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1985 Income Tax Guide

Community Calendar

Commissioners To Meet Monday

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet Monday afternoon at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

The Madison County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the re-naming of Grandview Road prior to their regular monthly meeting on March 4. All interested persons are urged to attend.

Mars Hill Board Meets March 4

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall.

Hot Springs Board To Meet

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hot Springs Town Hall.

School Board Meets March 6

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on March 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Vegetable Production Meeting

Farmers interested in growing vegetables this season should plan to attend a production meeting on March 6 at 9 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Chariot Restaurant on 7th Ave. W. in Hendersonville. Lunch will be provided at no charge.

The meeting will provide a good opportunity to learn about alternative crops to supplement decreasing tobacco income. For reservations, contact Wiley DuVall at 649-2411 before March 4.

Christmas Tree Meetings Set

There will be two meetings of interest to Christmas tree growers next week. On March 5 at the Marshall Senior Citizens Center on Long Branch Rd., insect and pest control will be discussed. Soil fertility and fertilizer rates and application times will be discussed on March 7 at the Agriculture Extension office in Marshall. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

Legion Auxiliary Meets

The Ladies Auxiliary of Post 317 will hold a meeting March 12 at 7 p.m., weather permitting.

250 Oppose Phone Rate Increase

By ROBERT KOENIG and BRENDA PARKER

Some 250 Madison County residents expressed their opposition to a proposed rate increase in local telephone service last Tuesday morning at a hearing held in Marshall. Three members of the Utilities Commission heard comments from the public regarding Continental Telephone's request for a 21 percent rate increase. The meeting was held in the First Baptist Church.

Originally scheduled for the Department of Social Services headquarters, the meeting site was changed in order to accommodate the large crowd.

Utilities Commission chairman Edward Hipps and commission members Ruth Cook and Hartwell

Campbell listened for five hours as residential and business telephone customers opposed the rate increase.

Continental Telephone was represented at the hearing by Kent Burns. Representatives of the Public Staff, Attorney General and Pisgah Legal Services also attended the meeting.

Continental filed for a \$4.5 million increase on Oct. 1, 1984. The rate increase, if approved, would raise residential telephone customers monthly bills an average of \$5, while business telephone customers would see their bills increase by 12.4 percent.

In making the application for increased rates, Continental has also proposed to eliminate zone charges for outlying telephone customers.

Althea Stamey Celebrates 100th Birthday

Althea Cogdill Stamey, formerly of Hot Springs and now a resident of the Madison Manor Nursing Home, celebrated her 100th birthday Monday afternoon with family and friends. Mrs. Stamey was born on February 25, 1885 in Del Rio, Tenn.

Mrs. Stamey was joined by her granddaughter, Joy Roberts, her son, Lloyd Stamey and her four great-grandchildren. The Madison Manor staff served a birthday cake and Hughie and Lena Ray brought along a lace tablecloth Mrs. Stamey had made some 40 years ago.

Mrs. Stamey and her husband, the late Crit Stamey, operated a fruit stand and boarding house in Hot Springs for many years. Hughie Ray said, "They were perfectionists. They said the best fruit you ever saw."

Mrs. Stamey boarded many teachers from Hot Springs High School and remembered a time when Mrs. Stamey took to her watermelon patch with a shotgun to ward off thieves.

Longevity is an apparent family trait in Mrs. Stamey's clan. Her granddaughter reports that Mrs. Stamey's mother, Hester Fleming Cogdill, lived well into her 90's.

Asked her secret to a long life, Mrs. Stamey replied, "I have no secret. I lead a clean life. I never smoked or drank and didn't chew or dip it. I worked hard and kept busy. I planted many a garden with a little horse, and I didn't waste no time."

Even at 100, Mrs. Stamey is far from Madison Manor's oldest resident. One of her friends, Nola Briggs, celebrated her 100 birthday on Feb. 2.

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

INCORRECT DATE

Correct Date February 27, 1985

25¢

Joe Griffey Fired

Dodson, Lunsford Vote To Dismiss Police Chief

By ROBERT KOENIG

Marshall police chief Joe Griffey was fired by the Marshall Board of Aldermen Monday night at a special called meeting attended by nearly 100 Marshall residents.

With two television camera crews lighting up the Town Hall like a Hollywood set, aldermen John Dodson and Sammy Lunsford voted to dismiss Griffey. Ed Niles, who had earlier proposed a motion to reinstate the police chief, opposed the firing.

Monday's special called meeting was the third such session in recent weeks. John Dodson called for an emergency meeting on Feb. 13 at which Griffey was suspended. On Feb. 19, Mayor Betty Wild had called an emergency meeting to discuss a proposed settlement of former police chief Carlie Gunter's lawsuit against the town.



JOE GRIFFEY spoke with reporters following his dismissal Monday night.

"I think Mr. Griffey is getting the royal shaft. I'm not through fighting this." -Mayor Betty Wild

Griffey's firing stems from a February 8 chase during which he shot nine times at a fleeing suspect in a Jeep. The suspect was eventually apprehended and charged with four misdemeanors.

Mayor Wild opened the 6:30 p.m. meeting by calling for comments from the crowd of Marshall residents attending the meeting. Lunsford then said there was no need for any discussion and called for a vote on firing or reinstating the police chief.

At that point, Ed Niles made a motion to reinstate Griffey. Niles' motion couldn't find a second among the other two aldermen and died without a vote.

Griffey Won't Face Charges

By ROBERT KOENIG

Suspended Marshall police chief Joe Griffey won't face criminal charges for firing his service pistol at a fleeing motorist. District Attorney James T. Rusher declined to charge Griffey following an investigation of the Feb. 8 shooting incident conducted by assistant DA James Baker.

While refusing to prosecute the officer, Rusher also criticized Griffey's actions in a letter to Marshall alderman John Dodson. In the letter Rusher stated, "Chief Griffey's conduct on this instance is without any basis for justification. Even so, it is my conclusion that the conduct does not necessarily amount to a violation of criminal law." Rusher added that his opinion in the matter would have been different had one of the shots struck the fleeing motorist.

Assistant District Attorney James Baker interviewed Griffey and acting police chief Larry Davis, who was driving the police car at the time of the shooting incident, during his investigation. Baker also spoke with Marshall town officials, the motorist involved in the shooting and members of the man's family during the course of his investigation.

Although critical of Griffey's action, Rusher also declined to make a recommendation concerning the police chief's removal from the town's force.

Wild explained that Edwards is no longer a certified officer. He had been patrolling with Griffey, but couldn't be used following Griffey's suspension.

The mayor also reported that the town's police telephone is still connected to Griffey's residence. Griffey said he is relaying calls to the mayor or town police.

Griffey's lawyer told reporters following the meeting that his client will sue the town for violating his civil rights. No further legal action has been taken at this time. Griffey declined to comment on the dismissal other than to say that "It went the way I thought it would." The former police chief also charged that politics were behind his dismissal.

John Dodson then followed by making a motion to dismiss Griffey for his actions during the Feb. 8 chase. Lunsford then

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"This conduct on the part of the Chief of Police is excessive and, in all respects, completely inappropriate."

-District Attorney James T. Rusher

In his letter to Dodson, the DA wrote, "I have no intention of stating to you whether or not Chief Griffey should be censured, removed or retained...I am not suggesting that the chief should be fired or otherwise, but I do point out to you that your town governing body has the authority to supervise your employees..."

In closing his letter, Rusher suggested that Marshall establish a policy and procedural manual for the town's police officers to spell out what action should be taken in specific situations. Rusher closed by offering to assist the town in creating such a manual.

Settlement Will Cost \$3,700

An out-of-court settlement between Marshall town officials and former police officer Carlie Gunter will cost Marshall at least \$3,700.

The town and the former policeman reached agreement on an out-of-court settlement last week as the Madison County Superior Court prepared to

hear the case. Gunter had charged Mayor Betty Wild and the Marshall Board of Aldermen with libel and wrongful dismissal and sought \$350,000 in damages.

Town officials and attorneys involved in the settlement have declined comment on the case. Court

papers in the case have not yet been filed with the Clerk of Superior Court's office in Marshall, but a check of Marshall's checking account records indicates that a check in the amount of \$2,500 was written to Herbert Hyde and Carlie Gunter last Wednesday. Hyde is the Asheville attorney who represented Gunter in

his lawsuit.

It is still not clear if the \$2,500 is the full amount of the settlement and officials have declined to comment.

In addition to the \$2,500 check presented to Gunter and his attorney, Marshall has also received bills totalling \$1,200 from the Asheville law firm which represented the town in the lawsuit.



ALTHEA STAMEY CELEBRATED HER 100th birthday Monday afternoon with friends and relatives. In photo above, she is shown with her granddaughter and four great-grandchildren.

A-B Tech Students Offer Tax Help

A-B Tech accounting students are again participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service.

Tax assistance is free to low income, elderly, non-English speaking, and handicapped taxpayers. A-B Tech student volunteers will help these individuals to fill out Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, or a basic Form 1040. Taxpayers will receive information regarding special credits and deductions, such as child care

and earned income credits. Because days and times for assistance varies, taxpayers are requested to call Pam Belter at A-B Tech, 254-1921, extension 341 for an appointment. Individuals coming to A-B Tech should bring 1984 tax information to include wage and earnings statements (Form W-2) from all employers, interest statements from banks (Form 1088), a copy of last year's 1984 return, and any other data concerning income and expenses.