

REVIEW



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STYLE Fair pageant winners **7A**

SPORTS Football team prepares **1B**

FAIREst of them all



Duane Sherrill photo

Abigail Hope Taylor is thrilled as last year's DeKalb County Fairest of the Fair Tyra Grace Graham crowns her after she was named 2018 Fairest Monday evening at the annual exposition in Alexandria. For full pageant coverage, see page 7A.



Duane Sherrill photos

Two people were killed when their pickup plunged over an embankment off Old Mill Hill Road Monday morning. The driver, Michael A. Murphy was found a tenth of a mile up the hill from the crash site prompting lawmen to suspect he may have suffered a heart attack while going for help.

Two killed

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Two people were killed in a crash on Old Mill Hill Road Monday morning, one of the victims investigators believe dying of a heart attack as he went to get help.

The driver of the 1995 Dodge Dakota, Michael A. Murphy, 56, of Liberty was found lying in the road by a local resident.

"I thought someone had thrown out some trash like they do sometimes down there," said a local resident who walked upon Martin's body Monday morning. "When I got close enough, I could see it wasn't trash but was a man lying there on the shoulder."

Lawmen were summoned to the scene of what at first was thought to be foul play. However, as authorities searched further down the hill they solved the mystery of the man's body that had been found. Over an embankment, three turns downhill from where the man was found, a pickup truck was discovered against a tree. In between the tree and the truck they found Angelia Sue Burke, 50. She was dead at the scene with investigators suspecting she had been thrown through the passenger-side window on impact when Murphy ran off the right side of the road and down an embankment.



Trooper Rodney Whiles balances on the edge of an embankment to get a picture of the crash site on Old Mill Hill Road.

Continued on **2A**

Teacher raises could come from taxes

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Faced with a bare bones budget for the coming year which has already led to the sacrificing of four jobs in the school system, the DeKalb County Board of Education, has decided to ask the county commission to fund teacher raises this year from the local option tax receipts.

"We want it to be a raise, rather than a bonus," declared board member Danny Parkerson in

putting the question to a vote at the school board meeting Thursday evening. Board members voted unanimously to request the county to take teacher raises out of local option tax rather than the school's reserves.

The school system wants to give all school employees a \$600 raise this year, in part to counteract increased insurance premiums. In the case of teachers, the \$600 would be joined by a \$600 raise from the state, making their raise \$1,200. The \$600 figure was negotiated down after the county

commission advised it could not afford to give teachers the \$2,400 raise the school system first requested.

At issue is what form the \$600 will take. If the school system is forced to take it out of its reserves, it would have to be done as a one-time bonus, since the school fund cannot be sure it can fund the increase every year. The \$600 from the state is permanent.

"If you take something out of the pantry, you have to put something back into the pan-

try," said School Board Chairman Dub Ewins, pointing out there is no assurance the school reserves could continue paying the raise each year.

The total for raises would cost the county \$300,000 each year. In preparation for the hit, the school system has deleted four positions to help fund it, two from the high school, one from Northside and one from Smithville Elementary.

"We cannot sustain the raise from our reserves," declared Director of Schools Patrick Cripps.

Given their dire financial straits, board members hope the county commission will allow them to use local option sales tax money to fund the raises so they can be reoccurring. However, Ewins admitted he did not know how much was in the local option sales tax money, meaning commissioners could opt to reject the plan when they meet. If the proposal is rejected the school board will likely meet in special session and adopt the \$600 as a one-time bonus coming out of their reserves.



DANNY HALE

Paving way into office

Road supervisor candidates share their views

DUANE SHERRILL
Editor Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

Agreeing DeKalb County roads need improving, the two candidates for road supervisor outlined their visions for a smoother ride.

"I see several problems," said candidate Danny Hale during the *Smithville Review* candidate forum. "We've got a lot of things that need doing. We've got ditches that need cleaning out, pot holes that need fixing and roads that need replacing."

Hale said hard work will be the key to maintaining and restoring the county's roads and that to help in getting the money needed for the work, he will be vigi-

lant in getting state and federal funds through grants.

"We need to get every dime we can get," Hale said.

Hale pointed out he has 22 years of experience in road work and he wants to put that experience to work as road supervisor.

"I want to give back everything I can to the community," he said, noting he will head a transparent office. "I have a lot of plans and I can make a difference."

His opponent, Jimmy Sprague echoed Hale on the road conditions. "Our roads aren't up to the standards we deserve," Sprague said, noting he has been transportation director for the schools where he oversees 36 buses and hears of all the issues with roads

from the bus drivers. "I have an eight-year plan because it can't all be done in four years."

The former Army Ranger said he will begin with an assessment of roads and then do work on the poorest first, being mindful to do projects in each district. He added that even the good roads need work, keeping the water off them and cleaning out the ditches.

Sprague noted he will have an open door anytime so he can hear the issues residents have about their roads.

The road supervisor forum can be viewed in its entirety on video by going to www.smithvillereview.com and scrolling down or going to the multimedia section. It is free to view.



JIMMY SPRAGUE



SMITHVILLE
REVIEW

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