Escape raises questions of moving Van Buren inmates to new jail

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

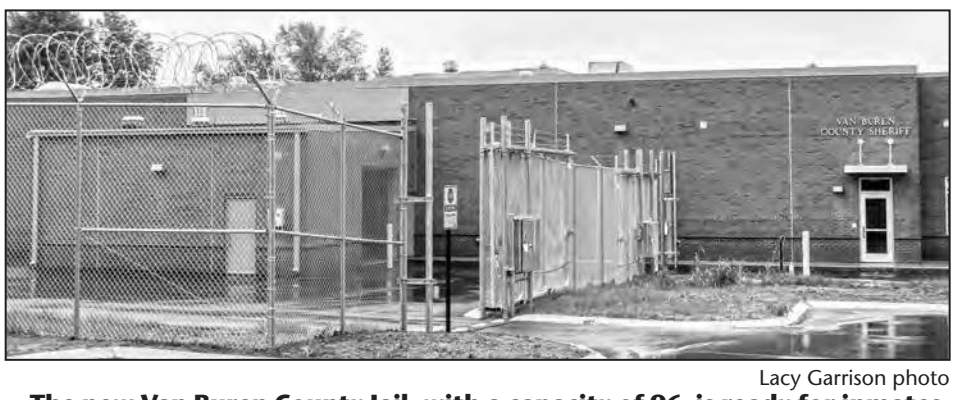
After the recent Van Buren County Jail escape, many are asking why Van Buren inmates have yet to be transferred to the new jail. According to Van Buren County Mayor Greg Wilson, the new jail has been ready since May.

"Here's the thing, the old jail can only be certified for 13 inmates and they have about 45 to 50. This facility will hold 96, if need be," said Wilson. "They have eight guys in a cell possibly and the one where Blanton escaped, he was in a trustee cell and he shouldn't have been."

Joel Ernest Blanton, 37, was captured after escaping the Van Buren County Jail. He was caught in Warren County. He has since been sentenced to 212 years in prison by Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley for six counts of child rape.

According to Van Buren Sheriff Eddie Carter, it won't be long now. Due to safety reasons, he explained he couldn't give an exact moving time, but estimated within the next few weeks.

As for the new facility, everything is better, especially the technology. For visitation, there is no physical contact or face-to-face time. Instead, visitors come in, enter a code and facetime inmates from the phones in the visitation room.



Lacy Garrison photo
The new Van Buren County Jail, with a capacity of 96, is ready for inmates.

"There is one of these installed in each one of the living quarters where the inmates are," said Wilson. "If you have a smartphone, iPad or other device, you can even facetime while sitting on the beach in Daytona. However, it costs them a little more to do it that way, but that's how we do visitations."

Additionally, the large-scale kitchen can feed anywhere between 300 to 500 people per meal. According to Wilson, it was specifically built for expansion within the next 20 to 30 years. Furthermore, if there is a natural disaster anywhere in the county, they can feed people from the jail kitchen.

Since inmates are required by law to have an hour of fresh air and sunshine per day, a special containment area was designed with a vent and windows to accommodate those needs without inmates ever leaving the jail.

For Wilson, he said he is most pleased they were able to build the facility without a tax increase. The jail itself cost around $7.5 million, while the total price of the building with the administrative offices cost about $11.2 million.

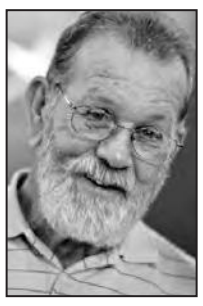
"The part that I'm not pleased with is that we're spending money every day at the old jail when we should be utilizing this one," said Wilson.

OBITUARIES

James Blane "J.B." Reynolds, 82

Mr. James Blane "J.B." Reynolds, 82, of McMinnville passed away peacefully Monday, July 2, in Yuma, Ariz.

He was born Nov. 20, 1935, in Pickett County. A retired superintendent of the Warren County Sanitation Department and member of Northside Baptist Church, he enjoyed gardening, woodcutting, squirrel hunting and turkey hunting, fishing the rivers of Warren County, and was an avid motorcyclist, for decades, traveling to every corner of the U.S., as well as into Mexico and Canada, with his motorcycle buddies. Affectionately known as "Papa," by many, he delighted in spending time with his ever-growing family, while sharing with them his knowledge and love of the outdoors.



Mr. Reynolds was preceded in death by his parents, Johnny Edgar and Lora Jane Winningham Reynolds, wife of almost 60 years, Melba Bonita Reynolds, brothers Hesper A. Reynolds, Waldo E. Reynolds, F. Cordell Reynolds, and Clifford D. Reynolds, and sisters Anna E. Gunnels and Johnnie Lorraine Hurn.

Survivors include his children James Micheal Reynolds (Janice), Kathy Marie Walker (Brady), both of McMinnville, grandchildren Kimberly Haynes (Bart) of Yuma, Ariz., Sha Wanamaker (Chris) of McMinnville, Jason Walker (Sommer) of Manchester, Ericka Todd (Jamie) of Roebuck, S.C., Blaka Reynolds (Nikki) of McMinnville, and Brett Burks (Todd) of Murfreesboro, 17 great-grandchildren, and one great-great granddaughter, brothers Gilbert Hyle Reynolds of East Peoria, IL, Charles Reynolds, Rodney Reynolds, and Ronnie Reynolds, all of McMinnville. Many nieces, nephews, and friends also survive.

Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Sunday, July 8, at Northside Baptist Church. Bro. Michael Carr will officiate. Interment will follow at Shellsford Cemetery. The family will receive friends, Saturday, July 7, from 1 to 8 p.m., and again Sunday, July 8, from 11 a.m. to 1:30.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, 473-6606.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) July 6, 2018

William Barry Swim, 71

Manchester resident and Trenton, Mich., native William Barry Swim, 71, was born Sept. 26, 1946 and died July 3 at Unity Medical Center in Manchester following an extended illness.

A retired contractor and a member of Dayspring Community Church, he was the son of the late Ollie Chester and Lela Rich Swim Sr. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Geraldine Davenport Morton, and brothers Jerry and John Everett Swim.

He is survived by three sons, Russell Barry Swim of Rock Island, Richard Paul Swim of McMinnville, and Ronald Swim of Manchester; granddaughter and spouse, Tiffany and Bradley Bratcher of McMinnville; brother Skip Swim of Michigan; and sister Teresa Fritz of Michigan. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

Graveside service and interment were held Thursday, July 5, at Mt. Zion Cemetery with Rex Boles and Skip Swim officiating. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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William Erbie Parsley, 79

Mr. William Erbie Parsley, 79, of McMinnville passed from this life Tuesday, July 3, at Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro.

William was born Saturday, Dec. 10, 1938 in McMinnville, the son of the late Walter Parsley and the late Emma (Jones) Parsley. He was a veteran of the Korean Conflict. He was a member of Smartt Baptist Church and was employed as a truck driver for Batesville Casket Company for 30 years.

Surviving are sister Reba and husband Gerald Grissom of Rock Island, two nephews, Eddie Parsley of Cumming Ga., and Ryan Lance of Rock Island, one niece Donna Ezell of Union S.C., several truck driver friends also survive along with several cousins and his church family.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Kaye Parsley, one brother, Solon Parsley, one nephew, Randy Lance.

Funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 7, at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home with Johnny Newby officiating. The family will receive friends from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the time of the service Saturday, July 7, at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Charles Creek Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at gardensofmemoryfuneralhome.com.

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Wanda Lillie Scott-McCormack, 89

Wanda Lillie Scott-McCormack, 89, of Muncie went to meet the Lord, Tuesday morning, July 3, at her residence.

She was born Oct. 30, 1928 in Byrdstown, and was the daughter of the late Floyd &Mae (Crawford) Mullins. Wanda was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great grandmother, and sister. She enjoyed being with her family and friends and was known as the family photographer. She was a faithful member of Bone Cave Church of God in Tennessee.

Wanda is survived by her two children Jerry Scott (Holly) of Yorktown and Shirley Scott of Muncie; seven grandchildren Angela Cassel (Mike) of Muncie, Brian Scott (Kayla) of San Antonio Texas, Michael Scott of New Bern, N.C., Jerry Scott of New Bern, N.C., and Sara Salvucci of New Bern, Tammy Sue Scott of Muncie and Michael Lowe of Huntsville, Ala.; 13 great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren; sister Evelyn Tucker of Florida; three brothers Eugene Mullins of Nevada, Floyd "Mike" Mullins (Delores) of Eaton and Robert Mullins of Washington; several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband George Scott and her second husband Everett McCormack, son Terry Scott and two brothers, Creed and Max Mullins.

Funeral service for Wanda will be held Saturday, July 7, at 11 a.m. at Garden View Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery. One of Wanda's favorite verses was Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Online condolences may be made at www.gardenviewfuneralhome.com.

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(McMinnville, Tenn.) July 6, 2018

Carolyn Alene Ferguson Hall, 83

Ms. Carolyn Alene Ferguson Hall, 83, of McMinnville died Wednesday, July 4, at NHC Health Care Center in McMinnville.

She was born in Grundy County on Jan. 28, 1935, was a retired door greeter at Walmart, and was preceded in death by her parents, Walter U. and Clara Cunningham Ferguson, sister Mary Katherine Heraud, and brother Kenneth Ferguson.

Survivors include son and daughter-in-law Mark (Kim) Kerscher, granddaughter Kaitlin Kerscher, good friends Brandy Jane Turner, Carolyn Fann, India Fann, and Sara Turner, best friends Kylie Fann and Bubba Roberts, and neighbors Pat and Kenny Roberts.

Per her request, Ms. Hall will be cremated. No immediate services are planned. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 473-6606.

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Roger Dale Hosse, 63

Mr. Roger Dale Hosse, 63, of McMinnville died Monday, July 2, at his residence.

He was born Nov. 29, 1954, in Davidson County, was a wrecker driver and mechanic for Hullett's Tire Lube & Tow and was preceded in death by parents Charles Samuel and Annie Louise Cantrell Hosse, wife Venita Yates Hosse, and his brothers Charles Samuel Hosse and Kenneth Hosse.

Survivors include his children Delta Jones, Kimberly Taylor, and Roger Dale Hosse II, mother of his children and former wife Jackie Tucker Hosse, grandchildren Megan Taylor, Colby Taylor, Brook Hosse, Austin Hosse, Jenna Jones, and Jake Jones, great-grandchildren Bently Potter and Kinsley Jones, and brothers James Hosse and Jack (Linda) Hosse.

Mr. Hosse will be cremated and a memorial service will be announced at a later date. Online condolences may be made at www.mcminnvillefuneralhome.com.

McMinnville Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 473-6606.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) July 6, 2018

Edna Lynn Bouldin, 68

McMinnville resident and Maury County native Edna Lynn Bouldin, 68, was born April 24, 1950 and died July 5 at NHC Healthcare in McMinnville following an extended illness.

A retired CNA with the McMinnville Clinic and a member of the Pentecostal Church, she was the daughter of the late Ovel and Grace Burleson Emler. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by grandchild, Gregory Bouldin; and seven brothers.

She was married to Roy Edward Bouldin Sr. of McMinnville. In addition to her husband, she is survived by three children and spouses, Janice Thaxton and Herbert Walker Jr., Kristie and Michael Dodson, and Roy and Cindy Bouldin Jr., all of McMinnville; four grandchildren, Shawn Thaxton, Christopher Dodson, Katrina Stembridge and Ethan Bouldin; three great-grandchildren, McKenna Thaxton, Kennedy Thaxton and Lindley Stembridge; and three sisters, Betty Jane Gray of Summertown, Pat Castner of Viola and Dorothy Faye Miller of McMinnville.

A graveside service and interment will be held at 12 p.m. Saturday, July 7, at Shellsford Cemetery with Johnny Bouldin officiating. There will be no visitation at High's. Friends are to meet at the cemetery for the graveside service. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) July 6, 2018

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There will be a potluck celebration of life for **Cyrus (Cy) Gilmore** at **Earleyville Church of Christ** on Saturday, July 7 at 4pm.
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