



The city could transfer ownership of the Blue Building, vacant since 2009, to the Tourism Development Board.

Blue Building could be changing ownership

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

In the near future, McMinnville’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen will be considering a measure to rid itself of the Blue Building. Members of the Tourism Development Board have requested the property to be transferred to them. “A request has been made for legal counsel to consider deeding the Blue Building property to the Tourism Development Board,” said Mayor Jimmy Haley. “We have some prospects there. We are hopeful this

will all come into play and it would be a lot easier if that is done and it’s in the hands of the Tourism Development Board.” The request was made during Tuesday night’s Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting. City attorney Tim Pirtle agreed to begin that process. TDB was established by the city in 2017. It works similar to the Industrial Development Board. While IDB focuses on industrial recruitment, TDB’s focus is on promoting tourism. Property can be conveyed to either entity and used toward

those endeavors. Several years ago, officials deeded the Blue Building over to the IDB to encourage industrial development by entering into an agreement with StrategicWire to lease the property with the intent of creating 150 jobs. The jobs never materialized and the property reverted back to the city. Similarly, a reversion provision will be placed in the agreement with TDB. In June, TDB members referred to Project Blue, a likely reference to the Blue Building and its potential development as a hotel.

Schmeling can't dodge drug-related charges

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

A man who had the charge of shooting at another motorist dismissed has found himself in more legal trouble after being indicted by the Warren County grand jury. Todd Alan Schmeling, 48, has been indicted for two counts of delivery of meth in a school zone. He also faces charges for possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, theft up to \$1,000, and possession of drug paraphernalia. His bond was revoked earlier this month and, barring another hearing to release him, he will remain in jail until his case is scheduled to be heard by a jury Nov. 7. According to the indictments against Schmeling he, “knowingly did deliver a Schedule II controlled substance, to wit



SCHMELING

methamphetamine, in an amount 0.5 grams or more on the grounds or facilities of any school or within 1,000 feet of the real property that comprises a public or private elementary school, middle school, secondary school, preschool, childcare agency or public library, recreational center or park ...” The crime is a class B felony. Charges were dismissed against Schmeling earlier this year when he reportedly shot at another motorist in January after a traffic incident on Caldwell Street. According to a report from that incident, a bullet hit the victim’s car and Schmeling was picked out of a photo lineup as the person responsible. However, charges of aggravated assault and possession of a weapon by a felon were dismissed two months later.

Cohen pleads guilty

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Cohen, President Donald Trump’s former personal lawyer and “fixer,” pleaded guilty Tuesday to campaign-finance violations and other charges, saying he and Trump arranged the payment of hush money to porn star Stormy Daniels and a former Playboy model to influence the election. Under a plea bargain reached with federal prosecutors, Cohen, 51, could get about four to five years in prison at sentencing Dec. 12. Cohen pleaded guilty to eight counts in all, including

tax evasion and making a false statement to a financial institution. In entering the plea, Cohen did not specifically name the two women or even Trump, recounting instead he worked with an “unnamed candidate.” But the amounts and the dates all lined up with the payments made to Daniels and Playboy Playmate Karen McDougal. Cohen’s plea follows months of scrutiny from federal investigations and a falling-out with the president, whom he previously said he

would “take a bullet” for. The FBI raided Cohen’s hotel room, home and office in April and seized more than 4 million items. The search sought bank records, communications with Trump’s campaign and information on a \$130,000 payment to Daniels and a \$150,000 one to McDougal. Both women claimed Trump had affairs with them, which he denies. Trump ignored questions about Cohen as he boarded Air Force One for a campaign visit to West Virginia.

Matheny to marshal Viola Homecoming parade

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

Sheriff Jackie Matheny will the grand marshal of the 2018 Viola Valley Homecoming Parade this Saturday, Aug. 25. “I’m very much honored,” said Matheny. “It blessed my heart to be asked. It’s amazing what all they do in the community and for the community. To be asked to be part of this ... I couldn’t think of a better way to close my career out.” Matheny will be leaving office Aug. 31. Newly elected Sheriff Tommy Myers will take office Sept. 1. More details have also been released with the On the Road Again Show lineup. The show takes the stage in Town Square at 3:30 p.m. It features local residents impersonating their favorite singers and Bubba, whose comic skits delight the crowd between acts. The lineup: Willie Nelson, Kenny Rogers, Kid Rock, Sheryl Crow, Tanya Tucker, Taylor Swift, Elvis Presley, Reba McEntire, Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Kelly Clarkson, John



MATHENY

Travolta, Oliva Newton-John, Miranda Lambert, Kellie Pickler, Kenny Rogers, Dottie West, and the Blues Brothers. Ending this year’s performances will be Alan Jackson’s “Good Time” with the hopes audience members will be inclined to participate in a line dance. In the words of Jackson, the group is going to “give it a whirl” and see what happens. “We think this will be a good way to end this year’s show,” said Lynn Dale Jones, one of the organizers. “The song is about having a good time and that’s what we want everyone to do. Hopefully everyone will get up and line dance like in the video.” When the song “Good Times” was released in March 2008, the video depicted the country music singer in what appeared to be an attempt to set a new world record for the longest choreographed line dance. Funds raised during Viola Valley Homecoming go toward town improvements.



The On the Road Again Show is scheduled to include a performance from Blues Brothers impersonators.

HIGHLIGHTS
10 A.M. Parade
11 A.M. The Funny Dummy Show
12:30 P.M. Rhythm Express Cloggers
1 P.M. Kids Pedal Tractor
1 P.M. Cobbler contest. Registration at noon
2 P.M. Karaoke
3:30 P.M. On the Road Again Show
5:30 P.M. Gates open for tractor pull
7 P.M. Tractor pull begins

Body of Mollie Tibbetts found in rural field

MONTEZUMA, IOWA (AP) — A man from Mexico living in the U.S. illegally has confessed to kidnapping college student Mollie Tibbetts while she was running in her small Iowa hometown, killing her and dumping her body in a rural field, authorities said Tuesday. Cristhian Bahena Rivera, 24, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder in the death of Tibbetts, whose July 18 disappearance set off a massive search involving state and federal authorities. Rivera led investigators early Tuesday to a body believed to be Tibbetts in a cornfield about 12 miles southeast of Brooklyn, Iowa, where Tibbetts was last seen running, Division of Criminal Investigation special agent Rick Rahn said. “I can’t speak about the motive. I can just tell you that it seemed that he followed her, seemed to be drawn to her on that particular day, for whatever reason he chose to abduct her,” Rahn told reporters at a news conference outside the sheriff’s office in Montezuma, where Rivera was being jailed. Investigators said they zeroed in on Rivera after obtaining footage from surveillance cameras in

Brooklyn. The footage showed a Chevy Malibu connected to Rivera that was driving back and forth as Tibbetts was running in the area, Rahn said. An affidavit attached to the criminal complaint against Rivera alleged he admitted to investigators he got out of his car and started running alongside Tibbetts.



RIVERA

Tibbetts grabbed her phone and said she was going to call the police. The affidavit says Rivera panicked and then said he blacked out. Rivera next remembers seeing her earphones on his lap, and taking her bloody body out of the trunk of his car, it said. “The defendant further described during the inter-

view that he dragged Tibbetts on foot from his vehicle to a secluded location in a cornfield,” the affidavit said. Investigators said they

had earlier searched the area for Tibbetts but didn’t find her, noting the body was covered by corn stalks. Investigators believe that Rivera is from Mexico and

had been living in the area from four to seven years, Rahn said. He said investigators have interrogated him with the help of a translator.



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