

# Manhunt continues for suspected deputy killer

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Authorities appealed for the public’s help Thursday in finding a man suspected in the fatal shooting of a Tennessee sheriff’s deputy. The man they said they’re looking for has a lengthy arrest record and was charged just the day before with hitting a woman and stealing her car.

That woman, authorities said, is now jailed on a murder charge in the death of sheriff’s Sgt. Daniel Baker, whose body was found in his patrol car in a wooded area several miles from the spot where he had stopped a suspicious car on Wednesday.

Rewards totaling \$15,000 have been offered

for information leading to the arrest of Steven Joshua Wiggins, 31, a white male with balding brown hair. Officials said they believe he is armed and dangerous. Wiggins was still evading capture as of press time Thursday night.

“It’s very imperative for everyone to keep their eyes, their ears open for this individual,” TBI spokeswoman Susan Niland said at a news conference Thursday. “He could be in Dickson County. He could be in a neighboring county. But the fact is, we don’t know

where he is.”

Federal, state and local authorities have joined the search and are checking into 139 tips received thus far, including potential sightings. Wiggins was last seen wearing blue jeans and a black polo shirt, but could have changed his outfit, Niland said. Still, Dickson County Sheriff Jeff Bledsoe said he believes Wiggins might be on foot in the area.

“At this point, we’re going to work with all our agencies and all of our partners, and there will be no rest until he’s taken into custody,” Bledsoe

said at the news conference.

Baker couldn’t be contacted for some time after responding to a call about a suspicious car Wednesday, Niland said. The deputy’s car was tracked by GPS to a wooded area about 2 miles away, and Baker was found dead inside the vehicle.

Wiggins was identified as the suspect from a video recording, Niland said. He was already wanted on charges that he assaulted the woman and stole her car when he was pulled over, according to a report from the Kingston

Spring Police Department.

The woman, Erika Castro-Miles, 38, was charged Wednesday with first-degree murder after investigators realized that she had participated in Baker’s death, the TBI said.

According to the police report, Castro-Miles said early Tuesday that Wiggins had slapped her in the face and pulled out some of her hair, then put a gun to her head and threatened to kill her if she called police. She said he then grabbed her keys and took her car without her permission.

She told police then that Wiggins had been “doing meth all night and smoking marijuana.” She told police she planned to press charges, the report said.

As for Wiggins, the sheriff said he must be held accountable, facing the maximum penalty the law will allow.

The sheriff said Baker, 32, was one of the department’s best, a supervisor who had worked his way up to sergeant on patrol during his 10 years with the office. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Bledsoe said his agency has lost a brother, and the community has lost a hero.

“Our heart’s shattered with this,” he said.

## CHEER builds cottage for children's therapy

BY **LISA HOBBS**  
Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

CHEER Mental Health Center has established a CHEER Cottage to be utilized for adolescent therapy sessions.

A grand opening ceremony was held Thursday. “The cottage is intended to be used as an alternate location for therapists at the center working with children and youth to conduct therapy sessions,” said Bryan Herriman, center director. “Many times the office setting may limit the therapy session. Our hope is the kid-friendly location will aid in that process.”

May has been Mental Health Awareness Month. CHEER Mental Health Association and CHEER Mental Health Center are divisions of Volunteer Behavioral



Lisa Hobbs photo

**A cottage has been added at CHEER Mental Health Center. The area is child-friendly and will be used by therapists to conduct sessions with children and teens. Pictured, from left, are center director Bryan Herriman, CHEER board member and prevention specialist Tammie Gribble, First National Bank representatives Tara Cowan and Kristy Cole, CHEER board member Dianne Gillespie, and Saint Thomas River Park Hospital CEO Dale Humphrey.**

Health.

The cottage is a result of partnerships between the CHEER Mental Health Association, The Steve and Kate Smith Community Trust administered through First

National Bank, and the Saint Thomas River Park Community Benefit Fund.

Decorations in the room are designed with bold, bright colors, and welcome children and

therapists to the building. The cottage features a chalkboard for children to draw.

CHEER Mental Health Center can be reached at 473-9649 and is located at 120 Omni Drive.

## Video arraignment

Continued from page 1A

Video arraignment has been in use about two months in General Sessions Court. Locke says it should make its way to Circuit Court in the very near future. Depending on docket size, Locke said video arraignment could prevent the transportation of 50 inmates a week in Circuit Court.

In years past, there has been talk of building a courtroom at Warren County Jail to save in the costs of transporting inmates. On rare occasions, inmates have made a break for it during the transportation process, creating safety concerns.

The video arraignment system is viewed as a nice compromise, allowing inmates to stay in jail for arraignment while saving construction costs of a courtroom at the jail.

Since General Sessions Court handles so many misdemeanors, such as cases of public intoxication or disorderly conduct over the weekend, inmates are often weeked to make a plea by the time their arraignment arrives Tuesday morning. If they are ready to plea to minor charges, they are transported to the courthouse that afternoon where they are usually released on time served and given probation.

## Winner!



**Rafaela Rodriguez is the \$50 winner of the Standard’s weekly Word Match puzzle. The puzzle appears in every Friday edition of the newspaper and can be found on page 8A.**

## OBITUARIES

### Sharon Ann Hillis, 71

Rock Island resident and Atlanta, Ga., native Sharon Ann Hillis, 71, was born June 28, 1946 and died May 29 at St. Thomas West Hospital in Nashville.

She was retired from Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the owner/ operator of Hillis Grocery, and the daughter of the late James Arthur and Francis Louise Sewell Cohran. She was married to Euwel Dwain Hillis, who preceded her in death on May 6, 2013.

She is survived by two special children, Vicki Whittley of McMinnville and Henry Whittley of the Smartt Station community; special grandson, Jason Greeno of McMinnville; special, special friend, Betty Powell Short of McMinnville; brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Suzanne Cohran of Canton, Ga.; sister, Gloria Henderson of Stockbridge, Ga.; niece, Dee Marshall of Canton, Ga.; and several other nieces and nephews.

A graveside service and interment will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 2, at White Hill Cemetery in Van Buren County with Johnny Haston officiating. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Saturday at High’s. Online condolences may be made at [www.highfuneralhome.com](http://www.highfuneralhome.com).

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

**Southern Standard**  
(McMinnville, Tenn.) June 1, 2018

THREE STAR  
CINEMA

Sparta Rd. at Three Star Mall

24 Hr. Movie Answering Service

473-7600

HELD OVER 3RD WEEK  
THRU THURS., JUNE 7

"DEADPOOL 2"

- R -

7:00 - 9:15

HELD OVER 2ND WEEK  
THRU THURS., JUNE 7

"SOLO: A STAR  
WARS STORY"

- PG13 -

7:00 - 9:25

FRI. THRU THURS.  
JUNE 1 - 7

"BOOK CLUB"

- PG13 -

7:15 - 9:15

HELD OVER 6TH WEEK  
THRU THURS., JUNE 7

"AVENGERS:  
INFINITY WAR"

- PG13 -

7:15

HELD OVER 4TH WEEK  
THRU THURS., JUNE 7

"LIFE OF THE  
PARTY"

STARRING  
MELISSA MCCARTHY

- PG13 -

7:10 - 9:10

- COMING FRI., JUNE 8 -

"OCEANS 8"

- PG13 -

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITHOUT NOTICE

ADMISSION  
ADULTS 7.00  
CHILDREN 5.00

## Lightning claims life of boy, 7

### STATE ROUNDUP

**MCKENZIE, TENN. (AP)** — Authorities say a boy has been killed by a lightning strike in western Tennessee.

WBBJ-TV reports the Weakley County Sheriff’s Office issued a news release saying the 7-year-old boy was among a group of children who were playing by a tree that was hit by lightning on Monday in McKenzie.

A medical examiner has ruled the boy’s death an accident. His name was not released.

in Greeneville says the five were sentenced last week to prison terms ranging from 10 years to more than 17 years.

U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors say the group was part of a meth distribution network that sold drugs in East Tennessee, including Hawkins County.

About a dozen other members of the network also have been convicted of conspiring to distribute meth.

Prosecutors say 61-year-old David Jones, of Chatsworth, Ga., supplied the organization with meth

to sell. Jones has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

**KNOXVILLE, TENN. (AP)** — The former president of the nation’s largest diesel fuel retailer wants to fire his trial lawyer now that he’s been convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reports former Pilot Flying J President Mark Hazelwood is seeking to fire and replace Texas attorney Rusty Hardin, who led his defense team. Hazelwood is expected to face sentencing in August.

Hazelwood’s new lawyer, Brad Henry, says Hardin performed badly throughout the trial and failed to file a motion for a new trial.

Hazelwood was convicted in a scheme to short-change trucking companies they lured with promises of fuel discounts.

Pilot Flying J is controlled by the family of Cleveland Browns owner Jimmy Haslam and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. Neither have been charged with wrongdoing.

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UPCOMING  
EVENTS

Faulkner Cemetery  
Decoration Day

Decoration Day at Faulkner Cemetery will be held Sun, June 3, with the business meeting starting at 1pm. You can mail your donation for the upkeep to: Faulkner Cemetery, 206 Old Shelbyville Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110.

Brick House/Rowland Station  
Cemetery Decoration

Decoration at Brick House/Rowland Station Cemetery located on Hennessee Bridge Rd. will be Sat, June 2 from 8am-1pm. Business meeting will start at 11am with lunch to follow. Donations will be accepted at the cemetery or can be mailed to: Brick House/ Rowland Station Cemetery, C/O Darryl Norris at 725 Grandy Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110. For more info call Angela @ 931-668-3246 or Darryl @ 931-668-8964.

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