



PHOTO BY IDA HOLYFIELD

a Joe

Ron Short, left, beams as Mountain College Home Craft Days coordinator Nells presents the Cultural Heritage 'Papa Joe' Smiddy Sunday afternoon. calist, musician and the charter chan- lley College, now the University of Wise, was commended for his role as anitarian, and for his tireless contribu- sic and mountain people. More Home n Page 2.

previously received no indication that anything was wrong with her performance, asked Killough for the reason behind the change, she says she was told, simply, it is "in the best interest of the school division."

SUPPORTIVE CROWD
As the school board members met behind closed doors for about an hour,

See *TITLE*, Page A2

Lenowisco hosts water providers emergency meeting

BY IDA HOLYFIELD
EDITOR

DUFFIELD — As the current drought deepens, long-term planning and information sharing among area water providers will become critical, Lenowisco Planning District Executive Director Ron Flanary told about 40 officials who gathered at his invitation last Friday.

Representatives of virtually every water provider, associated engineering firm and regulatory agency in the planning district attended a meeting called by Flanary at Lenowisco headquarters to review the current status of each system, with an eye to action that might have to be taken in 30 to 60 days if the drought continues.

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration long-term precipitation forecast map circulated by Dean Henderson, of the Virginia Department of Health, said it all. This region lies in the severe-drought zone, bordering on the severe-with-some-relief zone, where a small amount of rain is likely. The drought is projected to continue through January 2008.

Among the water providers represented, those with impoundments — lakes

See *WATER*, Page A3

LECTION 2007 ★

idates express views

want to be a school board member? of incumbents, why do you want the board?

DISTRICT ONE

My entire life has been centered on cher for 14 years (in the Wise Co. i), and a school administrator for uly feel that I am knowledgeable cerns, and possess the experience ght decisions concerning our school

here is too much controversy on the d to use common sense and make e beneficial for all of Wise County. it goes on at the school board meet- -making has caused the school sys- in. I believe I would be a positive

ICT THREE

ided to run for school board for our

Supervisors, school board candidates share views

This week and next, *The Post* will be presenting profiles and responses to questions posed to candidates in the Nov. 6 election. We begin this week with Districts 1 and 3 Board of Supervisors and School Board

Supervisor candidates state positions

1

Why do you want to be a county supervisor? Or, in the case of an incumbent, why do you want another term on the board?

DISTRICT ONE

FRED LUNTSFORD: It has and always will be a desire of mine to accomplish projects that improve the quality of life for my fellow Wise County residents. From my position as supervisor, I have been able to bring that desire to reality. We have accomplished a lot in the last four years, but we have so much more on the table now I truly want to be able to stay on the board to finish what is started and to move on to bigger and better things for the county.

BEN BOGGS: Did not answer.

DISTRICT THREE

JOYCE PAGE: From early childhood I have always aspired to serve others in a way that would make life easier for them. As town clerk/treasurer for 38 years, I would like to have the opportunity to continue that service by bringing valuable experience

in psychotherapy, stay on anti-psychotic medicine and complete

to the release. As a result, he was sent to a mental institution more than

Water

From Page A1

or reservoirs that supply water — face the most critical shortages in the next 60 to 90 days, while those who rely on rivers as water sources are in the best position to provide water to their neighbors, officials noted.

Of most concern at present are the Appalachia water system, which has about a 60-day supply in its reservoir, and the Big Stone Gap system, which has about a 90 day supply, Flanary said.

"Limiting water use is a political policy issue which will have to be addressed by the localities," he said. "A lot of folks are oblivious to the fact that we are at the edge of some very serious times. The forecast ain't great, folks."

Bobby Lane of Lane Engineering, who worked with Big Stone Gap during its water crisis, cautioned that if it gets to the point where localities need to install temporary water intakes in rivers, or need variances on "pass by" regulations, which involves capturing more stream water to send to water plants, one step will be critical.

Localities will have to imple-

ment emergency water conservation measures, and citizens and businesses will have to dramatically reduce water consumption before agencies will grant permission for those kinds of regulatory variances, Lane said.

Both towns are making plans for mandatory conservation measures.

"Oct. 31 is D-Day in Appalachia," Town Manager Fred Luntsford noted. "If we haven't had significant rain by then, our Contingency Plan for Controlled Use of Water and Declaration of Emergency will be implemented."

Letters to citizens urging voluntary conservation have not been effective, he noted. Enforcement will follow when the ordinance takes effect.

A council committee is currently reviewing Big Stone Gap's Water Emergency Plan, Town Manager George Polly said. As currently written, the plan goes into effect when the reservoir drops to a 60-day supply.

WATER STATUS

Starting to zone in on ways to address the most problematic issues for Appalachia, Big Stone Gap and other area water providers is the most prudent step to take at this point, Flanary

noted.

"Lenowisco is not an emergency agency. The work we do does not deal with emergencies," Flanary told those assembled. However the agency and area elected officials are now receiving a ground swell of calls from residents — many of whom opted out of previous water system projects — whose private wells and springs are now drying up.

There are areas within the Lenowisco Planning District where people have been carrying and hauling water for months, Flanary noted.

While it's not feasible to extend water service to those households in the short term — it takes about three years to plan, engineer, fund and complete a water system extension — there are ways interconnecting water transmission lines might be used so that communities can help each other if the drought continues to deepen, he noted.

Several systems in the planning district now have interconnecting lines, and that helped a lot when Big Stone Gap was coping with its water shortage during construction of the new Big Cherry Dam, Flanary said.

However, across the planning district, "because lines connect, that does not mean water can go in both directions. Most are

gravity flow lines," Flanary cautioned. Pump installations would be needed in many instances.

Flanary led participants in a rundown of area systems, with information summarized in a handout prepared by Lane. Most water sources, from the KVS Quarry in Lee County back up to Jonesville and into Pennington Gap, are in good shape at present. Coeburn has ample raw water from its reservoir and the Jenny Mine. The Wise PSA Carfax plant can provide water to other systems, limited only by its plant's capacity to produce water.

The Duffield plant, now threatened due to the small drainage area of the river providing raw water, can be supplied from Big Stone Gap through Jasper.

Nickelsville's wells output has dropped but the town is holding its own. Dungannon is currently meeting demand but relies on ground water, and along with Nickelsville, could be vulnerable to drought conditions.

Flanary set a second meeting for Tuesday, Nov. 20 at 10:30 a.m. at Lenowisco headquarters to continue updates and bring additional agencies into the discussion.

"In the meantime," he said, "pray for rain."

Thank you for making me

Smile




Located between
Lebanon and
Claypool Hill.
Hwy. 19 N.
TUXEDO AND BRIDAL WAREHOUSE (276) 880-1121

American Profile



*A dream that's
in the air*

For 20 years, Toni McKay has been making the world a happier place, one parade float at a time. As the owner of only two such companies in the United States, her balloons are seen at some 150 events ea

In Addition...

- Team Hoyt
- Tangy lemon bars

American Pro

Paid Advertise

**Keep
Experien
Workin
For
You!**



**VOTE T
RE-ELEC**