

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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State May Slash Child Care Program Funds

The Madison County ARC Child Development Program will be facing serious funding problems at the beginning of the next fiscal year in July 1978. According to Teresa Zimmerman, ARC Day Care coordinator for Madison County, funding will be reduced to 25 percent of the current level if plans which have been developed at the state level are followed. Day Care centers in Hot Springs, Marshall, Mars Hill and Greater Ivy will be affected. Ms. Zimmerman stated that a direct appeal by the public to the governor appears to be the only avenue left to reverse the

funding decisions which have been made by officials in the Department of Human Resources. The support of parents and concerned citizens for the Child Development Program is being sought.

"At this point, individual letters to the governor stating support for the program and asking for the present level of ARC and Title XX money to be continued will be the most effective way of letting Gov. Hunt know that we value our children and our child development program," commented Ms. Zimmerman. (Another article in this paper

lists other ways for concerned citizens to demonstrate their concern).

Currently, day care parents are writing letters to the governor. Open meetings for parents and others have been held in the Greater Ivy, Hot Springs and Marshall areas to plan strategy concerning the funding problem. The Mars Hill area meeting will be held Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mars Hill Day Care Center.

Madison County is among 29 western counties which initiated child development programs in the form of day care centers and day care homes through a five-year

Appalachian Regional Commission Grant. The demonstration project reaches the end of its fifth year on June 30, 1978 after successfully demonstrating the demand for and importance of quality child care programs. Through the years the ARC funding has been supplemented by Title XX monies under the Social Security act, by local funding and by child care fees.

The 75 percent reduction in financial resources will result from the loss of all ARC funding and the shifting of Title XX money from the 29 western counties to

distribution to all 100 counties for day care programs. Child Development personnel in Western North Carolina do not feel that such a redistribution is justified. Western North Carolina residents do not have the great variety of child care alternatives such as church supported, private-for-profit, industry, or community subsidized day care centers which are already available to families in the Piedmont and eastern sections of the state.

ARC money has been used by the program to provide supportive services such as health and dental treatment services. It also enables the

centers to serve children of middle and upper income families who are not eligible under Title XX standards. Without ARC funds, the program will not be able to serve children from all income levels.

Additionally, ARC money is used to bring other federal money into the county. Recently, it has funded a training program which has enabled day care staff members to take child development courses at Mars Hill College.

Although the original five-year ARC grant will soon terminate, Congress passed

legislation to extend ARC funding for two more years. Local parents, county officials and members of the Madison County Day Care Advisory Board participated in a letter writing campaign in support of this legislation.

Currently, this money is available at the state level for the child development program. However, officials in the N. C. Department of Human Resources have chosen not to support the allocation of this money to the child development program but to use it instead to develop new infant and maternal health programs and to build

and improve health department facilities.

Ms. Zimmerman stated that efforts had been made to convince state officials that an infant health program could easily be tied in to the existing day care structure, thus freeing some of the ARC money for the child care program. However, she added that state officials have not been open to such a compromise.

Dr. Minta Saunders, assistant secretary for children with the North Carolina Department of

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Bruce Boone Injured In Shooting

A Madison County man was seriously injured in a shooting at the Day's Inn East on U.S. 70 in Buncombe County Saturday night.

Bruce Landon Boone of the Grapevine Section of Madison County was reportedly shot at close range by his wife, who was arrested Sunday in Asheville.

Boone was shot at least twice in the left chest and side with a .38 caliber revolver, the department said. He was taken to Memorial Mission Hospital following the shooting where he is listed in serious condition, according to a hospital spokesman.

Local Store Again Entered Last Friday

The National 5 and 10 Cent Store on Main Street here was entered early last Friday morning, and a stereo 8-track tape was missing, according to Mrs. Helen Rudisill, owner.

Policeman Carlie Gunter discovered the back glass in the back door broken about 1:30 o'clock and notified Mrs. Rudisill. Investigation by local policemen and Sheriff Ponder is continuing.

This latest break-in was almost identical to a break-in and larceny of merchandise at the same store last August. The parties entered the same back door then as they did last Friday morning.



SUSAN LEDFORD, a young artist at the Mars Hill center, puts the final touches on her masterpiece.

New School Cost: \$1.85 Million Up

As a follow up of a previous meeting concerning the possibilities of a new elementary school to replace the present Marshall School on the Island, members of the Madison County board of education and interested citizens met at the courthouse here on Tuesday night of last week.

In addition to the board members and citizens were Supt. R. L. Edwards; Bert King, architect; Larry Leake, attorney for the board; and Debra Ponder, secretary of the board.

King reported on three sites which have been visited and told the gathering tentative estimates on the sites as follows:

The landfill property near Marshall — grading, \$140,000; road, \$16,000; to hook to Marshall water system, \$30,000; sewerage system, \$28,000; cost of school building, \$1,800,000; total estimated cost, \$2,014,000.

Madison High School property — grading, \$45,000; sewerage system, \$7,200; water system, \$1,800; building, \$1,800,000; total estimated cost, \$1,854,000.

Madison County Health Center property — grading, \$120,000; water system, \$30,000; sewerage, \$28,000; road, \$16,000; building, \$1,800,000; total estimated cost (not including cost of property), \$1,994,000.

Supt. Edwards stated that other sites would be visited in the near future, including the Enka property near Marshall, the Cloise Plemmons property at Walnut; and the Clark property near Walnut, as well as other proposed sites. In addition to Supt. Edwards, Bert King; Virginia Anderson, chairman of the board of commissioners; and Bill Roberts, member of the board of education; and possibly others, will investigate the sites at the suggestion of the Marshall Advisory Group.

VISIT OTHER SCHOOLS

The Spring Creek, Hot Springs and Laurel schools were also visited, and it was stated at the meeting that estimated costs for repairs and/or the building of the three schools would total in the neighborhood of \$370,000, to bring the three schools to required OSHA standards.

A breakdown of costs are as follows:
Spring Creek — building of seven classrooms and other requirements, \$400,000.
Hot Springs — three classrooms, \$350,000.
Laurel — three classrooms, \$150,000.

Edwards stated that the board of education and other officials would have a work session in the courtroom here next Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The public is invited.

There's Potential For Industrial Growth Here

Madison County has good potential for industrial development, according to the North Carolina Resources Framework Study.

The document, prepared by the Water Resources Planning Branch of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, will be presented at the Madison County Planning Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The study found the area along the French Broad River from the Tennessee border to Asheville suitable for location of heavy water using industries.

Other options include proposed floodway systems for Madison County, Marshall, and Mars Hill. Floodway systems provide passages for flood waters, and would limit or prohibit construction in flat low lying areas adjacent to rivers.

An alternative for a pumped storage site in Madison County would generate

electricity during peak periods, and use surplus nighttime energy to pump water to higher elevation reservoirs for use during the next peak period, the study said.

Jim Cody Files For Superior Court Clerk

James W. (Jim) Cody of Marshall announces his candidacy for the office of clerk of Superior Court of Madison County in the May 2 Democratic primary election.

Cody, a native of Madison County, attended Madison County public schools, several different sessions in public relations at G. M. Training Center, Charlotte, and holds a certificate in sales psychology

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\$37,048 Allocated For Driver Ed

According to state Supt. Craig Phillips an estimated 111,856 public school students will be taught this year in driver education programs. These students will be instructed by some 1,200 part-year and full-time certified driver education teachers across the state.

In a report published by the state education agency, an estimated \$11,651,745 will be allocated to the 145 local education agencies during the 1977-78 school year.

The initial allotment assigned to each local unit the bulk of its operating funds for the year. The mid-year revision adjusted funding to fit revised numbers of students to be taught, actual numbers and salary ratings of teachers employed and current year rates of cost for such items as car operations, insurance, instructional materials and equipment. The driver education program in North Carolina is completely

financed by the \$3 motor vehicle registration fee.

The state Board of Education approved these mid-year revisions of driver

education budgets for fiscal year 1977-78 at its January meeting. Madison County received an initial allocation of \$32,402 on July 7, 1977 and will be allotted \$4,646 for a total

amount of \$37,048 for the remainder of 1977-78. An estimated 313 students will be enrolled in driver education programs during 1977-78 in Madison County.

County's Problems Cited

Madison County residents believe that the matter of roads and transportation is the greatest problem facing North Carolina, according to the 258 persons in the county who responded to the "North Carolina Tomorrow" survey.

The survey, sponsored by Gov. Jim Hunt and the State Goals and Policy Board, was conducted this fall throughout the state to give citizens an opportunity to participate in the state government decision-making process. As the chief citizen advisory agency in state government, the board will make recommendations to the governor for short- and long-range solutions to the problems

based on survey results.

The questionnaire asked respondents to name the biggest problem facing the state and to explain what state government should do to solve that problem. The survey also dealt with satisfaction with service delivery, taxes and the overall quality of life in North Carolina.

Statewide, the problem of roads was volunteered by only 2.5 percent of all respondents, compared to Madison County's 19.4 percent. Top solutions offered in the county were improvement of secondary roads, improvement of roads in Western North Carolina and more money for overall road

construction.

The second- and third-ranked problems in Madison were public education and the economy, each listed by 13.6 percent. On the matter of elementary and secondary education, the main solutions included better funding for schools, more teachers and teaching basic skills.

With regard to jobs, unemployment and the economy, they wanted new industry brought into the state first of all, followed by better wages for workers and more jobs.

Other problem areas frequently mentioned in the county were welfare (7.8 percent), state government

(6.6 percent) and crime-law enforcement (5.4 percent).

Like other North Carolinians who completed the "North Carolina Tomorrow" survey, many Madison County residents indicated strong dissatisfaction with welfare services and utilities and satisfaction with community colleges and higher education.

Their dissatisfaction level with public roads (44 percent very dissatisfied) was much higher than was seen statewide (13 percent), while their satisfaction level with public education was slightly higher than the remainder of the state.

Like others across the state,

citizens in the county ranked in order these factors as important in choosing a place to live: availability of employment, nearness to good schools and services, desire to be near family and climate.

A final section on the questionnaire dealt with economic problems and approaches to solving them. Of the six items, Madison County persons felt that helping new industry locate near small towns and rural areas is by far the most important. Indeed, their response rate of 55 percent on this one item is compared to the statewide response of 22 percent on the matter of locating new industry in smaller areas.