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Legislators Join Opposition To Quarry Proposal

BY ERIC CARLSON

State Senator R.C. Soles on Tuesday said he plans to introduce legislation that would prevent Martin Marietta Aggregates from opening its proposed limestone quarry near Southport.

"It's unfortunate that the Senate is not in session, because I would introduce a bill tomorrow," Soles said in an interview outside a public hearing where state regulators heard comments on the company's application for a mining permit.

State Reps. David Redwine and Dewey Hill joined Soles in officially denouncing the proposed open-pit mine before a crowd of more than 350 at the county government complex in Bolivia.

Soles said he will draft a proposal to strengthen the environmental requirements of the N.C. Mining Act when the legislature reconvenes next May. To speed passage of the legislation, he plans to propose the measure as an amendment to a mining bill already under consideration.

He told the group he would use his influence as the second-ranking member of the N.C. Senate to push for changes and additions to the act's list of seven criteria under which a mining proposal like Martin Marietta's can be rejected.

"If this act is so weak that it will allow an operation like this to be placed in an environmentally sensitive area between a nuclear power plant and a military ammunition terminal, then there's something wrong with the law," Soles said.

Soles said he thinks there will be enough time to change the mining act before the permit is issued. He said he will introduce the legislation sooner if the Senate reconvenes for a short session.

Redwine also spoke firmly in opposition to the quarry proposal and asked the panel from the N.C. Department of Environmental, Health and Natural Resources Land Quality Section to turn down Martin Marietta's permit request.

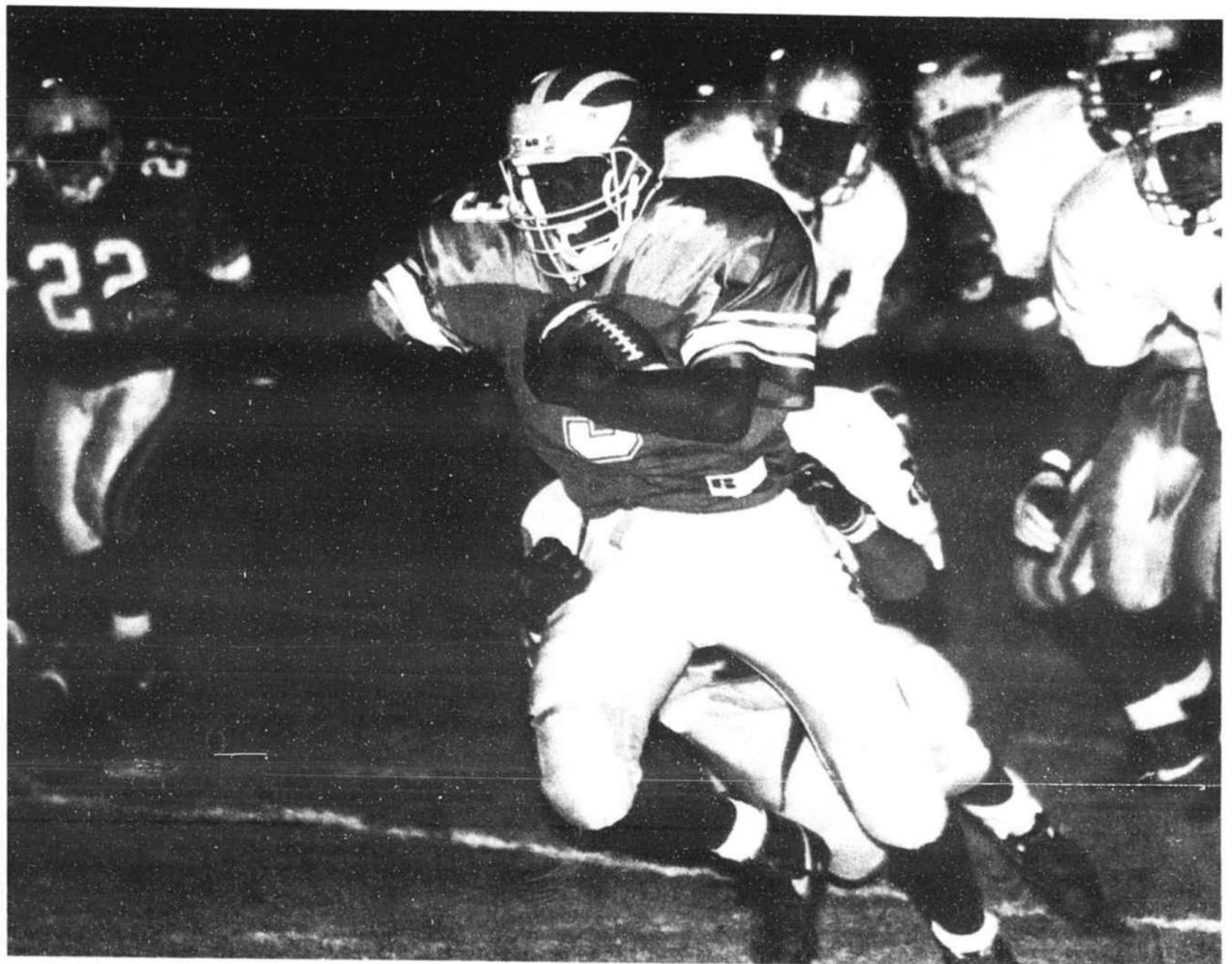
"I'm no nuclear scientist, but common sense tells me that with all this blasting, there might be some effect at CP&L," Redwine said. "The experts may have different opinions, but what if they're wrong and something did happen to cause a shutdown at the plant?"

"One 'oops!'... One 'oh, my God!'... And we would have a very serious problem," he said.

Hill joined his fellow legislators in speaking against the company's mining plan, saying it "raises a lot of questions that have not been answered."

More than 30 people signed up to speak at the hearing. Most yielded their allotted three minutes at the microphone to speakers who read lengthy prepared statements into the hearing record.

Among the others who voiced opposition to the mine was Harry Legrand of Raleigh, a veteran groundwater geologist formerly with the U.S. Geological Survey, who warned against the potential effects (See SENATOR, Page 2-A)



Trojans On A Roll

West Brunswick quarterback Eric Johnson turned this fourth-down sneak into a big gain last Friday as the Trojans defeated Reidsville 21-3 in the high school football playoffs. An estimated 4,000 fans are expected at Rourk Stadium this Friday night when the Trojans host Tarboro in the state semifinals. Advance tickets can be purchased at the school for \$6. Tickets will cost \$7 at the gate.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Three Face Murder Charges In Bolivia Man's Shooting Death

BY ERIC CARLSON

Two teenagers and a 22-year-old were charged with murder Tuesday and more arrests are expected in the shooting death of a man whose body was discovered in the driveway of his Bolivia mobile home Monday morning.

The three suspects, all from Bolivia, are accused of shooting Charles Wayne Davis, 36, in a confrontation outside his home on Albright Road, located about a mile and a half south of U.S. 17 off Midway Road.

Arrested Tuesday afternoon were Frank Lenoil Ford, 22, of Oakley Trail; Terrance Laquinn Jones, 18, of Randolphville Road;



FORD

and Jeremy Javon Smith, 16, of Tobes Road, a student at South Brunswick High School. All were being held without bond Tuesday night.

Authorities are also looking for Byron Henry Knowles, 24, of St. Andrews Drive, Wilmington, in connection with the murder. He is considered armed and dangerous and is believed to have fled the state, according to a radio bulletin broadcast by



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the Brunswick County Emergency Communications Center Tuesday afternoon.

Following an intense around-the-clock investigation headed by sheriff's Detective Charlie Miller and agents of the State Bureau of Investigation, the three suspects were picked up at their homes for questioning Tuesday morning, Detective Captain Phil Perry said.

All three were charged with murder after



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the interviews.

An investigation into the killing is continuing and more suspects are expected to be charged, Perry said. Police are not speculating publicly about a motive for the shooting and are saying little else about the investigation.

Authorities would not say whether drugs were involved in the murder. However, court records indicate that both the victim and one of the suspects have

been accused of drug offenses.

Court documents also show that one of the three men was charged in a fatal stabbing in Bolivia last year. The other two suspects have been arrested before on weapons charges.

Jones was charged with voluntary manslaughter Oct. 7, 1992, after he allegedly stabbed Jamie Levaughn Moore repeatedly in the chest during an altercation at a trailer in the Randolph Mobile Home Park. Moore stumbled outside and drove to his parents' home, where he died a short time later.

Charges against Jones were voluntarily (See MURDER CHARGES, Page 2-A)

End-Of-Grade Test Percentiles

	GRADE 3		GRADE 4		GRADE 5	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
State Mean						
Average:	47.1%	46.7	46.4	47.4	47.5	50.2
County Mean						
Average:	43.4	40.7	42.4	40.7	40.4	42.9
School:						
Bolivia	43.8	50.7	40.1	41.5	46.6	54.4
Leland	-----	-----	34.5	29.4	31.2	34.4
Lincoln	35.1	30.4	-----	-----	-----	-----
Shalotte	-----	-----	-----	-----	41.4	45.7
Southport	45.0	48.8	49.1	48.6	50.3	47.6
Supply	39.9	39.7	44.7	34.5	41.9	40.3
Union	41.4	35.3	45.9	45.9	-----	-----
Waccamaw	41.1	37.7	31.4	42.1	29.1	24.6
	GRADE 6		GRADE 7		GRADE 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
State	47.0	51.9	46.0	51.3	46.8	50.2
County	44.0	43.4	44.8	48.6	47.2	51.0
School:						
Leland	38.2	34.8	41.0	37.9	46.9	54.6
Shalotte	47.9	49.0	42.7	46.0	44.4	45.0
South Middle	42.5	43.5	43.1	46.2	44.3	46.1
Waccamaw	39.3	38.7	55.4	63.3	45.9	44.5

Note: A percentile rank refers to the percentage of students in the group who fall below a particular point, not the percentage of items answered correctly. For example, a score higher than 97 percent of those attained on a test is said to be in the 97th percentile. If a school ranks in the 47th percentile, that means 53 percent of the students in the state scored higher on the test than students at that school, while 46 percent scored lower. The state figures omit invalidated scores (extremely low scores eliminated because they tend to skew overall results), while county figures include all scores.

Low End-Of-Grade Test Scores No Surprise; County Says There's 'A Lot Of Work To Do'

BY SUSAN USHER

Neither state nor local school officials were surprised by low student scores on end-of-grade tests given last year for the first time, but that doesn't mean they're happy with the results.

"They mean we have a lot of work to do," said Jan Calhoun, Brunswick County Schools' assistant superintendent for instruction. "We think our students are capable of doing much better than this."

Students in grades three through eight took reading and math tests. Students in the third, sixth and

eighth grades also took science and social studies tests.

The criterion-referenced tests are used to determine how much of the information or skills covered in the curriculum for a particular grade level a student possesses.

This is the first time North Carolina has used end-of-grade tests of its own design. They replace use of the nationwide California Achievement Test. For the first time student performance is being compared to their peers statewide instead of across the United States, and to how well they master what the state

wants thinks is important for them to learn.

William Brown, who is responsible for testing and accountability for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, said he thinks low scores across the state in general and in Brunswick County should increase as more teachers teach the standardized state curriculum for their grade and subject area. The curriculum is a continuum, with skills and data at level building on and reinforcing those supposedly studied in previous grades. (Currently the state social studies curri-

culum and related end-of-year test is being revised; next year science will be revised.)

"I think it means they are probably not teaching everything in the new curriculum," said Brown. "I would imagine the scores will increase."

"Because of the field tests we did earlier, we knew the scores were going to be low; we were not surprised."

On these first results, there were some instances in which students at specific county schools scored (See NEW TEST, Page 2-A)

FOLLOWING TUESDAY HEARING

Coach Accused By Student Remains On Suspension

South Brunswick High School's head football coach remained on suspension following a hearing in Southport Tuesday with Brunswick County Schools Superintendent Ralph Johnston.

However, it was still unclear whether Coach Bill Hewett's suspension last Wednesday is related to a charge that he assaulted a female student at a Southport restaurant.

Johnston, who met Tuesday afternoon with Hewett and the administration's attorney, Ann McCall, would not say whether the paid suspension and assault charge are connected.

"He's still on suspension with pay. Our investigation is continuing," the superintendent said. "It's a personnel matter and we're still gathering our information."

Johnston said Hewett's suspension was "strictly a school matter. We're doing our own investi-

gation on information provided to us by the principal (Sue Sellers)."

Under state statute, Johnston said school officials have up to 90 days to investigate the matter. The 90-day limit expires Feb. 23.

A South Brunswick High senior took out a warrant for Hewett's arrest last Saturday, charging him with assault on a female. The warrant accuses Hewett of "grabbing" the girl's breast.

The incident is alleged to have occurred Nov. 16 at The Shamrock, a restaurant and pub in Southport where the student works as a waitress.

The case is scheduled to be heard Dec. 13 in Brunswick County District Court, according to the arrest warrant.

Jane Williams, who owns The Shamrock, said she was in the lounge and the student was in the restaurant at the time of the alleged assault.

"I saw nothing that happened. I didn't witness

anything. I just know she was upset afterward," Williams said Tuesday. "She was just hysterical and said he touched her breast. She said he was saying vulgar things to her."

Contacted at home Tuesday, the student's mother declined to comment on the case.

Hewett did not return a phone call Tuesday, but a family member said he had been advised by his attorney not to speak with the media until the situation is resolved.

Hewett has been the athletic director and head football coach at South Brunswick since 1990. He previously held the same positions at Whiteville High School, and led the football team to a state 2A championship in 1987.

Hewett's four-year coaching record at South Brunswick is 21-21, including a 5-6 mark this season. The Cougars advanced to the state playoffs in 1990 and again this year.