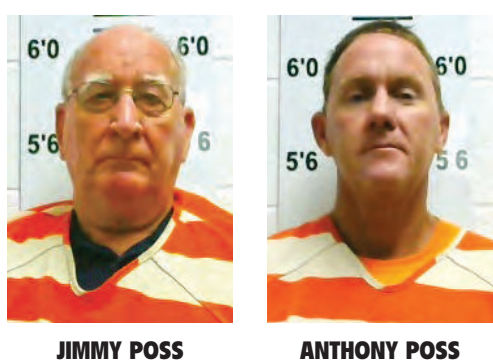


City mayor, son indicted



Jimmy, Anthony Poss arrested for theft

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Felony charges have been leveled against Smithville Mayor Jimmy Poss and his son, Anthony, charging them with theft for the mayor's hiring of his son to maintain the

city's golf course. The indictments were handed down by the DeKalb County grand jury Monday after they heard evidence uncovered during an extensive probe by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation that began this past March. Along with the theft count, charging

theft over \$2,500, Mayor Poss has also been indicted on the charge of official misconduct. Both men have been booked into the county jail and are free on bond, Anthony on \$2,500 bond and the mayor on \$5,000 bond. "During the course of the investigation, agents devel-

oped information that the two men were responsible for theft through the unlawful payment of wages from Jimmy Poss to Anthony Poss, from August 2017 through March 2018," the TBI said in its press release concerning the indictments. The probe was a joint investigation with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury.

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Teen charged with rapes of 4-, 5-year-olds

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A 16-year-old boy has been charged with molesting two children in Alexandria during ATV race events, one of which happened during the county fair. The youth, whose name has not been revealed due to his status as a juvenile, is being held in juvenile detention pending his hearing before the juvenile court. He is charged with delinquency to the act of child rape, a crime which if he was an adult, would carry 15 to 25 years in prison as it is a Class A felony. Alexandria police have revealed that they arrested the 16-year-old boy Thursday on the rape charges, stating the incidents, involving a four and a five-year-old victim, happened on separate occasions during ATV races at the Alexandria fairgrounds track. The latest incident happened before a packed crowd at the DeKalb County Fair, while the first incident happened around a month ago during an ATV rally there. The police report did not indicate if the victims were boys or girls or one of each. In most situations, a youth charged with a Class A felony will first be ordered for mental evaluation after appearing before the juvenile court. It would then be up to the prosecutor to decide whether to seek transfer to try the youth as an adult. Under state law, a conviction of the crime as a delinquent juvenile allows the state to only hold the offender until his 19th birthday. However, should the prosecutor move and the court agree to hold him responsible as an adult, he could face up to 50 years in prison if convicted on both charges.



Duane Sherrill photos

A midway full of rides entertained kids from eight to 80 during the DeKalb County Fair this past week. Meanwhile, pageants, featured in the Style section this week and next, crowned champions ranging from the baby show to Fairest of the Fair.

At left, a driver takes aim at another competitor during the return of the demolition derby. There were 14 entries in three divisions, the point of the contest to totally disable your opponent's vehicle. The arena also saw the annual rodeo, ATV and motorcycle races, along with tractor pulls. Meanwhile, hundreds of dollars were given away daily during drawings each evening. In the Lip Synch competition, Caiti Milligan walked away with first place. Video highlights of the fair can be viewed at www.smithvillereview.com in the multimedia section.



Clerk candidates speak

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Modernization of the circuit court clerk's office was the topic of conversation during a showdown between the two hopefuls who are looking to take the place of long-time clerk Catherine Pack. "I'm not afraid of hard work," said Republican nominee Susan Martin of Alexandria, noting she has owned her own court reporter business for over seven years and often works around the clock preparing manuscripts. Martin said she envisions an updating of the clerk's office to include a website and online bill paying system to make it easier on people who have to work

and may not be able to come in to pay a speeding ticket or other fine. "I've worked with a lot of other circuit clerk's offices," she said, noting many offer the websites and pay online services. "So that (website and online payments) are one of my main focuses." Martin said she has also studied the work of the Wilson County clerk's office where they have been able to collect over a half million dollars in unpaid fees through an in-house collection program. Democratic nominee Nicole Wright pumped the brakes on the website and online pay, noting consideration has to be given to security when it comes to computer systems and court documents. "I would consider looking

at it," she said of a website and online pay system. "Our court records are public but secure." Wright pointed out she has worked under Pack in the clerk's office for six years. Prior to that time she worked with the ambulance service and in the 911 center, along with time working in the law office of Jeremy Trapp. Wright noted that the office already accepts credit card payments by phone but even that has some issues. She praised the work of her long-time boss, noting she intends to continue providing the service Pack did. "No one is going to fill her shoes," Wright said. The circuit court clerk forum can be viewed in its entirety by visiting www.smithvillereview.com. The video is free to watch.

