

It's All Sports Defense remains strength

The answer to the question on everyone's minds is apparent — Carolina's defense can dominate, even without arguably the best defensive tackle in the NFL, Kris Jenkins.

If you're a Carolina fan and were watching the opening game against the New Orleans Saints, then you were undoubtedly holding your breath as an all too familiar sight happened before your eyes — Jenkins lying in the opponent's backfield, writhing in pain.

A sinking, gut-wrenching numbness filled the pit of my stomach, and in the back of my mind I saw all the hype of a Super Bowl appearance slowly fade away.

But before it all had a chance to sink in, Jenkins was up and walking off the field under his own power. Phew, my team dodged a serious bullet people. We were back in action — ready to roll.

Oh yeah, just as I regained my composure, with grand delusions of World Champions dancing in my dreams, Jenkins goes down again with 6:19 left in the third quarter, and not just for a play or two, but for good.

Well, I said to myself, there's always next year. Maybe I was too happy; you know, everything has to balance — the yen to the yang, the good to the bad, an arm for a leg or something like that.

So later in the game, the Panthers start to pull it somewhat together. Maybe they'll actually pull out a win against America's new favorite team, or as I like to put it, America's favored team to fall apart late in the season and drag some hopeful, resurgent team down in flames with them.

Wait, did I just say that out loud? Oops.

But no, in the worst performance I've seen thus far this year, the Panthers defeat themselves — about a dozen penalties for the Panthers — and dropped to 0-1 overall, and fell to last place in the NFC South Division.

Through the fog and the haze of defeat, there was one spot that shone dimly in the distance; that light was the defense.

The Panthers' defense was tied for eighth overall, giving up only 69 rushing yards to Saints running backs, and only 2.6 yards per carry to New Orleans star running back Deuce McAllister.

Aaron Brooks was limited to 192 yards passing and no touchdowns, while the Panthers defense forced four fumbles, recovering three of them.

While any observer could tell that the Panthers were playing without passion or emotion, they still managed to play better than two-

First conference game: No contest

New Bern routs Havelock 49 - 7 in hard-fought conference rivalry

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Havelock scored its lone touchdown of the game with just over 7 minutes left in the first quarter on a 54-yard screen pass from Rams quarterback Keith Spinner to running back Jalil Smith, tying the score at 7 points apiece. But after a promising start, the Rams' offense faded as the New Bern Bears' stingy defense found ways to shut down Havelock's passing game.

Spinner ended the night connecting on only 2-of-8 passing attempts for 78 yards in Havelock's 49-7 loss to the Bears at Caruso-Coates Stadium Friday night, a testament to New Bern's strong secondary.

Bears head football coach Chip Williams was confident in his team's abilities, but never underestimated Havelock as a conference opponent.

"I think Havelock's got a lot of good athletes, and sooner or later they'll pull it together and have a good team," Williams said.

Havelock's ground game was hit or miss much of the



Lined up against man-to-man coverage, No. 8 Gernerra Taylor anticipates the snap to sophomore quarterback Brett Williams.

game also, but found more opportunities than the passing game.

The Bears' ground game proved to be more than Havelock could handle as

New Bern rushed for a combined 272 yards. Bears running back Kelvin Hardesty spearheaded the rushing attack, rounding up 74 yards on 7 attempts, averaging

just over 10.5 yards per carry. At one point, New Bern fed big Kevin Reddick three straight rushes between the tackles for 53 yards, catching Havelock off guard, and

scoring a touchdown. Even Rams sophomore quarterback Brett Williams rushed for 21 yards on 9 carries.

As a passer, Williams was brilliant. All night long, he torched Havelock's defense for 263 yards through the air, completing 9-of-15 passes for three TDs. By the end of the first quarter, New Bern was already leading Havelock by 22 points, with a score of 29-7.

But, with about 2 minutes remaining in the first half, Havelock punter Matt Vick went down with an injury to his left leg. He lay there, backed up against his own end zone, writhing in agony as fellow teammates and trainers looked on waiting for help.

After only a few moments, though, Vick hobbled off the field with the help of two teammates, amidst cheers from the fans.

After halftime, both teams seemed to be able to string together several drives, but New Bern appeared to be winning the battle of big plays, outgaining Havelock in

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Panthers slide to 1-2

Dolphins edge out Panthers in heartbreaking 27-24 loss

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The Carolina Panthers should rename Bank Of America Stadium to Charlotte Stadium, amusement park, because they've made a habit of putting fans on a roller coaster ride with steep rises and falls thus far this season.

The first game of the season was a crushing loss at home to the now homeless New Orleans Saints, then the next week, they thoroughly defeat the reigning world champions in Charlotte, only to go to Miami and get inched out by the Dolphins in a 27-24 loss.

Star cornerback Ken Lucas and outside linebacker Will Witherspoon suffered shoulder and knee injuries respectively in last week's Patriots game, and were replaced by cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. and linebacker Vinny Ciurciu.

The Dolphins won the opening coin toss and commenced to begin an opening drive that would ultimately embody the tone of the game.

Miami fed rookie running back Ronnie Brown, drafted out of Auburn, a steady diet of runs up the middle of the

Carolina defense, culminating with a 1-yard touchdown run with 10:09 remaining in the first quarter.

Brown went on to rush for 132 yards and become the first running back this year to surpass the 100-yard mark against the steady Panthers defense.

The Panthers came back on their first



possession and scored on a John Kasay 52-yard field goal, after a 7-play, 36-yard drive, which ate 2:58 off the clock.

After a couple of stalled drives on both sides, Carolina's star wide receiver and return man, Steve Smith, muffed a Miami punt on his own 16 yardline, and allowed Miami to recover possession in prime scoring position.

Two plays later, Miami quarterback Gus Frerotte hooked up with tight end Randy McMichael for an 18-yard TD, making the score 14-3 at the end of the first quarter.

Carolina outscored Miami by seven points in the sec-

ond quarter, but it still wasn't enough for them to take the lead heading into halftime.

Carolina quarterback Jake Delhomme hooked up with Smith for TDs twice in the second quarter. The first was a 1-yard catch with 5:40 remaining in the half, and the second was a 3-yard strike with 2:45 left in the half.

The Panthers went into halftime looking at a manageable score of 21-17.

Down, but not dejected, the Panthers took the field in the second half like a team with something to prove.

Although the offense was unable to score any points in the third quarter, the defense made sure that Miami's offense didn't outpace Carolina's.

The fourth quarter turned out to be a sprint to the finish line, with both teams struggling to be the victor; Smith scoring his third TD for Carolina and Olindo Mare connecting on two field goals for Miami, but in the end, it was the Dolphins who found paydirt last, edging out Carolina for the win.

The final score was 27-24, Miami over Carolina.

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North Carolina slides by State

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

University of North Carolina running back Barrington Edwards rushed for 124 yards on 26 carries against a strong North Carolina State defense, helping to gain enough of an edge to hold on for a 31-24 win.

The Tar Heels struck first when Quinton Person scored on a blocked Wolfpack punt attempt, making it 7-0 early in the first quarter. But NC State battled back, refusing to go down so easily.

The Pack then received possession of the ball and worked their way downfield, finally stalling before John Deraney connected on a 22-yard field goal to make it 7-3, still in the first quarter.

Both teams battled back and forth, each scoring another touchdown before halftime. The Wolfpack scored on

a Toney Baker 14-yard rush over the left side, and the Tar Heels scored on a Matt Baker pass to Jarwarski Pollock for three yards down the middle, making the score 14-10 in the Tar Heels' favor.

With a little more than 20 seconds left in the half and only 7

yards from the end zone, the Wolfpack had a chance to cut the lead by at least 3, but with no timeouts, bad clock management and no help from the Tar Heels, the Pack found themselves trying to spike the ball, but to no avail. The clock ran out, and to boos from the stands, the teams left the field.

After halftime, the Wolfpack came out in a flurry of action, scoring two TDs early in the third quarter. The first one was a 3-yard TD rush off the left tackle by Baker. A key block by the full-

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Patriots edge Steelers

Independent Register game of the week

BY ERIC VOLIVA
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

The New England Patriots and the Pittsburgh Steelers have forged a rivalry that will forever stand the test of time.

As most fans expected, the game came down to the wire, as the Patriots edged out the Steelers with a last second Adam Vinatieri field goal to make the final score 23-20.

The Steelers ended the Patriots record-setting 18-game regular season winning streak, and the Patriots knocking the Steelers, along with their undefeated rookie quarterback, out of the playoffs, ending all dreams in the steel city of a Super Bowl vic-

tory. The Patriots limped into the game with a total of five defensive backs listed as questionable: Tyrone Poole, Randall Gay, Duane Starks, Chad Scott and James Sanders.

The Steelers went into the contest short on running backs, with Jerome Bettis and Deuce Staley out with injuries before the season began.

The Patriots drew blood first, scoring on their first possession with a 4-yard run by Corey Dillon, culminating from a 7 play, 46 yard drive, that started in Steeler territory, and took 3:33 off the clock.

But, the Steelers an-

Continued on Page B2

Eagles find first conference win

STAFF REPORTS
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

West Craven captured its first win in Coastal 8 Conference play Friday evening, holding on to a slim lead to edge the hosting South Central Falcons 19-14.

DeAndre Jones scored first for the Eagles, scoring on a 1-yard run as the second quarter drew to a close, giving West Craven a 7-0 lead after kicker Sam Gomez booted a ball through the

uprights.

The Falcons struck back on the very next play, when Darrius Best returned a kick-off 59 yards to begin South Central's drive on the Eagles' 13-yard line. Falcons running back Tyler Worthington tied the game moments later. Worthington finished with 86 yards on 22 carries.

The win was West Craven's third straight, improving the Eagles' record to 3-2. South Central fell to 2-2 with Friday's loss.

Jamel Turnage pulled down a 35-yard touchdown pass as the first half expired, handing his Eagles a 13-7 advantage. South Central jumped out in front in the fourth quarter on a Brandt Ellis fumble recovery and ensuing 45-yard run to paydirt.

On the next Eagles possession, Wendell Boyd returned the kickoff for 89 yards, sealing the victory for West Craven, competing in its first game in the realigned Coastal 8 Conference.

6 Pack	Green Bay at Carolina NFL (Oct. 3, MNF)	New Bern at D.H. Conley H.S. Football (Sept. 30)	N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore MLB (Sept. 29)	J.H. Rose at West Craven H.S. Football (Sept. 30)	Havelock at West Carteret H.S. Football (Sept. 30)	Philadelphia at Kansas City NFL (Oct. 2)
Eric Voliva Record: 0-0	Panthers	New Bern	Orioles	West Craven	Havelock	Eagles
William Toler Record: 0-0	Panthers	New Bern	Yankees	West Craven	Havelock	Eagles
Corey Friedman Record: 0-0	Packers	New Bern	Yankees	West Craven	Havelock	Eagles

Sports Scores

NFL Scores

Sunday, Sept. 25

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Final Score	
Carolina (1-2)	3	14	0	7	24	
Miami (2-1)	14	0	7	6	27	
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Cleveland (1-2)	0	3	0	3	6	
Indianapolis (3-0)	7	3	3	0	13	
<hr/>						
Cincinnati (3-0)	10	0	7	7	24	
Chicago (1-2)	0	0	0	7	7	
<hr/>						
Tennessee (1-2)	10	0	14	3	27	
St. Louis (2-1)	0	17	7	7	31	
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Dallas (2-1)	0	12	7	15	34	
San Francisco (1-2)	7	17	7	0	31	
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NY Giants (2-1)	3	17	0	3	23	
San Diego (1-2)	7	14	14	10	31	
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Tampa Bay (3-0)	7	10	0	0	17	
Green Bay (0-3)	6	10	0	3	16	
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Atlanta (2-1)	7	10	0	7	24	
Buffalo (1-2)	3	10	3	0	16	
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Oakland (0-3)	7	3	0	10	20	
Philadelphia (2-1)	0	6	14	3	23	
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New Orleans (1-2)	0	6	3	7	16	
Minnesota (1-2)	17	7	0	9	33	
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Arizona (0-3)	3	6	3	0	12	
Seattle (2-1)	7	3	14	13	37	
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New England (2-1)	7	0	3	13	23	
Pittsburgh (2-1)	10	0	3	7	20	
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Jacksonville (2-1)	3	7	3	7	6	
Jets (1-2)	0	7	7	6	0	
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	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Over Time	Final Score
Jacksonville (2-1)	3	7	3	7	6	26
Jets (1-2)	0	7	7	6	0	20

MLB Standings

Current as of Sunday, Sept. 25

NL East	AL East
Atlanta (89-67)	Boston (91-64)
Philadelphia (84-72)	N.Y. Yankees (91-64)
Florida (80-76)	Toronto (76-79)
N.Y. Mets (78-77)	Baltimore (70-85)
Washington (78-78)	Tampa Bay (65-91)
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NL Central	AL Central
St. Louis (97-60)	Chicago W.S. (94-61)
Houston (85-71)	Cleveland (92-64)
Milwaukee (77-78)	Minnesota (78-77)
Chicago (77-79)	Detroit (69-86)
Cincinnati (72-83)	Kansas City (53-102)
Pittsburgh (63-93)	
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NL West	AL West
San Diego (77-78)	Los Angeles (89-66)
San Francisco (73-82)	Oakland (85-70)
Arizona (72-84)	Texas (77-79)
Los Angeles (69-86)	Seattle (67-89)
Colorado (64-91)	

NFL Standings

Current as of Sunday, Sept. 25

NFC North	AFC North
Detroit (1-1)	Cincinnati (3-0)
Chicago (1-2)	Pittsburgh (2-1)
Minnesota (1-2)	Cleveland (1-2)
Green Bay (0-3)	Baltimore (0-2)
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NFC South	AFC South
Tampa Bay (3-0)	Indianapolis (3-0)
Atlanta (2-1)	Jacksonville (2-1)
Carolina (1-2)	Tennessee (1-2)
New Orleans (1-2)	Houston (0-2)
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NFC West	AFC East
Seattle (2-1)	Miami (2-1)
St. Louis (1-2)	New England (2-1)
San Francisco (1-2)	Buffalo (1-2)
Arizona (0-3)	N.Y. Jets (1-2)
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NFC East	AFC West
Washington (2-0)	Kansas City (2-0)
Dallas (2-1)	Denver (1-1)
N.Y. Giants (2-1)	San Diego (1-2)
Philadelphia (2-1)	Oakland (0-3)

New England defeats Pittsburgh

Continued from page 7

answered back with a TD of their own. Wide receiver Hines Ward scored on the first play of the Steelers' next possession, on an 87-yard strike from quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, tying the score at 7 all.

The Steelers then added three more points before the end of the first quarter with a Jeff Reed 33-yard field goal, making the score 10-7 in the Steelers' favor.

Both teams found themselves in a scoring drought during the second quarter. Both teams came close, but neither team was able to capitalize on their drives.

New England came the closest to scoring, after a sustained drive ended with a Chris Hope interception in the endzone with 31 seconds left before halftime.

With 2:37 left in the first half, Roethlisberger went down holding his left arm, and had to leave the game, but came back in the second half not missing a beat.

Brady's quarterback play was shaky for most of the game, but as always, he made the clutch throw to ensure another Patriots win.

Although he didn't throw another TD pass for the rest of the game, other players stepped up to take the pressure off of their quarterback.

Corey Dillon scored on a 7-yard run early in the fourth, and Vinatieri kicked three fieldgoals, 2 from 40+ yards, to seal the game.

The Steelers scored twice in the second half, a 24-yard Jeff Reed field goal and a 4-yard touchdown pass from Roethlisberger to Hines Ward, but they weren't enough to ensure a victory for the Steelers.

Independent Register

The *Independent Register* is committed to the coverage of local as well as state and national sports. If you would like to submit information about local or state sports, please contact Eric Voliva, Sports Editor, at (252) 633-2757 or at eric@indieregister.com



Johnny's Barbershop

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Tuesday: 8 am - 5 pm
Wednesday: Closed
Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm
Friday: 8 am - 5 pm
Sat & Sun: Closed

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Panthers defense rises to defeat world champions

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thirds of the teams in the NFL.

All week, after the game, I was considering not even tuning into next week's game versus the Patriots. It would be an obvious heartbreaking loss to the defending world champions, but in the end I gave in and tuned in.

Was it worth it?

Oh it's always worth it — except that one game against the Falcons, but that's another story. Let's just say the worst game of the season was promptly followed by the best defeat of a defending world champion of 'maybe' all-time, or at least recent memory.

But then again, the Panthers, under John Fox's tutelage, have been making a habit of pulling those words from my mouth—especially the Tampa Bay game three seasons ago, when neither team would give up, which would qualify as the best game that I have ever had the pleasure to witness.

But getting back to the

defense, without Jenkins in the line-up, the Panthers' defense made the defending world champions look like — cough, cough — the Cincinnati Bengal's pre Marvin Lewis.

Ok, ok, maybe not that bad, but close. I know that's going to ruffle a few feathers, but the Panthers weren't even playing they're A-game. C'mon, they're supposed to be the defending world champions for Pete's sake.

Who's Pete you might ask? I have no idea, but I'm sure he's crying in a corner somewhere for his beloved Patriots.

Tom Brady was held under 300 yards passing (exactly 270 yards), and was also picked off once by linebacker Will Witherspoon — who was my pick to share along with Ken Lucas, the defensive game ball — while Patriots All-pro running back Corey Dillon was held to 36 yards rushing on 14 carries, averaging 2.6 yards.

The Patriots were held to 309 total yards on offense,

an anemic total compared to the gaudy yardage put up over the course of last season, averaging well over 400 yards of offense per game.

So the question arises, is Carolina's defense to credit or were the Patriots just having an off day.

Well, after both games, the Panthers' defense is ranked ninth overall in total defense, averaging giving up only 289 yards per game. The Panthers' rush defense is fifth overall, while their pass defense is twentieth.

The Panthers' defense came out flat against the Saints, but came out with something to prove against the Patriots, playing with a passion so strong, it was felt by Pete as he was crying in his corner.

This inspired play by Carolina's defense is a sign of things to come. Certain predictions — Sports Illustrated's Super Bowl forecast — will prove themselves in time.

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New Bern hands Havelock loss

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plays of 20 yards or more.

New Bern lost the turnover battle, coughing up the ball three times compared to Havelock's two turnovers.

While speaking about his confidence in his own group

North Carolina defeats NC State

Continued from Page B1

back helped spring Baker for the score.

The next score was with 10:39 left on the clock; Davis threw a 39-yard strike to T.J. Williams for the TD, bringing the score up to 24-14 in favor of the Wolfpack.

After that, the Tar Heels' defense managed to keep the Wolfpack from finding the end zone for the rest of the game.

The Tar Heels lit up the field as they came from behind, scoring 17 unanswered points in the rest of the third quarter, bringing the score to 31-24 in their favor.

The first of the Heels' scores came on a 2-yard TD run by Barrington Edwards;

of athletes, Chip Williams said, "We've got a good receiving core, and our offensive line was lacking experience, but their coming on strong now. Our senior linemen stepped up and gave him [Brett Williams] time to throw."

the second on a Baker pass to Jon Hamlett for 10 yards and a TD. The final score was a 24-yard field goal by Connor Barth.

There was no scoring in the final quarter of the game, as both teams embraced opposite strategies to win.

The Tar Heels pounded the ball up the middle to burn the clock and preserve the lead, while the Wolfpack began to show signs of desperation and began to air the ball out a little more.

The final play of the game ended with a Davis Hail Mary that fell short as time expired.

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Make The Call

These are quotes that have been overheard at local games or submitted by sports fans. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Independent Register staff.

"If the Marlins make the playoffs, you need to watch them. Their pitching could be dominating in the playoffs, and they're hitting very good as a team."

"[Jacksonville Jaguars' wide receiver] Reggie Williams is going to have a breakout year. He fits their offense great. He's a downfield threat, jumpball type of receiver. I wouldn't be surprised if he led the

team in receiving yards.

"They [Atlanta Falcons] need to start throwing downfield with him [Michael Vick] more. He's got such a strong arm, maybe the strongest in the NFL, and if they added that to their offense they'd be a better team overall. The deep ball would open up their running game all-together; it would stretch the [opposing] defenses down the field."

"Terrell Owens just needs to shut up and play. He's one of the highest paid players, not just receivers, but players in the NFL. Stop trying to create so much controversy... Just shut up

and play. When he plays he's one of best; people are just tired of his mouth."

"The most underrated player in the NFL is probably Jake Delhomme. He's a better leader than people think, and he's got a better arm than most people will admit. He just comes through in the clutch every time. You take it for granted that he's going to come back and win."

"It's going to be a three person race [for MLB's MVP] between Chicago's Derrick Lee, Atlanta's Andruw Jones and St. Louis' Albert Pujols. I'd give the edge to Jones;

he's carried a team full of rookies on his shoulders to lead the NL East."

"Marcus Vick could turn out to be better than his older brother [Michael Vick]. He's very accurate and very fast. In the second half [of the opener against NC State] he settled down and made plays through the air and with his feet. When he took off running he looked eerily similar to his older brother."

"There's no doubt that [USC's quarterback] Matt Leinhardt will go number one overall this year [in the NFL draft]. He could've went first overall this year..."

there's nothing he could do to drop him on any team's draft boards. He's a lot like [Patriots quarterback] Tom Brady; cool, calm, always composed and a good leader on the field."

"Nate Burleson [of the Minnesota Vikings] is due to have a big year. He showed flashes last year of being a number one receiver. When [Randy] Moss went down, he stepped in and was very productive."

"The [Baltimore] Orioles are one of the most disappointing teams ever. They went from leading their division [including the

New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox] to being next to last in the division; even the Toronto Blue Jays passed them."

"Without Tom Brady, the [New England] Patriots are nothing."

Quote Of The Week

"Terrell Owens just needs to shut up and play."

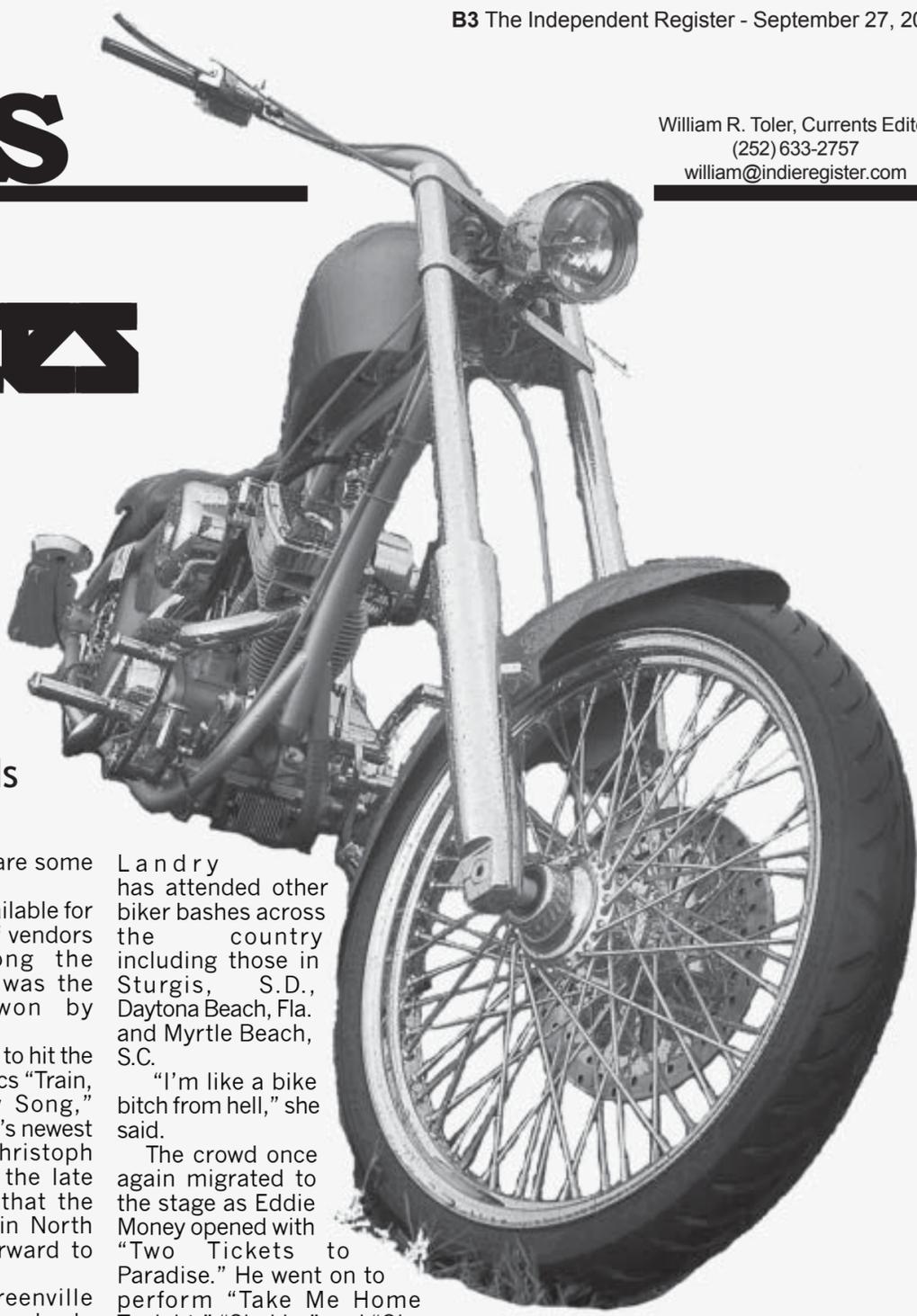
If you have an opinion that you want to share, e-mail eric@indieregister.com with "Make The Call" in the subject line or mail it to 1734 Elmwood St. New Bern, NC, 28560. The *Independent Register* reserves the right to not print quotes we deem unsuitable for publication.

Currents

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Motorcycles and Money

2nd annual Crystal Coast Bike Fest rocks at Craven County Fairgrounds



STORY AND PHOTOS BY
WILLIAM R. TOLER
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

Not even a shower of rain could stop the crowd from having a good time at WSFL's Crystal Coast Bike Fest on Saturday.

Hundreds of people from eastern North Carolina turned out for the bikes, beer and rock'n roll. The entertainment for the day included Jacksonville's Rock Assault, southern rock legends Blackfoot and '80s rocker Eddie Money.

Ray Rouse, who attended last year's shindig, commended the organizers for the event. "Last year they were gettin' their feet wet," he said. "New Bern needed something like this."

Rouse, who has been riding for more than 20 years, also said, "Most of the people out here are

new riders [but] there are some old-school riders."

Fun and food was available for all with an amalgam of vendors and contests. Among the motorcycle madness was the burnout contest, won by Christopher McNeil.

Blackfoot was second to hit the stage, performing classics "Train, Train" and "Highway Song," among others. The band's newest addition, drummer Christoph Ullman who replaced the late Jackson Spires, said that the band enjoyed playing in North Carolina and looks forward to returning.

Carol Landry, a Greenville resident, had her body autographed by every member of Blackfoot. She said that she enjoyed this fest because she could "identify with the music."

Landry has attended other biker bashes across the country including those in Sturgis, S.D., Daytona Beach, Fla. and Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"I'm like a bike bitch from hell," she said.

The crowd once again migrated to the stage as Eddie Money opened with "Two Tickets to Paradise." He went on to perform "Take Me Home Tonight," "Shakin," and "Gimme Some Water," before ending the show with "Baby Hold On."



'80s rock legend Eddie Money performs his hit 'Two Tickets to Paradise' at the Crystal Coast Bike Fest in Craven County on Saturday.



Carol Landry of Greenville gets a personalized autograph from Blackfoot guitarist Charlie Hargrett.



Fran Beck's chihuahua, Precious, came dressed in doggie biker gear for the occasion.



A multitude of motorcycles lines the parking lot at the Craven County Fairgrounds.



The crowd cheers on as Eddie Money performs his hits.



Eddie Money's lead guitarist Tommy Girvin plays a solo.

INDIE-INSIDER

New teen TV drama has Crystal Coast connections

Carteret County natives serve vital roles for 'Palmetto Pointe'

BY WILLIAM R. TOLER
THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

When Jym Lynch and John Kearns met at Open Door Baptist Church in Morehead City in 1996, they didn't know that nearly 10 years later they would be working together on a television show.

That television show is "Palmetto Pointe" which airs on the "i" network, formerly Pax.

"Honestly, when we first became friends, I wanted to be a pastor. I knew John wanted the same and was also into making movies and such, and I also had aspirations to act, so I did some acting in the original 'New Disguise' and 'Life in General: Summertime,'" said Lynch, one of the show's writers.

Kearns, a graduate of Liberty University, shot his first student film in the summer of 2000. The next summer, he directed "Life in General: Summertime," which was intended to be a pilot for a teen drama. Kearns later moved to Wilmington to further develop the

show.

Last spring, he landed a gig working on the pilot for "Palmetto Pointe." Kearns currently serves as executive producer of the show.

Shot in Summersville and Charleston, S.C., "Palmetto Pointe" is "about six friends growing into their young adult years together and the trials and tribulations they face," according to Lynch.

He also says that what sets it apart from previous teen dramas is that it isn't glamorous.

"It doesn't take place in some big city or California or some other glamorized fictional place."

Palmetto Pointe is a fictional town, but it is supposed to be a suburb of Charleston, Lynch added.

"It isn't all about the sex, drugs, drinking, parties, and all that other nonsense to the extreme because, honestly, percent of teens don't live like the people on most other young adult shows. I don't know

anyone who honestly lives like Dawson, Pacey, Ryan or any other guy from other shows."

Lynch went on to say that the situations are taken from real-life experiences. "Sure, they have been made a little more drama TV show friendly, but not the extent that someone could say, 'That could never happen in real life,'" he said.

He said he enjoyed working on the show, which is slated for 17 episodes in the first season.

"I look forward to watching 'Palmetto Pointe' take off. I have invested a lot of myself into making this the best show it can possibly be," said Lynch.

"We are beyond trying to make it the best on TV, we want it to be better than that. We want it to be the best it can be."

Contact William R. Toler at william@indieregister.com.



<p>Sept. 30 <i>Black Sky Radius w/ Snatchapple</i> The Dive, Swansboro 8 p.m. \$5 <i>Grotesque Butchery</i> the Salty Dawg, New Bern 9p.m. \$5</p>	<p>Tuesday nights <i>Stretch</i> Open-mic Night Harvey Mansion, New Bern 10 p.m. Free Bands: Send your gig announcements to william@indieregister.com</p>
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Masonic Theatre reopens for Charlie Brown play

BY DANELLE WYLDER
FOR THE INDEPENDENT REGISTER

New Bern's historic Masonic Theatre reopened its doors for the first time in more than 30 years for the local debut of the Serendipity Players, a new theatrical group headed by director John Van Dyke.

The Serendipity Players' first show, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," is a Broadway musical written by Clark M. Gesner. "Charlie Brown" brings the characters of Charles M. Schulz's popular "Peanuts" comic strip to life on stage.

The cast includes New Bern High School student Michael G. Keinert as Charlie Brown, J.T.

Barber theater arts teacher Julee Marshbanks as Lucy, West Craven High senior Von Cleve Lewis as Snoopy, New Bern High freshman Justin Cournoyer as Linus, Craven Community College music major Jessica Rhodes as Sally Brown and West Craven High student Derek Jordan as Schroeder.

The Masonic Theatre hopes to bring more cultural opportunities to the New Bern area. For more information on the Masonic Theatre and the Serendipity Players, log on to www.serendipityplayers.com.

Contact Danelle Wylder at news@indieregister.com.

THERE'S A
NEW GANG
IN TOWN.

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