

# The Warren Record

Volume 88      25¢ Per Copy      Warrenton, County Of Warren, North Carolina      Wednesday, February 13, 1985      Number 7

## Warren School Year Lengthened By Three Days

Warren County's public school children, who enjoyed six days of vacation during January due to inclement weather will have to make up three of those days at the end of the school year, the County Board of Education decided Monday night.

One day was made up on Saturday, Feb. 2, and two days were "forgiven" by the board, which has the power by state statute to declare that up to five days can be missed without having to be made up.

The other three days will be made up on June 7, 11, and 12, previously scheduled as teacher workdays.

In other business, the board heard a request from John Hawkins and Curtis Palmer, members of the Warren County Recreation Committee, that local citizens be permitted to use free of charge gymnasiums at

## Many Women, Children May Need Calcium

Women and children in Warren County may not be getting the calcium they need to avoid serious health problems, according to Mrs. Maggie Kiah, director of the WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) nutritional program at the Warren County Health Department.

Mrs. Kiah, who recently attended a national conference, "Calcium Update," at Duke University, said there is much misinformation being circulated about the need for calcium in the well-balanced diet.

Among these, she said, is the notion that milk causes kidney stones and that needed calcium can be provided from pills rather than dairy products.

A lack of sufficient calcium in the diet is one of the prime causes of osteoporosis, a disease that causes bones to break easily and cripples millions of older Americans.

In addition, too little calcium may cause some women to develop high blood pressure during pregnancy, Mrs. Kiah said.

More information on calcium-enriched diets is available from Mrs. Kiah.

She especially urges pregnant women, those who are nursing infants, and mothers of children under age five to contact the Health Department for more information on the WIC program and for nutrition counseling.

Food supplements are also available for those who qualify.

Mrs. Kiah can be reached at the Health Department on Ridgeway Street in Warrenton or by calling 257-1185.

Hawkins Elementary School or John Graham Middle School for recreational purposes.

A fee of \$45 at Hawkins and \$53 at John Graham is charged for use of the gyms for a four-hour period from Sept. 15 through May 15 to cover the cost of heating the facilities.

Hawkins and Palmer suggested that a small fee be charged for participants and spectators and earmarked for a Warren County Recreation Fund.

"We want a real, honest to goodness recreation program for Warren County," Hawkins said. "It takes many things to set up a program like this, but we're not talking about buildings. We have buildings. We're talking about use of your school buildings."

Palmer, who owns a cleaning service in Warrenton, has volunteered to supervise recreation, which would be open to anyone in the county.

Board members Richard Roddy and Yarrowborough Williams were appointed to look into the proposal and report back to the full board at the March meeting.

The board also disposed of the following items of business:

—Excused students of North Warren Elementary School from having to make up a day of attendance missed on Jan. 15 due to failure of the school's water system. Teacher pay was also approved for that day since teachers reported to work as usual.

—Accepted the resignation of Nellie J. White, language arts and social studies teacher at John Graham Middle School, effective Jan. 31. Mrs. White is going on disability retirement due to health problems.

—Accepted the resignation of Cindy R. Pharo, math and science teacher at Norlina Middle School, effective Feb. 2. No reason was given for the resignation.

—Approved the employment of Catherine A. Hightower of Oxford as speech and language clinician, effective Jan. 30.

—Approved the employment of Artelia Covington, a graduate of Norlina High School and Elizabeth City State University, as English teacher at Warren County High School effective Feb. 13. Ms. Covington formerly taught in the public schools of New York City.

—Approved maternity leave without pay for Gwendolyn Levister, reading teacher at John Graham Middle School for April 4-May 20.

—Approved an overnight trip to New York for the secondary academically gifted students April 25-27 and an overnight trip for the Deca Club of Warren County High School to attend a career development conference in Asheville March 14-16.



Henry (David Compton) attempts to scare away the hiccups for Katie, the Irish maid (Katy Krider), in last week's performance of "Peck's Bad Boy" at Mariam Boyd Elementary School. The three-act comedy was part of the 1985 tour of UNC-G's Theatre for Young People and was presented in all six of the county's elementary schools. The play was sponsored by Warren County Schools' Cultural Arts Program. (Community Schools Photo)

## Mrs. Kersey Is Sentenced To Six-Year Prison Term

Hattie Mae Kersey of Ridgeway last Wednesday was sentenced to six years in prison after a Warren County jury found her guilty of second degree murder in the October 1983 shooting death of her husband, James E. Kersey.

Mrs. Kersey could have faced a maximum of 15 years in prison, but Superior Court Judge Henry V. Barnette, Jr. of Raleigh cited mitigating circumstances and the lack of any aggravating circumstances as reasons for a reduced sentence.

According to court records, the mitigating circumstances were the absence of a previous record and the mental state of the defendant.

The judge found that Mrs. Kersey, 40, had suffered from a mental disorder that had a bearing on the offense but was not severe enough to absolve her from guilt.

Mrs. Kersey had entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity. She was represented by court-appointed attorney Charles T. Johnson of Warrenton.

The jury, composed of seven women and five men, deliberated for six hours before returning

the guilty verdict at 4:30 p.m.

Kersey, who was disabled by amputation of one of his legs at the thigh due to a work-related accident, was shot in the right cheek with a .22-caliber rifle on October 2 and died two days later.

Warren County Sheriff's Deputy Lawrence Harrison testified last week that the night of the shooting he found Mrs. Kersey in the Kersey home kneeling over her wounded husband and crying, "I didn't mean to shoot him."

Harrison was the prosecution's only witness.

Two witnesses, Dr. Drew Bridges, psychiatrist with the Area Mental Health Program for Vance, Franklin, Granville and Warren counties, and Dr. John D. Butts, associate chief medical examiner for the state, testified for the defense.

Dr. Bridges testified that Mrs. Kersey, when he first saw her a year ago, suffered from a "severely debilitating mental illness" that rendered her unable to tell right from wrong.

The following cases were also disposed of by

Judge Barnette:

James Fields, Jr., guilty to four counts of misdemeanor larceny and three counts of misdemeanor breaking and entering, ordered committed as a youthful offender for two years in the N.C. Department of Correction.

John Hargrove, Jr., forcible rape, voluntary dismissal. On a charge of incest, Hargrove was found guilty and sentenced to four years and six months in the N.C. Department of Correction. The court recommended immediate work release and that the defendant be psychiatrically evaluated and any treatment that is deemed appropriate be administered. As a condition of work release, 40 percent of the defendant's earnings must be deducted for support of his family.

Lewis Edward Drungold, continued until taken. Order of arrest is outstanding.

William Ulrich, guilty to two counts of felonious breaking and entering and four counts of felonious larceny, ordered confined in the N.C. Department of Correction for five years (Continued on page 9)

## Immediate-Care Unit Anticipated Despite Lack Of Federal Funds

Plans are still underway for the start-up of an immediate-care center at Warren General Hospital Monday, despite the fact that funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services had not been received as of Tuesday afternoon.

The new center is slated to begin operation Monday and will be administered by HealthCo of Soul City.

HealthCo Executive Director Phil Williams said opening of the center was proceeding on schedule and that HealthCo would cover initial expenses in anticipation of receipt of \$109,000 in federal funding.

In-patient services at the hospital will be terminated Friday and Mrs. Amy Norwood, acting administrator, said yesterday local physicians were aware of the schedule and were in the process of transferring patients to other facilities.

There were 13 patients in the hospital on Monday and six on Tuesday, Mrs. Norwood said.

The hospital has 26 full-time employees, the majority of which are slated to be terminated. A skeletal crew of five, including Mrs. Norwood, business office, maintenance and medical records staff, will remain on board for the time being.

HealthCo recently agreed to work with county commissioners to provide health care for county residents during the interim between closing of the hospital's in-patient services and opening of an alternative health care facility.

Plans call for a physician, lab technician, and a patient services clerk to be on duty at the center from 4 p.m. until

midnight. An x-ray technician will be on duty from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The center is designed to offer primary health care services similar to those offered by private physicians in their offices.

Williams said he has submitted a total budget of \$172,817 that calls for \$109,000 to be provided

by the federal government, \$33,500 by the center's earnings, and the remainder by the county.

Renovation funded by a federal grant is currently underway at the hospital, and county commissioners hope to have a permanent health care facility in place by mid-summer.

## Public Not Heard At Public Hearing

By MARY C. HARRIS Staff Writer

There was no public response to a public hearing scheduled Monday evening to allow Warrenton's townspeople to express their ideas regarding the direction of a \$7,500 planning grant awarded the town through the N. C. Community Development Block Grant Program. Rosemary McLean, representative of L. W. Wooten and Company, was present at the hearing, which was scheduled jointly with a meeting of the Warrenton Town Board, to explain procedures for making application for a larger grant for revitalization of specific areas of the town.

Ms. McLean explained that L. E. Wooten Company will undertake a complete needs assessment study of the town and will present recommendations at the March meeting of the commissioners. This presentation, she said, would be followed by a second public hearing in April before application for funds is made in behalf of projects suggested by the study.

All commissioners

were present for the regular town board meeting, conducted by Mayor B. G. White.

Councilmen agreed that police officers should be directed to enforce the Feb. 15 deadline for displaying town tags on automobiles by residents of Warrenton. Town Administrator V. R. (Pete) Vaughan pointed out that purchase of town tags had declined since the N. C. Department of Motor Vehicles adopted a staggered system for purchase of state tags.

Bill Neal, water superintendent, informed commissioners that efforts by townspeople to cut off their water service during the cold weather had caused a number of problems. Neal stated that residents should be reminded that the water meter and cut-off are town property and that they should notify the Water Department for assistance before tampering with them.

Finance officer, Commissioner Eddie Clayton, reported that figures showed that approximately 90 percent of the 1984 town taxes had been collected.

## Old Issue Is Finally Laid To Rest

# Board Votes To Sell 14 School-Owned Automobiles

By KAY HORNER News Editor

The long-debated issue of whether the Warren County Board of Education should maintain a fleet of automobiles for use by the school system's central office staff and principals was finally laid to rest Monday night when the board voted to sell the 14 cars it owns.

The board also voted to apply \$14,065 available in the budget toward purchase of a 15-passenger van for the school system.

Board Chairman Henry T. Pitchford cast the only dissenting vote on the measures recommended by Schools Superintendent Michael F. Williams.

The cars will be declared surplus property as of June 30 and offered for sale at a price to be negotiated with the

purchaser.

Of the 14 cars currently owned, only nine are in regular use, according to Williams. Six are used by members of the central office staff and three are used by principals. Two of the five not assigned for regular use are inoperable and carry no insurance and three are used as replacements when needed.

The average number of miles on the nine vehicles is 131,354, Williams said.

In making his recommendations, Williams cited the inequity in the assignment of cars, noting that three central office staff members and six principals are not assigned automobiles.

Ten of the cars are at least 15 years old, and the latest model year for any of the 14 is 1973.

"For seven years, we've been trying to

replace vehicles to keep the pool, but each year there are more pressing needs," Williams said. "Some of the cars are very unreliable and the staff is reluctant to drive them...if we keep on keeping on, we'll reach the point when they'll not only be unreliable but unsafe."

Williams estimated that the nine cars are driven 73,297 miles annually. Reimbursement at 25 cents per mile would cost \$18,324. Operating the current vehicles at 10.7 cents per mile would cost \$7,843 and operating the current vehicles and replacing two vehicles each year would cost \$25,343 annually, Williams figured.

In the future, central office staff and principals will be reimbursed 25 cents per mile, the state rate, for use of their

personal cars on school-related business.

Final approval was also given Monday to the contract terms for Superintendent Williams and Assistant Superintendents James R. Jordan and Rachael Ricks. Base salaries are mandated by the state, and the county supplement of \$3,350 for the superintendent and \$1,000 each for the assistant superintendents was unchanged from the previous contracts.

The contracts are for two-year terms from July 1, 1985 to June 30, 1987.

The board also heard a brief evaluation of the Quality Assurance Program (QAP) undertaken during the past year by the school system.

Warren County was one of about 20 schools selected to participate in a pilot program to ensure classroom effectiveness

among beginning teachers through a six-year teacher preparation process that will begin in the prospective teacher's freshman year in college and continue through the second year of employment.

Both Sandra Russell, English teacher at Warren County High who served as a "mentor" in the program and Susan Fletcher, a fourth grade teacher at North Warren Elementary, had positive comments on the program.

The statewide program is expected to become finalized in the next two months and will become mandatory for all school systems in July.

The board was also urged by Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairperson of the county commissioners who spoke as a private citizen, to ap-

point a citizens committee to find new resources for meeting the needs of the county school system.

Noting that reductions are being discussed in the federal Revenue Sharing program and the state sales tax, from which the schools in the past have received funding, Mrs. Clayton told the board that the county was faced with "increased responsibility" to other county agencies, including Warren General Hospital and the standard Warren County Jail.

"You must garnish additional support, which will be an advantage to this board," she said. "It's not all dollars and cents...but there must be a maximum use of resources and skills."

The board agreed to discuss her proposal at the March meeting.