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Warren County Is Affected By Recall Of Buses

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

A nationwide recall of 56,000 International Harvester school buses to correct a potentially defective steering mechanism is expected to involve 27 buses in Warren County, according to Assistant Superintendent of Schools James Jordan.

The recall is for buses manufactured by Harvester between 1979 and 1985.

As of Tuesday morning, 24 recall notices had been received locally.

Jordan said the recall notices were mailed separately and he expected to receive notices on the other three buses within a few days.

Harvester has reported that "fatigue cracks" have been found in the steering arms of three of its buses. The cracks can cause the steering arm to snap, causing the driver to lose control. However, the company said no accidents had been reported because of such a defect.

Jordan said the steering arm is a mechanism which enables the two front wheels to turn as the steering wheel is turned.

The repairs will be done locally at the school bus garage in Warren Plains, Jordan said. Parts are being shipped from the State Board of Education's Division of Transportation.

"We have had no problems whatsoever with any of the buses," Jordan said. "We hope to acquire the parts very soon and to begin making the repairs."

International Harvester, which will become Navistar International Corp. on Feb. 21, will reimburse the local school systems throughout the state for labor in making the repairs.

Plans Are Made For Selection Of DSA Winner

Warren County Jaycee William Cox has announced plans for the chapter's annual sponsorship of the Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes one outstanding young man in the community.

Cox, chairman of the project, said the award is presented to someone of Jaycee-age, 18-35, who exhibits meritorious service to his family, community and nation. It is the highest award the Warren County Jaycees present annually, Cox said.

The Distinguished Service Award banquet is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, at the Warrenton Lions Den. Cox noted that the awards ceremony recognizes and honors the winner's achievements and provides a stage for the honoree to challenge and inspire young men.

Individuals, organizations, associations and institutions are encouraged to submit the names of young men who have rendered outstanding service in any field. Nomination forms may be obtained from any Warren County Jaycee. Cox said winners will be selected by a group of distinguished citizens.

Collections Reported

Warren County's collections for the one and one-half percent sales tax amounted to \$43,588.77 during December 1985, according to a report by the N.C. Department of Revenue.

The local figure was slightly more than one-thousandth of the total collections in the state's 100 counties. The statewide total was \$43,476,824.66, the report showed.

Collections in other counties in the area for the last month of 1985 were: Franklin, \$91,873.44; Granville, \$136,606.64; Halifax, \$339,366.77; and Vance, \$251,185.50.



Warren County Agricultural Extension Service Advisory Council President Brad Carroll presides over the annual meeting, "People's Plan '87: A Plan to Help Warren County Grow," held Thursday evening at The Rafter's Steak and Seafood House. Citizens who make up the council and others who serve on extension program committees heard reports of accomplishments for 1985 from Mrs. Richard Holtzmann, home economics program vice chairman; Russell King, agriculture program and county extension chairman; Oscar (Butch) Meek, community and rural development program chairman; and Sharon Jefferson, 4-H representative.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Norlina Man Draws Active Prison Time

A Norlina man was sentenced to 12 years in prison yesterday in Warren County Superior Court after pleading guilty to second degree rape of a 74-year-old woman last June.

Thomas Earl Shearin was sentenced by Judge Hamilton Hobgood.

Shearin also pled guilty to robbery of the woman and was sentenced to three years in prison, to run concurrently with the rape sentence.

Judge Hobgood also disposed of the following cases:

Fred Baskett, guilty, breaking entering and larceny, sentenced to three years in prison, suspended with five years of probation on condition that the defendant remain gainfully employed, not violate the laws of North Carolina, pay court costs, pay \$240 restitution to Calvin Davis, and reimburse the state \$240 for his court-appointed attorney.

James Lewis Fields, guilty, misdemeanor larceny, sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for three years with probation (Continued on page 10)

Mrs. Jefferson Wins Honor

By GEORGE W. KOONCE
Extension Agent, 4-H

Mrs. Mary K. Jefferson, 4-H project leader of the Best Better 4-H Club of Warrenton for eight years, was the recipient of the James T. Fleming Enterprises, Inc. Outstanding 4-H Leader Award for 1985. The award committee tapped Mrs. Jefferson for her outstanding leadership in many areas.

The recipient received training and worked with six- to eight-year-old Partners in Learning in the Best Better 4-H Club. She and her daughter have shared with others throughout the county their expertise in putting together a winning 4-H demonstration.

Other 4-H contributions include serving on the finance committee for a fundraising basketball game which grossed over \$1,500 last March, participating with her husband, James, and daughter, Sharon, in a number of 4-H Sunday observances during the month of October, and serving as the medical adviser at all 4-H functions.

James T. Fleming, county commissioner and local businessman, presented the award personally. He expressed pleasure in making the presentation to such a deserving, unselfish and dedicated volunteer 4-H leader.



County Commissioner James T. Fleming is shown above presenting Mrs. Mary K. Jefferson, 4-H project leader of the Best Better 4-H Club, with the James T. Fleming Enterprises, Inc. Outstanding 4-H Leader Award for 1985. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

WCHS Trimester System Abolished By Educators

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

The Warren County Board of Education took action Monday night to abolish the trimester system of scheduling at Warren County High School, effective at the end of this school year, and then requested Superintendent Mike Williams to begin preparation of his recommendation for an alternative system.

For some time the trimester scheduling has been a subject of discussion among board members, and Williams urged them to either sanction the continued use of trimester scheduling on a long-term basis or do away with the system altogether.

"We must get behind the program and make it the best possible or get out of it," he said. "We seem to be working with the perception that the trimester is still on trial, and it cannot become the best it can be under those circumstances."

"I believe we can have a good high school with a more conventional system of scheduling; I believe we can have a better high school with the trimester," Williams, who recommended the system five years ago, said.

Board members nevertheless voted the system down on the motion of Yarbrough Williams, seconded by Richard Roddy. Chairman Henry Pitchford cast the only dissenting vote, noting that he would prefer to postpone action until a reliable evaluation of the trimester could be made.

At the Board's request, Williams had looked into the possibility of evaluation and he reported Monday night that all of the evaluators contacted had indicated a reputable evaluation would require six months to a year for completion.

Contacted by telephone on Tuesday, Williams said the board had done what he asked them to do upon the decision to implement the program five years ago. "I asked them to give the trimester system at least four years and they have done that. And I don't feel that the underpinning of the school has fallen. We can have a good school with more conventional scheduling."

In another matter Monday night, Superintendent Williams informed the board of the school system's selection as one of nine systems in the state to pilot the use of outside teacher evaluators in 1986-87. Details of the project would be given at a March 7 meeting, he said, but information to this point indicated that Warren, along with Vance and Jackson counties, would have all teachers, counselors and media specialists evaluated by specially trained personnel from outside the school system. Other systems selected for similar evaluation include Kinston City and Lenoir and Stanley counties for evaluation of principals and assistant principals and McDowell, Granville and Robeson counties for evaluation of all personnel.

The superintendent told the board he deemed it "to our advantage to enter the process." Evaluation processes, he said, appear to be moving toward outside involvement and he pointed out that though there is risk in being first, there is also an advantage to being part of the process early.

The board approved the employment of Mrs. Donna D. Robertson as bookkeeper at the Central Office, effective Feb. 10.

Overnight trips were approved for two student groups at Warren County High School. Five members of the Student Council, chaperoned by advisors Oney Venable and Edward Tunstall, will attend the Central District Student Council Convention at Western Alamance High School in Elon March 8-9. Approval was also given for 14 students in the Deca Club and two chaperones to attend a meeting in Winston-Salem March 13-15.

Duke Dean Speaker At Planned Rally

Dennis M. Campbell, dean and professor of theology at Duke University Divinity School, will deliver the sermon at the Raleigh District Lay Rally at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Warrenton Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m.

During the rally, which will be attended by United Methodists in Wake, Vance, Franklin and Warren counties, special music will be brought by a mass choir with members from Warren, Vance and Franklin counties under the direction of Wesley Memorial's organist and choir director, Howard Lee Stultz.

The Outstanding Lay Person from the three-county area will be named during the service, as will five outstanding Methodist seniors, including one from Warren County.

The rally is one of two to be held this year in the Raleigh District.

A native of Illinois, Dr. Campbell was educated at Duke and Yale universities. He has served as a local pastor and chaplain and is a noted lecturer, seminar leader, and author.



DR. CAMPBELL

An elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dr. Campbell is also a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry's executive committee.

A nursery will be provided during the service.

TV Violence Assailed

Joseph S. Lennon, of Warrenton, president of the Christian Action League of North Carolina, was among delegates last week from across the country at a meeting in Washington, D. C. of Christian Leaders for Responsible Television.

The group has undertaken a program to reduce incidents of "gratuitous sex, violence and profanity" on the three major television networks by at least 35 percent by fall 1986 and is also calling for an "immediate end to anti-Christian stereotyping found in network programming."

A resolution adopted expresses the hope that "men and women of good will who are a part of television—network officials, program producers and advertisers—will welcome the opportunity to join in the campaign."

The resolution also asserts that should the network officials not

voluntarily take steps to "stem the tide of filth that is now evident," the organization will "seek other means of combatting the forces of corruption that are engulfing us."

That action could include a well-organized boycott of the offending networks, according to the group's "statement of concern."

Lennon attended the meeting with Coy Privette, executive director of CAL.

Rate Drops

The unemployment rate in Warren County decreased during December, as it did in most counties and all metropolitan statistical areas in North Carolina, a report from the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina has indicated.

Bob Campbell, public information officer for the commission, noted, "We believe the decrease, which is not statistically significant, is due to seasonal factors."

Warren's unemployment rate for December was 6.1 percent, down from the November rate of 7.4 percent.

Neighboring counties followed suit: Franklin with 3.0 percent, down from 5.5 in November; Granville with 4.1 percent, down from 4.4; Halifax with 7.3, down from 7.5; and Vance with 6.1, down from 5.9.

The unadjusted U.S. employment rate for December was 6 percent and the state's seasonally unadjusted rate for the same period was 4.2 percent, according to the report.

Postal Burglaries Rise

Eighteen post offices in the Carolinas have been burglarized to date this year and the U.S. Postal Service is asking local citizens to assist in crime prevention at post offices.

"If your post office is burglarized, you, too, may become a burglar's victim as he may steal your Social Security retirement check, dividend check, paycheck or some other item of value addressed to you," Warrenton Postmaster Sherwood Knight said this week.

Anyone observing any unusual activity at Warren County post offices should notify law enforcement officials, Knight said.

Citizens are asked to be on the lookout for strangers loitering near a post office; window blinds closed that are usually open; absence of lights that are usually on; strange vehicles parked near a post office; and unlocked doors or broken windows.

"Don't investigate yourself," Knight cautioned, "but call the Warren County Sheriff's Department or your local police department. The U.S. Postal Service will pay up to \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of post office burglars."