

# Barnhill Resigns As CETA Coordinator / Sites Return To Business

After only three months as full-time CETA coordinator for Madison County, Taylor Barnhill is resigning from the position to devote more time to his architectural and consulting firm.

Presenting Barnhill's letter of resignation to the county commissioners last Friday night, newly elected commission chairman James Ledford told the board the letter stated Barnhill "has other things he wants to do." A motion was made to accept Barnhill's resignation, which is effective Dec. 19, and board members Virginia Anderson and Ervin Adams voted unanimously to accept the resignation.

Contacted Monday Barnhill, who is an architect and planning consultant, said he "needs to make a full-time commitment to his private business."

Barnhill said that at the time he was hired as CETA coordinator, the county was in need of a full-time administrator to coordinate the various CETA programs throughout the county. He said he took the job as coordinator on a 90-day commitment in order to see that the CETA programs in Madison were in compliance with state and federal guidelines.

"Every CETA program in the state has pro-

bably some areas of non-compliance," Barnhill said. "And at the end of the fiscal year, they are sent a letter which states that in order for us (the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Development) to continue our commitment, and to proceed with funding for our next fiscal year, will you please fill out this information and send it back to us so your program can be in compliance."

Barnhill said that by Dec. 19, he will have accomplished what he set out to do as coordinator, specifically "to carry out the list of items to bring the program into compliance."

Commissioner Ledford said Monday that there was no designated replacement for Barnhill at this time. Ledford said he would be acting director of the county's CETA program until a person could be hired as coordinator.

"I ran the program for four years before," Ledford said, and he added that he and his fellow commissioners would be looking for someone who would be a good administrator for the program and be paid with CETA funds.

Ledford said he would have some recommendations for the position of CETA coordinator at the Jan. 2 meeting of the board of commissioners.

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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## Ledford Elected Commission Head

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This report of the board of commissioners meeting contains few details of the matters discussed because of the reporter's difficulty in hearing under the circumstances at the meeting.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met Friday night, Dec. 5 and elected Commissioner James Ledford as Chairman and Ervin Adams as vice-chairman as their first order of business.

The three member board went into executive session at 7:48 p.m. and emerged from the conference room at 7:58 when they proceeded to elect officers for the coming year. Jena Lee Buckner was retained as clerk as were county attorney Larry B. Leake and county finance officer David Caldwell, all by unanimous

approval by the board.

Ervin Adams stepped down from the chairman position during the transaction while Ledford expressed a simple "thank you" to his fellow board members.

After all board officials had been elected or appointed for the coming year, the commissioners proceeded to attend to 10 items on the evening's agenda:

• Sam Parker, Madison County Community Development Coordinator, reported to the board that the county had complied with all but two items on a recent community development grant. Parker mentioned that the bookkeeping for the county community development program was being done in his office, and there was some discussion

concerning the newly elected chairman of the board of commissioners signing the checks. Chairman Ledford stated he would straighten out the matter immediately, adding, "We go by state law here in Madison County."

• The commissioners went into executive session with Mr. Phillip R. Elam, representative of the industrial development committee of the Greater Asheville Chamber of Commerce, at 8:06 p.m. They returned to the open meeting at 8:27 p.m. with no comment to the audience as to the nature of the private discussion.

• Mr. Ed Norton, director of the county health department, informed the commissioners he was reviewing applications for the petition of nurse practi-

tioner in the department and recommended Rene Stovell for the position. No action was taken on Norton's recommendation.

• The board heard a recommendation from Anita Davie, director of the Department of Social Services, for hiring Mary Jane Pressley for a vacant homemaker position. The board approved Ms. Pressley for the job. Ms. Davie also recommended Amy Rabb for a day care teaching position at the Laurel Cay Care Center. The commissioners approved the hiring of Ms. Rabb.

• Ernest M. Surles brought a road petition before the board requesting the board's assistance in getting an unmaintained road, once known

as "Old Big Pine Road," paved so that he can continue to develop property for housing. The commissioners suggested to Mr. Surles that he investigate proper and legal procedures for his development in the county and tabled the road petition until a later date.

• Mildred West, county tax supervisor and acting ambulance service supervisor, reported to the commissioners that some taxpayers were requesting a change of tax listing locations. The board said they would look into the matter.

• Chairman Ledford read a letter from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation which stated the county would be receiving a \$5,000 grant from the foundation to renovate the

nutrition site at Laurel.

• Chairman Ledford told the board that plans were underway to move the county landfill a short distance from its present site and construct an access road from the Highway 25-70 bypass into the county-owned land.

• Charles "Tubby" Deaver went into executive session with the commissioners at 9:26 p.m. to discuss a matter involving ambulance service personnel. The board returned to open meeting at 9:49 p.m. with no comment about the private session.

• County Finance Officer David Caldwell reported to the commissioners that the county needed to set a salary for Ester Franks. The board approved setting Ms. Franks' salary at \$10,000 including fringe benefits.



Photo by Scott Lunsford

MARS HILL LIONS reluctantly gave up NAIA playoff game to Nebraska's Kearney State 6-9 in overtime action Saturday. See details on today's sports pages.

### Sewer Project

## Mars Hill Town Council

By G.S. FITZGERALD

The Mars Hill Town Council reviewed a water and sewer project at its regular meeting on Dec. 1. The project concerns providing sewer and water service to the community of Mars Hill. The project also includes a plan to connect onto the existing treatment facilities located on the Mars Hill College campus.

This project, dubbed by the council as Project 201, will cost approximately \$3.5 million to be fully completed. It will provide water and sewage service to all the residents and businesses of the Mars Hill township. The project will consist of a treatment plant, several pump stations, and connecting lines throughout the area. Its projected completion will be in the Spring of 1984.

Project 201, which began design in 1977, has just passed state approval and is now pending approval by the Environmental Protection Agency. A majority of the funding for this project will be provided by government grants which will amount to approximately \$2 million of the total \$3.5 million. The remaining \$1.5 million will have to be generated through local funds.

The council plans to build this project in stages to help stem the cost. The first phase will be the construction of the treatment plant and with the connectors and sewage lines will follow in later stages.

The system will be low maintenance and will process a projected 250,000 gallons of water per day. Bidding for construction of the plant will begin in 1982. Actual construction would start in early 1984 and will be completed in the following spring. The system will provide a very needed service to the Mars Hill community, according to Mars Hill aldermen.

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

The Madison County Board of Education approved a four-year renewal of Superintendent R.L. Edwards' employment contract on Dec. 1, but according to Edwards, final approval by the State Board of Education must be obtained before he can officially continue his duties as school superintendent in the county.

"The state board will meet early in January, around the seventh or ninth," Edwards said recently. "I don't foresee any problems with the state board. They usually go along with the decision of the local board," he added.

Edwards has been superintendent of the county school system for 18 years, getting his first four-year contract in 1963. His contract approved by the local board this month continues his employment from July 1, 1981 to June 30, 1985.

The local board approved Edwards' contract with a base salary of \$2,200 per month plus a \$200 per month local supplement and a monthly \$200 for expenses. That adds up to \$2,600 per month or \$31,200 per year as superintendent.

Edwards explained that the State Board of Education reviews a superintendent's qualifications and the size of the administrative unit he must supervise in determining the salary from the state and the approval or disapproval of the employment contract.

Supt. Edwards said a North Carolina General Statute passed in 1980 gave the local boards of education the right to elect a superintendent. The N.C. law states: "The county board of education may with the written consent of the current superintendent extend or renew the term of the superintendent's contract at anytime during the final period of the term."



Robert L. Edwards

## Inauguration January 10



Gov. Jim Hunt

RALEIGH — Noon, Saturday, Jan. 10, has been set as the time for Governor Jim Hunt's inauguration to a second term as Governor.

The 1980 Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies today approved a schedule of inaugural events that includes the inaugural ceremony and parade and public reception. The committee also elected Senator James Garrison of Albemarle as its chairman.

"We want this to be a 'people's inaugural,'" Garrison said. "The ceremonies have been set for a Saturday so as many people as possible will be able to participate. This is not just a swearing in of public officials, it is a day when we, as a people, reaffirm our commitment to the democratic process."

The inaugural ceremony will be held on the steps of the State Archives and History Building on Jones Street in

Raleigh. Governor Hunt, Lt. Governor Jimmy Green and Members of the Council of State will be sworn into office by Chief Justice Joseph Branch and Justices of the State Supreme Court.

The inaugural ceremony will be followed by the traditional inaugural parade featuring bands, floats and marching units from around the state. The parade will move South on Wilmington Street from the Archives Building, turn West on Martin Street, and then North on Salisbury Street. Governor Hunt and the inaugural party will review the parade as it passes the East side of the Capitol on Wilmington Street.

All of Saturday's official events are free and open to the public.

Governor Hunt and his family will begin the day with a private family communion service.

## Hot Springs PTA Rolling

By KEVIN MORLEY

Around 25 people came to the Hot Springs Elementary School auditorium on Dec. 2 to pick up where they left off a month earlier in their quest for a PTA.

The first meeting ended with the general agreement that Principal J.C. Wallin would send for information from the national PTA on the formation and meaning of the local PTA.

Wallin spoke to the second assembly after the meeting was called to order by Paul Sawyer. He described the material sent to him by the PTA and reviewed the objectives of the Parent and Teacher Association. He emphasized the worth of affiliating with the state/national organization and cited training sessions and workshops for local groups as one of the benefits.

For a "working, coherent" PTA, Wallin spoke of the necessity of guidelines and by-laws and the strict adherence to them. He suggested that the assembled parents choose a temporary chairperson whose job it would be to form the committees needed to get the organization off the ground; the membership and by-laws committees.

After the Hot Springs principal took his seat it was several minutes before Mrs. Susan Wrenn was nominated and elected to spearhead the formative efforts of the group. After her selection she took some time to familiarize herself with her duties and then called upon the group to nominate six people to fill the two committees.

By-law committee members are Kate Ricker, Caroline Gentry and J.C. Wallin. The membership committee members are Paul Sawyer, Judy Sams and Donnie Green.

The newly formed group announced the next meeting for the Hot Springs PTA will be Jan. 6, 1981, at 7:30 p.m.