

HEREWS RECORD

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COUNTY LIBRARY GENERAL DELIVERY MARSHALL

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

WEDNESDAY, April 4, 1984

Marshall Approves **Block Grant Request**

Community Develoment Town Lift planners. Block Grant request Also included in the request Plans for the Island Rd. proved the proposal at a option projects. public hearing held Monday monthly meeting.

The funds will be used to fund projects at the hearing. seven separate projects.

Marshall town officials many improvemnets recom- quest is submitted to the N.C. gave their approval to the mended for Main Street by the Department of Natural recommended proposal for a Tennessee Valley Authority's Resources and Community

presented by the town's plann- will be three smaller projects housing rehabilitation call for ing board. The aldermen ap- that will be lumped in as local refurbishing four homes at an

prior to the start of the regular the Sky Regional Council, who homes at a cost of \$2,800. has coordinated the efforts of Water lines and fire hydrants Marshall's block grant re- the town officals and planning will also be installed at an quest is for the maximum board in writing the grant re- estimated cost of \$29,000. amount available, \$750,000. quest, explained the several Total cost of the Island Rd.

Included in the application aren't finalized, Grant \$108,700. will be funding for housing presented figures for the pro- The Cotton Mill Hill project rehabilitation on Island Rd., posed request at Monday's will repair two trailers and Cotton Mill Hill and Fortner hearing. Some last-minute ad- nine homes at a cost of Hollow. The fourth project in justments will be necessary \$160,000. Engineering and ad-

the package would provide before the formal grant re- ministration costs push the Development on April 16.

average cost of \$13,000 each Myra Grant of the Land of and demolishing two vacant project, including engineering Although some of the figures and administration, is

project's total budget to

The Fortner Hollow project is the most expensive of the projects approved Monday night. If funded, the project will repair five homes and two trailers and demolish a home owned by Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder. In addition to the housing rehabilitation, Fortner Hollow would also receive septic tanks, sewer and water lines. culverts and paving. Including the cost of engineering and administration, the Fortner Hollow project would cost \$361,000.

The fourth project recom-(Continued On Page 8)



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DISTRICT ENGINEER EARL MCENTIRE and state transportation board member Zeno Ponder, left, outlined the proposed plan for

secondary road improvements at Monday night's meeting of the Madison County commis-

Secondary Road Proposals Are Outlined

By ROBERT KOENIG

The proposals were outlined at Transportation.

jects to the hearing.

North Carolina Department that Madison County will dary road funds for the com- began in 1982. of Transportation (DOT) of receive an estimated \$710,022 ing year should total about \$44 The project to improve SR ficials presented the Madison for secondary road projects million. County commissioners with a during the 1985 fiscal year. Chief among the secondary U.S. 25-70 to Sweetwater Gap list of proposed secondary Final approval of the funds road projects McEntire needs an additional \$295,000 in road projects at Monday will not be made until the July recommended to the commis- order to be completed. The night's meeting of the board, meeting of the state Board of sioners were several projects project is designed to connect

the start of the commis- \$710,022 figure was based on a tional funds in order to be Payne's Chapel, McEntire sioners' regular monthly formula used to determione completed. each county's share of secon-

District engineer Earl dary road funds. Madison tional funds included State funded in the 1982-83 budget. McEntire and transportation County currently has some 303 Road (SR) 1135,known as Lit- He also reported that an adboard member Zeno Ponder miles of unpayed roads. tle Pine Rd. McEntire ditional \$40,000 is needed to explained the proposed pro- Statewide, there are some reported that an additional complete paving of a one mile 18,486 miles of unpaved roads. !75,000 would be needed to

McEntire told the hearing The engineer said that secon- complete the project that

1138, Sweetwater Rd. from sioners were several projects project is designed to connect that are already underway, with a road to be constructed a public hearing held prior to McEntire said that the but which will require addi- from N.C. 63 at Trust at said that the Sweetwater Rd. The projects needing addi- project was only partially

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Gibson And O'Brien Are Acquitted

By ROBERT KOENIG

After two days of testimony in Madison County District football coach Claude Gibson and the college's dean for student development, R. Michael O'Brien were found not guilty of charges of assault. District acquitted both men of all charges during a rare Saturday session of the court.

ed that the college dean had pulled a gun out after exfice lobby. O'Brien had charg-ed that the former Mars Hill "I would ho O'Brien was crossing the dict gives each of you a clean at the magistrate's office on the court that Gibson started street on his way to the post of-slate. I suggest in your future Dec. 14.

Gibson was charged with you either make friends or testimony, Judge Lyerly a bitch." According to assault, assault with a deadly avoid one another altogether. found probable cause for the O'Brien's testimony. Gibson threats. O'Brien was charged any sort of inappropriate ordered the trial to begin. I can kick your -". O'Brien with assault by pointing a gun behavior, it may very well O'Brien was the first of 28 said he responded to Gibson

The charges against both to you, but it occurs to me that shall. men stemmed from a Dec. 13 gentlemen of your ages and Ward was called to the stand

relations with each other that Following

In announcing his verdict, Testimony in the case began that his conflict with Gibson District Court Judge Alex- on Friday morning. Prior to began on Dec. 10 at a basketander Lyerly told both defen- the start of the non-jury trial, ball game on the Mars Hill Court, both former Mars Hill dants, "It is obvious to the Gibson's attorney, Forrest campus. court that something happen- Ball, asked for and received a ed between Dec. 10 and Dec. probable cause hearing. Ball 13, 1983, but the law requires requested the hearing because of me a test that requires pro- Madison County magistrate of beyond a reasonable doubt. E.Y. Ward had declined to Court Judge Alexander Lyerly The law doesn't allow me to issue warrants against Gibson speculate or fill in gaps as to on the day of the incident when sion of the game when Gibson what happened or did not hap- O'Brien appeared at the and his wife confronted pen. It is not my job to preach magistrate's office in Mar-

"I would hope that this warrants. Ward added that director. football coach had attempted behavior is episodic and that he issued the requested war- When he and Sams came to hit him with his car as you do not repeat it. This ver- rants when O'Brien appeared over to Walker, O'Brien told

weapon and communicating The next time you engage in charges against Gibson and also said, "Let's go outside so

two-day trial. He told the court

O'Brien said that Gibson said, "There's that son of a bitch" as O'Brien was entering the stands with his son. The confrontation came to a head at the halftime intermis-William Walker, the athletic director of the college.

O'Brien told the court that confrontation at the Mars Hill educational backgrounds to explain why he had denied he saw Gibson standing over post office. Gibson had charg- should be able to find more O'Brien's request for war- Walker and called Pat Sams, constructive things to do with rants against Gibson. Ward coach of the Mars Hill your time than to run around told the court that he advised women's basketball team over changing blows in the post of- Madison County behaving the O'Brien to consult with an at- because he thought Gibson torney before taking out the was threatening the athletic

cursing him, saying, "You're Ward's a g-damned chickens-- son of and carrying a concealed lead to much more serious persons to testify during the by saying, "Your're a

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Plans For New Road Detailed

plained the project to some 50 county residents.

Preliminary plans for a \$9.5 According to the plans 25-70 to Payne's Chapel. Transportation officials ex- Marshall by connecting with a federal and state funds.

North Carolina Department of would complete the link to ject will be paid for with we've found."

build a connector from U.S. the exact route and design of

the road have not yet been apmillion road to link Marshall discussed at the meeting, ap- Officials said the 9.2-mile proved. However, one official to western Madison County proval has been given for a road would begin at N.C. 63 at the Wednesday night were unveiled at a meeting new road through Little Pine southeast of Trust and will end meeting said that the route Wednesday night in the Gap that will link N.C. 63 with at State Road 1135 at Payne's detailed at the public hearing Madison County Court House. Payne's Chapel. The new road Chapel. The \$9.5 million pro- was, "the only feasible route

> The road's preliminary project already underway to The officials pointed out that design calls for it to be able to (Conntinued on Page 10)

Faircloth Visits County

Promises Laurel Road

Democratic gubernatorial candidate D.M. "Lauch" Faircloth visited Madison County on Saturday, accompanied by county Democratic chairman Zeno Ponder. Faircloth addressed gatherings in Marshall, Revere and Mars Hill during in campaign swing through the county.

In Marshall, Faircloth told a gathering of suporters that he would not raise taxes while governor. The former Secretary of Commerce said, "We've got enough money to do what needs to be done. I will see to it that state government spends its monet as wisely as you do." He also salaries, but did not say how

big a raise he would propose. Faircloth said it was impor-



April 9 is the final day for residents to register ot vote in the May 8 primary elections. Lunsford also announced that the Madison County Board of Elections will meet on each Tuesday and Thursday in April to approve or reject applications for absentee ballots. The board will also meet on May 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to consider the absentee ballot equests. The board. will meet each day at 10 a.m

Voter Registration

Madison County Supervisor of Elections Ver-

nie Lunsford has announced that the Board of

ELections office on Main Stretet in Marshall

will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30

a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The office will also be open

this Saturday, April 7, for residents wishing to

register to vote in the May 8 primaries. On

Saturday, the office will be open from 9 a.m.

until 1 p.m.

Deadline Nears

Taylor Blasts Hunt, **Democrats And Press**



The political temperature in Madison County was raised several degrees Saturday night at the annual Lincoln Day dinner held by Republicans at Madison H.S. In his keynote address to the gathering, former State Senator Charles Taylor of Brevard lashed out at Gov. Jim Hunt, the press, Democrats and multi-member

Taylor attacked Hunt, accusing the governor of par-ticipating in a shady deal to keep Democrats in control of