

Lions Rout Bears Patriots Lose In OT - Stories Pages 6, 9

Community Calendar

Lions Cagers Open Saturday

The Mars Hill Lions basketball team opens their 1985-86 campaign Saturday night against the Guilford College Quakers. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday night's season opener is Poster Night at Chambers Gym.

Lions Host Gardner Webb

The Mars Hill Lions host Gardner Webb College Saturday in SAC-8 action at Meares Stadium. The 1:30 p.m. contest is the Lions' final regular season home game.

Optimists Begin Pecan Sale

The Madison Central Optimists Club's annual pecan sale begins this week. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the club's Christmas Cheer program. Pecans will be available from club members and at the First Union Bank and The News Record office on Main Street and at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall Bypass.

The club is also now taking applications from parents of children needing Christmas Cheer assistance. Applications are available from Bryce Hall at First Union Bank or at The News Record office.

Marshall VFD Bluegrass Show

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor a bluegrass show on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Marshall Elementary School. Proceeds from the show will benefit the fire company's programs.

Christmas Pageant Meets

Members of the Marshall Christmas Pageant will meet on Nov. 25 at 7 pm. in Town Hall. Anyone interested in participating in this year's pageant is invited to attend.

Mars Hill School Repairs Approved

The Madison County Board of Education approved a number of substitute teachers and repairs to Mars Hill Elementary School during last week's meeting in Marshall.

The board approved a bid of \$27,408 submitted by the W.H. Arthur Roofing Co. for repairs to the stone building at Mars Hill School. The estimate covers only the installation of a new roof at the school. Additional repairs as may be needed to the structure's wooden frame are not included in the bid. No date has been set for the start of construction.

The board also approved \$2,272 to purchase blinds for use at Madison H.S.

The board members were informed of the decision made by the county commissioners on Nov. 4 to give the school system an additional \$20,000 for use in the schools' band and athletic programs. The school board took no action on the new funds, but ordered Madison H.S. principal David Wyatt to obtain estimates for replacing the worn bleachers on the visitors' side of O.E. Roberts Stadium.

Wyatt came before the board to ask

architect Bert King to inspect the seats on the home side of the field for damage.

The board also voted to set the fee charged for the use of school activity buses at the state average cost. Fee will be charged to schools using activity buses for school-related trips.

School superintendent Robert L. Edwards informed the board that Madison Manor Nursing Center has cancelled a contract with the school board to provide physical therapy to students.

Madison H.S. principal David Wyatt announced that 28 students will travel to England in March, 1986. Wyatt also said that the Future Farmers Talent Group will represent North Carolina at the national FFA talent conference in Kansas City, Mo.

In personnel matters, the board approved Faye Ramsey as a substitute teacher for Marshall Elementary, Marshall Primary and Walnut Schools. Cindy Stanton was named as a substitute teacher at Marshall Primary School and Teresa Roberson was named as a substitute bus driver at the school. Donna Deal Parker was

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350 Hear Nuclear Dump Site Plans

By ROBERT KOENIG

An estimated 350 Madison County residents crammed into the Madison High School cafeteria Monday night to hear details of the Department of Energy's project to locate a nuclear waste storage site. Madison County is included among some 230 locations currently under consideration as a nuclear waste depository site.

The meeting, co-sponsored by the Madison County Planning Board and the newly-formed Nuclear Waste Education Committee, attracted residents from all corners of the county, including Mars Hill mayor-elect Owen Tilson and Marshall Mayor Betty J. Wild. Planning board chairman Jerry Plemmons introduced the guest speakers, Western Carolina University professors Steven Yercovitch and Joe Beck.

Yercovitch, a WCU geology instructor, explained that the search for a permanent nuclear waste storage site was begun with the passage of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. The act authorized the federal Department of Energy to locate two sites for the permanent storage of nuclear waste materials.

A site for the first storage facility has been located in the western U.S. Yercovitch told the audience that Texas, Nevada and Washington were under consideration. A second storage site, probably located in the eastern U.S., will be identified by 1991.

The search for a second depository site was begun earlier this year, Yercovitch said. The DOE, the agency responsible for identifying the site, selected some 230 areas in 17 eastern states from Maine to Alabama, for inclusion in the study. The mountains which cover much of Madison County were included in the DOE's

preliminary list of 230 possible locations.

Yercovitch said that Madison County and other areas in Western North Carolina were selected for inclusion in the study because of the crystalline rock of which the mountains are composed.

Crystalline rock is believed suitable for nuclear waste storage because of its physical properties, the geology professor said. Crystalline rock is capable of withstanding tremendous heat such as that given off by deteriorating nuclear materials. It is also believed to be stable and has a low degree of permeability, necessary to protect water supplies from contamination.

While not disputing the properties of crystalline rock, Yercovitch said that the composition of WNC rock formations may be unsuitable for nuclear waste storage.

Lack of adequate information on the mountains of Western North Carolina is a problem the DOE study will face. Yercovitch told the audience. "Of the 6,000 square miles that compose the Blue Ridge Mountains, only half the surface area has been geologically mapped in detail. We know even less about the subsurface of Western North Carolina and almost nothing has been done."

Yercovitch said that scientists believe that the mountains of WNC were once located further east, in the Piedmont region. Pressures created when the North American and African continents collided forced the mountains westward to their present location.

Cracks in the earth, called "faults", are located in WNC near Brevard and Hot Springs. The faults account for the area's earthquake activity. Yercovitch cited earthquake

activity in WNC as another reason why the area is unsuitable for nuclear waste storage.

Calling WNC a "moderately active area" for earthquakes, Yercovitch said that, although WNC has a history of small quakes, they occur frequently enough to cause concern. Yercovitch asked the audience, "Could the containers withstand these quakes?"

The plan mandated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) Policy Act of 1982 calls for the DOE to eliminate all but 15-20 of the 230 possible locations by the end of this year. The remaining 15-20 sites will then be subjected to detailed geologic study in 1986.

The geologic study will enable DOE to further reduce the list of potential sites to between three and five locations, from which the final location will be chosen.

Yercovitch closed his remarks by telling the audience that WNC's location along the eastern continental divide also makes it an unsuitable location for a nuclear waste storage site. He said, "If waste entered into the fractures in the rock formations, we could contaminate not only the Atlantic Ocean, but the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico as well."

Joe Beck, the director of the environmental health department at WCU, addressed the meeting following Yercovitch. Beck told the audience, "I'm not a wild-eyed environmentalist... or anti-nuclear, or in favor of a weak national defense. I'm for the responsible management of nuclear materials."

Beck said that a nuclear waste storage facility located in WNC could have a devastating effect on the area's air quality. Radioactive gases emitted during transport or in the case of an accident could become trapped by the frequent temperature

inversions common to WNC. "We see this in the early mornings in the fall when chimney smoke hangs down on us. We can put up with wood smoke, but I don't think we want radioactive materials around us," Beck said.

Beck also cited increased background radiation dangers caused in transferring materials and by workers bringing home materials in their clothing.

Beck also cited the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) reputation as a cause for concern. He told the audience that the NRC, formerly known as the Atomic Energy Commission, has made numerous mistakes in its history, some with potentially dangerous consequences.

Plans for the sort of nuclear waste the proposed facility would accept have also been changed, Beck said, to include nuclear waste generated by the Department of Defense.

The inclusion of military wastes, Beck said, would eliminate public oversight of the facility because of national security interests.

Beck told the audience, "It's clear to scientists that this area is inappropriate. We have cracks and faults, and we know so little about the underground water supply that it's ludicrous." Beck advised the 350 Madison Countians to contact their representatives in Congress and Raleigh and ask them to take a stand on the proposed waste site.

Beck closed by saying, "Request or demand that they take a position. I think the scientific evidence suggests they should be against. But at least get them to take a position."

Political pressure was also stressed by the final speaker, Janet Hoyle of the Blue Ridge Environmental (Continued on Page 5)

Unemployment

Declines

Statewide

Unemployment in North Carolina continued to decline during October, dropping to 4.4 percent of the state's workforce, the lowest level recorded in 1985. Joblessness declined by three-tenths of a percent from the previous month.

Among the 11 most-populous states, only Massachusetts, at 3.8 percent, has a lower unemployment rate.

The U.S. Dept. of Labor figures indicate that unemployment increased by 8,000 workers during the month, while the number of working North Carolinians increased by 34,000. Nationally, the Dept. of Labor estimates that 7.1 percent of the American workforce remained unemployed during the month.

Unemployment figures for Madison County will be released early next week.



TONY GARLAND, 18, rushed for more than 100 yards in Mars Hill's 45-7 win over Lenoir-Rhyne College Saturday afternoon at Meares Stadium. Five Lions scored touchdowns in the win.

Reese Lasher

Weaverville's New Mayor Takes Office Tonight

By ROBERT KOENIG

Last Tuesday's election upset in Weaverville left political observers wondering who Reese Lasher is, how did he win and what does he plan to do once installed in office. Weaverville's next mayor attempted to answer these and other questions during an interview with The News Record last Thursday.

The 33-year old mayor-elect will assume office this evening in ceremonies at Town Hall. He met with this reporter at Town Hall between his appointments with town employees.

Although his victory over eight-term councilman Marshall J. "Buster" West was seen as a stunning upset by outside observers, Lasher said he was not surprised by his victory. Only the size of voter turnout was a surprise, he said.

Lasher's opponent, Buster West, had served as a member of the Town Council for 10 years. West also had served as mayor of Weaverville twice, in 1971 and 1972.

Lasher credited hard work and a door-to-door campaign for producing the victory. Early in the campaign, Lasher explained his positions in a letter sent to all Weaverville voters. This was followed up by personal calls and election eve telephone appeals made by his supporters. "We worked hard," Lasher said of the effort. "And it paid off."

The newly-elected mayor was evidently enjoying his new-found celebrity on Thursday. Prior to the interview, the mayor-elect could be seen waving to passers-by and holding the door to Town Hall for elderly residents.

A certified public accountant, Lasher made the town's 21.3 million surplus an issue in the campaign. The surplus, Lasher contends, means that

Weaverville was either not spending enough on public projects or charging too much in property taxes.

Lasher pledged to clean Lake Louise, create a recreation park for Weaverville residents and introduce voting machines in municipal elections. He reiterated his campaign pledges during our interview.

"I'm a certified CPA," the mayor-

elect said. "I'll not go out and spend money just to spend it. It will be investigated. I think if we put the money back where it belongs and do things for the people, our return will be greater than if it's left with the banks."

Lasher indicated that cleaning Lake Louise and fixing the community center would receive priority. "After we have done some things, we'll look at the tax structure to see if the tax rate can be reduced." Weaverville's present property tax rate is 46 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

A new name for the town is another responsibility of members of the Town Council. He said he will ask the council members

to create committees of residents to address issues relating to fire and police protection, long-range planning, water and sewer service, parks and recreation and community services. Each committee will have five to 10 Weaverville residents.

The committees, Lasher hopes, will enable the town government to respond better to residents' complaints and problems. "I want to open up government to the community," he said. "I want their participation."

During the interview, we were joined by Buster West, who congratulated Lasher on his victory and pledged his support. "I still love Weaverville," West said. "I'll do whatever I can to help."

The new mayor-elect said, "I have always had a great deal of respect for Buster West. He ran a clean campaign and we'll need his help." Lasher added that he plans to offer defeated councilman L.A. Weaver a position in the new administration.

Lasher headed a liberal campaign of door-to-door visits with West, David Lockard, David Hill and Bernard Kossman. The entire night was spent debating long-time in-

cumbents Glenn Brank and L.A. Weaver. Harold E. Payne, a first-term incumbent not aligned with Lasher, also narrowly won reelection.

The new mayor also said that Weaverville needs a recreation center, presumably in the Lake Louise area. The new administration will take a look at a lease arrangement the town has had for several years with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Association for use of the community center. The association currently leases the town's center for \$1 per year.

Lasher said he will also attempt to lure industry to the north Buncombe County area. "We'll look for quality industry," he said. "I don't want industry that would jeopardize our community life." He said that new industries locating in the Weaverville area could have positive impact on the Madison County economy as well.

The Town Council will also evaluate the town's water and sewer systems.

The new mayor expects to announce his plans regarding the

downtown business district, saying, "The downtown area's needs have to be investigated as well. I think that it will take some time, but that when investors see the changes take effect, Weaverville will be a very attract area for them."

One of six children, Weaverville's new mayor is the son of Henry and Margaret Lasher. A native of upstate New York, Lasher is a 1971 graduate of North Buncombe H.S., where he captained the football team, played baseball and basketball and served as president of his class.

A Morehead Scholar nominee, Lasher worked his way through Western Carolina University, graduating magna cum laude. After an internship with a Raleigh accounting firm, he completed the CPA exam in 1976. In 1978, he returned to the area to work as an assistant to the town manager.

Lasher and his wife, Barbara, have three children. He is currently an active member of the church.