



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



VOLUME 12 No. 21

JUNE 1, 1989

VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

PHONE 244-0780 OR 946-2144

(UPSP 412-110)

25 CENTS

SIX PAGES

Jobless Figures Increase

RALEIGH — Unemployment rates in Craven, Jones and Lenoir counties rose in April, according to the state Employment Security Commission.

Pamlico County's unemployment rate declined by over one-third of what it was in March to April's rate.

Craven County experienced a slight increase in its unemployment rate, from 2.9 percent in March to 3.9 percent in April. About 1,280 people were without jobs in April in a work force estimated 32,470. In March, the work force was estimated at 31,340 and there were 900 unable to find work.

Jones County saw its unemployment rate increase from 3.1 percent in March to 3.9 percent in April. There were about 200 unemployed in a work force of 4,070 in April. In March, the estimates were 130 in a labor pool of 4,240 unable to find work.

See JOBLESS, Page 5



Terri Jamieson photo

Child's Play

Figuring out how to spend a nice, warm spring day is nothing more than child's play for these two youngsters. Often, this topsy-turvy world seems much better after taking a few minutes to get back

to the basics — goofing off. A few handstands or just sitting down can be a wonderful cure for the school-won't-end-soon-enough blues.

Banquet Recognizes Employers, Students For Training Efforts

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

The Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) chapter of West Craven High School held its annual employer-employee banquet May 24. The event was held at the New Bern Shrine Club.

Approximately 30 local businesses were represented and honored for their assistance in training students involved with the marketing education program at West Craven High School.

Special guests included Wes Sweeny, manager of Gov. Jim Martin's eastern office. Sweeny presented special awards from the governor to students who worked in his office this past year. He also presented a special award to the group's advisor, Richard Cannon.

The evening's speaker, Misty Von Ipock, is a former student of the program. Ms. Ipock now attends East Carolina University, where she is still actively involved in DECA as the president of her collegiate chapter.

Jeri Mounce was honored as the top second-year student and Scott

Jenkins received the award for Marketing I.

DECA officers this past year were Shelly Rollins, president; Lena Martin, vice president; Jeri Mounce, secretary; Sabra Jordan, treasurer; Patrick Brinson, parliamentarian; Denise Workman, reporter; Christie Shackelford, historian. Lisa Long was Miss DECA and Chad Jones was elected Mr. DECA.

Employers who received awards included Balloons Galore, Beaman, Kellum, Hollows, Charburger, Cotton Funeral Home, Chick Fil-A, Craven Regional Medical Center, Family Dollar Stores, Food Lion supermarket, General Wholesale, Great Southern Finance, Helig-Meyers Furniture, Kash & Karry, King's Restaurant, Mainsail Restaurant, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Neuse Cinema, Nichol's, Nobles Tire & Auto Parts, Pak-a-Sak supermarkets, Pizza Hut, Professional Drive Pharmacy, Rose's department store, Smithfield's Barbeque, Sutton's Clover Farm

See BANQUET, Page 5



Greg Stroud photo

Miss Ipock speaks at banquet

Teachers Are Honored As Best In Craven Co.

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

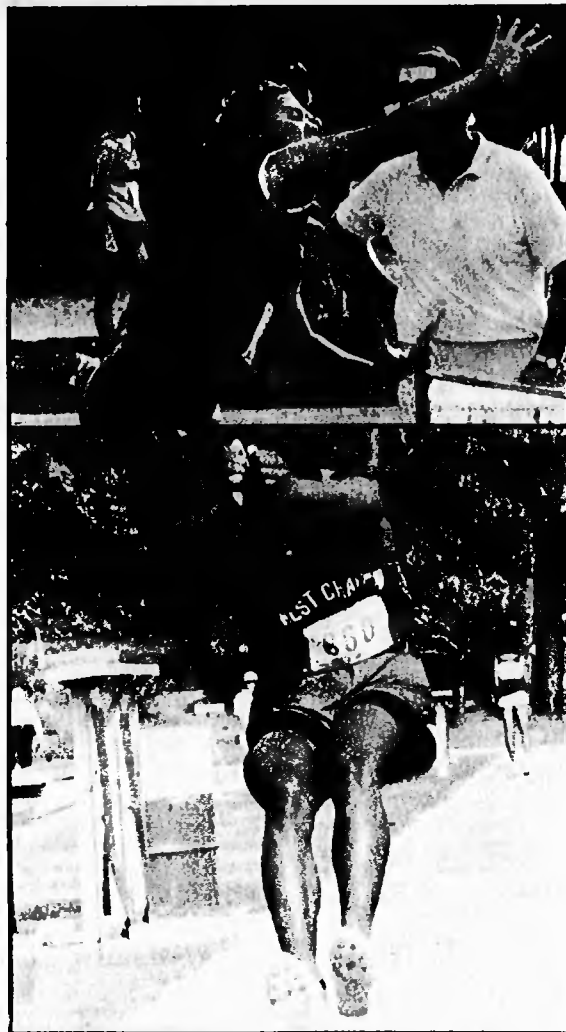
Craven County Schools, in conjunction with the New Bern Area Chamber of Commerce, recently honored outstanding educators from throughout the county at its annual Educator of the Year Banquet held May 23 at H.J. MacDonald Middle School.

Honorees at the banquet included Mrs. Jane Murphy of West Craven Middle School, Mrs. Cynthia Ann Johnson from Vanceboro Farm-Life Elementary School and ennis Stokes of West Craven High School.

Mrs. Murphy has been a teacher at West Craven Middle School for nine years where she teaches seventh grade math and science. She is a graduate of Gardner Webb College.

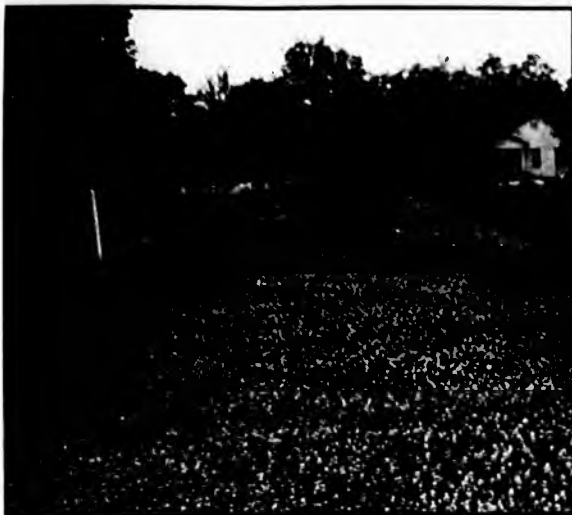
Mrs. Johnson teaches second grade and attended college at East Carolina University. Mrs. Johnson said her philosophy of teaching is "to work with the children on an individual and personal basis." When asked about the award, she said it was great to have her work noticed by her peers. "Teaching

See TEACHERS, Page 5



Track Medalists

Two West Craven tracksters placed high in their respective events Friday at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Class 3-A track championship held in Raleigh. Senior Lisa Volaric (top), the Eastern Regional champion, was second in the shot put with a heave of 37 feet, 2 1/4 inches while sophomore Lee Becton finished third in the triple jump in his second straight visit to the state with a leap of 47 feet, 1/4 inch.



Terri Jamieson photo

All-Over Clover

As temperatures get warmer, greenery springs up in many locations. But this clover all over this lot adds a little color, attracts bees and could eventu-

ally lead to some sweet clover honey. You can bet the bees in the area will all buzz when clover took over this field.

Test Results Show Traces Of Chemical

Dioxin Found In Fish In Trent, Neuse Rivers

Preliminary results of dioxin testing on the Neuse and Trent rivers show traces of the poison in fish in the two rivers, state officials said last week.

Spokesmen with the state Division of Environmental Management, the agency that ordered the tests, and Weyerhaeuser, the company conducting the tests, say it is too early to tell what the samples mean.

According to Mike Garrett, technical director for Weyerhaeuser, the results of the tests are "very unclear."

"What we have learned so far is that we need more data to really understand what's going on," he

said in a telephone interview last week.

Steve Tedder, head of DEM's water quality section, said last week a variety of conclusions could be drawn from one set of data and that more information would be needed before the state is able to respond to Weyerhaeuser's report.

The tests are part of a National Dioxin Study, begun in 1984, which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted to identify any dioxins in fish below discharges from pulp and paper plants.

See DIOXIN, Page 5

Thought 'All Wet,' Irrigation System Can Increase Yield

A relatively new kind of irrigation system that uses what appear to be large, flat drinking straws to deliver water to plants is helping state vegetable producers increase yield and quality on less land.

Drip irrigation was developed in England in the 1940s but did not catch on until the 1960s and the advent of the use of polyethylene plastic mulch to grow crops.

Israeli farmers were the first to use the technique.

It took a little longer for drip irrigation to reach North Carolina.

Early tests of plastic mulch in North Carolina in the 1960s and 1970s did not go well — the

method resulted in dry, overheated soil.

"My estimation is that it wasn't getting an adequate amount of water into the crop," said Dr. Douglas Sanders, a horticulture specialist with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service at N.C. State University.

Drip irrigation, which puts water near the roots of plants daily as they need it, began gaining popularity in the state in 1983, after fine-tuning and testing by Sanders and former extension horticulture specialist Dr. Bill Lamont.

Today vegetables grow on 6,000 to 8,000 North Carolina acres

See DRIP, Page 5

Craven Farmer Shares Greenhouse Approach For Tobacco Seedlings

Rain up to eight inches above normal has delayed corn and tobacco planting in eastern North Carolina. It has also hurt the tobacco seedlings in their transplant beds.

But one Craven County farmer has helped his neighbors "weather" the crisis. His idea helped one farmer in a neighboring county find a solution to the bad weather.

Steve Gerard and his wife Pam, farmers in Beaufort County, used a greenhouse for starting their tobacco this year.

"We got caught in the bad weather and we had to do something," Gerard said. He heard ab-

out the greenhouse from the Craven County farmer.

The greenhouse saved them growing time and labor costs. However, Gerard said, it is expensive and requires a special kind of transplanter that adapts to trays used to grow the plants.

The greenhouse is made of steel, plywood and plastic. Gerard will replace the plastic has to be replaced each year.

Gerard said the tobacco plants float in styrofoam trays in pools of water about four inches deep. Fertilizer is added to the water as needed.

See GREENHOUSE, Page 5

State Loses More Farms In 5 Years

Despite a drastic decline in the number of farms in North Carolina over the past five years, agriculture will continue to play an important role in the state's economy, a sociologist at N.C. State University said.

A recent farm census showed that North Carolina lost 18.5 percent of its farms between 1982 and 1987.

The census, which is conducted nationwide every five years, found that North Carolina had 59,284 farms at the end of 1987, down 13,508 from 1982.

The decline was the largest drop since the late 1950's and early 60's.

Dr. Robert C. Wimberly, NCSU

See LOSS, Page 5