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Another year, another Driver Center fight



The Driver Testing Center property is listed for sale in today's Classified Section for \$495,000.

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

The General Assembly has reconvened and the wait has begun to see if funding will return to Warren County's Driver Testing Center. McMinnville Mayor Jimmy Haley is urging the state to do just that, at the request of Senate Transportation and Safety Committee chair Sen. Paul Bailey.

City government is in its second agreement with the state to pay \$4,000 a month in rent on the build-

ing, a stipulation by the state in order to prevent its closure until funding can be restored. An additional year was required after state representatives gave assurances full funding would be restored in the 2017-18 fiscal year budget. It was not. The current agreement ends June 30, 2018.

The city's desire to foot the bill is fading. Some officials voiced discontent when the agreement was under consideration last year.

"When they come back and deny us again, are we going to keep doing this and keep doing this? I don't

think so," Alderman Everett Brock said in June. "This is a bad idea, folks. I know it's going to prevent a hardship, but let's lay the thing out so the state understands this. They aren't going to understand it if we fund it."

Haley urged the city board to approve the funding last year.

"I think this is the right thing for our citizens," Haley said in June. "I'm assured our residents, for the large part, believe this is an important enough service to preserve."

Warren County government is paying half the city's \$4,000 expense.



"When they come back and deny us again, are we going to keep doing this and keep doing this?"

Everett Brock

Senate deputy



State Sen. Janice Bowling, who represents Warren County, has been named deputy speaker of the Tennessee Senate. She is pictured with Lt. Gov. Randy McNally.

Bowling strikes new role

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor of the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

There's not a new sheriff in town just yet, but there's a new deputy.

State Sen. Janice Bowling, who represents Warren County in the seven-county 16th District, has been appointed deputy speaker of the Tennessee Senate.

She is the first woman to hold this role.

Bowling (R-Tullahoma) was appointed by Lt. Gov. Randy

McNally. The announcement was made Thursday on the Senate floor.

"Janice Bowling is a strong, valuable member of our caucus," said McNally. "She is an excellent legislator who works tirelessly on behalf of her constituents. I am looking forward to her advice and counsel in this new role. She will be an outstanding deputy speaker."

Preceding Sen. Bowling, the position of deputy speaker was held by Sen. Ferrell Haile (R-Gallatin), who is now speaker pro tem of the Senate.

The deputy speaker is appointed

to a two-year term. Principle duties include assisting the speaker in regard to committee appointments and the assignment of bills to standing committees.

The deputy speaker helps schedule and guide the flow of legislation on the floor and assists the speaker in the administrative decision making of the Senate, and also serves as a liaison with regional and national legislative bodies. The deputy speaker often presides over the Senate and assists the speaker on special projects.



Haile West Adams finished second runner-up Friday night in Nashville in the Tennessee State Fairest of the Fair competition.

Adams finishes 2nd runner-up

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor of the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

She's among the fairest of them all.

Warren County Fairest of the Fair winner Haile West Adams emerged as second runner-up in the annual Tennessee Fairest of the Fair Pageant held Friday night in Nashville.

Adams competed with 54 other contestants representing their respective counties in the 95th annual Tennessee Association of Fairs

Convention at the Music City Sheraton.

Adams is the 19-year-old daughter of Gina and Larry York, and Randy and Lisa Butcher, and is a sophomore at Motlow State Community College, studying sociology. She is active in community and college activities, and just recently accepted a position as event coordinator with Kids of the Community.

Gracie Cox, the reigning Scott County Fairest of the Fair, won the Tennessee State Fairest of the Fair pageant.

Water works

Jacob Dodd photo

After the brutal cold this past week, McMinnville city employees turned back on the downtown fountain with warm temperatures to come the next few days. Pictured are city landscape manager Hank Patton, right, and John Austin.

Last week's cold set an all-time TVA record for energy demand in a 24-hour period during a stretch that spanned Wednesday and Thursday. McMinnville Electric System CEO Rodney Boyd says the last time local power demand was so high was in January 2014.

Relief has arrived as the high temperature is predicted to reach 60 degrees Sunday and Monday.



Woman charged with DUI for crash that injures 2 passengers

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A suspected drunk driver has been charged for a wreck this past summer that sent her and her two passengers to the hospital after she tried to outrun the law.

The woman, Toni Michelle Lloyd, 29, is charged with felony reckless endangerment, second-offense DUI, evading arrest, criminal impersonation, and driving on a revoked license. She will face hearing Feb. 8.

Her charges come after sheriff's deputy Jared Jacobs tried to pull her over for having a brake light out. The driver refused to stop and led him on

a pursuit that ended near her home at the intersection of Old Bildad Road and School Road where she crashed.

The deputy noticed she was unsteady on her feet and she had viable needle marks on her arms.

"She had the odor of marijuana and admitted to taking medication," the deputy reported, adding she was not given a field sobriety test due to her injuries. "At the time of the accident, there were two passengers in the vehicle who were also injured and transported to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital."

Lloyd was driving on a revoked license for a DUI conviction in 2010.



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