



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse

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## Info-Line provides answers

By Greg Stroud  
Staff Writer

"Info-Line, may I help you?" For residents of Craven County, one would hear the smiling voice of Sandy Thompson or her volunteer staff ready to answer the questions of who, what, when, where to questions such as "Where do I register to vote?", "Where would I find out how to get information on cocaine?", "Is there an organization in the community that..."

The list could go on and on. The idea for the Info-Line came into being in 1985 when the Craven County Board of Commissioners created the Board on Aging, and as one of its goals to "establish a central access point for information and referral for Craven County, not only for senior citizens, but for the community as a whole."

In December of 1986, Sandy Thompson was hired to head up the project. Thompson was a former secretary to Representative Beverly Perdue. Thompson stopped working for Perdue when the representative moved her public offices to Raleigh. Her job with the Board of Aging is to provide secretarial support to the board and to run the Info-Line.

After months of gathering information and collating it so it could be used, the Info Line finally became available to the public in May. Funds were then sought for a computer system to provide easy access to the information at hand through a database. The Info Line went on-line in September of 1987.

Thompson said the most frequently asked questions concern senior citizen services, followed by questions concerning marriage licenses and where to get a copy of one's birth certificate.

However, she says, there are times when the questions are a little out of the ordinary. She cites for example a woman who recently called and asked where to go for flying lessons. Another interesting case was a woman who called in and asked how to get rid of "snakes on her porch." The latter situation was finally re-

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Lightning strikes near a shuttle vehicle at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. To safeguard spacecraft and personnel, scientists

are conducting an ambitious lightning detection and protection program.

NASA photo

## Lightning enlightens scientists

By Donald J. Frederick  
National Geographic  
News Service

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Like modern Ben Franklin, scientists at the Kennedy Space Center watch enraptured as lightning flashes around them.

Instead of sending up key-carrying kites, the international team fires small sounding rockets, trailing long wires, into highly electrified late-summer storm clouds.

As the rockets surge through the clouds, simulating a spacecraft at launch, their rapid upward motion triggers lightning bolts that surge from the vaporized wires to instru-

ments on the ground.

From the data on the instruments, the American and French scientists hope to learn a lot more about lightning, to test existing protection systems, and to seek better ways to prevent lightning deaths.

Fifty to 100 rockets are being sent aloft from Kennedy this summer, causing between 20 and 60 lightning strikes.

"It's a remarkable technology that's come along down here," exults Philip Krider, director of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona.

"You're causing lightning to strike where and when you want it

to. This gives us an opportunity to strip away some of the mysteries surrounding this elusive and sometimes destructive force. Our work may enable us to come up with better protective measures on the ground as well as in the skies."

A network of 40 devices called field mills is now the first line of lightning defense at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration facility. Scattered throughout Cape Canaveral, in clearings resembling miniature launch sites, the devices are designed to detect clouds with high electric fields that might

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## New Bern can't stop Eagles

NEW BERN — West Craven used its running attack, kicking game and defense to cage the New Bern Bears last night with a 16-13 win. The 10th-ranked Class 3-A Eagles remained undefeated for the win over the host Class 4-A Bears, a Craven County rival.

West Craven junior tailback Lee Becton turned in this third consecutive 100-yard rushing effort, churning out 139 yards on 24 carries and scoring the Eagles' first touchdown.

A stingy Eagle defense came up with several interceptions, including one returned 40 yards for a score

by defensive back Adrian Cameron. Eagle quarterback Kevin Holzworth, who threw for 216 yards and three touchdowns last week in the Eagles' 26-7 win over Greene Central, said the Bears were ready for the West Craven "Air Jordan" passing attack.

"We expected them to try to stop our passing game and they did key on us," he said. "I didn't have that good of a night. Our defense played well and came up with some interceptions at critical times. The offense just didn't seem to click all night."

New Bern drew first blood when the Bear quarterback scampered in from about 20 yards out in the first half following fumbled punt return by the Eagles. The conversion attempt failed.

Becton answered by scampering 24 yards for the Eagles' first score and Chris Stillel kicked the conversion to give the Eagles a lead they never relinquished.

Just before the half, Stillel padded the Eagle lead when he booted a 34-yard field goal for a 10-6 lead.

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## Deputy kills Dover man; two wounded

Woman, child said shot by suspect who returned twice with weapons

DOVER — A Craven County deputy shot and killed a man last Thursday night who authorities said wounded a woman and child. Ozzie Bryant, 72, of Rt. 1, Sandhill Road, Dover, died from from gunshot wounds to the stomach and chest after an exchange of gunfire between him and Sgt. Robert Dunn, 39, said Sheriff Pete Bland.

Bryant was dead on arrival at Craven Regional Medical Center, said a hospital spokesman. Dunn was not injured in the exchange of gunfire.

Authorities said the shootout occurred at the home of Louise Hardin, a neighbor of Bryant's.

Ms. Hardin, 74, was treated for a gunshot wound to the left leg at the hospital and later released. Authorities said Bryant shot her and her 7-year old grandson, Demeco Cox. He was first taken to Lenoir Memorial Hospital in Kinston in a private car and was later transferred to Duke Medical Center. He was listed in fair condition the day after the shooting, said a spokesman at Duke Medical Center.

Dunn arrived at the Hardin mobile home about 5:57 p.m. after the sheriff's office received a call stating

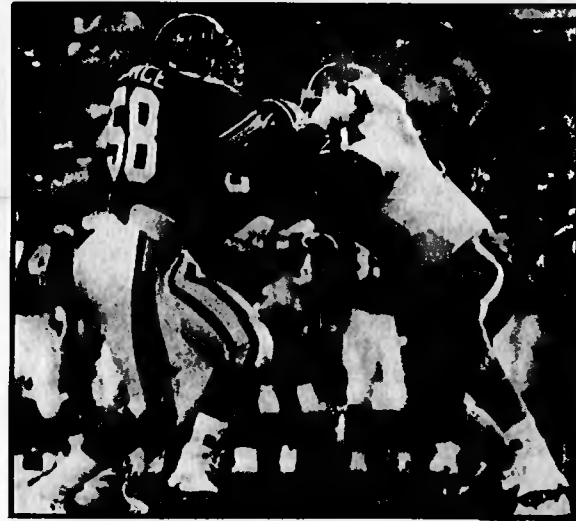
a child had been shot, said Bland. Dunn arrived at the scene and found Bryant outside armed with a handgun, and the woman and child wounded, said Bryant. The deputy first disarmed Bryant and attempted to attend to the wounded, said Bland.

Authorities said Bland, who appeared to have been drinking, went to his home across the road and returned with a high-powered rifle and tried to shoot Dunn. When the rifle did not work, Dunn went back to his house and came back with a shotgun. Bryant reportedly fired several shots at the deputy, who took cover behind his patrol car. After several shots struck the car, Dunn returned fire and killed Bryant, said Bland.

Authorities said Bryant was apparently upset with the neighbors because of problems with his girlfriend. There were other Hardin family members at the residence at the time of the shooting. All the shooting is said to have taken place outside the mobile home.

Other deputies arrived at the scene after the shooting and blocked

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East Carolina defensive end George Koonce (58), a West Craven High School product, gets a grip on Bowling Green offensive lineman Matt Kregel in Saturday night's game in Greenville.

## Lewis' Pirates win battle with 'Polecat'

By Mo Krochmal  
Sports Editor

GREENVILLE — Thanks to Vanceboro's George Koonce, Bath product Stephen Braddy knows a polecat when he sees one — now.

Saturday night, Braddy, a junior defensive end, was among the bewildered when Bowling Green unveiled an unusual offensive formation in the first half of its 41-6 loss at East Carolina in an intersectional college football confrontation.

Braddy was given more exposure to the strange offense than planned when Koonce went down with an injury.

"I didn't know what in the world they were doing," Braddy said. "We didn't see that on film when we scouted them."

"We tried to make adjustments but couldn't. We tried to play the best we could."

The Falcons unveiled the wild offensive formation, dubbed the Poeditch Rat by Bowling Green head coach Moe Ankney but more commonly called the pole cat offense to describe the center sitting by himself — like he ran into a pole cat — in the middle of a formation spread from sideline to sideline.

The call for the formation came in the second quarter after East Carolina had marched to a 16-0 lead.

When the center lined up with the ball and the quarterback stepped behind him in the shotgun and the remainder of the offensive squad split into two groups — one going to

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## Study says

## Drinking water in east threatened by failure to protect sources

Drinking water in a number of Down East cities is threatened by the state's failure to protect its underground sources, according to a study released this morning by the Clean Water Fund of North Carolina.

Along the North Carolina coast, major groundwater withdrawals for drinking water are made by the towns of Elizabeth City, Williamston, Greenville, Belhaven, Kinston, New Bern, Havelock, Jacksonville and Wilmington.

Most of the county's residents' water comes from either municipal water systems that take water from wells or rivers and some residents

get water directly from wells.

"Unfortunately, the North Carolina coast's precious underground water sources are being threatened by both the expanding pressure of over-use and the continuing risks of contamination with toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes," the report said.

The withdrawals for drinking water are made primarily from three aquifers — Castle Hayne Aquifer, the Yorktown Aquifer and the Cretaceous Aquifer.

The Castle Hayne is the state's most productive aquifer providing over 100 million gallons of water per day.

The report, Danger Down Under: A Citizen's Guide to Groundwater Protection in North Carolina, was made public by the environmental group at a press conference in Raleigh.

But new groundwater standards and more regulators should improve the quality of the state's groundwater, Perry Nelson, head of the groundwater unit for the state Division of Environmental Management told the West Craven Highlights this week.

"Considering the enormity of the groundwater system, it is in good shape," Perry said.

But the coastal groundwater

supply is very "fragile," he said. "Many coastal counties have much shallower sources of groundwater than other regions. We need to manage very carefully how we construct and operate our wells and be very careful with our waste."

North Carolina, with 822,000 household wells, ranks second in the nation in the number of such wells. It ranks fifth, with an estimated 16,000, in the number of public water supplies relying on groundwater.

The Clean Water Fund investigated 84 sites with confirmed groundwater contamination and ranked by the state as "high priority

for cleanup," said Chip Hughes, author of the 60-page report.

These sites were drawn from 6,834 suspected groundwater contamination incidents in the state from seven different regulatory agencies, a spokesman for the group said.

"Most threats to groundwater quality in North Carolina are related to patterns and trends in land use and waste disposal practices," the report says.

Serious groundwater contaminants have been found in each of the state's major aquifers and regions.

They include nitrates and bacteria generated by private septic systems, toxic chemicals from ha-

zardous waste facilities, cancer-causing gasoline components from leaking underground storage tanks, heavy metals leaching from sanitary landfills, agricultural pesticides and fertilizers running off treated farmlands.

DEM groundwater standards adopted last month bring to about 72 the number of controlled compounds in groundwater supplies, Nelson said.

The regulations also provide increased protection for shallow groundwater — areas where groundwater is near the surface —

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