



This 1978 GMC tractor-trailer crashed into a bank at the intersection of U. S. 158 Bus. and U. S. 158 Byp. on Friday afternoon after the driver tried to avoid slamming into cars in his path. According to reports given to State Highway Patrolman N. D. Satterfield, Thomas Earl Clifton, the driver, lost his brakes as he attempted to prevent a collision with cars in his right-of-way. The vehicle, owned by Marchell Evans of Huss, Inc. o. Chase City, Va., crossed U. S. 158 business and hit a tall embankment. Clifton sustained no injuries, but

damages to the truck, a total loss, were estimated at about \$16,000. Trooper Satterfield remained on the scene for about three hours to assess the accident and route traffic around the site of the mishap. According to Satterfield, another truck was dispatched to transport the load of timber. Clifton will face charges of exceeding safe speed, improper brakes and improper tires when he appears in court on Aug. 5. (Photo by Brenda Clarke)

Enforcement Of Water Deadline Promised By Warrenton Council

By MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Warrenton residents can expect enforcement of the deadline for payment of water bills, the town's commissioners agreed during the regular board meeting Monday night in the town hall.

The statement which water and sewer customers receive each month states that payment is due by the 10th, with provision given for a five-day grace period. Service will be discontinued at the expiration of the grace period, the commissioners decided, and a charge of \$10 will be assessed for restoration of service.

Mayor Pro Tem Bobby Edmonds presided over the commissioners meeting in the absence of Mayor B. G. White, who is on vacation.

Police Commissioner A. A. Wood commended the work of the

police department, which is now manned by five officers. Wood said the policemen issued 38 citations during the past month and also wrote a number of tickets for parking violations. Efforts to enforce the two-hour parking limit and to require parking within the spaces provided have been increased, he said.

North Main Street resident Jack Groves was appointed to the Warrenton Board of Elections to replace Thomas Gaskill who resigned recently.

The mayor pro tem announced that:

—the total bill for resurfacing Front and Bragg streets, including work by S. T. Wooten and Company and the Department of Transportation was \$35,875.98;

—twenty-five trashcans have been ordered for the new wooden

racks donated by the Warrenton Merchants Association for Main Street;

—a survey is being conducted by Carolina Power and Light Company to assess the feasibility of installing underground utility lines on Main Street;

The Department of Transportation is studying traffic patterns at the intersection of Hall and Macon streets to determine the necessity for a traffic light.

Rock Throwing Damages Rigs

Windshields of at least three large vehicles have fallen victim to unidentified vandals, who, during an apparent mischief campaign have taken to throwing rocks at transfer trucks and a public conveyance.

The cycle began last week when a truck driver, asleep in his compartment on U. S. 158 Bypass, was awakened by a crash. A rock had been thrown through his windshield. Deputy Clarence Adcock is the investigating officer.

The second incident occurred Monday at about 10:30 p.m.

Steven Lucas, driver for the Diamond D Company of Texas, was traveling west on U. S. 158 Bus. when a car pulled off the shoulder of the highway and approached him. Lucas flicked his headlights as a signal to the driver of the approaching car to dim his lights.

The response to that request was unexpected. Rocks were (Continued on page 11)

Unidentified Body Discovered In Lake

An unidentified body was found Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. floating in Lake Gaston.

Warren County Sheriff's personnel were contacted Tuesday afternoon by officials from the Mecklenburg County, Va. department with queries about reports of missing persons here.

The body, a 5' 10" white male believed to be between the ages of 25 and 55, was found floating in Lake Gaston. Railroad tie plates were attached to the victim's neck and legs.

No identification has been made. The remains have been sent to the Medical Examiner in Mecklenburg County, Va. for analysis.

Warrenton Leaf Market To Open On August 11

The Warrenton Tobacco Market, along with others in the Old and Middle Belts, will open for the 1987 flue-cured tobacco sales season on Tuesday, Aug. 11, according to an announcement made last week by the U. S. Department of Agriculture Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee.

Exact sale dates for Warren County are expected to be announced within the next week.

According to the announcement, the Old and Middle Belts will be the last of the five belts to begin sales. Opening dates for the other belts are: Georgia-Florida Belt, July 28; South Carolina-Border North Carolina Belt, Aug. 4; and Eastern North Carolina Belt, Aug. 5.

The advisory committee had thought of delaying the opening dates by one week since dry weather had caused crops in Florida and Georgia to be running a week or more later than usual. Believing that the effect of recent rains had allowed the crops to catch up, however, openings have been scheduled for their usual times.

Propane Gas Disaster Prevented As Quick Response Is Seen Here

Disaster was prevented Sunday night as a result of cooperation among Warren County's emergency personnel, who sought to minimize the potential for danger that was caused by a massive cloud of propane gas.

The routine vigilance of Warrenton Police Officer Sara Solorz on the grounds of Hawkins Elementary School detected strong odor, "like a broken sewage line." Upon closer inspection, she found a 500-pound propane tank, unsupported and on its side, spewing propane gas over three feet into the air.

After blocking off the entrance to the school grounds, the Warren County Sheriff's office was alerted, along with Gary Robenolt, emergency management coordinator.

An unidentified vehicle, believed to be black or dark blue, is thought to have hit the tank, breaking the gas line that leads to the cafeteria.

According to county emergency officials, the subsequent ac-

Possible Warren Bond Issue Spurs Talk By 2 Boards

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

Recognizing the need to discuss the county's requirements for public facilities, including school buildings, and a plan for meeting those needs, members of the Warren County boards of education and county commissioners met Monday night in a joint session which preceded the regularly scheduled meeting of the board of education.

Discussions in recent months had hinted at the possibility of a bond issue to finance needed projects for the county, among them a new middle school and a new jail. According to County Commissioner Chairman Eva Clayton, Warren's needs have been estimated at a minimum of \$13-14 million.

"The bond issue is in a holding pattern for a number of reasons," County Manager Charles Worth said. "It is difficult to know what the General Assembly will do."

Worth's comment referred to state school construction bills which have been introduced in recent months. The apparent bill of choice, No. 1155, cleared the N. C. Senate, 36-7, on Friday. It was then returned to the House for consideration of an amendment and is expected to be enacted this week.

Bill 1155, if implemented, will create two funds valued at \$830 million. The first component, the Public School and Capital Needs Fund, will allocate to counties monies using an algorithm based on daily school enrollment. Worth reported that about \$959,000 could come to Warren County. The total value of the Public School Fund is estimated at \$645.6 million over a 10-year period.

The second component, the Critical School Facility Needs Fund, valued at \$185.9 million, will match with three dollars every dollar spent in local funds. "It is too early to tell who would qualify," Worth said. The money is to be allocated at the conclusion of a study on the critical needs of all schools in the state's 100 counties.

According to Chairman Clayton, the delay in "going to bond will not be detrimental. With the

two funds, our citizens will not have to bear the entire burden. We are looking toward May (rather than November), but joint efforts between both boards need to begin now."

Chairman Clayton indicated the county's space needs analysis had assumed the construction of a new middle school. Because new construction costs are prohibitive, the county's need for new buildings could be reduced if vacated school buildings were available for county use. More space is needed in the court house, but the feasibility of renovation is uncertain.

Regarding the jail, "there is no option," Chairman Clayton said. "We must build (a new jail) or the county will be held in contempt."

The timing of the recognition of Warren's accumulated needs is a problem. "This comes at a time when taxes are already high," Clayton said. According to County Manager Worth, financing all needs would require a tax rate of 21 cents.

"We are looking carefully and anxiously awaiting funds from the General Assembly," Clayton said.

(Continued on page 11)

Sawmill Operation Moved By Brothers

High Brothers sawmill operation, formerly located near Airlie on Route 4 south of Littleton, has relocated to a site off U.S. 158 between Vaughan and Macon.

Glenn High, who has been in the sawmill business with his brother, Charlie Adkins High, for more than three decades, said this week the move had enabled the operation to convert from diesel to electrical power and had provided land for future expansion.

The mill at its Airlie location, for many years served the now defunct Mitchell Lumber Company.

High Brothers currently employ 12 people.

The Highs reside in Triplet, Va.

Foes Of Virginia Pipeline Win Small Court Victory

North Carolina environmental advocates have won a small, but important, victory with a recent ruling made by a U. S. district court judge.

U. S. District Court Judge Earl Britt in Raleigh ruled last week

Warren Allocated

Construction Funds

Warren County has been allocated \$596,499 by the North Carolina Board of Transportation for secondary road construction, according to Ms. Sharon Hodges of the DOT public affairs office.

The allocations are distributed to counties based on a formula applied to the number of miles of unpaved state-maintained secondary roads in their boundaries. For Warren County, a tally of 187.54 unpaved miles was used.

Funding for the state's secondary system will not end with the \$54.8 million approved last week. After the General Assembly has approved DOT's budget, additional funds will be allocated by the board for fiscal year 1987-88.

The record-setting road fund that will be seen is due in part to the "Roads to the Future" program initiated by Governor Jim Martin and partially adopted by the legislature last year. The money is to be used for construction, safety improvements and stabilization work on the state's secondary roads.

that the Army Corps of Engineers must do more environmental research before the city of Virginia Beach, Va. can draw drinking water from Lake Gaston by constructing a pipeline.

The ruling came as a result of a suit filed in 1984 by the North Carolina Attorney General's Office and the Roanoke River Basin Association (RRBA) to stop the pipeline.

Virginia Beach had wanted to build an 85-mile pipeline from Lake Gaston to pump water into southeastern Virginia. A permit was issued by the Army Corps of Engineers. According to officials, the pump could drain up to 60 million gallons of Lake Gaston water per day by the year 2030.

According to Attorney General Lacy Thornburg, the ruling will mean at least a one-month delay for the pipeline. "For North Carolina, this is a win, at least for the time being," he said.

Thornburg believed the project would disturb the downstream spawning of striped bass and reduce the amount of water available to North Carolina in the future. He, along with RRBA, had requested a full-scale environmental impact statement.

Britt's ruling does not require a full-scale study, but it does instruct the Corps to investigate the effects of the pipeline on the population of striped bass and to ascertain the exact extent of Virginia Beach's water needs.