West Craven players named to WDN all-area football team



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse

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SIX PAGES

Jobless rates drop in region

By Mike Voss Editor

Unemployment rates in Craven, and Lenoir counties de clined in October and Jones County's jobless rate increased slightly, according to figures re-leased by the N.C. Employment Sec-urity Commission

urity Commission.
Overall, there were 90 counties in

Overall, there were 90 counties in the state with unemployment rates at or less than 5 percent.

Craven County saw its unemployment rate drop slightly from 3.9 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October. The jobless rate was 3.4 percent in October 1988.

There were 1,170 out of a 32,800-member labor force without jobs in October. The work force in September was 32,940 and 1,270 could not find work. In October 1988, 1,100 out of the 32,420-member work pool were without jobs.

Jones County's unemployment rate rose from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October. The jobless rate in October 1988 was 3.3 percent.

The jobless rate in October 1900 was 3.3 percent.

Just 160 people from the county's 4,420-man labor force were without jobs in October. There were 4,510 people in September's work force and 160 could not find work. In October 1988, 140 people of the 4,280-strong labor pool were without employment.

Jenoir County's unemployment.

Lenoir County's unemployment rate fell from 3.7 percent in September to 3.4 percent in October. The jobless figure was 3.6 percent dur-

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Shrine Bowl devoted to kids

CHARLOTTE — Move over U.S. Postal Service. You are going to have to share your motto with the Shriners of North and South Carolina.



I just knew it By Mike Voss

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor ice, nor adversity could keep the Shriners from staging the 53rd Shrine Bowl of the Caro-linas this past Saturday. Why? Well, \$2.3 million for Shriners' heartitels forcitingle and human

hospitals for crippled and burned children is a good reason.

Attending my first Shrine Bowl, I really didn't know what to expect. I had heard the usual expect. I had heard the usual comments about Shriners over the years. You know, that they love to party and party every chance they get. And everyone wore the red hat with tassle — known as a fez.

But not knowing a potentate from a divan, I began to ask questions of those who had more glitter on their fezes (fezzes?).

At the banquet Friday night for the Shrine Bowl players, Shriners and media, just how important the game is for the crippled and burned children was revealed. The Shriners take this annual event seriously and it involves six temples from the two

Most of the activities asso-

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At top left, Highlights Editor Mike Voss sees the play heading his way in Saturday's Shrine Bowl in Charlotte. At top right, he looks for a quick exit but can't get out of the way and spills into the tarps on the side of the field (bottom left). At bottom right, he takes a chilly bow. Photographs were made by Washington Dally News Photo Editor Ric Carter off a tape of television





Wilms leaves director's job at state DEM

one of the state's top environmental officials, brought expressions of regret today from environmentalists

gret today from environmentalists and other state officials.

Wilms soid yesterday he was leaving his job as director of the state's Division of Environmental Management, a post he has held since 1985, to work for the N.C. Homebuilders Association.

"We are real disappointed to see Paul go," said David McNaught, Pamlico-Tar River Foundation ex-ecutive director. "He is a strong en-

ecutive director. "He is a strong enforcer of environmental regulations
and innovative and outspoken in the
protection of wetlands."
"He is somebody we felt we could
work with," McNaught said.
Wilms' resignation, effective Dec.
31, was announced in Raleigh by
William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of
the N.C. Department of Environment. Health and Natural ment, Health and Natural Resources.
"Paul Wilms' impact on environ-

mental protection in North Carolina is immeasurable," said Cobey. "Under his leadership, enforcement of environmental regulations has increased from about 30 cases in 1984 to more than 200 in 1988."

Wilms, 40, will work as a lobby ist and director of regulatory regula-tions for the homebuilders group. The Division of Environmental Management is part of Cobey's de-

partment and provides support staff for the state Environmental Man-

ollution.

Under Wilms' leadership, the division has achieved the highest vasion has senieved the nignest wastewater treatment plant com-pliance record in history; developed toxic pollutant programs for air, wa-ter and groundwater; and developed special protective classifications for valuable water resources, Cobey

said.
The division has received national recognition for its toxics mo-nitoring, pollution prevention and

construction grants programs.
Wilms has been with the division since 1976. Charles Wakild, DEM deputy di-

Charles Wakild, DEM deputy di-rector, will serve as acting director until a replacement for Wilms can be found, James Sheppard, DEM public information officer, said. EHNR has begun its search for a new division chief, according to Don Follmer, its public affairs officer. The department will advertise and

recruit for the position both inside and outside government, he said. "Paul's been a real good director," said Jim Mulligan, DEM regional director in Washington. I'm sorry to see himgo, but I'm glad to see he will stay in the state and work in an area that will still be positive for the

EHNR regional director Lorraine

See WILMS, Page 5

Sandlappers win Shrine Bowl; West Craven's McKeel in game

By Mike Voss

CHARLOTTE — West Craven's Eddie McKeel and Washington's Walter Rasby served as reserves and got plenty of playing time Saturday in the 53rd annual Shrines Bowl high school football all-star game in Charlotte's Memorial Stadium.

Unfortunately, neither McKeel or Rasby, or any other Tarheel player.

Rasby, or any other Tarheel player, contributed to North Carolina's

scoring. There wasn't any.
South Carolina turned three interceptions into scores to win 12-0 on Saturday as both teams battled the elements as well as each other. Just how bad the weather condi-

tions were could be seen when the players left the field after the game with ice clinging to face masks and

The Sandlappers used three pers' first points on the scoreboard orth Carolina miscues to put their when he booted a 30-yard field goal North Carolina miscues to put their points on the scoreboard. North Carolina quarterback Jason Van Dyke was picked off three times, re-sulting in two field goals and a

sulting in two nerd goals and a touchdown for the Sandlappers. South Carolina, which lost only two Shrine Bowl games in the 1980s, dominated both on defense and offense. The host Sandlappers limited North Carolina to 12 net yards rushing and three first downs, while picking up 238 yards on the ground and 18 first downs.

The game, viewed by about 750 hard-core fans, could have been renamed the Turnover Bowl as there were eight fumbles and five interceptions.

The game raised \$2.3 million for the Shriners' hospitals for crippled and burned children.

Marty Simpson put the Sandlap-

with 12:29 left in the first quarter. The field goal was set up when Van Dyke was intercepted on the first play of the game.

The Sandlappers added a touchdown when Van Dyke scrambled to his left, looked for a receiver and the way the best the privace of de-

threw the ball into the arms of de-fensive end Michael Barber as he (Van Dyke) was hit trying to get off a pass. Barber raced untouched 19 yards to paydirt. Simpson's extrapoint attempt was no good and South Carolina took a 9-0 lead into the locker room at the half.
In the second half, it was mostly

the North Carolina defense trying to stop the Sandlappers' running at-tack featuring Ronald Williams and Rodney Woolard with 89 and 128

yards respectively.

Williams was named the South

Carolina offensive player of the game and Barber was named the deensive player of the game.

Garner's John Leach was named

the North Carolina squad's defen-sive player of the game and West Forsyth's Mike Payne was named the offensive player of the game. Rasby went both ways for the

Tarheels, playing defensive end and

Tarheels, playing defensive end and tight end.

McKeel saw plenty of playing time as he alternated at center.

McKeel was the snapper on punts and on two missed field goal attempts. "I wish we could have scored. We are better than that," said McKeel.

"We've get to de compthing a building the said of the said according to the said with the said mcKeel.

"We've got to do something about their quickness," said Rasby just be-fore the second half began. "It's really tough out there with the weather and them, but I'm having fun." Immediately after the game, the players were loaded on buses and wisked away — presumably to warm hotel rooms.

McKeel said his personal high-light of the game was snapping on

punts.
"I wasn't snapping well during the week. But on the long snaps on our punts I was right on the money," said the center who enjoyed Charlotte's hospitality, picking up 15 pounds during the week.

McKeel said he was disappointed the week of the week.

McKeel said he was disappointed in the play of the North Carolina of-fensive line. "They would block for five seconds and then just stand ar-ound," said McKeel.

"It was pretty cold out there. I had my hands taped up and they were fairly warm but my arms were numb. I thought I played pretty

defensive line for its quickness.
"Those guys were quick and big."
Most of the players spent an extra
night in Charlotte because of the
bad weather, said McKeel.
Rasby said he was the target for
the pass intercepted by Barber.
"I remember being wide open and

"I remember being wide open and he (Van Dyke) tried to throw the ball and the guy intercepted it. I tried to get it but somebody blind-sided me," said Rasby of the play that lead to a

Sandlapper touchdown.
Rasby said South Carolina got the momentum early and that, combined with the quickness of the Sandlapper defense, kept the Tar-heels in the hole.

"They were pretty quick. We couldn't get are running game going against their huge defensive line," said Rasby.

Eagle gridder discovers Shrine Bowl's meaning

By Mike Voss Editor

CHARLOTTE — Despite the score in Saturday's game, there were three sets of winners to come out of the 53rd annual North Carolina-South Carolina Shrine Bowl high school all-star football

-The South Carolina squad had the most points on the scoreboard when it was over. But the real winners were the crippled children in the Shriner's Hospital, whom the proceeds of the game ultimately benefit.

The children have been winners over the last 53 games to the tune of \$32.5 million.

Less than 24 hours after arriving in Charlotte last weekend, the players on the North Carolina squad bused to Greenville, S.C., to visit the children in the Shriners' Hospital. This is when the players find out what 52 years of tradition is all

Eddie McKeel, a senior lineman from West Craven also playing in

the game, said going to the hospital touched his heart. "It made a lasting impression," he said. "It's going to stay with you the rest of your life. It makes you think about what you have that the crippled children don't have. It makes you want to play as hard as

you can play."
McKeel, sporting an extra 15
pounds from his playing weight of
255, said the food outweighed the two-a-days. McKeel said getting up

was the hardest thing to do during e week.
McKeel's family met with him

briefly after Friday night's Shrine Bowl banquet at Charlotte's Convention Center. McKeel predicted North Carolina would win 38-13.

McKeel said he wouldn't get the center every three plays. He handled snapping duties on field goals and punts.
"It was really moving to see the

kids and the way they looked up at us when we entered the hospital," said Washington's Walter Rasby,

who played in the all-star game. Rasby, reflecting a moment, added: "it really touched us," his voice quivering slightly. "Now I really know what the game means and what it is really for."

Asked about the week of two-aday practices and going head-to-head with some of the best prep players in North Carolina, Rasby said, "it really opened my eyes and showed me how much better I need

Rasby said eating was the easiest They feed us constantly," he

Rasby said the hardest part of the week was the bus rides, "all we do is ride the bus," he said. "And with all that beef, it gets kind of cramped." Rasby predicted North Carolina

would win 24-7. "I'm just going to do my best," said Rasby, when asked what he was go-

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West Craven Marching Eagles at recent competition.

West Craven band has own success on the field

The West Craven High School Band wasn't the only top unit from the school to take to the football field

While the Eagle football team fin. ished with an 11-1 record and picked up the conference title, the Marching Eagles were busy picking up some trophies also.

The band, under the direction of Glenn Buck, has participated in the Bertie Marching Band Festival in Windsor, the Tidewater Festival of Marching Bands in Chesapeake, Va., and the Roanoke Rapids Festival of Bands in Roanoke Rapids.

At the Bertie competition the band took first-place honors in the drum major and horn line events. The band took second-place honors in drum line and in the band-of-the day competitions.

first place in the drum major event, second place in horn line and special effects and were third overall out of

In Roanoke Rapids, the band finished third overall out of 10 bands and took second-place honors in drum major, horn line and flag line

In each competition, the band has received a superior rating.

The Marching Eagles have also

participated in several parades, including the Vanceboro Firemen's Day Parade, the Fort Barnwell Firemen's Day Parade, the Cove City Firemen's Day Parade. It has marched in the Christmas parades at Dover, Cove City and Morehead

See BAND, Page 5A

good," he said. McKeel credited the Sandlappers' See GAME, Page 5A Jones seeks re-election; Basnight could be rival

Congressman Walter B. Jones announced last week he will run for re-election

21-county 1st District for 23 years, declared his candidacy in a press release from his office in Washington,

"After careful consideration, I have decided to be a candidate for re-election to the United States Congress subject to next year's elections." The 1st District includes Craven,

Beaufort, Martin, Hyde, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare and other eastern N.C. counties.

N.C. Sen. Marc Basnight, a possible candidate for the 1st District seat, said Jones' announcement "doesn't have any bearing on my

In an interview from his office in Raleigh, Basnight said he was told of Jones' decision to run and is prepared to announce his own plans before Christmas.

Basnight is attending a special General Assembly session called by the governor to address hazardous waste in the state.

In his announcement, Jones said, "My many years in the Congress have given me a great amount of seniority which I believe serves the purposes of the 1st Congressional purposes of the 1st Cor District extremely well.

But equally important is the fact that this office continues to render what I consider excellent service to

See JONES, Page 5A

Center has Christmas spirit during entire year

By John Perry Staff Writer

The Christmas season is upon us and the spirit of giving is in the air. What better way to give than of yourself, right? That's what Carrie Bryant, center manager of the Van-

ceboro Community Center thinks as For the past seven years, this center has been used by several groups, but none quite as rewarding or bene-ficial as the United Tri-County Se-

nior Citizens group. According to

Ms. Bryant, her job is very enjoyable as well as working with her employ-ees. It must be very enjoyable for them since this particular organizaon is non-profit. The United Tri-County Senior Ci-

tizens group meets five days out of the week, with the doors open for senior citiznes mostly from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., although the time varies. Vanoro citizens (age 60 and up) are picked up from their houses and driven to the center sometimes as early

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