

What's Up

School gets uniforms

A fourth Iredell public school has made student uniforms mandatory. The Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education on Monday approved a uniform policy for Statesville Middle School, effective this fall. Statesville Middle Principal Brady Johnson assured parents the dress code would meet the following guidelines: The policy will be fair and reasonable, parents will be involved in forming the final dress code, the uniforms will be available at local stores, each outfit will cost \$25 or less, shoes will not be part of the dress code and funds will be available for needy families. East Iredell Middle, East Iredell Elementary and Presley Elementary schools enacted the school system's first dress code policies in 1998.

Leak closes N.C. 150

A natural gas leak shut down N.C. 150 between Talbert Road and U.S. 21 Friday afternoon after a construction crew severed the gas line. Police subsequently blocked off N.C. 150 to allow the line to be repaired and to prevent ignition of the gas.

All you can eat

The Mooreville Masonic Lodge will serve breakfast on Saturday, June 16 from 7 to 10 a.m. at the lodge on Institute Street next to the post office. Cost for all-you-can-eat is \$5. Proceeds will benefit the Masonic programs.

Attic sale

The Lake Norman Sail and Power Squadron will hold their annual attic sale on Saturday, June 16 from 6:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the BB&T parking lot at I-77/Exit 28. For more information, call (704) 493-5414.

Junkyard sued

The Town of Troutman has filed a suit against a junkyard owner for failure to follow the town's ordinances. Farris Ervin, owner of Farris Ervin Enterprises on Eastway Drive, will face the town in civil court, where the town will seek an injunction that would prevent Ervin from operating the business until it complies with the town's standards.

Summer at the Rec

The Mooreville Recreation Department will offer a summer playground program for children ages 6 to 13. The cost is \$30 per week, plus a \$10 registration fee. The program will be held from June 18 to 22, June 25 to 29, July 9 to 13, and July 16 to 20. The sessions will be held from 12 to 5 p.m., and participants must bring their own snack. Children must be pre-registered. No registration will be taken over the phone.

The recreation department is offering swim lessons for children ages 6 and older. The lessons will be conducted from June 18 to 28; July 9 to 19, and July 23 to August 2. Cost is \$30 per person. The swim team also meets on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., with practices twice weekly. The recreation department will also be offering volleyball at the War Memorial on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. It's free. For more information, call 704-683-7028.

Get Watt's ear

Vote best with the government? U.S. Rep. Mel Watt's staff will hold a "state-of-the-office" hour at the Mooreville Municipal Building on Monday, June 18, from 9-11 a.m. No appointment is necessary.

Police close Talbert gambling house

Kannapolis man charged with running sports betting operation

By NANCY BAKER

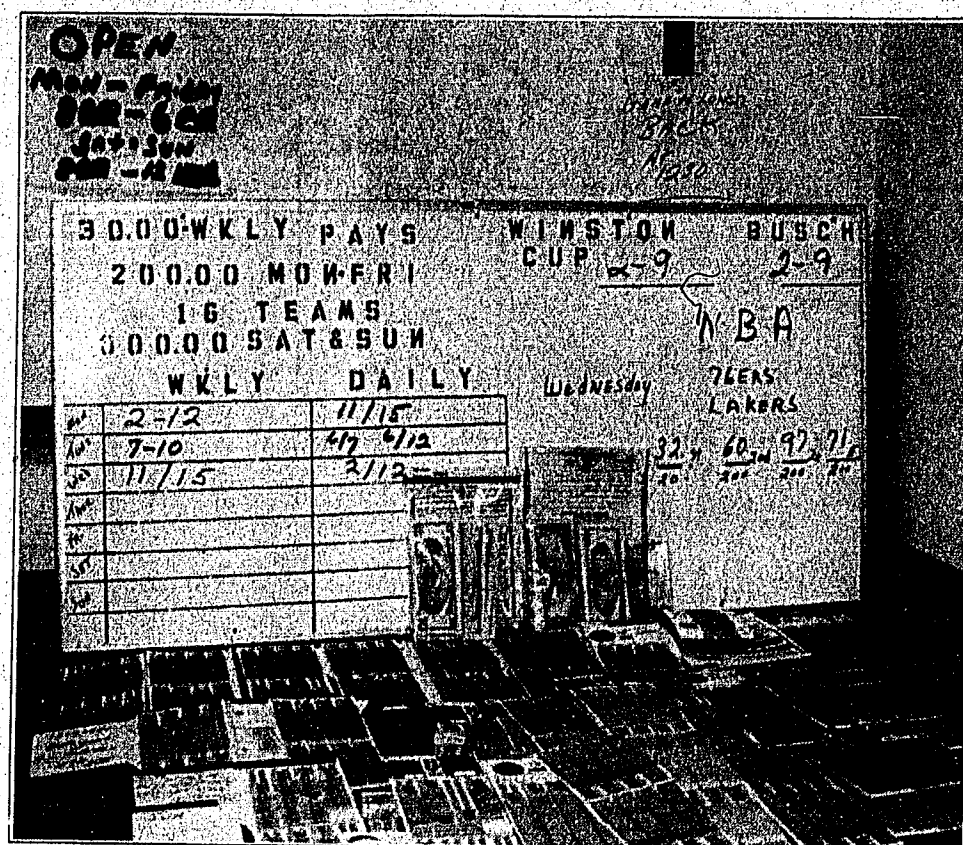
Only one room was furnished in the house at 214 Talbert Road — the dining room.

And that room, police say, was the hub of an illegal gambling operation run by a Kannapolis man.

After getting complaints from neighbors about a "business" being run from the house, the Mooreville Police Department's Vice and Narcotics Squad conducted an undercover investigation, then searched the residence on June 7 after obtaining a warrant.

During the search, detectives seized a large quantity of gambling materials — pull ticket books, pull ticket tabs, several notebooks containing pull tickets for various sporting events. Police also seized \$1,338 in cash along with sports schedules and results.

Larry Wayne Gibson of Kannapolis was charged with gambling, possession of number tickets and keeping



Gambling paraphernalia seized by police from Talbert Road house

gaming tables. A court date has been set in July.

There was a little bit of everything, said detective Bob Dyson, including Winston Cup, Busch Series, truck racing, basketball and baseball.

"The house was being used solely for the purpose of gambling," said Lt. Thomas Thompson, who heads up the vice/narcotics squad. Thompson explained that bingo is allowed in Moore-

ville as long as it is run by a non-profit organization and the organization follows strict guidelines — such as allowing no alcohol on the premises and a limit on the money that can be given away.

Troutman

Continued from page 1A

May 22 and tabled action on the matter until Thursday's meeting.

About 30 residents of the Talley Street-East Monbo Road area were in attendance Thursday night, most to voice opposition to the planned development.

The questions about increased traffic, higher taxes and the location of a high-density housing development in a rural community were raised by residents of the area.

Those questions are likely to be addressed by a land-use plan for the town that is currently being developed, said Alderman Steve Ellis. The incomplete plan prompted Ellis to recommend the adoption of an ordinance calling for a moratorium on subdivision and rezoning requests.

"We are shaping the future of the town," Ellis said. "We need a plan to help guide the board."

A public hearing will be held on that ordinance on July 12.

Dienst would not comment on the reasons for withdrawing the rezoning request, but he didn't rule out the option of bringing it back at a later date.

"We're going to see how their long-range plan progresses," he said. "We're going to sit back and watch and see what happens."

Ellis said the land development plan should be completed by December or January. Depending on the results, this or some other development project can be submitted again, he said.

The moratorium was not aimed specifically at this development, Ellis said. "All we're trying to do is ensure that Troutman — as it grows, and it is going to grow — does it in the right manner."

One of the opponents of Dienst's development said he was pleased with the board's action. "I feel good," said Brent Warren. "It was a good decision to step back and take a serious look at it. It's a decision that will have a huge impact on Troutman. I think they're (the board) going in the right direction. It took courage on part of the board to do that."

Facelift

Continued from page 1A

Tribune in January that that announcement was premature and that no plans to renovate the plant had been finalized. Despite the company's insistence that no decision had been made as to what the facility would be used for, local business leaders continued to express optimism about the facility's transformation.

Regardless of what the old plant will be used for, Cherokee's Cadwallader said he expects construction to begin in four to six months. Also, Fluor Daniel has been retained by the company to oversee the project.

Deputies went to Virginia and questioned Helton. After being shown a picture of the toolbox, Helton told detectives he sold it to an unknown man in Charlotte.

During the investigation, authorities also learned that Angela had taken a domestic violence protection order against Helton. The order was still in effect on July 11.

Helton later admitted killing Angela, but insisted it was self-defense. He was found to be made by a hacksaw.

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Lions lend a hand

Charles Sutton, president of the Mooreville Lions Club, presents a donation to Kay Jones, president of the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, to help defray the UDC's cost of permanently marking 94 graves of Confederate soldiers in Mooreville's Willow Valley Cemetery. The contribution is the latest from the Lions to benefit the project.



DA 'closer' to releasing findings in school funds case

By JONATHAN WEAVER

After a year and a half of investigation, the case of possible misappropriation of building funds within the Iredell-Statesville Schools could move forward soon.

"I'm a lot closer than I have been, and I hesitate to give a time frame, but I am close to making some type of announcement," said District Attorney Garry Frank.

Agents from the State Bureau of Investigation and the Iredell County Sheriff's Office gave their findings to Frank in January. About a month later, Frank asked for more information.

"I have reviewed the report and all the additional information I requested," Frank said. The reports concerned school personnel, contractors and at least one subcontractor, and involved actions with several different contractors on several different projects between November of 1998 and June of 1999, according to

Iredell-Statesville Schools counsel Bedford Cannon.

The suspicions arose from a subcontractor's bill for types of work not consistent with their abilities, Cannon said.

The investigation, which SBI Agent-in-Charge Ron Perry said was complex, began in October 1999 after a school employee alerted administrators to possible invoice irregularities.

Cannon reviewed the report and other papers that corroborated the story, then took the case to Supt. Buddy Coleman.

An Atlanta-based building contract specialist was brought in for 10 days to review the case. He submitted several reports, which the school board reviewed and subsequently turned over to law enforcement.

The findings were shown to Iredell County Sheriff Phil Redmond, who contacted the SBI's white-collar crime unit. After an 11-month investigation, the findings were given to Frank.

MCC honor roll

Here is a list of academic honors for area students for the spring semester at Mitchell Community College:

Dean's List (full-time)

From Mooreville: Mary Sandra Blackwell, Deborah Sue Christy, Amanda Marie Coughlin, Mark Alan Ford, Lisa Jayne Hedgecock, Martina Hlauskova, Stacey Bridges Moore, Michelle Audino Pasko, and Joseph Martin Slope.

Dean's List (part-time)

From Mooreville: Deborah Williams Barnett, Christopher Shawn Carney, Tammy McCormick Conley, Victoria Mitchell Craver, Melinda Elledge Disharoon, Steven R. Hill, Maria Annette Jones, Eben Presley Karrier, Christine Denise Kraetz, Matthew Theodore Kraetz, Kelly Long Locklear, June Godbout.

Meadows, Shannon Lee Meier, Betty Juanita Miller, Isaac Gabriel Waters Redden, Christina M. Swann, Margaret Grey Valco, and Haven Stephanie Young.

Also, Melanie Parker Walther, Mt. Ulla, Richard Daniel Bennett, Carly Yvonne Galtner, Dorothy Claudette Leach, Tammy Lovell Paxton, Rebecca Gail Taylor, and Nancy Leigh Tedder, Troutman.

Also, Cynthia June Emery,

Charles Brennan Morrow, Roney Fowler Murdock, Betty Roberts Puckett, Brandon Sherrill and Alicia Rae Wall, all of Troutman.

Here is a listing of full-time students

from this area earning a quality point average of 3.5 through 3.99:

Amy Nicole Anderson, Stephen

Paul Barber, Diane Flory Bischoff, Brandi Nicole Brantley, Robert Darrin Bridges, Laura Ridgway Chambers, Sarah Jeanette Craven, Ginger Ann Ervin, Bryan Gabriel, Maria Danielle Harris, Peggy Manning Holmberg, Cristy Marie Manning, Debra Tyburski McKinney, Thad Madison Patrick, Greta Dianne Ray, Amy Harrington Snyder, and Theresa Ann Spencer.

Also, Cynthia June Emery, Charles Brennan Morrow, Roney Fowler Murdock, Betty Roberts Puckett, Brandon Sherrill and Alicia Rae Wall, all of Troutman.

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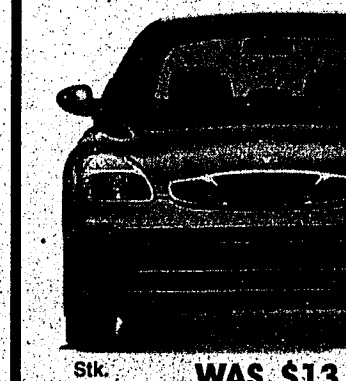
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