

Patriots Down Mitchell 24-6  
Lions Lose Third Straight

# Community Calendar

## Mars Hill Fall Festival Set

Mars Hill Elementary School will host the annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 27 from 3 until 9 p.m. at the school. Activities will include fire truck rides, bingo, pony rides, face painting, pie throws and cake walks. A spaghetti supper will be served from 5 until 7 p.m. in the cafeteria. Drawing for prizes will also be held. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Laurel VFD Pig Roast

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor its annual Pig Roast on Sunday, Oct. 21 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children. Tickets are available from members of the fire company.

## Mars Hill Plans Parade

The town of Mars Hill and the Mars Hill Lions Club will hold their annual Christmas parade on Nov. 17. Anyone wishing to participate in the parade should contact Carolyn Ammons at 689-3881 or 689-4166 or Steve Willis at 689-2308

## Athletic Field Dedication

The Greater Ivy Community Development Club will dedicate the new athletic field at ceremonies on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served and there will be entertainment. Seating is limited and guests are invited to bring along lawn chairs.

## Dog Show Is Planned

The Smoky Mt. Kennel Club will hold its annual Fall Fun Match on Oct. 21 at the Waynesville Recreation Center at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Linda Lazar at 452-0437.

## Surplus Foods To Be Distributed Oct. 27

USDA commodities will be distributed Saturday, October 27, 1984. Applications will be taken between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Food Stamp Office, located on main street in Marshall. After completion of the application, commodities can be picked up at the Department of Social Services. Remember you must go by the Food Stamp Office first!

Households that are eligible to participate in the free food give away are: 1. Food Stamp Recipients certified for the month of October. 2. Household's whose gross monthly income is below the federal income poverty level.

Food Stamp recipients must present their Food Stamp ID card when

they make application. Should someone else pick up commodities for you, you will need to send your ID card along with a signed statement from the head of the household, stating the other person has your permission to receive the commodities for you.

Should an income eligible household need a friend to pick up commodities for them, they will need to send a signed statement by the head of the household stating their gross monthly income and the number of people in the family. The statement must also have the friend's name on it, giving that person permission to receive your commodities.

## Troopers Assigned To Hot Springs, Marshall

Two newly graduated members of the N.C. State Highway Patrol Basic School have been assigned to Madison County. The new troopers reported for duty on Oct. 11 following their Oct. 5 graduation.

Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins of Bryson City has been assigned to duty

in Hot Springs. Trooper Richard Lee Terry of Ellenboro was reported for duty in Marshall.

The new troopers completed 1,201 hours of instruction during the 23-week school. They will continue their education through on-the-job training and in-service schools.

# Changes In Tobacco Program Studied

By CHARLES JEFFRIES  
The Raleigh News and Observer

Saddled with staggering surpluses, the federal tobacco program is undergoing intense scrutiny from farm groups, tobacco officials and individual growers who seek radical changes in the complicated system of production and price controls.

"I sense there is a growing consensus that we have to do something drastic," T. Carlton Bialock, executive vice president of the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina, said in an interview last week.

"If we do not, at the most, some people are saying we will have a (tobacco) program for one more year," he said. "So we think it is absolutely essential that something be done in 1985."

One plan being considered in boardrooms and country staves would have Congress relieve the nation's tobacco farmers of some of the financial burden it placed on them just two years ago with passage of a revenue cap. The plan would allow the growing costs of the tobacco program.

Another plan would require

There is also a proposal for a cap on the lease quotas many growers pay to quota holders for the right to grow tobacco.

Some tobacco organizations have endorsed some of the plans, but others are waiting until after the Nov. 6 election because any change would require congressional approval.

"We are looking at every proposal being made," said John W. Sledge, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation, which traditionally has balked at changes in the program. "It might be that we would consider a combination of these proposals. But it is clear the things we have done legislatively so far have not been proper."

Fred G. Bond, executive director of the Flue Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corp., said the grower-owned cooperative's board has discussed a number of proposals, but none has been favored over another.

"The board's position is that they will look at any plan presented, but they're not taking any action on one at this point," he said in an interview.

As the program and controversial as the present one is, there has been a

"We have reached a crisis situation, and something just has to be done," John H. Cyrus, tobacco affairs specialist for the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, said in an interview last week. "In my opinion, the first move is to make the tobacco program more market-oriented."

For many industry observers, tobacco's crisis is clearly visible in the overflowing Tobacco Stabilization warehouses. The cooperative borrows federal funds to acquire tobacco that fails to receive a higher bid than the government support price, which has been frozen at an average \$1.65 per pound since 1982 and then tries to resell the leaf.

Declining cigarette sales, a weak export market and buyers' growing preference for cheaper foreign tobacco have helped boost Stabilization's surplus stocks to more than a year's supply.

As of Thursday, Stabilization held 879,000,000 pounds of flue-cured leaf. The effective national marketing quota for this season, the amount tobacco farmers are allowed to grow and sell, is only 651.1 million pounds.

Stabilization's revenues almost certainly will be

tobacco observers say more stringent measures must be implemented soon to end the trend of shrinking quotas and growing surpluses.

But finding a way to trim Stabilization's bulging surplus of tobacco while simultaneously maintaining a healthy market for future crops is a problem that will not be solved easily.

Earlier this year, Stabilization had hoped to dispose of some of its stocks by offering buyer discounts of up to 80 percent on the 1978-83 crops. To prevent the discounts from disrupting sales of the 1984 crop, buyers were told the discount prices would take effect only if they purchased 720,000,000 pounds of the 1984 crop.

Last week, however, that goal became impossible after increasing loan stocks and dwindling supplies put the 720-million-pound out of reach. With the failure of the discount program, a number of proposed changes in the tobacco program for 1985 have gained renewed interest.

One of the earliest and most widely discussed is a complete plan offered by Guilford County farmer David

Under Hopkins' plan, government price supports would be frozen at

allowed to buy Stabilization's old stocks in exchange for additional quota, the right to grow more tobacco themselves.

For every pound of tobacco a farmer bought from Stabilization, he would be granted an additional pound of quota above the national quota figure set for that season.

Bialock, whose group has endorsed the Hopkins plan, says it has the dual capability of immediately lowering Stabilization's burdensome stocks and lowering price supports which have made U.S.-grown leaf less competitive on the world market.

"The theory behind the Hopkins plan is that if you reduce your prices, you will increase your sales," Bialock says. "Research data at N.C. State University indicates that for every one percent reduction in price over a three-to-five year period, you can expect a 3-to-5 percent expansion in sales."

If the theory holds true, Bialock said, then a 12 percent decline in price supports from \$1.65 per pound to \$1.45 per pound would translate into a 30 percent increase in sales. That would justify the price increase

"Through conversations with the trade, I have posed the hypothetical question, 'Suppose we had prices averaging about \$1.45 per pound, how much could we expect to sell in three to five years?'" Bialock said. "They told me from 1.1 to 1.5 billion pounds as contrasted to the 700 million pounds which we are selling this year."

But Bialock said the Hopkins plan would still generate losses for Stabilization because farmers would be unable to buy all of its stocks. And the assessments that have been collected through the 1982 No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act, which makes farmers responsible for the program's costs, are not sufficient to cover the losses the on-op is expected to incur on the resale of the tobacco it has acquired since 1982.

"There is no way farmers themselves can afford to buy their way out of the program," Bialock said. "We must have relief from the government."

By the end of the year, Bialock said, tobacco farmers will see the Community Growth Corp. issue \$100 million. The 700 million

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## Hot Springs Police Resign

Two members of the Hot Springs Police Dept. submitted their resignations on Oct. 5, leaving the town with only one full-time officer.

Hot Springs officers Carlie Gunter and Richard Roberts resigned from the force, citing interference from one of the town's aldermen, Kenny Ramsey, for their decision. Johnny Norton, the town's remaining policeman, has been pressed into full-time duty as a result of the resignations.

Hot Springs Mayor Debbie Baker was out of town at the time of the resignations. On Tuesday, Baker told The News Record that the town is currently taking applications for the two positions. "We're looking for someone who is certified by the state," she said. The town has received applications from two prospective officers, Baker said. A meeting with the candidates will be held sometime later this week.

## Homecoming Queen



HOMECOMING QUEEN CYNTHIA ANGLIN, right, receives congratulatory hug from outgoing queen Jennifer Nix during coronation ceremonies Friday night at O.E. Roberts Stadium. Patriots celebrated with a 24-6 win

## Weaverville To Consider Downtown Zoning Change

Weaverville will hold a public hearing in the near future to consider amending the town's zoning ordinance governing commercial property.

The amendment has been requested by Emil Stabi, who plans to operate a sewing plant in the former Shope Furniture store on Florida Ave. The plant, which would manufacture luggage, would employ eight to ten workers.

Presently, the area in which the plant would be located is classified as C-1 commercial property. Weaverville's zoning law prohibits manufacturing in the commercial district. An exception or an amendment to the current zoning ordinance would be required before the plant could operate.

No date was set for the hearing during Monday night's meeting, but it is expected that the hearing will be held prior to the next meeting of the Town

Council on Nov. 19.

Residents along Lake Shore Dr. received some welcome news at the Monday meeting. The residents have appeared at several council meetings to ask the town to pave their road. On Monday night, the council voted to enter into a contract with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation to pave the road. Cost of the project is \$17,000. No date for the start of work was announced.

## Marshall Board To Meet

Marshall Mayor Betty Wild has called for a special called meeting of the town's board of aldermen for Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. A special meeting of the board called for last Thursday was postponed when board members Sammy Lunsford and John Dodson were absent.

Wild and board member Ed Niles met in a closed-door session with police officer Michael Beasley and several Marshall residents Thursday night. It is expected that the board will again confer on the situation concerning Beasley at this week's special hearing. Beasley remains on leave with permission from the police department.

Town secretary Linda Dodson told The News Record on Tuesday that the special meeting will also deal with the Community Development Block Grant the town has received from the state for rehabilitation on Island Rd.

Thursday's special called meeting will follow a meeting of the town planning board scheduled for 6:30 p.m.

## Buncombe Jury To Hear Johnson Trial

Richard Johnson of Hot Springs will be tried in Madison County Superior Court, but the trial will be heard by a panel of Buncombe County jurors.

Johnson is charged with murder in connection with the death of his daughter, Joyce Johnson, earlier this year.

Superior Court Judge Charles Lamm ordered the Buncombe County jury in response to a motion presented by District Attorney Tom Rusher.

Johnson's trial is scheduled for the November session of the court. He remains in the Madison County jail in lieu of bond.

## Council Rejects Water Line

The Weaverville Town Council rejected a water line to the new RCA plant on Monticello Rd. Monday night after learning that the line was not installed according to plans submitted by the project's contractor.

Town engineer Bill Lapsley informed the council that a 12-inch line to supply fire protection to the new plant was installed using several elbows when the original plans called for a straight line running underneath U.S. 19-23.

Lapsley told the council that the decision to install the elbows was made after drilling under the highway struck rock. The contractor then drilled another hole three feet lower from the opposite direction to feet the line stalled by the rock.

The elbow joints were then encased in concrete.

Lapsley warned the council members that repairing the line would be an expensive proposition because of the concrete casing. Cost of replacing the line could run to \$8,000, Lapsley said.

The town would not be responsible for repairs to the line at the present time because it is located outside the city limits. Future annexation would bring the line under Weaverville's control, however.

Rather than face the possibility of expensive repairs in the future, the council voted unanimously to reject the line and require the contractor, Enoke Construction Co., to make the necessary repairs.