

The Warren Record



FIGHTING THE FLAMES—Firemen from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department extinguish flames at the home of Mrs. Mary Crump Hendricks, who died in the Monday morning fire. An SBI investiga-

tion into the cause of her death is being conducted, and officials are focusing on an electrical meter box as the cause of the fire.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

SBI Called In, Autopsy Ordered

Fatal Fire Near Warrenton Said Suspicious In Nature By Lawman

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

A fire of a suspicious nature which claimed the life of a Warrenton woman is under investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation.

Mrs. Mary Crump Hendricks, of the Baltimore Road community, was killed early Monday morning in a fire which was said to have started in the living room area of her home. The one-story frame structure was formerly a two-store wood home in which Mrs. Hendricks lived with her son, the late William Crump, but a fire nearly four years ago destroyed the house. The home was rebuilt later as a one-story structure, and since then an addition was added.

An autopsy on Mrs. Hendricks' body was ordered, as is routine procedure when a fatality occurs following a house fire. In addition, the SBI was called in to investigate the incident.

"We didn't like what we saw," said Sgt. Lawrence E. Harrison of the Warren County Sheriff's Department,

noting that the home had too many pot holes, or burned through spaces, in the floor.

The call for the fire was received around 5:30 a.m., and 14 men and four trucks from the Warrenton Rural Fire Department responded to the scene.

WRFD Chief Kenny Clayton said that upon arrival, the living room of the home was fully involved in flames, and there was no roof left on the house.

Firemen contained the fire to the living room area, but the home's

bedroom, bathroom and kitchen received heavy smoke damage.

Clayton said Mrs. Hendricks' body was found in the kitchen, and also said there was no possible way to rescue her from the structure, as fire and smoke were intense inside the home.

Officials are focusing in on a meter box as the cause of the fire, and are also awaiting lab test results from the SBI.

Firemen were on the scene until around noon Monday.

Make-Up Days For Students Determined In Storms' Wake

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

Students who thought they had lost a day of their Christmas vacation because of recent snow and ice storms were wrong. Because of another storm which passed through the county, school was closed at 11 a.m. Tuesday and classes were cancelled Wednesday.

Schools were originally set to close after Tuesday's school hours for the start of Christmas vacation, but a decision to make up a lost snow day during today's (Wednesday's) school hours was made last week, along with the decision to hold school on a teacher's workday scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 16. Now school officials will have to find make-up days for the three other days lost to snow.

Dr. John Thompson, superintendent of Warren County Schools, said the final decision on which days will be used as make-up days is made by himself, Dr. Ken Warlick and James Jordan, county schools assistant superintendents. Their decision is based on recommendations from site base management teams at each of the county's schools.

"We like to be exposed to the type of ... along with making key decisions," said Thompson. "We like to put out from the staff and give them an opportunity to dialogue their opinions about what should be done."

These leadership teams at each school represent a percentage of that school's staff, and they make their recommendations based on what personnel in their schools believe should be done.

"This way, everyone is part of the final decision," Thompson said.

Although the decision to set those two days as make-up days was not

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GIFT OF APPRECIATION—George E. Shearin, Sr., chairman of the Warren County Board of Commissioners, presents Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, past chairwoman of the board, with an engraved plaque Monday night in recognition of the seven years Mrs. Clayton served as head of the county board. The surprise presentation came during an annual holiday party of county employees held at The Norlina Landmark. Two members of the N.C. House representing Warren County—Thomas Hardaway of Enfield and Dr. J. P. Green of Henderson—announced that they would seek re-election next spring.

(Staff Photo by Howard Jones)

After Murder Hearing

High School Student Is Released On Bond

A Warren County High School student charged in the shooting death of a man he said was beating the youth's mother has been released on bond, but another murder suspect remains in the Warren County Jail after bail was denied.

Leon Kearney, Jr., 16, was ordered freed last week under a \$25,000 unsecured bond signed by himself and his mother. His release from the local jail followed a 96-hour hearing before Judge Larry J. Senter of Franklinton, who was presiding over the weekly session of Warren County District Court.

Kearney was arrested in connection with the Dec. 9 slaying of Martin Anderson Turner, 35. Sheriff's deputies said Turner was struck once by a slug from a 20-gauge shotgun allegedly fired by young Kearney.

Kearney, who is reported to work as a yardman for lawn caretaker Morris Wiggins, a neighbor, is said by lawmen to have fatally wounded Turner as the victim was allegedly beating Kearney's mother when the shooting occurred.

Turner shared a home with Kearney's mother, Mrs. Alfreda Kearney,

and her 11-year-old son and the defendant.

Officers said the death weapon, a single-barrel gun which was recovered, had been loaned to Kearney by Maurice Wiggins during the past two hunting seasons.

No bond was allowed for Clyde Otis Huff, 44, of Richmond, Va., charged in the Dec. 11 shooting death of Aaron Gundy, 27, of Henrico. Gundy died in Halifax Memorial Hospital in Roanoke Rapids after being shot once in the left side with a 44-magnum hunting rifle.

Sgt. Lawrence Harrison of the Warren County Sheriff's Department, who investigated the killing, said the victim was shot during an argument which occurred between the two at a home near the Northampton County Line. The gun was recovered.

Both Kearney and Huff were scheduled to be given hearings before Judge H. Weldon Lloyd of Henderson today to see if there is probable cause to send their case to a grand jury.

Warrenton attorney Marvin P. Rooker has been appointed by the court to represent both defendants.

Rape Trial Is Ordered Stopped After Jury Miscue Reported

The only jury trial begun during a criminal term of Warren County Superior Court cut short by last Wednesday's snowfall came to an unexpected end last week.

Judge E. Lynn Johnson of Fayetteville, presiding over the December court term, directed that attempts to impanel a jury in a first-degree rape case be stopped when it was learned that the victim's brother had served as a member of the grand jury which had returned a true bill of indictment against the defendant.

The defendant, Moses Eugene Jones, a resident of Granville County with a Townsville address, was allowed to remain free under a \$15,000 bond.

Jones had been free under bond since shortly after he was arrested by Granville County law-

men who served a Warren County warrant charging Jones with the March 16, 1988 rape of Jeanetta Alston, a resident of 216 E. Bute Street in Warrenton.

Warren Clerk of Court Richard E. Hunter, Jr. said testimony relating to the case was given to a grand jury on February 6 of this year, and that a true bill was found.

Hunter said the fact that the victim's brother was a member of that grand jury was discovered by the district attorney's staff after jury selection in the case had begun on Tuesday of last week.

Hunter said the case is expected to be sent back before another grand jury during the regular criminal term of Superior Court scheduled to begin here February 5.

School Emptied By Bomb Scare

Norlina Middle School students got a 30-minute break from class on Friday of last week when an anonymous caller told the school's office personnel that a bomb had been planted inside the school.

Norlina Police Lt. James Champion said the threat was made at 2:10 p.m. when an anonymous female caller told Mrs. Ann Mulchi, secretary, about the bomb.

Students were immediately evacuated from the school building and lined up on the football field behind the school. At least 15 emergency workers from the Norlina Volunteer Fire Department, the Warren County Sheriff's Department and the Norlina Police Department then searched all the rooms and lockers. Nothing was found.

Champion said the department has no leads on the threat. He said the last bomb threat at the school occurred three or four years ago.

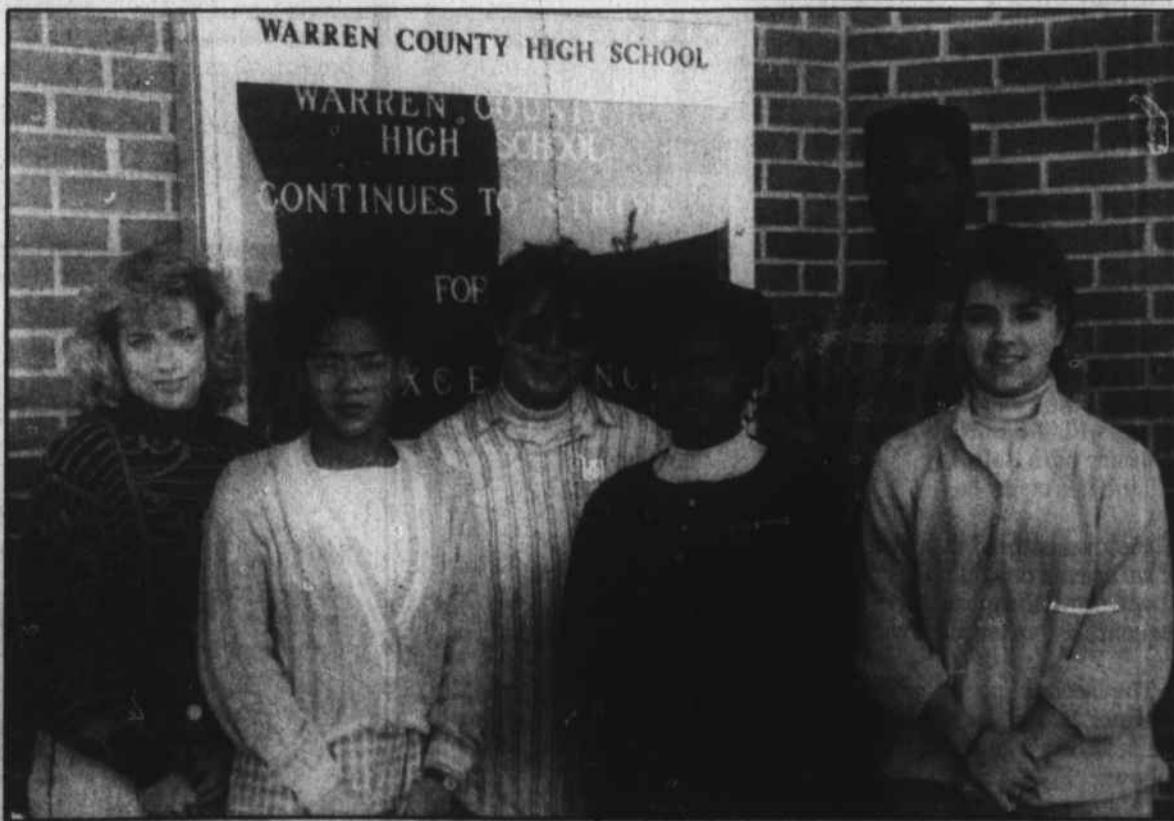
Special Session Planned By Board

The Warren County Board of Commissioners will hold a special meeting to finalize construction contracts for the Warren Medical Facility renovation project.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the county courthouse.

In addition to the contracts, discussion will focus on asbestos removal at the medical facility, a revision of the medical facility budget, the hiring of construction managers and a construction schedule.

The public is invited to attend.



GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL NOMINEES—These six Warren County High School students are among eight from here nominated to attend the 1990 Governor's School. Shown, from left, are Christy Harmon, Marla Goode, Trina Tucker, Adrian Alston, William Edwards and Beth Pierce, all members of

the junior class. Not pictured are two other nominees, Tonya Terry and Melanie Bender, both sophomores. The Governor's School will be held next summer at two locations in the state.

(Community Schools Photo by Mary Hunter)

Emergency Plans For Weather Prepared For Warren Residents

With the winter season close at hand and ice and snow storms on the way, Warren County's Emergency Management coordinator wants citizens to be prepared.

Gary Robenolt advises residents to stay in their homes during winter storms and to make sure they have a good supply of wood or heating fuel, have their medications refilled, have extra food on hand and have bottled water.

Robenolt, in efforts of preparing for harsh winter storms, has been organizing an emergency shelter location for the area's citizens in case of an extended period of electricity loss. The N.C. National Guard Armory located on Hwy. 158 east just outside of the Warrenton town limits has been designated as a county emergency shelter.

During severe ice storms where residents lose electricity for an extended period of time, the shelter will

be open to provide the basic necessities: a roof over their heads, heat and water.

Currently, the Emergency Management office is seeking volunteers with 4-wheel drive trucks to help transport residents from their homes to the shelters. Interested persons should call the Emergency Management office at 257-2666.

When electricity is lost, residents can find out if the shelter is open by listening to radio or television reports, or by calling 257-3456 or 1-800-682-2013.

Residents who need to use the shelter are asked to bring their own food, bedding and medications. No pets are allowed inside the shelters, and personnel from the local social services and health departments will man the shelter location.

There is space for nearly 200 persons in the facility, and local schools will be used for additional shelter space.