

Community Calendar

Alumni Night At Madison

Madison High School will host an Alumni Night on Feb. 11. All former Madison varsity basketball players will be admitted free to the game against Mitchell County. Varsity action gets underway at 6:30 p.m. Former Patriot players will be entertained in a hospitality room during the evening.

Laurel VFD Plans Dance

The Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept. will sponsor a dance on Saturday night beginning at 8 p.m. in the fire hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is \$2 and proceeds will benefit the fire company. A local country and rock band will provide music.

DA Rusher Unopposed



DISTRICT ATTORNEY JAMES T. RUSHER
...unopposed for second term

District Attorney Tom Rusher will not be opposed for re-election and will begin his second term of office next January. The DA's post drew no Democratic challengers and Rusher is unopposed in his own party.

First elected in 1982, Rusher succeeded Clyde Roberts, who retired. Before assuming the DA's post, Rusher served as an assistant district attorney in the 24th Judicial District for 11 years. Prior to that, he served as a substitute judge in Buncombe County District Court and was a member of the Asheville law firm of Parker, McGuire and Bailey.

A graduate of both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the UNC Law School, Rusher lives in Boone with his wife, Jane, and their son, J.T.

The 24th Judicial District is composed of Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Avery and Watauga Counties.

Court Repairs To Begin

Construction crews could begin work on replacing the sagging roof of the Madison County Court House in early March, but the architect supervising the project doesn't expect them to be completed until sometime in May. That was the discouraging word the Madison County Board of Commissioners heard Monday afternoon during their monthly meeting in Marshall.

Mars Hill architect Wayne Roberts presented the commissioners with a completed set of plans for the project and told them that advertisements for bids on the contract could be ready as early as next week. Roberts' plans have been sent on to Raleigh for final approval by the state Dept. of Insurance.

The plans call for removal of the present roof in sections and replacement of fatigued support trusses. In addition to removing the faulty support trusses, Roberts' plan calls for replacing the three present supports with six wooden trusses.

The project will also involve the removal of the courthouse cupola and clockworks. The architect told the county commissioners that a decision will have to be made on whether or not the cupola will be returned to the roof after repairs. Roberts also said a decision on who would repair the cupola will have to be made when it is determined if the structure can be renovated.

County attorney Larry Leake pressed Roberts for a date completion of the project could be expected. Leake asked if the courtroom could be completed by May 1, and the architect expressed doubts because of uncertain spring weather conditions which might further delay the project.

District Court sessions have been conducted at Madison H.S. since the courtroom was closed for repairs in Dec. A number of Superior Court sessions have been cancelled and the growing backlog of cases is worrying county officials.

Leake said that the county will face additional expenses if Madison County cases are transferred to Yancey County for hearing and asked that an incentive clause be written into the construction contract for early completion of the reroofing project.

In other business, Health Dept. director Ed Morton reported on his plans to purchase new furniture and lighting for the Health Dept. offices. Morton said he believed the cost of the purchases could be absorbed in his present budget. Morton also asked the commissioners to re-establish a public health nurse position on his staff and the request was approved.

The commissioners also approved a \$2,655 for roofing repairs to the Beech Glen Community Center.

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Commissioners, Aldermen Approve Resolutions Opposing Nuclear Dump

Madison County officials from Hot Springs to Mars Hill approved resolutions opposing a nuclear waste storage facility during their meeting on Monday.

The Madison County Board of Commissioners and the town boards of both Mars Hill and Hot Springs unanimously approved resolutions in opposition to a plan to locate a storage facility on a 105-square mile tract in Madison, Buncombe and Haywood Counties.

The county commissioners and Mars Hill aldermen approved identical resolutions calling for Gov. James G. Martin and the North Carolina General Assembly to appoint a study commission to examine the impact of the proposed facility on Western North Carolina and to present findings to the U.S. Department of Energy and the public in an effort aimed at removing the WNC site from further consideration.

Both the commissioners and Mars Hill aldermen also resolved to join with other WNC organizations in the effort to remove the Sandy Mush location from consideration.

The resolutions pointed out that locating the nuclear waste storage facility would jeopardize the tourism industry in WNC and pose a threat to the Great Smoky National Park. It also cites the dangers of transporting the highly radioactive materials through the state and the potential for a major disaster if a train carrying the waste were to crash. The resolutions also call for the state to support a study commission to examine the impact of the proposed facility on Western North Carolina and to present findings to the U.S. Department of Energy and the public in an effort aimed at removing the WNC site from further consideration.

500 Attend Nuclear Dump Hearing In Mars Hill



MADISON HIGH STUDENTS PREPARED ANTI-NUCLEAR waste dump banners last week for display at Mars Hill meeting. Preparing the banners were, (l. to r.) Beth Kiser, Sandy Robinson, Jeanie Wood, Lora Harrison, Lisa Gahagan, David Robinson and Sam Brittain.

Photo by Randy Cox

An estimated 500 local residents attended a Thursday night meeting in Mars Hill to hear of state plans to challenge the construction of a nuclear waste depository on a 105-square mile tract in Madison, Haywood and Buncombe Counties. Officials of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development sponsored the meeting to inform local residents of plans to monitor the selection process being conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Mars Hill meeting in Moore Auditorium was the third of the week conducted by the state officials. Earlier, hundreds attended hearings on the UNC-Asheville campus and at Tuscola H.S. in Waynesville.

Many residents voiced their opposition to the plan while the state officials outlined strategy to prevent the WNC site from being among the finalists in the selection process. The DOE is currently conducting a 90-day period in which public response to the plan will be accepted.

The state officials urged Madison Countians and other WNC residents to present a united opposition to the plan to create a permanent storage dump for the nuclear waste.

On Monday night in Mars Hill, groups organizing to oppose the dump met to co-ordinate their efforts to influence the DOE.

Primary Lines Are Drawn As Filing Period Closes

The battle lines have been drawn for both the Democratic and Republican primaries as the filing period for local offices closed on Monday at noon.

Democrats will face primary tests for the county commission, school board and tax collector slots on the November ballot. Local Republican primary elections will be held for both the county commission and District II on the school board. The races for sheriff and clerk of Superior Court have been decided in both parties.

PONDER, JIM CODY UNOPPOSED

Incumbent Sheriff E.Y. Ponder and Clerk of Court Jim Cody will not face a primary fight in May. Ponder will be opposed by former Sheriff Dedrick Brown in the November general election. Jim Cody will face Republican Doyle B. Cody in the November vote.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Democrats will hold primary elections in both school board districts. In District I (Mars Hill-Beech Glen-Grapevine-Ebb's Chapel), incumbents Franklin Anderson and Gerald Young are running against challenger Rita M. Murray of Grapevine. Mrs. Murray entered the race on the final day of the filing period. In District II, incumbents Robert Z. Ponder, Edward T. Gentry and Floyd Wallin will face challenger Donald L. Massey.

The Republicans will field Mars Hill attorney Edward Krause and optometrist Dr. Lester L. Stowe in the District I race. In the District II race, Mike Jenkins, James L. Baker Jr., Dewey Griffey Jr. and Jimmy Dean Hensley will meet in the May primary to decide the candidates for the three available seats.

Baker, 31, entered the race on Monday morning.



MIKE JENKINS



DEWEY GRIFFEY, JR.



JIMMY DEAN SHELTON

A native of Madison County, he has served as the county assistant district attorney since 1983. The son of Leonard and Lib Baker, he is a graduate of Marshall H.S., and Mars Hill College. He is a member of the Marshall Baptist Church and received his law degree from Mercer University. Baker and his wife, Karen, make their home on Skyway Dr. in Marshall.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The county commission races in both parties attracted the largest number of candidates. In the Democratic primary, incumbents James T. Ledford, Ervin Adams and Virginia H. Anderson are opposed by challengers Bobby Capps, John A. Hensley and Dr. Reese A. Steen.

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JIM BAKER



ED KRAUSE

Hendon seeks Clarke's aid

By BILL STUDENC

U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon has asked political arch-rival James McClure Clarke for his support of legislative efforts to prevent the location of a nuclear waste dump site in Western North Carolina.

Hendon telephoned Clarke Friday to request his help in securing passage of a bill that would remove Western North Carolina from a list of 12 candidates for an East Coast nuclear waste repository.

Hendon's action came in response to a reporter's question during a press conference called to announce his candidacy for re-election as 11th District congressman.

Clarke last week criticized Hendon's bill and said its chances of passing were slim. The bill would prevent the location of a permanent

nuclear waste storage facility within 400 miles of a temporary storage facility.

A temporary facility — called a monitored retrievable storage (MRS) facility — has been proposed for Oak Ridge, Tenn. That is just 76 miles from a 105-square mile site on the Haywood-Buncombe-Madison county line listed by the federal Department of Energy as among 12 "potentially acceptable" sites for a permanent repository.

Hendon introduced legislation Thursday that would remove any site within 400 miles of a MRS facility from further study for the permanent storage facility.

The bill would not only remove the WNC site from DOE's list of 12, but would also exempt a second site in North Carolina (in Wake, Franklin and Johnston counties) and other

in Virginia and Georgia.

Clarke last week criticized the legislation.

"...We should not be lulled into a false sense of security by Congressmen Hendon's proposed bills," Clarke said in a prepared statement. "I hope they will go somewhere, but in my experience they have no chance of passage."

Terry Garren, Clarke's aide, said the public should take little stock in Hendon's statements that there is no way a nuclear waste dump would be placed in WNC.

"This is his real," said Garren. "Don't let anybody fool you for a minute. We are very high on this list and we are in a real jam here."

"Our congressman has made a lot of bold statements which may put some of us into a false sense of security," Clarke said. "The only way

he succeeds with this last-minute effort, but his past environmental and nuclear waste votes give us some reason for concern."

Hendon, during his Friday news conference, called for Clarke's assistance, rather than his criticism.

"If he would get on the phone and call his friends in Congress — his former colleagues — and ask them to support our bill, which is supported by Democrats and Republicans all over the state, perhaps it would help out a little bit. I would certainly welcome his support."

A reporter asked Hendon why he asked Clarke and asked for his aid. Hendon said:

"We need to consider it. Hendon said during a stop in Waynesville last Friday, "We'll be making a study of it and we'll be back in the state capital by June 1."

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