



# THE NEWS RECORD

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SACK RACE ENTRANT steams ahead as fellow contestant drops sack at Beech Community July 4 festivities. Photo by Bob Koenig

## Commissioners Approve Madison County Budget

By ROBERT KOENIG and CONNIE WOODY

The Madison County Board of Commissioners accepted the annual budget at their meeting Friday night in Marshall. The commissioners approved a \$5,386,296 budget for the fiscal year which began on Friday.

For taxpayers, the budget means a 10-cent decrease in the property tax rate. For 13 county employees, the new budget meant the end of their job with the county.

On June 3, the commissioners raised the property tax rate 20 cents, to 95 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The budget they approved Friday night rolls back the tax increase 10 cents, to 85 cents per \$100.

According to the budget approved at Friday's meeting, Madison County will collect \$1,497,000 in property taxes in the 1983-84 fiscal year. An additional \$3,889,296 will come from both federal and state aid and the local option portion of sales tax collections.

Madison County's portion of federal revenue sharing funds will come to \$250,000. Revenue from the sales tax will bring in an estimated \$240,000.

The approved budget places \$3,247,040 in the general fund. From the fund, \$640,000 will be transferred to the Madison County Board of Education for the operation of the county schools. The \$640,000 includes \$575,000 for operating expenses and \$50,000 for capital expenses.

The budget's estimated \$1,497,000 in property taxes is based on evaluations totalling \$195 million with a 90 percent rate of collection. Real estate accounts for the majority of the evaluation (\$135 million) Personal property is evaluated at almost \$40 million and utilities property is valued at another \$20 million.

In order to lower the tax rate, the commissioners trimmed more than \$400,000 from budget requests submitted by county agencies. The Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Health Department were the hardest hit by the cutbacks.

DSS lost two full-time positions, as well as an additional four positions in the day care program which DSS took control of on Friday. The Madison County Health Department was also cut by three positions when a health nurse, sanitarian and dog catcher were eliminated. Also cut from the payroll by

the new budget were a sheriff's deputy, a librarian, a clerk-typist, a home economist and the secretary at the Soil and Water Conservation office.

The elimination of Danny Goforth's position as dog warden means that the county will no longer operate the animal shelter near Marshall.

James Ledford, chairman of the commissioners denied rumors that the county would be eliminating the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) which operates ambulance service in Hot Springs, Marshall and Mars Hill. Ledford said, "We've got to have an ambulance service," when asked if the EMS was to be dissolved. The commissioners approved \$226,111 to keep the EMS operating for another year. Upon questioning from a member of the ambulance squad, Ledford said that the new budget provides EMS workers with a 20 cent per hour raise. The EMS workers will receive no paid vacations or sick leave as part of the new budget.

The cutbacks at the Marshall Day Care Center brought forth a petition signed by 24 parents of children at the center. The petition supported the work that laid off workers Wanda Allen and

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## A Tailless Dog Tale With A Happy Ending

By ROBERT KOENIG

Some of the best stories are those with an unexpected happy ending. I found just that sort of story Saturday morning at the dog pound.

I found out Thursday afternoon that the county was closing the dog pound to save money. When I left the office that afternoon, I decided to drive past the pound to see if there were any dogs left. Sure enough, there were five grown dogs and a litter of pups left behind. All day Friday, I kept wondering what would become of the dogs. On Saturday, I set out early to see if they were still in the cages and being cared for.

The county pound is a depressing place for someone who cares for animals like I do. The poor critters always look so helpless, I want to take them all home with me.

When I drove up to the pound, there was a car with two women in it waiting at the gate. One of the women asked me if the pound was going to open. I told her it had been closed since Thursday.

"What are we supposed to do?" she asked me. I wondered the same thing, but I didn't have any answers for her. I went up the hill to get my pictures. I shot a roll of helpless pups huddling together for warmth and made it back to my car in a hurry. It had begun to rain.

As I opened the car door, I noticed that the car with the two women was gone. I spotted a black nose and a pair of black dots looking at me from under a bush. I went over and picked the little fellow up. He fit easily in the palm of my hand.

I didn't know what I was going to do, but I knew that I wasn't going to leave him there like someone else had. He rode in my lap all the way back to Grapevine. When we arrived at the house, we received less than a hero's welcome from my wife and daughter. I began to wonder if it was up the moment I got out of the car. Sure can smell the kids turned my friend down, I

evidently. It wasn't until I began to wonder if anyone was Cheryl could see leading my going to take him.



LARRY THOMAS holds his new friend. Photo by Bob Koenig

I had to go into Mars Hill to be a dunker at the Optimists Club's dunking booth at the shopping center. I knew that the stores would be giving away free Coke and hot dogs and that there would surely be a kid there who'd love to have a dog. Finding a home for my cute black-nosed friend would be easy, so I thought.

I set my friend down beside the hot dog stand and waited for the right kid to come along. I'd know him when I saw him. You can tell which boys need a dog sometimes.

My first dozen guesses proved wrong. One boy picked the pup up and inspected him, but there like someone else had. He rode in my lap all the way thought the adoption would be made. After an hour of trying to find him a home, I started to give up. When Chris Brainer pulled baby's carriage that afternoon, I knew I'd found my

friend. I was sure. Chris Brainer had found him, and I knew he was safe. I was sure. Chris Brainer had found him, and I knew he was safe. I was sure. Chris Brainer had found him, and I knew he was safe.

picture, and I always turn him down.

"Chris," I said, "How'd you like to have a dog? Take him and I'll put your picture on the front page next week."

I don't think he believed me. He ordered three hot dogs instead.

By 11:30, I was thinking up ways to get Cheryl to let me keep him. I decided to keep trying until noon. At a quarter to noon, I noticed this man step out of Ingles' with an armful of groceries. "He doesn't look like he needs a dog," I thought. I'm glad I was wrong.

It wasn't my little friend, but the free Cokes which first caught Larry Thomas' attention. He stopped and sipped a drink, when the man flipping hot dogs said, "How'd you like a dog?" Most folks would assume the cook meant the hot variety, but Larry knew immediately what he had meant. He put down his drink and picked up the pup. It was love at first sight.

The last I saw of my little friend, he was safely tucked under Larry's arm, his little tail wagging for all it was worth.

## County To Revamp Trash Collection

Those green boxes used to collect garbage will become a thing of the past in the next year. The county commissioners announced Friday that Madison County will build eight "convenience centers" throughout the county to collect the garbage. When the centers are completed, the county will remove the green trash collectors from their present locations throughout the county.

The first of these convenience centers is currently under construction on U.S. 25-70 in Marshall. As county commission chairman James Ledford explains it, the centers will be fenced in areas in which county residents can deposit their household garbage. The centers will be open during convenient hours and will be manned by county personnel now driving the county's garbage trucks.

Ledford said that the change in garbage collection will save the county money. "It costs us \$2.65 a mile to run our garbage trucks, and they're all over the county collecting garbage. We'll save on mileage by having the collection sites at centrally-located sites in the county."

When the Marshall center is completed, work will begin on other sites planned for Petersburg, Mars Hill and Elba Chapel. When the first four centers are finished, another four sites will be created in Hot Springs, Laurel and Spring Creek.

Part of the cost of building the new centers will be paid by a \$10,000 grant from the Tennessee Valley Authority.

## Marshall Parents Protest Day Care Center Cuts

Parents protesting the elimination of a teacher and aide at the Marshall Day Care Center presented the county commissioners with a petition in support of the two workers during the commissioner's meeting on Friday night.

To: County Commissioners

We, the undersigned parents, wish to express our disappointment regarding the layoffs of Wanda Allen and Wilma Norton from the Marshall Day Care Center. Both women have continually exhibited the positive qualities so necessary for a good Day Care program. Wanda, as program director, has brought stability, knowledge of her field and a commitment that goes far beyond that required for her job. Through her, parent involvement has begun to play an important role in the daily functioning of the center. Wanda has made a good program better. Wilma, as teacher in the three-year old classroom, has earned the respect and admiration of

parents and children alike. Her responsible, caring attitudes have been a total asset to the program.

We, as parents, understand the problems of a tight budget and that cuts are sometimes necessary. But, as parents, we also recognize the vital role the Marshall Day Care Center has in the daily lives and development of our children, and that the ultimate beneficiary is not the children, but the county itself.

We, therefore, would like you to reconsider your decision regarding the layoffs and reinstall Wilma and Wanda to their positions.

The petition was signed by 24 parents. They were Laura A. Ball, Cherie Henderson, Julian Riddle, James Woodruff, John Graeter, Richard Kingston, Diana Kingston, Michael Allen, Rosemary Allen, Natalie Frost, Carmelia Kent, Shirley Sexton, Bill Klodt, Nancy Klodt, Doug Dodson, Linda Dodson, Myra Rector, Martha Payne, Billie Roberts, Linda King, Esther Franks, Nancy Hayes and Libby Woodruff.

## Weaverville Council Approves Budget

By ELIZABETH D. SQUIRE

With both anticipated revenues and spending up by about \$60,000 for the fiscal year which began July 1, the Town of Weaverville expects to make improvements in sewer and water systems without increasing taxes in the coming year.

The 1983-84 budget for the town, adopted by the Town Council and taking effect this week, calls for total anticipated revenues of \$485,021 and for appropriations of \$51,500 remaining in the General Fund at the end of the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Town Manager Larry Sprinkle Jr. told The News Record last week that some \$100,000 of the town's revenue is expected to be reported, at that time, as a result of

tightening, there will be funds available in 1983-84 for "badly needed capital improvements" in the town's water and sewerage system.

Some \$368,000 will be provided for extending sewer lines, aided by a new appropriation of \$120,000 and a state Clean Water Fund bond grant of \$86,750. Weaverville also plans to spend \$140,000 to extend some water lines and begin work on a new reservoir to replace one built in 1915, said Sprinkle.

The general budget calls for increases in some expenditures, he continued, including the purchase of a new police patrol car. Because of a cut in expected maintenance costs, he said, the total police budget will go up only 2.7 percent. He added that the town's maintenance budget is an 18 percent increase over the 1982-83

budget. Other areas of the budget are down substantially, Sprinkle noted. Professional services cost is 35 percent lower, he explained, because the town this year does not anticipate having to spend money on legal fees as it did in prior years because of annexation moves.

The Weaverville Street Department's budget is down 27 percent to \$82,500 from \$112,500. Sprinkle said, because of capital improvements in streets and sidewalks made last year.

General Fund revenues will be up 13.3 percent in the new budget, Sprinkle said, with an increase in revenues expected to reach \$570,000 next year.

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