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Commissioners Propose Volunteer Service

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

The Madison County Board of Commissioners proposed Friday to set up a volunteer service corp beginning July 1 to cope with federal cutbacks which are affecting local human service agencies.

The proposed corp of 25 volunteers would provide chore services for invalid indigent elderly, assist in program development at each county Senior Citizens center and provide firewood and deliver meals to the indigent elderly, according to a statement read to the board by Chairman James Ledford.

Some \$15,500 contributed by local community groups and a \$10,000 grant from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation would finance the service corp for fiscal year 1982-83, Ledford said.

The commissioners approved the proposal Friday night and said they plan to apply to the Winston Salem based foundation for the grant.

"APPALACHIA IS again experiencing the ill effects of the interest-disinterest syndrome of the American public," Ledford said. "In times of crisis, Appalachia has always been expendable; the crisis is here, and federal

disinterest has returned with a vengeance," he said.

Pointing out that Madison County is "significantly dependent" on federal and state money, and that less than \$1.3 million in local tax revenue is produced to operate public services, Ledford said any significant decrease in federal and state allocations "seriously limits the ability of the county to deliver basic human services."

The volunteer service corp, in coordination and cooperation with existing agencies, will assist in meeting some of those human service needs, he said.

If the county receives the Babcock grant and raises another \$15,500 locally,

the commissioners will appoint a program coordinator to recruit and supervise the service corp with guidance from an appointed Community Services Advisory Committee.

VOLUNTEERS will be recruited from inside and outside the county, and will have to agree to serve in the corp for three months. Local residents will be asked to provide housing for some volunteers, and the commissioners and related agencies will provide equipment for work projects, Ledford said.

The proposed budget shows \$15,000 allocated for the salary of a coordinator/secretary and \$500 designated

for office supplies and telephone service. Ledford said the county could not sustain the travel costs involved, and consequently will be applying for the \$10,000 grant to cover that expense.

Travel expense is based on 2,000 miles per year per volunteer at 20 cents per mile.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a contract with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to receive \$117,000 to aid in a countywide transportation program.
- Approved the printing of a county

brochure for the Industrial Development Commission by the Meridian Publishing Company. The 2,000 brochures will cost the county less than \$100. Advertisements will be sold to area businesses to cover the remaining costs, according to Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder, who requested the brochures for the Industrial Commission.

• Approved spending \$657 for new gutters on the Beech Glen Community building.

• Approved the transfer of Boyd Norton from the Mars Hill ambulance service to the Hot Springs unit.



Photo by N. Hancock

FLOOD STAGE — The French Broad River rose to better than one foot flood stage in Marshall last Wednesday morning causing cancellation of classes at Marshall Elementary School on Blannahasset Island at 9:30. The rain which fell Tuesday night and early Wednesday morning totaled over two inches, but heavier rainfall — 3.47 inches — in the

Asheville area contributed to the rising waters in Marshall and Hot Springs where the river was reported to be less than a foot above flood stage. River depth crested at 11.3 feet in Marshall, and Marshall School Principal Fred Haynie said "another two feet" would have put water into the basement areas of the school.

At Spring Creek Elementary School

Veterans Farm Coop Program Terminated

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

The Veterans Farm Cooperative Program, which has operated out of Spring Creek School for over 30 years, has been discontinued, according to School Superintendent Robert L. Edwards.

Edwards told the board of education Wednesday that he had received a letter from C.V. Tart, chief consultant with the state Agricultural Education Program, saying changes in the program's guidelines prevented the Spring Creek program from continuing.

Those guidelines stipulate that the program must have a minimum of 15 full-time veteran farmers enrolled. Tart said his department had determined only four veterans were classified as full-time farmers in the Spring Creek program.

Edwards said the lesson plans for the local program were designed by the board of education, and the state paid the veterans, who in turn, paid the instructor through tuition. Tuition fees amounted to approximately \$10,000, according to the board's budget report.

Some \$5,566 remains in the cooperative program fund, and Edwards suggested that the board pay the instructor for uncollected travel expenses and transfer the remainder to the board's general fund. The board approved his recommendation.

Instructor Johnny Payne submitted travel vouchers for 40 months at \$20 per

month for a total of \$800.

Edwards said he had sent letters to the four farmers informing them that they could continue their studies in the program at Asheville-Buncombe Technical College in Asheville.

In other matters, the board:

- Heard a proposal from Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, schools supervisor, to begin an in-school suspension program at Madison High School. Dr. Rice told the board that federal money allocated for juvenile delinquent programs can no longer be used in the local system's Team Project which works with emotionally disturbed youngsters in the schools. She said the local HB-456 Board has proposed to use the estimated \$10,000 to begin the in-school suspension program.

HB-456 is the North Carolina House bill which provides that community based alternative programs be established to work with juvenile offenders rather than put them in jail. No action was taken by the board.

• Approved the installation of a \$5,484 intercommunications system for the Walnut-Marshall Elementary School.

• Accepted the release of Sheila Gail Wild from Buncombe County Schools to Madison High School. Edwards said Miss Wild's family had moved to Buncombe County, but the student would be living with her grandmother in Madison County.

• Adopted state job description guidelines for principals and superintendents, subject to state Board of Education adoption of the descriptions.

• Approved construction of a storage building at Madison High School for vocational education supplies and equipment, subject to the approval of the planning division of the state Board of Education.

• Accepted the resignation of Mary Runyon, administrative secretary of the ESEA Title I program, who is retiring as of Feb. 28.

• Approved a recommendation from Dr. Owen Fish to hire Sandra Fowler as administrative secretary for the ESEA Title I program.

• Approved hiring Donnie Andrews as a substitute bus driver for Hot Springs Elementary School.

• Adopted a motion to authorize Edwards to hire "whoever suits" him to replace Sandra Fowler as secretary/typist for the board of education. Edwards said he would like to employ Peggy Sawyer, an aide at Spring Creek School for the position.

• Approved a budget amendment to adjust salaries of school bus drivers to incorporate an increase of \$3.50 to \$3.68 per hour.

• Approved a budget amendment to reflect a \$353 reduction in the State Public School Fund allocation for Developmental Day Care.

Swain Seeks Re-election To Senate

State Sen. Robert S. Swain first term senator' by the of Asheville has announced that he will seek re-election to a fourth term in the Senate in the May 4 Democratic primary election.

Swain, 60, is a practicing attorney in Asheville and served as Superior Court solicitor for Buncombe and Madison counties from 1954 to 1966.

"I need to return to Raleigh for a fourth term to continue work on legislation which is pending," Swain said in his announcement.

During his first term, in VFW of North Carolina Award 1977-78, he was named "best for service to North Carolina

first term senator' by the North Carolina Young Americans for Freedom. During his second term he received a legislative award from the North Carolina Conservative Union and an award from the American Legion Department of North Carolina for his legislative support during the 1979 session of the General Assembly.

During his third term he received the 1980 U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Award for service to veterans and the

North Carolina Award 1977-78, he was named "best for service to North Carolina

veterans. He was named Democrat of the Year by the Young Democrats of Buncombe County in 1980, and was presented a certificate of recognition for service to the Democratic Party of Madison County in 1981 by the Madison County Democrat Women's Club.

Swain is vice chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee for the Southern Legislative Conference covering 17 southern states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. He is a member of the Governor's Crime Commission and

was appointed by Gov. Jim Hunt to the Sentencing Study Commission.

As a senator, he serves on the Advisory Budget Commission, is chairman of the Senate Committee on Courts and Judicial Districts and Criminal Justice, is vice chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee I, and is serving his second two-year term as a member of the Judicial Council, which is composed of judges, prosecutors and lawyers charged with improving court procedures.

Zeb Alley's Earnings Questioned

Legislative liaison Zeb Alley was paid nearly \$79,000 to lobby for Gov. Jim Hunt in the General Assembly last year, according to figures released by the state Budget Office.

The head of the state Republican Party called the payment "misuse of the public's money and trust."

Alley, a Waynesville attorney, is officially listed as a legislative liaison who is responsible for getting the governor's programs through the Legislature. The report said the amount Alley earned in 1981 was more than the base salaries of every high-ranking state official in North Carolina.

The report said Alley was paid \$22,225 for expenses and \$56,775 for services. The total

was \$78,244. Alley, contacted at his home in Waynesville, said the figures in the report are accurate, but added that his law partner who stayed with the firm earned much more.

"Actually, the fees paid to my law firm amounted to about \$62,000, and the rest of it was my living expenses in Raleigh. But my law partner

was \$78,244. Alley, contacted at his home in Waynesville, said the figures in the report are accurate, but added that his law partner who stayed with the firm earned much more.

The trial of the operators of a boarding home in Madison County who are being sued by the North Carolina Department of Human Resources on charges of maintaining an unlicensed facility for residential care was con-

cluded in Superior Court here Wednesday.

Hunt press aide Stephanie Bass said the governor felt Alley was worthy of the pay.

"We feel Mr. Alley certainly earned his pay and did a good job," Bass said. "Alley is a very competent attorney who commands a very high rate."

Alley and D.J. Graham are charged by DHR in connection with their Graham Boarding Home at Sandy Mountain.

Forrest Ball, assistant district attorney, said the state and legal counsel for the Graham, Asheville attorney Davie C. Latta Jr., had agreed to move the case to the April 7 term of civil court.

State GOP Chairman David Flaherty said the governor was spending money thought not to be available.

"This man is using (taxpayers') money, which is supposed to be so short that we can't afford to do some of the things that need to be done, as patronage to pay off some people who work for him in his campaign," Flaherty said.

Coach, Official, Fans Placed On Conduct Probation

Madison High School girls basketball coach Ricky McDevitt; Ron Buckner, the president of Western North Carolina Officials Association; and Madison spectators were put on probation Monday as the result of unprofessional conduct after a game on Feb. 2.

Buckner and Madison fans were placed on probation for the remainder of the school year, according to Norris Jones, booking agent for the officials association and David Wyatt, Madison High School principal.

McDevitt was placed on probation for the remainder of this school year and all of the 1982-83 season, Wyatt said.

The probation decisions were reached at a three and one-half hour meeting in Asheville involving Charles Adams, assistant executive director of the North Carolina High School Athletics Association, WNOCA officials and Madison school officials.

The probation stemmed from an altercation that broke

out last Tuesday between McDevitt and Buckner after the Lady Patriots lost to Owen 43-42 in the last seconds of the Little Mac contest, according to Wyatt.

The altercation began when McDevitt and Buckner confronted each other while leaving the court. Witnesses say the two engaged in an argument concerning the officiating, and a scuffle occurred in a hallway leading from the basketball court to the dressing rooms.

Several spectators left the stands to watch the dispute in the hallway. Witnesses say some "pushing and shoving" ensued.

A meeting was held Thursday night, Feb. 4, in Asheville to mediate the matter and discuss punishments for the school and Buckner, according to Jones. But, the school and WNOCA officials were unable to reach a conclusion, he said.

Adams was called in to conduct Monday's meeting attended by Wyatt, McDevitt, Assistant Principal Bruce Phillips, Superintendent

Robert L. Edwards and Woody Ammons of the school. Jones, Buckner, Miller Pardue, and Tommy Buckner represented the WNOCA.

Wyatt, in a press statement, said McDevitt's probation was the consequence of his infringement of the NCHSAA rule which states, "Coaches shall not approach the officials for complaints before the game, between the halves or after the game."

Jones said Buckner was placed on probation for his angry, unprofessional-like response to McDevitt's complaints.

"We feel like the situation could have been handled in a more professional manner," Jones said. "I'm sure if another situation occurs, he'd handle it a little differently."

Wyatt said Madison fans were placed on probation for an infraction of the NCHSAA rule which states, "Spectators may not approach officials in any way." Madison spectators will be watched at future home and away games for unprofessional conduct, Jones said. WNOCA officials



Ricky McDevitt