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Marshall \$600,000 Bond Issue

The Marshall Board of Aldermen voted Friday to seek a \$600,000 bond issue to finance improvements and expansion of the town's sewer system and authorized Mayor Lawrence Ponder to negotiate with the Local Government Commission in Raleigh on the proposal.

If the commission approves a bonded indebtedness for the \$600,000 amount for the town, the question would be put to Marshall voters in a public referendum possibly as early as May, according to Ponder.

"But, we'll have to wait until the bonding council sets a date for the referendum," Ponder said.

In the special called meeting, aldermen rescinded an original resolution which sought ap-

plication for a \$200,000 bond issue and adopted a new resolution calling for application for \$600,000 in general obligation bonds.

If the referendum is held and passed by town voters, the bond money will be matched by an equal amount. The matching money would come from the Appalachian Regional Commission, \$200,000; the state Clean Water Bond, \$289,000; and a Farmers Home Administration loan, \$211,000.

The bond issue amount was changed because the state lost some \$45 million in Environmental Protection Agency money in federal government budget cuts for 1982, Ponder said.

"The town lost \$400,000 in federal grant money as a result," he said.

Surplus Cheese Arrives For Local Distribution

One hundred and eighty-five cases of government surplus cheese was delivered to the Madison County Department of Social Services Wednesday afternoon for distribution to county food stamp recipients and other needy households.

The 5,550 pounds of American processed cheddar cheese will be stored in a vacant room in the DSS office building, according to Anita Davie, local DSS director.

Food stamp recipients are automatically eligible to receive the five pound blocks, and "DSS is in the process of sending authorization sheets to food stamp recipients," Ms. Davie said.

Other low income households can apply for a share of the cheese at the Food Stamp Office in Marshall, she said.

Wednesday's shipment is the county's share of some 770,000 pounds of cheese which will be distributed statewide. In all, nearly 30 million pounds of cheese is being distributed to needy families nationally by the Reagan administration. The U.S. government has some 560 million pounds of cheese in storage, according to Earl Miller, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the agency in charge of the distribution.

Ms. Davie said DSS records show some 1,200 food stamp household here. The county's cheese allocation amount to 1,110 five-pound blocks of cheese. Presumably, not all food stamp households will pick up their cheese, thus leaving a supply for other needy households.

Two Arrested For Cattle Rustling

Two men were arrested Thursday by Sheriff E.Y. Ponder and charged with cattle rustling, and each were placed under a \$20,000 bond Friday by a District Court judge for a probable cause hearing March 3.

Larry Payne, 22, of Route 5, Marshall, and Jack Buckner, 20, of Route 1, Leicester were charged with stealing eight white faced beef cattle from James A. Fisher of Redmon Road, Marshall, according to the sheriff.

Ponder said he found Fisher's cattle in a loading chute with a tractor truck and trailer parked nearby following a telephone tip about 10 p.m. Thursday. Ponder and deputies arrested the two suspects at Payne's home about midnight, he said.

Payne and Buckner were held in the Madison County Jail Friday night, and Buckner posted bond Saturday, Ponder said.

Fisher said his cattle apparently had been lured into the loading chute by someone using a bale of hay as bait. He said he didn't know his cattle were gone until notified by the sheriff. A passerby apparently saw the trailer parked near the loading chute and phone the sheriff, Fisher said.

Both suspects were taken before District Court Judge Alexander Lyerly for their first appearance Friday in Marshall. Lyerly set their bonds and the date for the probable cause hearing.



MAGIC CIRCUS — The Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan will perform Thursday night, Feb. 25 in Mars Hill College's Moore Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m. The two-hour show will feature acrobatics, comedy, balancing feats, juggling, dances and a special demonstration of Kung Fu martial arts. Tickets may be purchased at the door at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Culturefest season passes will be honored.

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N.C. 2000 Kickoff Meeting

Residents Set Priorities

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Madison Countians want managed growth, a high quality of life and a preservation of family life and pride in the region during the next 18 years, according to a consensus reached at the N.C. 2000 kickoff meeting held Saturday night at Madison High School.

These goals and other issues were discussed by the nearly 150 people who turned out to officially get the county under way in the statewide N.C. 2000 program.

Guest speakers for the evening were Dr. Fred Bentley, Mars Hill College president and member of the state N.C. 2000 Commission; Ernest Messer, former state representative and director of the Division on Aging in the state Department of Human Resources; Wayne McDevitt, director of the Governor's Western Office; and Larry B. Leake, county and school board attorney and member of the state N.C. 2000 Commission.

PARTICIPANTS IN the kickoff meeting divided into four sub-groups to voice concerns and raise issues that may be facing county residents during the years leading up to the year 2000. The project is designed to ultimately find solutions to the problems that will affect people, the economy, natural resources and the community.

A summary report at the conclusion of the sub-group meetings showed that several local concerns overlapped in two or more of the groups. Protection and proper management of the area water supply emerged as a major concern among residents discussing the

economy, natural resources and the community.

A common water and sewer system between the towns of Marshall and Mars Hill was voiced on more than one occasion as a future goal for the county. While Madison County and western North Carolina is said to currently have a 60 percent surplus of water supplies for present needs, that figure can be reduced dramatically in the next 18 years with an increase in population and industry.

"Water resources is one of the most critical issues we have to face," Messer told the gathering.

Most of the participants agreed that industrial growth is needed in the county to provide more jobs and a higher standard of living, but, most agreed that such growth should be managed to suit the county's geography and natural resources. A balance between industry and agriculture would be an ideal goal, participants said.

EMPHASIS WAS PLACED on the quality of life in the future for county residents, and participants in the people, community and economy sub-groups suggested that the stability and quality of family life should be preserved and promoted in future years, providing educational and cultural opportunities and developing strong community organizations were offered as ways to foster a better quality of life for residents of all ages.

On a negative note, tourism was viewed by both the people group and the economy group as being less than desirable for the remaining part of this century. The "economists" felt tourism

would prove "not that profitable" here, and the people group voiced concern over an "influx of outsiders" and said the county should beware of the "Maggie Valley syndrome."

The kickoff meeting discussions now lead to countywide community group discussions of these and other issues confronting residents in the future. Later, a state committee will gather the concerns and issues from county steering committees and develop a statewide questionnaire which will be mailed to citizens in the spring.

The state N.C. 2000 Commission will determine from the returned questionnaires what North Carolinians consider as the major problems facing the state between now and the year 2000. The commission will develop plans of action to cope with the problems next fall, and the governor will present a report to state residents in December.

Addressing the kickoff meeting on the statewide N.C. 2000 process, Messer said, "I hope everyone will take the N.C. 2000 program seriously. The questionnaires are important, and they should be as widely distributed as possible."

Echoing the importance of citizen involvement, Bentley told the gathering, "We won't get anything done at the statewide level unless we get grassroots participation."

WAYNE McDEVITT, speaking on behalf of Gov. Jim Hunt, said the N.C. 2000 program is a plan of action "that will not be shelved."

"This is an opportunity to forge a partnership between the governing and the governed," McDevitt said.



JIMMY RAMSEY, Rt. 4, Marshall, was honored Feb. 17 in Richmond, Va., as winner of the Outstanding Young Tobacco Farmer Award, a program sponsored by Philip Morris U.S.A. and conducted in North Carolina by the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Making the presentation was Hugh Culman, (right), chairman and chief executive of Philip Morris U.S.A. Also honored was Madison County extension agent Wiley DeVall.