

February 6, 1985

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE

 MADISON
 COUNTY LIBRARY
 GENERAL DELIVERY
 MARSHALL NC 28753

N COUNTY SINCE 1901

WEDNESDAY, February 6, 1985

25¢

Community Calendar

Lions Host UNC-A Thursday Night

The Mars Hill Lions will host arch-rival UNC-Asheville Thursday night in basketball action at Chambers Gym. The District 26 contest is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

The Lions will also host USC-Aiken and Belmont Abbey in Saturday and Monday night games this week.

Patriots Home Friday, Saturday

The Madison Patriots will host Mountain Heritage Friday night and North Buncombe Saturday night in Ivy Conference action at Madison H.S.

American Legion Meets Feb. 7

The American Legion Post No. 317 will hold its monthly meeting on Feb. 7 at 6:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend this important business meeting.

Optimists Meet Thursday Night

The Madison Central Optimists Club will meet Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. at Mary's Restaurant. All members are asked to attend.

4-H'ers Offer Soil Testing

The 4-H Exchange Club will conduct soil samples for \$1. To have samples taken from your garden, field or lawn, contact the 4-H office at 649-2411. Samples are analyzed and tested free of charge through the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service.

A meeting of all Christmas tree growers will be held on Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Senior Citizens' Center on Long Branch Rd.

Pisgah Legal Services Board Meets

The board of directors of Pisgah Legal Services will meet on Feb. 7 at 4 p.m. in the offices at 89 Montford Ave. in Asheville. The meeting is open to the public.

Pisgah Legal Services provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of Madison and Buncombe Counties. For more information, call 253-0406.

Support Group To Meet

There will be a meeting of the Madison County Support Group for Friends and Families of the Handicapped on Feb. 7 at the Marshall Day Care Center on Long Branch Rd. The meeting will follow a lecture by attorney Al Singer.

ARC Directors Meet Feb. 17

The board of directors of the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens will meet on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Day Care Center on Long Branch Rd.

Postage Rates Increase Feb. 17

Marshall postmaster Jim Craine has asked us to remind readers that rates for first class postage will increase on Feb. 17. Cost of a first class letter will increase from 20 cents to 22 cents. Rates for post cards will increase from the present 13 cents to 14 cents.

Marshall Aldermen Meet Monday

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Icy Roads Close School

Icy roads forced the closing of Madison County schools Tuesday morning. Freezing rains which arrived early Tuesday morning made driving hazardous throughout Western North Carolina and were blamed for numerous traffic accidents. No serious accidents were reported as of 11 a.m. Tuesday. Warmer weather Tuesday afternoon were expected to ease conditions.

Burley Quotas Cut 10 Pct

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week that the 1985 national marketing quota for burley tobacco will be cut ten percent below the 1984 level. The cut is the maximum allowed by law.

In making the announcement Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block said that overmarketings are estimated to exceed net undermarketing by some five million pounds, making the 1985 effective quota 520 million pounds, about 24 percent below the 1984 effective quota.

For Madison County, the reduction will mean a loss of half a million pound of the crop. The county's 1984 quota called for production of some five million pounds.

Bill Zink of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service said his office received notice of the cut last Friday. Zink said the reduction in the basic quota is in response to surpluses being held by both the manufacturers and Stabilization Corp. Current farm legislation calls for reducing quotas when existing reserves exceed necessary reserve supplies.

The current surplus is estimated to be between two and three years worth of production.

The USDA had earlier announced a similar ten percent reduction in production quotas for flue cured leaf.

The impact of the cut may be even greater for Madison County in 1985, depending upon the result of 1984 sales. Final reports on the 1984 sales will not be available until the end of this month, Zink said. If county farmers exceeded the 1984 quota, the 1985 crop sales may be further reduced.

Quota cards for individual farmers will be delivered sometime in March, Zink said, when they are received from Stabilization offices in Kansas City. Burley markets are still open in Kentucky and are scheduled to close on Feb. 12.

In announcing the reduction in the 1985 basic quota, Block said that about 191 million pounds in excess of the reserve supply level for the leaf are currently on hand.

ITC Rejects Tobacco Import Quotas

By A.L. MAY
 Washington Correspondent
 The News and Observer

The U.S. International Trade Commission voted 4-1 Friday not to seek curbs on imported tobacco, concluding that import quotas cannot cure what the panel chairman called the "far from healthy" federal tobacco program.

The recommendation to President Reagan effectively killed the second push in four years for quotas to stem the flood of cheap foreign tobacco into the United States. Administration officials consistently have spoken against protectionism, and Reagan was not expected to go against the nearly unanimous ITC vote.

The ITC vote drew cries of anguish from tobacco officials and politicians under intense pressure to find other means of reinvigorating the tobacco economy.

Sen. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C., who last month had expressed confidence that the ITC would vote for import quotas, said Friday that the commission "has made a serious error in judgement."

"This leaves no alternative to making U.S. tobacco strongly competitive in the world market," Helms said in a

prepared statement. He apparently was alluding to the growing sentiment for a sharp reduction in tobacco price supports, which now are widely blamed for prompting manufacturers to buy more cheap foreign leaf.

Six U.S. cigarette manufacturers are considering another proposal to improve the economic health of the federal tobacco program by agreeing to buy at discount rates the 812 million pounds of surplus flue-cured leaf held by the Flue Cured Tobacco Stabilization Corp. In exchange, the manufacturers and other buyers would benefit from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture action to reduce price supports, which set minimum levels for market prices.

David B. Fishel, vice president for public relations at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., said the nation's second-largest cigarette manufacturer was pleased by the ITC vote. "We think it supports what we were saying all the time" about tobacco imports not seriously affecting domestic production, he said.

But some tobacco leaders attempted to turn the ITC decision into pressure on the cigarette companies to voluntarily reduce their import

purchases.

"We could solve this problem tomorrow with a simple agreement by the tobacco companies to buy American tobacco, not foreign tobacco," said Rep. Larry J. Hopkins, R-Ky.

Hopkins warned that if the companies "aren't willing to help" they should not expect the help of tobacco state congressmen "when the anti-smoking groups and the cigarette tax advocates try to put them out of business" by increasing cigarette excise taxes.

Lawyers and representatives of the American Farm Bureau Federation, which had petitioned for stiff quotas to cut the influx of foreign leaf by half, were downcast as the ITC meeting room emptied.

"We have no question that the numbers reflecting the imports over the past 10 to 14 years are at levels that have to be interfering with the domestic program" John N. Parker, N.C. Farm Bureau Farm commodities director, said in a telephone interview from his Raleigh office. "We feel like the system has poorly served farmers in the consideration of this case."

Some tobacco farmers visiting the Southern Farm Show in Raleigh

reacted gloomily to the news.

"I believe we're about half mad and half broke," said farmer Gray Wolfe of Surry County.

"It seems a shame that folks sit in Washington regulating the profits of the tobacco industry," said Jim Woodall, a Wake County farmer. "They've let imports in at the expense of the American farmer. And the farmer has to take it."

But Rick Apple of Guilford County, a farmer and vice president of the Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina, said he was "pleased" by the ITC vote.

"I don't feel like there should be any restrictions on imports," Apple said, "where we should address that is by becoming more competitive in the world market. If we do that, the companies are going to make more purchases."

Leaf dealers and importers also cheered.

Hugh C. Kiger, executive vice president of Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association and the Tobacco Association of the United States, said in Washington that the ITC had "made a judgement based on economics rather than politics."

What Do You Think?

Jobless Rate Drops

Madison County bucked a statewide trend in December as unemployment declined by one and one-half percent while increasing in 61 counties across North Carolina. Despite the decline, joblessness in the county remained above the statewide average of 7.2 percent.

Figures released by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC) last week showed that Madison's jobless rate stood at 8.4 percent as 1984 came to a close. The 8.4 percent figure represents 710 unemployed workers in the county. The ESC figures also show that the county's work force declined during December to 8,430 workers. In

(Continued on Page 2)

Should Madison County residents have to pay extra to call their neighbors in other towns?

If you don't think so, let the state Utilities Commission know. Continental Telephone president John Feaster told a group of county residents that toll-free service could be obtained if county residents petitioned for it. Petitions are now being circulated.

If you'll fill in the coupon to the right, we'll present your opinion to the Utilities Commission on Feb. 19 when it comes to Marshall for a hearing.

The Battle Of Grandview Road Continues...

Another chapter in what is becoming an epic saga was written Monday afternoon at the monthly meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

The commissioners had thought that the matter was put to rest last month when they approved a plan to renumber and rename a portion of State Road 1596. In recent months, the road has been designated as Upper Fanchamps Rd., North Grandview Rd. and, finally, Grandview Rd. The decision at the January meeting also called for renumbering a portion of a second road, Almond Rd.

At Monday's meeting, the plan to

also been named Huey Rd. Extension, presented the commissioners with a petition calling for their road to be renamed Grandview Rd. The petition presented no suggestion for renumbering the road the January decision named Grandview Rd.

In the past year, the commissioners have held two public meetings to rename the roads in the Alexander community. A third public meeting on the subject will be held in connection with the board's March meeting on March 8. At that time, the commissioners are expected to award the name Grandview Rd. to residents on Almond Rd.

In other business conducted at the

board's first afternoon meeting, the commissioners approved the creation of a Madison County Arts Council to promote art appreciation in county schools.

The creation of the council was the suggestion of Jerry Flemmons and Don Anderson. The commissioners named both men to the eight-member board along with Susan Adams, Aida Jean Young, Theresa Banks, Ruth Gregory, Kevin Hogan and Sheila Barshill.

The board met with Anita Davis, director of the Department of Social Services, in executive session to discuss a proposed merger, but took no action upon returning to open ses-

sion.

The commissioners again went into closed session to discuss personnel matters with Ed Morton, director of the county Health Dept. Upon returning to open session, the board approved the hiring of Peggy Eberhardt as a nutritionist and approved promotions for clerks Gail Buckner and Sharon Lewis.

Mike Bradley reported on the first meeting of the newly created French Broad River Advisory Committee. Bradley said the committee is studying improvements to county property at Warner's and looking into ways to reduce erosion along the river.

the river.

County attorney Larry Leake gave an opinion regarding river users and the rights of property owners. Leake said that rafters were legally entitled to occupy land along the river bank in the event of an emergency, but that camping was illegal. Leake also said he thought rafters could stop along the banks to eat lunch until notified by property owners that such practices were prohibited.

The commissioners appointed Linda Harrell to the Resource Conservation and Development committee, replacing the late Mrs. E. L. Harrell.

tal health board and as medical director of the Emergency Medical Service board. Deed will be leaving the county in April for a practice in Virginia.

Board secretary David Caldwell reported that the county tax collector had collections of \$481,122 in January. The EMS made 95 runs during the month and made collections totaling \$3,812.

The commissioners also approved a contract with Landmark Engineering of Cary for a three-part project to provide new county tax maps. The