

MADISON COUNTY LIBRARY
GENERAL DELIVERY
MARSHALL NC 28753

THE NEWS RECORD

Serving The People Of Our Communities Since 1901

Vol. 87 No. 48

Thursday, November 26, 1987

25¢



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Burley Sales Open

Employees of Farmer's Tobacco Warehouse, owned by Jimmy Ramsey of Madison County (left) unload burley grown by Danny Hyatt of Waynesville. Monday's opening day of tobacco sales brought an average price of

\$1.59 per pound. Sales have stopped for the Thanksgiving holiday and will resume Monday. The workers are Willard Revis of Marshall and Teddy Blankenship of Laurel.

HUD Report Faults Housing Authority

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development officials say they "are extremely concerned about the poor operation" of the Madison County Housing Authority.

Officials with HUD's regional office in Greensboro have warned that they may remove the housing authority as the administrative agency for public housing in Madison County, if corrective measures are not taken.

That warning comes after a recent audit and review of the housing authority revealed several problems - including a number of problems that had been revealed by a similar review four years earlier.

"We are EXTREMELY (emphasis part of written review) concerned about the poor operation of this program as evidenced by the high number of findings, SEVERAL of which are repeat findings from the 1983 management review," HUD officials said in a "Section 8 Existing Management Review" conducted in

'What concerns us is that these things have been happening for a long time and nothing has been done. But I get the impression that we have the housing authority's attention through this review.'

Robert W. Fields
HUD Housing Director

July.

Following that review, Madison County Housing Authority officials assured HUD that corrective action would be taken, according to the 1987 review, issued in September.

"Based on this 1987 review, it is clear that since 1983 the PHA's (public housing agency's) operation has worsened dramatically in all areas," the review stated.

HUD's reviews found recurrent problems in the housing authority's finances, occupancy rate and management practices.

Among the findings are improper documentation of administrative salaries and annual leave records; failure to collect rents from low-

income housing tenants as required; failure to properly determine the eligibility of public-housing tenants; failure to maintain public-housing units to federal standards; and, failure to maintain proper accounting practices.

Robert W. Fields, director of the Housing Management Division of HUD's Greensboro office, said that HUD may be forced to take drastic measures, if the Madison County Housing Authority does not immediately take corrective action.

"What concerns us is that these things have been happening for a long time and nothing has been done," Fields said. "But I get the impression

-Continued on Page 14

'The Messiah'

40 Years, Going Strong
In Weaverville Concert

By EMMA LOU WAMBLES
News Record Correspondent

Irene Holcombe Clark will direct an 80-member chorus accompanied by organist Ruth E. Mosley in a rendition of George Fredrick Handel's famed oratorio "The Messiah."

The presentation will be at the Weaverville United Methodist Church on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Clark has received much acclaim as director of the production. This season marks the 40th consecutive year that she has served in this capacity.

This dedicated lady was named the Most Distinguished Alumna of Berea College in 1971.

Many Madisonites may remember Mrs. Clark as the wife of Methodist minister Rev. W.C. Clark, who served in the Madison area from 1960-1972.

In a recent interview, Clark had nothing but praise for the abilities of organist Mosley.

"Transcribing the music and playing it on this organ are difficult tasks, but she can play anything," Clark said.

Mosley is choral director for North Buncombe High School. She has served as organist for the Weaverville United Methodist Church since 1973.

The 80 chorus members include both local folks and people from different neighboring areas. Different faiths are represented, also.

"Through music everyone has a common denominator," Clark said.

Soloists for this presentation will be Hannah Pennel singing soprano, JoAnn Roberson, alto, Michael

-Continued on Page 14



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Organist Ruth E. Mosley and director Irene Holcombe Clark show off the new organ to be used in Sunday's presentation of 'The Messiah.'

Collins Pleads Guilty To Attempted Rape

From Staff Reports

A 26-year-old Marshall man received a 30-year prison sentence last week after pleading guilty to the attempted rape of an 8-year-old girl.

Terry Collins Jr. of Collins Road, Marshall, entered the guilty plea in Madison County Superior Court last Thursday.

Collins faced three sexual abuse charges involving the girl. Those offenses occurred over a three-year period, according to authorities.

A Madison County grand jury indicted Collins in August on charges of rape, first-degree sexual offense and taking indecent liberties with a child.

According to the Madison County Sheriff's Department, Collins sexually abused the girl, who is now 8 years old, several times between June 1, 1984 and June 30 of this year.

Collins entered the plea Thursday

as the result of a plea bargain arrangement with the District Attorney's Office.

In exchange for his plea of guilty to the charge of attempted first-degree rape, the District Attorney's Office dismissed the charges of first-degree sexual offense and taking indecent liberties with a child.

Superior Court Judge Charles Lamm sentenced Collins to the maximum term of 20 years. Among the aggravating factors considered by Lamm in the sentencing was that Collins had taken advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense.

Lamm gave Collins eight days of credit on his 20-year sentence for time served while awaiting trial, and recommended that he be allowed to participate in the work-release program.

Authorities Investigate Big Laurel Shooting

From Staff Reports

The Madison County Sheriff's Department is still investigating the Monday shooting death of a 44-year-old man from the Big Laurel section.

Carol Willy Chandler died Monday afternoon from injuries sustained in the shooting, said Dal Peek, chief deputy with the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

Chandler had been shot in the face "at fairly close range" with a .32-caliber pistol, Peek said.

Authorities are still investigating the shooting, which occurred at about 3:55 p.m. Monday, but say they expect charges to be filed within the week.

"We're still investigating," Peek said Tuesday. "There's no question about who shot who. It's a question of why and how."

Peek said a murder warrant has been drawn in connection with the shooting, but has not yet been served on the suspect.

Peek would not say who would be charged in the shooting, but said that Chandler was shot during a domestic dispute at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Chamber of Big Laurel.

"What we have is that the gun went off and that a man was shot," Peek said. "We have some discrepancies in some of the evidence I'm collecting right now, but we expect to have it all by the end of the week."



BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Stuart Jolley, master of ceremonies, had the best seat in the house for last week's annual Mars Hill Christmas parade. Hundreds of folks turned out for the event, despite chilly temperatures and gusty winds.

Hundreds Brave Cold For Parade

Despite bone-chilling temperatures and gusty winds, hundreds of Madison County folks turned out Saturday for the event signaling the beginning of the holiday season - the annual Mars Hill Christmas parade.

And what a parade it was, complete with marching bands, football players, cheerleaders, homecoming queens, floats, fire trucks, strollers, candy and, of course, Santa Claus.

A brave young woman from one of the area's leading parades shocked the crowd by showing off her tan. It wasn't her slinky attire that was so shocking - it was that she endured the biting wind and bitter cold to show that these things really must work, the woman

was brown, not blue. Stuart Jolley did a fine job as master of ceremonies, announcing the various entries as they paraded down Main Street despite the wind's attempts to carry off his notes.

Jolley was filling in for Bob Caldwell who was unable to attend due to a death in his family.

The Lions Club worked hard to provide refreshments, including hot dogs and soft drinks. Needless to say, coffee and hot chocolate would have been big sellers on Saturday.

Several parade entries came from the Weaverville area. Madison County will enjoy the largest and best

-Continued on Page 2

Man Calls For Probe Into Grapevine Fires

By BILL STUDENC
Editor

A Madison County man who lost his home in a 1986 fire is circulating petitions asking the State Bureau of Investigation to look into several suspicious fires in the Grapevine community.

Charles Taylor of Cody Road says he is simply not satisfied with the SBI's investigation into a Jan. 9, 1986, fire that destroyed his home.

"The SBI came in and found a big hole blown in the floor," Taylor said. "They checked it out and said they would conduct an investigation, but they never did."

Eddie Fox, chief of the Mars Hill

Fire Department, suspected arson and notified the SBI, Taylor said. The SBI did come to the scene of the fire, but never talked to witnesses in the community, he said.

"I talked to several parties who saw smoke, and they said the SBI never talked to them," Taylor said.

There have been several suspicious fires in the Grapevine community over the past three years, including the blaze that destroyed Taylor's home. "There have been a lot of burnings out there and none of them fully investigated," he said.

Taylor said he wants the SBI to come in and complete its in-

-Continued on Page 14

Burnsville Man, 19, Dies In Crash Near Mars Hill

From Staff Reports

A 19-year-old Burnsville man died Friday morning after his convertible sports car crashed head-on into a pickup truck on U.S. 19 near Mars Hill.

Roger Wayne Carroll, of Route 3 Burnsville, was driving toward Burnsville on U.S. 19 when his Triumph Spitfire collided with a Toyota four-wheel drive pickup truck driven by Jeff Roberts of Mars Hill.

Carroll was traveling in the wrong lane of traffic when the accident occurred, said Trooper Jerry Tate of the U.S. Highway Patrol, the Burnsville man's attorney.

why Carroll was in the wrong lane.

"One witness said that about five feet before he met the pickup truck head-on, he (Carroll) just cut into the left-hand lane," Tate said.

Tate estimated the speed of both vehicles at about 55 mph at the time of impact.

After the collision, Roberts' pickup truck turned over twice, coming to rest on the right-hand side of the highway, according to the Burnsville man's attorney.

Carroll was pinned in his vehicle, and was killed in the north-south collision.