

Merry Christmas

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

On the inside . . .

Mars Hill guard
makes All-American
... see page 12

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SS Probe Involves Personnel Only

A lengthy investigation of the Department of Social Services ordered by the Madison County Board of Commissioners was conducted here Monday afternoon in the offices of the department.

Although the findings were not made public, Jackie Ball, chairman of the Madison County Social Services Board,

said at the close of the executive session that fraudulent claims were not involved in the investigation.

"It dealt totally with the operation of this department

— personal matters," Ball stated.

Larry Leake, attorney for the county, said the social services board had not fired any of the 30 employees or

ordered any suspensions.

Leake further said, "the board has terminated no one, suspended no one, and no such action is contemplated."

Don Harrell, director of the

Madison County Department of Social Services, and Anita B. Davie, supervisor, were among the several employees questioned one at a time by the board during the closed door session.

In a statement issued before the questioning started, Ball said the commissioners voted unanimously to ask the social services board to investigate "various complaints for some clarification and more information" concerning the department's employees and welfare recipients.

"There will be no statement until we have concluded our meeting — coming to grips with rumors that have been flying around," Ball said.

Harrell said he had not heard the rumors and had no idea what the investigation was about. Virginia Anderson, a member of the social services board and also a member of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, said the investigation involved the entire department — recipients as well as employees.

Leake emphasized that the probe does not involve misuse of money or state property.

Ball said that as far as the board is concerned, the investigation was completed Monday.

But he would not concede that the board found no substance in the complaints made to the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

"We've got no comment on that at this," Ball said in response to a question.

Conducting the probe, in addition to county attorney

Leake, Ball and Mrs. Anderson, were Zeno Ponder and Pat Franklin, also members of the Madison County Board of Social Services. The fifth member of the board, Robert Edwards, was not present.

The board members refused to disclose the nature of the complaints received by the commissioners, but Mrs. Anderson said they involved management and administration of the department.

Weinstein Named Director

The Madison County Mental Health Center announces that Jay Weinstein, Ph.D., has joined the staff as director of the team project. Dr. Weinstein received his doctor's degree in clinical and community psychology at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He is licensed to practice psychology in North Carolina and Illinois. In addition to directing the team project, Dr. Weinstein maintains a private practice, and is a member of several professional organizations.

Prior to his joining the staff, he was a psychologist for the department of human resources at the Juvenile Evaluation Center and worked extensively with children having emotional and mental problems; he has also served as consultant to the Asheville city schools, Thomas Rehabilitation Hospital and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The team project of Madison County is one of the new prevention programs in the state which combine the skills of workers from several community agencies. Each of the six teams which work in the elementary schools consists of a nurse, a social worker and a mental health worker.

As a result of the cooperation from school personnel, the teams on the project have been able to provide additional services to children.

It is a joint community effort relying on support from many agencies. The overall goal of this project is to prevent serious problems from occurring by providing services to the child, school and family.

Questions about the team project can be directed to 649-3288 or 649-2367.



DAVID CALDWELL, (left) Madison County Finance Officer, is shown receiving a Community Based Alternatives (CBA) grant in the amount of \$1,682 which represents one-half of this fiscal year's allocation. Presenting the check here Thursday was Bernie Lewis, right, Field Represent-

tative for CBA. Shown in center is Jay Weinstein, director, Madison County Team Project. These funds will be used to offset local matching monies in the LEAA grant that funds the Madison County Team Project. (Photo by Jim Story)

WNCDA Officers

Bill Clark Heads Steering Committee ; 1979 Community Chairmen Appointed

Bill Clark of the Greater Ivy community in Madison County was elected chairman of the community development steering committee of the

Western North Carolina Development Association Thursday.

He succeeded Walter Moss of Rutherford County.

Clark was elected at a luncheon meeting in the S&W Cafeteria. Elected to serve with him as officers of the committee were Ruth Gregory of Marshall, vice chairman, and Charles Caldwell of Williamson's Creek community in Transylvania County, secretary.

The standard report books used by communities for the first time in 1978 were discussed at the meeting. Some community leaders consider them redundant, the committee was told.

Clark appointed a committee comprised of Fred Sealy of Buncombe County, Grover Westmoreland of Henderson County and C.B. Bunn of Swain County to work with association vice president Morris L. McGough in eliminating redundant portions of the report book.

The number of special youth awards was increased and McGough reported that a record 19,200 will be presented in prize awards to community and group participants in community activities.

The committee voted to make individuals who have won the honor of Man or Woman of the Year in community development ineligible to repeat for that honor.

Community Development Week, hailed as a success in 1978 when tried for the first time, will be repeated the first week of April, it was decided.

One of the liveliest debates of the day involved changing the name of the steering committee to area council of community development. The move was defeated.

ASC Election

County Committeemen Chosen In Madison

The Madison County ASC Committee counted the ballots cast in the community committee election on Dec. 13. The results of the election is as follows:

A-North Marshall: Cecil Briggs, chairman; Clyde Fisher, vice chairman; Fred B. Flynn, member; John Hensley, first-alternate; and Gordon Rice, second alternate.

B-Laurel: Walter Gosnell, chairman; Clarence Cutshall, vice chairman; Glen Hensley, member; Odus Chandler, first-alternate; Joe Bullman, second alternate.

C-Mars Hill: Emory Robinson, chairman; Fred Huffman, vice chairman; J. Albin Buckner, member; Dewey Phillips, first alternate; Manuel Briscoe, second alternate.

D-Beech Glen: Levi Hunter, chairman; Harold Metcalf, vice chairman; Wayne R. Eatmon, member; Harold Buckner, first alternate; Alvin McMahan, second alternate.

E-Sandy Mush: Carl Walker, chairman; Ricky Reeves, vice chairman; W.R. Reems, member; James Buckner, first alternate; Arnold Brown, second alternate.

F-Spring Creek: Hugh Balding, chairman; Bobby Clark, vice chairman; L.O. Brooks, member; Johnny Payne, first alternate; Ruby Plemmons, second alternate.

G-Ebbs Chapel: Wayne Burnette, chairman; Edward Hoyle, vice chairman; Oliver Hall, member; Levi Ponder, first alternate; Litton Shook, second alternate.

H-Hot Springs: Carter Parks, chairman; Charles Ricker, vice chairman; Wayne Cook, member;

Honley Etherton, first alternate; Fred Shannon, second alternate.

J-Meadow Fork: Arnold Reese, chairman; Erwin Balding, vice chairman;

Tillman Reese, member; Fred Trantham, first alternate; Vern Holt, second alternate.

K-Walnut: Ralph Baker,

Relocating US 25-70

Contract Awarded

The N.C. Board of Transportation has awarded 30 contracts for highway construction and improvements across the state. The contracts totaled \$30,865,599.59. Since July of this year (beginning the state's fiscal year 1979), the Hunt administration has awarded \$97,275,257 in highway improvement contracts.

Of special interest to Madison and Buncombe counties was the awarding of a contract to relocate US 25-70

from Secondary Road 1582 near Marshall to just north of Jupiter Road (Secondary Road 1762).

The contract was awarded to Asheville Contracting Co. of Asheville for \$10,651,582.80. It calls for constructing a four-lane divided roadway with controlled access on new location.

Work is expected to begin in January 1979 and the scheduled completion date is November 1981.

The four-mile project is part of an ongoing program to relocate US 25-70 between Marshall and Weaverville. Bids are expected to be opened on the section of US 25-70 from Jupiter Road to US 19-23 in January 1979.

John M. Gilkey of Marion represents Madison County on the Board of Transportation while Jack E. Bryant of Brevard is responsible for Buncombe County. Both counties are part of highway Division 13.

Bentley To Chair College Association

Dr. Fred B. Bentley, president of Mars Hill College, has been elected chairman of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The association is the chief accrediting agency for private and public elementary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities in 11 Southeastern states. The Commission on Colleges encompasses some 600 member institutions.

Dr. Bentley, who has been president of Mars Hill since 1965, was elected to the Commission in 1974 and was named to the executive council of the Commission last year. The latter body, composed of nine members, interprets policies and functions of the Association as they apply to collegiate members.

As chairman, Dr. Bentley will direct the 63 members of the Commission in preparing statements on the standards of membership in the Association for colleges, conducting on-campus visits and evaluations of colleges applying for membership and preparing lists of institutions which meet the standards of the Association. He also

becomes chairman of the Commission's executive council.

As chairman of the Commission on Colleges, Dr. Bentley will also serve on the seven-member Executive Committee of the full Association. That committee has general supervision of the affairs of the Association and makes recommendations on policies and programs to the Board of Trustees, of which he will also be a member and serve on the executive committee.

Downtown

Stores Stay

Open Sunday

Nine firms, members of the Marshall Merchants Association, have announced in an advertisement published elsewhere in this issue that they will be open for business next Sunday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., for the convenience of Christmas shoppers.

Participants include: Richard & Sons Dept. Store, Marshall Thrift Store, Salsbery Pharmacy, DeWitt's Grocery, Southern Hardware, Marshall 24 Hour Drug Store, 277 S. 2nd St., and Thrift Store, 277 S. 2nd St.

Citizens' Suggestions Sought At Hearing

The Madison County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on Dec. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Madison County Courthouse for the purpose of presenting community development activities for an application for funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The hearing will present activities based on ideas presented from citizens at a public hearing on Dec. 14, in which citizens suggestions

included housing rehabilitation and water improvements for residents of the Laurel Township.

Staff from Land-of-Sky Regional Council will present a description of the project, a budget, and selection of the target neighborhood.

Citizens are urged to attend and make comments or suggestions on the proposed grant application before the submission in early January.



BILL CLARK

Burley Markets Reopen

Phil Wells, Glasgow, Ky., chairman of the burley sales committee, announced on Dec. 19 that the committee voted by telephone to postpone the reopening of the burley tobacco market from Jan. 3 to Jan. 4 with sales on Jan. 4 and 5 and with sales thereafter to be on the first four days of each week except for the special sale dates assigned for the sale of baled tobacco.

Wells said the one day delay was made in response to requests by the buying companies in order to avoid having their personnel travel on New Year's Day.

The burley tobacco markets in the eight state burley belt closed for the Christmas season after the end of sales on Dec. 14.