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Warren Escapee Escapes Again

Steven Calvin Forrest, 29, the man who escaped July 26 from the Warren County Jail, has defied confinement again by bolting from officials in the Morehead, Ky. courthouse.

Forrest, who was being held in Warren County on a warrant from Mecklenburg County, N.C., had been taken to court in Kentucky on a fugitive warrant drawn on charges in North Carolina.

Prisoners awaiting their hearing before the Morehead court are detained in a lock-up area in the courthouse. When guards opened Forrest's lock-up unit, he bolted away. There are no fences or barriers to prevent escape from the Morehead court facility.

Forrest had been recaptured in Kentucky Thursday after authorities investigating several burglaries traced him to a motel room.

Also taken into custody there was Kimberly Ann Bennett of Route 3, Littleton, said to be Forrest's girlfriend.

Forrest was originally apprehended July 24 by Warren Sheriff's Deputy Mac McCowan at Miss Bennett's home near Lake Gaston.

Warren County authorities will seek Forrest's return to face charges of attempted breaking and entering and felony possession of a stolen vehicle, as well as jail escape, according to Chief Deputy B. D. Bolton of the Sheriff's Department.

Forrest is believed by Warrenton police to have broken into R&H Service Center following his escape and stolen a 1984 Ford LTD belonging to Dr. Sam Massey of Warrenton. The vehicle, which has not been recovered, is thought to have been used in the getaway.

Warrenton Police Chief Freddie Robinson also wants to question Forrest in connection with several other break-ins in the town during the hours following Forrest's escape.

Forrest, who resides in Cabarrus County, escaped from the county jail here when Jailer Mack Williams opened Forrest's cell to release another prisoner and was overcome by Forrest.



FORREST

Murder Trial Is Slated

A Philadelphia man will face charges of armed robbery and murder here on Aug. 10 in Warren County Criminal Superior Court.

Judge Giles R. Clark of Elizabethtown will preside over the trial of Willie Eugene Jones, Jr., 23, who faces the charges in the murder of William Thomas "Litt" Davis, 78, a Henderson taxi driver. Jones has also been charged with stealing \$500 cash from Davis while in possession of a .22 caliber handgun. The defendant had been employed by Sounds of Sixtieth Street at a reported salary of \$145 per week.

Frank Ballance is the court-appointed lawyer for the trial.

Jones first appeared in court on June 24. He has been held in Central Prison in Raleigh by order of Judge D. B. Herring of Fayetteville since that date.

The body of the slain taxi driver was found Jan. 5 by a hunter down a path off S.R. 1620, known locally as Licksillet Road. The victim's taxicab was discovered later that day on Clark St. in Henderson.

SS Director Stepping Down

With feelings that the visions of change which brought him back from California on Jan. 12, 1987 to his home town cannot be realized, Charles Haywood, Warren County director of Social Services, has tendered his resignation, effective Aug. 31.

Haywood, son of Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Haywood, grew up here with the challenge to excel. "I was always taught that it was important to achieve, and to then use your achievements to help other people," he said.

"I would never have taken this position in any other place—only in Warren County, but when someone makes an investment, that person needs to be met halfway along the professional path," Haywood observed.

In his letter of resignation, the administrator cited as a contributing factor to his decision a lack of support for the department of social services. "Not only were the funds... (for)... some initial structural changes denied, (but) there was a denial of an opportunity for the... director... to provide consultation and recommendations regarding the... budget prior to... their decisions. (The) decision as well as the process of decision-making provide (Continued on page 8)

School Spending Given Approval

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

The full capital outlay budget of \$225,000, tabled at the July meeting of the Warren County Board of Education due to perceived lack of funds, was adopted in its entirety Monday night.

Superintendent Mike Williams reported that the perceived deficit of \$25,000 (the difference between the original budget request submitted by the board and the \$200,000 in funding allocated for 1987-88 by county commissioners) did not exist. Computation of the unobligated funds left over from the last fiscal year netted \$28,437.54 available to the board for capital outlay. The "found money" comes from increased sales tax revenues (\$14,000), earned interest (\$4,000), disposition of assets (\$1,000) and smaller than anticipated expenditures of funds earmarked for specific projects (\$9,000).

The board had thought it necessary to eliminate some items from the capital outlay budget and had planned to do so at the Monday night meeting. In view of the superintendent's report, by motion of Richard Roddy, seconded by Mrs. Cora Watson, the board agreed to fund the full package.

Line items which comprise the \$225,000 package are:

- A greenhouse at WCHS—\$12,000;
- Enclosed storage for commodity foods—\$2,000;
- Heating system repairs in the Vaughan cafeteria—\$7,000;
- Parking at Northside—\$10,000;
- Contracted roof repairs—\$27,000;
- Garage office/work space—\$14,000;
- Lawn/field care equipment storage at WCHS—\$13,500;
- Foods lab exhaust at WCHS—\$4,000;
- Computer system for five media centers—\$24,500;
- Furnishing/equipment allotment of \$17.50 per child—\$54,250;
- Media center A/V equipment—\$15,000;
- Miscellaneous furnishings and equipment—\$12,500;
- Summer youth employment materials—\$2,000;
- Maintenance two-way communications equipment—\$3,500;
- Maintenance pickup truck—\$8,750; and
- Motorized maintenance equipment—\$15,000.

The board also approved new report card formats as recommended by a committee of parents, teachers and administrators.

Mrs. Jennie Franklin, committee chairman, reported that "grades are, at best, our primary assessment of student achievement." Her committee had been directed in March by the board to study the matter of reporting stu-

formatted cards had been proposed for K through grade one, grades two through six, grades seven through eight, and grades nine through 12.

The academic section is consistent with those assessment areas prescribed by the Basic Education Plan. Space is provided for grades earned in each of the six reporting periods as well as a yearly average in each subject area. Space is also provided for written teacher comments.

To reduce the possibility of loss, periodic reports will be produced on pressure-sensitive paper for release to parents. A card stock permanent copy will be retained by the school.

Action on policy recommendations, among them scheduling of parent/teacher conferences and compensatory time for extended teacher work days, was delayed until the next meeting.

In personnel matters, the board:

-Accepted the resignations of: Ms. Ruby B. Hawley (teacher at Vaughan), James Noel Robertson (teacher at WCHS), Ms. Martha Sloan-Clontz (unit-wide teacher), Ms. Faye Y. Spence (teacher at South Warren), Ms. Sandra W. Norwood (teacher at Northside), Ms. Susan Fletcher (teacher at North Warren) and Ms. Deloris J. Somerville (teacher aide at Northside).

-Approved the transfer of: Ms. Victoria Epps (reading teacher at WCHS), Ms. Glenda Solomon (reading teacher to first grade teacher at South Warren) and Mrs. Clarice R. Greene (kindergarten teacher at Mariam Boyd to pre-kindergarten teacher at Northside).

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Roberta W. King was honored by county officials and co-workers on the occasion of her retirement after 39 years of service in the Warren County tax collector's office. A reception was held at the courthouse and Mrs. King was presented a locket by fellow employees in the tax office and a silver tray and small television by friends employed elsewhere in the county. Mrs. King is shown above with Commissioner George Shearin who presented

her a plaque on behalf of the Warren County Board of Commissioners. The plaque was given in recognition of her faithful service. Also shown above (left to right) are Mrs. King's husband, Robert; and A. P. Rodwell, retired county finance officer and tax collector, and Julian Farrar, retired county Social Services director, both of whom gave testimonial remarks.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Norlina Board Takes First Step Toward Town Manager System

Town of Norlina officials Monday night took an initial step towards creation of a town manager form of government.

Mayor E. L. (Bill) Perry appointed a three-man study commission to investigate the feasibility of hiring a full-time town manager. The action came during the regular August monthly meeting held at the Town Hall.

Named to the investigative commission were Commissioners Dwight Pearce,

Walter Newman and William Leonard. They were asked to provide recommendations concerning a new town manager which would include such things as educational requirements and whether the manager should be required to be a resident of Norlina.

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved the installation of a central air conditioning and heating system in the municipal building and police departments to be in-

stalled by J. B. Martin Plumbing and Heating of Warrenton at a cost of \$3,000. The board agreed to take the money from the general fund.

The board discussed the partially burned old Kelly house on High Street in Norlina and heard testimony that the property was a haven for rats and mosquitos and should be demolished. Attorney Jules Banzet was requested to check applicable state laws dealing with con- (Continued on page 8)

Hendricks Building Lots Eyed As Possible Detention Site

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
Staff Writer

The acquisition of space for county operations and the manner to utilize best that space were concerns addressed Monday morning by Warren County commissioners in their regular monthly meeting.

In follow-up to a report presented at the May 20 meeting of the board, Ron Webb and Richard Andrews, architects from The Architecture Group, a Rocky Mount firm, returned to present additional recommendations, with a price tag of about \$3,282,400, as a part of their ongoing county space analysis study. Not included in this amount were the cost of a new jail, major site development and professional fees.

Commissioners had learned in May that about 53,500 square feet of space was needed for county operations. About 29,329 square feet are used currently for county functions.

The Architecture Group had asked that the vacant lots located behind the Hendricks Building, which border on Front Street, be surveyed as a possible site for parking and/or detention facilities. All buildings located on the "courthouse block" were included in the project specifications, too.

Three bids, ranging from \$1,750 to \$3,165, had been received by County Manager Charles Worth. Upon his recommendation, the board approved the lowest bid and awarded the project to Bobbitt Surveying, P.A., a Henderson firm.

Commissioner George Shearin noted the pressing need to establish county lines for future development.

Architect Richard Andrews agreed, noting the lack of consistency in information available from the office of the register of deeds. "The properties were acquired at different times," he said.

Andrews presented for information a plan that would group all court/legal functions in the courthouse square. The plan would double the space available now to the register of deeds and clerk of court; provide a new court room and ancillary support space to the existing court room; house the county manager and industrial development functions in the current library; relocate the finance and tax collection offices in the courthouse annex; and, depending on available space, provide parking and/or detention facilities behind the courthouse in the vacant lots to be surveyed.

An artist's rendering of proposed construction showed expansion behind the courthouse and attachment of the library and annex to the new structure.

Chairman Eva Clayton complimented the architects on their thoroughness, but stressed the need for citizen input in a project of such magnitude. She also stated that the board needed

more clarification from the state regarding the placement and size of the jail, and from judges regarding specifications for a court room.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$1,636,800.

Three other sites were evaluated by the architects: the health department and Hawkins and John Graham school plants.

The plan to relocate the health department to the old Warren General Hospital building was seen as "well conceived" and implementation of the proposal was recommended.

Three Hawkins buildings were evaluated. The old high school building was recommended demolished. The elementary building, "though well-constructed," was not deemed suitable for "social service or other office applications." The gymnasium was seen as well constructed and "okay as a county recreational facility...with minimal roof work." The current use of the

senior center and other buildings were recommended continued.

If the survey of lots behind the courthouse reveals insufficient space to house a jail there, architects noted the availability of about seven and one-half acres of land behind the Hawkins gym and elementary school building. Concern was expressed about access problems to the site, security and traffic conflicts with other buildings there. If a jail is not constructed there, the architects suggested, a new social services building could be built at an estimated cost of \$566,000.

The John Graham site could house "social services, agricultural extension and a plethora of other activities," Architect Andrews said. Among those activities were emergency management, agriculture, soil conservation, and building inspection. The firm recommended demolishing the auditorium, the old shop and old home economics facility to (Continued on page 8)