

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the Inside . . .

Reporter Ken Edwards
Tries CPR Equipment.
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Boy Suffers Torn Blood Vessel

Guardian Claims Student Injured On Bus

A ninth grade student at Madison High School is currently recovering at a Greenville, Tennessee hospital where he underwent surgery for removal of a kidney and repair work to an artery leading to the kidney.

The boy's aunt, with whom he lives, contends that the torn blood vessel was the result of a shoving incident which occurred on a Madison County school bus on Sept. 4.

Ronnie Lee Gosnell, 14, of Hot Springs remained in the operating room of Takoma Adventist Hospital in Greenville for four hours while doctors removed one of his kidneys and repaired a torn artery to stop internal bleeding.

Mrs. Edna Cogdill, the boy's aunt, told The News Record she thinks the torn blood vessel was caused when the youngster was shoved into the back of one of the school bus seats by another student or students.

According to Mrs. Cogdill, the bus on which Gosnell was riding had sustained a flat tire and had gone to the maintenance garage to have the tire changed. The bus driver, also a student, asked the students to get out of the bus so the maintenance crew could jack up the vehicle to replace the flat tire.

Mrs. Cogdill said Gosnell told her that as the students were walking in the aisle of the bus, one student began shoving several students and he

was pushed into the back of one of the seats.

Young Gosnell returned home after school and later said his side "felt numb."

Gosnell returned to school the following day (Friday) and also on Monday, although he complained some during the weekend about his side, according to his aunt.

While at school on Monday, the boy began feeling sick about 11 a.m., Mrs. Cogdill said. "He said he felt nauseous and like he was going to faint."

"The school called me about 2 p.m. and I took him straight to the hospital in Greenville," she said.

After tests were performed and it was established that Gosnell was experiencing in-

ternal bleeding, the hospital staff scheduled him for surgery at 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

Mrs. Cogdill said, "After operating on Ronnie for one hour, the doctors came out and asked me if Ronnie had had any accidents. They told me they would have to remove one of his kidneys, and that he was torn up pretty bad inside."

Contacted in Greenville, Dr. Vernon Butler, the surgeon who performed the operation on Gosnell, stated that the boy had suffered a "torn blood vessel to a kidney which had caused bleeding inside" the boy's body.

Butler said it was "a very serious injury," but the youngster is "recovering very well."

"The problem was the bleeding," Butler said. He added that it would be three or four weeks before the boy would be able to go back to school.

Mrs. Cogdill, who drove a school bus 11 years for the county, said, "I'm not going to put Ronnie back on a school bus to go to Madison High School until they get better drivers and better order on the buses."

"The buses are not safe," she said.

"I think the Madison County Schools should have to pay for Ronnie's hospital expenses, and I'm going to look into this. You can be sure of that," she said.

David Wyatt, principal of Madison High School, said he

knew of the bus incident, and "there may have been some pushing on the bus, but no malicious pushing," according to what he could find out from the bus driver and students he had talked to.

Wyatt said anytime you have students getting off a bus "you are going to have a certain amount of pushing," and he didn't think there was any unusual shoving in this case.

According to Wyatt, Mrs. Cogdill had requested at the first of the school year that Ronnie Gosnell be allowed to ride a specific bus to school because the youngster had experienced medical and health problems in the past.

"I granted that request, but after several days he began to ride the regular bus," Wyatt said.



Ronnie Gosnell injured student



Tipton Car After Accident

Photo By N. Hancock

Auto Wreck Brings Injuries To Couple

A Marshall man and woman received minor injuries when the car they were driving went out of control and plunged down an embankment late Wednesday night.

Eddie Johnson, driver of the vehicle, and Kathy Tipton, both of Marshall, escaped serious injuries when the 1971 Chevrolet Nova in which they were riding went down a steep

bank backward on Highway 25-70 near Sprinkle-Shelton Wholesale. The single car accident occurred at approximately 11:30 p.m.

According to spokesmen for the Marshall Ambulance Service, Ms. Tipton "may have suffered a fractured knee." Johnson received general cuts and bruises, according to ambulance service personnel.

The N.C. Highway Patrol

report stated the vehicle was backed up the highway in reverse when Johnson lost control of the car and it went over the edge of the embankment, flipping over onto its top.

Patrolman Swanson of the Highway Patrol charged Johnson with driving under the influence of intoxicating beverages.

At Madison High School

Soil Conservation Project Completed

By KEN EDWARDS

After four months, since original ground work began, the contract has run out and the work has been completed on the Resource Conservation and Development Council's project to fill the ditches and re-route the water runoff at Madison High School.

Bill Brown, Soil Conservation Technician and construction inspector, who's been with the project since it began, said, "We've solved the erosion and drainage problem on the site."

He added that the original \$167,000 project ended up costing around \$190,000. The main reason for the extra cost was the fact that since the project was first funded, the erosion problem worsened considerably.

It took three years just to get the project funded. Since three-fourths of the work was funded by the federal government through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the estimates on cost had to be made scientifically and as exact as possible by use of a computer in Raleigh.

The conclusion of the project marks the first measure installed through the mountain valley's Resource Conservation and Development Council in Region B.

The council includes four members each from Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, and Transylvania counties, according to Emory Metcalf, Chairman of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Brown said that although the erosion repair project has been completed, work hasn't ended. "The board of education has to maintain what is installed and check the areas that need repair and management."

Pipelines and drains have been piped out on field slopes. In all, 3000 feet of pipe was used to get the water off the campus and to a safe place.

A total of between 12,000 and 13,000 cubic yards of dirt was distributed across the school area to cover pipe, fill in gullies, and enhance the natural beauty of Madison High. Nearly half of that was used to fill the huge "Madison Canyon" which was making its way toward the north end of the football field.

The dirt used came from the practice field just to the west of the school building. Between six and seven feet were taken off the top of the one-acre field.

Soil Conservationist, Russell Blevins said, "The main thing we want to get across to the people is that this

is a project they can be proud of. Most of the county doesn't know how it was reworked." All of the money came from the taxpayers.

Brown added, "A lot wasn't done in the original building plan." That made it hard to find exactly where all the pipes were.

He also said a lot of times "architects know how to put it on paper but not on the ground. They don't always know how to deal with water."

According to Blevins, there's a lot you can't see about the project. An example is the one-half mile of pipe just on the school grounds. However, he continued, in the long run, you've got to have it.

Blevins added, "It was certainly needed. It was well done, but it is going to take maintenance to keep it up. For instance, the 10 acres that were seeded will have to be fertilized every year. It is the responsibility of the school board to keep it up. The county can be proud of it, if it is maintained."

Upon completion, and in light of the amount of money spent, Brown estimated if the problem had been fixed originally, it could have been done for less than one-fourth the amount it ended up costing.

He also said, "Look at small



JUNIPERS are planted above wall behind football stadium.

problems, don't put it off, and it will be cheaper." There are about five more schools in the eastern part of the state that are in a similar condition as

Madison was just because the builder didn't look at what were considered small problems in the beginning. (Continued on Page 2)



BECKY WILLIAMS of the Land-Of-Sky Regional Council presents a report on the New Horizon

program to the Madison County Planning Board at the board's regular meeting on Wednesday night.

New Horizons Meets

The Madison County New Horizons Committee met in conjunction with the County Planning Board this past week in order to plan the next steps in carrying out the Fair Housing Assistance Project adopted by the county from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ms. Becky Williams, Land-Of-Sky Regional Council representative, said future plans for the committee include a showing of a new slide presentation on HUD programs in North Carolina.

A staff member from the area HUD office in Greensboro will present the slide show to the combined Hot Springs, Marshall and county New Horizons committees.

Ms. Williams said a

brochure featuring the outlined purpose and details of the New Horizons program is being developed for countywide distribution and will be presented at the November meeting of the committee.

New Horizons is a Fair Housing Assistance Project which helps communities plan and carry out strategies to insure fair housing. A 1968 Civil Rights Act states that it is a policy of the United States to provide fair housing throughout the country. New Horizons sets guidelines to promote fair housing.

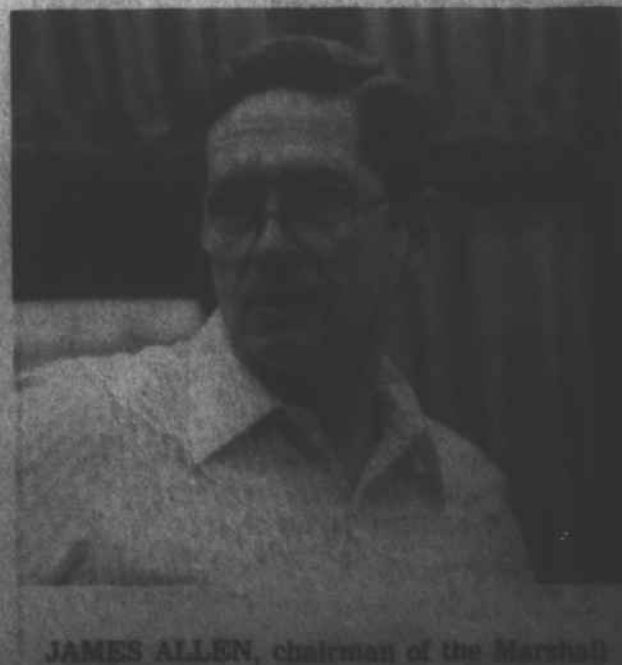
The New Horizons program says the Fair Housing law is the first step in achieving an open housing market. Citizens have an equal opportunity in residing in a dwelling of their choice. Therefore, they are

taking measures to break down housing patterns that are segregated.

Marshall, Hot Springs and Madison County as a whole are centers for a New Horizons task force that will analyze local conditions and problems, and come up with strategies for fair housing in these areas.

Ordinarily, the emphasis is placed on minorities. But, because of the low number of minorities in the local area, the emphasis will be placed on assistance for women head-of-household and the elderly, according to the committee.

Technical assistance is provided by the Land-Of-Sky Regional Council for the local New Horizons committees, and no local funds are needed to conduct the program.



JAMES ALLEN, chairman of the Marshall Planning Board poses questions to the County Planning Board about will roads in Marshall and the four-lane being built from Weaverville.