



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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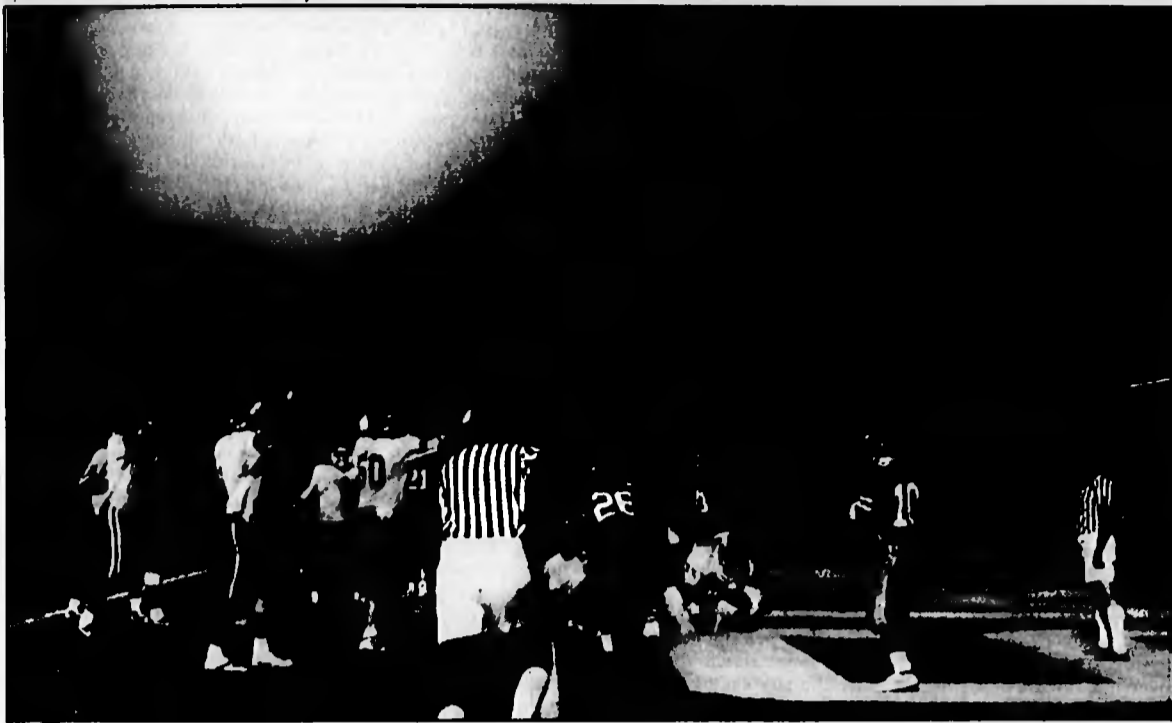
VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

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Eagles celebrate touchdown over Rams en route to 12-7 win.

## Four-laning Highway 17 is celebrated

**NEW BERN** — The four-lane U.S. 17 bypass proposed under the state Transportation Improvement Program is being looked at as a way to remedy the "bottlenecks" near New Bern, especially at the Neuse River bridge.

Local government officials got a firsthand look at the location of the bypass during a dinner at the Sheraton Hotel here last night to celebrate the decision to build a four-lane U.S. 17 from the Virginia border to South Carolina.

The project would also four-lane the highway from Wilmar at the Craven-Beaufort county line to Bridgeton at a cost of about \$29 million. The bypass around New Bern will cost about \$100 million.

The projects will be financed mostly through the recent 5% cent-per-gallon tax increase on gasoline and an increase in title

fees. The project puts eastern North Carolina on the "brink of finalization of four-laning U.S. 17 from state line to state line," said Basnight.

The bypass is part of an overall program costing over \$720 million that will encompass all of the 285-mile U.S. 17 system, one of the largest in the state.

U.S. 17 stretches from Camden County at the Virginia border to Brunswick County at the South Carolina border.

Senator Marc Basnight, spokesman for a delegation of eastern North Carolina legislators who pushed for the passage of the highway bill, said, "I think it was a major breakthrough for eastern North Carolina."

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## Becton touchdown lifts Eagles

By Mike Voss  
Editor

**HAVELOCK** — Junior running back Lee Becton scored on a six-yard plunge with 3:16 left to lift unbeaten and eighth-ranked West Craven to a 12-7 Class 3-A Coastal Conference win over seventh-ranked Havelock last night.

Becton's TD capped a fourth-quarter rally in which the Eagles took advantage of two Ram miscues to get the win and good positioning for the state playoffs.

Becton scored the go-ahead touchdown three plays after a high punt sailed over the Havelock punter's head and was recovered by the Eagles Ray Hardee at the Rams' 7-yard line. The Eagles overcame two procedure penalties before Becton snaked his way through a mob of defenders at the goal line to stand triumphantly in the end zone.

A two-point pass conversion failed.

The Eagles were down 7-0 at the end of the first quarter and Becton, who finished with 69 yards on 23 carries, was limited to four yards rushing in the first half. But the Eagles closed to 7-6 when Eddie McKeel hit Rams' back Kenny Frazier and forced a fumble eventually recovered by Hardee at the Rams' 22.

Becton moved the ball to the 1 in three plays and quarterback Kevin Holzworth scampered in from the 1 with 7:09 left in the fourth quarter to bring the Eagles within one point. Chris Stille's conversion kick was wide.

Havelock, having scored on a 24-yard rush by Silas George in the first period, took possession on the ensuing kickoff but, on a fourth-and-10 punt attempt, the ball sailed high and was recovered by the Ea-

gles to lead to Becton's go-ahead score.

Havelock had one more chance after Becton's touchdown. Facing a fourth-and-20 after a quarterback sack, the Rams saw a pass fall three yards short of the first down.

West Craven took possession and ran out the clock with five running plays by Becton.

Becton also posted two sacks and at least two tackles for losses in the contest.

The Eagles' longest play in the game was 28 yards and came in the first half. The Rams unveiled a new defense against the Eagles' lone-back set, said coach Wilbur Sasser. It worked as Becton in the first half.

For the game, Holzworth threw eight incomplete passes, completed five and threw one interception in the first half.

Neither team showed much offensive firepower as West Craven had

183 total yards and Havelock had 170.

Prior to the opening kickoff, Becton visited injured lineman Jeff Powers on the sideline and showed Powers a towel tucked into his his (Becton's) waistband. The towel had the name "Jeff" printed on it. Becton told a reporter the towel was a reminder to score for the lineman who has opened holes for the Eagle running back.

The towel worked. It worked late, but the Eagles are now 6-0 and earned a win over Havelock for the first time in four years.

Kip Bryan, the leading pass receiver for the Eagles and the conference, caught four passes for 56 yards, had one interception and broke up two passes. Tony Coward also added an interception to the West Craven defensive effort.

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## In defense of Pack, Campbell speaks out

By Mo Krochmal  
Sports Editor

**RALEIGH** — If there has been one constant this season for the N.C. State football team, it has been the play of the defense.

One member of that defense, who just happens to be from Vanceboro, "speaks out" loudly with his performances.

Saturday afternoon, it was the Pack's defense that held NCAA Division I-AA opponent Middle Tennessee at bay until the offense could crank up as the Wolfpack emerged with a 35-7 triumph in posting its sixth-straight win this season.

But, for the second straight week, an unheralded opponent had Wolfpack fans worried.

The Blue Raider defense intercepted the Wolfpack twice in the first half and kept things close, trailing 7-0 at the half.

Last week, it was Dick Crum's pesky Kent State that aggravated the Wolfpack before falling 45-22.

Early in the second half Saturday, it seemed like the officials had the best weapon the Wolfpack had as a pass interference call at the

Middle Tennessee 2-yard line fueled a 48-yard scoring drive, capped by tailback Tyrone Jackson's 1-yard TD plunge to give the Pack a 14-0 lead it took into the intermission.

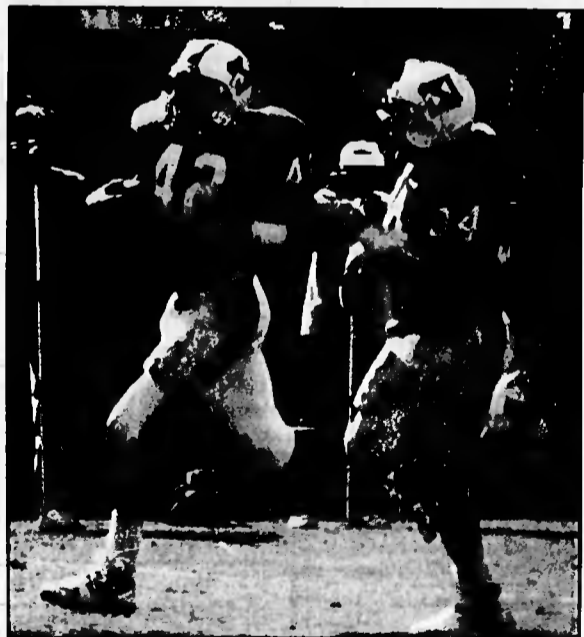
The Wolfpack then found some momentum on a turnover in the third quarter as Vanceboro's Jesse Campbell, an all-conference defensive back and last year's rookie of the year, got into the act.

Campbell looked like he was taking a drop into a zone for pass protection. Then, suddenly, Campbell was sprinting out of the pack, ball in hand. He ended up in the end zone after grabbing a fumbled pitch but was not able to advance it and had to trot back after sprinting to the end zone.

"They missed the pitch," Campbell said. "I was right there, it was easy. It would have been a touchdown."

Campbell, who came in as the leading tackler on the Wolfpack squad with 45, said the defensive goal was to hold the Blue Raiders to three downs each possession.

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N.C. State's Jesse Campbell (42), escorted by Bobby Houston, tries to advance a fumble recovery in Saturday's win over Middle Tennessee.

## Powers misses football, football misses Powers

By Mike Voss  
Editor

Jeff Powers grimaced in pain.

Both physical and emotional pain as he sat in a wheelchair, shackled to the sideline. Perhaps most of the pain came from knowing there was nothing he could do to help his teammates — nothing physical that is.

Powers, a 6-1, 250-pound lineman for the West Craven Eagles, had been sidelined the week before with a knee injury. Last Tuesday, Powers underwent surgery and appears lost to the Eagles for the rest of the season.

But there is more to life than football and more to football than sitting up and playing on the field — a philosophy Powers believes.

West Craven's Eagles faced conference rival Havelock this past Friday night. The Eagles hadn't beaten the Rams in four years. And with Powers out of the lineup and unable to open holes for Eagle running backs, the outlook for West Craven dimmed.

"I miss it already," said Powers from his wheelchair. But as much as he missed the game, the Eagles were missing Powers. The senior provides leadership and experience that has helped lead the Eagles to a 6-0 record and a ranking among the top 10 3-A schools.

"We're going to miss him, both for his playing skills and what he contributes in other ways," said head

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Jeff Powers watches teammates from sideline.



## Mums the word

The Latham Garden, foreground, is abloom with mums in time for the New Bern Chrysanthemum Festival. The gardens and grounds of the 13-acre Tryon Palace historic site will be open free to the public Oct. 13-15 during the festival.

## Area codes required for toll calls in 1990

**TARBORO** — Beginning March 2, 1990, North Carolina residents will have to include the three-digit area code when they dial long-distance, even if they are phoning a number with the same area code as their own.

According to Carolina Telephone officials in Tarboro, the reason for the change dwells in the theory of supply and demand. The number of available three-digit prefixes to local telephone numbers — known as NXXs — no longer is sufficient to meet the demand for more central

offices to serve the growing demand for telephones.

A solution, though temporary, is to increase the number of available prefixes by allowing a "1" or "0" to be the middle digit. The 1 and 0 have been excluded in the past because they were used for access to long-distance dialing.

By allowing 1 and 0 to be used, 152 new prefixes — to be known as NXXs — will become available for both the 919 and 704 area in North

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## Study of currents should not delay drilling: Mobil

**GREENVILLE** — Mobil Oil Corp. officials told a representative of three conservation groups calling for a study of ocean currents off the North Carolina coast that such a study has already been made.

A spokesman for Minerals Management Service, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, said the request by the three groups should not delay Mobil's proposed oil and natural gas exploration.

The comments were made during a public meeting on the company's exploration plan Tuesday on the East Carolina University campus.

"We just spent \$1 million for a study on the dynamics of currents in this area," said James C. Martin, Mobil environmental and regulatory affairs manager and manager of the North Carolina drilling project.

"Our report should have four times the data of the proposed Congressional study."

"It would not be appropriate to delay this decision based on this request," Martin said.

Representatives from the North Carolina Coastal Federation, the Sierra Club and LegaSea, a Dare and Hyde County-based conservation group, said Mobil should not explore for oil or gas off the coast until the congressional study is complete.

The groups called for the study in a press conference yesterday morning in front of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources in Raleigh.

The request was reiterated at the public meeting by Tom Perlic of

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