

THE NEWS RECORD

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County Board Opposes Hike In Tax Rate

For the past month the board of county commissioners has been reviewing budgets which have been submitted by county departments for FY 77-78. If requested appropriations are submitted by various departments were granted the appropriations would far exceed the anticipated revenues. Estimated increase to meet the request would require a tax increase of approximately 40 cents. The commissioners' unanimous decision was to contact each department head an ask that they maintain their expenditures at the same level as last year's appropriations. This action was taken by the commissioners in their effort

to afford all services possible and at the same time not burden citizens of Madison County with increased taxes. As the North Carolina General Statutes requires a balanced budget and the budget was balanced at the level of last year's budget it was the opinion of the commissioners that neither the citizens nor the economy of Madison County could tolerate a tax increase at this time. "Hopefully all departments will accept the fact that the purse strings must be tightened and will make every effort to cooperate with this request to reduce budget requests in order to avoid a tax increase this fiscal year," the commissioners stated.

Horse Show

It's Time Again! Saturday On The Island

Hundreds of horse lovers will invade the Island here this Saturday afternoon and night to attend the annual charity horse show sponsored by the Marshall Lions Club. There will be an afternoon show at 1 p.m. and an evening show at 7 o'clock. In case of rain the shows will be held on Sunday, officials stated. There will be 41 classes, including English Pleasure, Western, walking horses and racking classes which promises to be the most entertaining show in Marshall's history. Members of the horse show committee, which includes Maurice McAlister, Jerry

Plemmons, John Corbett, Ed List, Roger Wood, Rick Thomason and David Caldwell, have been preparing for weeks, a top-flight show. Roy Reeves, president of the Marshall Lions Club, has appointed numerous committees and everything is set for June 4. Ribbons, trophies and cash awards will be presented. Refreshments and soft drinks will be available, including hamburgers, hot dogs, etc. Honorable Billy Winchester of Florence, S. C., will judge Western and Honorable Judge Gene Roberts of Greenville, S. C., will judge English.

Lloyd Thompson of Asheville will be master of ceremonies, and Roger Wood of Marshall will serve as ringmaster. Mrs. Jerry Plemmons will again serve as show secretary. Officials stated that standard horse show rules will apply. Below are the various classes and the order of appearance: Lead Line (riders 6 years and under); English Halter

No. 1 - 2 years and under, No. 2 - over 2 years; Western Halter No. 1 - 2 years and under, No. 2 - over 2 years; Appaloosa Halter No. 1 - 2 years and under, No. 2 - over 2 years; Draft Horse Halter No. 1 - 2 years and under, No. 2 - over 2 years, No. 3 - mares with foal by side; Pleasure Ponies (50 inches and under); English Pleasure (open); Madison County Pleasure; Walking Horse (3 years and under); Ladies' Western

Pleasure (riders 17 years and over); Pepsi Cola Race; Western Pleasure (riders 16 years and under); Juvenile Racking (riders 12 years and under); Walking Horse (open); Gentlemen's Western Pleasure (riders 17 years and over); Ladies' Racking; Appaloosa Western Pleasure; Buddy Pick-Up Race; Speed Racing; Barrel Race; Leadline (riders 6 years and under); Ladies' Western

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Miss Briggs Is Library's 'Story Lady'

Miss Carolyn Briggs has recently been hired to the position of "storylady" with Madison County Public Library. Miss Briggs is a graduate of Mars Hill College and a resident of the Greater Ivy Community. She received a degree in early childhood education from Mars Hill College in 1972. Since that time, she has taught head start classes in Asheville one year, kindergarten in Hot Springs for two years, and has been employed as Homebound teacher in Madison County for two years. She is a lifetime resident of Madison County.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Briggs of Mars Hill. She has a 5-year-old daughter, Michelle.

Miss Briggs will be conducting story hours throughout the county in kindergartens, day care centers, and hand schools. She will also be conducting community story hours in Marshall, Mars Hill and Hot Springs. Anyone desiring her services in their area or further information about story hours, please contact the Madison County Public Library.

SKIPA (storytelling for kiddies in the preschool ages) is a special LSCA project.



MISS BRIGGS



TWO-WAY RADIO communications tower, 100 feet high, shown above, was constructed last week beside the Madison County Jail. The modern installation will enable Sheriff Ponder and his department to have better communications into and from the jail.

7 Communities Enroll In CDP

A total of 97 organized communities in 16 counties and the Cherokee Indian Reservation entered the 1977 Western North Carolina Community Development Program by the entry deadline, according to Morris L. McGough, executive vice president of the WNC Development Association and Walter Moss of Rutherfordton, area chairman of the program. The development contest, now in its 28th year, is widely recognized as one of the nation's foremost grassroots, self-help programs. It is sponsored by the development association in cooperation with the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service and other agencies and local sponsors. Included among the field of entries this year are several community clubs that have organized this month and others that have been active for over a year.

Seven communities in Madison County are taking part in the improvement and beautification program this year. These include Big Laurel, Bull Creek, Greater Ivy, Mars Hill, Sleepy Valley, Upper Laurel and Walnut. Buncombe and Cherokee counties lead in the number of entries in the program with 13 each. Transylvania County has 10 communities competing, Henderson 9, and the Cherokee Indian Reservation 8. Purpose of the community development program since its inception has been to boost community pride and spirit and to encourage people to work together to build better and more attractive areas in which to live. Projects have included building community centers, starting volunteer fire departments, constructing

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River Searched For Lost Girl

Twelve Rescue Squad boat crews searched unsuccessfully Monday in the waters of the French Broad River at Hot Springs for the body of Penny Lee Lytle, 7, of Hill Street, Asheville. Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said the search effort was centered in the stretch of river downstream from the Sand Bar fishing resort, where the child

fell in the water about 5 p.m. Sunday. The search was halted by darkness but was resumed Tuesday. "The water is deep and swift," Ponder said. The rescuers who took part in the search were from Buncombe and Transylvania counties in North Carolina, Greene and Cocke counties in Tennessee. The dragging operation had begun Sunday night.

Ponder said Penny and three other children were running along the bank of the river, when she fell in. Mr. and Mrs. Dalsen C. Rice of Weaverville, the child's aunt and uncle, were standing at a car parked about 50 yards from where the children were playing. "They heard one of the children scream," the sheriff said, "and went running back, but the little girl had disappeared." The missing girl is the daughter of Mrs. Judith Lytle.

Runt Doesn't Act Like Most Dogs

By JIM STORY

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Clauss, who reside on Route 1, Marshall, are well-known animal lovers, especially of cats and dogs. They have owned numerous cats (or is it that the cats owned the Clausses) but their favorite pet for nearly five years is "Runt," a beautiful and well cared for Great Dane. "Runt" is a strong, handsome dog 33 inches tall and measures six feet from tip of tail to tip of nose. His neck measures 27 1/2 inches and the glossy black pet weighs 175 pounds. "Runt eats about 1 1/2 pounds of dry dog food a day plus anything he can beg from the table or steal from the cat," Gordon told this writer. "Strangely enough, 'Runt' will chew a stick of gum for 20 minutes," Gordon commented with a smile. Gordon went on to say that "Runt" understands about 30 words. His favorite words are "Good dog," "Want to go?" "No" and "Come." "He loves to carry his bucket with refreshments to me somewhere on the farm. At our former home he brought in the morning paper until he started bringing in about six papers and had to be stopped," Gordon continued. "Runt can clear the ground by five to six feet when he is catching his Frisby. He can jump over any of the fences but prefers to scoot under them. He spends much time on the farm watching the cattle and growls at them if they get frisky and bump heads. When 'Runt' is in the car he protects it viciously but when properly introduced he quickly becomes your friend and loves for you to pet him," Gordon stated. "We've had many pets that have been members of our family but 'Runt' is the greatest," Gordon concluded.

Youth Win Special Olympics Medals

Mars Hill Handi Schools' Special Olympics team recently returned after a successful trip to the 1977 North Carolina Special Olympics held at High Point College, High Point. Several athletes won honors in various events. All these athletes successfully competed in the local

programs before going to the statewide meet. One thousand and three hundred participants were involved in the weekend program. Winners and their accomplishments follow: Eddie Ballard, first place softball throw, second place, 220-yard dash; Betty Ruth Ballard, first place, softball

throw, first place 50-yard dash; Elaine English, second place softball throw, second place, 50-yard dash; Lorraine Green, third place, softball throw, second place, 50-yard dash; Chris Roberts, first place, softball throw, second place, 50-yard-dash; Howard Riddle, first place, 50-yard dash, third place, standing long jump; Buddy Norton, first place, 50-yard-dash, second place, running long jump.

The North Carolina Special Olympics program included track and field events as well as swimming events and a wide variety of educational and recreational clinics. Athletes and chaperones were housed in High Point College dormitories. Opening ceremonies started off the weekend event on Friday evening as the "Parade of Athletes" marched onto the field. The traditional lighting of the torch officially opened the games and was followed by a carnival provided by hundreds of volunteers. A special thanks goes out to all our friends who helped us with their donations: Miss Sue Fitzgerald, Linda and Dennis McCurry, Jan and Frank Quick, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Stroup, Micro Switch, Mars Hill Civic Club, Brad Ragan Inc., the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Home Economics Club, both from the college, and all the other people who helped us with our bake sales and newspaper drive. The chaperones who

volunteered their time and energy to help us were: Ragan Stroup, Alice Mahy, Brenda Edmonds, Mary Smith, "Reco" Talarico, Tom Pack, George Keville, and Walter Anderson. Without them this trip would not have been possible.

Ivy Bridge Hearing Set June 9

On June 9, the N. C. Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed replacement of the bridge on Bend of Ivy (Secondary Road 1576) over the Ivy River in Madison County. (Not bridge over Ivy River on Highway 25-70) The hearing, scheduled for 7 p.m., will be held in the courtroom of the Madison County Courthouse located in Marshall. The proposal is to replace the existing bridge with a new structure to be located just downstream. Minor work will be required on Bend of Ivy and Gravel Pit Road (Secondary Road 1597) to tie them in to the proposed structure. Right of way will be variable to contain construction. The public is invited to attend, make comments, ask questions and present any

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"RUNT," the 175-pound Great Dane, pet of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Clauss of Route 1, Marshall, is shown hugging his master.