

Community Calendar

Mars Hill VFD Auto Show Set

The annual Mars Hill auto show will be held July 26 and 27 at the Mars Hill Elementary School stadium. The event sponsored by the Mars Hill Volunteer Fire Dept. will also feature a Saturday night gospel singing beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday dinner will be served from noon until 2 p.m. Proceeds from the show will benefit the fire company.

Davis Family Reunion July 27

Descendants of Garfield and Susie Rice Davis will hold their family reunion on July 27 at noon at the Old Mill Wheel on Laurel River. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish.

Slagle Family Reunion Planned

The Slagle family reunion will be held on July 27 at the Beech Glen Community Center (old Beech Glen School) beginning at 11 a.m. All family members and friends are invited to attend.

Broyhill To Tour County July 25

Senator James Broyhill will tour Madison County towns on July 25. Sen. Broyhill will tour Marshall from 2 until 4 p.m. and will visit Mars Hill from 4 until 6 p.m.

The Madison County Republican Party will sponsor a Jim Broyhill Appreciation Dinner at Madison H.S. on July 25 beginning at 7:30 p.m. All county residents are invited to attend the dinner.

Sierra Club Meets July 24

The Sierra Club will meet on July 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville. LaRue Bolick of Quality Forward will discuss how recycling can extend the life of landfills. The public is invited to attend.

Neighbors In Need Resumes Regular Office Hours

Neighbors In Need will resume its regular weekly office hours beginning July 15 at the Marshall Presbyterian Church between the hours of 1:30 and 3 p.m. Applications for assistance will be taken by volunteers at that time.

Adopt-A-Pet Day Planned In Mars Hill Saturday



Conner Homes Homes in Mars Hill will sponsor Adopt-A-Pet Day this Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Big Branch Rd. location. The adoption day is being sponsored with the Mitchell County Animal Rescue League.

Homeless dogs and cats will be available for adoption for a \$5 fee which includes the animal's first set of shots and deworming. Participants will also receive a certificate good for a discount on the second set of shots and neutering.

FBEMC Plans Sunday Blackout

Repairs Will Cause Power Loss

Much of Madison County will be without electrical power for up to four hours Sunday while crews repair a transmission line serving the Marshall substation.

French Broad Electric Membership Corp. officials have announced that power will be shut off from 1 until 5 p.m. on July 20 while crews make the needed repairs.

Residents of Walnut Creek, Grapevine, Ammons Branch, Little Pine, Big Pine, Walnut Spring Creek, Sho-In, Cutchall Town, Revere, Guntertown, Spillars and a portion of East Park will be without power for the full four hours needed to make the repairs.

In addition, Marshall residents and those living on the Marshall-by-pass, Hayes' Run, Bull Creek and Laurel Branch may be without power temporarily while their lead is transferred to another substation.

FBEMC officials advise residents to protect their freezer and refrigerators during the power outage. Food stored in the freezer will remain frozen the longest hours if the freezer is not opened. Officials recommended leaving freezers closed and only opening refrigerators when absolutely necessary throughout the outage.

Commissioners Approve Half-Cent Sales Tax

Schools To Receive \$450,000 For Construction

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Madison County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved a one-half cent increase in the sales tax Monday during a special meeting. The commissioners also voted to earmark proceeds from the half-cent increase for the county's schools.

The measure was passed without opposition on a motion presented by Virginia Anderson of Hot Springs.

The local option tax was approved by the General Assembly in Raleigh on June 25. The bill allows counties to impose an additional half-cent sales tax in order to fund capital improvements to schools. A similar bill was approved during the 1984 short session of the legislature.

The 1984 local option tax mandated that 40 percent of tax receipts be used for school capital construction. The 1986 bill also provides that at least 60 percent of tax receipts be used for school construction.

On Monday, however, the county commissioners went the bill one step better by approving full allocation of the receipts for capital improvements.

County commission chairman James Ledford told The News Record, "We are glad to be able to take this step. We hope that the Board of Education will use these funds wisely to improve our schools."

An estimate prepared by the North Carolina School Board Association states that Madison County will receive some \$450,950 in revenues during the first year the additional half-cent is collected. The Madison County Board of Education cur-



WORKERS REPLACE 59-YEAR OLD ROOF on Marshall Elementary School last week. Passage of additional half-cent sales tax will make other improvements to county schools possible.

rently receives about \$160,000 per year from the half-cent tax first imposed in 1984. The 40-percent allocation from the 1984 half-cent tax was unchanged by Monday's decision.

The increase in the local sales tax should give the Madison County Board of Education some \$610,000 for capital improvements in the next year.

The increase in the local sales tax is to become effective on September 1.

School superintendent Robert L. Edwards was pleased with the county commissioners decision. Edwards said that the

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County Workers To Receive Five Percent Raise

Surplus funds from the 1985-86 budget will be used to give Madison County employees a five percent pay raise effective immediately. The county commissioners approved the pay increase Monday during a special meeting in the county courthouse.

County finance officer David Caldwell reported that the county had a surplus of some \$35,000 remaining from the past year's budget. The surplus funds will be put into county employees' salaries. Commissioner Ervin Adams made the motion to approve the pay increase. Adams' motion was seconded by Virginia Anderson and was passed unanimously.

Earlier, the commissioners approved a \$7.8 million county budget that included no pay raise for county employees. The pay raises will not apply to Tax Collector Harold Wallin, Sheriff E.Y. Ponder or Register of Deeds Jena Lee Buckner.

The pay increases were to take effect July 1 according to Caldwell.

In other business, the commissioners met with Taylor Barnhill and Faye Boone of Beech Glen concerning the Greater Ivy Senior Citizen Meal Site. Members of the Greater Ivy Community Development Club are interested in operating the meal site with volunteers. The county commissioners voted to close the meal site on July 1.

The board also voted to approve a contract for construction of an addition to the Hot Springs Senior Citizens' Center.

The commissioners also met with Mars Hill architect Wayne Roberts concerning the on-going repairs to the county courthouse. The board approved a contract with Carolina Comfort Heating and Cooling for installation of air conditioning on the second and third floors of the courthouse. Total cost of the contract is \$17,222.

The commissioners have also scheduled a special meeting for July 28 at 1 p.m. in the county courthouse.

Friday Night Dance Planned

The Marshall Recreation Center Committee will sponsor a dance tomorrow night at the center. The rock band Hard Knocks will perform. Admission is \$3 each, \$5 for couples. Doors open at 8 p.m.

Marshall Enjoys Budget Surplus

Marshall's aldermen heard some good financial news Monday night at their monthly meeting in Town Hall. Town secretary Linda Dodson delivered the town's financial report and told the board members that the town had an unexpected surplus at the close of the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Although the monthly computer report did not include last-minute budget amendments, Dodson said that the General Fund balance would show a nine percent surplus at the close of the fiscal year. Dodson told the aldermen, "It does look much better than it did a year ago," referring to some \$33,126 remaining from last year's budget.

Increased tax revenues and the improved financial condition of the town's Water and Sewer Fund accounted for most of the surplus.

The surplus and the additional tax revenues from the French Broad EMC accounted for most of the increased tax revenues. The opening of the Capitola Dam raised the electric

cooperative's tax liability considerably, records indicate.

In 1984, FBEMC paid taxes totalling \$1,113.53. With the addition of the Capitola Dam, FBEMC's tax liability rose to \$28,343.18.

Discoveries of past due taxes also accounted for a smaller portion of the increased tax revenues, Dodson said.

Madison County Housing Authority director Sam Parker reported to the aldermen concerning the Island Rd. rehabilitation project and sewer improvements on Cody Rd. and Candler Dr.

Parker said that the Island Rd. project is near completion. He said that two house demolitions must still be completed, along with a final clean-up.

Parker estimated that the project could be completed for about \$3,000 less than was originally budgeted. He also said that basement problems on the Cody Rd. Candler Dr. project had delayed work on the sewer line installation, but that the problems

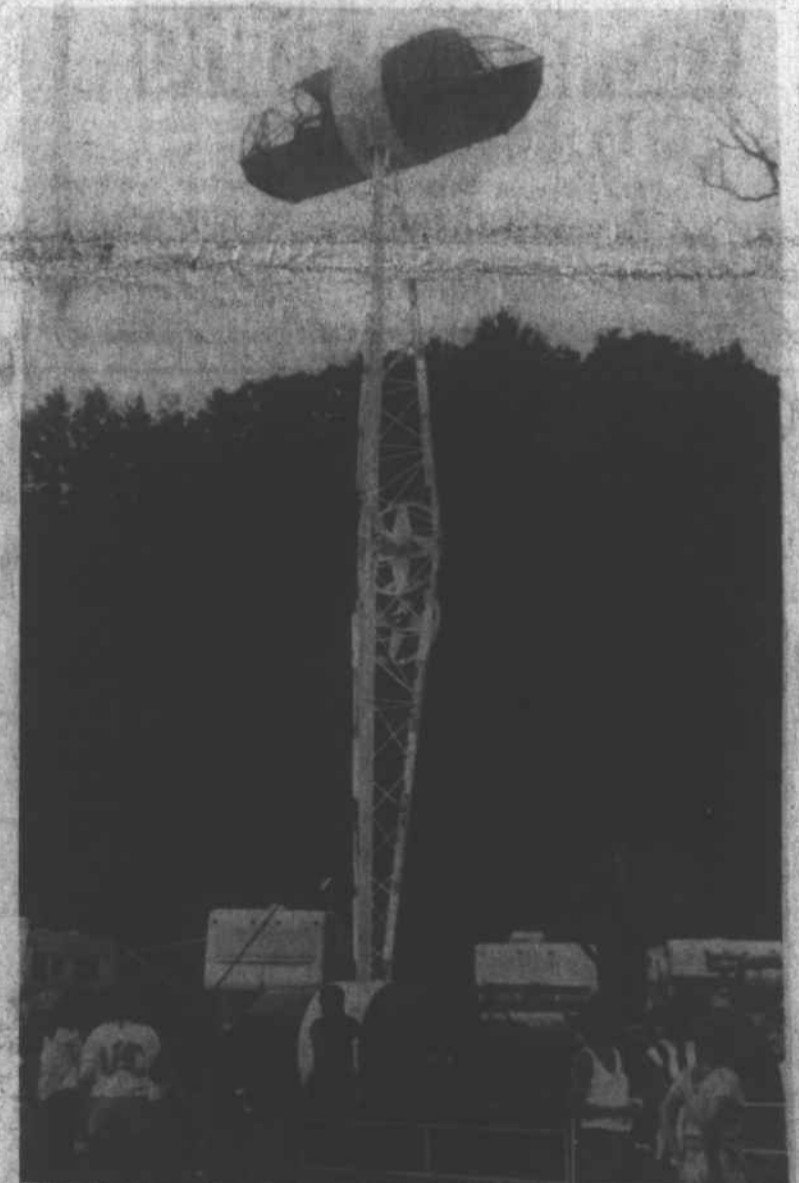
have been overcome.

Parker is expected to meet with the board of aldermen and members of the town's planning board to discuss residents' objections to the project design later this week.

Angie Simpson reported to the aldermen on the operation of the swimming pool. Simpson said that she has encountered a number of problems, but things were generally running well.

She said that the diving board had been broken, but would be replaced thanks to assistance from Zeno Ponder who contributed \$297 for the replacement. Simpson also thanked John Messer for repairing showers and toilets and Sammy Lunford for helping repair a broken fiber pump.

The recreation center committee is planning a series of dances at the center to raise funds for further improvements, she said. The first such dance will be held tomorrow night beginning at 8 p.m. Simpson said that the water's high



HUNDREDS ATTENDED CARNIVAL on Blannerhasset Island last week. Five-day event was sponsored by the Marshall VFD.

iron content accounted for the pool's unclean appearance, but that county Health Dept. director Ed Morton had inspected the water quality several times and pronounced the water safe for swimming.

Main Street businessman George Penland came before the board with several complaints regarding the town's police and water services. Penland also asked the board to enforce the two-hour parking limit on Main Street, saying that lack of adequate parking was hurting Marshall merchants.

Penland complained that police were not adequately patrolling the downtown business district. He told the aldermen, "If you need a policeman, you'd be better off calling Buncombe County. This is the worst police department I've seen in 37 years."

Penland complained that four-time employee was occupying parking spaces on Main Street, and

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