

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Suits Against Ponder, Others, Are Dismissed

A \$500,000 law suit against Sheriff E.Y. Ponder; a \$500,000 suit against Buncombe County Sheriff Tom Morrissey; and a \$30,000 suit against Ralph D. Edwards, director, Division of Prisons, N.C. Department of Corrections, have been dismissed by Judge Woodrow W. Jones, chief U.S. Judge in Western North Carolina. The

dismissal of these suits was made on Friday of last week. Plaintiff in the suits was Wade Edward Gosnell of Buncombe County, a native of Madison County. Gosnell has been serving a sentence of 16 years after being convicted of forgery on June 1, 1976, in the Buncombe County Superior Court. He has been in the McDowell County

prison for some time and is still here, according to reports. Gosnell's suit against Sheriff Ponder alleged that Ponder issued a fake warrant against him and also failed to carry out certain promises. In the suit against Sheriff Morrissey, Gosnell alleged that the Buncombe County sheriff treated him im-

properly when he transferred him from Madison County to Buncombe County. The suit against Edwards charged that Edwards had mistreated him and has taken away some of his privileges. Also named as a defendant was the Asheville-Citizen Times Co. who Gosnell contended printed false information on Aug. 2, 1978.

Gosnell contends that he wrote the paper twice but he failed to get any answer. He says in his complaint that such action caused "hardship and hurt." However, Gosnell voluntarily withdrew his \$1,000,000 suit against the newspaper. A.E. Leake, Marshall attorney, represented Ponder in the action.



TERRY KING, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman King, of the Guntertown section, is shown looking out of the igloo he made

Monday morning at his home. Note swings in background, unused during the winter season.

Arts Council Requests Public Input

The February meeting of the Madison County Arts Council will be on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jesuit residence across from the elementary school in Hot Springs. The agenda will include an update on the P.A.R.O.T.T. Project (Preservation and Restoration of the Times Theater), and most importantly, the general membership will be asked for their direct input regarding community needs and specific programs they want to see happen.

This is an open meeting and the public is welcome and strongly urged to come. Representation from each of our communities is essential for the Arts Council: parents, civic organizations, community clubs, folks — see to it that your voices are heard. Invest some time and energy now and reap the benefits from now on. The board of directors is asked to meet one half hour earlier at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27.

County Will Study Sewerage Project

The Land-of-Sky Regional Council has received a \$59,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for a continuing planning process for its water quality program. The continuing planning program involves working with existing wastewater management agencies to achieve greater efficiency and economy in treating wastewater. Local governments and wastewater agencies in Buncombe County will jointly conduct a management feasibility study to determine the most effective means of rehabilitating and maintaining the county's sewage collection lines. Madison County local governments will study the possibility of establishing a joint wastewater management agency to serve on a county-wide basis. Counties will also

be involved in forming operation-maintenance and user charge programs, and policies for using alternative wastewater treatment systems, in areas where they are needed. Assistance will be given to these local governments in obtaining EPA approval of designated wastewater management agencies in the region. This includes getting certification that the agencies have adequate legal authority, capability and understanding to carry out responsibilities indicated in the 208 Plan. The council will provide EPA with legal opinions concerning the legal authority of proposed management agencies and other 208 regulatory programs. The grant also includes specific work toward identifying needs for alternative wastewater disposal systems such as septic tanks and small treatment plants for clusters of rural homes with existing wastewater problems (particularly for rural areas where central sewage treatment is too expensive); providing technical assistance and public information; encouraging citizen participation in water quality programs; working with local, state and federal agencies to develop specific agreements for carrying out recommendations of the initial 208 Area-wide Water Quality Management Plan; and working with officials in each of the counties to determine effective arrangements for management of wastewater facilities in rural areas. A rural clean water coordination program will be established to determine top priority water quality problems in rural areas and specific best management practices to be used on a

voluntary basis. Fifty percent federal funding to be matched by local farmers will be available to rural land-owners (when appropriated by Congress) for implementing conservation practices for priority water quality problems. "Best Management Practices" are conservation practices and other methods (usually low cost, non-structural) designed to control pollutant runoff into our waterways from a variety of

land uses. Twenty-five percent (or \$19,670) of funding for the continuing planning process must be contributed to local or state funds or services to match the \$59,000 federal EPA grant. Involvement of staff personnel of local agencies will ensure adequate coordination and input in decision-making, as well as provide an "in-kind" match for approximately three-fourths of the local match.

Listing Of Appointees Wanted By Rep. Ramsey

The thousands of people appointed by the governor and other appointing authorities to public office in North Carolina would be listed at the Legislative Library and two other locations under a bill introduced in the General Assembly. Rep. Liston B. Ramsey, sponsor of the legislation, said the move was not made in an effort to limit appointments by any appointing authority, but simply to give the citizens of the state a source of information on the officeholders. His bill would require that notice and record of appointment be filed with the governor, secretary of state

and in the Legislative Library within 30 days after the appointment has been accepted. Ramsey made it clear that the legislation is neither at the request of Gov. Jim Hunt nor aimed at his appointments. He said Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green, who is expected to challenge Hunt for the governorship, is not involved in the legislation. "It's not an administration bill — it's not an anti-administration bill. It's got nothing to do with Jimmy Green. I would just like to have that information — for myself and any other citizen who wants it," Ramsey said of his bill.

The bill would apply to appointments made by the governor, the lieutenant governor, chief justice of the Supreme Court, speaker of the House, Senate president pro tem, members of the Council of State, all heads of the executive departments of state government, the board of governors of the University of North Carolina, "and any other person or group authorized by law to appoint to a public office."

It would apply to appointive membership on any state commission, council, committee, board, or any other agency of state government in which the appointee is entitled to draw subsistence, per diem compensation or travel allowances. It would not include a public office for which a regular salary is paid to the appointee

as an employee of the state or one of its agencies or institutions.

The law would go into effect July 1 and would require that notice of existing appointments — ranging into the thousands — be filed with the governor, secretary of state and in the Legislative Library within 60 days of the effective date.

Failure to file notice of the appointments would block payment of compensation to the appointee such as travel allowance, per diem or subsistence under terms of Ramsey's bill.

Food Stamp Facts

By ELIZABETH S. ROBERTS Supervisor

The regulations of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 will become effective March 1 for households making an initial application to receive food stamps and households that have to be recertified during the coming months.

There are some major changes to be applied, therefore, for the next few weeks I will be bringing to you a different phase of the program to help you become familiar with the requirements and save you time and trips to the food stamp office.

This week's topic will be reserve and income. Reserve means cash money classified as liquid assets, real or personal property classified as non-liquid assets, kept on hand or set apart to meet the families needs and is readily available to the household. Examples of liquid assets are: cash on hand, cash in checking or savings accounts, U.S. Savings Bonds and other stocks and bonds. Non-liquid assets are: real property or personal property, licensed vehicles, buildings and land not joining the homestead. The maximum allowable reserve including liquid and

Vocational Ed Forum Held

The 1979 TV Forum on vocational education was held at Madison High School last Thursday night and again proved informative and interesting.

Jack C. Cole, vocational director for Madison County schools was in charge of the forum and program.

The purpose of the forum was to provide opportunity for people to learn about the vocational education programs that are available near their homes and to express their views about the programs. The program was planned

around the same format as in previous years.

A specially prepared half-hour broadcast was aired on the UNC television network at 7:30 p.m. The program dealt with special popular issues that are important to vocational education in North Carolina. These issues were highlighted in a questionnaire that people were asked to complete after they had watched the broadcast together as a part of the evening's agenda.

Those present were also taken on a tour of the vocational education facilities at Madison High School.



WALNUT'S K-1 classroom has recently been set-up in learning centers. Mrs. Winnie Broglin, teacher, has divided the center into two categories — art and block. Shown, left, in block center are Christ Bullman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bullman, Hopewell; and Michael Richardson, son of Mr. and Mrs.



Prince Thomas, Walnut, in art center, right, are Brian Buckner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Buckner, Big Pine; and Misty Roberts, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Roberts, Walnut. There are 39 pupils in the centers.

CDP Contest Offers Record Prize Money

The Western North Carolina Community Development Program, one of the nation's oldest self-help rural development efforts, has been launched on its 30th year with an all-time record high in awards. Over \$9,000 in area recognition awards will be presented to participating communities, along with an estimated \$15,000 in local awards in county contests.

Last year the program involved 96 organized communities, along with a number of youth groups, civic and garden clubs and other organizations that took part in special youth and beautification phases of the program.

The community improvement program, which is widely recognized as an outstanding example of a

locally operated and locally financed effort of people working together to help themselves, is sponsored by the 18-county Western North Carolina Development Association in cooperation with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, farm agencies, businesses and local sponsors in participating counties.

Richard B. Wynne, president of the development association, describes the purpose of the program as "encouraging people to organize and work together to improve their communities and make them better places in which to live. This is a program of people helping themselves — of recognizing problems and opportunities, and then doing something about them."

According to Wynne, "The rural community development program is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to Western North Carolina. The results over the past 30 years can be seen in more attractive communities, the many community centers, playgrounds and recreation areas, well-kept homes and farms and in about all phases of community life."

Any community in an 18-county area, including Avery, Burke and Rutherford counties west through Cherokee County and including the Cherokee Indian Reservation, that is actively engaged in an organized improvement effort is eligible to participate. In addition to farm and rural sections, suburban areas and small towns and villages are also included.

In addition to the overall community improvement program, there are also special contests for beautification, youth activities and to mobilize farm improvement efforts.



THOMAS MALLONEE

Mallonee To Retire

Thomas L. Mallonee, 11th Congressional District assistant in Western North Carolina for 19 years, is retiring from federal service.

Mallonee joined the staff of former U.S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain, served throughout Taylor's 16 years in office, then continued under Rep. Lamar Gudger of Asheville.

His retirement, effective at the end of March, was announced Monday by Gudger, who said Mallonee will continue to assist the 11th District office as a consultant.

Both Gudger and Taylor praised Mallonee's record of service.

better friend or a more responsible public servant," Gudger said. "Without his assistance, my task of trying to replace Roy Taylor for this district would have been well nigh impossible.

With that assistance, I feel we have been able to provide responsible and effective representation and continue the high standard of constituent service."

Gudger said Mallonee will be sorely missed and that "his knowledge accumulated over a period of some 30 years cannot be replaced."

Mallonee is well-known and admired in Madison County where he frequently visits.

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