

THE NEWS - RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY



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Panther

Blamed For Death Of 2 Calves In Big Pine

Residents of Big Pine are concerned about a wild panther which has killed two calves within the past two weeks on the premises of Harice Caldwell.

Mrs. Caldwell, mother of Harice, told of the death of the two calves, commenting that large tracks, similar to a panther's, had been seen near the barn and that the panther had been heard distinctly "screaming" before attacking

the calves. She also said that prior to an attack, the panther would stifle the area with a horrible odor, similar to that of a skunk. She said the first calf which was devoured by the panther weighed about 350 pounds and the second calf killed was slightly smaller. She said the panther was seen last Tuesday night but disappeared before anyone could get a gun.

Mrs. Caldwell said two men

from the Wildlife Commission stationed in Waynesville were called, and they investigated the incident.

She also stated that a dog and four calves were killed similarly about a year ago on the farm of Alan and Jerry Payne, also of the Big Pine area.

Mrs. Caldwell commented that they were not putting their calves in the barn at night, hopeful that the panther couldn't get to them.

For Rural Housing

FHA Guarantees Commercial Loans

The Farmers Home Administration has begun a program through which it will guarantee rural housing loans made by commercial banks, savings and loan associations, and other private lenders, Douglas E. Taylor, FmHA county supervisor for Madison County, announces.

FmHA, the rural credit agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), will guarantee up to 90 percent of the principal and interest of these loans.

Guaranteed housing loans will be available for moderate income borrowers who cannot get housing mortgage credit without a guarantee. Applicants who cannot qualify for guaranteed loans may apply for loans made by FmHA.

At present, the USDA agency will offer loan guarantees only under its single family housing loan program. FmHA will continue to make single family housing loans with its own funds. It will also continue to make but not guarantee loans for rural rental housing, farm labor housing, housing site development, and other purposes.

Single family housing loans are made in open country, towns of up to 10,000 population, and certain designated towns of between 10,000 and 20,000 population. They finance modest but adequate housing and related facilities, Taylor explains.

Loans may be used to buy, build, improve, repair, or rehabilitate houses and related facilities, and to provide adequate water and waste disposal systems.

Guaranteed loans will be made only to applicants with moderate income, defined by FmHA as adjusted gross income of less than \$15,600 per

year for residents of North Carolina, and not eligible for FmHA subsidized rural housing loans. Low income applicants may be eligible for subsidized rural housing loans made by FmHA.

Loans to be guaranteed are limited to 97 percent of the market value of homes and sites for the first \$25,000 and 95 percent of the loan in excess of \$25,000. The borrower must have equity from his own resources, in the form of cash or land for the down payment,

notes Taylor. Housing financed by a guaranteed rural housing loan to a resident of North Carolina will be modest in design and cost. The maximum

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ASC Elects Committeemen

The incumbent ASC County Committee met on Dec. 13 and tabulated the ballots cast by farmers in the community committee election.

Farmers elected to the seven ASC community committees for the year 1977 in the respective order of chairman, vice-chairman, member, first alternate, and second alternate are as follows: Community A-1: Ralph Baker, Leonard Baker, Everett

Rice, Charles Eatmon, and Howard Riddle; B-2: Walter Gosnell, Clarence Cutshall, Glen Hensley, Garland Adams, and Joe Bullman; C-3: Emory Robinson, Dewey Phillips, Doyle Cody, Manuel Briscoe, and Doug Peek; D-4: Levi Hunter, Wayne Eatmon, Warren Anders, Gerald Young, and Paul Gillis; E-5: Lon Sluder, Loy Buckner, Evin B. Payne, Hershel Roberts, and Rex Bradburn; F-6: Bobby N. Clark, Vern W. Holt,

Ruby Plemmons, L. O. Brooks, and Wallace Cook; G-7: Wayne Burnette, J. O. Hall, Edward Hoyle, Carter Metcalf, and Cline Shelton.

The first three committeemen — chairman, vice-chairman, and member will attend as delegates to the County Convention to elect a member to fill vacancy on the County ASC Committee. This county convention will be held in the county ASCS office on Dec. 20 at 10 a.m.

County Gets \$1,112 For Forests

Madison County recently received \$1,112.53 from National Forests in North Carolina receipts. The payment represents 25 percent of the National Forest receipts for July 1-Sept. 30. Madison currently has 47,800 acres in the Pisgah National Forest.

Payments are usually made once annually after the end of the fiscal year. Fiscal year ending dates were changed from June 30 to Sept. 30 this year and the current payment reflects the three months transition between the two dates.

A sharp reduction in timber sale receipts has made payments lower, even for a three-month period. The lower timber sale receipts are a result of the timber sale ban that became effective because of court decisions affecting timber cutting. However, the National Forest Management Act provides for the resumption of timber sales. Sale of timber has begun on a limited basis and is expected to increase after Jan. 1.

Hundreds Attend 13th Pageant

Hundreds of persons attended the 13th Marshall Christmas Pageant here last Friday and Saturday night despite damp and rainy weather on Saturday night. Visitors enjoying the pageant came from many states including Missouri, Tennessee, Michigan, Indiana, South Carolina, Florida and Maryland.

This year's presentation, under the direction of Miss Deborah Compton, was termed by many as the "best yet." Numerous improvements including a larger cast, more musical numbers, singers and instruments, better sound system, and improved scenery added to the presentation.

Drawing extra praise were the musicians. The music was under the direction of Charles Huey, and Mrs. Linda Russell was pianist. Violinists were Wendy, Susan and Robert McGee and Margaret Scott. Soloists included Sandra Kinsey, soprano; Laura Scott, soprano; Beth Fortune, alto; Mark Dickerson, tenor; John Ferre, bass; and Edward Scott, baritone.

Jerry Plemmons served as technical advisor. Others on the general committee included Mrs. Linda Russell, CB Club members, Miss He Ball, Ferre, Gordon Claus, Jobie Sprinkle, Mrs. Hillard Pogue, Doug Dodson and Mark Moore.

"I wish to thank each and every person who helped make this year's pageant successful," Miss Compton stated.



BILL ROBERTS, president of Madison County Farm Bureau, receives a special award from John Sledge, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation at its annual meeting in Greensboro last week. The award was presented in recognition of outstanding production by Farm Bureau in-

urance agents in the county in a statewide contest in which agents had an opportunity to win this honor for their county presidents who serve on a voluntary basis. Shown in the picture (from left) are Sledge, Roberts, Lucille McDevitt, agent; and Jackie Ball, agency manager.

Retirees Can Earn More

People under 72 can work and earn more and still get their social security benefits starting in January, according to Tim Vrana, social security field representative in Asheville, N. C.

In 1977 people can earn as much as \$3,000 and get their full social security retirement or survivors benefit, Vrana said. The yearly earnings limit for 1976 was \$2,760. The increase keeps the amount in line with increases in general average wages.

For earnings over \$3,000 in 1977, social security benefits will be reduced by \$1 for every \$2 earning. But no matter how much people earn for the year, Vrana said, they can get their full social security benefit for any month in which they neither earn over \$250 nor do substantial work in their own business. The 1976 monthly earnings limit was \$230.

Different rules apply to disabled people who are getting social security disability benefits. And people

Starting In January, And Still Qualify For Social Security Benefits

72 and over will continue to get their full social security benefits regardless of earnings, Vrana noted.

People who earn over \$2,760 and get benefits in 1976 must send a report on 1976 earnings to social security by April 15, 1977.

The social security tax rate remains the same in 1977 — 5.85 percent of covered wages paid by employee and employers; 7.9 percent of covered self-employed income.

The earnings and contributions base — the amount on which social security contributions are made — will be the first \$16,500 of covered

earnings for the year, starting in January. The 1976 base was \$15,300.

Since benefit amounts are based on average earnings covered by social security, the increase in the wage base means that while some people may pay more in social security taxes, they will be entitled to higher payments later.

Social security pays over \$6.2 billion a month in retirement, disability, and survivors benefits to over 32 million people. The Social Security Administration is an agency of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

December District Court Opens Today

The December term of district court for the trial of criminal cases will start this (Thursday) morning here with Judge Robert H. Lacey presiding. Clyde M. Roberts and James T. Rusher will be the prosecutors.

The term will be a non-jury term.

One hundred and seventy-eight cases are listed on the calendar. Most of the defendants are charged with driving under influence (DUI), reckless driving (RD), public drunkenness (PD), and other traffic violations.



THE 98"x108" bicentennial log cabin quilt, shown above, made by the ladies of the Forks of Ivy community organization, was won by Mrs. Mary Davidson of Route 1, Mars Hill, last week. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the community development program.

Commission Meeting Changed

Mrs. Virginia Anderson, chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, announced this week that the next meeting of the board would be on Jan. 10 instead of Jan. 7 at 10 a.m. at the courthouse.

Continuing Education

Mars Hill College Expands Offerings In Madison

Mars Hill College's Continuing Education Program (CEP) will expand its course offerings in Madison County beginning in January. Twenty-two courses will be offered in three major areas as well as basic classes required for a degree.

Started in 1974, the CEP is a result of Mars Hill's re-evaluation of its efforts to serve the region where it is located.

"We have long used the people and natural resources of the area in our academic programs, and we are concerned with what the college can return," commented Mars Hill President Dr. Fred B.

Bentley. "The Continuing Education Program is one segment of our concept of the college's service to the region."

The CEP was established primarily to serve the academic needs of adults in Western North Carolina, particularly in the counties immediately surrounding the college. Courses from regular college programs are offered, and the CEP is an integral part of the total college program.

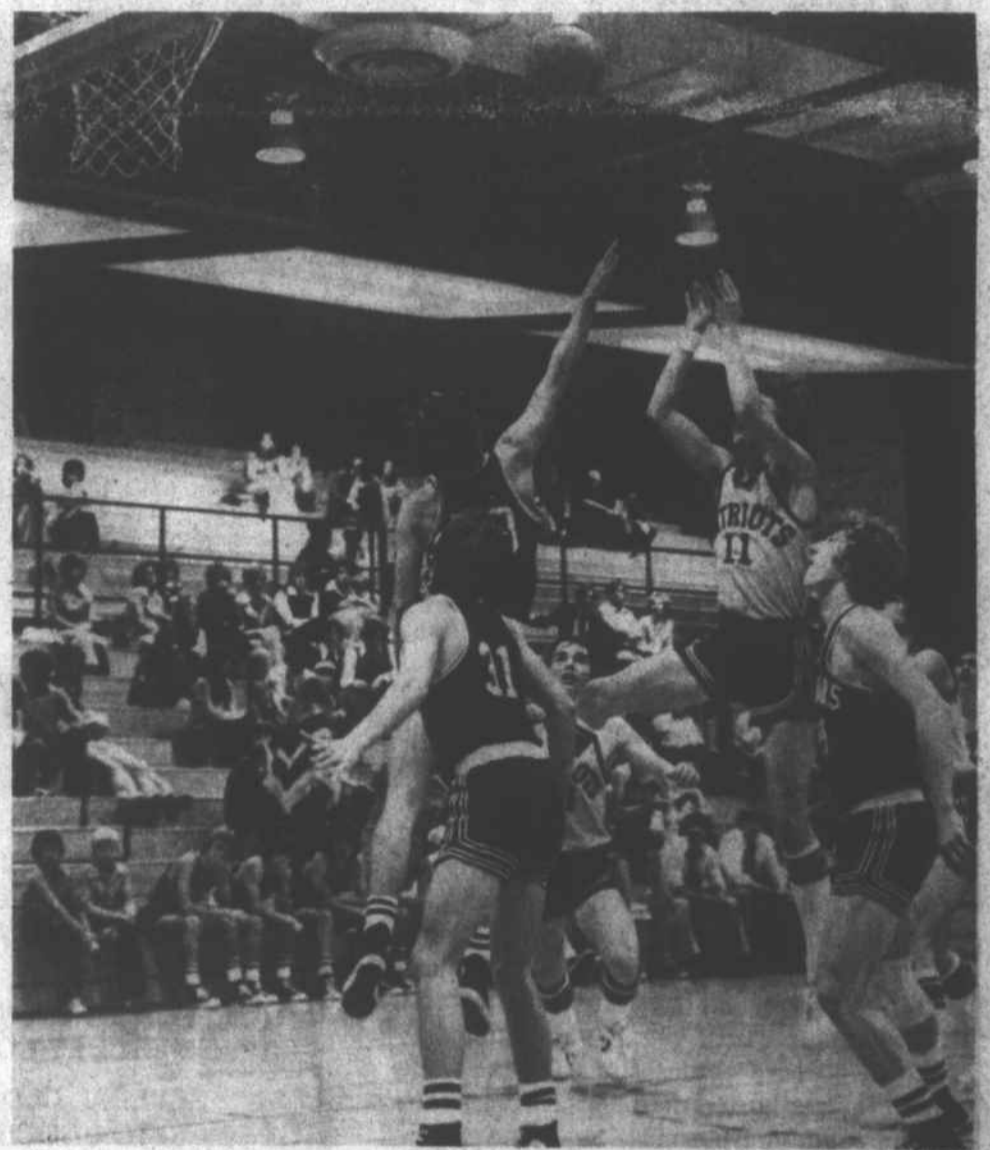
Because of its completely open admissions policy, anyone can participate in the CEP; however, in order to qualify for a degree, the student must have a high

school diploma or its equivalent. The CEP is currently offering courses leading to three degrees: the B.A. with majors in elementary education and religion; the B.S. with majors in allied health, business administration and office administration; and the bachelor of social work (B.S.W.).

In addition to degrees, a one-year certificate, an associate in arts diploma, and a three-year certificate can be awarded for the completion of certain programs and courses.

The courses offered will include the personal development seminar, two math courses, and an

education course in Hot Springs, and classes in English, education, history, math, computer science, social work, physical education, economics, business administration, and biology in Mars Hill. The classes in Hot Springs will be held at the Hot Springs Elementary School and in Mars Hill. Classes will meet at the college. A few of the courses will not begin until early March. For further information, contact Dr. John Hough, director, or Dr. Harold Holcomb, assistant director, at 828-3381, or write to Mars Hill College, Box 1000, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.



JOEY BRADY (11) soars high above Heritage defense for two points in the Patriots loss Friday night.