

Remains of a missing man found in his own backyard

WINCHESTER (AP) — Human remains exhumed from a backyard have been identified as those of a man who lived at the Tennessee home.

Winchester Police Chief Richie Lewis told *The Chattanooga Times Free Press* that preliminary results of a forensic examination performed Friday confirmed the body as that of 50-year-old James Leon Wood.

Wood hadn't been heard from since July 29, 2017, and was reported missing Jan. 18. A search warrant on the missing person investigation led to the discovery of his body under a concrete slab on Jan. 24.

Lewis wouldn't discuss any persons of interest, but said police want to

STATE ROUNDUP

talk to people thought to have been living in the house since Wood and Glenna Y. Wood bought it in June 2017.

NASHVILLE (AP) — In the last fundraising period of the Tennessee governor's race, U.S. Rep. Diane Black raised the most from donors with more than \$1.7 million and House Speaker Beth Harwell ended with the flush bank account, topping \$5 million.

From July to mid-January, the six major candidates also used personal wealth.

Of the Republicans,

Harwell loaned \$3.1 million, businessman Randy Boyd infused \$2 million, Black contributed \$1 million and businessman Bill Lee loaned \$908,000. Of the Democrats, House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh loaned \$500,000 and ex-Nashville Mayor Karl Dean added \$200,000.

Harwell transferred \$894,600 from her other committees.

Boyd spent almost \$2.7 million, the most in the field. He raised almost \$1.3 million and had \$4.1 million cash left.

Dean led Democrats with almost \$1.3 million

raised and \$1.8 million remaining.

MEMPHIS (AP) — Authorities say two officers responding to a report of an overdose in a car were dragged when the person inside drove off.

Memphis police said on Twitter the driver also struck a squad car while attempting to flee Wednesday. It's unclear for how long the officers were dragged, but police spokeswoman Lt. Karen Rudolph told *The Commercial Appeal* their injuries aren't serious.

Officers followed the driver's vehicle, which struck a sign and caught fire. It's unclear if the unidentified suspect, who is in custody, was injured.

School projects

Continued from page 1A

"That was the main reason, just logistics of construction," he said. "Another reason Bobby Ray is tracking a little bit ahead of the West project is that it's easier to define. There are more unknowns at West. For example, there are some concerns about existing sewer pipes underneath the floor at West. The hall at West is terrazzo, which is great material that has held up well. Boy, I hate to go in and cut that and trench in order to put in new piping. We are looking at a way to run a new sewer line on the backside of the building so we won't have to do that."

Bobby Ray's overall project estimate is between \$2.6 and \$2.9 million.

Hill said consideration is still being given to using the lower level of building A at Bobby Ray, what is now its main

entrance, exclusively for pre-K.

An elevator at Bobby Ray is among construction alternates. Cost estimate is \$150,000 to \$200,000.

"About \$80,000 to \$90,000 is the elevator itself," said Hill. "The rest is the enclosure around it and doing modifications in the existing building to be able to get to the elevator."

Hill also offered a summary of the West Elementary project that was similar to the one given in December with expansion of the gymnasium, renovation of existing bathrooms, reconfiguring existing space, and additional classrooms.

Hill anticipates the first project would go out for bids approximately May 1. The second project would be out for bids approximately Sept. 1.

Firm numbers on construction costs will be unknown until bids are received.

Reckless father given six months probation

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

A man who ran from the law with a child in his arms in the freezing cold has been granted probation.

The defendant, Gary Lee Lankford, 44, entered a guilty plea before General Sessions Judge Bill Locke to the charge of reckless endangerment and was

issued a six-month probationary sentence. His sentence will be in addition to any time he gets for violation of probation. It was that violation of probation warrant that led to the incident late last year.

"I saw a man running from the residence with a child in his arms," deputy Bristol Davis reported, noting he recognized him as the man he was looking for and yelled for him to

stop. "He did stop at the fence with the child in his hand."

The deputy then gave the child to its mother. Davis noticed the child was not dressed to be out in such frigid weather.

"The child did not have on a coat or shoes when he had run with the child in 14-degree weather," the deputy revealed, adding there were snow flurries at the time.

Exile at Park

Continued from page 1A

"We figured if we're having country hits, we should change to a country format," said Hargis. "It was actually a pretty easy transition to make."

And a lucrative one.

In 1983, the Exile single "Woke Up In Love" reached No. 1. That opened the floodgates for nine straight No. 1 singles to follow: "I Don't Want To Be A Memory," "Give Me One More Chance," "She's A Miracle," "Crazy For Your Love," "Hang On To Your Heart," "I Could Get Used To You," "It'll Be Me," "She's Too Good To Be True" and "I Can't Get Close Enough."

The Exile lineup that will be playing the Park Theater is the foundation that's been in place since the early 1970s. "It's the one that produced all the hits," said Hargis, who added they reunited 10 years ago and have been touring ever since.

The band includes J.P. Pennington, Steve Goetzman, Sonny Lemaire, Les Taylor and Hargis. The only original member from the band which first formed in 1963 is Pennington.

"One thing we're doing with this tour is we're celebrating the 55th anniversary of the band," said Hargis. "We think we've been around as long as any band, especially a band that has enjoyed both country and pop success."

Through the years, Exile has toured with headliners such as Fleetwood Mac, Boston, Heart, Aerosmith, The Oak Ridge Boys, Merle Haggard, and Hank Williams Jr. At one point, The Judds opened for Exile, then as The Judds' career exploded their roles reversed with Exile opening for the ladies.

"We did a long tour with Aerosmith in the late '70s and it was a whole different thing playing in 20,000-seat arenas with a lot of partying going on," said Hargis. "We did a six-month tour with Heart and they're probably the best band I've ever heard live. We toured with The Oak Ridge Boys and we're still great friends with them after all these years."

Hargis, now 68, said Exile band members stay in shape with regular workouts and have all been fortunate to enjoy good health. He says they provide an energetic show.

"I can't make a big jump off a riser like I used to, but we're all still active," said Hargis. "One thing

we do during our concerts is we perform a medley of our hits that have been done by other artists. A lot of people don't realize how many songs are ours. We also do a medley of songs from groups we've toured with over the years

and that includes Aerosmith to George Jones."

Tickets for Exile are still available and can be purchased by calling the Park Theater box office at 506-2787 or online through Ticket Biscuit.

Would-be jumper gets a year for his crimes

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

A man who held officers at bay for nearly four hours, poised on the edge of a cliff where they had cornered him, has been given a year behind bars.

The man, Christopher Johnson, 34, entered guilty pleas before General Sessions Judge Bill Locke to charges of domestic assault, interference with emergency calls, and evading arrest. He was given an 11-month, 29-day sentence to serve.

Lawmen arrived to arrest Johnson at his Bickford Road home late

last year on a domestic abuse charge after he held a woman hostage in his home, physically abusing her and not allowing her to leave.

The woman was able to get away from her assailant when she convinced him to allow her to take her sick daughter to a clinic. She passed a note to an employee there, telling them to call police. Johnson sped away when officers arrived.

While able to get away on that occasion, depu-

ties arrived in force a short time later outside his Bickford Road home to take him into custody. Johnson fled on foot from

his residence and led lawmen on a short chase that ended at the edge of a 60-foot bluff above the bone-chilling Collins River.

Officers negotiated for nearly four hours in the frigid cold before Johnson stepped away from the edge and surrendered. Lawmen say he jumped from the same cliff a few years ago to escape pursuing officers.



JOHNSON

Date ambush

Continued from page 1A

The victim continued, "The door opened and she was gone and there was some man crawling into the seat while another man was tapping at my window."

The man said he was pulled from his Ford Mustang and pistol whipped, cutting his lip. "I became cooperative when he put the gun in my face," the victim admitted. The gun was later found to be a BB gun.

After a few minutes, the men fled in his car, leaving him in the dark cemetery. He called authorities from a nearby house.

Sheriff's investigator Stephen Carpenter testified he was able to find the woman's picture on Walmart surveillance

video and was able to download her picture from the Lots of Fish website.

"I put it out there to officers and pretty soon someone recognized her," Carpenter told the jury, noting he then went to her home to question her and found Klingerman there. He also found a BB gun in plain view.

Following interviews, the suspects reportedly started turning on one another with Klingerman and Cook claiming Spivey was the mastermind of the online date turned ambush. In a taped interview, played for the jurors, Spivey maintained he only came down to "get high" with Klingerman and was convinced to go along with him to "scare"

Cook's date. He admitted on tape he was the one who hit the victim with the gun but maintained things got out of hand and a robbery had not been planned.

"It was stupid," he admitted, denying claims by his partners in crime he had talked them into helping him with the heist so he could afford to keep his motorcycle from being repossessed.

Spivey maintained a Facebook message he sent to the couple the following day saying, "Thanks for the fun last night," was intended to be a joke.

While jurors did not convict him of the original charge of aggravated robbery, they did find him responsible for the crime given their two guilty verdicts.

SOUTHLAND
BRICK & BLOCK

Ronnie Simmons

700 Ordway Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Cell: 931-212-5252
Office: 615-893-7146 Fax: 615-893-0110

ronnie.southlandbb@gmail.com

"Sparklin' Clean"

WATSON'S
STEAM CLEANING

Pressure Washing • House Washing
Driveway Washing • Roof Washing

931-808-2792

NOTICE

On January 18, the Southern Standard was notified it would no longer receive Walgreens circulars. This was a decision made by Walgreens and Novus Media Investments, which handle Walgreens inserts. We are sorry for this inconvenience and direct all concerns and questions from customers regarding their Walgreens circular to Consumer Relations at

consumerrelations.bb@walgreens.com
or
1-800-925-4733

If you would like to see Walgreens circulars back in the Southern Standard please contact Walgreens through email or call the number above.

Civil War Show & Sale
REV WAR • CIVIL WAR • WORLD WAR I & II

February 3 & 4

Sat. 9-5 • Sun. 9-3 Admission \$10
12 & under Free!

Free Appraisals

NW Georgia Trade Center
Dalton, GA

BUY SELL TRADE

\$1 off with this ad

770-630-7296

MK SHOWS
www.mkshows.com

Guns • Swords • Relics • Uniforms • Artillery