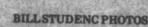


#### The South's Gonna Do It Again

Someone driving by Vance Birthplace near Weaverville over the weekend might have thought they'd gone back in time. The 26th North Carolina Regiment held a Civil War-era encampment on the birthplace grounds, performing a "liv-ing history interpretation." Above, the troops prepare to engage the enemy. Right, drummers lay down a beat to keep the soldiers marching





# DSS Did Not Err In Child Abuse Case

By BILL STUDENC

The N.C. Department of Human Resources has ruled that the Madison County Department of Social Services properly carried out its duties during its investigation of child sexual abuse charges against Andrew "Junior" Chandler of Revere.

That finding came after an "on-site review" of allegations concerning the agency's handling of the controversial case, which ended in the April conviction of Chandler on several child sexual abuse charges.

Chandler, 30, was sentenced to two consecutive life terms plus an additional 21 years. Following that conviction, a group of Chandler's friends

County Board of Social Services in May to investigate the way DSS employees handled the Chandler case and similar cases of child abuse.

The Madison board agreed to ask David Flaherty, secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, to determine if county Social Services agencies properly investigated the

A team of investigators from the state Division of Social Services came to Marshall last month and examined DSS records. Although DSS Director Anita Davie said last month that the state officials had verbally given her department a clean bill of health, that was not official until after

and relatives asked the Madison Flaherty received a written report

from the investigating agents. Flaherty has since received that report, and has found nothing out of the ordinary in the county DSS's handling of the cases, Don Bowen, deputy director of public information for the Department of Human Resources, told The News Record

"We conducted an on-site review of allegations concerning the Department of Social Services in Madison County relative to the department's carrying out its roles and responsibility in protective services cases." Bowen said.

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# Weaverville Seeks Water Source From Authority

By MARGARET A. STUDENC **News Record Correspondent** 

The Weaverville Town Council has taken what officials see as one more step toward solving the town's water supply problems.

The council has presented a proposed contract, drafted by town attorney Bill Barnes, to the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority. The contract, if approved, would provide Weaverville with water for the next five or six years, until town officials find a new source of water.

"This is going to be a milesione which will alleviate the problem in the meantime," said Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher.

Town officials are also looking at several possible permanent solutions to Weaverville's water supply problem, including a proposed \$10.5 million project to tap the Ivy River. Weaverville's share in the cost of that joint project, which as presently envisioned would include the town of Mars Hill and the Woodfin Sanitary District, would be \$2.3 million.

The contract with the Asheville-Buncombe Water Authority would only be an interim solution to the town's water woes, Lasher said.

Weaverville has had a moratorium on the construction of new water lines outside town limits since 1974.

Under the contract, the water authority would supply the town with a yet undisclosed amount of water. The town also wants a 24-inch water line laid north from Asheville to Weaverville within a year.

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#### Town Council 'Says No' To Drug Testing Plan

By MARGARET A. STUDENC News Record Correspon

Weaverville officials "just said no" Monday night to the random testing of town employees for drug

Councilman David Lankford, in a motion presented at Monday's meeting of the Weaverville Town Council, proposed "random drug testing of all town employees to proposal failed to win the support

of the rest of the council, nowever,

and the matter was dropped. Lankford, although not a town employee, said he would volunteer to be the first person tested.

Lankford said he is aware of illegal drug use by a certain town employee, but did not name the

Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher and other council members expressed reservations

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#### Pot Haul Tops \$3.5 Million

From Staff Reports
The Madison County Sheriff's Department confiscated what authorities say is \$3.5 million worth of marijuana plants, located this week by surveillance planes from the Henderson County Sheriff's Depart-

The two-day operation resulted in one of the largest findings of illegal crop in Madison County, Madison County Dedrick Brown said Tuesday.

The marijuana confiscated by authorites Monday and Tuesday is the largest amount discovered in Western North Carolina so far this year, and the largest since more than \$70,000 worth of marijuana was found in Transylvania County last year, Brown said.

Police Department.

Brown estimated the "street value" of the plants at \$2,992,000. Bureau of Investigation figure of \$1,600 per marijuana plant at maturi-

Another 169 marijuana plants were discovered Tueday in the Petersburg section, near Coate's Country Store.

The plants, found in a field surrounded by screening, have an estimated street value of \$270,000,

Some 3,000 plants were located in found late Tuesday in the Roberts the Grapevine area Monday by Branch area of the Little Pine secdeputies, also working in cooperation tion, he said. Those plants would have with the Mars Hill College Campus been worth some \$330,000 on the street, Brown said.

Planes from the Henderson County Sheriff's Department were in That value is based on a N.C. State Madison County Monday and Tuesday to help spot marijuana fields, Brown said.

Madison County Chief Deputy Dal Peek flew with the agents from Henderson County during the two-day operation.

No one has been arrested in connection with the confiscated marijuana, but authorities are continuing their investigation.



### Dodson, Lawson File For Town Elections

By BILL STUDENC Editor

Two more candidates - one in Marshall and one in Hot Springs - have thrown their names into the hat for Police Department. November's municipal elections.

John Dodson will seek his fourth term as an alderman in the town of Marshall, while Johnny A. Lawson, an unsuccessful candidate for Hot Springs aldermen in 1985, has decided to try again.

aldermen races Friday.

Lawson, a 20-year employee with M.B. Haynes Electrical Co. in Asheville, said his top priority, if elected, is to upgrade the Hot Springs

"We've had a lot of trouble in our police department the past three or four years," Lawson said. "We've had people suing them for all sorts of things and keeping them tied up in court."

Both former Police Chief John Bar-Dodson, 34, and Lawson, 46, filed rett and his replacement, Terry Lee for their respective board of Getman, found themselves facing

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## Golf Resort Coming To Mars Hill Area

By STEVE FERGUSON

A 660-acre golf resort is under construction in the Ivy River sec-tion of Madison County near Mars Hill, due to be completed by next

The resort could generate \$35 million in property sales, said Charles Stansell, real estate broker for the property. Procent work at the site will

reate 30 to 30 jubs for the area, according to its Florido developer, fank Whitfield. The project will be called Phensant Run, named after the phensants that used to

dominiums, Whitfield said. Tennis courts, a swimming pool and a clubhouse are planned, and riding stables are being considered. Currently, the only such resort in Madison County is Wolf Laurel. Whitfield doesn't expect to compete with the vacation resort, rather to attract customers from the area.

STEVE PERGUSON PHOTO

tion is under way at Pheasant Run, a 660-acre golf resort in the Ivy River section mear Mars Hill

### State School Plan Gives \$10 Million To Madison, \$80 Million To Buncombe

A:10-year plan to fund construction of schools across North Carolina, ap-proved last week by the General Assembly, would set aside more than \$10 million for schools in Madison County and \$80 million for those in

Martin has criticized the increase in business lax, and continued to push for a \$1.5 billion bond issue to pay for construction of schools.

But the Democrat-controlled