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200 attend rally against PCB dump

From Staff Reports

WARRENTON — About 200 people listened to rock 'n' roll and gospel music Sunday at a rally to help raise funds for the fight against a PCB landfill in Warren County.

Blaine Tharrington, who organized Sunday's benefit at John Graham Middle School and lives near Afton, said he was unable to estimate how much money Warren County Citizens Concerned About PCBs had raised.


Ferruccio

He said gate receipts were more than $400. Other contributions came through concession sales of food and drinks donated to the group, as well as T-shirts bearing the group's logo of a dump truck with a slash mark through it.

One of the SBI agents who have become regular fixtures at the frequent marches to the dump site shelled out $5 for one.

Ken Ferruccio, leader of the anti-PCB group, said the money was needed for operating expenses to help continue the fight.

But bail money for people arrested trying to stop the trucks is plentiful, he said, and is being provided by outside sources, which he declined to identify.

More than 400 arrests have been made in nearly three weeks of almost daily protests against the trucks carrying the tainted soil to the dump. Some people have been arrested more than once.

The PCBs were illegally spilled on 210 miles of highways in 1978 in 14 North Carolina counties, including Warren County.

Three New York men were convicted of dumping electrical transformer oil containing PCBs, which had been banned after tests showed it caused liver cancer in laboratory animals.

The chemical's effect on humans has not been determined. Because of its persistance in the environment, the federal Environmental Protection Agency requires that it be burned in approved incinerators or stored in approved landfills.

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