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Will Assist At Mars Hill College

Kruk Resigns As Basketball Coach

Madison High head basketball coach Joe Kruk resigned from that position Tuesday and will be working this season as an assistant to head basketball coach Robert Ronai at Mars Hill College.

Contacted at his home Monday night, Kruk said his letter of resignation to Madison High principal David Wyatt "was written today and will be in the mail tomorrow (Tuesday)." Kruk had little to say about his resignation other than he had resigned and that he was already assisting Ronai with the Mars Hill team.

Also contacted Monday night, Wyatt said Kruk had told him he was resigning but he hadn't received Kruk's letter of resignation. "It was a big shock to me," Wyatt said.

Wyatt said he had not made a choice "at this time" for a replacement for Kruk. "I've been doing a little thinking, but I have not made any contacts or commitments at this point," he said.

Kruk had been head coach for the boys' team at Madison for two years. Prior to that he was athletic director and head basketball coach at Mt. Heritage High School in Yancey County. He resigned as both teacher and coach at Madison.



Joe Kruk

Health Program To Hold 10th Anniversary Dinner

The Hot Springs Health Program will hold its 10th Anniversary dinner celebration and annual meeting on Monday, July 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison High School cafeteria.

HSHP officials emphasized the dinner is free to the public, and they said they cordially invite everyone to attend. Dinner guests are asked to notify the HSHP of how many family members will be attending the supper by Friday, July 17. Officials said persons can call the receptionist at their community medical center or write: Dinner,

HSHP, P.O. Box 68, Hot Springs, N.C. 28743.

The HSHP annual report will be given and a short business meeting will be conducted at the dinner. Entertainment will be provided by the Shelton Family and the Puncheon Fork String Band. Michael Norins, HSHP director, said the dinner has been planned to be "short on speeches and business and long on fun."

The dinner is in celebration of 10 years of growth and successful medical service of the program.

Marshall Tax Rate At 75¢

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Holding its tax rate at 75 cents per \$100 valuation for the 1981-82 fiscal year, the Town of Marshall will "just about break even" in its financial operations, according to town officials.

"We're just going to be holding our own," said Eloise Riddle, town clerk.

According to the \$475,000 budget adopted by the board of aldermen in June, an 89 cent ad valorem tax rate was needed at full property valuation to meet budget requirements for the coming year, but the aldermen agreed to set the rate at 75 cents and make up the needed difference from the fund balance in the general fund. The town has held its tax rate at that figure for the past four or five years according to Riddle.

Revaluation of property in 1980-81 set the value of real and personal property at \$11,974,007, giving an increase of approximately \$1.6 million. At the 75 cent tax rate, that would have added some \$12,000 to the town's coffers, however, the town has lost utilities taxes from French Broad Electric Membership Corporation and Southern Railway.

The town has also lost some tax base from some businesses that have closed or moved out of town, officials said.

These reductions practically offset the increase in tax valuation increases, they said.

The aldermen approved an appropriation of \$17,500 from the 1980-81 fund balance to balance the new budget and avoid an increase in the tax rate.

The 1981-82 budget calls for general fund expenditures of \$184,265. The largest expenditure in this category is \$49,400 for the police department. Other expenditures authorized from the general fund by department are Administration, \$27,625; Recreation, \$14,509; Streets, \$20,150; Fire Department, \$5,275; Tax Department, \$1,500; Cemetery, \$2,200; Sanitation, \$13,200; Powell Bill (streets), \$18,160; and Non-Departmental, \$32,246.

Authorized expenditures and estimated revenues in other budget categories are Debt Service Fund, \$10,613; Revenue Sharing, \$39,574; Water and Sewer Fund, \$118,608; and Water and Sewer Fund Supplement (from timber sales), \$122,022.

No major capital improvements were budgeted for the general fund.



ETHEL THAYER (played by Laura Treacy) explains the pains of growing old to her daughter Chelsea (played by LeElla Ratcliff) in SART's production of "On Golden Pond." First run of the widely ac-

claimed comedy ends Thursday, July 16 with a second presentation scheduled for July 31 and Aug. 1 and 2 at Owen Theatre at Mars Hill College. (Photo by Bob Gessner)

School Board Adopts \$6.2 Million Budget

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

The Madison County Board of Education officially adopted a \$6.2 million budget resolution for fiscal year 1981-82 at its July 6 meeting in Marshall. In order to meet the required June 30 deadline, the budget resolution was approved by board members "by phone or in person" by June 27 according to school superintendent Robert L. Edwards.

The budget resolution, as explained by school finance officer Isabel Whitt, provides an interim budget on which the system can operate for the next 30 days until school officials learn from Raleigh how much state and federal funds will be received by the system for the year.

Whitt pointed out that this was not a final budget, and that other budget resolutions would be in the making as the school board was notified of state and federal funds available.

This budget resolution is based on last year's budget

amounts plus five percent, Whitt said. In order for the school system to operate through July, the state sent word to Whitt that it would certify (or deposit) the amount spent in July, 1980 plus five percent in the system's account.

The budget document is divided into seven categories each showing funds appropriated for that category and estimated revenues from sources for the category.

An immediate change foreseen in the document concerns the county appropriation to the Local Current Expense Fund. The school board requested \$697,939 from the county, but the commissioners designated only \$525,000 for the schools in that category in their 1981-82 budget adopted June 30. The school board's capital outlay fund is destined to come up \$25,000 short since the board asked the commissioners for \$50,000 but were appropriated only half that amount.

The school board's local current expense fund calls for a

total of \$1,012,248 for instructional programs and supporting services. The two largest expenditures in that category are \$409,113 for vocational education programs and \$462,700 for business supporting services. Revenues estimated are \$314,309 from state funds and \$697,939 from the county.

The state public school fund amounts to \$3,682,475 with the amount estimated as coming from the state. Instructional programs are designated to receive \$2,645,354 of that total, and the two other large expenditures are \$248,347 for school administration supporting services and \$577,456 for business supporting services.

The federal grants fund category calls for an appropriation of \$454,477. Instructional programs will receive \$337,883 of that with the remainder going for support services. Revenue for this category comes from ESEA Title I, Title VI-B and CETA.

The school fund service fund totals \$546,150 with \$446,000

designated for business support services and \$100,150 designated for other support services. Estimated revenue for the fund lists \$446,000 in U.S. Department of Agriculture grants and \$100,150 in school meal sales.

The board's capital outlay fund totals \$512,029, all of which is designated to be spent on the Marshall-Walnut consolidated elementary school. The 1973 state public school facilities bond will provide an estimated \$154,652 as revenue, the board estimated \$50,000 in county appropriations, and \$307,377 is listed as the third revenue source as a fund balance appropriated from last year's budget.

In the final two fund categories, the budget resolution shows \$600 from the alcoholic beverage control fund designated to be spent on the purchase of equipment and \$10,000 in the Spring Creek Veteran's Farm Cooperative Program fund designated to be spent on vocational programs.

Teachers Put Out With Lawmakers

The failure of the General Assembly to take affirmative action on reduction of teacher-pupil ratios and pay increases for teachers before it adjourned last Friday has unleashed the ire of North Carolina Association of Educators members across the state.

"The 1981 General Assembly utterly failed to meet the needs of North Carolina's public school children," John I. Wilson, NCAE president said.

"If the Assembly had been as interested in meeting the needs of children as it was in assuring that highway potholes are filled and multi-million dollar structures erected to show horses, our schools would be a great deal better this fall," the Raleigh teacher said.

Wilson said the parents of North Carolina "should be concerned that the schools in which their children will

return in September will not have either the personnel or the supplies to maintain the quality that existed during the past year."

He said the General Assembly ignored the needs of handicapped children with the result that many of these children will end up in regular classrooms which are not capable of serving them.

"Parents should understand that the General Assembly reneged on its political commitments to address the class size problem in our schools, and as a result the boys and girls of this state will suffer from classes too large," the NCAE's new president said.

He added, "I am not the least bit pacified by the self-serving statements that are being issued about making public education a top priority in the special session in October. The reality is children will continue to overcrowded classrooms and underfunded

schools in September, and absolutely nothing that is done in October can change that fact."

Wilson said the decision to "totally ignore the needs of public education was a con-

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Duckett Sentenced To Twelve Years

A Madison County man was sentenced to 12 years in prison after pleading guilty Monday in U.S. District Court in Asheville to charges in connection with the May 27 robbery of a Merrimon Avenue bank branch.

James Henry Duckett, 41, of Rt. 6, Marshall, pleaded guilty to one count each of bank robbery, bank larceny and armed bank robbery.

The charges were consolidated for judgment and Judge Woodrow W. Jones handed down the 12-year prison sentence.

Duckett was charged in connection with the robbery of the Merrimon Avenue branch of First-Citizens Bank and Trust Co.

According to police reports, a masked man armed with a shotgun entered the bank door of the bank at 9:35 a.m. May 27, produced a paper bag and instructed others to "give me all your money."

The gunman escaped with an estimated \$4,000. Police arrested Duckett about 2 1/2 hours after the robbery.