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28753

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Mars Hill Beats Elon

Community Calendar

Most Offices Observe 2-Day Holiday

Most town offices, schools, county offices and libraries will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving Day holiday, and many of them, in addition, will be closed Friday to provide their employees and personnel with an extra day for digesting their turkey. Specifically, all county offices and day-care centers will be closed both

Thursday and Friday, as will be county schools and the county public library system. Town offices in Marshall and Mars Hill will also take the double-day holiday, but the Hot Springs town hall will be open Friday.

The News Record office will be closed Thursday but open Friday.

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Department will hold a turkey shoot on Nov. 22 at the Fire Department field from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The Alzheimer Support Group will hold their next meeting on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the front room of Madison Manor Nursing Center. Refreshments will be served.

A workshop on entertaining ideas for the busy holidays will be held Nov. 28th from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the First Baptist Church in Marshall. A \$2.00 registration fee will be charged. For more information, contact the Extension Service at 649-2411.

No Rate Hike Foreseen

Marshall Eyes Cost Cuts In Water System

Ways were explored last week to improve efficiency of Marshall's water system in such a way that any increase in water rates will be unlikely.

A preliminary study of the water system by a team headed by Roger Swann, of the North Carolina Rural Water Assn. and including three Marshall aldermen and Morris Trammel, of Wastewater Services Inc., led last week to some specific recommendations.

Foremost among these was a decision for the town to take advantage of free quasi-governmental services to find out the problems. To this end, Swann's group and a representative of the North Carolina Water Resources Commission will be back in Marshall next Monday with two electronic leak-detector units in an effort to find the source of substantial water leakage from the system.

Alderman John Dodson emphasized that this survey will be carried out at no cost to the town. The Rural Water Assn. is funded by grants from such agencies as the Environmental Protection Administration and the

Farmers Home Administration. Concern about the economics of the Marshall water system are prompted by figures indicating that the system pumps about 10-million gallons a month but is selling only a fifth of that amount, increasing costs from 94 cents per thousand gallons to \$1.64 per thousand.

At the same time, the system is operating at an increasing annual loss—a loss that must be made up from general revenues. The shortfall in revenue in 1982 totaled about \$50,000, rising to \$62,000 in 1983 and estimated this year to total \$68,000 to \$70,000.

More than half the water system's costs are for electricity, about \$7,000 per month. Much of this power cost is to pay for operating booster pumps to lift water from Fortner Hollow wells, at river-level, to reservoirs on top of the mountain.

So one of the first recommendations to be carried out by the Rural Water Assn. team is to see how much drawdown can be supported by wells at Walnut Creek, above the storage area—specifically, whether the Fortner Hollow wells can be taken out of service entirely so as to eliminate the substantial power charges.

The preliminary recommendations of the rural water group include an approach to the French Broad Electric Membership Cooperative on the possibility of a better power rate for the town.

District Court

Lawrence P. Reece received a one-year prison sentence and a \$350 fine in Madison County District Court last week after being found guilty of a charge of driving while impaired.

Judge C. Philip Ginn suspended the prison sentence for Reece for two years, but required he serve a seven-day active sentence.

Other cases decided in two sessions of the court late last week were:

Danny Lewis Ingle, found guilty of driving while impaired, fined \$150 and sentenced to 60 days, suspended for two years.

James Dean Treadway, driving while impaired, \$100 fine, 60 days suspended for two years.

Quenton B. Lamb, guilty of driving while impaired, six months suspended for two years, \$300 fine, 72 hours community service.

Donald George Wilson, guilty of driving while his license was revoked; six months suspended for one year, fined \$300. Another charge of possession of a controlled substance was dismissed.

Rai Edward Handy, guilty of littering and possession of malt beverage without being 19 years old, fined \$75.

Harry Douglas Hunter Jr., guilty of driving while impaired, fined \$150, sentenced to four months suspended for two years, with 48 hours of community service.

Michael Anthony Gunter, guilty of driving while impaired, fined \$100, sentenced to 30 days, suspended for two years. A charge of possession of a controlled substance was dismissed.

Terry Charles Hathorn, guilty of possession of controlled substance, fined \$25.



FARMERS AND WAREHOUSE STAFF, most from Madison County, wait for the sale to start at Farmer's and Growers Warehouse in Asheville.

Prices Vary As Leaf Sales Open

By ELIZABETH SQUIRE

Average burley tobacco prices in markets popular with Madison County farmers varied considerably Monday on the first day of sales, as did the quality of tobacco on warehouse floors.

Hall Bruce of Bernard's Warehouse in Greenville, Tenn., which he said received "an especially good run of tobacco," reported an average price of \$1.87 per pound with a high of \$1.93 and a low of \$1.60. He estimated that about a quarter of the 330,000 pounds

sold came from Madison County, and he said the North Carolina tobacco coming to Bernard's was higher quality than the Tennessee tobacco.

Jimmy Ramsey of Mars Hill, co-owner with Warren Anders of Farmers and Growers Warehouse in Asheville, said his warehouse got an average of \$1.854 a pound with some tobacco bringing as much as \$1.92 and some as little as \$1.71 "for what we sold." His warehouse gets farmers to take any wet tobacco out of the auction and helps them to dry it, he said. About 50 percent of his tobacco came from Madison County, he said.

Dixie Big Burley Warehouse in Asheville reported an average price of \$1.8569, with a high of \$1.92 and a low of \$1.80.

Big Burley of Johnson City, Tenn., which is represented by Fred Huffman of Mars Hill, sold tobacco for an average price of \$1.829 a pound with a high of \$1.91 and a low of \$1.63.

Day's Tobacco Warehouse in Asheville averaged around \$1.82 a pound with prices up to \$1.90 and as low as \$1.50. The low average reflected a lot of wet tobacco which came to their floor, said Charles Day, Jr. He said the government got about 35 percent of the tobacco at Day's.

Wiley Duvall, Madison County Extension Agent, who visited Asheville warehouses, said he figured that stabilization got about a third of the tobacco there. He said he was disappointed that company buyers did not

seem more active. Duvall said a circuit rider who oversees the Greenville, Tenn. market said he estimated that stabilization took 60 percent of the tobacco there. Duvall said it was the higher-priced tobacco that seemed to be going to stabilization.

Duvall said that he can't predict, but he has a feeling prices will improve. Early tobacco tends to include a lot which has been worked too soon, he said. Higher quality may follow.

Also, he said, company buyers may be waiting to see what there is this year before they make their buying plans.

It's hard to tell, he said. "I've seen years when the price went up every week, and I've seen years when the opening price was the highest price." It is too soon, he said, to compare this year with last year.

Growers and Star in Tennessee won't be open until today.

Greater Ivy Cited

The Greater Ivy Community Assn. has been commended for participating in Operation Beautiful, a statewide beautification effort sponsored by Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc. (KNCB).

W'vl Aids Rezoning

The Weaverville City Council on Monday evening passed an ordinance providing that those desiring to apply for non-conforming light-industry uses of property in the central business district may apply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for such uses.

The ordinance paves the way for a proposed light-industry use in a building on Florida Street by Emil Stahl of Asheville. Stahl's plans for the structure were not immediately available, but are expected to be disclosed at a hearing before the Board of Adjustment.

Dayco Startup Up In Air

When will Dayco in Hot Springs start hiring? Mayor Debbie Baker of Hot Springs gets constant calls asking that question. So does Jerry Shelton, the man on the spot at the plant as the shoe factory finishes moving out and Dayco begins to move in.

The date when it will be possible to apply for a job at Dayco will be announced first by the Employment Security Commission Job Service, says Arnold Robertson of Dayco in Waynesville. Because he does not know how long it will take to move into the plant, he declined to speculate on when that might be.

The date will be announced first in The News Record and on Radio Station WMMH, says Charles Erwin of the Employment Security Commission. The commission's policy is to announce in local media when the job applications are available. The probability is that the company will accept a fair number of applications before decisions are made on who to hire. The first to hand in his application does not have more of a chance at a job than the 10th or 15th, he said.

Dayco, which will be making curved hoses for car radiators, will not be looking for workers with special skills, Robertson said. The company will train the workers it hires, he said. "The workers I saw at Melville looked like excellent people."

He said he believes Hot Springs will be a good community to work in.

Trucking between the Waynesville plant and the Hot Springs plant will go over Route 209.

The ESC meets in the library in Marshall between 9 and 1 on Thursdays for the convenience of those who do not want to go in to the employment office in Asheville.

From One Hill To Another In Hot Springs :

Father Graves Looks Back Over Half Century



As the Dayco plant slowly prepares to open on one hill in Hot Springs, the man who began the process that led to an industrial plant in Hot Springs celebrates his 50th year in the priesthood on top of another hill.

Father Andrew Verona Graves has spent most of his 50 years as a Jesuit priest in Madison County, among other places. Jesuits may be un-

ed to serve anywhere in the world. Father Graves had suspected he might be sent to the Philippines in 1937. Instead he was assigned to be pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Revere, and, with his car and a traveling mass kit, to serve all of the Catholics in Madison and Yancey Counties and Sisters in the Asheville area.

Wouldn't a Catholic priest be lonely in back-country Madison County? his friends asked. "I was pretty independent, so it didn't worry me," he recalls.

He also decided not to worry that no money seemed to go with the assignment. "The Diciples were called to serve and nobody gave them any money," he told himself, and followed that example.

So he had to be a good fund raiser? He smiles. "I kept ahead of the sheriff."

Father Graves got to know the county quickly because he was asked to be manager of the Revere baseball team, one of 16 county teams that played each other. Luckily the team fit in his car. In those days, he remembers, baseball was the main form of entertainment for many Madison people who got together to "shoot and enjoy themselves."

In those days Madison County was still on the main route through the mountains. Eight buses and four trains a day passed through Hot Springs. Also transfer trucks with squealing breaks. But in communities off the main route such as Revere there were people so poor that they walked to White Rock to get relief supplies from the government and carried the supplies back. There was a great need for jobs.

Father Graves' asthma grew steadily worse in the Revere climate and in 1941 the doctor told him to go west. "I went west to Hot Springs," he chuckles.

There in 1943 he bought an estate that had belonged to Basile Safford, daughter of Col. J.H. Rumbaugh who had run the Mountain Park Hotel during the heyday of Hot Springs as a summer and health resort. Father Graves bought the estate from the New Orleans chapter of the Jesuits to whom Mrs. Safford had given the estate in return for a lifetime annuity, he explains. The house and an attached chapel were used by the parish, but a big chunk of land went with the estate.

"As soon as I bought it (the land), I listed it for sale for 'industry,'" he remembers. But not until the 60's

company came to Hot Springs and bringing the jobs that Father Graves wanted to see.

Then, because Goodall Sanford, the maker of Palm Beach suits, wanted to lease rather than buy a place to make its cloth, the whole community got together and organized the Hot Springs Corporation, which sold bonds and put up a building to lease. Later

Burlington Mills bought the property and the bonds could be paid off. Melville Shoe replaced Burlington Mills, and will now be replaced by Dayco.

As he kept "ahead of the sheriff" in buying the Safford property, Father Graves had no insurance on the house and attached chapel. Fortunately in 1949 his order offered to pay for insurance.

In 1951 the house and chapel burned. The insurance money helped buy the house that has become the Jesuit Residence and Retreat House in Hot Springs. Since the 1970s the property has also included a barber's hotel. At first church services were in the large room to the right of the front door of the main building. Now there is a separate St. Francis chapel.

When Father Graves signed the deed for the property, he was told by the

He takes great pride in the fact that the county commissioners told him that they disagreed about many things, but they agreed 100 percent that he was the man for the job.

In 1963 Father Graves suffered a stroke and was replaced in Hot Springs. After his recovery he came back summers even while he was pastor of a church in Philadelphia. Now retired he can live in Hot Springs all year. He is writing a history of the order's activities here.

Since Route-40 opened west of Hot Springs about 10 years ago the town has become a quiet place without the squeal of truck brakes, and Father Graves says he enjoys the quiet. He takes turns at the masses with Fathers Francis Reese and Vincent Alagia who now staff Hot Springs. He is available if people want to talk. Recently he baptized the child of one of the girls he baptized when she was a child. He says he is grateful that God still uses him.

And his prayers and promises have been answered. In 10 years of service in Hot Springs, he has seen the town grow and prosper. He is proud of the progress that has been made. He is proud of the people who have made it possible. He is proud of the future that lies ahead.