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Sales Tax Increase Approved

By TOM GILMORE and ROBERT KOENIG
North Carolina Speaker of the House Liston B. Ramsey, back in Marshall Monday following the longest General Assembly session in history, visited the offices of The News Record to discuss the session's accomplishments and shortcomings.

Ramsey told The News Record that Madison County will receive \$40,000 from the state to provide day care and senior citizen services. The funds to assist the county's young and old were approved during Friday's final day of the session.

"Balancing the budget, as required by the state constitution, was one of our major accomplishments. Passing Governor Hunt's Safe Roads Act was another."

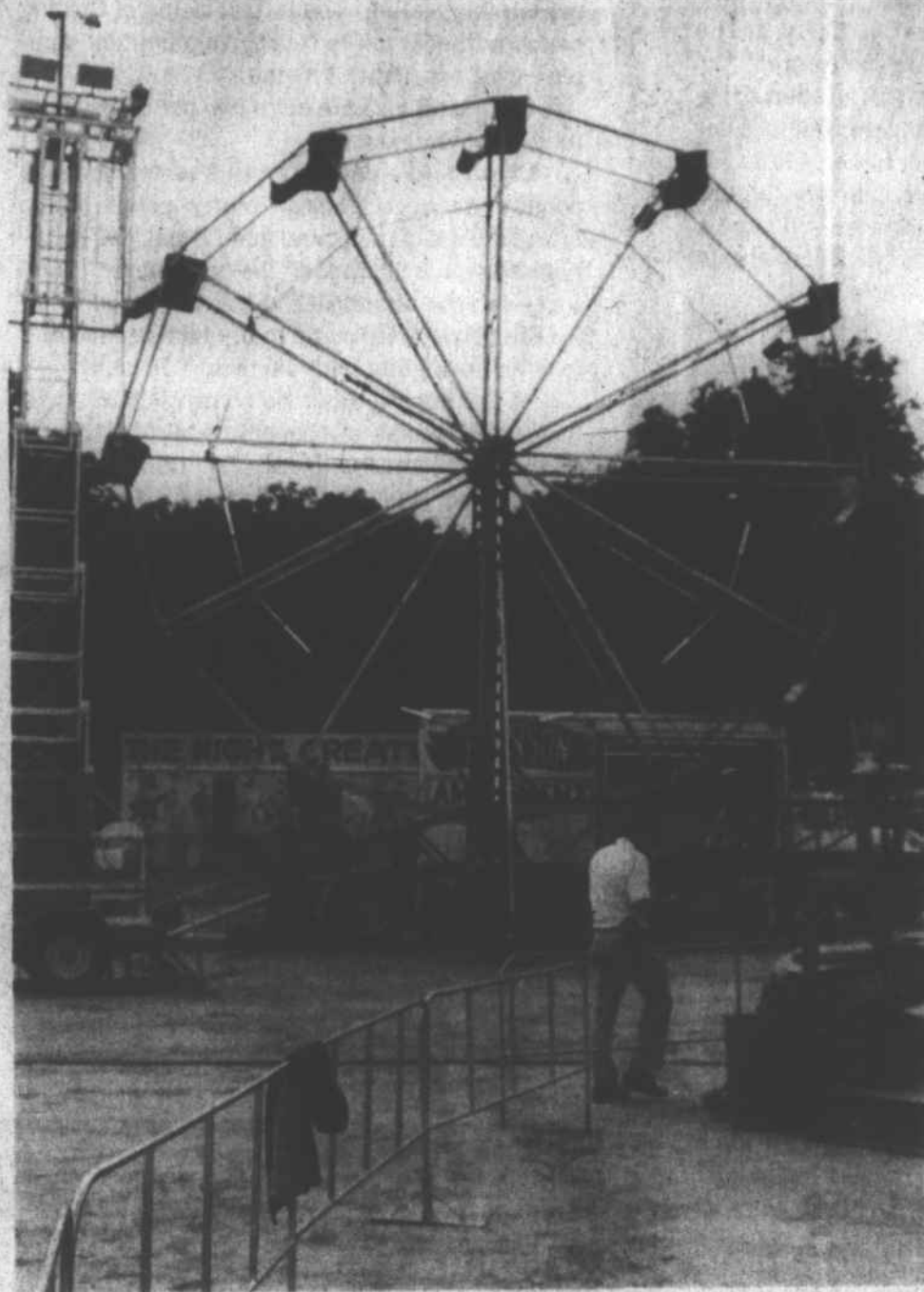
Speaking of the so-called Ridge Law which prohibits buildings on the top of mountain ridges, Ramsey said, "I'm satisfied with the bill we passed. It will affect some 20 or 21 counties. It'll prevent the development of unsightly motels."

Asked if he was satisfied with the version of the half cent sales tax increase which

passed in the final week of the session, Ramsey said, "We'd still be in session if I wasn't." Ramsey held out for a version of the bill that would allow local governments to use the money as they see fit. "It's a half cent that the county commissioners can spend as they see fit. Madison County will probably benefit as much from the extra half cent as we do now from the one cent local option tax because of the way the funds will be distributed. Proceeds from the tax will be distributed on the basis of population. At present, the one cent tax goes back to the source of the revenue. Madison County was getting far less back due to our closeness to Asheville and its shopping malls." Ramsey estimated that as many as 72 to 75 counties will benefit from the distribution formula.

When asked why the General Assembly did not reduce or eliminate the sales tax on food as proposed by Sen. Kenneth Royall, Ramsey said, "Senator Royall's bill was complicated. The House never got to consider the bill because the Senate didn't pass it."

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THE ANNUAL CARNIVAL sponsored by the Marshall Vol. Fire Department opened Monday in Marshall. The carnival will continue through Saturday.

Ledford: County Needs Half ¢ Tax

Madison County residents will soon begin paying an additional one-half cent sales tax if James Ledford, chairman of the Madison County commissioners, has his way.

Ledford told The News Record on Monday that the county needs the additional revenue to fund school construction. He said that he would recommend the commissioners approve the tax increase at the next meeting of the county commissioners scheduled for Aug. 5. "We'll probably be one of the first counties in the state to approve the sales tax increase," he said.

The General Assembly ap-

proved the additional sales tax during the final week of the session. Under terms of the legislation, counties can impose the additional tax either by act of the county commissioners or through a public referendum. Revenues from

the tax increase will be distributed to participating counties on the basis of population. The law requires that at least 40 percent of revenues from the tax increase be used to fund school construction or retire debts from past school construction.

Ledford called for the Madison County Board of

Education to come up with a plan for school construction. "We'd like to see the school board develop a plan for bringing our schools up to standards. We don't want to make a hasty decision and we need a detailed plan for improving our schools," he said.

During Monday's interview, Ledford also said that the county will receive \$40,000 for day care and senior citizen services. The funds were approved on the last day of the General Assembly session in Raleigh. The commissioner said that the increased funding will not result in restoring personnel in day care positions who were recently cut from the county payroll.

Mars Hill Bond Issue Vote Set For Aug. 3

Mars Hill residents will go to the polls Aug. 3 to decide the fate of a proposed \$1,150,000 bond issue to finance improvements to the town's sewer system. The bond issue is part of a \$2.4 million financial package to replace sewer lines throughout much of the town. Mars Hill officials estimate that 90 percent of the town's residents will be served by the new sewer system when it is completed.

The financial package that will fund the package is similar to one Marshall voters approved last August. Funds for the project will come from grants from the Farmers Home Administration, Mars Hill College and the North Carolina Clean Water Fund and from the \$1.15 million bond issue voters will decide on in next week's referendum.

Mars Hill town officials and Mars Hill College President Fred Bentley have urged town residents to approve the bond issue. Bentley was out of town Monday attending a convention in Norfolk, Va. At a public

QUESTION
SHALL the order authorizing \$1,150,000 of bond secured by a pledge of the faith and credit of the Town of Mars Hill to pay capital costs of improving sanitary sewer facilities, including the acquisition, construction and installation of lines, force mains, interceptors and pumping stations and the acquisition of equipment and machinery required therefor and the acquisition of necessary land or of rights-in-land and a tax to be levied for the payment thereof, be approved?

hearing on the bond issue held in June he explained the school's position saying, "Mars Hill's College has a mandate to install a new septic system. We have no choice in the matter. If the town were not to approve this project, we will have to proceed immediately with plans to have a secondary treatment plant operating by September of 1984."

Mars Hill College has almost \$600,000. Four pump-
agreed to donate \$150,000 for
(Continued Page 8)

W'ville Shopping Center Planned

A South Carolina developer who hopes to build a new shopping center on Weaver Blvd. in Weaverville told The News Record Monday that he plans to have the facility ready for a Dec. 1 opening.

Robert Small, president of Small Associates of Greenville, S.C., said, "We're excited about putting together a new shopping center for Weaverville. The plan needs to go one step further before

we can proceed. The Weaverville Board of Adjustments will have to hear the plan."

Small said that the new center will house a Bi-Lo supermarket and a Rite-Aid drug store. A third store in the center will be built, but no tenant has been selected as yet. No contract with Bi-Lo has been signed for the project, but the developer said that a contract will be signed after the shopping center received

final approval from the town's zoning board.

"We anticipate starting construction sometime in August and expect to finish the project in about three and a half months. We would like to open around Dec. 1."

Small said he has not chosen a contractor to build the new center yet. While no details on the stores' size were available, he said, "Bi-Lo is building the most modern

stores anywhere. I'm sure the people of Weaverville will be pleased with this new facility."

Weaverville town manager Larry Sprinkle Jr. said that no date for a zoning board hearing has been set, pending the written request for the zoning change. A hearing is expected within the next few weeks. The Weaverville town council approved the zoning change at their July 18 meeting. The

council unanimously approved a change from R-1 residential zoning to C-2 general business for the seven-acre site on the north side of Weaver Blvd.

Reader Survey
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Politician Becomes Editor For A Day

By ROBERT KOENIG

NEWS ITEM: FORMER STATE SENATOR TOM GILMORE OF JULIAN ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNOR, PLEDGES TO WORK AT 84 DIFFERENT JOBS ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA AS PART OF HIS CAMPAIGN.

When Tom Gilmore announced his workday plan, many of my colleagues in the press passed off the idea as just another campaign gimmick. Others wondered why he chose the number 84. While my fellow scribes were considering the significance of the choice, I saw the opportunity for a good story and some cheap help around the shop.

Politicians and the press spend a great deal of time criticizing each other. It comes with the territory. I thought it would make for a good story to have a politician sit in an editor's seat for a day to see how the other half lives. On the day after his announcement, I wrote to the candidate inviting him to sit in my chair for a day. To my surprise, he took me up on the offer.

We decided that July 25 would be the day for our experiment. He was to be in the area that week to address the N.C. Press Association convention and would be available. I had planned to start my vacation on Monday, but I decided to put it off in order to watch the candidate play Editor For A Day.

From a year's experience behind the editor's desk, I knew that Monday, our deadline day, would be the longest and hardest day of the week. It would be worth postponing my vacation a few days to watch a politician put in a 12 or 14-hour day.

We finalized our plan for his day behind the editor's desk at the press convention and I left him with instructions on how to find Marshall. He was to report for work at 9 a.m. If he's smart, I thought, he'll come down with a cold or something and back out.

It was exactly 9 a.m. when my "Editor For A Day" walked through the door. "Editor For A Day" is sort of like the old TV show, "Queen For A Day" except instead of a refrigerator, you get a headache.

First task of the day is to pore through the mail. Monday's mail is usually heavy and this week was no exception. Trash can by his side, the candidate pored through the news releases informing him of such significant news as the final deadline for entries in the Miss USA Teenager Contest and an announcement that some fellow in Massachusetts has received a promotion. He was a little hesitant at first, but after the first few releases, he was dispatching these notices to the trash can with all the expertise of a seasoned editor.

"Does it relate to Madison County?" I asked him when he hesitated. "If it doesn't, file it in

the trash bin." The News Record is happy to report little bits of news that concerns Madison County, but a small paper such as ours can't afford the luxury of reporting minutes from Massachusetts.

After reviewing the mail, it was time for a visit to Marshall Elementary School. No real story there, but I thought it would be helpful if a candidate for governor saw the conditions of Madison County schools first-hand. Marshall Elementary principal Fred Haynie and Bob Edwards conducted us on an informative tour that provided the visiting editor with food for editorial thought.

After touring the school, it was time to check in at the jail to see if anyone had committed mayhem over the weekend. Considering the heat wave, I expected to hear of some juicy crime story. Sheriff Ponder reported the weekend was a quiet one. We got the details of a pot raid on Hayes' Run, listened to one of the sheriff's parables and returned to the office.

Gilmore aide Melanie Reed asked if she could notify the television and radio stations of our little experiment. I told her she could, but doubted that they would cover our little story. We sat down to work up a few stories while Melanie alerted the media.

It's not your day, it's my day.