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Results Of Budget Cuts

Four Social Service Workers Lose Jobs

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Facing a federal cutback of an estimated \$54,874 in Department of Social Services Title XX money for the year, the Madison County Commissioners voted Friday night to approve a recommendation from DSS director Anita Davie to eliminate four job positions in the department to contend with the cutback and keep the DSS budget in line with available monies.

Two human resources aides, Mary Jane Pressley and Barbara Payne, were among those fired, along with social workers Kenny Anderson and Marion Wallin. Payne's job classification was that of eligibility specialist, and Pressley classification was homemaker.

DSS Director Anita Davie said the firing action was the result of President Reagan's "far reaching budget cuts," and the "only way DSS can deal with

that is to go to a reduction in force."

She said the elimination of the positions was approved by the Social Service board. The layoffs are effective Oct. 1.

The money saved by the layoffs represents the salaries and fringe benefits of the four employees dismissed by the commissioners. Davie said the Title XX cuts save the county some \$14,000 in local money plus some \$6,000 in local funds not allocated for raises. A remaining \$5,924 will be taken from Medicaid cost, she said.

In other action Friday evening, the commissioners:

• Approved the appointment of Loyd Moore as volunteer coordinator of the county Emergency Management Program.

• Approved the changing of the name of Univac, the cable TV franchise serving the Shut In community, to Mountain Community Cable, Inc.

• Adopted a plan to submit to the N.C. Department of Transportation for a Title 18 grant of \$267,255 to be used in the county public transportation program. The grant would be used by the following agencies or services: Department of Social Services, \$34,492; Hot Springs Health Program, \$14,265; Unaka Center, \$7,420; Mars Hill Handi School, \$16,547; Child Development Program, \$59,659; and Nutrition Program, \$41,010.

• Adopted a motion to appoint Ron Eller of Mars Hill to replace Dr. Earl Leininger and Jerry Plemmons of Marshall to replace Clyde Hagan on the County Planning Board.

• Approved a motion to ask county attorney Larry Leake to draw up a deed to allow the West Madison Volunteer Fire Department to use property at the Spring Creek Elementary School "as long as it's in use for fire department purposes."

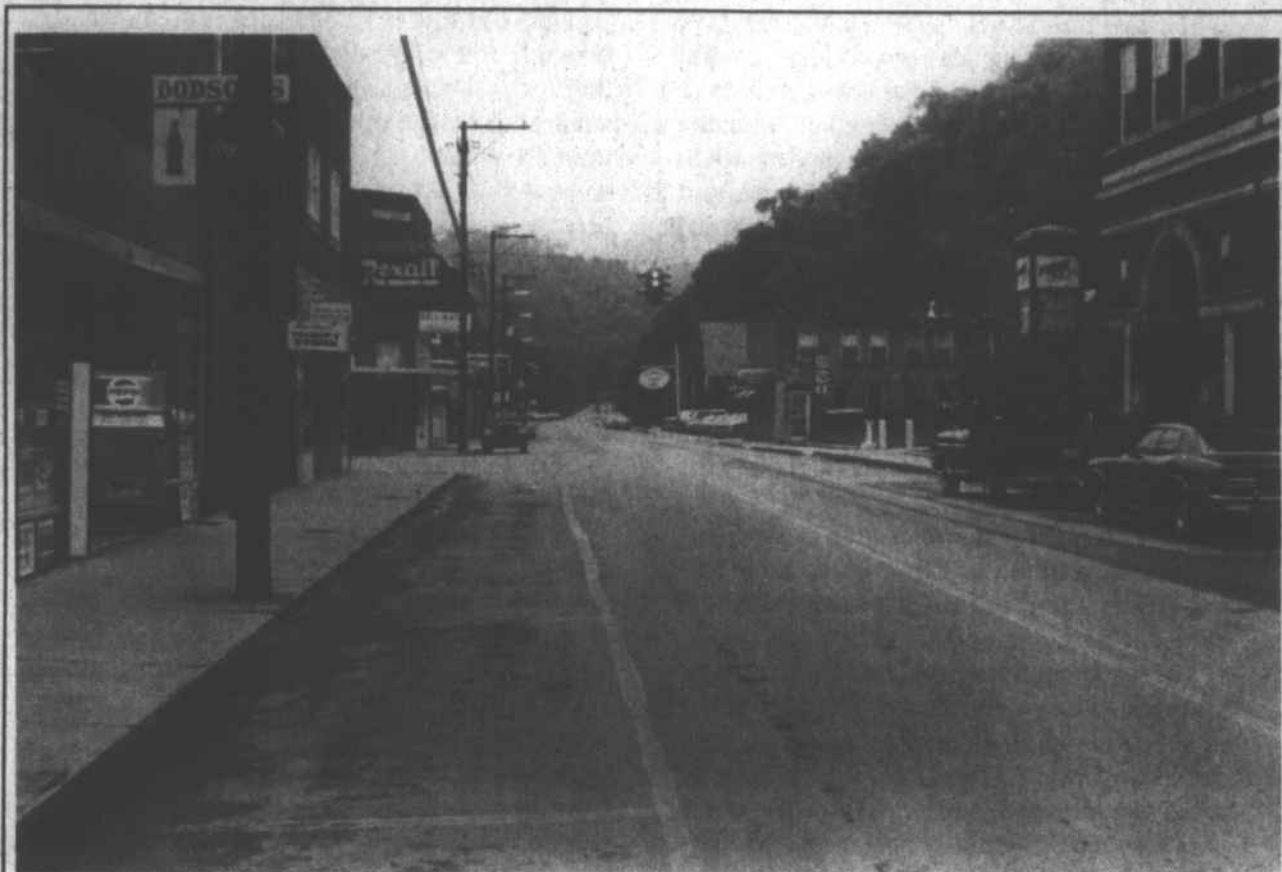


Photo by N. Hancock

QUIET MONDAY — Main Street in Marshall was the scene of little automotive or pedestrian traffic at 9 a.m. Monday as businesses and government offices observed Labor Day.

Ester Franks Resigns

Ester Franks, Aging Coordinator for Madison County senior citizens, resigned her position as of August 31, according to county commissioners.

Ms. Franks, of Mars Hill, had worked as aging coordinator for the county for the past 16 months. In a telephone interview last week she said

she resigned from the position for "personal reasons."

"It's a small county and sometimes somebody's philosophy just doesn't agree with somebody else's," she said. "But I love both the aging and Day Care programs. I think they are the two best programs going in the county," she added.

Prior to being aging coordinator, Ms. Franks worked in the transportation program for the elderly here, and in Michigan she worked as a medical assistant for physicians and in hospitals.

County commissioners said they have not found a replacement for Franks as yet, but they are accepting applications for the position.

Lighthouse Endangered



SEAS ONCE half a mile from Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on the North Carolina coast are today less than 100 feet from its foundations, prompting Governor James Hunt and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms to call a meeting in Raleigh, Sept. 8 to organize a drive for funds to save the famous landmark. It is believed that a successful volunteer drive to raise as much as \$1 million will demonstrate to Congress that North Carolinians want the historic structure that is the tallest lighthouse in the United States permanently protected. Senator Helms and Governor Hunt are seeking volunteers in all 100 counties to serve on county committees to save the lighthouse. Photograph was made in August 1981. (Photo courtesy Hugh Morton)

'Riverfest' Climaxes FB River Week

County residents will have a week of "Get Your Feet Wet" fun and events during the four-county French Broad River Week celebration Sept. 11-19, according to Helen Rudisill, this year's county chairman for the event.

The special week will end with an all-day "Riverfest" Saturday, Sept. 19 on Blannahasset Island in Marshall. The "Riverfest" will begin at 10 a.m. with a flea market and rides for children in Mr. Bill's hot air balloon.

"We know that children love Mr. Bill and we're hoping for a big, big flea market. We hope that everyone will come with something to sell. That should be a fun time," Mrs. Rudisill said.

"There will be concession stands with hot dogs, hamburgers, hot and cold drinks and plenty of other food available, she continued.

From noon to 2 p.m. a softball game will pit a team of women against a male squad, she said.

Smokey the Bear and Woodsey Owl, the U.S. Forest Service's conservation pair, will arrive about 1 p.m. to spend

the rest of the afternoon, she said.

There will be pony rides for children.

A country and western band will play river themes during the afternoon and the Marshall Hillbilly cloggers will perform.

There will be river float rides during the day. "And you can bet we're hoping for rain. The river is getting awfully low for rafting," she said.

Boy Scouts will direct traffic, the chairman said.

Some other activities of the week in Madison include two river cleanups, an essay contest about the river, photo contests featuring shots of the river, a poster contest, a picnic for children and a picnic for senior citizens.

A special film about the river will be shown several times during the week.

"We're going to have a busy week," Mrs. Rudisill said. A large number of persons are expected to share in the fun, she said, "especially for the Riverfest."

Public Meeting

The Town of Marshall will hold a public hearing Sept. 17 at Town Hall on Main Street at 1:30 p.m. to discuss the HUD Project Budget Amendment concerning the use of the REA warehouse on Rollins Road for economic development instead of recreation.

Slightly Lower Than Last Year

School Enrollment Down

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Enrollment on the 10th day of school in Madison County was slightly lower than last year, according to figures released Thursday by the board of education.

County-wide enrollment for 1981-82 was 2,945 pupils on the official 10th reporting day compared to 2,990 pupils at the end of the first 10 days in 1980-81, said Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor of schools. Figures showed a loss of 45 students this year.

County grade-by-grade enrollment figures indicate that the smallest class is the first grade with 194 pupils and the largest class is ninth grade with 288 pupils. Figures show significant decreases in enrollment in the first, fourth, sixth and eighth grades, and increases in enrollment in the third, fifth and ninth grades.

Enrollment figures by schools show Spring Creek having the fewest elementary students with 100 and Mars Hill having the most at 851 students. Madison High School figures show an enrollment of 912 students (grades 9-12) for this year as compared to 885 students for 1980-81.

The figures indicate losses at all elementary schools, except at Marshall, with the greatest loss, 9.9 percent, or 11

students, at Spring Creek. Marshall figures show an increase of two students. Madison High figures show the greatest increase in the number of students with 27.

"Our enrollment is not doing what Buncombe County is doing. We're getting a lot of students back in the county, so that's making a difference," Dr. Rice said.

The tenth and eleventh grades are known for dropout rates because students turn 16 at these levels, but locally, according to Dr. Rice, "We've really decreased our dropout rate in the last five or six years. She attributes the decrease in dropouts to "letting the kids come to the high school in the eighth grade, counseling with them and helping them select their classes. Then we try to work directly with each student when they get there," she said.

Dr. Rice said she didn't think the overall drop in enrollment was very significant considering a general trend in decreased school population across the state and nation.

The figures released Thursday were actual membership figures and not the average daily membership figures that are used to determine state

County School Enrollment
By Grades and Schools

Grade	1980-81	1981-82	Change	% of Change
K	194	197	+3	+1.5
1	228	194	-34	-15.9
2	239	232	-7	-2.9
3	210	236	+26	+12.3
4	242	205	-37	-15.2
5	224	249	+25	+11.1
6	246	216	-30	-12.1
7	238	247	+9	+3.7
8	275	243	-32	-11.6
9	254	288	+34	+13.3
10	225	216	-9	-4
11	210	209	-1	-0.4
12	195	197	+2	+1

School	1980-81	1981-82	Change	% of Change
Spring Creek	111	100	-11	-9.9
Walnut	154	143	-11	-7.1
Hot Springs	189	187	-2	-1
Laurel	232	216	-16	-6.8
Marshall	534	536	+2	+0.3
Mars Hill	885	851	-34	-3.8
Madison High	885	912	+27	+3

teacher allotments. To determine the average membership of the best three consecutive months out of the first four months of the school year to determine teacher averaged. State officials will use the average daily membership of the best three consecutive months out of the first four months of the school year to determine teacher allotments.

Mars Hill Town Board Pays Couple For Chlorine Damage

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen were confronted by a couple of local residents Monday night complaining that their gardens was being destroyed by chlorine leaking from a town-owned pipe.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Adams told aldermen their 1,600 square foot garden at their home on Route 3, Mars Hill has incurred considerable damage from the leak.

The aldermen acknowledged the chlorine leak did indeed occur and took immediate action to reimburse the Adamses for the damage.

In other business at the regular September meeting, the aldermen:

• Announced the filing dates for the Nov. 3 municipal elections — from noon Sept. 11 through noon Oct. 2. All four council seats including the

mayor's are up for grabs. • Denied a zoning variance requested by Mrs. Maime Bishop, owner of the Sunshine Roller Rink. Mrs. Bishop requested permission to place a mobile home on her business property.

• Agreed unanimously that plans for a new on-site sewerage system were not practical and sacked further discussion of the matter.

• Agreed to look into the feasibility of an emergency warning system for the town chlorine storage house located seven and one-half miles from town on Murray Mountain.

• Heard a recommendation from town manager Darby Boone concerning rezoning sections of Valley Street and Mountain Street. Aldermen said they would approve the rezoning of the parking projects.