

# THE NEWS RECORD

Serving Madison And Northern Buncombe Counties

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## Gore, Bush Win In Madison, Buncombe

**From Staff Reports**  
Voters in Madison and northern Buncombe counties overwhelmingly endorsed U.S. Sen. Albert Gore and Vice President George Bush in balloting in the "Super Tuesday" presidential primary.

In Madison County, Democrats gave Gore a whopping 60 percent of the vote, while Democrats in northern Buncombe precincts (Weaverville 1 and 2, Flat Creek, Reems Creek, French Broad and Ivy 1 and 2) gave the Tennessee senator 54 percent of the vote.

On the Republican side, Bush claimed 61 percent of the vote cast in Madison County and 51 percent in northern Buncombe County.

Those primary election returns, unofficial until Thursday's canvass, echo the results of balloting across North Carolina.

Gore was the winner across the state, taking 35 percent of the vote. The Rev. Jesse Jackson finished a close second, with 33 percent of those going to the polls picking Jackson.

Jackson did not fare as well in predominantly white Western North Carolina, however, finishing a distant third in both Madison and northern Buncombe. In Madison, Jackson col-

lected only 9 percent of the vote, while he could get only 8 percent in northern Buncombe precincts.

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis finished second on the Democratic ballot in WNC, claiming 19 percent of the vote in Madison County and 25 percent in northern Buncombe. Dukakis could only do as well as third in the state, however, with 12 percent.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the day came on the Republican side of the ballot, where U.S. Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas finished a disappointing second in the state. Western North Carolina voters also followed that trend.

According to unofficial tallies, only 40 percent of Republican voters across North Carolina picked Dole. Madison Republicans gave Dole 30 percent of the vote and northern Buncombe Republicans gave him 31 percent.

Dole, whose wife, Elizabeth, is from North Carolina, had hoped to win the state.

Another surprise for the Republican Party was the poor showing of former television evangelist Pat Robertson, who could collect only 10 percent of the Republican votes

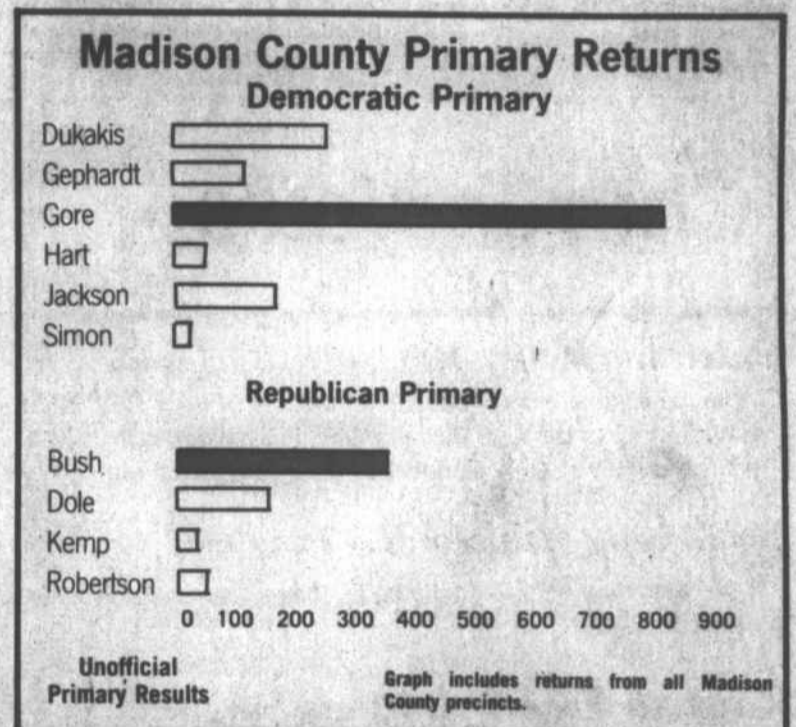
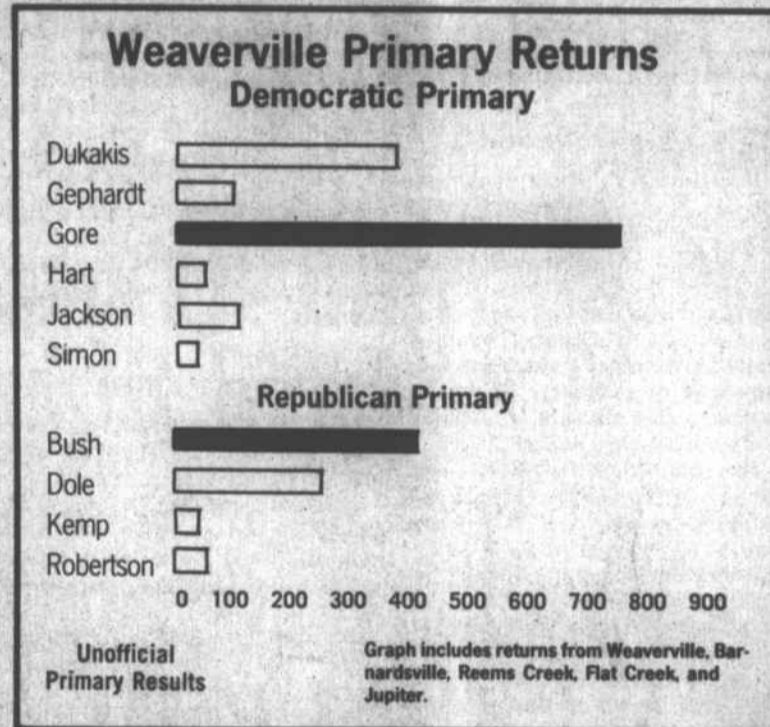
cast in North Carolina. Robertson supporters had expected their candidate to do better in the

"Bible Belt" areas. In Madison and northern Buncombe counties, Robertson finished

in third place with 5 percent of the vote in Madison and 10 percent in Buncombe.

Voter turnout in both Madison and Buncombe counties was light, with an

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Madison County Sheriff Dedrick Brown, right, and finance officer Ralph Rice discuss proposed cutbacks in the sheriff's department with the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

## Budget Problems May Force Deputy Cutbacks

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Sheriff Dedrick Brown got some good news and some bad news Monday from the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

First the good news: The commissioners agreed to allocate another \$46,000 to the Madison County Sheriff's Department, a move that will enable the department to continue operations through the end of the year.

Now, the bad news: Despite the additional \$46,000 allocation, Brown will have to initiate some drastic departmental cutbacks - perhaps including decreasing the number of deputies from four to two.

The budget amendment -- unanimously approved after a lengthy and lively discussion between Brown, the commissioners, county attorney Larry Leake and finance officer Ralph Rice - also meant some bad news for the county commissioners. The extra \$46,000 allocated to the sheriff's department will come from the county's already-depleted contingency fund, and will leave commissioners with only \$2,000 for use in case of emergency.

The reason for the additional appropriation is that the sheriff's department, as of March 1, had spent \$177,474.59 of \$189,129 originally budgeted for county law enforcement.

"Now there is \$11,000 left from the original budget," Rice said. "That's not enough to meet the March payroll."

If Brown continues spending at the same rate he has been for the first eight months of the fiscal year, he will have spent \$265,000 - \$75,871 more than originally allocated and \$38,000 more than Brown's requested budget of \$227,000, Rice said.

Commissioners said the county simply does not have enough money to allow Brown to continue spending at that rate.

"Here's the problem," said Commissioner Reese Steen. "We wish we

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## Weaverville Official Considers Resignation

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

To resign, or not to resign. That is the question now facing Ann Williams, one of the newest members of the Weaverville Town Council.

Williams last week announced that she intended to resign from the council after serving for only three months.

But this week Williams said she has been contacted by a number of people urging her to reconsider her resignation.

"I have had several people call

me, come by the house and stop me on the streets asking me not to resign," she said Tuesday. "At this time, I don't know what to tell you."

Williams has typed up a letter of resignation to submit to town officials, but Weaverville Mayor Reese Lasher told her to hold onto the letter, she said.

Lasher could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Williams said she is uncertain exactly what she will do now.

"It was a hard decision to make,

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Ann Williams ... undecided on resignation

## Appointed Tax Collector To Be Studied By County

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Madison County Commissioner Reese Steen suggested Monday that county officials seek legislative action changing the way school board members and the county tax collector are selected.

Steen, during the monthly meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners, suggested that the county consider asking the General Assembly to change the Madison County Board of Education to a non-partisan body. Currently, school board members are selected in a partisan election, with Republicans and Democrats running for school board

seats. Steen also suggested that the commissioners look into making the county tax collector an appointed, rather than elected, position. That move could result in a higher tax collection percentage, he said.

He told fellow Commissioners Robert Capps and John Hensley that he was making suggestions and not asking for their official approval. "I am not making a motion, but I will at a future meeting," he said. "I want to give you time to study this."

Steen has been a vocal supporter of changing the way members of the school board are selected. He has frequently called for the election of

school board members on a non-partisan basis as a way to remove politics from the school system and improve the educational process.

New was Steen's suggestion that commissioners seek legislative action enabling the commissioners to appoint the county tax collector, who is now elected every two years in a countywide election.

"As you gentlemen are aware, we are constantly asked why we can't collect taxes. How many meetings have we had where people demanded that we collect back taxes?" Steen asked.

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## Mars Hill Gets Annexation Requests

By HASSIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen discussed the annexation of several housing developments during Monday's meeting, but took no action.

The first annexation request was presented by Cliff and Diane Schommer of Mars Hill, who would like to buy property off East View Drive to build 34 single family dwellings. They asked the town to annex this area to provide water and sewage for these homes.

Arpin Construction also asked the town for an annexation in the area of Dole's Grocery on Old N.C. 252. The company is planning to build homes in this area, providing water and sewage to the property.

Arpin approached the town Planning Board and has agreed to split the cost of the work. If the town will provide the piping, then Arpin Construction will do the ground work that is involved.

The final annexation request was brought to the board by J.F. Robinson, who said he would like to see a new housing development at the mouth of Woodhaven. This would consist of about nine homes.

The board delayed a decision on these requests until it can look at the town's finances.

Town officials also say they are concerned that the town may not have enough water supply to meet the needs of these developments.

meeting and until the cost of the projects can be determined.

Another matter on the agenda was the approval of a proposed Tennessee Valley Authority pilot program.

The TVA pilot program is designed to help the economic development of poor areas. The program could help with job creation and income enhancement.

The board agreed to support the program and Alderman John Chandler volunteered to be on the steering group, which will help the program get under way. Earlier in the day the Madison County Board of Commissioners also voted for the program, which will be overseen by the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

## WMMH Seeks \$20,000 From Marshall

From Staff Reports

WMMH Radio in Marshall is seeking up to \$20,000 in restitution for damages allegedly caused to the station's broadcasting equipment by the town of Marshall's work crews.

Hurley and Karen Buff, owners of WMMH, appeared before the Marshall Board of Aldermen last Tuesday to present a damage claim.

The staff contend that town employees damaged radio station equipment in early December when they were working on the town's water system.

tubes to blow.

Marshall officials say the workers were on the town's right of way while laying a water line to bypass a 50,000-gallon reservoir located near the station.

"The town has a right of way to access the reservoir property," said town clerk Linda Dadeau. "They've got their own system on the reservoir property."

Hurley and Buff said they will have to either accept the town's offer or sue the town for the damages. "We're not trying to take the town for a ride," Buff said. "But there are certain expenses that will have to either come out of their pocket or out of my pocket."

Hurley Buff, contacted this week, said he has retained attorney Larry Leake, who will meet with Marshall in an attempt to reach a settlement.

"I suppose if the town doesn't come up with some reasonable settlement, there will be a lawsuit filed," Buff said.

"We're not trying to take the town for a ride," Buff said. "But there are certain expenses that will have to either come out of their pocket or out of my pocket."