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## Hundreds Attend Spring Creek Meeting

By ROBERT KOENIG

Several hundred Spring Creek residents attended a special meeting of the Spring Creek School PTA last Thursday night. The parents attended the special meeting called by the school's principal, Larry Plemmons, to discuss a proposed private school that may open in the Spring Creek community.

Plemmons told the parents that he is concerned that the proposed private school will attract students from the community's public school. Spring Creek Elementary is the smallest school in the county, with an enrollment of 109 full-time students.

The principal said that the school currently has four teachers assigned to it. Plemmons also serves as a teacher in addition to his duties as principal. Plemmons warned the parents, "If we lose just one teacher, it will mean that there will be one teacher for every three classes. That's not equal education and that's not equal opportunity."

Plemmons explained that presently the school conducts kindergarten and first grade together in the same classroom. Second and third grade classes and the fourth and fifth are combined as are the sixth and seventh grade classes. The eighth grade class, largest in the school with 17 students, is in a separate classroom taught by the principal.

Plemmons told the audience of parents that he expects enrollment at Spring Creek to decline next year after the present eighth grade class graduates. He warned that a further loss of students to the proposed private school could seriously threaten the future of the school.

"I have nothing against private education," Plemmons said, "I have nothing against religious education, but I don't believe that private education should harm public education."

The principal told the parents that Haywood County has recently decided to close the Fines Creek School at the close of the present school year because of low enrollment. The school has an enrollment of 88 students in grades K through six. "By the number of students per grade, that's more than we have now."

Plemmons introduced Madison County

Board of Education chairman Robert Z. Ponder who told the audience, "This is Spring Creek Elementary School and there will always be a Spring Creek Elementary School." Ponder urged the parents to contact their elected representatives to urge that the school be kept open and the present system of allocating teachers according to enrollment be changed. Ponder said, "Let's stop the numbers game. Give us a teacher for children in every grade and we can do the job that needs to be done."

Plemmons then returned to the podium to ask the parents not to enroll their children in the private school. He asked the parents, "If we lose our school, what kind of community will we have?"

Plemmons then introduced Frank Clark, a Spring Creek native who served with the Lexington, Ky. school system for 35 years before retiring. Clark told the meeting, "You cannot operate a school without money. I don't see how it can be done. Small schools are not a problem. It's the larger schools that are the problem. We have misplaced our values."

Earlier in the meeting, Plemmons said that the planners of the proposed private school do not plan to charge tuition for the first year of the school's operation.

Plemmons said that leaders of the proposed school were invited to attend the Thursday night meeting to explain their position. No one from the private school attended Thursday night's meeting.

Plemmons told The News Record that the Rev. Kyle Waitt of Meadow Fork was the leader of those planning to operate the private school. Contacted by telephone Monday, Rev. Waitt said, "There's been so many lies and twisted truths going around in the community, that I want to pray on it before I answer any questions. Anything that's said gets twisted 18 different ways. I'm a little apprehensive. I want the Lord to lead me in everything I do. We're just trying to do what the Lord wants us to do. We're not trying to cause a problem for the public school system."

Rev. Waitt declined to comment on the Thursday night meeting. He said his group was not affiliated with any denomination and the members of the group had broken away from

## Worthless Check Conviction Brings Active Jail Sentence

Judge Robert H. Lacey sentenced Alan Payne to serve from four to six months in jail Friday after finding Payne guilty of passing worthless checks. Payne had entered a not guilty plea to the charge in District Court.

In other cases heard during Friday's session of District Court, J.D. Norton entered guilty pleas to charges of DUI and assault on an officer. Charges of resisting arrest and driving with license permanently revoked were dismissed. Norton was sentenced to serve 90-to-120 days for the DUI and an additional seven-to-nine months for the assault. The 90-to-120 day sentence was deferred for two years. Judge Lacey also deferred the seven-to-nine month sentence for a period of three years. Norton was also

fined \$350 and ordered to pay court costs.

The court heard a probable cause hearing involving charges of manufacturing a controlled substance against William Cutshall, Jr. After hearing the state's evidence in the case, the court found probable cause and sent the case on to Superior Court.

Joe Balding, charged with the manufacture of a controlled substance and Candace Aldridge Durden and Steve A. Rice, Jr., both charged with possession with intent to manufacture a controlled substance, waived a probable cause hearing and their cases were sent on to Superior Court.

Joseph Cioffi, also charged with manufacturing a controlled substance, entered a guilty plea to a misdemeanor charge and was fined \$250 and

ordered to pay court costs.

Eddie Doan, charged with breaking, entering and larceny, also waived a probable cause hearing.

The court also found Ralph Walker guilty of charges of assault with a deadly weapon. Walker was charged with shooting at Charlene Wallen, a herdsman who was removing cattle from land owned by Walker at the time of the incident. Walker told the court that he had shot at a groundhog nearby Ms. Wallen. The court found Walker guilty

The court also continued, at the request of the prosecution, driving under the influence charges against Eldon Thomas Ogle. Also continued until the Sept. 6 session of District Court were breaking, entering and larceny charges

against David Lingerfelt; charges of breaking and entering a motor vehicle against both Darryl Jerome Price and James Bruce Massey; charges of manufacturing a controlled substance against Michael Metcalf and charges of discharging a firearm into an occupied dwelling against Joseph Ross Chandler. Chandler was granted the continuance in order to obtain legal counsel.

Teresa H. Rice, charged with shoplifting, failed to appear for trial and the court issued an arrest warrant in the case.

Charges of fornication and adultery against Bennie Peal were dismissed as were assault charges against Dewey Allison, and larceny charges against William Norton.

## Grand Jury Indicts 13

The Madison County grand jury met on Monday morning and returned true bills against 13 defendants.

The grand jury indicted two men, Edd Young and Spencer Mooney, on five counts of receiving stolen property.

Joe Riddle was indicted on charges of maliciously burning his dwelling on Little Pine

Rd. J.H. Bise was indicted on two counts of obtaining property under false pretense.

Douglas Sawyer was indicted on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Sawyer is charged with shooting Zoda Field with a .22 caliber pistol.

Don Lancaster was indicted

on a charge of larceny in connection with the theft of a washing machine and dryer.

Steve A. Rice, Jr. and Candace Aldridge Durden were both indicted on a charge of manufacturing a controlled substance. In three unrelated cases, William Cutshall, Jr., Michael Metcalf and Joe Balding were each indicted on

charges of manufacturing a controlled substance.

Eddie Doan and Ivan Doan were both indicted by the panel on a charge of breaking, entering and larceny in connection with the theft of a tiller and lawn mower.

Bruce Massey was indicted on a charge of forgery and uttering.

## Mars Hill College Anticipates Increase In Student Enrollment

Mars Hill College is anticipating more freshmen than last year as registration for the new school year begins. Dr. Smith Goodrum, associate dean for admissions, said paid student deposits are running ahead of this time last year by better than two percent.

Coupled with the college's traditionally high retention rate from the upperclassmen, this news means that the college could be reversing a trend of declining student enrollment.

"Part of the increase that has been identified in North Carolina students," says Goodrum, "We've even had to reopen one of the men's residence halls that had been scheduled to be closed this coming year."

College president, Dr. Fred

Bentley, said that he was "encouraged" by the enrollment figures in his address during the opening convocation and faculty workshop Wednesday and Thursday. "We still have a long way to go," he noted.

Bentley emphasized that demographic predictions show that the "student pool," that group of 18 to 24 year old persons who traditionally attend college, will continue to shrink through the 1990's. In addition to efforts the college will continue to make in recruiting this age group, Bentley noted that the school will continue its adult education program and will make specific efforts to recruit international students.

The state's recent decision to fund the college's self-study completed last year,

Bentley urged the faculty and staff to adopt those concepts which will allow Mars Hill to continue to be "A vigorous Christian college of distinction, centered in the Baptist tradition, staffed by distinguished teachers, enriched with programs that stir the quest for self-realization, and cemented with the spirit of joy known only to those who not only have the courage to seek truth, but are empowered to live in that which they discover."

Registration for the new school year was held for on-campus students on Tuesday. The last day for submitting schedule adjustments will be Sept. 1. Classes will begin on Thursday, Sept. 10, at 8 a.m.

The Center for Continuing Education will hold registra-

tion for its evening adult education classes beginning Aug. 29 at several sites around Western North Carolina. Registration will be held at East Yancey Middle School from 6 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1; in Madison County, registration will be held in Blackwell Hall on Aug. 30 from 6 to 7 p.m.; on Tuesday, Aug. 30, from 5 to 6 p.m.; and in Waynesville, registration will be held at Tuscola High School on Thursday, Sept. 1, from 5 to 6 p.m.

For additional information, contact the Office of Admissions at 689-1201.

## Thornburg Brings Campaign To Madison County

Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Lacy Thornburg brought his campaign to Madison County last Friday.

Thornburg, a former Superior Court judge who resigned his post in March to seek the nomination, met with local leaders at a reception held at Madison High School.

A Mars Hill College graduate, the Sylva Democrat returned last week from a campaign tour of eastern North Carolina. Discussing the campaign trip, Thornburg said, "In traveling across the eastern part of the state, I was amazed to discover the sense of kinship people in the east have with Western North Carolina."

Earlier in the week, Thornburg had called for the repeal of the newly enacted "Discovery Law." Thornburg told The News Record, "We need a comprehensive discovery law, but we need not support measures that would give the governor veto power over legislation passed in the General Assembly."

Thornburg said, having been in the legislature for three terms, I have come to believe that the governor already had adequate power

to influence legislation.

If elected, Thornburg said he would press for changes in the current judicial system. "I would like to see minor traffic offenses handled by magistrates. This would take some load away from the District Courts. I would also recommend that appeals from District Court be heard directly by the Court of Appeals. This will clear up the Superior Courts. We also need to shorten discovery hearings so that we can make the best possible use of judges' time."

Thornburg said he will watch with interest the way the courts handle the new DWI law that takes effect Oct. 1.

Reports have been circulating that Thornburg would abandon his campaign for governor and run for Attorney General instead. During Friday's reception at Madison High School, Thornburg acknowledged that some of his supporters have encouraged him to bid for the Attorney General post, but denied that he was considering making the switch. He told The News Record, "I got into this to run for governor. I haven't changed my mind."

