



# West Craven Highlights

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VANCEBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

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## Jobless Numbers Hovering

Unemployment figures took a traditional upswing in November in the state as seasonal fishing jobs decreased, but Craven and Pamlico counties bucked the trend, according to the N.C. Employment Security Commission.

The decrease in jobless number in Pamlico County and Craven County's jobless number remaining the same did not follow 63 counties in the statewide trend. Hyde County showed the second-highest increase in November in the state, up from 5.5 percent in October to 12.8 percent last month.

There were 90 people out of work in Pamlico County's labor force of 4,750. In October's work force of 4,810, there had been 120 people unemployed.

Craven County's jobless rate remained at 4.0 percent from October to November. There were 1,300 people out of work in Craven County during November, based on a work force of 32,240. In October, an estimated 1,310 of Craven's 32,450 workers had been out of jobs.

Jones County's unemployment also bucked the state trend, dropping slightly from 4.4 percent in October to 3.9 percent in November. There were 160 people out of work in Jones County during November, based on a work force of 4,100. In October, a labor force of 4,320 had 190 people without jobs.

Statewide, 63 of 100 counties showed increases in jobless rates, raising the state's unemployment rate slightly from 3.9 percent to 4.0 percent. The high-

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### Rarely Used Toys Get Exercise

Not many kids in this part of the world own sleds. There's so seldom a heavy enough snow and hills are hard to find. These fellows hunted out a short hill in while school was out Friday and those who had suitable sliding

transportation shared with buddies who didn't. Things occasionally got crowded, but the spirit of sharing allowed fun for all.

(Ric Carter photo)

## \$26 Million Bond Vote Set Feb. 2 School Board Says No Tax Increases

By TERRI JAMIESON  
Staff Writer

This school year the population of students in Craven County has increased by the equivalent of an elementary school, or approximately 400 students.

The student population is expected to continue growing, say county and state educational officials.

Last year the New Bern-Craven County Board of Education estimated the building needs of the school system at \$32 million. A \$26 million bond referendum is being proposed by the board of education to provide funds to meet those building needs.

The \$26 million bond referendum is scheduled for Feb. 2.

Revenue from sales tax and the annual appropriations from the state and county commissioners will be the sources used to pay off the bonds. Monies from the state's Basic Education Plan will also be used to underwrite part of the bond costs. There is no plan to increase the ad valorem, or property, tax to pay for the bond, say county officials.

The board of education has identified seven building needs that it says need immediate attention.

Included in those needs is the need for a new high school for New Bern. The present high school was built in 1954. Seven trailers and eight temporary buildings are housed on the campus currently. School officials say the school is crowded and classroom space is inadequate.

Havelock High School has 17 trailers that are used as classrooms. The school has also been determined to be overcrowded and having inadequ-

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## Volunteer Of Month Goes To Fire Chief

Stanley Kite wears many hats. And each hat symbolizes his concern for his fellow man.

Kite serves a Craven County's Emergency Medical Services coordinator, the Vanceboro Volunteer Fire Department fire chief and as a Vanceboro Rescue Squad member. Those efforts have led to Kite's being named the West Craven Highlights' January recipient of the Volunteer of the Month honor.

Kite resides in Vanceboro with his wife, Diane, and son, Brandon.

Kite has worked for the fire department as chief since 1976. As chief his responsibilities include assuming command at a fire scene, which means giving directions and controlling the firefighting efforts. He also is charged with making sure equipment is maintained and in working shape. He is also responsible for overseeing training for the firemen and making sure that training is current and meets state standards.

Kite said there are numerous times when firefighters arrive too late to provide much help, but if there is one time when they are able to help someone then all the efforts have been worth it. Kite added that most firemen find it self-satisfying to help someone in need.

Kite said that being in the fire

department "is definitely a challenge" and is not like anything else he has been involved with. Kite points out the since the first of the year the fire department has responded to several calls, including a trailer fire and house fire. Both homes were destroyed.

Kite said firefighting can be discouraging. He said, "They guys we've got in the department really work their hearts out. When something's gone (burned up) we can't put it back together. That's the most discouraging thing about firefighting."

In his role as director of the county's emergency medical services, Kite works in all aspects of medical care. He works with the county's rescue squads. He coordinates training, transportation and funding involving the rescue squads. Kite also investigates industrial accidents in the county.

Kite has been a member of the Vanceboro Rescue Squad since 1976.

Kite has received numerous awards over the past several years. He has received a fireman of the year award, the Outstanding Young Firefighter Award from the New Bern Jaycees and an outstanding young law enforcement officer award when he worked as a deputy.

"Between work and the fire de-

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### — Poverty In N.C. —

## Habitat For Humanity

By MARY KRATT

"We was in a pitiful condition, and didn't ever think we would get out of it. But now, I feel like I'm just kinda flying — flying with the Lord, catching the breeze of His good will. . . Old as I is, this is the first good house I ever lived in."

Lillie Mae Brownes, Americus, Ga.

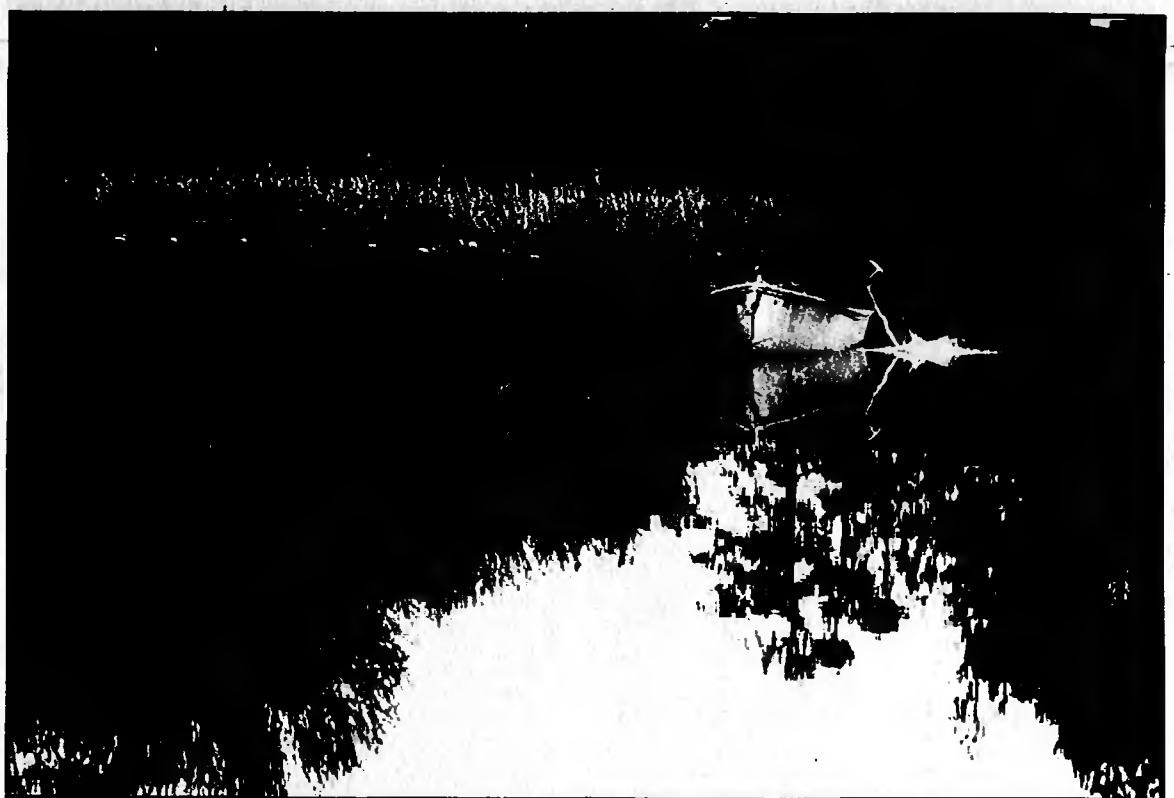
When former President Jimmy Carter came to Charlotte in July to hammer and finish 14 houses for the poor, I remembered a stormy church meeting in 1982.

Associate ministers just out of seminary are supposed to be liberal zealots, and ours at Myers Park Baptist had just proposed that church leaders endorse a radical program to provide interest-free loans to poor people so they could own homes. Imagine them, Dale Mullinix urged, people who struggle all their

lives just to pay rent owning a modest house, working on it themselves, paying for it. The idea was called Habitat for Humanity.

The concept came from Georgia, he said. It was working, he said. He had been there and seen it. He told stories of changed lives, gave facts and figures. The idea was to gather donations, loans and volunteer labor, to offer houses not as acts of charity, but to sell them to the poor for what they cost, without interest or profit, and to use payments for new construction. The skeptical doctors, lawyers, and businesspersons of the affluent church questioned. "You've got to be kidding," some said. "Being Christian, tithing, investing in social programs is one thing, but interest-free loans are

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### Preparing For Monday's Work

Anthony Davis spent part of Sunday afternoon up the creek in Rose Bay doing repair work on his boat. Those crab pots over to the left may be able to take some time off, but for Davis it's back

to oystering as soon as the broken pulley on the boat is replaced. Fishermen must be wanting a change in the weather even more than the rest of us. (Photo by Ric Carter)

## School Notes

Hospital Visit

Mrs. Barbara Forrest's kindergarten class toured Craven County Hospital during December.

The class was shown examples of x-rays, toured the physical therapy department and the security department. The students were able to see themselves on monitors used by security personnel.

The students also got a close-up view of an ambulance. At the end of the hospital tour, the students were given doctors' and nurses' hats.

The students had lunch at Burger King before returning to school.

Million Dot Contest

How many sheets of dots does it take to make a million? That was the question fourth- and fifth-grade students at Vanceboro's Farm Life

Elementary School tried to figure out.

The first part of the contest was to guess how many dots were on one sheet of paper. The winner was Levar Moore with a guess of 8,000. The correct answer is 8,040 dots. He is a student in Mrs. Shirley James' fifth-grade class. Devon White, Chris Hale, Del Dixon, Wesley Taylor, Jamel Wooten and April Lewis won honorable-mention status.

The second part of the contest was to guess how many sheets it would take to add up to one million dots. The winners were Larry Walton of Mrs. Loretta Lawson's fifth-grade class and Jeremy Blaylock of Mrs. Carolyn Dawson's fourth-grade class. Each guessed 125 sheets.

Second place went to Eddie

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## King Legacy Recalled By Church's Minister

By REV. DAVID L. MOORE  
Pastor, Metropolitan  
A.M.E. Zion Church

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. was born January 15, 1929 and was assassinated on April 4, 1968. He was the son of a Baptist minister, Rev. Martin Luther and Alberta Williams King Sr.

The young Martin was a brilliant student. In the eleventh grade he took a special examination permitting him to attend Morehouse College without completing high school. He entered Morehouse College at the age of 15. In 1947, at the age of 18, he was ordained to the Christian ministry. Upon completion of his studies and the awarding of a bachelor degree in sociology from Morehouse in 1948, he attended Crozer Theological Seminary. There he completed his Bachelor of Divinity degree graduating at

the head of his class in 1951. He applied and was accepted to Boston University where he graduated with his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology in 1955.

On October 31, 1954 following his marriage to Coretta Scott, he was installed at the prestigious, Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala. Shortly after this event, in December 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks refused to yield her seat to a white man who boarded the bus. This spontaneous action on her part ushered in an era of nonviolent civil disobedience that shook the Jim Crow laws of Alabama and the rest of the south. As president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, Dr. King led a successful nonviolent black boycott against the Montgomery,

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