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Tax Rate Same Budget Drafted

Madison County residents won't have to worry about a property tax rate increase for fiscal year 1982-83, according to the new annual budget estimate recently drafted by County Finance Officer David Caldwell and the commissioners.

Caldwell said Monday the \$3,160,746 budget was figured on the current rate of 75 cents per \$100 valuation. In spite of cutbacks in state and federal money, the county appears to be on solid footing financially for the new year.

"The tax office picked up \$8 million in property evaluation in the Mars Hill area and Southern Railway has come through in paying some of the tax money they have owed us," Caldwell said. The additional revenue in the Mars Hill area is the result of a few new businesses, he said.

The commissioners announced at their last meeting they would adopt a 1982-83 budget at a special meeting on June 30.

1982-83 ANNUAL BUDGET ESTIMATE

General County Fund:

Expenditures:

Governing Body.....	\$14,252.00
Board of Elections.....	33,119.00
Accountant's Office.....	43,262.00
Tax Listing.....	42,518.00
Tax Collection.....	29,903.00
Register of Deeds.....	33,211.00
Public Buildings.....	23,199.00
Sheriff's Dept. & Jail.....	97,279.00
Courts.....	9,525.00
Inspections.....	15,052.00
Landfill.....	164,854.00
Clinic.....	315,194.00
Animal Shelter.....	9,081.00
Ambulance Service.....	256,342.00
Agriculture Ext. Service.....	48,728.00
Social Services Adm.....	447,426.00
Aging Services.....	4,830.00
Soc. Ser. (Laurel Day Care).....	66,713.00
Day Care.....	447,636.00
Recreation Commission.....	0.-
Library Service.....	60,660.00
Non-Departmental.....	40,000.00
CETA.....	0.-
Soil & Water Conservation.....	8,838.00
Nutrition & Transportation.....	0.-
Transportation.....	0.-
IV-D Child Support.....	45,022.00
Special Appropriation.....	900,102.00
Rents & Concessions.....	4,000.00
TOTAL GENERAL COUNTY FUND.....	\$3,160,746.00

Dentist Seeks Seat



Steen

Mars Hill dentist and farmer Reece Steen is seeking the Democratic Party nomination for a seat on the Madison County Board of Commissioners in the June 29 primary election.

Steen, 34, announced his candidacy pledging "open government for all county residents."

Steen also said he plans to work in full cooperation with other elected commissioners and that he is "willing to work with whoever is elected for the good of Madison County."

Steen, who has lived and worked both in the Hot Springs area and Mars Hill, says he understands the needs and problems of the people of the county. While living in Hot Springs, he organized the Hot Springs Health Program Dental Clinic. He has lived and practiced dentistry in Mars Hill since 1974.

He has served as president of the Mars Hill Methodist Men's organization, president and state director of the Jaycees, an officer of the American Cancer Society, and treasurer of the Madison County High School Boosters Club.

He is married to the former Lynn Oliver and has three children, Trachy, 6, McKenzie, 4 and Justin, 2.



Photo by H. Hancock

VOLUNTEER AWARDS — Nearly 150 volunteers from the six county nutrition sites were recognized and awarded at a luncheon Monday at the home of Maria Cox, (left) coordinator of the Madison County Senior Citizen meal sites. The event was sponsored by county commissioners James Ledford, Virginia Anderson and Ervin Adams who

were present to thank the volunteers for their services. Each volunteer received a pin and a certificate from the N.C. Department of Human Resources signed by Gov. Jim Hunt, DHR head Dr. Sarah Morrow, and Mary Bradshaw, state director of volunteer services.

Volunteers Awarded

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

Good quality education and enough good jobs are top priority issues with Madison County residents, according to the tabulated results of the NC 2000 questionnaire filled out in the spring by folks living here.

Cultural activities ranked the lowest locally of the 22 qualities listed as desirable for the future on the statewide questionnaire.

The results were presented Thursday at a county NC 2000 committee meeting in Marshall. Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, committee chairman, discussed the results sent from Raleigh and led the committee in amending a draft of a county report dealing with priority issues. The report will be sent to Raleigh before the final NC 2000 conference convenes in December.

OF THE 22 QUALITIES listed as desirable for the state's future by the Commission on the Future of North Carolina, "good quality education for our children" ranked as most impor-

tant with 91 percent of Madison respondents checking that goal. "Enough good roads" followed as the second most important issue with 81 percent of the respondents.

"Enough good farm land to keep agriculture strong" ranked third with 64 percent, "Fair system of taxes" ranked fourth with 63 percent, and "an adequate, clean water supply" ranked fifth with 62 percent.

Madison residents indicated "cultural activities" as least important with 15 percent. "Recreational opportunities" and "adequate mental health services" also ranked low in importance with both being checked by 17 percent of the respondents.

A total figure for the number of questionnaires sent to Raleigh from Madison County was not available at Thursday's meeting. The computer print-out of the findings indicated that a sample of 150 questionnaires was used to tabulate the Madison results.

"ADEQUATE PROTECTION from crime" and a "clean healthy environment" ranked high in importance

under fifth-place "clean water supply" with 59 and 58 percent, respectively.

The order of priorities changed slightly when respondents were asked which three qualities they thought will be the most important to improve. "Enough good jobs" ranked first, "good quality education" ranked second and "clean water supply" ranked third. "Good roads" ranked fourth in this category and "enough good farm land" ranked fifth.

Respondents said "enough good farm land," "a good quality education" and "clean water supply" would be the most important qualities to keep as they are, in that order of priority.

Again, "cultural activities" ranked the lowest in importance for qualities to be improved (zero respondents) and in qualities to be kept as they are (2 respondents).

EDUCATION REMAINED HIGH on the list of issues as residents listed what they would like to talk about if they had five minutes to spend with Gov. Jim Hunt. Twenty percent made comments

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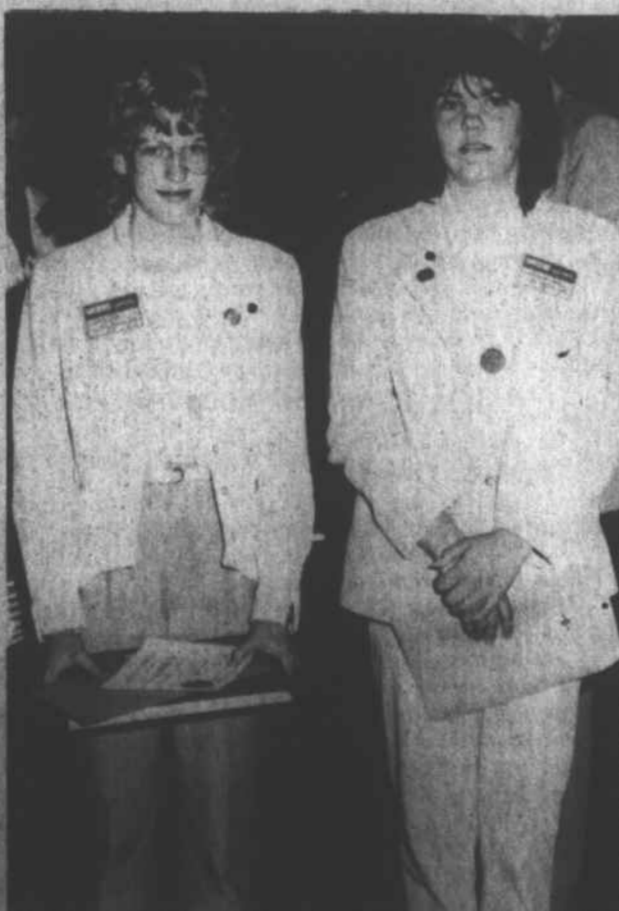
Pegg, Fox Win National Contest

Two eighth-graders from University of North Carolina Marshall Elementary School at Charlotte and first at the won first place in a group project competition at National Western Carolina University. History Day, held recently at the University of Maryland

the project presents the history of a grist mill and a cotton mill built in the late 19th century along the French Broad River in Marshall. It features an in-depth look at historic child labor issues and a discussion of the present-day controversy concerning the possible re-activation of the dam for hydroelectric power.

Miss Pegg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Pegg, and Miss Fox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Fox, were among 1,100 students from 34 states competing at the national contest in 12 categories.

The two competitors, who were students in Don Bank's classes at Marshall Elementary, advanced to the nationals after finishing second in their category at the State History Day competition at the Center.



NATIONAL WINNERS - Jeannie Pegg (left) and Carol Fox, representing Marshall Elementary School, won first place in a group project competition at National History Day held recently at the University of Maryland. The girls are shown after finishing second in their category at the state competition in Charlotte.

Absentee Ballots

The deadline for applying for absentee ballots for the June 29 primary elections will be 5 p.m. Thursday, June 24, according to Carol Anderson, supervisor of elections.

Last week, the News Record incorrectly printed the deadline as June 14.



Photo by H. Hancock

MINOR INJURIES—Only minor injuries were sustained in this two-car collision at the intersection of Walnut Creek Road in Marshall Thursday. A 1981 Toyota truck driven by

Lucille Peterson of Mars Hill went through a stop sign and hit the left side of a 1976 Chevrolet driven by Mrs. Irene Worley of Route 5, Marshall, at 11:50 a.m.

Car, Truck Collide At Intersection

Minor injuries were sustained and two vehicles were damaged when a truck and car collided at the intersection of Walnut Creek Road and Marshall Hill Road in Marshall Thursday.

A 1981 Toyota truck driven by Lucille Peterson, 30, of Mars Hill went through a stop sign on Walnut Creek Road

and hit the passenger side of a 1976 Chevrolet driven by Mrs. Irene Worley of Rt. 5, Marshall at approximately 11:50 a.m., according to Deputy Frank Ogle of the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Worley sustained minor cuts and scratches from flying door glass and was

wounded at a nearby medical clinic, Ogle said. Neither Mrs. Worley's daughter or infant granddaughter, passengers in the car, nor the driver of the truck were hurt, he said.

Ogle estimated damages to the automobile at \$1,200 and damages to the truck at \$200. Ogle said he wrote up the report that Mrs. Peterson said

ed to stop at a stop sign, and that an investigation is continuing.

Mrs. Peterson said bystanders that broke on the truck failed to stop at the stop sign and that she was not injured. She said she was not injured.