

Community Calendar

Alderman Meeting Re-scheduled

The meeting of the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Hot Springs, originally scheduled for September 1, has been changed to September 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Women Voters Meet

There will be a meeting of the newly-formed Madison County unit of The League of Women Voters on September 3, at 4 p.m., at the Baird House, 121 S. Main Street, Mars Hill. New members are welcome. For more information contact Judy McLeod at 689-4815 or Yvette Wessel at 689-5722.

Democrats Sponsor Breakfast

The Madison County Democrat Party is sponsoring a free breakfast at Madison High School on August 30 at 7:30 a.m. Former Governor Terry Sanford and former Senator Jamie Clarke will be the keynote speakers. Everyone is invited to attend.

Fisher-Fox Family Reunion

The Fisher-Fox family reunion will be held August 31 beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Long Branch Baptist Church. All descendants of William E. and Harriet F. Fisher are encouraged to attend.

Democrats Meet

The Madison County Democratic Women will meet at 7 p.m. on September 2 at the Mars Hill Steakhouse. The annual convention of the N. C. Democratic Women will be held in Wilmington from September 20-21. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to attend the convention.

Towns Discuss Mutual Water Supply

Officials representing Marshall, Mars Hill, Weaverville and Woodfin met together last Thursday night to discuss possible water sources to serve all four towns.

Marshall Mayor Anita Ward called the special meeting and presided at Thursday's hearing. Among the visiting officials were Mars Hill Mayor Owen Tilson, aldermen John Chandler and Grady Worley, Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher and town manager Charles Horne and Woodfin Water District board members Charles Anderson and Hugh Robinson.

The officials heard from Larry A. New and John McMichael of Vaughn and Melton Engineers of Asheville. New and McMichael have been studying the possible use of the Hunter Creek dam as a water source.

New told the meeting that Marshall is under an order from federal officials to either restore the abandoned dam or breach it. New said that breaching the dam would cost an estimated \$200,000, while repairing the dam to meet federal standards would cost about \$400,000.

New suggested that restoring and using the dam might be a more

economical choice, particularly if additional customers could make use of Hunter Creek as a water source. He said that the cost of constructing a water treatment plant at Hunter Creek and installing lines to serve Weaverville, Woodfin and Mars Hill could approach \$5 million.

Questioned by officials from Mars Hill and Weaverville, New said that the Hunter Creek dam, restored to a height of 45 feet, could provide a capacity of about 100 million gallons. The engineer also said that the system could be operated on gravity flow due to the elevation of the abandoned dam.

Hunter Creek dam is located at an elevation of 2,500 feet above sea level according to topographical maps presented at the meeting. Mars Hill is at an elevation of 2,325 feet, Weaverville at 2,176 and Woodfin is 2,179 feet above sea level. Marshall's Main Street is at an elevation of about 1,800 feet above sea level.

Earlier this year, Mars Hill, Weaverville and Woodfin approved a joint project to fund a feasibility study of the Ivy River as a potential

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Rios Found Guilty; Receives Life Sentence

By ROBERT KOENIG

HENDERSONVILLE- A Henderson County jury convicted Jimmy Dean Rios of first degree murder last Thursday morning. Rios was also found guilty of larceny, armed robbery, and felonious breaking, entering and larceny.

After six hours of deliberation on Wednesday, the panel of seven men and five women needed only 45 minutes to deliver the verdict on Thursday morning.

On Friday, the same jury unanimously decided to spare Rios' life and handed down a life sentence. The jury required only two hours' deliberation to arrive at their sentencing recommendation.

Late Friday night, Superior Court Judge Mary McGloughlin Pope concluded the three-week trial by sentencing Rios to an additional 60 years for his convictions on charges of armed robbery, breaking, entering and larceny and felonious larceny. Pope ordered that the sentences be served consecutively, making Rios ineligible for parole for more than 30 years. Each of the sentences for the lesser offenses was the maximum allowed by law.

Prosecutors had sought the death penalty for Rios for his role in the murder of State Highway Patrol Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins last Sept. 14 at the Vann Cliffs overlook near Hot Springs.

On Thursday, Rios showed no emotion as the verdict was read aloud in the courtroom. He stared ahead blankly and turned pale as the individual jurors were polled as to their verdict. Members of Rios' family and a single female juror cried as the guilty verdict was announced.

Judge Pope began the sentencing phase of the trial immediately after the jury delivered its verdict on Thursday morning. Family members, friends and an Asheville-based psychologist testified during the sentencing phase of the trial.

Dr. David Dorr, a clinical psychologist, said Rios was a talented artist and an excellent candidate for rehabilitation. Dorr told the court that Rios suffered from a mild personality disorder. See related story.

Rios' wife, Cherry Bales Rios, mother and brothers also testified during the sentencing hearing. Defense attorney Forrest Ball also introduced a letter written by Rios to DA Tom Rusher last May. In the letter, Rios offered to testify against co-defendant William R. Bray. Rusher declined Rios' offer to testify.

Friday's sentencing completed the three-week trial which began on July 28. Prosecutors and defense attorneys introduced more than 100 pieces of evidence and called some 52 witnesses to testify.

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Rios Profile

Convicted killer Jimmy Dean Rios is a man of several contrasting personalities, according to witnesses who testified at his sentencing hearing last Thursday.

Witnesses called by the defense portrayed the 24-year old Arkansas native as a former exotic dancer in Arkansas nightclubs; a born-again Christian who has studied the original versions of the Bible; a construction worker; a talented artist with a mixed personality disorder and a tender, loving father to a son born out of wedlock.

Members of Rios' family, Madison County residents and an Asheville-based psychologist described the convicted murderer on the day a Henderson County jury convicted him in the murder of Trooper Bobby Lee Coggins.

Clinical psychologist Darwin Dorr examined Rios for two weeks earlier this year and reported his findings during the Thursday afternoon sentencing hearing. Dorr told the court that Rios "suffers from a mixed personality disorder, with passive-aggressive tendencies." Asked to explain his diagnosis by defense attorney Forrest Ball, Dorr replied, "To put it bluntly, he was a mixed-up kid."

Although confused, Dorr said he thought the convicted murderer was "a really good candidate for rehabilitation." In his report on Rios, the psychologist wrote, "I don't believe Jimmy could have fired a shot."

District Attorney Tom Rusher objected to introducing Dorr's conclusion as part of his testimony. After a meeting in Judge Mary Pope's chambers, Dorr's report was introduced as evidence, but the conclusion regarding Rios' ability to fire a gun was deleted.

Under cross-examination by Rusher, Dorr said that he had been hired to test Rios by the convicted killer's defense attorneys. Dorr said, however, that being hired by the defense did not influence his findings.

Rios' mother, Eva Mason, also testified during the sentencing phase of the three-week trial. Mason said her son was "an average boy" who didn't cause her trouble. She said that Rios was deeply affected by the death of his father when he was a teenager.

Dorr's testimony also mentioned that Rios' personality required a strong father figure and that he could be easily led by a strong personality.

The psychologist said that Rios constantly seeks approval and suggested that his employment as an exotic dancer was caused by his search for approval. Rios reportedly made as much as \$1,500 a night in tips for dancing in nightclubs.



Rios' wife, Cherry Bales Rios, was also called to testify during the sentencing hearing. She and Rios were married in a civil ceremony held in the Madison County Jail in March. The couple have an 11-month old son, Rebel Brannon Rios, born two weeks before the Sept. 14 murder at the Vann Cliffs overlook near Hot Springs.

Earlier on Thursday, Mrs. Rios was in tears as the Henderson County jury of seven men and five women pronounced her husband guilty. A composed Mrs. Rios took the stand and smiled at her husband as she began testifying. She described Rios as "a loving father" who played with his son during visits at the Madison County Jail.

Mrs. Rios also told the court that her husband had begun a Bible study group among his fellow prisoners. As she left the stand on Thursday, she smiled at her husband and mouthed the words, "I love you."

Several other Madison County residents told the court of Rios' involvement with a jailhouse ministry at the county jail.

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District Court Held In Marshall

In district court sessions held this week in Madison County most cases were either continued or issued warrants for failure to appear.

A bill of indictment to superior court was handed down against Joel Zimmerman during district court session this week. Zimmerman was charged in the manufacture of a controlled substance. A not guilty verdict was brought in for larceny charges against Edward Chandler.

Judge Phillip Ginn in presiding over the Monday and Tuesday sessions, also allowed a continuance in the larceny, breaking and entering charges against Darrell Justice. Justice is currently in jail, his case delayed until September 15, and will be released pending the securing of a \$3,000 bond.

Judge Ginn held first appearance proceedings in his chambers for Scotty Ray, also accused of breaking and entering, and larceny. That case was also continued until Sept. 15.

Charges of assault on a female and communicating threats were dismissed against Weldon Wild, while Judge Ginn continued Leonard Willis' case until Sept. 15, appointing Forest Ball as Willis' attorney. Willis is charged with aiding and abetting in an assault with a deadly weapon.

A probable cause hearing was also set for Sept. 15 for David Ledford, accused of larceny.

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State Basic Education Plan Outlined

SECOND IN SERIES

By WILLIAM LEE

The North Carolina State Board of Education recently appraised its county and city school systems of its plans to implement a basic education program by September 1987.

While the program guidelines mainly deal with basic curriculum requirements (see part one in back-to-school supplement, August 21), the state has also set standards for just about all other areas of education, right down to recommendations for square foot requirements for classrooms and schools.

Among the state guidelines are the following:

Exceptional children. In providing education for the handicapped learner, the school curriculum will be broken down into four grade levels as it is with other students. Grades K-3 will emphasize motor skill development, language and speech. Grades 4-6 will teach general living skills and beginning academic studies. Grades 7-8 will consolidate further the social and academic skills, while grades 9-12 will provide a basic high school curriculum for the exceptional child.

Student services. For the 1987 school year all school systems will be required to provide pre-school screening, to evaluate incoming students developmental strengths and needs before entering school. Each school system will be required to provide school counseling services for all students, a social studies teacher (one per 1,500 students, or one per county), health services (one nurse

per 3,000 students, or one per county), and a school psychologist (one per 2,000 students, or one per county).

Library-Media Centers. Minimum standards for materials in each school library-media center are established. State guidelines call for a minimum of ten books per student (not including obsolete, badly worn or excessive duplicate materials), 15-30 magazines, 1-2 newspapers, and an appropriate amount of maps, globes, audio-visual aids, as deemed necessary by the local school board.

Promotion standards. The state will continue to require students in grades 3, 6, and 8 to meet minimum testing standards in reading, language and mathematics in order to be promoted. Students scoring below the 25 percentile in the annual testing program will not be promoted. In order to receive a high school diploma students must pass one of three N.C. Competency Tests in math, reading and writing.

School facilities. The state has set guidelines for minimum space requirements for school facilities. Elementary schools must provide at least 90 sq. feet per student, at 400 to 700 students, or 35,000 to 63,000 sq. feet. At the high school level a minimum space allotment of 140 sq. feet per student at 900 to 1,300 students is called for, or a total of 127,000 to 187,000 sq. feet. The state

will now be required to provide for three basic educational programs outside of the regular school program. An In-School Suspension program is now provided for through the state. A remedial and compensatory education program should be established to assist those who do not meet state promotion standards, or those seeking additional academic assistance. An Extended Day Program is also required to serve students, age 16-19, who cannot attend during regular school hours.

The state's basic education program also provides an extensive list of approved textbooks for all courses throughout the grade levels, and provides a suggested list of high school elective courses.



FIFE AND DRUM

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THE NEWS RECORD

will be closed for Labor Day
Monday, September 1

Please observe these special deadlines:

Display Advertising
In Hand by 9:00 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29

Classifieds and Legal Advertising
In Hand by 3:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 29

News Copy
In Hand by 12:00 Noon, Tuesday, Sept. 2