



**SPORTS**  
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**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 15, 2018**  
**McMinnville, Tennessee**  
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# Southern Standard

## Soaring jail cost handcuffs county

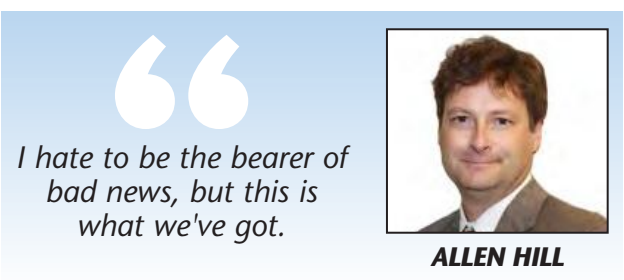
### Expansion plan bid nearly \$2M over budget

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

A proposed jail expansion has been placed on lock-down after a low project bid of \$8.31 million was received, nearly \$2 million over budget.

“We just don’t have the money,” said Warren County Executive Herschel Wells, chair of the Financial Management Committee which met Monday to consider the bid.

Borrowed was \$6.5 million for jail expansion. In order to borrow more than \$6.5 million, the measure would have to be approved



by the full Warren County Commission on Sept. 17. The bid from Merit Construction out of Knoxville is good for 14 days only, or until Aug. 24.

Wells added, “We only have \$6.5 million. We can’t approve something we don’t have the money to pay for.”

Continued on **2A**



**A planned jail expansion hit a snag when the lowest bid came in nearly \$2 million over budget.**

## Sparta Street to dead end



**This design sketch from TDOT illustrates how the area in front of the mall will look when work is complete. The yellow lines show where traffic will flow after construction, including Magness Drive extending to intersect with the bypass. The red areas show where traffic will no longer flow, including Sparta Street becoming a dead end after U.S. Auto Sales.**

## Mall area to get traffic flow redesign

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

Drastic changes are on the way for the entire intersection on the bypass in front of Pacesetters.

A meeting between McMinnville officials and TDOT representatives was held Monday to discuss the state’s plans for redesigning the traffic flow in that area and extending Magness Drive to the bypass.

Presented were conceptual design plans for the project and a cost estimate which is \$5.76 million.

“I wanted to meet with everyone and let them know where we are on this project, just to make sure everyone is on the same page,” said TDOT eco-

nomics development coordinator Danielle Hagewood. “We did receive the State Industrial Access application to extend Magness Drive.”

Hagewood asked officials to allow the state to conduct land acquisition as a cost-saving measure for city taxpayers.

“If the city acquires the right of way, TDOT does not pay for any portion of that right-of-way acquisition,” she said. “If TDOT acquires the right of way, we pay for half of it. That also applies for utilities. Anything in private easement would not be covered at 50 percent cost. If you allow us to do the right of way



**HAGEWOOD**

and utility portion, you are probably going to save yourself some money and probably your local utilities some money too.”

Right-of-way acquisition and utilities are estimated to be a combined \$133,800. If the state acquires the land, the city would be responsible for half, not the entire amount.

One of the biggest changes for motorists will be removal of the merges on and off Highway 70S. Once the project is complete, Sparta Street will dead end in the area of Fresenius Medical Center.

Continued on **3A**

## Delane says prosecutors had no proof against his son

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

A father whose son was found not guilty by a jury in nine minutes is furious the case ever went to trial.

Dave Delane contends there was never any evidence against his son, Alex Delane, yet local prosecutors were determined to proceed with what he calls a fictitious rape case.

“This DA’s office did not do its job,” said Dave Delane in a call to the *Standard* on Saturday, the day after his son was found not guilty on Friday. “They brought a case to trial with no evidence, no facts, and no regard for the people who live here and pay taxes. My son was candid. His story never changed all through the investigation. This was a witch hunt that devastated my family.”

District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis says the case went through the proper legal channels and was handled appropriately. She understands how a father would be upset at having his son charged with rape, but she says she can’t turn her back on a potential crime.

“My job is to see that the victims of crimes get their day in court and in this case the woman wanted her day in court,” said Zavogiannis. “The girl believes she was raped so it’s my job to prosecute. In the end, the jury did what the jury felt was best.”

Zavogiannis said prosecuting any rape case is difficult, even with physical evidence and strong testimony from the victim. In this case, the alleged incident took place after a night of heavy partying by everyone involved.



**ALEX DELANE**



**ZAVOGIANNIS**

Continued on **3A**

## Police investigating hit-and-run incident

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

Police officers are investigating several leads after a pedestrian was struck by a hit-and-run motorist Sunday night.

The pedestrian, a 25-year-old male, was hospitalized but has since been released, according to McMinnville Police Chief Bryan Denton. The motorist reportedly drove off, leaving the victim lying just off the roadway.

The incident took place Sunday night at 8:03 p.m. on Bybee Branch Road near Bybee Branch Church of Christ. The male pedestrian was hit by a white SUV.

Police were able to obtain grainy video of the collision from a nearby surveillance camera. Based on information that’s been gathered, the white SUV may be a 2001-07 Mazda Tribute or Ford Escape and may have damage to the passenger side.

Since McMinnville Police and *Southern Standard* posted pictures and details of the incident online on Monday, several tips have been received. When contacted Tuesday, detectives say they are in the process of checking out those leads.

Information can still be provided by contacting McMinnville Police at 473-3386.



**Police say the hit-and-run driver was behind the wheel of a vehicle similar to this one.**

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