



ASHEBORO--Alarm clocks will ring early at the North Carolina Zoological Park on Saturday, Sept. 27.

The park will open on schedule at 10 a.m., but Friends of the Zoo, the membership group of the North Carolina Zoological Society, will be admitted at 8 a.m. to "Wake up with the Animals."

Anyone can attend by joining the society. Membership will also be accepted that morning at the park beginning at 7:30. Memberships start at \$15 for individuals and \$35 for families. Friends of the Zoo receive unlimited free admission to the state zoo, quarterly newsletters and other benefits. For information, call 919-879-5603.

This year's members-only event will feature early-morning visits with the zoo's wild animals, free tram rides until 10 a.m. and a chance to talk with members of the animal, design, horticulture and education staffs. Trainers will lead the elephants through a series of behaviors at 10 a.m. at the elephant habitat.

The R.J. Reynolds Forest Aviary will open at 8 a.m. to allow society members to experience the early-morning activity of the exotic birds. The African Pavilion will open at 10:30 a.m. as usual.

The North Carolina Zoological Society is a non-profit organization, chartered in 1968. Since then, the society has raised over \$7 million to buy plants and animals for the state zoo and to support zoo development.

Some 700 African animals are on exhibit in natural habitats at the state zoo. It is open 9-5 Monday thru Friday and 10-6 weekends and holidays. Winter hours of 9-5 every day of the week will begin Oct. 16.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 2-15 and senior citizens. The tram ride between exhibits costs \$1 a day. The zoo is located six miles southeast of Asheboro off U.S. 64, U.S. 220 and N.C. 159.

NC Cost-Share Program

The North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission recently implemented the expansion of the Agriculture Cost Share Program to 17

coastal counties. Craven County has been included in that expansion and has been allocated \$79,978 for 1987 program year. Implementation at the local level is the responsibility of the Craven Soil and Water Conservation District. Improved water quality and operation efficiency are the goals of the program.

The 71,350 acres of agricultural land in the Craven Soil and Water Conservation District have been identified for decreasing agricultural nonpoint source pollution through water management, erosion control, and animal waste management.

Participants in the program will cost share on 75%-25% rate. In-kind contribution can go toward the participants 25% share. There is a maximum of \$15,000 per applicant per year.

Applications are now being accepted by the Craven Soil and Water Conservation District office which is located at 509 Broad Street in New Bern. For further information call 637-2547.

N.C. Hams Win Top Honors



RALEIGH--North Carolina ham "manufacturers" won top honors in the recent 1986 American Cured Meat Championships. Entries in two categories, Smoked Country Hams and Unsmoked Country Hams, were dominated by winning entries from North Carolina.

In the smoked category, Wayco Corporation of Goldsboro took grand champion honors, while Phillips' Brothers Country Hams from Asheboro took honors as reserve champion.

In the unsmoked competition, North Carolina firms won all four top honors. Craver's Country Ham House of Winston Salem took the grand champion prize; Mom 'n' Pop's Smokehouse of Claremont

won the reserve grand champion award; Wayco Corporation of Goldsboro earned reserve champion honors, while Stadler's Country Hams from Elon College finished the sweep in the reserve champion position.

"North Carolina can be proud of the accomplishments earned by these fine companies in taking these awards," said N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham. "We've known for a long time that we produce the best country hams in the world, and the acknowledgement by impartial, outside judges confirms that."

Hams entered in both these categories were pitted against competitors from across the country and the world. A total of 343 products from the United States, and 123 international products were in competition.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus, New Bern Council 3303, announces, especially for residents of Craven and Pamlico counties, that it's annual Tootsie Roll fund drive for retarded children will be held on September 25-27 and October 2 thru 4, 1986. Men and women, wearing the familiar yellow aprons, will be stationed in front of the stores of 15 New Bern and Bridgeton merchants who have graciously approved this collection.

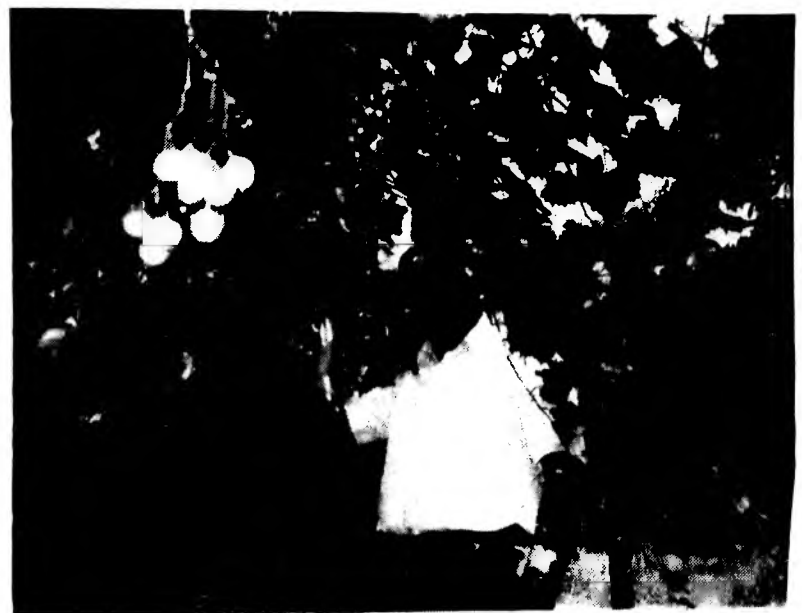
The Knights of Columbus, nationally, has been involved in this effort for many years and residents of Craven and Pamlico counties have been very generous in the past. The Knights wish to stress that all funds secured are divided between local agencies which serve the retarded. None of the monies are sent outside our area.



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244-0240



Bill Mitchell of Route 2 Vanceboro stands among one of the fine varieties of grapes he raises in a small plot near his home. Bill says the grapes are the prettiest he has raised in many years.

Northwest Craven Water and Sewer District is taking final applications for water service before actual construction of the project begins. Contracts have been awarded. If you wish to sign up at the current rate it is important that you do so before Nov. 1, 1986 which is the date set to begin construction.

Please come by our office at 404 Craven Street, New Bern or call us at 636-6615 for more information.

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