

STATE, LOCAL

Sheriffs want more jail construction aid

Two women found slain on parkway

RICHMOND (AP) — The state should go on \$600 million to fund the construction of new or expanded jails and remove the \$400 million from the state's general fund, a group of sheriffs has said.

Such a program would provide incentives to local governments to either build jails on their own or join with neighboring jurisdictions for a regional jail, John Jones, executive director of the Virginia State Sheriffs' Association, said at a meeting of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission.

According to Jones, a check of local jail populations last month found 1,751 inmates who were being held for the state prison system. Some but not all of the jails had state prisoners were overcrowded, Jones said, but jails have less discretion than state

prisons in taking in inmates.

"We know that double booking is a reality," he said. "We don't have a relief valve."

Jones also advised the members of the General Assembly watchdog agency that a bill set aside by the legislature earlier this year to stiffen penalties for drunken driving would add 70 beds per day to local jail needs if it passes in 1987.

The bill would establish mandatory jail terms for drunken driving convictions, starting with 48 hours upon first conviction.

"We are opposed to drunken driving and in favor of drunken driving penalties like anyone else," Jones said. He said his committee would support any measure that would allow the legislature to make J.L.A.R.C. aware of how the legislature would affect jail needs.

J.L.A.R.C. meetings, he was presented a report by his staff on

the state Department of Corrections' prison design and planning.

Among the 41-page report's recommendations was a call to improve the cost effectiveness of the Commonwealth Correctional Center.

The report found that Mecklenburg, with about half its 120-inmate population in isolation or segregation, is the second most expensive state correctional facility in terms of cost per inmate and staffing per inmate.

Mecklenburg cost \$21.25 per inmate and had 1.13 staff members per inmate, according to the study. The most expensive institution was a special facility at Madison that handles mentally ill prisoners.

Most of Mecklenburg's security continues to depend on a support of inmates in small groups and restricting movement within

the perimeter," said Kim Swaid, a J.L.A.R.C. staff member who drafted the report. "These procedures increase Mecklenburg's staffing requirements."

The report suggested that Mecklenburg's costs might be reduced by seeking relief from a consent agreement requiring the prison to take in more general population inmates.

The 1985 consent decree settled a lawsuit against the state by the American Civil Liberties Union over conditions at the prison, where the state's death row inmates are housed.

"Some of the design features of Mecklenburg have limited its flexibility in housing general population inmates," the report said. "Mecklenburg's design has not functioned well for general population prisoners."

Edward W. Mirrey, director of the Corrections Department, also said that Mecklenburg was designed to house disruptive inmates rather than general population prisoners.

His function has been altered so the prison now includes special cases, such as inmates who must be protected from the general prison population at other institutions, Mirrey said.

He declined to comment on the report's recommendations until he has had time to study them.

Al Braxton, head of the ACLU's Prison Project in Washington, could not be reached for comment on the report's suggestions regarding the consent decree and talk about the cost of the state ACLU, section chief, said he had read the report.

The bodies of Rebecca Ann Dowick, 21, of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and Catherine Martin Thomas, 27, a Lowell, Mass., native, were found in Mr. Thomas' 1980 Honda during an embankment off the parkway near Yorktown, said Jack Weaver, special agent in charge of the Norfolk office of the FBI.

"Their throats were slit from ear to ear," Wagner said at a news conference outside the FBI office, about 40 miles southeast of the site where the bodies were found.

Wagner said both women were clothed and there was no sign of robbery. He declined, pending an autopsy report, to comment on whether they had been sexually assaulted.

Ms. Dowick and Ms. Thomas, who were friends, were last seen Thursday evening at the College of William and Mary, about 10 miles from the spot where their car was found.

"They had not been reported missing," Wagner said. "We did not know how long they had been dead or when they had been slain."

A passer-by found the car in a ditch on the edge of the York River between 1:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Wagner said.

He said the car was not visible from the parkway, a 2½-mile drive that connects James and Yorktown. The car was found about six miles from Yorktown near a scenic overlook for the Chatham Annex, a naval supply center.

The FBI is conducting the investigation because the car was found on federal property along the parkway. Henrico, York County and Virginia state police were assistants in the probe, Wagner said.

Ms. Thomas graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and was discharged from the navy this year after serving as a protocol officer on the U.S. Atlantic Fleet flagship, the USS Zumwalt.

She worked as a spokeswoman for a brokerage firm in Virginia Beach and was studying for a master's degree in business administration at Old Dominion University, Wagner said.

Ms. Dowick was a nurse majoring in business at William and Mary, said Elaine Justice, a school spokeswoman.



MALE NURSE — Earl Aylor checks Erik Riff's blood pressure at Calpepper Hospital. Aylor has taken up nursing as a second profession after retiring from the Environmental Protection Agency. (AP Laserphoto)

Retired federal worker starts second career as male nurse

CULPEPER (AP) — Earl Aylor, a retired federal employee, has embarked on a long-sought medical career, not as the doctor he hoped as a doctor, but as a licensed medical nurse with the ambition to do even more.

He knows exactly when the dream was born that he had to live with it. It was 1948 and he was a 14-year-old who collapsed with appendicitis one day while walking home. He might have died but for an elderly doctor man who put him in his car, drove him to the hospital in Warrenton and took care of him.

"The compassion he had toward me, the way he took care of the situation," said Aylor, "I always wanted to be like that."

But young Aylor was poor, and could not hope to afford medical school. Instead, he got a job with the federal government.

In 1971, after living many years in northern Virginia, he and his wife, Beanie, built a home in the small community of Beanie, and where Aylor grew up. In 1983 he retired from a 20-year job as a supervisory contract administrator with the Environmental Protection Agency.

He enrolled in Piedmont Technical Education Center and, surrounded by young girls, studied to

become an LPN.

While in school, he worked part-time at Calpepper Memorial Hospital, and after graduation, joined that staff full time in 1985.

"He loves nursing," said Test Hertrich, vice president for nursing at Calpepper Memorial, where Aylor was recruited as an employee-of-the-year. "He's an outstanding person. He's even been known to visit patients at home and at other hospitals."

Aylor found the work to be everything he had hoped, but he wanted to handle more advanced medical procedures.

"In the back of my mind, I felt I still didn't have the training to do everything I wanted to do," he said.

The answer was more education. He went back to part-time work and will soon start studies at Georgetown Community College to become a registered nurse.

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Utility rates won't be reduced

By LEONARD KING
Staff Writer
CHARLESTONVILLE — Water and sewer rates for Craigville residents will not be reduced as Town Council had indicated earlier this year.

The issue of rates was one of several items on a lengthy agenda council faced at its meeting Monday.

Mayor Richard Fox said that "under the state grant, we're unable to make any reductions in the water and sewer fees." He was referring to the town's water project which is being funded with the help of state funding and, according to Sharon Angle of the Central Shenandoah District Planning Commission who met with council at a recent work session, those fees cannot be lowered until a later date.

Fox also mentioned to council

he had been approached by several people recently about the possibility of electing the mayor by a vote of the people rather than a vote by council which chose Fox as its mayor in July. No action was taken on this matter.

Burt Krombach, chairman of the Planning Commission, had council's attention on a comprehensive plan for the town's water project which was being worked on last year.

Council also voted to change the town's fiscal year from July 1 to January 1.

For full council an availability of the water had been established for the Department of Corrections concerning the Aqueduct Correctional Center in nearby Estaline Valley. He said the establishment of the fee sets up a "more attractive" payment schedule for DOC's water use than the town provides. He also reported that DOC has been up to date in its payments to the town after a couple of months of delinquency.

"Because of a need for both a public water/water/water inspector, council has also decided to make inquiries to find out more individuals to handle those responsibilities," Krombach said.

water/water/water inspector was also needed for the town's water project.

Fox had counted the town is still without liability insurance but there was little else to do but keep searching for a company that would insure at a reasonable cost.

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Virginia getting much-needed rain

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
A cold front approaching Virginia from the west is providing the commonwealth with its first general rainfall in more than a month, officials said Tuesday.

State climatologist Paul Michaels said the system would drizzle a slow rain in Virginia into Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. Although the precipitation will not replace Virginia's declining water table, Michaels said it will be more beneficial than the garden variety light rain because it's falling at a very important time for winter wheat farmers, Michaels said. "And it's coming right in because it's not really a heavy rain."

Charles Edwards of the National Weather Service in Roanoke said the rain was caused by a cold front approaching Virginia from the north. The front, which is to move through the state today, is colliding with a flow of warm, moist air from the south, he said.

Roanoke had 26 inches of rain in a week, Michaels said, more than expected to fall. He said before Monday's rainfall, Edwards said, Roanoke had just 19 inches of precipitation since Sept. 5.

The Weather Service says showers are likely in much of Virginia today, with chances decreasing to the south part of the state. Michaels said Roanoke, Bluefield and the system would bring some normal precipitation in September, he said. "We need a lot of heavy rains early in the month. Other parts of Virginia were not

so fortunate, he said.

"Richmond is dry now; only had an inch or so fall there during the month of September," Michaels said by telephone. Lynchburg had 1.7 inches of rain last month, and in the driest part of the state with only about 40 percent of normal precipitation this year, he said.

"Even with the substantial moisture deficit this year, we're still not seeing many municipal or private well problems," Michaels said. "But given the fact that shortages are as much as they are, we do urge municipalities to continue to watch their water."

Jim Gurley, weather service specialist in Lynchburg, said the system dropped 3 inch of rain on the city last Monday evening. Lynchburg has had about 19.5 inches of rain this year, he said.

Ned T. Vines, area farm management agent in northern Virginia for the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, said rain could delay plowing in the region. But farmers will not mind, he said.

"We haven't had enough moisture in the ground to help out with the fall seeding of corn, soybeans and hayfields so," Vines said by telephone. "Any rain we could get now would be welcome."

But a half inch of rain will not do the drought, he said.

"If we could get a couple of days of steady rain, something that would build up to an inch over a few days, that would help a lot," he said. "We need rain through the winter because our water table is low."

Club celebrates anniversary

By ALDREY BOSS
Staff Writer
The Pleasanton-Spring Hill Service Club celebrated its first anniversary Monday night at Spring Hill Presbyterian Church.

The club members announced a meeting which was highlighted by a slide show, discussing the club's accomplishments of the past year.

President Robert Ham praised each of the committee's participation in organizing special events, such as the neighborhood watch program, and for developing programs such as the youth development program which provides

scholarships.

"It shows good fellowship...it's been fun and at the same time we have saved our community," Ham said.

Han, Donna Ham, James Seare and Kathy Seare were named by club members to attend the Woodrow Wilson District Convention to be held Oct. 25.

Members also voted for club officers for 1987: Seare, current vice president, was elected president; William Nicholson, vice president; Evelyn Timley, secretary; Rufus Gardner, treasurer; and Jerry Hendrick's three-year director.

Club members elected were the only nominees. Officers will assume their duties in January.

Plans for a drawing, with cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, were completed by members by noon on Monday. Ticket sales as the meeting ended. Booths will be set up by club representatives over the next few weeks.

The vice president said funds from the drawing will go toward supporting many community projects. So far, 20 tickets have been sold.

The club is the Woodrow Wilson District.

Bondstand vandalized

City workers Paul Duncan and Tim Harvey clean up the bondstand that was vandalized Sunday night. Staunton police arrested three people Monday on destroying property charges in connection with the spray painting of the garbage and nearby restrooms in Oppy Hill Park. Arrested were Harry Daniel Duff, 19, of 146 Crawford Drive, Charville; Tolena Lynn

Fisher, 16, of 473 Albemarle Ave., and Lisa Ann Rexroad, 18, 214 Davis St. Charges are pending against a juvenile in connection with the vandalism that resulted in an estimated \$300 damages. Police said Ms. Rexroad also charged with destroying property at Quality Inn on Central Avenue Saturday.

(Photo by Dennis Sutton)

