



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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## Jobless Figures Decline

### Craven Sees No Change

Unemployment remained unchanged in Craven County but decreased in Lenoir, Jones and Pamlico counties in May, according to the Employment Security Commission.

Craven County's rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent in April and 3.7 percent in May.

Out of the county's 32,180-member work force in May, 1,180 were unable to find employment and 31,000 were working. There were 1,140 unemployed members of the 31,160-strong labor force in April.

Jones County's unemployment rate fell from 4.4 percent in April to 3.6 percent in May.

The May work force in Jones County totaled 4,160 and all but 150 were employed. In April, 170 members of the 3,890-man labor force were unable to secure work.

Pamlico County's unemployment rate decreased from 3.7 in April to 2.9 percent in May.

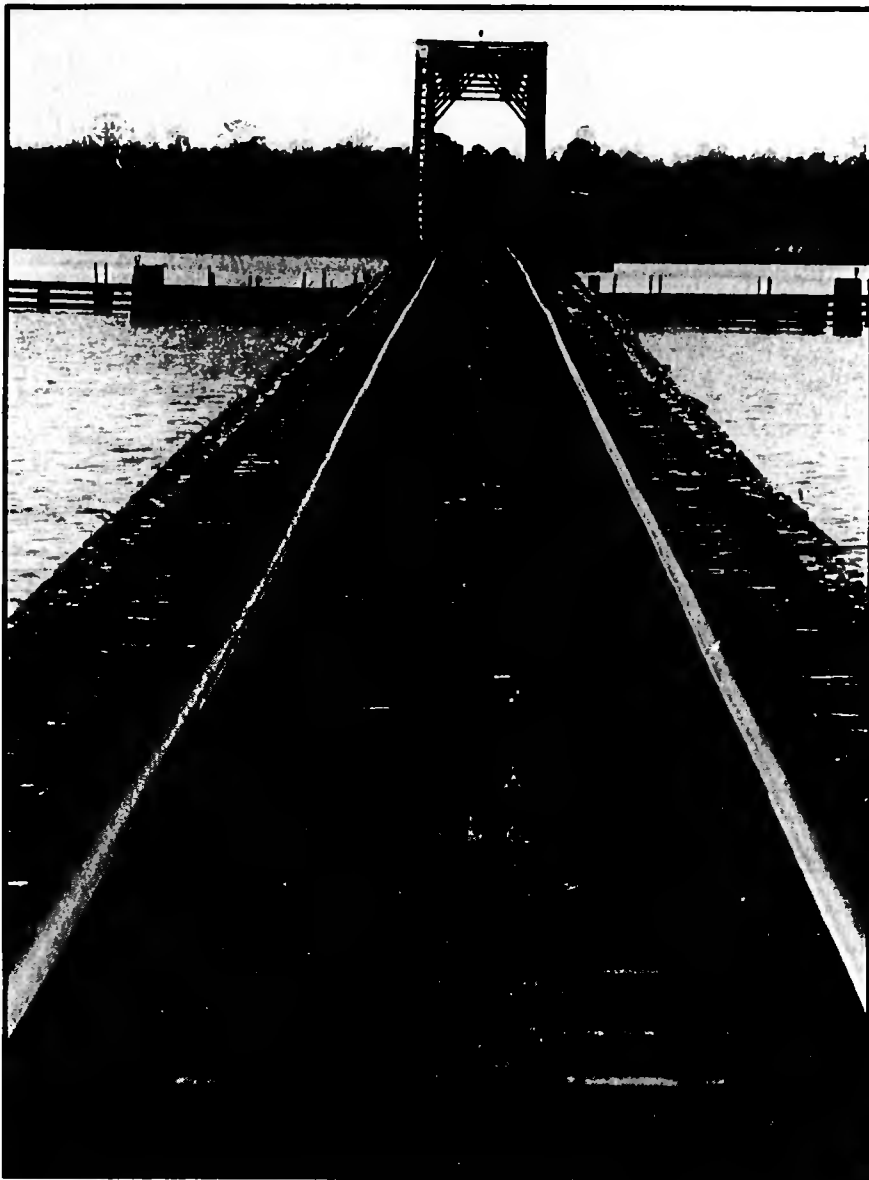
The county's unemployed numbered 140 in May in a work force totaling 4,760. The were 4,650 workers in the April labor force and 170 were unemployed.

Lenoir County saw its unemployment rate fall from 4.1 percent in April to 3.7 percent in May.

There were 1,080 unemployed workers out of a May work force totaling 29,390. April's labor force of 28,860 included 27,680 on the job and 1,180 without work.

The state's unemployment rate for May was 3.3 percent, with 109,400 of the 3,291,500-person labor force without jobs. April's unemployment rate was slightly higher at 3.4 percent, with the same number of unemployed.

(See **JOBLESS**, Page 5)



### The Straight And Narrow

Climbing aboard a train trestle over the Pamlico folk-Southern bridge takes calm to new heights. When there's no oncoming traffic, that is. (Ric Carter photo)

## '88 Budget Ups Money For Lawyer

### Suit Against New Bern Behind Increase In Town's Legal Fees

By **MIKE VOSS**  
Editor

COVE CITY — The Board of Aldermen of Cove City approved the 1988-89 fiscal-year budget and it includes attorney's fees ten-fold over what was allocated in the 1987-88 budget.

The town's overall \$74,834 budget was approved recently and takes effect July 1. The budget retains the town's 15-cent tax rate per \$100 valuation.

The budget allocates \$5,200 for the town's attorney during the year. The 1987-88 fiscal year budget allocated \$500 for legal fees. The town does not pay its attorney a retainer fee, it pays for legal services as they are needed.

The increase reflects legal action initiated by the town earlier this year against the City of New Bern. Cove City filed a civil lawsuit against New Bern in a dispute over water rates.

Alleged non-payment of water bills since last July was the reason New Bern said it would shut off water to Cove City. In March of last year, the New Bern City Council increased the rate it charged Cove City for water to 89 cents per 1,000 gallons of water, plus a surcharge each month based on meter size.

The town obtained a temporary restraining order to keep New Bern from shutting off the town's water.

The general-fund portion of the new budget totals \$43,179 and the water-fund portion totals \$31,655. The town will also receive \$15,970 in state money (including some interest on invest-

ments) for the budget, earmarked for road improvements.

The largest revenue item in the general-fund budget is \$9,000 from franchise tax income. The second-largest revenue item is \$8,700 from property taxes. The budget contains \$7,500 in re-

(See **BUDGET**, Page 5)

## Vanceboro Hosts Softball Tourney

Vanceboro will host a Class C softball tournament this weekend that is sanctioned by the U.S. Slo-Pitch Softball Association. The tournament will be held at Farm Life Elementary School in Vanceboro.

Linwood Jones, state women's coordinator for Zone 5, and Don Ahlers of Havelock, an area director for Zone 5, are coordinating the tournament.

According to Jones, 11 teams had entered the event by early in the week and one more team may enter.

In Class C competition, a team manager designates a homerun hitter or the first person to hit a homerun for a team becomes the designated homerun hitter. Other batters hitting a homerun over the fence are called out and all baserunners remain at the base they held at the time of the pitch.

## Brings Home \$1,550

# Ed Davis Hooked On Fishing B.A.S.S. National Tournament

By **MIKE VOSS**  
Editor

Ed Davis went fishing last week and made a nice catch — a catch to the tune of \$1,550 and a 12th-place finish at the Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society Federation National Championship held at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Davis, part of the winning Southern Division team, finished in 16th place after the first day of the tournament held on the Chickamauga and Nickajack lakes. He came on strong the last two days to earn the 12th-place finish with 13 fish weighing 13 pounds.

Davis, of Rt. 1, Vanceboro, qualified for the national tournament and Southern Division team by finishing third in the Southern Division tournament held in June in just up the road in

Washington on the Pamlico River.

Kinston fur trader and tackle salesman Danny Joe Humphrey won the \$8,000 top prize in the B.A.S.S. tournament. He caught 21 bass that weighed 22 pounds, 15 ounces during the three-day tournament. Other Tar Heel anglers fared well as Chris Daniels of Gardner finished fifth with 14 bass weighing in at 16 pounds, 14 ounces. Daniels pocketed a \$900 prize and \$1,000 of the team's \$8,000 team-prize. Jeff Staton, also of Kinston, grabbed seventh place with 16 bass weighing in at 15 pounds, 8 ounces. He earned \$800 and a \$1,000 share of the team prize.

Second place went to James W. Allen of Crystal Springs, Miss. Humphrey and Allen qualified for the B.A.S.S. Masters Classic

World Championship to be held on the James River near Richmond, Va., in October.

B.A.S.S. officials in Montgomery, Ala., said there were 402 bass caught during the \$40,000 tournament and that only five died. The total weight of the fish was 414 pounds, 10 ounces. The Southern Division team caught 115 pounds, 11 ounces of that total.

Humphrey used a light-pink plastic worm, said B.A.S.S. officials.

"I'm on cloud nine. It's unbelievable," said Davis about his finish. Davis, along with Humphrey and Staton, are members of the Wet Suit Bass Club of Kinston. "I've been in it for 11 years. I think it is pretty good that three

(See **DAVIS**, Page 5)



### VBS Commencement

One sure sign that school is out is when it is replaced by Vacation Bible School at churches across the nation. After being in school for nine months, one would think children would be reluctant to spend summer in another type of school. But children probably realize that emphasizing

the first word in Vacation Bible School is the key to having fun. Besides, there are no tests or homework given during Vacation Bible School. These children are shown during commencement exercises at Juniper Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. (Terri Jamieson photo)



Barringer searches for possible leak in oil line

## Harvey Barringer — The Guy Who Gets The Squeaky Wheel

*Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of stories about craftsmen across the state. The stories are being run because this newspaper believes they will give insight into how others in the state take pride in their work. Future stories will feature craftsmen from eastern North Carolina.*

By **GEORGE JETER**  
CHARLOTTE — Workers at the General Tire factory here do not see anything strange about Harvey L. Barringer pulling his bicycle to a stop on the factory floor and begin sniffing, listening, and probing around one of the plant's big machines.

Barringer is a lubrication technician, or oiler. To those in the know, even his most peculiar antics make perfect sense. "I feel that lubrication is the life of a machine," the 39-year-old craftsman says after securing his bike safely away from the tap-marked lanes where the factory's fork

lifts roam. With 35 acres of tire-making equipment packed under one roof, walking is a slow way to get anywhere at General.

Well-lubricated machines have longer work lives, stay more productive, and most importantly, require fewer costly repairs than poorly oiled machines, he explains.

"You do use all your senses in this job," he says, to find problems and fix them before they can ruin a machine. For example, an outer plate that is warm to the touch on one piece of equipment may mean there is too much friction in its bearings. An oily odor wafting from another recently cleaned one may send Barringer looking for an oil line leak.

He first arrived at General in 1974 after learning about heavy equipment lubrication procedures while working for a construction company located near Charlotte. Barringer started work in tire production but even-

tually got a shot at the oiler's job.

"If we had a whole crew of oilers like Harvey Barringer, it would make my job 40 times easier," plant maintenance manager R.J. Brehm says. Technically, lubrication workers are hired and trained to change the oil and filters in heavy equipment as well as oil moving parts, all according to established schedules.

Barringer make his rounds on time thanks to an ingeniously customized bicycle that any Dr. Seuss character would truly envy. It features two wheels in front and one in back. A single long handlebar, instead of the usual two, helps him steer. The huge forward cargo basket makes steering tricky, particularly since it is usually crowded with oiling cans, computer spread sheets, and assorted gizmos.

(See **BARRINGER** Page 2)