

**Mars Hill, Hot Springs Ask
Voluntary Water Conservation**
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Community Calendar

Lions Softball Tournery Set

The Marshall Lions Club will sponsor men's and women's softball tournaments beginning on Aug. 18 on Blannerhasset Island in Marshall. The tournament will feature a double-elimination format to determine champions.

For more information or entry forms, contact Clyde Hagan at First Citizens Bank 649-2245 or Roy Reeves at 649-2011.

Marshall H.S. Class Of 1966 Reunion

The Marshall High School class of 1966 will hold their reunion on August 9 beginning at 6 p.m. on the Island in Marshall. For more information call 649-2814 or 649-3740.

Marshall Aldermen Meet Monday

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on Aug. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hal.

Sanford To Address Breakfast

Former Gov. Terry Sanford, the Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate, will attend a Democratic Unity breakfast at Madison H.S. on Aug. 30. Breakfast will be served beginning at 8 a.m.

American Legion To Meet Tonight

American Legion Post No. 317 in Marshall will hold its monthly meeting on Aug. 7 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall on Gudger St. All members are urged to attend.

Optimists Meet Tonight At 7 P.M.

The Madison Central Optimists Club will meet tonight at 7 p.m. at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall Bypass. All members are asked to attend.

Briggs Family Reunion Planned

The Rev. G. W. Briggs family reunion will be held August 10 beginning at noon in the Oak Grove Fellowship Building. All descendants and friends are invited to attend and bring a covered dish.

Coates Family Reunion On Sunday

The Coates family reunion will be held on Aug. 10 at the Reems' Creek Wildlife Club near Weaverville. Lunch will be served beginning at 12:30 p.m. All family and friends are invited to attend.

Griffin Family Reunion On Aug. 24

The Griffin family reunion will be held on Aug. 24 at the Mars Hill Elementary School. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria at 1 p.m. All family members and friends are invited to attend and bring along a picnic lunch.

Depot Rescue Meeting Set

There will be a meeting on August 15 at 7 p.m. in the Madison County Court House to discuss saving the Marshall train depot. All interested persons are invited to attend.

County To Computerize Tax Listings, Revaluation

By ROBERT KOENIG

Madison County commissioners approved a \$254,710 contract to computerize county taxes Monday during their regular monthly meeting. The contract includes \$131,000 for the upcoming property revaluation.

Tax Management Associates, Inc. of Charlotte was chosen to coordinate the revaluation and will also install an IBM computer for tax listings, billings, collections and real estate appraisals. The contract approved Monday calls for the company to install a computer with five terminals in tax offices in the county courthouse. The package also includes a printer for preparing tax bills and necessary software. The company will also train county employees to operate the new system.

Mike Cook, president of the company, attended Monday's meeting. Cook told the commissioners that the computer equipment will be installed in September. Work on property revaluation will also begin on Sept. 1 according to the terms of the contract. The revaluation process is to be completed by Nov. 1, 1988. Hearings on revaluation are scheduled to begin in July, 1988.

The contract states that all county property is to be valued at 100 percent of its market value as of January 1, 1989. The contract was unanimously approved on a motion by Virginia Anderson.

Prior to the regular monthly meeting, the commissioners conducted a brief public hearing on a proposal to increase the sales tax one-half cent. Earlier, the commissioners

voted to increase the tax and earmark proceeds to the Madison County Board of Education. The tax is expected to provide and additional \$450,000 annually to fund school construction.

No one attending Monday's meeting spoke for or against the proposal and the commissioners voted once again to increase the tax and give 100 percent of the proceeds to local schools. The new tax will take effect on Oct. 1.

Fire District Vote Set

The commissioners also set Oct. 4 for a special fire district tax vote in Townships 2 and 11. The Laurel Fire District vote will be conducted by the Madison County Board of Elections.

Housing Authority Board Appointed

The commissioners also expanded the Madison County Housing Authority from five to nine members. New members appointed to the board were Joe Justice, Richard Kingston, Taylor Barnhill, Ron McBride and Garland Adams. They will join current board members Maynard Cody, Don Anderson, Garland Woody and chairman Emery Wallin.

Water, Sewer Funds Transferred

The commissioners also approved resolutions transferring county clean water and waste water funds to the towns of Marshall, Mars Hill and Hot Springs. The funds are to come from state funds allocated by the General Assembly to the county.

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MARSHALL RAILROAD DEPOT WILL SOON FACE the wrecking ball if a new home for the building can't be found. An Aug. 15 meeting in the county courthouse has been planned to discuss ways of preserving the historic station.

Jury Near Complete For Rios Trial

Jury selection neared completion Tuesday for the first degree murder trial of Jimmy Dean Rios. Ten jurors were accepted by the defense and prosecution attorneys during Tuesday's session in the Henderson County Superior Court. Two more jurors and two alternates have yet to be selected.

Rios is charged with the murder of State Trooper R.L. Coggins in September of last year. His trial was ordered moved from Madison County

to Hendersonville after defense lawyers convinced Superior Court Judge Mary Pope that Rios could not receive a fair trial in Marshall.

Earlier this year, a Buncombe County jury convicted William Bray of murder in connection with the trooper's death. Bray and Rios were escaped prisoners from an Arkansas jail at the time of their capture on Sept. 17, 1985.

Bray has been brought to Craggy

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Mitchell Steps Down At Wolf Laurel

By WILLIAM LEE

Under pressure from the stockholders of Bald Mountain Development Corp., Fondren Mitchell tendered his resignation from the Board of Directors over the weekend.

Mitchell volunteered his resignation from the board and as its director, Saturday, stating reasons of age. Removed as General Manager of Wolf Laurel Resort four weeks ago, the 72-year old Mitchell has been in failing health of recent years and felt he could no longer serve the Bald Mountain Development Corp.

Mitchell will still retain his 31 percent interest in Bald Mountain Development as prospective buyers are still being courted.

"The day-to-day management of Wolf Laurel is trying enough on a

young man, especially under the difficult circumstances that have befallen us," said Joe Earman, interim General Manager, in a plea to let any ill-feelings between property owners and Mitchell be put to rest.

"He has been very co-operative with me in making the transition in management easier. Any records, even correspondences have been made available."

The Board of Directors named N.B. Riles to serve as Interim President and Herold Bellamy to serve as Interim Director until the annual stockholders meeting on Aug. 14.

Although it has been a tough road to pave for Wolf Laurel, the resort development seems to now be headed on the right course again with Earman claiming its assets finally exceeding liabilities.

"Our current assets exceed liabilities by three to one," Earman said. "We are internally solvent and all bills have been paid."

Earman said the development now has in excess of \$200,000 in money market accounts, achieved by "reshuffling proper accounts."

"We sold some assets and collected a number of past debts and managed to pull it together," Earman said, adding that the resort has doubled or, in some instances, tripled its revenues from the restaurant, hotel and golf course through incentives and specials "to get the property owners out there in abundance."

Its sudden about-face, however, does not keep a \$900,000 loan from Household Finance Corp. Commercial Realty, Inc. from staring down at Wolf Laurel. Earman said the loan

company has agreed to an unlimited extension of the variable rate loan, currently paying out at 10.5 percent interest and fixed at two percent over current prime rate.

"They have been willing to extend the loan until the Mountain can be sold, quite willing to continue collecting their interest payment," said Earman.

The stockholders continue the search for prospective buyers. However, Earman feels the resort is now in good enough financial shape that even if not sold the ski slopes can still be opened for ski season this year.

"We are going to make this a premier resort and a viable and solvent company in the process. We had a problem and that problem is 95 percent solved," said Earman.

Weaverville Primary School Replacement Is Promised

School Board Declares Emergency, Promises Action

By ROBERT KOENIG

Several hundred Weaverville parents crammed into the lunchroom of the Weaverville Primary School on Monday night to hear of plans for replacing the aging facility. Sitting in chairs normally used by their children, the parents listened as the Buncombe County Board of Education promised to give construction of a new school top priority.

Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher called for the special meeting to address the parents' concerns for the safety of their children. The school was condemned in June following release of an engineer's study of the 65-year old school.

School board member Marshall Roberts explained the problems to the standing-room-only audience of parents. An architect, Roberts is the North Buncombe representative on the school board.

Roberts said the school, the oldest in Buncombe County, was constructed in 1921 without plans provided by a professional engineer. The wooden truss support system in the building's roof is inadequate and poses a potential safety hazard, he said.

The roof design in the building has a load-bearing capacity of only five pounds per sq. ft. Current state law requires a load-bearing capacity of 30 pounds per sq. ft. "The old wooden trusses were inadequately designed and installed," Roberts said. "It started with an inadequate design and just got worse."

A 1979 study of the building uncovered the structural problem, but board members maintain that engineers approved continued use of the building until this past June, when an engineering study recommended condemnation of the school's upper two floors. At Roberts' suggestion, the school board voted to condemn the entire building.

School board chairman Vernon Dover told the Weaverville parents that the board is preparing to sell off a 22-acre parcel of land in the Woodland Hills section to finance construction of a replacement school for Weaverville.

Dover cautioned, however, that proceeds from the land sale would not be enough to finance construction of a new school. He said he expects the school board would have to ask Buncombe County commissioners to approve addi-

tional funding. Dover said that the board expected to begin work on the project immediately and would hire an architect to design the new school at the board's next meeting.

Roberts said that replacement of the school was twelfth on the school board's list of priorities prior to the June condemnation. At that time, the replacement project was moved to fifth on the priority list. Roberts went on to tell the parents, "I think we are now ready to move this up to a number one priority."

This suggestion didn't sit well with Owen District board member Wendell Begley. Replacement of Owen H.S. is currently the board's top priority. After hearing Begley's objections, Roberts moved that the school board declare the Weaverville Primary School an emergency situation and seek funding from the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

Funding the project on an emergency basis, Roberts said, would not affect Owen High School's standing as the board's top priority on the planned construction schedule.

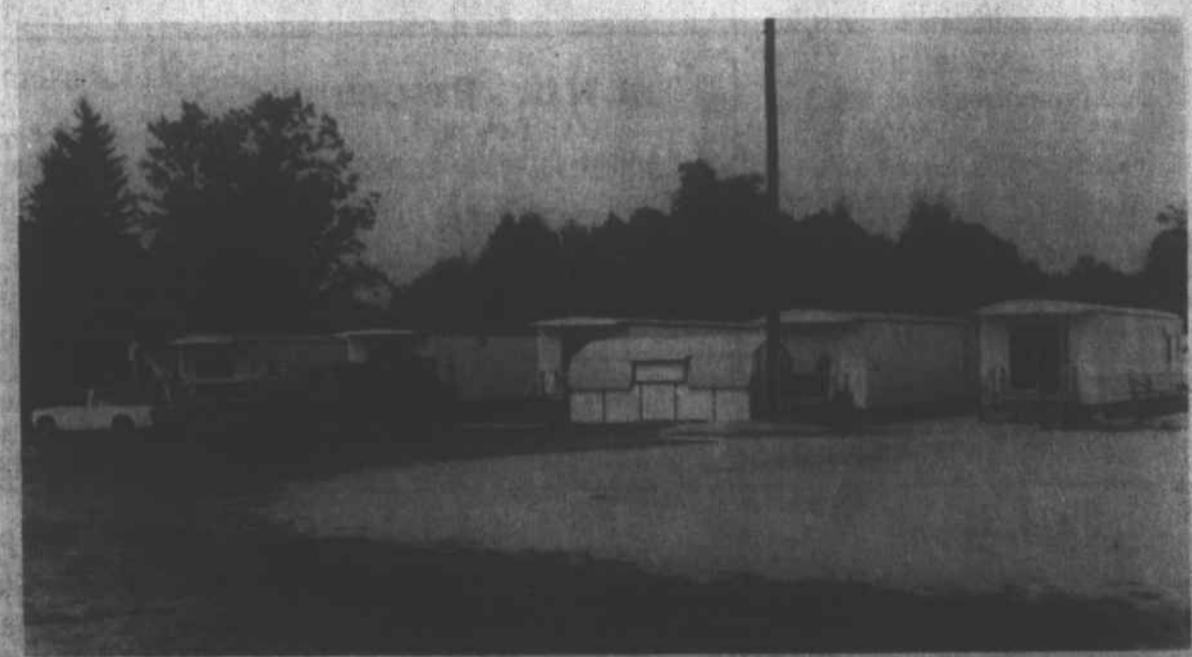
School board chairman Vernon Dover also said that the school board is preparing a bond package to present to the county commissioners and that construction funds for Weaverville Primary might be included in such a package. Dover said, however, that a vote on the proposed bond referendum might not be held before next spring.

Plans call for Weaverville students to be housed in temporary trailers that have been installed on the school grounds. At the monthly Town Council meeting in June, Mayor Lasher disclosed that several of the trailers failed to meet requirements of the town's fire code.

Following the board members' discussion, the meeting was opened to questions from parents in the audience. A number of parents expressed dissatisfaction with the interim plan.

Several parents, including Jane Lasher and Sandra Sharpe, expressed disappointment that covered walkways linking the classrooms could not be installed. A number of other parents were concerned that air conditioning and heating in the trailers would be adequate.

Dover asked if the children and teachers could be made comfortable in the trailers. Marshall Roberts responded, saying, "The answer is no. Your kids aren't



WORKMEN PREPARE TRAILERS AT WEAVERVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Fourth grade classes at the school will be housed in the trailer during the upcoming school year. Parents learned details of the plan at Monday night meeting in Weaverville.

going to be comfortable, but to make the situation better, we're going to have to go through some inconvenience."

The lack of recreation facilities at the school was also a topic of many parents' questions. With the condemnation of the school's main building, Weaverville Primary students will not have an indoor gymnasium. Playground equipment at the school was moved out in order to make room for the trailers and the only facility remaining is a baseball field in front of the school.

In response to a question posed by Marilyn Ball, board chairman Dover said the board would look into returning the playground equipment.

Weaverville officials have offered the use of an 11-acre site on Main Street as a temporary recreation facility,

but say that \$25,000 would be needed to clear the land behind the Weaverville Post Office. Dover said the school board could not accept the offer because the school board is prohibited from making improvements to property that is not owned outright by the school system.

Plans call for the school's fourth grade students to be housed in the trailers. The school's principal said that a third grade class may also be housed in the trailers which were formerly used at Enka H.S.

School board members declined to set a timetable for replacing the school during Monday's meeting, but Dover said the parents, "I would hope that we would have an answer for you at our September meeting."