



The Boy Scouts of America organization is celebrating its 78th anniversary this week.

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Madison High School's Lady Patriots are looking for a conference basketball title.

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# THE NEWS RECORD

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## Weaverville Annexation Topic Of Hearing

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Some Weaverville residents say the annexation of 90 acres of the Reems Creek Golf Club will provide a major boost to the town's tax base, while others are concerned that the development's 189 homes will drain the town's water supply.

About 75 residents of Weaverville and the Reems Creek area turned out Monday at Weaverville Primary School for a public hearing on the proposed satellite annexation of portions of the \$35-\$50 million golf club.

During nearly two hours of discussion, eight speakers voiced approval of the annexation, two spoke in opposition and six asked questions but stated no opinion.

The Weaverville Town Council is expected to vote on the annexation request at its meeting Monday night.

Kenmore Associates of Hendersonville, developer of the Reems Creek Golf Club, has offered to pay for the installation of a water line to reach the site, at a cost estimated at \$225,000-\$300,000. Developers say they will then donate the line to the town.

Kenmore has also offered to pay for a water pump station on Hamburg Mountain that would keep the present

Ox Creek water storage tank full. Town officials say that the pump station, which would cost up to \$75,000, would help serve the golf club and provide improved service to about 125 water customers now in the Ox Creek area.

Fred Bevins, representing Reems Creek Golf Club, told town officials that annexation of the development would have an immediate impact on Weaverville's tax base.

"This will be a profitable situation to the town immediately," Bevins said. "It amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars that the town of Weaverville would not have in its treasury. We feel like we will be doing

something that will long-term benefit Weaverville and Reems Creek."

Not everyone agreed with Bevins, however. Weaverville resident Joe Joyner presented town officials with a five-page, seven-item argument against the annexation.

"In most cases of annexation, those being annexed make every attempt to avoid it. In the present case, much effort is being made by the developers to sell the town of Weaverville on the benefits it will reap if the town goes forward with annexation," Joyner said.

Joyner called the golf club "an exclusive, expensive neighborhood" and criticized developers for drafting their annexation petition so that it meets requirements established by the General Assembly.

State law holds satellite annexations to no more than 10 percent of the area within corporate limits.

Bevins said that's why developers are only seeking annexation of 90 of the club's 260 acres. Under the proposal, only single-family homesites would be annexed; the golf course would be excluded.

Bevins also said developers prefer to have the golf course annexed, and are willing to seek special legislation

exempting the town from the 10 percent rule.

Joyner warned that the annexation would put an increased burden on all town services - water, sewer, police and fire protection and garbage pickup.

He expressed particular concern with the town's water supply. Weaverville, since 1974, has had a moratorium on water taps outside the town limits because of dwindling water supply.

"What I see is the town has experienced a profound miracle in the past few weeks. Since 1974, we have had an insufficient water supply, being asked to conserve water only last summer. Now by some miracle of administration we now have not only the water we need, but enough for 225 more households," he said.

Town officials said that "miracle" is Weaverville's recent agreement with the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority supplying the town with water until an independent source can be tapped.

One man warned that the development would mean increased traffic on Reems Creek Road.

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Developers of Reems Creek Golf Club (left side of table) huddle with members of the Weaverville Town Council after nearly two hours of comment at a public hearing on the development's request for satellite annexation.

## School Merger Study Committee Suggested

By HASSIE PONDER  
News Record Correspondent

An opponent of a controversial state recommendation calling for the consolidation of most schools in Madison County has suggested the formation of a special citizens' committee.

Jerry Parker, president of the Hot Springs Parent-Teachers Association, spoke Monday night on the idea of creating a citizens' group to help the Madison County Board of Education study the consolidation issue.

Parker's suggestion came at a continuation of the school board's meeting that began last Monday.

Parker also volunteered to start the group. But James Baker, school board chairman, stated that since no decisions have been made about school consolidation that all proposals would be noted.

Parker again spoke on his feelings about the consolidation as proposed by the N.C. Division of School Planning. That recommendation calls for the construction of a countywide middle school in Marshall to serve all sixth- through eighth-graders in Madison County.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade from Marshall, Hot Springs, Walnut and Laurel would attend

a new consolidated elementary school north of Marshall, under the state recommendation, while children at Spring Creek and Mars Hill would remain at schools in those communities.

Parker, after traveling the west end of the county, said he feels a west Madison school for grades K-8 in Hot Springs, Spring Creek and Laurel would be a bigger benefit to the communities involved.

He suggested Marshall and Walnut consolidate, and that the board have another school in Mars Hill.

When this idea was brought up, however, a resident of Upper Laurel said she would rather have her children go to Marshall because it would be closer.

Also during Monday's session, the board agreed to use vans provided by the Madison County Transportation Authority to transport high school nursing students to a hospital in Asheville, at a cost of \$850 a year. The school board must provide gas and a driver.

After a three-hour executive session, a recommendation for a custodian was made by Madison High School principal David Wyatt. Thomas Brian Rice was selected for the position by the board.

## Madison May Join TVA Pilot Program

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Madison County is one of four Southern counties in the running for a Tennessee Valley Authority pilot program designed to stimulate economic development.

That's the word from Bob Gonia, county specialist for the TVA's Special Opportunities Counties Program, who spoke last week to the Madison County Chamber of Commerce.

The pilot program, called by Gonia a "basic economic development effort," could mean technical assistance and funding for economic development projects in the county.

"Basically, this would be an effort to assist local officials in their plans to make Madison County a better place," Gonia said. "There is not a present plan that we have to follow." The pilot program is envisioned as "a grass-roots regeneration effort," he said. "We want the counties to ask, 'What do we have that we can improve on, rather than what do we not have that we should try to get.' TVA experts would provide

technical assistance to economic development projects in the county. The program could mean financial assistance, not only from TVA but also from other agencies.

"The selected counties would be in the front of the line for funding from us, and would have the inside track on other funds," Gonia said.

Before TVA can select Madison for the pilot project, the Chamber of Commerce and the Madison County Board of Commissioners must approve the idea.

Chamber officials say they're all for it and voted last week to accept the responsibility for being the lead agency in the project. TVA officials do not want a political organization, such as the board of commissioners, as the lead agency.

Chamber members will meet with commissioners to seek their support.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," said Jean Hoffman, chamber chairman. "I think our chances are real good. I think we've almost got it in the bag. If we can get the commissioners to agree."

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BILL STUDENC PHOTOS

### Roll 'em...

Noble Entertainment is filming several key scenes of the action-adventure movie "Trapper County" on the Ed List farm near Marshall. Left, actress Betsy Russell gets an

extra touch of makeup. Above right, second assistant director Coni Lancaster prepares to yell, 'Quiet on the set!' Below right, cameramen line up a shot.

## CP&L Seeks Hike In Wholesale Rates

Members of French Broad Electric Membership Corp. may soon have to dig a little deeper into their pockets when it comes time to pay these monthly power bills. Carolina Power & Light Co. has filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a 15 percent increase in the rates charged to wholesale customers, including French Broad EMC.

CP&L officials say the rate hike is necessary to recoup the cost of building the Shearon Harris nuclear power plant. French Broad EMC and other affected electric cooperatives will petition FERC for a lower increase than the 15 percent rate

hike requested by CP&L. When FERC determines the rate increase, French Broad EMC members will be notified.

Charles Tolley, manager of French Broad EMC, says the rate hike request is no surprise.

"We have been telling our members for several months to expect a rate increase when CP&L put their Shearon Harris Nuclear Plant into commercial operation," he said.

French Broad EMC and other co-ops fought a similar rate hike last year, when CP&L asked for a 20 percent increase in the wholesale rate. FERC eventually granted a 2.2 percent increase.

## Marshall Crews Won't Repair Private Pipes

From Staff Reports  
Marshall residents will no longer be able to have town crews work on water lines on private property.

The Marshall Board of Aldermen agreed Monday night to reinstate a policy preventing municipal work crews from repairing broken water lines past the water meter.

The problem, said town clerk Linda Dodson, is that working on water lines on private property is costing the town too much in terms of time and money.

The town is only responsible for maintaining water lines up to the water meter at residences and businesses.

The board agreed to emphasize that policy after a town resident told the aldermen and mayor that he had

been asked to thaw out water lines beneath a trailer in town.

"He said he was afraid to get under there and thaw it out because he was afraid it might catch on fire," Mayor Anita Ward said. "He was worried the town would be liable."

Marshall cannot afford to repair any property damage caused by town crews working on lines for which they are not responsible, Ward said.

Ward also said the policy is not irrevocable, and that crews will continue to try to help elderly residents who are unable to work on their own water pipes.

In other action Monday, the board agreed to send up to state to help the Madison County Sheriff's Department purchase a Police Information Network (PIN) terminal.