

THE YANCEY JOURNAL

VOL. 4, NO. 5

BURNSVILLE, N.C. 28714

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1975

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Students Prove Success

"The State's investment in a comprehensive kindergarten program is definitely paying dividends," State School Superintendent Craig Phillips said today following release of a kindergarten evaluation report to the State Board of Education.

Phillips' conclusion is based on three significant findings:

(1) At the end of the 1973-74 school year, as well as for each school year since the State's kindergarten program was implemented, kindergartners in North Carolina have scored higher than kindergarten students in the nation in language, mathematics, and reasoning ability (I.Q.).

(2) The performance of kindergarten students in language and mathematics has improved each year during the last five school years.

(3) Third-grade students involved in the pilot kindergarten program in 1970-71 obtained significantly higher scores than similar non-kindergarten third graders in reading, punctuation, social maturity, and reasoning ability.

During the 1973-74 school year, state-supported kindergarten students scored higher than 71 percent of the kindergarten students in the nation on mathematics, 85 percent on language, and 62 percent on reasoning ability (I.Q.). The same North Carolina kindergarten students scored at a comparable level to a national population in self-acceptance, social maturity, school affiliation, and self-security.

"Achievement in language and mathematics on the part of the state-supported kindergarten students has consistently increased since 1969-70 when the first kindergarten classes opened," said Phillips. For example, in 1969-70 the average kindergarten student in North Carolina scored higher than 64 percent of the kindergarten students in the nation in language, whereas in 1973-74 the typical kindergartener

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YDC Rally Set For Saturday

Priscilla Hartle, President of the North Carolina Young Democrats Clubs, will be the honored guest at the 11th Congressional District YDC Rally held this Saturday night, February 1, 1975 at 7:30 p.m. in the Burnsville Community Building.

This is Miss Hartle's first trip to Yancey County. Accompanying her will be representatives from 15 counties of the 11th District including the District President, Larry Leake.

The Yancey County YDC cordially invites all Democrats of all ages to attend this free rally. There will be no speech making, just lots of good conversation. Refreshments will be served free.

The YDC says "Come as you are on Saturday night, have some cake, and meet one of our State's political leaders, Priscilla. Let's give her a warm Yancey County welcome."



Men Work In Forested Area



Women Paint Signs For Forest Service



Felled Trees Are Cut Into Lengths

Promotes Pride, Accomplishment:

Operation Mainstream

Operation mainstream is a federally funded program in which persons over 55 are channeled back into the mainstream of life. This program recognizes that just because a man is getting on in years doesn't mean he isn't capable of giving a days work for a days pay. To qualify for the program all a person need be is 55 or older with an income during the last 12 months of less than \$2,300 or \$2,900 for a family of two. A physical paid for by the Forest Service is also required.

District Ranger Johnny McLain is very enthusiastic about the program as he says "We have had great success during the past two years. I feel we have really accom-

plished a lot and that the people participating in the program have a kind of new purpose in life and feel a new sense of pride and accomplishment. We have had these people working on all kinds of projects from recreation clean up to timber stand improvement and working as a member of the survey crew. One crew is presently constructing a bicycle trail adjacent to Black Mountain Campground. Another job we are real proud of was accomplished by our ladies. They have done a fantastic job of painting all our signs and anyone who visits the National Forests can appreciate the hours of labor they devoted to

this project. But what does the program mean to the people participating in it? As one 75 year old fellow puts it "I have been a worker all my life. I just don't feel good to go home with nothing to do." Another says "Working here means not having to ask for welfare assistance, Social Security just isn't enough to live on". One spry grey-haired lady who is always busy says "I like being busy. I have always been a hard worker. Now my children are grown and have their own families to keep them busy. I guess there just isn't enough around the house for me to do. Now I feel useful again. Somebody needs me."

Efforts Being Made To Save Playhouse

Extensive vandalism inflicted on the property of the Parkway Playhouse, together with the annually recurring problem of financing the theater facilities, have raised grave doubts as to whether the Playhouse can operate this coming summer.

The prospect of abandoning the summer theater after 28 years of successful operation is particularly disheartening at this time. For the past several years the Playhouse has appeared to be

flourishing. The quality of productions has been better than ever before, the attendance at performances and the enrollment of students have broken previous records. The future appeared bright, until shortly before Christmas the critical situation was disclosed.

The theater building and the two dormitories, particularly, were found to have suffered an appalling degree of vandalism. Windows were broken, furniture smashed, mattresses and bedding ripped, and paint splashed wherever it would do the greatest damage. All this appears to have been the work of delinquent juveniles, motivated by whatever it is that finds pleasure in wanton destruction.

Too Much Sugar Is Unhealthy

BY CLAY WILLIAMS
"outreach" columnist

Overweight contributes to practically every known major cause of death except suicide, according to Dr. Lewis Bock, chief of the Personal Health Section of the Division of Health Services.

"Perhaps the single most important cause of widespread obesity in the United States is the over use of high caloric foods with low nutritive value," Bock stated, "and table sugar heads the list of such foods."

Bock said the recent surge in sugar prices has pointed up our preoccupation with sugar as a flavor additive.

"Babies are introduced to sugar immediately after birth," Bock noted. "From then until death we consume tons of it. An average size cola drink contains about seven teaspoonsful of sugar, and we think nothing of consuming several per day. Americans eat an average of about 150 pounds of sugar each year, enough to add 50 pounds of weight if eaten in addition to an adequate diet. When you consider that sugar is absolutely void of nutritive value, and actually foreign to our bodies, there's little wonder we suffer so many chronic

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Erwin Bank Reduces Lending Rate

First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Erwin has again reduced its base lending rate, according to John Logan, president of the financial firm. The new rate will be 8.75 percent on loans made on new houses up to 80 percent of total value. 9 percent is charged on older homes and if the loan-to-value ratio exceeds 80 percent, another one-quarter percent is added to the base rate.

Logan said there had been substantial inflows of deposits during recent months and there was plenty of money available for loans. The thrift institution has offices in Erwin and Jonesboro.

Notice

Effective today Westco Telephone Company will change office hours to the following: Open at 9:30 a.m. Close at 12:00 noon and reopen at 2:00 p.m.



Earnest Hughes

Hughes Is Football Coach

Mr. Earnest Hughes has been employed as Head Football Coach for Mountain Heritage High School for the year 1975-76, it was announced by the Yancey County Board of Education.

Mr. Hughes, a native of Winnsboro, South Carolina, graduated from Winnsboro High School in 1968 and continued his education at Clemson University where he graduated in 1972. He played varsity football in high school and also three years varsity football while at Clemson University. He was freshman coach during his senior year at the University.

Mr. Hughes holds a B.S. Degree in Social Studies and has taught school one year at Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, Florida where he was assistant varsity football coach and head track coach. Mr. Hughes has been teaching at Brevard High School, Brevard, N.C. for the past two years and has been assistant varsity football coach, J.V. basketball coach and track coach.

Mr. Hughes and his wife Susan and two children, Crawford age 5 and Keleigh age 1 presently reside in Brevard, N.C. but will be moving to Burnsville early this summer.

Mr. Hughes will assume his duties as teacher and head football coach with the beginning of the 1975-76 school year.

Senior Citizens To Meet

The Senior Citizens of South Toe Valley will meet in the Fellowship Hall of Celso United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 2 at 3:00 p.m. The Brown's Creek Baptist Church will furnish refreshments. There will be a program consisting of travelogue pictures of Korea by Mr. and Mrs. John Ramsey and special music.



71-50
TEMPERATURE
FROM THE
UPPER PORCH
YANCEY COUNTY
COUNTRY STORE
71-56



Bennett Receives Scholarship

Bobby Bennett, pictured above, is the recipient of a scholarship to the two-week "Modern Farming Shortcourse" sponsored by the First Citizens Bank & Trust Company and The Northwestern Bank. Bobby will depart for Raleigh on February 2. The N.C. Bankers Association, N.C. State University and the Agricultural Extension Service work cooperatively to feature the shortcourse. Bobby is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bennett of Burnsville. He has an outstanding high school record for participation in sports, extracurricular activities and agricultural projects. Among agricultural honors was honorable mention and second place winner of the WNC Horticultural Crops Contest in succeeding years. Bobby works part time in electric skills and farms part-time.