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## From The Front Pages

# 1982: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Fires and threats against Hot Springs residents dominated the local headlines as 1982 began. On Jan. 3, the home of Hank Holmes was destroyed by fire while Holmes and his family were vacationing in Florida. Holmes operated a game room and restaurant in Hot Springs.

The first edition of 1982 also reported that three Hot Springs residents had been receiving threatening telephone calls. The threats included having homes and property destroyed. The following week, the News Record reported a number of hoaxes involving false advertisements of homes in the Hot Springs area.

The weather also commanded headlines last January as temperatures plunged below zero throughout the county.

A Madison County nursing home operator, Mildred Graham, was charged with operating a home without a license. In a January court appearance, she pleaded not guilty.

Politics played a big part in 1982 headlines. The county sheriff's race heated up when Sheriff E.Y. Ponder announced he would seek another term. Ponder's announcement brought a withdrawal from the Democratic race. Roger D. Haynie withdrew when Ponder announced his candidacy. Republican W.R. Lisenbee entered the Republican primary. A former Marshall town policeman, Lisenbee won the Republican primary, but was defeated by Ponder in the general election in November.

In February, headlines announced that the town of Marshall had decided to reduce the size of the town police force. The move was made in

order to save the town some \$25,000 in salaries. Marshall aldermen also approved an ordinance to cut off water service to customers who fail to pay their water bills on time.

Madison High School girls' basketball coach Ricky McDevitt was placed on probation by the W.N.C. Officials Association after an altercation following a game against Owen High School on Feb. 2.

Also in February, the Laurel communities organized a volunteer fire department, Z. Herbert Ponder Jr. was appointed to the Madison County Board of Elections and Marshall aldermen approved a \$600,000 bond referendum to improve the town's sewer system. Marshall voters would later approve the bond issue by a wide margin.

March saw News Record readers filling out a questionnaire as part of the North Carolina 2000 project. Madison High School shared the March headlines with four awards in Vocational Industrial Club of America (VICA) competition and the introduction of an in-school suspension program. Vandals smashed a window in the News Record office and three Mars Hill residents were arrested in an early-morning drug arrest March 31.

An April fire destroyed some 120 acres of woodland in the Sleepy Valley community. Mars Hill formally dedicated its new community library in an April 3 ceremony. Mildred Graham was found guilty of operating a nursing home without a license. She received a six month suspended sentence.

A group of discontented parents petitioned the Madison County Board of Education for the removal of principal Vernon Ponder from his position at the Laurel Elementary School. Petitions for and against Ponder were circulated and presented to the board of education. The school board retained Ponder in his position.

May saw Gov. Jim Hunt come to the county to dedicate the \$25 million link of U.S. Highway 25-70 connecting Madison and Buncombe counties. James McClure Clarke announced his candidacy for 11th District seat in Congress. Madison County commissioners received more than \$2 million in budget requests from county agencies. Madison High School unveiled an expanded music program and graduated 190 seniors on May 30.

In June, three men were arrested for assaulting two hikers at the Jesuit Parish in Hot Springs. A water shortage temporarily forced Madison High School and several local businesses to close. The county board of education approved \$29,311 for repairs to the roofs of Madison High School and the Marshall Elementary School.

Henderson County businessman Dit Williams offered the county school system \$10,000 to establish a stringed instrument program in the county schools.

The June primary saw Democrats retain incumbents in all county offices. Republicans nominated Bob Phillips, Gary Sprinkle and Lester Wilde for the county commission. Spring Creek voters rejected a fire tax in a special

referendum.

In July, the county commissioners and the school board discussed the allocation of county funds for education. A Marine was killed in an accident at a July 4 rodeo in Marshall. Billy Ramsey of Marshall was charged with murder in the stabbing death of Kenneth Harris of Asheville. A Madison County jury would later acquit Ramsey in the case.

The News Record received a new editor when Robert Koenig was named to succeed G. Nicholas Hancock. The hopes of many of the county's jobless workers were raised when American Greeting Card Corp. of Cleveland, Ohio announced plans to construct a \$10 million plant at the county landfill site.

Construction on the new Marshall Primary School was completed. The new school, for kindergarten through third grade, opened its doors for students in August.

The town of Marshall received an assist from the Tennessee Valley Authority when TVA announced the town would be part of the Town Lift program. The program is designed to help small Appalachian towns renovate their downtown business districts.

Another August headline announced that 20% of county homes were substandard. A small outbreak of blue mold was reported in August, but the tobacco disease did not affect much of the county crop. Joblessness in August reached 8.2% and climbed to 9.8% by the end of the month.

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## In District Court

# DUI Conviction Brings 6 Month Sentence

A Weaverville man convicted of driving under the influence received an active six month sentence in district court last week. Phillip Walter Ingle was sentenced Wednesday by Judge Alexander Lyerly. Ingle was also found guilty of communicating threats, assault on a police officer and resisting arrest. He received an additional six months sentence for assault and 90 days for communicating threats. Judge Lyerly ordered the jail terms be served consecutively.

In other cases heard Dec. 23, Edwin Ernest Arrington pleaded guilty to first offense DUI. He was ordered to pay a \$100 fine plus court costs, attend Alcohol Driver Education School and pay the school's \$100 tuition fee and pay \$150 in counsel fees for his court appointed attorney. Arrington also received a four month sentence, suspended for one year.

Randal Ernest Cody, charged with failing to stop for police, speeding and driving under the influence, entered a

guilty plea to a charge of reckless driving. The court deferred sentencing until Jan. 19.

Ishmel Wallin, charged with DUI, pleaded guilty to a charge of reckless driving. Wallin received a four month suspended sentence, was fined \$100 plus court costs and ordered to attend ADES and pay the \$100 tuition fee.

Clyde Ralph Rathbone, charged with DUI, was found guilty and ordered to surrender his license, pay a \$100 fine plus court costs and at-

tend ADES and pay the \$100 tuition fee.

Chuck Willis Gentry, charged with DUI, following too closely and no registration and liability insurance, was found guilty of DUI. The other charges were dismissed, Gentry was ordered to surrender his license, pay a \$100 fine, court costs and the \$100 tuition of the ADES.

The court continued, at the requests of the prosecution, the cases of Ella Mae Lundy and James Bruce Massey, Jr. Lundy is charged with

damage to personal property, resisting arrest, DUI and having no operator's license. Massey is charged with drunk and disorderly conduct and assault on an officer. Both cases were continued until Jan. 19.

Two suspects charged with DUI again were called and found to appear for trial. Troy Lee Meadows, also charged with no operator's license and making an unsafe move, failed to appear for the fourth time. He previously failed to appear for trial on Oct. 14 and

Nov. 12 and 24. Sam Miller, charged with DUI, missed his court appearance for the second time. He failed to appear on the Nov. 24 hearing. Arrest orders for both men have been issued.

Judge Robert Lacey presided over district court on Dec. 22. Judge Lacey ordered probable cause hearings on Jan. 18 for three defendants charged with assault with a deadly weapon and discharging a firearm into a dwelling. The three defendants are Wayne Fore, Luther Fore and Em-

mitt Randy Clubb. In other cases heard on Dec. 22, David Eugene Wheeler, Sr., charged with assault, pleaded guilty to simple assault. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended for two years, and was ordered to pay court costs and a \$200 counsel fee.

The court dismissed charges of obstructing a highway brought against Dr. Larry Frost and charges of trespassing brought against J.F. Robinson. Ms. David Harmon Wyatt,

charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, was called and failed to appear. Bruce Hensley, charged with assault, also failed to appear. Patricia Moore, charged with shoplifting, failed to appear.

At the request of the defense, the court continued until Jan. 19, assault charges against Earl Robinson, forgery charges against Bruce Massey and charges of communicating threats against Victor Bechtol.

# Unemployment Rate, Minimum Wage Increase

The statewide total unemployment rate rose slightly to 9.5 percent in November according to figures released by Glenn R. Jernigan, chairman of the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The rate in October was 9.3 percent.

The November rate of 9.5 percent represented 276,700 jobless workers, an increase of 2,500 from the previous month. The national unadjusted rate in November was 10.4 percent (11,476,000 unemployed).

Jernigan said, "Further seasonal employment losses in agriculture (-15,700), manufacturing (-4,300) and in the self employed group (-2,300) continued to outweigh minor gains in some non-manufacturing divisions for a net job loss over some 25,000 workers between October and November."

On New Year's Day, thousands of North Carolina workers earning the state minimum wage will begin to see a 25 cent-an-hour increase in their pay as the wage moves up to \$3.35 an hour.

"Workers affected will be those primarily in the smaller retail, food service, wholesale trade and service industry establishments," State Labor Commissioner John C. Brooks said today. "These include retail sales clerks, janitors, stock clerks, as well as workers who often receive tips as a portion of their wages such as waitresses and waiters, beauticians and barbers."

"State and local government employees are also covered," Brooks added. "With the 21 percent increase from \$2.75, the state wage will match the federal minimum for the first time

since December 1977. In an average 40-hour workweek, the pay boost will mean an additional \$10 in a worker's paycheck.

In general, state coverage is primarily of employees in enterprises having at least three workers and not covered by the federal wage. In many cases, federal coverage is determined by the gross income of an enterprise, which must exceed \$362,500.

"While we have no way of estimating either how many workers are covered by the state minimum wage at present or how many of those earn less than \$3.35 an hour now, we know that the increase will provide significant relief to many workers who are now earning the lowest wages in North Carolina," Brooks said.

North Carolina has had a state minimum wage since 1968.

tion by the 1959 General Assembly which established a 75 cent-an-hour base.

The present increase was authorized by the 1961 General Assembly, which also extended the jurisdiction of the state law last year when it reduced the number of workers required the coverage from four or more employees to at least three workers per enterprise.

Since 1975, the state has had a special sub-minimum wage for full-time students, which also increases on Jan. 1, to \$3.50.

There is no change in the state's overtime provision, which continues to require pay of time-and-a-half the regular rate of pay after 40 hours in any workweek.

Manufacturing jobs overall showed a net loss of 2,500 with the most pronounced loss in

## Gov. Hunt Proclaims 1982-83 / Year Of The Public Schools

Gov. James B. Hunt has proclaimed 1982-83 as the "Year of the Public Schools" in North Carolina. Public education has come a long way since the state's first public schools were established in 1786, and, according to the governor, deserve recognition for their many accomplishments.

Today, some 2,930 elementary and secondary public schools serve more than a million students. North Carolina's public school curriculum has grown from instruction in the "3 R's" to numerous courses concerning English, reading, math, science, social studies, foreign languages, cultural arts, physical education and vocational education. While still emphasizing the basics, today's public schools teach students to drive a car, map, and communicate.

Today's schools, prepared by the Legislature, are open to everyone — the disadvantaged, the minority, the handicapped.

A look at the past shows that most of the progress in public education has come during the 20th Century. Although the beginnings of our public education system date back to 1766, the War Between the States in 1860 did much to destroy one of the best educational systems in the South. During the period following the War until about 1900, the school system had to be reconstructed.

During the first quarter of the Century, education progressed rapidly. New buildings were constructed and old ones better equipped. The Legislature authorized counties to issue local bonds for school construction and also authorized rural high schools. In 1919, the first constitutional amendment increased from 10 to 15 the number of members of the Legislature.

child labor laws and mandated compulsory school attendance for children ages 8 through 12. Interest was raised for increasing educational opportunities for Negroes. Because of concern for teachers' qualifications, legislation was passed to strengthen the state's teacher training institutions. Teachers' salaries increased and school administration improved.

During the 1920's, vocational education was introduced in the state's high schools. Legislation extended the school term to eight months and the state assumed the responsibility for the school system's complete support. More and more children came to school on buses supported by public monies. During the Depression years, many children and young adults were unable to attend school because of the need to contribute to the family income.

progress continued. In 1935, a plan established state textbook rental and, the following year, provided free textbooks for elementary grades.

Improvements continued into the 1940s, and further changes occurred in the school system. Legislation provided a retirement plan for state employees, including all public school personnel. Further changes increased the compulsory attendance age from 14 to 16, added the 12th grade, extended the school term to nine months and created the school lunch program. The State Board was authorized to use public funds for special education programs.

During the period from 1950 to 1960, the state continued to improve its public schools. The Legislature passed laws to increase the number of members of the Legislature from 10 to 15.