



Various forms of transportation used by area farmers to bring their golden leaf crop to market are shown above. The Warrenton Tobacco Market opened last Wednesday on a highly pleasant note

for area farmers with prices much higher than last year. For an account of the first three days' sales, see Page 8B. (Photos by Phyllis H. King and Dianne T. Rodwell)

Transfers Questioned

Suit Is Filed Here Over Board Policy

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Approval has been granted for three requests for transfer of students to schools outside their district of residence, but the resolution a fourth request will be hashed out in court, if the suit filed last month against the Warren County Board of Education by an area parent remains on the docket.

Although the board of education met with its attorney in executive session beginning at 11 p.m. Monday, as the last agenda item for the first regularly scheduled meeting since filing of the complaint on July 25, no board action has been taken.

According to documents filed by Harvey Jackson, the Henderson attorney retained by Frank Gustkey, Sr., the suit seeks a judgment to reverse the administrative procedures used by the Warren County Board of Education with regard to requests for student transfers. Board policy—adopted on Sept. 10, 1979 and revised June 8, 1981 and Nov. 9, 1988—requires that area students attend the school in Warren County to which students in a particular residential area have been assigned. Requests for exceptions to the policy require documentation of residence and are submitted to a special review committee of the board, which recommends action to be taken by the full body.

The suit against the Warren County Board of Education has been filed by Gustkey following a request made in January of this year that his son be permitted to enroll at Vance Senior High School to pursue junior- and senior-year studies in electronics that are not available to Warren County students.

The Vance County Board of Education has indicated its willingness to permit the transfer.

According to the documents filed, the Gustkeys received neither written notice of denial of their request nor an opportunity to appear before the full board. The suit also alleges that the board has condoned enrollment of other Warren County students in school systems outside their residential area—specifically Durham—by failing to take action on infractions that are known to them.

The requests that received unqualified board approval Monday

night will permit the son of Tim Root-Ferguson to transfer from Vance to Warren County, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Burke to enroll in Warren rather than Halifax County. Conditional approval, granted pending the receipt by the superintendent of a certified lease, will permit the daughter of Mrs. Ann S. Meador to attend school in Vance County.

Inspector Quits Post

Warren County Building Inspector and Zoning Administrator Chet Forrester has accepted a position in Kitty Hawk and will assume his new responsibilities there on Sept. 1.

"After being here for 13 years, it's really hard to leave Warrenton," Forrester said.

The Rocky Mount native has served as inspector in Warren County since January of 1985, resuming a tenure begun here in 1975 until Forrester left in 1982.

Forrester will be building inspector for the Town of Kitty Hawk. His wife, Patricia, has also accepted a position with Barrier Island Station, a condominium development in Kitty Hawk.

New Discount Shoe Store To Open In Warrenton

Wessley's Discount Shoe Store, a family shoe store with merchandise for men, women and children, opened its doors for business in Warrenton on Friday, Aug. 12. The new business is located at 110 S. Main Street.

According to proprietors the Rev. Donald J. Wess and his wife, Barbara, the business has been opened in response to a recognized need in Warrenton for a shoe store. "We are attempting to meet that need and do a service for our citizens," the Rev. Mr. Wess said.

In describing the store, the Rev. Mr. Wess called the establishment a "store for everyone." Available for purchase will be dress and sport shoes for men, women and children, as well as work shoes and specialized shoes for those who "stand on their feet

Board Sets

School Goal

The Warren County Board of Education Monday night endorsed a system-wide effort to improve student attendance.

The total percentage of attendance in the Warren County school system for the last academic year was 93.75 percent. According to Superintendent Michael Williams, one percent of the student population represents more than an entire classroom of students.

Attendance percentages by school for 1987-88 was as follows: Mariam Boyd (95.2), Northside (95.3), South Warren (95.2), Vaughan (95.7), North Warren (96.2), Hawkins (94.8), Norlina (94.9), John Graham (92.9) and Warren County High School (90.9).

As a part of the statewide plan, the importance of regular student attendance will be stressed through publications and other media, the superintendent said.

In addition, monthly attendance trophies will be awarded to the school with the best percentage of attendance for the month and to the school that has demonstrated the greatest improvement in percentage of attendance during the reporting period.

According to Superintendent Williams, individual schools and teachers will supplement the newly-implemented systemwide efforts. "The overall emphasis is to have as many of our students as possible in schools each day of the school's year," Williams said.

all day, such as nurses," Mrs. Wess said.

"The majority of the stock will be high-quality, new, yet reasonable, shoes," the Rev. Mr. Wess said. He also said a small portion of the shoes offered for sale would be previously worn—a way of responding to a need for economical, yet serviceable, shoes.

A grand opening gala will be held in the next two to three weeks. In the interim, Wessley's Discount Shoe Store will be open for business Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. The traditional Wednesday afternoon closing schedule will be observed.

The Rev. Mr. Wess is pastor at Coley Springs Baptist Church. His wife is a teacher at Hawkins Elementary School.

Pupils Will Return To Schools Monday

Meal Prices Are Raised

The first day of school for students in Warren County will be August 22, according to Superintendent Mike Williams.

School will begin for students this year with a full day of classes. Doors will open at the regular time (approximately 8:15 a.m.) on the 22nd and students will be officially enrolled on that day. The projected number of students in Warren County schools this year is 2,978.

Williams noted that the bus routes are essentially the same this year as last and urged parents to have their children out early for the first few days of school. "There could be transportation problems at the beginning of school, and if so, parents should contact their child's principal," said Williams.

New families in the area should report to Warren County Schools' Central Office immediately for school assignments, rather than wait until the 22nd, Williams added.

Parents of children who will be five years old by October 16 and who have not registered their children for kindergarten should report to the appropriate school now to complete registration, he noted.

The fee schedule for the new year is as follows:

—Grades K-6—instructional supplies, \$3.00; regular school insurance, \$7.50; 24-hour insurance, \$40.

—Grades 7-8—instructional supplies, \$3.00; vocational fees, \$3; band fees, \$5; regular school insurance, \$7.50; 24-hour insurance, \$40.

—Grades 9-12—instructional supplies, \$3.00; vocational fees, \$6 per year; band fees, \$5; choral fees, \$6; art fees, \$6; science fees, \$3; locker fees, \$3; regular school insurance, \$7.50; 24-hour insurance, \$40.

Instructional supply fees are required of all students in all grades.

Students returning to Warren County's public schools for the 1988-89 academic year will find a five-cent across-the-board increase in the cost of breakfast and lunch.

The Warren County Board of Education Monday night approved the following prices for breakfast: student full-price—50 cents and student reduced-price—25 cents.

Lunch prices for 1988-89 will be: K-6 student full-price—85 cents and grades 7-12 student full-price—95 cents.

Adults will find a five-cent increase in the price of breakfast (65 cents to 75 cents), but the cost of lunch will remain at \$1.50.

The board also agreed to continue the operation of the National School Lunch Program in all nine schools, along with the National School Breakfast Program in eight of the county's schools. Warren County High School, for whom the level of maturity of its students causes them to be less dependent upon the service provided in the lower grades by the county, will be excluded from the federally-funded breakfast program.

The two programs provide reimbursement for students who are unable to pay the full cost of their meals in Warren County schools. Without participation in the programs, all students would be required to pay the full adult price for meals eaten in school cafeterias.



Spectators, law enforcement officers and emergency personnel are gathered about the wreckage of a car involved in Warren County's first highway fatality of the year Saturday evening. A sheet covers the body of Herman Alston, who died instantly when he was thrown from the vehicle. Alston was alone when the wreck occurred 1 1/2 miles south of Warrenton on Road 1640.

First Road Death Of Year

Driver Fatally Hurt When Tossed From Car

Warren County recorded its first traffic fatality of 1988 Saturday night in a single-car wreck near Inez, and the investigating officer indicated that the death might have been avoided if the victim had been wearing a seat belt.

The victim, 54-year-old Herman Alston of Rt. 3, Warrenton, was killed when he was thrown from his car as it bounced off a tree alongside State Road 1640 (Inez-Bethlehem Road) in the Rabbit Bottom section.

Trooper A.M. Bennett said Alston lost control of his car while travelling west on the road "at a high rate of speed." Bennett said the victim entered a curve and ran onto the right shoulder of the road. Alston's car came back onto the roadway and started to slide sideways. Alston apparently cut his wheels to stop the skid and the vehicle shot off the right side of the highway, striking a large pine tree at a speed estimated at 60 miles per hour.

The trooper said the car ricocheted off the tree and struck a second tree with its top.

Alston was thrown from the vehicle at the point of impact with the second tree. The car twisted through the air and landed on its tires, facing south on the westbound shoulder.

Trooper Bennett said he measured 421 feet of skid marks before the car struck the first tree.

"If he had been wearing a seat belt, he might not have been killed," Bennett said. Alston's car, a 1980 Toyota, was declared a total loss. Some \$300 damage was caused to a state highway sign and right-of-way marker in the 6:40 p.m. accident.

A spokesman at the Highway Patrol's district headquarters in Henderson said the death was the first on the roads this year in Warren County.

Trooper Bennett was assisted by Patrol Sgt. D. L. Hawkins and Warren and Halifax county sheriff's deputies. The Warren County Ambulance Service and the Inez Fire Department sent units to the scene, and a Norlina Fire Department truck carrying a tool with metal-cutting jaws was turned back en route, Bennett said.

Police Station Fight Reported In Norlina

A Winston-Salem man has been housed since Saturday in the Warren County Jail, following a skirmish in Norlina, and awaits extradition back to Virginia on felony charges there.

According to Norlina Police Chief Charles Galantis, Lonnie Gene Brady, 28, last Saturday night drove to the Norlina Police Department with a complaint that he was being followed.

Brady, who moved recently to Winston-Salem, alleged that he had been followed from Richmond, Va. to Norlina by a private citizen.

As Lt. James Champion was on duty, the unidentified pursuer appeared and a fight ensued. Chief Galantis and Warren County Deputy W. T. Winston responded to a call for assistance that had been made.

Brady sustained lacerations in the fracas and was transported by the Warren County Emergency Medical Service (EMS), accompanied by Deputy Winston, to Maria Parham Hospital, where he was treated and released.

Brady's pursuer, a Richmond, Va. resident, told Norlina officials that he had followed Brady's 1982 Pontiac across state lines. The man had been the victim of several break-ins since July and had acted on reports that the Brady vehicle contained items removed during the crimes. According to Chief Galantis, the Brady vehicle contained clothing and other items.

When Brady's identifying information was entered into the statewide crime network system, several felony warrants on charges of automobile larceny and breaking and entering, filed earlier by the Henrico County, Va. Police Department, were found to be outstanding.

Brady had been driving a 1982 Pontiac J-2000 when he arrived in Norlina. According to Chief Galantis, the car was found to be a vehicle from the state of Georgia and was without official plates. Brady had affixed a cardboard tag to the rear window of the vehicle, but the numbers on the makeshift tag did not match those recorded in the computer information system.