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MTI Learning Resource Center Opens

Finishing touches are finally complete at Mayland Technical Institute's new Learning Resource Center and it is now open for public use, the Institute announced this week. The new Learning Resources Center is located in the new facility located on the Mitchell-Avery County line on Hwy. 19E. The Center is comprehensive in scope, offering a library with approximately 6500 books and over 100 different magazines and containing microfilm of various state and county documents and other materials; audio-visual and media services, with motion picture and other A-V equipment and materials; and an individualized instruction center for adults pursuing the Adult High School Diploma or its equivalency, or

who are seeking development in areas of personal interest.

A photocopier is also available for public use at 10¢ per copy for copying both personal or library documents and materials. The Learning Resources Center, located on the second floor of MTI's new Main Campus facility, comprises 3320 square feet and is open from 7:45 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fridays. The public is encouraged to visit and use the Center and to call on any of its 9-member staff for assistance. For further information on how you can use and take advantage of LRC services at MTI call 765-7351, extension 67.

Weather Wrecks Budgets

The severely cold weather has caused undue hardships both financially and otherwise for many North Carolinians from east to west. Those who have been affected the most

are those with fixed low incomes, such as the elderly and those families where the breadwinner has become unemployed because of the energy crisis.

"Thousands of families and elderly people have found themselves with not enough money to pay other increased costs of living and have enough left to buy adequate

food. On top of this dilemma, the cold weather in areas that produce vegetables, seafood and other foodstuffs have forced prices on these items sky high. Cabbage is a good example." John Kerr, chief of the food assistance section of the North Carolina Division of Social Services said.

According to Kerr, this dilemma has caused an influx in food stamp applicants at many county social services departments across the state. Many of these people have

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Oil Paintings By Beecher On Exhibit At Library

Barbara Beecher, whose oil paintings are currently on exhibit at the Yancey County Public Library, is a native of San Francisco where she majored in art at college, and afterwards studied oil painting the Jonathan Batchelor in Oakland.

After marriage to poet John Beecher in 1955, she and her husband founded the Morning Star Press in California, renamed the Rampart Press when they moved to

Arizona in 1958. Productions of theirs won Western Books Awards in 1960, 1961, and 1963. Roderick Cave's definitive *The Private Press* (London & New York, 1971) singles out her block-print illustrations for special praise and states that "the Rampart Press books are among the most harmonious and important American work." She also has been written up in *The American Book Collector* and Lois Rather's *Women as Printers*.

Since 1972 she has studied with Everette Kivette and John Bryans at "Painting in the Mountains" in Burnsville. Her oils and prints have been shown at the Verde Gallery in Arizona, Arizona State University, University of California at Los Angeles, Walker Art Gallery in Minneapolis, Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey, and at graphics exhibitions in England and Germany. She has also had shows in Columbia, S.C., and Atlanta.



Barbara Beecher and her husband, Poet John Beecher

Accidents On Yancey Highways

A two-car accident on Monday, February 21, at 4 p.m. occurred on N.C. 197N 2 miles out of Burnsville.

Leonard Widawski, 59, of Route 2, Green Mountain was driving a 1968 Chevrolet truck. Billy Anglin, 27, of Burnsville was driving a 1966 Mercury north on NC 197 and slowed to make a left turn into a private drive. Wadawski was traveling north on NC 197, came in behind Anglin and attempted to pass on the left side. The Widawski vehicle collided with the left front of the Anglin vehicle. Widawski's vehicle continued north and struck a telephone pole.

Widawski was charged with improper passing. There were no other passengers in either vehicle and no injuries. Damage was estimated at \$800 to the Chevrolet and \$300 to the Mercury, and \$75 to the telephone pole. Trooper A.T. Morrison investigated.

A two-car accident on US 19W 8 miles out of Burnsville involved Floyd Wheeler, 23, of Route 4, Burnsville and Troy Mathis, 51, of Route 3, Burnsville. The accident occurred on Tuesday, February 22, at 3:40 p.m.

Wheeler was driving a 1972 Chevrolet south on US 19W and approached the intersection of US 19W and Hardscrabble. Mathis was driving a 1971 VW and turned into the path of vehicle 1 and was struck by vehicle 1. Mathis was attempting a left turn. The Wheeler vehicle came to rest on the right shoulder of US 19W. The Mathis vehicle came to rest in the southbound lane of US 19W.

Mathis was charged with safe movement violation and Wheeler was charged with equipment violation.

There were no passengers and no injuries in Wheeler vehicle. Mathis and one passenger, Frank Chandler, 7, were taken to Yancey Hospital but were not seriously injured. Damage was

estimated at \$200 to the Chevrolet; \$800 to the VW; and \$25 to a sign. Trooper C.D. Thomas investigated.

A non-highway accident occurred on Thursday, February 24, at 11:15 a.m. The accident occurred in Mitchell County, 5 miles out of Spruce Pine on the Burnsville Highway.

Brady Mosley, 66, of Concord, N.C. was backing a 1974 white tractor trailer south in the Coulter Oil Company parking lot, struck a fuel line, caught fire and burned. Mosley was taken to the Spruce Pine Hospital and was immediately transferred to Asheville.

\$14,000 damage was estimated. Trooper James Newton investigated.

Mallonee To Visit

Tom L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District Assistant to Congressman Lamar Gudger, is now making scheduled visits to the county seats and other sections of the counties.

On Tuesday, March 8, he will be at the Madison County Courthouse, Marshall, from 9:30 to 10:30; at the Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, from 1:00 to 2:00; and at the Town Hall, Spruce Pine, from 3:00 to 4:00.

South Toe Fire Calls

February 25, Friday at 3:45 p.m. Brush Fire on Lower Browns Creek near residences of Thelma Gouge and Mrs. Cal Street. Neighbors working with Steve Whitson, USFS firefighter, did a fine job of putting out fire. Fire Department only had to mop up. Boxwood planting damaged. One truck, 10 firefighters, and 2 fire police responded.



Art Of Puppetry

Ann Peterson works on a puppet's arm in a concentrated month-long Berea College course on the art of the puppet. Ann is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Peterson of Route 2, Green Mountain, and is a graduate of Cane River High School.

Making hand puppets, marionettes, stick puppets and shadow puppets, the class studied joint construction and control strings and designed their puppets' costumes, features and personalities. Then they wrote scripts for the new-born actors, staging short puppet shows and learning how to operate [and untangle] the strings. Puppets are no strangers to Berea College-Nell DiTeressa of the art department has raised a large family of them and each year gives shows for children in "A Summer Puppetry Caravan for Appalachia". His puppetry workshop on campus is a department in the student labor program.

Luncheon Sponsored

There will be a Luncheon at the Higgins Memorial United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 6. Serving will begin at 12:15 until 1:30 p.m.

Adults \$3.00, children under 10 \$1.50. The Luncheon is sponsored by youths of the church and the public is cordially invited.

Burnsville Fire Calls

February 24, Thursday at 11:30 a.m. Mutual Aid-Gasoline Tanker Fire at Coulter Oil Co. storage tanks at Yancey-Mitchell line. Newdale, Spruce Pine, Burnsville, Crossnore and South Toe Departments responding with men and equipment. 17 men responding.

February 24, Thursday at 8:20 p.m. Johnny McPeters residence on Sam Robertson Road at Bald Creek. Oil stove flooded. No damage to house. 18 men responding.

February 26, Saturday at 12 noon, Grass Fire near Mrs. Bascomb Hensley's residence on Banks Creek. 8 men responding.

February 27, Sunday at 8:50 p.m. Virgil Robinson's residence on Long Branch above Bee Log School. House and contents completely destroyed. Undetermined origin of fire. 14 men responding.

Notice

Telephone bills may now be paid at Pollard's Drug Store. If you have a question concerning your bill please call or bring those bills by the Burnsville Business Office. -Westco Telephone Company



Burnsville's ECF Nears Completion

The Blue Ridge Hospital System's new Extended Care Facility in Burnsville is nearing completion. The question being asked most frequently, however, is not "When will it open?" but "What are we getting?" At this point, no one knows for sure, but time is growing short and a definite answer

must soon be forthcoming. The Yancey Journal is planning a special issue on our county's total health care picture, to be published at or near the time the new facility opens its doors to patients.

Photo by Brian Westover