

# Commentary

## THE NEWS RECORD



### Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



### Marshall Pastor To Say 'Goodbye'

By POP STORY

The Rev. Charles "Buddy" Freeman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Marshall for the past six years, announced his resignation Sunday morning following the worship service. The announcement came as a shock and surprise to the congregation and members left the church in tears.

Buddy is returning to Gardner-Webb College where he will be assistant director of admissions for church relations, working with pastors, music directors and education directors. He will also raise scholarship money for the Christian Service Organization that helps provide financial aid for needy and deserving students preparing for the ministry, church music and the mission field. He had been associated with the college prior to coming to Marshall.

His last service here will be July 5.

I wish for Buddy every success in his new job.

### NOT GUILTY

Imagine my surprise when I glanced at a the Marshall delinquent tax list in last week's News Record and read that I owned \$201.96 and Story Printing Co. owed \$10.20. I was certain that I had paid my taxes but, nevertheless, I searched my records and found receipts that my taxes were paid.

I contacted Linda Dodson, town clerk, and she apologized and said it was an oversight. I felt much better.

Thanks, Linda, for your concern.

### NEW AT GLORY RIDGE

The Rev. Betty Mawbey, of Chicago, has started her duties at Glory Ridge as director. She is assisted by Amy Gaskin, of Cheraw, S.C., as senior girls' counselor. She will be a junior next year at Mars Hill College. Lynsey Martin, of Marshall, is senior boys' counselor and is also working at Story Printing Co. in Marshall.

### Editorial

## County Should Let Us In On Big Secret

Madison County Commissioners would be wise to let members of the public know the next time they intend to discuss what to do about the county's solid waste disposal dilemma.

After all, when the commissioners finally figure out where they'll be dumping Madison's future garbage, county taxpayers will be asked to put up the cash to pay for that solution. It will undoubtedly require a sizeable amount of the county's tax revenues to buy enough property for a new landfill.

Taxpayers will be more likely to go along with the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of county dollars if they know exactly county officials have up their sleeves. But residents are apt to raise a ruckus when commissioners talk about spending large chunks of tax revenue without giving the public a chance to be in on the discussion -- as was the case last Wednesday when they met with members of the landfill committee without announcing the meeting.

Taxpayers will look far more favorably on any major county project if they don't think something sneaky is afoot. This is not to say that last Wednesday's meeting was an effort to keep the public in the dark about progress on the landfill situation. But the public's perception that decisions are being made behind closed doors can do just as much damage to county plans as actual behind-closed-doors decisions.

Already, talk of secret deals is beginning to surface in the county -- see today's letters section. If the commissioners want to quash such talk, they must bring their discussion out into the open -- where it belongs.

If county officials aren't overly concerned with the public's perception of what they're doing, there's another important reason they should provide proper notice of future meetings with the landfill committee. The N.C. Open Meetings Law demands that they do so.

### Letters To The Editor

## Commissioners Should Avoid 'Quick Fix' Solution To Landfill

To the Editor,  
I realize that locating a county landfill is a complex issue -- one that is technical, political and economic.

The problem is presently complicated by the fact that Hyder Waste has offered to contract for Madison County solid wastes. If a private business ran a landfill here, our county would become a regional dump for wastes that are rejected by surrounding county landfills.

Because this issue is so important, and long-lasting, I urge the Madison County commissioners to bring the discussion into the open. Rushing into a deal could be a quick fix; however, I do not believe that Madison County citizens want to host a private landfill.

Sincerely,  
Drew Langsner  
Mars Hill.

"Child guidance has taken on a new meaning," says columnist Ann Landers. "Parents are being guided by children. Those of us who are past 40 have witnessed a dazzling historical triple pass. In our growing-up years, Father was the undisputed head of the house. With the advent of World War II, Mother displaced Father. And, in far too many families, the children are calling the signals. They are clearly in control."

Is it not said that this columnist is essentially aware of a fact of which some citizens are oblivious?

Although some citizens are oblivious, the majority are well aware of what is happening in Madison County.

I'm proud to say I signed a petition requesting the truth, all the truth, to be told. And as far as "Bloody Madison," the citizens who were born and raised here, we are proud of our county. So we would suggest to you go elsewhere if you don't like "Bloody Madison" and take the gull and sickness with you.

The integrity of the majority of men in Madison County would far surpass or condone the distribution of condoms to women and children, as if to say go on and sin.

Now to the issue of Junior Chandler being innocent until proven guilty. The negative and hostile attitude toward Junior, his wife and children, have caused a lot of pain, not only to Reverse Community, but to other areas of Madison County.

Who would be so infamous as the denial of a fair trial to this 29-year-old man with a wife and two children to support?

It is imperative that we put our priorities in order immediately by setting an example for the young

children in Madison County and living in obedience to God's word and orderly way.

"Preserving liberty is costly, but the cost of bondage is even greater."  
Betty Silver  
Madison County

### Find Answers To Questions

To the Editor:

I would like to thank Ms. Laws for bringing to the public's attention that many of Andrew Chandler Jr.'s witnesses were not allowed to testify. She also said the jury was made up of 12 impartial jurors. Impartial or not, how could they do anything but find the defendant guilty, when only the state's evidence was thoroughly presented.

I would also like to ask Ms. Laws how she knows so much about people in Sodom when no one knows anything about her. It makes you wonder who she is, doesn't it?

I would also like to inform the public that Andrew Chandler Jr. was not the first nor the last to be sent to prison in this way. It is happening in other states as well as here.

There is even a group of people that stand and fight for citizens like Junior -- their name is VOCAL (Victims of Child Abuse Laws).

I urge the people of Madison County and citizens of North Carolina to help us find the true answers in the many important unanswered questions.

Donna L. Chandler  
1222 Reverse Road  
Marshall

### Don't Judge Each Other

To the Editor:

I hope this letter will finally put an end to all this bickering back and forth.

I had a letter in this column a couple of weeks ago and of course got a response from Ms. Laws so I hope this letter will clear some things up.

My relationship to Junior and Debbie Chandler is by marriage. I was a Henderson before I married a Chandler and I will put the reputation of both of those names against any one's name. We are no worse or better than anyone else.

To answer Ms. Law's question, I only attended parts of the trial held in Madison County and none of the trial held in Buncombe County because I work. My husband's parents (both related to Junior and Debbie) did attend the one held in Madison County and we do know how both trials went.

Some of us even heard a little girl who had just testified cry and beg her mother not to whip her because she forgot what she was told to say. We also know that those 12 unbiased and impartial jurors convicted Mr. Chandler on testimony given from these same small children, usually married people and, yes, professionals for both states so we do know how Mr. Chandler was convicted of this crime. We also know why Mr. Chandler's witnesses were not allowed to testify.

We have all heard a lot about this trial and how that the way so many people are condemning and judging other people. So while we remember the First Amendment, let's also

remember that it is not our place to judge each other. We will all face the day that we will be judged for all the things we do throughout our lives.

Barbara H. Chandler  
Marshall

Sincerely,  
Joyce House

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Cheryl W. Keating, General Manager  
Bill Swanson, Editor  
Brenda C. Parker, Office Manager

Ann Mitchell, Staff Writer  
Randy Cox, Photographer

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