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THE NEWS RECORD

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Patriots, Vikings Split

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Community Calendar

Boy Scout Troop Forming

A Boy Scout troop for boys ages 11 through 18 is being organized in the Marshall area. The troop is being sponsored by members of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Dept. Boys interested in joining should come to the Marshall firehouse on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. accompanied by a parent.

For more information, contact Dennis Rector at 649-3251 after 5 p.m.

Decoration Judging Set

The Walnut Creek Community Club will hold their Christmas decorating contest judging on Dec. 23 from 6 until 9 p.m.

Christmas Gathering In Walnut

The Marshall and Walnut Boosters Clubs and various churches will hold an old-fashioned Christmas gathering on Dec. 23 at 6 p.m. at the Walnut Elementary School. Donations of toys, canned goods and clothing will be appreciated.

School Board

Approves Repairs, Book Purchases

The Madison County Board of Education approved two roofing contracts for school buildings and authorized the purchase of \$22,355 in new library books during their meeting last week in Marshall.

The board authorized the new book purchases, which will be distributed throughout the county's eight schools on the basis of student enrollment. Each school will receive \$1,000, plus \$5 for each student.

Madison H.S. will receive \$5,350, the largest amount of the allocation. The other schools will receive funding ranging from \$4,930 for Mars Hill Elementary to \$1,480 for Spring Creek.

The board also awarded two roofing contracts to the W.H. Arthur Co. for work on Marshall Elementary and Laurel Schools. The company submitted the lowest bid, \$31,250, for removing and replacing the roof on the Marshall Elementary School. It also submitted the only bid received for replacing the roof on the cafeteria at Laurel School. The Laurel project will cost \$25,560.

W.H. Arthur has made repairs to

county schools in Hot Springs and Mars Hill in the past year. The state roof on the Marshall school was originally installed when the building was constructed in 1927. Work on the Marshall school is not expected to begin until the summer recess.

In other business, the board rejected three requests for releases from Madison County students wishing to take the general education diploma (G.E.D.) tests. Board policy is to reject all such requests until six months after the students' class has graduated.

In personnel matters, the board approved leaves of absence for Judy Payne, a Marshall Primary School teacher, and Doris Dickerson, a teacher at Mars Hill School. The board accepted the resignation of maintenance worker David Treadway and named Danny Frisbee to take his position at Walnut School.

The board agreed to continue holding their monthly meetings on the first Wednesday morning of each month in 1986 and approved the Asheville accounting firm of Gregg and Lasher to conduct the annual audit of school funds.

Court House Roof Must Be Replaced

The Madison County Court House roof and ceiling will have to be replaced as soon as possible due to weakening of support trusses in the building's structure. Repairs to the roof will close the courtroom for several months, forcing the cancellation of scheduled District and Superior Court cases.

The county commissioners met last Friday with the architect and structural engineer who are overseeing the repair project. A report from the structural engineer states that the three support trusses above the courtroom have become dangerously warped and must be replaced. The building's roof and dome are supported by three wooden composition trusses over the courtroom.

Mars Hill architect Wayne Roberts told The News Record that the building's roof must be removed and replaced as soon as possible. The removal will also require that the cupola above the main roof will have to be removed and possibly be replaced with a light-weight duplicate.

Roberts said that the stress of weight on the support trusses have caused the beams to deflect or warp over the years. Rain leaking into the ceiling and the weight of the cupola contributed to the beam's deterioration.

Roberts, a partner in the Asheville architectural firm of Woodard and Roberts, said he is now preparing a plan for repairs to the building's roof. The plan will be presented to the county commissioners early next week, he said.

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REPAIRS TO THE MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE WILL FORCE CANCELLATION of court sessions, possibly as late as April, officials were told last week. Photo by Bob Koenig

Weaverville Town Council Fires Town Manager

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Weaverville Town Council voted to dismiss town manager Larry Sprinkle on Monday night at the conclusion of a marathon meeting lasting some four hours and 40 minutes. Sprinkle, the town's manager since 1980, will remain on the job until January 31.

The council also voted to appoint Charlie Horne to serve as an interim town manager until a successor for Sprinkle can be hired. Horne will work with Sprinkle between now and the end of January, after which time he will serve as the acting town manager.

The council voted 4-1 to dismiss Sprinkle following a closed door meeting with the town manager and his attorney, John Powell of Asheville. Upon returning to open session following the hour-long executive session, Councilman

Kathleen Young made a motion declaring a proposed agreement between Sprinkle and the town null and void. Young's motion declared that the town manager will serve at the pleasure of the Town Council. Councilman Harold E. Payne cast the lone dissenting vote.

Following Young's motion, council member Bernard Koesters moved to hire Horne as the interim town manager at a salary of \$20,000 per year to work with Sprinkle during the transition period. Koesters motion was passed on a 4-1 vote with Harold Payne again casting the dissenting vote.

Sprinkle was then terminated by a motion presented by Councilman David E. Bell, seconded by Young. Bell's motion stated that Sprinkle will no longer serve at the pleasure of the town board after January 31, 1986. The motion was passed by a 4-1 vote.

with Payne once again in opposition. Councilman David Lankford then moved to have Horne and acting town clerk Shelby Shields added to the list of authorized signatures for issuing town checks. The motion passed without opposition.

Sprinkle's attorney, John Powell, then asked the board to clarify his client's position regarding his authority as town manager. Powell pointed out that the council had terminated Sprinkle's previous agreement with the town and asked whether Sprinkle or the interim acting town manager would make decisions.

Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher said that Sprinkle would "...continue to serve as town manager until January 31. The purpose of Mr. Horne is to provide a smooth transition. He will work with Mr. Horne on all town events and activities."

Kathleen Young then presented a motion stating that Sprinkle would continue to receive his present salary and benefits through January 31. The motion passed without opposition.

Councilman Koesters then offered a motion formalizing Sprinkle's authority during the transition period. The motion, which was passed unanimously, stated that Sprinkle would continue to have full authority as town manager through January 31.

Attorney Powell also asked Mayor Lasher for an explanation regarding Sprinkle's dismissal. Lasher replied that the decision was made without cause, and that the town council's pleasure was that Sprinkle no longer serve after January 31. Lasher said, "The town manager serves at the pleasure of this board. That's the reason for his termination."

Lasher then recessed the meeting. Continued on Page 5

Liston Ramsey Announces Candidacy



Photo by Bob Koenig

LISTON B. RAMSEY

Speaker of the House, 1985-86

Speaker of the House Liston B. Ramsey announced yesterday that he will seek re-election to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1986. In announcing his candidacy, Ramsey said he would also seek an unprecedented fourth term as Speaker of the House should he win re-election.

In making the announcement, Ramsey told The News Record, "I am running on my record. I have tried to compile a record of faithful and effective service to the people, and I hope the voters will view it in that light. My efforts have been for the benefit of the people of Madison, Graham, Haywood, Jackson and Swain Counties."

A retired businessman, Ramsey has made the Speaker of the House a full-time job since 1981, commuting weekly to Raleigh from his home in Marshall. As Speaker, Ramsey presides over the state House when in session. Between sessions, the Speaker supervises the work of various study commissions. In the past year, Ramsey has conducted a spirited debate with Gov. James G. Martin over proposals to eliminate the state inventory and intangibles taxes.

"I believe that the voters will view my record in that light and support me in next year's race."

before, allowing us to make significant strides in economic opportunity, education, agriculture and many other areas. I am pleased to be in a position to assist the forward movement of this section of the state and believe that I can continue to be effective if nominated and re-elected."

A native of Marshall, Ramsey served 12 years on the town's Board of Aldermen before serving in the state House. He attended Mars Hill College and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force in World War II. Ramsey makes his home in Marshall with his wife, Florence. The couple have one daughter, Martha Gouge of Asheville.

A Baptist, Mason and Elk, Ramsey is also a member of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In May of this year, he was awarded the N.C. Public Service Award. He was also awarded the "Friend of Education" award presented by the N.C. Association of Educators earlier this year. Last month, the Association for Retarded Citizens of North Carolina presented Ramsey an award for his work on their behalf.

Ramsey is not expected to face opposition in the May 4 Democratic primary. He has been endorsed for re-election by the past two years' voters.