



SPORTS

Lady Pioneers storm past White County **1B**



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FRIDAY
APRIL 6, 2018

McMinnville, Tennessee
southernstandard.com
Vol. 140 No. 41 **75¢**

Southern Standard



Anderson guilty of theft over \$80K

Former Western Finance employee ordered to repay amount stolen

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

A woman has avoided jail time for stealing more than \$80,000 from her employer over a 17-month span.

McMinnville resident Laurel Magan Anderson, 29, was placed on probation for five years, ordered to perform 50 hours pub-

lic service work, and repay the amount she stole, \$81,190, to Western Finance. She was granted a judicial diversion, which means she can have her criminal record erased if she gets in no further trouble during her five-year probation sentence.

Anderson entered a plea to theft of property between \$60,000 and \$250,000. The incidents reportedly occurred from Feb. 5, 2015 to July

16, 2016.

Anderson was employed as a loan generator at Western Finance on Smithville Highway. According to the District Attorney's Office, Anderson would generate loans using fake names then give herself the money. When the loan came due, she would create a second loan using a fake name to pay off the first loan.

She ended up generating \$214,000 in phony loans, accord-



ANDERSON

ing to Western Finance. However, much of that fraudulent money was funneled back to the company in an effort to repay loans to cover up the scheme. It didn't go into her pocket.

Anderson was also charged with forgery for writing approximately 45 checks payable to fictitious persons. She would endorse the checks herself and cash them. In the indictment against Anderson, it said checks with an approximate

value of \$66,571 were forged.

The District Attorney's Office notes cases where a large sum of money is stolen from an employer typically begin the same way. The employee starts with a small amount that is intended to be repaid, but when not caught initially the employee instead steals more.

In the plea agreement, it was noted Anderson would pay no less than \$200 a month to Western Finance until full restitution is made. If she makes only the minimum payment, it will take more than 33 years to repay the money.

Deadly consequences



Lisa Hobbs photo

Warren County High School teens received a crash course in impaired driving Thursday morning. Trace Adcock was one of the first students to try McMinnville Police Department's newest acquisition, a Drunk Busters Pedal Kart, while wearing fatal vision goggles to simulate intoxication.

Students shown dangers of impaired driving

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

McMinnville Police Department is continuing its effort to raise awareness about the dangers of impaired driving and targeting those just learning to drive.

Lt. Mark Mara, with assistance from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, offered a Fatal Vision Session at Warren County High School

on Thursday morning for students in driver's education.

"How many of you have ever gotten into a vehicle with a friend that you know is impaired and shouldn't be driving?" asked Mara after having students close their eyes to increase honesty.

Approximately 15 students raised their hands out of 40 to 50 in attendance.

"How many of you have driven impaired?" Mara asked.

One student raised a hand.

Presented to students is what could have happened by guest speaker Cory Forrest Tate. In October 2012, Tate was the driver during a motor vehicle crash that claimed the life of 17-year-old Caitlin Talley.

"We went to a party," said Tate. "We drank. Did some Xanax. I don't remember leaving the party."

Continued on 3A

Sobering statistics

- There were 223 deaths due to impaired driving in Tennessee in 2016.
- Drunk driving is still the No. 1 cause of deaths on Tennessee roadways.
- A life is lost every 51 minutes to impaired drivers in the United States.

Source: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Meth sale gets Bailey 22 years

'Career offender' violates probation

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

A man with a lengthy history of drug arrests was handed a 22-year prison sentence after he was caught selling meth while on probation.

James Paul Bailey, 50, was handed the sentence as a Range 3 offender due to his lengthy criminal record.

"He is a career offender, a habitual drug dealer," said District Attorney General Liza Zavogiannis. "When you get up there to as many times as it's been for him, his sentence could have been even higher."

The offense which led to Bailey's 22-year sentence came when he was caught selling more than .5 grams of methamphetamine, a Class B felony. He was also indicted by the grand jury for selling more than .5 grams of meth 20 days later, but was only sentenced for the single count.

It was the latest in a long string of arrests for Bailey.

He was among 20 people caught in a citywide drug roundup in July, 2011 when he was charged with delivery of more than a half ounce of marijuana and Alprazolam. He was ordered to serve 360 days of a 12-year sentence in August 2012.

When released from jail, Bailey showed he could not stay out of trouble. He violated his probation in 2014 and 2016, serving jail time on each occasion.

By being a Range 3 offender, Bailey will have to serve at least 45 percent of his prison sentence before his first eligibility for parole.



BAILEY

Adopt-A-Mile program aims to clean rivers

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

McMinnville's Breakfast Rotary Club has launched an Adopt-A-Mile program as its river cleanup effort continues.

Adopt-A-Mile is open to any business, church, organization, or group that

would like to help keep Warren County rivers clean, all 145 miles of them.

"They would watch their mile throughout the year and keep it clean," said Rotary member Rachel Killebrew. "We are going to allow people to adopt one or more miles and they can select where they want. We are doing

three rivers: Barren Fork River, Collins River, and Hickory Creek."

Breakfast Rotary conducts an annual river cleanup in July. Hundreds of volunteers converge on the Barren Fork River and spend the day removing trash.

Continued on 3A



Landon Spivey and Kaylee Smith pulled a large piece of rusted metal from the Barren Fork River during last year's river cleanup. Breakfast Rotary is launching an Adopt-A-Mile river cleanup program to encourage trash collection more than one day a year.

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