

Team Madison Returns From Europe  
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## Community Calendar

### Time Capsule To Be Buried Saturday On Court House Lawn

Organizers of the Marshall Christmas pageant will bury a time capsule on the lawn of the Madison County Court House on Saturday at noon. Artifacts relating to Marshall and the annual Christmas pageant will be enclosed in the capsule. Plans call for the capsule to be unearthed in 2050, A.D.

The ceremonies will begin at noon. The public is invited to attend. Anyone having articles they would like included in the capsule should contact Bea Banks at the Marshall Public Library.

### Marshall Lions Club Softball Tournament Planned

The Marshall Lions Club will hold its annual softball tournament for men and women beginning on Aug. 19. This year's tournament will feature a double-elimination format. For more information, contact Jerry Plemmons at 649-2051 or 649-3536 or Clyde Hagan at the Northwestern Bank, 649-2011.

### Walnut School Reunion Set

A reunion of all former students and teachers at Walnut School will be held Saturday beginning at 3 p.m. at the school. A hot dog supper will be offered between 5 and 6 p.m. All former students, graduates or not, are invited to attend. The Walnut Class of 1935 will be hold their 50-year reunion as part of the ceremonies.

### Buddy Hunt, Supper Planned

The WNC Coon Hunters Association will sponsor a buddy hunt and supper on Friday at the Enka Union Hall on Sardis Rd. in Asheville. Supper will be served at 7 p.m. with the hunt to follow. All coon hunters are invited to attend. Trophies and prizes will be presented.

### Legion Auxiliary Meets

The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion will meet on Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Marshall. All members are urged to attend.

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### Correction

In last week's story concerning the dismissal of the acting chief of the Weaverville Police Dept., The News Record incorrectly reported that the firing was done at a special meeting of the Town Council.

Acting police chief David Lankford was fired on July 26 by Weaverville Town Manager Larry Sprinkle. The town manager later informed

members of the Town Council of his actions by telephone, according to Kathleen Young, a member of the council.

The Weaverville Town Council will consider the firing during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on Aug. 19.

The News Record regrets this error.

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## Marshall Receives \$158,113 CDBG Grant

By ROBERT KOENIG

The town of Marshall will receive a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of approximately \$158,113 to make improvements to water and sewer lines on Candler Drive and Cody Road.

Announcement of the grant was made on Monday in Raleigh by officials of the N.C. Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD). The grant provides \$138,500 for the sewer improvement project and an additional \$19,613 in local option funds, to be used at the town's discretion.

When it was first announced on Monday, NRCD officials said the \$19,613 was to be used for housing rehabilitation. However, several calls to the NRCD offices in the state capital clarified the terms of the grant.

In April of this year, Marshall had applied for CDBG funding for two projects, the sewer improvements along Candler Dr. and Cody Rd., and a second project to rehabilitate housing on Cotton Mill Hill. Sandra Duke of the NRCD explained that funding for the sewer project was approved, while the housing rehabilitation project was rejected.

The CDBG program also towns to request as much as 20 percent above the cost of a proposed project for what are known

as "local option" projects. Both the projects Marshall proposed for funding included requests for additional local option funds.

The sewer improvement request had a local option request for some \$45,000, while the housing proposal sought \$19,613 in local option funds.

Alice Beddingfield, a spokesman for NRCD, told The News Record in a telephone interview Monday evening that it appears that the local option portion of the requests had been reversed. "We're going to have to sit down with the town officials and fine tune the request." Beddingfield added, however, that the confusion over the local option portion of the grant would not jeopardize the grant.

Despite the confusion, Marshall officials were pleased with the announcement. Mayor Betty Wild told The News Record, "We are delighted to say the least. The old lines up there have been broken and nonexistent in some places. It's something that's been needed for a long time."

Alderman John Dodson said, "This will help take care of the problems we've had up there for a long time."

Work on the project is not expected to begin for several months.

## County Receives \$75,000 Grant Funds To Purchase Landfill Equipment

By ROBERT KOENIG

It was standing room only at the Madison County Board of Commissioners' monthly meeting Monday afternoon in Marshall. The commissioners were forced to use the county finance officer's room on the ground floor of the courthouse because Superior Court was in session.

The brief meeting provided several items of good news for the county, however. Commission chairman James T. Ledford announced that the county will be receiving \$70,000 in state funds to purchase compacting equipment for the county landfill. The funds were approved by the General

Assembly as part of the "pork barrel" appropriations bill approved at the close of the session.

County attorney Larry Leake also announced that the county and a medical packaging firm are nearing completion of contracts to construct a new plant at the Marshall Industrial Park.

Leake made the announcement following a brief executive session with the commissioners. The county had reached an agreement with Kenpak, Inc., a California-based producer of medical supplies, back in May. The agreement called for Kenpak to purchase land at the industrial park on which would be built a fac-

tory expected to employ about 50 workers.

The agreement is conditional upon approval of low-interest loans from the Tennessee Valley Authority and commercial banks. The original agreement was to close on May 31, but the commissioners approved a resolution extending the deadline for closing the deal to Aug. 31.

In other matters considered at the meeting, the commissioners approved merit pay raises for Health Dept. employees Ashley Ball, Belva Crowe, Hazel Hughes and Bernice Shelton at a total cost of \$3,588 and approved the hiring of Deborah Anderson Carney as a clerk-typist with the Dept. of

Social Services.

The board also approved the purchase of carpeting for Board of Elections headquarters in Marshall and granted EMS driver Harold Gentry a 90-day leave of absence.

Ledford told the board that his service stations had recently made repairs to the EMS ambulance assigned to Hot Springs after attempts at repairing the vehicle locally were unsuccessful. Ledford also said his station recently made repairs to a van operated by the Madison County Transportation Authority. No estimates of the cost of the repairs was given.

## Byard Ray Madison County Fiddler Prepares To Host Folk Festival

By DEWEY MESSER

When Byard Ray was two years old, his grandfather held him on his knee and said, "You'll make a great fiddler some day and play in a furrin land."

Byard would later make his grandfather's prediction come true. When it comes to playing music as old as the hills themselves, one would be hard put to find a better musician than Madison County's own Byard Ray.

Byard, 75, of Walnut Creek, plays the guitar and banjo, as well as the fiddle, which he started playing when he was six years old. Most of his repertoire consists of songs passed down from our mountain ancestors to Byard and other musicians like him.

The public will have a chance to hear Byard's musical talents at work during the ninth annual Byard Ray Folk Festival, to be held August 17 at the Brevard Music Center. The festival is produced by Betty Sue Johnson and sponsored by the Transylvania County Arts Council.

"Dr. Johnson and I feel like we have the most authentic music in the Appalachian range," Byard said. "There won't be any bluegrass there. We don't have nothing against bluegrass, but we like to keep it pure traditional music."

Byard said the festival starts at 2:30 p.m. with a training session for young musicians. The main evening's performances will start at 8:30 p.m. and continue until about 11:30 p.m. After that, the performers will move to an adjacent building, where friends and visitors can hear music played with their feet in the mountains.

drunks and don't want any. We're going to have a nurse there and an ambulance, and the law will be there. And there will be an abundance of free parking.

"There will be about 25 different performers...string bands, ballad singing, buck dancing and so on.

"We're trying to resurrect the ways of our forefathers of the Appalachian Mountains, when they knew nothing about bluegrass or country music," Byard said.

Byard grew up in Sodom Laurel and lived in a logging camp as a child. Fiddlers often came to his parents' home to play and his parents played as well, and Byard always watched carefully.

"I told my brother Otis when I was six that I believed I could play like the others did. He was a year younger than me, five. I told him I was going to get the fiddle down and see if I couldn't play it. I said, 'If you'll promise not to tell on me I'll let you boss the playthings.'

"So I would get that fiddle down and play on it, looking out for my parents to come home. I did that for two years before they found out I could play the fiddle," Byard said.

Byard still remembers Riley York sitting him on his knee and teaching him to play "Soldiers' Joy." That's the name Riley York who became Sgt. York, well known for his bravery in World War I.

Byard credits four men with influencing him in his style of playing. They are his relatives Joe Tom Norton and his great-uncle Miles Wallin, and Arthur McDevitt, all of Madison County. There was also Dewey Messer of Pine Bluff, Tenn.

each one did some parts better than the others. So what I did, I listened real good, and then mixed together all of them.

"I'd be playing for one of them, and he'd say, 'He'd be a pretty good fiddler if he didn't play like so-and-so so much. And every one of them said that! They wanted me to play it just like they did.'

"Back then, the old mountaineers didn't have nothing else," Byard said. "The banjo came along later. The fiddlers had to play it really pretty to get people to listen to it played solo.

"The old mountain preachers and the fiddlers had it in for each other. Somewhere in the Scriptures it says that Nero played a fiddle while he watched Rome burn. There was one preacher who called the fiddle 'the instrument of the devil.' So the old-time mountain preachers and fiddlers didn't get along too good.

"When I was growing up, I went and played at what they used to call 'frolics.'" Byard said. "I didn't travel too much. It wasn't until I got too old really to travel when I got the chance to."

That's when the record industry set up and began to take notice of the traditional fiddlers in the mountains. Byard was offered a deal with ABC Records, and he soon had an album out. Other records were to follow, as well as different offers.

For example, Byard was asked to play on the soundtrack of the movie "Zacharia." Byard said the producers treated him well, with a motel room and a chauffeured car at his disposal for two weeks.

Byard also asked to play at the opening of the movie in London. He



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