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Thieves Enter Town Hall



THEIVES BROKE INTO THE MARSHALL TOWN HALL last week and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash. Mayor Betty Wild said entry was made through the side door of the

building. No damages were reported. The break-in is being investigated by the Madison County Sheriff and Marshall Police Department.

Report: County Farmers Must Adapt In Future

By C. B. SQUIRE

Madison County farmers have a "clear" need to gradually decrease their dependence on tobacco, in the view of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee's task force on agriculture and forestry.

The recommendations will be considered by the County Planning Board on June 13. If the board approves, the task force's recommendations will then go to the County Board of Commissioners.

"As long as producing tobacco remains a low-risk venture," the task force said, "farmers will not be inclined to change to alternative crops.

However, the long-term importance of developing alternative enterprises to gradually decrease dependence on tobacco and supplement non-farm income is clear and should be pursued by those interested in keeping agriculture a strong contributor to Madison County's economy and rural lifestyle."

(Task force reports on education, the economy and the quality of life were reported in The News Record issue of May 23.)

Recommended alternatives suggested by the task force on agriculture include a short-term list with items a farmer "could pursue quickly" and from which he could "expect income within one year," and a long-term list with income farther down the road. A balance in the two lists is suggested.

Tomatoes, berries and vegetables top the short-term list, but the task force warns that tomato production is "highly speculative and requires maintaining high standards of quality and efficiency." The task force noted that some 113 Madison County farmers grew tomatoes for the market last year, with more than \$1-million in income.

Greatest potential, however, is in production of the various bramble berries. Greenhouse crops, trout and small-scale livestock using marginal land are also suggested.

As to long-term enterprises, the task force recommends native ornamental shrubs, including hemlock, rhododendron, laurel, dogwood and flame azaleas, and non-native types including holly, juniper, yews and azaleas.

"While the market for Christmas trees is currently good," the task force said, "this committee is hesitant to recommend such additional production because of possible surpluses by the end of the decade."

Other long-term possibilities mentioned include grapes, ginseng and black walnuts, the task force added.

A farmer's decision to change what he grows "is a difficult one," the task force said, adding a farmer "can not be convinced to change simply because it is a good idea in the long run—he must

have a reasonable chance to make money."

As to forestland, the task force came up with a number of ways to improve various sectors of the county's economy. "The key to promoting any of these opportunities is improved management of privately owned forestland," the task force said.

Because chances are not great for increasing high-quality lumber production in the area, the task force said, "greater economic benefits may be received from promoting other values of forestland including recreation, tourism, hunting and fishing.

"Thus," added the task force, "Madison County's public and private forests need to be viewed as a multifaceted asset with broad economic implications."

Specifically, the task force urged owners of forestland to make more use of management plans prepared by state agencies and to "require loggers to practice better management while on their property so that other possible uses of the land will not be adversely affected."

In other recommendations, the task force suggested that: --A permanent forest management organization be set up for the county.

--A central dispatch unit be set up for local volunteer fire departments "as a means to improve protection of local

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Madison High Awards 173 Diplomas

By ROBERT KOENIG

An estimated crowd of 4,000 proud parents, family members and friends jammed into O.E. Roberts Stadium Friday night to watch the 173 members of the Madison County High School Class of 1984 receive their diplomas.

The Madison High School band, directed by Harry Overby, opened the graduation exercises with the playing of the national anthem. Cheryl Denise Reeves, a member of the graduating class, then delivered the invocation. Senior class president Richard Lambert followed Miss Reeves and delivered the welcoming address.

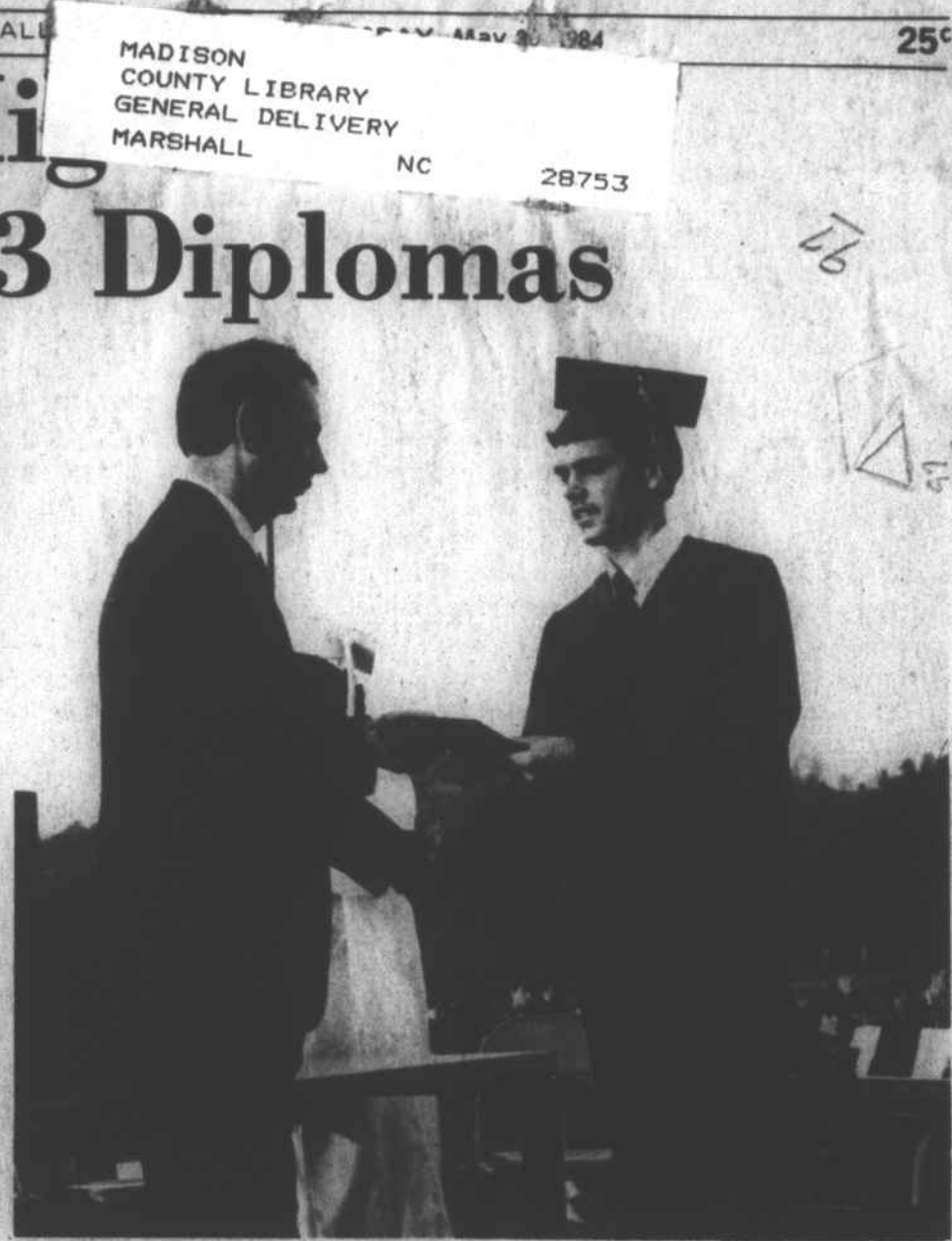
Following the welcome address, the Madison High School Chorus provided several choral selections.

Student Government president Norman Grose then spoke on his reflections on four years at Madison High School. After Grose's look back, Tena Rice delivered an address called 'Where Do We Go From Here?'

Lana Lunsford, another member of the graduating class, then performed a solo rendition of 'The Dream'.

Following the musical performance, Madison High School principal David Wyatt announced the winners of various scholarships and departmental awards.

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MADISON HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DAVID WYATT, left, presented diploma to Stewart Coates during graduation exercises held Friday night at O.E. Roberts Stadium. MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 14.

A True Fish Story:

Aquaculture Loves Madison County

By ELIZABETH SQUIRE

The "raceways" on David Henderson's Little Creek trout farm may contain one wave of the future in Madison County.

In each of his long narrow basins that spill one into the next, he can raise 3000 pounds of protein at a time, that should add up to about 75,000 pounds a year. His trout basins are on less than an acre and a half of land.

He could sell much more than he can raise now, Henderson says. The demand for trout is far greater than the supply. That may be because trout require very special conditions including cool climate and plenty of protected cold running water.

Conditions are just right in parts of Madison County, says Russell Blevins, District Conservationist with the U.S. Soil and Conservation Service. That service was one of the sources of expert help that David sought out for his project. He also worked at two jobs, delivering mail and clerking in a store. In his "free" time he took courses in construction at Heywood Tech. and then built his own trout basins. By making the most of his resources in these ways he was able to save and borrow enough money for his original outlay almost from scratch.

David is by no means the only person in Madison County who has gone into the fish business since the first commercial "aquaculture" here about seven years ago. The biggest trout farm belongs to Jim Anders from South Carolina and is in Shelton Laurel. Four smaller commercial trout farms include the Clemens farm on Spring Creek, and there are lots of farms with a pond just big enough to supply fish to a few neighbors, Blevins says.

But David Henderson's farm, which is just beginning to produce fish for sale, has all the most up to date know-how built in, Blevins said. Henderson is an official soil and conservation "district co-operator." He is happy to have anyone who is interested in aquaculture get in touch with him and come by and see his operation.

Building a trout operation correctly is essential, Henderson and Blevins agree, because a trout farmer is just a few minutes away from catastrophe at all times. If the water intake becomes blocked, the fish begin to die in that



DAVID HENDERSON INSPECTS POND ON HIS SPRING CREEK TROUT FARM.

length of time. The right amount of water has to be flowing through the system at all times to revitalize the oxygen in the water, release the ammonia, and keep the water cold. Henderson's system counts on 1,100 gallons of water a minute. Each system has to be designed to fit the ten-year low water mark, and the lay of the land.

But a well-designed system is insurance against catastrophe except from floods, heavy freezes and other natural disasters. Henderson was baptized by fire, so to speak, when the temperature plummeted last Christmas Eve right after he had put fingerling fish in the tanks for the first time. He had to keep removing ice from the intake and streams that pieces of ice coming down the creek were the biggest he has ever seen.

Henderson became aware of the opportunity in trout farming when he worked at the Station

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Illinois Man Drowns In French Broad River

The French Broad River claimed her first victim of the year last Monday when a 49-year old biology professor drowned while boating with his son.

William A. Garthe of DeKalb, Ill., a professor at Northern Illinois University, was thrown from the canoe he and his son, Kevin Douglas Garthe, 23, were paddling. The accident occurred about a mile and a half from the Stackhouse section. The father and son were paddling to public in Bridgeport, Tenn.

According to Madison County Sheriff R.V. Pender, the cause apparently took on water while passing the bridge. Apparently the boat capsized, and the professor Garthe panicked and was thrown

was thrown out in the swift current, then was swept into a deep water hole and was out of sight for four or five minutes," the sheriff said.

"He then came up and hit some rapids while his son was still following in the boat, but unable to reach him. Because the body was being swept along faster than the boat, the son abandoned the boat and caught his father as he approached some large rocks, held him there against the rocks and hollered for help."

Lenny Matlock of Marshall was fishing along the bank at the time of the accident. Matlock said he saw the professor Garthe's body from the

water. Madison County medical examiner Dr. A.J. Jones was called to the scene and pronounced the elder Garthe dead, the victim of an accidental drowning.

Garthe was a native of Newark, N.J. and held degrees from Rutgers University, the University of Minnesota and Cornell University. He had taught biology at Northern Illinois University since 1964. Dr. Jarrold Gar, chairman of the biology department at NIU, described Garthe as "a dedicated teacher whose death has left an all faculty and students in shock."

The father and son were alone on the river at the time of the accident. Sheriff Pender said the boat was carrying

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Jobless Rate Down

North Carolina unemployment decreased during April, according to figures released this week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (NCEC).

NCEC statistics show the state's unemployment rate decreased from 11.2 percent in March to 10.7 percent in April. The rate was 10.5 percent in February and 10.4 percent in January.

County by county unemployment figures will be available in the next few weeks.

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