



THE RECORD

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ANNE KITCHELL PHOTOS

Birthday Bash

Vance Birthplace near Weaverville recently celebrated the 157th birthday of Zebulon Vance, North Carolina's Civil War governor. Above, Woodfin Elementary School children visit the state historical site. Left, Elizabeth Squire shows a group of children how to "cane" a chair. Vance Birthplace, on Reems Creek Road, is now open for the summer.



Accident-Filled Week Claims Mother, Unborn Daughter

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

A Marshall woman and her unborn child were killed in a single-vehicle accident after she lost control of her car on rain-soaked U.S. 23 near Wolf Laurel last week.

It was one of several traffic accidents to keep N.C. Highway Patrol troopers busy in Madison County during the past week.

Lorri Davis Bowen, 27, of Route 6 Marshall was killed at about 3:30 p.m. last Wednesday when her car skidded off U.S. 23 at the foot of Murray Mountain and crashed into Laurel Creek, according to Trooper

T.B. Sutton, investigating officer.

Bowen was eight months pregnant at the time of the crash, and attempts to save her unborn child failed, according to reports.

Authorities blame the accident on heavy rains and a wet roadway.

"There was a hard rain and she apparently lost control on the slick pavement," Sutton said. "I figure she hydroplaned."

The tires of Bowen's vehicle apparently lost contact with the road when it traveled through a puddle of water on U.S. 23, he said. The car ran off the right side of the road overturned into Laurel Creek, according to

reports.

Bowen's 8-year-old daughter, Angela, was a passenger in the car at the time of the accident, Sutton said.

"She (Angela) crawled out of the car, ran up to the road and flagged down a passing motorist," he said.

The Madison County Emergency Medical Service responded to the call, and transported Bowen and her daughter to the Mars Hill Medical Center.

There, doctors tried to save Bowen's unborn daughter, but their attempts failed, said Eddie Fox, EMS director.

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Residents Question Legality Of Home

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

The town of Mars Hill can legally sponsor an intermediate care facility for mentally retarded adults, despite the fact that the Madison County Board of Commissioners refused to participate in the project last year.

That was the word Tuesday from David Matney, project attorney, during a public hearing on the proposed facility.

"I want to know whether the town has the right to do this after the county has turned it down on the same property," C.N. Willis asked Matney during the public hearing, held at Mars Hill Town Hall.

"Yes, sir. Legally, they can," Matney said. "The county did not say they didn't want it. The county said they did not want to bother to do it."

Madison County commissioners, at a packed public hearing in December, agreed that they would not sponsor the facility for mentally retarded adults. Blue Ridge Mental Health, a private company, sought the county's assistance in obtaining special tax-free bond funding for the construction of the facility.

The Madison commissioners, after

facility from county residents, opted against sponsoring the home.

Project developers then asked the Mars Hill Board of Aldermen for sponsorship, and the board was tentatively agreed.

"The county did not vote not to do it," Matney said Tuesday. "There was no motion to do it. But even if they had said no, the town could still do it."

Mars Hill's approval of the project also came after the town of Weaverville's earlier rejection of the proposal. The Weaverville Town Council did not annex a site considered by Blue Ridge Mental Health for the facility, and that meant the facility could not get needed water and sewer service.

"We needed the zoning changed in Weaverville," Matney said. "I personally didn't like the site in Weaverville. I thought it was too small."

Matney's comment came in response to a question from Edith Lunsford, who lives on a hill overlooking the proposed site for the Mars Hill facility, to be located on land owned by former Madison County Commissioner James Ledford near a levee.



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Ledford Honored

The Land-of-Sky Regional Council recently named James T. Ledford, Mars Hill businessman and former Madison County commissioner, as this year's recipient of the Charles H. Campbell Regional Leadership Award. Robert E. Shepherd, executive director of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, left, presented the award last week to Ledford. According to the inscription on the plaque, Ledford "has given usefulness of his time as a businessman to promote the development of Region B and Madison County."

Madison Schools OK \$1.4 Million Budget

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

The Madison County Board of Education, after several late-night brainstorming sessions this month, agreed last Thursday to a proposed budget for the 1987-88 fiscal year totaling \$1,474,120.

That amount is \$187,475 more than the \$1,286,645 budget the school system operated on in 1986-87.

School board members approved the proposed budget late Thursday night, less than an hour before midnight - and May 15, the deadline for local school boards to adopt proposed budgets.

The proposed school budget is divided into two separate parts, the operating budget and the capital outlay fund.

Madison school officials say they will need \$923,120 to run the county school system in 1987-88. That money would be used to pay salaries and fr-

inge benefits, maintenance of facilities, transportation costs and supplies and materials. The amount allocated to pay for operating expenses in 1986-87 was \$1,135,645 - \$212,525 more than school officials say they'll need for the coming year.

School officials have asked for a total of \$551,000 for the capital outlay fund, which is used to construct new school facilities, repair existing buildings and purchase new equipment and vehicles. The proposed capital outlay fund for the coming year is \$400,000 more than last year's fund.

"I see a grand total of \$1,474,120. I think that's all we'd better ask for," said Jim Baker, school board chairman. "Gentlemen, we have adopted a budget."

Madison County school system's proposed budget, which includes money allocated by the Madison County Board of Commissioners, the

General Assembly and sales tax revenue, will be now be submitted to county officials.

The Madison County commissioners last year allocated \$700,000 in county funds to the school system.

That amount did not include revenue from two half-cent sales tax increases approved by the county. State law requires that 40 percent of revenues from the first half-cent sales tax be used for school construction projects and at least 60 percent of the second half-cent sales tax revenues be used for school construction.

The Madison County commissioners agreed to divert 100 percent of the revenues from the second half-cent tax to the school system's capital outlay fund.

The school system last year collected \$150,000 in revenues from the

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Hot Springs Police Chief Faces 2nd Assault Charge

By ANNE KITCHELL
Staff Writer

Hot Springs Police Chief Terry Lee Getman has been charged with using a deadly weapon to assault and inflict serious injury upon James C. Leister.

In a warrant issued last Thursday, Getman is charged with striking the elderly Leister with an "extra large hand gun" once on the head, opening a wound.

According to the warrant, Leister required three stitches and had to be given emergency medical treatment following the April 30 incident.

Getman said during the Hot Springs Board of Aldermen meeting Monday night that he would not go into detail about the charges stemming from the April 30 incident - or three charges filed last week concerning two teen-age boys.

Getman contended that he acted in compliance with the law in both incidents.

According to Hot Springs Mayor Kenny Ramsey, Getman was investigating the theft of a purse in Hot Springs April 30 when the incident involving Leister occurred.

Getman approached Leister for questioning in his apartment, when Leister allegedly pulled a gun on him, Ramsey said.

Getman was acting in self-defense when he hit Leister with the butt of the gun, Ramsey said.

Leister has been charged with

assault on a law enforcement officer with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest and larceny, Getman said.

Leister's charges against Getman come after two Madison High School teen-agers filed assault and communicating threats charges against Getman last week.

Michael Miller has accused Get-

man of threatening him with physical violence and with assaulting him by pushing him into the town police car.

Randy Riddle has also accused Getman of threatening him.

Those charges stem from Getman's arrest of Miller on May 10 on a routine traffic offense. He has called the charges "ridiculous."

Town Board Approves Part-Time Officers

By ANNE KITCHELL
Staff Writer

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen agreed Monday to appoint an auxiliary police force for the town to assist Police Chief Terry Lee Getman when needed.

The move came in the wake of the recent Hot Springs Homecoming, where additional security was credited with deterring violence and disorderly conduct.

During the board's Monday meeting, Getman told town officials that an additional five deputies, Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown and two N.C. Highway Patrol troopers assisted in controlling the crowds and keeping disturbances to a minimum.

Getman had requested a volunteer police force during the meeting of the board of aldermen in April. The request was tabled until the next meeting, scheduled for May 4. Due to a lack of a quorum, that meeting was rescheduled until after the homecoming.

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Weaverville Prepares For Its Bicentennial

From Staff Reports

Although Independence Day is almost two months away, the town of Weaverville is already gearing up for its annual Fourth of July parade and celebration.

This year, the event will take on additional significance, as Weaverville will be celebrating its own bicentennial - and the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

It was in 1787 that John Weaver, the first white settler in Reems Creek Valley, set foot in the area that could one day bear his name.

And folks in the Weaverville area are preparing for a summer full of special events to commemorate the occasion.

Discussion and planning for the Independence Day and 200th birthday celebration dominated Monday's meeting of the Weaverville Town Council.

Civic clubs, church groups and private individuals who are organizing the events backed to Town Hall to talk over their plans with town officials.

"It's a big event for Weaverville," said Mayor Ross Lasher. "The July 4th festivities, the Independence Day celebration and the Christmas parade are the two big events for the community."

Festivities surrounding Weaverville's bicentennial celebration will begin over the July 4th holiday, and continue into August, Lasher said.

"Things will culminate the first of August with the gathering of the Weaver tribe," he said. "This should be a pretty big event for the town."

Town officials are helping the civic and church organizations and residents plan for Independence Day activities.

"We're committed to a program of a parade on Saturday, the Fourth," Lasher said. "Through the day, we'll have a whole day of Fourth of July events, with a street dance at 8 and fireworks at dark."

Town officials are helping the Weaverville Woman's Club raise money to pay for the fireworks.

Here's a look at events scheduled for the town's 200th birthday party and Independence Day:

July 2 - Street dance and fireworks at 7 p.m. on Main Street. For information, contact Kay Field at 333-3333.

The parade, with the Weaverville USA Celebration, will be held on Saturday, July 4, at 10 a.m. on Main Street. The parade will be held on the