



Southern Standard

Lewis faces accessory to murder

Teen indicted for cover-up plan

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

A McMinnville teen has been indicted for helping cover up an alleged murder. Devin Andrew Lewis, 18, has been indicted by the Warren County grand jury for accessory after the fact in the case involv-

ing Dakota Ryan Basham, who has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of his roommate. The charges against the two stem from the shooting death of Joshua Dell Smith, 18, on March 16 at Bybee Woods, a duplex off Bybee Branch Road. Smith's death was initial-

ly ruled to be accidental after claims the gun inadvertently went off while Basham was handling it. Basham, 19, told police he was standing in a doorway cleaning a 357 Magnum revolver and the victim was on the other side of the room getting dressed when the gun unexpectedly dis-

charged. However, additional evidence began to surface that put that version of events into question. Lewis is believed to have been part of a plan to alter evidence at the scene and convince at least one person who was at the residence to leave before police arrived and not



LEWIS

talk to police about what happened. In its indictment, the grand jury found Lewis "did provide aid to the said Dakota Ryan Basham with means of avoiding arrest, trial, conviction or punishment, constituting the offense of Accessory After the Fact,

a Class E Felony ..."

Members of the grand jury indicted Basham in April for second-degree murder, aggravated assault, filing a false report, and possession of more than a half ounce of marijuana with intent to deliver. Basham was jailed and later released under a \$50,000 bond. Lewis is out on \$25,000 bond and awaiting his next court appearance Sept. 26.

New armory approved



Major Gen. Max Haston, center, chats with former state Rep. Kevin Dunlap, left, and County Executive Herschel Wells about a new armory for Warren County in this August, 2015 file photo.

\$10.5M construction project gets OK

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

The National Guard has issued marching orders. A new \$10.5 million armory will be constructed in Warren County. An armory has been second on the list of federal projects in Tennessee since 2012, according to Major Gen. Max Haston, the top official in the Tennessee National Guard. Warren County Executive Herschel Wells announced Thursday during a county Financial Management Committee meeting the wait is over. "Gen. Haston called today and said the building commission approved \$10.5 million today for our armory and the architectural fees and they'd be getting started on it ASAP," said Wells. That bombshell statement was greeted with approval. "Awesome," said Commissioner Scott Rubley. "Yeah boy." Commissioner Tommy Savage added,



The current Tennessee National Guard Armory is located off Sparta Street in front of the jail. It will relocate to Manchester Highway.

"That's very good news." "That's good news for sure," said Rubley. "It has been a long time coming." In 2012, the armory in McMinnville was listed as the second oldest armory in the state. The oldest armory at that time was in Rockwood. Funding for armories are 75 percent federal and 25 percent state, while the

local government provides the property. Land for the armory was purchased in June 2011 on Highway 55 adjacent to Kidd Ford. The county bought 23.3 acres and then decided that to the state in September 2011. When contacted Friday, a National Guard spokesman said a press release containing more information would be issued in the coming days.

The co\$t of campaigning

Morgan leads spending

BY **LACY GARRISON**
*Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

Early voting began Friday and sheriff candidate John Morgan is in the lead, at least as far as campaign spending goes. According to quarterly election reports filed with the Election Commission on Tuesday, Morgan reported spending \$9,583 in the period prior to early voting, April 22 to June 30. His spending includes \$3,502 on printing and \$2,444 on signs. Following behind in sheriff campaign spending was Tommy Myers and Marc Martin. Myers spent \$4,612, just ahead of Martin with \$4,239. For Myers, his top expenditures were \$2,122 in newspaper ads, \$429 in fingerprinting kits, stickers, and printing, and \$296 for promotional pens. Martin's spending includes \$1,839 for signs, \$650 for Lamar Advertisements and \$500 for newspaper ads. Rodney Whiles reported spending \$3,980, specifically \$953 to rent Park Theater, \$799 on signs and \$425 on Lamar Advertising.

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Standard wins

The *Southern Standard* earned four first-place awards, the most of any newspaper in our category, during the annual Tennessee Press Association banquet Thursday night in Franklin. The *Standard's* four first-place awards were among 13 total awards the newspaper collected in categories ranging from news reporting to sports writing.

Continued on **5A**

First Baptist Church mindful of its mission

First Baptist Church members recently returned from Guatemala last week and just finished their shipwrecked-themed vacation Bible school. They're staying busy sharing the gospel. According to pastor Jeff Owens, the 12-member First Baptist mission team held VBS for three different children's organizations reaching around 450 Guatemalan children, distributed Bibles, and built two homes during their week-long mission trip. "They only had dirt floors and corn stalk walls, tattered rusty pieces of tin for a lean-to, which was

their dwelling," said Owens. "We built them a steel structure with bunk beds, a wood cook stove, a water filter and a supply of food." When asked what he would say to someone who believes short-term mission work is a waste of time, 18-year-old David Nuthalapaty said, "It's not a waste of time because even if the structure eventually wears away, what it does to you inside will stay with you and hopefully inspire you to do more work."

Continued on **3A**



Lacy Garrison photo
Members of First Baptist Church stand in front of a home they built for a local family in Guatemala during their recent mission trip. Pictured standing, from left, are Chris Dunn, Nancy Vasquez and her son Cesar (recipients of the new home), Sam Nuthalapaty, Cheryl Priest, Rebecca Bottoms, Emma Shelton, Gracie Brock, Libby Shelton and Melinda Cooper. Kneeling are, David Nuthalapaty, Dr. Sue Nuthalapaty, Jeff Owens and Erika Neff.

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