

# The Warren Record

Volume 94 25¢ Per Copy Warrenton, County Of Warren, North Carolina Wednesday, May 24, 1989 Number 21

## Workers May Transfer To Warren As Franklin Plant Stops Operations

A number of Louisburg-area residents may begin a daily commute to two Warren County apparel plants, if they take advantage of the opportunity for transfer offered by their current employer.

Louisburg Sportswear Company, Franklin County's second largest manufacturer of apparel, will close on June 30. The 79 employees there have been given the option of transferring to larger plants, two of which are located in Warren County.

According to Melvin Reekes, plant manager for Soul City's Central Sportswear, seven of the displaced employees have begun work already at the Warren County plant. Those persons transferred about three weeks ago, when the Louisburg plant closed its cutting facility.

Central Sportswear employs about 115 persons. Since its opening in 1981, the plant has operated as a cutting facility. About 12,000 dozen collars in various styles are produced weekly. Those collars are "ready to sew and put together," Reekes said. The collars are sent to other facilities for finishing, among them LaCrosse (Va.) Sportswear, Creedmoor Sportswear Company and Warrenton's Carolina Sportswear.

According to Ernie Harrison, Carolina Sportswear plant manager, the 200-215 employees at the Warrenton plant produce about 4,500 dozen finished boys' and mens' knit shirts each week. The finished shirts are shipped either to customers or to large distribution centers.

Both Warren County plants run one shift, with employees there

working from 7:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.

As is the case with the Louisburg company, both Carolina Sportswear and Central Sportswear are owned by the New Jersey-based Megastar Apparel Group. Megastar was known formerly as Campus Sportswear Company.

According to Richard L. Hunt, industrial relations director based in South Carolina, Megastar has announced a reorganization of its structure and legal notices have appeared in area newspapers. "This change in corporate structure will have no effect upon the operations and management of these facilities," he said.

Hunt said that Megastar's North Carolina manufacturing plants, Carolina Sportswear Company, Central Sportswear and Creedmoor Sportswear Company—which were wholly owned subsidiaries of Interco, Inc., have been merged into Interco.

"Such internal restructuring is required by law to be listed in local newspaper's legal sections (and) these notices have already appeared in the Raleigh News and Observer. Hunt said the notices will appear on two additional occasions to satisfy Interco's legal obligations.

With that corporate restructuring has come the transfer of operations done for 25 years at (Continued on page 7B)



MISS LIGHT

MISS BALLANCE

## Top 2 Grad Jates Named At Warren County High

Angela Denise Ballance and Terry Ann Light have been named valedictorian and salutatorian of the class of 1989, according to Principal James T. Wilkerson.

Miss Ballance, the daughter of Senator Frank W. Ballance and attorney Bernadine S. Ballance of Warrenton, plans to attend Hampton University in Hampton, Va. She will work toward a degree in math and science in the pre-med curriculum, as she plans to pursue a career in medicine.

While at WCHS, Miss Ballance has served as captain of the varsity basketball team, president of the French Club and vice president of the senior class. She is also a member of the student council, the Debate Club, FBLA and the National Honor Society. She is a National Scholarship Program finalist and the recipient of the National Honor Society Scholarship.

Outside of school, Angela serves as Sunday School secretary at Greenwood Baptist Church and is also a member of the NAACP.

Miss Light, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert J. Light, Jr. of Littleton, plans to attend East Carolina University in Greenville to pursue a degree in media/journalism or political science.

Presently, Miss Light serves as reporter for the National Honor Society and co-editor of the yearbook. She is also a member of the chorus and the choral ensemble. She was voted best all around by fellow seniors.

## Zoning Change Plea Is Heard

A decision on whether to amend the county's official zoning map was postponed until the Warren County Commissioners' regular monthly meeting following a public hearing last Wednesday night.

A public hearing was held Wednesday, May 17, at 6:45 p.m. to receive public input on a request to change the zoning of a five-acre tract of land located off SR 1356 in River Township from residential to light industrial.

The request was submitted by William T. Leavitt and his wife Mrs. Rosalie Leavitt.

Leavitt restores 1964-1972 Chevrolet Chevelles and El Caminos. He takes the wrecked or inoperable automobiles, restores them and then sells them in national automobile markets.

Currently, Leavitt has an estimated 50 cars stored near his residence. At the public hearing, several lake residents were present to find out more information about Leavitt's business and his request. Several residents expressed their concern that if his zoning request is approved, the commissioners would be setting a precedent for spot zoning throughout the Lake Gaston area.

In addition, many environment-related questions were asked concerning Leavitt's disposal methods of oils and fluids from the cars.

Although the commissioners have not voted on the matter, the Planning Board sent a letter to the commissioners stating their favorable recommendation of Leavitt's request. This recommendation was made contingent upon the construction of a fence around the entire perimeter of the five-acre tract which would stand at least five feet tall. Also, Leavitt would have to relocate the cars from their existing location at Leavitt's residence to the five-acre tract.

## Flying Object Mystifies Residents Strange Device Seen Hovering Above Warrenton

By DIANE DAVIS Staff Writer

"I got out of my truck and heard this funny fuss. I looked up and saw this diamond shaped object. It had lights on each point . . . I knew it wasn't an airplane or a helicopter. I didn't know what it could be."

That was a portion of the description given by Warrenton resident Paul Myrick who, before telling his story, claimed "I'm not crazy."

And he isn't. What he saw was real, but what he saw was not a UFO, or at least it can't be considered one anymore. What was unidentifiable yesterday is identifiable today.

Several reports by Warren County citizens throughout the latter part of last week sent many searching for some answers—and logical ones at that. Understandably, many refused to let their names be used.

"Don't get me wrong," said Mrs. Billie Vern Proctor, who lives on Eaton Avenue next to Myrick. "I don't believe in little green men." Even so, she continued to explain her version of what had happened.

"There was a gosh awful sound like you wouldn't believe," she said. "It was so loud you could hear it in the house over the television."

Mrs. Proctor said her son had been visiting and was leaving. She explained that it is difficult to back a vehicle out of her driveway, and many of the drivers who try usually end up steering their vehicles in the ditch.

"I thought maybe my son had backed into the ditch, but when I asked him, he said it wasn't him."

Along with Myrick, Mrs. Proctor went outside and saw the object, but said it was too dark to tell what it was. The noise it made, she said, "was comparable to what a plane in distress sounds like."

Myrick said what got his attention was that the object was moving so close to the ground at a slow speed. It was moving so slowly, Myrick said, that "it amazed me."

Myrick said when he went inside to tell his wife and daughter, "they fell out on the floor laughing."

But an hour or so later, Myrick's story was confirmed when he called his other daughter. He said his grandchildren had reported seeing a similar object behind their home near the Warrenton Golf Club.

However, Jay Barber, a public affairs officer at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, cleared up all the controversy concerning the Warren County sightings after hearing about the incident.

Barber indicated that several Solid Shield Exercises had taken place last week, some of which were planned in "areas planes don't normally go." Some of the aircraft had planned exercises in and around Warren County, he said.

"What they saw was a C-130 or a C-141, which are cargo airplanes. They typically do travel very slowly and have lights on each wing and in the rear. Generally, though, they are not loud, unless they get close to the ground. But no, you're not seeing UFOs."

## County Funds Will Complete Quick City Work

By THURLETTA M. BROWN News Editor

The county may spend up to \$25,000 to complete work left undone by ARC Construction and to take care of other unfinished work on other Quick City houses, following action taken last week by the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

The \$25,000 allocation in county funds was made in open session last Wednesday evening, after the board had discussed, in closed executive session, the problems caused by ARC Construction and the remaining work on homes in the Quick City Revitalization Project target area.

ARC is located at 100 Sunnybrook Road in Raleigh. Its president, Leon Allgood, is a Warren County native. The firm had been contracted for work on nine of the Quick City homes slated for rehabilitation.

According to County Manager Charles Worth, ARC has been paid about \$95,000 for work—much of which remains undone.

Neither the state Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning and Mechanical Board; the State Department of Insurance, nor the state Licensing Board for General and Residential Contractors has records of license numbers for ARC. The two license num-

bers submitted to the county in correspondence from ARC in March of 1987 cannot be verified.

Following site visits performed on Jan. 19 and Feb. 3 by NCRD staff, serious problems were found in two of the homes. Since that time, many change orders have been approved by the board of commissioners to correct problems at those, as well as other Quick City homes.

But prior to those site visits, county officials had attempted unsuccessfully to get ARC to return to complete their work.

The entire project had been funded with a \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant re-

## New School Chief Chosen

By THURLETTA M. BROWN News Editor

Dr. John William Thompson—assistant superintendent for secondary education in the Guilford County School System since 1986—has been named Warren County superintendent of schools.

Late Tuesday night, on motion of Dr. Doris Terry-Williams, seconded by Henry Pitchford, the Warren County Board of Education voted unanimously to award the four-year contract. Dr. Thompson is expected to assume his duties here on July 1.

"We went after proven success," Chairman Yarrowburgh Williams said, adding that the board had been particularly impressed by programs already implemented by Thompson during his career.

From 1981 until 1986, Dr. Thompson was principal of Durham High School. During that tenure, several problems were identified, among them poor teacher morale, a high drop-out rate, low test scores. Under his leadership, the Durham High School drop-out rate decreased by three percent, attendance increased by five percent, state competency test scores improved by 16 points and SAT scores increased by 50 points.

During his current assistant superintendency, Dr. Thompson's accomplishments include the establishment of a teacher recruitment program and a drug prevention program for students in grades grades K-12.

Dr. Thompson holds a Ph.D. in educational administration in organizational development and institutional studies received from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has also earned an Ed.S. in administration from Appalachian State University and holds a master of



DR. THOMPSON

science degree in educational administration from at A&T State University. A recipient of a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Livingstone College, he has also completed an IBM Executive Training Program.

Warren County's new superintendent of schools holds memberships in national and state professional organizations. He has been a presenter at numerous state and national conferences and has served on a visiting committee of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, an accrediting body.

Dr. Thompson is married to the former Yvonne Spikes, assistant principal at Jamestown Middle School.

"We're very lucky to have been able to get him," Chairman Williams said. "This is the biggest and best decision this board has ever made."

## Honor Student Wins 'Miss Teen' Contest

Miss Kennedine Bishop, a senior honor student at Warren County High School, won the title "Miss Teen 1989" at the Fourth Miss Teen Pageant sponsored on May 20 in the WCHS theatre by the Warrenton Chapter of Les Gemmes, Inc.

Along with her title, Miss Bishop received a \$500 shopping spree, 10 percent of her earnings from the pageant, as well as other gifts and prizes.

Following graduation, Miss Bishop plans to attend N. C. A&T State University in Greensboro and major in accounting. She is the daughter of Ms. Bessie W. Bishop of Warrenton and Andrew Bishop of Rich Square.

Clara Powell and Dana Edwards were first- and second-place runners-up, respectively, in the pageant.

Other pageant contestants were: Trina Alston, Pamela Edgerton, Kendra Henderson, Tonya Prince and LaTosha



MISS BISHOP

Terry. Each contestant received 10 percent of her earnings from the pageant, as well as other gifts and prizes. The contestants also participated in workshops in poise/appropriate dress, make-up and aerobics.

This year's pageant theme, "A Crown Of Jewels," focused on local amateur and professional talent. Samuel Irving and Juone Brown, master and mistress of ceremonies, held the audience captive, as they presented a dramatic duo of vignettes, serenades and flourishes. Both Irving and Brown are graduates of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where they majored in speech communication.

Miss Sharon Boyd, a WCHS junior, provided the musical background for the program. Other participants included Toiya Crump, Fritzie Cathcart, Kara Henderson, Valerie Ballance and the "Miss Teen" contestants.

ceived from the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. Federal funds of \$100,000 were also allocated, as well as county funds of \$10,000.

Worth said the initial budget for rehabilitations was estimated at \$216,000. "But it's going to cost considerably more than that," he added.

Although over half of last Wednesday's \$25,000 allocation will be used to correct deficiencies in the two most seriously affected Quick City homes, the money has not been earmarked strictly to solve ARC-caused (Continued on page 7B)