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Wreck leads to DUI arrest

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

A woman suspected of substance abuse hit a Woodbury exit sign before causing a wreck at the Oriole and Sunset Drive intersection with the bypass Monday afternoon.

According to McMinnville patrolman Eddie Colwell, Stacey Bonner, 46, was arrested and charged with DUI after rear-ending a red Toyota driven by 74-year-old Becky Boles.

Witness Rhonda Scott said she saw the Nissan parked on the side of the road with a busted windshield so she pulled over to check on the driver. Scott's concern



BONNER

quickly turned to fear.

"I asked her [Bonner] if she'd been in a wreck because she was covered in blood," said Scott. "She snapped at me denying that anything was wrong. As I walked to my car, she almost ran me over!"

Scott said she followed Bonner, who was driving recklessly, while she called 911. Bonner then rear-ended Boles, who was stopped at the red light on the bypass in front of McMinnville Funeral Home.

"I'm not typically a violent person, but I wish I had drug her out of her car to prevent her from injuring anyone," said Scott shaking her head.

Boles was transported to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital.



Lacy Garrison photo

On Monday afternoon, Stacey Bonner, 46, was arrested and charged with DUI after rear-ending a red Toyota driven by 74-year-old Becky Boles.

Pam Tillis coming to fair



Pam Tillis is scheduled to perform Thursday, Sept. 13, at the Warren County A&L Fair. Admission is free.

Country star to perform Sept. 13

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

Country music royalty will be in McMinnville in September when Pam Tillis takes the stage as the headline entertainer at the Warren County A&L Fair.

Tillis is scheduled to perform

Thursday night, Sept. 13, beginning at 7 p.m. at Grandstand Arena. Faith Jackson from Nashville will open for her at 5:30 p.m.

"We're glad to get her and we expect she'll bring a great crowd," said fair president Kenneth Medlen.

A chart topper with six No. 1 hits to her credit, Tillis is known for songs such as "Maybe it was

Memphis," "Let that Pony Run," "Don't Tell Me What to Do," and "Shake the Sugar."

In recent years, the fair has landed acts such as Trace Adkins, Dierks Bentley and Aaron Tippin. The grandstands can seat about 5,000. Admission is free.

Continued on 2A

Tax break for hotel gets OK

Morgan casts lone no vote

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



Pictured is a rendering of the proposed hotel project.

It was a resounding "yes" from Warren County government for property tax relief to attract a \$10 million hotel development.

Tax relief passed the Warren County Commission by a 22-1 vote Monday night.

Commissioner Charles Morgan voted against allowing a 20-year agreement between the Industrial Development Board and David Hunt of Hunt Properties for construction of a Hilton Gen 8 Hampton Inn Hotel on Sparta Street.

"I think 20 years is too much," said Morgan, the lone holdout. "That's a long time for it to devalue. If the project does not come out to be what they think it will be, then it will just be another eyesore in the county."

Specifically, the measure approved was Tax Increment Financing. The TIF agreement arranged between Hunt and IDB director Don Alexander is similar to a tax freeze and states the city and county will

reimburse 100 percent of after-development property taxes, which will be divided. Hunt will receive 70 percent, Warren County Schools 29 percent, and the IDB 1 percent to handle paperwork.

In return, Hunt plans to construct a 74-room hotel with an indoor swimming pool and approximately 2,000 square feet of conference room space. A retail center would be approximately 20,000 square feet and include a restaurant which has not been named.

Plans have been submitted to the Warren County Property Assessor's office and an appraisal has been set at \$9.73 million. The measure passed 22-1 with Commissioner Ron Lee absent.

McMinnville officials approved the tax relief agreement earlier this month. The measure will be sent to the state for its consideration. Alexander says getting state approval is usually routine if there is no objection at the local levels.

State set to adopt city road project

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

Extending Magness Drive to intersect with the bypass may not cost the city of McMinnville \$500,000. However, that savings could prolong the time it takes before the connection is made.

According to city administrator Bill Brock, 12 representatives from Tennessee Department of Transportation and State Industrial Access Program inspected the area and the state wants to handle the project.

"My understanding is they want to take care of all of it," said Brock. "Will it take a year, two or three? Yes, it could. It's going to be a major project, but it will be well laid out

when it is done."

Along with connecting Magness Drive, the group expressed an interest in redesigning the intersection in front of Three Star Mall.

"We sat upstairs and tried to work everything out on paper," said Brock. "Then, we went on site and looked at it. Their feeling is that it's a good thing and it's something they want to do. They want to redesign the entire intersection to make it very accessible to everybody. They look at that three-way intersection now as being a major intersection, so they want to be involved and they want to handle everything from start to finish."

Continued on 2A



Jacob Dodd photo

The state has indicated it will adopt a project to extend Magness Drive to the bypass and connect with this three-way intersection near Three Star Mall.

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