

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## THE NEWS - RECORD

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### 5 - Year Surge In Madison County Economy

Madison County's economy continues to grow, year after year, despite inflation and despite rising taxes, domestic and international turmoil and the frequent forebodings of bad times ahead.

It represented sales at the rate of \$2,284 per household, as against \$2,118 in 1967. The advance that was achieved in the local area was due, basically, to the fact that the amount of disposable income in the hands of the average family increased greatly in the period, offsetting higher living costs.

Carolina. Although most families are making substantially more than they did previously, they feel that they are in a squeeze—that even with their increased cash, they cannot buy as much with it as they could formerly.



A \$1,000.00 CHECK from the directors and stockholders of the Citizens Bank was presented Superintendent R. L. Edwards by C. T. Masburn, chairman of the Citizens Bank, during a presentation last Tuesday to kick off a drive for the Madison County High School Band. Looking on at the

presentation which was held in the Citizens Bank are, left to right, E. C. Teague, Mrs. Annie May White, D. M. Robinson, John O. Corbett (between Edwards and Masburn), Robert H. Chandler, James Sprinkle, Jr., Dr. Hoyt C. Blackwell and Frank T. Moore, directors of the bank.

### Buncombe Is Now A Member Of Region B

By ED SPEARS  
Citizen Staff Writer

Buncombe County was formally accepted into membership by the Region B. Planning and Economic Development Commission Wednesday, and the four-county group reorganized for the coming year by electing Brevard Mayor Charles H. Campbell to a second term as chairman.

had come to a decision that it had not taken required membership resolution action in the past and declared Buncombe not a member in late summer, was "like a yo-yo, in and out" of the commission, and asked Ratcliff if he were sure of Buncombe's status now.

Also elected, in a unanimous approval of the nominating committee's report, were Buncombe County Commission Chairman R. Curtis Ratcliff as first vice chairman, Henderson County Commissioner William Prim as second vice chairman, Transylvania County Chairman William Ives as secretary and Madison County Commissioner James Ledford as treasurer.

### Free Adult Education Classes

Free adult education classes through Asheville - Buncombe Technical Institute are offered to anyone in the surrounding area who is 18 years of age or older and who has not completed high school requirements—or anyone who wishes to complete their educational level with emphasis upon Math, Language, and Reading.

A quarter has been completed and two men and one woman have completed their high school requirements and have received diplomas from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Why not start the new year off with a goal to better yourself educationally and have a better chance to improve or advance yourself personally as well as your chance for better employment?

To enroll, simply call 688-2534 or come out to class December 27th or January 3rd to visit and perhaps register. There is no expense to you other than sacrificing a little time for a great deal of personal satisfaction. Classes are held at the Mars Hill Community Center on Monday and Thursday nights from 7 - 10 o'clock.

### Human Resources Office To Open In Black Mountain

RALEIGH — The western regional office of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources will be opened January 2. That announcement came today from Secretary of Human

Resources David T. Flaherty. The western office, located in the Nurses Home addition on the campus of the Western North Carolina Specialty Hospital in Black Mountain, is the first of four regional DHR offices to be opened. Renovation in the other three locations, Fayetteville, Winston-Salem, and Greenville, is expected to be completed during January and February.

Housed in the Black Mountain office will be employees of Social Services, Mental Health, Blind, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Developmental Disabilities Representatives of the Division of Health Services will move in after further renovation.

Also located in the office will be a staff of eight that will form the manpower management team. The manpower office will be made aware of vacancies within any Human Resource agency in the region. They will recruit, train, give merit exams, and process hirings and transfers. This new team approach will provide more personnel experts to be responsive to management and employee needs.

Approximately 80 employees will work in the office. Regional managers will be Benjamin R. Carpenter, Social Services; Dr. Trevor Williams, Mental Health; John Y. Yoder, Vocational Rehabilitation; R.L. Clark, Blind Services; C. Spears Alexander, Developmental Disabilities; and Michael Byrne, Manpower System.

The office will serve a population of 1.7 million North Carolinians in 34 western counties. The counties in the western region are Stanly, Union, Cabarrus, Rowan, Mockingbird, Iredell, Gaston, Lincoln, Catawba, Alexander, Wilkes, Alleghany, Cleveland, Burke, Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Rutherford, McDowell, Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Polk, Henderson, Buncombe, Madison, Transylvania, Haywood, Jackson, Swain, Macon, Graham, Clay and Cherokee.

### Farm Outlook Bright For 1974

The new farm year probably will be a good one for the farmer - compared to any year except 1973. The record shattering net income of the season just completed isn't likely to be repeated in 1974. This seems to be the consensus of the experts at a time when the difficult task of predicting agriculture is even more difficult than usual.

Worldwide; there is a serious shortage of such basics as fuel and fertilizer, and there are increased costs almost at every turn. These are just some of the factors that promise to make 1974 an "interesting" year for agriculture and the farmer. Whatever happens in '74, farmers will be hard pressed to match the income they received last year. Realized net farm income probably reached \$25 billion, up over \$5 billion from the previous record set only the year before.

University economists point out that this "phenomenal" increase in farm income was a result of the continuing strong domestic demand for livestock production and an exceptionally strong foreign demand for crops. Higher prices for all commodities and increased production of most major crops contributed to the strong agricultural picture in North Carolina. Production of flue-cured tobacco was up 18 percent, corn 5 percent, soybeans 27 percent, cotton 30 percent and peanuts 22 percent.

Looking into the new year, the NCSU economists point out that markets for important commodities are in a delicate balance. Prices are likely to move up and down during the first half of the year, but they should remain strong for commodities produced in '73 and carried over for sale. Farmers' response to the new farm program will be a critical factor influencing prices in the second half of the year. If they respond as anticipated and weather conditions are favorable, grain and soybean prices next fall will be lower than last fall but well above the average of the late 1960's.

### Mail Order Licenses Delayed

RALEIGH — Mail orders for 1974 North Carolina automobile license tags will be a little behind schedule this season. "Due to circumstances beyond our control, we won't be able to fill mail orders and orders for personalized and official tags as fast as normal," said Motor Vehicles Commissioner Boyd Miller. "We will be able to fill these orders by the end of January, but we want people

to please be patient." The delay does not affect mail orders for tags for other vehicles such as motorcycles, nor will it affect motorists who wish to obtain automobile tags at contract agencies or various Motor Vehicle offices across the state.

Approximately four million 117 thousand vehicle plates have been sold thus far in 1973. That is an increase of over 400 thousand from 1972. The 1974 figure is expected to be well over the 4 million mark.

### Billy Roberts Honored

Billy Warren Roberts, son of Earl Roberts of Marshall, was one of forty-eight graduating seniors at Berea College honored at a Recognition Service on Saturday, Dec. 15, in Phelps Stokes Chapel on Berea's campus. Mr. Roberts received a B. S. degree in Agriculture and was elected to Delta Tau Alpha Agriculture Honor Society in addition to being named to the Dean's Honor List for two terms. Dr. Harry Booth, visiting

professor of religion, spoke on "Questions of Authority." Dr. Booth is on leave this year from Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. The candidates were presented by Dean William F. Stolte. A reception before the ceremony for seniors and their families was held by President and Mrs. Willis D. Weatherford in the President's House. Originally scheduled for Sunday, the service was moved up to prevent Sunday driving problems for the families and friends of the graduates.

### Union Service Here Sunday

The regular Fifth Sunday night Union Service of the Marshall churches will be held this Sunday night at the Presbyterian Church here. Service will begin at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. Spencer LeGrand, pastor of the Baptist Church, will deliver the message. Other pastors in Marshall will assist in the service. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### ON DEAN'S LIST

Asheville - Buncombe Technical Institute announces that the following students have been placed on the Dean's List for the fall quarter, 1973. Students must attain a 3.5 quality point average in subjects and be recommended by their respective department chairmen. Students from Marshall: Garry L. Moore, Sandra A. Bradley and Bruce Martin.

### McDevitt Is Named Intern To Assembly

A junior political science major at the University of North Carolina at Asheville has been appointed a legislative intern for the 1974 General Assembly. Ronald Wayne McDevitt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar McDevitt of Marshall, will be one of 15 college and university students in the state to participate in the program sponsored by the N. C. General Assembly and the department of politics of North Carolina State University. A 1971 graduate of Marshall High School, McDevitt was one of 60 applicants. When the selection was narrowed to

25, the finalists including McDevitt were interviewed by Lt. Gov. James Hunt, House Speaker Jim Ramsey and Dr. William Block, chairman of the NCSU Department of Politics. McDevitt will receive 12 semester hours of academic credit through NCSU while enrolled as a legislative intern. Interns serve as staff assistants to officers and members of the General Assembly while pursuing a parallel course of study at NCSU. At UNCA, McDevitt is active in the Political Science Assn. and the Computer Students Union.



### Legislative Intern

Ronald Wayne McDevitt, right, a junior political science major at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and Oscar McDevitt, assistant professor of political science, look over the notification to McDevitt that he has been named a legislative intern for the 1974 General Assembly. (UNCA Photo by Jane McDevitt)



### Madison's First Step

Madison County High took the first step last week toward construction of its new \$2,000,000 building. The new three-story school building is to be named after long-time local banker, G. W. Roberts. The move came when School Superintendent R. L. Edwards (L) received a