

County School Board Meets -Story on Page 6

Community Calendar

Lincoln Day Dinner Planned

The Madison County Republican Party's annual Lincoln Day dinner will be held on March 8 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Mars Hill College.

Tickets are \$8 each and are available from Jim Baker, Jewell Church, C.N. and Perry Willis, Susie Jenkins, Pat Roberts, Howard Riddle, Dedrick Brown, Buster Norton and Roy Norton.

For more information, contact Betty Wild at 649-2466.

Weaverville Town Council To Meet

The Weaverville Town Council will hold its monthly meeting on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall on Main Street.

Tomato Growers To Meet Feb. 26-27

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Trellised Tomato Growers Association will be held on Feb. 26 and 27 at the Terrace Hotel in Lake Junaluska.

For more information, contact Tom Wiley at 253-1691.

Burley Meeting Set For Feb. 20

The annual Burley Tobacco Education meeting will be held on Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. at Madison H.S. Area farmers attending the session will receive information on development and new varieties, disease control, fertilizing and other related subjects.

A representative of the Burley Stabilization Corp. will also attend to update farmers on the status of tobacco legislation being considered in Congress.

For more information, contact extension agent Wiley DuVall at 649-2411.

Lions Host Cumberland

The Mars Hill College Lions will host Cumberland College in basketball action tonight in Chambers Gym. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Hot Springs License Examiner

The N.C. driver's license examiner will be available in Hot Springs on the first and third Monday of each month, except on holidays. Examiner is located in the Lion's Hut on U.S. 25-70.

Deadline Nears For Crop Loss Claims

Madison County burley tobacco growers planning to file claims for crop losses with the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. (FCIC) must file within 30 days of the final burley sales or Feb. 28, the end of the insurance period, according to Samuel E. Evans, FCIC field supervisor.

Evans said that policy holders who have not paid their premiums prior to Jan. 31 will be charged 1.5 percent interest per month on the amount due until paid in full. If premiums are unpaid by April 15, the grower's policy will be subject to cancellation for the following crop year.

Clarke Won't Support Hendon Nuke Ban Bill

Saying Rep. Bill Hendon's proposed bill to ban a permanent nuclear waste storage facility in WNC has "little chance of passing," former congressman James McClurg Clarke announced he will not support the bill.

Clarke also said he would fight to see that only one permanent nuclear storage facility is built and located in the Western U.S. He indicated he would support a bill proposed by Rep. Steve Neal (D-N.C.) that would expand the capacity of the first such proposed storage dump.

Trooper Murder Suspects Enter Not Guilty Pleas

Bray, Rios Arraigned In Yancey County Court

William Bray and Jimmy Dean Rios entered not guilty pleas this week to charges of first-degree murder. The two men, escaped prisoners from an Arkansas county jail, are accused of slaying N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins on Sept. 14 of last year.

Repairs to the courtroom and courthouse roof have forced prosecutors to delay the trials for the two men.

Both men have been charged with first-degree murder in connection with the slaying of Trooper Coggins. Prosecutors contend the pair shot the trooper while stopped on N.C. 209 near Hot Springs.

Both men have been held in the county jail without bond since their capture, except for brief periods when they underwent psychiatric examinations at Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh.

In addition to the first-degree murder charge, Bray is charged with larceny of a firearm, discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle, breaking, entering and larceny and second-degree burglary.

Rios, also charged with murder, faces charges of armed robbery, accessory after the fact of discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle, second degree burglary, breaking, entering and larceny and larceny of a firearm.

The suspects are represented by court-appointed attorneys Joe Huff, A.E. Leake and Forest Ball. Attorneys for the pair have filed a number of motions with the court and are seeking a change of venue for the trials.

District Attorney Tom Rusher has said he intends to try the men separately. He has not indicated which man would stand trial first.

Repairs to the Madison County Court House make a date for the start of the trial uncertain, but Rusher told reporters on Tuesday that he expected the trials to begin in late May or early June.

Marshall To Begin Pulling Meters

Delinquent Customers Face Water Cut-off

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall's delinquent water customers will soon find themselves high and dry. At their monthly meeting this week, the town's aldermen unanimously voted to cut off service to all delinquent customers starting on Feb. 25.

The aldermen took the action after learning that nearly \$14,000 in charges are currently past due. Town crews will begin removing meters on Feb. 25 during their rounds of meter reading.

Previous town boards have promised crackdowns on the delinquent water customers, and in some cases removed selected meters from long-delinquent residents.

Cecilia Ward delivered the monthly financial report and told the aldermen that the town's finances were in good shape at this point in the fiscal year. The town's largest expense continues to be utility charges from the French Broad EMC.

On the positive side, Mrs. Ward reported that water consumption was down by almost two million gallons in January from Dec., 1985, while billing for water increased by half a million gallons.

The aldermen also discussed locking a fire hydrant on U.S. 25-70 in order to prevent construction crews from taking on town water without paying for it.

The board tabled a final decision on a proposed sewer use ordinance as Mayor Ward's suggestion. The mayor said the aldermen needed explanations for many of the proposed regulations contained in a model sewer use ordinance they are considering.

The board approved a letter to Garfield Caldwell of Cotton Mill Hill ordering him to remove a hog from his front yard. Neighbors have complained repeatedly of the hog, which is housed in a shed in Caldwell's front yard.

The board also agreed to install a culvert in front of road property owned by Everett Barnett and agreed to order town crews to pick up trash at the ballfield on Blannerhasset Is.

Mayor Ward announced that the latest tests showed that the town's waste treatment plant was in compliance with state regulations. An inspection in December revealed that the plant was discharging too many solids into the French Broad River, prompting state officials to seek a sewer use ordinance.

The board met in executive session briefly before adjourning at 9 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the board will be held on March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Mars Hill Considers Sign Ordinance

By ROBERT KOENIG

Mars Hill aldermen will consider a new zoning ordinance governing outdoor advertising and changes to the town's fire code during public hearings to be held on March 3. The board agreed to conduct the public hearings during the monthly meeting of the board held on Feb. 3.

The public hearings will be held prior to the start of the regular monthly meeting in March.

The town's planning and zoning board has prepared an ordinance governing outdoor signs. Final approval to the draft ordinance was given during last week's meeting of

The proposed sign ordinance would cover all forms of outdoor signs and advertising. It would prohibit construction of new signs which fail to meet the requirements of the ordinance, but provides that present signs and billboards will be allowed to remain standing as long as they remain in good condition.

Obsolete signs would be removed within 30 days, and temporary signs must be taken down within 10 days. Signs which do not conform to the or-

dinance requirements will have to be removed according to a timetable based on the cost of the sign. All non-conforming signs would be removed within five years.

Owners of non-conforming signs which are in need of major repairs would be allowed to replace the non-conforming signs.

The proposed ordinance also sets down requirements regarding size, location and lighting and requires all sign owners to obtain a permit. A \$50 fine will be imposed on sign owners failing to comply with the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance would ban signs which constitute a traffic hazard; signs in street right-of-way or obstructing fire escapes, doorways and windows; all off-premises advertising; flashing signs; roof signs; signs posted on utility poles, trees or fences and portable signs.

Temporary real estate signs, church signs or organization signs would be permitted. Also permitted would be service station signs, gasoline price signs under 40 inches in height, construction signs and outdoor menu signs at drive-through restaurants. The proposed ordinance also spells out rules for signs in residential areas, wall signs, movie theatre marquees and signs at shopping centers.



Geologist Criticizes DOE

By JOHN REITZ, The Waynesville Mountaineer

Already-completed federal studies of the WNC rock body picked as a potential site for a nuclear waste dump show the selected location is a poor choice, according to a geologist familiar with this area.

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced last month that a rock body that extends into portions of Haywood, Madison and Buncombe Counties is one of the 12 finalists for location of a nuclear waste storage facility.

The DOE also wants a rock body that is "one rock type," Yurkovich said, but the DOE's own report says the WNC formation is "a heterogeneous assemblage of gneiss, schist, amphibolite, cut by intrusions such as the Beech granite and the alkali and pegmatites of the Spruce Pine district."

Yurkovich said he and his colleagues were "quite surprised" that, despite all these problems, the Elk River parcel showed up on the list released by DOE on Jan. 15.

Obviously a rock formation that is subject to fault movements is not desirable, Yurkovich said, because of the possibility of the high-level wastes leaking into the water supply.

The DOE report on the formation says that "the massif is fault-bounded, and cut by many faults. In the southern part of the massif, steep northeast-trending joints occur in groups spaced less than a foot apart."

This means that the chances of rock movements are good, Yurkovich said.

Yurkovich said that the DOE is "not doing a very good job" of evaluating the rock body. "The DOE is not doing a very good job of evaluating the rock body," he said.

Rivers run through this area," Yurkovich said, "In rocks with lots of fractures like these we have the potential for lots of opening."

A detailed study of the ground water system has not been done, but some contend that contaminated ground water in this area could easily travel hundreds of miles through the ground before surfacing in wells and water systems.

Yurkovich said he and several others "sat around trying to figure out why they did what they did. We came up with several ideas."

One guess, he said, is that the proximity to Interstates 26, 40, 75 and 77. Another possible reason for inclusion in the DOE's list is the area's proximity to a proposed monitored retrievable (temporary) storage facility in Oak Ridge, Tenn. That facility would handle small amounts of nuclear waste which would later be shipped to a permanent storage facility.

"And the third idea is that the whole west side is right against the national border," he said.