



West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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SIX PAGES

Jobless Figures Decrease

RALEIGH — Craven, Jones, Lenoir and Pamlico counties are part of the 86 out of 100 counties with unemployment rates at or less than 5 percent for May.

Craven County's unemployment rate fell from 3.9 percent in April to 3.5 percent in May, according to figures released by the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The county's jobless rate for May 1988 was 3.7 percent.

Craven County's labor force totaled 33,490 during May and 1,170 were unable to secure employment. The labor pool for April was 32,470 and 1,280 were unable to find work. The work force in May 1988 was 31,860 and 1,180 were without jobs.

Jones County's unemployment rate decreased from 4.9 percent in April to 4 percent in May. The rate for May 1988 was 3.6 percent. The Jones County work force totaled 4,210 in May and 470 could not find work. The April labor pool numbered 4,070 and 200 were without jobs. The May 1988 work force was 4,120 and the number of unemployed 150.

Lenoir County's unemployment rate fell from 4.8 percent in April to 4 percent in May. The jobless rate in May 1988 was 3.7 percent. The May labor force totaled 29,180 with 1,180 unable to find employment. There were 1,430 people in April without jobs out of a 29,720-man work force. The May 1988 work force totaled 28,670 and 1,070 were without work.

Pamlico County's unemployment rate fell from 4 percent in April to 2.5 percent in May. The May labor pool totaled 4,850 and 120 were without work. The April labor force numbered 4,760 and 190 could not find jobs. The jobless rate in May 1988 was 3 percent. The labor force totaled 4,630 and 140 could not find employment.

The state unemployment rate fell from 4 percent in April to 3.4 percent in May. The national unadjusted rate fell from 5.1 percent in April to 5 percent in May.



Ric Carter photo

Splash!

Last week's high temperatures forced many to seek relief where they could find it. This young woman found a swimming pool the best place to keep her cool. Temperatures neared or surpassed the triple-digit mark (above right) as evidenced by this reading on a time-and-temperature sign. Others sought relief by staying in air-conditioned buildings, stocking up on cool drinks or wearing as few clothes as possible. Relief came late in the week as a cold front brought lower temperatures and rain.

Rains Bring Good, Bad To Farmers

Extra Water A Plus, Sometimes Hindrance

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

Rains which came to North Carolina this winter have stayed through spring and lasted into summer in areas of the state.

Resulting crop conditions have many Tar Heel farmers predicting that production costs this year will be the highest they've faced in years.

The frustration that droughts have brought in recent seasons compares marginally to the havoc too much rain is creating for some growers. It can best be described as the domino effect.

For example, too much rain means that crops don't get planted on time; herbicide, fertilizer, and pesticide activity is reduced; more weed, insect and disease pressure results; more rain means you can't get in the field to treat these problems, and more expensive hand labor is then required. In most cases, overall yields are reduced.

Western Craven farmers find the inability to get into the fields at crucial times most frustrating. Said one local farmer: "It makes it real hard when we can't get into the field to get the crop when its ready. Waiting, even a few days, makes a big difference."

According to the Agricultural News Service, the bottom line means paying much higher production costs to produce a smaller crop. N.C. Farm Bureau President W.B. Jenkins says, "On a per pound basis we will see a 15 to 20 percent increase in tobacco production this year."

He says beside the increased costs following this unpredictable weather, fuel, fertilizer and chemical costs have increased substan-

tially this year.

Elsewhere in eastern North Carolina, others are also painting a gloomy picture in several areas. Tobacco grower Atlas Wooten of Pitt County says its his prediction that 25 percent of the crop has flopped. He says, "Tobacco is looking awful yellow and black."

Disease pressure in this area is also on the increase with Wooten reporting the worst cases of Granville wilt he has seen. Wooten said, "Water is conveying the disease from one area to the other."

Labor costs are up in the area, which is bound to make the overall cost of tobacco to rise. One farmer remarked, "I know one fellow who has 19 laborers working with hoes the last three days because he couldn't machine cultivate. Lost herbicide activity is drawing production costs up even further."

"It makes it real hard when we can't get into the field to get the crop when its ready. Waiting, even a few days, makes a big difference."

— Local farmer

Golden Leaf

Tobacco growing has come a long way over the years. But it's still hard work from planting to harvest. Take a photographic look through the lenses of Lee Schweitzer Jr. at today's methods of raising the historical crop. See page 4.

Visit To Capitol Beneficial, Informative, Says OCTAD

By Mike Voss
Editor

An apparent trend by the federal government to return more control over local issues to state and local governments in the right move, said several area men who returned from two days of meetings in the nation's capitol.

The men were part of a group of representatives from eight eastern North Carolina chambers of commerce attending a two-day "fly-in" to discuss legislative and economic issues with officials of the govern-

ment and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

The group — OCTAD — is comprised of the chambers of commerce from New Bern, Washington, Greenville, Kinston, Goldsboro, Tarboro, Wilson and Jacksonville.

The men said they expected local and state governments to begin working on local issues knowing less help is available at the federal level and that the private sector will become more involved in solving local problems and encouraging local development.

Frank B. "Bo" Lewis, executive

director of the Greater Washington Chamber of Commerce; Jim Nance, a developer based in eastern North Carolina and William "Bill" Zachman, a certified public accountant and head of a film production company, left last Wednesday for the event. They met with Reps. Walter B. Jones, Tim Valentine and Martin Lancaster and with Sens. Terry Sanford and Jesse Helms.

Zachman said Helms and Sanford discussed legislation pending in Congress. Zachman said their aides were more familiar with some of the legislation and issues than the sena-

tors. He said there is a "strong possibility" a capital gains tax provision will be put back into the nation's tax codes. Zachman said Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, is against the proposal but appears to be weakening on his view.

Zachman said if the capital tax gain provision is returned to the tax code it will be a form of revenue enhancement that will "spur sales of capital assets" and increase revenues. Zachman said the provision should help the economy because the provision would make it more

attractive for businesses to sell their capital assets.

Nance said he is encouraged by the shift of "power back to the states and private sector" when it comes to identifying and addressing local issues. He said that local and state governments are more in tune with their problems and issues and are in a better position to know what it will take to address the issues and solve the problems.

"The private sector is going to need to be listened to" on state and local issues, said Nance.

Nance and Zachman agreed the

days of federal revenue-sharing funds are over and the federal government appears to be willing to let state and local governments provide the tools to handle issues and problems, while providing some money to make the tools available. Nance said he sees local governments and the private sector coming together more often to solve local problems, identify local needs and deal with local issues.

"That was confirmed up there,"

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Vanceboro Mayor 'Jailed' For A Day, Joined By 13 Others

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

Vanceboro Mayor Jimmie Morris spent the day in jail on July 11. Morris was later released after friends and family members posted his bail.

Thirteen other residents were also arrested during the day. No charges were actually filed against any of the "jailees" as the arrests were all in fun as a fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society.

The jail, which was located at the Vanceboro Pharmacy, was filled to capacity on several occasions. Gus Kite, of Kite's Supermarket, and Etheleene Butler, spent much of their afternoon in "jail" trying to raise their bail. Richard Bowers, principal of Vanceboro-Farm Life Elementary and Mike Morton, pharmacist, were given only bread and water in an effort to keep them

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'Big Sweep' Targeting Coastal, Inland Waters

The Neuse, Pamlico and Tar rivers, state parks and other inland rivers and lakes will be included this year in a nationwide effort to pick up trash left on beaches from the summer tourist season.

As part of the nationwide effort, thousands of people are expected to pick up trash in a statewide waterway cleanup. But North Carolinians will clean up inland rivers and lakes this fall as well as the state's beaches — the first such effort in the nation.

Called Big Sweep, it will take

place September 23, event organizers said in an interview Monday. Formerly named Beach Sweep, this year's event has been expanded to include inland waters from Nags Head to the Nantahala River near Asheville.

Merchants Millpond State Park, Cliffs of the Neuse State Park, Eno River, Jordan Lake, Chowan River, Kerr Lake and a variety of other inland waters are on the cleanup list

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Lee Schweitzer Jr. photo

Remembering

Twenty years ago today, the first men to walk on the moon took their first steps. Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, two members of the Apollo 11 crew, made the historic steps July 20, 1969. Twenty years later, the moon still appears the same. Many area residents remember a time when no man had set foot on the lunar surface. Other residents, those less than 20 years old, only know times when man has already been to the moon. Yesterday was the 20th anniversary of Sen. Ted Kennedy's accident at the Chappaquiddick bridge that resulted in the death of Mary Jo Kopechne.

If You Give Blood, You Might Receive A Present Of Wheels

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

A new Isuzu Trooper II will be one of a number of prizes to be given away to conclude a major fund-raising campaign by the Craven-Pamlico Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The local chapter is facing a deficit of some \$23,000 in its operating budget.

"We have two options we are facing," says Margaret Lamb, chairman of the chapter's board of directors. "We can raise the more than

\$20,000 we need to operate for the last six months of the year, or we can close down."

The chapter serves Craven, Pamlico and Jones counties with blood services, first aid and CPR classes, swimming classes, disaster preparedness and relief, and acts as an important link between members of the armed forces and their families.

Automobile dealer Joe Alcock will provide the Isuzu Trooper.

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Foreign Students Seek Host Families For Stay

By Greg Stroud
Staff Writer

Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE), is looking to find several families in the West Craven area to host their high school exchange students who will be arriving in August.

These students, travelling to the United States from Spain, Germany, Japan, Argentina and Brazil, will spend an academic year in North Carolina studying in local high schools.

The participants, all between the

ages of 15-18 years, are fully insured and will bring their own spending money. Host families are asked to provide only room and board during the program. By hosting for PIE, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, each family is allowed to take a \$50 per month tax deduction.

Founded in 1976 and licensed by the United States Information Agency, PIE has sponsored more than 10,000 exchanges. The organi-

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