# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress



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## Commissioners To Meet On New Sales Tax Law

Legislature has passed another local sales tax law and both Clay and Cherokee county commissioners will hold meetings within the next several days to discuss the local one percent levy.

In Clay County, the local sales tax was approved in the statewide vote in 1969 and went into effect early last year, producing more than \$3,000 a

Carolina month in local revenue until it the state to levy the one percent was knocked down in January by the State Supreme Court.

Howard Wimpey, chairman of the Clay commissioners, says his board has advertised a public hearing on the matter of reinstating the tax, to be held at the Clay Courthouse next Monday morning.

Legislature will allow local county commissioner across

Marcell Griggs

Honorary pallbearers were:

Giles Adams, Lemar Ledford,

Edd and Jack Raxter, J.C.

Palmer, Ralph Carringer,

Kenneth Rogers and Irvin

the U.S. Army, having served in

Thelma Davis Griggs; a daughter, Miss Teressa

Michelle Griggs of the home;

the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grant

Griggs of Marble; seven

brothers, Porter, Vincent and

Grant Jr., all of Gastonia;

Charles of Kernesville,

Gene and Robert of Marble and

Mickey Griggs of Andrews;

four sisters, Mrs. Frances

Carroll of Murphy, Mrs. Mae

Coffey, Mrs. Linda Parson and

Mrs. Pearl Griggs all of

Andrews was in charge of

Ivie Funeral Home in

Mr. Griggs was a veteran of

Surviving are his wife, Mrs.

## **Griggs Dies** Fighting Fire

injured on Thursday afternoon of last week when he fell off a cliff while fighting a woodsfire at Marble.

Griggs, 35, of Route 1, Marble, was an employe of the Columbia Marble Company, which sent a crew of its own men tofight the blaze on company-owned land in the

vincinity of the Bluff. Clell Head, who has been Cherokee County's acting forest ranger since the retirement March 1 of Ranger Harold Hatchett, was directing the firefighting activities Thursday afternoon at Marble.

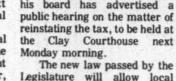
Head quoted men who were working near Griggs as saying Griggs had dropped his firerake and was scratching out a fire line with his hands when he fell backwards off the 20-foot

Cherokee County Medical Examiner, Dr. Charles VanGorder said Griggs was dead on arrival at District Memorial Hospital in Andrews. After talking with members of the dead man's family, he said Griggs had a "trick" knee which may have collapsed and toppled him as he worked near

Dr. VanGorder declared it "accidental death," saying Griggs suffered a crushed skull in the fall

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Saturday in Marble Springs Baptist Church, of which he was a member. The Rev. A.B. Lovell and the Rev. Ernest Sanders officiated and burial was in Moss Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Steve Wyke, Jewell Payne, Harold Watkins, Edd Deitz, Howard Beavers and Marvin



Jack Simonds, chairman of the Cherokee commissioners, has called a special meeting for Saturday morning at the Cherokee Courthouse. He said the board will talk about the local sales tax and also a school bond vote to finance rebuilding the burned elementary school at

not," he said.

local sales tax, either with or

Wimpey said the Clay board

does not plan to call for a vote

on the local tax. "Depending on

how many people show up for

the hearing and what they say

about the tax, we'll make the

decision whether to put it in or

without a vote of the people.

Simonds said a special election will have to be held sometime in May on the bonds to build the school, which the Cherokee Board of Education says will cost the county \$300,000 in addition to the insurance money from the fire.

Public hearings on the one percent sales tax will be held around the county, Simonds said, both to educate people about the tax and give them a chance to tell the commissioners how they feel about it. These are planned for Andrews, Peachtree, Murphy and the Hiwassee Dam area, he

Simonds said although the new law gives the board the power to levy the local sales tax without a vote of the people, he it wou thinks a vote probably should be July.

Campground

Opens April 1

held on the tax at the same time the school bonds are voted on. He said since the Cherokee voters turned the tax down in the 1969 voting, he didn't think it would sit well with voters for the commissioners to levy the tax without voter approval.

However, Simonds added that if enough people at the planned hearings express themselves in favor of the tax, the commissioners would consider putting it into effect without a vote.

In their meeting the first of this month, the Cherokee commissioners indicated that "it is either put in the sales tax or raise property taxes."

With few exceptions, political leaders in the county were lukewarm in support of the local sales tax when it was voted on in November of 1969, defeated in Cherokee by a vote

However, when the extra penny on the dollar started bringing in substantial sums to the counties which approved it, local leaders took another look

The Cherokee commissioners estimate that the local one cent tax will produce about \$200,000 a year, to be shared by the county, Murphy and Andrews, with the county getting the largest part.

Simonds said if the tax is approved by the voters in May, it would go into effect the first of

The U.S. Forest Service

announces that Cherokee Lake Picnic

Area and Hanging Dog Campground

will be open the first day of April. These areas are being opened early to

accommodate fishermen and "early-

second loop on the right will be the

first to open. Additional loops will be

entrance fee for this Area and for

Jack Rabbit (Opens May 21) will be

either a Golden Eagle Passport (\$10)

which is good for one car at any U.S.

Forest Sercice Recreation Area for

the entire year, or a daily charge of

At Hanging Dog Campground, the

bird" campers and picnickers.

opened as needed.

\$1 per car.



### Tree Planted At Elementary School

The fifth and sixth grades of Murphy Elementary School celebrated Arbor Day last Thursday afternoon by planting a silver maple tree on the school grounds. The tree was purchased by the children and planted in memory of Mrs. J.C. McNeal, the late mother of Mrs. Marie Hendrix, fifth grade teacher. Actual planting of the tree was done by Mrs. Ida Townson, teacher; Harold Hatchett, former Cherokee County Forest Ranger; Mrs. Hendrix; and Principal Bill Hughes. (Carringer Photo)

### Court Starts

### Monday

A two-week session of Superior Court begins at the Cherokee County Courthouse next Monday morning, Judge Thad Bryson of Bryson City presiding.

Among the cases on the calendar, for trial or other disposition are:

Wade Edgar (Dump) Adams, charged with dispensing narcotic drugs in what county and state officers described as a plan to begin the

Jeffrey Willard Whitener and John Richard Whitener, charged with robbing their grandmother Molly Whitener, also with assault on an officer, former Deputy Sheriff, now Magistrate Dude Radford.

Brothers Andrew and Jerry Green, charged with breaking and entering at a Murphy oil dealer's office.

Dillard Pullium, Ronnie McInturff and Bill Curtis, all charged with the theft of a bull from Charles Higdons pasture at Andrews. There are also several other

breaking and entering cases on the calendar, plus several drunken driving cases. At the close of the criminal

docket, the court will hear civil

## Andrews Readies For Election

hundred more to come in before deadline for filing, Mrs. Bryson-

The Town Hall in Andrews of Feb. 20 so she expects several Town Hall. April 6 is the is a busy place these days as voters register to vote and candidates file to run in the upcoming town election.

The town is going to a looseleaf registration of voters, according to Town Clerk Mrs. Zora R. Bryson, and all voters must register to be able to vote in the election, May 4.

As of Wednesday morning of this week, she said only 234 have registered. A total of 674

## Choir

Murphy United Methodist Church will be host to an evening of choral music presented by the Guilford College Choir, Thursday, March 25, 8 p.m.

The concert will include selections from Bach's "Choruses from Cantata 142" Magnificat" Charpentier, Dvorak's "Songs of Nature" and a Colonial Suite (Music of Colonial America). The Guilford College Madrigal Singers and Soloists will also be featured.

The Wesleyan Service Guild and the United Methodist Men are sponsoring the choir. There is no admission charge. An offering will be taken for the choir. A nursery will be open for pre-school children.

The next day, April 3, will be headed for a primary, which challenge day. will be held April 132. Mrs. Bryson says voters Ty Burnette has filed as a can register on the new system anytime from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday at

the Town Hall. Candidates for mayor and

the deadline, which is April 2.

Democrat to run for mayor and so far is unopposed. Paul (Brownie) Parker, mayor protem, has been serving as mayor since the death Dec. 30 of Mayor the Town Board also file at the Percy Ferebee.

said, and the Democrats seem

Town Board and Democrats Roy Williams, DeWitt Sharpe and SamWard have also filed. The top four vote-getters in the primary will be the Democratic candidates in the general

Democrats.

At this writing, no Republican candidates have filed for any of the offices. The terms of town offices

The full Town Council in

Andrews is supposed to have

four members plus a mayor.

Presently it is composed of

Parker and board members

Don W. Raxter, Ray B. Hogsed

and W. Leo Hurst. All are

have filed for re-election to the

Hurst, Hogsed and Parker

are two years.

#### Music Festival 'Success'

The Spring Music Festival held Friday and Saturday nights at the Rock Gym here in Murphy was a "big success."

Sponsored by the Cherokee-Clay Humane Society in an effort to raise money for a planned animal shelter, the festival brought in about \$900, according to Mrs. Margaret Schroeder, president of the society.

She reported standing room only on Friday night for the country music and talent show and a good crowd on Saturday night for the rock music.

## cast ballots in the ABC election Clay Lions Plan Spring Cleaning

At their regular meeting Thursday night of last week the Clay County Lions Club laid ground work for their annual county-wide clean-up campaign.

Lion Arthur Siegle, chairman of the committee responsible for planning this campaign, announced assignments for each member of the club, together with names of civic leaders in each community in the county who might be available for helping sponsor such clean-up, paint-up jobs in their respective areas.

A county-wide meeting of interested people will be held in the auditorium of the Hayesville School at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 2.

Citizens of Clay County are urged to start planning, now, for some worth while project with which they can identify. Bring these plans to the meeting on April 2, the Lions say, some one else might like to lend a hand.



### Abandoned Auto Clean-up

Murphy Town Clerk Charlie Johnson watches the first of an estimated 400 abandoned autos inside the town limits of Murphy meets a specially-rigged wrecker provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The junked cars are being loaded daily on the tilting bed of the truck, pulled up by a cable

winch, and then carried to a location near the town sewer plant, where a private wrecking company will crush the bodies and haul them away for scrap. The clean-up began Tuesday and will continue for about three months in Murphy. (Avett Photo)

### **SHC Studies Light Move** The State Highway

Commission is studying the possibility of moving the traffic ight at the Murphy Elementary school to the Hilton Street

That was the gist of a letter received last week by Mayor Cloe Moore, in response to the Town Council's earlier letter to the SHC protesting the removal of the light, which stops traffic for school children to cross Valley River Avenue.

The SHC has complained for years that the light at the school is not located at any interesection and therefore is often ignored by motorists. Recently SHC engineers informed the town of their intent to remove the light.

The Town Council has urged the SHC not to take down the light but added if it must go, move it to the Hilton Street intersection, which is only about 100 feet away. Councilmen feel this would still help the children cross the street and would also help the traffic situation around the A&P store

have received several...letters from interested citizens of Murphy concerning this signal," the SHC letter last week read. "I can assure you that every consideration will be given your request and I am requesting our consulting engineer to make a study of the possibility of moving this signal to the Hilton Street intersection. I feel confident that something will be worked out on this in the very near future.' It was signed by W.A.

#### Hit-And-Run Charges Filed

Ward, area traffic engineer

Carroll's Taxi stand on Tennessee Street was damaged Sunday night by a hit-and-run driver, according to Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup.

Chief Stalcup said Mrs. Sandra Allison Jordan of Murphy was charged Tuesday with two counts of hit-and-run driving with property damage in the incident.

The officer said her car apparently struck the parked auto of Barney Hensley in front of the Dollar General Store and then swerved across the street into the taxi stand.



### **Direct Distance Dialing**

The Hayesville telephone exchange was connected to the nationwide Direct Distance Dialing system last Saturday and Mayor Conrad Carroll, right, is shown making the first dial-it-yourself long distance call, to Westco Telephone

President L. T. Moore in W Westco employe George W did much of the work in the system, is shown is background in the Hayesville office. (Avett Photo)