

April 3, 1985

Commissioners OK Insurance Policy Change

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Community Calendar

Parenting Classes Offered

The Blue Ridge Mental Health Center and the Hot Springs Health Program are offering a series of weekly parenting classes beginning on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. The sessions will meet each Tuesday night through May 14 in the Marshall Senior Citizens Center on Long Branch Rd. Classes are free and open to the public.

For more information, call Becky Eller at 649-2112 or 622-3245 or Marian Plaut at 649-2367.

Spring Creek VFD Auction

The Spring Creek Volunteer Fire Dept. will hold an auction on April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the fire station. Everyone is invited to attend. All proceeds will benefit the fire company.

ARC To Meet April 11

The Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens will hold a meeting on April 11 at 7 p.m. in the Marshall Senior Citizens Center on Long Branch Rd. to discuss plans for the May Day Festival on May 4. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Job Search Class Offered

The Opportunity Corporation of Madison and Buncombe County will conduct a five-day training session for persons wishing to develop their job searching skills. Classes will be held at the Marshall Elementary School beginning on April 22 at 9 a.m.

For more information, contact the Opportunity Corp. at 649-3231 or come to the school on April 22.

County GOP Names Briggs Chairman

By ROBERT KOENIG

Mars Hill attorney Bruce Briggs was elected the Madison County Republican Party chairman Saturday at the county convention in Marshall. Briggs was unopposed in the election.

Briggs succeeds C.N. Willis of Mars Hill. Willis is currently being considered for a post with the state Board of Elections.

Briggs, a former District Court and Superior Court Judge and state senator, was nominated by James Baker, Jr. of the nominating committee. More than 60 registered Republicans gathered in the county courthouse for the annual convention to name local party officials and delegates to the district and state conventions.

The convention re-elected Pat Roberts as the county vice chairman. Roberts told the convention, "I was going to tell my age and tell you I'm too old for this, but two years from now this courthouse will be full of Republicans and I want to help."

Brenda Fuller was also elected the party's county secretary without opposition.

In the convention's only contested election, Bob Phillips of Mars Hill was elected county treasurer, replacing Mars Hill attorney Ed Krause.

The convention also selected 16 delegates to the district and state conventions. Outgoing county chairman C.N. Willis told the convention that the county's delegation has increased by four delegates for this year's conventions.

Named as delegates representing Madison County were James Baker, Jr., Karen Baker, Pat Roberts, Dr. Larry Stern, Bruce Briggs, Roger Swann, Roy Norton, Bob Phillips, Clyde Roberts, Buster Norton, Lucretia Griffin, C.N. Willis, Dedrick Brown, and Brenda Fuller.

The convention also named nine alternates, including two registered Democrats from Spring Creek who announced they would be changing their registration. Russell Rowe told

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THE NEWS RECORD

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Adams Trial Is Postponed

The first degree murder trial of James Arthur Adams was postponed Monday morning in Marshall. The prosecution sought the delay because of illness suffered by one of the witnesses.

Adams is charged with murder, rape and obstruction of justice in connection with the 1970 slaying of Volunteer In Service To America worker Nancy Morgan.

Jury selection for the trial was to have begun on Monday morning in a special session of the Madison County Superior Court. The trial has been postponed until June 24.

The decision to postpone the trial brought complaints from Adams' attorney, Joseph Huff. Huff told The News Record, "The continuance was granted over our vehement protest. We were ready to go to trial. My client and his family have been

here for two weeks. We were anxious to try it."

Adams has indicated he will plead not guilty to the slaying. He has remained free on \$50,000 bond since shortly after his arrest. Huff said Adams would return to his Florida home to await his next court date.

Huff said the delay was a hardship for his client. "He's lost his job when the indictment hit the papers down there. His wife has lost her job and their daughter has tried to commit suicide. This man's life has been wrecked by this thing."

District Attorney Tom Rusher was not in Marshall on Monday. Attempts to contact the DA by telephone were unsuccessful.

Monday's postponement also cancelled a scheduled session of the Madison County grand jury.

Vandals Steal, Burn Marshall Police Car

SBI To Investigate

By ROBERT KOENIG

A Marshall Police Dept. patrol car was stolen and destroyed sometime Tuesday night. The unattended car was driven to the rock quarry south of town where it was set on fire and pushed down a bank into the French Broad River.

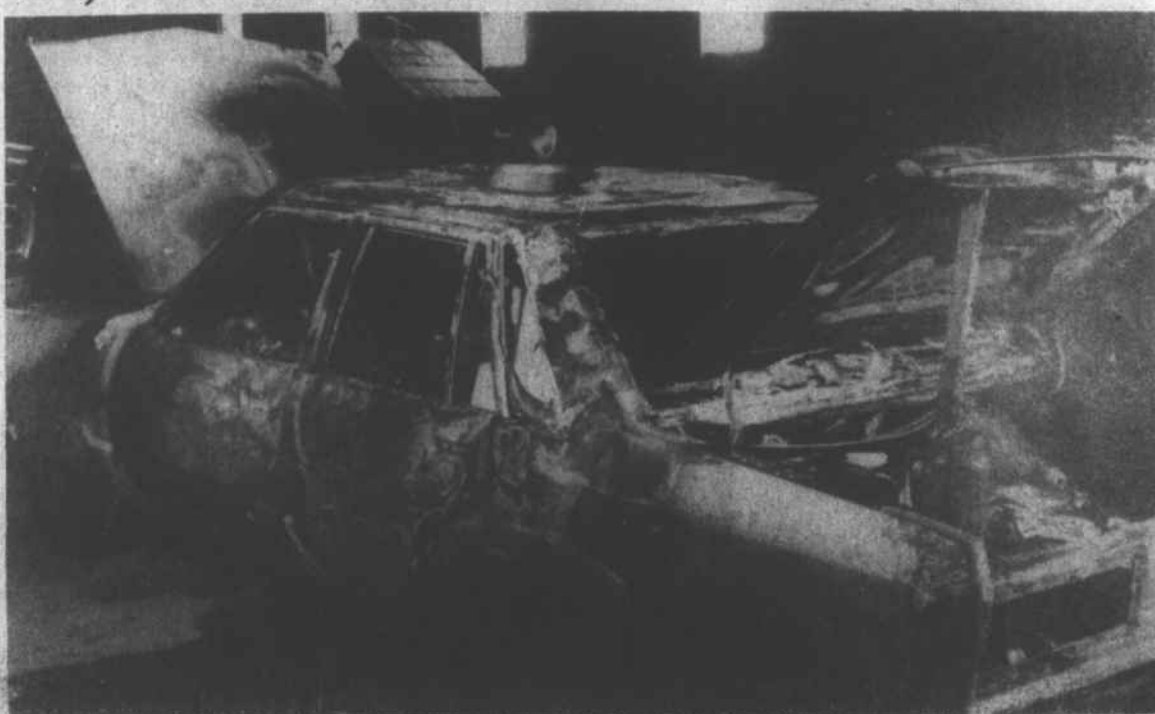
The car was a total loss. The Marshall Vol. Fire Dept. responded to a call received about 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, former police chief Larry Davis said.

Mayor Wild said Wednesday that the theft will be investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, State-Bureau of Investigation and the Madison County Sheriff's Dept.

The Tuesday night theft and fire is the latest in a series of vandalism directed against the police cars. Last year, vandals slashed tires on both the town's cars.

The patrol car was seen parked on Main Street as late as 8 p.m. Rumors circulating on Thursday said the thief left town with the patrol car's blue light and siren on.

Davis said that the stolen patrol car could be started without keys and was



DESTROYED MARSHALL POLICE CAR sits in the town garage on Island Rd. State Bureau of Investigation is investigating the Tuesday theft and destruction of the car.

not kept locked.

Mayor Wild said on Thursday that the town's insurance coverage would pay for a portion of the damage. The theft leaves the town's police with only one patrol car.

110 Attend GOP Dinner

An estimated 110 Madison County Republicans attended their party's annual Lincoln Day Dinner at Madison High Saturday night. The party faithful dined on roast turkey and heard optimistic speeches from local political leaders.

Eleventh District GOP chairman Harold Corbin addressed the dinner, telling the gathering, "The Republican Party is alive and well in Madison County, in the 11th District and in North Carolina."

Corbin accused General Assembly Democrats of sabotaging Gov. James G. Martin's plans for tax cuts. The chairman said, "We've got the best governor this state has ever had and they're playing their dirty politics and trying to tie his hands. We'll send some people to the legislature and help our governor govern."

Martin's senior policy advisor, Jack Hawke, was the dinner's featured speaker. Hawke told the local Republicans that Democrats in Raleigh are trying to stop Martin's proposed tax cuts.

Hawke also said that the General Assembly should place a referendum on gubernatorial veto on the ballot along with one limiting succession. Hawke said, "Liston B. Ramsey says the governor of North Carolina is the strongest governor in the nation. I'm sorry, but we are the only state in which the governor has no veto. Only four states don't allow their governors to succeed themselves."

Hawke also criticized General Assembly Democrats for attempting to impose a hiring freeze and endorsed Sen. John East and Rep. Bill Hendon for re-election in 1986.

Police Chief Resigns Wild Appoints Lisenbee To Force

Citing long hours, short pay and interference from Mayor Betty Wild, Marshall's acting police chief, Larry Davis, resigned from the town force last Wednesday.

Davis, 29, had served as the town's acting police chief since the Board of Aldermen suspended Joe Griffey on Feb. 13. He joined the Marshall police force in 1984, following the resignation of Michael Beasley.

On Thursday, Mayor Wild invoked emergency provisions of the town charter and named former Marshall and Mars Hill police officer Bill Lisenbee to the Marshall police force without the approval of the Board of

Aldermen.

Lisenbee formerly served on the Marshall Police Dept. and ran unsuccessfully for Madison County Sheriff in 1982. He was a member of the Mars Hill Police Department until terminated in December following a dispute with police chief R.J. Cuthrell.

Davis becomes the fifth Marshall police officer to resign since Betty Wild took office in Dec., 1983.

Following the dismissal of Carlisle Gunter, officers Jasper Treadway and Ed McLean submitted their resignations in protest. Treadway's (Continued on Page 3)

Cost, Method Among Questions In Food Tax Debate

By ELIZABETH LELAND
The News and Observer

Once a month, Eliza Harvey of Raleigh goes shopping with \$260 in food stamps at a downtown Winn-Dixie. She loads three carts with 30 days worth of groceries for herself, her unemployed son and three small grandchildren.

Her shopping list every month includes, among other things, 24 pounds of flour, 50 pounds of rice, 50 pounds of potatoes, 16 chickens, four large packages of hot dogs, six dozen eggs, 30 pounds of fish, half a sack of cabbage, 10 pounds of pork chops, a 21-pound ham, 12 pounds of bacon and 40 pounds of sugar.

Not to mention 20 cans of biscuits, five pounds each of pinto, navy and lima beans, and a five-gallon bucket of ice cream.

More than \$11 of the total bill of \$260 goes to pay state and local sales tax. North Carolina is one of 17 states that tax food sold for home consumption. As part of the tax-cut package, Gov. James G. Martin wants to do away with the tax on food sold for state home meals in every day's

worth of food and non-prescription medicine. The plan won't affect local sales taxes, but nevertheless would save Mrs. Harvey about \$7.46 a month in taxes.

While \$7.46 may not seem like a lot to someone who can afford to pay that much for a bottle of burgandy, for Mrs. Harvey, 61, who sometimes runs out of food before the end of the month, it would buy another 20 cans of biscuits, another half-sack of cabbage or 24 more pounds of flour.

"Won't that be better for us poor people," Mrs. Harvey said Friday as she peeled potatoes and warmed her feet in front of a black pot-bellied stove in her living room. "I think it would be a good idea. I sure do."

Although Martin's proposal would help every taxpayer, it would benefit poor people such as Mrs. Harvey the most because food eats up a larger percentage of their income.

Most lawmakers say they would eagerly repeal North Carolina's sales tax on food and non-prescription medicine provided enough money was set aside for the improvements to public schools. However, some

lawmakers sat there simply isn't enough money, and others say privately that the tax should remain because it's the only tax many poor people pay.

Under Martin's plan, the tax would be eliminated Jan. 1, 1986. It would cost the state an estimated \$70.3 million for the rest of the 1985-86 fiscal year, which ends June 30, 1986, and \$178.1 million in 1986-87. The cost would rise to \$189.6 million in 1987-88 and \$203.1 million in 1988-89.

Cost isn't the only issue. How to eliminate the tax is another one that Martin says is of secondary importance. In his State of the State address last month, he told legislators: "Just stop collecting it, like dozens of other states."

But to merchants, the means is important. They favor a credit on state income tax returns or a tax rebate because they say treating food and non-food items differently at grocery store checkout counters would be too difficult.

Martin proposed the food tax repeal Oct. 16, three and one-half years before the Nov. 6 election, when polls

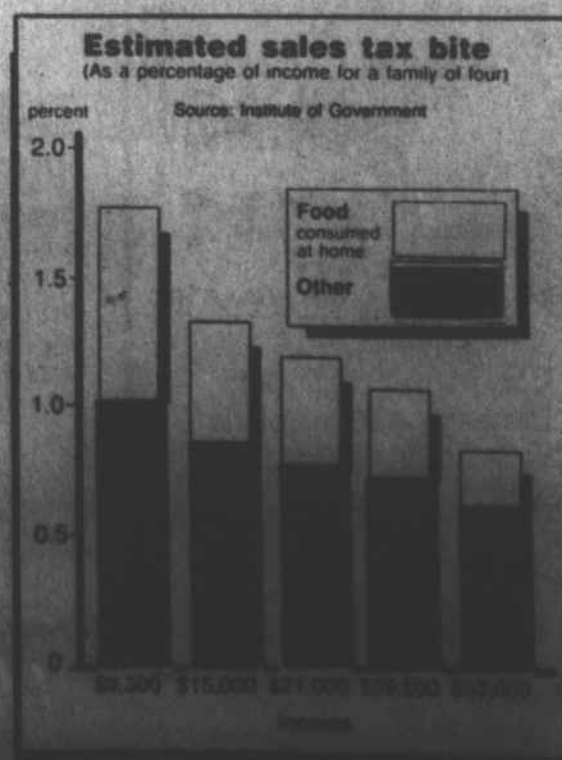
showed him still trailing then-Attorney General Rufus L. Edmisten in the race for governor. Much earlier, Martin had called for elimination of the intangibles and inventory taxes, which he describes as "anti-job" taxes.

Martin won't rank the tax reform measures in order of priority, saying each is as important as the other.

"I am convinced and have been since the beginning that strategic tax reforms—repeal of the intangibles and inventory tax—will not only benefit savers and investors, but will also benefit workers," Martin said in a recent interview. "It will provide more jobs, more job competition, as well as a tax base in many poorer counties. I'm convinced of that."

"But I also realize that a lot of low-income people don't perceive the fairness of that and, therefore, the sales tax relief on food and medicine adds that necessary leverage of fairness. But it's not just for them, it's for everybody."

The food tax was enacted in 1957, but it had been largely ignored such as



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