

## Schools Open In Warren On Smooth Note

The first day of classes for Warren County students was "without real difficulty" in all nine schools, according to Mike Williams, superintendent.

"I was in every school during the day on Monday. It was a good opening day throughout the county," Williams said.

"Along with many other employees, I am grateful for the sudden change in weather," Williams said. The continuance of the extreme temperatures experienced in the county recently would have resulted in uncomfortable classrooms for teachers and students in several schools which have no air conditioning, or perhaps the shortening of the first school days, according to Williams.

The count for the opening day was 2,818, with the projected number of students for this year being 2,994. Thirty-four students were absent in grades K-6; 12 students were absent in grades seven and eight; and 130 students were absent in grades nine through 12. Several more students are expected to enroll during the next 10 days.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of immediate and good attendance," said Williams. "First and foremost, students need each day of instruction and deprive themselves of valuable education hours when they are absent. Secondly, the attendance during the first 10 days dictates our teacher allotment for the remainder of the year."

Large numbers of students reporting for school after the first 10 days will mean crowded classrooms for the rest of the year, according to Williams.

"We are asking that parents see that their children are in school every day of the year, unless serious illness intervenes," Williams said.

Williams reported that there is no shortage of bus drivers in the county, unlike the situations in some other systems in the state. "Last spring, when it was mandated that bus drivers be 18 years old or older, we proceeded with measures to identify and secure enough drivers over 18 years of age to have in place for the 1988-89 school year," Williams said.

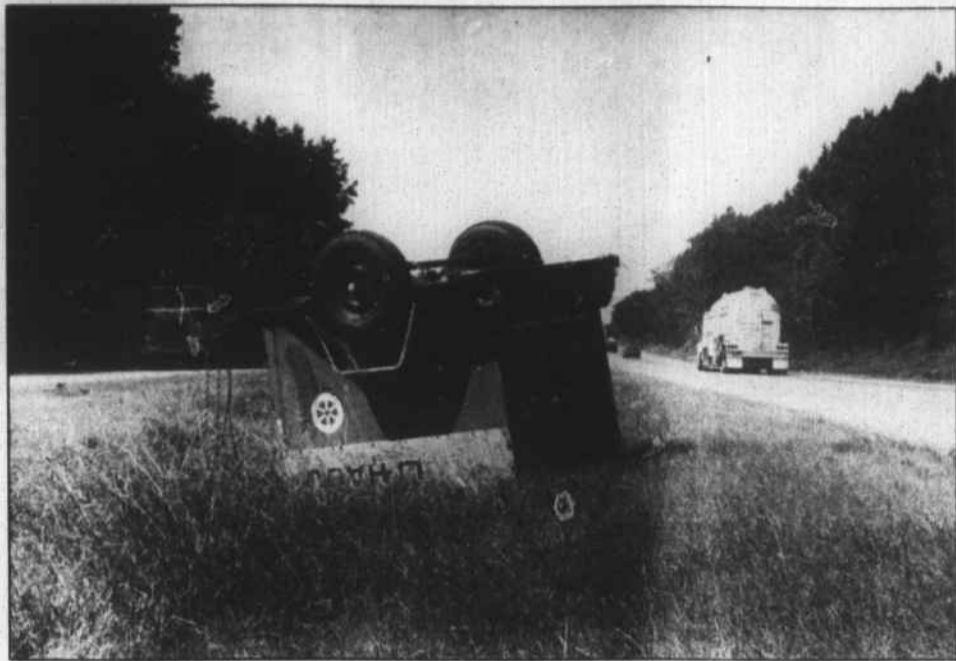
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## Recent Rule Changes Will Make Tree Planting Less Difficult

Planting trees under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will become easier thanks to recent rule changes according to Dan Campeau, Warren County Extension agent.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture will increase tree planting by allowing fields which are eroding at two times the allowable erosion rate to now qualify for tree planting under CRP. The old rules required that fields erode at three times the

## A Moving Experience



Perhaps the folks who had rented this U-HAUL vehicle to transport their personal belongings to points outside of the state decided that "nothing could be finer than to stay in Carolina." The

overturned unit was spotted recently between Middleburg and Henderson in Vance County, on Interstate 85.

(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

## Tenant Loses Space

## Objections Raised Here Over Procedures Of EDC

A Warren County contractor who contends his son is being put out of business by actions of the Warren County Economic Development Commission said this week he will take his protest to the Board of County Commissioners.

John Thomas Harris, a resident of Rt. 3, Warrenton, said that Economic Development Commission activities associated with an effort to lure a New Jersey-based industry to Warren County "are ethically wrong."

Harris charged that in order to find suitable quarters for the unnamed industry, local development officials enticed a Warren County business to evict his son, Tommy, who for the past four years has operated Harris Enterprises, a heavy equipment repair operation on Norlina Road just north of the Warrenton town limits.

Harris said that he felt no animosity toward his son's

former landlords, Sears and Smitty Bugg, who do business as Eastern Motor Lines, but that he felt that county development representatives should not have "displaced one small locally grown industry in order to attract a larger New Jersey industry."

The contractor said that when his son went into business "I guaranteed the first year of his lease with Eastern Motor Lines. Since then he has operated on a month-to-month basis."

Recently, Harris charged, local development officials approached the Bugg brothers offering the prospect of greatly enhanced rent if they made the building occupied by younger Harris available for a new industry. "Additionally, I understand that they (EDC officials) have sought a \$30,000 state grant which would be used to improve the Bugg-owned facility which my son has been asked to leave," Harris said.

Harris said his son had been unable to find comparable space in this section of Warren County, and as a result was being forced out of business.

"Even though his operation was small—he only hired five or six persons during peak times—I don't think it is fair to use his tax dollars, and mine, to put him out of business in favor of someone who hasn't until this day paid a dime of Warren County taxes," Harris said.

Harris said a public auction is planned Aug. 30 in order to liquidate the equipment which his son must move from the premises.



This 5,400-square foot building on the Norlina Road will be the scene of an auction sale later this month when Harris Enterprises sells its equipment. The business owner, Tommy Harris, has lost his month-to-month lease on the building, located next to Eastern Motor Lines, which his parents and landlords say will be the site of a new industry. (Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

## Low-Interest Loan Sought For Industry

Submission, on behalf of an interested, but unnamed industry, of an application for a low-interest loan from the N.C. Department of Commerce was given the "go-ahead" Wednesday night by the Warren County Board of County Commissioners.

The action was taken following the board's return to open session, after discussion of the matter in closed executive session.

According to Mrs. Cathy Wilson, Warren County economic development director, the two-percent loan would be made available to the company through the Industrial Building Renovation Fund.

Companies receiving the N.C. Department of Commerce loans become eligible for \$1,200 for every job created over a three-year period, she said.

If the application is approved, the unnamed company could receive about \$36,000 to be used to renovate an existing building in Warren County.

## New Officers Begin Duties

At the annual worship service of the Warren County Cooperative Ministries held on August 7 at Wesley Memorial Church in Warrenton, the newly elected officers of the organization took their positions of leadership.

Those officers are the Rev. Bob Lowman, Jr., chairman, who is pastor of Norlina Baptist Church; the Rev. Ken Hall, vice chairman, who is pastor of the Macon Charge of the United Methodist Church; the Rev. Tim Russell, secretary, who is pastor of Jerusalem and Zion Methodist churches; and the Rev. Dennis Sheppard, treasurer, who is pastor of the Norlina Methodist Church.

At that service, appreciation was expressed to the two officers going out of office this year. They are Francis Alston, who served as treasurer since the organization's founding; and Ms. Winifred Thompson, who served as secretary this past year.

Warren County Cooperative Ministries continues its young tradition of caring for the needs of the people in Warren County. The next quarterly meeting of the organization will be on Monday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. The location will be the Cook's Chapel Baptist Church. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

## Citizens Nix Fire District In Light Vote

By THURLETTA M. BROWN  
News Editor

Defeated soundly by a 90 to 58 margin against the proposed taxed fire district for the Churchill-Five Forks community, the referendum held at the fire station there failed to produce the desired results, leaving in its wake a department of disappointed firemen who must once again face financial uncertainty as they attempt to protect the property of their constituents.

From the minute the polls were opened at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday morning registered voters in the Churchill-Five Forks fire district filed in to make their wishes known for the establishment of a taxed fire district.

Although volunteers from the Churchill-Five Forks Fire Department had explained the purpose of the proposed taxed district and had canvassed the citizens they serve, their arguments for taxation were insufficient grounds for the creation of the taxed entity, the tally showed.

According to Mrs. Ruby Wilson, Warren County Board of Elections supervisor, about 180-200 persons were eligible to vote on the issue. As a safeguard, 250 paper ballots had been prepared for the election presided over by

Mrs. Nina Goode, registrar, and two judges, Miss Carolyn Aycock and Mrs. Michelle Townes.

At 7:30 a.m., Fire Chief John E. Mason characterized the turnout as "pretty good" and said the department was "not involved at all," instead, the voters were allowed to "make up their own minds."

By law, citizens who agree to taxation for fire protection may be assessed a rate not exceeding 15 cents per \$100.

"Many persons thought that was what the rate would be," Chief Mason said. "The actual rate would have been determined by the budget submitted by the Churchill-Five Forks Fire Department to the County, less other sources of income, such as the proceeds of our annual Bass Tournament and funds from our ladies' auxiliary," he explained.

For purposes of illustration, Chief Mason gave the following example: From a hypothetical departmental budget of \$30,000, \$5,000 in tournament proceeds might be subtracted. From that remaining \$10,000, a county allocation of \$10,000 might be subtracted. The \$15,000 shortfall would have been the probable

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## Demonstration Project Seen As Aid To Housing Needs

"An NRCD housing demonstration project would help to meet some of the housing needs in Warren County," Mrs. Cathy Wilson, economic development director, said Wednesday night in a public hearing that had been scheduled to receive citizens' comments about the proposal.

Speaking to the county officials who were present—no citizens attended the hearing—Mrs. Wilson said the demonstration project would increase the availability of rental units and make housing more accessible to low- and middle-income Warren County residents.

Because details of the housing demonstration project must still be "fine tuned," a full proposal will be available for inspection at the second public hearing, which will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m.

The application for the housing demonstration project must be received by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development by Sept. 1. If approved, the project is expected to provide, in addition to residential units, housing counseling for loan assistance.

A special meeting of the county commissioners will also be held on Aug. 31 following the second public hearing to incorporate citizens' comments and to decide the fate of the NRCD application.

In other business, the board: —Tabled a decision on a request for release from penalty fees by residents served recently by Quality Pier Builders;

—Set for Sept. 21 at 6:45 p.m. a public hearing for a request to amend the county's zoning map for a proposed 4.5-acre tract in Nutbush Township to permit the development of a recreational vehicle park;

—Asked that CDBG rehabilitation projects be re-bid;

—Reappointed Charles Worth, James Wilkerson and Ms. Vilma J. Gatling to the Kerr-Tar

Private Industry Council (PIC) and tabled appointments for the two remaining vacancies;

Approved the purchase of two compact vehicles in the Sept. 1 Federal Auto Auction to replace two automobiles in use by the Department of Social Services; and

Discussed issues relating to Warren County that were agenda items at the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference held Aug. 5-9 in Orange County, Calif.

## Jewelry, Guns Taken In Theft

Jewelry, airline tickets, electronic equipment and assorted firearms have been reported missing by a Warren County woman, Sheriff Theodore Williams said Monday.

Mrs. Anne Harris Fleming, on Aug. 20, reported unauthorized entry into her Rt. 1, Manson residence by a person or persons who had broken a basement window.

When Chief Deputy Bobby Dean Bolton arrived at the scene, a report was filed listing the alleged theft of the following firearms: a Belgium-Browning automatic shotgun, a Belgium-Browning 20-gauge shotgun, a Browning Lightning 12-gauge shotgun, two Belgium-Browning automatic-five shotguns and a .9mm Belgium-Browning pistol. No value was reported for the missing weapons.

Also reported missing were two airline tickets valued at \$816 and a Realistic VCR valued at \$300.

On the following day, Deputy Harold Seaman was summoned to the residence and recorded the disappearance of \$1,880 worth of jewelry. Among the jewelry items reported missing was a 14-inch gold pendant with a five-point diamond, valued at \$500.

## Theft Of Lumber Reported At Arcola

Would-be builders or fencers of construction materials have made off with lumber valued at in excess of \$1,300 from the supply stored at Arcola Lumber Company, Sheriff Theodore Williams reported Monday.

On Aug. 18, an Arcola Lumber Company employee reported the theft of materials from a shed located at the business.

Reported missing were 120 four-foot-by-eight-foot sheets of one-half-inch plywood and 240 eight-foot two-by-fours, all valued at \$1,375.

There are two suspects in the case under investigation by Deputy Harold Seaman, Sheriff Williams said.