

DSS Workers Face Layoff

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Job Training To Be Offered

The Opportunity Corporation of Madison-Buncombe Counties will offer a five-day Job Search Training Session in Mars Hill at Mars Hill Baptist Church from Monday, June 23 through Friday, June 27 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

There is no cost to participate and transportation will be provided. For more information call their office in Marshall at 649-3231.

County GOP Meets Sunday

The Madison County Republican Party Executive Committee and all Republican candidates in the November general election will meet on June 22 at 2 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

Ebbs Chapel VFD Bake Sale

The Ebbs Chapel VFD will sponsor a fund raising project July 5 beginning at 11 a.m. in the Upper Laurel Community Center. There will be games, bake goods and crafts for sale. Dinner will be served from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Drawings for prizes will be held at the conclusion of the events. A free blood pressure screening will be conducted by the area Red Cross. Donations will be appreciated.

Walnut Creek CD Club Meets

The Walnut Creek Community Development Club will hold its monthly meeting on June 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Enon Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The club has voted to begin a community roadside clean-up every 3rd Saturday of each month. All community members and residents are urged to attend the meeting and participate in the clean-up efforts.

King Family Reunion Set

The family of the late Irving and Martha Stanton King will hold a reunion on June 30 at 1 p.m. in the Rocky Bluff Campground near Hot Springs. All family members and friends are invited to attend and bring a picnic lunch.

Davis Family Reunion July 6

The descendants of Fletcher and Julia Rector Davis and Fletcher and Mattie Roberts Davis will hold a family reunion on July 6 at Davis Grocery, Redmond Road, Marshall.

The covered dish dinner/reunion will begin at 10 a.m. For more information, call 649-2490. All family member are invited to attend.

Suspects Arrested Here Convicted Of Murder In S.C.

Two Charlotte men arrested in Marshall last September were convicted in Greenville County, S.C. on Saturday of first degree murder. The men, Ronnie Howard, 28, and Donna Reotis Weldon, 23, were convicted in the July, 1985 murder of a Vietnamese woman in Greenville.

On Sunday, the two men were sentenced to be executed on Oct. 17. They both face several other murder trials in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia and are under investigation in connection with a series of murders in Maryland.

The two men also face other charges of armed robbery and bank robbery in several states. They were also indicted by the Madison County grand jury last October on charges of carrying weapons of mass destruction.

The pair were arrested last September by Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder in front of the Madison County Court House. Sheriff Ponder apprehended the men without incident following a tip provided by deputy Frank Ogle. At the time, police were seeking the pair for the robbery of a Pizza Hut restaurant on Patton Ave. in Asheville.

Sheriff Ponder recovered the money taken in the robbery and several shotguns and ammunition following a search of the stolen car the suspects were driving.

Illinois Man Is Charged With Attempted Murder

By ROBERT KOENIG

A 31-year old Illinois man was arrested and charged with two counts of attempted murder Tuesday in connection with a burned-out Cadillac found on U.S. 25-70.

James K. McElfresh, 31, of Woodland, Ill. was charged with the attempted murder of two Brunswick, Ga. residents, Gail Broady Young, 31, and Roy S. Mitchell, 38. The two victims were passengers in the 1973 Cadillac allegedly driven by the suspect.

Young was taken by ambulance to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville shortly after the car was discovered about 4 a.m. on Tuesday. She was later taken to the Burn Center in Chapel Hill suffering from third degree burns over much of her body. The other passenger, Roy Mitchell, was not seriously injured in the incident.

Mitchell identified the suspect and told police that he was sleeping in the back seat of the Cadillac at the time it left the road. He said that he awoke to find flames in the car and heard the suspect on the road above say, "It's done."

Young gave a statement to Buncombe County police while at Memorial Mission Hospital also implicating McElfresh.

Mitchell alleges that the attempted murder was ordered by a Georgia man who had taken out several life insurance policies on both himself and Young. Mitchell was unable to give police information regarding the amounts of the insurance policies, but did provide the name of the man he says

purchased the insurance. No other arrests in the case were reported as of Wednesday morning.

Mitchell told Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder that he, Young and McElfresh had traveled together from Georgia. They had stayed at a Greeneville, Tenn. motel on Sunday where they were questioned by Greeneville police.

McElfresh told Sheriff Ponder that he was not with the car at the time it left U.S. 25-70 east of the Old Mill Wheel. He said he was afraid of Mitchell after learning he had previously been convicted of manslaughter in Georgia and decided to leave both Mitchell and Young.

The suspect maintains that he abandoned the Cadillac with both Mitchell and Young inside asleep at a service station near Greeneville and hitchhiked to Madison County. McElfresh said he received a ride from a man in a black car who left him near Hot Springs. He then spent the night in the woods and walked into town at daybreak for breakfast.

McElfresh was apprehended by Hot Springs Police officer Johnny Barrett at about 8 a.m. after police had taken statements from both Mitchell and Young. He was later transported to the scene of the incident by sheriff's deputy Japser Treadway where he was identified by Mitchell and placed under arrest.

A bond hearing was scheduled for Wednesday in Marshall.

Gail Young was listed in fair condition Wednesday morning at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill.



WORKMAN BLASTS OLD PAINT FROM county courthouse cupola. Restoration of the landmark continues as work on the courtroom is completed.

Commissioners Approve School Board Budget

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Madison County Board of Commissioners met in special session Monday to work out final details of the county's 1986-87 budget. Complete details of the proposed budget will be made public at a hearing tomorrow at 3 p.m.

The commissioners agreed to allocate \$700,000 for the Madison County Board of Education during Monday's session. The school board had requested \$1,566,191 in the upcoming fiscal year. In addition to the \$700,000 in county funding, local schools are also expected to receive some \$160,000 in capital funds through the half-cent sales tax. The commissioners will once again provide 40 percent of the half-cent tax, the minimum required by law.

The commissioners also met briefly with School Superintendent Robert L. Edwards concerning plans to relocate the Board of Education offices.

Edwards presented the commissioners with a letter asking for a postponement of the planned relocation until Sept. 1. In his letter, the school superintendent stated that preparations for the upcoming school year will occupy his staff's time throughout the summer months. Edwards also expressed concern that relocating the school system's com-

puter at the present time might cause the loss of important data stored in memory banks.

Plans call for the Board of Education to relocate into courthouse offices formerly occupied by the county tax supervisor's office. The tax supervisor's office would then be moved into the Board of Education's first-floor offices. In his letter, Edwards termed the third floor offices as "inadequate for our purposes" and suggested that other alternatives be pursued as long-term solutions to the problem. Board of Education offices are currently housed in several buildings in Marshall and Walnut.

Edwards suggested the county might consider purchasing the building which houses Dodson's Grocery or a parcel of land on the Marshall Bypass.

The commissioners did not approve Edward's request for a postponement until Sept. 1, but suggested that the computer could remain in the first-floor office until state personnel from Raleigh could assist in moving the computer upstairs.

Edwards also provided the commissioners with an updated financial statement indicating that the school system would carry over some \$11,895 from the current year's budget. Edwards also told the commissioners that the school board

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Weaverville Council Drops Plan To Extend Zoning

By ROBERT KOENIG

A standing-room-only crowd greeted Weaverville's Town Council at Monday night's monthly meeting in Town Hall. Most of the audience consisted of area residents concerned by a proposal to extend the town's zoning jurisdiction one mile beyond the town limits. The council had conducted a public hearing on June 9 concerning the proposal and was to vote on the extraterritorial jurisdiction question during Monday's meeting.

The proposal would have allowed Weaverville officials to set zoning restrictions on property within one mile of the town's present limits. Both Marshall and Mars Hill currently exercise similar controls. However, many of those attending Monday's hearing believed that the proposal was a first step toward the annexation of their property by the town.

Mayor Ross Lasher assured the residents that the extraterritorial jurisdiction proposal was not a step toward annexation. Lasher said the town has no plans in the foreseeable future to annex any territory. "We don't have enough water for what we

have now," the mayor said, adding that he expected it would take five years for the town to develop additional water sources.

Town attorney Bill Barnes said that extraterritorial jurisdiction proposal was necessary to maintain Weaverville's quality of life, and was not a move to annex additional territory.

Former town attorney Forrest Ball opposed the proposal, saying that residents outside the town limits would have little input in regulations that would affect their property.

Many other residents spoke out against the proposal before Lasher cut off the discussion and called for a vote on the question. Lasher asked for a motion to provide the extraterritorial jurisdiction, but councilman David Lankford instead said he opposed the proposal and made a motion to drop the proposal. Lankford's motion passed by a 3-2 margin when councilmen Harold Payne and Bud Bell also voted to drop the proposal. Council members Kathleen Young and Bernice Keadler voted for the proposal.

Monday's meeting opened with an award presentation to a Weaverville

Middle School student. Mayor Lasher presented a plaque to Anthony Davis for bravery and service to the community. On May 22, Davis assisted Weaverville police in the capture of a housebreaking suspect. Police officials said that the suspect later confessed to nine other break-ins in the area.

The council unanimously approved the voluntary annexation of the former E.B. Proffitt property on Dula Springs Rd. The owners of the Speedway Food Mart located on the property had requested the annexation. The council also gave unanimous approval to a motion to study the feasibility of a joint project with the North Buncombe Optimists Club to develop town property on E. Main St. and near Lake Louise for recreation purposes. The Optimists have expressed interest in creating a public park on property located next to the Weaverville post office.

The council also approved an agreement with former town manager Larry Sprinkle that settles a breach of contract dispute arising from Sprinkle's dismissal earlier this year. The former town manager

asserted that he had a two-year contract with the former town administration.

The present council declared Sprinkle's contract null and void last Dec. 18 and dismissed the former town manager on Jan. 31. Sprinkle will be paid \$7,500 to settle his claim against the town and town officials. The agreement and budget amendment providing the funds were approved without opposition.

Board of Adjustment member Robert Dreibeis delivered a report on his committee's study of the Buckner property on South Weaver Blvd. Last month, developers and attorneys interested in building a Food Lion supermarket on the property asked the Town Council to reconsider a request to rezone the property to allow commercial development.

After Asheville attorney Bruce Elmore presented postcards from a survey of area residents supporting the proposed supermarket, Mayor Lasher referred the question to the Board of Adjustment for consideration.

Dreibeis told the council that his committee studied the South Weaver

PROPOSED BUDGET 1986-87 TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE	
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.....	\$73,577
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	2,300
POLICE DEPARTMENT.....	132,789
FIRE DEPARTMENT.....	65,350
STREETS DEPARTMENT.....	115,332
SANITATION.....	117,202
RECREATION.....	20,468
LIBRARY.....	3,000
UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS.....	60,935
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.....	55,585
TOTAL.....	\$700,319

Blvd. property and surrounding area, including Moore St. and Sherwood Dr. and recommended that the entire area be rezoned as R-2, for multi-family housing, rather than as commercial zoning. Dreibeis said the Board of Adjustment would encourage the stability of the neighborhood.

The council scheduled a July 3 public hearing on the rezoning proposal. The hearing will begin at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.