

# CRIME NOTES

**JEROME ALEXANDER BETHEL, 37**, of Smyrna, Ga., is charged with theft of property over \$10,000. His bond is \$20,000.

Sheriff Patrick Ray said that on Jan. 22 Bethel took a ladies platinum custom designed diamond engagement ring valued at \$38,000.

**RANDY MITCHELL HOBBS, JR., 25**, of Liberty is charged with a second offense of driving on a revoked license.

Sheriff Ray said that on Wednesday, Feb. 28 a deputy was patrolling Highway 70 when he spotted a blue Ford Mustang, driven by Hobbs. Knowing



BETHEL



HOBBS

that Hobbs had no valid driver license, the officer pulled him over. A computer check confirmed that his license were revoked for violation of the truancy law in 2010. He was later charged with driving on a revoked license in 2013 in Coffee County.

**MICHAEL OWENS, 49**, of Brooklyn, N.Y. is charged with driving on a suspended license. He was also cited for failure to yield. His bond is \$1,500.

Sheriff Ray said that on Wednesday, Feb. 28 while approaching the traffic light at South Congress Boulevard, a deputy spotted a red Ford car which failed to yield the right of way of oncoming traffic. The officer pulled over the vehicle and spoke with the driver, Owens. A computer check revealed



OWENS

that his license were suspended in New York.

**FERMIN GOPAR** of Smithville is charged with a second offense of driving on a suspended license and a first offense of driving under the influence. He was also cited for violation of implied consent, driving on roadways laned for travel, and no insurance. His bond is \$4,000 and his court date is March 15.

Sheriff Ray said that on Thursday, March 1 while patrolling on McMinnville Highway, a deputy observed a vehicle failing to maintain its lane of travel. He pulled it over and spoke with the driver, Gopar. The officer detected a strong odor of alcohol on Gopar, whose speech was also slurred and his eyes were red and watery. Gopar submitted to but per-



GOPAR

formed poorly on field sobriety tasks. A search warrant was obtained for a blood sample after Gopar refused implied consent.

The deputy also learned that Gopar's license were suspended in 2013 in Warren County.

**RAYMOND HOWARD ROLLINS, 29**, of Baxter is charged with a third offense of driving on a suspended license. His bond is \$1,500 and his court date is March 29.

Sheriff Ray said that on Wednesday, March 7 a deputy observed Rollins driving on East Broad Street in Smithville. Knowing that his license were suspended, the officer pulled him over. A computer check confirmed that Rollins' license are suspended.



ROLLINS

# MAYOR POSS

Continued from 1A

"It's suspicious that his termination date was the day it was made public," Murphy pointed out.

All members of the aldermanic council agreed they were trouble by the fact they had heard about the mayor's hiring of his son from the public and were never consulted by him prior to giving his son the job in which he received over \$8,000.

"I'm tired of hearing stuff off the streets," declared Alderman Shawn Jacobs who said the mayor needs to face his constituents and own up to his violation of city rules. "At the very least there needs to be an apology. The community is going to be furious if we don't do something."

Alderman Murphy chimed in that, "A little remorse would go a long way," he said of the mayor.

Alderman Mayor Washer suggested that not only should the board censure the mayor but they should also ask that he pay the money back to the city that was paid to his son.

"As part of the censure we should ask that the money be paid back," remarked Alderman Jacobs.

The aldermanic council stopped short of demanding the mayor's resignation although Alderman Hendrix pointed out the city charter allows the council to heap punishment upon anyone who violates rules. The charter does not spell out how far the council can go although several of the aldermen in attendance said their constituents are "demanding the mayor's head" for the violation of policy.

Alderman Hendrix stopped short of asking the city attorney to launch an investigation into the mayor's actions, saying that the proof was obvious and that no investigation would be needed. However, Alderman Washer was insistent that the board find out what the city got for its money in hiring the mayor's son, suggesting there was no proof that Tony Poss did anything on the job.

Since no action could be taken during the city board's workshop last Thursday, a special called meeting was set for tomorrow night at 7 p.m. when they will be able to take action whether or not the mayor attends.

In the terms of Thursday night's meeting, a censure means a public admonishment to the mayor that his actions were in violation of city rules.

# TDOT

Continued from 1A

His revelation prompted some in the audience to question how the project around state highway 26 fell through the cracks after some buildings were demolished and businesses closed in preparation for the road work. TDOT officials along with Senator Pody said they would look into the issue with Pody pointing out that things done by prior administrations could have been lost in the shuffle. However, he

pointed out that the governor's Improve Act has allowed for 962 projects to be conducted on roads statewide, one of which will improve part of the area that includes Highway 53 and Highway 96.

As for the planned beginning of work on Highway 56, Hughen said to first expect to see work on moving utilities out of the way before major earth moving. He added that the hold up on Highway 56 has been the approval of environmental plans for the project.

"We've been waiting for a federal environmental document," he said, noting a lot of the problems with the DeKalb projects and projects in many areas is requirements that if streams are breached, they have to be replaced, the environmental work causing delays to the main projects.

## NOTICE OF ELECTION AUGUST 2, 2018

Notice is hereby given that a Tennessee State Primary and a DeKalb County General Election will be held in all precincts of DeKalb County, TN for the purpose of electing the following:

### TENNESSEE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Governor; U.S. Senator; U.S. House of Representatives, 6th Congressional District; Tennessee Senator, 17th District; Tennessee House of Representatives, Districts 40 and 46; State Executive Committeeman and State Executive Committeewoman (each party) 17th Senatorial District.

### DEKALB COUNTY GENERAL

County Mayor; Sheriff; Road Superintendent; County Clerk; Circuit Court Clerk; Register of Deeds; Trustee; County Commissioners for each of the seven (7) Districts; School Board members Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 7.

**Qualifying deadline....NOON April 5, 2018**

**Withdrawal deadline...NOON April 12, 2018**

#### Elderly Voters or Voters with Disabilities

Pursuant to T.C.A. 2-3-109(e) any elderly voter (60 years or older) or a voter with a disability whose polling place is inaccessible may vote at the election commission office on Election Day, vote by absentee ballot or vote by personal appearance during the dates specified for early voting at the Election Commission Office. If the voter chooses to vote at the Election Commission office on Election Day, they must complete an affidavit at the Election Commission office no later than July 23, 2018 stating their designated voting location is inaccessible.

#### Early Voting or Absentee by Mail

Registered voters who will be unable to go to their polling place on Election Day may vote during early voting or after meeting certain legal qualifications, may vote absentee by mail: To vote absentee by mail, the voter must make the request in writing and include their name (as registered), social security number, date of birth, residence address (911 address), mailing address (if different from residence address), the election(s) they wish to vote in and political preference if voting in a Primary, the reason they are requesting to vote absentee, and their signature. We will accept written requests beginning May 4, 2018 through July 26, 2018 by mail, fax or email. Requests should be mailed to the DeKalb County Election Commission at P.O. Box 543, Smithville, TN 37166. The Election Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability. Please call 615-597-4146 if you have questions.

DeKalb County Election Commission  
1 Public Square, Smithville, TN  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Walteen Parker, Chairman; Lisa Peterson, Secretary; James Dean, Commissioner; Jackie Smith; Commissioner; Barbara Vanatta, Commissioner; Dennis Stanley, Administrator of Elections.

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## FREE HEARING TESTS


**Free electronic hearing tests** will be given this month for all seniors. Hearing Health Center in Smithville will offer this testing for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. Using our video otoscope, we will be able to show you the inside of your ear canal. Let's see if your problem could be as simple as too much earwax. We will then give you a full hearing evaluation, including speech understanding tests. Your results will be explained to you in clear, easy to understand terms and although we encourage early correction of hearing loss you are under no obligation to purchase.

- Approximately 15% of American adults (37.5) 18 and over report some trouble hearing.
- People suffering with Diabetes are four times more likely to develop hearing loss.
- People with hearing loss wait an average of seven years before seeing help.
- A 12-year study by Johns Hopkins School of Medicine found that untreated hearing loss increased the risk for dementia.
- Only one out of every five people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually wear one.

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