

Constitutional Officers Hit By Statewide Spending Cut



It's School Time In Danville . . .

At Park Avenue Elementary School and at other schools throughout Danville pupils were beginning a new year this morning. Top photo: kindergarteners meet the teacher, Mrs. Norma Powell. Lower photo: First graders with Mrs. Cynthia Farmer.



Kindergarteners meet the teacher, Mrs. Norma Powell. Lower photo: First graders with Mrs. Cynthia Farmer.

Danville's constitutional officers today learned that they must reduce spending during the 1975-76 fiscal year by five per cent as part of a statewide cutback to curb an estimated \$17 million shortfall in state revenues.

Fred G. Pollard, chairman of the board, issued a directive to all constitutional officers that states the following action will be taken starting tomorrow: —All new hiring in the office of City Sheriff, Commonwealth Attorney, City Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue is frozen.

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"I don't think there'll be any problem with meeting that deadline," Smith said. "We'll just have to tighten our belts a little."

Smith's department, charged with operation of the city jail and courtroom security, has the largest of the budgets for the local office. His department received approval for four new men from the Compensation Board this summer when the budget were approved. Smith requested seven men as a necessary result of opening new Courts and Jail Building.

"I don't guess we'll be getting any others any time soon," said Smith.

Commissioner of Revenue D. Berkeley Edwards and City Treasurer Frank W. Bates could not be reached for comment.

Clerk of Court Thomas F. Tucker's office would not be affected by the directive. The City of Danville covers the operating cost of Fuller's office as well as its rental.

Record High Electric Usage

Danville's electric customers set an all-time record for electricity usage yesterday with the prospect of similar demand this afternoon.

Electric Sp. B.G. Adkins reported that 60-minute demand from 5 to 6 p.m. yesterday reached an all-time peak of 108,130 kilowatts.

This broke the department's previous record — two summers ago — of 106,800 kilowatts. That record had remained unshattered throughout last summer.

For the current summer, prior to yesterday, the season's record was posted last Friday afternoon when electricity users accounted for more than 103,200 kilowatts during the late afternoon.

Adkins expects today's electricity consumption to be comparable to yesterday's. With today predicted to be another scorcher, today's going to cut their air-conditioners, he predicted. "This load is coming back."

WPPD Suit Set Sept. 5

A suit against the West Piedmont Planning District Commission filed by a former employee who claims she was fired in violation of a one-year contract is scheduled to be heard Sept. 5 in Martinsville Circuit Court.

Free motions in the action, filed by Mrs. Barbara Beck, 29, a former criminal justice planner, will be heard Sept. 4.

Mrs. Beck seeks \$9,068 which she claims is the pay she did not receive under the contract as a result of the firing. She claims she was hired last Feb. 29 by former WPPD executive director Walter E. Mather at a salary of \$11,000.

Mather fired Mrs. Beck for "insubordination" on Feb. 20, 1973.

The action came during a dispute between Mrs. Beck and Mather when she refused "on ethical grounds" to complete a contract ordered by Mather for the Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Technical Institute, will be heard Sept. 4.

Mrs. Beck claimed that the work would constitute the practice of law, which she is licensed to practice in Virginia, but not in West Virginia, according to Martinsville sources.

Mather said he fired Mrs. Beck after she criticized the contract which Mather himself drew up and after she told the PC and S Committee that the contract was not legally proper.

Mather resigned in March when the WPPD voted to prohibit his handling of personnel matters.

Mrs. Beck also has filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington concerning her firing because of sexual discrimination.

In this complaint, Mrs. Beck charged that Mather was a criminal justice planner.

The action came as no surprise to City Sheriff Charles J. Smith.

Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr. released figures on the state's revenue shortfall on Sept. 1 and served notice on state agencies that all hiring would be frozen and that a five per cent cut would be made.

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The Pitsylvania County Board of Supervisors will consider the stipulations tied to a federal \$187,000 Community Development Grant when it meets next Tuesday night at the Circuit Courthouse in Chat-ham.

"It has been confirmed we have the money," said Chairman W.T. Gatewood Jr. said today. "But there reportedly are many strings and stipulations about its use."

"Asked if he thought there was a chance the board might reject the funds because of the stipulations, Gatewood said, "I don't know. It certainly would depend on the stipulations which I have not yet seen."

The board chairman said the stipulations will be outlined next Tuesday night by County Administrator Anthony Barrett who was unavailable for comment today. "After hearing the proposal," Gatewood said, "the board probably will request recommendations on a course of action."

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ten-

tatively approved the county's application for \$430,000 in block grants in the amount of \$187,000 to finance construction of a community center.

In other activity, Gatewood said, the board is expected to name some, if not all, of the seven members to serve on the board of assessors. The board's choices will be submitted to Circuit Court Judge W. Carrington Thompson for formal appointment.

This unit, composed of one person from each of the county's seven magisterial districts, will be established to hear appeals of real estate assessments to be conducted next year.

For the last reassessment — in 1971 — the board of assessors was composed of three persons. The larger unit was prompted by the probability of more problems arising from the state-mandated reassessment of all real estate at 100 per cent market value.

Gatewood said the board also will consider what course of action to follow now that the county's three federal farm agencies have rejected the supervisors' request to locate a proposed agricultural service center behind the courthouse.

Although the agencies' terms for the courthouse location unacceptable "without adequate . . . sketches . . . and designs," they have requested a commitment from the board as to whether or not the supervisors desire to continue development of a Reid Street site in Chat-ham.

The supervisors have an option on the agency directors' preferred site for such a building — a four-acre tract on Reid Street.

The 8,700 square-foot building under consideration was designed by the county and also to the ASCS, SCS and FHIA. It would provide some space for the VPI Extension Service.

Other items on next Tuesday night's agenda include:

Radios Funded

Radios units for the Danville Fire Department and radio equipment for the city's police department are included in federal grants that have been approved and awarded to the City of Danville for highway safety programs.

The allocations totaling \$5,357 were made available under the U.S. Highway Safety Act administered by the Highway Safety Division of Virginia.

Director John T. Hanna reported that a grant of \$5,357 was provided to enable Danville to purchase five radio mobile units for the Life Saving Crew.

The six-page grant also includes for a radio equipment for use by police.

SENIOR CITIZEN TRIP — A \$40 two-night bus trip is scheduled by the Danville Senior Citizens Center for Sept. 11-13 to Newport News, Norfolk, and Busch Gardens near Williamsburg. The trip will provide the deadline or completion registration at the center on Main St.

First Million-Dollar Sales Day Followed By Dip In Leaf Quality

The quality of offerings on the Danville Tobacco Market appeared to dip slightly during morning sales after a price rally yesterday that saw the market hit the first million-dollar sale of the season on Old and Middle Belt markets.

"Both quality and quantity of offerings were off today," said Market Sales Supervisor Charles K. Waddell. "The prices were in accordance with the grades of tobacco that are in the highest volume."

Dyer admits there probably made it the first market to boost a sale of \$1 million and the second (behind Winston-Salem) to have sales poundage for the one million mark.

The market sold 1,068,711 pounds for \$1,097,396. The hundredweight average was \$83.66 — \$7 higher than the previous average for a daily sale at the local market.

Only Petersburg and South Boston posted higher sales averages. The hundredweight average in Petersburg was exactly a dollar higher than Danville's figure. South Boston was 24 cents above.

Market officials attributed the rise in the daily average to the appearance of some grades of "smoking leaf" on warehouse floors. Waddell reported a practical top price for the local market yesterday at \$1.08 per pound, with scattered piles drawing prices as high as \$1.12.

"We had a good break of tobacco yesterday," said Waddell. "The prices are steady, but the quality is off some today, so we should see the price come down."

"Yesterday's million-pound sale was due to the presence of three sets of buyers, Waddell said volume on today's sale should run about 750,000 pounds with two buyer sets.

The Federal-State Tobacco Market News Service reported the following Old Belt sales: —DANVILLE: 1,068,711 pounds for \$1,097,396.55, ave. \$95.06.

—Lawrenceville: 300,586 pounds for \$233,688, ave. \$94.33. —Martinsville: 175,152 pounds for \$149,178, ave. \$85.16. —Petersburg: 364,862 pounds for \$350,576, ave. \$96.06. —South Boston: 811,808 pounds for \$344,820, ave. \$85.30. —Mt. Airy: 367,062 pounds for \$254,151, ave. \$95.76. —Roanoke: 375,711 pounds for \$349,400, ave. \$93.00. —Winston-Salem: 724,734 pounds for \$671,186, ave. \$92.61.

Higher prices to farmers were reported in markets throughout the Carolinas and Virginia Monday with improved leaf quality cited as a reason.

On the Old and Middle Belts, the average price Monday was \$94.41 per 100 pounds. With 14 of 17 markets reporting, some \$1,624,996 pounds of leaf was sold bringing the season's total to 73,230,523 pounds for an average selling price of \$89.89.

An average price of \$103.67 per 100 pounds was reported on the South Carolina-Belt Monday, an increase of \$4.27 over Thursday's price. Monday's volume was 4,366,927 pounds.

of the strongest known to architects. "Maybe the bridge would sag if one of the supports gave way," said Dyer. "But the worst that could happen if the bridge failed would be for a few chunks of concrete to fall out."

Although the bridge is capable of supporting heavy equipment, Dyer says its weight limit will remain at 10 tons. The limit is lowered in recent years in an effort to minimize wear on the bridge.

"At least we got it ready for the opening of school," said Dyer. "The police ought to be happy, too, now that it's open."

During the three weeks, more than 7,500 cars that normally pass over Worcham Street onto Main Street Bridge and North Main Street. The congested traffic conditions should ease this week, said Dyer.

Although the bridge is an old one, Dyer says that its design is a comprehensive arch — one

of the strongest known to architects. "Maybe the bridge would sag if one of the supports gave way," said Dyer. "But the worst that could happen if the bridge failed would be for a few chunks of concrete to fall out."

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DR Pay Hike Set Sept. 15

Dan River Inc.'s Danville Division workers will get larger pay checks starting Sept. 15.

A wage increase negotiated by the company with the United Textile Workers union has received "almost unanimous" approval from union members. It was reported by the union Sept. 15.

It is an across-the-board general increase applicable to all hourly employees of the Danville Division.

The percentage of increase was set to be in line with the seven to eight per cent increase already announced by other firms in the textile industry in various southern states.

close Tories to "come out of the closet waving your banners" in the midst of the English bicentennial. Prick the Tories and be incensed! Plan your own anti-bicentennial celebrations. Confront the rebels.

The newsletter is edited by John M. Ambrose and David A. Gambill, both of Richmond, who founded the committee.

The publication is directed at "the finest Loyalist households

Safety Citation For City

Danville is slated to receive a pedestrian safety award in conjunction with the AAA Special Citation for pedestrian program activities.

The AAA Special Citation is for pedestrian program activities in conjunction with the American Automobile Association's annual nationwide pedestrian protection contest. Awards to Danville and 37 other governmental units will be presented by Gov. Mills E. Godwin Jr.

Hold On To Those English Pounds, Boys, The Tories Are Riding Again . . .

Letting it fly the American Revolution was "merely a ploy by greedy Yankees and chauvinists and debt-ridden Southern planters." The publication is called "The American Revolution." Publishing not too seriously for reunification with Mother England, the committee issued Monday the first edition of the Tory Torch, a bimonthly newsletter, proclaiming "God Save the Queen" and demanding equal time on national television networks.