

Commissioners Study Manager Idea

Change Would Replace County Finance Officer And Could Save \$

School Employs Guard

Security Man Now Patrols High School

A security officer has been hired by the Madison County Board of Education for the county high school.

Madison High Principal David Wyatt said former county deputy Jasper Treadway has been employed on a temporary basis since the beginning of this week, Sept. 19.

"It's a fairly common practice now at high schools," Wyatt said. "North Buncombe has one. We talked about it for a year or two.

"It's something to keep things going smoothly; it's not really a guard but more of a public relations person."

Wyatt said a permanent security officer would be hired by the board later.

He said Treadway patrols the parking lot and the school building from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each school day. The main purpose is to keep non-students and other unwarranted persons from the school grounds and buildings, Wyatt said.

Having a security officer around also can deter illegal drug selling, violence and "helps keep the students from leaving without permission."

No single incident prompted the move, the principal added.



Historic Trail May Run Through Madison Co.

National Park Service Traces De Soto's path Through Southeast

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

During the next two months the National Park Service will hold a series of public meetings in seven states to gather opinions on the possible designation of a national trail following the route 450 years ago by Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto.

The proposed trail path leading from Florida through Georgia and South Carolina crosses a portion of Madison County.

Wink Hastings of the National Park Service said the meetings are a part of a feasibility study currently under way to determine if the trail should be

added to the National Trails system.

"A lot will be based on archeological information, but there is not much of that now," Hastings said in a telephone interview. "That's one reason the meeting - we hope to get more interest and research and pinpoint the trail better in the future."

"The only confirmed is in Florida, and that was found last year," he said. "It was a 4,000-mile route and information is very sketchy, mostly from diaries."

De Soto himself never got to make that final report - he died on the expedition.

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By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

A county manager may be employed in place of a new finance officer by the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

The issue, which all three commissioners agreed is important enough for serious consideration, probably will be discussed at the board's Oct. 10 meeting.

No special meeting has been set to talk about the topic, Board Chairman Bobby Capps said.

"It's certainly something that's worth looking into," Capps said of the idea. "And there's a good possibility we will go that route. We need to look into it and see if it's possible to get a county manager instead of a finance officer."

Commissioner John Hensley also

said the idea merits the board's attention.

"I think we ought to take a good look at it before we get out on a limb," Hensley said. "Anything that can help the county and the people of the county I can't refuse. We're going to have to try something."

"But we ought to eyeball it good before we do it," he said.

Hensley was concerned that a county manager may become too wrapped up in recruiting industrial development for Madison County, a job now handled largely by the individual commissioners.

Also, Hensley said he was not certain Deputy Finance Officer Darlene Rhinehart's office could handle all the finance department duties during peak busy periods without additional help.

Commissioner Reese Steen, though, said he wants the board to investigate the matter before hiring a new finance officer to replace Frank Rice, who recently resigned to accept a teaching job.

Steen said there is a possibility employing a county manager instead of a finance officer might save the county money.

He said he would not be in favor of establishing another layer of county government in the courthouse but wants to shift some offices in the courthouse to set up a more efficient operation.

The idea also has caught the attention of the Madison County League of Women Voters, which has set up an open meeting on the question of a county manager for the county at the

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Training Center Plans To Honor Liston Ramsey

House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey, D-Marshall, will be honored Saturday at the dedication of the Western North Carolina Regional Allied Health and Geriatric Training Center at Sylva.

A special plaque honoring Speaker Ramsey will be unveiled at the new \$6 million facility, for which Ramsey helped get funding through the General Assembly.

"The ceremony will tout Ramsey for his role in securing approval of state funds for the center project," said Kimberly Rice of Southwest Community College.

Ramsey is serving his fourth term as Speaker and his 13th term in state office. He was first elected in 1961 to

the N.C. legislature. "A champion of Western North Carolina, he is considered the strength behind much legislation that has favored the region," Rice said in a release.

N.C. Atty. Gen. Lacy H. Thornberg and Department of Community Colleges President Robert W. Scott will be featured also on the program.

The Smokey Mountain British Brass Band will perform following the dedication ceremony, and a giant fireworks display by Jerry Warren will light up the sky.

A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m., and the fireworks display will be at 9:30 p.m.



Liston B. Ramsey

Sheriff Waiting For Lab Results

No arrests have been made in connection with the Labor Day eve fire that caused an estimated \$100,000 to the Madison County courthouse.

Sheriff Dedrick Brown said several suspects had been questioned since arsonists set three small fires inside the 81-year-old historic landmark three weeks ago.

Brown also said he was waiting for some evidence to be analyzed and returned from the state Crime Lab in Raleigh.

Repair work on the courtroom, the most extensively damaged part in the building, has not begun, although Clerk of Court Jim Cody said he was told repair work would begin last week.

The vandals apparently broke into the building through a window in the Tax Collector's office. Fires were set in trash cans in the Register of Deeds office and the Clerk's office, but those fires extinguished themselves.

The fire in the courtroom, though, took the heaviest toll - destroying one-third of the judge's bench and searing the walls and ceiling as well as burning a hole in the floor.

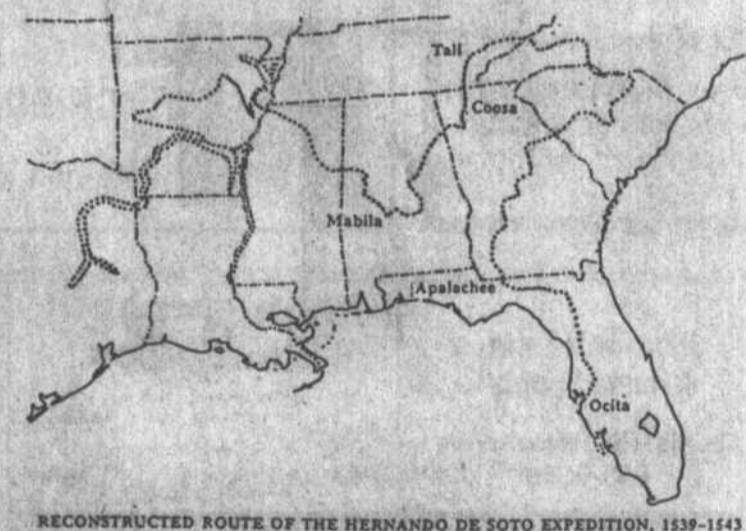
A \$10,000 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the fire has been offered by the State Bureau of Investigation, and another \$3,000 has been added.

Board Selects Architect For New School

An architectural firm to draft plans for a proposed \$6.5 million middle school for Madison County has been tentatively hired by the county board of education.

The board instructed School Supt. Bob Edwards and school board lawyer Ernest Hall to negotiate terms with the firm of Woodard and Holmbeck of Asheville and report at the board's Oct. 4 meeting.

The action was taken in a special meeting Sept. 29.



RECONSTRUCTED ROUTE OF THE HERNANDO DE SOTO EXPEDITION, 1539-1543

Raleigh Firm Plans Woodfin Shopping Mall

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

A Raleigh development firm plans to build a 136,000 square foot shopping center on 18.5 acres along the Weaverville Highway at Woodfin.

The center, to be called the Newbridge Shopping Center, will be built in two stages across from the Johnson-Chandley Lumber Co. Inc.

The developer, Bob Hughes & Associates, wants to begin construction on the first phase this fall and begin the second phase in the middle of next summer.

Hughes, president of the company, is a native of Buncombe County, where he attended Owen High School and played football for the Owen War Horses in the early 1960s before leaving for Raleigh and N.C. State University.

"Yeah, I'm an ole Swannanoa boy

who lived all his life around there," Hughes said. "I came here for N.C. State - hoping to get through as quick as I could and then go back home - and I've been here trying to make a living ever since."

Hughes company also developed the River Ridge Market Place shopping center in east Asheville, so the firm is no stranger to this portion of the state either.

"We've been working on this for about five years and talking with the property owner," he said. "We think it's a good location; it's not over-retailed, and we see a need."

The shopping center will include a grocery store, a drug store, a major retail or discount store and about half-dozen smaller shops.

When completed, Hughes said a total of 800 people would be employed

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Training Center To Open New Recycling Facility

By C.J. WILSON
Special Correspondent

Members of Madison, a training center to study recycling

will soon open a recycling center in Madison, N.C. The center will be a part of the Western North Carolina Regional Allied Health and Geriatric Training Center.

separated by color - and aluminum or steel cans," said Beth Heydman, program coordinator.

The center's non-profit program teaches students how to help the program. The program will help the program. The program will help the program.

Gardner Says Drugs Biggest Problem

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

Republican candidate for lieutenant governor James C. Gardner said he's not concerned with opinion polls.

"The only poll that I'm really concerned about is the one November 8th," Gardner told a gathering of the party faithful at the grand opening of Madison County GOP campaign headquarters last week in Marshall.

"Our polls show we're winning," Gardner said.

However, a Greensboro News & Record poll showed him behind Democrat Anthony E. Rand.

The News and Observer poll last week showed Gardner in a virtual tie with his Democratic opponent.

Those poll results, released Sept. 23, showed Gardner with an insignificant small lead over Rand, 33 percent to 31.2 percent, which is less than the poll's 3.5 percent margin of error.

In the same poll, there was a whopping 35.8 percent saying they were undecided.

Gardner, a former congressman who has run unsuccessfully for governor two times, is seeking to become the first Republican lieutenant governor since 1901.

The candidate, in Marshall Thursday to cut the ceremonial ribbon at the area campaign headquarters, was undaunted by poll numbers.

"The only way Republicans can lose is for Republicans to stay at home" election day, he told the group.

Gardner said Gov. James G. Martin, who is seeking re-election, needs a lieutenant governor who belongs to the same political party.

"We would work as a team," he told reporters. "Bob Jordan (a Democrat) has opposed him on everything. He flip-flopped on the education issue and he's been running for governor since he got elected" lieutenant governor.

Gardner favors a two-prong attack on the illicit drug problem.

He said the long-term battle against the illegal drug problem should be waged in the schools with intensive programs. "From the first grade on through junior high."

The short-term battle should be waged in the streets with intensive programs for dealers and users of



Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, former congressman Jim Gardner, visited Marshall last week to help open the GOP campaign headquarters on Main Street across from the county courthouse. Gardner is opposed by Democrat Tony Rand. H.D. Koontz photo.

Regional Agency To Aid Small Business Expansion

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

The Appalachia Regional Commission has designed a special project which could help Madison County businesses and industries become more competitive through the use of new technology.

The project is one of a several technology transfer initiatives being funded during the year in the Appalachian states using funds designed by the ABC for this purpose, said Ann M. Anderson, public affairs director. The objective of the program, which will make up to \$100,000

available to each of the commission's 13 member states, is to help small businesses and industries gain access to new processes that will help them modernize and thus compete for their share of economic growth, Anderson said.

Jerry Plemmons, vice chairman of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, said such programs for small businesses and industries is needed.

"We just do not have the sites for large or even small manufacturers here," Plemmons said, noting that in-

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Martin Suggests Funds To Speed Up I-26 Work

By H.D. KOONTZ III
The News Record Editor

The Chairman of the Madison County Chamber of Commerce

suggested that the state should speed up the work on I-26. He said that the state should speed up the work on I-26.

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