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Community Calendar

The Madison County Republican Party will hold a covered dish supper at the Old Mill Wheel on U.S. 25-70 on Aug. 17...

Benefit Garage Sale Set

A garage sale to benefit the Robbie Capps Scholarship Fund will be held on Aug. 23 and 24 from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at home of Dewey and Treca Capps on Monte Vista Terrace...

Crafts, toys, furniture, appliances, dishes and more will be offered. Anyone wishing to make donations of items for the sale can call 689-4911. Items can be picked up on request.

Proceeds from the sale will provide scholarship assistance to Madison H.S. students.

Griffin Family Reunion

The Griffin family reunion will be held on Aug. 25 in the Mars Hill Elementary School lunchroom. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m. All family members and friends are invited to attend and bring along a picnic lunch.

Ponder And Ramsey Reunion

The Ponder and Ramsey family reunion will be held at Zenina Lakes on Aug. 18 beginning at 12:30 p.m. All family members and friends are invited to attend. Lunch will be catered by Rod Coyle of Weaverville.

Allen Family Reunion Set

The annual Allen family reunion will be held on Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. A decoration service will be held at 2 p.m. For more information, contact Clyde Allen at 649-3226.

Marler-Ball Family Reunion Set

The annual Marler-Ball family reunion will be held on Aug. 25 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Blannerhassett Island. All family and friends are invited to attend and bring along a covered dish. For more information, call 645-7298.



HAYES' RUN RD. IN MARSHALL will be closed to traffic starting Monday as Dept. of Transportation crews make repairs to the bridge. Project is expected to take seven weeks to complete.

Town Hall

Some 20 Marshall residents attended the monthly meeting to voice their opposition to a water rate increase and complain about the condition of their drinking water.

Bud Paris complained about the lack of water pressure, saying, "By the time I get a sink full to wash my dishes, the water's cold. It's not fit to dish washing, shaving or nothing."

A Roberts Hill Rd. resident complained that her clothes had been ruined and others voiced complaints regarding the water's smell. An unidentified Fortner Hollow resident said, "Before you talk about a rate increase, I think the water should be better."

Eileen Payne of Cotton Mill Hill complained that her water smelled like sewage. She told the aldermen, "My water's crystal clear, but it smells."

The residents complaints were directed at Morris Trammell of Wastewater Treatment Systems, Inc., the company the town contracts with to monitor the water system.

After hearing a number of complaints, Trammell told the residents, "I understand the problems you're having. We have known of the problems Marshall has for some time and I've seen these problems in many other places."

Trammell explained that many of the problems residents were facing were due to the age of the town's water lines. "Some of these lines are 60 years old," he said. "They're cor-

Water Discussed

...ed inside and that corrosion builds up, cutting down the water flow and reducing water pressure. We have two-inch pipes that you couldn't put a pencilpoint through for the corrosion."

Trammell said Marshall's water is excellent. "You have four extremely fine wells. There's nothing wrong with your water," he assured the audience.

Trammell went on to explain that the design of Marshall's water system accounts for problems with muddy water. While most water systems are designed in a loop which keeps water circulating within the system, Marshall's water lines branch off into many lateral lines which dead-end. The dead-ends in the lines tend to collect corrosion because of the lines' age and the extreme pressure needed within the system.

Water must be pumped 450 feet uphill from the town's wells on Fortner Hollow, necessitating the high pressure. Trammell said "I wish you had a loop system."

Trammell also said that increased chlorination of the town's water supply would be the likely cause of the water's bad smell in some areas nearest the chlorination stations on the Fortner Hollow and Walnut Creek wells. He said that extra chlorine must be added to the water at the well-head in order to meet state-mandated standards at the end of the water lines.

He suggested that the additional chlorine in the water system could be eroding the lines and creating problems and asked the town officials to authorize him to cut back on the amount being introduced.

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Mars Hill School Contract Is Awarded

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Madison County Board of Education awarded a \$19,823 contract to an Arden-based construction company for renovations at Mars Hill Elementary School. The contract was awarded during Wednesday's meeting in Marshall after bids on the project were opened.

Triad Construction Co. of Arden won the contract to install walls in the school when it turned in the lowest bid on the project. Plans call for several open classrooms to be enclosed in order to reduce noise. The "open" classroom design was used on an experimental basis when the new addition was made to the school. Educators say the design creates problems for teachers who must compete for students' attention.

A starting date for the construction has not been determined, but Mars Hill Elementary principal Frederick Anderson said on Monday that work would begin as soon as possible.

Other renovations at the school are near completion, Anderson said. A new intercom system is being installed and workers have completed installation of new insulation in the old rock building. A new freezer for the school lunchroom is expected to be delivered within the next few weeks.

In other business during last week's meeting, the school board formally accepted its \$700,000 budget from the Madison County Board of Commissioners and agree to continue to operate the in-school suspension program at Madison H.S.

Superintendent Robert L. Edwards told board members that the county has received two new diesel school buses and will receive two more this week. The board agreed to assign three of the new buses to Madison H.S. The fourth will be used by Marshall Primary School. Mars Hill Elementary is to receive two of the county's newest gas-fueled buses. The new diesels are expected to cut

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ED FENDER, left, and JIM 'Pop' Story, right, buried a time capsule on the Madison County Court House lawn Saturday assisted by members of the American Legion Auxiliary. Complete details of the ceremony appear in the Heard and Seen column on Page 4.

Scientists Study Black Bears In Pisgah Forest

By BARBARA S. MOFFET National Geographic News Service

The truck is perched on an overlook that drops sharply to the valley. Beyond the rise the southern Appalachians—the nearby peaks a forest green, blending into successive scallops of blue and then translucent gray.

A wide antenna, sprouting from a hole in the truck's roof, twirls in the damp mountain breeze. Inside the truck, a steady beep, beep, beep tells the scientist something the eye cannot see: There are bears in these woods.

"That one's Baldy," declares research assistant Peggy Horner as she zeroes in on a signature beep with antenna and compass. "He's right over that ridge." The nature of the beep indicates Baldy is on the move. "If the signal is recording activity, I like to imagine the bear is moving along, nibbling blueberries," Horner says. "If it records inactivity, I think of the bear curled up somewhere, asleep."

Baldy is one of 17 black bears now in a scientific study led by Dr. Roger A. Powell of North Carolina State University. To learn about the bears' ecology and use of territories, Powell and his assistants have installed these radio-collared devices so that they can be located. The project, partly

funded by the National Geographic Society, also will help determine how many bears the forest habitat can support.

The most common bears in North America, black bears once lived in the forests of nearly every U.S. state. Smaller than grizzlies, black bears also are more afraid of people and rarely tangle with them.

Exactly how many black bears dwell in North Carolina's Pisgah National Forest is not known, but Powell thinks the number may be dropping. Many of the bears studied earlier have been felled by hunters' bullets—there is no limit on the total bear kill—and some are poached in the sanctuary set up to protect them.

Outside it, they are fair game during hunting season. "A bad year for acorns can drive the bears out of the sanctuary in search of food, and bang—they're hit," says Mike Fritz, a research assistant.

Progress comes slowly in this long-term study, which is also funded by Earthwatch, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and the university. Some months, the group's only contact with bears is the signal picked up by the sanctuary truck that indicates the bear's location. They wait until the bear is close enough to be located. The project, partly

uneaten or snatched by a clever raccoon or opossum.

But when a bear does spring a trap—designed to hold its paw painlessly—the group moves with the dispatch of a hospital emergency-room team.

As one worker dances to distract the bear, another jabs it with a dose of tranquilizer. After waiting at least 10 minutes, the bear is nudged to make sure it's truly asleep. Blind-folding it to protect its eyes, they measure nearly every part of the bear's body, draw some blood, and pull a small tooth to learn the bear's age. The animal is tattooed with a number and outfitted with a radio transmitter. All the bears receive shots of penicillin to fight infection.

Some bears prove more challenging than others. The most memorable effort of research assistant John Zimmerman involved a mother bear called Gladly and three cubs that were wintering in a hollow oak tree.

Zimmerman wanted to learn about the bears' winter physiology—it is different from that of otheribernators. After determining that Gladly had entered the tree from a hole 15 feet off the ground, he took a crash course in tree-climbing. Rigged a pulley system, and was hoisted into the tree. Study was carried on below him, but also looked into the tree.

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CALLED BY A TRANSMITTER, Gladly was found with a radio collar on her neck. She was fitted with a radio collar for monitoring her movements in the Pisgah National Forest.

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