



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

No Increase In Bridgeton Tax Schedule

Fire Truck, Insurance Highlight New Budget

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

The Board of Aldermen of Bridgeton on Monday approved a general-fund budget amounting close to \$223,000, compared to last year's \$177,500 budget.

The budget is for fiscal year 1989-90 that began July 1.

Planned changes include purchasing a new fire truck on a seven-year lease plan and insurance for Town Clerk Janet Williams. The town also plans to employ an additional part-time helper.

The tax rate will remain at 50 cents per \$100 property valuation.

The \$45,335 increase in expenditures will be made possible because of residual tax revenues from the 1988-89 fiscal year. Approximately \$50,000 remains unused in the general fund from the previous year. Local officials commented that a decrease in the tax rate was considered, but because of predicted revenue needs for the 1990-91 tax year, it was decided to leave the tax rate at its current level rather than reducing it for one year and then

having a large increase the next year.

The fire department is in the process of raising money in the community and throughout the state in hopes to offset the cost of the new fire equipment to the town. Local artist Willie Tag Lieri has designed a placemat with a fire department theme in cooperation with the North Carolina Firemen's Association which will be sold to fire departments and individuals throughout the state.

Insurance rates for public buildings will increase around \$4,000, and the town plans to make road improvements, increasing the budget for street improvements by an additional \$4,000 from last year's budget.

Powell Bill funds, which are set aside for street repairs, will increase from \$44,073 to \$49,504. The sewer system has been allotted \$20,980 from the town's special savings account. Around \$11,000 is on account for security deposits.

The total budget amounts to \$304,709 for the 1989-90 fiscal year, an increase of \$69,989 from this year.



Lee Schweitzer Jr. photo

General Fund
\$222,925
Total Budget
\$304,709

Tax Rate
50 cents per
\$100 valuation

Woman injured

Roberta Amick of Virginia Beach, Va., was injured Friday night when her 1987 Nissan hit the railing of Askin Bridge on U.S. 17. According to a report filed by Trooper J.R. High of the N.C. Highway Patrol, her car ran off the right side of

the road, hit the bridge railing and flipped over into the creekbed. She was charged with careless and reckless driving. A spokesman at Craven Regional Medical Center said yesterday she was treated for multiple injuries and released Tuesday.

Task Force Sends Suggestions On Airspace To Coastal Resources Panel

By Mike Voss
Editor

Despite some verbal dogfights, the Military Activities Task Force will present strong recommendations on military operations in coastal North Carolina to the Coastal Resources Commission this month following a meeting here Thursday.

The task force position on noise from low-flying aircraft is so stringent one of its non-voting military members called it an "eviction notice," saying it would bring military flights over the coast to a halt.

To reduce the roar from low-

flying aircraft on training flights, military pilots will just have to "get the levels up or throttle back," a member of Gov. Jim Martin's administration said.

The task force, formed earlier this year by CRC, is charged with reviewing environmental problems arising from military training on the coast. It is also required to develop and suggest changes in current state policies to bring military activities more in line with the state's coastal management plan.

Lynn Muchmore, assistant secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community

Development, verbally sparred with military representatives over language and intent of the proposed resolutions and recommendations. Muchmore argued that the proposed decibel limit on noise from aircraft was acceptable. The task force is not making regulations but setting criteria for state policy, he said.

There have been "no overtures whatsoever . . . to help us figure out what would be a reasonable standard" for noise levels, training routes or minimum altitudes, Muchmore said.

Marine Col. Tom Schmidt said the proposed 85 dBA maximum, if

enforced, would mean no military flights near the coast.

The Federal Aviation Administration has no authority to regulate military noise pollution effects, according to Robin Smith, a representative from the state attorney general's office. Muchmore said the maximum level will require modifications in operational procedures of military flights.

The Marine, Navy and Air Force representatives questioned the neutrality of the recommended standards. Navy Cmdr. Larry Hurley said while the military members are non-voting members of the task

force and are available to provide information, no requests for specific information had been made by the task force to the military. Schmidt said the military is working to help alleviate the problems.

The military representatives also contended there are adequate access corridors for civilian flights along and through the coastal areas and Outer Banks.

Jim Baluss, health director for Pamlico County, said he was concerned with ordnance and other items being dropped in public trust waters. A parachute with a metal flare casing, which he said was

found in a waterway open to the public, was displayed during the meeting. Baluss said the parachute could foul commercial fishing gear and propellers.

"Nobody else I know of is dropping parachutes into public trust waters," he said of military planes.

The recommendations and resolutions will be reviewed by a CRC subcommittee before introduced at the CRC meeting in July.

The task force made these decisions, to be forwarded to CRC for action:

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Dioxin Statements By Weyerhaeuser Disputed By Group

By Betty Gray
Special to the
West Craven Highlights

Statements made by Weyerhaeuser Co. officials during a meeting at the Plymouth plant last week have been challenged by environmentalists who say information presented on dioxin, a poison found in the company's waste, was inaccurate.

At the same time, the company presented data showing it had reduced the amount of the poison discharged from three of its Plymouth mills.

Dioxin has also been found in the company's discharges into the Neuse River from its plant near Vanceboro.

In a telephone interview, a Greenpeace spokesman said a Weyerhaeuser company official "lied" during a meeting last week with Martin County government and business leaders when he said there are no adverse long-term effects from exposure to dioxin.

John Pritchard, technical manager at the Plymouth plant, made the statement about long-term effects

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'Jail' Time Coming For Some Citizens

There is a rumor that some prominent community members are going to be arrested very soon.

But it will all be in fun.

The arrests in question is an annual bust, called a jail-a-thon, sponsored by the Craven County unit of the American Cancer Society.

A jail-a-thon is just what it sounds like. It is a fund-raising event where people raise money by soliciting pledges from their friends in order to meet their "bail."

The event will be held July 11 at the Vanceboro Pharmacy, according to Mike Morton and Scott Thomas, co-chairmen of this year's jail-a-thon in the Vanceboro area.

People seeking to have someone arrested before July 11 can call Mike Morton at 244-1086 and make

a \$25 pledge. On the day of the event, you can call 244-2113 or 244-2211 and pay a \$25 arrest fee and a uniformed, off-duty police officer will be sent to the person's residence or office to "arrest" them.

These arrests will follow the same format as in any arrest, beginning with the suspect being read his or her rights.

All prisoners in this case will be read their special American Cancer Society rights: "You have the right to remain healthy. If you give up the right to remain healthy, anything you do not try to prevent can be held against you. If you have any questions, we will be glad to answer them at any time. You have the

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Lee Schweitzer Jr. photo

Sign of the past?

This old hand pump was used for years to pump water in the Pleasant Hill community, but the water was not always pleasant to drink, cook with or use for bathing. Residents began complaining in earnest over a year ago, saying the water stained clothes, smelled as was unfit to drink. Hopefully, the old pump and bad water are things of the past now that residents have access to a county water system. See additional photos, page 5.

Acting Company Seeks Local Talent For Its New Season

Ever think about being an actor? Cabaret Players Inc. is looking for performers to join its professional acting company for roles in its five-play 1989-90 season.

Parts are available for those of college age to senior citizens in two comedies, a musical revue with original book and a dramatic comedy. Tryouts for the entire season have been set for 7:30 p.m. July 9-10 in the Cabaret Room of Dominic's Italian Restaurant (about five miles south of Vanceboro on U.S. 17).

Those interested in trying out for these paid acting positions as members of the company are asked to:

— Prepare a short audition monologue.

— Be prepared to sight-read a scene with fellow actors.

— Prepare a resume of theatrical training and experience.

— Submit a photo, if available.

Hopefuls are also encouraged to call co-artistic directors Bob Hennon (637-6881 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or Leslie John Lee (633-4516 after 5 p.m.) to let them know you

are planning to attend. Scripts for the plays will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for on-site perusal at The Stitchery, 220 Pollock St., New Bern. The shows include:

— Seascape with Sharks and Dancer, a two-person comic romp with serious undertones and a dramatic twist. It requires a man in his late 20s and a woman around 20. The action takes place in a Cape Cod beach house where a mixed-up young woman is recovering from a near drowning that she prefers to call a dance with the sharks. Her unlikely hero is a long-suffering writer who bides his time as a librarian. It is being directed by Lee and is set to open in early fall.

— Blood Moon, a three-character dramatic mystery opening with a dance of lust that ends in a rape and closing with a brutally choreographed act of retribution. It requires a perky college girl with strength and passion, a good-

See CABARET, Page 5

Cove City Tax Rate Remains Same, Budget Sees Decrease

COVE CITY — Cove City will decrease its proposed expenditures for fiscal year 1989-90 because of a decline in interest received from an FHA investment.

Proposed cuts include \$900 in auditing expenses, \$1,000 in salaries, \$1,700 in insurance costs, and \$2400 in legal fees. The proverbial belt was tightened in several other areas as well.

Several street signs will be replaced in the upcoming year, increasing that budget item to \$800, compared to last year's figure of \$100.

The cost of elections was included this year with \$650 was allotted to cover these expenses. Elections will be held in 1990.

The tax rate will remain at 15 cents per \$100 valuation.