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## Commissioners Vow Crackdown On Delinquent Taxpayers

Faced with the need to increase property taxes to meet requests for additional funds, the Madison County Board of Commissioners vowed to crack down on delinquent taxpayers at their monthly meeting Friday night.

County finance officer David Caldwell spelled out the bad financial news for the commissioners. According to Caldwell's figures, the county is \$110,000 short in collections for the current fiscal year. Caldwell told board members that the county tax collector had received 88 percent of the total tax levy. The \$110,000 shortfall represents eight percent of the total county budget.

Caldwell also told the commissioners that past due taxes totalling \$610,000 were owed by county taxpayers. The additional \$500,000 is due from past years.

Board of Commissioners chairman James Ledford told the Friday night meeting that the

board has received over \$500,000 in requests for budget increases in the upcoming fiscal year. Most of the additional funding request has been presented by the Board of Education.

Ledford said that the commissioners would have to raise the present tax rate by as much as thirty cents to meet the budget requests. Ledford pointed out that additional collections of back taxes would help reduce tax increase.

The commissioners approved a resolution calling on County Attorney Larry Keake to "take any and all legal steps necessary" to collect the past due taxes from county residents.

The commissioners also voted to instruct county tax collector Harold Wallin to publish the entire listing of delinquent tax payers for the past ten years in next week's edition of The News Record. A complete listing of delinquent taxpayers for the current year appears in today's edition on Page 10.

## Beer Drinkers Litter School Grounds



BEER CANS LITTER the playground of the Marshall Elementary School. Weekend revelers on the island left dozens of empty cans littering the playing field used by the

school children. School principal Fred Haynie also reported that one window in the school's main building was broken during the weekend.

## Vocation Budget Approved

By ROBERT KOENIG

Money was the main topic of discussion at last Wednesday's meeting of the Madison County Board of Education. The school board members heard requests for funds from the Madison High School vocational education program, band director Harry

Overby and principal David Wyatt. The board approved a tentative budget for the vocational education program, but delayed taking any action on the other requests for funds. Under the tentative budget, the vocational education program for grades seven

through 12 will receive \$118,886.11 in local funding. The county will pay 26 percent of the program's \$443,205 budget. State and federal funds will pay the rest of the program's cost. The budget approved at the meeting gives the vocational education an increase of \$6,014 over the

budget for the present fiscal year. Jack Cole, vocational instructor at Madison High School, told the school board that if teacher salaries are increased by one pay increment, the local cost of the increase

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## District Court Hears DUI Cases

Judge Phillip Ginn accepted guilty pleas to a number of charges of driving under the influence during Thursday's session of Madison County District Court.

The court accepted a guilty plea to a lesser charge of reckless driving in the case of Ronald Charles Gentry. Ginn sentenced Gentry to four months in jail, suspended for one year, and ordered the defendant to pay a fine of \$100, court costs, and attend Alcohol Drug Education School (ADES) and pay the school's \$100 tuition fee.

Bruce Mace, also charged with DUI, pleaded guilty to reckless driving and received a suspended six-month sentence and two years of active supervised probation. The court ordered Mace to pay a fine of \$100 and to pay counsel fees of \$250.

Harlon Bruce Slagel, found guilty of second offense DUI, was given a six-month sentence which the court suspended for 18 months. Slagel was also fined \$200, ordered to surrender his license and pay \$200 for counsel fees.

The court dismissed larceny charges against Gary Ball and assault charges against Darlene Hoyle. The court issued a prayer for judgement for Alisa Sampson, charged with possession of marijuana. Mark Freeman, also charged with possession of marijuana, entered a guilty plea. He was ordered to pay court costs, a \$100 fine, attend ADES, pay the school's \$100 tuition fee and serve a special probation.

The court continued DUI charges against both Robert B. Harris and Douglas David Presnell. Harris is also charged with carrying a concealed weapon, and Presnell is charged with driving while license revoked.

Randy Allen Boyd pleaded guilty to failing to report an accident and was fined \$50 plus court costs.

Donna Buckner, charged with two counts of forging checks, failed to appear for a hearing. Judge Ginn issued an arrest warrant in the felony cases and ordered Buckner be held under a \$1,000 secured bond pending her appearance.

Herry Arnold Cantrell pleaded guilty to a charge of communicating threats and received a six month suspended sentence. James Lewis was found guilty of larceny by trick and received a five-day sentence which the court suspended for one year.

The court also found probable cause for charges of breaking, entering and larceny against David Lingerfelt and continued two charges of assault against Douglas Lunsford.

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## Man Dies In Car Crash

Elmer Waldroup, 64, of Hot Springs died Friday night from injuries suffered in an automobile accident that evening in the Shelton Laurel section of the county. Waldroup was a passenger in the back seat of a 1973 Chevrolet driven by Calvin Hill Thomas, 37, of Hot Springs.

Thomas and two other passengers in the car were also injured. The injured passengers were Pauline Dockery, 47, of Marshall and Helen Morelock, 38, of Haynes City, Fla. They were taken to Tacoma Venice Hospital in Greeneville, Tenn. Waldroup died at the hospital.

The car in which they were

riding went down an embankment on N.C. 208 about two miles east of the state line. The car apparently left the road and became airborne. Highway Patrol Trooper T.E. Dudley said the impact upon landing crushed the roof of the car.

Both Thomas and Dockery were reported in satisfactory condition at Tacoma Venice Hospital in Greeneville Tuesday. Morelock was transferred to the Johnson City Medical Center where she is reported to be in serious condition in the intensive care unit.

Funeral services for Mr. Waldroup were held Monday at the Zion Baptist Church. Burial was conducted in the church cemetery.

## FBEMC Awards Dam Contract

The French Broad Electric Membership Corporation of Marshall has announced that a contract for the construction of the Capitola Hydroelectric Project has been awarded to Crowder Construction Company of Charlotte. Crowder is the low bidder of 21 bids received. The bid was within the budget set for construction.

Axel-Johnson Company of San Francisco, California, was selected as the low bidder on the turbine generators last fall.

Work will begin on the project around the middle of May.

It is expected to be completed within 18 months.

"We have been working on the rehabilitation of this hydro project for about three years and it is now close to becoming a reality," said Charles Tolley, Co-op manager. "This project will help FBEMC to have some control over its power costs and along with our efforts to get some low-cost peaking power from the Southeastern Power Administration, we hope to keep the cost of electricity from rising as rapidly as it otherwise would in the future," Tolley said.

## 74 Give To Blood Drive

Seventy-four people gave blood May 5 while the American Red Cross bloodmobile was at the Marshall Presbyterian Church. Over half the donors were Madison High School students. A special thanks is given to Tom Wallin, Jerry Plommons and the other volunteers.

Those who gave blood are: Ricky Dixon, Eric Chandler, Myra Wilde, Kenneth Worley, Ricky Payne, John Merrill, Scott DeVane, Hank Cunningham, Debbie Meadows, Rhonda Chandler, Blane Fowler, Betty Sana, Larry Rice, Linda Ray, Timothy Flynn, Larry Anderson, David Clark, Billy Elliott, Susie Rice, Kim Clark, Rocky Flemming, Dewaine Strawn, Baker Broadway, Ann Dismore, Johnny Hunter, Ray Caldwell, James Clark, Nancy Hill, Barbara Rice, Marva

Ramsay, Julian Culvern, Pam Edwards, Judith Major, Calvin Chandler, Jimmy Griffin, Dale Wyatt, Claude Gardner, Cheri Murrell, Terry Buckner, William Davis, Roy Wallin and Clifford Schommer.

Donna Edmonds, Sheila Wilde, Stephen Halula, Timothy Rice, James Dadd, Stevie Tweed, Penny Flynn, Cindi Baker, Annette Presley, Paige Morris, Virginia Atkins, Judy Craigm, Darlene Randall, James Craigm, Thomas DuVall Jr., Thomas DuVall Sr., Betty Wild, Sandra Frazier, William Sears, Ray Brown, Jim McHenry, Gary Cooke, Harry Davis, Frank Willett, John Taylor, Charles Gruber, Robert Gruber, Donald King, Margaret Lewis, Nina Davis and Nancy Hunter.



ONE OF 74 in Marshall area residents who donated blood last week at the Marshall Presbyterian Church.

## Calls For Price Support Stabilization

## Farm Bureau Changes Position

The North Carolina Farm Bureau board of directors has recommended that the price support level for flue-cured tobacco for the 1984-85 crop years be stabilized at the 1983 level.

The board further recommended that price supports be stabilized for the 1986 crop year, provided the current price support formula's cost of production index shows no more than a five percent increase. (The index is based on a three-year moving average of prices paid by farmers, including wage rates, interest, taxes, and other costs of production.)

However, if the price formula cost index is 5.1 percent or more in 1984, that portion of the "No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act of 1982" that deals with the support formula would be re-implemented.

This provides for an annual increase of 65 percent to 100 percent of the three-year average as determined under the regular formula.

In other action, the Farm Bureau board recommended

that the lease transfer program be phased out by crop year 1986. In the meantime, all allotment holders who lease off the farm would be provided an ample opportunity to share in the production or sell allotments within the county to active tobacco growers.

The Farm Bureau board action was based on recommendations made earlier by the organization's Flue-Cured Tobacco Advisory Committee, comprised of growers in all flue-cured producing areas in the state.

John Nodge, president of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said, "These

legislative changes, beginning in 1984, are proposed as positive and constructive efforts to improve and stabilize the current tobacco program by encouraging domestic and export buyers to increase their purchases of American tobacco."

According to Sledge, "Farm Bureau has maintained that growers should be given ample notice prior to any changes and that general agreement and support should be secured among the flue-cured and burley growers and other segments of the industry."

"As we pursue the legislative changes in Congress, it is anticipated that support will be given by the buying companies relative to their domestic purchases as well as imports of tobacco."

The Farm Bureau program said that with the passage of the "No Net Cost Tobacco Program Act of 1982," tobacco growers demonstrated a willingness to make tobacco the first "net cost" agricultural commodity program. He said that for 1983, growers will be paying seven cents per pound assessment, or a total of about \$85 million. In addition, he said they are paying 35 cents per hundred pounds to have their tobacco graded on the warehouse floor. "At the same time," Sledge continued, "growers in 1983 will receive five cents per pound less under the 1982 law because of built-in reductions in the rate of increase."

"By instituting these legislative changes as recommended by our board of directors, we hope that total demand will increase to an amount comparable to the