

# Basketball Contest--Page 4

THE WEST CRAVEN

# HIGHLIGHTS

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## Deadline for merger agreement set

by Connie Bryan

The Craven County Commissioners have set a deadline of 5 p.m. on February 23 for the Craven County Board of Education and the New Bern Board of Education to respond with a merger plan to become effective by July 1, 1981. If the Boards fail to adopt a plan, then the Commissioners will prepare their own plan for merger and request that local representatives introduce it in the

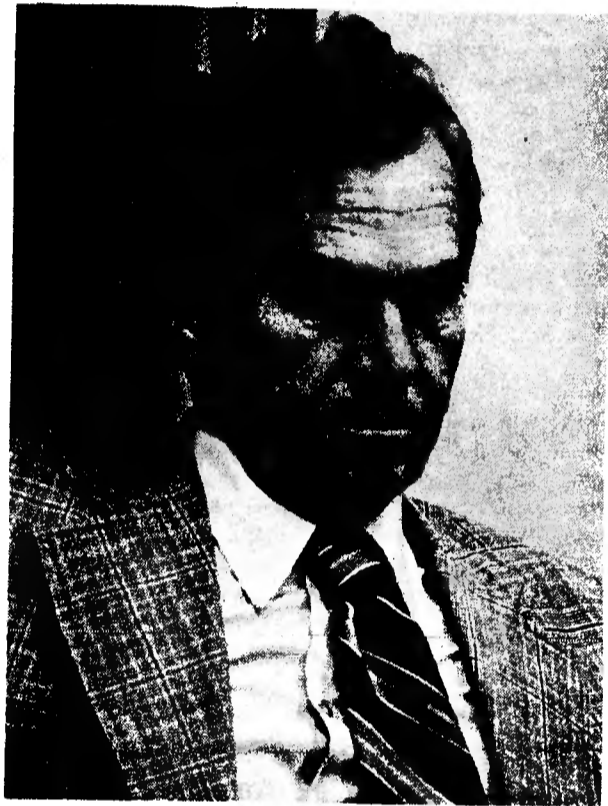
state legislature. The February 23 deadline was set after Rep. Chris Barker informed the Commissioners that March 10 is the cutoff date for controversial local bills to be submitted to the state legislature.

Grover Lancaster of Vanceboro pointed out that an outside study was not needed. He added that a referendum was not necessary either, since the elected officials could decide

the issue.

James Sugg, attorney for Craven County, submitted a proposed bill from Rep. Barker, who could not be at the meeting. As written by Barker, this bill states, "The seven members of the Craven County Board of Education shall run in districts and be voted on county wide" effective with the primary and general elections of 1980. According to this bill, the Board would

control the two systems beginning in December 1, 1980 and continue after their merger on July 1, 1981. Commissioner Lancaster commented that if the school boards fail to come up with a plan, the County Commissioners will not necessarily submit Barker's bill as it is.



**ULTIMATUM**--County Commissioner Grover Lancaster, Jr. delivered an ultimatum to the two school boards in Craven County. Lancaster's motion, which calls for agreement of the two school boards on merger by 5 p.m. Friday, February 23rd, passed in the recent County Commissioners' meeting last Friday. [Photo by Tony Gatlin]

## Basketball Contest's third week

## Gaskins wins six-way tie for first

Jeff Gaskins survived a six-way tie for first place to win in the third week of the Basketball Contest being sponsored by the Highlights and area businesses through January and February. Richard Gladson was second in the tie-breaker and Jay Huff was third. All three had

seven right and three misses. Brian Hudson won the "Beat the Editor" drawing out of eighteen entries. After three weeks, three entrants are deadlocked in the race for the Grand Prize of two tickets to the NCAA Eastern Regionals plus fifty dollars in expense money.

Jay Huff joined Pat Troutner and Earl Wright in the three way tie. The third week's winners are as follows:  
First-- Jeff Gaskins (Won Tie-breaker)  
Second-- Richard Gladson 7-3 (Second in Tie-breaker)  
Third-- Jay Huff 7-3 (Third in Tie-breaker)

**"Beat the Editor":**  
Brian Hudson

Last week's winning teams were Virginia, UNC, Davidson, Duke, Tennessee, Notre Dame, Ohio State, LSU, Purdue, Louisville, and (Tie-breaker) Pittsburgh, 35 points.

## Courthouse will stay in New Bern

by Connie Bryan

A proposed new Craven County Courthouse complex was among the topics discussed at the County Commissioners' meeting on Friday, January 19 at 8:30 a.m. In a motion for a resolution from the Board, George Nelson of New Bern recommended that they keep the County government in downtown New Bern. He defined "downtown" to mean the area between Hancock Street and the Neuse River and Johnson Street and the

Trent River. Nelson added that he felt the Commissioners should go on record as having the "intent to keep County government in New Bern." The Commissioners passed this resolution.

In related business, Nelson suggested that the Board ask the Redevelopment Commission and the City of New Bern, if the city would give the county three acres of land in the Urban Renewal Project adjacent to the 6.9 acres

already purchased by the county. Nelson noted that there has been some concern that the present 6.9 acres would not provide adequate space. He commented that this additional acreage "would be necessary to overcome the present deadlock" and to insure that the courthouse complex would be built on the urban renewal property. The Commissioners agreed to this proposal.

According to the architect the estimated cost for

the new complex is between four and six million dollars. Grover Lancaster of Vanceboro suggested that the Board meet with Jim Roberts, architect for the project. A meeting was scheduled for February 5.

\* \* \*  
The point of zero degrees latitude and zero degrees longitude lies in the Gulf of Guinea off the western coast of Africa. The closest land to this point is Ghana.



**COUNTY GOVERNMENT STAYS**--The County Commissioners okayed a resolution by George Nelson which expressed the commissioners' intent to stay in downtown New Bern. [Highlights File Photo]

## Local men join Jaycees

Congratulations go to Doug Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. McRay Robinson and Carroll "Butch" White Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll White. Doug and Butch were inducted into the New Bern Jaycees on January 8. The Jaycees is an organization for young men between the ages of 18 and

35. Some of their projects are the bike and bowl-a-thons and tele-a-thons for Cystic Fibrosis, the basketball games for the Heart Fund, Christmas parties for the underprivileged and handicapped children, and the current jelly sales to help build a burn center in North Carolina.

**"A Bird's Eye View of New Bern"**  
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