

SENIOR 01863
CITIZENS CENTER LISA LEDFORD
25 LONG BRANCH RD.
MARSHALL NC 28753



Happy St. Patrick's Day

THE NEWS RECORD

Serving Madison And Northern Buncombe Counties

Vol. 88 No. 11

Thursday, March 17, 1988

25¢

Sheriff, County Continue Budget Talks

By BILL STUDENC
Editor
Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown says he can reduce his department's spending by about \$2,000 a month without laying off deputies.

But that amount will not enable the sheriff's department to continue at its current levels, and commissioners told Brown that he may need to lay off two deputies. Before last week's additional allocation, Brown had only \$11,000 left in the sheriff's department budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

'I'm going to save at least \$2,000 a month with steps I'm taking to cut down in the kitchen and car expenses without laying off any deputies.'
Sheriff Dedrick Brown

luck reaching an agreement. Brown said Tuesday that he has laid off the cook and closed the kitchen at Madison County Jail and has decreased patrol car expenses — measures that will save about \$8,000 for the rest of the fiscal year.

month with steps I'm taking to cut down in the kitchen and car expenses without laying off any deputies," he said. "I don't know what will happen with that (the deputies)."

The county has only \$2,000 left in its contingency fund. "That's just not enough," Rice said. "If he doesn't come out with some more cuts by Wednesday, then I have no choice but to recommend that the commissioners call a special meeting so they can make those cuts."

Several residents have contacted Brown and told him they would donate money to the department to prevent deputies from being laid off, he said. "If the commissioners elect to cut a man, I have been told by the public that they will make up the difference, if that becomes necessary," he said.



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Divers for the Greensboro Police Department underwater search team prepare to search the French Broad River at the Alexander Bridge for the gun used in a 1986 murder.

Divers Search River For Murder Weapon

From Staff Reports
Divers began searching in the French Broad River at Alexander on Monday for a handgun allegedly used in the 1986 murder of an Ohio couple.

Members of the Greensboro Police Department's underwater search team are looking for the weapon that Buncombe County Sheriff Buck Lyda believes was used to kill Wesley and Bonnie Mehaffy at Buzzard Rock on May 20, 1986.

Lyda said he believes the Mehaffys' killer threw the gun off the Alexander Bridge, into the French Broad River. Divers on Tuesday found several unused bullets in the water beneath the bridge — bullets that Lyda says may have been thrown into the river along with the murder weapon. The bullets are of the same caliber as those removed from the bodies of the Mehaffays.

Schools To Begin Removal Of Asbestos

By BILL STUDENC
Editor
The Madison County Board of Education last week approved the hiring of the Buncombe County school system's resident engineer to conduct a search of Madison school facilities for asbestos.

because of federal studies linking the mineral, often used for fireproofing and insulation, to cancer. School officials must also have adopted a plan for the removal of all asbestos from school buildings — including classrooms, bus garages and administrative offices — by Oct. 30, Nichols said.

Nichols estimated that it would take him between two to three weeks to conduct the asbestos survey and draw up a plan for removal of the fibrous, fireproof material. That would set the cost of meeting federal asbestos requirements at between \$4,000 and \$6,000.

Delinquent Water Accounts Top \$20,000 In Marshall

By BILL STUDENC
Editor
Sixty-two Marshall residents and businesses owe more than \$100 each to the town for municipal water service, with some delinquent bills as high as \$4,000.

tough" on residents and businesses with overdue water accounts, but has never initiated a sustained effort to collect money owed the town. The board again took no action Monday night, although board members seemed upset at the lengthy list of overdue accounts of more than \$100.

sewer fund to meet payments in the water department, Dodson said. "The best way to approach it is to get a list first and see who owes what and try to do something to keep them from getting mad," said Alderman Jackie Davis. "If we just approach most of these people, they'll take care of it."

Raid On Cockfight Nets 19 Arrests

From Staff Reports
The Buncombe County Sheriff's Department arrested 19 Western North Carolina residents Saturday after raiding an illegal cockfight near Barnardville.

Officers with the U.S. Forest Service and the N.C. Wildlife Service discovered the cockfight at about 11 a.m. at a recreation site off Dillingham Road in the Coleman Boundary of the Pisgah National Forest.



Reese Lasher supports annexation

Lasher Responds To Criticism

By BILL STUDENC
Editor
Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher says allegations that he and town administrators are trying to force the Reems Creek Golf Club down the town's throat are "ridiculous."

people of Weaverville don't know what they want or what they're signing. And I don't believe that," Lasher said. Lasher was responding to charges from some opponents of the proposed satellite annexation of Reems Creek Golf Club that certain town officials have tried to win approval of annexation without sufficient study.

evident Feb. 25 when the Weaverville Town Council called a special meeting to vote on the Reems Creek Golf Club annexation request (see related story). The council had originally tabled the request, on a motion by Councilman Ronnie "Butch" Davis and by a 4-1 vote, until March 21 to give council members additional time to study the issue.

Saturday's raid is the second major roundup of cockfighting suspects within the past year in the area. The Madison County Sheriff's Department, along with state law enforcement officers, arrested 21 people from five states at a fight in a barn in the Wolf Laurel section.

Weaverville Councilwoman Ann Williams, after considering resignation for more than a week, has made it official.

Effective March 15, I am resigning as a council member of the Weaverville Town Council due to personal reasons," she said in a prepared statement. "I ran for council because I love Weaverville and the people who live here. I had thought that a personal statement would be the best way to announce my resignation."

Williams would not comment further on her reasons for resigning, but she said she had been in the town for about three months in the last council.

Williams was elected to the council in a special election held in January and February last year. She had originally announced her candidacy in a letter to the town council.