



Lighthouse Ministries has been operating a homeless shelter for men near the fairgrounds for more than 10 years. Pictured is the living room of the men's shelter.

Mike Farris concert to benefit Lighthouse Ministries shelter

Singer knows feeling of being homeless

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

Lighthouse Ministries offers homeless shelters in Warren County as a way to help men and women leave the streets and rebuild their lives.

An upcoming concert at Park Theater will fund the effort to establish the women's shelter, says Lighthouse Ministries organizer Nathan Smith.

"We are struggling to get everything done and be able to help support more women," Smith said. "Lisa Patton organized the concert and got hold of the artist. We had a big donation and we were able to buy the house, but more is needed. It takes money to pay the bills like water, electric, gas."

Approximately two years ago, the ministry opened a women's shelter in a donated house near the Warren County line in Centertown. Recently, a new home has been purchased closer to

town that is more convenient.

Over a decade ago, the ministry opened its first shelter in what was formerly the Warren County Humane Society building near the fairgrounds. After remodeling, the building now serves as a homeless shelter for men with a kitchen, living room, and several bedrooms.

Lighthouse Ministries offers a hand up for homeless individuals. There are rules. Lighthouse Ministries has a no-drugs, no-alcohol policy. It offers life counseling classes to help residents secure employment and teach them about saving money so they can work toward getting transportation and a different place to live.

Mike Farris understands what it feels like to be down and out.

"I was already a drug addict and alcoholic when I was 15. I was running cocaine over the state lines from Huntsville, Ala. In and out of jail already, I was just



Musician Mike Farris, a 2015 Grammy winner for Best Roots/Gospel Album "Shine for All the People," is lending that gleam to help local causes. Tickets are on sale now for a Feb. 10 concert at Park Theater to benefit the local women's shelter offered by Lighthouse Ministries. Music starts at 8 p.m.

a broken boy trying to find his way," Farris said in an interview with Rolling Stone.

While homeless living in a park in Knoxville, Farris said he turned to God for guidance and ended up moving in with his father in Nashville. He launched a

gospel music career in 2002 after making a name for himself as the lead singer of the "Screamers" Cheetah Wheelies in the 1990s.

Today, Farris is clean, sober and entirely committed to elevating his brothers and sisters through powerhouse live performances.

Opioid lawsuit

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

Two local governments could unite in the opioid lawsuit against prescription drugmakers for their role in the opioid epidemic.

McMinnville's Board of Mayor and Aldermen has agreed to consider joining Warren County government in the lawsuit to seek damages against opioid manufacturers, as proposed by Galligan & Newman, Attorneys at Law. The firm obtained approval from the county's Budget and Finance Committee, and is awaiting Warren County Commission final approval.

In city government, the measure must first be considered by its Finance Committee before being presented to the full board for final approval.

Mayor Jimmy Haley

made the announcement during the board's last meeting.

"The state is really concerned about the epidemic," Haley said. "I think in the governor's state address he's going to discuss a major initiative to address the opioid crisis. We need to discuss joining the county in the lawsuit."

Finance chair Alderman Everett Brock asked why the state didn't file a lawsuit, to which Haley stated, "You'll have to ask the state. I can't speak for the state."

Alderman Ben Newman, who is an attorney in the law firm, said, "If the state represents the counties, then the money would stay with the state. It wouldn't be dispersed back down to the counties."

The next regular meeting night for city officials is Jan. 23. An exact time has not been set.

GENERAL SESSIONS

Included in recent General Sessions court action:

Roy Haley was bound to the grand jury on the charge of simple arson.

Christian Scott Jones was bound to the grand jury on charges of aggravated burglary and grand theft.

Donald Lee Shields was bound to the grand jury on charges of theft, vandalism and evading arrest.

Becky Sue Davenport was directed to serve 30 days of an 11-month, 29-day sentence and must pay \$750 plus costs for possession of meth and drug paraphernalia and driving on a revoked license.

Timothy Wayne Dorris was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-29 sentence for domestic assault and vandalism.

Shawn Joe Earls was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-29 sentence for domestic assault and violating an order of protection.

Dallas London Mullins was ordered to serve 11 days of an 11-29 sentence for domestic assault.

Austin James Baker was bound to the grand jury on charges of possession of meth and drug paraphernalia and grand theft.

Christopher A. Medlin was given an 11-29 probationary sentence for forgery.

Tara Faith Barks was issued an 11-29 probationary sentence for shoplifting. She was given 10 days for failure to appear in court.

Lucas C. Campbell must serve the balance of his sentence for violation of probation.

Marcus St. Clair must serve 48 hours of a six-month sentence for driving on a suspended license.

Angela D. Emler must serve five days and had her probation extended by six months for violation of probation.

Whitney Hawkins must serve 60 days for violation of probation.

Sasha Sade Otis was ordered to serve 90 days of an 11-29 sentence for violation of probation.

Edtavis Smith must serve 120 days for violation of probation.

Couple charged with chaining children

PERRIS, CALIF. (AP) — The mother of 13 malnourished children and young adults who were held in filthy conditions, some chained to furniture, was "perplexed" when deputies arrived at the family's Southern California home, a sheriff's official said Tuesday.

The deputies had been summoned by a 17-year-old daughter who jumped out a window and called 911.

Riverside County sheriff's Capt. Greg Fellows described the reaction of the mother, Louise Anna Turpin, 49, without elaborating. He said he did not

know how the father, 57-year-old David Allen Turpin, reacted.

The situation at the home in Perris, about 70 miles southeast of Los Angeles, was discovered when the daughter escaped early Sunday, Fellows said.

The teen, who was so small that deputies initially thought she was 10 years old, showed them photographs that led them to believe her story so they went to the home to check on the family, Fellows said.

"The conditions were horrific," he said.



L. TURPIN



D. TURPIN

The children, ages 2 to 29, are all believed to be the Turpins' biological offspring, authorities said.

Fellows said the investigation has so far found no indication of sexual abuse but the conditions amounted to torture.

"If you can imagine being a 10-year-old and being chained to a bed ... I would call that torture," he said.

The family had lived in Perris since 2014, and deputies had never been to the residence previously for any reason, Fellows said.

Social workers had never visited either, said

Susan von Zabern, director of the county Department of Public Social Services.

The seven adult children were being cared for at Corona Regional Medical Center, said CEO Mark Uffer. He described them as small and clearly malnourished. They were being fed and were listed in stable condition.

"They're very friendly," he said. "They're very cooperative, and I believe they are hopeful that life will get better for them."

The parents were each held on \$9 million bail and could face charges including torture and child endangerment.

State Department of Education records show the family home has the same address as Sandcastle Day School, where David Turpin is listed as principal. In the 2016-17 school year, it had an enrollment of six with one student each in the fifth, sixth,

eighth, ninth, 10th and 12th grades.

Neighbors in Perris, where modest but well maintained homes are tightly packed on suburban streets, said they were stunned by the arrests.

Andrew Santillan, who lives around the corner, heard about the case from a friend.

"I had no idea this was going on," he told the Press-Enterprise newspaper of Riverside. "I didn't know there were kids in the house."

Other neighbors described the family as intensely private.

A few years ago, Robert Perkins said, he and his mother saw a few family members constructing a nativity scene in the Turpins' front yard. Perkins said he compli-

mented them on it.

"They didn't say a word," he said.

Social media photos show the family at Disneyland and Las Vegas. The most recent shots, from 2016, show the parents beaming after they apparently renewed their wedding vows and posed with an Elvis impersonator.

WEBB SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

The Webb School has announced its A and B Honor Rolls for the second quarter of the 2017-18 school year.

An independent college preparatory day/boarding school for grades 6-12, The Webb School is the oldest continuously operating school of its kind in the South. The school has a dual emphasis on academic excellence and character development.

A HONOR ROLL:

MCMINNVILLE – London Sullens, Bailey Cavner and Isaiah Sizemore.

B HONOR ROLL:

McMinnville – Mary Stanley, Adelia Stanley, Lexi Sullens and Luke Nafrada.

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