

Willett receives 5 years of prison

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

A man who was held at gunpoint while breaking into a barn in the Rock Island area was handed a five-year prison sentence Wednesday by Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley.

Thomas Allen Willett, 47, was sentenced on six separate charges, the top one of which, theft over \$10,000, landed him the five-year prison term.

Willett was captured at a barn off Old Rock Island Road when the property owner discovered him in the act of stealing. The property owner pulled a gun, alerted authorities, and held Willett at gunpoint until law enforcement arrived.

Upon arriving on scene, officers found a Jeep stolen from McMinnville which had been filled with items

Willett planned to steal from the barn. There was also a black pickup found on the property lawmen believe was going to be used for criminal purposes.

"There was a black Ford truck that was attached to a horse trailer which I believe he was going to drive from the scene due to the keys being in the truck," said McMinnville police detective Stuart Whitman.

Further adding to Willett's trouble, the owner of the stolen Jeep came to the scene and told police some of the tools found inside the Jeep belonged to him. Willett told officers he rode to the scene as a passenger in the stolen Jeep with another man and had no idea the vehicle was hot. However, that story was discounted as officers found no evidence of another person at the scene.



WILLETT

Linda Hillis to retire, committee begins search for successor

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



Linda Hillis, pictured with an award from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury last year, is retiring. That means the county will be looking for an accountant capable of handling an \$86 million budget.

Warren County government is seeking someone to handle its \$86 million annual budget with the upcoming retirement of Finance Department director Linda Hillis.

"I've been with Warren County for 22 years," said Hillis. "My plans are simple, just to spend time with family, enjoy life at a little slower pace, and see what the future holds in store for me."

The county Financial Management Committee met to consider Hillis' resignation and her future replacement.

County Executive Herschel Wells, chairman, says the next individual will have big shoes to fill because Hillis works well with everyone, specifically naming Road Superintendent Levie

Glenn, Director of Schools Bobby Cox, and Commissioner Terry Bell.

"Linda's job is not only the figures, but she's good with the public," said Wells. "She's good with Levie. She's good with Bobby. She's good with Terry. She's good with the court. She's always smiling. She's not sharp with you. We need someone like that."

Cox added, "I agree."

"We're going to make her cry if we don't stop," said Commissioner Tommy Savage.

Hillis replied, "Yes,

you're embarrassing me."

"We don't mean to do that," said Wells. "We're just telling the truth."

Bell stated, "We're telling it like it is."

Committee members asked Wells to generate a job description for their consideration.

The description must be presented to the full Warren County Commission for its approval.

Once set, the position can be advertised and prospective applicants interviewed.

OBITUARIES

Shirley Ann Cole, 60

Ms. Shirley Ann Cole, 60, of Doyle died Friday, April 27, at Saint Thomas West Hospital in Nashville. She was born Aug. 9, 1957, in Berrien Springs, Mich., was a member of Campaign Church of God, and was preceded in death by parents Odres and Pauline Dodd Tittle and sister Virginia Skelton.

Survivors include her daughters Heather Phillips and Harlie Cole, stepchildren Melissa (Steven) McMillen, Travis Cole, and Teresa Cole, grandchildren Koressa, Jacob, and Audrey Phillips, great-grandchildren Bryler and Brixlynn Cantrell, sisters Lena Butterworth and Paulette (Douglas) Ellis, brothers Roy and Thomas Tittle, step-grandchildren Cameron and Katherine Furbie, Krista Bell Godwin, and Braxton and Zoe Cole. Other family members and friends also survive.

Funeral service will be 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 1, at McMinnville Funeral Home Chapel. Bishop Jeff Kesley will officiate. Interment will follow at McElroy Cemetery. The family will receive friends Monday from 4 to 8 p.m., and again Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parlors of McMinnville Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) April 29, 2018

Carl Andy Myers, 67

Carl Andy Myers, 67, a Morrison resident and Warren County native, was born July 2, 1950 and died April 27 at Manchester Health Care Center following an extended illness.

He was a retired self-employed farmer and mechanic and son of the late Haskell Eldy "Jack" and Zelma Lee Cantrell Myers. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother Billy Harold Myers.

Mr. Myers is survived by sister and brother-in-law, Dot and Jimmy Walker of McMinnville; nieces and spouses Shayna and Buddy Heins of Knoxville, and Sandie and Greg Jones of Decatur, Ga.; great-niece and great-nephew, Allie and Harrison Heins; aunt and uncle Doris and Charles Talley of McMinnville; and special friends Alene and Steve Goolsby and Judy King.

Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Monday, April 30, at High's Chapel with Kevin Deason and Doc Lewis to officiate. Interment will follow at Bascom Cemetery. Visitation will be 11 a.m. Monday until the time of service at High's. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
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(McMinnville, Tenn.) April 29, 2018



Lacy Garrison photo

Pictured, from left, photographer Ian Riley, along with Tourism Development Board members Christy Ross, Mandy Eller and Mayor Jimmy Haley discuss marketing ideas for highlighting McMinnville's tourism assets. This was the first meeting for the Tourism Development Board, which took place at the Chamber Community Room.

Tourism

Continued from page 1A

Riley continued, "If you're looking for a travel destination, you're not going to want to go somewhere that looks cheesy, but by using high-quality marketing materials, it's going to be speaking to

the Nashville crowd and other visitors."

Riley presented his rates for marketing and event shoots, along with samples from previous work. For a full day marketing shoot, \$1,250 to \$1,075. For a half day rate, \$800 to \$695. His hourly rate is \$250 to \$200, with three hours minimum.

"For something like Ian's project, I would typically put it in appropriations, and so that's something I would need an

answer on in the next couple of months," said Mandy Eller, Chamber of Commerce president. "With appropriations, typically what that is, we request that and the money goes back out for marketing, for print ads, for conferences and for any kind of marketing we're doing for tourism."

There was also a brief discussion about the potential development of the Blue Building as a hotel by a development group, along with the

need to set a timeline on this request from the developer. However, several members voiced their concern as they had yet to receive a letter of credit from this group and believe the board should pursue other options.

That decision will be made at the next meeting.

This was the first official public meeting for the Tourism Development Board.

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DEADLINE TO RECEIVE PHOTOS: FRIDAY, MAY 18

CORRECTION

A logo generated by Design Sensory and presented to the city of McMinnville last month is a dogwood tree blossom. It was misidentified as a magnolia tree blossom. The Southern Standard apologizes for the misidentification.

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