

12-30-99



### **Farewell To 1999**

Transylvania County saw many things happen in 1999, including the official opening of the Gorges State Park in September. Pictured above is Gov. Jim Hunt signing the official documents related to the park at a ceremony held Sept. 3 at Whitewater Falls. A look back at 1999 can be found on pages 1 and 2B of today's paper.

# ★Remembering

(Continued from Page 1B)

full-time physician and visiting specialists for western Transylvania County.

Principal Bill Parker announces he is leaving Brevard Middle School to become principal at Mills River Elementary School in Henderson County. Donna Hill is later picked to replace him.

The U.S. Forest Service dedicates the Schenck Education Hall, a facility that provides space for lectures and other programs.

Brevard College sees 100 of its students graduate.

Wilda Strigo retires after 26 years as the school system's nutritionist.

The sale of Sterling to Agfa is completed.

At a Brevard planning board meeting, plans are discussed for a Holiday Inn to be located on the Asheville Highway at Ecusta Road.

Scott Elliott named Transylvania County Teacher of the Year.

Steve Pulliam becomes director of United Way of Transylvania County.

County budget contains no tax increase as does the city of Brevard's.

County writing scores surpass the state and Western North Carolina.

The life of a Brevard man is saved outside Lowe's Motor City. Warren Scoggins Jr. suffered a heart attack after a race at the track, but Trooper Michael McLeod was able to revive Scoggins using a portable defibrillator.

## June

Brevard and Rosman high schools say goodbye to the class of 1999.

The city of Brevard opens its new driver training facility, a driver education course that was built on an abandoned lot across from Ecusta using funds from the Governor's



1999 saw Brevard elect a new mayor. Jimmy Harris, right, is pictured shaking hands with Rosman Mayor Johnny Rogers following the Nov. 2 election. New members were also elected to the Brevard and Rosman governing boards.

## July

Local officials announce the location of Mortile Industries to the Brevard Commerce Center. The Canadian company manufactures compounds for the rubber and plastics industry and will employ 20 to 25 people starting out.

On the first day of filing, Jimmy Harris and Brevard Mayor Rick Byrd file for the mayor's race in Brevard.

Brevard Academy loses its first principal, Jolene Parker, when she resigns. David Williams is later named as her replacement.

Jinks Ramsey resigns as director of the Transylvania County Arts Council.

an accident at Coats American in Rosman. Her death reveals that some thread machines at the plant lacked safety guards. The company is fined and places guards on the machines in addition to re-evaluating Coats American's safety procedures.

Rachel Harris is one of 40 diabetics nationwide selected for a study that doctors hope may lead to a cure for the disease.

A home in the Turkey Pen Mobile Home Park is destroyed by fire. No one is hurt.

The Penrose Quarry is in the midst of a \$2 million expansion.

The old B & B Property in downtown Brevard is demolished to make

Transylvania County Schools have two Schools of Excellence and four Schools of Distinction under the state's ABCs.

Transylvania County takes steps to protect the 911 system from Y2K, spending \$209,535 to upgrade software.

Three are arrested in a drug raid on Unity Drive in Brevard. Police said they found 38 rocks of crack cocaine.

Rosman High School topped all North Carolina high schools on end-of-grade testing.

Steve Pagano is hired as the superintendent for the new Gorges State Park.

The helicopter rescue program

Twomey, receives a \$20,000 grant to begin operations.

An Agfa spokesperson confirms that the company is considering layoffs among a number of cost-cutting measures. Later in the year, Agfa says 360 people will lose their jobs at the Cedar Mountain plant.

Concerns about safety in downtown Brevard are raised when, in separate incidents, a dog is shot and killed on the usually calm streets and a window at The Corner Bistro is broken by fighting youths.

## September

The county's SAT scores rise to 1020.

Gov. Jim Hunt comes to Transylvania County to honor local and Western North Carolina volunteers at Brevard College. The next day he participates in the dedication of the Gorges State Park.

The Hank Williams Crusade draws thousands to Brevard High School's football stadium. The four-day crusade features a number of singers and speakers, including a young man who survived the Columbine High School shooting.

John Lee, one of the county's oldest residents at 104, died.

Sam Gillani breaks ground on his newest business venture, the Holiday Inn Express.

People fleeing Hurricane Floyd leave practically no vacancies at local hotels.

Rosman High School announces plans to renovate its school stadium.

Bob Twomey, a leader among the Brevard Rescue Squad for 15 years, is arrested by federal agents for possession of 58 pipe bombs. In a case that shocked many county residents, Twomey pleaded guilty and currently awaits sentencing. He resigned from the rescue squad.

The Sheriff's Department receives a new computer program, the first in the state, that helps law enforcement track down missing children.