



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



VOLUME 11 NO. 48

DECEMBER 15, 1988

VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

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US-17 Williamston to the South Carolina Line

**Strategic Corridor**  
US-70 Raleigh to Morehead City

**HOW**

- C - Construction
- F - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- R - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- T - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- U - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- B - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- A - 99 - Full grade reconstruction, two-lane, 55 mph
- OV - Overpass
- UP - Underpass
- EA - Elevation
- FS - Full service

This corridor is the major north-south route east of I-95. It serves as a connector to the state port at Wilmington and to the beaches. It links Williamston, Washington, New Bern, Jacksonville, Camp Lejeune and Wilmington. Some segments are four-laned and a number of improvements are planned. DOT says to complete the corridor will require substantial commitments beyond the current scope of the current TIP.

This corridor connects the southeastern Piedmont with the central coast. It is a link important to tourism and economic development, said DOT. The route provides access to the Morehead City port and the Bogue Bank beaches. It connects Raleigh, Smithfield, Goldsboro, Kinston, New Bern, Havelock, MCAS Cherry Point and Morehead City. Most of the route exists as a four-lane highway. Construction is beginning on the Smithfield bypass, the major remaining two-lane section.

## DOT Okays \$39.1 Million County Plan

### TIP Targets Corridors Labeled As 'Strategic'

BY MIKE VOSS  
Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation has adopted a \$3.1 billion plan to fund highway construction projects — including two new ferries and improvements to U.S. 17 and U.S. 70 — in the next eight years.

Under the Transportation Improvement Program, Craven County is slated for 14 projects totaling \$39.1 million, not including a proposed by-pass for New Bern that could cost \$100 million.

Included in the TIP plan are several bridge projects, including the replacement of the Swift Creek Bridge on N.C. 118 at an estimated cost of \$519,000 and replacement of a bridge on State Road 1005 over Core Creek at an estimated cost of \$224,000. The projects are slated to be finished by 1996.

The plan also projects it will

cost over \$26 million for the New Bern by-pass and/or Neuse River Bridge relocation or replacement. No schedule of activity was included in the TIP plan, but the project is programmed for environmental impact statement and/or right-of-way protection study.

The major emphasis of this year's TIP is again on the state's strategic corridor system, which includes U.S. 70 and U.S. 17. Highways in the corridor system are routes that have been identified as combining high traffic volumes and great economic potential, according to DOT.

Randy D. Doub of Greenville, who represents Craven and seven other counties in DOT's Division 2, said members of the board were able to keep most of last year's projects on schedule.

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## Rescue Squad Wins State Award Again

### Morris Named As Squad's Outstanding Member For 1988

Keith Morris was named the recipient of the Outstanding Member of the Year Award presented by the Vanceboro Rescue Squad at the squad's recent Christmas dinner. The squad received the third-place A.B. Parker Award from the N.C. Office of Emergency Medical Services.

The squad award was for life-saving efforts during a fire that occurred June 10 of this year. The N.C. Association of Rescue/EMS recognizes three rescue calls in the state each year.

Morris' award recognized him for his "many hours of dedication and devotion to community service in the area of emergency medical care." Morris has completed over 200 hours of training and is near completion of the immediate emergency medical technician course. Morris was selected by the members of the squad. Morris said it was an honor to be presented the award. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Morris of Vanceboro and is a student at East Carolina University.

The award-winning rescue of the squad began at 11:30 p.m. when the Vanceboro Volunteer

Fire Department responded to a reported house fire. When arriving on the scene, firemen attacked the fire while a search team checked inside the burning house. During the search procedure, a young male was located on the floor of the rear bedroom, apparently overcome by smoke. After removing the patient from the house, it was determined that his breathing and pulse had stopped and emergency procedures were started to revive him. He was revived on the way to Craven Regional Medical Center and received advanced life care by emergency room personnel when he arrived at the medical center.

Capt. Dean Morris accepted the award and said, "This is an award for our fire personnel, our rescue personnel and the many others that were involved in this patient's care. This was a total team effort by all personnel and the emergency room did an excellent job of stabilizing the patient's condition. This should make each of us proud of the emergency programs that Craven County has to offer to its

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Vanceboro Rescue Squad members



### Library Donation

West Craven Highlights' Publisher A.B. "Brownie" Futrell Jr., right, and Editor Mike Voss presented a bound collection of the newspaper's 1987 editions to Vanceboro Public Library's Marlene Copeland. Mrs. Copeland is the head librarian. The presentation was made last week and continues a tradition started by former owner and publisher Richard Cannon Jr. Mrs. Copeland said she was pleased to receive the gift and that people

often research the old editions of the newspaper for various reasons. "We are pleased to continue the tradition and to present the library this collection of newspapers from 1987," said Futrell. "We hope the public will look at the collection of papers as a resource for information," said Voss. "We plan to make the presentation each year," added Futrell.

## 11 Eagles Receive Honors

West Craven High School had two members of its 1988 football team placed on the 1988 Coastal 3-A all-conference team last week. Eight Eagles were accorded honorable-mention status.

West Craven had linebacker Monte Brown and tight end Thomas McGee chosen to the all-Coastal elite squad.

However, the conference's leading rusher, sophomore running back Lee Becton of West Craven, was left off the all-conference first team. Becton rushed for 1,197 yards this season, almost eclipsing the 1,225-yard single-season rushing record set two years ago by then-senior Jesse Campbell, a N.C. State player and the 1988 ACC Rookie of the Year in football.

Havelock, which won the conference championship with an undefeated worksheet and advanced to the Eastern Finals, had seven players selected all-conference including George. The Rams' selectees were: quarterback Ledel George, linebacker Kenny Frazier, tackle Mike Godette, linebacker Russell Sea-

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## U.S. Air Force Honors West Craven

### First High School To Receive Second-Highest Recruiting Award

West Craven High School received the prestigious United States Air Force Recruiting Service Commander's Award on Monday, making it the first high school to ever win the award.

The award was presented to the school by Col. James E. Watson, 3503rd United States Air Force Recruiting Group commander. He was accompanied by Master Sgt. Stephen L. Hill, local recruiter, and other Air Force re-

cruiting personnel. "You and the staff of your school have contributed to Air Force recruiting in ways above and beyond the usual high school involvement. The Commander's Award is to show our deep and sincere appreciation for your far-reaching efforts," said a letter to Principal Robert Jolly from the Air Force.

The award is the second-highest form of recognition presented by the Air Force re-

cruiting Service and only a few are presented each year. Only six awards have been presented nationwide this year and between six and eight are presented each year.

Hill said the award was for "continuous support from the school for the last four years." He said the school has sent 27 enlisted personnel to the Air Force in the last four years and averages about two ROTC candidates each year.

"The school has been open

with us and has allowed us to come in and explain what we have to offer. The school realizes that not everybody can afford further education and we are allowed to show students how they can serve their country and get an education," said Hill.

"We feel very honored to get the award from the Air Force. They Air Force has given educational opportunities to

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## Along Came Jones — With Basketball Success On His Heels

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

Lorenzo Jones is proof that Thomas Wolfe's most-famous line — "you can't go home" — is not always accurate.

Jones, head basketball coach at West Craven High School, is a graduate of the school who went off to play college ball and returned to become head coach of the team he played for just four years earlier.

"I've been recycled," he said. Ask Jones how long he has been at the school and he'll probably crack "too long." Too long is

actually 11 years. Eleven years since graduating from Atlantic Christian College. Eleven years of producing top-caliber teams and some top-notch players.

Eleven years of winning. Although he can't recall his exact won-loss record at West Craven, he does recall many years of 20 wins or more. He said the average wins per season would be about 17. In fact, last year the Eagles posted their worst record since Jones has been at the school, a 9-16 mark.

There was a plus in the season, actually several pluses. For the

first time ever, a freshman made the varsity team. That freshman is now a sophomore and is leading the team in scoring. Lee Becton decided to pick up in basketball where he left off in track and football. Last year, as a freshman, Becton qualified for the state track and field championships in the triple jump. This year he led the Coastal Conference in rushing and almost broke the school's single-season rushing record, just missing by 28 yards.

But Jones has seen his share of other talented athletes. Athletes he has seen go on to productive

college careers. And he was no slouch on the field or on the court himself. Jones earned all-conference honors in basketball as a senior and in baseball his junior and senior years. At ACC, he started his junior and senior year and averaged about 15 points a game in his last college season.

"First, I was a bit skeptical about it," said Jones about coming back to his old high school to be the head coach. "I didn't know if the kids would accept me and doing what I asked when I was just a couple of years older than

them." Jones said he was also leary of how his hometown would react to his coaching. "It's harder to prove yourself to people you know," said Jones. He didn't waste time proving himself. In his first year at the Eagle helm, Jones led his charges to a 20-4 record. The next year his squad posted a 22-2 record and made it to the state championship. In that game the Eagles lost by two points to Rutherford-Spindale Central High School.

He took his team, including the

3-A Player of the Year in Gary Blount, back to the state championship game. Again the Eagles came up two points short against, you guessed it, Rutherford-Spindale Central in the Dean Dome on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. Oh yes, R-S Central had the same coach it had in the first contest.

Jones' recalled some of his former players with a gleam in his eye — probably wishing he could bring some of them back and

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