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Business Development Takes Leaders



The Fierce Flotilla

H.D. Koontz photo.

These ducks and geese seen cruising about Lake Louise at Weaverville recently have become a source of complaints from some town residents, who have complained about the early morning noise and the mess the birds leave. The geese

also allegedly have bitten visitors to the lake, the town's board of aldermen learned Monday night. No one knows where the birds, now numbering about 60, came from; one month ago there was just a handful of the ducks and geese at the lake.

Weaverville Seeks Aid For Water, Sewer Project

Aldermen To Hold Public Meeting On Water Plan

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

Weaverville's Board of Aldermen approved two resolutions Monday night supporting grant applications for proposed water and sewer improvement projects.

Town Manager Charles Horne said the Ivy River water project is estimated to cost up to \$4.9 million, and that the town would try to get as much of that amount from the state as possible, although he held little hope for the state funding the entire project.

"We'll try to get as much as we can, but there is a limited amount of funds and it will be very competitive," Horne said.

The second resolution supports the town's proposed sewer project, estimated to cost about \$400,000 in state loans.

The deadline for submitting grant applications is Sept. 30.

The aldermen also agreed to hold a special meeting at 7 p.m. next Monday, Sept. 26, to discuss the town's water and sewer needs study compiled by McGill Associates of Asheville.

In other matters the aldermen:

- Agreed to hold a public meeting Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. to discuss extraterritorial jurisdiction concerning the east side of town. The meeting will be held at the Weaverville Primary School.
- Agreed to spend \$50 in town funds to buy red ribbons for the national Red Ribbon Drug Awareness Week program the last week of October. The aldermen also agreed to cut a symbolic ribbon kicking off the week Oct. 26 at 7 p.m.
- Agreed to hold a public meeting concerning rezoning of the Reems Creek Golf Club property recently added to the town. The meeting will be held at the town hall at 6:45 p.m. Oct. 17.
- Agreed to award a sewer line installation contract to Wheeler Construction Co., which submitted the low bid of \$79,950. Five other companies bid on the project, with the highest being \$116,050.
- Agreed to have town workers cull the gaggle of geese now at Lake Louise, where the birds have become a nuisance in recent weeks.

Horne said several reports of

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French Broad River Week ended on a positive note Sunday morning with free whitewater raft rides offered to anyone who was willing to help clean up the banks of the river for a certain stretch with the rafts supplied by Carolina Wilderness, the French Broad Rafting Company and Nantahala Outdoor Center. R.T. Koenig photo

No Arrests Yet In Courthouse Fire

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

Law enforcement authorities are still investigating the Madison County courthouse fire and offering \$13,000 for information leading to the conviction of the arsonists involved in the Labor Day Eve vandalism.

No arrests have been made.

Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown said several suspects have

been questioned about the incident, which caused an estimated \$100,000 damage to the 81-year-old building.

No records were destroyed in the fire and no money was stolen, but the main courtroom was devastated by a fire set next to the judge's bench.

Two other fires set in trash cans downstairs in the Register of Deeds office and the Clerk of Court's office

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State Official Says No 'Magic' Involved

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

The president of the North Carolina Rural Development Education Center told a group of Madison County business leaders Friday that economic development is not a magic term.

"And it is not just industrial recruitment," said Billy Ray Hall, speaking to about 24 persons gathered in the French Broad Baptist Center near Mars Hill.

The three main ingredients needed for successful economic growth in rural areas such as Madison County are the area's human resources, its land resources and its capital resources.

Labor, land and money, simply put.

The Friday seminar and brainstorming session was sponsored by the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, which has been selected

by the Tennessee Valley Authority as the sponsoring agency for a pilot program on economic development.

"Under this program," said Chamber President Jeanne Hoffman, "the chamber has just completed a new Travel and Tourism brochure, received matching funds for a visitors center at Mars Hill College and been approved for matching funds for this Leadership Madison County educational program."

Hall pointed out the decline of manufacturing and agriculture as staples of rural area economies in North Carolina.

No longer can rural counties look to big industries and farming to employ the majority of its people.

In the short-term, counties can offer tax credits as incentives for new businesses to locate in their area; in the long-term, the N.C. Rural

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Spring Creek Parents Seek State Help

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

Some Spring Creek parents plan to seek state help in establishing a non-public elementary school in their area.

Following last week's action by the Madison County Board of Education approving a consolidation plan which calls for the eventual closing of Spring Creek Elementary School and consolidation of others into one, new middle school in the Marshall-Walnut area, some residents of Spring Creek were angry.

But not surprised.

It was a reaction "of anger and disappointment that the board did

what it said it was going to do," said Bill Baruito, a spokesman for consolidation plan opponents in Spring Creek.

"And the reaction of parents is they are still not going to send their children to Hot Springs."

The consolidation plan calls for the merging of Hot Springs and Spring Creek enrollments into one school at Hot Springs.

Other county schools will see a dip in their enrollments as grades 6-8 are shifted to the proposed new \$6.5 million middle school to be built in the Marshall-Walnut area.

The county has won approval for

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The Madison County High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes raised more than \$4,000 over the weekend by seeing the entire weekend and soliciting pledges. Movie star Dan Akyroyd chipped in a \$100 bill Sunday en route back to Asheville after filming some movie shots at Hot Springs earlier and Dom DeLouise signed autographs for the youths. H.D. Koontz photo

Moviemakers Leave Town

By FATHER DAVE HINCHEN

"It's the most exciting thing ever to happen in Hot Springs," remarked one young Hot Springs resident.

"At least, since the cow came down the Appalachian Trail last year," said another.

What they were referring to was the filming of scenes in this generally quiet Madison County town for a motion picture to be released next spring by Tri-Star Pictures.

Construction crews arrived in town during the second week of the month in early making preparations for the approximately two months of outdoor

began on Sept. 13 when an Amtrak passenger train and three helicopters began practicing their parts.

Roads were blocked by railroad personnel and security guards. Extras mounded the train. Townspeople gathered around.

Television crews set up. The action began.

The large Amtrak train - a rarity in the Springs town - only passed through town once last year and this one's stay was longer.

Construction crews arrived in town during the second week of the month in early making preparations for the approximately two months of outdoor



Detective Howard Higgins

Detective Work Has Its Rewards

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

A police detective today has to be more than a crime solver.

He's got to be part lawyer, part social worker and, certainly, tough enough to stand the daily diet of seeing people at their worst.

Madison County native Howard Higgins, now a detective with the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department, said the job has its rewards, though.

Higgins is the just the fourth law enforcement officer in the state - the first from Western North Carolina - to graduate from the 276-hour criminal investigation

course at the N.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

The course included classes in criminal law, criminal procedure, interrogation, homicide investigation, and crime scene technique.

Earlier this month, Higgins, who has been with the sheriff's department for seven years, received a special plaque honoring his completion of the course at a special North Carolina Association of Criminal Investigators banquet in Greensboro.

Prior to enrolling in the police work, Higgins was a teacher and a lifeguard in Madison County. He raised two kids and hopes for a white bullseye parking

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