

Morgan signs off one final time

Police lieutenant retires after 40 years on force

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

John Morgan offered a heartfelt goodbye during his retirement luncheon Friday after 40 years at McMinnville Police Department.

He was hired on April 13, 1978 and retired on April 13, 2018.

"This morning is bitter sweet," said Morgan. "I've gotten to see a lot of my former bosses. I've been a lieutenant for 20 years. I think I've done a half decent job. I learned a lot from this man right here, John Hollandsworth."

Morgan struggled to hold back tears.

"I said I wouldn't do this. John was the best lieutenant I ever worked for. He was the type of lieutenant that if you did your job, you never heard anything from him. If you screw up, it's over. He taught me a lot. I tried to run my shift a lot like he did. A lot of men have said they appreciated the way I treated them. I treated them the way he treated us. I was told when I started here that I would never last. I guess they were right. I'm quitting."

The joke brought laugh-

ter. Morgan ended a distinguished career surrounded by family, friends and those within the department he referred to as "brothers and sisters."

"I'm going to miss you guys. I hope when y'all get here, you had as good a time as I have," said Morgan. "I want you to be careful and you are always going to be my brothers and sisters, if you claim me or not."

Officers notify dispatch when they begin and end their shift. That announcement is heard by all officers currently on duty. As is customary, retiring officers offer a sign-off call as they end their final shift.

"I don't know if you heard my signoff this morning," said Morgan, who struggled to get the words out. "My brothers and sisters in blue. Unless you've experienced it, you can't know what that means."

McMinnville Police Chief Bryan Denton had his first encounter with Morgan when he was 17 years old.

"In about April of 1978, I had a '67 Mustang," said Denton. "The car looked good, but it was a piece of junk. I lived way out in Irving College and I had to

leave 20 minutes before in order to get to school on time. I got to school and I was riding the side roads by Towles Avenue. There was a guy in behind me that had a car that would run. We came out of a side street and the guy behind me just let it go."

Blue lights immediately followed the burnout and Denton was pulled over.

Morgan asked the 17-year-old, "What was the deal with pulling out of the side road?"

"I said I didn't do anything," said Denton. "He said he heard a noise and somebody let it loose back there. I swore it wasn't me. I promised. I was scared to death. My father was a deputy. I knew if I got a ticket, if you knew my dad you knew how that was going to go."

Denton pointed out the condition of his vehicle as exhibit A on why it wasn't him.

"After listening to my car, he says 'I see what you mean' and hands me back my license."

Denton presented Morgan with his badge and service weapon - offered to officers who retire after 25 years and leave in good standing - and a 40-year service pin and plaque.



Lisa Hobbs photo

After 40 years of police service, John Morgan has retired from McMinnville Police Department. A luncheon in his honor was held Friday at the department.

Nice Chompers



Lisa Hobbs photo

Chompers, a 1-year-old chocolate lab mix, is in need of a good home. His adoption fee is \$97 and includes rabies vaccination and the cost to neuter. Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center is located at 169 Paws Trail. Serious inquires only may call 507-3647.

Parks and Rec seeks tourism grant

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

Enhancing the enjoyment of visitors to city-owned trails and parks is the focus of a grant sought by McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department.

According to director Scott McCord, the funds would come from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development and would be used to enhance Hobbs Park

and Salley's Alley.

"The grant would be used for informational kiosks, signage, benches and tables, fitness equipment, habitat houses and vegetation to attract local wildlife," McCord said. "The scope of the work would be to River Trail East beginning at Hobbs Park, continuing through Sally's Alley, connecting to River Trail North and ending at Rocket Park."

A reimbursable grant, it would be \$28,500 with a 10 percent match.

"The city is responsible for 10 percent," said McCord. "It's a 90/10 grant. That would leave the city with \$2,850 our responsibility after reimbursement. The plan is not to change the scope of the work, but to develop a broad plan for signage at all trail locations and install physical features to enhance the experience visitors have on the new trail."

Permission to apply was made before members of the city Parks and Recreation

Committee.

"Do you think we would be able to hit that number and use all of that amount?" asked Alderman Ben Newman.

McCord replied, "We would try as best we can."

"If we could use all of it, I would like to," said Newman.

Application approval was given.

If awarded, the measure would be presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for its approval.

GENERAL SESSIONS

Judge Bill Locke ruled on the following cases in General Sessions Court.

Kenneth A. Bond was ordered to serve 30 days for violation of probation.

Cody Dale Cagle had probation revoked for violation of probation.

Caitlyn Sue Davis had probation revoked for violation of probation. She was given an additional year of probation for theft of property and ordered to pay restitution.

Allison Ann Marie Edge was ordered to serve 45 days for violation of probation.

Fred Chester Giles was ordered to serve 90 days and make restitution of \$730 for three counts of shoplifting.

Stacey Marie Giles was released on time served for violation of probation.

Sherlock Hoyt Holmes had probation revoked for violation of probation.

Slayden Edward Moore was ordered to serve 14 days for violation of probation.

Callie Noel Ray was ordered to serve 60 days for violation of probation and failure to appear.

Eliezer Rostran was ordered to serve 30 days for violation of probation.

Anthony J. Terrigno Jr. was given 10 days for fail-

ure to appear.

Nolan Scott Hillis was ordered to serve 90 days for violation of probation.

John D. Nunley had probation revoked for violation of probation.

Jason Leon Patrick was ordered to serve 30 days for violation of probation.

Dawn Denise Moore had probation revoked for violation of probation.

Juanita Y. Walker was given 11-months, 29 days probation, ordered to pay \$17.58 restitution, and stay out of Walmart for shoplifting.

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