

Community Calendar

CHeeese, Butter Distribution

The next distribution for federal surplus cheese, butter and other commodities will be Saturday, July 14, 1984 at the Madison County Department of Social Services between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Households eligible to participate in the free food give away are:

1. Food Stamp Recipients certified for the month of July.
2. Households whose gross monthly income is below the federal income level.

Should a household need a friend or neighbor to pick up the free food for you, you will need to send a signed statement by the Head of the Household giving the friend permission to receive the free food. This statement also needs to have your gross monthly household income and the number of people in your household.

Retired Teachers Meet

Retired Madison County school personnel will meet on July 11 at Mary's Restaurant on the Marshall Bypass at 11:30 a.m. All retired school personnel are invited to attend.

Davis Family Reunion

There will be a family reunion for the Garfield and Susie Davis family at the Old Mill Wheel Cafe at Laurel River on July 29th, at 12 noon.

Marshall

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\$350,000 lawsuit against the town and town officials for wrongful dismissal and libel.

In opposing the motion to hire Cox, board member Sammy Lunsford suggested that the board negotiate with Gunter before hiring another police chief.

Earlier, the aldermen had approved a \$32,000 budget for the Marshall Police Department as part of the town's annual budget. Asked if the board would approve a budget amendment to account for the new police chief's \$9,200 annual salary, Mayor Wild said, "You let me take care of the budget and I'll take care of it." No budget amendment was passed at the special called

A-B Tech To Offer Upholstery, Basketry

The Continuing Education Division of Asheville-Buncombe Technical College will repeat several popular classes in its summer schedule. Instruction in Upholstery, Cake Decorating, and Basketry will begin in July.

Two ten-week Upholstery classes are scheduled. One will start on July 16; the other, on July 17. The class will meet from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. each Monday or Tuesday. Registration fee for this class is \$22.50. Mr. Conley Haney will in-

struct. Each student should bring a piece of furniture to upholster. This class will be held in the Carriage House on the A-B Tech campus.

A class in Cake Decorating to begin on July 11 will meet each Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 9:30 for eight weeks.

Registration fee for this class is \$18. Also included will be instruction on molding mints.

The class, which will meet on the A-B Tech campus, will be taught by Mary Keene. The class will meet on the A-B Tech campus.

Pre-registration is required by calling A-B Tech at 254-1921, extension 138.

The Tiller That's Really a Walk-Behind Tractor

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Tobacco

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promoting any of these opportunities in improved management of privately-owned forestland. It is believed that because the opportunity is not great for increasing high-quality lumber production, greater economic benefits may be received from promoting other values of forestland including recreation, tourism, hunting, and fishing. Thus, Madison County's public and private forests may be viewed as a multifaceted asset with broad economic implications. The following is recommended:

Landowners must be made aware that better management means increased income potential. For example, a well-managed woodlot in the county can grow 300 board feet per acre (\$28) per year. For a 40-acre woodlot, that is about \$1,100 per year. Also, the sale of pulpwood, herbs, hunting, and recreation privileges can produce revenue. The management plans prepared at no cost by the State should be used more extensively. Also, landowners should require loggers to practice better management while on their property so that other possible uses of the land will not be adversely affected.

It is recommended that a permanent organization be established to promote better forest management and explore the potential for producing and marketing forest products. The approach for establishing such a group is discussed with similar concerns in the subsection entitled "Increased Awareness About Existing Agricultural Programs and Alternative Enterprises." The group should also explore opportunities for selling herbs, pulpwood, and recreation privileges and harvesting minor species, such as yellow pine, for log cabins.

A central dispatch unit for local volunteer fire departments is recommended as a means to improve protection of local forests.

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Establishment of new sawmills that can cut 10,000 board feet per day should be encouraged. The combined volume from several sawmills could support a profitable concentration yard business which could grade, dry, and market lumber.

The potential for recreation and tourism opportunities relating to forestland should be explored by the proposed Economic Development Commission. For example, better forest management will improve stream quality, thereby improving fishing potential, and will encourage more hunting and other recreation. The French Broad River provides a great opportunity for establishing a fishing tournament or festival (trout, muskie, bass) and promoting other water-related events, such as rafting.

The National Forest is a tremendous, but often ignored or underutilized, asset that should be a primary consideration in promoting other aspects of local development, including community livability, industry, tourism, and recreation.

IMPROVED MARKETING

If Madison County farmers are to successfully supplement tobacco with some of the alternative enterprises listed above, better marketing approaches must be developed. It is believed that markets exist for alternative commodities but that they must be aggressively pursued. The following is recommended:

Improvements in marketing are difficult to achieve and will most likely result from improvements in awareness of the need for alternative enterprises. That is, as alternatives are explored, marketing must be as important a consideration as the technical aspects of production.

Implementing the recommendations below on improving awareness are the key to improving marketing capabilities. As farmers learn more about new enterprises and see other's successes,

techniques, alternative enterprises, better forest management, and full utilization of resources, such as the Extension Service and the forest service. More specifically, this committee should do the following:

INCREASED AWARENESS ABOUT EXISTING AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND ALTERNATIVE ENTERPRISES

Conduct an annual needs assessment to monitor changes occurring in local agriculture and forestry. Support the efforts of the Extension Service and State and National Forest Services to encourage more productive agriculture and help identify areas of greatest need. A representative from each of those groups should serve on the committee.

Establish an event, perhaps called a demonstration day or "agricultural fair" to serve as the major mechanism for increasing awareness about alternative enterprises and better forest management and promoting improved marketing approaches. The event, could, at least, showcase innovations and local success stories and basic technical information. At best, the event could eventually become a major county festival with other displays, information, sales, contest, and other entertainment. Bringing together farmers and other individuals in such a way is seen as the key for producing widespread support for improvements in agriculture.

Merely issuing recommendations without an active vehicle for implementing them accomplishes little or nothing.

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