

The Warren Record



The lights of the midway at the Warren County Fairgrounds accent the night sky and signal to fairgoers the arrival of the annual event. Inners Amusement Company is providing rides and enter-

tainment for the local gala, sponsored by the Warrenton Lions Club. The fair began on Monday and will continue through Saturday. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Deputy Recovering From Gunshot Wound

Deputy Harold Seaman with the Warren County Sheriff's Department is recuperating at his home this week from leg injuries sustained in a shooting incident during an eight-hour stand-off Friday between law enforcement officers and an armed man in Vaughan.

Seaman was shot as he and fellow officers attempted to serve the man with involuntary commitment papers to John B. Umstead Hospital in Butner.

Three deputies from the Warren County Sheriff's Department went to serve the papers on James Sutton, 41, of the Vaughan community, about 10 a. m., according to Warren County Sheriff Theodore Williams.

Sutton had apparently been asleep in the van, but was standing outside when the officers arrived, the sheriff stated.

After the officers' arrival he returned to the van.

The officers radioed for help and were assisted by the sheriff and three other deputies from Warren County, four deputies from the Halifax County Sheriff's Department and several troopers with the State Highway Patrol.

Deputies attempted to flush the man from the van with canisters of tear gas, but the suspect ran to his mother's house nearby.

The officers surrounded the house and were attempting to enter when the shooting occurred, Sheriff Williams stated. Sutton was armed with a 22-rifle, a hatchet, a long knife and ammunition for approximately 400 firings, the sheriff stated. He had fired five shots.

The encounter ended after 6 p. m. when Sutton was taken to Umstead Hospital. Charges are pending, the sheriff said.

Deputy Seaman was treated and released at Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson. The bullet lodged in his thigh, but did not injure bones or major blood vessels, according to reports. He was expected to return to his doctor on Thursday. He is able to get around at home but it has not been determined when he will return to his duties at the sheriff's department.

In addition to Seaman and Sheriff Williams, five other Warren County deputies answered the call: Chief Deputy

Bobby Dean Bolton and Deputies Thomas McCaffity, J. A. McCowan, L. E. Harrison and J. M. Alston.

Shock Expressed

Warren County officials were shocked last week to learn that \$400,000 allocated by the 1985 General Assembly for construction of a local satellite campus of Vance-Granville Community College will have to be matched by the county.

According to County Manager Charles J. Worth, an interpretation of the bill's provisions was requested of the N.C. Attorney General's office by Vance-Granville officials.

Worth was informed of the ruling last week in a meeting with Robert W. Scott, president of the N.C. Department of Community Colleges.

Worth said the requirement of matching funds, with other than state money or with an in-kind contribution, such as a site, posed "serious problems" for Warren County.

County commissioners have yet to meet on the matter, but Worth said the board could seek a bill in the June 1986 short session that would abolish the requirement for Warren County.

Funds are not available until July 1, 1986 and are disbursed only after the county has entered into a contract for construction of a building on the satellite campus, Worth said.

During Hearing On WGH Future

Hospital Doubts Are Expressed

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

The last of three public hearings necessary before Warren County commissioners can act on a proposal for the continued operation of Warren General Hospital took an unexpected turn Wednesday night.

The tone of what began as a routine hearing changed dramatically when a Henderson physician warned that reopening of the hospital could lead to a "financial bath" for its backers and three local doctors voiced doubts about the feasibility of continued hospital operations.

The proposal, by the local Bute Development Corporation chaired by Warrenton businessman Eddie Q. Clayton, was the only one received by commissioners last April for operation of the 37-bed hospital as an acute care facility.

It calls for the corporation to assume liability for the hospital operation, with management and physician consultation services from Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill, Va.

Concerned citizens filled the Warren County courtroom for previous hearings, but only about 50 were on hand last week when area physicians for the first time publicly expressed their reservations.

Their comments were sparked when Mike Jones, a pathologist at Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson, told the board that he would "hate to see someone take a financial bath of such great magnitude as is possible here."

He indicated that he had spoken with six Warren County physicians who said they "would not be comfortable" admitting acute care patients to Warren General.

"Someone has forgotten to ask a very important group of people how they feel about all this, and that is the physicians," Jones said. "The doctors I have spoken with say they won't feel comfortable taking care of anything but the most minor operations there."

Dr. James Holt, a general practitioner who came to Warren County

in August, concurred, adding that there were "real problems" with admitting patients there. "It's not that we're unwilling; it's just that times have changed, technology has changed. There will be problems I wouldn't be comfortable sending to Warren General."

Dr. Thomas Keyserling, also a newcomer, evoked applause from the audience when he stated that it was "our (the doctors') intention to hospitalize patients at the appropriate level of care for their problems and we will use the hospital here for patients who can be appropriately hospitalized here."

However, Keyserling added that 75 to 80 percent of the cases he had seen in the past month needed diagnosis or consultation services not available locally.

"There are a limited number we feel it appropriate to hospitalize here," he said.

Dr. Cosmos George, who specializes in obstetrics and gynecology in Warrenton, said he felt it "somewhat strange" that local physicians had not been consulted about the future of the hospital.

"I keep reading that physicians from the community and Health-Co (of Soul City) would be responsible for providing and supporting what's in effect (at the hospital). But I have never been contacted," he commented.

He added that longtime Warrenton physician Kirit Trivedi had only recently been contacted.

"If we are included in the proposal, we should have input," he said.

Jones was accompanied by Sam Waddell, administrator, and C. Swanson Dodd, assistant administrator, of Maria Parham, which was approached by county commissioners last February about operating an acute care satellite in Warrenton.

The delegation was on hand last week, Waddell said, to correct the impression that Maria Parham officials had "turned their backs on Warren County's problem."

"We do not believe the hospital can be run as an acute care hospital," Waddell said. "That is why we did not propose one."

However, Maria Parham representatives voiced continued interest in operating an outpatient clinic and emergency room at the hospital facility.

Before Maria Parham officials spoke, John Andrews, a former trustee with the now-defunct Warren General Hospital Board, and Clayton questioned the appropriateness of comments on Maria Parham at a hearing called specifically for comments on the Bute Development Corporation proposal.

"I don't see the purpose served now by their (Maria Parham officials') comments," Andrews said. "I was there when we asked for help and they were not there. It seems a little late now."

Clayton questioned the legality of allowing comments on other proposals, which brought rebuff by Commission Chairperson Eva M. Clayton.

"They have come simply to explain what their proposal was, not to be in conflict with other proposals," she said. "We owe them that courtesy. As long as I am the chair, they have that courtesy."

Bute Chairman Clayton told the board that he wanted to see a

hospital in Warrenton "however we can get it."

"Jones emphasized the problems ahead of us," Clayton said. "We have put our faith in Tom Leggett (retired administrator of Community Memorial). Anyone who has doubts can check his hospital. He's now overseeing a \$6 million improvement and expansion program there. He has the track record."

Phil Williams, executive director of the Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Plan, which has operated a clinic at Warren General since it ceased outpatient services last February, questioned whether the cost of indigent care had been considered.

Fifty-two percent of the patients seen at the plan's site in Soul City are at the zero-income level and pay the minimum indigent-care rate, Williams said.

Clayton countered, "Fortunately, there are still people in Warren County able to pay their bills, but we're not taking that into consideration."

Mrs. Clayton told the group that her board had to make a decision not only on who offered the best management proposal, but who "is to be financially responsible for Warren General Hospital now and in the future."

"Although we want a hospital, it will be extremely difficult. If it was nearly impossible for the county to run it, you can expect that it will be nearly as difficult for a private corporation to do so," she said.

Both Clayton and Andrews had high praise for the commissioners.

"We (the hospital board) have been asking for help for three years. The previous board of commissioners did not cooperate. These are the first people who have listened to us about what

Freedom Bid Is Brief For

Escapee Here

An inmate who escaped from a work detail of the N.C. Department of Correction's Warren County Prison Unit early Saturday was back in custody late that afternoon, according to prison Superintendent H. J. Carter.

Bobby Barnes, 35, escaped about 1:05 p.m. while he was working on a detail just outside the prison facility.

Prison guards and the Warren County Sheriff's Department recaptured Barnes, who is serving a four-year term for damage to property, about 5:20 p.m. in the Perrytown Community.

He surrendered, Carter said, without incident and was charged with escape.



Chris Stallings, center, was named winner of the Junie Drake Memorial Award Sunday night during the annual awards night banquet held at the Warrenton Country Club. With Stallings are Golf Tournament Committee Chairman George (Pepl) Perkinson, left, and Jim Marshall, president of the Warrenton Country Club. See Page 8 for pictures of golf champions and runners-up. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Prevention

Funds Given

A total of \$3,817 has been allocated to Warren County for delinquency prevention programming, according to Roosevelt Alston, chairman of Warren County's Task Force on Delinquency Prevention.

Local agencies and non-profit groups may apply for the funds, which must be spent before June 30, 1986. The

Food Distribution Set At Armory On Sept. 25

The National Guard Armory will be the distribution point Sept. 25 for the fall quarterly distribution of USDA surplus foods, Julian Farrar, Social Services director, stated this week.

This distribution will include six food items: rice, flour, cheese, milk, corn meal and honey.

All active food stamp households have received a computer printed authorization card that will serve as application and certification. This card must be presented at the Armory by food stamp households who plan to participate in the commodity program, Farrar said.

Low-income families who wish to participate in the distribution with income at or below the following gross income levels will qualify: family of one, \$569;

family of two, \$764; family of three, \$959; family of four, \$1,154; and family of five, \$1,349.

Distribution is expected to begin about 7:30 a. m. and end around 4 p. m.

Anyone picking up for an invalid or housebound individual must bring a signed statement from the individual showing income and their approval of the food to be received by the representative, Farrar reported.

Food stamp holders needing someone to pick up food for them will need to write the name of the person to pick up the food on the back of the card and sign their own name on the right hand side of the card before giving the card to the person who is to receive the food, he added.

Tuesday's Average Sets New High For Warrenton

Tuesday's average on the Warrenton Tobacco Market topped the previous 1985 season-high average by close to \$3 per hundred pounds, according to Mrs. Alice R. Robertson, sales supervisor for the local market. Tobacco sold on Tuesday averaged \$179.20 per hundred pounds, she said.

A second encouraging factor in Tuesday's sales was a drop in the amount of the day's offerings taken by Stabilization. Sixteen percent went into the Stabilization stocks, a sharp decline from the previous sale day's 31 percent claimed on Sept. 11.

Tobacco growers sold 296,761 pounds Tuesday for a total of \$531,816.68.

On the second sale day of last week, Wednesday, Sept. 11, the average remained in the \$1.70 per hundred range, ending at \$174.92, Mrs. Robertson reported. Thirty-one percent was taken by Stabilization on that sale day. Tuesday was the fourth consecutive sale day to average in the 70's.

The recent figures have upped the season average to \$163.10 and leveled Stabilization's claim at 24 percent for the season.

After 11 days of selling, local growers have sold a total of 2,661,918 pounds of tobacco for \$4,341,720.93, the supervisor said.

The market will operate on Monday and Wednesday next week.