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'Snow Day' Crunch To Be Discussed

School superintendents from 17 WNC school districts are meeting with state school officials, including Dr. Craig Phillips, on Wednesday to try to find a solution to the "Snow Day" crunch which is affecting public schools, Robert L. Edwards stated here Monday night.

Edwards told the News-Record that 17 superintendents met last Thursday morning at the regional center in Canton and discussed how best to handle snow day closings during a severe

winter like this one in the 10-month school year.

This is the third year under the statewide system in which teachers work under contracts that only cover the 10 consecutive months from the opening day of the school year calendar, said Robert L. Edwards, superintendent of Madison County schools.

There is some maneuvering room for days in which weather makes it advisable not to hold school, and the system operated well the past two years during relatively

mild winters.

But with much of the first two weeks of scheduled school days in January lost because the succession of snow and ice, administrators in mountain counties are running out of options, Edwards said. Piedmont and Eastern North Carolina, with not so dangerous roads and milder temperatures, seldom have to close schools because of bad weather.

Into the 10 months, Edwards said, state law sets up the following: 180 days for

students to attend classes and teachers to teach, 8 legal holidays, 12 1/2 annual leave days for teachers and 17 1/2 work days when teachers make pre-term preparations and use the end of grading periods to do report cards and the like.

That makes a total of 218 assigned days, which when added to 43 Saturdays and 43 Sundays takes up virtually all of the 10-month period.

Teacher leave days are applied, Edwards said, to such activities as N. C. Association

of Educators meetings, primaries and general elections that tie up schoolhouses, and bad weather days.

"We (in Madison County) have 98 days left in the school year for students," Edwards said. "And after today (Wednesday) we only have six teacher work days and one holiday left."

If you count in five day weeks until the end of school (on June 9 in Madison), it adds up to 105 days. And if you add up 98 student days, six work days and one holiday, you also

get a total of 105 days.

How about holding school on Saturdays? That is governed by a state policy, Edwards said, that "you can go to school on Saturday only if you missed a day of school that same week."

As Edwards sees it, the time is fast approaching when he will have to schedule school for both teachers and students five days a week no matter how deep the snow, and let the buses run only where they can go in safety.

Students who live on roads

that buses can safely travel, or who have parents who can get them to school on their own, can attend; and those who are not so fortunate will simply have to miss classes.

"I hope the public will be able to see that we have these rules to go by, and that when the weather is as bad as we have had it this year, the school administrators in mountain counties don't have enough maneuvering room to do what we would like to do," Edwards said.

County Schools Accredited

On Jan. 6, the North Carolina State Board of Education, upon the recommendation of State Supt. Dr. A. Craig Phillips, approved the Level I accreditation of Madison County schools.

Dr. Phillips' recommendation was based on an evaluation by the State Accreditation Committee. The State Accreditation Committee has been working with the Madison County School system during the year 1976 and on Nov. 23, 1976, the Accreditation Committee made a visit to Madison County to review the comprehensive educational plan for Madison County.

In 1974, the N. C. State Board of Education changed the basis for State Accreditation from individual schools to administrative units. This Certificate of Accreditation was presented to Madison County schools in recognition of its accomplishments and continuing commitment to excellence in educational programs and services, which are responsive to needs of children of Madison County. Supt. Robert L. Edwards, along with Madison County school board members, Emory Wallin and Dedrick Cody, were present at the State Board meeting for presentation of the Certificate of Accreditation. Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor for Madison County schools and who has been very instrumental in the accreditation process, was also scheduled to go to state School Board meeting, but due to death in her family, was unable to go.



SUB ZERO temperatures this week have caused the French Broad River to freeze over. The packed ice nearly reached the top of the rock wall along the railroad Tuesday morning.

By noon, melting ice had poured onto Main Street from the large culverts beneath the railroad at the rear of the French Broad EMC Building.

Gudger Nominated For Committees

Congressman Lamar Gudger has been nominated by the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee for assignment to the Interior and Insular Affairs and Judiciary committees.

Gudger, who requested that he be nominated for the two committees, expressed pleasure over the assignments saying, "Work on these committees will reflect my own personal experiences, and more importantly, the needs of North Carolina's Eleventh District."

Gudger's nomination must still be approved by the caucus of all House Democrats but the caucus rarely challenges the nominations of the Steering and Policy Committee.

Gudger received support from former 11th District Rep. Roy A. Taylor in his bid for assignment to the Interior Committee. In a letter to Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the House, Taylor said, "It is important to Western North Carolina and it is important to Lamar Gudger that he be assigned as a member of the committee."

O'Neill acknowledged the letter from Taylor saying he would support Gudger's efforts when the Steering and Policy Committee began its deliberations on Jan. 5.

Gudger, in a letter to O'Neill, said, "I feel that my district needs to have continuing representation on the Interior Committee and that

Congressman Taylor's records, files, and staff's experience in serving with this committee will equip me to be a valuable member of that committee."

Marshall Law Office Opens

The law firm of Gudger, McLean, Leake, Talman and Stevenson has opened offices in the Moore's Pharmacy Building on Main Street in Marshall. This firm also has an office at 20 North Spruce St., Asheville.

The firm consists of Lamar Gudger, W. K. McLean, A. E. Leake, Wesley F. Talman Jr., and Joel B. Stevenson. William Parker is associated with the firm.

Gudger is a former state representative, state senator, superior court solicitor, and is at present the congressman

The 17-county 11th District contains the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a portion of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Eastern Cherokee Indian Reservation,

the Carl Sandburg Historic Site, and two national forests. Gudger said that assignment to the House Judiciary

partner in the Asheville law firm of Swain, Leake and Stevenson. He is a graduate of Western Carolina University and the Carolina Law School. He was a member of the University of North Carolina Law School's National Moot Court Team in 1970 and was president of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity while a student in the Carolina Law School.

William Parker is an honor graduate of the Carolina Law School and was a member of the Cof.

Stevenson was formerly a

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Area Health Councils Organized

Dr. T. R. Harris, president of the Western North Carolina Health Systems Agency, has announced that subarea councils, advisory to the Health Systems Agency, have been organized and members appointed for its five planning regions in Western North Carolina.

Members appointed from Region B, which is composed of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania counties, are as follows: Fred Elgin, Henderson County; Dr. Frances Triggs, Henderson County; Ms. Linda Mashburn, Madison County; Ken Sanchagrin, Madison County; Dr. Otis Michael, Buncombe County; Dr. H. D. Crews, Buncombe County; Leon Bennett, Buncombe County; Dr. James Dutton, Jr., Buncombe County; Dr. Robert Eaton, Henderson County; George Bond Jr., Henderson County; Dr. Herb Justus, Henderson County; Dr. Marius Wells, Transylvania County; Dr. Wilburn Davis, Transylvania County; Jerry Plennmons, Madison County; Ms. Jeanne Hoffman, Madison County; James Ledford, Madison County; Ron McElrath, Buncombe County; George Gragg, Buncombe County; Ms. Doris Giezen-tanner, Buncombe County; Larry Wilson, Buncombe County; Ms. Helen Reed, Buncombe County; Ms. Mary Ruth Heil, Henderson County; Charles Campbell, Transylvania County; and, George Earle Johnson, Transylvania County.

The January and February meetings of the subarea councils will be devoted primarily to the development of objectives for a Regional Health Systems Plan. This plan is required under Public Law 93-641, the National Health Planning and

Resources Development Act of 1974. A schedule of these meetings is provided below.

The Western North Carolina Health Systems Agency, based in Morganton, is responsible for planning the availability and accessibility of health services for the coordination of service activities to contain costs and for the encouragement and facilitation of preventive and remedial programs for improving the health of the population of 26 counties (Governor's Planning Regions A, B, C, D, and E) in Western North Carolina.

Region B meeting Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. - Buncombe County Department of Social Services (Conference Room) Asheville.

All WNCCHA meetings are open to the public.

Producers To Get ASCS Form

ASCS is required by law to report to the Internal Revenue Service certain payments made to producers. These payments include those made under ACP, FIP, CAP, and other direct program payments. This report will include payments made directly to producers, to assignees, and to U. S. Government Agencies for any debts owed.

During January, producers should receive Form CCC-182 showing total payments reported to Internal Revenue Service.

Producers having any questions should contact the county ASCS Office from which payment was received.

Easter Seal Society Seeks Volunteers

"Hi! I'm calling for the Easter Seal Society for crippled children and adults. We're lining up our street captains for this spring's Neighbor-to-Neighbor appeal, which starts March 1. Would you like to help Easter Seal this year?"

In the next few weeks,

volunteers throughout Madison County will receive calls similar to this one from Wanda Roberts, who is coordinating the Easter Seal project in the county.

"The Neighbor-to-Neighbor approach seems to have advantages over a door-to-door campaign," Mrs. Roberts explains.

Each street captain agrees to accept a kit for her street, and it is mailed directly to the home the first of March. She then passes the self-explanatory kit to one neighbor who takes it to her neighbor, and so on until it returns to the street captain. The street captain then takes the Easter Seal kit to any Wachovia Bank in the county.

"In the Neighbor-to-Neighbor project, one person does not knock on everyone's door to ask for a contribution," Mrs. Roberts points out. "Instead, each neighbor may take her time reading the information."

First Union Earnings Up 4 Cents Per Share

First Union Corporation (NASDAQ: FUNC) today reported income before security transactions and extraordinary item of \$7,862,000, or \$1.29 per share for 1976. This compares to \$7,561,000, or \$1.24 per share, the corporation earned in 1975.

The corporation reported income before security transactions and extraordinary item for the fourth quarter of 1976 of \$2,533,000, or 42 cents per share compared to \$2,063,000, or 35 cents per share, for the same period in 1975. Net income for 1976 was

\$12,330,000, or \$2.02 per share including an extraordinary and non-recurring gain of \$4,471,000, or 73 cents per share. This compared with net income of \$7,433,000, or \$1.22 per share for last year.

The extraordinary gain resulted from the successful conclusion of the offer in the first quarter to exchange a new issue of 8 1/2 percent Convertible Subordinated Debentures due April 15, 1996, for the then outstanding 5 1/2 percent Convertible Subordinated Debentures, also due April 15, 1996. The offer

resulting from the cancellation of debt, represents the difference between the principal amount of the 5 1/2 percent Debentures tendered less applicable unamortized issue expenses and the fair market value of the 8 1/2 percent Debentures issued.

The previously reported extraordinary gain on the cancellation of debt of \$3,738,000, or 45 cents per share, was increased by \$1,733,000, or 28 cents per share, in the fourth quarter. As set forth in the corporation's quarterly reports for 1976, management had originally

planned, subject to final decision at year-end, to report the differences in the par value of the new Debentures issued and the old Debentures tendered as taxable income for Federal Income Tax return purposes, which would have resulted in the previously reported extraordinary amount. At year-end after a review of all matters concerning the debenture exchange transaction, and other relevant factors, management decided to make an election permitted under the Federal Internal Revenue code to allocate a portion of the gain to

the tax basis of the corporation's investment in subsidiaries. This action resulted in a reduction of the previously provided income taxes for financial reporting purposes of \$1,733,000, or 28 cents per share, which is being reported as a fourth quarter extraordinary item.

Net income for the fourth quarter was \$4,233,000, or 69 cents per share, compared to \$3,898,000, or 63 cents per share for the same period last year.

First Union National Bank, the corporation's major subsidiary, reported income

before security transactions of \$11,870,000 compared to \$11,795,000 for the same period in 1975. Fourth quarter earnings for the bank were \$4,063,000, compared to \$2,602,000 for the same period last year.

Cameron-Brown Company, the corporation's mortgage banking subsidiary, reported a loss of \$4,384,000 for 1976, compared to a loss of \$5,240,000 for 1975. Cameron-Brown's results for the fourth quarter showed a loss of \$1,270,000, compared to a loss of \$1,100,000 for the fourth quarter of last year.

Democratic Precinct Meetings Set

The State Democratic Executive Committee voted on and approved the date and time for all Democratic precinct meetings at a meeting held on Jan. 8 prior to the Inaugural ceremonies in Raleigh.

The date for all precinct meetings in North Carolina will be on Thursday night, Feb. 10, 1977.