

Happy New Year



West Craven Highlights

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Land Ownership Follows State Trends

U.S., Weyerhaeuser Own Much Of Land In County

First In A Series

By MIKE VOSS
Editor

The top 10 landowners in Craven County own 46 percent, or 204,468 acres of the county's 448,941 acres. Fourteen other counties have a higher percentage of land owned by the top 10 landowners in the respective counties, according to a 420-page study.

Craven County also ranks 17th in the number of landowners in the county who own 300 or more acres. Those landowners who own 300 or more acres also own 64 percent of the county.

The study, "Who Owns North Carolina?" was conducted by the Institute for Southern Studies in Durham. It says that 45 landowners control one-fifth of North Carolina's 31,230,000 acres. The study also contends that counties' welfare is tied to

land ownership patterns.

Several Craven County landowners are included in the top 45. Included in the top 45 are the United States of America, Weyerhaeuser Co., the State of North Carolina, other national and regional timber companies, Taylor Lumber and Land of New Bern, Harold H. Bate of New Bern and Coastal Lumber of Weldon.

Taylor Lumber and Land owns 21,127 acres in nine counties, says the study. Bate owns 17,208 acres in seven counties and Coastal Lumber owns 14,448 acres in seven counties including Craven, says the study.

The United States owns the most acreage of the top 45 with 2,230,000, according to the study. Included among the land belonging to the U.S. is the 11,500-acre Marine Corps base at Cherry

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Weyerhaeuser is largest landowner in county

SBI: Craven Is 3rd In Plants Destroyed

RALEIGH — State and local law enforcement officers found more plots of marijuana growing this year but fewer plants than in 1986, according to figures re-

leased by the State Bureau of Investigation.

The SBI's final report, covering February through October, said a total of 89,273 plants were destroyed in 1,611 plots located by SBI and local officers, with 204 people arrested.

Craven County ranked third in plants destroyed, with 6,267 found growing on 45 plots.

This year's total statewide haul had an estimated street value of \$146.2 million, according to SBI drug agents, and some marijuana was found growing in 94 of the state's 100 counties.

Last year, SBI spotters, in conjunction with county sheriff's departments, seized an all-time high of 158,443 plants and made 98 arrests in locating 1,059 plots in 69 counties.

There were no extremely large plots found this year, according to the report. Wilkes County was

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Taking A Bite Out Of Dental Problems

Medicine Chest

Many people will agree that there are few things that are more painful than a toothache.

When a tooth begins to ache it is a sign that professional dental attention is needed.

If there is swelling or an elevated temperature, or both, a visit to the dentist is in order. Most of the time the dentist will prescribe antibiotics (to fight infection) and pain relievers.

If no swelling is observed, then an analgesic such as aspirin or aspirin substitutes may be used until the visit to the dentist. It is important that a visit is made to the dentist as soon as possible.

An injury to the mouth is one that should also be attended to as soon as possi-

ble. The dentist will need to check for damaged or loose teeth. If a tooth has fallen out there is an excellent chance of it being saved if help can be obtained immediately and the tooth is found.

Once the tooth is found touch only the part of the tooth normally touched (refrain from touching the root), hold the tooth under tap water (make sure the drain is plugged) to rinse it. If possible, replace the tooth in its original location.

Continue to hold the tooth in place until arriving at the dentist's office or hospital. Adults unable to place the tooth in the original location should place it under the tongue or put it in a container and cover it with milk.

In order to prevent accidental swallowing of a

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Poverty In Carolina: No Place To Linger

It is a hot Saturday in late August. The tell-tale signs of fall whisper the coming of a cooler season, a few leaves drifting to the ground, a certain mistiness, a change of tempo, something in the blood. But the 100 degree temperature isn't reading the signs. It is hot, but the laundry needs doing.

Historically, laundry has been women's work. And in poor towns and poor neighborhoods, historically the laundromat has been a neighborhood meeting place, a community center, a pulse, still with some of the attributes of the river and the rocks where the hard dirt from working men's clothes were beat out on their granite surfaces.

Things have changed. There are as many kinds of laundromats as there are lifestyles, incomes, and even desires for anonymity. In some upper lever neighborhoods populated by apartment dwellers and dormi-

tory residents, temporary perchers, a person can do one's laundry, never speak to anyone and never see the same person twice. Such a place is the laundromat that I usually go to. I too frequently need to do my clothes in a bubble of silence catching up on the thoughts that occupy me, thinking work thoughts prompted by this facility's proximity to the University where I teach. It's a pleasant place, the exterior of freshly-painted white stucco in a Spanish-style architecture, white pebbles and pink oleander bushes framing the sidewalk and hourly-swept parking lot. A solarium across the front overlooking the street provides a resting place with hanging plants, attractive wicker furniture and magazines like *Southern Living* and *Connoisseur* for wishful thinking. It's a spacious place, clean and white with plenty of

(See POVERTY, Page 5)

Chimney Blaze Does Mostly Smoke Damage

Firefighters responded to a chimney fire at 4:18 p.m. Dec. 24 that left the home of Irving McGee damaged mostly by smoke.

McGee lives at Rt. 1, Box 4, Vanceboro.

The Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department removed hazards and used fans to remove smoke from the home. Twenty-two men and two fire trucks responded to the alarm. No injuries were reported.

Dry Falls?

In this portion of the state, we are accustomed to water that flows gently and predictably in wide, muddy rivers that separate sections of flat land. But in western North Carolina, the water careens through narrow bands that we would consider no more than creeks, yet there are called rivers, with their clear contents bouncing helter-skelter over rocks and gravel washed down from the surrounding mountains. One of the many scenic waterfalls in the Nantahala National Forest is Dry Falls, located along U.S. Highway 64 in Macon County between Franklin and Highlands. While the waterfall may seem to be misnamed, it is called Dry Falls because it is possible to walk behind the waterfall without getting wet and peer through the cascading water as the Cullasaja River continues its way westward to join the Little Tennessee River. (Mark Inabinett photo)

