



West Craven

HIGHLIGHTS



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Volume 7, Number 42,

October 18 - 24, 1984

Vanceboro, North Carolina

Phone 244-0780

16 pages 20 Cents

Thunderbirds To Appear At Cherry Point

The skies over the area will be filled with interesting and exciting aerial demonstrations October 20-21 as the Air Station holds its 1984 Cherry Point Aviation Days celebration.

The two-day free, family oriented event will be highlighted by a Sunday-only performance by the world-famous United States Air Force Thunderbirds precision aerial demonstration team. The "Ambassadors in Blue" fly one of the most advanced and sophisticated fighter aircraft in the world, the F-16 Falcon.

More than 50 of the Department of Defense's most interesting tactical and support aircraft will also be on display for public inspection.

Older pilots and former servicemembers will enjoy seeing Bob Hoover amaze spectators with flights in a WWII vintage P-51 Mustang. Hoover maneuvers in a twin-engine Aero Shrike Commander, some stunts with only one engine on, and a few with none!

Formation flying will be demonstrated by the former national aerobatic champions, the Eagles Flight Team, who were recently featured on two popular national television shows.

Dwight Cross, a native North Carolinian, will demonstrate his piloting skills during the celebration, flying a Pitts Special biplane.

The gates will open October 20 at 9:30 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m. On October 21, the celebration begins at 11 a.m. and will end at 5 p.m. There is no charge for admission or parking. Special parking and seating has been arranged for the handicapped.

Since their first aerial demonstration in 1953, the Thunderbirds have travelled throughout the United States and to 45 countries in the Free World. They have logged 2,533

performances before more than 170 million people.

Prime ministers, foreign dignitaries, celebrities, and countless fans have turned out to meet and watch the team, giving the Thunderbirds the unofficial title of America's "Ambassadors in Blue."

The squadron currently flies the General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon, their eighth different aircraft.

After starting out in the F-84G Thunderjet in 1953, the squadron switched to the swept-wing F-84F Thunderstreak two years later. Both of the 84's were subsonic. In 1956, the squadron moved into its first supersonic aircraft, the F-100C Supersabre. The switch to the Sabre made the Thunderbirds the first supersonic demonstration squadron.

The then modern F-100's were traded for the F-105B Thunderchief in 1964. The transition was short lived—the Thunderchief flew only six official air demonstrations. Instead of cancelling the entire 1964 schedule, the squadron returned to the F-100s this time using the air-refuelable "D" model. After five more seasons in the Super Sabre—it was the most used aircraft for the squadron—a total of 1,111 shows were performed in the two models.

In 1969 the squadron flew its new F-4E Phantom IIs for the first time at the graduation ceremony for the U.S. Air Force Academy, and continued flying them until moving to the sleek, fuel-efficient T-38A Talon in 1974.

The F-16 Fighting Falcon is the squadron's eighth different aircraft. This high performance fighter, built by General Dynamics, takes the Thunderbirds into a new era of modern aircraft technology.

Many awards adorn the walls of the squadron's hangar at

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Safe Hunting No Accident

By Robert B. Hazel

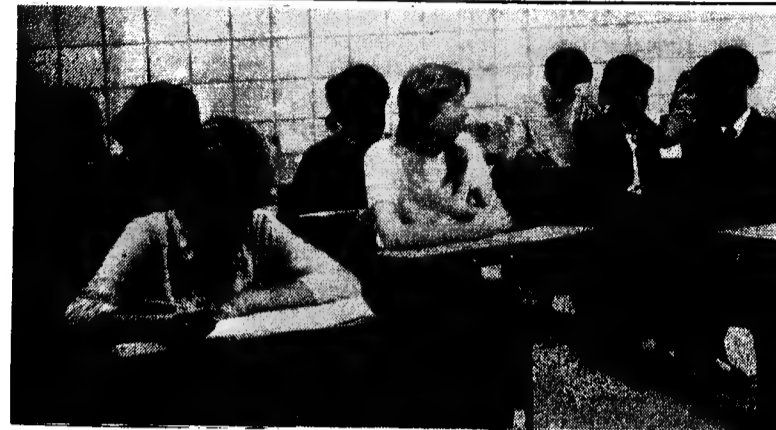
You have probably heard the catchy phrase - "Safe hunting is no accident" before. It's a double-play on words often used to make a point about hunting safety. But it deserves some serious thought, according to county Extension Agent Jim Holton Craven County.

"Hunting is like a lot of other activities we engage in", says Holton, "in that it can be conducted safely if proper rules and practices are followed, but can be deadly if these things are ignored. With hunting seasons opening in September (dove season began Sept. 1) it's timely to remind folks of this fact."

Holton points out that the first and most important factor in safe hunting is to be fully aware of the potential danger involved. The hunter should understand the weapon he uses, and the power and range of the ammunition he plans to use. He must be familiar with the gun so that he knows how to operate it instantly. Practice with the firearm at a safe location before each hunting season, and preferably more often. This not only enhances safety but sharpens your shooting skills. The shooter should again be reminded of some basic safety rules - never point the gun at anything you don't intend to shoot, be certain of your target before you shoot, make sure you have the correct ammunition for your weapon, leave the weapon on "safe" until you are ready to pull the trigger, and keep the muzzle free of obstructions. Carry your gun in a safe position so that if it accidentally discharges it will cause no damage. Unload the weapon when crossing obstacles, fences, and when placing in a vehicle. Be extra careful when loading and unloading the firearm - accidental discharges often occur then.

It's important also to plan your hunt carefully. Know your

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Competency Test at West Craven

Approximately 420 West Craven High School students participated in the North Carolina competency test program recently. Tenth grade students took a three part written assessment. The tenth grade test consists of a multiple choice section on grammar, a section for listening and note taking skills, and an essay written during the testing. The eleventh grade students took a two day test in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Current legislation passed by the 1977 North Carolina General Assembly requires students to pass minimum tests in both the areas of reading and mathematics in order to receive a high school diploma. The 1984 writing assessment is a field study. Plans for the 1985 competency test include adding minimum requirements in writing to those already established reading and mathematics as a graduation requirement.

Advanced Telephone Equipment Now In Vanceboro Station

Equipment in the Vanceboro telephone office recently went on line to give Vanceboro area residents new computerized service that will speed up the handling of customer calls and provide additional conveniences for these customers.

Will Thomas, Carolina Telephone's district commercial manager here, said, "Because of technical considerations, the availability of new features varies from exchange to exchange. Additional information on the new features will be mailed in the near future with customers' bills, and will be in the Customer Guide section at the front of your next new directory."

This new Traffic Service Position System, known as TSPS, is in the process of being introduced company-wide over a period of months. TSPS will be introduced in New Bern and Havelock at

the end of this month.

One of the major changes will speed up person-to-person calls, collect calls, Calling Card calls, calls from most coin telephone and others requiring operator assistance. Since Oct. 5, customers in Vanceboro can dial "O" plus the number they are calling and only give the operator special instructions. They no longer will have to give the operator the number they are calling.

When a customer dials "O" plus the number, TSPS alerts an operator, who then asks for special instructions.

Calls From Public Telephones

There will be differences in features available in different public telephones during this conversion period, and therefore people using a public telephone should read the instruction card on the phone before placing calls. If they

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