

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

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One Dead, Two Injured In Sleepy Valley Shootout

By ROBERT KOENIG

The tranquility of the northern Madison County community of Sleepy Valley was broken by the sounds of gunshots Monday afternoon when two brothers exchanged fire in their father's home. The gunfight left one brother dead and the other brother and his wife both seriously wounded.

Charles Rathbone, 49, of Morristown, Tenn., was pronounced dead at the scene of the incident, the Homer Rathbone residence on U.S. 25-70. He died from gunshot wounds from a .22 Cal. rifle believed to have been fired by his brother, Clyde Rathbone, 57, of Sleepy Valley.

Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder received a call shortly after 1 p.m. Monday afternoon. Ponder said that the two men exchanged fire after an argument in the home. Family members said that the two men had been quarreling for some time. The brothers' father, Homer Rathbone, was in the home at the time of the shooting.

The wife of the elder Rathbone brother, Christine Rathbone, 52, of Sleepy Valley was also injured in the shooting. Both she and her husband were taken to Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville by members of the Madison County Emergency

Medical Service. Mr. Rathbone was reported in fair condition Tuesday morning. Mrs. Rathbone was listed in satisfactory condition.

Sheriff Ponder reported that it appeared the two men exchanged fire at close range. Charles Rathbone is believed to have fired a .22 Cal. pistol

and Clyde Rathbone returned fire using a .22 Cal. rifle. Ponder said 11 spent shells were found in the home. Charles Rathbone was hit with six shots.

Sheriff Ponder said that Clyde Rathbone will be charged with murder in connection with the shooting.

New Look Coming August 29

The News Record will be sporting a new look beginning in late August. News Record editor Bob Koenig announced the change last week after conferring with publisher Ken Wilson.

Beginning with the issue of August 29, The News Record will convert to a six-column

format. The format change is necessary because of a conversion to a smaller size of newsprint. The News Record's size in length will remain unchanged but the width of the paper will be reduced by one inch.

Continued On Page 4



VANDALS DESTROYED TWO TIRES on Marshall Police Dept. squad car parked on Main Street Saturday night. The incident was the third such vandalism of Marshall police

vehicles in recent months. No arrests have been made and the incident remains under investigation.

Vandals Damage Police Car

Vandals destroyed two tires on a Marshall Police Dept. squad car Saturday night as it was parked unattended on Main Street. The News Record has also learned that vandals again struck sometime Monday, puncturing two new tires on the squad car. The incidents are the latest in a series of acts of vandalism that have been reported recently.

Earlier, vandals damaged tires and a blue light on the

police vehicle and removed an oil plug. Other acts of vandalism have been reported by First Union Bank, Ponder's Auto Supply and Marshall attorney Joe Huff. No arrests have been made in any of the cases reported.

The vehicle struck Saturday night was being operated by Marshall police officer Michael Beasley. The officer left the car unattended on Main Street while he apprehended the Rev. Ronnie

Snelson. Beasley took the minister to the Madison County Sheriff's Dept. after asking him to stop preaching on Main Street to teenagers assembled at the New Dimensions video arcade.

The vandalism was discovered after Beasley returned to the car after releasing Rev. Snelson.

Contacted by telephone Monday night, Rev. Snelson said he was unaware the police car had been vandaliz-

ed. Snelson is the pastor of the Big Laurel Baptist Church. He was accompanied by several members of the church Saturday night. Neither he nor the followers are suspected of vandalizing the police car.

Rev. Snelson said that officer Beasley asked him to stop preaching on the street, claiming that town ordinances prohibit such activity after 10 p.m. Snelson told The News Record, "When you start

Continued On Page 5

Hill Street Blues

Residents Air Sewer Project Complaints

By STEVE FERGUSON

The Marshall Board of Aldermen heard concerns of Hill Street residents Wednesday night concerning construction of the new sewer line on that street, which will begin this week.

"When you go to blasting in front of my house, if the window lights are still on when I get home, what damage will be done to my house?" asked Kenneth Brown, a Hill Street resident. "That's my house, and the only place I've got to stay."

Gary Mease, vice president of Taylor & Murphy Construction Co., said his company was insured up to \$2 million and would repair or pay for any damage they did. Mease said the construction workers would try to damage as little as they could, but admitted some damage was possible.

"I'm not going to make big promises when I can't live up to them."

"If they destroy something, they have to put it back," said Bill Lapsley, of McGill, quality of pavement than that Lapsley and Associates of Asheville, the firm who planned the project. "They're very cognizant of the liability to state required them to put a them." Lapsley added that \$70,000 was being withheld from Taylor & Murphy, as is standard procedure, in case any damages were left after the project had been completed.

School Board Approves Food Service Budget

By STEVE FERGUSON

The Madison County Board of Education approved a \$653,550 school food service budget last Wednesday for the 1984-85 school year, as well as visited Mars Hill Elementary School and recommended that roof repairs be made to two buildings there.

\$470,000 of the food service budget will come from the Department of Agriculture, with the rest coming from revenues from schools and interest.

About half of the expenditures will go to actual purchasing of food, with other costs including employees, insurance and utilities.

Board of Education members visited Mars Hill

Creek Drive, Cotton Mill Hill and Rollins. \$300,000 was added to the cost of the project and granted by the Farmer's Home Administration when construction crews hit an unexpected amount of rock and more manpower and equipment were required.

The sewer line will be buried as shallow as possible to cause the least amount of damage to Hill Street property, Lapsley said. Three feet is the minimum depth required.

Residents expressed concern over the quality of the material that their street would be resurfaced with. Walnut Creek Drive was recently repaved after new sewer lines were installed, and the pavement has developed cracks and potholes in places.

Mease said his company would attempt to save the street's concrete surface as it is, but he added that he doubted saving the 50-to-60-

year-old surface was possible. Hill Street would get a better quality of pavement than that on Walnut Creek Drive, he said. There is much damage on Walnut Creek because the cognizant of the liability to state required them to put a them." Lapsley added that \$70,000 was being withheld from Taylor & Murphy, as is standard procedure, in case any damages were left after the project had been completed.

Joe Penland, spokesman for the Hill Street residents at the fourth and final part of a sewer renewal plan that began other residents would be able in August 1982 when Marshall to get to their homes on the voters approved a \$1.2 million narrow road, since it will be bond issue to fund the project dug up and blocked by construction vehicles. "I want to first three parts are near completion and include Walnut

Continued On Page 6



WORK ON THE SEWER PROJECT began on Hill Street Monday afternoon.

Commissioners Create New Township

The Madison County Board of Commissioners voted to split the Laurel Township at the conclusion of their monthly meeting on June 4.

The township, also known formerly as Township No. 2, was divided at the request of Laurel residents, according to commission chairman Ervin Adams. The two new townships took effect on June

6. The Laurel River, Big Laurel Creek and Shelton Laurel Creek divides the newly created townships. The new township, to be known as the Revere-Spilleorn Township, lies to the east of the river and creeks and includes Grassy Mountain, Hicks Mountain and Sugar Loaf Mountain,

Edmisten Wins In County

PRECINCT RETURN SHEET
SECOND PRIMARY
June 5, 1984

PRECINCT	NUMBER VOTERS	GOVERNOR		COMMISSIONER OF LABOR		LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	
		D EDMISTEN	D KNOX	D BARNES	D BROOKS	R CARRINGTON	R JORDAN
#1 Ebbs Chapel	74	32	26	27	20	11	0
#1 Spring Creek	95	80	14	51	20	1	0
#2 Mars Hill	270	106	140	140	95	20	3
#3 S. Mars Hill	98	31	62	43	35	0	4
#4 Beech Glen	182	105	60	46	73	13	2
#5 Hot Springs	146	106	37	71	32	1	2
#6 Laurel	192	123	65	102	32	0	4
#7 Grapevine	145	83	55	61	34	5	2
#8 Sandy Mush	40	19	17	19	14	0	3
#9 North Mars Hill	350	77	256	214	73	3	1
#10 Walnut	145	51	86	59	39	6	2
ABSENTEE	55	34	21	52	19	0	0
TOTALS	1792	847	839	820	480	60	23

Merchants Support Main Street Drive



MARSHALL MAIN STREET MERCHANTS Doug and John Dodson, Ed Niles, George Penland and Richard Kingston display their donations to the Main Street Fund. Other dona-

tions have been received from First Union Bank and The News Record. Merchants wishing to contribute to the fund should contact Bryce Hall of The First Union Bank.

The Marshall Merchants' Association held a meeting last Wednesday to drum up support for the Main Street program application the town will soon submit.

The meeting was called by Richard Kingston to explain the purpose of the program and to enlist the merchants' support for a matching fund required to bring a team of experts in to examine Marshall's needs. Earlier last week, the Marshall Board of Aldermen approved a \$1,000 appropriation for the Main Street program. Marshall merchants must match the town's appropriation.

In order to do so, Kingston asked each Main Street merchant to contribute \$50 to the fund. The funds will be held in a savings account at First Union Bank. If the town's application is rejected, the \$50 will be refunded to each merchant with interest.

The merchants attending the Wednesday meeting endorsed the plan. Donations of \$50 each were received from Kingston, Ed Niles of Roberts' Pharmacy, Doug and John Dodson of Dodson's Grocery, and to enlist the merchants' Bryce Hall of First Union Bank, George Penland of Penland's Clothing and News Record editor Bob Koenig. Other donations are expected to be received this week.

Kingston explained that the funds are needed to pay a portion of the expenses of bringing the experts to Marshall to examine problems first-hand.

He told the merchants, "Any program like this operates on the initiative of the people. It will be up to us to do it, but these people can give us thousands of dollars in assistance."

Show Your Colors On Flag Day, June 14.