

Board Meeting

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is ready for use. She requested start-up funds to pay for utilities, and the commissioners voted to approve \$800 for expenses through June 30. Ms. Zimmerman also advised that the day care budget, which did not rise last year, would have to go up this year by as much as \$40,000, due largely to a 60 percent increase in transportation costs. Costs of oil and electricity have also risen, she said, and the program has added both more children and new staff members since last year.

The commissioners agreed to the hiring of Linda Dodson as a cook at the Marshall day care, to replace Carrie Johnson, who has retired.

Anita Davie, newly appointed director of the Department of Social Services, brought the welcome news that because of various reductions and state matches her budget would be \$24,829 less than last year. "I have cut it as much as possible," she said, "but I do believe it's a budget we can get by on if we are careful." She said the DSS budget would be completed by April 15.

Also, the commissioners hired Flossie Ball to fill a social work supervisor position, and promoted Bob Carter from a trainee to a level one employee.

Kevin Morley, the recreation director, reported that the Recreation Commission had met and recommended the hiring of Alex Farkas, a teacher at Marshall elementary school, as to the position of athletic director. If this position is approved, the director's primary responsibility will be to run the large summer youth and adult softball programs. The commissioners said they would take the recommendation under advisement.

Morley also brought a proposal for recreation at the Marshall Community Center, recommending year-round use for such activities as basketball, volleyball, wrestling, gymnastics, shuffleboard, square dancing, roller skating, movies, concerts, plays, arts and crafts, community meetings, ping pong, chess, checkers and reading. He also brought a draft contract for work on the river access site at Barnard.

On the community center, Commissioner James Ledford pointed out that there may be some ambiguity about administration. The Town of Marshall, he said, has raised the local money and matching grant money to develop the facility, but it is assumed that the county will operate it once it opens. Since this will cost the county money, he said, all county residents should have access to it. The commission resolved to clarify this point with the town.

Michael Norins came to discuss his role as chairman of the county's transportation advisory council. Attorney Leake said that the federal government has advised the state that money is available to help public transportation, but the county must be able to respond by April 30 as to how it would use such money.

"Madison should have some sort of 'Greyhound service' to help people get around," said Leake. "This would not necessarily be daily service, but it should at least provide for people in remote areas the chance to get out to the stores and Post Office once a week or more. The county has to decide whether it is willing to commit itself to that kind of program, especially if it might involve some commitment of money."

County coordinator Herbert Ponder brought copies of a letter to the Opportunity Corporation. The letter requests them to clear part of the floor area of the community center now used for storage, but allows the corporation to continue using its present office space indefinitely. Ponder also brought, and Board Chairman Ervin Adams signed, a resolution authorizing the county to register with the state "balanced growth" program, which will make it easier for the county to obtain certain funds in the future.

Tax Supervisor Ernest Swanson said that preliminary results of the property revaluation now under way indicate that the total valuation of county property will be some \$2 million higher than previously.

Three women from the

Laurel section came to clarify several points about the old agricultural building on the grounds of the Laurel School. Oleta Shelton, Rena Shelton and Mrs. Louis Zimmerman, among others, have been working hard to make this building available as a meal site for senior citizens, and they wanted to be sure the Board of Education is willing to lease it to them, free of charge. Attorney Leake assured them the board would do so. Mrs. Shelton said that there are 388 people in Laurel over the age of 60 who would be able to take advantage of such a center, and estimated that many of them would come. "We had more than 100 at the meeting at Belva church," she said, "and I'm positive we'd have 50 to 60 people a day. We'd have to turn some away, even." The group said they had raised \$680 at one quilting, and reported that the local day care bus would be available for transportation.

Sam Parker, coordinator of the housing rehabilitation project on Colvin Creek, reported that he has spent about half the money available in the HUD grant and that slightly more than half the houses have been completed.

Republicans

Plan Dinner

April 12

The Madison County Republican party will hold their annual Lincoln Day Dinner on April 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Mars Hill College cafeteria. Bill Hendon, candidate for U.S. Congress from the 11th Congressional District will be the featured speaker.

There will also be an opportunity to meet and hear from candidates for various state and county offices.

Scott Perry, Howard Ehnke, Hollis Thurston, Ned Garver and Nolan Ryan all won 20 games in one season, pitching for a last-place team in the American League.



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YOUNG ARTISTS from the Marshall Day Care center gathered to inspect their work in the county library windows on April 4. These 27 youngsters, aged 2 to 5, have collaborated with others from all the county day care facilities as well as kindergartners from the public schools in the annual children's art exhibit. Children from the Mars Hill Day Care Center visited on April 3. The exhibit is sponsored by the Madison County Child Development Pro-

gram and the Madison County public schools. Everyone is encouraged to stop by the library during the month of April and see one of the year's most popular exhibits. In the second window, day care artists have displayed such works as a "log cabin" made of pretzels, "tinker toy design," birds' nests and eggs, Mexican bunnies, "Ivory soap" and one called "I did this with my fingers."

Farmers Report Acreage

W.B. Zink, Madison County ASCS Executive Director said that all farmers should report acreage of crops growing on their farms, with the exception of tobacco. He pointed out that this would be primarily the corn that was grown.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1980 allows eligibility for price support loans, deficiency payments and disaster protection.

Corn growers will not be restricted to plant within the normal crop acreage for the farm, according to Zink, and they will not be required to divert acreage as set aside. This allows them to plant what they want, and as much as they want and still receive —

program benefits.

Eligibility for these benefits do require the farmer to sign-up and report his corn acreage no later than July 15, 1980. These acreage reports are necessary to determine what payment may be earned and it will also be used to maintain

history of crops planted on the farm.

The acreage report requirement does not include burley tobacco. Zink concluded by stating that any questions should be asked at the ASCS office during regular office hours.

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Marshall Firemen Warn Of Possible Rail Accident

Members of the Marshall Volunteer Fire Department warn that there is a very real possibility of a damaging rail accident in Marshall at any time of day.

"If a liquid propane gas car were to explode here, for example," said fireman Jimmy Ramsey, "the fireball could reach as far as 1,000 feet in every direction. That puts this whole town, including the elementary school, within reach of a possible disaster."

In order to alert the town to this potential danger, the fire department will host a discussion and film presentation on what the public should expect in the event of such an incident. The meeting is planned for April 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Marshall Elementary School.

The derailment a few years ago of a freight train that struck the Coal, Feed & Lumber Co. building has faded from the memory of most people — primarily because no injuries occurred and there was no fire or explosion. But the lack of damage was due to the fact that the derailed cars carried no combustibles or explosives. If they had, it is almost certain that everyone in town would still remember every detail.

Marshall firemen point out that no major fire has occurred in downtown Marshall since the blacksmith shop fire

of the late 1950s. They warn that a feeling of complacency seems to exist among the people of the community, and that it may be time to educate the public about precautions that could be taken against serious damage from rail accidents.

All interested persons are invited; those who work or live within 1½ miles of downtown Marshall are especially urged to attend.

Jack Ramsey, formerly a resident of Marshall and now a firefighter in Morganton and instructor for the Department of Community Colleges, will present the program.

Zurhellen Will Speak On Iran

What's going on in Iran? What should we do? What can we do? These are among the issues to be addressed in a lecture to be given at Mars Hill College next week by J. Owen Zurhellen Jr. The lecture, entitled "The Mideast and the Persian Gulf," will be presented on April 16 at 10 a.m. in Belk Auditorium in the Wren College Union Building on the campus of Mars Hill College.

Ambassador Zurhellen is currently serving as vice-

president for programs of the Foreign Policy Association located in New York City. He has previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs, and Deputy Director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He has also served as U.S. Ambassador to Surinam and in important diplomatic posts in Japan, Germany, and Israel. His presentation is a part of the Great Decisions 1980 series at Mars Hill.

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Meeting Of Board of Equalization And Review

The Madison County Board of Commissioners Will Sit As A Board of Equalization And Review On

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1980

FROM 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will sit as a Board of Equalization and Review on Monday, May 5, 1980 in the Tax Supervisors Office in the Courthouse in the town of Marshall for the purpose of examining and reviewing the tax list of each township for the current year and shall hear any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in the county, in respect to the valuation of all property in the county and correct any errors appearing on the abstract and for transaction of any other business which may come before the board in compliance with the Machinery Act of 1971. This is the only time in which the commissioners have the authority to change valuation of real estate.

Ernest Swanson
Tax Supervisor