

# THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

Vol. 84 No. 23

PUBLISHED WEEKLY IN THE COUNTY SEAT AT MARSHALL

MADISON  
COUNTY LIBRARY  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
MARSHALL

Y. II

No.

287

25c

## Marshall Tables Budget Decision

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Marshall Board of Aldermen tabled a final decision on the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year during their meeting Monday night. The decision to table the budget was reached after some questions regarding the proposal were raised.

Mayor Betty Wild said the board will hold a special called meeting with the town's accountant, J. Donald Williams, to discuss particulars of the proposed \$227,147 budget.

The decision to table the budget was made at the end of a two and a half hour session.

Town secretary Linda Dodson told the board that she prepared the budget with Williams' assistance. The proposal presented to the board Monday calls for no increase in the present property tax rate of 85 cents per \$100 of valuation. It forecasts property tax collections totalling \$112,147, based on a 96 percent collection rate. Marshall is also expecting to receive \$42,000 in revenue sharing funds and \$17,000 in Powell Bill funds for street improvements.

Questions regarding some of the other sources of listed revenues were questioned during the meeting. The proposed budget listed \$10,000 in revenue from "Sales and service." The budget also listed an additional \$10,000 in expected revenues from "miscellaneous" sources.

Asked what "sales and service" constituted, Mrs. Dodson said, "I'm not sure where that came from." The \$10,000 listed in "miscellaneous" revenue included, Mayor Wild said, "That's anything that comes in over and above the above."

Board member Ed Niles asked for a line item budget detailing planned expenditures and recommended tabling a decision on the budget.

Wild said that the board will meet with the town accountant before voting on the budget which must be approved before the board's July meeting. No date for the meeting was set at Monday's meeting.

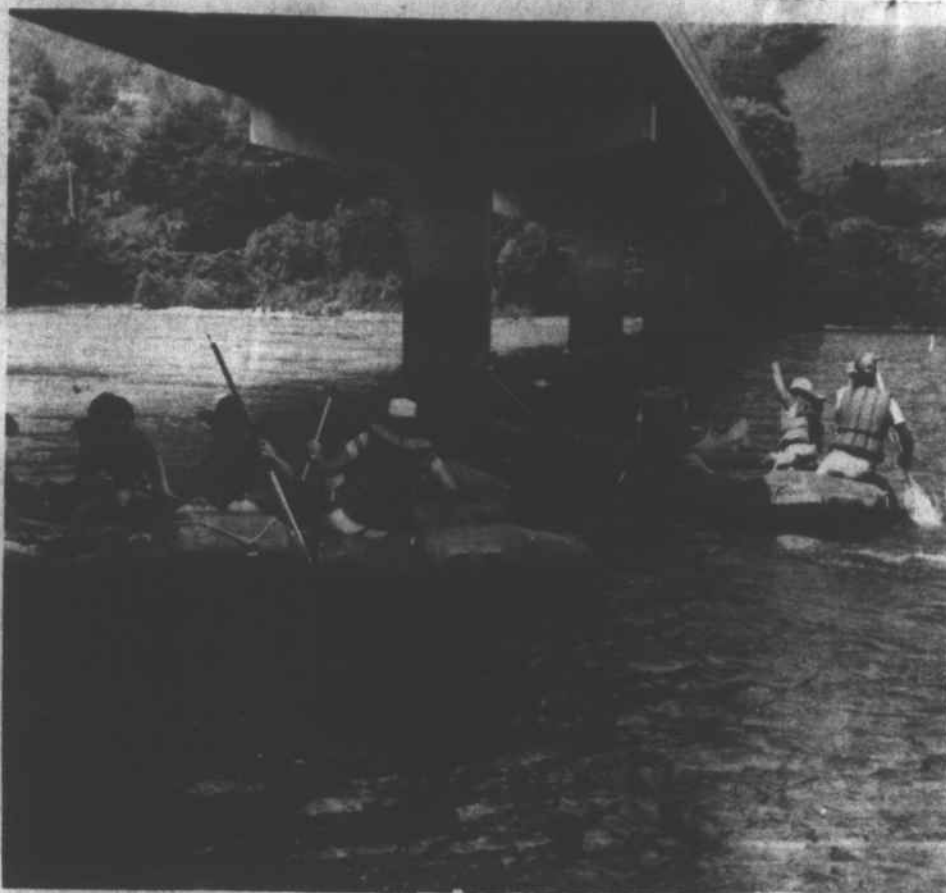
The board also tabled a decision on a request from the Marshall Boosters Club to in-

stall a gate at the entrance to Blannerhassett Island. The club sought the gate to prevent vandalism to the island's baseball field.

The board also approved a proposal presented by Richard Kingston concerning the Main Street program operated by the N.C. Division of Community Assistance. Kingston, who has spearheaded the latest downtown revitalization effort, said the program can offer Marshall assistance in planning both the economic revitalization and historic preservation of Marshall's Main Street business district.

Kingston also said he believed that Marshall's application to the Main Street program would show that the town is serious about revitalization and could improve the chances of the town's block grant application receiving approval.

Part of the Main Street program requires that the town hire a full-time director to coordinate the program. Kingston volunteered to take the position at no charge to the town. (Continued on Page 3)



**MORE THAN 40 VOLUNTEERS SET out from Barnard Monday morning on a clean-up trip down the French Broad River. The trip was sponsored by French Broad Rafting Co., Carolina Wilderness Adventures and the Nantahala Outdoor Center. The volunteers were unable to remove many oil barrels deposited along the Norflok Southern right-of-way.**

Co., Carolina Wilderness Adventures and the Nantahala Outdoor Center. The volunteers were unable to remove many oil barrels deposited along the Norflok Southern right-of-way.

## Mars Hill Studies '84 Town Budget

By STEVE FERGUSON

The Mars Hill Town Council reviewed the proposed 1984-85 budget Monday evening, which totaled \$405,600 in expenditures. The budget included no raise in property taxes, which is currently 70 cents per \$100.

Representatives from CEN-COM Cable Co., which serves the Mars Hill area, were also at the meeting, and told council members that Mars Hill customers who lost use of some channels last month could get an adjustment on their bills.

Town manager Darhyl Boone presented the proposed budget to the council, and was commended by Mayor Bill Powell for having \$112,100 in unexpended funds from last year's budget. Powell also commended town employees

for efficiency in helping create the surplus.

The largest portion of the budget would go to the police department, which would receive \$85,350. Administration costs were next, with predicted expenditures totaling \$72,150. The sanitation department would receive \$63,805 under the proposed budget.

Powell said this year's budget contained no surprises. "It is in line with the past year, and with the past few years," he said.

The proposal also contained figures for the new sewer system, which has a projected cost of \$2,535,600. It will be paid for by federal and state grants, a grant from Mars Hill College and general obligation bonds.

(Continued on Page 3)

## County Schools To Receive Half Cent Sales Tax Funds

By ROBERT KOENIG

Madison County schools will receive between \$125,000 and \$150,000 for new capital projects during the 1984-85 school year. The funds will come from the half-cent sales tax increase enacted by the Madison County Board of Commissioners last year.

The county commissioners held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting Monday night and approved a budget resolution giving the school system the funds. The resolution was passed after it was recommended by county attorney Larry Leake.

The legislation which created the additional tax mandates that at least 40 percent of funds generated by the tax will go towards schools. Leake pointed out, however, that the enabling legislation allows the county officials to use the revenue to retire past bond issues.

The resolution passed by the commissioners Monday,

however, states that the funds will be used for new capital projects. The county's debt on the bonds will be paid from general fund revenues this year.

The commissioners took no other action on the 1985 budget during Monday's session. They received a budget request for \$33,962 for the Madison County Board of Elections from chairman Herbert Ponder, but took no action on the request.

The commissioners also heard a request for assistance from Wade Huey on behalf of the French Broad Baptist Association. Huey asked the county commissioners for their help in paving a section of State Road 1361 on which the association is building a new office and chapel.

Huey said that the association will pay the costs of lowering the road and reinstalling gravel, but asked that the commissioners help in blacktopping the 750-foot sec-

tion of the road that leads to U.S. 213.

DOT board member Zeno Ponder suggested that the road could be repaved quickly if property owners effected would contribute part of the cost of the paving. The alternative, both Ponder and Leake told Huey, would be to hold a public hearing to change the already established priorities for secondary road projects.

Huey said that he doubted that property owners along the road would contribute to the paving and suggested that the association may have to seek another location for their offices. He will meet with committees working on the office project and get back in touch with the commissioners next week at a public hearing scheduled for Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Newly appointed Mars Hill fire chief Eddie Fox also presented the commissioners with a series of proposals to insure that the Madison County

Emergency Medical Service and volunteers for the Mars Hill Rescue Squad work together effectively. The commissioners took Fox' proposal under consideration.

The commissioners also adjourned twice during Monday's session for executive sessions. The board met behind closed doors with Dept. of Social Services director Anita Davies and county attorney Larry Leake. Commissioner Erwin Adams announced that no action was taken after each closed session.

The commissioners also signed a deed giving the newly formed Upper Laurel Volunteer Fire Dept. a half-acre lot on which to build a new fire house. The deed must still be signed by the Madison County Board of Education. Approval is expected to be given at today's meeting of the school board.

At Leake's suggestion, the

(Continued on Page 3)



(Photo by Robin Reeve)

GOV. JIM HUNT

## Gov. Hunt Offers Medicare Proposal

By STEVE FERGUSON

Gov. Jim Hunt presented a fee, hospitals would be put on plan last Thursday in a budget for the first time, and Asheville to cut the federal they would have to stick to government's cost of that budget," Hunt said. "In Medicare \$176 billion by 1995 other words, hospitals would get what they don't have now ed the "blank check" health -- a real incentive to hold down care facilities now have in bill-health care costs."

ing Medicare patients. "Without bold action soon, Gov. Hunt spoke at the the Medicare program will go bankrupt by 1990," Hunt said.

Center and criticized Jesse The Hunt plan calls for three Helms, his opponent in the upcoming senatorial race, for his pay states for holding down the rate of increase in Medicare payments to hospitals.

Also, commercial insurers would be made aware of Medicare's pricing strategy for the next year, to encourage ing taxes.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Jim Allen Is Named Farmer Of The Year

The Madison County Soil and Water Conservation district has named Jim Rex Allen III of Gabriel's Creek the Madison County Farmer of the Year for 1984. Allen is the son of Dr. J.R. Allen. He is operating four farms covering some 180 acres in the Gabriel's Creek section.

A former electrical engineer with a degree from the University of Wisconsin, Allen returned to Madison County to farm his family's property three years ago. In December, he took control of the old Riley Allen farm and immediately began incorporating modern conservation techniques on the farm.

At the suggestion of conservationist Russell Blevins of the Soil and Water Conservation Service, Allen put some 15 acres of farmland into strips, alternating 80-foot wide sections of corn with grass. The grass strips, Blevins explains, help slow the flow of water across the field, reducing erosion.

Dividing the strips on Allen's farm is a grass waterway that also acts to reduce erosion. The pastureland in which Allen now farms corn was planted in fescue grass until Allen plowed it up over the winter. He has also planted some seven acres in alfalfa.

Allen said he would have planted no-till corn in the field, but a special planter needed for sow the seed was unavailable.

The former electrical engineer left a job in New Mexico to return to farming because, "I like to work for myself and farming lets me do that. Now I just have to do what the weather tells me to do." Allen also has a degree in English from the Univ. of Wisconsin.

He says he is trying to diversify, getting away from reliance on buying tobacco. In addition to corn and turkey, Allen has planted huckleberries and cranberries and shoot (Continued on Page 10)



STRIP CROPS LIKE THOSE ON THE JIM ALLEN farm prevent erosion by slowing the flow of rainfall.

JIM ALLEN