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## Hot Springs OKs Vote On Beer, Wine

By HASSIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen agreed Monday to allow town residents to vote on whether to allow the sale of beer and wine for off-premises consumption in Hot Springs.

Aldermen had discussed the proposed referendum on the sale of beer and wine at last month's meeting, but did not act on the issue. Before a vote by the aldermen could be taken, the board had to check on legal questions surrounding the sale of beer in town.

At the present time, Hot Springs is the only town in Madison County that has a state ABC (liquor) store. If voters in the town approve the sale of

beer and wine, Hot Springs will be the only town in Madison County selling those beverages.

The town board has agreed to call

for the referendum on the beer and wine issue because of the additional revenue the sale of those beverages could mean for the town, said Hot

Springs Mayor Kenny Ramsey.

"If the sale of beer is voted in by the people of Hot Springs, it will generate much-needed revenue that will other-

wise more than likely come from raising water rates and taxes and such," Ramsey said.

Additional revenues for the town

would be in the form of beverage and sales tax, he said. Town officials have been cutting back in various municipal departments because of decreasing revenues coming into the town, Ramsey said.

"Right now, we get the cans and the bottles, and everybody around us gets the taxes from it," Ramsey said.

Ramsey said he could not estimate how much revenue the town may receive.

"This has been thrown around and around for years, but ever since the county voted beer out in 1948, it's not come back up for a vote," he said.

Beer and wine sales could also help boost Hot Springs as a destination for

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## Alderman Won't Resign After All

By HASSIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

Hot Springs Alderman Wesley Staudé has decided not to resign from the Board of Aldermen.

Staudé announced his resignation from the board three weeks ago due to "personal reasons."

But, after receiving "numerous phone calls and visits" from people who voted for him, Staudé has decided against the resignation.

Because the Hot Springs Board of Aldermen had not taken action accepting Staudé's resignation, the resignation never actually

took effect. Staudé has now decided to simply withdraw his letter of resignation and keep his seat on the town board.

Staudé said that his initial decision to resign was not due to any disagreement with the board or town.

"I needed to find a full-time job, that was my main reason for deciding to resign," he said.

Staudé was the only incumbent alderman in Hot Springs to seek re-election in last year's municipal election.

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BILL STUDENC PHOTO

Regional, state and federal officials meet with the Marshall Board of Aldermen to discuss the town's plans to update its wastewater treatment facility.

## Marshall, State Reach Sewage Discharge Pact

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

Marshall and state officials met Monday to iron out an agreement that, if approved, would enable the town to continue discharging treated wastewater into the French Broad River.

That tentative agreement came as the Marshall Board of Aldermen hosted a gathering of regional, state and federal officials to discuss possible grants for more than \$1 million in planned improvements to the town's wastewater treatment plant.

If the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD) approves the agreement, Marshall can continue operating its wastewater treatment plant - despite the fact that the plant will still not comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

EPA announced Jan. 30, 1984, that

all public treatment facilities must, by July 1, 1988, comply with federal standards for the discharge of wastewater into streams. Marshall, which is attempting to obtain state and federal funding for improvements to its wastewater treatment system, will be unable to meet that deadline.

State NRCD officials have frequently warned the town that discharge from the treatment plant into the French Broad River has not met water-quality standards. NRCD has threatened to obtain a permanent injunction that would have prevented the town from discharging into the French Broad River until it is able to meet those standards. But Mike Parker of NRCD's Division of Environmental Management, Marshall town attorney Edwin Mashburn and Heath Dobson, engineer for Marshall's sewage treatment plant improvement project, met Monday in

an attempt to forestall an injunction. The men were able to reach agreement on a proposed consent order giving Marshall a strict timetable to follow in implementing planned improvements to its sewage treatment system.

The tentative agreement also spells out fines that will be levied against Marshall for failing to meet those deadlines.

The consent order, which must be signed by a Superior Court judge, calls for the town to submit its improvement plans to NRCD by Dec. 30.

The town must award contracts by June 30, 1989, and complete construction by either June 30, 1991, or Dec. 30, 1991, depending upon a ruling from NRCD officials in Raleigh.

Town officials are hoping they will have a full year to get the new system in compliance with the federal regulations. State officials say they

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## Madison Democrats Criticize Sheriff For 'Overspending'

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

The Madison County Democratic Party endorsed Saturday a resolution criticizing Sheriff Dedrick Brown, a Republican, for "reckless spending" of county funds.

The party, during its annual county convention, also commended two members of the Madison County Board of Commissioners for taking steps to curb Brown's "appetite for overspending."

Zeno Ponder, longtime Madison County Democratic leader, introduced the resolution, which also criticized the spending habits of another Republican - President Ronald Reagan.

"Whereas our president, Ronald Reagan, has miserably failed to balance his budget, and whereas our

sheriff, Mr. Dedrick Brown, has failed to live within his budget, and whereas two county commissioners, chairman Bobby Capps and member John Hensley, have publicly stated the facts and perhaps curbed Mr. Brown's appetite for overspending, now therefore this convention goes on record commending the action by Mr. Capps and Mr. Hensley, and we regret that Mr. Reagan continues spending \$500 million each day, seven days a week as he has for seven-and-a-half years," Ponder said in his resolution. "We abhor such reckless spending of our children's future."

Commissioners Capps and Hensley, at a March 7 meeting, agreed to give Brown an additional \$46,000 to keep his department operating through the end of the fiscal year. But even with the extra

money, Brown was forced to make cutbacks in sheriff's department personnel.

Commissioners recommended that he lay off three deputies, but Brown decided to lay off four dispatchers, who also serve as jailers, and close Madison County Jail.

The commissioners and Brown have since found themselves in a running battle over funding for the sheriff's department. Capps and Hensley purchased advertising space in The News Record outlining their position, prompting Brown to take out an ad the following week explaining his side of the dispute.

Commissioner Reese Steen, who was absent from the March 7 meeting, cast a resounding - and the only - "no" vote to Ponder's resolution.

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## Monkeying Around Fire Department's Circus Coming After Ballfield Dispute Resolved

By BILL STUDENC  
Editor

It may not have been the greatest show on earth, but it was the best show in town Monday night when Marshall officials found themselves in middle of an argument over whether the Marshall Elementary School baseball field should be the site for a circus.

The Marshall Volunteer Fire Department had scheduled the Roberts Bros. Circus to come to town today (Thursday), not knowing that the Marshall Boosters Club had already laid claim to the baseball field.

And that left some question as to whether the circus, used by the

fire department as a fund-raising activity, would go on. That question was answered during a lively discussion at Monday night's meeting.

"We don't want to make these people (Boosters Club) made, but at the same time, where do we tell these circus people to put their monkeys and stuff?" asked David Worley of the fire department.

"When that man drives up with his elephant, what do I tell him - 'Park that elephant, mister, we're having a little problem over the field,'" Worley said.

The fire department had made plans for the circus several months ago, but apparently did not

check with the town board, he said.

"We thought, to be perfectly honest, that we had the town's blessing to have a circus. Now I see I was grossly overexpecting," he said.

"To my knowledge, it's never been brought before the board that there was a circus coming," said Alderman Ed "Doc" Niles.

Worley said the fire department could not break its contract with the circus without paying a substantial penalty.

The fire department has planned the circus as an annual event, he said.

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## Mary's Restaurant Changes Hands, To Get New Name

By HASSIE PONDER  
Staff Writer

A long-time gathering place in Madison County will soon be changing its name.

As of last Thursday evening, Mary's Restaurant on the U.S. 29-78 bypass changed ownership.

According to Jimmy Hensley, Mary's was Mary's Restaurant and

Bob Buckner is now the new owner. He is retired from the U.S. Navy and also retired from Carolina Power & Light Co. He has lived in Madison County since 1961.

Along with a new name, BC's, the restaurant is undergoing changes. There will be no separate dining room. The restaurant will be a full-service restaurant.

Mary's Restaurant won't be Mary's Restaurant much longer. The long-time Madison county restaurant - Bob Buckner - who

## Ramsey Named Most Effective Legislator

From Staff Reports

House Speaker Linton B. Ramsey of Madison County has, for the fourth consecutive year, been rated as the most effective member of the N.C. House of Representatives.

Senate Majority Leader Kenneth Royal Jr., D-Durham, was rated as the most effective member of the N.C. Senate.

These rankings are according to the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research Inc., an independent, non-partisan research organization that ranks legislators on a scale of 1 to 100.

of the effectiveness of legislators, said Dan Coble, executive director of the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research.

Those who name legislators and who make the rankings are the best qualified people in the state to judge legislators, he said.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1977.

The center's research is based on a survey of voters in each of the 100 legislative districts in the state.