



# THE NEWS RECORD

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HEAVY RAINS swelled the French Broad River to flood stage Tuesday morning. River crested at 6 a.m. without causing any serious

damage. Water reached Blannerhassett Island but did not enter Marshall Elementary School.

Photo by BOB KOENIG

## In District Court

### Peterson Receives Suspended Sentence

Sandra Lou Peterson entered a guilty plea in Madison County District Court Thursday to a charge of death by vehicle. Peterson entered the guilty plea to the misdemeanor charge as part of a negotiated settlement with prosecutors. In exchange for the guilty plea, the prosecution agreed to drop charges of illegal transportation of alcoholic beverages and driving left of center. Peterson was originally charged with murder in connection with an Aug. 13 auto wreck that killed Anna Mable Rhymer of Asheville. The two-car crash occurred on U. S. 19 east of Mars Hill.

Judge Robert H. Lacey sentenced Peterson to serve four years supervised probation and deferred a 12 month-to-18 month active prison sentence. The court also ordered Peterson to pay a fine of \$500 and \$1,000 for the services of her court-appointed attorney. She was also ordered to surrender her driver's license for one year. In other cases heard during Thursday's session of District Court, Warren Nix of Hot Springs entered a guilty plea to a charge of assault on a law enforcement officer with a deadly weapon. Former Hot Springs police chief Leroy Johnson said that Nix held of-

icers at bay with a shotgun after Johnson came to Nix's home to investigate an auto accident.

Judge Lacey sentenced Nix to serve six months in jail and the defendant filed notice of appeal to Superior Court. After sentencing was completed, however, Johnson appealed to the court for leniency on behalf of Nix. Johnson told the court, "This man has children to support. He's got to work. It won't do any good to put him in jail." Upon Johnson's recommendation, the court suspended Nix's jail sentence and ordered him to serve three years of unsuper-

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### Ackley Trial Opens

Judge William H. Helms, Jr. presided over the special session of Madison County Superior Court which began Monday in Marshall. The special session opened with jury selection in the case of Richard James Ackley, charged with breaking and entering, two counts of damage to property and

breaking, entering and larceny. The alleged offenses took place at three homes in the Spring Creek section. A jury of eight men and four women heard testimony Monday afternoon. Sheriff's deputy Jasper Treadway told the court that Ackley was found in one of the homes. Treadway said the defendant told him

that he had entered one of the homes in order to wash his clothes and get warm. None of the three homes were occupied at the time of the alleged break-ins. Ackley is defended by Marshall attorney Stephen Huff. Testimony in the case was scheduled to continue on Tuesday.

## USDA Cuts Burley Quotas By 10 Percent

By ROBERT KOENIG

The U. S. Department of Agriculture last week announced a 10 percent cut in the national marketing quota for the 1984 burley tobacco crop. Secretary of Agriculture John Brock made the announcement in Washington. The cut in the burley tobacco crop follows a similar cut announced by the USDA for flue cured tobacco.

The national quota for 1984

will be 583 million pounds.

According to Everett Rank, administrator of the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the ten percent cut, the maximum permitted by law, is necessary to adjust the total supply of burley tobacco. The stabilization program bought more than half the 1983 crop and currently has some 254,000,000 pounds on hand.

When adjustments for over and undermarketing of the

1983 crop is taken into account, the effective farm quotas for 1984 are expected to total 708 million pounds. This will give a potential production of ten percent more than in 1983 according to Rank.

Wiley DuVall, Madison County Extension Service agent, said that the quota cut will total almost half a million pounds for Madison County. The average farmer in the county farms eight-tenths of an acre of the crop, DuVall

said, and can expect to see his marketing quota cut by about 160 pounds.

Speaking of the reduction, burley farmer Roy Ammons said, "They had no choice because we're not selling it. I'm against it, but I thought it had to be done. Every time we've cut the quotas, someone else has picked up our production. There's no world-wide cut in production, but we have an extremely high supply on hand right now."

## Correction

In last week's story on William Powell's conviction of pharmacy law violations, we incorrectly reported that Powell entered a guilty plea on behalf of Community Medical Center Pharmacy, Inc. The correct title of the corporation of which Powell serves as president and for which he entered a guilty plea is CMCP, Inc.

The News Record regrets this error.

## Hot Springs Amends Pinball Ordinance

Acting on a request from Kay Willis, the Hot Springs Board of Aldermen approved a change in the town's ordinance governing the operation of video games. By a unanimous vote, the board approved allowing the playing of pinball and video games on Sundays from 1 until 5 p.m.

The town's ordinance previously forbid the operation of the games on Sundays. Before acting on Willis' request, the board heard from town engineer Ed Segal concerning a pump station for the town's sewer system. Mayor Debbie Baker said that the town would have to make a decision soon or lose funds

available for the sewer system through the Farmers Home Administration.

The town had received approval for a low interest loan to improve the town sewer system. The loan was originally approved in 1978 but was later placed in the FmHA's inactive file when other funding sources dried up. Baker said that the town had received FmHA approval to use the loan for the sewer project currently being constructed with Community Development Block Grant funds if the project incurred cost overruns. Baker said that it appears that the project will be completed within its budget. "Farmers

Home won't hold the money for us much longer unless we tell them we have a project in mind."

Segal suggested that the town make improvements to the lift station that sends sewage to the treatment plant. Improving the station could save the town money for both maintenance and power charges. The board asked Segal to make a feasibility study of converting the system to a gravity feed operation. The town will contact FmHA to ask for an extension before the funds are turned back to be used somewhere else.

## FmHA Grant Decision Expected by April 1

Marshall should know by April 1 if it is to receive additional funding from the Farmers Home Administration to complete the town's sewer project. That was the word this week from Larry Merrill of the FmHA's Waynesville office.

At last week's town meeting, Marshall mayor Betty Wild said that the town has asked for additional funding to complete the \$1.6 million sewer project. Additional funding will be needed if the project is to be completed

because of cost overruns incurred during construction on Walnut Creek Rd.

In a telephone interview last week, Merrill said, "We're aware of the problems with cost overruns on the project. The grant and loan money is still being used. Originally, we were looking at what could have been \$240,000 in cost overruns. However, they haven't encountered as much rock in the Rollins area, so the engineer will be able to shortly fine tune the estimate of how much more will be needed to

complete the project."

Merrill said he will meet with the project's engineer, Bill Lapsley, later this week. Lapsley had earlier submitted a "worst condition" estimate of how much more would be needed if condition similar to those found on Walnut Creek were encountered on the Rollins section of the project. That earlier estimate called for the project to come in at \$225,000 over the budget. Merrill said mayor Wild asked for additional funding in a letter

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Photo by DAVID WACHTER

LION CAPTAIN STEVE DOOLEY is all smiles following Mars Hill's win over UNC-A. — Story on Page 6.

## Vocational Education: Creating Partnerships For Excellence



Photo by BOB KOENIG

RENEE SPRINKLE practices her sewing skills in her introduction to home economics class at Madison High School.

This is Vocational-Technical Education week across North Carolina. The special week set aside to recognize the value of vocational training has special meaning for the students and teachers at Madison High School.

The vocational education programs at Madison High School are among the largest and most extensive in the state for schools with under 1,000 students.

Each year since its inception, the vocational programs at the county high school has attracted more than 85% of the student body. This year, some 790 Madison High students are enrolled in at least one course offered by the department. Guidance counselor Norris Gentry reports that the vocational classes attract many academic students who want a change from the traditional academic curriculum.

Gentry reports that efforts are made to encourage students to enroll in the

traditional programs. It is not uncommon to see boys sitting in home economics classes or to find a girl working under a car hood in the school's auto mechanics class. Special programs are also open to handicapped and disadvantaged students.

The goal of the vocational education program at Madison High is to provide students with the opportunity to learn a marketable skill. Many students receive their first introduction to jobs through the school's work-study program.

In addition to the practical skills learned in class, the students are also provided with job-seeking skills that will be necessary after graduation. Gentry's office provides the students with advice on continuing their training beyond the high school level.

Gentry says that most of the vocational education students go on to continue their education after graduation in one of

the regional colleges or technical schools. A majority of former students enter fields related to the skills they first learned in the school's program.

Madison High maintains contact with graduates in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the vocational education program.

Jack Cole is the director of vocational education at Madison H.S. A graduate of Berea College with a masters degree from Western Carolina University, Cole assumed the directorship following Garland Woody's retirement last summer. Cole's office is located in the basement of the school where most of the trade classes are conducted. Of his tiny office, Cole says, "It's small, but I'd rather be down here where the students are."

Cole is a native of Madison County and taught at Hot Springs before reestablishing. He has taught at the high school since 1960.

education programs receive individualized instruction from teachers with years of experience in their field. Many of the instructors came to Madison H.S. after years in the field they instruct.

The vocational education program at Madison H.S. covers business skills, home economics and child care, in-

dustrial trades such as machine shop, electronics, cabinetry, drafting, auto mechanics and masonry. The school's agricultural program also attracts many students each year.

The school's business education program introduces students to computer pro-

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TERESA GRIFFIN works on a project in her home economics class at Madison High School.