

Tuesday
February 4, 2020
Volume 134 • Issue 15

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■ **Steve Norris'**
Forecast



Cloudy today with periods of rain and a high of 60. Rain early Wednesday giving way to clouds with a high of 62 and low of 56.

■ **Obituaries**

Dorothy Willene Brown
Pamela Elaine Dickenson
Lois Louise Elmore
James Kenneth Madewell

■ **Upcoming meetings**

The Cumberland County Budget Committee will meet Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 4:30 p.m. in the small meeting room on the third floor of the Cumberland County Courthouse.

The Crossville City Council will hold its monthly work session Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 5 p.m. at Crossville City Hall, 392 N. Main St.

The Cumberland County Health Council will meet at noon Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Cumberland County Health Department, 1503 S. Main St.

The Crossville-Cumberland County Sports and Events Council will meet Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4 p.m. at Crossville City Hall, 392 N. Main St.

The policy committee of the Cumberland County Board of Education will meet Thursday, Feb. 6, at 4:30 p.m. at Central Services, 368 Fourth St.

Happy Birthday!



Happy 20th birthday, Blake and Gabby Cooper!
To place a birthday ad in one of our upcoming editions, call 484-5145.

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Plea entered, furloughed to Drug Court

4 others plead in unrelated cases

One defendant on last week's Cumberland County Criminal Court deadline docket were among defendants entering pleas last week and are headed for drug treatment centers.

Tyler Julius Allin Hoskins, 19, facing auto burglary, burglary, theft of property of \$10,000 to \$60,000, theft of property of \$2,500 to \$10,000, theft of property of up to \$1,000 and vandalism of \$10,000 to \$60,000, pleaded guilty to one count of theft of property of more than \$2,500 and one count of \$10,000 and one count of theft of property of up to \$1,000.

He received a six-year prison sentence to serve but was furloughed to supervision and custody of Treatment Court in a state facility. He is to pay \$3,886.56 in restitution and is banned from contact with his victims.

The charges stem from the theft of a van from Smith Signs in February 2019, and the theft of a 2009 Volkswagen car.

Other pleas were:

•Ashley Leann Klein, 31, charged with theft of property of \$1,000 to \$10,000, pleaded guilty to theft of property of more than \$1,000 and received a two-year suspended sentence to be served on supervised probation. Klein qualified for judicial diversion. She is to pay \$3,712.51.

The case stems from the theft of property and cash from Heather Ridge Properties on July 31 to Sept. 29, 2013.

•Robin Marie Latesky, 23, charged with theft of property of more than \$10,000, pleaded guilty to theft of property of more than \$1,000, and received a two-year prison sentence to be served on supervised probation. Latesky qual-

See **PLEA** • 6A

Emergency care



Heather Mullinix/Chronicle

Paramedics Chris Kemmer and Jesse Bosak transfer their patient from the ambulance to Cumberland Medical Center. Though only with the pair for a brief time, Kemmer said the staff of Cumberland County Emergency Medical Services try to help improve their condition.

EMS staff strive to improve patient condition

The siren blazes a trail ahead of the ambulance, with vehicles stopping to let it pass.

Chris Kemmer and Jesse Bosak, paramedics with Cumberland County Emergency Medical Services, are on their way to a patient just outside the Crossville city limits.

While en route, the emergency radio relays four more medical calls. In a matter of minutes, every ambulance stationed in the city limits is dispatched and the paramedics and EMTs seeing to patients.

Kemmer and Bosak continue to get information from the dispatcher about their patient — information that helps them determine what they may need to do when they arrive.

If the call is for cardiac symp-

The Heartbeat of



EMS

Part ONE of THREE | By Heather Mullinix

toms, dispatch may call for a first responder to provide CPR as the paramedics are en-route or for a deputy who could drive the ambulance and allow the two paramedics to focus on their patient. Or, information may point to need for help lifting the

patient. When they arrive, a family member directs them inside the house to a patient. Soon, they're bringing her to the ambulance to take her to Cumberland Medical

See **EMS** • 6A

BOE wants open records training

By **HEATHER MULLINIX**
Chronicle editor

Members of the Cumberland County Board of Education want a better understanding of their responsibility under Ten-

nessee's open records law following a recent records request.

"There was a lot of confusion, uncertainty and a lot of surprised faces," said Tony Brock, 5th District representa-

tive, during the board's Jan. 18 work session.

He asked what board members should do in terms of email messages, text messages and social media contacts.

Board attorney Earl

Patton said, "I had never seen this issue, not in all the years I've represented the board. The idea that constituent emails to you might be a public record was surprising."

In December, John Pat-

erson, 9th District commissioner, requested emails Stace Karge, 9th District representative to the board, mentioned she had received from consti-

See **TRAINING** • 4A

Decision2020

Don Strong
for
Property Assessor

Strong seeks assessor office

Don Strong has announced his candidacy for Cumberland County Assessor of Property in the March 3, 2020, Republican primary election, with early voting beginning Feb. 12.

Strong has been married to his wife, Anna, for over 40 years. They

have three daughters — Jennifer, Megan and Sarah — and five grandchildren: Donnie, Sophia, Ezra, Adela and Abby.

Strong is a 10-year U.S. Army veteran and a Registered Respiratory Therapist at Cumberland Medical Center. He was the owner of Don Strong

Auto Sales on Sparta Hwy., has run for U.S. House of Representatives in the past.

Strong has a lengthy real estate background beginning as an affiliate broker with Billy Ray Rogers Better Homes and Gardens Realty. Strong went on to sell properties

for Mariners Pointe, Lake Tansi Village, Cumberland Gardens and Fairfield Communities. He served as director of sales for Tybrisa beach Resort, Tybee Island, GA.

Strong has held the director of marketing

See **STRONG** • 7A



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1956: More on the early settlers of Crab Orchard

CENTENNIAL CHRONICLE, July 12, 1956. **EARLY SETTLERS OF CRAB ORCHARD.** An article From the Crossville Chronicle, August 18, 1938, by the late S. C. Brown, Continued. Editor Chronicle: Last week we left the first highway across Spencer's Hill leading West through Renfro Hollow and the Crab Orchard Gap.

This road was evidently changed so as to cross Fall Creek just above the Falls now Ozone, and crossed Spencer's Hill South of the old highway so as to get a better grade going off of Spencer's Hill. I make this statement for the reason that when a boy I have heard old people say that in the olden times that in coming off Spencer's Hill to the Renfro Hollow the road was



so steep that it was necessary to hang tree tops to the rear of the wagons to keep them from running onto the horses. This stretch of old road was not a part of what is known as the old stage or turnpike road that crossed Fall Creek just above the old McNair mill where the present highway crosses.

Prior to 1817, Robert Burke, a young man from North Carolina, came to the Crab Orchard Community and got acquainted with the Widow Haley while she

kept tavern on Fall Creek and they were married in 1817, when the son, Elijah Graves Haley, father of George A. Haley, of Crossville was seven years old. They continued to live on Fall Creek at the tavern until 1827 when they moved to Crab Orchard, living in log cabins probably built by Pleasant Dawson, just above where the large brick inn was built in the same year by Robert Burke. He must have been a man of considerable means as he bought the Crab Orchard farm from Pleasant Dawson and erected the historic Crab Orchard Inn in 1827. Dawson died before a deed was made to Burke and Martin Dawson of Albemarle County, Virginia, executor of Pleasant Dawson, made the deed to Robert Burke in 1828, when

John Quincy Adams was President.

Robert Burke and his wife, the former Widow Haley, lived in the Crab Orchard Inn and kept tavern, the post office, store and operated the farm until Burke's death. He and his step-son, E. G. Haley, owned the old turn-pike stage road from Sparta to the Kimbrough place at the South of where Rockwood is now, a distance of about fifty miles, the same being a portion of the highway between Nashville and Washington City.

One of the toll gates was

kept at Crab Orchard, and I have heard old people say that as high as \$75.00 a day would be taken in as toll in the Fall of the years when the emigration to the West travelled over this road. It has been said that during the moving West-season covered wagons were in sight all day long. In the operation of the old stage road, there were stations twelve or fifteen miles apart where relays of stage horses were kept, the stage coach carrying passengers drawn by four horses driven at rapid gait between the stations. So the toll gate at Crab Orchard

was not the only money-making point on the road, as there were a number of other toll gates between the Kimbrough place and Sparta. Of course, this turnpike had to be maintained and kept up at the expense of Burke and Haley the owners, yet it was a money-making enterprise.

• • •
Old Uncle Gib is a weekly historical feature published each week. Old Uncle Gib is a pseudonym that was used by S.C. Bishop, who founded the Chronicle in 1886. Bishop actively published the Chronicle until 1948.

EMS: Staff voluntarily seek advanced training, certifications

• From 1A

Center, where she can be seen by a doctor.

Kemmer takes the patient's medical history as Bosak drives back toward town, this time without lights and sirens because their patient is stable. Kemmer starts an IV. In some cases, he will draw blood, too. These small steps can speed up lab tests and medication when they arrive at the hospital.

A blood sugar test finds the patient has a high glucose level. Kemmer asks about medication and meals, and starts an IV of fluids to help bring down the number.

"We may only have our patients with us for a short time, but we try to do what we can to improve their condition," he said.

When they arrive at CMC, they transfer their patient into the hospital's care. Then, they return to the main station on Southbend Dr. to clean the ambulance, restock any supplies they used and complete their paperwork. Each call can keep an ambulance in service for 45 minutes to an hour — sometimes longer. Paperwork adds another 15 to 20 minutes.

The EMS staff start their day at 7 a.m., and they stay at work until the next day at 7 a.m.

The EMS crew laughs and jokes as they meet back at the main station following the spate of calls. Some are there briefly while they restock and clean the ambulance. Others will be there waiting until the next call.

The county has eight ambulances in service. Seven operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The other operates 16 hours a day.

Bosak says he fell into the career. He became an EMT because the training required only a few months.

"I ended up loving it," he said. He soon went back to school to become a paramedic. He's been working in the field for eight years, six as a paramedic.

"I like the patient care," he said. "You meet a lot of interesting people. You get to know people and develop a good rapport."

Kemmer grew up around emergency services, with a stepfather and brother working with the fire department. But he preferred patient care. He's worked for Cumberland County EMS for nine years, seven years as a paramedic.

With a nod to the old saying find a job you love doing, Kemmer said, "I haven't worked a day in nine years. I love this job and everybody here."

EMS Director Chris Miller said EMS services across the country have

faced challenges recruiting and retaining personnel.

"More are retiring and getting out of the business than are going to school," he said.

The stress of the job, hours and pay can lead people to find new careers. A 2011 study by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services found the average tenure for a paramedic is 6.5 years. Cumberland County, however, has many employees with 25 to 30 years of EMS service.

"We've got good folks who are setting the bar really high, and we're going to keep it there," Miller said.

Several years ago, the county struggled to fill open positions. In 2017, faced with losing entry-level hires to other communities, the county created a basic EMT position. EMTs must complete their advanced EMT certification within a year.

The department also launched a job shadowing program with the local high schools, and a private scholarship was established to help send interested students to the EMT program.

Perrianna Evans received the first scholarship. She logged about 200 hours in the job shadowing program her senior year of high school and then enrolled in the EMT program. The county hired her after graduation two years ago.

She loves the work and where she works.

"It's a big family — you see them more than your family sometimes," she said.

She enjoys the ever-changing circumstances, adding she wouldn't enjoy a job that developed into a routine.

"It's different every day," she said.

Miller said the job shadowing program has helped the department recruit young EMTs. They've also been able to hire experienced individuals from other services.

Many of the staff have also sought out more training and certifications. All paramedics are certified to use ventilators — an important training since Cumberland County has the only nursing facility in the Upper Cumberland with a ventilator unit. That requires six hours of training with refresher courses every six months.

Several staff members are Nationally Registered Paramedics or EMTs which allows them to work in other states, but that also requires continuing education beyond the state's requirements.

Six employees hold critical care licensure. Miller said the Upper Cumberland Health Care Coalition reimburses the cost of the licensure, but the county

doesn't offer an increase in pay for individuals with the certification.

"That's an intense training they've gone above and beyond to seek out," he said. "That shows they're committed to being the best. It's not about money. They want to do what's best for the service and the people of Cumberland County."

Overall, he said staff morale is high thanks to support from the county commission and county mayor.

Kemmer thanked the county for helping the department make progress in terms of training and equipment.

"The equipment they gave us are the things that have allowed us to do and impact how we can operate," he said.

Each ambulance is equipped with ventilators, heart monitors and video laryngoscopes. The heart monitors transmit information to Cumberland Medical Center and, soon, to Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

"The cardiologist can see what I've got happening while we're on our way," Kemmer explained. "We skip one step. They can go right to the cath lab."

Kemmer has had a few of those situations, and he still sees one of his patients in the community — recovered and back to his old job.

"There aren't a lot of times where you can make a huge difference in a person's life," Kemmer said. "We gave him the best opportunity we could. To see him walking around, those times make up for the times you're not able to make a difference."

Grants also provided for new power stretchers. Miller has applied for funding to add load systems to ambulances, which will make it easier for EMS personnel to load stretchers into the ambulance.

"It's going to become mandated, but it is a pricey thing and we're trying to secure a grant for that," Miller said.

On the horizon, Miller intends to apply for grants to purchase automatic CPR machines, called LUCAS machines. This device continues to provide high-quality chest compressions while the paramedic administers medication or completes other tasks.

"I used it on three calls, and two survived," Kemmer said. "With those statistics, it's worth it."

Next edition: County works to improve response times

■ Heather Mullinix may be reached at hmullinix@crossville-chronicle.com.

By GARY NELSON

Chronicle senior staff writer

The Cumberland County Commission approved the sale of several delinquent tax properties during its January meeting last week.

Approved delinquent tax property sales included:

•Philip and Sherry Roberts, 215 Chickasaw Dr. in Lake Tansi for \$267.80.

•Micheal Matthews purchased a total of six properties in Lake Tansi, including 9024 Cherokee Trail at \$268.50; 9008 Cherokee Trail at \$268; 9104 Cherokee Trail at \$269.80; 201 Nehasane Lane at \$277.40; 104 White Horse Circle at \$272.20; and 106 White Horse Circle at \$270.80.

•Sharon Pulley, 2011 White Horse Dr. Lake Tansi at \$255.

All sales approved add \$45 for an advertising fee for legal announcement in the newspaper.

PLEA: Pendergrass given credit for time served

• From 1A

ified for judicial diversion. She is to pay \$1,000 restitution and is banned with having contact with the victim. Court costs were waived.

Latesky is charged with the November 2018 theft of a ring that was later found at a local pawn shop.

•Andrew Paul Pendergrass, charged with theft of property of \$2,500 to \$10,000 and vandalism of up to \$1,000, pleaded guilty to joyriding and received an 11-month and 29-day suspended sentence to be served on supervised probation. He is being given credit for time served. The charge stems from the theft of a Ford pickup on March 24, 2018.

The sales were also approved and recommended to the county commission by the delinquent tax committee, which met prior to the county commission.

According to the county's procedure to purchase delinquent tax properties, "If a citizen wishes to place a bid on a tract of land the bid be the total amount of taxes, interest and penalty, clerk fee, advertising fee and attorney fee. If a bid is made and the total amount including taxes, interest and penalty, clerk fee and attorney fee, the delinquent tax committee may act appropriately to sell the property."

If a bid is less than the total of taxes owed, interest and penalty, clerk fee, advertising fee and attorney fee, the county commission must approve or deny the sale of the property.

Cumberland County

•John Russell West III, 31, charged with theft of property of \$1,000 to \$10,000, pleaded guilty to the charge and received a two-year sentence to be served on supervised probation. He is to pay \$1,215 in restitution and must forfeit \$3,000 frozen in a bank account set up during the theft.

The thefts took place between Oct. 1, 2015, and Jan. 25, 2017, during which a website was established to solicit funds for an animal refuge for those displaced during the Gatlinburg fire about that same time. Small donations were recorded from all over the area and other states. The amount of restitution only represents money donated by local donors.

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owns hundreds of delinquent tax properties throughout the county. For a complete list of the properties, contact the Cumberland County Mayor's office at 931-484-6165, or visit the county website at www.cumberlandcountyttn.gov under the How Do I tab.

■ Gary Nelson may be reached at gnelson@crossville-chronicle.com.

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