

March 27, 1985

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Spring Gardening Supplement

Community Calendar

County GOP Convention

The Madison County Republican Party will hold its county convention Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. in the Madison County Court House. All registered Republicans are invited to attend.

The annual Lincoln's Day Dinner will be held at Madison H.S. at 6 p.m. following the convention.

Democratic Women To Meet

The Madison County Democratic Women will meet on March 27 at 4:30 p.m. in the Register of Deeds office in the County Court House. All registered Democratic women are invited to attend.

WNC Coon Hunters Show

The WNC Coon Hunters Association will sponsor a UKC-Licensed Bench Show and Night Hunt and Show on March 30 at 6 p.m. at the American Enka Union Hall on Sardis Rd.

Walnut-Brush Creek Clubs Meet

The Walnut-Brush Creek Community Development Club will meet on April 2 at 7 p.m. in the Walnut Baptist Church. All interested persons are urged to attend.

County Commissioners To Meet Monday Afternoon

The Madison County Board of County Commissioners will hold their monthly meeting on April 1 at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

School Board Meets April 3

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on April 3 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Ebbs Chapel VFD Dinner

The Ebbs Chapel Volunteer Fire Dept. is sponsoring a turkey and ham dinner on Sunday, March 31 from noon until 2 p.m. in the Upper Laurel Community Center.

Mars Hill Board Meets April 1

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will hold their monthly meeting on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Plowshares To Screen Film

Plowshares—a group of Madison County residents working for world peace and protection of our environment—is pleased to announce a documentary film series for Spring, 1985. Award-winning films on a variety of subjects concerning current social and environmental issues will be presented. The films will be shown at both the Media Center of Mars Hill College, and the Presbyterian Church in Marshall. Screenings are free, and the public is invited to attend.

The first film in the series is "Todos Santos Cuchumatán: Report from a Guatemalan Village." This film is about the people of an Indian village of the Cuchumatán mountains. Through interviews with men

and women as they go about their daily work, we learn about the changes coming to this once subsistence farming community. The film documents the annual sequence of harvest, the fiesta of Todos Santos, and the mass seasonal migration out of the mountains to work in the cotton plantations of the hot and humid lowlands. "Todos Santos Cuchumatán" was a Blue Ribbon Winner at the American Film Festival.

The film will be presented on March 27. The Mars Hill College Media Center screening will be at 3:00 p.m. The Marshall Presbyterian Church showing will be at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact Drew Langsner at 656-2280.

THE NEWS RECORD

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WEDNESDAY, March 27, 1985

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In The General Assembly

Bill To Repeal Consecutive Terms Wins Senate Committee Approval

By ROB CHRISTENSEN
Chief Capitol Correspondent
The News and Observer

With the backing of powerful legislative leaders, a bill aimed at repealing the right of governors to serve two consecutive terms continued its march through the General Assembly Thursday.

The Senate Judiciary IV Committee voted 6-1 for a bill that would let voters decide in November, 1986 whether to amend the state constitution to end succession for the governor and lieutenant governor.

The bill would not apply to Republican Gov. James G. Martin and Democratic Lt. Gov. Robert B. Jordan III.

It appears likely that the House-passed measure will be approved by the Senate next week. Thirty votes are needed to approve a constitutional amendment in the 50-member Senate.

"I believe we have enough votes to

pass it," said Sen. Kenneth C. Royall, Jr., D-Durham, a chief supporter of the measure.

The legislation has gathered momentum in part because it has the support of most of the legislative leadership, including House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey, D-Madison, and Royall, chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

The strength of the support was demonstrated when Sen. Dennis Winner, D-Buncombe, proposed an amendment that would have scheduled the referendum for the May, 1986 primary elections. He said that the succession issue should not become entangled in general election campaigns.

But when Royall said the bill's sponsors wanted the referendum in November, Winner quickly withdrew the amendment without comment.

In 1977, the legislature passed a constitutional amendment approved by the voters in a referendum later

that year to let governors and lieutenant governors serve two consecutive terms.

The succession amendment was pushed through by Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., a Democrat.

There was no committee debate on the merits of gubernatorial succession Thursday.

Voting against the measure was Sen. Laurence A. Cobb, R-Mecklenburg.

"I philosophically believe that you have a better balance of power when you have a governor who can serve two terms," Cobb said in an interview after the meeting.

"I am not one who agrees with the leadership here who say we have one of the strongest governors in the nation. I think any student of politics would dispute that."

Martin has voiced opposition to repealing succession, but he has not actively lobbied against the measure. Jordan has said he is neutral on the

issue and has avoided involvement.

Although there was no debate Thursday, supporters of the measure have argued that gubernatorial succession has caused governors to become more worried about reelection than doing their jobs and that public attitudes have turned against succession.

Succession supporters have said the measure was a legislative raid on the powers of the executive branch. They contend that succession allows governors more time to carry out their programs, provides continuity in government and provides a better balance between the executive and legislative branches.

They also contend that much of the impetus for repeal comes from politicians frustrated with waiting eight years to move up the ladder in state politics. One effect of succession was that 10 Democrats ran for governor last year, after having waited two terms for Hunt to leave office.

Committee Approves Drinking Age Bill

By SHARON OVERTON
The News and Observer

A legislative committee approved a bill Thursday that would raise North Carolina's legal drinking age to 21 from 19 for beer and wine effective Sept. 1, 1986—one month before the federal government plans to cut highway funds to states that haven't followed suit.

The bill says the legal age would revert to 19 if Congress repeals the 1984 law or if the courts rule it unconstitutional. Several states have sued the federal government, claiming the law violates states' rights.

With little debate, the House Alcohol Beverage Control Committee approved in a voice vote a motion made by Rep. Joe R. Hudson, D-Union, to approve the bill.

"Most committee members felt there was not a whole lot of choice in the matter," said Rep. William E. Clark, D-Cumberland, committee chairman, in an interview. "Had you not had the money issue, we would have had a much more lively debate."

Based heavily on legislation introduced last month by Rep. George W. Miller, Jr., D-Durham, the version of the bill approved by the committee is considered the most moderate of three sent to a subcommittee for review. This version has the support of associations representing restaurants, convenience stores and

retail merchants because it will allow 18-year olds to serve or sell beer and wine, even though they can't drink it.

Although Gov. James G. Martin repeated in a news conference Thursday his opposition to raising the drinking age, Clark predicted that the bill would pass both the House and Senate with little trouble.

Rep. Coy C. Privette, R-Cabarrus, who voted against the measure, said the law should take effect this fall and should not be tied to the federal mandate. He said he planned to offer amendments addressing those points on the House floor.

Congress last year mandated that states failing to raise the drinking age by Oct. 1, 1986, would lose five percent of their federal highway money. An additional 10 percent would be withheld in the 1987-88 fiscal year. State officials estimate that North Carolina could lose \$28.6 million, or 15 percent of its highway funds, during the first two years of the federal crackdown.

Students representing Duke University, N.C. State University and the University of N.C. at Chapel Hill told the committee members that a drinking age of 21 wasn't constitutional and wouldn't be obeyed. "...Tens of thousands of North Carolina citizens will become criminals unnecessarily," said Martin T. November, Duke University student body president.



LITTER GRACES THE ROADSIDE AT WALNUT CREEK RD. and U.S. 25-70. Roadside trash and litter at dump sites are creating a hazardous situation as well as an unsightly mess.—More pictures on Page 5.

Government Program Stores Seed For Future Farming

By BORIS WEINTRAUB
National Geographic News Service

Sometime around the year 2028, a technician at the National Seed Storage Laboratory in Fort Collins, Colorado will reach into a vat of extremely cold liquid nitrogen, pluck out a tube containing thousands of seeds that have been there since 1978, and send them out to be planted.

If all goes according to plan, those seeds will grow into healthy plants and will produce new seeds that can be stored for another 50 to 100 years, still retaining their usefulness. The National Plant Germplasm System, of which the laboratory is a major part, will have taken another step toward preserving the genetic diversity of the nation's food crops.

Most Americans have neither heard of plant germplasm nor given a second's thought to genetic diversity. But the few who have, and their counterparts around the world, know that genetic diversity is vital if plant breeders are to develop new and better crops that can produce higher yields while proving resistant to flooding, drought, disease, insect pests, and other crop-threatening dangers.

Germplasm is the part of the cell that determines a plant's hereditary

characteristics. It controls whether corn will be yellow or white; how high the yield of a soybean plant will be; whether a tomato will be hardy and resistant to bruises; how vulnerable wheat will be to leaf or stem rust.

The more diverse the germplasm base is—and the National Small Grain Collection at Beltsville, Md., to take one example, has about 40,000 different varieties of wheat, domesticated and wild—the better a breeder's chances of finding a variety with the characteristics he needs to improve his crop.

But if most of a crop in the field is genetically uniform, the potential exists for a disaster if that crop is threatened by a disease or a pest to which it is not resistant. Studies show that American crops remain vulnerable to such outbreaks as the 1970 Southern corn leaf blight, which wiped out half of the corn crop in some parts of the country and 15 percent of it nationwide.

Unfortunately, says Quentin Jones, the Agriculture Department's national coordinator for germplasm, the United States is "a have-not, germplasm-poor nation," making it difficult for scientists to collect wild varieties of seeds that can be bred to introduce resistance when malchance

ing high productivity.

"Of the 15 crops—rice, wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, potato, cassava, sweet potato, bean, soybean, peanut, cane, beets, banana, and coconut—that literally stand between mankind and starvation, not one is native to what is now the United States," he says.

This means that the seeds must come from other nations, most of them in the Third World, were food crops originated. For several reasons, including urbanization, population growth, substitution of modern hybrids for traditional varieties, and international politics, getting such seeds isn't as easy as it used to be. Either the germplasm is no longer there, or collectors can't take it out of the country.

Hence, the National Germplasm System, a network of public and private facilities throughout the United States that tries to collect every variety of seed and store it for use as needed by plant scientists here and abroad.

The small grain collection at the U. S. Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, and others around the country, are among the most successful in the world. They have



Technologist Michael Edmickson plants test samples of new seed arriving in the germination room of the National Seed Storage Laboratory, as Mary Bantrol, center, and Laura Brewer examine seedlings. Once a plant's genetic characteristics are known, seeds are placed in long-term storage for use in crop breeding.