

Happy Thanksgiving!



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

Asphalt race track to be constructed in Robersonville

By Kellie Hempstead
Special to the
West Craven Highlights

ROBERSONVILLE — The sounds of Saturday night stock car racing will soon be a familiar sound in Down East country because of a recently approved proposal by three Robersonville men.

A 3/8's-of-a-mile oval asphalt track, the only one east of Wake County, will be constructed on a 13-acre tract of land just outside of the town limits on U.S. 64. The track will be called the East Carolina Motor Speedway and it is expected to bring up to 50-60,000 people over the course of the racing season.

The track is being built by three Robersonville businessmen, Gerald Whitehurst, Lee Harney and Durdwood Allen.

Whitehurst said he expects the track to be finished by April 1, complete with seating, parking, restrooms and a souvenir shop.

Stock cylinder, modified cylinder, late model sportsmen, super street,

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Attending the annual support dinner for Mount Olive College were (from left) Howard Lamm of St. Mary's, Jean Acklas of the college, Marice DeBruhl, Craven County dinner chairman, Mrs. J.T. Wilson of Juniper Chapel and Darrin Jones of Spring Hope Church. The three churches received \$100 scholarships to give to students who will attend Mount Olive College. The dinner raised over \$20,000 for the college.

Local churches donate \$20,331 to Mount Olive

By Mike Voss
Editor

Vanceboro's Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church was one of three recipients of \$100 scholarships to give to students who plan to attend Mount Olive College at the annual Mount Olive gift support dinner held at West Craven Middle School.

The Free Will Baptist churches of Craven County contributed \$20,331 to the college at the dinner. Two hundred people attended the annual fund-raising dinner, representing the 11 Free Will Baptist churches in the county.

Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church won its scholarship award by giving the largest contribution on a per-capita basis. Spring Hope Free Will Baptist Church won a \$100

scholarship for having the most high school students in attendance and St. Mary's Free Will Baptist Church won a \$100 scholarship for the largest contribution, \$5,175.

Local church chairmen and their churches were John Mitchell of Bridgeton Free Will Baptist Church in Bridgeton, Jimmy Smith of Core Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Cove City, Charles Prevost of Gethsamane Free Will Baptist Church in New Bern, Mrs. J.T. Wilson of Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Vanceboro, Lois Wetherington of Moseley's Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Dover, Harvey A. Whitford of New Haven Free Will Baptist Church in Vanceboro, Myrtle Lee Smith of Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Vanceboro,

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Jordan finds team's success is enjoyable

By John Perry
Staff Writer

Clay Jordan sat down in the West Craven High School gymnasium to discuss how his 12th season as the Eagles' head football coach had went. It was a discussion he enjoyed, but not as much as he enjoyed the Eagles' success on the field this season.

Dressed in his gray jogging pants and his red pull-over with the word "Eagles" on the front, he talked while keeping watch at the same time over a gym class. Football may be over, but teaching last the entire school year.

"I thought the season was a great success," he told the Highlights.

"I've had more talented teams than this year's, but we went with what we had to work with and everything went real well."

"Coach J," as he was referred to many times by his students during the interview, was taking nothing away from his team when he said that he didn't think the Eagles would go as far as they did.

West Craven finished the regular season undefeated, winning the Coastal Conference championship, and being ranked as high as No. 5 in the state. The Eagles advanced to the second round of the playoffs before falling to Colonial Conference

power Bertie, 12-9.

The strength of his team this year, was the ability to have a balanced attack, Jordan said. With junior running back Lee Becton running for over 1,000 yards for the second-straight year (over 1,700 on the season), the Eagles also got a lot of output from junior quarterback Kevin Holzworth with the passing attack. This in turn made it hard for an opponent to key on any one player or phase of the Eagle attack.

Numbers were a problem for the Eagles this year, Jordan said. "With one or two key injuries, we could've been devastated," he said, "but we were just very lucky."

The balanced attack got the Eagles where they were, he said. But with the loss of several key linemen, like Eddie McKeel who will be playing in the Shrine Bowl this year in Charlotte, Jordan will be searching for some meat to put on the line next season.

"We're gonna be looking at our second and third-string players to step up for us next year," he said, "if that doesn't work, we will have to look at our eleventh-graders coming up to fill the positions on the line."

The offensive line is only the start of the searching for the Eagles, Jordan said. "We've got Becton and

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Campbell earns All-ACC honors for second year

RALEIGH — West Craven product Jesse Campbell was the leading vote getter among defensive backs in the annual balloting for all-Atlantic Coast Conference football honors announced yesterday.

Campbell, a redshirt sophomore strong safety at N.C. State, was last year's ACC rookie of the year and was named first-team All-ACC.

This year, last year's honors and output on the football field, found team's avoiding Campbell's side of the field, much to his frustration. Still he is one of the Wolfpack's leading tacklers and will join his team in playing in the Copper Bowl.



Campbell

MO KROCHMAL



Eagles' success put Jordan in and on the air.

Eagles' season ends but honors continue

By John Burnell
Sports Writer

West Craven's Eddie McKeel and Lee Becton became two-time all-Coastal Conference selections, while Eagle coach Clay Jordan was named Coach of the Year for the fourth time at the league meetings Saturday.

McKeel is a senior offensive lineman and has been selected to play in the Shrine Bowl all-star game. Becton, is a junior running back who led the league in rushing with 1,784 yards and 22 touchdowns.

West Craven won the Coastal Conference championship with a 6-0 league record. The Eagles ran their record to 11-0 with a win against Hertford County in the first round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs before falling to Bertie Friday.

West Craven led the seven teams in the league with eight players voted to the all-conference team.

"This team was not as athletically talented as some others I've had," Jordan said, "but is bigger in heart and bigger in character than any team I've ever coached."

Jordan, in his twelfth year of coaching, all at West Craven, won coach-of-the-year honors for the fourth time.

"I try to get across a motivational, character type of attitude and the team responded to that," Jordan said.

"I can guarantee one thing — these seniors are going to be good solid citizens," he said.

"Many times at the end of the season you sit back and are glad it's over," Jordan said, "Not with this team. They had a super attitude all year and we went through the season without ever having any discipline problems. And, they're doing very well in the classroom."

Joining McKeel and Becton on the squad from West Craven are senior split end Kip Bryan, the top receiver in the Coastal with 26 catches and six touchdowns; junior quarterback Kevin Holzworth, the top passer with 1,163 yards; junior line-backer Ray Hardy; senior defensive end Tony Bryan; senior defensive back Adrian Cameron; and senior split end Craig Coward.

The selections of Bryan and Cow-

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One yard, one loss ends Eagles' season

By Mike Voss
Editor

"One is the loneliest number that you'll ever see."
— Three Dog Night

One yard, one win kept West Craven from continuing in the playoffs as Bertie's Falcons clipped the Eagles' wings for a 12-9 second-round playoff win last night.

Eagle quarterback Kevin Holzworth's keeper fell a yard short on a fourth-and-six from the Falcon's 17-yard line with 32 seconds left in the game. Holzworth appeared to be headed for the first down but was tripped up a yard short at the 12.

Bertie took over on downs and on fourth-and-10 from the 12 Falcon punter Mike White ran out of the end zone to give the Eagles a safety and bring them within three at 12-9.

Holzworth sent his receivers down field three times but none of his passes connected.

The Falcons ran jubilantly to midfield while the Eagles walked quietly off the field.

The Falcon defense shut down the vaunted Eagle running attack and tailback Lee Becton. Becton, who missed three days of school with a virus, was held to 68 yards on 17 carries. Other Eagle runners were held to a total of minus-20 yards rushing. Holzworth connected on eight of 16 passes for 120 yards.

Bertie improved to 11-1 while the Eagles end the season at 11-1.

"We never could get our offense established," said Eagle head coach Clay Jordan. "We had some things that worked but not well enough."

"Bertie has some good athletes on defense and they made the plays they had to make," said Jordan. "They were a little quicker than we thought."

Despite the loss, Jordan was pleased with his team's effort in the final period. "Most football teams would have quit down 12-0," said Jordan. "This game as far as we are concerned does not diminish the season," said Jordan, whose charges won the conference title for the first time in five years.

"This was a close one. We beat a good team. It's a shame anyone had to lose this game," said Bertie head coach Spencer White. "They took the momentum from us with that long pass in the fourth quarter. We had a tough time getting it back."

"This was a big win for us. They were saying Bertie couldn't get past the second round as we have been matched up with Havelock," said White. "I'll enjoy this one until about 12 noon tomorrow."

White said the key to the game was Mike White's 48-yard touchdown run in the third quarter that put Bertie up 12-0.

"There were some many key plays" on defense, said White. "The defense played good in the first half. We held them deep in our territory

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Mo Krochmal photo

West Craven's Terrence White prepares to sack Bertie quarterback Derrick Watson (11)