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**THE WORLD'S SMALLEST DAILY NEWSPAPER**  
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# The Tryon Daily Bulletin

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*The weekend weather: Friday, high 95, low 69, hum. 55 percent; Saturday, high 93, low 70, hum. 35 percent; Sunday, high 92, low 68, hum. 62 percent. No rain.*

They warned you. They said NEVER DO IT. But you did anyway. You peeked at the eclipse last Thursday.

We've all glimpsed at the sun when there is no eclipse. Why all the fuss when there is one? What happens to those who look?

The problem with an eclipse, said Dr. Tom Perraut, an ophthalmologist in Columbus, is that the moon blocks most of the sun and people can stare right at it without discomfort.

Normally, it is so uncomfortable to look at the sun that no one will do it for long.

Perraut said there have been cases where people high on drugs would stare at sunsets. But normal people under normal conditions just won't do it.

Unless there's an eclipse. Only about a third of the sun was blocked by the moon for viewers in the Thermal Belt Thursday - so the pain we feel looking into the sun probably discouraged peeking, Perraut

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## Senate Bill II Worked For Polk, Supt. Causby Says

The North Carolina education reform effort called Senate Bill II did its job in Polk County - it motivated educators to work as a team in meeting educational goals.

That's what Supt. James F. Causby told the Polk County Board of Education last week, sizing up the first year of the three-year state program.

Polk County Schools met 88 percent of the goals the local committee of teachers, administrators and district officials set for the 1990-91 school year, he said.

That means Polk County Schools reduced drop out rates (from 1.8% in 1989 to .89%), increased their average daily attendance figures (from 94.42% to 94.636%), improved their students' end-of-course test results, improved elementary students' writing scores, and students' achievement test scores.

Each school also missed some goals and Causby said school staffs are analyzing the results now and developing strategies to improve.

As a system, Polk County fell short in four areas: the percentage of seniors having passed all courses required for entry to the UNC system (36.9%, goal was 37%). State accreditation standard is 35%), 3rd grade science, end-of-course test

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John H. Vining

## Vining Receives Top Agent Award

John H. Vining, Polk County cooperative extension director, has been selected as the top young agricultural agent in the 12-county Southwestern Extension District.

Vining's selection was made by the North Carolina Assn. of County Agricultural Agents. He was cited for helping to introduce new enterprises into the county, and for strengthening the program in urban horticulture.

Vining, 31, has been a member of the Polk extension staff since 1982 and director since 1988. He received his award Friday, July 12 at the annual state meeting of the agents association in Greensboro.

The Cooperative Extension Service provides educational

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## Fall Steeplechase To Run October 12

Yes, Virginia, there will be a fourth annual Tryon Hounds Fall Steeplechase here. Mark your calendar, it's Saturday, Oct. 12.

"We're tremendously excited about it and the positive effect a fall steeplechase has on the community at large," said Bonnie Lingerfelt, president of Tryon Hounds and chairman of the fall meet.

Lingerfelt said that delaying the decision until now had been a matter of economics, not interest in the race meet itself. She said the race broke even its first year and has grown considerably more profitable each year since. Attendance continues to grow also.

"The Gulf War and recession had a major impact on securing race sponsors earlier in the year. Typically, we've had our sponsor commitments by January. Everyone was waiting to see a resolution of the Gulf crisis and a definite upturn in the economy."

Lingerfelt said that the Tryon Hounds board of directors and membership had to be sure that the race would be economically viable.

"First, it is a major fundraiser for the organization and its beneficiaries, including FENCE (Foothills Equestrian Nature Center) and local business. Second, it requires an intensive volunteer effort by a relatively small group. And finally, we

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