



# West Craven Highlights

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## Craven Native Leads Program To Help Youth

By MIKE VOSS

Editor

WASHINGTON — Kathy Smith learned from her youthful experiences in Vanceboro and is working to help keep young people from "crossing the line" — a line she has seen others cross into troubles, problems and woe.

Mrs. Smith, who grew up in Vanceboro, said experiences in her life led her to an interest in working with children who are facing the temptations of peer pressure. And it is peer pressure that is the "number one influence on these kids," said Mrs. Smith.

"I was a Smith and married a Smith. Everybody knows me," she said of growing up in Vanceboro.

Mrs. Smith said she can look back at her own teenage years and see reasons that have brought her to where she is today. She is director of Pamlico Pals, an organization that pairs adult volunteers with troubled children. These children often come from single-parent homes and have had brushes with the law.

Most of the children involved in the program are boys, who often lack a father figure or the father figure they have is weak and ineffective, said Mrs. Smith. "These kids are looking for attention. That's why they often do the

things they do that gets them into trouble," she added.

And children growing up in rural areas often are faced with "nothing to do." Asked if rural children run a higher risk of "getting into trouble," Mrs. Smith said, "Probably." Trouble often follows children who receive no or little attention and who don't have beneficial things to take up their time.

After graduating from East Carolina University with a concentration of study in child development, Mrs. Smith took her present position in November 1985. She specifically was looking for the type of work she is presently involved with at Pamlico Pals. "This is the type of work — working with 'at risk' kids — that I've wanted to do."

Mrs. Smith characterizes her young clients as "a type that really needs help and appreciates it."

And although she has seen just how far children can go astray, she doesn't believe there is a child who can't be reached and influenced. "I would never say they are beyond help. Some of them are just harder to reach."

Has she ever given up on a youth? "Not one child," she responds when asked. "I have never given up."

And although some of the rela-

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"I Should Have Turned Left"

People from all over eastern North Carolina enjoy a good mudslinging. That is if the mudslingers are trucks and not politicians. The political mudslinging is not as much fun. This driver heads into the

muddy pit during a recent mudsling held in the area. He might have won, but one suspects it took lots longer to clean the truck than it took to muddy it up. (Ric Carter photo)



West Craven students with the Maniloffs

## West Craven Awarded Beautification Honors

RALEIGH — West Craven High School didn't win first place in the state for the Keep North Carolina Clean and Beautiful School Beautification Program, but the school did take first place in its district.

Dr. Howard Maniloff, associate superintendent of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, spoke to the group of students, teachers, administrators and community leaders that met in Raleigh for the awards luncheon. He presented awards to each of the winners in the eight school districts in North Carolina.

New Bern's H.J. MacDonald Middle School won first place in the state in the middle school division.

Schools from across the state received recognition for participation in the School Beautification Program, a state-wide student beautification effort sponsored by KNCCB in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction and Division of Vocational Education.

The School Beautification Program began during the administration of the late Gov. Dan K. Moore and seeks to bring an awareness of the visual environment of North Carolina to the student population of the state, encouraging them to accept the responsibility of maintaining and improving the environment of their school and community.

## No Crack(ed)pots Allowed Around Pottery Business

By MIKE VOSS

Editor

If you've ever crossed the Craven-Beaufort county line on U.S. 17 headed toward Vanceboro and felt you were being stared at by hundreds of eyes just past the county line, you were right.

Those hundreds of forever-staring eyes belong to the residents of Craven Pottery. Those eyes never blink because they belong to statues. And if the mouths that go with those eyes could talk, what stories they could tell.

About nine years ago what started out as "just a hobby," turned into big business as "people wanted more and more," said Mike Anderson. The whole Anderson clan is involved in the business — from father W.L. "Sweetie" Anderson, mother Pattie, brother Jerry and sometimes sisters Barbara Ann and Kathy.

Big business on the roadside? Anytime you can move 20 tons of sand and 200 bags

of cement to make pottery that's big business for a family.

Anderson said he, his father and brother were out riding around one weekend and "seen a place where people were making it." Of course the family "though we could do it," said Anderson. It's been mixing those 20 tons of sand and 200 bags of cement by using shovel and buckets ever since.

The sales area resembles a cement zoo. Animals of every description, color and size abound. Throw in a few fairy tale gnomes, elves and other creatures and you still haven't seen it all. If you don't see it just ask; it's probably around somewhere.

Although much business comes from tourists driving by, stopping down the road and coming back, the Andersons make a lot of pottery for wholesale use. Wholesale buyers pick up orders by the

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## Multi-Agency Cooperation

## Officers Destroy \$4 Million Worth Of Marijuana Plants

WILMAR — Law enforcement officials destroyed a cache of 2,746 marijuana plants — worth an estimated \$4 million — found growing near the Weyerhaeuser Co. road in Big Pocosin Friday, Lt. J.C. Woolard of the Craven County Sheriff's Department said.

Woolard said the seizure was a joint effort of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department, the Craven County Sheriff's Department, the Beaufort County Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, the Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency and the State Bureau of Investigation.

He said that the Sheriff's Department learned of the marijuana crop Thursday on a tip from "concerned citizens," whom Hodges did not identify.

The tip came in on the Crimestoppers line about 8:30 p.m. Thursday. The person who called in the tip said there was "suspicious activity in a small clearing" near the site of the marijuana. After an investigation revealed marijuana plants close to the small clearing, an airplane was brought in to help officers.

"We requested an aerial search that confirmed the presence of a large amount of marijuana," said Woolard.

Eleven officers from the five agencies began pulling the plants and destroying them at 10 a.m. Friday and worked all day, said Milton Hodges, chief deputy

of the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department.

He said that an investigation into who planted the field, which was located on Weyerhaeuser Co. land, is continuing. No arrests had been made by Monday.

Woolard said the plants ranged from two to six feet and would probably have been mature in September. "We figure that they would have been worth about \$4,393,600 at maturity. They could have been used now, but they would have been worth a lot more at the first of September," said Woolard.

The illegal crop was growing in two sites about 1/4 mile from the Craven-Beaufort county line. One site was a 15 or 20 acre tract and the other was smaller.

Woolard said, "Whoever was growing the marijuana knew what they were doing."

Investigators have been monitoring "suspicious traffic" in the area, he added. "We have some major leads. That's all I can say right now," said Woolard.

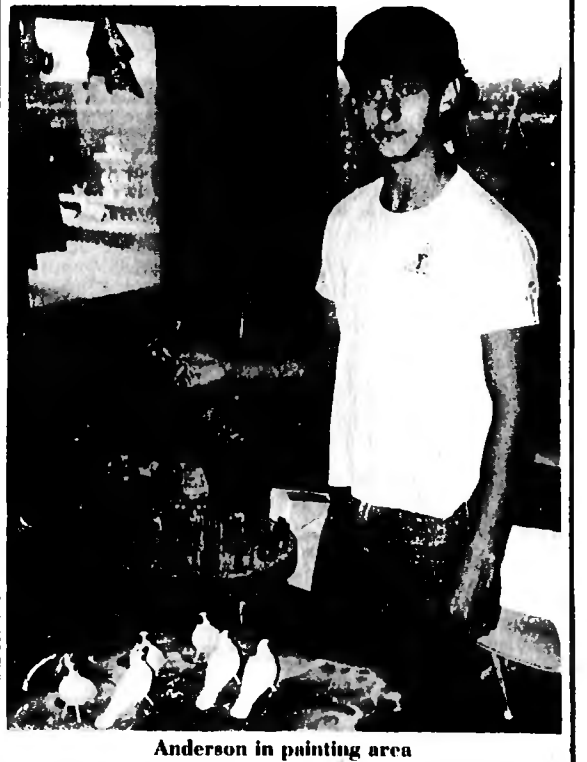
The marijuana was destroyed at an undisclosed location.

Woolard, who is also chairman of Craven County Crimestoppers, said anyone with information on their marijuana fields or any past or ongoing crimes can call Crimestoppers at 633-5141 and be eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward. Crimestoppers is a non-profit organization and callers do not have to give their names.



Up On The Roof

Two of Edward Earl Wilson Jr.'s goats decide the rooftop is the place to be to beat the heat and watch passersby in Vanceboro. Wilson says he uses his three goats to help keep a lot free of brush and tall grass. The goats, especially the two on the roof, didn't seem too interested in working Tuesday evening. Maybe they would rather get a job helping a roofer. (Mike Voss photo)



Anderson in painting area