

Home On The Range



A scene that could easily be found for sale at a stationery shop on a postcard with the theme "Home on the Range" can be seen right here

in our own backyard at the Grantham farm on R.P.R. 1325 near Macon.

(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

SBI Enters Marijuana Case

Jail And ABC Store Are Entered By Thieves After Pot, Alcohol

Amounts of intoxicating substances—one illegal the other not—have been stolen from Warren County locations and investigations of the crimes continue by area law enforcement personnel, while other crimes involving retrieval of a stolen vehicle found with \$4,000 in damages and drawing of warrants relating to a \$20,000 theft come closer to being solved.

Early Friday morning, a large brown plastic tarpaulin containing a quantity of unprocessed marijuana was removed illegally from the Warren County Jail. The weed was a part of the 280-pound collection of evidence that had been stored there since the \$3 million drug bust last September in Halifax and Warren counties pending trial of the four persons charged with trafficking the weed. The marijuana that had been confiscated in Halifax County had remained there as evidence for court proceedings.

According to Warren County Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton, the marijuana, which had been confiscated from a residence on Lake Gaston and has an estimated street value of about \$100 per ounce, had been stored in the old kitchen of the Warren County Jail. Thieves entered the

building by breaking the glass in the window of the room.

As the thieves hauled their stash through the broken window, the plastic tarpaulin was torn and a small quantity of the marijuana fell to the ground. The weed was also found on the window sill as well as on the ground where the unknown persons loaded the marijuana into the vehicle they were driving. Their vehicle is believed to have been parked next to a small brick wall adjacent to the jail on E. Macon Street.

Warren County Emergency Management Coordinator Gary Robenolt and Deputy R. A. Coleman discovered the theft following their arrival at the jail at 7:30 a.m.

According to Chief Deputy Bolton, SBI Agent Steve Jones of Raleigh assisted the department with the site investigation. At press time, the quantity of marijuana that had been stolen had not been revealed.

While county officials have busied themselves with the investigation of the missing marijuana, Town of Warrenton Police officials continue their investigation of this week's break-in at the Warrenton A.B.C. store on College Street. According to Police Chief Freddie Robinson, the unlawful entry and theft were

reported by an arriving employee Tuesday at 7:35 a.m. and is believed to have occurred after midnight the night before.

Entry was gained by breaking the glass in the front door of the building. The person or persons who entered the A.B.C. store removed from the shelves a quantity of beverages, primarily half-gallons of assorted liquors, brandies and cordials. The store cost, rather than public sale value, of the missing items has been estimated at \$392. There are no suspects.

In an unrelated case, last Thursday, May 12, warrants were drawn on two Rocky Mount men as the Warren County Sheriff Department's investigation

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Absentee Ballots Are Now Available

Absentee ballots for the upcoming second primary to be held in Warren County on May 31 are available now through May 24 at 5 p.m., Warren County Board of Elections Supervisor Ruby Jones announced this week.

According to Mrs. Jones, one-stop voting will begin at 9:30 a.m. on May 24 and will continue to be available until May 27 at 5 p.m. at the Board of Elections.

Schools Receive \$2 Million Award

New Facility Now Nearer

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

An allocation of \$2 million has been made to Warren County by the Commission on School Facility Needs, local officials learned Friday. Warren County's grant was a part of the \$119 million awarded to partially fund the critical school building needs of 29 North Carolina counties, including Franklin (\$2 million), Granville (\$2 million), Halifax (\$9 million), Northampton (\$3 million) and Vance (\$5.6 million).

"Getting this \$2 million award puts us in a position to be able to proceed with our building plan without major alterations to that plan," Warren County Superintendent Mike Williams said Monday. "Before Friday's announcement, everything was not as certain," he said.

Warren County's application to the Commission on School Facility Needs had been in the amount of \$3 million. Receipt of the entire amount would have resulted in full funding for the county's \$11.35 million school building project.

"While the absence of... (that) ...\$1 million does not jeopardize the project, it may retard the plan in the latter stages," the superintendent said.

Williams explained that first priority for construction would be Warren County's new middle school. "I would anticipate that the Board of Education would begin immediately to make plans now," he said. The superintendent said the board's first steps would likely be site acquisition, reaching a decision on the employment of a construction management service and selection of an architect.

"When we get to the latter part of the building plan, there are, even now, several possibilities that exist for additional funding," Williams said. The superintendent explained that funds would continue to "flow" for four more years from the School Facilities Finance Act of 1987. "In addition, the General Assembly has not yet revealed its plans for school facility needs," he said. "This process has only demonstrated once more that there are continuing needs for buildings in North Carolina's school systems," he concluded.

The Commission on School Facility Needs allocated funds on the basis of a formula of \$7,000 per child to place 90 percent of the students in a local school system in facilities suitable for long-range use. Williams noted that although 94 percent of the county's students, on paper, could be placed in such facilities—a fact that would have made Warren eligible for funds—the Commission had opted to set a minimum allocation of \$2 million to needy school systems. "That decision ensured that no needy schools would be passed over."

According to Williams, Warren County's \$2 million allocation will

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Leaving Post

Miss Lori Myrick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Myrick of Eaton Avenue, will be leaving her position as water clerk for the Town of Warrenton.

Miss Myrick served as clerk in the water department for two years. She gave no indication of the reason for her departure.



Warrenton's Cardinal Savings has become United Federal Savings and Loan Association of Rocky Mount. The branch office, which is located at 207 S. Main Street, will continue to operate and provide service to area residents. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

As Cardinal Savings Folds

New Financial Firm Appears On Scene

Warrenton's newest financial institution will retain the same old faces, Billy Faulkner, vice president for United Federal Savings and Loan Association of Rocky Mount, said Monday.

"The current staff will be retained and there are no changes expected in personnel," he said. "The staff has done a good job here and we see Warren County as a good area for growth."

The insolvent Cardinal Savings Bank in Newport was closed on Friday, making it the first savings and loan institution in the state to fail in over 50 years. Following that action, Cardinal's deposits of \$91 million were transferred to United Federal Savings and Loan Association in Rocky Mount.

United Federal paid \$2.8 million to claim ownership of Cardinal's deposits. Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC) officials arrived last Friday afternoon at Cardinal's headquarters to assume control. Four of Cardinal's five existing

branches—Warrenton, Morehead City, Spring Hope and Raleigh—opened their doors Monday morning as United Federal Savings institutions.

Letters were sent last week by FSLIC to all Cardinal account holders informing them of the change. Persons with accounts of less than \$100,000 were told their funds would be accessible to them on Monday. Persons with accounts valued in excess of \$100,000 were told their accounts might warrant review and that they would be contacted by the end of this week.

Connor Corporation, a now bankrupt mobile home manufacturer, in 1984 purchased Cardinal Savings, known formerly as Sun Savings and Loan Association, in Rocky Mount. Cardinal was soon made responsible for \$81 million in mobile home loans, most of which had been in high-default rural and oil-producing areas. Cardinal was also required to establish a \$10 million reserve for loan losses.

Lake Paving Contracts Are Approved By Board

The State Board of Transportation Friday approved a contract for resurfacing roads in the Lake Gaston area of Warren County, along with other road improvements in Vance and Franklin counties.

The contract, which covers Vance, Franklin and Warren

counties, was awarded to Nello Teer of Durham, at a total cost of \$454,428.

In Warren County, the contract calls for the resurfacing of four roads in the Lake Gaston area:

—a two-mile section of S. R. 1306 that extends from S.R. 1335 to the end of the state-maintained portion of the road;

—a 1.7 mile section of S. R. 1335 that extends from S. R. 1306 to the dead end;

—a 1.15 mile section of S. R. 1382 that extends from S. R. 1335 to the dead end; and

—a 3.06 mile section of S. R. 1344 from S. R. 1357 through the intersection of S. R. 1362.

Acting Head Is Appointed

Miss Emily Ballinger, home extension agent here for many years, will become acting director of the Warren County Extension Services this month when Extension Director Russell King begins a seven-month study leave.

King, who will begin his leave on May 23, said this week that C. T. Dean, retired extension director in Franklin County, will work with farmers three days a week beginning June 2.

"Mr. Dean will work with field crops, particularly tobacco," King said Monday. "He will have no administration duties."

King will be working on a post-graduate degree and will be away from his regular duties from May 23 until December 20.

Policewoman Stepping Down

Warrenton Police Officer Sara Solorz has tendered her resignation, effective May 31.

Officer Solorz joined the Warrenton Police force on March 13, 1987 following graduation from the Henderson Police Training Center.

No replacement has been selected to fill the vacant position, Warrenton Police Chief Freddie Robinson said.



Early last Friday morning, thieves shattered a window in the old kitchen of the Warren County Jail (shown left) and removed a quantity of marijuana being stored there as a part of the evidence from the \$3 million drug bust that occurred in Halifax and Warren counties last fall. The marijuana was taken from a quantity of 280 pounds of the weed that has an estimated street value of \$100 or more per ounce.



Some time after midnight on Monday of this week, unknown persons broke the glass in the front door of the Warrenton A.B.C. store (shown right). Arriving employees found a quantity of alcoholic beverages missing, the value of which had not been determined at press time.

(Photos by Brenda Clarke)