



THE NEWS RECORD

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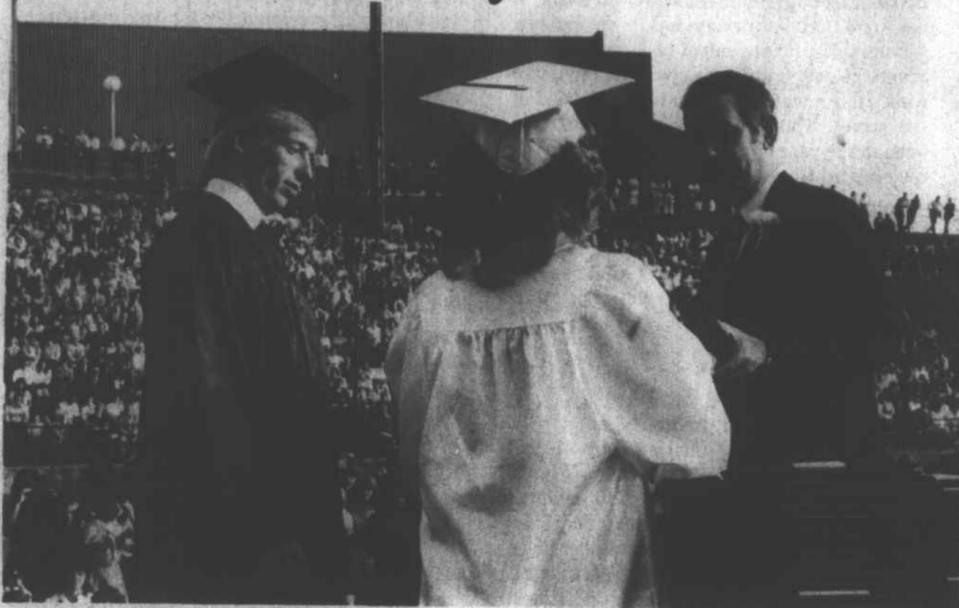
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Graduation Day



JEFF BUCKNER, left, receives his diploma from Madison High School principal David Wyatt during graduation ceremonies held Friday night at O.E. Roberts Stadium.

Wyatt during graduation ceremonies held Friday night at O.E. Roberts Stadium.

Madison High School Graduates 182 Seniors

Madison High School held graduation ceremonies Friday night for 182 seniors in O.E. Roberts Stadium.

Graduating seniors Bobby Ingle, Teresa Norris, David Sprouse, Denise Thomason and Mark Plemmons addressed the capacity audience.

Madison High School principal David Wyatt announced the recipients of Madison High School scholarships. The awards were funded by a \$25,000 grant from Hendersonville businessman Robert "Dit" Williams. The scholarships were presented to Dana Allen, Karlyn Ammons, Karen Flynn, Robin Frisby, Tim Gott, Stephen Halula, Nancy Holcombe, Kim Johnson, Sandra Keller, Jerry Kent, Paige Morris, Michael McMahon, Lynn Price, Elaine Randolph, Shirley Reece, Debbie Ricker and David Sprouse.

Wyatt also presented individual department honors to the graduates. Kim Thomas was presented with the band award. Michael Garrison and Debbie Ricker were presented with bus driving awards. Business awards were presented with the award for drama. The

mathematics award was presented to Jerry Kent. Amy Knisely was also presented with both the French and science awards.

Danny Gouge was the winner of the physical education award. Bobby Ingle was also presented with a science award. Social science awards were presented to Dana Allen and Karlyn Ammons.

In vocational studies, Stuart Franklin was presented the agriculture award. Mindy Shepherd was the winner of the home economics award. Martha Self was presented with an award in marketing and Kristi Goforth was the recipient of an award for training.

Teresa Norris was the class valedictorian and Dana Allen was named the class salutatorian.

Marshall Raises Property Taxes

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall residents will pay an additional ten cents per \$100 of assessed property evaluation next year. The ten-cent tax increase was passed by the Marshall Board of Aldermen at a special town meeting held Friday morning. The aldermen's decision raises the Marshall tax rate to 85 cents per \$100.

Friday's special hearing in Town Hall was called after the board failed to pass the 1983-84 budget at their regular May meeting. The 1983-84 fiscal year begins on July 1.

The aldermen debated the tax increase for 30 minutes before voting on a resolution presented by Alderman John Dodson. Before voting on the ten-cent increase, the board members considered raising the property tax five cents to 80 cents per \$100. The aldermen were told by Marshall Mayor Lawrence Ponder that the five cent increase would raise only \$3,200 in tax revenues, not enough to help cover the town's \$275,270 operating budget.

Several residents present at the Friday meeting urged the aldermen to proceed with the ten-cent tax increase. Betty Wild told the aldermen, "You're going to have to raise taxes. It's going to be terribly difficult for people on fixed incomes, but you're going to have to stop stewing over it and raise taxes."

Faye Reid, a member of the town's planning board told the aldermen that she favored the tax increase. Only Jackie Davis spoke out against the tax increase, saying, "I don't like raising taxes at all." Dodson's resolution calling for the ten-cent increase was seconded by Alderman James Penland. The resolution passed without opposition.

Following the vote on the tax increase, the aldermen approved a proposed budget calling for \$275,270. Property taxes, federal revenue sharing funds and water and sewer charges will bring in the money needed to operate the town. The proposed budget anticipates \$187,650 in tax revenues. Revenue sharing funds will con-

tribute an additional \$11,600, and water and sewer charges will bring Marshall \$65,520, all of which is earmarked for running the town's water and sewer system.

Town Of Marshall

General Fund Budget

The 1983-84 town budget anticipates tax revenue collections totalling \$187,650. These revenues will be distributed to expenses in the general fund. General Fund expenses are budgeted as follows:

Administration	\$40,748
Recreation	4,000
City Cemetery	2,200
Tax	1,450
Police	26,200
Fire	3,375
Street Services	34,750
Street Repairs	17,900
Sanitation	16,426
Non-departmental	40,000
TOTAL	\$187,650

Tax collections are based on a 96 percent collection rate on the town's \$6.4 million total valuation.

The aldermen also approved purchasing a used police car from the state Highway Patrol to replace the present car.

The hour-long session became heated only when Mayor Ponder was questioned by town employees anxious to know if their jobs were in jeopardy. The practice of contracting out services performed by the employees was discussed at length but no action was taken on the matter.

The Town of Marshall will hold another special session Thursday afternoon beginning at 2 p.m. At the meeting, bids on the sewer projects will be opened. The aldermen's regular monthly meeting will follow the bid opening at 3 p.m.

County Jobless Rate Drops

The unemployment picture in Madison County improved in April, according to figures released by the N.C. Employment Security Commission last week.

The state employment agency reported that unemployment in the county decreased to 7.8 percent in April, down from 8.5 percent in March. Statewide, the unemployment

rate decreased in April from 9.7 to 8.7 percent. Unemployment decreased in 94 of the state's 100 counties during the month.

ESC chairman Glenn R. Jernigan attributed the improved employment figures to expected seasonal factors such as increased agricultural hiring and additional outdoor

construction work. April's figures marked the second straight month that unemployment figures have declined, both on the state and county level. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an adjusted national unemployment rate of 10.3 percent in April, down from 10.2 percent in March. Orange County reported the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 3.2 percent while Swain County had the highest unemployment rate at 25.1 percent. Other neighboring counties and their unemployment rates were Buncombe, 7.4 percent; Haywood, 13.8 percent; Yancey County, 14.6 percent; Madison County's 7.8 percent rate is identical to the rate reported in April of 1982.

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 Inside This Issue

Dowsers Don't Need A Wishing Well

Need more water in your well? So did Don Spring — but, unlike most people wishing for more water, Don could call on about 18 enthusiastic dowsers, eager to take part last Saturday in "knocking" more water into his well.

Don Spring is the president of the Western North Carolina chapter of the American Society of Dowsers and was host to the chapter Saturday at his farm in Wolf Laurel, where he raises Scottish Highland cattle. Dowsers came from as nearby as Murray Mountain, Big Laurel and Home Creek and from as far away as Hendersonville. Well-known dowsers Sam Rogers came from Tennessee to talk

to the group and show them how to "knock" more water into a well.

Water-finding, the best-known form of dowsing, involves a forked stick or metal rods that dip when the dowser comes to underground water. L.D. Ballard of Mars Hill does it that way, using a bent coat-hanger. He figures that in the last two years he's located about 18 successful wells.

On Saturday, the dowsers at Don Spring's place were trying all sorts of refinements on the basics of dowsing water and talking about various reasons why dowsing works. Only agreement was that "the pages of science are incomplete on this matter, and

are dependent still on judgment by result," in the words of a pamphlet for new members of the society.

Sam Rogers and Don Spring explained they had dowsed a map of the Spring property and located a blocked source of water about 300 feet up a hillside from a low-flowing well. They confirmed this by dowsing the water-block itself, then drove a metal stake into the ground nearby and hit it several times in a certain direction, attempting to "knock" the water into a vein leading to the well. Dowsers locate water on maps by using pendulums that respond to questions asked by the dowser. Pendulums can be as



HANS SCHLEICHER leads the dowsers in search of water.

simple as a tiny weight on a string, the weight revolving or swinging in certain ways to indicate "yes" or "no."

At least one of these present dowsers had his own well "knocked" after "knocking" the dirt accordingly — a well that now is 1 1/2 gallons per minute. Schleicher of Park Fork Creek, who said he dowses in the Marshall area, said that in the beginning, he had a well that produced only one gallon per minute.



L.D. BALLARD of Big Laurel watches wire for signs of water.