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BRENDA PARKER PHOTO

Marshall town employees struggle to lower a huge water tank into place at the town's wells in Fortner Hollow. The tank is part of a \$48,000 filtration system designed to remove manganese and iron from Marshall's water supply.

Marshall's Filter System Should Correct Water Woes

By BILL STUDENC
and BRENDA PARKER
News Record Staff

An \$50,000 filtration system, designed to remove impurities and color from Marshall water lines, should be in place and in operation within the month, Marshall town officials say.

But Marshall water customers shouldn't expect to see any noticeable improvement in their water for several months.

"It'll take 60 to 90 days to be able to

tell a change in the water," said Linda Dodson, Marshall town clerk. "It takes a while to filter out the entire system."

It also takes a while for town crews to install the large filtration system. Crews have been working for three weeks to install the filter, and are expected to continue their work for another three weeks, Dodson said.

The highlight of the installation work came last week, when crewmen used a large crane to lower the heavy

filtration tank into place at the town wells at Fortner Hollow.

The filtration system, purchased at a cost of \$48,235, will use an air injection system and chemicals to oxidize the iron and manganese that has given Marshall's water an unpleasant taste, odor and color.

According to engineers, the system will cause the iron and manganese to turn into rust, which can then be filtered from the water.

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County Budget Cuts Won't Hurt Schools

By MARGARET A. STUDENC
Staff Writer

The Madison County Board of Education found out Monday night that it stands a chance of achieving its proposed budget for the 1987-88 school year.

That's despite the fact that the final appropriation from the Madison County Board of Commissioners actually falls short of the \$923,123 figure requested by the school board. The school system will receive \$763,333 from the county, \$159,000 less than requested.

While this figure is short of the \$923,123 figure, school board members learned there are other sources of money from which the school system can draw. "The school system has approximately \$272,000

cash on hand as of June 30," said Ron Smith, finance officer for the schools.

The commissioners also owe the school system \$126,000 in capital outlay for the fiscal year 1986-87, as well as \$8,788 for the in-school suspension program.

More funds may also be obtained in relief from the State Vocational Department. This department will pick up half the cost of the vocational education program in Madison County, estimated at \$150,000 for the 1987-88 year. This could give Madison County Schools another \$75,000.

"According to this information, we will be able to meet our projected budget," said board chairman Jim Baker.

The State General Assembly has not voted on school budgets. In order

to act on any decisions concerning money, the school board is using an interim budget. "The interim budget will expire at the end of August," said Smith.

Under the interim budget, moneys may be used for "usual and ordinary expenses only," said Smith. This includes restaffing vacated positions and continuing already-established programs. This does not include implementing new programs under the interim budget.

The county commissioners will be paying the school system in monthly installments of approximately \$76,000 from September 1987 to June 1988.

Also on Monday night, members of the Madison County Trail Riders put forth a formal complaint concerning

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Sheriff Dedrick Brown
Funding Inadequate

Sheriff: Funding Not Adequate

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown says he's not totally satisfied with funding provided his department by county commissioners.

And Brown says that commissioners' claims that they have allocated \$50,000 more to county law enforcement in 1987-88 than in the previous year are not quite true.

A majority of that \$50,000 came not from the county, but from state and federal sources, he said.

"During my campaign, and the campaigns of the present board of

commissioners, many voters indicated to me that they had discussed the issue of funding and support for the sheriff's department with the candidates for the board of county commissioners, and they pledged their support," Brown said in a prepared statement released last week.

"Moreover, I was led to believe that I could expect adequate funding, including a budget increase to hire four jailers, which was necessary to bring the sheriff's department in compliance with minimum standards set forth by law," he said.

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Girl, Guys, Ghouls

Three area children ham it up in front of a motley-looking crew of skeletons on the fun house at last week's carnival sponsored by the Marshall Fire Department, on Blannerhasset Island.

Deja Vu

Water Shortages Loom As Dry Spell Continues

By MARGARET A. STUDENC
Staff Writer

Weaverville residents may be feeling a strong sense of "deja vu" as town officials ask once again that they conserve water due to the dry weather's toll on the town's water supply.

Town officials asked residents to take voluntary steps to conserve water consumption last year during the

long summer drought.

Charlie Horns, Weaverville town manager, said that while the town's water supply is holding its own this year, he does encourage citizens to conserve water any way they can. This includes using the sink instead of the automatic dishwasher, refraining from washing the car and taking one shower per day instead of

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Jail Called 'Potential Hazard' By Contractor

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

An electrical contractor told the Madison County Board of Commissioners Monday night that the county's jail facilities pose a potential hazard to prisoners and sheriff's department employees.

David Emerson of Emerson Electrical Contracting Co. offered to give the commissioners a tour of the jail and sheriff's department facilities, pointing out the most serious of the problems.

"There are a few serious things that need to be fixed at the sheriff's department, and I would say 15 to 18

of those violations are major," Emerson said.

"These are things that need to be addressed, for the welfare of human life, whether prisoners, guards or other sheriff's department personnel," he said.

Among the alleged problems are faulty light fixtures that emit sparks when being turned on and off, the use of "zip (ungrounded extension) cords" and improperly placed electrical fixtures and fuse panels.

A bus bar -- that is, an electrical conducting bar that carries heavy electrical currents to outlets throughout the building -- is exposed

and could be grabbed by an inmate or guard, Emerson said.

He recommended that all electrical fixtures and lighting be "tamper-proof" and be located away from prisoners who might somehow make use of them for escape attempts.

Commissioner Reese Steen said Emerson's comments came as a surprise to the board following a recent inspection of the jail.

"Our building inspector went in there and inspected it and told us everything was okay," Steen said.

"This is news to us."

Steen suggested that the county building inspector accompany Emerson

and the commissioners on the tour of the jail so Emerson can point out problems that may have gone undetected.

No date for the tour was announced. If more than one commissioner accompanies Emerson on the tour, that tour must be announced to the public at least 48 hours in advance under the "special meeting" provision of the N.C. Open Meetings Law.

In other action at Monday's meeting, the board instructed Edward Morton, Madison County Health Department director, to inspect the septic system at a four-unit apartment building.

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Mars Hill Police Salaries Low, Chief Says

By STEVE FERGUSON
Staff Writer

Improving police protection was the focus of the Mars Hill Board of Aldermen meeting Monday night, including raising police salaries and adding a computerized PIN system.

Police Chief R.J. Cutshall told the board that yet another officer, Brian Tucker, would leave the force. Cutshall said he felt the \$11,400 annual salary was the reason for the high turnover rate.

"I've had several calls (about the job)," Cutshall said. "Once they hear the salary, that's as far as it goes."

Alderman Grady Worley asked

Cutshall if the town was inconsistent with area police salaries. "It seems people get a little experience and then they go," Worley said.

"If I didn't have two jobs, I'd have to go," Cutshall said.

Alderman John Chandler asked if reducing the five-member force by one person and raising salaries would help.

"It would end up costing the same when you consider the overtime you'd have to pay for officers to appear in court," Cutshall said. He also said that, during vacation times, the force would be reduced to three men working seven days a week.

Combining Mars Hill College security police and town police was mentioned by Alderman Augusta Jenkins as an option, but Cutshall said campus police only have authority to arrest on college grounds. The town and campus police forces prefer dividing their jobs, he said.

"The college has asked Mars Hill police to stay off campus," said resident Bill Powell, "unless there's a dire emergency."

Town manager Darhyl Boone agreed to review the budget, described as "one of the tightest budgets I've had to work with," and look for cuts to raise police salaries.

"You can't put a price on public safety," Worley said.

Cutshall also described the advantages of a county-wide PIN (police information network) system, in which officers could call in from their cars and check license tags, driver's license numbers and get arrest record information. Currently when police stop a suspect, they have to check through Buncombe County facilities, Cutshall said.

"If we're out on the road, we can use channel four which ties into Buncombe," Cutshall said. "There are some (remote) places in Madison

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Stacks of bleacher supports sit in the cafeteria of the new North Buncombe High School while construction workers get finishing touches on the gymnasium floor. The school is scheduled to open by Aug. 13, the opening day of school.

N. Buncombe High Ready For Students

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

When North Buncombe High School students report for the first day of school Aug. 13, they'll have a brand, spanking new school to greet them.

Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the new school, located off Salem Road north of Weaverville, in anticipation of the impending onslaught of students.

The facilities, designed by architect Kyle Boone, should enable the North Buncombe County to offer a well-rounded education to its students and protect them

Randolph.

"We feel we've now got one of the nicest, most modern schools around," Randolph said.

"We've got a super-nice theater with a working stage and proper acoustics, and we've got science labs that are very modern -- as good as any college around, with vacuum, air, water and gas," he said. "All the departments will be state-of-the-art."

The new school, with a total price tag of \$12.3 million, contains about 200,000 square feet of space. And that should help eliminate an overcrowding problem that has plagued the school for years.

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