

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY GENERAL DELIVERY MARSHALL NC 28753

Lions, Patriots Sweep Homecoming Games - Stories Begin On Page 6

Community Calendar

Laurel VFD Pig Roast

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor a pig roast on Oct. 20 from noon until 2 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the fire department. Everyone is invited to attend.

Women's Day Workshops Set

A Women's Day series of workshops will be held at the Asheville Health Adventure on Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Workshops on health, job planning and mental health will be offered. For more information, contact Marian Plaut at 649-2367.

Farm Bureau To Meet

The Madison County Farm Bureau board of directors will hold their annual membership meeting on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in The Rock Cafe on Main Street in Marshall. Commodity resolutions and election of directors will be conducted. All members are invited to attend.

Weaverville Police Begin Senior Citizens Program

Weaverville police chief Myron Fineberg has announced that his department has begun a Senior Citizens Contact Program for elderly Weaverville residents. The program will enable the police to contact Weaverville senior citizens daily to find if they are in need of assistance. The program is designed especially for senior citizens living alone. Elderly residents who enroll in the program will be contacted either in person or by telephone by a member of the police department daily. Weaverville senior citizens wishing to take part in the program should call Town Hall at 645-7116 or the Weaverville Police Dept. at 645-5441. Residents taking part in the Senior Citizens Contact Program will be asked to provide their name, address, age, telephone number and information on any serious medical conditions.

Chief Fineberg, a former McDowell County Sheriff's Dept. deputy, said the program was a great success when it was instituted in McDowell County. The chief also announced that two more officers have been appointed to the town's force. The new officers are Darrell Rathburn and Mike Shelton. Both men are certified law enforcement officers and Shelton is a certified emergency medical technician as well. Both Shelton and Fineberg are certified EMTs and the chief reports that other members of the department will soon begin first responder medical training in order to be able to assist in medical emergencies. Weaverville's new police chief also announced that his men will undergo fire fighting training as well in the near future.

Aldermen Approve Town Hall Roof Repair

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Marshall Board of Aldermen held a short meeting Monday night at Town Hall. Vice mayor John Dodson conducted the brief session. Mayor Betty Wild did not attend the regular monthly board meeting. Mrs. Wild's husband, Lewis, is recovering from stomach surgery.

The aldermen approved plans to replace the roof on the Town Hall building at a cost of \$8,950. The contract for the project was awarded to Banks Roofing.

Dodson announced that trash collection will be postponed this week because of repairs needed on the town's new garbage truck. A replacement part has been ordered, Dodson said, but added that he did not know when regular garbage collection would be resumed.

The alderman also heard the monthly financial report delivered by Cecilia Ward. Mrs. Ward reported that the town's finances appear to be in good shape at the close of the first quarter of the fiscal year.

The town's coffers were enriched in September by receipt of \$16,811 in Powell Bill funds for street repairs and a \$6,345 payment in intangible property tax revenues. Expenses for the three-month period ending Sept. 30 totaled \$67,445.83.

Mrs. Ward also reported that the Water and Sewer Fund was also solvent, although it has required \$2,624.92 in payments from the town's general fund. Expected revenues for water and sewage charges are running behind, Ward said, but so are the

department's expenses. Ward reported that the town's system pumped some 11.2 million gallons of water during September while only charging customers for 2.3 million gallons. She suggested that the town install meters at the base of the nine routes of the water system in order to determine where the largest leaks were located.

Pointing out that electricity charges for the first quarter totalled more than \$10,000, Ward said, "That's a lot of electricity for us to pay for just to pump water into the ground."

Board member Sammy Lunsford said that Ward's suggestion for metering trunk lines was too expensive for the town to undertake, but agreed that an answer must be found. "We've had this problem for the last 15 or 20 years and it's going to get worse if something isn't done."

Part of the problem results from 72 customers who are without operating meters to measure water consumption.

The News Record learned last week that one customer, Charles Eatmon, has been without an operating meter since his business was put on the town's system in 1984. Eatmon operates the car wash on the Marshall bypass. Because the meter installed has been inoperable, Eatmon has been charged the minimum charge of \$9 per month for more than a year. Lunsford reported that the problem was corrected last week.

The board also heard a progress report on the Island Rd. housing



MRS. MILDRED NEWSOME PENDERGRASS of Mars Hill, right, and Judge Woodrow W. Jones of Rutherfordton, center, were honored by Mars Hill College as the alumni of the year during halftime ceremonies at Saturday's Homecoming Game.

rehabilitation project. Sam Parker told the aldermen that three homes have been completed and two more need rehabilitation. Because the owners of the two remaining homes exceed the income limitations for assistance, they will be required to pay for a portion of the rehabilitation work on their homes. The aldermen voted to accept

McGill-Lapsley Associates as the engineers on the project to install a water line along Island Rd.

Fire chief Frankie Davis told the aldermen that the present furnace in Town Hall must be replaced before the onset of winter weather. Davis could provide no cost estimates on a replacement furnace. He and the

-Continued on Next Page

Quick Thinking May Have Saved Hostage Couple

By CONSTANCE LAIBE, The News and Observer

Geraldine Saire's quick thinking may have saved her and her husband from death at the hands of Palestinian terrorists who hijacked the Achille Lauro cruise ship, according to her sister, Jan Anderson of Raleigh.

Mrs. Saire, whose husband Donald is a United Nations diplomat, concealed the couple's American passports and told the hijackers they were Austrian citizens, producing identification issued by the Austrian government as proof. Saire also spoke to the hijackers in German, the official language of Austria. Mrs.

Anderson said in a telephone interview Saturday.

The Saires returned Saturday to Vienna, Austria, where Saire works for the International Atomic Energy Agency. Mrs. Anderson said she spoke with her sister and brother-in-law by telephone from their home in Austria for about 30 minutes Saturday morning.

The Saires were taking a vacation cruise aboard the Achille Lauro when it was commandeered Monday.

The passengers were eating lunch in the ship's dining room when four men wielding automatic weapons burst in, shouting "PLO, PLO, hijack, hijack," Mrs. Anderson said,

relating the account provided by Mrs. Saire.

The Saires and the other passengers immediately dove for cover underneath the dining room tables. Mrs. Saire then removed the couple's passports from her pocketbook and slid them under a rubber mat beneath their table.

"She knew he was the only diplomat and they were Americans," Mrs. Saire feared that her husband would be the first killed, Mrs. Anderson said.

The hijackers asked each passenger at gunpoint what his nationality was. "They put a machine gun to her (Mrs. Saire's) face and

asked her where she was from, and she said 'Austria,'" Mrs. Anderson said.

For the next 52 hours the Saires lived in the ship's dining room, where all non-American hostages and the 350-member crew were kept under machine-gun guard. Americans were herded onto an upper deck where they were surrounded with cans filled with gasoline, Mrs. Anderson said, quoting her sister.

"They heard a lot of gunshots, and the terrorists were trying to make them (the people in the dining room) think they were killing all the Americans," Mrs. Anderson said.

One American, Leon Klinghoffer of New York City, was shot to death by the hijackers and his body was dumped overboard. The Saires did not know about the slaying while they were aboard, Mrs. Anderson said.

Eventually the American group returned to the dining room. Some of the American women asked Mrs. Saire in a whisper why she and her husband weren't with them, Mrs. Anderson said.

Mrs. Saire told the woman that she feared for her husband's life if the hijackers were to discover he was both a diplomat and an American. At one point the mat under which the Saires' American passports were hidden slid slightly, but the passports

were not discovered, Mrs. Anderson said.

Mrs. Saire spent the entire time on her knees praying to God, her sister added. "We believe it was an absolute act of God and that the blinded eyes of the PLO" so that the Saires' American citizenship would not be discovered, she said.

The terrorists allowed the galley crew to prepare sandwiches and serve mineral water, to the hostages, Mrs. Saire told her sister.

But in general the hijackers' behavior was "schizophrenic," Mrs. Anderson said. "They made the hostages lie down, then get up, then

Jurors Find Billy McQueen Guilty

Haywood Jury Considers Life Or Death Sentence

By BILL STUDENC, The Waynesville Mountaineer

A seven-woman, five-man Haywood County jury deliberated for two hours Friday before finding Billy Denton McQueen Jr. guilty of first-degree murder in the April 9 shooting death of N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Giles A. Harmon.

The jury returned shortly after noon today with the guilty verdict.

The same jury will return Monday to decide whether McQueen will be sentenced to death or to life in prison.

McQueen, 26, sat quietly and showed no emotion as the verdict was read. Members of the McQueen and Harmon families sobbed softly as each individual juror was polled.

The jury, which began deliberating at 10 a.m., had returned to the courtroom at about 11:35 to ask Superior Court Judge John Friday to re-read his instructions concerning the charges of first- and second-degree murder.

Less than 30 minutes later, jurors had reached their verdict.

The verdict comes after nearly two weeks of testimony and an entire day of closing arguments Thursday.

The jury had three options — and guilty guilty of first-degree murder and second-degree murder.

Harmon's parents in the Asheville Highway Patrol office and a

both he and the family were pleased with the verdict.

Long said he would make no further comment "until it's finally finished" after Monday's sentencing phase.

"The family is pleased with this verdict," he said. "I am also pleased with the verdict."

Members of McQueen's family were speaking with McQueen inside the courtroom and could not be reached for comment.

McQueen, from Lexington, Ky., was arrested April 11 after a massive two-day manhunt through the rugged Harmon Den and Max Patch areas of Haywood County. More than 200 law enforcement officers combed the mountains in search of the man suspected of gunning down Harmon during a routine traffic stop on Interstate 40.

Ironically, Harmon was shot and killed in the Harmon Den section of the county. He was on special assignment, patrolling a detour road around a pair of 1-40 tunnels closed by a March rockslide.

Prosecutors have contended that McQueen was enroute to Statesville to see — and possibly kill — his estranged wife, Martha Isaacs McQueen, when Harmon stopped him on the way.

The state has based much of its case on the testimony of Charles...

him in the leg, shot his dog, forced him to withdraw money from an automatic teller and kidnapped him.

Barker said he watched as McQueen fired two bullets into Harmon just as he reached the car in which the two men were traveling.

Defense attorneys Reid Brown and Mike Jordan have contended throughout the course of the trial, which began last Monday, that McQueen had been drinking for a two-day period prior to the shooting and remembers nothing about it.

In closing arguments Thursday, Brown and Jordan asked jurors to consider that fact in their deliberations.

"We contend, members of the jury, that there is reasonable doubt that Billy shot Giles Harmon," Jordan said. "We are not contending that he did not. We are contending there is reasonable doubt to believe that he did."

Jordan told the jury that one of the elements of first-degree murder is premeditation and deliberation — that is, an intent to kill. And that element is missing, he said.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we contend to you that Billy McQueen did not have the mental capacity to form such an intention," he said. "We contend this because of the cumulative effect of the alcohol consumption over the 48-hour period."



Map shows McQueen's route before capture