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Report From The Speaker - Page 5

Community Calendar

Hot Springs Board Plans Meetings

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on the first Saturday of each month from June through November at 8 a.m. in Town Hall. The next monthly meeting will be held on June 1. The public is invited to attend.

Marshall American Legion Post Plans Memorial Day Parade

The Marshall American Legion post is planning a Memorial Day parade for May 25.

The Ladies Auxiliary ask that all veterans of the Vietnam War contact Bea Banks at 649-2436 or Faye Reid before May 23. Veterans with pictures, medals, uniforms or other military equipment are asked to bring them to the library.

Job Search Training Offered

The Opportunity Corporation will offer a five-day job search training program at Walnut Elementary School beginning on May 20 at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact the Opportunity Corp. at 649-3291

Coon Hunters Bench Show Set

The WNC Coon Hunters Association will sponsor a UKC-licensed bench show and night hunt on May 18. Deadline for entering the bench show is Saturday at 2 p.m. Entries in the night hunt will be accepted until 6 p.m. The events will be held at the American Enka Union Hall south of Asheville. For more information, call 645-6423.

Democrats Plan June 1 Picnic

The Madison County Democratic Party is planning a picnic on June 1 at Rocky Bluff. Democrats are invited to bring the family and enjoy hot dogs at Madison County's most beautiful park. There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted.

Nuclear Dumping Hearing Planned

Eleventh District Congressman Bill Hendon has announced that a public meeting with U.S. Department of Energy officials will be held Friday in Asheville to discuss plans for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste. The DOE is considering Western North Carolina for a permanent dumping site.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in the Lipinsky Auditorium on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Hendon has announced his opposition to nuclear waste sites in WNC. In announcing the Friday meeting, Hendon said, "This issue is of great im-

portance to the people of Western North Carolina. I have invited officials from DOE to come to our district, listen to our concerns and answer the questions we all have about the disposal of nuclear waste. This is an excellent opportunity for our citizens to let their feelings be known on this issue."

Hendon said he has also invited several experts in the fields of geology, environmental health, meteorology, physics and nuclear engineering to address the meeting.

For more information on the meeting, contact Hendon's Asheville office at 253-3406.

Martin, Democrats Seek Tax Cut Compromise

BY ROB CHRISTENSEN

The News and Observer

Negotiations are underway between Republican Gov. James G. Martin and Senate Democrats to craft a compromise bipartisan tax cut package, it was disclosed Thursday.

Both Martin and Democratic Lt. Gov. Robert B. Jordan III said the two sides were still far apart on the size and shape of the tax cut package.

But the talks appeared to be a sharp departure from the partisan bickering that has marked the relationship between the governor and the Democrat-controlled General Assembly during the past month.

Martin has made repeal of the intangibles tax his price for backing a bipartisan package, several legislative sources said. But Senate Democrats privately have expressed some resistance to the tax's total repeal.

The governor said there "appears to be good movement" toward forging a compromise tax package.

"I am encouraged that people are beginning to look at some middle ground between the two positions and the position I have taken," Martin said at his weekly news conference.

for a proposal," said Martin. "It remains to be seen whether we will get that."

Jordan, in a separate interview, told reporters that "we have made progress" toward adopting a compromise package, but cautioned that major differences remained.

"There has been a definite change on the part of the executive branch to compromise," said Jordan. "We hadn't seen that until last week."

"We are trying to negotiate with the executive branch to see how close we can get," said Jordan. "There is no guarantee the House will go along."

There was little cooperation between the two branches last month, when the House passed a \$184.2 million two-year tax cut package that was about half of the \$328.4 million in cuts proposed by Martin.

House Democrats had complained that Martin had not tried to work with the legislators, while Martin accused the House of giving his tax package "shabby treatment."

Martin has proposed elimination of the tax on business inventory, repeal of the intangibles tax on such items as bank accounts and stocks and bonds, and repeal of the 2 percent sales tax on food.

Democrats proposed an alternative package that would include a 1 percent

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Marshall To Crack Down On Water, Tax Delinquents

By ROBERT KOENIG

Faced with increasing pressure on a budget already over its limits, Marshall officials ordered another crackdown on delinquent taxpayers and water customers Monday night during their monthly meeting.

Following the presentation of the monthly financial statement by town secretary Linda Dodson, Mayor Betty Wild asked the aldermen to authorize town crews to remove water meters from the homes of delinquent water customers. Mrs. Dodson told the board that outstanding water bills totaled more than \$9,000.

On a motion made by Ed Niles and passed without opposition, the aldermen voted to order town crews to remove water meters from customers who are two months overdue on payment of their water and sewer charges. The same motion also authorized Mrs. Dodson to "go after back taxes with any means at our disposal."

Mrs. Dodson told the aldermen the town can proceed with action to garnish wages, savings or seize vehicles owned by delinquent taxpayers.

The latest crackdown comes in response to financial statements which show Marshall nearing fiscal disaster.

With two months remaining in the current fiscal year, the figures released Monday night show that Marshall's general fund is already \$13,570.34 over budget for the entire year. The town secretary told the alderman that every department except streets has exceeded the budget for the current fiscal year. The town's Sanitation Dept. is also below budget, but only because of a \$35,000 state grant which was used to purchase a new garbage truck.

The town's administrative expenses are \$7,852 over budget. The Recreation Dept. has exceeded its budget of \$5,000 by \$1,074, while tax collection accounts for an additional deficit of \$909. The Marshall Police Dept. is also over its \$32,000 budget by \$2,949 and fire protection is \$3,871 over budget.

In addition to the various departments included in the general fund budget, the town's Water and Sewer Dept. has accounted for much of the present financial troubles. The report delivered to the aldermen Monday night showed that the town's general fund has contributed some \$44,646.44 toward the Water and Sewer Dept. operations in the current fiscal year. During April, Marshall's general fund contributed \$4,837.85 to the Water and Sewer fund.

If the monthly financial report was bad news, an updated report delivered by the town secretary was more of the same. Mrs. Dodson told the board members that the most recent financial statements from banks holding the town's deposits indicates that Marshall has \$18,966.50 in its general fund, with some \$4,427.50 in accounts payable, leaving only \$14,539 remaining in the general fund account.

The Water and Sewer Dept. account is also nearly depleted, with \$12,702.35 remaining on deposit and \$5,492.56 in outstanding bills due, leaving only \$7,209.79.

The town's savings have been reduced to \$32,000 in a certificate of deposit and some \$18,000 in federal revenue sharing funds.

The town secretary said the town has \$15,501.14 in outstanding property

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Wild Defends \$120 Contribution

Marshall Mayor Betty Wild defended her decision to spend \$120 in town funds for six tickets to a dinner honoring Liston Ramsey. The mayor's comments were made at the close of the monthly meeting of the Board of Aldermen on Monday night. The mayor responded "No," when asked if she would reimburse the town's general fund for the purchase price of six tickets to the October dinner honoring the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

"I'll gladly write the check for \$120 when the county commissioners give back the \$8,000 they gave away," said Wild, referring to a contribution made by the county commissioners to Team Madison, a group of Madison H.S. athletes who are scheduled to tour Europe later this year.

The mayor defended the \$120 contribution made in October, saying that it has been a common practice among past administrations. "I don't think we did anything illegal. I think it was only right to honor someone who has done as much for Marshall as Liston Ramsey."

In a telephone interview with The News Record last week, state Board of Elections director Alex Brock said he believed that the dinner at

Madison H.S. honoring Ramsey may have constituted a political dinner because it took place before the November general election. North Carolina attorney general Rufus Edmisten, then a candidate for governor, was the principal speaker at the dinner.

If the dinner was a political event, the town's contribution would be in violation of state election law. Brock said, however, that he would not order an investigation of the contribution unless his office received a written complaint.

Asked who used the six tickets purchased with town funds, the mayor said that she attended the dinner along with former Marshall police chief Joe W. Griffey, Jr., alderman Sammy Lunsford, former town employee Peggy Loomis, town secretary Linda Dodson and her husband, Doug.

Alderman John Dodson also attended the Ramsey dinner, but purchased a ticket with his own funds. Board member Sammy Lunsford said he had also purchased his own ticket, but gave it away and used one purchased with the town's funds. Alderman Ed Niles did not attend the dinner.



WORK ON THE MARS HILL SEWER PROJECT CONTINUED THIS WEEK. In photo above, Manuel Briscoe, right, oversees ditch digging near Mars Hill Elementary School.

Graham Proposes That State Bans Sulfites

North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham today proposed a ban on sulfites for fresh fruits and vegetables at the retail and wholesale level. Graham, speaking to the Southern United States Food and Drug Officials Conference in Raleigh, said he would ask the N. C. Board of Agriculture to review the use of sulfites.

"I have decided to seek a ban on sulfites which are used on fresh fruits and vegetables at the retail and wholesale level. I don't think it would be fair to restrict the use at one outlet and not the other," Graham said.

The sulfite issue has been a major topic of discussion during the 37th annual Food and Drug Conference meeting here this week. There has been a lot of concern regarding the side effects of sulfites when used as a

preservative including allergic reactions in certain asthmatic patients.

"We feel that some action must be taken to prevent the debate from continuing any longer. This proposed ban which falls under the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of North Carolina would regulate the use of sulfites," said Leonard F. Blanton, director of the state Food and Drug Division of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

Graham announced the proposal during a speech to the association. The commissioner also sounded a call for uniformity in regulatory programs.

"Uniformity can only occur when there is cooperation and harmony among the various agencies and organizations," Graham said.

Tobacco Tax Bill Delayed In Senate

BY A. L. MAY

The News and Observer

Tobacco-state senators bought some time in protecting a scheduled decrease in the federal excise tax on cigarettes Thursday night by defeating two budget amendments.

The Senate voted 49-47 to rebuff a proposed budget trade-off by Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N. J., to make permanent the current 16 cents-per-pack federal tax in exchange for eliminating proposed cuts in the federal Medicare program. Later, it defeated by 50-46 an amendment that simply would have continued the cigarette tax at 16 cents.

The Bradley amendment was defeated with the help of the Republican leadership of the Senate, which has fought to keep out any tax measure from a three-year \$300 billion deficit-reduction package.

But the same voters who helped defeat Bradley predicted that cigarette tax would be before the Senate again before Oct. 1, when the tax is scheduled to revert to the pre-1982 level of 8 cents per pack.

"The cigarette tax will be before this body again long before the cigarette tax expires on Oct. 1," Sen. Robert Packwood, R-Ore., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, told the Senate.

Packwood, who normally sides with anti-smoking forces on tobacco issues, was joined by Sen. Robert J. Dole, majority leader of the Senate, urging defeat of the Bradley proposal.

"Maybe somewhere down the line it may be extended, but this isn't the appropriate time," said Dole of Kentucky.

The vote was a victory for Sen. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C., who before the vote had voiced doubts that the politically popular Bradley proposal could be defeated. And Helms promised a major fight for the "real test" on the cigarette tax issue later this year.

The Bradley amendment was proposed for a budget resolution, which the Senate was working into the night attempting to complete. The resolution sets spending targets for the 1986 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. Congress must still pass appropriations and tax measures, if any, to meet those targets.

The defeat of the Bradley proposal at 10:30 p.m. was followed a hour later by the 50-46 defeat of a second cigarette tax amendment by Sens. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Alan J. Dixon, D-Ill. The Levin-Dixon amendment was a simple extension of the cigarette tax to use the \$5 billion, three-year savings to the government to help reduce the deficits.

The vote on the Bradley amendment generally followed party lines with 41 of the 49 votes against the amendment coming from the GOP. The eight Democrats who voted against Bradley were mostly from tobacco states. Of the 47 votes for Bradley's amendment, eight came from Republicans, with the rest Democrats.

One tobacco-state Democrat who voted against Bradley, Albert Gore, Jr., of Tennessee, urged defeat of the amendment. "I don't believe a portion of the cigarette tax might be used to fund the federal tobacco program," Gore said, pointing to the federal tobacco program as a source of revenue for the federal government.