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West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neus

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SIX PAGES

New Bern Post Office to celebrate special stamp issuance

NEW BERN - The New Bern Post Office is preparing for a festive celebration Aug. 23 to recognize the special issue of a North Carolina Statehood stamp in commemoration of the bicentennial of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution.

Among the planned activities will be correctioned the main branch of

nies at the main branch of be ceremonies at the main branch of the New Bern Post Office, historic Tryon Palace and the gravesite of Richard Dobbs Spaight, one of North Carolina's three signers of

Bern ceremonies in honor of the special stamp issue., "The fact that we have so much of N.C. history right here in New Bern," he said, "makes this celebration one of the most relevant and meaningful in the state."

Bel Timbalskie a North Car.

Bob Timberlake, a North Car-olina native and nationally noted

the Constitution. Special entertainment will be held throughout the day at the gardene of Tryon Palace.

Postmaster Robert Peele says he is excited about hosting the New Bern ceremonies in honor of the special stamp issue., "The fact that we have so much of N.C. history right here in New Bern." he said. "makes

A unique feature of the New Bern celebration, organizers say, will be the additional issuance of a spe-cially prepared stamp cachet and pictorial cancellation. It will depict

tification of the Constitution. The cachet also displays the historic John Wright Stanly House, the Coor-Gaston House and a profile of Richard Dobbs Spaight.

This collector's item will be available only on Aug. 23rd at New Bern post offices and at a one-day postal a historic marker. A color guard with gun salute will open that program. Remarks will be made by Su-

lyea and Craven County Comission Chairman Charles Potter. The Richard Dobbs Spaight Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolu-tion and the Boy Scouts will partici-pate in the dedication.

The gardens and grounds of historic Tryon Palace will be opened free to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visitore to the gardens will dis-

Former Gov. Jim Hunt has decided against running for the U.S. Senate in 1990 in a possible rematch with Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, the Washington Daily News learned

In letters to Democratic friends

dated yesterday, Hunt declared: "For personal reasons that I feel are compelling, I do not plan to make the race."

He was apparently referring to the poor health of his parents. Hunt's letter indicated he might consider a race later because of his interest in improving education

Joyce Cutler, chairwoman of the

Joyce Cutter, chairwoman of the Beaufort County Democratic Executive Committee, received one of the letters this morning.

Hunt, 52, is widely regarded in national Democratic circles as the strongest possible challenger to Helms, the high-profile leader of the New Right whom the Democrats would dearly love to defeat.

Hunt's unsuccessful 1984 cam-

Hunt's unsuccessful 1984 cam-

paign against Helms, the most ex-pensive in the state's history, was

Jim Hunt says

for U.S. Senate

he won't run

san Moffat, executive director of Swiss Bear, Brig. Gen. C.L. Varmi-lyea and Craven County Comission a magician will be on hand to entertain guests of all ages during the af-ternoon hours, and craftspersons, including the palace blacksmith, will demonstrate their skills.

In honor of the commemorative cachet issued only in New Bern, Combination Ticket tours of Tryon Palace, the John Wright Stanly

Bowing out of next year's race was "a hard decision to make," Hunt said, but "Carolyn and I have re-sponsibilities at home that we just cannot leave now."

Declaring that a run for the Se-

Declaring that a run for the Se-nate next year would be "a wonder-ful opportunity to provide the kind of forward-looking, progressive leadership that I think our state and nation deserve," Hunt added: "And I really think we could win." Pressure on Hunt to make the ef-fort to unseat Helms has been mounting in recent weeks

mounting in recent weeks.

Hunt, who lives in Wilson County
but commutes to Raleigh to practice

law, has received calls from Sen. Charles S. Robb of Virginia, Sen. Robert Graham of Florida and Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller of West Virginia. These senators, all of them former governors and friends of Hunt, asked him to enter the race. In addition, Hunt has met sepa-

rately in recent weeks with Senate

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Backdoor parking at the fish house

Lots of small creeks around eastern North Carolina support bu-

sinesses. With seafood businesses, water parking is often more

Important than a paved lot for cars. At Holton's Dockside Sea-food in Bayboro, the fishermen are assured of plenty of space.

Area residents comment on Mobil plan

By Betty Gray Special to the West Craven Highlights

A crowd of environmentalists, concerned citizens, oil industry spokesmen and government officials turned up at Beaufort Community College last week to argue for and against Mobil Oil Co. plans to drill for oil and gas off the Outer Beaute.

Members of Greenpeace and the Sierra Club wore black armbands to

Sierra Club wore black armbands to symbolize what they called a way of life that is dying."

"The safety aspect of drilling is a legitimate concern on behalf of the citizens." James C. Martin, project tamager for Mobil, told the meeting. "Mobil shares that concern. We

are confident this well can be drilled

safely."
In an interview during last night's meeting, Martin said there would be no construction on the state's Outer Banks, but an underground pipeline would come ashore somewhere between Morehead City and Norchk Va.

and Norfolk, Va.
"We are creating as toxic environment that we can't live in," declared Candace Cottrell for the opposition.

"What is the money (from environmental fines) going to be worth 20 years from now with air we can't breathe and water we can't drink."

"There is a large body of people who are stantical and concerned should be a stantical and concerned should

who are skeptical and concerned about the effects of industry in this

area," she said.

The public hearing in Washing-

ton, which drew about 80 people, was the third in a series that federal officials are holding on the drilling plan. Another was held last week in Raleigh.

"The fisheries resources in the vicinity of the Mantee exploration

vicinity of the Manteo exploration unit are important not only to the North Carolina commercial and recreational fisherman but to out-of-state fishermen as wel!," said Lorraine Shinn, regional manager of the N.C. Department of Environ-ment, Health and Natural

She read a five-page statement expressing the department's concerns about the proposed drilling. The department, she said, would like the proposed statement of the said of th

like to see an environmental report that includes geological hazards of

drilling, its effects on fish and recre ational areas and the effects of drill-ing on onshore development in eastern North Carolina.

The department wants the environmental report to identify onsite fish species and specify which of those species are endangered.

Several sites near the drilling areas are designated or have designations pending as outstanding resource waters or areas of environ-mental concern, Ms. Shinn said. The environmental report should assess the effect of normal exploratory drilling and staging activities on these environmentally sensitive areas as well as the consequences of an oil spill," she said.

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Etheridge to speak at opening ceremony for county schools

State Superintendent Bob Etheridge will be the guest speaker at the official opening ceremony for the New Bern-Craven County School Sys-tem 1 p.m. August 25 in the New Bern High School auditorium.

Etheridge was elected in 1988 as the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction after a public service career extending back to the early He has served on the Harnett County Board of Commissioners and

He has served on the Harnett County Board of Commissioners and as a member of the N.C. House of Representatives as well as being active in many community, county, region and state civic affairs.

The opening ceremony is for the entire staff of the New Bern-Craven County School System. Students will report to school August 31.

Blind beekeeper's not quitting type

By Michael Adams Special to the West Craven Highlights

Too many people keep mental lists — one of things they are able to do and the other of things they and never venture any thing that isn't on the can-do side

Bobby Gurkin, a blind bee-keeper who lives near William-ston, keeps such lists himself. But he looks at them a little diffe But he looks at them a little differently. For Gurkin, the lists are a challenge. He is busy shifting as many things as possible from the list of things he can't do to the list of things he can.

Gurkin has had diabetes, a disorder that often causes le sight, since he was young. But he says it never caused him any real problems. Until last year, that is, when he had two detached retinas in two weeks and ended up

losing his eyesight.

"All of a sudden," he says, "I couldn't see nothing." He can tellthe difference between light and dark. But he can't see much elee

There's no suggestion of bitterness or frustration in Gurkin as he talks about the loss of his eye-sight — perhaps because he thinks of it as a surmountable

Some people have one little thing go wrong and they just give up," he says. "I didn't do that." Indeed he hasn't.

Gurkin, a retired carpenter, had planned to do a little bit of cabinetmaking in a shop behind his house when blindness threw a wrench in the works.

That didn't stop him, though, from using his power saws to make hives for his bees and other

raising hobby.

He uses a jointed ruler to measure edges and has learned how benefit of sight. Twe learned how to make templates for near about everything," he says. He's not able to do the fine, de-

He's not able to do the fine, delicate work necessary to make cabinets, but you get the feeling that given time he might figure out how it's possible.

Gurkin spends a lot more time thinking about his beehives, his quall, his turkeys and his bantams than he does brooding over his misfortune. And he enlows his misfortune. And he enjoys sharing his hobbies with others.

He has had bees for about 12 rie nas nad bees for about 12 years and he currently has about 15 hives. He says he has been fas-cinated by the way the hives work since his wife and children gave him a bee starter set for Christmas many years ago. And he still participates in all phases of working the bees, from con-struction of new hives and supers - the area where bees h combs and store honey - to the

robbing of the honey.

When robbing the hives, he says, "I'll take it (a super) out of the hive and wipe most of the bees off and hand it to my son,

Gurkin and his wife, Georgia, have two sons, George and Rob-



Bobby Gurkin leaning on one of his hives

bie. George works at Fountain Powerboats and Robbie is a shin-gler. Gurkin calls Robbie "my right hand when I go to mess with my bees."

Gurkin has also caught

swarms of bees - swarms that he never saw.
A swarm — thousands of bees

will leave a hive with its queen

See BEEKEEPER, Page 6

Area farmers gain from disaster law

By Cliff Moore

County Executive Director

Area farmers will benefit from the \$897 million in disaster assis-tance that was approved when Pres-ident George Bush signed the legislation Monday.

The bulk of the aid - \$400 million — will go to wheat farmers whose winter harvest in Kansas and other states was devastated by

the other extreme, the Disc ter Assistance Act will compensate farmers in the south and elsewhere whose rice, soybean, cotton and other crops were wiped out by rain,

This year's relief package is about one-fourth the size of the \$3.9 billion relief package that farmers got to cope with a devastating drought last

Although a wide range of crop losses will be covered, Secretary of Agriculture Clayton K. Yeutter said the main beneficiaries would be those who lost wheat to the drought. as well as farmers hit by rains that damaged corn and soybeans in the eastern corn belt and cotton in the

Farmers who participated in the price support program this year and bought crop insurance will be paid 65 percent of the target price for any losses beyond 35 percent of normal production.

Those who were in the program but did not buy crop insurance will be compensated for losses beyond 40 percent of their normal production.

Those who were not in the program are eligible only if their losses exceed 50 percent.

The new law caps benefits at \$100,000 for each producer and pro-

hibits payments to those with \$2 million or more in gross farm

No dates have been set for apply-

ing for disaster relief.

They will be announced in about twoweeks by the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. Tobacco Marketing Cards

Tobacco Marketing Cards
Tobacco Marketing cards are the responsibility of the producer. The
producer should check the card after
each sale to ensure that calculations are correct.

bacco for each farm should be kept separate and marketed with the proper card.
Penalties will apply for cross-

Tobacco Stalk Inspection Tobacco stalk inspection is re-quired again this year. The ASCS will check for use of

non-approved plant regulators, so producers must notify the office before cutting stalks. After the inspec-tion, producers will be notified when their stalks may be cut.

Tobacco Redesignation

The next redesignation period for tobacco and first sale date will be Aug. 28 to Sept. 1 for a first sale date Sept. 11.

1989 Loan rate

The following loan rates apply for the 1989 crop year: Corn — \$1.91 per bushel; Wheat — \$2.17 per bushel; Grain sorghum — \$3.07 per cwt. The soybean loan rate has not been announced.

Cover crop signup

The sign-up period will continue through Sept. 13. Approval for cover is eligible behind any crop this year.