life to flourish while others were doomed to extinction. Paleontologists estimate that until humans emerged as the dominant creatures several thousand years ago, this natural process cost the earth an average of about one animal species every thousand years.

In the age of human domination, however, it is thought that an average of one animal species per year has been made extinct, and there are concerns that up to five or more plant and animal species a day may be lost now due to clearcutting in tropical

rain forests.

The reasons for this huge extermination are varied — habitat loss, pollution, elimination of food sources, "overharvesting" — but humans are clearly at the root of the process. As our presence encroaches, as our wants increase, we put more pressure on ecosystems than they can stand. Even strong, stable species can be pushed quickly to the edge of extinction when this happens.

Within the last hundred years, for example, several species which once thrived in the vast pine forests and swamps of eastern North Carolina have disappeared forever: the passenger pigeon, the Carolina parakeet,

and the woods bison are extinct. Several other species, though surviving elsewhere, no longer exist in this region, and a number of others are officially listed as "endangered" or "threatened" (endangered being the more serious) in the state and possibly globally.

Surely the most ironic situation is the decline of the bald eagle both here and throughout the United States. Beset by habitat destruction, poaching and pesticides that ruined reproductive rates, our national symbol disappeared from eastern North Carolina in the early 1970s.

In 1984, however, two eagles raised in captivity were released at the Mattamuskeet Refuge in

Hyde County, and several more pairs have been released since. Most of those birds have done well in the wild, and there is optimism about their chances of sustaining a wild population, but plenty of work — and good luck — still are needed.

Another species being reintroduced in North Carolina is the red wolf. Four pairs have been released in the Alligator River Refuge in Dare County, and though there have been deaths, four pups born to those pairs are still alive, and there is hope the wolves can regain a niche in the refuge.

A species that has made a comeback without a direct repopulation effort by man is the brown

pelican. Its birth rates ravaged by pesticides, brown pelicans were listed as endangered in the early 1970s. Many of those pesticides have since been outlawed, however, and today the brown pelican is coming back on its own, as people in coastal regions can easily witness now.

The outlook is not as bright for other species. The eastern cougar is possibly extinct in North Carolina; the American alligator, healthy elsewhere, is declining here; the red-cockaded woodpecker is losing ground, and the loggerhead turtle that nests on our beaches is threatened. An even greater number of plant species

(See PAM-TAR, Page 5)

## Rescue Squad Seeking Festival Parade Entries

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad is seeking entries for the annual Strawberry Festival-Rescue Day parade.

The festival will be held in Vanceboro on May 20, with the parade getting started at 10 a.m. and winding its way through downtown Vanceboro.

The chairman and co-chairman of the parade, Danny Barrow and Keith Morris, are searching for entries. They have sent letters to various groups and organizations seeking participants.

The letter, in part, states: "We would like to take this opportunity to invite you and your organization to participate with us in

the parade, and enjoy the fellowship, good food and other activities that are a part of this event. This year the parade will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, 1989. Line up time will be at 9 a.m. at the Royster Pamlico Mill site located on Highway 17 Business North just inside the city limits."

Barrow and Morris said they hope to have one of the best parades possible this year. They are requesting that entrants confirm plans to participate in the parade no later than April 25. Confirmations can be sent to the Vanceboro Rescue Squad, P.O. Box

(See FESTIVAL, Page 5)

## Eagles Come Up Short In Easter Tournament

Shawn Heath pitched a two-hitter and James Williams added a two-run home run in the top of the sixth inning to lead unbeaten North Lenoir to a 4-1 victory over West Craven and the West Craven Easter Tournament championship.

The Hawks, 4-0, were led by Williams, who batted 2-for-4. West Craven, which fell to 3-2, got one hit each from Chris Stille and Kip Bryan.

Heath went the distance for North Lenoir, striking out eight

Eagle batters while walking three.

John Dawson, who relieved starter John Dizon in the fourth and gave up three runs, was charged with the loss for West Craven. Monty Brown worked the final three innings for the Eagles.

South Lenoir won the consolation game by beating Jones Senior. No score or details were available.

North Lenoir 000 301 0-1  
West Craven 001 000 0-1



Anthony, left, Grant perform tricks

## Farm Life Students Finding Busy Times

While waiting for the arrival of warm weather, students at Farm Life Elementary School in Vanceboro were entertained by shows, projects or just plain school work.

The students were entertained recently with a one-man variety show that included juggling, magic and mime.

Michael Anthony of South-

east School Assemblies brought laughter and skill to the school with his variety show. Students joined him on stage as he demonstrated and taught the art of juggling with three objects.

He "bound" the students to their chairs with a display of rope tricks. Fifth-grader Troy

(See SCHOOLS, Page 5)

## West Craven Students Attend DECA Meeting; Chapter Gets 3 Awards

Four students representing the West Craven High School chapter of the Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) attended the state DECA conference in Winston-Salem recently.

Attending were Darlene Cooke, Jeri Mounce, Tracy Hall and Lorinda Flynn.

West Craven's DECA chapter was awarded a three-star plaque for its DECA activities during the 1988-89 school year. The chapter also received a certificate for 100 percent DECA membership and

a plaque for DECA scholarship support.

The students were entered in the competitive events. Miss Cooke participated in the food marketing competition, Miss Mounce took part in the general merchandising event, Miss Hall competed in the food service division and Miss Flynn participated as a dancer in the muscular dystrophy event. Each won a proficiency certificate in their

(See DECA, Page 5)



Hall, Mounce, Cooke and Flynn at conference