

Patriots Reach Regionals

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Community
Calendar

American Legion, Auxiliary To Meet

The American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary will hold a joint meeting on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Legion Hall on Back Street in Marshall. All members are urged to attend.

Walnut CD Club Plans Meeting

The Walnut Creek Community Development Club will meet on May 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Enon Baptist Church fellowship hall. The scheduled May 26 meeting has been cancelled due to the Memorial Day holiday. Club members and others are invited to attend and discuss plans to organize a Community Watch program.

Rabies Clinics To Be Held

A series of rabies clinics will be held on May 17, 21 and 24 in Shelton Laurel, Ebbs' Chapel and Mars Hill. On May 17, clinics will be held from 12:30 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Laurel School and Laurel Clinic. On May 21, a clinic will be conducted from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Laurel Community Center. On May 24, Dr. J.R. Allen will conduct a clinic from noon until 3 p.m. at his Gabriel's Creek office near Mars Hill.

Walnut-Brush Creek CD Plans

May 18 Chicken Dinner

The Walnut-Brush Creek Community Development Club will sponsor a chicken dinner on May 18 at Walnut Elementary School from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Proceeds from the dinner will be used in the club's community improvement projects.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Tickets are available from club members or at the door on May 18.

Lt. Col. Edward F. Rector,

World War II Hero, To Attend

Memorial Day Ceremonies

Lt. Col. Edward F. Rector, a Marshall native who was widely decorated during World War II, will be the honored guest during the Memorial Day observance planned for May 24. Rector served as a member of the 23rd Fighter Group of the 14th Air Force, better known as the "Flying Tigers."

Lt. Col. Rector's unit destroyed some 940 Japanese planes during combat and was responsible for more than 20,000 enemy casualties. Rector received decorations from three nations for his heroism in the Pacific. His many awards include the Silver Star, the American and British Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Air Medal with oak leaf clusters, the Purple Heart, the fifth and sixth Orders of the Cloud Banner and the Chinese Starred Wings.

A native of Marshall who now make his home in a Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C., Rector graduated from Marshall H.S. and attended Catawba College.

He was an original member of the American Volunteer group in World War II and as a member of the China Air Task Force may have put in more combat time overseas than any American soldier.

The Memorial Day observances are being sponsored by the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary of Post No. 317 in Marshall. A noon parade down Main Street and a patriotic program are planned as part of the day's activities. Crafts booths will be set up in the Legion parking lot on Gudger Street.

The program is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Marshall Elementary School gymnasium. Congressman Bill Hendon and Speaker of the House Liston B. Ramsey will speak along with Lt. Col. Rector.

Clean Streams Volunteers



THE UPPER LAUREL YOUTH group took part in the recent Clean Streams Day campaign by picking up trash along Punched Park Creek. Volunteers and their adult leaders gathered along the banks of the stream while cleaning a three-mile section near Wolf Laurel.

County Commissioners Tell
Bd. Of Education: 'Get Out'

By WILLIAM LEE

The Madison County Board of County Commissioners last week served the Board of Education with a form of eviction notice, giving Superintendent Robert Edwards 30 days to find new offices and vacate those he currently occupies in the Madison County Court House.

In a workshop meeting last Wednesday, May 7, the County Commissioners decided that it would be more convenient to the elderly and handicapped citizens of Madison County to have the tax supervisor's offices located on the first floor, adjacent to the tax collector's offices. The tax supervisor's offices are currently on the third floor.

School Superintendent Edwards, in commenting on the eviction, said that it was fine with him if they moved, "just as long as they (the County Commissioners) are willing to appropriate funds for a school administration building as we requested in the past."

"Currently we have administrative offices scattered all over," Edwards added. "We have food services in Walnut, guidance counselling services at the Marshall School, and Chapter I support facilities in another building here in Marshall."

"The county commissioners will either have to appropriate those funds, and funds for renting offices in the meantime," Edwards continued. "Otherwise, we would have to move our offices to either Ebbs Chapel or Beech Glen, and I don't think the people of Madison would be too happy with that arrangement."

Currently the Board of Education has decided to the county two of its former school buildings at Ebbs Chapel and Beech Glen for use as day care and community centers, and senior citizens meal sites.

"We've been in the Courthouse about 40 years, I believe," said school board chairman Bobby Ponder, "and I really can't see us moving now. The Board of Education will be discussing this at its next meeting."

In other business, the county commissioners tabled any decision on repairing or replacing the cupola for the courthouse, awaiting word from the State Department of Archives and History about grant approval for state allocated funds.

Since the courthouse is on the National Historic Register, an omnibus bill currently before the General Assembly is expected to look favorably on funds to restore the courthouse, according to architect Wayne Roberts.

Roberts told the commissioners that they had received two bids to restore the cupola. It would require cleaning, painting and scraping, priming of old metals, and replacing of any damaged sheet metal. It would then require grinding and smoothing before applying two coats of heavy industry silver paint. Neither of the two bids included building a new wooden base for support to the structure, nor have any estimates been received for placing the cupola back atop the courthouse.

The two bids came from Superior Sheet Metal of Hendersonville, for \$23,500, and Maintenance Contracting of Indiana, at \$28,000. The commissioners also received a bid of \$108,000 from Camelsville Industries of Kentucky to build a replica of the cupola.

"I think we will have to wait on these grant proposals before proceeding," said Commission Chairman James Ledford. "On our own we do not have the funds for such a project and, by law, are required to have such funds available before entering into any agreements."

Ledford also told the commissioners that the \$233,000 allocated for the roof repair has not included painting and plaster repair for the upstairs courtroom.

Roberts said that they had made a

pre-application to the Dept. of Archives for \$100,000 to make further repairs to the cupola, the front portico, and the stairways.

"We can also apply each year for other funds such as office renovations, stairwell repair, and installing elevators," Roberts said.

The county commissioners approved the purchase of two new air conditioning units. A large unit for the courtroom facilities was priced at \$14,655. A second, smaller unit for the tax collector's offices will cost \$2,075.

The county commissioners heard some discouraging words from its local department of transportation. As of next year, the state would be dropping its matching fund percentage from 50 percent to 20 percent. The local transportation department currently has an annual budget of \$105,000 providing bus transportation for the Mountains of Madison and Unaka Centers, buses for meals-on-wheels programs, and general maintenance vehicles for the County.

Chairman Ledford said that with state funds being filtered down in many areas, the county may have to consider phasing out some programs and departments altogether, among them being their transportation services. The matter will be discussed

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Continuing Drought Causing Worry
For Farmers, Town Officials

By WILLIAM LEE

From every indication, Madison County is suffering from its worse drought since 1925. Figures released by the National Weather Service indicate that the area received only 2.9 inches of rain from March 1 to April 30, down a total of 5.98 inches below normal for this time of year.

"It's certainly the worst I've seen in my lifetime," said Agriculture Extension Services Director Wiley DuVall. "Some are pointing to 1925 as the worst we've had, but the indicators seem to point to the worse drought in over 100 years before the dry spell ends."

Emergency buttons have not yet been pushed, however, by any authorities. In Tennessee, the TVA has requested people refrain from us-

ing water to wash their cars or water lawns, and Weaverville this week made the same suggestions to its citizens. Mars Hill is also contemplating such conservation measures, but all fall short of any mandatory limits at this point.

"The two reservoirs we have are extremely low at this point," said Charles Horne, town manager of Weaverville. "We have no way of knowing how low the wells are. We feel that if the people will conserve, then we should have no problem."

Mars Hill's water supply has been further depleted by heavy usage in flushing its water and sewer lines the last few months during the construction of its sewer system. The drought has them considering alternate day water usage if the rains don't come

soon.

French Broad Electric is currently running its hydroelectric facility at less than one-half capacity, according to Rick Thomason, hydroelectric plant engineer for FBEMC.

"We are currently running only one turbine," said Thomason, "and that is running at only 45 percent capacity."

However, Thomason adds that FBEMC's main source of electricity is what it purchases from Carolina Power and Light. If their own hydroelectric resources dwindle they will be able to purchase more from CP&L, whose main plants are either coal burning or nuclear energy.

Charlie Chambers of Wastewater Services, Inc. of Asheville is in charge of monitoring Marshall's

water system. He said as far as he could tell Marshall's water supply was "holding its own."

"So far the wells are maintaining their level," said Chambers. "But we have no way of measuring the depth of the wells, we only know the flow."

According to recent figures by the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, the Western North Carolina region is approximately 11 inches low in its water table for this time of year.

But while city water supplies have not reached stages to cause any alarm, the drought is seriously hurting agricultural production. According to the latest North Carolina Crop and Livestock soil report, 83 percent

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Arsonist Strikes
On Hayes' Run

Fire and police officials suspect that a series of fires in vacant homes along Hayes' Run were started by arsonists on Saturday night.

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to a call around 9 p.m. on Saturday. Garry Moore was among the first firemen on the scene. Moore said that three of the abandoned houses were on fire when he arrived and that the fourth house, a cinder block structure, erupted in flames minutes later. Members of the Mars Hill VFD were called in to assist because of the threat of forest fires due to recent dry conditions.

Two of the houses were completely destroyed. The other two homes were also heavily damaged by fire. Agents

from the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) have been called in to investigate.

The Saturday fires weren't the only crime Marshall's firemen discovered. While the volunteers were occupied by the Hayes' Run fires, thieves made off with flashlights worth an estimated \$100.

Last week, a similar series of suspicious fires destroyed four vacant buildings in the Shelton Laurel area. Arson is suspected in both cases. Area residents are asked to be alert for suspicious activity near abandoned or vacant buildings in the community. Suspicious activities in these areas should be reported immediately to the Madison County Sheriff's Dept. at 649-2721.



SMOKE CONTINUES TO RISE from the ruins of an abandoned house on Hayes' Run in Marshall. House was one of four destroyed during series of suspicious Saturday night fires. Cause of the fires is still under investigation.

Bray Murder Trial Begins

Jury selection for the murder trial of William Bray continued this week as attorneys questioned potential jurors in the Buncombe County Superior Court in Asheville.

Testimony in the case had been expected to begin on Monday, but was postponed when only nine jurors had been selected at the close of Friday's session. An addition juror was named on Monday and jury selection continued on Tuesday. The jury selection process will continue until prosecutors and defense attorneys can agree on 14 jurors, 12 who will sit in judgment and two alternates.

The state has indicated they will seek the death penalty for both Bray and his co-defendant, Jimmy Dean Rios, for their roles in the September murder of State Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins. Potential jurors will also be

asked to determine if Bray is to be executed should they decide to convict him on the first-degree murder charge.

The potential jurors are each being questioned regarding their opinions on capital punishment by both the prosecuting and defense attorneys. Twenty-fourth Judicial District Attorney Tom Rusher and assistant DA Jim Baker are prosecuting the case. Bray is defended by Marshall lawyers Joseph and Stephen Huff. Superior Court Judge Donald Stephens of Raleigh will preside over the trial.

In an unusual move on Monday, potential jurors were questioned individually. The prospective jurors were asked questions regarding their opinions on capital punishment, whether or not they have heard

reports of the case and if they have formed an opinion regarding the defendant's guilt or innocence.

A recent Supreme Court ruling allows potential jurors who are opposed to capital punishment to be excused from capital trials.

Both Bray and Rios were captured by lawmen in Spring Creek last September following a three-day manhunt. They have been held in the Madison County Jail without bond since their capture. Rios is scheduled to stand trial in Madison County next month on first-degree murder.

Bray's trial was originally scheduled to be heard in the Madison County Superior Court last January, but was postponed due to repairs to the courthouse. The trial was moved to Asheville last week over defense attorneys' objections when Judge



WILLIAM BRAY
Stephens ruled that the Marshall courthouse was unfit for the trial.

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