

# The Warren Record

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Warren County Sheriff Theodore Williams is shown with a few of the 20 marijuana plants that were confiscated last Wednesday off SR 1218 (Burchette's Chapel Road) in Nutbush Township. The plants, which ranged in height from three to six feet, were found by Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton and W. R. Currin of the Henderson-Vance Vice Unit.  
(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

## Power Outage Blamed On Uninvited Reptile

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

Reptilian shenanigans plunged most Warren County households into total darkness last Sunday night affecting about 4,500 Carolina Power and Light Co. customers and about 300 Halifax Electric Membership Corporation subscribers. Halifax Electric customers were affected because that company is a wholesale buyer of power from Carolina Power & Light Company.

The power outage, which lasted from about 11:40 p.m. Sunday until about 12:30 a.m. Monday, was caused by a snake that had invaded the CP&L substation on Airport Road.

According to James Parnell, CP&L manager for Warren County, the snake was found on top of the transformer there and had been "fried to a crisp."

"This is a very rare occurrence," Parnell said, "but when it happens, everyone is put in the dark." A safety system in place at the Airport Road substation "shorts out" all systems. According to Parnell, the safety system serves two purposes: it eliminates live power and may save lives in those instances in which

a human being comes in contact with the transformer; and it prevents fires that might result at the substation.

The snake was able to infiltrate the Airport Road substation because CP&L is involved in upgrading the site to provide additional capacity and load. To permit access to the site, the company's "snake guard"—a three-foot high piece of rubber that surrounds the chain link fence there—had been removed. "The guard is a proven aid in keeping snakes and other small animals from getting in to our equipment," Parnell explained. Work at the site is still in progress and all modifications are expected to be completed soon.

"We certainly appreciate our customers calling in to let us know about the power outage," Parnell said. The manager encouraged CP&L customers to continue to call 257-2411 to report power problems. "And, that's a 24-hour number," Parnell said. When the Warren County office is closed, calls are diverted, at no cost to the customer, to a Raleigh dispatch office. "Of course, our office opens when there is a problem in those instances in which

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## Delinquent Taxpayers Facing Collection Efforts

Delinquent Warren County property owners who have not paid their 1987 property taxes may be subject to action taken by the county to collect the \$167,004 that remained unpaid at the end of June.

By resolution, the Warren County Board of County Commissioners Monday morning empowered and directed the county's tax collector to "collect the taxes set forth in the tax records..."

According to the resolution, such taxes are declared to be a first lien upon all real property of the respective taxpayers" in Warren County.

Warren County's tax collector may sell the real or personal property of those persons who have not settled their accounts. The county official may also garnish wages or attach bank accounts.

The action was taken following receipt of an unaudited analysis of Warren County's tax levy that

was prepared at the close of the last fiscal year. The original levy was \$3,159,369. Discoveries, which include properties not listed in the original levy add \$235,347. When abatements (refunds, double-listings, etc.) totaling \$10,479 are deducted, the revised amount expected for 1987 becomes \$3,384,237.

By June 30, \$3,217,233 had been collected—a 95.06 percent collection rate. Warren County's collection rate for last year was 92 percent.

"The 95.06 percent collection rate is the best we've ever had," County Manager Charles Worth said.

Commissioner Chairman Eva Clayton described the rate as "exceptional" and noted that the Local Government Commission has attempted to encourage localities to strive for at least a 95 percent rate. "We've reached that goal," she said.

## Convict Caught, Another Escapee Is At Large

A Roxboro man remains at large—while his partner has been returned to his cell—following a Saturday morning escape by the pair from a Warren County prison facility.

Willie Nolan, 19, of Dorchester, Mass., was apprehended at 5:30 p.m. Saturday by personnel from the N.C. Department of Correction Unit 4270 and the Warren County Sheriff's Department, N.C. Correction Dept. Capt. Harry Carter said Monday.

According to Capt. Carter, Nolan, along with still-at-large Larry Newman, 26, of Roxboro,

had escaped by scaling the 10-foot perimeter fence that encloses the facility and bolting before they could be apprehended by the prison staff.

The two men had been out on the yard, after being assigned there for work and recreation, Capt. Carter said.

Following notification of the escape of the pair at 11:30 a.m., numerous sightings of the men were reported by residents of the Afton community.

Members of the N.C. Department of Correction, the Warren County Sheriff's Department and

the Warrenton Police Department were out in force, and dogs were also brought out for the search, Capt. Carter said.

Nolan was apprehended in the Afton community inside an out-house on the Jim Limer estate on RPR 1116. He has been returned to the N.C. Dept. of Correction to serve the balance of his original two-year sentence for a charge of assault on a female and to await a court appearance today (Wednesday) in Warren County Superior Court on a felony escape charge. Nolan's most recent escape is considered a felony

charge because he escaped about two months ago from a facility in Orange County, officials said.

Officers involved in the capture included N.C. Correction staff members—Sgt. Donald J. Perry, Capt. Harry Carter and Program Supervisor W. R. Clark—and Warren County Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton.

The search continues for Newman, Capt. Carter said. Law enforcement officers have been notified in areas in which the escapee has been known to have contacts, among them Durham,  
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## Three Sewer Connections Provided For Quick City

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

An amendment to Warren County's 1986 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that has been used to fund the Quick City Revitalization Project will provide sewer connections for three residences not included in the original project specifications, following action taken Monday morning by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners.

The amendment was approved, following a public hearing on the matter, during which Quick City residents appeared before the

board to voice their concern that the project be completed.

Although rerouting the sewer line to provide sewer service to the residences will cost \$5,035.70, the work can be completed within the limitations of the program budget.

The rerouting of the proposed line was made necessary by the refusal of an unidentified property owner to allow passage of the line as planned originally to cross personal property.

Once the three residences have been connected, 100 percent of the target area residences in the Quick City Revitalization Project will have both water and sewer service.

In other business, the board: —Resolved to request that the N.C. Department of Transportation (DOT) restore the road signs that have been removed from Soul City;

—Approved, subject to a report from the county manager following a meeting he will schedule

with the mayor of Middleburg to ascertain actual usage and appropriate rates, a request by the Town of Middleburg to purchase water. The water would be supplied from the Kerr Regional Water System through a transmission main located on US 1 and US 158 in Middleburg;

—Learned from the county manager that a certificate of incorporation for the Warren County Housing Authority approved in 1971 was still valid and established itself as ex-officio members of a governing body until a Housing Authority board could be established;

—Appointed Commissioner George Shearin to the Kerr Area Transportation Authority;

—Rescheduled its capital development work session until Aug. 31; and

—Corrected the term of service of Mrs. Vivian Paynter on the Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee to reflect one year rather than three years.



WILLIAMS

## Superintendent Is Given Top Award In State

Warren County Superintendent of Schools Michael F. Williams has received the state's prestigious Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Communications. The award was made by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPPRA) at last week's statewide Superintendent's Conference held in Charlotte. Barry Gaskins, past president of NCSPPRA, made the presentation.

"The Superintendent's Award for Excellence in School Communications is designed to recognize a superintendent who supports and is involved in an effective program of internal and external communications and who is committed to building confidence in public schools," Gaskins said.

Gaskins pointed out that it was significant that while the award was made for the past several years to superintendents of some of the largest systems in the state, this year it goes to one of the state's smallest systems.

"Quoting the judges for the awards program, Williams began his tenure as superintendent of  
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## House Severely Struck

Mrs. Hattie Holtzmann's house located on S. R. 1224 (Ridgeway-Drewry Road) was the victim of lightning that occurred during a severe thunderstorm on Tuesday evening, July 26.

According to Mrs. Holtzmann, she was sitting in the bedroom about 9 p.m. waiting for the storm to blow over when she heard a loud noise from the next room. When she looked into the room, she saw fire around the window frame.

Mrs. Holtzmann said that she tried to call her nephew for help but her phone line was dead. She also lost all current in the house.

Damages, according to Mrs. Holtzmann, were tremendous. Soot was knocked from the chimney into her living room, and the connection on her oil stove was destroyed. She also indicated that her hot water heater will have to be replaced, as well as her television set and sheetrock and brick located on the west side of her house. The only room in the house that was not damaged in any way was the room that Mrs. Holtzmann had been sitting in.

Insurance representatives had made no estimate of the damages as of last Friday, but Mrs. Holtzmann indicated that it would take a while before things were back to normal.

## Pig Cookoff Is Also Scheduled

## Plans Under Way For Annual Firemen's Day

Plans are under way for the Sixth Annual Warren County Firemen's Day to be held in Warrenton on Saturday, September 10, according to Walter Gardner, president of the Warren County Firemen's Association this week.

Plans include a parade, and field events for participating fire departments. "We will again this year have the Warrenton Merchants Association as a co-sponsor of the festivities," reported Gardner. "They will be hosting the Second Annual Pig Cookoff which will provide the barbecue for lunch and dinner meals."

In addition to the event held in the past, the Merchants Association is planning to provide gospel groups on the Courthouse Square to perform prior to the parade as

well as events for the children during the day.

Persons wishing to participate in the Pig Cookoff should contact Jimmy Harris, this year's chairman. Advance tickets for the lunch and dinner will be going on sale Thursday, August 4 and may be obtained from any Warren County fireman or from a member of the Warrenton Merchants Association. "We ask and encourage everyone to buy their tickets early so that the proper amount of food can be prepared," Gardner added.

About 30 fire departments from central North Carolina and south side Virginia have participated in the Firemen's Day in the past. It has become quite a drawing card to Warrenton as people are able to view many types of fire ap-

paratus, taste some of Warren County's finest cooking, and view some of North Carolina's most dedicated firemen as they take time off to demonstrate some of their fire fighting techniques while having fun and fellowship.

The parade will highlight antique as well as some of the most modern fire fighting equipment. The parade will travel through downtown Warrenton from South Main Street to the Warren County Fairgrounds, beginning at 11 a.m.

Lunch will be served, with take-out plates also available. During the afternoon, the firemen will hold field events which have become a special time for spectators to cheer on their local or favorite fire department. Also during the afternoon,

the fire apparatus will be on display for everyone to view while it is being judged to determine which is the best in nine different categories.

The afternoon will culminate with the awarding of the Best All-Around Fire Department after points from the days events and judgments are tallied. Gardner stated, "I feel sure that the Norlina Fire Department, last year's winner, will certainly be coming into the day hoping to make it two years in a row, but they will have to put on a good showing because there are already some departments that want that trophy mighty bad."

See Back-To-School  
Section This Week