

Madison and North Buncombe high school basketball players received all-conference honors.
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Jurors acquitted a Mars Hill man charged with two counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor.
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The Weaverville Town Council is searching for a replacement for Ann Williams, who resigned from the council last week.
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THE NEWS RECORD

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Sheriff Lays Off Dispatchers, Closes Jail

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Sheriff Dedrick Brown says he'd rather lay off four dispatchers and close Madison County Jail than try to operate the sheriff's department with only two deputies.

Brown announced the closing of the jail one day after the Madison County Board of Commissioners agreed to lay off three deputies in an effort to keep the county from going broke.

"They (commissioners) told me, 'If you wish to change the personnel (to be laid off), please advise this office,'" Brown said Tuesday. "Well, we wish to change personnel and we're advising them. We don't want to lay deputies off."

County finance officer Ralph Rice, who has found himself in a running battle with Brown in recent weeks over spending in the sheriff's department, said county government will support Brown's decision to close the jail.

"I concur with that," Rice said Tuesday. "By laying off the four jailers, he'll save about the same amount of money."

Under a budget resolution approved Monday by commissioners, three deputy positions in the Madison County Sheriff's Department were to be terminated. The commissioners also

What impact will the dispatcher layoffs have on emergency agencies?
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Commissioners blame 'irresponsible spending' for the sheriff's budget problems.
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eliminated a \$300 monthly expense payment Brown.

Those steps would save the county between \$15,000 to \$20,000, Rice said.

But Brown said laying off deputies is unacceptable, and he will lay off dispatchers, who also serve as jailers, and close the jail instead.

Rice estimated that laying off the four dispatchers and closing the jail will save about \$500 less than the county's plan. "It'll still be within the budget confines that we're dealing with," he said.

Commissioners say they must trim spending in the sheriff's department or the county will have no money at the beginning of the 1988-89 fiscal year.

Commissioners earlier this month agreed to give Brown another \$46,000 to operate his department through June 30. Brown had only \$11,000 left in the sheriff's department budget on March 1.

But that additional \$46,000 gave Brown only \$57,000 through the end of the fiscal year. Commissioners instructed Rice and Brown to come up with the best way to spend that money.

Brown, after some preliminary discussions with Rice, said he would not meet with the finance office.

"I've tried everything to work with Dedrick," Rice told the commissioners at Monday's special meeting, called for the purpose of dealing with the sheriff's department budget. "I think if we don't make some cuts, the county will be broke. We are already in serious trouble as it is."

The extra \$46,000 allocated to the sheriff's department has left the county with only \$2,000 in its contingency fund, to be used in case of emergency.

Rice recommended to the commissioners that three deputies be laid off.
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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown may be spending a lot more time answering emergency calls, after his decision this week to lay off county dispatchers

Weaverville Annexation Foes Threaten To Sue

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

A citizens group has threatened to sue the town of Weaverville if it proceeds with the satellite annexation of Reems Creek Golf Club.

But that didn't stop the Weaverville Town Council from approving by a 2-1 vote Monday the annexation of 90 acres of the development located 1.2 miles outside current town limits.

Barring legal action halting the annexation, Reems Creek Golf Club will officially be part of the town of Weaverville on July 1.

Joe Joyner, chairman of Concerned Citizens of Weaverville, said his group will be pursuing a lawsuit to

stop the annexation on the grounds that it does not meet criteria for the annexation of non-contiguous property.

"That (a lawsuit) is probably the plan," Joyner said after Monday's meeting of the Weaverville Town Council. "Our attorney says the law is very clear on this, and we can only go by the advice of the attorney."

Joyner said he will be meeting this week with attorney Harold K. Bennett to decide whether to file a lawsuit.

Joyner also gave town officials a petition with 150 signatures of residents opposed to the annexation. Many of those signing the petition

previously signed a petition circulated by golf course developers, Joyner said.

"Upon being more fully informed, they have now signed our petition," he said.

Bennett told Weaverville officials at the meeting that the petition for annexation is not valid because it includes only the 189 homesites while excluding the actual golf course.

State law regulating satellite annexations requires that all portions of a subdivision must be included in a satellite annexation, he said.

"The petition in this case is on behalf of Reems Creek Golf Club, consisting of 189 residential lots par-

tially surrounding a golf course. The very name 'Reems Creek Golf Club' clearly indicates to me that the 189 residential lots proposed to be subdivided are part of the same subdivision that the golf course is a part of," he said.

"To adopt the annexation resolution under these conditions invites the town to undergo the expense and embarrassment of a lawsuit," Bennett told the council.

Bill Barnes, town attorney, said he has checked with the N.C. Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and that the petition for annexation meets all requirements.

The golf course is actually a separate enterprise that will be operated by Kenmore Associates independently of the residential development, Barnes said.

The golf course will be open, on a membership basis, to people other than residents of the development, and property owners in the development do not have to belong to the golf club, Barnes said.

Golf course developers have said they would prefer that the golf course be annexed, but state law prevents towns from annexing more than 10 percent of its existing corporate limits. If the golf course property was included, it would bump the acreage

above that 10 percent mark, according to town officials.

Kenmore Associates has agreed to seek a change in state law so that the golf course can also be annexed.

Bennett also told the council that the town will not be able to provide adequate police and fire protection to the new development. State law requires that a newly annexed area receive the same services that are available inside the municipal limits.

While an overflow crowd watched at Weaverville Town Hall, the council approved the annexation, with Councilmen Bernard Koesters and Franklin Spears voting in favor and

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Buncombe Authorities File More Cockfighting Charges

From Staff Reports

Five men were arrested near Barnardsville Sunday on charges of cockfighting as the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department conducted its second raid this month on an illegal rooster fight.

Two of the five arrested Sunday were among 19 people charged March 12 with cockfighting in the Coleman Boundary of the Pisgah National Forest.

Buncombe County authorities say they intend to continue efforts to halt illegal cockfighting in the Barnardsville area.

"We're going to actively patrol that

area to try and make sure it doesn't happen again. If it does happen again, we will issue more citations. We will do whatever is necessary to combat the problem in that area," said Lt. Johnny Lloyd.

"Prior to making these arrests, we did receive a number of calls from residents complaining about cockfighting in that area," Lloyd said.

Sunday's arrests occurred after the sheriff's department received an anonymous telephone call at about 3:45 p.m. that a cockfight was in progress at 410 Stoney Fork Road.

Five residents were in the yard,

along with 10 live roosters and three dead ones, when authorities arrived, according to reports.

Deputies confiscated the live roosters and took them to the Buncombe County Animal Shelter, Lloyd said. After last week's raid, roosters were returned to their owners. Authorities said last week that they had no place to hold the birds.

Cockfighting is a misdemeanor and is punishable by up to a \$500 fine, six months in jail, or both.

Cited on charges of cockfighting Sunday were: Bobby M. Maynor, 24, of 401 Stoney Fork Road; Doble

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S.C. Improvement Boards Discussed

By HASSIE PONDER
Staff Writer

Mary Jackson Willis from the University of South Carolina spoke at

Madison High School Monday night on the topic "School Improvement Councils."

School improvement councils are used in the South Carolina public school system to provide local accountability in the educational process.

According to Willis, before a school improvement council can be implemented, the community should understand the purpose of a school improvement program. The purpose of the program is to take a look at the school, then to develop and implement a plan that will work in a particular school system.

Willis, speaking at the invitation of the Madison County League of Women Voters, gave five suggestions that can help make implementing a plan easier: a positive attitude, a strong institution, a positive attitude, a strong institution, a positive attitude, a strong institution.

tions; and, home and school relationship.

But before a council can really work, parents must be ready to get involved with their child's education, Willis said.

"The world of American life is not the Norman Rockwell example or the 'Leave It To Beaver.' Many parents today are just too busy with their child's extracurricular activities to be bothered with their school and whether the school is doing its job," she said.

But to get parents involved, the school system must realize that not all parents want the same thing for their child. According to Willis, each parent for each different age group has different expectations of what that child should be learning. Instead of trying to satisfy each demand, the school system must reach a compromise of parents' and school

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Woman Awakens To Bed In Flames

From Staff Reports

A Weaverville woman awoke early last Thursday morning to find the foot of her bed engulfed in flames from a short-circuiting electric blanket.

Nancy Lou Clinedist was able to get out of bed and awaken her daughter before the fire could spread through the rest of her mobile home, located at 7 S. Main St., Weaverville.

"When she woke up, the bottom of the bed was on fire," said Weaverville Fire Chief John Penley. "It was a close call."

A total of 21 firefighters from the Weaverville and Reems Creek fire departments responded to the call at 4:06 a.m. last Thursday.

Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the back bedroom and bathroom of the mobile home, owned by Elwin Bruce Clinedist Sr.

"Due to heavy heat and smoke damage, it was considered a total loss," he said.

Two firefighters were slightly injured extinguishing the blaze.

Jeff Edwards received an electrical shock when he was using an axe to smash an interior wall, where the fire was smoldering. Penley said, "He got into some hot wires and got an electrical shock," he said.

Edwards was treated and released from Weaverville Hospital, he said.

While Clinedist hopes his home will be repaired, he said, "I'm not sure if I'm going to be here to see it repaired."



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Fish Story

Weaverville town employee Dan Murray released 100 bass into Weaverville Lake Louise. The town is restocking the lake with 200 bass, 200 catfish, 400 bluegill, 200 black crappie and 10 pounds of shiners for "fish feed."