

# The Warren Record

## Heavy Rains Bring High Lake Waters

Four days of rain in the nation's mid-Atlantic region last week brought unusually high water on both Lake Gaston and Kerr Lake.

According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the high-water mark for Kerr Lake last week was 308.9 feet above sea level, recorded on Sunday.

The water level at Kerr Lake fluctuates for flood control more than that on Gaston Lake, but a Corps spokesman said this week that the normal level for early November is between 295.5 and 297.5 feet above sea level.

On Lake Gaston, waters rose to their highest of the week last Tuesday, Nov. 5, at a recorded 201.2 feet above sea level.

Water in Lake Gaston, according to a spokesman with the North Carolina division of Virginia Electric & Power Company which controls the lake, is usually kept at a level between 199 and 200 feet above sea level, with fluctuations limited as closely as possible to six inches.

While some of the bridges over Kerr Lake were flooded, damage was negligible on both lakes.

## Man Killed In Tuesday Accident

A Warrenton man was killed last night in a single-vehicle accident on N.C. 43 at Marmaduke.

Milton Richardson, 29, of Route 3, was pronounced dead on arrival at Maria Parham Hospital.

The accident occurred around 11 p.m. when Richardson's vehicle ran off the road and into a tree.

Trooper T. S. Wright of the Highway Patrol investigated.

Further details were unavailable at press-time.

## Woodstoves Can Cause Problems

RALEIGH — Wood-burning stoves are fast becoming a popular way to heat homes in North Carolina and abandoned scrap wood is often seen as a cheap source of fuel. However, the burning of treated wood and plywood can cause serious health problems, according to Dr. Ted Taylor, a toxicologist with Environmental Epidemiology Branch in the N. C. Department of Human Resources' Division of Health Services.

"Abandoned scrap wood may seem like a good cheap source of fuel," Taylor said. "However, wood used for building is often treated with a preservative such as creosote, pentachlorophenol (Penta, PCP), or a mixture of copper, chromium and arsenic (CCA)." (Continued on page 3B)



Warren County Jaycee President Kenny Clayton (right) and Jaycee Director Ricky Bryant are shown above splitting wood for the organization's annual wood project. The wood is cut, split and delivered free of charge to people here in the county who aren't

able to get their own wood. This year the Jaycees delivered 20 pick-up truckloads of wood throughout the county. Joe Ross, a local logger, donated wood for this year's project. Wood Project Chairman was Ronald Rivers. (Photo by Mary Hunter)

## Warrenton Commissioners Are Told

# Strain On Understaffed Police Department Should End Soon

By MARY C. HARRIS  
Staff Writer

The strain on an understaffed Warrenton Police Department should be alleviated in early December when new policemen will complete their schooling and return to the work force, Police Commissioner A. A. Wood reported at the Monday night meeting of the Warrenton Town Board.

In the meantime, a couple of deputies in the Warren County Sheriff's Department are helping out in their off-duty hours. Sgt. Lawrence Harrison and Deputy Mack McGowan, both former policemen, have been assisting as their schedules allow, according to a spokesperson in the sheriff's department. The resignation of Policeman Eugene Mustian to assume the position of magistrate heightened the manpower shortage in the department already affected by officers' schooling.

The board postponed action on a request by Mustian for compensation for unpaid workdays over the last four years. Town Administrator Vernon R. (Pete) Vaughan explained that Mustian had worked beyond his regular schedule with the intention of taking compensatory time off, but the time never came when the department could spare him before his resignation. Commissioner Wood was asked to meet with Mustian to determine a settlement.

Action was also postponed on a request by Warren County Parks and Recreation Director Dickie Williams for use of a one-acre tract owned by the town and adjoining a parcel of land which the county intends to purchase for recreational activities. Williams noted that his department plans to make application for federal funds for purchase of the three-acre

tract from Warrenton Railroad and that aside from actual use of the town property, a guarantee of ownership or use of the land may prove useful in applying for funding.

The commissioners instructed Williams to proceed with plans for application and to keep the board informed of developments so that appropriate action may be taken as deemed advisable. The board members further expressed their interest in recreational activities there, provided adequate supervision could be assured.

W. J. Renn, of Epsom, owner of the Currin's Warehouse property which burned last April, appeared before the Town Board to request an adjustment to his 1985 taxes on the property. Town Attorney Charles Johnson pointed out that the commissioners were bound to act within the law which is strict on compromising the tax bill. Relief, he said, may be possible for Renn next year but the law does not allow a refund or compromise on taxes once established in January.

In reports before the board, Administrator Vaughan explained that the rash of complaints concerning recent water billing should be satisfied by plans for regular monthly reading of meters in the future. He noted that a shortage of help in the Water Department had necessitated estimates of water consumption for a number of months, resulting in somewhat higher-than-normal bills for a number of customers last month when readings were made. Measures were being taken, he said, to correct the problem.

Mayor B. G. White appointed Commissioners A. A. Wood, Bobby Edmonds and Phil Daniel to a committee to study the town's person-

nel policy which spells out the holidays to be observed by town employees. He instructed the committee to give particular attention to Veterans Day, which is one of the eight holidays during which the Town Office is closed.

Commissioners approved a recommendation by the Warrenton Planning Board that the Ridgeway Street property of the Maggie Hicks Estate, which is adjacent to Currin's Minute Mart, be converted from the zoning status of C-II (Highway Business) to R-20 (Residential).

## Annual School Salute Is Being Scheduled

Members of the Warren County NCAE have asked parents, students and civic leaders to join in the nation's annual salute to public schools during American Education Week, Nov. 17-23.

The theme of this year's observance is "America's Public Schools: The Subject is Excellence," according to Faye Spence, president of the local NCAE. She noted that emphasis will be placed this year on informing the public about some lesser known facts about the local school system. "Education is big business," she explained. "Taxpayers deserve to know where their money is being spent. We want the public to be well-informed stockholders."

In conjunction with this idea, a brochure entitled "America's Public Schools: The Subject is Excellence" has been prepared by the Warren County NCAE, Ms. Spence stated. The brochures will be distributed to parents and placed in various business organizations, she pointed out. American Education Week was initiated after

Mayor White congratulated the commissioners on their recent re-election and reminded them of the scheduled swearing-in for a new term in December. Ray Shearin will take the seventh commissioner's seat at the same meeting.

Also appearing before the board was Warren County native Mrs. Beverly Johnson Quick who demonstrated a software program for computerized water and sewer billing. Town accountant Kermit Copley suggested consideration of a computer system in his annual audit.

# Increased Health Services Planned

In a move designed to provide more services and increase the level and continuity of care currently offered by The Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Plan (VWCHP), Inc., Phillip L. Williams, executive director, has announced the organization will begin offering hospital services immediately. VWCHP, which operates Warren Health Plan at Warren General Hospital and HealthCo in Soul City, will utilize Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson to hospitalize patients.

"VWCHP considers hospital services vital to improving the health status of our community," Williams said. He said the organization now has enough physicians to comfortably cover the clinics and a hospital practice. September 1 was the initial date for establishing the hospital practice, but Williams said due to other priorities, the program was not able to meet that date.

Williams said one of the reasons for offering hospital services at this time is the changing climate in the Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance (BH-CDA), a division of the Department of Health and Human Services. "At one time the number of face-to-face physician / patient encounters was the primary factor BH-CDA considered when determining funding level. No credit was given for hospital encounters," Williams said. He said the net effect was a financial penalty to programs with active hospital practices.

In 1985 BH-CDA is more willing to balance face-to-face physician/patient encounters occurring in a hospital setting, with face-to-face physician/patient encounters occurring in a clinical setting. Williams said the current plan calls for three of the practice's six physicians to

hospitalize consumers. He said as the hospital practice grows and priorities change, the remaining three (Continued on page 3B)

## Cigar Box Concert

By KAY HORNER  
News Editor

For the second time this year, Warren County will get a spotlight on WRAL's PM Magazine.

On Friday night, Ann Mulchi of Norlina will perform during a segment on unusual musical instruments.

Mrs. Mulchi, secretary at Norlina Middle School, is a cigar box virtuoso.

She learned to play from her father, Virgil Tucker, who also learned to play the banjo and harmonica as a young man growing up in the foothills of North Carolina.

"I've had several people mention to me that they remember daddy playing the cigar box," Mrs. Mulchi said this week. "And he used to play the harmonica at the same time he played the banjo."

Tucker lived his adult life in Norlina. Mrs. Mulchi, who will also appear in promotional spots for PM Magazine on Thursday, expressed doubts about her television debut.

Cigar box performances are best, she noted, when accompanied by a live band, which she didn't have for her PM Magazine appearance. "Unless it turns out a lot better than I think it is, I'll be disappointed," she laughed.

## Wrecks Are Reported In County Last Week

The State highway Patrol reported three accidents in Warren County last week.

A Littleton man was charged with driving left of center after a single-vehicle accident Sunday morning on S.R. 1358 about one mile north of the Littleton city limits.

Reports indicate that Kenneth Ray Mills of Route 4 was headed north when he was distracted and drove off the road to the left, striking a utility pole.

Trooper T. S. Wright investigated. On Saturday afternoon, Sharon W. Shearin of Henderson was also charged with driving left of center after a two-vehicle accident on S.R. 1325 near Warrenton.

According to reports filed by Trooper Wright, Mrs. Shearin was traveling east when she attempted to turn left into

a private driveway and collided with vehicle driven by Ernest Townes of Route 2, Macon.

The Townes car, according to reports, approached from a slightly curved grade, making it difficult for Ms. Shearin to see the car.

On Friday evening, Henry P. Holtzman of Route 1, Norlina was traveling south on Norlina Road when he stopped to yield right-of-way to an oncoming vehicle and was hit from behind by a pickup truck driven by David A. Hight of Ridgeway Street, Warrenton, according to reports filed by Trooper B. R. Pope.

Hight indicated he had not noticed the Holtzman vehicle until it was too late to avoid a collision.

No charges were filed in the accident. No one was reported seriously injured in any of the three accidents.



Quick on the heels of the display of colorful autumn foliage is the task of clearing away the accumulated leaves. A leaf blower proves helpful to this worker on the lawn of the Warren County Court-

house. Town Administrator Pete Vaughan has requested that Warrenton residents separate all brush from leaves piled at the street for pick-up. (Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)