



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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## Eagles outrun Trojans

### Coward keys Eagle success

By John Burnell  
Sports Writer

Last night's basketball games between West Craven and Jones Senior could have been dubbed the West Craven Indoor Track Championships.

The Eagles outran Jones Senior 68-43 in the varsity boys' game and 60-40 in the girls'. Jones Senior took the junior varsity contest 55-48.

In the boys' game, West Craven blitzed Jones Senior with a 9-0 run in the final 90 seconds of the first half to turn an 18-15 lead into a 27-15 advantage.

Craig Coward keyed the run with a short basket which he followed with a steal and a slam dunk punctuated by the first-half buzzer.

Jones Senior was forced to play a young backcourt because senior guard Chris Brown was out with an ankle injury. Brown averaged 24.3 points, 6.2 rebounds and 4.2 assists last year to lead the Class 1-A Trojans to a 22-5 record and a berth in the state semifinals.

"I looked and it seemed like they (Trojans) didn't have many back from last year," West Craven coach Lorenzo Jones, "we felt we could press them. We're going to do a lot of pressing this year."

"The injury hurts our whole offense," said Jones' coach Al Hobbs, "it really hurt our young guards."

Jones Senior committed 20 turnovers and was foiled by West Craven's 1-3-1 zone press. The pressure keyed the run at the end of the first half and helped the Eagles put the game away at the start at the second.

West Craven's Tony Jenkins opened the second half with another slam following a Trojan turnover to start an 8-3 run that gave the Eagles a 35-18 advantage just 1:57 into the third quarter. The Trojans committed four turnovers in the span.

Jenkins led West Craven with 17 points, displaying a nice touch inside and running the break. He added three rebounds and two blocked shots. Lamont Cox and



John Burnell photo

West Craven's Lee Beaton (11) goes for rebound against Jones Senior player in Tuesday night's varsity boys' win over the Trojans. The varsity Eagles are now 1-1 on the season.

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## Coastal panel gives approval to restrictions

### New policies address noise, altitude levels of airplanes

By Mike Voss  
Editor

**KILL DEVIL HILLS**—The Coastal Resources Commission last Friday unanimously approved tight new restrictions on operations of low-flying military aircraft in coastal North Carolina.

Two dozen coastal residents, complaining of noise and violation of flight regulations by military aircraft, urged the commission during a public hearing last Thursday to vote for the restrictions.

The recommendations were submitted earlier this year by a commission task force on flight altitude, electromagnetic radiation and aircraft noise levels.

A member of that task force, Marine pilot Col. Tom Schmidt, said then the new rules amounted to an "eviction notice" that would prohibit all military flights near the coast.

The new rules:  
— Adopt Federal Aviation Administration minimum altitude restrictions of at least 1,000 feet above ground level above populated areas (towns and cities) and 500 feet above less populated areas.

— Prohibit aircraft flights from increasing average noise levels more than 10 decibels above background noise, except during take-offs and landings. The policy sets 85 decibels as the maximum noise level. The coastal region's background level is about 40 decibels, said state officials. The maximum level of 85 decibels is a 10,000-fold increase in sound energy over the 40 decibel mark.

The restrictions now are state policy. The federal government will undoubtedly seek to overturn them at a higher level, said Lynn Muchmore, an assistant secretary of the state's new Department of Environmental, Health and Natural Resources.

The restrictions put the state on the "cutting edge" of this issue nationwide, Muchmore said.

A proposal requiring that military tests and maneuvers not expose the public to dangerous levels of electromagnetic radiation was referred by the commission to the radiation branch of the state Division of Health and Human Services.

About two dozen speakers at the public hearing — including local, state and federal officials — asked the commission to protect them and the coastal environment from "assaults" by the military's activities. Many accused the military of having a less-than-caring attitude about complaints made by coastal residents of low-flying and noisy aircraft.

The new rules apply to civilian activities as well as military.

Daniel Besse of New Bern, chairman of the commission, said the turnout in support of the proposals was one of the largest he has seen since joining the commission.

"What impressed me is that this was not a lot of people from one or two groups speaking out," he said. "Almost every speaker represented a different group."

Several coastal residents described the low-level flights as "terrorizing." Others called the flights and bombs dropped at targets in public trust waters a threat to the coastal environment.

Grace B. Evans of Oriental said she "often feels like a target." Others complained of being "attacked" or used as targets by military aircraft while in their fields, on the water or on highways.

Bonnie Strawser of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge at Alligator River said "in general" the service supported the proposals. "The service is concerned about the increase of more military aircraft activity," she said.

She said increased flight activity could cause waterfowl to vacate traditional habitat areas. Some refuges have negotiated rules govern-

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## Oil drilling could be delayed

By Betty Gray  
Special to the  
West Craven Highlights

**MANTEO**—N.C. Attorney General Roy Thornburg called a federal report on gas and oil exploration off the North Carolina coast "legally invalid" and the director of the federal agency that prepared the report has called for a delay in exploratory drilling pending further environmental studies.

A draft environmental report on Mobil Oil Corp.'s plans came under attack Monday night at the first of four public hearings on it. Thornburg was joined by Congressman Walter B. Jones; William W. Cobey Jr., secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources; Ed Cassidy, deputy director of Minerals Management Service; and N.C. Sen. Marc Basnight, D-Dare, in calling for a delay in Mobil's drilling.

Thornburg said the report has insufficient information about ocean currents and physical geology off the state coast.

Jones said plans to drill off the

North Carolina coast should be stopped pending further study of the environmental effects of the drilling.

"We should not allow drilling off the Outer Banks unless it can be proven that no harm will come to our precious coast," Jones said. "Proving this is Mobil's responsibility, and so far, they have not done so."

Jones, chairman of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, said when Congress reconvenes in January he will introduce a bill prohibiting exploratory drilling off the coast.

Jones has written Manuel Lujan, interior department secretary asking that approval of Mobil's exploration plan be delayed until at least Oct. 1, 1991.

Jones' and Thornburg's remarks were greeted by applause and standing ovations from most of the 200 people at the hearing at Manteo High School. It was sponsored by Minerals Management Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior agency that would issue permits for outer continental shelf drilling.

The attorney general said the state will challenge the Minerals Management Service report in court unless the agency prepares a more detailed environmental study.

"We do not propose to allow Mobil and Minerals Management Service to spoil the beautiful environment of the North Carolina coast without a full disclosure of adverse impacts," Thornburg said.

The federal government will also ask for more time to study the environmental effects of exploratory drilling, Cassidy said. Cassidy's agency, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, that prepared the environmental report.

A public hearing on the report will be 3 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 10 p.m. tomorrow at Beaufort County Community College.

Referring to a Memorandum of Understanding among the governor, Mobil and the federal government which set conditions under which drilling could take place, Cassidy said, "We knew the process might require a mid-course correction."

Cassidy said his agency had

"worked in some cases around the clock" to prepare the environmental report which was submitted to the state for its review early last month.

But the department will ask Mobil for "an extension of the timeline" agreed to in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Federal and state reaction to the two volume report surprised Mobil Oil Corp. officials and was hailed by environmentalists at the meeting last night as a victory.

"It's a great turn of events," said Dorrie Smith, a spokesman for the environmental group Greenpeace, after the meeting. "Because the drilling window for next summer is closed."

Mobil had agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the company, the state and the federal government July 12 to drill its exploratory well during a "favorable weather window" from May through September.

Mobil, the state and federal officials are expected to discuss next week the specifics of a delay, federal officials said.

North Carolinians "have been



Betty Gray photo

State Sen. Marc Basnight, left, and N.C. Rep. Walter Jones.

failed in this process," Thornburg said. "Minerals Management Service has used a process that is scientifically and legally invalid," he said. "As your lawyer, I can tell you that what they have done is not legally defensible."

In an interview after the meeting,

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## Town's landmark has new local owner

By John Perry  
Staff Writer

The Vance Theatre/Laundrette building has a new owner in Jimmy Huff of H & B Tax Service.

Huff told the Highlights in an interview about his ownership of the Vanceboro landmark that has been kept under wraps until just recently.

The building, ironically, is directly to the right of Huff's home in Vanceboro. This is one of the reasons, according to Huff, for buying it. He says he doesn't exactly have any future plans for the building, but tearing it down right now is out of the question.

Huff bought the building from Mrs. Annie Mary Edwards of Au-

rors, who's father owned the building when it was both a theatre and a laundromat. Mrs. Edwards' father passed away, leaving both it and the land to her.

Mrs. Edwards and Huff have been friends for years, and the proposition was nothing more than "just a friendly deal," said Huff. Mrs. Edwards also sold Huff the building that is now houses his tax service agency. Huff said his main reason for buying the old theater is that the building is basically on his land anyway, with the distance from the two structures being around 20 feet. But Huff could not do anything about "this inconvenience" because it was in listed in and records as two sepa-



How the theatre appeared many years ago.

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## Jones' bill to require additional research, tests

**MANTEO**—Congressman Walter B. Jones hopes legislation introduced early next year will delay exploratory drilling off the North Carolina coast at least one year, a spokesman for the Congressman said Monday.

The bill, the Outer Banks Protection Act, will require that further action on the Mobil project be stopped, Jones said last night at a public hearing on the federal environmental report on oil and gas exploration off the state's coast.

The bill proposes creation of a scientific review panel to develop reliable information on the effects of offshore drilling. And it calls for additional studies on oceanography, ecological and economics of eastern North Carolina that would be af-

ected by oil and gas exploration. Jones said he will introduce the bill Jan. 23, 1990, opening day of the second session of the 101st Congress.

It also includes language to prevent the U.S. Department of the Interior from issuing any new leases and approving any exploration plan or permit to drill before Oct. 1, 1991.

The Jones bill has a better chance of approval than the Ocean Protection Act of 1990, a bill introduced late last month by Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Dan Ashe, staff member for the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries said.

The Boxer bill, co-sponsored by 24 other representatives, including

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