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WEDNESDAY, August 28, 1985

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Community Calendar

Barnardville H. S. Reunion

The fifth annual Barnardville H.S. Reunion will be held on Sept. 15 from 2 until 5 p. in the school auditorium. Anyone who ever attended the school is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call 626-2240.

Fisher-Fox Family Reunion

The annual Fisher-Fox family reunion will be held on Sept. 1 in the Oak Grove Baptist Church. The Rev. Wendell Fisher will be the guest speaker at an 11 a.m. service. Dinner will be served at noon and there will be a special singing in the afternoon.

County Commissioners Meet

The Madison County Board of Commissioners have postponed their monthly meeting in September due to the Labor Day holiday. The meeting has been rescheduled on Monday, Sept. 9 in the Madison County Court House at 1 p.m.

School Board Meets Sept. 4

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on Sept. 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Hot Springs Aldermen Meet

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on Sept. 7 at 8 a.m. in Town Hall.

Marshall Board Meets Sept. 9

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on Sept. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

Mars Hill Board Meets

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet on Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Walkathon Set

Neighbors In Need will hold its annual walkathon on Sunday, Sept. 22 from 2 until 4 p.m. All donations will be used to assist the elderly, handicapped and those in crisis in Madison County.

Walkers will start and finish in front of the Mars Hill College Student Union. Those interested in walking to raise funds should contact Marian Plaut at 649-2367 or Jerry Jarrell at 689-2911.

News Record Office Closed Sept. 2

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, The News Record office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2. Deadline for all Community Calendar and Church Events announcements is Friday at 5 p.m. for inclusion in the Sept. 11 edition.

Fall Festival Set

The annual Fall Festival at the Marshall Primary School will be held on Sept. 6 from 4:30 until 8:30 p.m. Games and food will be available and door prizes will be awarded.

Weaverville Book Sale

The Weaverville Public Library will hold its annual Labor Day weekend sale of used books on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the library on Main Street. More than 10,000 second-hand books of all kinds will be offered for sale.

Madison Democrats Plan Dinner

The Madison County Democratic Party will sponsor a dinner on Sept. 7 at Madison H.S. beginning at 7:30 p.m. Wade Smith, state chairman of the N.C. Democratic Party, will be the featured speaker.

Former School Bus Driver Found Guilty

Former school bus driver Ronnie Ball was convicted of abduction of a minor Thursday afternoon in Madison County Superior Court. A jury of six men and six women took one hour to arrive at a verdict following two days of testimony.

Superior Court Judge Joseph Pachnowski sentenced Ball to four years in prison.

The jury found Ball not guilty of a second count of abduction and a single charge of taking indecent liberties with a minor. Ball was originally also charged with two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, but those charges were dismissed before the trial began on Wednesday morning.

The charges against Ball stemmed from the February disappearance of two Marshall Elementary School students, Teresa Ann Payne and Merilee Goforth. Ball, a bus driver for Marshall Elementary School at the time, took the two girls and a teenage boy, Jeff Bailey, on a three-day joyride before surrendering to Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder. On Wednesday morning, Payne, 13, told the court that Ball had had sex with her. She later recanted her testimony under cross-examination.

Both Goforth and Bailey said they never saw Ball touch Payne during their three-day trip. Ball admitted taking the girls with him, but denied making sexual advances to the teenager. He said he was having marital difficulties at the time of the incident. Ball's wife and

daughter sat with him at the defense table throughout the two-day trial.

Mrs. Ball testified during Wednesday's session. She told the court that her husband had brought the two girls into their home on several occasions, once to show them movies depicting graphic sexual scenes.

The prosecution introduced a stuffed teddy bear Ball gave to Teresa Payne as a gift at Christmas of last year.

In other cases heard during last week's session, Ray and Jerry Marler was found not guilty on charges of breaking, entering and larceny. The brothers have been charged in connection with the theft of fertilizer and farm equipment from the farm of Jessie Mae Ramsey.

A jury of nine men and three women acquitted the two men on Tuesday afternoon following two days of testimony. Following the trial, the defense attorney, Joseph Huff, was attacked by Larry Chandler, who earlier had testified as a prosecution witness. Chandler is reported to have struck Huff in the face outside the courthouse following the announcement of the verdict. No charges have been filed.

Larceny charges against Don Lancaster were dismissed following the presentation of the state's evidence in the case. Lancaster had been charged with purchasing a washer and dryer stolen from a trailer owned by Vernon Ponder.



MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES UNLOAD A CACHE OF 505 MARIJUANA PLANTS uncovered in a Friday raid in the Grapevine community. Some 860 plants were uprooted in two raids on Fisher Branch Rd. last week. No arrests have been made, but police said there are several suspects and that an investigation was continuing.

School Break-In Suspect Arrested

Sheriff E.Y. Ponder and an unnamed deputy arrested a 17-year old Leicester man Sunday night in connection with a break-in at the Marshall Elementary School on Blannerhasset Island.

Tony Reems was charged with breaking, entering and larceny after police discovered some \$500 worth of frozen foods, cold cuts, hamburger and cheese in a 1974 Plymouth the subject was driving. Reems was arrested on Blannerhasset Island and taken to the Madison County Jail. He was released Monday afternoon on

\$5,000 bail. Two or three other suspects eluded arrest by jumping into the French Broad River. Sheriff Ponder said on Monday that an investigation into the break-in is continuing. More arrests are expected in the case.

The theft was discovered by Marshall police officer Randy Hensley at about 9 p.m. Sunday. Hensley reported the theft to Sheriff Ponder. Thieves entered the school lunchroom through a window and were carrying away food when they were discovered.

Board Of Elections Names Registrars, Judges

The Madison County Board of Elections met last week to name registrars and judges for the county's 11 precincts. Those named will serve through 1987.

The Republican-dominated board named Republican registrars in all 11 precincts, while rejecting the Democrats' first choice for judgeships in 9 of the 11 precincts.

In North Marshall, Lucretia F. Griffin was named as the registrar. Franklin Frisby, Jr. is the Republican judge and Sammy Lunsford was appointed as the Democratic judge.

In South Marshall, the board named Howard Riddle as the registrar. Richard Freeman will be the Republican judge and Willard Ball was named the Democratic judge.

In Laurel (Township 3), Thomas J. Ray was appointed as the registrar. Muncie Shelton is the Republican judge and Mary Tweed the Democratic judge.

In Mars Hill, Jean B. Flowers was named as the registrar. Faye Ball was named as Republican judge and David Wyatt as Democratic judge.

Beech Glen (Township 5) will have Don Hall as the registrar. Neil Willis is the Republican judge and Shelby Robinson is the Democratic judge.

In Walnut, Joe Fowler was appointed as the registrar. Elizabeth G. Baker was named the Republican judge and Ray Worley was named as Democratic judge.

In Hot Springs, Irene Roberts was named as the registrar. Jewell J. Church will serve as the Republican judge and J.C. Wallin is the Democratic judge.

In Ebbs Chapel (Township 7), Jimmy Willis is the registrar through 1987. Ticky Jenkins will be the Republican judge and George Arrington the Democratic representative.

In Spring Creek, Leo Willett was named as the registrar. Ruby E. Plemmons is the Republican judge and Harold Finley the Democratic judge.

In Sandy Mush (Township 9), Mallie Brown was named as the registrar. Marshall Duckett is the Republican judge and Dinna Graham is the Democratic judge.

Terry Arrington was appointed as registrar in the Grapevine precinct. Buster Norton will serve as the Republican judge and Hoye Coates is the Democratic judge.

In Revere-Rice's Cove (Township 11), Doug Chandler was named as registrar. Ward Adams is the Republican judge and Reuben Gosnell is the Democratic judge.

Ponder Charges Republicans Broke The Law

The appointments of registrars and judges by the Madison County Board of Elections brought a protest from the minority member of the panel, Z. Herbert Ponder.

The lone Democrat on the three-member board, Ponder criticized the Republican board members for their handling of the appointments, particularly the Democrat's choices for judges.

"They admitted that they took the

list of Democratic nominees to the Republican executive committee on Saturday night. I don't think the Republican executive committee should be making decisions regarding the Democratic judges."

State law requires the county party chairmen to submit a list of three prospective judges and registrars for each precinct at least five days before appointments are made by the

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State To Repair Marshall's Roads

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall's streets will receive some \$50,000 in repair work this summer thanks to a \$1.1 million surplus in the state highway repair fund.

Marshall Mayor Betty Wild called a special meeting of the town's aldermen Monday night to announce the windfall. The aldermen wasted no time in deciding how the extra repairs will be used.

Wild told the aldermen that the N.C. Dept. of Transportation will make improvements in 26 WNC towns with the surplus funds. Marshall's share of the surplus is about \$50,000. The town will receive no funds from the surplus. Instead, DOT crews will make repairs in value up to the \$50,000 limit.

The aldermen designated four streets for repair: Roberts Hill Rd., Skyway Drive where curbing will be replaced and the street repaved; and Main Street, where crews will be asked to install a sidewalk on the north end of town.

A list of the priority repairs was to be sent to DOT District Engineer Earl McEntire on Tuesday. No date for the start of repairs was set.

In addition to the \$50,000 windfall, town secretary Linda Dodson also presented the aldermen with good news. Mrs. Dodson told the board that Southern Railway has reached a settlement on past due property taxes for the years 1980 through 1982.

Southern has disputed the evaluation of its property for several years, arguing before payments in lieu of full assessment. Mrs. Dodson said that the entire

ment will mean an additional \$16,768.35 for the town's hard-pressed treasury.

Much of the additional revenue won't remain in the town's coffers for very long, however, because of repairs needed to the roof on Town Hall.

Mayor Wild told the aldermen that repairs must be made soon. She noted that rainwater leaking through the present roof is damaging fire fighting equipment stored on the ground floor of the building. The town has received two estimates on repairing the roof.

Wild asked Sammy Lunsford to obtain a third estimate on the cost of repairs before the town proceeds on the project.

Mayor Wild informed the aldermen of an incident on Sunday in which Deborah Ramsey's pet, Dalmatian, was shot at three o'clock in the Ramsey's driveway. The mayor said

that two men in a white Toyota pickup truck turned around in the driveway and stopped. The driver passed a gun to a passenger, who in turn shot the animal in the shoulder with a .38 caliber pistol.

The dog was taken to a local veterinarian and is still alive, although severely wounded. The mayor condemned the attack, saying, "That was a \$300 dog, but even if it were a mutt, this kind of thing shouldn't happen in Marshall."

Faye Reid presented the aldermen with an equally distasteful problem. She complained that raw sewage from Worley Hollow was running through her property. Reid said that the hollow has served as an open sewer for years. She also told Mrs. Wild that sewage from her property was running under her house.

Reid said that something be done to correct the problem. Reid told the

aldermen, "My children played in shit for years. My grandchildren aren't going to. If something isn't done soon, I'll sue." Mrs. Reid's husband, Troy, said, "It gets so bad in warm weather that you can't go out on the front porch."

Repairs to the broken lines on Worley Hollow were included in the original plans for the town's recently completed sewer project, but were later deleted. Mayor Wild said that the hollow was later replaced in the project plans, but that the contractors on the project, Taylor and Murphy Construction Co. of Asheville, declined to return to do the work.

The mayor said the town is pursuing plans to repair the line with a portion of the \$1.1 million surplus in the project fund. Approval for the project was given by the board of aldermen last year. The town also agreed to lease the Recreation Center in the town for one year for \$1. In exchange for the lease, the firm will make needed repairs to the center and will donate plans to build a new and improved center. The town agreement was not returned.