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Traffic Signal May Reduce Accidents

By BILL STUDENC
 Editor

The N.C. Department of Transportation has installed new signal lights at the intersection of N.C. 213 and U.S. 19-23 at Mars Hill. Traffic safety officials say they hope the new lights, which cost \$25,000, will reduce the rate of accidents at what may be the most dangerous intersection in Madison County.

"That is the single most dangerous intersection in the county," said Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown. "The statistics will prove that."

Sgt. Zeb Phillips of the N.C. Highway Patrol agrees. According to statistics at the Highway Patrol's Burn-

sville office, there have been 11 reportable two-car accidents at the intersection of U.S. 19-23 and N.C. 213 during the past year.

Six of those 11 accidents involved personal injuries, Phillips said. Four accidents resulted in "serious personal injury," he said.

Those 11 accidents caused some \$40,000 in property damage, Phillips said.

"The new lights will not eliminate all the wrecks, but we hope it will reduce them," he said. "Drivers still need to be cautious and make sure the other lanes of traffic have stopped before they pull out."

One state trooper last week clocked a motorist traveling through intersection at more than 70 mph,

Phillips said. The motorist had gone through the red light without slowing down, he said.

"Don't just pull out without looking, even if you have the right of way," he said. "You might be right, but don't be dead right."

DOT workers installed the lights two weeks ago, and the new traffic signals went on line last week, said Jack Buckner, DOT highway maintenance engineer for Madison and Yancey counties.

"It took about a week to get them ready," Buckner said. "We let them flash for a couple of days so that people could get used to them."

Buckner said he believes the signals will help the flow of traffic through Mars Hill.

"Sometimes Big Branch (now Carl Eller Road) is loaded with traffic from the steakhouse, Micro Switch workers and the college, and that can give us a lot of problems," he said. "We think this will stop that."

The new lights include a "leading green" light for vehicles making left-hand turns, Buckner said.

If a proposal to convert U.S. 19-23 into an interstate highway leading from Asheville to Tennessee is approved, the signal lights will have to be removed and a new cloverleaf-type intersection constructed.

But those kinds of improvements to U.S. 19-23 are several years away, Brown said, and the expense of installing the signal lights should be well worth it because of the accidents that will be prevented.

President Signs Law; No Nukes In WNC

From Staff Reports

President Ronald Reagan made it official Tuesday - high-level nuclear waste will not be stored in Western North Carolina.

When Reagan signed the Budget Reconciliation Act, he also approved an end to the U.S. Department of Energy's search for a nuclear waste repository on the East Coast.

And that means that a 105-square mile tract in the Sandy Mush section of Buncombe, Madison and Haywood County is no longer being looked at by DOE as a possible dump site.

The U.S. House of Representatives approved by one vote - 209-208 - an agreement reached last week by Congressional conferees. U.S. Rep. James McClure Clarke, D-N.C., voted for the legislative package,

although it does allow for the construction of a Monitored Retrievable Storage facility - something he has vehemently opposed.

"It's official now," Terry Garren, Clarke's administrative assistant, said Tuesday afternoon. "President Reagan signed the bill 30 minutes ago."

The legislative package - which also includes a controversial funding package for the contras of Nicaragua - authorizes several major changes in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

Foremost among those changes, at least as far as WNC is concerned, is that the new bill eliminates the provision in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act calling for an eastern dump site.

The law also specifies that there

will be only one repository site - at Yucca Mountain, Nev.

"To put it bluntly, we had the political power to gang up on Nevada and make them the dump site," Garren said.

Although the agreement does include provisions for the establishment of the temporary storage facility (MRS), Clarke said there are several restrictions placed on the MRS.

"We were able to place many restrictions on the proposed MRS that may make it impossible to ever build the MRS, or, if it is ever built, at least 10 or 15 years in the future," Clarke said.

Several of the proposed MRS sites are near North Carolina, including a

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Marshall Chief Of Police Stripped Of Title By Town

By BILL STUDENC
 Editor

The newly elected Marshall Board of Aldermen agreed Monday night to strip William Lisenbee of the title of Marshall police chief.

The decision comes four months after the former Marshall governing board appointed Lisenbee as chief of the Marshall Police Department.

During Monday's meeting of the town board, Marshall Mayor Anita Ward asked the aldermen if they wanted to reappoint Lisenbee to police chief.

"No, I don't," said newly elected Alderman Jackie Davis.

"I second that motion," said Alderman Iverson Bradley, also a newcomer to the Marshall board. "I don't think we need a police chief."

Alderman Ed "Doc" Niles, the only returning alderman who was on the board in August when Lisenbee was named police chief, disagreed.

"I think we ought to have someone check things and keep time sheets and that type of thing," Niles said. "I think we need that for the town crew, too."

But the two new aldermen outvoted Niles and agreed that the town simply does not need a police chief.

"We can handle that (administrative work) right here in the office," Davis said.

With that action, the board also agreed that all four Marshall police officers - including Lisenbee - will work overtime as necessary, will work on weekends and will be placed on rotating shifts.

While serving as police chief, Lisenbee did not work nights or weekends, Ward said.

"I think the overtime needs to be divided up equally among the four of them, put them on rotating shifts and let them take their turn."

Bradley made a motion that the

position of Marshall police chief be eliminated. Davis seconded the motion. No formal vote was taken, but Ward announced passage of the motion by consensus.

The action will not affect Lisenbee's salary, Ward said.

In other action Monday, the board heard of two legal problems holding up the completion of the Cody Road-Candler Road sewer line project, funded by a grant from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

Some \$63,257 in grant money is left over from that project, said Sam Parker, director of the Marshall Housing Authority. But two problems have prevented him from closing out that grant.

One problem is a civil lawsuit filed against the town by Bob Moore contending that the town caused \$10,000 worth of damage to his home by

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Tournament Time

High School basketball season is kicking into high gear, as both Madison and North Buncombe prepare for holiday tournaments next week. Left, North Buncombe varsity boys coach Fred Ray huddles with his team in a recent game. Below, Ricky McDevitt, coach of Madison's Lady Patriots, shouts words of encouragement. See Page 8.

BILL STUDENC PHOTOS

State Files Appeal Of Welch Retrial

By BILL STUDENC
 Editor

The N.C. Attorney General's Office has asked the U.S. Court of Appeals to overturn a federal judge's order calling for a retrial of a man convicted of the 1982 kidnapping and attempted rape of a Mars Hill College student.

Richard League, special deputy in the Attorney General's Office, filed legal papers with the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals earlier this month in an attempt to prevent another trial of Isaac Welch, then of Cherokee.

Welch, 31 at the time of the trial, was sentenced in April 1983 to

second-degree kidnapping and the attempted rape of a 19-year-old female Mars Hill College student.

But former U.S. District Court Judge David Sentelle ruled in June that Welch should be granted a new trial on the ground that one of the jurors who convicted Welch may not have been impartial.

Sentelle based his decision on the fact that one of the jurors in Welch's trial was a half brother of the man who dated the victim at the time of the attack.

Sentelle also ruled that the same juror's father was a part-time deputy with the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

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Weaverville Exceeds Water Budget

From Staff Reports

The town of Weaverville has already spent every cent of \$25,000 allocated for the purchase of water from the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority during the current fiscal year.

That bit of bad news forced the Weaverville Town Council to amend the municipal budget Monday night to the tune of \$15,000 to enable the town to continue purchasing water through June 30 - the end of the fiscal year.

"We had budgeted \$25,000 at the beginning of the year for water purchases, based on past history and usage," Town Manager Charles Horne said. "As of Monday night, we

had spent \$25,000."

Weaverville also has some outstanding water bills to pay to the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority, Horne told the council.

"We hope that this will enable us to pay those bills and will get us through the end of the year," he said Tuesday.

Weaverville relies on several small reservoirs to supply water to municipal customers. During times of low water supply, the town purchases water from the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority.

A public works committee during the past few years has forced Weaverville to purchase ever-increasing amounts of water from the authority, Horne said.

"Our need for that water has gone up because our other water sources have had decreased production," he said. "The dry weather over the past three or four years has compounded the problem each year."

Weaverville officials have had a moratorium since 1974 on the installation of new water lines outside the town limits because of the problem.

"This (the \$15,000 budget amendment) is just another reflection of that problem," Horne said.

Money for the budget amendment will come from a contingency fund in the water and sewer budget and from a capital reserve fund approved in June when the town council approved a 20 percent increase in the municipal

water rate.

Town officials had hoped to set aside money from that rate increase for construction of a new water supply system, but have now been forced to use some of that money for the purchase of water from Asheville.

Weaverville officials have been studying several solutions to the water supply issue - including tapping the City of French Broad rivers and adoption of a purchase agreement with the Authority.

In other action Monday, the council approved a request for authorization to