

Lebanon officer killed when truck runs into creek

A Lebanon police officer returning home to DeKalb County after working the night shift lost his life Thursday morning when his truck ran off Highway 70 and into rain-swollen Dry Creek near Dowelltown.

The body of the officer, Joseph Bowen, 28, was recovered several hundred feet downstream from where his Chevy Silverado came to rest on its side in the middle of the fast-moving torrent, one side of the truck barely visible above the surface. Investigators believe Bowen ran off the road, just missing a guardrail that would have kept him from running into the creek, and then struck a tree before plummeting over an embankment and into the swift water.

The truck was found after a search was instigated for Bowen when he did not return home as expected. Searchers learned his cellphone was last pinged around 7:29 a.m. on Highway 70 near Goose Creek Road.

A Highway Patrol helicopter aided the search and the truck was spotted in the river just after noon. A small army of searchers

were involved in the hunt for the missing officer.

The loss is an especially hard one in DeKalb County as prior to taking a job in Lebanon, Bowen had worked for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department.

"Joe Bowen and his family have been true servants to this county. Joe's wife, Kim, is a 911 dispatcher for DeKalb County," said DeKalb County Sheriff Patrick Ray. "His father, Dewayne, was a former deputy in DeKalb County before leaving to go to the Lebanon Police Department. Joe has served as a volunteer fireman for DeKalb County."

Ray continued, "He started his career in law enforcement working for my department as a correctional officer. I then promoted him to a deputy position where he worked in that capacity until he left my department to go to the Lebanon Police Department. Joe was much more than an employee to me. He was a true friend. His personal life and work ethics were a true example of what every officer should be like."



BOWEN



Searchers stand on the bank of Dry Creek after the pickup driven by Joseph Bowen, 28, was located in the water.

Politics and bologna mix



Chad McGee is served a sandwich by Phyllis Prater of Prater's BBQ during Bologna Day on Capitol Hill on Tuesday. A number of Warren County residents made the trip to Nashville for the annual event, which gives them access to our local representatives in state government.

Wirgau gets 180 days for sneak-attack robbery

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

A hired hand who hit his employer in the back of the head and stole his wallet before running from police on foot has been sentenced to 180 days in jail.

Adam Mark Wirgau, 28, was given 180 days to serve of a four-year sentence for robbery and evading arrest on foot. He was also ordered to pay restitution to John Douglass, the victim in the case, and was ordered to have no further contact with him.

Wirgau was employed by Douglass to help clean up property around his West Main Street home which burned in August 2017. The house, which was unoccupied at the time, was located beside Hardee's and has since been leveled and removed.

"The young man had helped me for less than eight hours," said Douglass in an interview with the Standard. "I turned my back on him and was going



WIRGAU

to unlock the garage door when I was hit in the back of the head."


Douglas was examined by paramedics at the scene but refused a trip to the hospital despite a bump on his head and a cut on his arm.

"He said he felt the suspect reach into his pocket and take his wallet," said McMinnville police detective Nicole Mosley. Wirgau also took his keys but did not take his vehicle.

Wirgau tried to elude capture when lawmen cornered him near Pepper Branch Park hours after the crime. He was taken into custody following a struggle.

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OBITUARIES

Gail Jones Bouldin, 67

Gail Jones Bouldin, 67, a Warren County resident and native, was born Aug. 26, 1950 and died March 1 at her residence following an extended illness.

She was self-employed in home remodeling, of the Protestant Faith, and daughter of the late Brackett and Chloe Stoner Jones. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by five sisters, Frances Wilson, Opal Cantrell, Geraldine Reynolds, Johnnie Jones and Faye Hobbs.

Survivors include loving companion of 28 years, Charlie Sunderland of the Irving College community; daughter Tammy Bouldin Panter and husband Chris of McMinnville; son Eric Bouldin and Emily Haston of Cookeville; grandson Seth Bouldin of Cookeville; sister Arlene Oakley of McMinnville; and two brothers, Burton Jones of McMinnville and Clifton Jones of Portland.

Funeral service was Saturday, March 3, at High's Chapel with Danny Jones and Teddy Jones officiating. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) March 4, 2018



David Abraham Nunley, 73

Beersheba Springs resident David Abraham Nunley, 73, passed away Thursday, March 1, at Saint Thomas Midtown Hospital in Nashville.

He was born in Altamont on Aug. 23, 1944 to William Carroll Nunley and Barbara Grace Schiesser Nunley, who preceded him in death along with his sisters, Florence Scott, Lou Ella Yates and Carolyn Hodson; brothers Kermit Ray, Kelly Greenberry, Jessie William "J.W." and Kenneth Carl Nunley.

He was a member of Beersheba Springs Church of Christ and enjoyed working in his garden. He was retired from the Tennessee Department of Transportation. He was also a member of Sewanee Lodge 405 F&AM at Tracy City.

He is survived by wife Georgia Knight Nunley; son David Conry Nunley; daughter Cardelia (Tim) Spicer; sister Hilda Martin; brother Paul (Faye) Nunley; granddaughters Grace and Ana Spicer; several nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Sunday at Layne Funeral Home Chapel in Altamont with ministers Buzzy Neal and Sam Stansberry officiating. Burial will follow at Hunerwadel Cemetery with Masonic Rites rendered by the Sewanee Lodge.

Layne Funeral Home in Altamont, www.laynefuneralhome.com, is in charge of arrangements.

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McMinnville Funeral Home

OBITUARY LINE

473-5700

mcminnvillefuneralhome.net

117 Underwood Rd.

473-6606

High's Inc.

24 Hour
Obituary Information

473-8585

For Other
Information or Service

473-2137

www.highfuneralhome.com

Our recent sad loss leaves us with grateful hearts toward neighbors and friends. Their comforting expressions of sympathy and thoughtfulness will always be remembered.

The Family of

Monty Clell Wanamaker