

Lind Street fire



Lacy Garrison photo
Renters of a house on Lind Street near Hardee's say they returned from paying an electric bill to find smoke coming from the home. "I'm thankful it didn't happen while we were asleep," said renter Laura Freeman while holding her daughter Willow. Firefighters were quick to respond. The cause of the fire is unknown with the possibility of an electrical issue.

Potential pay raise for McMinnville employees

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

McMinnville employees could receive a 2.3 percent boost to their paychecks for fiscal year 2018-19.

"The South Region Consumer Price Index put out by the federal government is 2.3 percent," said Alderman Everett Brock. "The overall price index was 2.4 percent for the whole country. We then went back and looked at all the cities that we could get hold of and they range from 2 percent and 4 percent. The majority being around 2.3 and 2.4 per-

cent."

The information was presented Tuesday night to members of the city Finance Committee in order to include that adjustment when directors generate their proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Before the decision was made, Brock offered what a 2.5 percent increase would mean in departmental budgets and, by average, what employees would receive.

"If you pick 2.5 percent, it's going add \$36.47 per pay period to the average officer on the police force. It will be a yearly increase to the

department of around \$50,000. If you go down to fire department, you can see it would cost the department around \$30,000. Each average employee, each payday, would receive an additional \$28.69."

Alderman Ryle Chastain said, "Anywhere between 2 and 3 percent is a standard number. Maybe split that and do 2.5 percent."

"I'm thinking 2 percent would be good," said Alderman Ben Newman.

Brock stated, "Somewhere between 2 and 3 percent is what I'm looking at. If you have a real thing about 2, I don't have a problem with it. I would prefer 2.5 percent."

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Happy Mother's Day

May 13th

Every mother and grandmother is unique, but they all have one thing in common: No matter how busy they are, they're always there for you. This Mother's Day, show Mom or Grandma, stepmom or special aunt, daughter or sister how special she is - show her off in a special way for everyone to see!

EXAMPLE

Cindy Smith
Happy Mother's Day Mommy love Tommy

We'll place your mother's or grandmother's picture and special message, in example as shown, in the Southern Standard for everyone to see how proud you are and how much that you love her!

Cost is \$15.00
(30 word message only with no photo \$8.00)

DEADLINE Wed., May 9th, 2018

MOTHER'S NAME: _____

GREETING FROM: _____

Mail or bring photo & information with payment to:
Southern Standard, PO Box 150, McMinnville, TN 37111

Cosby guilty of aggravated indecent assault charges

(AP) -- Bill Cosby, who was accused of drugging and sexually molesting a woman at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004, was found guilty Thursday of three counts of aggravated indecent assault.

He was allowed to remain free on \$1 million bond but was told he can't travel outside the county where his home is.

His lawyer said he will appeal.

A look at what happens next:

SENTENCING DATE
The sentencing will take place in 60 to 90 days, but no date was set.

ASSESSMENT AS A SEX OFFENDER
Anyone convicted of a sexually violent offense in Pennsylvania must undergo an assessment to determine if he or she is a "sexually violent predator." A state board has 90 days to make a recommendation to the judge, who has the final say.

A sexually violent predator is anyone convicted of a sexually violent offense who has a "mental abnormality or personality disorder" that makes him or her likely to engage in predatory sexually violent offenses.

Sexually violent predators must receive at least monthly sex offender counseling for life and are put on a state police offender registry.

HOW LONG A SENTENCE COULD HE GET?
Cosby could get up to 10

years in prison on each of the three counts. He is likely to get less than that under state sentencing guidelines, but given his age, 80, even a modest term could mean he will die behind bars. Defendants are sometimes allowed to remain free on bail while they appeal.

WHERE WOULD HE BE IMPRISONED?
The state Department of Corrections says Cosby's age and any health issues he has would not have any bearing on what prison he is sent to because any prison would be able to take care of him. Spokeswoman Susan McNaughton says the state would evaluate Cosby like any other inmate to determine where he serves his sentence.

Ideas for logo use in full bloom

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

McMinnville officials are considering how best to use the new tourism slogan and logo.

"We need to discuss if we want to use the new logo in the city and how we would use it," said Alderman Everett Brock, during Tuesday night's Finance Committee meeting. "I'm not really sure how we would use it at this point in time."

Design Sensory, a design agency from Knoxville, unveiled last month its plans to make McMinnville the place to vacation in Tennessee. Its logo and slogan were generated at the request of the Chamber of Commerce and presented to the city.

The logo is a compass with a magnolia tree bloom. At the bottom of the logo is



the slogan, "Where Life's In Full Bloom."

Alderman Ben Newman is in favor of using the new logo.

"I would like to see it used because it is a new branding tool," said Newman. "We've got the McMinnville 'Sow Natural.' When I showed that to people at my office and asked them what it means, they said they've never paid any attention to it and asked me what it means."

They didn't know. I would like to use it. I think it looks good. I think it looks better than what we've been using."

Brock said he doesn't find the new logo catchy.

"It just doesn't grab me for some reason," said Brock. "The Sow Natural didn't grab me either."

Chamber president Mandy Eller was asked to contact Design Sensory and request how the new slogan and logo could be used on the city's different department stationaries.

"If there's a charge for that, let us know," said Newman. "If they'll do it for free, that would be great."

Design Sensory offered to hold a marketing campaign to generate photography and videography to be used as the city made the transition, as well as offered to help the city change its website. However, the cost of that is unknown.

Safety Committee OKs EMS budget

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

Warren County EMS had a quick response time for its proposed budget for upcoming fiscal year 2018-19.

Presented to the county Safety Committee were both the Ambulance Service budget and Temporary Morgue budget. Preston Denney is the first department director to submit a proposed budget in committee.

Approved for EMS in 2017-18 was \$3.48 million. Requested for 2018-19 is \$3.6 million.

Making the bulk of the \$125,500 difference is an increase to Ambulance Medical Billing, the department's billing service, from \$42,000 last year to \$120,000 this year.

Commission Ron Lee expressed concern for a

\$78,000 increase.

"Goodness gracious," said Lee.

Per its contract with the county, AMB receives 5.75 percent per month of its net collections. However, the company guaranteed it would collect enough additional revenue to pay for its services. If the company generates more than 5.75 percent in revenue, anything above that belongs to the county. If it generates less than 5.75 percent, its rate will lower to that amount.

Denney says the fee went up because AMB collected more.

"Our collections have gone up some so the fee has gone up," said Denney, who was asked about the revenue benefit to the county. "I wouldn't say we're making a fortune on it, but I don't think we're losing money. It is saving the county

money on computers and software we don't have to purchase anymore."

Approved for the morgue in 2017-18 was \$26,000. Requested for 2018-19 was \$23,700. Denney said the bulk of those funds, \$17,500, is to be used for the medical examiner and autopsies.

"We haven't had to do many autopsies because most of those fall back on the District Attorney's Office," Denney said. "If the DA's office requests an autopsy, they pay for it. If the DA's office doesn't request one and our medical examiner says 'something just isn't right here' then he can request an autopsy. We have to pay for that."

Safety Committee members approved the budgets.

Both will be sent to the next stage, the county Budget and Finance Committee.

County will soon seek bids on bonds

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

Warren County Schools is one month out from beginning an expansion project at Bobby Ray Elementary and bonds to cover expenses are being sought.

Director of Schools Bobby Cox said an effort is being made to split the \$6 million Warren County government is providing the school system between Bobby Ray and West Elementary as evenly as possible.

Requested of the county Financial Management Committee was Bobby Ray's half due to the project beginning after the school year ends next month. However, according to Finance Department director Linda Hillis, it will save

the county \$35,000 if it issues the entire \$6 million at one time.

"The recommendation from Cumberland Securities is to go ahead and do that full \$6 million at one time to save on issuance costs," she said. "It's going to make about a \$35,000 difference in issuance cost, rather than doing \$3 million and then, a few months later, doing the remaining \$3 million."

The initial \$6 million is the first portion of a \$12.5 million bond issue approved by resolution by the Warren County Commission in February. The remainder, \$6.5 million, will be issued once jail plans are complete.



COX

With committee approval, the county will go out for bids on the bonds.

"We will bid the interest rates, so we will know more about the percentage rate and who the bid is awarded to once that process is complete," said Hillis. "The annual payment will also be determined at that point as well. It has been recommended the county not go less than a 20-year debt payment schedule."

Committee members unanimously approved the request. Because the Warren County Commission gave permission for the bonds in February, further consideration is not needed.