



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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Cable-layers from Carolina Telephone aboard their rustic raft last week

Ric Carter photo

## Swift Creek May Obtain Water Lines

### First Phase Cost Estimated At \$640,000, Say Officials

By Greg Stroud  
Staff Writer

Residents in the Swift Creek area may soon be able to get water from the Northwest Craven Water District.

An overflow crowd filled the Catton Fire House on July 18 to discuss plans with county officials to extend water lines to the surrounding areas. The plan, which would be divided into several phases, would first affect those residents on U.S. 17 near the gelatin mill, the Cool Spring area, Aurora Road, Catton Road, Gaskins Road, S.R. 1344, and Territorial Road. The overall cost of the first phase would be around \$640,000, according to county officials. The average household hooking onto the water line can expect their bills to run around \$22 to \$25 per month.

The project, which first must be petitioned by 271 residents, would begin around the first of the year and will take approximately seven

months to complete. The first phase could possibly be finished as soon as March or April of 1990, said County Manager Tyler Harris.

Petitions should begin circulating within the near future. George Dimick of Ernul, who was instrumental in the planning and implementation of the Northwest Craven Water District's Township 1 project, volunteered to coordinate petition efforts in the area.

If sufficient interest is shown by the community by the signed petitions, the project will be underway. At that point, residents will be told times and places they can sign up to hook onto the system. For those registering at that time, there will be a \$30 tap-on fee, \$30 deposit, and a \$10 inspection fee. The inspection will be done to insure that the county water line and water from local wells is not intermingled. Those waiting until after the system

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## 'Huck Finn' Divers Bringing High-Tech Cable

From the bridge crossing the Pamlico-Tar river at Washington, it looks like Huckleberry Finn's raft.

But the old-timey raft is helping bring high-tech telephone service to Vanceboro.

It's a diving barge being used to lay a new fiber optics cable for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Co.

between Washington and New Bern, and into Vanceboro. The barge is operated, not by Huck Finn, but Crofton Diving Corp. out of Portsmouth, Va.

This will be Vanceboro's first fiber optics cable, CT&T public affairs representative Jim Nichols said. With a diameter of 3/8 in., it

will carry six fibers able to handle 24,000 long distance calls simultaneously.

The cable, costing \$1,100,000 will be put in service in October, Nichols said.

Michael Bremus and Barry Anderson of Crofton have been diving for the past week laying cable be-

neath the river bed. "We're hoping to finish this (last) week, but if we keep running into stumps, we may be here next (this) week," Bremus said.

The two divers have averaged 60-80 feet a day, but once they clear the tree stumps and roots hope to up

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## Report Cites 'Negative Impact' From Airspace Plan

The potential for economic and environmental damage from expanded military operations in Eastern North Carolina noted in a report issued last week by the Navy has given eastern North Carolina officials hope that similar problems will be cited in the official report expected soon about the U.S. Marine Corps' plans for area land and airspace.

"That sounds good," said one eastern North Carolina county commissioner, Nolan B. Jones, in a telephone interview this week.

The Navy's final environmental impact statement released this week on the Mid-Atlantic Electronic Warfare Range (MAEWR) cites the potential for a negative impact on regional per capita income, retail sales, real property values, permanent/

seasonal populations and recreational use of forests/gamelands/refuges/parks. "In a worse (or) case scenario," the report says, if people are sufficiently annoyed by aircraft noise, they may move to areas where they would not be exposed to that impact. If they move out of the Region (permanent population) or if they vacation outside the Region (seasonal population), they would not purchase retail goods or develop real property within the Region."

In addition, the report points out that noise from both current and proposed low-level, high-speed aircraft flights could have a negative impact on migratory waterfowl populations which use regional waters for resting and feeding during their semi-annual migrations. The potential for

filling of wetlands, the report adds, would "be a direct negative regional cumulative effect" because of the "national importance currently afforded wetlands preservation."

Increased public concern about collisions and crashes resulting from expanded military operations is another concern, the report says.

The MAEWR would affect portions of Craven, Carteret, Pamlico, Beaufort and Hyde counties.

Jones had not seen a copy of the final environmental impact statement for the MAEWR, he said, but he had read about it in a story released by the Associated Press.

The MAEWR Final Environmental Impact Statement does mention concerns about the Marines' proposal to turn Oak Grove in Jones County

into a forward training facility for AV-8B Harrier jet pilots. It does not mention a proposal by the Marine Corps to expand its airspace in two other areas. But the statements about the resulting increase in noise and the reduction of the county's tax base, among other potential problems, the report says, were taken from the draft environmental impact statement issued for the project in January.

Jones said he and other officials still have been working with the Marines to keep the Harriers out of Oak Grove. "We're not giving up on it," he said.

Jones County officials met with Marine officers last month, he noted, and they were scheduled to meet with them again soon on alternative sites for the Harrier project.

Mike Davis, a defense analyst with Congressman Martin Lancaster's office in Washington, D.C., said this week that he had not been able to determine from Navy personnel when the final environmental impact statement would be issued on Oak Grove. Navy personnel were concerned, he said, with news reports going out Tuesday that indicated final environmental impact statements had been issued for nine projects other than the MAEWR. "They're still trying to chase (the source) down," Davis added.

A public affairs officer at Cherry Point said Tuesday afternoon that "right now, we have nothing solid" about the reports.

A copy of the MAEWR final environmental impact statement is

available for public inspection at the area libraries.

Last week, the Coastal Resources Commission voted to hold public hearings this fall on a series of rules aimed at controlling military activities that have spurred complaints from some North Carolina coastal residents.

The task force developed the recommendations at a meeting about a month ago in Washington at the Holiday Inn.

Rules proposed by the state panel yesterday would establish tougher limits on military aircraft noise, low-altitude flights and electromagnetic radiation.

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## Eagles Begin Gridiron Workouts Under Jordan

By John Burnell  
Sports Writer

"You know what running backs who fumble do?" West Craven head coach Clay Jordan rhetorically asked a group of runningback hopefuls in practice last night. "They sit on the bench," he said, before demonstrating proper ball carrying techniques.

Elsewhere on the field, assistant coach Ed Walls was teaching lineman the vocabulary necessary for the job. "There are two words you need to know," Walls barked, "Ooh and Ugh. Now let me hear it."

Jordan is using the first days of practice for conditioning and as a refresher course on football. The emphasis is on fundamentals and finding the position that best suits each of the approximately 40 players who came out.

Jordan said several players are finishing summer jobs or have other commitments and that the roster will grow. He said he would like to have more players, but is not concerned.

"Five years ago I would have lost sleep over it, but now...what can you do?" Jordan said.

Included among those missing

from practice is Lee Becton, who last year as a sophomore rushed for just under 1,200 yards and lead the conference in rushing. Becton is in Washington (state) competing in the national Junior Olympic track championships.

West Craven's assistant coaches are Walls, Tony Caprara, Tim Hardison and Darren Neal.

Despite the breeze blowing during the evening practice, sophomore fullback John Rasberry succumbed to heat exhaustion and was taken from the field by ambulance. The in-

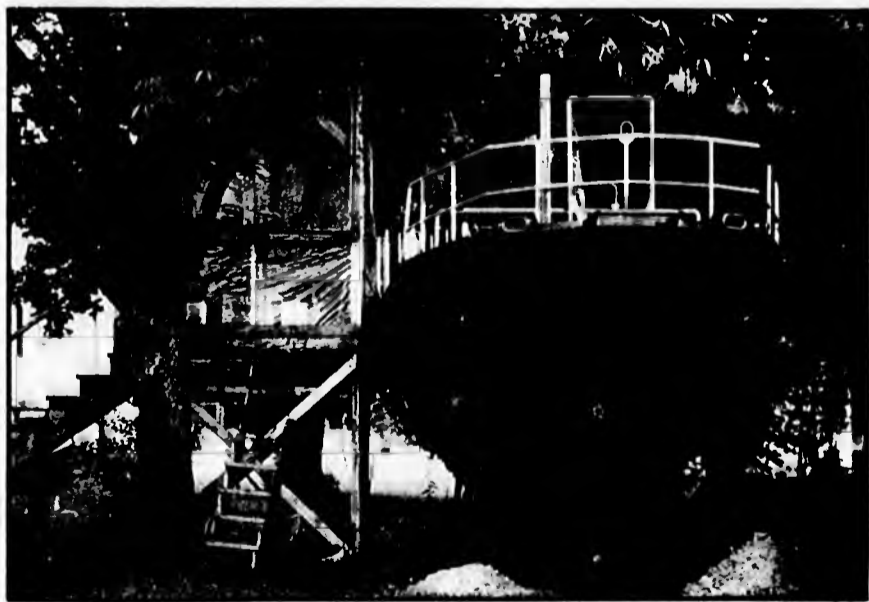
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### Player Collapses At WCR Practice

Sophomore fullback John Rasberry collapsed, apparently from heat exhaustion, during football practice Tuesday night at West Craven High School.

"The doctors don't think it's serious but they are going to take tests to make sure it isn't some-

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Ric Carter photo

### One If By Land, . . .

Paul Revere once warned Colonialists that the British were coming during the Revolutionary War. Lanterns were used to signal how the British arrived. "One if by land, two if by sea," according to history. The owner of this boat and "treehouse" appears to be ready for whatever comes by land or sea. Actually, this "treehouse" is used by the owner while working on the vessel.

## Harris Admits Affair

Members of the family of Michael Braxton of Vanceboro stated recently that the two men named in a divorce petition filed July 10 and accused of having an affair with Braxton's wife are County Manager Tyler Harris and County Commissioner Roger Forrest.

The alleged adultery was committed while Braxton's wife, Betty Jo, was a county employee. The petition refers to the relationships as "extended."

Originally, both men denied the allegations. Harris, however, submitted a letter of resignation to the Craven County Board of Commissioners, which was tabled at a meeting on Friday. On Monday, Harris wrote another letter to the board admitting his involvement in the affair, but asking that he be allowed to keep his job. Harris defended his earlier denial by saying he was trying to protect his family, but now realized it was a mistake.

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## Residents Can Help Shape Proposed Drilling Off Coast, Claim Officials

North Carolinians can help shape proposed oil and gas exploration off the Outer Banks by attending one of six public meetings scheduled this week by the U.S. Department of Interior in the state, a spokesman said last week.

The public hearings will begin with a half-hour presentation by Minerals Management Service, a division of the Interior Department, after which people can meet individually with representatives of MMS.

"There is the misconception that state, county and local governments

don't have a say in what's going on," said Barry Clark, chief of the environmental assessment section of the MMS Atlanta office, in an interview in the Daily News office.

"That's why we're here," Clark said. "To let people know that thanks to the Memorandum of Understanding, North Carolina is receiving special treatment."

"The decisions have not been made," Clark said. "It behooves everybody to be there next week."

Clark and Angela Calos, also of MMS, were in Washington to publicize the series of public hearings

to be held as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the state of North Carolina, Mobil Oil Corp. and the federal government regarding the exploration of outer continental shelf leases offshore.

Critics have said the memorandum will not result in as full a review of the drilling project as a full Environmental Impact Statement.

One of the six meetings will be tonight at Beaufort Community College in Washington, 3 to 7 p.m.

Two public meetings were planned Tuesday in Manteo at Manteo High School, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

and 6 to 8 p.m., two Wednesday in Beaufort at Duke University Marine Lab 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and one tomorrow in Raleigh at the Archdale Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The meetings are to gather comments from the state's residents about the type of information that should be included in an environmental review to be prepared by Minerals Management Service during the coming nine months.

Eight companies paid the federal government more than \$296 million for 21 leases about 45 miles north-

east of Hatteras off the North Carolina coast in federal Outer Continental Lease Sales in 1981 and 1983.

A draft exploration plan, which will be submitted in September, will describe how Mobil, serving as operator of the proposed 21-lease unit, will go about drilling an exploratory well in the area.

Copies of all reports distributed over the years by MMS about Mobil's proposal for oil and gas exploration will be available at the meetings in "information rooms."

After the public comments are

gathered, a report will be written by Clark and his staff about the proposed oil and gas exploration and its effects on the environment. Copies of a draft environmental review will be distributed in late November to anyone who asks to receive a copy, he said.

Public comments will be received on the draft review and a final environmental report on oil and gas exploration will be presented to the state Feb. 1, 1990.

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