

Community Calendar

River Cleanup Is Scheduled

Cleanup trips down the French Broad River will be conducted on Sept. 9 and 10 in Buncombe and Madison Counties.

On Sept. 9, Quality Forward, the Buncombe Cty. Parks and Recreation Dept., Carolina Wilderness Adventures and the French Broad River Rafting Co. will sponsor a Buncombe County trip. Call 254-1776 for more information.

On Sept. 10, the Nantahala Outdoor Center's French Broad Outpost and the French Broad River Rafting Co. will sponsor a Madison County cleanup trip from Barnard to Hot Springs. Call 649-3574 or 622-7260 for reservations.

Saturday Is Patriot Day

The Madison High Athletic Boosters will sponsor Patriot Day at Madison H.S. on Saturday, Sept. 8 beginning at 10 a.m.

Games, races, a dunking booth, cake sale, flea market and concession stands will be featured during the day. A dance in the school cafeteria will begin at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from Patriot Day events will benefit the athletic programs at Madison H.S.

Ebbs Chapel VFD Dinner

The Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a barbecue dinner on Sept. 8 at 4 p.m. in the Upper Laurel Community Center. Dinner will include dessert and beverage. Donations are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 12 and under.

The dinner will also feature live entertainment. All proceeds from the dinner will benefit the work of the newly-formed fire company.

College Day Planned

The guidance department of Madison H.S. will sponsor a College Day on Sept. 12 from 1 until 2:30 p.m. in the school's library. Students interested in attending college and their parents are invited to attend. Representatives from 80 colleges and universities are expected to attend and will be available to answer questions concerning admission requirements and tuition.

Bloodmobile Here Thursday

The American Red Cross bloodmobile will be at the Marshall Presbyterian Church on Thursday, Sept. 6 from 1:30 until 5 p.m.

American Legion Meets Sept. 6

The American Legion Post No. 317 will meet at the Legion Hall in Marshall on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

Sheriff Ponder To Be Roasted

A dinner honoring Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder will be held at A.C. Reynolds H.S. on Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Rep. Liston Ramsey, Haywood County DA Marcellus Buchanan, Buncombe County Sheriff Tom Morrissey, Zeno Ponder and State Sen. Dennis Winner are among those scheduled to speak at the roast. For more information, contact Jackie Ball at 649-3138.

Wyatt Family Reunion Set

The Wyatt family reunion will be held on Saturday, Sept. 15 at the Upper Laurel Community Center. All family members and friends are invited to attend and bring along a covered dish. Dinner will be served at 5 p.m.

THE NEWS RECORD

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Vol. 84 No. 36

WEDNESDAY, September 5, 1984

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PATRIOT DEFENDERS close in on Edneyville's Freddie Lyda during Friday night's game.

Unemployment Hits 10 Pct.

By ROBERT KOENIG

Unemployment in Madison County increased for the third consecutive month in July, according to statistics released last week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC).

The July figures showed the county's jobless rate increased by nine-tenths of one percent during the month, to ten percent. The increase marked the first time since Aug., 1983 that the county unemployment rate was in double digits.

The closing of the Melville Shoe Co. plant in Hot Springs in June raised the county's jobless figures to 9.1 percent in June. ESC officials could provide no explanation for the additional increase in unemployment.

In announcing statewide figures earlier in the month, ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan pointed to temporary layoffs in the textile and furniture industries for the increase. Statewide, unemployment stood at 6.5 percent during the month.

The county's 10 percent unemployed figure represents an estimated 900 jobless workers, up 90 from the previous month.

The opening of the Banner House plant in the old Hot Springs skating rink will not have a significant effect on Aug. figures, ESC officials said. The plant expects to hire 25 workers to start operations.

Neighboring counties reported little change during July. Buncombe and Yancey counties saw unemployment increase slightly while Haywood County reported a slight decline in unemployment.

Hunt To Honor Volunteers

Eight Madison County residents, the Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Dept., Jesuit Retreat Center and Mars Hill College will be honored by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. during ceremonies Sept. 13 in Asheville. The governor will present his Volunteer Award during ceremonies to be held at the First Baptist Church on Oak Street.

Those Madison Countians scheduled to receive the awards are Lucille English, Dr. Evelyn Underwood and Irene Carroll of Mars Hill, Randy Riddle, Pansy Norton and Claude Davis of Marshall and Emma Kate Davis and Francis E. Smith of Hot Springs.

In announcing the awards, Charles V. Petty, executive director of the Governor's Office of Citizen Affairs explained, "The Governor's Awards were created by Gov. Hunt in 1980 to recognize the efforts of local volunteers. Each award recipient will be presented a certificate and a special volunteer pin bearing the Volunteer North Carolina logo and the date."

Refreshments will be served and music during the awards program will be presented by the Land of the Sky Barbershop Chorus.

The Asheville ceremony will honor volunteers in the 37 WNC counties.

Vienna Choir To Entertain

This year's Visiting Artists and Lecturers Series at Mars Hill College will feature the return of the internationally-known Vienna Boys Choir on Oct. 20. The performance will coincide with the annual Homecoming activities on the campus.

"Meeting The World Through The Arts" is the theme of this year's series, according to Robert Kramer, chairman of the series committee. In addition to the Austrian choir boys, the series will bring artists and lecturers from Mexico, Canada, France and Sweden to the school.

All of the events in the series will be held in Moore Auditorium. The series will open on Sept. 18 with an American performer, Peter Smelson. His "Theatre of Illusion" has toured the U.S., Canada and China.

The 24-member Vienna Boys Choir will entertain on Oct. 20 at 8 p.m.

On Nov. 16, Canadian pianist Janina Fialkowska will perform. Fialkowska is internationally known as the first winner of the Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition. She has appeared with major orchestras in the U.S., Canada

Mexico and Europe.

The series moves to the Mars Theatre on Dec. 3 for a screening of the award-winning film, "Fanny and Alexander."

The series resumes on Feb. 19 when Phillip Gentry brings his company of puppets to Mars Hill. The performance will include every imaginable type of puppet, as well as elements of mime, dance and black light trickery.

In March, the songs, dances and costumes of Mexico will be presented.

The series concludes on April 24 when Stan Bumgarner brings his classical guitar to the campus. A native of Taylorsville and graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College, Bumgarner has studied guitar at the Winston-Salem School of the Arts and in Europe.

Admission to all performances in the series is \$5. Season tickets are available for \$20.

Additional information on the series, including group rates, is available by writing to Robert Kramer at P.O. Box 117, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.



Foreign Investors Buy U.S. Farm Land

By JOY ASCHENBACH

National Geographic News Service

WASHINGTON. Kivwah Island clings close to America's Atlantic shore along the South Carolina coast, but all 2,500 acres of it are owned by an oil-rich Arab government some 7,000 miles away.

Kawall purchased the subtropical barrier island 10 years ago for \$17 million and has developed it into a luxurious resort.

In Pecos County, Texas, two French wine companies are growing grapes on a thousand acres of grazing land leased from the University of Texas.

Nearly 500 acres of Somerset County, N.J. are owned by King Hassan II of Morocco.

A Saudi Arabian prince recently purchased more than 7,000 acres of agricultural land in northwestern Georgia.

Should Foreign Lands

Whether the investors are oil sheiks, all and coal companies or wealthy individuals, more U.S. and its foreign lands today than ever before in this country's history.

Foreign ownership of American agricultural lands, which all lands that are owned by foreigners, is a hot political issue.

Foreign investment in U.S. real estate, notably downtown office complexes, shopping malls and manufacturing plants, also has jumped recently. It rose from \$589 million ten years ago to more than \$5.9 billion at the end of 1982, according to the U.S. Commerce Dept.

Despite the increase and the fact that foreign holdings are considered greater than statistics disclose, U.S. lands are still far from being sold away.

The 13.7 million acres of agricultural lands, farms, ranches, pastures and forests, reported in foreign hands at the end of 1982 represent slightly more than one percent of all U.S. agricultural lands, according to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Sixty-three percent of the land listed as foreign-owned is actually controlled by U.S. corporations with at least five percent foreign ownership. The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 requires all such corporations to report their holdings.

Meaningful Law

"The law casts a wide net. Land that is owned by a U.S. corporation is classified as foreign-owned," explained Peter DeLoach, an Agriculture Dept. attorney responsible for the law's enforcement.

The disclosure law was passed after a series of high-profile land deals.

The big buy-up of 100,000 acres of land in the state, acquired by the purchase of the U.S. Army, Army of Engineers, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

chasing real estate in one of the world's most stable society was a good investment. Advertisements offering U.S. acres appeared in many European newspapers.

Land sales apparently peaked in 1981, but have continued to increase at a slower rate, says DeLoach. Investments in land are generally long-term. Foreign investment in U.S. real estate, while still growing, has been "less fast-paced over the last two years" according to Joel Goldfrank, executive vice president of Eastell Realty in New York, which handles many such transactions.

Most foreign-owned agricultural land belongs to individuals and corporations from five countries or dependencies: Canada, Great Britain, Hong Kong, West Germany and the Netherlands. Other leading foreign investors are Mexico, Japan, Switzerland, Panama, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

People of Luxembourg own approximately 10 percent of the land in the state in Lincolnville, S.C. Plans for the land are to be used for a resort and a hotel.