



SPORTS
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LIFESTYLES
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White jailed for attempted murder

He beats man with his own oxygen tank

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

A man charged with attempted murder for savagely beating a 58-year-old with his own oxygen tank during a home invasion robbery has been sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Chase Whitney White, 30, was sentenced Wednesday by Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley for

attempted first-degree murder, especially aggravated robbery, and especially aggravated burglary. As a condition of his plea, he must serve 85 percent of his sentence.

"He beat the victim within an inch of his life," said District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis. "I think the sentence is reasonable because the victim is not in good health and this saves him from having to go through a

trial."

It was a year and a half ago when White broke into the Adams Street home of an acquaintance while the victim was sleeping. According to police, the victim awoke when he was hit in the head with his own oxygen tank. After delivering an initial blow, White hit the victim



WHITE

several more times and he fell unconscious. The victim laid unconscious in his bed for around 10 hours after the assault.

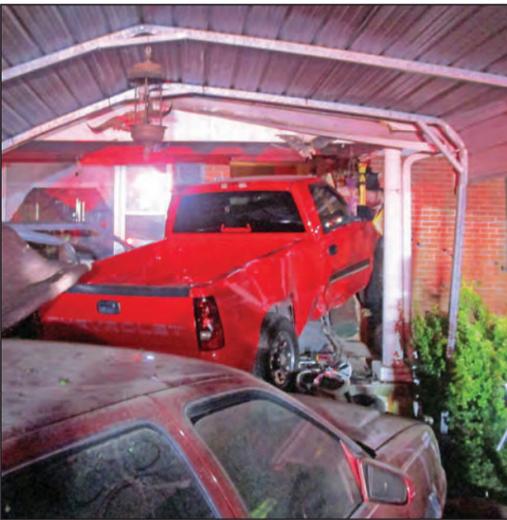
"The assault happened sometime around 4 a.m.," said police detective Marty Cantrell. "He was able to get out of bed and crawl to the door around 2 p.m." Cantrell said the victim was able to get the attention of some passing kids who alerted a neighbor. An ambulance was called and the victim was

taken for treatment of a serious head injury.

White was developed as the prime suspect when a backpack belonging to him was found near the scene. He was found hiding in a Cookeville motel later that day.

Helping locate the suspect was the fact he had taken the victim's Chevy S-10 pickup. The truck was found parked outside the motel. White also stole the victim's wallet, cellphone and cash.

Prosecutors decided to charge him with attempted murder due to the ferocity of the assault.



A quiet Thursday night was interrupted for a family on Sunset Drive when a red Silverado rammed into the main entrance of their home. The driver was charged with DUI.

Rigsby charged after crashing truck into house

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

A local man has been charged with DUI after plowing into a house.

The man, Jeremy Rigsby, 43, has been charged with DUI and three counts of reckless endangerment for the Thursday night incident.

McMinnville Police officer Trevor Medley responded to a wreck with injury call on Sunset Drive just after 8 p.m. What he found was a red Chevrolet Silverado with its front end inside the main entrance of a home.

"The vehicle had ran through the yard, struck a maroon Cadillac car, then ran into the front side of the house," said Medley in

his report. "After speaking with the driver, Mr. Jeremy Rigsby, it was discovered Mr. Rigsby to be under the influence."

Rigsby, an Oriole Drive resident, was traveling on Sunset behind McMinnville Civic Center in the direction of his home when he left the roadway and struck the house.

Charges of reckless endangerment were leveled due to the three people in the home at the time of the incident. All declined medical treatment.

Officers could find no proof Rigsby has insurance on his vehicle.

After treatment for his injuries at Saint Thomas River Park Hospital, Rigsby was transported to jail.

Escape attempt ends badly



James Clark photo

Law enforcement officials say Paul Edward Knight Jr., 41, was driving this car and running from the law Thursday night when he crashed and rolled on Jessie Road. He was airlifted to Erlanger from a field near the crash site.

Knight airlifted following run from law

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

A man who ran from the law, crashed through a fence, and flipped his car was airlifted to Erlanger Medical Center on Thursday night.

McMinnville resident Paul Edward Knight Jr., 41, faces three charges for the incident which began on Hennessee Bridge Road and ended when he crashed on Jessie Road, which is off Francis Ferry Road.

"He made the statement he didn't want to go back to prison as the reason he was running," said Sheriff Jackie Matheny. "But there were no drugs in the car and no warrants for his arrest so we don't know what

had happened to make him think he would go back to prison. If he didn't run, we probably wouldn't have even tried to stop him."

The incident began at the Happy Camper, a campground off Hennessee Bridge Road when Sheriff's Department Sgt. Kelly Carter responded to a call of suspicious activity in the area. When he arrived, Carter noticed a gray car following a Gator-type of off-road vehicle.

The driver of the car turned his head when passing the officer in an apparent attempt not to be identified. He further caught the attention of the officer by driving erratically.

As Sgt. Carter began to follow the car, Knight did several peculiar

maneuvers, including spinning his tires, slamming his brakes, and at one point driving toward the deputy.

Carter then tried to initiate a traffic stop, but the suspect refused to pull over. He eventually turned from Francis Ferry Road onto Jessie Road.

The suspect was able to pull away from the officer and momentarily leave his sight on Jessie Road, but that didn't last long. Carter soon came upon the vehicle on its roof just off the right side of the road.

Knight was trapped inside and had to be freed by emergency responders. He was airlifted from a nearby field. He faces charges of driving on a suspended license, evading arrest and reckless driving.



Animal lover Linda Coursey, has operated Viola Valley Dogs since 2003.

Nonprofits lend paw

Organizations team up to aid stray pets

BY **EMMA HOLMES**
Southern Standard intern
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Puppies are wagging their tails and kitties are purring in delight thanks to two private organizations dedicated to animals.

Viola Valley Dogs and Kastaway Kitties Cat Rescue are two nonprofits working to find homes for stray pets.

These two companion animal rescue organizations are taking up the slack in Animal Control's ability to rescue the considerable pet overpopulation in Warren County. Both shelters operate under the 501(c)3 tax-free and tax-deductible charitable umbrella. These shelters rely heavily on donations and every donation counts.

Viola Valley Dogs is operated by Ralph and Linda Coursey. It was formed in March 2003 when Linda wanted to make a difference in saving puppies. She says Ralph deserves a medal for taking care of the dogs for 15 years in snow or sunshine. They average 30 puppies at a time.

In March 2005, Viola Valley Dogs became a 501(c)3 organization which means it's a nonprofit. Today it runs off donations to maintain the shelter and help the puppies.

Viola Valley Dogs wants everyone to know spaying and neutering are the biggest tools society has to alleviate the immense suffering unwanted animals endure.

Continued on 3A

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