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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Residents of the Hamburg section of Madison County wait for word from authorities after they heard a plane crash into a mountainside Monday afternoon.

Plane Hits Mountains; Witnesses Hear 'Boom'

From Staff Reports
Horace Waldroup of the Hamburg section of Madison County was reading the newspaper when he heard the airplane Monday afternoon.

The craft was obviously in trouble, Waldroup and his neighbors would later say as they gathered at Terry's Fork Church, their eyes scanning the mountainside above where rescue crews were searching for the wreckage of the plane.

Jeffrey Belevich, 25, of Porter, Texas, died when his single-engine Piper slammed upside down into a mountainside on the Buncombe-Madison line at about 3:50 p.m. Monday, spreading wreckage in both counties.

"It was making a real strange noise," Waldroup said. "It even excited my dogs, and they started barking."

Moments later, residents of the Hamburg community in Madison County, and across the ridge in the Poverty Branch section of Buncombe County, heard the crash.

"It was just one big boom," said Harley Honeycutt. "The motor was just going wide open, and then it sounded like a 12-gauge shotgun. It was making a racket before it

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Madison School Merger Debate Rages At Meeting

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

A standing-room-only crowd packed Madison High School Monday night as county school officials listened to two hours of public comment concerning a state recommendation calling for the consolidation of most county schools.

A parade of speakers from Hot Springs, Spring Creek, Laurel and Walnut addressed the Madison County Board of Education during the special meeting, called solely to give board members a chance to hear what the public had to say about the possibility of major changes in the school system.

And the public had quite a bit to say. Most speakers told the school board they are opposed to the recommendations made by the N.C. Division of School Planning - but that's where the agreement ends.

Some residents (Spring Creek, Walnut) said they are committed to keeping a school within their communities, while others (Hot Springs, Spring Creek) said they agree with the idea of consolidation, but not as recommended by state planners. Others (Laurel) said they could accept the state plan with minor changes.

The N.C. Division of School Planning recommended last month that county school officials phase out schools at Hot Springs, Laurel, Marshall and Walnut and construct north of Marshall a consolidated middle school for students in kindergarten through the fifth grade. Schools for K-5 students would be retained at Spring Creek and Mars Hill.

The state also recommended that all county students in grades 6-8 be transferred to a consolidated middle school to be built in Marshall.

During Monday's public hearing, school board Chairman James Baker opened the meeting by warning the

more than 250 people in attendance that he would not tolerate an out-of-control gathering.

"We are all here for the same reason. There are no enemies in this room. At most, there are differences of opinion, and that's healthy," Baker said.

"There are certain remedies available if the meeting gets out of hand. Should that happen, I will adjourn the meeting, get up and walk out," said Baker, an assistant district attorney. "I get paid to argue in the courtroom. I don't want to argue here."

Each of the six school districts - Hot Springs, Laurel, Marshall, Mars Hill, Spring Creek and Walnut - was given 30 minutes to present their views.

School officials say they will take the public's comments into consideration when they adopt a final plan for future school construction. Madison may be eligible for a portion of \$95 million in "critical needs" money. Applications for those funds must be completed next month.

Here's a look at what folks had to say Monday night, broken down by

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Roland Twining of Walnut addresses Madison County school officials about the possible consolidation of several schools in the county.

Reems Creek Golf Club Petitions For Annexation

By R.T. KOENIG
Special to The News Record

Developers of a \$35 million golf club in Reems Creek have petitioned Weaverville officials to annex 90 acres of the club's 200-acre parcel into the town limits. The petition for satellite annexation was made public Monday night during the Weaverville Town Council's monthly meeting.

Town attorney Bill Barnes told council members that the area covered in the proposed annexation would include all subdivisions and

thoroughfares within the Reems Creek Golf Club. The club, located between Union Chapel and Pink Fox Roads, is approximately 1.2 miles from the present town limits.

Barnes explained that only 90 acres of the club's 260 acres are included in the annexation request because state law limits satellite annexations to no more than 10 percent of corporate limits.

The Reems Creek Golf Club is being developed by Kenmore Associates of Hendersonville. Plans

announced last June call for creation of a 6,500-yard gold course, swimming pool, tennis courts and clubhouse. Developers foresee construction of 180 single-family homes and 75 multi-family homes along the gold course.

The town council has set Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. for a public hearing on the proposed annexation. The location of the hearing was not determined during Monday's meeting. Town officials, anticipating a large turnout for the

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North Buncombe Taps McIntyre

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

One look at Thomas K. McIntyre's resume was all North Buncombe High School Principal Ivan Randolph needed to realize he'd found his man.

Randolph selected McIntyre, 53, from 18 candidates to replace Coach Tom Weaver, who stepped down in November with a 15-35 record after five years at North Buncombe.

"We looked at his experience and his previous qualifications," Ran-

dolph said last week. "After reviewing all of the applicants, we felt that Coach McIntyre was the best-qualified of all the applicants."

The Buncombe County Board of Education apparently agreed, giving McIntyre the stamp of approval last Thursday.

McIntyre, who will also serve as athletic director, will assume the reigns of a struggling football program, coming off its second consecutive 1-9 season.

"I hope we can see a winning record in 1988. I don't have a five-year plan; I've got a one-year contract," he said.

"I don't like losing. I think football ought to be fun. Winning is fun. Losing is hell, and I don't want any part of it," he said.

McIntyre's credentials show that he may well be the man who can rebuild the Black Hawks into a football power, Randolph said.

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Consolidation Issue Divides Residents Of Spring Creek

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

The controversial issue of school consolidation has divided the Spring Creek community into two factions.

Some Spring Creek residents say they want to fight to retain a school in their community, while others have banded with a group of Hot Springs residents to call for the construction of a consolidated school in the western end of Madison County.

Laurel community residents are apparently united in their desire to retain a school in Laurel, but say they will accept a consolidated school in western Madison if some of the smaller schools must be eliminated.

Residents of all three western Madison communities are in agree-

ment on one thing - they do not want their children bused to consolidated schools in the Marshall area. Their main reason for opposition is the lengthy bus trip over winding mountain roads to reach a centrally located school.

The N.C. Division of School Planning has recommended the elimination of most schools in Madison County and construction of a consolidated middle school in Marshall and a consolidated elementary school north of Marshall. The Madison County Board of Education last month adopted those recommendations as the long-range plan for the county school system.

But board members say they only accepted the state recommendation

"as is" because they did not have time to make changes before a Jan. 1 deadline for the submission of a plan, and say they can amend the plan.

The state's recommendations have left residents of smaller communities scrambling to come up with plans of action to prevent the loss of schools in their areas.

Spring Creek residents held a community meeting Friday night, while separate meetings were held Saturday night in Hot Springs and Laurel.

Hot Springs residents had hoped to present a unified approach along with Spring Creek and Laurel during Monday's school board meeting (see related story), but learned Saturday of the division in Spring Creek.

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Thousands Seek Role In Film

So you want to be in pictures? Join the club. More than 2,100 other residents of Western North Carolina want to be in pictures, too.

That's how many folks turned out this past weekend for a casting call for roles as extras in the action-adventure film "Trapper County," scheduled to be shot in Marshall and Asheville beginning later this month.

Local casting director Pam Plummer of Fincannon and Associates casting company said that's not an unusually large number of people.

"It was a nice turnout," Plummer said Monday. "Because we are shooting in both Marshall and Asheville, we wanted to open it up to large numbers of people."



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Pam Plummer, local casting director, takes applications from aspiring movie stars looking for a role in the film "Trapper County."

Movie Producers Meet Town Officials

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Producers of "Trapper County" met with the Marshall Board of Aldermen Friday to bring officials up to date on the motion picture to be filmed this winter in the Marshall and Asheville areas by Noble Entertainment, Inc.

Producer John O'Connor and production manager Worth Keeter warned the Marshall Board of Aldermen during a special meeting that the making of a movie isn't all lights, camera and action.

"People discover very quickly how boring it is to make a movie," O'Connor said.

"It's fairly excruciating," Keeter said. "It's like watching grass grow." In a 12-hour day on the set, about 90 minutes of film will be shot, Keeter said. The rest of the time is spent preparing for the filming.

making a movie, residents should find it entertaining, O'Connor said.

"It's always a major curiosity," he said. "I think it'll be fun, and I think you'll get a kick out of it."

The two main questions Marshall officials had about the movie? The same questions everyone else has been asking since the company announced last week that it is coming to the Marshall area - what's the movie about, and who's going to be in it?

"The movie deals with two guys from New York who are going to California and wind up in a small town and get themselves in a heap of trouble and end up running away from town," O'Connor said.

The boys meet a girl who wants to run away with them, but her "parents" and "brother" are against it. They have some of that, in it.

"A major subplot involves an 'amateur' who one of the boys is

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