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## 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 "living history interpretation." Above, the troops prepare to engage the enemy. Right, drummers lay down a beat to keep the soldiers marching in cadence.



BILLSTUDENC PHOTOS

## DSS Did Not Err In Child Abuse Case

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

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

and relatives asked the Madison 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 charges.

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

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 Tuesday.

"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 milestone 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 Correspondent

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

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 see if illegal drugs are used." His proposal failed to win the support

of the rest of the council, however, 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 employee.

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 Department.

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 authorities 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.

Some 3,000 plants were located in the Grapevine area Monday by deputies, also working in cooperation with the Mars Hill College Campus Police Department.

Brown estimated the "street value" of the plants at \$2,992,000. That value is based on a N.C. State Bureau of Investigation figure of \$1,600 per marijuana plant at maturity.

Another 169 marijuana plants were discovered Tuesday 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, Brown said.

A third cache of 208 plants was found late Tuesday in the Roberts Branch area of the Little Pine section, he said. Those plants would have been worth some \$330,000 on the street, Brown said.

Planes from the Henderson County Sheriff's Department were in 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.



John Dodson  
... files for re-election

## 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 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.

Dodson, 34, and Lawson, 46, filed for their respective board of 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 Police Department.

"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 Barrett and his replacement, Terry Lee Getman, found themselves facing

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## Golf Resort Coming To Mars Hill Area

By STEVE FERGUSON  
Staff Writer

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

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

Present work at the site will create 30 to 40 jobs for the area, according to its Florida developer, Hank Whitfield. The project will be called Pheasant Run, named after the pheasants that used to populate the area.

"When people begin building homes, it could potentially create hundreds of jobs," said Whitfield. "All sorts of construction jobs will be needed such as bricklayers, plumbers and carpenters."

homesites and about 100 condominiums, 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.

"It's a different development altogether (compared to Wolf Laurel)," said Whitfield. "We will have more local residents coming to our resort. At Pheasant Run we're closer to Asheville and we don't have such a steep elevation."

Wolf Laurel claims to have one of the highest elevation golf courses in the eastern United States.

The first phase of the Pheasant Run resort will cost



STEVE FERGUSON PHOTO

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

between \$5 million and \$6 million, said Whitfield. Although the opening is planned for summer 1988, weather and other factors could get in the way, he said.

"It depends a lot on what we can get done this summer. Even though construction would be completed, planting and growing will be done," he said.

Lots will cost from \$20,000 to \$25,000, said Stansell. "It's not unusual to find a \$100,000 lot in Western North Carolina in a nice golf community," he said. "People don't blink any more when you tell them \$25,000."

Stansell of the land for the course was owned by John Clyde Chandler, who died last year.

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

From Staff Reports

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

The legislature signed into law Thursday "Better Schools For North Carolina" legislation, ending months of political maneuvering between Republican Gov. James G. Martin and the Democrat-controlled legislature.

The legislation is expected to earmark from a reshuffle of resources a total of \$2.5 billion for school construction projects over the next 10 years.

A main plank in the plan is a two-million-dollar increase in the state's general fund, which would be used to fund school construction.

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

But the Democrat-controlled General Assembly gave final approval to the business tax increase last Wednesday.

"The education of our children is one of our most important responsibilities," said House Speaker Lister B. Ramsey, D-Madison. "The state's school buildings are in dire need of repair and replacement. This legislation will go a long way to solving these troubling problems by providing new money to build our schools."

The plan also includes a \$10 million increase in the state's general fund, which would be used to fund school construction.

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