

# Madison County Remains On Nuclear Waste Dump Site List

Madison County is among 12 locations in seven states that will remain under consideration for the nation's second facility for storing highly radioactive nuclear waste. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced plans to study a 105-square mile area in Madison, Buncombe and Haywood Counties last Thursday in Washington. The announcement brought immediate protests from North Carolina officials.

The area under consideration includes a portion of Spring Creek, Sandy Mush in western Buncombe County and the eastern portion of Haywood County north of Waynesville in a triangle bordered by N.C. 63, Interstate 40 and N.C. 209.

A second North Carolina site, in eastern Wake County near Raleigh, will also be included in the DOE study. Other possible sites to be considered are located in Virginia, Georgia, Maine, New Hampshire, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 authorized the construction of the nation's first permanent nuclear waste storage facility in the western U.S. The law also provides that DOE will identify five sites in the eastern U.S. for construction of a second storage facility.

The DOE initially announced that some 215 sites in 17 states were being considered for the second storage site. Last Thursday's announcement eliminated 203 from consideration. Legislation which authorized the search for the second nuclear waste storage facility calls for the dump to be constructed underground in a crystalline rock formation.

Madison, Buncombe and Haywood Counties are within a rock formation known as the Elk River Massif, a 128-mile long formation believed to have been formed some 450 million

years ago. The 29-mile wide formation covers portions of 15 WNC counties, from Watauga to Macon County.

Plans for the second storage facility call for construction of a 2,000-acre underground mine, at least 985 feet below ground level. Nuclear waste to be buried would be prepared at a surface facility occupying between 200-400 acres. The entire facility would occupy an area some 12.4 miles in diameter.

Wastes to be stored at the facility would be shipped in from all across the country. After inspection, the materials would be sorted and packaged above ground before burial. Plans call for the proposed facility to accept up to 70,000 metric tons of the radioactive material before the facility would be closed, backfilled and sealed off. DOE estimates are that the facility would reach capacity about the year 2020.

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## Community Calendar

### Nuclear Dump Meeting Tonight

A public hearing on plans to locate a nuclear waste storage facility will be held tonight at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Charlotte St. in Asheville at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Steve Yurkovich, chairman of the Earth Sciences department of Western Carolina University will be the guest speaker. Dr. Yurkovich is a member of Rep. Bill Hendon's committee studying the U.S. Department of Energy's Crystalline Repository Project.

The public is invited to attend. The informational meeting is being sponsored by the Sierra Club.

### Burley Day '86 Planned

Burley Day '86 will be held at the Terrace Hotel in Lake Junaluska on Feb. 5. All burley tobacco farmers are invited to attend.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will feature discussions by a panel of tobacco specialists, farmers and warehousemen. New developments in burley varieties and changes in the tobacco program will also be discussed.

Lunch will be provided to all attending the meeting. To make reservations, contact Madison County Agricultural Extension Agent Wiley DuVall at 649-2411.

### Laurel VFD Bingo Party

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor a bingo party on Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. in the fire station. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Lions Home Saturday Night

The Mars Hill College Lions will host Barber Scotia College in District 26 basketball action Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. in Chambers Gym. On Jan. 27, the Lions will entertain Lincoln Memorial in a scheduled 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

## Cody Enters GOP Primary



DOYLE CODY

Doyle Cody of Mars Hill has filed for the Republican nomination for Madison County Clerk of Superior Court. Cody announced his candidacy on the first day of the filing period.

A native of Madison County, Cody was raised in the California Creek community and has made his home in Mars Hill for the past 30 years.

The son of the late John and Julia Buckner Cody, he is married to the former Judy Phillips of Mars Hill. The couple have a daughter, Rebecca Kruk, and a grandson, Casey.

A graduate of Mars Hill High School, Cody attended both Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University. He operates a dairy and tobacco farm in the Mars Hill area.

Cody is a former Madison County Commissioner. He served two terms, from 1966 through 1970, including one term as chairman of the board.

Two other Republicans entered the May primary races for county offices on Tuesday night.

Clarence B. Cutchall of Laurel has filed for the county commissioner race, giving the Republicans three candidates for the county posts. Earlier, Bob Phillips of Mars Hill and Jon Fowler of Walnut filed for the commission race.

Dr. Lester Stone of Mars Hill filed for a District 1 seat on the Madison County Board of Education, becoming the first Republican to seek one of the two seats in the Mars Hill district. Earlier, George Ardley Jr. filed for the District 11 school board race.

## Investigation Completed

# DA Won't Charge Ledford

## Accounting Errors Are Blamed

By ROBERT KOENIG

District Attorney Tom Risher announced that the investigation of Madison County Commissioner James T. Ledford's business relationship with county agencies has been completed and that no charges will be filed.

Last week, the Madison County grand jury returned a bill of presentment calling for an investigation of business transactions involving three Exxon stations operated by the county commissioner in the Mars Hill area.

Risher announced the completion of the investigation in a telephone interview Wednesday morning. Risher told The News Record, "We have called the Attorney General's office in Raleigh and there's substantial opinion that he (Ledford) did not violate the law."

The DA points out that Madison County contracted with Ledford Enterprises in 1978 for the repair and maintenance of county-owned vehicles. "Some of the money spent was for gas and oil purchased by the ambulance drivers using an Exxon credit card," Risher said. "If you subtract that from the amount spent, I believe he has stayed within the limits." Risher added that there is no evidence to indicate the drivers were ordered to purchase gas from the Ledford-owned stations.

The question of Ledford's knowledge of the possible violations also entered into whether charges of conflict of interest would be brought. Risher said, "There may be a failure of proof in this case. Technically, the actual violation would have taken place when the county went over \$5,000 and Mr. Ledford had knowledge of the fact."

State law limits the amount of business public officials can

conduct with public agencies to \$5,000 a year. Audit reports for the past two fiscal years indicate that Ledford-owned stations exceeded the limit by \$100 in the 1984 fiscal year and by \$1,100 in the 1985 fiscal year.

Risher said that the limits may have been exceeded unintentionally because of clerical accounting errors Ledford may have had no knowledge of.

The conflict of interest law which limits the amount of business public officials may conduct with government agencies makes violations a misdemeanor offense.

Risher said he has decided not to press charges, adding that he has received assurances from county attorney Larry Leake that the excess business will not happen again.

The DA concluded the telephone interview by saying, "If it ever comes up again, the issues are drawn and he'll appear in District Court to explain. We'll not be tolerant of future transgressions."

Ledford called The News Record in Friday to report the results of the investigation. The county commission chairman has insisted throughout the investigation that he provided repairs to county-owned vehicles in order to save the county money. The directors of the Madison County Transportation Authority and Emergency Medical Service have supported Ledford's contention that his stations have provided repairs at less cost than other garages.

In a telephone interview with The News Record, Ledford said, "I've only tried to help the county save some money. I'm glad this business is behind us now."

The investigation was conducted by Assistant District Attorney Gerald Wilson.

## Bobby Capps Enters County Commission Race

Bobby Capps of Mars Hill entered the Democratic primary race for the county commission on Monday. Capps, 42, entered the race by filing with the Madison County Board of Elections in Marshall.

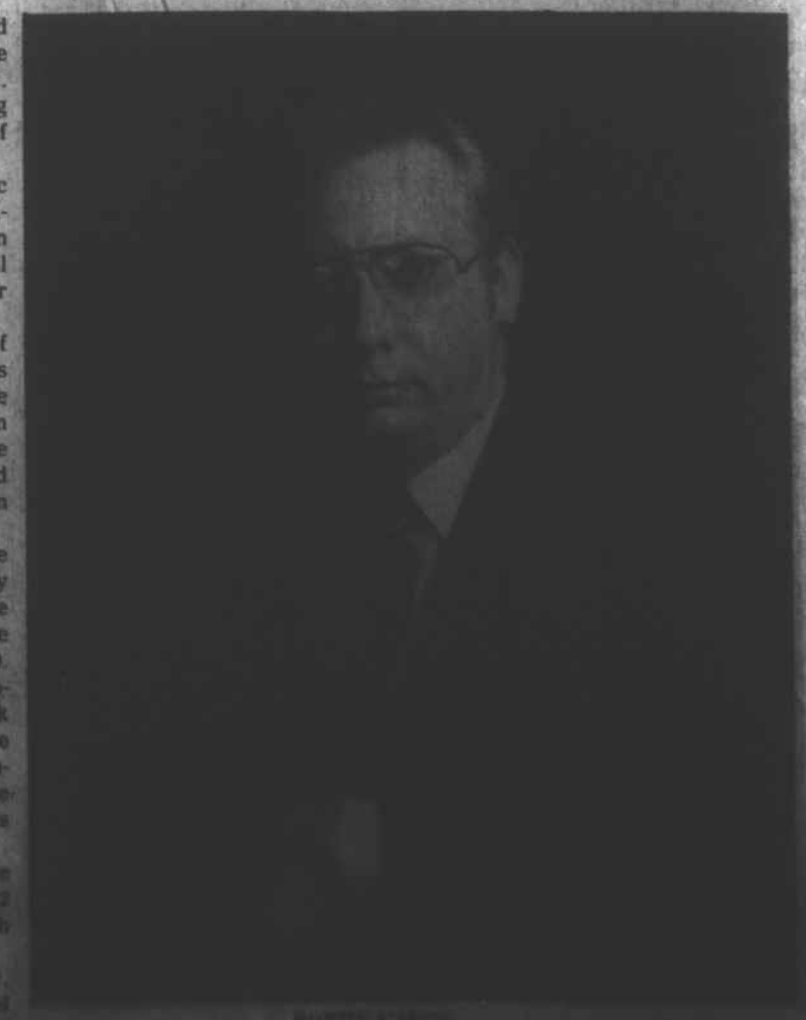
Capps became the first Democratic challenger to incumbent county commissioners James Ledford, Ervin Adams and Virginia Anderson. All three incumbents had earlier filed for re-election.

Capps is the owner and operator of the Capps Funeral Home in Mars Hill. A Buncombe County native, he has lived in Mars Hill since 1972 when he purchased the funeral home he now operates. Both his father and grandfather were natives of Madison County.

A graduate of Enka H.S. and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Capps is married to the former Louedith Wiggins. The couple have two sons, Todd, 13, and Tim, 9. Capps is a member of the Bethel Baptist Church and the Bald Creek Masonic Lodge No. 397 AF & AM. He is also president of the Madison County Youth Football program and vice president and co-founder of the Mars Hill Youth Baseball League.

Capps ran unsuccessfully for the county commission in the 1982 Democratic primary, finishing fourth by 50 votes.

In announcing his candidacy, Capps told The News Record, "I feel that the people of Madison County deserve to know where their tax dollars are going. I feel we have to do more for our educational system and we have to have a better new industry in Madison County."



BOBBY CAPPS enters county commission race

Capps said he would oppose a plant sited in Mars Hill that would lead to construction of a second nuclear waste storage facility in Madison County and said that if passed