

Madison High School's Lady Patriots clinched the Highlands 2-A Athletic Conference championship with a thrilling double-overtime win over Sylva Webster.

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Federal deficit-reduction steps have forced area post offices to close during the lunch hour.

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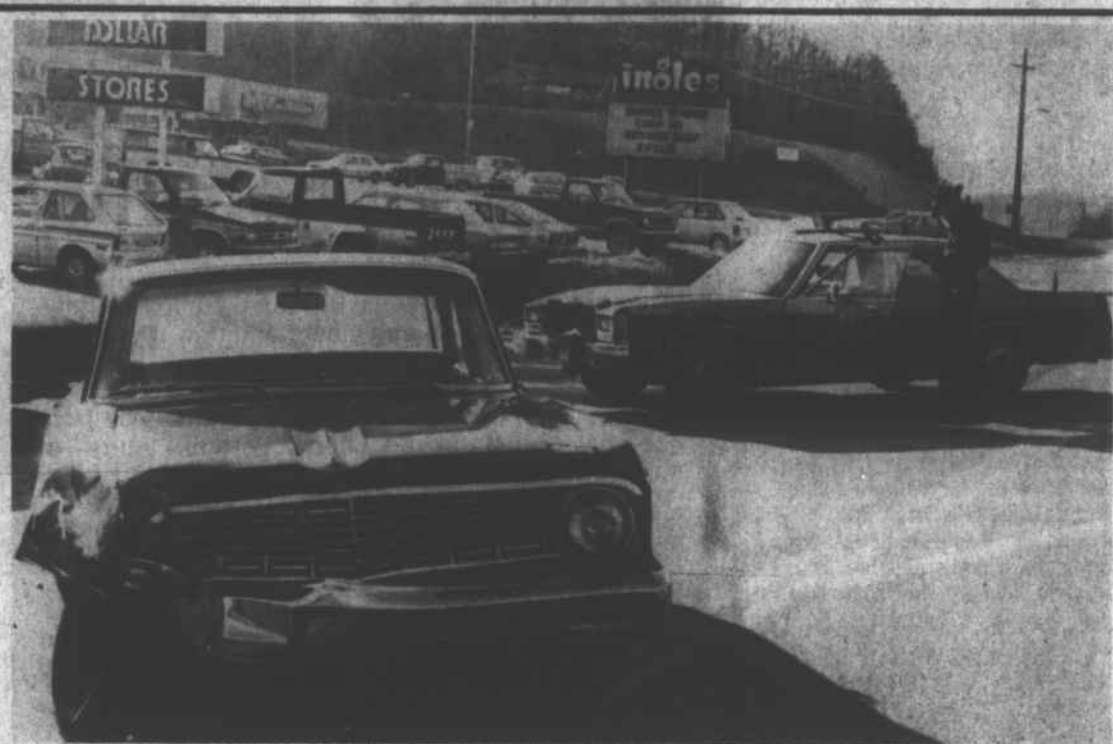
THE NEWS RECORD

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Fender Bender

No one was seriously injured in a two-car collision involving a N.C. Highway Patrol cruiser Tuesday on the U.S. 25-70 Bypass near Marshall. See Page 8.

Weaverville Delays Annexation Vote

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Developers of the Reems Creek Golf Club will have to wait another month to learn whether the town of Weaverville will annex 90 acres of the \$35-\$50 million residential development.

The Weaverville Town Council, expected to vote Monday on Kenmure Associates' petition for voluntary annexation of 189 homesites, agreed to postpone a decision until its March meeting.

That decision came upon a motion by Councilman Ronnie "Butch" Davis, who said he was not satisfied

with a written document spelling out certain conditions to be met by Kenmure Associates, the Hendersonville-based firm developing the country club community in the Reems Creek Valley.

Developers of the golf club have said they will pay for the installation of a sewer line to reach the site, and for a water pump station at Hamburg Mountain to serve the development and improve service to some 125 families in the Ox Creek area. The total estimated cost of those projects is up to \$375,000.

Council members asked after a well-attended public hearing last

week that the developers put those agreements in writing.

During Monday's meeting, Councilman Bernard Koesters made a motion to approve Kenmure's petition for voluntary satellite annexation of the development, located 1.2 miles from the current town limits. Councilman Harold Payne seconded the motion.

But before the council could vote on the motion, Davis made a motion of his own -- to table action on the annexation request until the council's March meeting.

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Tempers Flare During Commissioners' Meeting

By HASSIE PONDER
News Record Correspondent

Tempers flared during Monday's meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners as Chairman Robert Capps and Commissioner Reese Steen disagreed on several issues.

Steen and Capps disagreed over appointments to the county Board of Health, additional improvements to the courtroom and the recording of the meeting by Steen.

Steen did not vote against the appointment of four members to the county health board, but said he did not approve of the way they were

selected. Commissioner John Hensley made a motion to appoint the new members, and Capps seconded it.

"We are reverting back to the first two meetings we had," Steen said after the meeting. "John passed a list to Bobby, and he seconded it before I even got a chance to see the list of people."

Later, during an executive session called to discuss personnel items, Steen apparently tore up the list of names. When attorney Larry Leake later asked for the list for the minute book, Hensley said that Steen had torn it up.

The new board members are Steen, Porter Wallin, Marie Ponder and Wayne McDevitt.

Steen said although he supports the new members, he is disappointed that Hot Springs now has no representatives on the health board.

"We're reverting back to old time politics," he said after the meeting.

Capps and Steen also disagreed over the expenditure of \$5,000 for improvements to acoustics in the courtroom of Madison County Courthouse. Steen said he preferred that the county seek bids for the improvements.

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Private Sources Provide \$15,000 For Bridge Spans

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Private sources have provided \$15,000 to save the remaining two spans of the historic Redmon bridge near Marshall for a proposed park on the French Broad River.

That money has been used to pay the contractor for the remainder of

scheduled demolition work at the bridge and to purchase two spans that are still intact, said Christine Strickland, a Marshall real estate agent who has joined the effort to form a county recreational park at Redmon.

Strickland said she could not name the individuals who provided the

money, saying they preferred to remain "behind the scenes."

Although other sources of funding for the development of a park have not yet been nailed down, Frank Roberts, the Marshall real estate agent who initiated the effort to save the bridge, says things seem to be falling into place.

"Two spans of the original bridge will be restored as a monument to be used as an observation deck/fishing pier," Roberts said.

Madison County officials have confirmed that demolition work at the bridge has been halted and that plans are under way to obtain funding for a park along the river.

"The bridge spans, it is my understanding, are being acquired by private funds, solicited by Mr. Roberts, and that the spans will ultimately be donated to the county and to the park," said Larry Leake, Madison County attorney.

Leake has written a letter to the N.C. Department of Transportation requesting that the bridge abutment not be demolished.

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Stabbing Victim Won't File Charges

From Staff Reports

A Weaverville man who was stabbed 82 times last Wednesday night has refused to press charges against two suspects identified by the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office.

Gerald Dodd, 41, was discharged Monday from St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville after being treated for multiple stab wounds.

Dodd told Buncombe County authorities that two men stabbed him and set fire to his mobile home, located at the corner of Aiken and New Stock roads near Weaverville.

But when the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department arrested one suspect, an 18-year-old man from Indianapolis, Ind., Dodd refused to

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Return Of Bambi

Madison Man And His Horse Make Friends With Young Deer

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

If you happen to be driving through the Paint Fork section of Madison County and see a man petting a small deer, don't start doubting your sanity. It's only Floyd Hensley and his newfound pet, Bambi.

The deer, a young doe, has set up house with Hensley's big old plowhorse, Jim, who rules over a pasture behind Hensley's home.

"I don't know why, but it took up with that horse," Hensley said recently, stroking the deer's head as it ate kernels of corn that Hensley had given it. "There's plenty of cattle over there, but it won't have a thing to do with them."

The horse is at least five times the size of the deer, but that doesn't seem to bother her.

Hensley said he figures that the deer's mother was killed by a hunter, and that the young doe somehow found its way to his pasture, where it found companionship with Jim the horse. And there it stayed for about three weeks, until Dec. 25 when

neighborhood dogs chased the deer away.

"It took up with that old horse and before the dogs ran it off, everywhere the horse went, it went," Hensley said.

After the deer disappeared, Hensley assumed he wouldn't see it again. Much to his surprise, the deer was back alongside Jim the horse on Feb. 2 -- 40 days later.

In the past several days since the deer's return, Hensley has been able to train it to respond when he calls it.

"The horse wouldn't run when I came up to it, and I reckon it thought everything was all right," he said. "But it sure took a smart bit to get to where I could pet it," he said.

Hensley, when calling for the deer, simply says, in a soft voice, "Bambi. Come on, Bambi. Come on." The deer, without hesitation despite the presence of a stranger, came trotting down the hill behind Hensley's house. Bambi walked right up to Hensley, who had shelled two ears of corn, and began to eat.

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Floyd Hensley of Madison County, his horse, Jim, and newfound friend, Bambi, pose for a family portrait at his Paint Fork home.

Marshall Writes Off Accounts

The Marshall Board of Aldermen agreed Monday night to write off as uncollectable more than \$9,500 in "dead accounts" on the town's water department books.

Board members agreed to remove the names of 37 separate account-holders -- 34 residential users and three commercial customers -- who have moved out of Marshall.

"These are people who have moved away and it does not include any current users," said Linda Dodson, Marshall town clerk.

"Should they ever come back and want water service again, they will have to pay the balance in full before we will reconnect them," Dodson said.

The uncollectable accounts, which total \$9,511.79, range from \$5.25 to \$241.80, and those accounts have been on the water department's books for three years, Dodson said.

Marshall officials have been in a running battle with delinquent water customers for several years. The town has had its "dormant" money from its general fund to fund expenses in the water department.