

Voters To Decide City Hall Project

Franklin Election On \$32,000 Bond Issue Planned

Will Franklin build the proposed new \$32,000 city hall? This question will be answered by voters at a special bond election some time in September.

In special session Monday night, the Board of Aldermen unofficially approved plans for a bond election to finance the construction of the badly-needed city building—a top priority item on the board's agenda for more than a year.

Official approval of the move is expected at the board's August meeting when Town Attorney R. S. Jones will present a bond ordinance for adoption, a paper he is now preparing.

Tuesday, the town attorney said the actual date for the election has not been set, but he indicated it would be in September.

Plans for the proposed two-story municipal building have been prepared by Stambaugh and Jett, Atlanta, Ga., architects, and have been unofficially approved by the board.

While no action has been taken as to the site for the building, the board favors the corner lot in the Duncan subdivision at the intersection of US 23 (Porter Street) and West Main Street.

The plans have the building fronting West Main, with the city offices and the fire department on street level. The basement floor would house other town vehicles and equipment.

65 S. S. Workers Given Diplomas At Highlands

Sixty-five persons, in caps and gowns, marched down the aisle at the Highlands Baptist Church Sunday afternoon to receive Sunday school workers' diplomas.

The commencement exercise marked the close of a year's effort to expand the Sunday school's activities—a part of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday school crusade for "A Million More in '54."

During the year, the Sunday school's enrollment has more than tripled, and now stands at 552. Attendance was reported as having increased from an average of about 85 to more than 200.

Guest speakers participating in the "Victory Day" and commencement program were Dr. A. V. Washburn, secretary of teaching and training of the Sunday school department of the Southern Baptist Convention; Mrs. A. J. Smith, state Sunday school worker; the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Franklin; and the Rev. C. T. Taylor, county Baptist missionary.

Dr. Washburn delivered the commencement address, speaking on the topic, "Let Us Go On"; Mr. Chapman and Mr. Taylor brought greetings and congratulations; and Mrs. Smith spoke on "Highlands in June, 1953".

It was in June, 1953, that Mrs. Smith set up plans for a departmental Sunday school in Highlands. It also was in that month that the Rev. John Buell became the church's pastor and set the wheels in motion for the training program.

In the course of Sunday's SEE NO. 1, PAGE 5

Franklin Has Ample Water Supply, Despite Drought

Despite the unseasonably dry spell gripping the county, Franklin's water supply is still ample, according to town officials.

However, the town would welcome voluntary conservation measures from its citizens.

Discussing the water situation Monday, Town Clerk C. O. Ramsey said the supply is "still ample", but emphasized that the dry weather has lowered the water table of the town wells considerably.

"We're still in good shape," the clerk explained, "and if the people will use water sparingly, we don't anticipate any rationing measures."

CLOSE ROAD OVER COWEE

Travel Halted For 2 Months; Macon Paving About Finished

For the next two months, the link of US 23 from Cowee Gap to Dillsboro in Jackson County will be closed to all travel, S. T. Usry, resident state highway engineer, announced this week.

Although this link of the highway has been under construction for several months, many motorists have continued to travel it.

But construction has now reached the point where no vehicles will be able to make it through the project, the engineer said Tuesday. Heavy grading is under way along Savannah Creek, Mr. Usry explained, and because of the terrain in that section, an auxiliary road cannot be cut to let vehicles through.

Meanwhile, paving of the eight-mile link of US 23 from Franklin to Cowee Gap is just about complete. The bulk of the surfacing has been put down, the engineer said, and for the next month or so crews will be dressing shoulders and clearing up trouble spots along the project.

But this section of the new highway will be of little value to motorists until the link in Jackson County is completed. The contracts for the two projects were let a year apart and the Jackson job will not be ready for surfacing until the spring of 1955.

Mr. Usry said construction on the Jackson link is coming along "as well as could be expected", with grading about 40 per cent complete and structures (bridges and culverts) about 50 per cent. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the engineer said the project will be ready for surfacing in 1955 as programmed.

Elmore Attends Elks' Camp In Henderson

Ray Elmore, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Elmore, of Franklin, is spending two weeks at the Elks Camp at Hendersonville, under the sponsorship of the local V.F.W. Auxiliary.

This is the first year the auxiliary has sent a student to camp and Ray was selected for the honor, with the help of local school officials, according to Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum, auxiliary president. Ray will return home Sunday.

Mr. Wright was assisted in the restocking operation by Judson Hall, of the Cullasaja road, president of the Junior Wildlife Club here.

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PLAN MONDAY DRAMA

A special Independence Day performance of "Unto These Hills" at Cherokee will be presented Monday evening at 8:15. It was announced yesterday. Ordinarily, the drama is not presented on Mondays.

A special use permit assigning the four upper buildings of the depot, situated at Arrowood, to the college has been signed by the Forest Service, which ceased to use the structures when headquarters of the Nantahala National Forest were transferred from Franklin to Asheville. Later, it is anticipated that the college will take over use of all the buildings at the depot.

This summer 22 State College forestry students and from four to six professors are expected.

Announcement of the assignment of the buildings was made by local Forest Service officials, following the visit here last week of Dr. R. J. Preston, dean of State College's school of forestry, for an inspection of the

announced this week.

Highlands Lots To Be Sold July 29 At Auction

Five county-owned lots behind Highlands School are being advertised for sale by the County Board of Education in this week's issue of The Press.

The lots will be sold to the highest bidder at noon July 29 at the county courthouse.

County School Supt. Holland McSwain explained that the lots are no longer needed for school purposes.

Red Cross To Offer 3 Courses

Courses in first aid, swimming, and life saving will be sponsored this month in Franklin by the Macon County chapter of the American Red Cross, according to Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum, chapter secretary.

Miss Carolyn Bryson, a physical education major at Woman's College, Greensboro, who is home for the summer, has been hired by the chapter to conduct the three courses.

Registration for the swimming and life saving courses is planned tomorrow (Friday) and Tuesday at the Jaycee-operated swimming pool at the Franklin Lodge and Golf Course. Registration hours will be 9 a. m. to noon and 10 a. m. to noon the two days.

Classes will begin next Wednesday (July 7) and will be held daily at the pool, Monday through Friday, from 9 a. m. to noon, Miss Bryson said this week.

Next Thursday (July 8) has been set as the registration date for the first aid course. Persons wishing to take this course are asked to meet at the Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p. m. Classes will be held Thursday and Friday nights until each of those enrolled completes the 18 hours required for a certificate.

A \$1 registration fee will be required for each course, Mrs. McCollum said, to pay for supplies for the courses.

In announcing the registration days for the swimming and life saving courses, Miss Bryson asked that those planning to take the courses bring bathing suits when they register.

The pool, which opens for the season Saturday, will be open to the public in the afternoons from 12:30 to 7:30 o'clock.

20,000 Fingerling Trout Placed In Nantahala Area

Twenty thousand fingerling trout were placed in tributary streams of Nantahala Lake and Nantahala River last week.

The tributary streams of the lake were stocked with 10,000, according to James G. Wright, game protector assigned to Macon County, and 10,000 in streams feeding the river above the power house. The fish came from the Balsam hatchery.

Mr. Wright was assisted in the restocking operation by Judson Hall, of the Cullasaja road, president of the Junior Wildlife Club here.

State College To Hold Forest Camp At Wayah

N. C. State College has taken over four of the buildings at Wayah Depot and will open a six weeks' forestry summer camp there about August 1.

A special use permit assigning the four upper buildings of the depot, situated at Arrowood, to the college has been signed by the Forest Service, which ceased to use the structures when headquarters of the Nantahala National Forest were transferred from Franklin to Asheville. Later, it is anticipated that the college will take over use of all the buildings at the depot.

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PLAN JULY 4 CELEBRATION SATURDAY

Field Events, Beauty Contest, Baseball On Day's Program

Field events, a beauty contest, and a baseball game are just a few of the things planned in Franklin Saturday for the day-long celebration of the Fourth of July.

The festive celebration, traditionally a joint effort by all civic and service organizations, was set up a day early, since the Fourth this year falls on Sunday.

Missing this year is the downtown parade, which in past years has been a colorful prelude to morning events at the Franklin Stadium. A late start in planning cut this crowd-drawing feature from the program.

Otherwise, the 1954 celebration is expected to prove even better than previous programs.

Spotlighting the morning at the stadium, where events will get under way at 10 a. m., is a

STORES CLOSING

Most Franklin stores will close Monday, July 5, in observance of the 4th. Scheduled Monday meetings of the Board of County Commissioners, Board of Aldermen, and County Board of Education will be held Tuesday. The two county boards will meet at 9:30 a. m., the town board at 7:30 p. m.

beauty contest and the crowning of "Miss Fourth of July". The parade of beauty takes on added significance this year with an announcement that the Jaycees hope to groom the winner for the 1955 "Miss North Carolina" beauty pageant, a state-wide preliminary to the "Miss America" contest.

Arrangements for the beauty contest are being handled by the Junior Woman's Club and organizations and businesses are urged to register contestants with Mrs. Larry Cabe before 1 p. m. tomorrow (Friday). Mrs. Cabe can be reached at Telephone No. 73 during the day, or at 262-J at night. Contestants must be single and between the ages of 17 and 23.

A baseball game at the stadium at 2:30 o'clock between the Franklin All-Stars and the Whittier All-Stars will round out the day's program.

The stadium celebration will get under way with a flag raising ceremony by members of the local American Legion. The beauty contest will follow, and the rest of the morning will be consumed by the 25-feature field events, which will be handled by the Jaycees.

A challenging and slippery greasy pole—with \$5 waiting on the top for the lucky youngster who climbs it—will be erected by the Moose Lodge as a side-light feature of the field events.

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ATTEND P. T. A. MEET

Mr. and Mrs. Paschal Cabe and Mrs. Ralph Norton, delegates from the Otto P. T. A., attended the P. T. A. Institute at Woman's College in Greensboro, June 21-23.

Swimming Pool At Golf Course To Open Saturday For Season

Saturday has been set as the opening date for the Jaycee-operated swimming pool at the Franklin Lodge and Golf Course.

The pool, leased and opened by the Jaycees in 1952, was scheduled to open June 1, but the opening date had to be advanced because of water supply problems, according to Dr. J. L. Hill, pool committee chairman.

Daily hours will be 12:30 to 7:30 p. m. A registered life guard will be on duty, Dr. Hill said.

In the mornings the Jaycees will turn the pool over to the local Red Cross chapter for special courses in swimming and life saving. Miss Carolyn Bryson has been hired by the chapter

announced this week.

Nantahala Road To Be Let In July

TABERNACLE CROWDS GROW

Memphis Minister Preaching Nightly In Revival

Increasing congregations are attending the county-wide interdenominational revival at the Friendship Tabernacle.

Present to hear the opening sermon of the visiting minister, the Rev. R. Paul Caudill, Monday night was a crowd estimated at 500, while some 600 attended Tuesday evening.

The services will continue nightly at 8 o'clock through Sunday.

Dr. Caudill, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., is the fourth generation of Baptist preachers in his family. He was reared in Ashe and Alleghany counties, and he remarked Monday night that he felt at home to be back in the mountains.

For his opening sermon, he took the topic, "A Return to God". Tuesday night he preached on "The Race Before Us".

Special music is being given at each service, by a choir made up of members of choirs from over the county. The Rev. Bryan Hatchett directs the choir.

Services were held each evening last week, with local ministers preaching, and pre-revival prayer meetings were conducted the week before.

West, Bower's Manager Here, Takes S. C. Post

R. L. West, manager of Bower's Department Store in Franklin for the past four and a half years, has resigned to accept the management of a department store in Whitmire, S. C.

Mr. West, who came here from Asheville, plans to leave this week-end for Whitmire. His family will remain in Franklin until fall.

As yet, a new manager has not been appointed to succeed him at the Franklin store.

Farmers Federation Plans Picnic July 10

The Farmers Federation has announced that its annual picnic will be held July 10 at the East Franklin School. The program features will include singing, acrobatics, and a one-man band. Contest prizes will be given.

PLAN PICNIC MEET

The Hickory Knoll Rural Community Development Organization will hold its regular meeting at the Hickory Knoll Methodist Church Friday night, with a picnic supper. Everyone is invited to attend.

ATTEND MEETING

Holland McSwain and Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Cabe attended the meeting of Western North Carolina Associated Communities at Cherokee last Friday. Mr. McSwain is this county's director of the organization.

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Hundreds See Wayah's Annual Flower Display

Hundreds of persons drove to Wayah Bald Sunday to see the flowers.

Forest Service estimates placed the number who drove all the way to the top at 250, while another couple of hundred stopped at Wayah Crest to picnic. At Arrowood Glade, at the foot of the mountain, every table was in use throughout most of the day, the number using that area Sunday alone being put at 250.

The azalea—flame, white, and pink—was at or near the height of its beauty Sunday, with the blossoming laurel adding to the color.

Local 4-H Youths Win Top Places

Macon County 4-H club members won three first places and a second in the western district 4-H Elimination Contest Tuesday at Biltmore High School, near Asheville.

Otis Stiwinter won first in the farm and home electric feature, and Nancy Cable placed first in public speaking. Both are members of the Franklin High club. Linda and Patsy Neal, of the East Franklin club, placed first among acrobatic teams entered.

The second place went to Helen Cochran, of the Patton club, in the news reporter contest.

Other Macon 4-H'ers competing with some 250 other members from over the district included Don and Diana Clay, of the Cullasaja club, Sara Lee Bryson, East Franklin club, and Konda Teague, Sharon Swanson, and Billy Harper, all of the Franklin High club.

Young Harper also was chosen to pay tribute to Oscar Phillips, retiring 4-H district leader, and presented a watch to Mr. Phillips on behalf of the entire district.

Harry Corbin, Union school principal, and Mrs. Bill Bryson, secretary to the home agent here, served as judges, along with other adult leaders from the district.

Adult 4-H leaders attending from here were Mrs. Sidney Clay, of Higdonville, Mrs. A. R. Peek, of Cowee, and Mrs. Dan Bryson, of East Franklin.

Rounding out the Macon delegation were County Agent T. H. Fagg, Mrs. Florence S. Shirrill, home agent, Mrs. Jessie Lee Cabe, assistant home agent, W. W. (Bill) Sloan, of Nantahala Power and Light Company, and Miss Gladys Sellers.

20-Inch Rainbow Caught In Nantahala

Using red worms for bait, Johnny Dills, of Franklin and Pontiac, Mich., landed a 20-inch rainbow trout last Friday.

The big fish was caught in the Nantahala River, half a mile below Factory Branch, west of Rainbow Springs.

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Buchanan Hopes Work Can Start In Fall On 12-Mile Link

The long-awaited contract for construction of a new \$512,000 paved highway over Wayah Gap into the isolated Nantahala Community is scheduled for letting in July.

This was disclosed yesterday (Wednesday) to The Press in a telephone interview with Highway Commissioner Harry E. Buchanan, of Hendersonville.

Subject to the approval of the low bid by the State Highway Commissioner, Mr. Buchanan said the relocation of the 12-mile link from Cold Spring (end of present blacktop on Wayah Road) to Feisty Branch in the Nantahala section near the turn-off to Andrews should get under way by the first of September.

It should be completed by the following July, he said.

Bids for the project will be opened July 13, the commissioner, disclosed, and the highway commission will confirm them at a meeting later in the month.

Previously it had been announced that an estimated \$750,000 would be needed to complete the entire project from Cold Springs to Nantahala School. This amount included \$512,000 for the first link and an additional \$233,400 for another section from Feisty Branch to the school.

However, Mr. Buchanan said he hoped the first allocation of \$512,000 would be sufficient to carry out both links.

"I'm hoping there will be enough money left to carry the project on to the school," he said.

The project is being financed on a matching arrangement with the federal and state funds.

In 1952 the U. S. Forest Service deeded the entire road from US 64 through Nantahala to the state and plans were immediately started to begin construction of the highway.

But, since that time, the proposed project has been plagued by delays and citizens of Nantahala have been up in arms at intervals—holding mass meetings, passing resolutions demanding immediate construction, and writing letters to state officials.

If the entire project is carried to Nantahala School, it will join a five-mile link built by the state in 1952 connecting US 19 at Beechertown.

Buchanan Reports On Highway Work During May

Harry Buchanan, commissioner of the fourteenth state highway division, has announced that 10.15 miles of road work was completed in his division during May.

In Macon, maintenance forces strengthened the existing surfaces with traffic-bound macadam on Stoney Road for one mile and River View for 0.2 mile, he said. Stamey is 16 feet wide; River is 12 feet wide.

Barn Of Stanley Destroyed By Fire

The barn of Monroe Stanley, in the Oak Hill community, was destroyed by fire Saturday morning. About 40 bushels of corn Mr. Stanley had stored in the barn also was lost.

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded in Franklin by Mamoon Sikes, U. S. weather observer, and at the Coweets Hydrologic Laboratory.

FRANKLIN			
Temperatures			
	High	Low	Rain
Wednesday	89	60	....
Thursday	90	54	....
Friday	91	55	....
Saturday	94	59	....
Sunday	97	56	....
Monday	92	60	....
Tuesday	90	46	....

COWEETS			
Temperatures			
	High	Low	Rain
Wednesday	87	58	....
Thursday	85	52	....
Friday	88	53	....
Saturday	91	54	....
Sunday	94	54	....