

Town Council

Reagan cuts could affect water plans

Black Mountain water system plans could be delayed if the proposed Reagan Administration elimination of the Appalachian Regional Council (ARC) is passed. Black Mountain is in the first back-up priority for up to \$500,000 in funding for the new water system planned for the town.

"We are desperately dependent on ARC funds," Mayor Tom Sobol stated at Town Council Monday night. Town Council cabled Governor James Hunt concerning the funds and received a reply stating: "I wanted to let you know that in balance I agree with President Reagan that we need to reduce federal spending. But, there are certain programs that I plan to defend... I met with the governors of the other 12 states Tuesday in Washington. Together we drafted a resolution clearly indicating our feeling that ARC is willing to take its fair share of a cut, but not to do away with the ARC entirely."

A resolution of the governors to the President stated that, "We urge the President to appoint a representative to work with us during the next 90 days to determine how our experience with the ARC process might be used to carry out the President's programs nationally."

Town Council has also cabled Con-

gressman Bill Hendon, who has stated that he has not committed himself yet on the matter.

A decision is expected to be made by April 1. If Black Mountain does not receive the ARC funds, the Town will have to "revamp the whole (water) project," Sobol said.

In other action, Council passed a resolution amending the mobile home park zoning ordinance after a public hearing at which no one spoke. The ordinance will allow conditional use permits to be issued for mobile homes within the town limits. Bob Fischer, chairman of the Board of Adjustments, made the recommendation for that Board.

The date of the annual tax sale was set for noon on May 14.

A motion by Alderman Margaret Slagle that the road cutting cost be raised from \$35 to \$100 was passed.

Sale of draft beer at the golf course, with profit to be shared by the Town and the concessionaire, was passed. Alderman Stafford made the motion, which was seconded by Tyson. Alderman Slagle and Brandon voted against the sale of beer. "I'm dead set against it," Mrs. Brandon said. "We sat here for two and a half hours talking about what it does at the lake. I am very narrow

Lake fence action tabled

Town Council voted Monday night to reconsider a resolution made last month to place a \$6,400 fence across the dam at Lake Tomahawk. Action was then tabled until the April 13 board meeting, by which time a survey of the entire area under question will be complete.

The board's decision was made after more than two hours of public comment and discussion.

A group of homeowners whose property borders the lake and others who live in the area called the proposed fence an "eyesore" and a "waste of money." They believe that money could be better spent for facilities which would encourage more people to use the area, driving away the undesirable

activity that occurs there now, and for increased law enforcement.

The fence was proposed at the February Town Council meeting by a committee appointed to study the problem of drug traffic, public drunkenness and other behavior occurring on the lake banks. The problems had been brought before the Board in January by Gay Fox, owner of property on Connelly Street, who asked the Board to fence Connelly Street near her property, cutting off access to the lake there.

At the April meeting, Town Council will decide whether or not a fence will be erected, and if so, where and how long. The survey will be complete by the agenda meeting April 6.



Lakeview Center gets surprise

When senior citizens at Lakeview Center began raising funds to purchase a van last month, they were prepared for a long siege of bake sales, quilt raffles and rummage sales before they ever set eyes on their van. On Monday, they got a big surprise.

During lunch, Laine Calloway, Center director, invited them to look out the window. Parked in the driveway was a newly painted white bus, a vehicle retired from school busing, probably something of a senior citizen itself.

"I couldn't keep it any longer," Laine laughed, as the new owners of the bus applauded.

The town purchased the school bus

from the State for \$825 and Lakeview Center will repay the town, Laine explained. The bus sat waiting behind the Town Hall over the weekend while Laine struggled not to spill the beans. The bus will have a red and blue design along with the Center's name painted on its sides but Laine couldn't wait for that before she shared the surprise.

Town Manager Earnest Hudgins drove the bus with a full load on its maiden voyage—through downtown Black Mountain.

Lakeview Center still owes about \$500 on the bus. Upcoming fund-raising events include a dinner theatre and a fish fry.

Earl is star patient of veterinary school

by Cynthia Reimer

About six months ago, Earl strolled out for his morning constitutional and returned 10 minutes later with a severely injured eye. Earl is a four-year old dachshund of a dog owned by Mary Ann Neese of Black Mountain.

Dr. Wagener removed Earl's injured eye, fashioned him a cardboard ruff to keep him from scratching his stitches and Earl went home.

"He's such an easy-going dog, it doesn't seem to bother him at all," Mary Ann said. She said Earl never appeared to be in any pain from the injury.

That should be the happy ending of the story, but it was actually just the beginning. Earl went on to become a star patient at the University of Tennessee Veterinary School, subject of a medical journal article by Dr. Robert Munger, and something of a puzzle to medical science.

Months after his accident, Mary Ann

noticed pronounced swelling beneath the closed eyelid. Dr. Wagener tapped it with a needle—and found only air. Puzzled, Dr. Wagener recommended that the Neeses take Earl for a visit to the University of Tennessee Veterinary School.

The Neeses were amazed at the facilities at the University. "There were more examining rooms than Memorial Mission Hospital," Elmer Neese, Mary Ann's father, laughed.

Dr. Munger, veterinary ophthalmologist, kept Earl at the school for two weeks. He was also examined by a neurosurgeon and an orthopedic surgeon. An intern is assigned to each animal, Mary Ann said, and the intern called her every day to report Earl's progress.

"Dr. Munger and his staff had never seen anything like it," Mary Ann said. He believes that the naso-lacrimal duct, a canal that runs from the eyes to nose, was leaking air into the empty socket, causing the swelling. To stop the leakage, he implanted a silicone ball.

Earl has been back home for a week now and there has been no further swelling, so it seems that Dr. Munger was right. Mary Ann and her parents are ecstatic, and are deeply grateful to Dr. Wagener and to the University of Tennessee.

"The care he received there was excellent," Mary Ann said. "We didn't even know a place like that existed."

"He had more attention than most humans can afford," added Mrs. Neese, a nurse and also Mary Ann's mother.

Earl is unaffected by his fame. Rising from humble origins—he was a sick homeless stray when Mary Ann claimed him three years ago—to medical stardom has not fazed him in the least.



Earl's collar, fashioned from used x-ray film, keeps him from scratching his stitches—most of the time, says his owner Mary Ann Neese.



Weather Review

Feb. 27—high 70, low 20 degrees.
Feb. 28—high 73, low 29 degrees.
March 1—high 66, low 52 degrees.
March 2—high 52, low 37 degrees.
March 3—high 54, low 30 degrees.
March 4—high 45, low 22 degrees; .15 inches precipitation.
March 5—high 45, low 38 degrees; .54 inches rain.

Courtesy of WFGW Radio National Weather Station

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Batten down the bosun

There's a lion in the schools



"I have ambitions, dreams. I want to be something in life," said "The Lion Who Wouldn't"—wouldn't sign his circus contract, that is. Bored with pacing and growling, circus food and a creaky cage, Lion, portrayed by Greybeard Players' Ken Sausedo, delighted the audience Thursday at Carver Optional School.

History is full of famous lions, Lion says—you know, Ponce de Lion, King Lion the Richard-hearted—and he, too, seeks fame.

In his favorite dream, Lion sees himself as the winning pitcher on a baseball team, but when he tries it, he slips on a banana peel and loses the game.

Next, Lion takes up teaching, but when he tells the principal that two plus two equals five, he loses his job.

"Batten down the bosun," shouts ship captain Lion. He triumphantly quells a mutiny with only a banana, then succumbs to seasickness.

After a stint as an unsuccessful detective and another as a movie star flop in "The Lion that Won the West," Lion returns to the circus to do what he

does best.

This is the second production Montreat-Anderson College's Greybeard Players have taken to the county elementary schools. "The cast is composed of college students who give up their spring break to bring live theatre to the children," said director Frances Tamboli, Montreat professor of drama and English.

Ken Sausedo, a sophomore and theatre major from North Belmont, plays Lion. Children in the cast are played by Brian Cunningham, Cindy Wescott, Brian O'Hara, Melanie Berry, Bill Epps, Teresa Goodson and Robin O'Dell. Duane Deninger plays the circus attendant.

The production staff includes Frances Tamboli, director; Margaret Allen, musical director; Dee Evans, musical assistance and props; and Bonnie Walke, props.

After 13 performances in the schools for over 4,200 children, "The Lion Who Wouldn't" will be performed at Montreat-Anderson College March 16 at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.



"It's impolite to stand on a tail, especially when the tail belongs to someone else," said Lion. "Now kiss it and make it better."

Carver Optional School students enjoyed a production of "The Lion Who Wouldn't" by the Greybeard Players of Montreat-Anderson College.