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County plagued with unwanted properties

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

Unwanted properties in Warren County could be up for grabs.

A tax sale on the courthouse steps in 2016 ended with 10 parcels remaining unsold.

"The redemption period for the property owners is one year and that has passed," said Clerk and Master Myra Mara, who presented the information to members of the county Financial Management Committee.

One of the 10 is located at 4437 Yager Road and was formerly Perry's Market.

According to county legal counsel Robert Bratcher, the county can liquidate the assets how it sees fit and

offered one suggestion.

"Thankfully, the statute allowing this is devoid of any specific instructions as to how it is sold," said Bratcher. "That gives the county some authority to do this however it likes. One of the possibilities would be to throw them into the next auction in a separate group, as long as the buyers understand this is a different type of property because it has already gone through the redemption period and it's more a private sale from the county."

Because the 10 were offered at auction in 2016 and did not sell, they are government properties and that changes how they must be listed when offered again.

Continued on **2A**



Lisa Hobbs photo

There were no takers for this corner lot at the three-way stop on Yager Road when it was offered in a tax sale in 2016 by Warren County. It is among 10 properties that remain unclaimed. County commissioners are considering what to do with those.

Pickup flips



Lacy Garrison photo

A deer is being blamed for a single-vehicle crash that caused a Grundy County resident to lose control of his pickup, hydroplane off the road and flip into a nearby embankment on Northcutt Cove Road in Irving College on Friday afternoon. Pickup driver Rojas Martin O'Alde was visibly shaken after crawling out from under the wreckage but he only sustained a few minor cuts. Sheriff's Department Sgt. Kelly Carter said the cause of the wreck was also due to heavy rain. O'Alde denied transport to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital.



SHERRELL

Volunteers get free car registration

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

A state bill will provide volunteer firefighters and Rescue Squad members with free vehicle registration renewal for fiscal year 2018-19.

"I sponsored this bill last year," said state Rep. Paul Sherrell. "It didn't pass. I felt it was important so I sponsored it again this year. It passed."

Placed within the state's budget to fund the endeavor was \$54,600. However, the bill does not remove local registration requirements.

Warren County charges \$30 per vehicle. Called a wheel tax, it was originally passed in 1992 to cover the cost of the new high school. In March 2012, voters reaffirmed the charge with its revenue going to fund education. It generates approximately \$1 million annually.

Sherrell asked the full Warren County Commission on Monday to suspend the wheel tax to make registration renewal free for these volunteers.

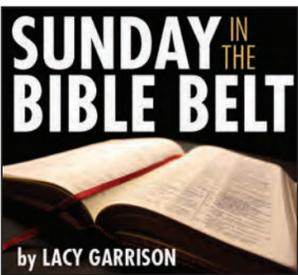
"I've already been to White County because it has a wheel tax," said Sherrell. "I'm asking you if you would consider waiving the wheel tax for these folks who are volunteer firefighters and volunteer Rescue Squad so they won't have to pay for that. They work for you."

Sherrell said he contacted the county's legal counsel and a resolution would be needed.

Commissioner Terry Bell offered to bring the measure before the county Budget and Finance Committee, of which he is chairman.

The state bill is set to take effect July 1.

Rural churches matter



by **LACY GARRISON**

So many times, we measure the effectiveness of a church by its size.

In a casual church-related conversation the "How many members does your congregation have?" is typically one of the first comparative questions asked. But isn't a church of 20 and a church of 2,000 made up of the same thing, followers of Christ?

Bluff Springs Church of Christ in the Dibrell area may be unfamiliar to many Warren County residents, who recognize the names of larger Churches of Christ such as Westwood or Central, but small does not mean inferior. Although Bluff Springs is justly defined as



Tucked away off Bluff Springs Road is Bluff Springs Church of Christ. "It's a big family," said elder George Christian, who has been a member for 59 years. "When homecoming rolls around, it doesn't matter how far they've moved away, people come home and spend the day and reminisce on good times." Pictured is a previous homecoming.

small with around 30 worshippers on a given Sunday, this doesn't deter them from spreading God's word and living as a close-knit body of believers.

Preacher Teddy Jones says he's finishing his 13th year of ministry at Bluff Springs and has seen tremendous benefits of ministering

within a small, rural church. He said Bluff Springs loves its community and seeks to be a blessing to it.

"All the members are very active within our church and we've got a lot of community-minded folks who worship here including teachers, county commissioners and

school board members," said Jones. "God is calling this congregation to be welcoming and I've heard newcomers say that they've felt the friendliness and warmth because we really do emphasize 'love thy neighbors.'"

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