

## EPA Teams Will Inspect County Sites

### Scientists Seek Possible Hazardous Waste Data

Scientists with the Environmental Protection Agency will be in Craven County in the near future to test several industrial and business sites for toxic substances.

There are 12 sites in Craven County the EPA plans to investigate. They are: AMF Hatteras Yachts, Barbour Boat Works, Everhart Lumber Co., Scott's Creek battery site, Swiss Bear, Inc., The Text, all in New Bern; Rowe's Corner drum dump, Rowe's Corner dump, 507h at Rowe's Corner; Eence Chemical Sales in Bridgeton; Salt Wood Products in Cove City; the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point and Slocum Creek on the air station.

The EPA said being on the list does not mean there are any hazardous materials at the site. The tests are being made because there "may be a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances from the site into the surrounding environment," the agency said. They will determine the nature and extent of any contamination at the site and to be used to decide what, if any, further response action would be appropriate, the EPA said

in a letter to the county from its Atlanta office.

The sites in Craven County are on a list of about 800 potentially hazardous waste sites in the state, according to state geologist Grover Nicholson.

The sites were identified as part of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation Act of 1980, which requires the EPA to assess all potential, uncontrolled hazardous waste sites, Nicholson said. The list was gathered from a variety of sources and because a site is on the list does not mean it contains hazardous waste, he said.

EPA has asked or is in the process of requesting permission to begin taking samples from the sites.

Tests should be completed in about three days, according to Robert Morris, EPA environmental engineer, who signed the letter.

EPA scientists with the agency's Field Investigation Team will collect surface and subsurface soil samples, groundwater and subsurface water samples, sediment samples and air samples at and near the site.



Keeping an eye on the heart of control room at VOA site

Ric Carter photo

## Voice Heard Round The World Vanceboro Man Helps Keep Site B On The Air

By Keith Hempstead  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

It is the free world's most powerful radio station and it's sitting here in North Carolina. If a transmission is sent east over the Atlantic, it can be heard coming over the Appalachians from the west. And yet, hardly anyone in America listens to it. It is the Voice of America, a global radio network of the United States Information Agency, which seeks to promote understanding abroad for the United States, its people, culture and policies. It has 15 stations with its headquarters in Washington D.C. and its largest sitting on the border of Pitt and Beaufort

counties.

And helping keep Site B at Blackjack operational is Clyde Hodges of Vanceboro, a general maintenance mechanic. Hodges said he has seen the transmitting equipment evolve from tubes to solid-state circuitry in the 25 years he has been working for VOA.

Hodges is in charge of support systems — heating, air conditioning, water and sewer — at the Blackjack site. "I'm the only one working on that," he said.

Hodges said from time to time he thinks about the mission of VOA and is aware of what is being broadcast from the VOA facilities. "I was in a (military) reserve unit and was familiar with it then," said Hodges. "I am very

much aware of it (the VOA purpose)," said Hodges.

He has worked at the other two sites, but the Blackjack site is closest to home.

Hodges said sometimes he has to "work around schedules" if certain problems arise with transmitting equipment. Part of his job is keeping fans, air conditioners and water pumps working to help reduce stress on equipment caused by heat from components of the broadcasting equipment.

VOA has been in the state since 1961 operating 24 hours a day in 31 languages and yet few in the area venture to the stations to find out what goes on.

But admit it, you've seen them. The VOA signs located through-

out Pitt and Beaufort counties. Maybe you have even passed by the station, actually a series of three stations near Washington, Blackjack and Greenville. Acres upon acres of open field with what seems like hundreds of tall spindly towers erupting from the ground. This is called an antenna farm.

It is from here that VOA transmits its programming to all parts of the globe to anyone who has a shortwave radio.

I spoke with John F. Moss, station manager for VOA, at site C in Greenville.

"This is not a typical station," Moss said.

"They can listen although it is

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## Texasgulf fine might return to eastern N.C.

An eastern North Carolina county may get the \$1-million fine paid by Texasgulf last month for air quality violations.

A provision giving the county the \$1,001,907 from the state's settlement with Texasgulf for air quality violations has passed the N.C. Senate.

But it faces strong opposition from Paul Wilms, director of the state Division of Environmental Management, as it moves to the House, sources said.

Wilms has sent personal memos to some members and staff of the General Assembly calling for defeat

of the proposal, those sources said. Wilms could not be reached for comment.

The measure has the support of state senators Marc Basnight and Tom Taft, Rep. Howard Chapin and local government officials.

"I feel that it's appropriate that the county receive this money because the penalty was incurred in Beaufort County," Ledrue Buck, chairman of the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners, said. "There are a multitude of ways that we could use the money."

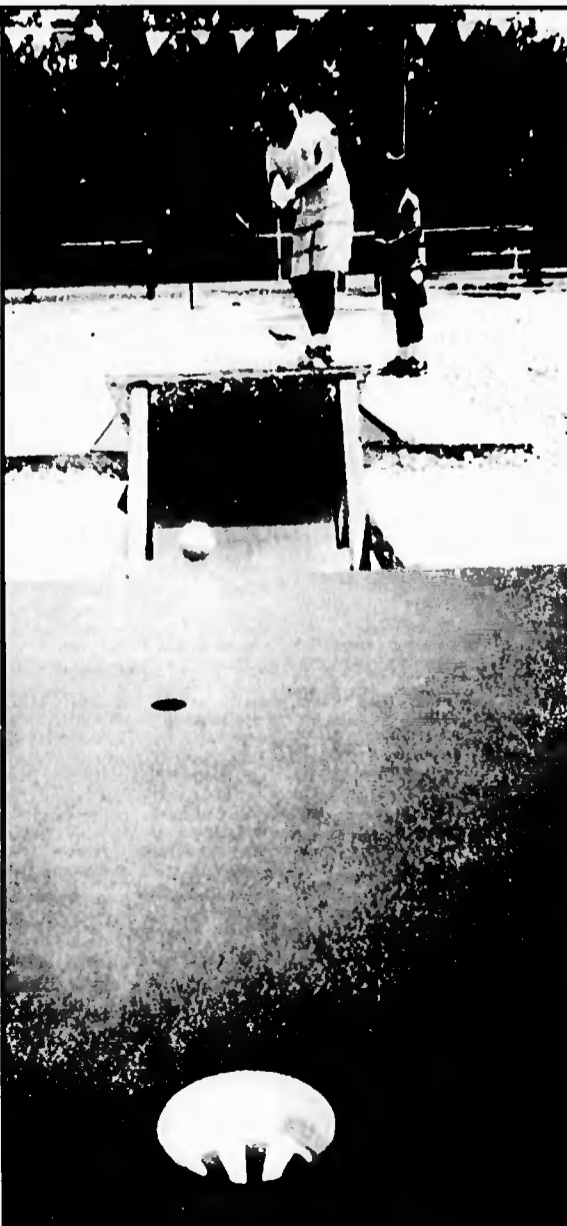
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Lee Schweitzer photo

### Flying High

The dust was flying high in the western part of Craven County Saturday night at the New Bern Moto-Cross raceway near N.C. 55 and N.C. 43 as some 50 motorcyclists from throughout eastern North Carolina and Virginia churned through a quarter-mile of berms and turns in competing in a total of five races at the track. Plymouth's Charlie Dwyer (above), riding a Kawasaki 250cc trail bike, flies to a third-place finish in the second heat of the BTR (Bike-Trail Riders) class using a nifty in-the-air move to pass Keith Henry of Greenville. The race track opens for competition twice a month on Saturday nights. The next race will be held July 22, with hot laps slated to start at 6:30.



Lee Schweitzer Jr. photo

### Hole-in-one?

Donovan Lee watches ball fly toward cup as Andrew Schweitzer waits to putt. Summer means school is out and playing a round of miniature golf helps pass the time. A new course at Yogi Bear's Campground just north of Bridgeton on U.S. 17 offers a challenge to the duffer armed with just a putter. See story, page 4.

## Search, Rescue Is Only One Coast Guard Duty

The Coast Guard is well known for its help to boats and ships in distress. In fact, Coast Guard crews save 16 lives, help 361 people and salvage about \$2.5 million in property on an average day.

But search and rescue is just one Coast Guard mission.

The men and women of the Coast Guard do many jobs. They apprehend drug smugglers, replace buoys, clean up oil spills and inspect vessels for safety violations.

The Coast Guard is the primary federal agency entrusted with maritime law enforcement. But what started as a simple directive has grown over the years as

During the 1970s and 1980s, Congress and the president expanded the Coast Guard's authority to include enforcement of environmental, fishery conservation, pollution, maritime defense and safety laws.

And last year, Congress increased the Coast Guard's duties again when it passed the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. The act was passed to better safety equipment and procedures aboard commercial fishing

boats. In 1991 when the act's regulations will be completed, they should save lives, standardize safety procedures, decrease insurance premiums and reduce liability suits.

Today's Coast Guardsmen are trained in everything from first aid to fishery regulation to federal drug laws, according to

This is dramatically different from 1871 when Congress officially established the U.S. Lifesaving Service as a branch of the Treasury Department.

From 1873 to 1874 only one shipwrecked sailor died in the area with lifesaving stations already established. That record of success led Congress to grant money for stations down through North Carolina.

In the state, as many as 29 stations operated at one time. Most of those were clustered between the Virginia line and the tip of Cape Hatteras. They were generally spaced seven or eight miles apart.

In 1915, the U.S. Treasury Department formed the Coast Guard

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## Cities, Counties Fight Offshore Drilling Plans

Visitors to North Carolina's beaches this summer will be drawn into the effort to protect the state's coast from environmental disasters like recent oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

They will be asked to sign petitions, attend public meetings and watch video tapes about offshore oil and gas exploration in a series of events to be held along the state's beaches from Atlantic Beach to Nags Head.

Meanwhile, county and municipal governments will work this summer to amend land use plans and local ordinances to prohibit oil and gas exploration and production-related activities in their jurisdictions.

LegaSeas, an volunteer group founded this year in Dare County, has been the driving force behind much of this activity. For six months, the group has worked to educate people about offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling.

During this time, the group has grown to 300 members with a chap-

ter on Ocracoke. LegaSeas was organized in January after Mobil Corp. announced its intentions to explore for natural gas about 50 miles northeast of Hatteras in an area leased from the federal government.

LegaSeas is also working for an environmental impact statement by Mobil before exploration begins, according to Nancy Gray of Wanchese, secretary-treasurer for the group.

"We are people with jobs and families," she said in an interview yesterday. "Many of our jobs depend directly on the state's fishing industry and the ocean."

LegaSeas president Linda Mizell said oil and gas exploration is just one part of a long-term energy problem. Ultimately, LegaSeas would like a national energy policy that encourages conservation and less dependence on fossil fuels.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Cordell Bank Marine Sanctuary Designa-

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