

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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BRENNA FENDER AND PAULA GUNTER post a package of letters at the Marshall Post Office to the American hostages in Iran.

Postmaster Jim Craine and Dedrick Roberts prepare to speed the package on its way.

3rd Graders Send Letters To Iran

Brenna Fender and Paula Gunter of Mrs. Ray's third grade class at Marshall Elementary School mailed a package containing letters from the class to the American hostages in Iran. The package contained 23 letters written by the students. Brenna's letter went as follows:

I am sorry that you have not been set free. I know you miss your friends and family. My church had prayed for you at Christmas. I hope you will be turned free very soon. I am in the third grade at Marshall school, and I am 8 years old. My whole class is thinking about you.

Your friend,
Brenna Fender

The letter written by Paula Gunter was the following:

Dear Hostages,
I am very sorry you have been captured. I hear a lot of news about the Iran situation. Are you all being fed and kept well? Are you all being treated nicely or are you all being punished? I hope the Lord blesses you to be back home with your families.

Love,
Paula Gunter

The class has been studying the plight of the captives in Teheran, watching news of them on television and in the newspapers and keeping track of the length of captivity. The project is being led by teacher Barbara Ray and teacher's aide Deborah Boone.

Bowman Funeral Home Hires New Director

Kenneth Johnson of Asheville has been employed by Bowman Funeral Home of Marshall as embalmer and funeral director, beginning work on Jan. 1. Johnson comes to his job with considerable experience, including three years as embalmer with Anders-Rice Funeral Home in Asheville and, before that, three years at the West Funeral Home in Weaverville.

(now University), and then moved to Fayetteville, where he graduated from high school. After high school he served a one-year apprenticeship with Rogers-Breece Funeral

home, then went to N.C. State for a year of courses similar to pre-med studies. For the final year of training he went to Cincinnati's College of Mortuary Science, part of Xavier University. He return-

ed to North Carolina and passed the state exam given in Raleigh by the State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

Kenneth and his wife Arlene now live in Asheville, but he is on the lookout for a house in Madison County. Arlene Johnson is trained as a surgical nurse and is now studying computer science at UNC/Asheville, hoping to combine the two specialties.



KENNETH JOHNSON

Farmers Asked To Return Burley Cards

All burley tobacco markets in the area have now closed and it is the responsibility of the farm operators to return their marketing cards to the ASCS office, according to W.B. Zink, county executive director for Madison ASCS.

The primary purpose of the marketing card is to provide the producer a simple way to officially account for the disposition of the tobacco his farm produces. Failure of the operator to timely return his card can result in a reduction of the farm quota for the following crop year unless he can present satisfactory proof of his entire marketings in some other manner, said Zink. Zink said that farm operators are required by the regulations governing the use of marketing cards to return them to the ASCS office immediately after the close of local markets, since these cards are needed to reconcile marketings recorded from data submitted by marketing records at each warehouse where tobacco is sold.

Food Stamp Program Announces Two Policy Changes

Effective Jan. 1, there are two changes in the food stamp program that will help households with elderly or disabled members to get extra food stamps. Your household may qualify if you or someone in your household is 60 or over; receives SSI or disability benefits under the Social Security Act; has medical expenses over \$35 a month; or has high shelter costs. These deductions are effective for applications by new

applicants and for applications for recertifications received Jan. 1 or after.

Allowable medical costs are medical and dental care, hospitalization or outpatient treatment, nursing care and nursing home care including payments by the household for an individual who was a household member immediately prior to entering a hospital or nursing home provided by a facility recognized

by the state. Also deductible are prescription drugs, costs of medical supplies, sick room equipment (including rental) or other prescribed equipment; health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums; Medicare premiums or spend-down expenses incurred by Medicaid recipients; dentures, hearing aids, eye glasses prescribed by the physician; and reasonable cost of transporta-

Suspect Arrested In Sodom Hold-up

A Sodom Laurel man was robbed by two bandits Jan. 8 who killed his dog and made off with \$545, according to Madison County Sheriff E.Y. Ponder.

The victim, Doug Wallin, 60, could not immediately recognize his assailants, both of whom were wearing masks. That afternoon, however, Junior Gunter, 36, of Sodom was arrested and taken to the county jail. A second suspect has not been positively identified.

The robbery occurred at about 9:30 a.m. on Wallin's driveway as he was walking out toward the main highway, where he was planning to meet another man.

As Wallin passed a vacant old house beside the road, said Sheriff Ponder, one of the two subjects approached him carrying a pump-style shotgun. At first Wallin thought it was a

joke, but the man said, "It's no joke; get your hands up." The men made Wallin lie face down on the road, and as he did they took his pistol, which he was carrying under his belt and which slid out from under him.

One of them laid the shotgun on the ground and told Wallin to get up and march into the house. Then a shot was heard in the house, thought to be a pistol, and Wallin's large shepherd dog - weighing in the neighborhood of 100 pounds -

attacked the assailants. One of the men picked up the shotgun and shot the dog three times, killing it.

The two robbers took Wallin into the house, tied him, taped his mouth, and removed his wallet. Both then fled on foot.

After 30 to 40 minutes Wallin struggled free and called the sheriff's office. Sheriff Ponder asked the State Highway Patrol to set up roadblocks, which they did, and called for a pack of bloodhounds. With the dogs, Deputy Sheriff

Frank Ogle, and several assistants, the sheriff arrested Junior Gunter at approximately 4 p.m. in the basement of a relative's house in the area.

Gunter escaped about six weeks ago from Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary in Tennessee, where he had been serving four consecutive 10-year sentences for robbery.

He has been charged with armed robbery and is being held in the Madison County jail without bail.

Herbert Ponder Appointed To High County Position

Herbert Ponder of Marshall has been employed as project coordinator for Madison County through a special federal grant made available by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, according to County Attorney Larry Leake.

According to a brief statement issued last week, Ponder, the son of Zeno H. Ponder of Ivy Hill Road, will

have a broad range of responsibilities. He will coordinate the county's activities in the areas of transportation, nutrition, recreation and energy and will work under the supervision of the Western Office of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development, located in Asheville.

graduate of North Carolina State University. After graduation he worked there in an agricultural research program, and then returned to Madison County as manager of Zenina Farms, owned by his father. Most recently he worked in housing construction and real estate.

Ponder's appointment is effective immediately.

Herbert Ponder is a

Hot Springs Health Group To Raise Rates

The Hot Springs Health Program will be increasing the charges for medical and dental services, effective Feb. 1, according to director Michael Norins.

Norins said that fees in the program have not gone up for three years, and that rising costs for all their operations are forcing the present increases.

"Our rates for basic services, such as a physical examination, will still be lower than rates elsewhere in the area," he said.

The sliding discount will continue to be available to eligible patients.

Complete fee schedules are available at all three program centers, at Hot Springs, Laurel, and Walnut/Marshall.

Marshall Reorganizes Town Planning Board

The town of Marshall has recently reorganized its Town Planning Board, which advised the Town Board on matters relating to the growth and future development of the community. The members of the Planning Board are: James Allen, chairman; Everett Barnette; Billie Jean Haney; Ed Niles; Faye Reid and John Taylor.

Currently, the Planning Board is trying to find out from the people of Marshall what the town's goals and objectives should be in the future. As a result, the Planning Board has developed a short survey form to determine the concerns of the town's residents. The survey form will be distributed by the Planning Board to all of the town's residents who wish to participate.

All residents are encouraged to participate, as the results of this survey will be used by the Planning Board in guiding its activities, and in advising the Town Board.

Questions regarding the survey should be directed to James Allen, chairman of the Planning Board.

Superior Court Postponed A Month

Jury Selection Is A Complex Process

The criminal session of Superior Court scheduled for Madison County has been postponed until February, according to Court Clerk James Cody.

The postponement was called in order to allow the clerk's office to complete preparation

of the jury list.

A jury "master list" is compiled every two years by the clerk's office and the Jury Commission. The new commission, composed of Swann Huff of Hot Springs, Jimmy Carter of Mars Hill, and Victor W. Burnette of Mars Hill,

has recently been sworn in to serve a two-year period. These members are appointed, one member each, by the resident superior court judge; the county commissioners; and the clerk of the superior court.

The Jury Commission instructs the clerk at the beginning of their term to prepare the master list of jurors. To do this, the clerk's office uses two sources: the county tax records and the voters registration books. There are about 12,000 names on the tax list and 10,000 on the registration books, for a total of 22,000 possible names. The clerk takes every sixth name from this total, compiling about 3,600 to 3,700 names.

Then comes the "purging" process - the elimination of any names that should or could not be called to serve on

a jury. Such names include those of businesses, nonresidents, deceased persons, disabled or incompetent persons, and those who have served on a jury within the last two years. By law, no one must serve more often than every two years.

After the purging process, about 2,600 to 2,700 names remain on the list. Each of these names is assigned a number, and a list of the names and numbers is sent to the Register of Deeds office across the hallway. This master list is kept throughout the two-year term of the jury commissioners.

Meanwhile, the jury numbers are also printed on small paper discs, about an inch and a half in diameter. These discs are put into a bulk metal box in the clerk's office.

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