

Lions Win
Opener
13-8

Community Calendar

Mars Hill Lions Plan Fish Fry

The Mars Hill Lions Club will sponsor a fish fry on Saturday on Main Street in Mars Hill across from Town Hall. The fry will feature trout and chicken. Dinner including dessert is \$3.50 per person.

The fish fry will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. and again from 4 until 7 p.m. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to assist the blind.

Laurel VFD Fall Festival

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department will hold its Fall Festival on Sept. 23 from noon until 6 p.m. at the Laurel Elementary School. Volleyball, horse rides, concessions, a dunking booth and live music will be featured.

Proceeds will benefit the work of the newly-formed fire company.

GOP To Open Headquarters

The Madison County Republican Party will open their campaign headquarters in Marshall on Thursday afternoon. Former Rep. Bill Hendon is expected to attend the opening. The headquarters is located on Main Street in the former location of the New Dimensions arcade. The public is invited to attend.

Co-Op Nursery Open House

The Mars Hill co-operative nursery for infants and preschoolers will hold an open house on Monday, Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. until noon at the Mars Hill Baptist Church.

The nursery is operated by Project Sunrise and serves to demonstrate the effectiveness of parents as teachers. Interested parents are invited to attend. For more information, contact Debra Smith at 433-2865.

GOP Precinct Meeting

The Madison County Republican Party will hold a precinct meeting on Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the lunchroom of the Walnut Elementary School. John Stewart, a candidate for the State Senate, is expected to attend the meeting.

Registrars will also be present to register voters for the November election.

Patriots Host Enka

The Madison Patriots will host the Enka Jets in football action Friday night at O.E. Roberts Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Lions Face Catawba

The Mars Hill Lions will host Catawba College in a SAC-8 conference game Saturday afternoon at Meares Stadium in Mars Hill. Kickoff for the Parents Day game is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Gov. Hunt To Visit

Governor James B. Hunt, Jr. will visit Madison County Friday morning. Transportation workers and Mars Hill College personnel are invited to Hill College employees at a breakfast meeting.

Gov. Hunt is scheduled to address the workers at a 7 a.m. meeting in the cafeteria of Madison H.S. The county's school teachers and other

employees as well as Department of Transportation workers and Mars Hill College personnel are invited to attend.

Coffee and ham and sausage biscuits will be served and the informal meeting will be open to the public. Gov. Hunt is scheduled to depart the high school at 8 a.m.

DOT Studies Redmon Bridge

The North Carolina Board of Transportation will meet in Raleigh on Friday to consider some \$41 million in highway improvement contracts. Among the projects the board will consider is a replacement bridge across the French Broad River near Redmon.

The board will also consider contracts for resurfacing more than 450 miles of primary and secondary highways across the state.

The DOT has scheduled a public hearing on the Redmon Bridge project for Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Madison High School.

Farm Woman Award Nominations Sought

Nominations for the 1984 "Outstanding Farm Woman" are now being accepted according to Agricultural Commissioner Jim Gordon.

The award, presented annually during the Young Farmer and Ranchmen Banquet at the North Carolina State Fair, is presented to a woman who is engaged in the day-to-day operation of a farm and is eligible for the award. Interested women who are nominated must show proof that farm production and management duties are shared equally with their husbands.

The deadline for entries is Oct. 3. Nominations forms may be obtained from the Madison County Extension Office.

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Mayor, Alder Over Charlie Sexton

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Marshall Board of Aldermen held a brief but heated meeting Monday night at Town Hall. The session was cut short when board member Sammy Lunsford left the meeting complaining of a headache. Lunsford's premature departure left the board short of a quorum to conduct town business.

Lunsford's departure left only board member John Dodson and Mayor Wild. Alderman Ed Niles was out of town Monday and did not attend the meeting.

Before Lunsford left, he and Mayor Wild argued over the status of town employee Charlie Sexton. Town attorney Charles Mashburn briefly attended Monday's session to present his opinion regarding the responsibilities of the mayor and board members. The responsibilities of the board members and mayor is at the heart of the dispute between Wild and Lunsford.

Also at issue is whether Sexton quit his job with the town water department following a dispute with the mayor.

In presenting his opinion, Mashburn cited a number of passages from the town code and the North Carolina General Statutes regarding cities and towns.

Mashburn cited a section of the town's charter which stated, "It shall be the duty of the board of aldermen to divide and classify the duties of their office into departments and to assign one or more departments to each of their members, and each member shall be held responsible for the management and supervision of

the department assigned to him, and shall make written reports to each monthly meeting of the board, with such recommendations as to the administration of his department as to him may seem best..."

Mashburn also cited another chapter of the code which said: "The Board of Aldermen shall have power by ordinance to require oaths, fix compensation and bonds of any and all employees of the town, and prescribe their duties, and provide for their removal."

When questioned as to the law's meaning by the mayor, Mashburn said, "The mayor is only given the power by the charter to suspend a police officer for cause. She is to make reports and recommendations to the board. The mayor is an administrative officer and reports to the board."

The question of the extent of the mayor's authority arose from the dispute with Sexton.

In a statement presented to the board by Sammy Lunsford, the alderman charged that Mayor Wild threatened to suspend Sexton from his job if a water line was not installed. Lunsford stated that the mayor asked Sexton to lay 300 feet of line in four hours.

Wild agreed that she was not within her powers to threaten Sexton with suspension and offered an apology.

While agreement was reached on the mayor's authority, the question of Sexton's status was not answered on Monday.

Mayor Wild repeatedly said that Sexton quit his job with the town, both during the initial argument and later

in the day before aldermen Ed Niles. "He walked in and said, 'I quit' and then he went down to the drug store and told Doc Niles, 'I quit.' There was a roomful of witnesses in both cases," Wild said.

Sexton denied quitting his job. He said he told the mayor he would quit before she would suspend him.

Sammy Lunsford is Sexton's supervisor with the Water and Sewer Dept. Lunsford was out of town on the day of the dispute.

Sexton has remained on the job since his dispute with Mrs. Wild. Although still performing his duties, he has not been paid for a month.

Lunsford told Wild that the town is in violation of the N.C. Wage and Hour Act for failing to pay Sexton. He told the meeting, "I made the decision to keep him on the job, and whether I was right or wrong, we still have to pay the man."

The mayor responded by saying the question of Sexton's salary should be decided by the aldermen in executive session. It was then decided to table the question of Sexton's status and salary until Ed Niles would be available for a meeting.

Lunsford and Wild also argued about the town's backhoe which is presently out of service. Wild complained that the aldermen authorized repairs months ago and that the repairs have not been made. Lunsford responded by saying that the shop that won the bid to make the repairs couldn't handle the job when approval was finally given.

The board then voted to reopen the repair job for bids.

When Lunsford then asked about Sexton's status, Wild responded by saying, "He quit and that's the bottom line as far as I'm concerned."

When the decision to table the discussion was announced, Lunsford told the meeting he had developed what he called, "a bad headache" and left Town Hall.

Without the necessary two board members present, no further town business was conducted. Mayor Wild and John Dodson remained, however, to hear from James and Virginia Jones regarding a water line in Mrs. Jones' mother's home in Rollins. No action was taken on the matter.

Mayor Wild said that another called meeting of the board would be scheduled to complete the business before the board. No date for the meeting was set on Monday night.

Before the premature end of the meeting, the board was to have reviewed the town's monthly financial statement prepared by Frank and Cecilia Ward.

The report, released to the public at the start of Monday's session, reveals that the town's water and sewer fund is over budget and the town's recreation and cemetery expenditures have been exhausted.

According to the report released Monday, the Water and Sewer Dept. has spent more than half its \$70,000 budget with ten months left in the current fiscal year.

The entire \$917 budgeted for the cemetery has already been spent, along with all but \$99 budgeted for recreation.

Meet An Old Friend



FRENCH BROAD RIVER NEAR REDMON

French Broad River Week Week-Long Celebration Opens With Clean-Up Trips

Question: What's wet and beautiful, provides fish, recreation, jobs and electric power and runs from Transylvania County to Knoxville?

Answer: The French Broad River.

Western North Carolina organizations have organized again this year to celebrate French Broad River Week. Fishing derbies, whitewater rafting, float trips, nature walks and the annual Riverfest celebration will make up the week's activities in Buncombe, Madison and Transylvania Counties.

Although most of this year's River Week activities are centered in Buncombe County, Madison Countians have cause to join the celebration.

When the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation's Capito Dam project is completed later this year, FEMCO customers will light their homes with power supplied by the river.

The Capito Dam will be the second hydroelectric facility

operating on the French Broad. Carolina Power and Light Co. has operated the Redmon Dam for many years.

The French Broad has also spawned a new industry in Madison County in recent years. Whitewater rafting has brought an estimated 10,000 visitors to the county this year and provided employment for tour guides with the county's four whitewater outfitters.

The rafting companies have created a new industry and improved the scenic beauty of the river by leading clean-up trips throughout the year.

French Broad River Week concludes Sunday with a Riverfest celebration at the Asheville Firefighters Camp on Clayton Rd., Jefferson Hwy. 181. This year's Riverfest will include live music, food, raft trips, arts and crafts vendors, a volleyball tournament and more.

The Riverfest will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adams Released On Bond

James Arthur Adams of Venice, Fla. was released from the Madison County jail Wednesday after posting a \$50,000 bond. Earlier in the day, Superior Court Judge Charles Lamm reduced Adams' bond from the \$100,000 figure that had been set at the time of Adams' arrest.

Adams has been indicted by the Madison County grand jury on charges of first degree murder, common law rape and obstruction of justice in connection with the 1970 slaying of Volunteer In Service To America worker Nancy Dean Morgan.

Adams' bond was arranged by the Delta Surety Co. of Franklin, a bonding agency.

Adams was released from the jail at 4 p.m. and returned to his Florida home.

No date has been set for his trial.