

Henderson Man Killed In Road By Automobile

A Henderson man who had been lying in the roadway on SR 1001 was killed early Wednesday morning of last week by a passing automobile.

A report filed by Trooper W. P. Blanks of the N. C. Highway Patrol shows that General Downey, 21, of 54 Hillside Avenue, Henderson, died when he was run over by an eastbound pickup truck on SR 1001 (Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard) near the Vance County line.

Downey was reported to have been lying in the eastbound lane of the road at 6:15 a.m. when he was struck by a 1987 Chevrolet truck driven by Leland Harry Andrews, 54, of Stanley.

The report said that Andrews' truck had just come over the top of the hill when he struck Downey's body. Andrews, unsure of what he had hit, backed up his truck and discovered the body.

Andrews and a passenger were uninjured in the mishap and there was only minor damage to the truck, the report said. No charges were filed against Andrews.

An investigation is continuing into why Downey had been lying in the road. Test results on whether the man was under the influence of drugs or alcohol were not available at presstime.

The report shows that investigators do not think Downey had been struck by a vehicle which had come along earlier.



Miss Dana Mustian, second from left, was crowned Warren County High School's 1989-90 Homecoming Queen during halftime of Friday's football game with Clayton played at the John Graham field. Named first, second and third runners-up were Misha Lewis, Audrey Lynch and

Carmita Goode, respectively. Shown with Miss Mustian is her father, Douglas Mustian, left; Miss Ann Manning, 1988-89 Homecoming Queen; and Marla Goode, WCHS varsity cheerleader.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

Conference Is Planned On Children's Problems

A conference to identify major problems facing children in Warren County and to find ways of dealing with the problems has been tentatively set for March 22, 1990 at Warren County High School.

In a meeting on Wednesday afternoon of last week, a general planning committee, headed by county Health Director Dennis Retzlaff, met to discuss agendas and means of funding the event.

The March date was chosen to allow as many teachers as possible to attend the event—it's a teacher workday and student holiday. In addition, Dr. John W. Thompson, superintendent of Warren County Schools, suggested that teachers who attend may gain Continuing Education credits.

Some of the concerns which are likely to be brought up during the conference include poverty, health care, education concerns, drug abuse and juvenile crime. Human service providers, professionals, business people and county citizens are invited to attend the conference and take part in the discussions.

John Niblock, president of the N. C. Child Advocacy Institute which has coordinated similar conferences in 17 other counties across the state, discussed budget ideas with the committee. He said other conferences have either been underwritten by county funds or by private citizens.

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Mrs. Diane Currin Thrown From Horse; Condition 'Stable'

Mrs. Diane Currin, wife of Randy Currin of Warrenton, remains hospitalized in Durham County General Hospital, where she is being treated for injuries sustained Monday after a fall from a horse she was riding.

The accident, which occurred at the Currin farm near the Warrenton Country Club, was reported to the Warren County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) at 5:31 p.m. on Monday. Spinal injuries were suspected.

Mrs. Currin was transported to Maria Parham Hospital, where she was stabilized before being taken to Durham County General Hospital.

On Tuesday afternoon, a Durham County General spokesperson described Mrs. Currin's condition as "stable."

At presstime, no additional information was available.

Warrenton Merchants Ask Removal Of Leaves

The Warrenton Merchants Association is asking and encouraging all merchants in the downtown area to help clean up the town by sweeping the leaves from in front of their stores.

Health Plan Staff Ordered To Leave Former Hospital

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Patient care and other services were halted on Monday of this week when the Warren Health Plan staff was told to vacate the old Warren General Hospital building by the end of the day.

"Our doctors were somewhat taken aback when, as they attempted to provide health care, they were interrupted Monday afternoon," Mrs. Deborah Davis, executive director of the Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Plan, said Tuesday morning. "When we are trying to recruit physicians to provide patient care, there needs to be a feeling of working together," she said.

Although the move to the HealthCo site in Soul City had been anticipated to permit asbestos removal before the renovations were begun at the Warren Health Plan, the transfer had been delayed.

County Manager Charles J. Worth said Tuesday morning that he had asked months ago that the building be vacated by Oct. 1 and had granted a series of extensions. The county manager also said that on Thursday of last week, he requested the Warren Health Plan to relocate by the weekend.

On Monday, as Warren Health Plan operation was under way, Worth received a request for an extension until Thursday of this week. That request was denied and written notice to vacate was hand-delivered to the Warren Health Plan on Monday afternoon.

Worth said Tuesday that a sheriff's deputy had been asked to deliver the correspondence only because the county employee who usually performs that task was unavailable.

"It is unfortunate that we had to resort to these means, but we needed to vacate the building," Worth said. "We could not wait any longer to begin the preparations for asbestos removal which must be completed before construction can begin."

On Tuesday morning, the Warren Health Plan staff began work at the HealthCo site. "Things are working smoothly," Mrs. Davis said.

Mrs. Davis confirmed that on Monday, Nov. 27 the Warren Health Plan operation will move into its new quarters in the Professional Building located on East Market Street in Warrenton. "That building has been secured," she said.

Earlier options had included the purchase of mobile units from the Orange-Chatham Health Center. The units, thought to be available from the agency's Prospect Hills site in Caswell County, could not be vacated in time for Warren County's schedule, Mrs. Davis said.

Currently, only a nurse and receptionist are working at the old hospital site to respond to inquiries and direct patients to the HealthCo site.

Marine Brigade Having Exercise

The 10th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (10th MEB) from Camp Lejeune is conducting an exercise throughout the area between Camp Lejeune and Fort Pickett, Va.

The exercise will be held from Oct. 20-30 and will be used to test the command, control, communications and mobility aspects of the Marine Corps. The Marine units will be utilizing local roads, facilities and bivouac sites provided by private citizens in the exercise area.

The Warren County Airport is being used as one of these bivouac sites.

The 10th MEB is under the command of Brig. General KRULAK. Any questions concerning the exercise should be directed to the II MEF Wargame Center at Camp Lejeune, attention Major M. O'Mahoney or Major G. Chaney at 919-451-8231.

Housing Needs Hearing Is Set

Warren County citizens can comment at a 6:45 p.m. public hearing today (Wednesday) on an application for state funds which will help in developing a strategy for housing improvements and other needs within the county.

The hearing will be held in the county courthouse and will be followed by a special called meeting of the Warren County Board of Commissioners to approve a grant application to be sent to the state Department of Economic and Community Development.

This year's Development Planning Funds are used to assist in the development of projects that can be considered for Community Development Block Grant funding in the future. The county is applying for \$6,000.

The Warren County Development Planning Project will provide funding for a comprehensive community development needs assessment and strategy. The assessment and strategy will result in the development of a Community Development plan which will identify areas of concentration of low and moderate income persons and minorities and community development needs throughout the county.

Another item to have been discussed at the public hearing was the county's application for a separate state Housing Demonstration Grant. The submission of that application has been postponed until spring.

Warren Receives Funds For Mapping More Areas

Warren County has received an additional \$19,000 to help fund its ongoing mapping project, County Manager Charles Worth confirmed this week.

Warren's mapping grant is one of 60 awarded to help the counties modernize their land records. The applications submitted by the 60 counties were selected from requests totaling almost \$7.1 million. The total of all grants awarded for 1989-90 is \$1,025,000.

Worth said the award was the third to be received from the N. C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (EHNR). The grants, which require a 50-50 match by county funds, are administered

through the Land Records Management Program of the Division of Land Resources.

Mapping projects benefit tax assessors, planners, realtors and are useful in site planning for industries and businesses. With the assistance of EHNR funds, counties are able to use maps, orthophotos and computers to modernize their land records. North Carolina is the only state to offer this service.

Worth said aerial photographs of the county have been completed. "Now that this year's grant has been received, the next steps will be determined," he said. "Updated and comprehensive maps will be of much use to Warren County."

83-Year-Old Father Of 11 Is Still Missing

Search Is Discontinued; Lawmen Have No New Leads, Deputy Says

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

"He's a quiet man who does not talk with many people," his daughter, Addie Rea Blum, said Monday afternoon. "But once you get him going, he'll keep right on talking."

Mrs. Blum was describing her father, Charlie Harris, who has been missing since Thursday of last week. Harris is the 83-year-old husband of Mrs. Lither D. Harris, of Rt. 3, Warrenton in the Arcola community. They have been married for 62 years and have 11 children.

Mrs. Blum also described the events which had occurred before her father's disappearance.

"My mother, father and I had gone to Warrenton to buy groceries. He always drives," she said.

"We came back home about 12 noon last Thursday. He ate a hamburger and went outdoors to cut bushes. He always starts cutting the bushes early in the morning," Mrs. Blum said.

She described her father as a hard worker. "He still keeps a

garden of corn and other vegetables, and he uses a hoe—not a plow," she said.

After cutting bushes for a while, Harris came in and took a nap.

"And at 4 p.m., he left to go hunting," Mrs. Blum said.

"I won't be too long," Mrs. Blum has been told her father said as he left. "I'll be back."

"He always comes back by 6 p.m.," Mrs. Blum said.

But on Thursday of last week, Harris' pickup truck was found abandoned on Bethlehem Road (SR 1636), near NC 43. "We called the sheriff at about 8 p.m. and the search was begun," Mrs. Blum said.

Thursday night's search extended until the early hours of Friday morning.

On Friday of last week, some 200 persons—area law enforcement officers, dogs from the Franklin County Department of Correction, area emergency responders, local and state emergency management personnel, Forestry Service personnel, members of the Arcola

Fire Department, along with others—combed the area, but to no avail.

The search was resumed on Saturday morning, when some 200 persons returned to the area off Bethlehem Road, again to no avail. Dogs from from Asheville arrived Saturday night and joined the search team on Sunday morning.

On Sunday nearly 140 persons combed the area, while a helicopter search was conducted and a pond was dredged.

Also on Sunday, the search was officially called off at county and state levels.

But family members are continuing their search.

"There are no new leads in the case," Chief Deputy Bobby D. Bolton said. Warren County Sheriff's personnel will interview

neighbors in their attempt to determine the whereabouts of the missing Harris. Bolton began his interviews on Monday, Sgt. Lawrence Harrison said Monday evening.

"Daddy is a very good man, and there are so many people

who love him," Mrs. Blum said Monday evening.

"And I can guarantee you one thing: he didn't run away," she said.

"Something must have happened to him. Maybe he has been kidnapped or is lost and does not know where he is," Mrs. Blum said.

"And I'm still optimistic," Ms. Kathy Harris-Wilson, another daughter who is a former member of the Warren County Board of Education, said Monday night.

"I still feel he's out there somewhere that has not been checked. Ms. Harris-Wilson believes her father is a strong man. "He has survived a lot of things over the years and I believe he will survive this," she said. "It is the waiting that is so bad."

When Harris was last seen, he was wearing a red leather cap, a tan hunting coat, tan pants and work shoes. He is about five feet, 10 inches tall and weighs about 130 pounds. His hair is dark brown, with a bit of gray at the temples. His eyes are brown. An



HARRIS

American Indian, he is a member of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe.

"If anyone knows anything, I hope they won't be afraid to come forward," Mrs. Blum said. (Continued on page 8B)