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Standard

Sherrell: 'I didn't do anything wrong'

State representative accused of stealing farm equipment

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

State Rep. Paul Sherrell says a civil lawsuit filed against him in White County claiming he stole farm equipment is nothing more than hogwash.

"This is just trying to black my eye and make me look bad," said Sherrell, who represents the 43rd

District in the Tennessee House. The district includes about two-thirds of Warren County, along with all of White and Grundy counties. "If I did anything wrong, why aren't there criminal charges against me? The White County sheriff and the DA's office both looked into this and found I didn't do anything wrong."

The civil lawsuit was filed in White County Chancery Court by

Charlie Allen and his wife, Dianne Allen. The Allens, from Bay County, Fla., contend Sherrell illegally removed \$82,400 in equipment from their farm in White County.

Sherrell says he rightfully purchased the farm equipment from Wyatt Allen, brother of Charlie Allen. Sherrell says the farm equipment once belonged to the Allens' father, now deceased.

Sherrell said he paid \$20,000 for what amounts to dozens of pieces



SHERRELL

of equipment, including two tractors.

"I know this is politically motivated because I have the bill of sale and my name is on it and my brother's name is on it," said Sherrell, indicating he bought the equipment with his brother, John. "But in the lawsuit, I am the only one listed. Why list me and not my brother? Both our names are on the bill of sale. That tells me they are just trying to get me."

Sherrell admits he got a favor-

able deal on the equipment, saying "I was trying to make a little money, the same as anyone would." He says the timing of the lawsuit, filed July 16, or about two weeks before the Aug. 2 Republican Primary, was a blatant attempt to hurt his re-election campaign.

Even with word of the civil lawsuit hanging over his head, Sherrell easily won the Republican Primary with 64.5 percent of the vote, or 6,039 votes to 3,311.

The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 6, where Sherrell is trying for his second term in the Tennessee House.

Good times roll in Viola



The Viola Valley Homecoming Parade kicked off a day packed with activity on Saturday as visitors flocked to the tiny town for a full schedule of events. Four-wheelers were a big part of the parade as more than 50 rolled through Town Square, including one carrying a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle.

Right photo: Sheriff Jackie Matheny waves to the crowd as grand marshal of the Viola Valley Homecoming Parade on Saturday. After 24 years as sheriff, Matheny will be leaving office this Friday, Aug. 31.



Former bank teller admits stealing \$18K

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

A former bank teller has been given a six-year judicial diversion after she admitted to stealing \$18,000 from Security Federal Savings Bank over a three-month span.

Morgan Brett Martin, 28, entered a guilty plea Wednesday to the charge of theft in Circuit Court before Judge Bart Stanley. The judicial diversion means she will avoid serving any jail time provided she gets in no further trouble during her six-year probationary period and repays the money she stole.



MARTIN

It was agreed Martin pay \$18,000 restitution to Security Federal at payments of \$250 per month for six years.

She was indicted by the Warren County grand jury this April for theft of property between \$10,000 and \$60,000. The thefts reportedly took place between July 18, 2017 and Oct. 5, 2017.

Prosecutors say this mirrors most cases of theft they have seen where an employee steals from his or her employer. The person initially starts by taking only a small amount of money, and often plans to pay it back when they are in better financial shape. However, when the theft goes undetected, they steal again until the behavior spirals out of control.

County OKs \$9M for jail

Committee votes to increase borrowing for jail expansion

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

Warren County government is seeking to enlarge its budget for jail expansion, given a recent bid that was nearly \$2 million more than expected.

The county Building and Grounds Committee met Thursday and approved a motion to borrow \$9 million.

"I don't want to be back here doing this again," said Commissioner Carl E. Bouldin, who made the motion. "Do I want to borrow \$9 million? No, I do not. The fact is we have to do something. If we don't spend it all, that's fine. We only have to pay back what we spend."

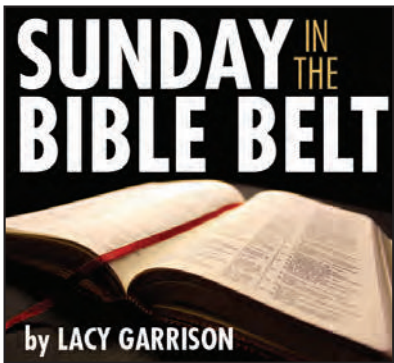
Received were four bids for jail expansion which ranged between \$8.3 million and \$9 million. With an initial cost estimate of \$6.5 million, the county's prior resolution was to borrow \$12.5 million. However, \$6 million of that was allocated for two school projects.



BOULDIN

Continued on **5A**

Bearing witness



Although many may wonder what Jehovah's Witnesses believe, most recognize them for their door-to-door ministry. According to Elder Rickey Farris, they follow the example of early Christians and find going from house-to-house is a good way to reach people.

"In our Hall, we have around 100 publishers and that would be those who've been approved to go out into the door-to-door ministry," said Farris. "Their ages vary anywhere from 8 to infinity."

Known as a Kingdom Hall instead of a church, the structure in McMinnville was established in 1975 and is located on 1015 Harrison Ferry Road. Farris says as the name "Kingdom Hall" implies, their congregation is focused on



Known as a Kingdom Hall instead of a church, the local structure where Jehovah's Witnesses worship is located on 1015 Harrison Ferry Road.

God's Kingdom.

"Jesus said, 'Go therefore and make disciples' and tell them about the good news of the kingdom," said Farris. "Then, in the Lord's Prayer, the second thing he asks for is 'Let thy kingdom come' so our preaching work is focused on that coming kingdom."

So, what happens inside these places called Kingdom Halls? Every meeting is open to the public and consists mainly of songs, prayers and reading and discussing scriptures. Farris also mentioned no collection is ever taken.

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