

Lady Patriots Are Champs

Story On Page 6

Community Calendar

Waste Dump Meeting Planned

The Madison County Nuclear Waste Education Committee will meet on March 9 at 2 p.m. in the Little Sandy Mush Methodist Church.

County Dems Set Precinct Meetings

The Madison County Democratic Party will hold precinct meetings throughout the county on March 6 at 8 p.m. All registered Democrats are invited to attend the meetings held at the local polling place.

The county Democratic Party convention will be held on April 5 at 1 p.m. at Madison H.S.

County GOP Meets On Sunday

The Republican Party will meet March 2 at 2 p.m. in the Madison County Courthouse to finalize plans for their Lincoln Day Dinner. Everyone is urged to attend.

Youth Soccer Sign-Up Set

Registration for Madison County Youth Soccer will be held on Sat. March 1, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Mars Hill College Gym. All children ages 6-13 are welcome and urged to attend.

Music Boosters To Meet

The Madison County Music Boosters will meet on March 6 at 7 p.m. at Madison High School.

Commissioners To Meet Monday

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet on March 3 at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Mars Hill Aldermen To Meet

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will hold their monthly meeting on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. At 7 p.m., the aldermen will hold public hearings on proposed changes to the town's zoning and fire codes. The public is invited to attend and comment on the proposed changes.

Hot Springs Town Meeting

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the new Town Hall on Main Street.

School Board Meets March 5

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on March 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

-Continued on Page 2

Power Outage Planned

French Broad EMC members served by the Marshall Substation will have their service interrupted for two hours early on Sunday morning. FBEMC officials have announced that power will be cut off from 1 a.m. until 3 a.m. so that transformers in the substation can be rewired.

Residents of Grpaevine, East Fork, Little Pine, Big Pine, Walnut, Spring Creek, Shut-In, Paint Rock, Big Laurel and Little Laurel will be affected by the power outage.

In case of bad weather, the outage and rewiring will be postponed until March 9.

Mars Hill Fire Report Is Delivered

Mars Hill Fire Chief Eddie Fox reported last week that, during 1985, the fire department responded to 109 calls, of which 19 were in the city, 87 were elsewhere in the county and three were outside the county assisting other departments.

Some 1,267.5 man-hours were totaled by the department, he said. Value of property involved in fires was

\$2,481,895, he said, with actual loss of \$336,905, for a total value saved of \$2,144,990.

Types of calls, Chief Fox said, were 35 structures, 39 brush, 9 auto, 8 false alarms, 10 wrecks, 2 miscellaneous, 3 mutual aid and 3 rescue.

Mars Hill firemen received 1,250 hours of fire service training during the year, he said.

Delaware Man Killed In Murray Mt. Wreck

A 23-year old Delaware man was killed on Monday afternoon in a two-car collision on Murray Mountain. The identity of the victim is being withheld pending notification of his family.

State Trooper T.V. Sutton investigated the fatal accident. Sutton said the dead man was driving a Ford Thunderbird south on U.S. 23 at the time of the accident. It appears that the victim lost control of the car on the icy pavement and crossed over into the northbound lane, where it collided with a Chevrolet pick-up truck.

Three Tennessee men were in the truck at the time of the collision, Sutton said, but none were seriously injured. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

No charges were filed in connection with the accident.

1500 Attend DOE Briefing Session

By ROBERT KOENIG

An estimated 1,500 WNC residents voiced their concerns regarding a proposed nuclear waste storage facility during a marathon public hearing in Asheville last week. The public briefing conducted by officials of the U.S. Department of Energy provided residents with the opportunity to register their opposition to the plan.

DOE officials opened the meeting with technical explanations of the selection process for the nation's second permanent nuclear waste storage dump. The officials were interrupted repeatedly by catcalls, boos and curses from the audience. A large banner proclaiming "No Dump Here" hung from the balcony in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium.

Many of the 1,500 attending the Thursday night meeting wore red ribbons to signify their opposition to the proposed nuclear waste dump. One teenager who declined to be identified presented her ribbon to the DOE officials, saying "These are the eyes of a frightened child. I don't know what's going on. All I know is that a lady on the street gave me this ribbon. Just in memory of me, I wanted to give you this ribbon."



DOE OFFICIALS ANSWERED QUESTIONS from WNC residents until 1:45 a.m. Friday during briefing on proposed nuclear waste dump. Meeting was held in the Thomas Wolfe Auditorium in Asheville.

Ralph Stein, the engineering director for the DOE Office of Civilian Waste Management, moderated Thursday's public hearing. Stein explained that the selection process for choosing sites for permanent storage of nuclear waste were part of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

The act called for the DOE to identify two sites for permanent storage facilities, one in the west and a second in the eastern U.S. Stein explained that the act calls for construction of the first such facility in the 1990's and said that the selection process for the first dump had been narrowed to three sites, in Washington, Nevada and Texas. The law provides funding for construction of the first nuclear dump.

The 1982 law also calls for DOE to identify a second site for a proposed dump, although not providing the funds for construction. Stein said that plans call for DOE to narrow the list of potential eastern U.S. sites to three before seeking construction funds in 1988.

DOE geologist Bob Levich explained that the Crystalline Rock Depository Project, the DOE's project to identify a second potential dump site, began with a list of some 235 potential rock formations.

On Jan. 16 of this year, the DOE narrowed the list down to 12 potential sites, including a 105-square mile portion of Madison, Buncombe and Haywood Counties. A second North Carolina site, in eastern Wake County, was also included in the list of 12 potential sites. Others are located in Georgia, Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Levich said that the list was reduced to 12 after DOE studies of literature relating to the geologic history of the areas. Other factors such as proximity to population centers were also considered, he said, but added that DOE has not as yet begun field studies in any of the areas still under consideration. He said that such field studies will begin later this year.

"We're still in a very early stage of the site selection for the second repository," Levich said. His comments were met with a chorus of loud jeers.

Those attending the Thursday night hearing received information packets from DOE outlining the selection process. Anti-dump groups also provided those attending with literature.

Following a 90-minute outline of the DOE selection process, the officials opened up the meeting for questions and comments from the public. The DOE officials would sit for another five hours as some 47 residents peppered them with comments and questions. At 1:45 a.m. on Friday, the hearing came to an end at the request of Civic Center officials. The DOE officials and some 25 WNC residents were on hand when the hearing ended.

-Continued on Page 8

Local Letter-Writing Campaign Urged

As the General Assembly in Raleigh was approving a statewide referendum on a nuclear waste dump for North Carolina, local leaders of the anti-dump movement here were encouraging residents to join in a letter-writing campaign to halt plans for a proposed dump in Madison, Haywood and Buncombe Counties.

Members of the Madison County Nuclear Waste Education Committee

(NWECC) are calling on all Madison Countians to join in writing to state and federal officials to oppose the proposed dump in WNC. The NWECC also hopes to involve local organizations, churches and schools in the anti-dump campaign.

A spokesman for the NWECC told The News Record, "The proposed dump site in the Sandy Mush area

ranks very high on the DOE's list of 12 sites. It is thought to be the most likely choice by some officials who have followed the project closely. The best defense is education and maintaining continuous contact with our elected representatives in Raleigh and Washington."

Anyone interested in contacting the Nuclear Waste Education Committee for more information should call

689-5530 or 689-5228 or write to NWECC, P.O. Box 291, Mars Hill, N.C. 28754.

Taylor Barnhill, a member of the NWECC, said, "We need the help of everyone in this. Community development clubs, churches, schools, service clubs, realtors, merchants, young and old. Everyone in Madison County has a stake in this."

Madison High Principal Remembers Fallen Astronaut

By VERNON HENDERSON

Madison High School principal David Wyatt knew one of the Space Shuttle Challenger's crew members, the late Ronald McNair.

Wyatt said that he and McNair served on the N.C. School of Mathematics & Science board of trustees together.

Ronald E. McNair, Ph.D., was born on Oct. 21, 1950 in Lake City, S.C. Wyatt said "He was a common man doing an uncommon job."

In a sense, however, Ronald E. McNair was an uncommon man. He overcame incredible odds to become an astronaut, for he was black, poor, and from the South. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in physics from N.C. A&T State University, and later received a doctorate in laser physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"He was a common man in the sense that anyone could talk with him, whether they were highly scientific, technically educated, or if they had very little education. He made you feel at ease when you talked to him. He could talk about any subject with ease and with great expertise," the Madison High principal said.

When at N.C. A&T, McNair wanted to major in music, but a science teacher saw his aptitude for physics, and persuaded him to change his major.

After completing his studies at MIT, McNair became a staff physicist at the Hughes Research lab in California. In 1978, he was working in laser research when he saw a NASA bulletin advertising for positions in the space shuttle program. He applied for the astronaut program and was chosen from among thousands of applicants.

After the Challenger's January flight, McNair was scheduled to come to Madison High and talk with students about his experiences in space. McNair gave generously of his time to encourage students. When signing autographs for young people, he often included the message, "Reach for the stars."

Wyatt said that the astronaut had a great deal of character. He had an energetic, positive outlook on life, yet he also had a no-nonsense attitude.

"Ron McNair would have spent whatever time and energy necessary to see a job finished," Wyatt said. "At two, or whatever, o'clock time

was, if the job wasn't finished, he wouldn't quit...He would not have been a person to watch the clock. He would get the job done."

McNair said the thing that he disliked most about the Shuttle program was having to wait between the missions.

He had already logged 191 hours in space during a flight in 1984, when he was the first to use the "Robot Arm" installed on the Shuttle.

"I think that Ron McNair would definitely have wanted the Space Shuttle program to continue at full speed. He was very excited that he was getting to go with the teacher, because he gave all his teachers in elementary school, high school, and college all the credit for him being where he was, and he felt a strong commitment to public schools and to its teachers," Wyatt said.

Ronald McNair was a common man who rose to great heights through hard work. He was no larger than life here, but like the space craft in which he lost his life, Ronald McNair was a Challenger. He challenged the odds and overcame the obstacles to be reached by the stars.



RONALD E. MCNAIR, astronaut who was killed in Challenger tragedy.