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Cows were found Tuesday morning looking for grazing land near this abandoned house located off U. S. 158 Business between Macon and Warrenton. Monday night's unseasonal snowfall left nearly one

inch of the white stuff throughout the county.
(Staff Photo by Dianne T. Rodwell)

For Town Employees

Dismay Is Expressed Over Insurance Hike

Notification by Blue Cross that the town's employee health insurance may be increased by as much as 42 percent had Warrenton commissioners buzzing Monday night, and even had one commissioner offering a motion that the town board go on record in favor of socialized medicine.

Upon completion of a report by Town Administrator V. R. Vaughan showing that individual and family coverage provided by Blue Cross might be substantial-

ly increased later this year, Commissioner Eddie Clayton called on fellow commissioners "to go on record that we work toward socialized medicine." Clayton's motion died for lack of a second, but served to indicate the mood of the board members who expressed strong displeasure with prospects of an insurance hike.

Board members noted that coverage for Norlina town employees is running less than for Warrenton under a policy secured through the North Carolina League of Municipalities. However, comparable provisions of the policies were not available Monday night.

Town officials indicated that they would seek quotes for similar coverage to be provided by other insurance companies prior to the May 20 deadline for accepting the increase by Blue Cross.

Town fathers also agreed to have the town administrator set up a meeting with Byrd's Food Stores to see if a proposal by the Warrenton Rural Fire Department to have three fire hydrants placed at the Hall's Spring Shopping Center where Byrd's is planning an addition to its Warrenton store can be agreed upon.

Fire Chief Kenny Clayton and Capt. Walter Gardner appeared before the board to unveil a plan to provide adequate fire protec-

Druggist Named

To Another Term

Warrenton pharmacist Palmer W. (Woody) King, Jr. was elected to his third straight one-year term as president of the Warrenton Merchants Association on Thursday night.

Directors of the business group chose King to head the organization, and elected Helen West as vice president. The two operate neighboring stores on Warrenton's Main Street.

Meeting in the Economic Development Commission's offices here, directors chose Sarah Kearney Watkins as treasurer and Cathy Wilson as secretary.

Two vacancies on the board of directors are expected to be filled as soon as nominees can be contacted, King said this week.



The foliage and flowers of this Warren County dogwood tree bear the effects of this week's unusual snowfall. Warming temperatures Tuesday morning removed all but a trace of the white blanket

before noon, but freezing temperatures were expected to follow in the wake of the snowfall.
(Staff Photo by Phyllis H. King)

Toll-Free Telephone Service Is Goal Here

Warrenton commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to call on Carolina Telephone to provide toll-free telephone service for residents of Lake Gaston wishing to place calls on the Warrenton exchange.

The call to provide such service was accompanied by an informal plea from board members that other local governmental, business and civic groups join the effort to eliminate the toll for lake phone customers.

The resolution seeking toll-free service was passed after Mayor B. G. White reported to commissioners that Carolina Telephone officials, meeting with local officials in a recent open forum held at The Rafter's, indicated that "there is a good possibility that people on the lake could be put on the Warrenton exchange."

Many residents of Lake Gaston are now served by the Littleton exchange, and Warrenton commissioners indicated Monday night that this causes problems for lake residents wanting to transact business by telephone with businesses and government agencies located in the county seat.

The motion to seek toll-free service from Lake Gaston to Warrenton was made by commissioner W. A. Miles, seconded by commissioner Phil Daniel, and received the support of all commissioners who were at the session. Commissioners Bobby Edmonds and Charles White were not present.

tion to the shopping center by installing over \$6,000 worth of hydrants, fittings and pipe at the same time that Byrd's undertakes its 5,000-square-foot expansion for a deli and bakery.

The firemen indicated that Byrd's officials had been contacted about the proposal and were "in favor of trying to put a water supply on the lot."

Although two hydrants served by six-inch mains are adjacent to the Byrd's property, firemen told the board that sufficient water to fight a major fire at the shopping center was not now available.

The firemen said they had met with Macon Robertson of the town's water department in arriving at the cost figures, and that Robertson said that the town crew could probably put the new pipe and hydrants in place in three working days.

In a report from police commissioner A. A. Wood, board members learned that during March police made 14 arrests, issued four tickets for speeding, and one for a stoplight violation, wrote 36 parking tickets, investigated 13 accidents and in 36 instances opened vehicles for motorists who had locked themselves out of their cars.

The town administrator informed board members that the League of Municipalities was having a series of regional meetings around the state this month. He reported that the nearest meeting will be held in Durham on April 13. Cost of attending the session will be \$13 per board member. No one indicated Monday night that he would be able to attend.

Mayor B. G. White reported that the measurement of 41 streets in Warrenton containing 7.4 miles of paving are eligible for Power Bill funding had been completed. He said the town, by taking in portions of streets not previously included, had qualified for an additional eight-tenths of a mile of state funds for road maintenance.

Visits In Raleigh

Mrs. Howard Oakley spent several days last week in Raleigh visiting with her sister, Mrs. Jesse Teague. Another sister, Mrs. Katherine Livermore, of Chapel Hill joined them.

School Budget Awaits Tuning By Board Today

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Warren County's Board of Education will convene a special "numbers crunching" session today (Wednesday) at 4:30 p.m. to begin the task of fine-tuning its request for local funds for the next academic year. The board will also begin its review, in executive session, of the 27 applications received for the post of county superintendent of schools.

The proposed request before the board for 1989-90 totals \$1,953,720 and is composed of three broad elements: continuation of existing services and programs (\$1,610,796); expansion items as recommended by the central office leadership team and school personnel (\$155,424); and capital outlay expenditures (\$187,500).

Among the proposed expansion items are: a full-time director of Indian education to enhance drop-out prevention and scholastic efforts (\$25,000), an increase in the local supplements for teachers and principals (\$18,112), installation of security systems at Northside, Mariam Boyd and Vaughan (\$15,000), purchase of materials needed to implement the BEP program in art in grades seven through 12 (\$15,000); and participation in an area teacher-education consortium (\$3,000).

The main elements of the proposed capital outlay budget are: acquisition/replacement of furnishings/equipment, including a portion of that to be used in the new high school addition and middle school (\$147,500), purchase of maintenance vehicles (\$25,000) and renovations to the heating system at Vaughan (\$15,000).

After today's fine-tuning session, the request for local funding will be submitted to County Manager Charles Worth for incorporation into the budget proposal to be presented to the Warren County Board of County Commissioners for the next fiscal year.

The board also received a report on drop-out prevention efforts in the county. Since last summer, about 25 students in grades eight through 12 have dropped out, "about one-half the number seen at this time last year," Mrs. Junell Blaylock told the board. WCHS principal James Wilkerson also stated that the percentage for the first six months of this academic year was two percent. "That didn't just happen overnight...our people are putting forth a great effort," he said. Drop-out rates reported by Mrs. Blaylock beginning in 1984-85 were: '84-'85 (8.1), '85-'86 (7.7), '86-'87 (7.4) and '87-'88 (5.4).

In other business, the board:
• Adopted a resolution declaring April 24-28 as Smoke-Free Awareness Week in Warren County Schools, in support of the nationwide aim to ensure that the "Class of 2000" is comprised of non-smokers;

• Heard a report on the After-School Program in operation at Vaughan and plans for expansion next year;

• Approved a proposed Chapter I ESSIA program for the next academic year;

• Received from WCHS principal James Wilkerson, on behalf of all of the county's principals, a request that four additional traits be considered in the selection of a new superintendent of schools;

• Heard a report on one vacancy—a kindergarten teacher at Northside;

• Resolved to send congratulatory letters to students and staff who had received various honors and awards; and

• Received from John Hawkins an invitation to participate in the dedicatory ceremony to be held May 5 at 5 p.m. to unveil the historical marker erected in honor of U.S. Congressman John Adam Hyman, a Warren County native and the first black senator with roots in North Carolina.

The board also met in executive session on personnel and litigation matters, but no action was taken after reconvening in open session.

Registration By Mail Seen In House Bill

Legislation designed to boost voter registration has been introduced in the form of three bills presented in the 1989 session of the North Carolina General Assembly.

According to Mrs. Ruby Jones, Warren County Board of Elections supervisor, copies of the three bills have been received and are under review. The mailing had been accompanied by a request from Alex Brock, State Board of Elections director, that the proposals receive careful study.

House Bill 343 would allow those voters who, due to age or disability, are unable to go to the polls to receive absentee ballots for a full calendar year after submitting only one application. Currently, separate applications must be filed.

According to Mrs. Jones, adoption of that process would be similar to a service which exists already for military personnel. "That would make it a lot better for the voter," she said.

House Bill 547 would expand the number of registrations by permitting the process to occur by mail, or through certain agencies, among them driver's license offices, whose applications could double as voter registration forms.

Mrs. Jones said that enactment of House Bill 547 might result in instances of fraud, especially if there were no way of verification of identity. She also wondered if use of the driver's license application forms might result in duplications.

House Bill 548 would allow voter registrations on election day.

"In larger counties where computerization is the norm, election-day registration might work,"
(Continued on page 8B)

Warrenton Man Facing Charges

A Warren County man has been scheduled to appear on April 26 in Warren County District Court, following investigations by the Warrenton Police Department of a March 25 crime at a Warrenton residence.

Calvin Kearney, 19, of Rt. 2, Warrenton, has been charged with felony-grade breaking and/or entering and larceny and misdemeanor-grade breaking and/or entering, following investigations of reports of crimes at the 315 Ridgeway Street residence of Mr. and Mrs. Claude T. Bowers. Reported missing after the alleged March 25 break-in was \$14. The suspect's misdemeanor charge relates to a March 27 break-in at the Bowers residence.

Following his arrest by Warrenton Police Sgt. George Alston, Kearney was placed under an unsecured \$500 bond.