

School Opening Draws Nearer

School bells and buzzers will sound at 8:30 Monday morning, August 11, heralding the beginning of the 1980-1981 school year for some 3,000 students in Madison County.

County School Superintendent R.L. Edwards said all schools K-12 will begin classes on that day, while teachers and administrators will report to work on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7 and 8.

Teachers will spend Thursday and Friday

attending workshops, preparing pupil records and making final student assignments for the academic year.

Madison High School enrollment will total 928 students for the beginning fall term.

The school calendar lists the following closings and holidays to be observed this year: Sept. 1, Labor Day; Friday, Sept. 26, N.C. Association teachers meeting; Tuesday, Nov. 11, Election Day; Nov. 27 and 28, Thanksgiving.

Christmas holidays begin at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19 and run through Monday, Jan. 5.

Easter vacation and spring break will begin Monday, April 20 and continue through Friday, April 24.

Both Christmas and Easter holidays will depend on the number of school closings caused by snow or inclement weather this winter and spring.

The date for year-end closing is set for June

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THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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Madison Schools Accredited

The Madison County Schools have been awarded full accreditation by the North Carolina State Board of Education. The Level III accreditation which was awarded to the schools is the final

step in the state accreditation process and is "recognition that the school system has developed and implemented a comprehensive educational plan which results in improved learning for students."

R.L. Edwards, superintendent of Madison schools, Edward Gentry and Gerald Young, members of the Madison County Board of Education, and Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor of

schools, appeared before the State Board of Education on July 3 to present accreditation reports.

Edwards introduced his personnel and guests and made introductory remarks concerning the Madison County schools. Ms. Rice presented the evaluation report to the state board and answered questions concerning the accreditation process.

Dr. Craig Phillips, state superintendent of schools, notified the Madison County

Board of Education by letter of the accreditation. In his letter, Phillips stated, "Accreditation by the State Board of Education is a tribute to the aspirations of the community and to the dedication and efforts of the patrons, the students, and the staff of your schools administrative unit. We commend all who have participated in this achievement and share with them the satisfaction that comes with this accomplishment."

Sheriff Makes Record Haul Of Marijuana

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

The Madison County Sheriff's Department confiscated the largest load of green growing marijuana in its history this past Monday afternoon. A total of 3,836 marijuana plants, many measuring over six feet tall, were pulled up by deputies from a large garden located in the Cutshall community of the Shelton Laurel area in the northern part of the county.

The Sheriff's Department was notified by law enforcement helicopter pilots from Kingsport, Tennessee about 11:30 a.m. that they had spotted a large field of marijuana growing inside the Madison County line. The helicopter had strayed off course in a dense fog, and the pilots realized they were over Madison County when the fog had cleared.

Deputies Frank Ogle and Clayton Grindstaff, along with Danny Goforth, were dispatched to the area and worked from noon until 7:00 p.m. pulling the marijuana plants by hand and loading them onto available trucks in order to haul them back to the sheriff's department where they will be destroyed.

According to Ogle and Grindstaff, the plants were growing in a garden among corn and beans on farmland owned by C.G. Shelton of Flagpond,

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DEPUTIES Grindstaff and Cook examine some of the several truckloads of marijuana plants

brought to the Madison County Sheriff's Department Monday. (Photo by N. Hancock)

Hancock Joins News Record

G. Nicholas (Nick) Hancock of Asheboro has been named editor of The News-Record. Hancock started his duties here this week.

Hancock, a graduate of Asheboro high school, attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has had training and ex-

perience in North Carolina Juvenile Justice System and Effective Parenting at Randolph Technical College.

He has also worked in counseling in private schools and directed a non-profit community organization working with troubled youngsters and juvenile delinquents.

He has had four years' experience in library work at Asheboro-Randolph County Public Library and six years' experience in the printing trade in areas of typesetting, composing and makeup.

Hancock comes to The News-Record from The Courier Tribune in Asheboro

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NICK HANCOCK

Mars Hill Man Stabbed

A Mars Hill man was listed in satisfactory condition at Memorial Mission Hospital Sunday after suffering a stab wound Saturday night in the Weaverville area.

Harold Dean Chandler of Mars Hill was stabbed in the lower abdomen, the sheriff's department reported. No arrests had been made in the incident Sunday night as an investigation continued.

115 Entries In Auto Show

More than 115 entries participated in the 9th Annual Mars Hill Fire Department Auto Show held last Saturday and Sunday at Mars Hill Elementary School.

The show was held to raise funds for purchasing new fire department equipment and to upgrade existing equipment.

Phillip Briggs of the Mars Hill Fire Department reported winners in the following classes:

Most Outstanding Entry — David Beedam, Hendersonville, N.C., 1940 Studebaker street rod.
Best Van and Paint — Arvel Davis, Asheville, N.C., 1975 Dodge Van.

Best Engine Compartment — Wayne Rogers, Leicester, N.C., 1970 Chevy Pickup.

Best Custom — Jerry Calhoun, Newland, N.C., 1974 Camaro Z-28.

Best Antique — Perry Burnette, Asheville, N.C., 1929 Model A Ford.

Best Undercarriage — Edward Carecia, Marshall, N.C., 1932 Ford Sedan.

Auto enthusiasts of all ages turned out for the event which was blessed with warm, sunny weather.

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WINFRED G. SHEPHERD of Mars Hill reminisces about days

gone by.

(Photos by N. Hancock)



KEN HONEYCUTT of North Buncombe sets up display featuring his "Honey T."