

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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facilities — Page 8

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Council Announces Fund Plan

The Mars Hill Community Development Council met Feb. 13 for the first meeting of the new year. The group was pleased at the report that they now have over \$12,000 in the bank for the library fund. Mars Hill Woman's Club contributed \$1,116. The cooperation and participation by so many people has been gratifying. A number of fund-raising events will be planned for this year, and it is hoped that even more people will become involved in community development and beautification. Mrs. Barbara Bennett, publicity chairman, stated.

The need for a youth council for the Mars Hill community was discussed, and persons who may be interested in helping to organize such a group are being contacted.

A community-wide meeting will be held March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the local school. An interesting program is being planned which should be of help to Mars Hill residents as they plan and begin their yardwork for spring. Circle this date on the calendar and invite the neighbors to be there. A community newsletter will be distributed prior to the March meeting.

The Community Development Organization will continue to sponsor monthly clean-up days this year. The first Saturday in each month is set aside to clean up the street and roadways in the area, and everyone is urged to keep their yards and areas around their homes attractive.

Participation in Community Development is the best way to make Mars Hill an even better place in which to live, Mrs. Bennett commented.

Young Announces For Education Job

Gerald Young of Route 2, Mars Hill, Democratic candidate for the Madison County Board of Education, District I, is a native of the Middle Fork section of the Greater Ivy community. He is the son of Mrs. Pansy Briggs Young and the late R.O. Young.

He is a graduate of Mars Hill High School and North Carolina State University and is a member and deacon of the Mars Hill Baptist Church. He is active in the Greater Ivy Community Citizens Association.

Young has been in the dairy business for 21 years and has served several years on the Dairy Committee of the North Carolina Farm Bureau. He is past president of the N.C. Dairy Herd Improvement Association and is vice chairman of the Western N.C. Dairy Commission and is on the board of directors of the Biltmore Producers Association.

He is married to the former Alda Jean Clarke and they



SHARON L. RAY, executive secretary for the Madison County Board of Elections and supervisor of elections, is one of the busiest persons in Madison County, getting everything ready for the

May 2 primaries. Miss Ray, who resides in the Laurel community, has served efficiently for the past six years under both Democratic and Republican boards. (Picture by Jim Story)

Deer Herd

In 'Fair To Good' Health

Results of deer investigations in Madison County indicate that deer parasite levels are low and the deer are in fair to good condition. These studies are used by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to supply information on the balance between total numbers of deer and available food supply. If this balance appears out of adjustment, wildlife biologists can change

management techniques to restore the balance. Some possible changes include: increase of food supply, either-sex hunts, changes in season length or changes in bag limit.

NCWRC field personnel have kept tabs on the deer herd in the restoration area around Bluff Mountain. Since the original stocking, these deer have spread considerably and appear to be doing well. If the present trend continues, the herd should be large enough to allow an open season in the near future.

Deer kill reports from wildlife cooperator agents show that 25 deer were

reported by hunters in Madison County last season. The same amount was reported in 1976. If all hunters report their deer kills, the NCWRC will have good information for management. Incomplete recording of deer harvests will result in false population estimates and also counteract management plans. Proper reporting will allow good planning of game habitat developments and meaningful regulations.

"The NCWRC would like to express their appreciation to wildlife cooperator agents and sportsmen for helping us gather this valuable information," Vic Vansant, wildlife biologist, said.

New Medical Center Fund Drive Planned

This is a reminder about the very important meeting coming up for the new medical center next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison High School cafeteria.

Plans for the upcoming fund-raising drive will be completed. Printed literature and instructions will be given out.

All interested persons, including those who did not attend the last meeting, are urgently invited to attend. Remember, the drive needs volunteers from every area of the Marshall-Walnut communities to effectively reach all citizens and families able to be served at the center.

"Remodeling at the site is progressing at a rapid rate. Interior walls have been framed and it is easy to visualize future exam rooms,

waiting room, lab and others. Duct work for the furnace is installed and electrical wiring is almost finished. This new 1,700 square foot facility will truly be a model for other areas around and outside Western North Carolina for its design and program," Karol Kavaya, reporter, commented.

AUCTION SATURDAY

This Saturday at the old Madison Grill (site of the new medical center) items to be used in the present renovation will be bid on. These include plywood, paneling, windows, two hot water heaters, two toilets, lavatories, air conditioners, heater, four wooden doors, Madison grill signs. The auction will begin at 1 in the afternoon; Jackie Ball is auctioneer.

DOT To Consider Road Priorities

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) officials report that a meeting has been scheduled with Madison County board of commissioners to discuss proposals and plans for the improvements to Madison County secondary roads.

The meeting, open to the public, has been scheduled for 2 p.m. on March 1 and will be held in the courtroom of the Madison County courthouse.

In developing local secondary road improvement priorities, county and NCDOT officials will consider a number of secondary road improvement needs. Among these are: 1) the need for paving unpaved roads; 2) the need to improve unpaved roads to "all weather" standards; 3) the need to widen narrow, heavily traveled roads and thereby remove weight restrictions; 5) the need to improve and replace substandard bridges; 6) the need to continue to help local schools, rural fire and rescue squad facilities; and 7) the need to continue safety projects through improvement of bad curves and proper alignment.

The March 1 meeting will

balance local needs against available revenues, including the \$465,615 allocation of the 1977 Highway Bond Funds approved for Madison County by the Board of Transportation in its February meeting. The Madison County "Bond Fund Allocation" was in addition to the \$417,000 already allocated to Madison County for secondary road improvements earlier this

fiscal year. "We realize that county commissioners must play a strong role in determining the total improvement needs of each county. We must continue to strengthen the partnership between the Board of Transportation and the county commissioners," commented Board of Transportation member John Millard Gilkey of Marion.

"We will continue to work very closely with local and county officials and with Department of Transportation staff engineers in determining the best usage of all available funds for secondary road improvements," he added. "This is specially important due to the extensive damage to the secondary road system caused by recent weather conditions," noted Gilkey.

Vote Absentee? Get Ballots By April 26

The Madison County Board of Elections announced this week that absentee ballots will be available for voting on March 3. The deadline to apply for absentee ballots is April 26 at 5 p.m.

Any qualified voter of the state may vote by absentee ballot if:

(1) He expects to be absent from the county during the entire period that the polls are open on the day of the May 2 primary election. Or

(2) He is unable to be present at the voting place to vote in person on the day of the primary because of sickness or other physical disability.

(3) He is incarcerated as a misdemeaner.

(4) He is an employee of the Board of Elections and his assigned duties on the day of the election will cause him to be absent to vote in person.

A voter expecting to be absent may go to the Board of Elections office located in the Ramsey Office Building and make application for and vote his absentee ballots. In the alternative, he may send his

spouse, parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, or sister to make application for him and provided the application made by the near relative is approved, absentee ballots will be mailed to the voter. Also, a person expecting to be absent may write the Board of Elections at P.O. Box 142, Marshall, and request that an application be mailed to him. Any person writing the board and requesting an application should state his political party affiliation, precinct in which registered, name, and full mailing address. The person must also state whether he is requesting an application due to absence or illness or other physical disability.

Those desiring to vote an absentee ballot due to illness or other physical disability must go to the Board of Elections office in person, send a near relative to apply, or write and request an application. Only those expecting to be absent on election day will be permitted to vote their absentee ballots

at the office.

Persons not already registered to vote, who will become 18 years of age by Nov. 6, and are otherwise qualified have until April 3 at 5 p.m. to register for voting in the first and second (if necessary) primary elections.

An early application for an absentee ballot or for voter registration will ensure against technical error.

For additional information contact the Madison County Board of Elections (Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) located in the Ramsey Office Building on Main Street in Marshall. The telephone number is 649-3731.

Correction

In last week's issue concerning Roger Swann of Mars Hill succeeding Edward Krause as a member of the Madison County Board of Elections, it was inadvertently listed as Board of Education.



AMOS CLAY RAY

Amos Ray Is Candidate For Sheriff

Amos Clay Ray of Route 3, Marshall (Shelton Laurel), is a Democratic candidate in the May 2 primary for the office of sheriff of Madison County.

Ray attended Laurel School for 11 years after which he attended Greeneville (Tenn.) Technical School for two years where he received an electronic technician's degree.

Currently, Ray is a self-employed trucker and energetic farmer.

He attends the Carmen Church of God and is highly respected in the community.

His wife is the former Miss Alice Fay King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billie King, also of Route 3, Marshall. They have two daughters, Sheila, 14, who is a freshman at Madison High School, and Teresa, who is in the seventh grade at the Laurel School.



VOCATIONAL instructors at Madison High School directed guests through the excellent facilities Thursday night in conjunction with observance of Vocational Education Week. In addition to the interesting tour, members of the Advisory Committee, instructors and guests watched the forum over Channel 33 which emphasized the benefits of vocational training. Jack C. Cole, director at MHS, presided, and Dean Ralph M. Lee of Mars Hill, a member of the Advisory

Committee, was principal speaker. Instructors present included, seated: Fred Sams, David Cox; standing, left to right: Garland Woody, Harold Baker, Wayne Robinson, Jack Cole, Winfred Ramsey, Bruce Sprinkle, Lucille Sprinkle, James Allen. Other instructors include Sheila Ramsey, Maxine Gosnell, Irene Metcalf, Karen Sams, Linda Gardner, Ron McDaniels, Ricky McDevitt (aid) and Paula Parham (Spring Creek).

Vocational Ed Week

Madison Facilities Open Doors To Public

By JIM STORY

Vocational Education Week was observed throughout North Carolina last week, including a television forum over Channel 33.

At Madison High School vocational instructors, members of the County Advisory Committee and

guests enjoyed the forum in the beautiful library. Following the 30-minute program, Jack C. Cole, director of vocational programs at Madison High, introduced David Wyatt, Madison principal, who welcomed the guests.

Cole, who presided at the meeting, then introduced the

instructors present.

Dean Ralph M. Lee of Mars Hill, a member of the Advisory Committee, then spoke to the audience, pointing out the benefits of vocational training. He emphasized the importance of such training in that students who are forced to quit school for various reasons before

graduating have gained valuable knowledge if subjected to the courses and are partially prepared to accept jobs which they ordinarily would not be able to perform. "It is highly recommended that students complete the courses in high school and if at all possible, continue this training in college," Lee said.

Dean Lee praised the vocational facilities at Madison High School where both boys and girls are involved. He stated that he had visited vocational departments in many schools, colleges and universities, but, in his opinion, the facilities at Madison High School are the

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