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Community Calendar

Nuclear Waste Committee To Meet April 17 In Marshall

The Madison County Nuclear Waste Education Committee will meet on April 17 at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Senior Citizens Center on Long Branch Rd. All interested county residents are invited to attend.

Postponed Court Cases To Be Heard

Scheduled sessions of Madison County District Court on March 26, 27 and 28 were cancelled due to repairs to the county courthouse. Defendants in cases scheduled for those dates are to appear for trial today and tomorrow. District Court cases will be heard in the Little Theatre at Madison H.S.

Marshall Aldermen To Meet

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Marshall Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Laurel VFW Bingo Night

There will be a benefit bingo game held at the Laurel VFD fire hall tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the fire company.

Support Group Meets April 15

Parents of children with seizure disorders are invited to attend a meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the Hall Fletcher Middle School in Asheville. For more information on this group, contact Roger Metcalf at 255-5374 or Joann Roberts at 689-4295.

French Broad EMC Meeting Set For April 19 In Mars Hill

The annual meeting of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation will be held on April 19 on the campus of Mars Hill College. Registration will begin at noon in Moore Auditorium.

"Hee Haw" star Archie Campbell and his band will provide entertainment beginning at 1:30 p.m. The business meeting will get underway at 2:30 p.m.

FBEMC general manager Charles Tolley and officers of the corporation will deliver reports and four members of the board of directors will be elected. Board members John Corbett, W.G. Plemmons, James Ray and Bill Riddle have been renominated to serve an additional term.

Drawings for prizes will be held at the conclusion of the business session. Co-op members will have a chance to win a microwave oven. Children up to 15 years of age will have a chance to win a bicycle. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

FBEMC serves members in Madison, Buncombe, Mitchell and Yancey Counties and a portion of Unicoi, Tenn. All members are urged to attend the annual business meeting.

Leukemia Walk-A-Thon Planned

The annual walk-a-thon and bike-a-thon to benefit the Leukemia Society will be held on April 12 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Madison H.S. Sponsor forms are available at the Marshall Public Library or from Katherine Boone at Marshall Elementary School. For more information, contact Bea Banks at 649-2436. Prizes, including a grand prize of 20 books of trading stamps, will be offered.

Suspicious Fires In Grapevine Are Investigated

By WILLIAM LEE

A rash of purposely set woods fires last week have brought investigators from the state Forestry Service into Madison County. The investigators are following leads on fires set in the Grapevine-Petersburg area.

A fire on Bone Camp Rd. destroyed approximately 48 acres of brush, according to Tony Webb, County Director of the N.C. Forestry Service. Use of an incendiary device is suspected, according to Mars Hill Police Chief R.J. Culshaw. Mars Hill Fire Chief Eddie Fox said such a possibility has not been ruled out because of the steep incline where the fire was started. Fox said the Bone Camp fire had been set in two or three spots throughout the woods.

Fires also destroyed 36 acres along Hwy. 23 in Little Cove at some point between Marshall and Mars Hill.

Planes were provided by the U.S. Forest Service to combat the fires on Bluff Mountain in Spring Creek and the Bone Camp blaze.

"If not for their assistance in dropping water on the blaze, those two fires could have consumed some 200 or 300 acres," Webb said.

The state Forestry offices answered or assisted in 18 calls during the past week. Mars Hill Fire Department answered 23 calls, while Marshall Fire Department had 19 calls. Estimates for the total acres lost, excluding mutual aid calls, are placed at between 150 and 300 acres.

Current suspicion is, according to Webb, that the Grapevine fires are the work of three or four men in the area who have been driving around starting the fires. Other suspects, however, may be the work of 20 or 30 unknown.

Hundreds Tell DOE: We Don't Want Nuke Waste Dump Here

By ROBERT KOENIG

More than 200 North Carolinians addressed the U.S. Department of Energy's public hearing in Asheville on Friday. Speaker after speaker opposed the proposal to locate a permanent nuclear waste repository in Western North Carolina.

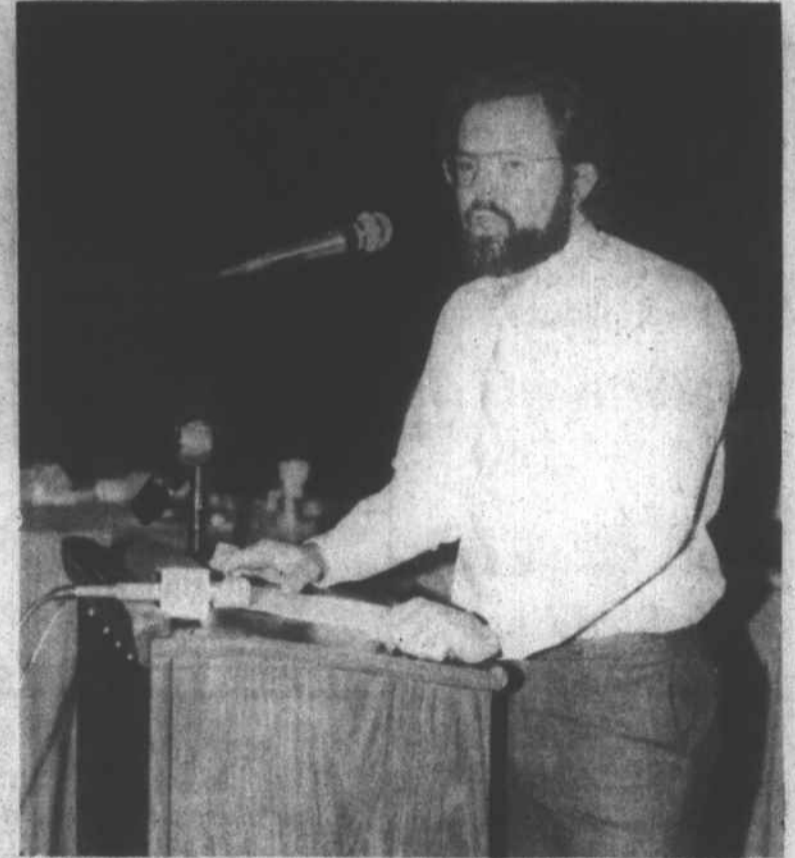
For more than 13 hours, speakers detailed a wide variety of reasons for dropping WNC from the DOE's list of 12 sites being considered for the nation's second permanent nuclear waste dump.

Politicians, scientists, preachers, farmers, students and housewives trooped to the microphones set up on the floor of the Asheville Civic Center. They addressed their remarks to a panel of DOE representatives and court stenographers. Throughout the day-long hearing, hundreds sat in the audience.

Some of the speakers sang their protests and others came dressed in bright red colors as a sign of protest. Gov. James Martin and Rep. Bill Hendon opened the morning session (see related story below), but private citizens from both Madison County and the Sandy Mush area of Buncombe County occupied much of the agenda throughout the 13 hours of public comment.

A number of anti-dump banners were hung from the Civic Center upper deck, but Friday's hearing was generally quiet compared to last month's hearing at which DOE officials responded to resident's questions concerning the Crystalline Rock Project.

Bill Duckett, a farmer in the Big Sandy Mush community, told the DOE officials, "Existing roads in our area are un-



TAYLOR BARNHILL was one of many Madison Countians to speak out against proposed nuclear dump site during Friday's hearing in Asheville.

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Martin: N.C. Unsuitable For Nuclear Dump Site

By WILLIAM LEE

"I do not believe that any site in North Carolina is technically acceptable for the storage of high level nuclear waste," said Gov. Jim Martin at last Friday's public hearing before the U.S. Department of Energy.

The governor went on to tell the DOE that the state is ready to prove that the crystalline rock that their study found so acceptable, is in fact quite porous and fractured in critical location.

"Your study neglects the depth of the Elk River water table, its importance to surrounding water sheds, and the metamorphic state of the underlying rock formation," said Martin.

"Once the facts are shown, proving the fracture of underlying rock, the seismic activity, the watertable, and

the size of the surrounding population, I believe the DOE will want to remove North Carolina from consideration," Martin added.

He considered the Elk River region in the midst of dynamic growth areas. Since population is of prime concern in selection of a site, Martin said, the proximity of large population centers alone should make the Western North Carolina site unacceptable.

"Our first concern should always be the safety and health of our population," Martin said.

"Do not prolong the uncertainty," Martin added, "and promptly withdraw it from consideration."

U.S. Rep. Bill Hendon echoed the governor's sentiments, citing recent reports showing land values frozen and real estate sales down.

"In a recent survey commissioned

by the University of Tennessee, almost half of those surveyed indicated they would alter their travel plans if a nuclear facility was located within ten miles of their vacation spot," Hendon told the DOE.

Hendon said that according to the Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority it could mean a loss of \$281 million in tourism revenues by the year 2000.

Hendon went on to quote Congressman Morris Udall, chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, as saying the people of North Carolina should relax because the chances of one of these facilities getting there are remote.

However, efforts by Hendon to introduce measures to have Elk River excluded at this time have been blocked by Udall.

"I call on the Department of

Energy to put a stop to the worry, put a stop to the disruption and the spending of our tax dollars, and take Western North Carolina off the study list now and let us get on with our lives," Hendon told the panel Friday.

Thomas Rhodes, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development presented the state's case of factual recourse. He made mention of the thermal spring activity around Hot Springs, the seismic activity of the area, and the cracks and faults in the substructure.

Rhodes added a new argument against the Elk River site, claiming that during the 1977 flood disaster, the Elk River region was part of the heaviest flood area. Such flooding could well occur again in the near

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Evidence Of 1928 Earthquake In Hot Springs Is Presented

Kitty Boniske of Asheville presented a piece of historic information that interested members of the DOE's team during Friday's hearings in Asheville.

Boniske produced an article taken from the November 12, 1928 edition of The Asheville Citizen detailing reports that an earthquake in the Spring Creek section had caused normally cold springs in the area to become warm. Boniske told DOE officials that she had uncovered the fifty-eight year old article while researching the earthquake files at Pack Library in Asheville.

The article, dateline Marshall, Nov. 12, said in part, "...reports have come to Marshall that cold mountain springs, whose flow even during summer is almost the temperature of ice, are becoming warm, following the series of earthquake shocks over a week ago, while several miles below, at the little town of Hot Springs, the warm mineral springs are said to be boiling in many instances, with the water led to them by the subterranean streams colored from foreign matter since the shock which was far more severe in that section than in any other part of Madison County."

and more miles back in the coves and on the high mountains, from Hot Springs, are affected, and it is said that a number of them which were cold as ice prior to the quake are now almost lukewarm, thus strengthening the belief of several mountain residents that the underground streams which feed the age-old hot and mineral pools at Hot Springs undermine the entire mountain country, and that the recent subterranean disturbances have accounted for the marked changes in the temperature of the water."

Former Hot Springs resident Peggy Dotterer, the granddaughter of Col. Rumbough, operator of the Mountain Park Hotel in Hot Springs, told The News Record in a telephone interview on Tuesday that she can recall the 1928 earthquake, but said, "I don't recall that there was much commotion at all. Maybe the dishes rattled, but I don't think we thought much of it at the time."

Mrs. Dotterer said she does not recall a change in the temperature of the springs at the time, but added that her mother told her of springs below the town which have since disappeared.

Hot Springs of Hot Springs told The News Record that her mother

told her of the 1928 earthquake. "She told me it knocked dishes down off shelves and knocked stove pipes out of place," Moore said in a telephone interview.

Harriet Rynnion was a 19-year old school teacher in Spring Creek at the time of the 1928 quake. She recalls that she had taken a group of seventh and eighth-grade schoolchildren on a picnic the day of the quake. "We just didn't know what it was," Rynnion said. "It was a tremor and we all huddled together until it was over." She said she cannot recall if springs in the area heated up following the quake.

The November 23, 1928 edition of The News Record also refers to the quake. The account read in part, "We learned on good authority at Hot Springs that the morning after the earthquake a few weeks ago, the water in the warm spring for drinking was somewhat darker in color, the bottom of the spring not being visible about nine o'clock the next morning. The water in this spring is usually so clear that the bottom is clearly visible through several feet deep."

Father Rabbimans was of the opinion that the disturbances consisted of a temporary raising of the water, which had been boiling for

several hours before he saw it at nine o'clock. He regrets that he had not taken the temperature of the springs before the earthquake, but says he that the temperature of the springs since the earthquake is 103, whereas in the printed literature about the springs, the temperature was given as 96."

Apparently News Record editor H.L. Story was unconvinced of reports that springs had heated up following the earthquake. Story wrote, "The report in an Asheville paper recently that the springs on the Spring Creek section of Madison County were warm since the earthquake a few weeks ago, seems to have been more the result of imagination than real facts. This writer has travelled considerably in that section this week and of all the people questioned as to this report, not one has verified it."

DOE officials asked Mrs. Boniske for a copy of the Citizen article. News Record editor Bob Koenig will forward a copy of the November 23 News Record article to DOE officials in response. He said he will also check the public records office in Asheville for any