

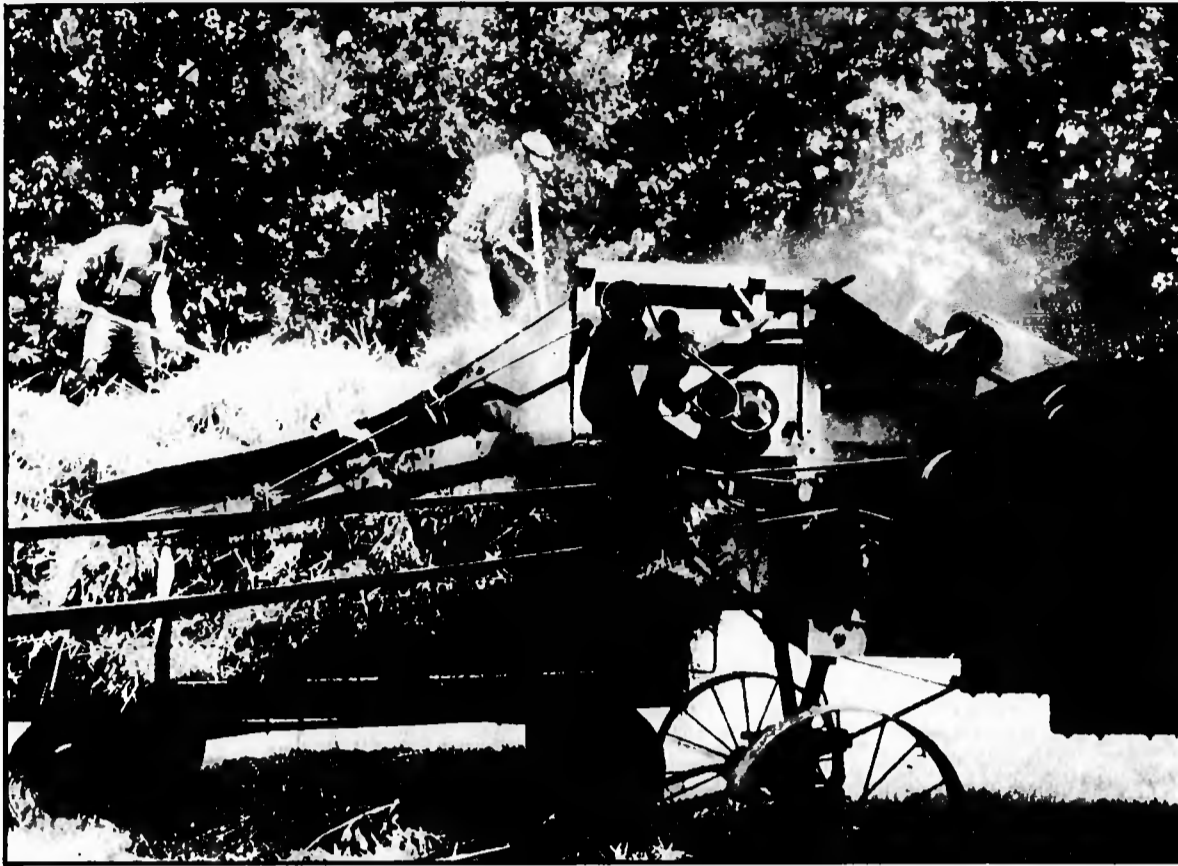


# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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## The old way

It may be nearly 70 years old, but this one-cylinder steam engine still has plenty of power to drive a threshing machine at the Tuck-

ahoe gas and steam fair in Maryland. Multipurpose steam engines have been operating since the 1850s. Fairs began in the 1950s as reunions of engine-owning farmers known as "threshermen."

## Hugo bypasses county; leaves minor damage

By Mike Voss  
Editor

Hurricane Hugo's outer edges brushed the Craven County area last Friday as rains and gail-force winds rocked the central coastal area of North Carolina.

The northeast section of the hurricane lashed the area with winds up to 40 mph and about between one to three inches of rain. The northeast side of a hurricane is traditionally the most violent area of a hurricane.

A hurricane warning was extended from Cape Lookout to Oregon Inlet the day before Hugo made landfall at Charleston, S.C., including the Pamlico Sound, said the Hatteras National Weather Service.

If Hugo was not enough, tornado warnings were issued for most of the state last Thursday evening and early Friday morning.

Several school systems were closed down as some schools were turned into shelters.

Voluntary evacuation began late yesterday on Ocracoke and in Hyde County, said the Division of Emergency Management's Area A office in Washington yesterday evening.

Rain began falling about 8 p.m. in Craven County last Thursday night,

indicating the hurricane was nearing.

New Bern's waterfront began to show evidence of Hugo's approach yesterday afternoon as boaters moved their boats from docks and anchored them in the Neuse and Trent rivers to ride out the storm.

The rivers had risen about three feet by 5 p.m. last Thursday and wind gusts were estimated up to 25 miles per hour.

Business and property owners downtown began taping and boarding up windows. Residents began preparing for Hugo by also taping windows and moving objects outside their homes to more protected areas.

Dover reported tree limbs down Friday morning because of high winds. Areas along rivers reported they were experiencing minor flooding with water about two to three feet above normal, said a police dispatcher.

Hatteras Island residents have been asked to voluntarily leave, said Gwen White of the Dare County Emergency Management office. The Atlantic Ocean is washing across N.C. 12 at one location on the island, she said, with about three inches of water at the "S" curve. The Highway

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## Gardner seeks public's input in toughening state's drug laws

Another child has lost a father. Another wife has lost her husband. A security guard and a newspaper reporter are the latest victims in the drug-related violence that continues to tear Colombia apart. "Everyday we hear more and more about the growing violence in this drug war. Recently, President Bush in a national televised address announced our country's battle plan in the drug war. The following day, I was invited to meet with the President in Washington to hear a more

in-depth explanation of our National Drug Control Strategy. As chairman of the North Carolina Drug Cabinet, I want to share with you my thoughts on the President's plan and what we must do here in our state," said Lt. Gov. James Gardner. "I believe that President Bush's plan is a good start. This is an important point that the President stressed to me while in Washington, saying that this is the first step in a very long war. One of the key provi-

sions of the President's plan, and one that I agree with wholeheartedly, is a provision that targets the casual drug user. The user is the one who fuels the whole drug scene. It is a matter of supply and demand economics. If we can cut down on the demand of drugs then we cut down on the profit of the drug dealers. That is the number one reason that people sell drugs. To make money, lots of money. That is why I pushed for an important drug tax bill that we passed in this session of the Gen-

eral Assembly. This bill was introduced by Senator Bob Shaw of Greensboro. It is going to be a powerful new weapon in our war on drugs here in North Carolina. Here is how the new law will work," said Gardner. The new law will require a tax stamp on all illegal drugs. That means if an illegal drug is seized and it does not have a tax stamp on it, then the Shaw Drug Tax law will allow local law enforcement officials to report this to the Department of

Revenue. Agents from the Department of Revenue will then have the authority to collect the unpaid tax from the drug dealer or user. It embodies the same concept that federal agents used to imprison Al Capone, who was arrested and convicted on tax evasion charges, said Gardner. This will be a civil penalty rather than a criminal penalty. That means that even if dealers and users receive a light criminal sentence for drug possession, under this law they will pay a heavy financial price af-

ter being caught with illegal drugs that do not have the stamp, said Gardner. "Here in North Carolina, we are going after their assets, including their checkbook, their car and that gold chain around their neck," said Gardner. "Right now the money that is collected by the Department of Revenue under this law will be targeted for the state general fund. This is something that I would like

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## Guard units provide help after Hugo

### Locals aid city hit by hurricane

By Keith Hempstead  
Staff Writer

CHARLOTTE — As Charlotte residents clean up after Hurricane Hugo, National Guardsmen from Craven and surrounding counties are sharing in the hardship.

"It looks pretty bad," said Staff Sgt. Jerry Jennette from Washington. "As soon as we got here, they dispersed our guys. We've got some pretty tired people."

Presence of the Guardsmen already has led to a dramatic decrease in looting and traffic accidents, their officers said.

One soldier has been injured. Pfc. Michael Robbins of the Greenville unit was listed in a stable condition after being hit by a motorist yesterday while directing traffic. Robbins was paired with a Charlotte police recruit, who was also injured in the accident.

In tents and huts set up on the soggy grounds of a National Guard armory near the Charlotte airport, over 400 guardsmen from military police and engineering units are helping to re-establish order.

Lt. David Rose from Asheville said the toughest thing the men have had to come up against is "trying to get over being wet and cold and hungry."

The National Guard's 167th Military Police Battalion, including 48 members of Washington's 213th Military Police Company and 83 members of Greenville's 514th Military Police Company, arrived yesterday by truck convoy and military aircraft.

The units include members from Craven County.

An early contingent arrived at 4:30 a.m. after traveling by convoy from Greenville. They quickly went to work after pairing up with Charlotte policemen and Mecklenburg County Sheriff's deputies.



Guardsmen play cards while waiting for orders



Unloading duffel bags before the hard work begins

Ric Carter photos

Guard MPs, armed with M-16 semi-automatic rifles, helped in traffic control and cleanup.

The city still shows the effects of Hugo, which hit here Friday with 90-mph winds. Sidewalks are impassable in some areas; trees are sheared like broken

matchsticks; street signs are strewn haphazardly.

Billboards are down, knocked over as if they were toys. Over 70 traffic lights in the center of town still were not working yesterday, causing major traffic tieups during the city's first full workday af-

ter the hurricane.

Guard newcomers had little time to get used to the area. Assignments were waiting for the Washington unit when it arrived by air. Although they had had

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## Genetic abnormality appears to have role in causing some cancer

A genetic abnormality that appears to play a role in many common cancers has been solidly linked to lung cancer, raising hopes of improved diagnosis and treatment, scientists say.

Researchers examining lung cancer tumors discovered a series of abnormalities in the so-called p53 anti-cancer gene, according to a report Tuesday by Dr. John Minna of the National Cancer Institute-Navy Medical Oncology Branch in Bethesda, Md.

Defects in the gene also have been linked to colon cancer, to an uncommon bone cancer called osteogenic sarcoma and to chronic myelogenous leukemia, Minna said.

"Obviously, everybody is going to be looking for it in everything else," Minna said.

Bert Vogelstein of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, who identified p53 abnormalities in colon

cancer, said: "From what I've heard of Dr. Minna's work, it seems quite clear that the p53 gene will play an important role in lung tumors."

"Current evidence suggests that p53 is likely to play a role in many common cancers," including breast cancer, ovarian cancer and bladder cancer, he said.

During the past few years, researchers have found indirect evidence that defects in at least six genes can contribute to lung cancer, which afflicts an estimated 150,000 Americans a year.

The new study has pinpointed chemical changes in one of those genes. That should be useful for identifying people at high risk of getting lung cancer, or for predicting how deadly a particular case of lung cancer will be, Minna said.

"One thing you could do would be

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## Corn, tobacco crops damaged by Hurricane Hugo: officials

Corn and tobacco crops were severely affected by the winds and heavy rains spawned by Hurricane Hugo, agriculture officials say.

Although no official damage assessments were available, indications are that losses to all crops could reach into the millions of dollars.

Power failures made it impossible for large numbers of farmers to milk cows or to feed and water poultry in Piedmont and mountain counties.

State Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham said he asked the State Emergency Response Team and the National Guard to provide emergency power generators to farms in Lincoln and Union counties, which were particularly hard-hit, and to other counties where needed.

"Severity of hurricane damage in the southern and western Piedmont is indicated by reports that corn and soybean crops have been wiped out in Lincoln County and probably Union," Graham said in a statement. Charles R. Wooten of East Bend

said his family and a crew of migrant workers were pulling off the

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## Rescue squad open house set for Oct. 7

The Vanceboro Rescue Squad Auxiliary will host an open house and miscellaneous shower Oct. 7 for the new rescue squad building located behind the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department.

The open house and shower will be held between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Rescue squad officials said the public is encouraged to come by and inspect the new building. They said a good way to say thank you to the rescue squad members is to make the building more liveable by donating gifts of linen, cleaning supplies, kitchen equipment and paper products.