

# The Warren Record

## Chemical Spill Is Reported At Site Near Wise

Between 20 and 30 gallons of an unknown chemical were spilled on U.S. 1 in front of Wise Truck stop Monday night.

Gary Robenolt, Warren County emergency management coordinator, said late yesterday afternoon that the Environmental Pollution Agency had gathered samples of the substance, described as "clear, thick and sticky," and identification was expected within 48 hours.

Traffic passing through the spill, which Robenolt said was originally about 10 yards long and five feet wide, spread the substance onto the shoulder of the road, onto the southbound ramp at I-85 and about 200 yards down U.S. 1.

The area was sanded Tuesday to prevent further spreading and to absorb the chemical, and a barricade was set up.

"We plan to scrape the road and store the substance in plastic pending its identification by EPA," Robenolt commented.

He said that a field evaluation by EPA indicated the substance could be glycerol or STP, a motor-oil additive.

The spill apparently occurred between 7 p.m. and midnight, but Robenolt said traffic at the truck stop was heavy Monday night and there was no information on how the spill occurred.

## Drug Bust, Stabbing Reported By Lawmen During Recent Days

A Ridgeway man was arrested Monday and charged with manufacture of marijuana after 36 plants of the illegal weed were found in his backyard.

Leon Williams, whose residence is on S.R. 1224, was released on his own recognizance for a court appearance April 30.

Chief Deputy B. D. Bolton, who investigated along with Vance County ABC Officer Bill Aiken, said the plants were small, but that their street value, when fully grown, could have been as much as \$15,000.

A Manson woman was also arrested this past weekend in connection with a stabbing Saturday night at Soul City Trailer Park.

According to reports filed by Deputy Thomas McCaffity, Hat-tie Mae Jordan, 40, reported that she "had some words" Mary Ann Hicks, 32, a visitor in her mobile home.

Ms. Jordan indicated that Ms. Hicks went into the kitchen, got a butcher knife, and began cutting her (Ms. Jordan) as she sat in a chair.

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Warren County Health Director Dennis Retzlaff observes as Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, chairperson of county commissioners, signs a proclamation designating this week as Public Health Week in Warren County. The observance calls attention to the health services available in the county and to the need for cooperation among the citizenry and various organizations to ensure the public's health. (Staff Photo by Kay Horner)

## Electric Boiler Switch Is Approved At School

By KAY HORNER  
News Editor

The Warren County Board of Education voted Monday night to replace an electric boiler at Warren County High School with an oil-fired boiler, a system Assistant Superintendent James Jordan told the board would pay for itself in one year.

The system, to be installed by the school maintenance staff under the supervision of the State Department of Public Instruction's Division of Plant Operations, costs \$40,000, but would result in an estimated savings of \$43,175 per year.

The state, which would like to use the project as a model for other school systems, has offered Warren County \$10,000 in funding for purchase of the new system.

"The Division of Plant Operations conducted an independent review and strongly recommended implementation of the new system as soon as possible," Jordan told the board.

Completion is anticipated this summer.

The school system's portion of the funding for the project will come from the already-budgeted current expense operating costs for energy.

The board also accepted a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant totaling \$34,531 for technical assistance studies and energy-saving projects at South Warren, Mariam Boyd, Northside and Vaughan schools.

A local match of \$3,838 was also approved.

Grant funding totalling \$31,743 has already been received for energy conservation measures at Mariam Boyd, Northside and Vaughan schools, for a local match of \$3,528. Savings from those measures are estimated by Jordan at \$18,760 a year.

Included in the measures are weatherstripping and installation of ceiling fans, oil burners and insulation.

"Normally, those grants require a 50 percent match," Jordan said. "But hardship clauses brought our match down."

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## Swift Precautions Taken

# Meningitis Case Found In Mariam Boyd School

By MARY C. HARRIS  
Staff Writer

The Warren County Health Department last week took precautions to prevent the possible spread of bacterial meningitis following diagnosis of the disease in a second-grader at Mariam Boyd Elementary School.

Upon notification of the diagnosis Wednesday afternoon, health officials immediately instituted procedures "to fulfill their legal mandate to protect the public's health," according to Dennis W. Retzlaff, Warren County health director. By Wednesday night most persons having had significant contact with the sick child had been offered a short course of antibiotic treatment to ward off any danger of contracting meningitis, Retzlaff reported.

It was a cooperative effort involving the staffs of the health department, the child's school and Warren Health Plan in addition to the parents of the sick child and the exposed persons and their parents, the health director emphasized. In addition, Alpheus (Doc) Jones, local pharmacist, was standing by to offer assistance.

"At no time was there acute danger to the health of anyone other than the affected child. The procedures instituted were designed to preclude even the remote possibility of infection of any other individual," Retzlaff added.

The child, who became ill at school on Monday, April 7, was listed in fair condition at Maria Parham Hospital in Henderson on Tuesday this week. Complaining of severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting and high fever, he was taken to the emergency room at the Henderson hospital on Monday evening last week. Henderson pediatrician Dr. C. F. Cathcart confirmed the meningitis diagnosis Wednesday afternoon and the health department was notified.

The onset of the illness is rapid, Retzlaff noted in an interview on

Friday, and there is no real knowledge of how it begins in isolated cases such as this one. The disease occurs most often in children under one year of age.

It is an infection of the meninges, or lining of the brain, and is potentially fatal. "With proper and rapid treatment, the prog-

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## Summer School Plans Win Board Approval

By KAY HORNER  
News Editor

The Warren County Board of Education gave its approval Monday night to plans for its first summer school session for students in third, sixth and eighth grades who fail to meet state promotion standards.

The session, mandated by the General Assembly, begins for students on Monday, June 23, and concludes on Thursday, July 24.

July 4 will be a holiday. Teachers will be employed three additional days, June 19, 20 and July 25.

The school day will begin at 8 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m. and breakfast and lunch will be served, at no cost to the student.

"This is our first experience with this kind of summer school," Schools Superintendent Michael F. Williams commented. "We're learning as we go."

Williams said two unknowns—the number of students attending and the number of teachers needed—will make it impossible to finalize plans until June 1.

However, Williams said the state controller's office estimates that as many as 171 of the county's 708 students in third, sixth and eighth grades could be eligible.

The county will receive \$52,081 in state funds to operate the school, to be held at Warren County High School.

Board members also heard an evaluation of the effect of the federal Gramm-Rudman Act on the government's Chapter I Reading Program.

Assistant Schools Superintendent James Jordan said the extent of reductions was still undetermined, but that board members could anticipate at least a five percent reduction in funding for the program locally.

Warren County's program, which previously served all grades, will focus next year on elementary and middle grades.

"However, we will not serve fewer students," Jordan commented, adding that approximately 600 would participate in the program.

In other business, the board: —Heard a report from Williams that 59 percent of the parents with children in county schools attended Parent-Teacher Conferences last month. "I think it's significant that we're getting that large a percentage out for conferences," Williams said.

—Was informed by Assistant Superintendent Rachael Ricks that six classes in the system, at Northside and South Warren schools, had more students than the state-mandated maximum of 29. Three of the infractions are in kindergarten classes at Northside, with 32, 30 and 31 students. The board voted to request a waiver of the rule from the state.

—Received a report from the State Board of Education on local salary supplements for school personnel in the 18 schools in Region 3 indicating that among counties providing supplements, Warren's is the lowest.

—Accepted the resignation of Margaret J. Pettaway, Primary Reading Program aide at Mariam Boyd Elementary School, effective April 8. Ms. Pettaway has accepted employment with the Warren County ABC Board.

—Accepted the resignation of Earl W. Bullock, regular classroom teacher at Hawkins Elementary School, effective at the end of this school year. Bullock is pursuing employment in the guidance field elsewhere.

—Approved the employment of Rebecca E. Solomon as Primary Reading Program aide at Mariam Boyd School, effective April 8.

—Approved a maternity leave of absence from April 14-June 18 for Doris D. Davis, reading teacher at North Warren School.

—Approved overnight trip requests for academically gifted students at Hawkins, North Warren and South Warren Schools to go to Richmond, Va. May 23-24; for North Warren Safety Patrol to go to Washington, D.C. May 9-10; and for members of the special interest class at John Graham Middle School to go to Asheville May 9-10.

—Rescinded 17 outdated school board policies, as recommended by Williams.



CROWE

## Speaker Named For Indian Festival

The 21st Annual Haliwa-Saponi Pow-Wow will be held Friday and Saturday, April 18 and 19, at the Haliwa Indian School at Old Bethlehem Crossroad near Hollister.

Richard "Geet" Crowe, a full-blooded Eastern Cherokee, born and reared in Cherokee, will be the guest speaker.

Crowe has worked for 13 years with the outdoor drama, "Unto These Hills," and appeared in a film about Davy Crockett and with Johnny Cash in "Trail of Tears."

Official ambassador of goodwill for the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Crowe speaks Cherokee fluently and is currently working on a Sequoyah Syllabary tape for those wishing to learn the Cherokee language.

A dance competition will be held, with the winner receiving \$2,000 in cash.

Dance contest registration will be held from 4 to 9 p.m. Friday and 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday.

Members of the public are welcome. There will be a general admission charge.

## Registration Set For Young Students

Kindergarten registration at the county's four elementary schools has been scheduled at varying times during the next two weeks.

The registration is open to every child in Warren County who is five years old on or before Oct. 16.

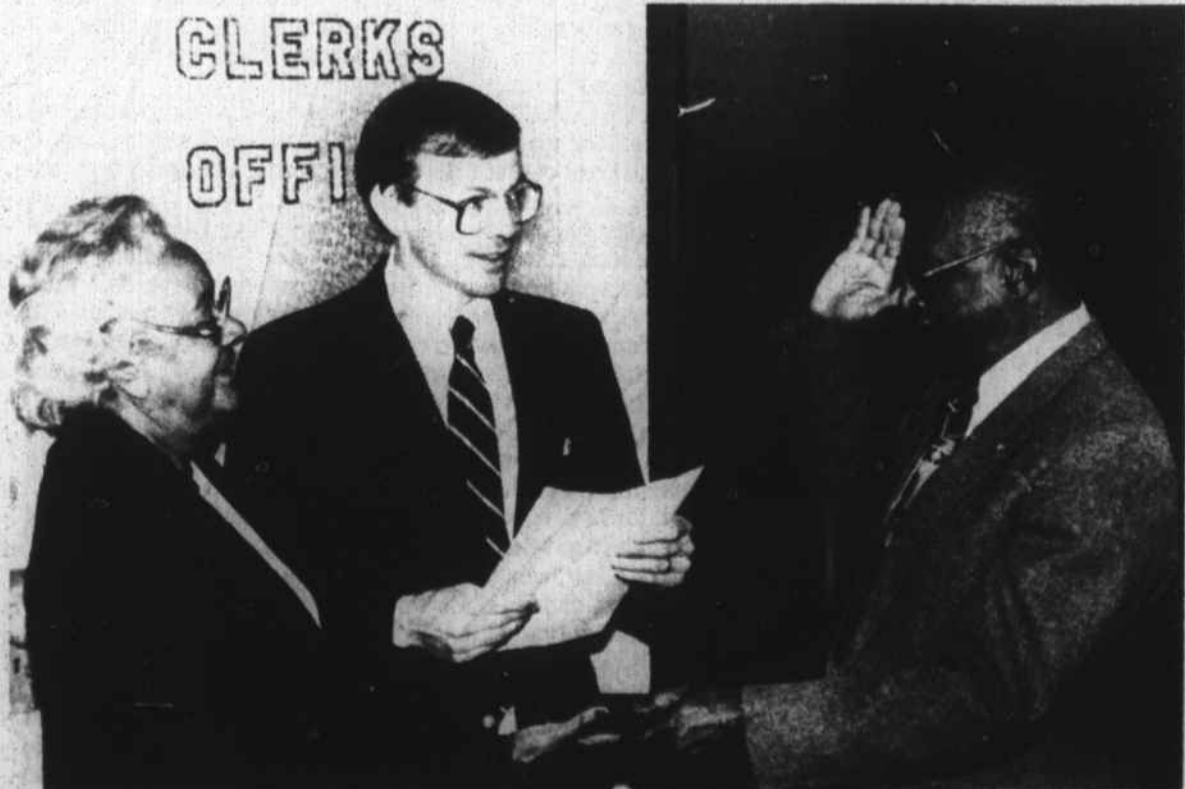
Northside Elementary School will hold a two-day registration, on Tuesday, April 22, for children with last names beginning with the letters A-H, and on Wednesday, April 23, for children with last names beginning with I-Z. Both registrations will be open from 3-6 p.m.

Monday, April 28, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., has been designated for kindergarten registration at South Warren Elementary School.

Mariam Boyd Elementary School will register children on Thursday, May 1, from 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Parents and guardians are requested to call the school at 257-3695 prior to May 1 to make an appointment to register their children.

The final registration is set for Friday, May 2, at Vaughan Elementary School. The time is 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Parents are asked to bring the child to be registered, along with his birth certificate and immunization record. A 30- to 45-minute screening program to evaluate hearing, speech and basic skills will be available for all registering children and results will be made available to parents at a later date.



John J. Hawkins, right, takes the oath of office upon his recent appointment by Gov. James Martin to the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners. Warren County Clerk of Court Richard E. Hunter

administers the oath as Mrs. Hawkins looks on. Hawkins' appointment was effective April 1 and will extend for a three-year term.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)