

Schools Receive Funding

Warren County Schools will receive \$2,318 of more than \$822,000 in grants awarded to 93 counties in the state by the N. C. Department of Cultural Resources through its Grassroots Arts Program.

The funds provided to Warren County will be earmarked for the School Arts Festival and for concerts, according to an announcement made jointly by Gov. Jim Hunt and Cultural Resources Secretary Sara Hodgkins.

The Grassroots Arts Program, established by the General Assembly in 1977, is the state Art Council's main source of funding for local and community arts activities. Through the program, the Legislature allocates funds to each county on a per capita basis. The original appropriation designated about five cents per person. Now the total allocation is almost 15 cents per person.

"Of all our programs, Grassroots Arts is probably the one that does the best job of reaching out across the state to all North Carolinians," according to Mary Regan, executive director of the N. C. Arts Council.

"It's genuinely a partnership between state government and local citizens," she said.

Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton was also awarded a grant of \$3,905 in funds designated for Halifax County. The funds will be used for Children's Theatre performances.

Hearing Slated

The Warren County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at 8 o'clock tonight at the Warren County Court House to receive input on a proposal to levy a one-half percent supplemental local government sales and use tax.

Dead Man's Fingers Assessed

Seaweed Is Seen As Help On Farm

By DAVID WILLIAMSON

Dead man's fingers, a form of seaweed that is moving down the Atlantic coast and choking shellfish beds on its journey south, may turn out to be a valuable new fertilizer for corn and other crops, according to a marine biologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Soil treated with the weed, which scientists call codium, produced roughly 30 percent more corn than soil dressed with horse manure, said Dr. Hans Paerl, an associate professor at UNC-CH's Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City.

"It's too early to speculate on how valuable codium may be as a fertilizer, because there are a lot of questions that remain to be answered," Paerl said. "Still, it looks promising right now, especially since the plant is such a nuisance when it's growing in the water."

Like Kudzu, the land-based plant that covers junked cars, trees and everything else in its path in a slow green wave, codium originated in the Far East. It gets its nickname, "dead man's fingers" from its rubbery, cylindrical leaves that remind some people of the dead.

"Codium first became a problem in New England around the time of World War II and has been moving southward to Florida since then," Paerl said. "Once it gets established, it grows very luxuriantly, clogging oyster and clam beds and depleting oxygen in the water when parts of it die

back and rot every year.

Because of the way it reproduces, chopping it up just creates a lot more plants, he said. Compounding the problem is the odor it gives off when it decomposes, which Paerl termed "just about the most awful smell you can imagine."

The seaweed thrives in the waters off North Carolina and neighboring states because of its ability to attract nitrogen, normally in short supply in those areas, the scientist explained. It accomplishes this by providing a home for blue-green algae, which contains enzymes that convert nitrogen gas to ammonia and nitrates the plant needs.

Paerl, who conducted his preliminary studies with the help of North Carolina Sea Grant funding, said he was not certain how codium improved the corn yields in the experiments, but he believes it made the soil richer as it released nitrogen. The plant appears to work best as a fertilizer when rinsed of excess salt, dried and applied to soil in the fall.

Whether dead man's fingers ever becomes an important fertilizer—and a new source of income for depressed coastal regions—will depend chiefly on how economical its harvesting can be made and on convincing farmers to use it.

"One big advantage codium has over horse and other manures," Paerl said, "is that it doesn't contain the seeds of other kinds of common weeds."



Warren County's two delegates to the 1983 session of Boys State, held earlier this summer, were entertained Thursday night by members of Limer Post 25 of the American Legion. Legionnaires met at The Rafter's Steakhouse for the post's traditional fried chicken dinner held to honor Boys State participants. Shown above, from left to right, are Delegate Glenn Harris, Post Commander Wayne

Lawhorne, Delegate Karl Daeke and Adjutant Howard F. Oakley, who was program chairman for the event. Both Warren delegates fared well in elections at Boys State. Legionnaires were told. Part of a 438-man contingent, Daeke was elected commissioner of agriculture and Harris was voted in as a city judge. (Photo by Mary Hunter)

Warren Gets 'Clean Bill'

Although Warren County is the site of a state hazardous waste landfill and has been targeted by the federal government as a possible site for a

nuclear waste storage facility, it is one of the few counties in the state that generates no hazardous waste.

According to the 1982 Annual Report on

Hazardous Waste in North Carolina, 599 generators and other handlers of hazardous waste responded to a survey, the results of which indicated that 6.2 billion pounds of hazardous waste was produced in the state during 1982.

Of that 6.2 billion pounds, 6.1 billion pounds are accounted for by including for the first time a new category of hazardous waste: wastewater from electroplating and other industrial processes.

"Without this new category of waste, North Carolina generated only 109 million pounds of hazardous waste," O. W. Strickland, head of North Carolina's Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch said.

The 10 largest hazardous waste-generating counties were Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cabarrus, Wake, Moore, Bladen, Forsyth, Nash, Guilford, and New Hanover.

Of the counties surrounding Warren, Halifax produced the greatest volume of hazardous waste at 1,312,680 pounds. Northampton was next with 80,562 pounds, followed

by Vance with 3,544 pounds. Franklin County produced none.

According to Strickland, without the new category of waste, the state achieved a 72 percent decrease over the waste included in the 1981 report.

The factors he cited as contributing to the decrease included a reduction in the total number of generators, the use by industry of alternative processes so that less or no hazardous waste is generated, and a more accurate classification of waste.

Most of the waste generated (93.8 percent) in North Carolina, according to the report, was toxic, corrosive, or reactive.

Toxic wastes contain metals, organic chemicals, and pesticides that are poisonous. They include arsenic, barium, and mercury. These wastes made up 4.7 percent of North Carolina's hazardous waste.

Reactive wastes are materials that can generate toxic fumes or gases, burn vigorously, or combine violently with other materials. They include various solvents and other organic chemicals and sulfide waste, and they accounted for 60.5 percent of the states' hazardous waste.

The rest of North Carolina's waste comes from flammable materials such as paint thinner and finishing lacquer, and other solvents; from processes using cyanide; and from wood preservatives and other chemicals.

Branch Is Planned

If an application with the State Banking Commission and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation is approved, First Citizens Bank will be opening a branch in Littleton.

The branch office would be located at 111-15 East South Main Street, the former location of Newsom Motor Company.

First Citizens, which has a branch in Warrenton, also has branches in two Halifax County

Local Market Opens

Prices 'Good,' Volume Is Off

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The opening sale at Farmer's Warehouse in Warrenton last Wednesday morning ushered in the 1983 tobacco season with an average of \$150 per hundred pounds, about \$2 per hundred pounds over last year's opening prices.

Officials reported that prices paid for tobacco at Farmer's Warehouse Wednesday ranged from a low of \$110 to a high of \$170 per hundred pounds. Only six percent went under loan to the flue-cured stabilization corporation.

According to Alice Marie Robertson, sales supervisor for the Warrenton Tobacco Market, total sales on the market Wednesday were 192,012 pounds with an average of \$137.35 per hundred pounds and 15 percent of the tobacco sold going to stabilization.

The corporation places tobacco into stabilization if it fails to bring at least a penny more than current price supports.

Mrs. Robertson said she is pleased with the

prices so far this season, but disappointed with the volume. She predicted that sales today on the market would be completed by 11 a. m., an indication that much

tobacco remains in the field.

The Warrenton market's 15 percent was surprisingly low. By comparison, opening (Continued on page 10)

Public Hearing Planned

Mobile Home Park Is Studied

Warren County will get a new mobile home park if a request for a zoning change is approved by Warrenton town commissioners.

Laura Bennie Davis of Warrenton, and her brother, Kearny Davis, have requested that about five acres on the Warrenton - Norlina Road (U.S. 158) currently zoned industrial be changed to residential (R-20). The property is about four-tenths of a mile from the Warrenton city limits.

According to Ms. Davis, law requires that each lot be at least 100 feet by 150 feet. She estimates that the park would have about 20 or 30 spaces.

"We would like to start work on the park by the middle or end of September," Ms. Davis said, "depending on when and if we get zoning approval."

Although the park will be primarily for the rental of mobile home lots, Ms. Davis said that a few mobile homes may be placed on lots for rental.

"There is a definite need for a mobile home park in this area," she said. "So many people can afford mobile homes, but don't have anywhere to put them."

A public hearing has

been scheduled for Monday, August 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Warrenton Town Hall.

Industrial Aide Stepping Down

Betty Jean Capps, secretary to the Warren County manager, has resigned her position effective September 9, leaving two positions to be filled in the offices of the county manager and the county Industrial Development Commission.

It was previously reported that Mrs. Capps would be leaving her post as secretary to the county manager to become secretary to the Industrial Development Commission, but Mrs. Capps said Monday that she will not be making that move, and is resigning "to go home."

Mrs. Capps has been with the county for 11 years, first as secretary to the industrial developer and then as secretary to the county manager and industrial developer when those two positions were combined in 1976.

The two positions were recently separated by the county commissioners and Jim Whitley was employed as industrial developer.

Impact Statement Asked By Valentine

Concerned with a possible unwarranted transfer of water out of North Carolina, Second District Congressman Tim Valentine last week asked the Army Corps of Engineers for an environmental impact statement on a proposed water supply pipeline from Lake Gaston to the Tidewater area of Virginia.

In a letter to the Corps' Norfolk District engineer, Congressman Valentine noted that a Corps study of water supply alternatives has not been completed or made public. He also cited a shortened permit process that denies the public an adequate opportunity to study the project and to make their views known.

"While no one wants

to deny the legitimate needs of any city," Congressman Valentine said, "it should be conclusively shown that the importing cities are fully utilizing all available nearby sources before contemplating a transfer from the Roanoke River basin."

"An environmental impact statement would provide the public with objective information on the feasibility of alternative sources of water supply," Congressman Valentine said. "It would serve to verify the amount of water needed by Tidewater Virginia and would determine the extent to which this need can be met by existing sources and by more efficient use of water."