

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

Basketball is big
in Madison County
...see pages 2,6,8

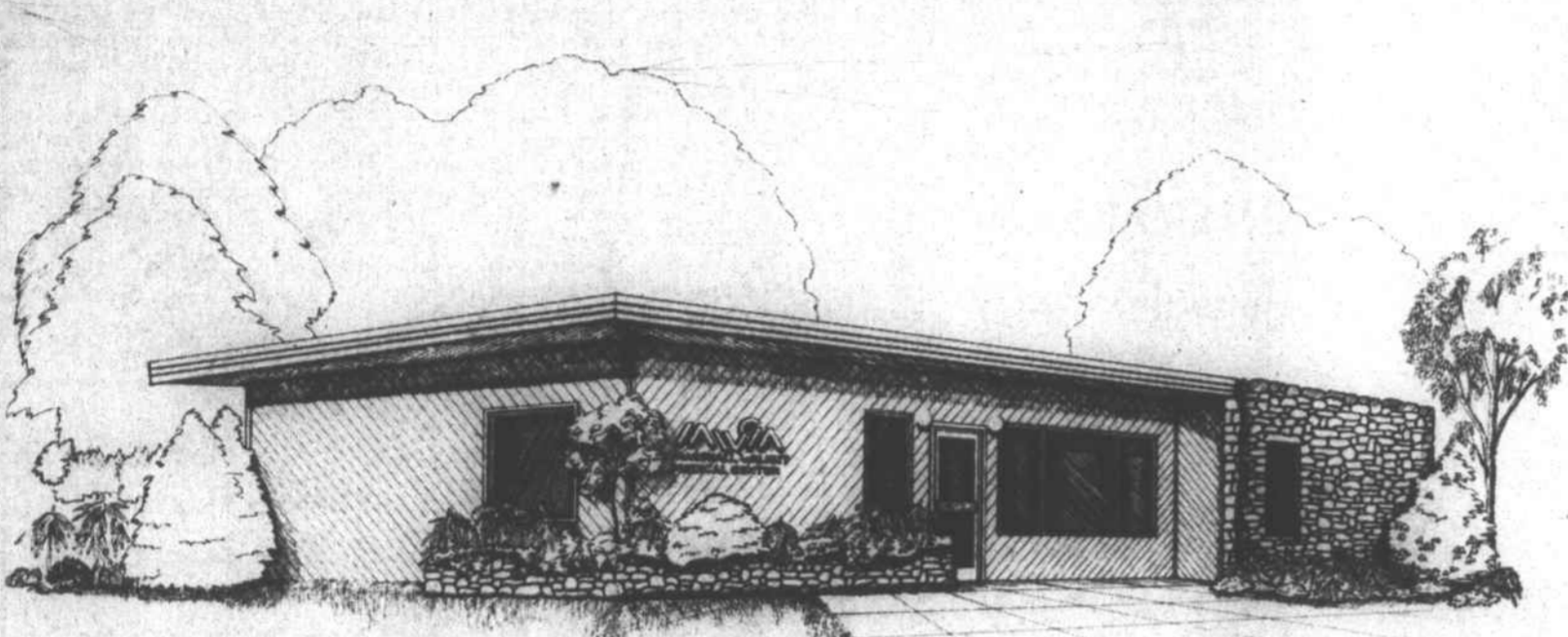
78th Year, No. 2

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL, N.C.

THURSDAY, January 11, 1979

15¢ Per Copy

Public Asked For View On US 19-23



The Division of Highways of North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will conduct a public hearing Jan. 24 in Mars Hill to discuss alternative locations for the proposed improvement of US-23 from the intersection of US-19 near Mars Hill to the Tennessee state line.

The public hearing will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Mars Hill Elementary School.

During the hearing, NCDOT staff will explain the alternative locations for the proposed improvement, right-of-way procedures and requirements, housing relocation advisory assistance and the state-federal partnership in road construction projects.

"US-23 is part of Interstate

40 in Asheville and is a direct north-south link from Asheville to Tennessee," said Secretary of Transportation Tom Bradshaw. "This project is part of the commitment by the governor and his Board of Transportation to economic development in the Appalachian region and balanced economic growth statewide."

Four alternative locations for the proposed improvement have developed. The four alternate locations and their environmental impact are contained in the draft environmental impact statement.

A map of the alternatives and copies of the draft environmental statement are available for public review

and copying in the division office of the NCDOT located on Orange Street in Asheville and in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

The public is encouraged to submit suggestions and ask questions about the project during the hearing.

This 10.6 mile project, estimated at \$22.3 million, is included in the Transportation Improvement Program for right-of-way to begin in fiscal year 1981 and construction to start in fiscal year 1982.

Additional information about the hearing may be obtained from W.A. Garrett Jr., administrative assistant, Highway Design Branch, Division of Highways, N.C. Department of Transportation, Raleigh 27611, telephone (919) 733-3244.

County Not Affected By Wilderness System

George Olson, forest supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina, announced results of the Roadless Area Review and Evaluation in a news conference in Asheville on Jan. 4.

His announcement coincided with that of Department of Agriculture officials throughout the country.

Olson stated Thursday that the Secretary of Agriculture will recommend 66,000 acres of National Forest land in North Carolina for immediate inclusion in the wilderness system.

Two areas of the French Broad Ranger District, Big Creek in Madison County and Wildcat in Haywood County, were dropped from the final recommendation and will not be included in the 66,000 acre allocation. According to District Ranger Joe Wallace at Hot Springs, the two areas will be returned to multiple use management and will be managed, like other lands for production of timber, wildlife, recreation and water.

The Roadless Area Review and Evaluation, better known as RARE II, began last year to determine qualifications of National Forest lands for possible inclusion in the Wilderness System. The study ended on Jan. 4 when Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland made public his recommendations to President Carter.

The recommendations of designated areas will be

passed on to Congress for passage of an act to designate the areas as Wilderness. At that time use of motorized equipment and development activities will be prohibited. During the evaluation process areas which should be considered were recommended by people in public hearings. These meetings and written comments revealed 38 areas

totalling 207,000 acres in North Carolina to be studied. The final recommendations by Secretary Bergland will include 15 areas totalling the 66,000 acres. Five other areas will be further studied in the land processes and may later be set aside for Wilderness. These areas contain 16,441 acres, none of which are in Madison or Haywood counties.

DEDICATION of the Marshall-Walnut Medical Center will be held next Monday in the Little Theatre at Madison High School. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. and the unveiling of plaques will follow at the M-W Center between Marshall and Walnut. Former Gov. Bob Scott, federal co-chairman of Appalachian Regional Commission, will be the principal speaker. He will be introduced by James Bernstein, director

of office, Rural Health Services, Raleigh. The Madison High School Band will participate. Jerry Plemmons, chairman of the Building Committee, stated that the facility is the result of people working together and the fine leadership of community citizens who conducted the fund drive in March and April. He also complimented all those who have supported the Hot Springs Health Program over the years.

County Students Do Well On State Competency Test

Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor of Madison County Schools, stated that on Nov. 1 and 2, 1978, 196 11th grade students in the Madison School system were administered a reading and mathematics test as a part of North Carolina's new competency testing program. Approximately 95 percent of 178 students passed the mathematics test. However, 23 percent of the students got 95 percent of the mathematics questions correct. Forty percent of the students got 90 percent of the answers correct. Four students made perfect scores on the mathematics test and two students made perfect scores on the reading test.

Only nine students failed both parts of the test. Many of the students who failed the test had obtained scores very close to passing. School administrators were very

pleased with the results of the test. During the school term of 1976-77, students in Madison County were able to attend only 171 of the 180 school days due to inclement weather. In 1977-78 they were able to attend only 170 of the 180 days.

The competency testing program was legislated in the 1977 General Assembly through House Bill 204. This law provided that, beginning in the fall of 1978, competency tests be administered to all 11th-grade students in the state as a requirement for graduation.

The North Carolina competency test is a basic skills test designed to measure minimum competency, not ideal achievement. The specific tests selected for administration are SHARP (Senior High Assessment of Reading Progress) and TOPICS (Test of Proficiency

in Computational Skills). Both are published by CTB McGraw-Hill and each contain 120 items.

The North Carolina competency testing program was administered to 11th grade students in the public schools, non-public schools, and federal schools and special schools on Nov. 1 and 2, 1978, with make-up testing taking place Nov. 7, 8, and 9, 1978.

Personnel in local education agencies (LEAs) attended administrative workshops, developed monitoring plans, and undertook measures to insure the security of the competency tests. These activities were monitored by state department and local education agency personnel.

In addition to normal local and state graduation requirements, it is necessary for each student to pass both sections of the competency

test in order to receive a high school diploma. Those who fail either or both tests will be given additional instruction in learning those skills which they do not possess.

All of the students who failed to pass the test will be immediately enrolled in a remedial English and/or mathematics class where extensive remediation will be provided. An individual educational plan will be written for each student showing his weaknesses and remediation will be geared toward his needs as indicated by the test results.

These students will retake the parts of the competency test which they failed (math or English) on May 1 and 2. If they are unable to pass the test in May, they will continue in remedial classes during the senior year. Two op-

Continued on Page 5

New Growers Can Request Leaf Quota

Farmers may make an application for a new grower quota for burley tobacco with the ASCS office not later than Feb. 15.

To be eligible for consideration for a new grower quota for burley tobacco a farmer must own a farm, have no interest in a farm as owner or operator which has an established burley tobacco quota, he must derive at least 50 percent of his income from farming or farm products, and must also have proof of experience in raising burley tobacco for two years of the last five years on a farm with a current tobacco quota.

Any farmer who is interested in applying for a new grower quota for burley tobacco and feels that he may be eligible, should contact the ASCS office in Marshall.

Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except national holidays.

Mars Hill College To Offer Classes In Madison County

The Mars Hill College continuing education program has announced its spring schedule for 1979. The program, which is in its fifth year, has graduated 75 students with four-year baccalaureate degrees.

In Hot Springs, Group Discussion (English 215) to be taught by Mrs. Elizabeth Watson is scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday nights. On the same night, Miss Gail Webster will teach Physical Education 101 (Foundations of Physical Education) from 8 to 10 p.m. Classes will not begin until Feb. 5.

On the college campus, a number of courses are scheduled. General education

courses or courses required of all students include English 213 (Advanced Composition and Research) to be taught by Pauline Cheek on Monday nights from 6-8 p.m., Mathematics 110 (Probability and Statistics) to be taught by Dr. Don Russell on the same night from 8 to 10, and FS202 (Greek and Roman Culture) to be taught by M.H. Kendall on Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

Courses in education include Education 204 (Psychology and Behavior of the School Child) on Tuesday nights to be offered by W.L. Lynch; Education 401 (Psychological Foundations) on Wednesday afternoons; Education 494 (teaching reading in the content area) by Mrs. Lou Therrell on Tuesday afternoons; and Psychology 353 (Identification and counseling of the Gifted) by Julie Long on Tuesday afternoons.

The first three courses are part of the regular elementary education program while the next two are courses required for teacher certification in reading. The final course is one of the requirements

Continued on Page 5

Judge Lacey Administers Oaths To State Prosecutors

In an impressive ceremony held New Year's Day in the Avery County Courthouse, Judge Robert Lacey administered the oaths of office to District Attorney Clyde Roberts and his assistants, Tom Rusher, Forest Ball and Harold Bailey.

Court Magistrates Gary Buchanan and Jason Hughes were also sworn. "It gives me a great deal of pleasure to be here for this ceremony," Judge Lacey stated, adding, "I'm proud of the officers of this district. The office of district attorney is an awesome responsibility. In doing a little bit of research I find that you can do things such as dismissing matters at home at the dead of midnight without consulting anyone, that if a judge did the same thing just outside that door, and in other than open court, they would defrock him, disbar him, embarrass him and take his retirement benefits."

Roberts was elected to the

24th Prosecutorial District in the general election and began his four-year term Jan. 1. The 24th District is comprised of Avery, Watauga, Mitchell, Yancey and Madison counties.

In the lengthy oath repeated after Judge Lacey, District Attorney Roberts swore in a steady voice to uphold the constitution, to bear faithful and true allegiance to the state of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established by the government; to defend, support, maintain and defend the constitution of said state, not inconsistent with the constitution of the United States; to serve the 24th Prosecutorial District, to have the criminal laws fairly and impartially administered in the D.A. office.

After taking the oath District Attorney Roberts stated, "I have represented, as of this day, J.T. Rusher, assistant district attorney, Forest Ball, assistant district

attorney; and Harold Bailey as administrative assistant."

Judge Lacey then administered oaths to Rusher, Ball and Bailey, similar to that given District Attorney Roberts.

Roberts spoke briefly at the conclusion, stating, "We appreciate this fine ceremony; very impressive," and spoke highly of the district resident judges, Lacey and J. Ray Braswell, who was also present for the swearing-in. "I think these judges, plus the men who have just been sworn in, are what makes the 24th District the finest in the state," Roberts evoked laughter by saying the only objection heard about the swearing in was that Rusher wanted to prepare Bailey's oath; "that's what Bailey objected about," he quipped. Roberts then called on Judge Braswell to speak, asking him how long he had been judge.

Judge Braswell replied he had been district judge since 1968



LEFT TO RIGHT: Clyde M. Roberts, district attorney; Tom Rusher and Forest Ball, assistant district attorneys; Judge Robert

Lacey; Harold Bailey, administrative assistant; J. Ray Braswell, chief District Court judge.

Men Arrested For Theft Of Chain Saws

One Hot Springs man and two Tennessee men were arrested last week and charged with larceny of two chain saws, property of the U.S. Forest Service at Hot Springs.

Sheriff Pender stated that the saws were stolen several months ago and both men had been traced.

The two men were