



# Herald-Citizen

The Daily Newspaper of the Upper Cumberland

109th Year — No. 208

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24 Pages — 2 Sections • 50¢

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## County commits \$1 million for jail repairs

By LIZ ENGEL CLARK  
HERALD-CITIZEN Staff

PUTNAM COUNTY — The Putnam County Commission has voted to commit up to \$1 million to repair, renovate or replace the HVAC, or heating, ventilation and air conditioning, system at the Putnam County Justice Center, the

major culprit behind the jail's recently failed inspection — and it's an emergency commitment commissioners are hoping will show a good-faith effort at a looming decertification hearing for the jail next week.

The county agreed last night to enter into a professional services agreement with J&S Construction in Cookeville to

oversee the necessary work. J&S had made a presentation to the land and facilities subcommittee earlier this week and will act as the construction manager for the project.

A Tennessee Corrections Institute reinspection in August revealed a punch list of must-fix items, including missing tile, leaking water lines, broken cell

windows, etc., had not been corrected from when the jail was first walked through earlier this summer. Decertification was recommended.

Most of those issues have been corrected or are in the process of repair, said maintenance director Dennis McB-

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## Ready in Baxter



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Malcom Clinger and John Vitelli of Dickson Carnival Co. prepare for the annual Baxter Street Fair. "Celebrate Farmland" kicks off tomorrow at 7 a.m. with a 5K run followed by a day filled with carnival rides, music, food and crafts, farm demonstrations and contests. Sen. Charlotte Burks will serve as the grand marshal of the "Parade of the Proud."

## Baxter looks at mail-in ballots

By AMYE WRIGHT  
HERALD-CITIZEN Staff

BAXTER — Mail-in ballots aren't going to be required in the city — at least for the time being.

In last night's regular meeting of the Baxter Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the board discussed an ordinance that would adopt a new state law — Public Chapter 412 — relating to voting procedures.

The ordinance, passed down from the Putnam County Election Commission, would allow the city to require a ballot be mailed in by residents who live outside the city limits.

Voters would not be allowed to come to a polling location to cast their ballot and would only be allowed to vote through the mail.

"I'm kind of reluctant," Mayor Jeff Wilhite said.

For now, the board has chosen to stick with the current way of voting allowing those residents outside of the city limits to come to polling stations to cast their vote.

In other board business:  
• The board passed the first reading of an ordinance that will give the city a complete municipal code update. Although the board passed an updated municipal code a few months ago, the University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service made some suggestions on the code and this ordinance will take those recommendations into consideration.

The ordinance takes into consideration an updated drug policy as well as some changes to the fireworks section of the code. It will also account for the ordinances that were passed in-between the draft of the code and the code adopting ordinance.

• The board approved the request to give a 3 percent raise to several water and sewer department employees.

"They do a great job," Alderman Willie Alison said. "They go outside the city limits and work very hard. I think they do great but I also think that

See BAXTER, Page 2

## School board to request regular meetings with county commission

By BAILEY DARROW  
HERALD-CITIZEN Staff

PUTNAM COUNTY — In attempt to resolve a communication breakdown between the Putnam County Commission and the county School Board, brought up in recent discussion of funding for school building projects, the Putnam County School Board voted to approach the commission to propose a regular meeting of the two groups of officials.

At a meeting of the Putnam County Commission in August, a tax increase that would generate funds to build a new high school in Monterey, a new middle school in



Brown

"I think the board has made every effort to communicate. We have put everything out there. They may have had some communication problems on their end but we have tried to provide everything that we could."

School Board Chairman Eric Brown

Baxter and an addition to Upperman High School was voted down. During that meeting, some commissioners expressed concern that they were left out of talks on the schools' long range building plan that would require a bond issue of more than \$50 million, saying they had only a

few weeks to consider the cost and implications.

"The concern that was brought by some of the commissioners was that they perceived that they lacked communication," said School Board Chairman Eric Brown.

Brown attended the August commission meeting and

addressed commission concerns at that time, assuring that the school board had been very open throughout the planning process.

"I think the board has made every effort to communicate. We have put everything out

See SCHOOL, Page 2

## TTU to offer another way to teach and learn math

TTU — A group of about 80 students will be learning the same mathematical formulas, but in an entirely different way this fall at Tennessee Tech University.

Two sections of a pre-calculus class will trade in some of their classroom hours for time spent in the math zone of the library's Learning Commons. Instead of standing at the chalkboard lecturing, their professors will circulate among them, answering questions one on one and taking more time to address individual problems and getting to

know their students.

"The plan is that they check out a computer, go to the math zone and work on their homework," said TTU math professor Troy Brachey, who will be teaching the redesigned courses. "They have better access to Tommy (Elliott) and me, so they should have plenty of time to get their questions answered and get their work done."

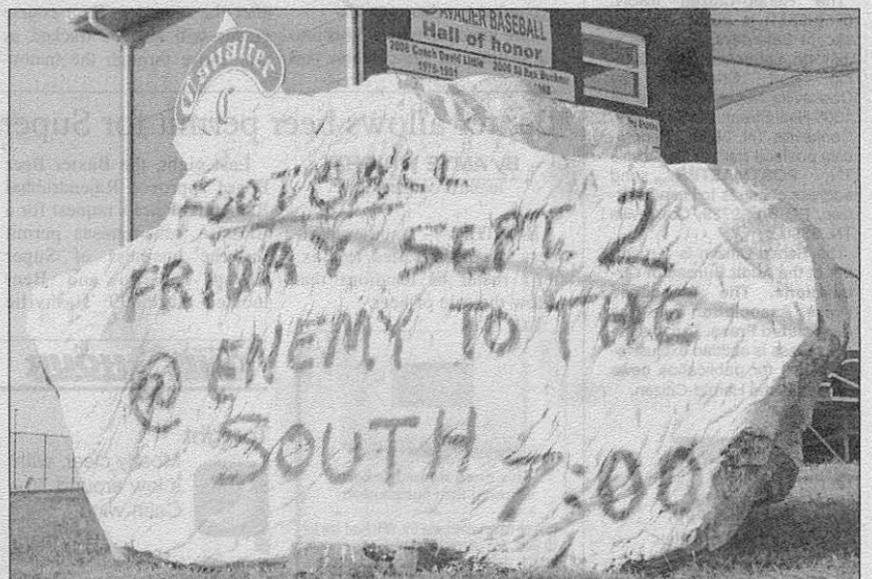
Brachey and Elliott will be teaching the two sections together, splitting their time between the classroom and the math zone. The course redesign, as well as laptops for students to borrow to

**AT A GLANCE**

More individual attention in pre-calculus class

See MATH, Page 2

## The rock



Herald-Citizen Photo/Craig Delk

The rock in front of the Cookeville High School baseball press box means one thing — it's time for Cookeville and White County to square off in football. The Cavaliers and Warriors renew their Highway 111 rivalry tonight in Sparta, with a 7 p.m. matchup at Dee Harris Field that is also the District 6-AAA opener for both teams.



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# LOCAL

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## Council sets hearing dates and appoints tree board member

From staff reports

COOKEVILLE — As expected, the Cookeville City Council breezed through a light agenda on Thursday night, setting hearing dates, awarding bids and appointing a new member to the Tree Board.

Justin Clark was unanimously appointed to the Cookeville Tree Board after being nominated by Mayor Matt Swallows.

In other business, the council set a hearing and first reading date of Thursday, Oct. 6, for two rezoning requests as well as an ordinance that would add sev-

eral amendments to the city's zoning code.

The rezonings propose to change 644 Whitson Chapel Road and 1491 and 1493 W. Broad St. from RS20, single-family residential, to CL, local commercial.

The zoning ordinance makes some edits to the number of bedrooms, kitchen facilities and laundry hookups for townhouses and condominiums, adds a revised fee structure for billboards and changes the right-of-way requirements for temporary push-in signs, among other amendments.

The council unanimously approved an

ordinance that makes changes to the city's public records rules which deletes an outdated requirement that copies from the city's computers be made "only on diskettes" provided by the city or "known by the city to be free of viruses" and adopted the state's code for inspection and copying public records.

The council also passed a resolution "expressing intent to reimburse expenditures of certain public works projects from proceeds of notes, bonds or other indebtedness" to be issued by the city. The city recently approved the issuance of \$500,000 worth of capital outlay notes to make several needed equipment

purchases.

Bids for commercial grade mowers were accepted by the council for the leisure services and public works department while a bid for police department uniforms and transformers and LED lights for the electric department was approved as part of the consent agenda.

An item not on the original agenda but added later was emergency repairs of Tower 1 of the Cookeville Fire Department.

The truck had \$13,503.10 worth of repairs done to it.

The council unanimously approved the repairs.

## Komen plans



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

The Upper Cumberland Komen Race for the Cure will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, on Stadium Drive in Cookeville outside the Tennessee Tech football stadium, with registration at 11 a.m. and the opening celebration at 12:30 a.m. Preparing for this year's event are, from left, in front, Dave Matlock, Amanda Adams, Rita Reese, Denise Stouder, Nancy Judd and Eileen Stuber; in the middle, Ashley Wright, Sheila Scruggs, Morgen Cupp, Faune Nunnery and Crystal Dias; and in back, Dylcia Cowan, Nina Scott, Jane Gray Allison Kelley, Bob Spence, Gay McNab, Terri McWilliams and Angela Regitko. For more information, call 931-303-0096 or visit www.komenuppercumberland.org/.

## SCHOOL: Board wants meeting with full county commission

From Page 1

there," Brown said. "They may have had some communication problems on their end but we have tried to provide everything that we could."

In an effort to prevent similar situations from arising in the future, Brown proposed that the board approach the county commission to suggest a quarterly work session between the two.

"I don't mind a quarterly meeting but it has got to be a two-way street," said school board member David McCormick. "I don't want to go over there and meet with a couple of us and a couple of them because that is the problem that we have had in the past. I don't want to go over there and waste my time and talk to two or three of them."

The county commission has regular work sessions to discuss items on their agenda and Direc-



McCormick

**"I don't want to go over there and meet with a couple of us and a couple of them because that is the problem that we have had in the past. I don't want to go over there and waste my time and talk to two or three of them."**

School Board member David McCormick

tor of Putnam County Schools Kathleen Airhart often attends those meetings to answer any questions brought up by the commission, but a meeting of the two groups as a whole rarely happens.

Currently, the design work on the school building projects is on hold until the board gets some direction on possible funding from the county commission.

"This is not the end, this is not a stall," Brown said. "This plan is not stopping. We are doing everything we can to move forward."

As proposed, the meeting will be at a set time and place and take place at a regular time each quarter.

Brown said the board would decide their next move on the building projects after the first of these meetings is held.

## MATH: TTU tries new approach

From Page 1

work on, has been paid for with part of a grant from the National Science Foundation. If it goes well and the students show a marked improvement over their peers in the traditional course sections, the new method will be expanded to other courses.

"We intend to expand this into all sections of pre-calculus and

then incorporate aspects of the redesigned classes into some of our sections of calculus," department chairperson Allan Mills said. "We're looking for a few converts."

To measure student learning, all students in Math 1730 will be given the tests before and after the semester. Their course grades will also be tracked as they move through the mathe-

matics courses required by their major.

In the math zone, which is a corner of the Library Commons with white boards lining the walls, Elliott and Brachey will circulate, answering individual questions. If they find that many students are having the same problem, they will pull the class together and go over the problem with the group.

## Baxter allows beer permit for Super Cheap Tobacco

By AMYE WRIGHT  
HERALD-CITIZEN Staff

BAXTER — Another business has been added to Baxter's roster of locations that allow the sale of beer.

Last night, the Baxter Beer Board approved Rajendrabhai Ramabhai Patel's request for a Class A off-premises permit for the business of Super Cheap Tobacco and Beer located at 6099 Nashville

Highway, Suite C, at the current K & K Food Mart location.

The original application submitted by Shailesh Kumar Abalal Patel was withdrawn one week before the meeting.

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### Weather

**Tonight**  
Mostly clear, with a low around 70. Calm wind.

**Saturday Night**  
A 20% chance of rain and thunderstorms after 1 a.m. Low around 71. Calm wind.

**Saturday**  
Mostly sunny, with a high near 94. Calm wind becoming south-east around 5 mph.

**Sunday**  
A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny. High near 86. Calm wind.

**Sunday Night**  
A 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms. Low around 65.

**Monday**  
A 30% chance of rain and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 77. Calm wind.

## JAIL: County commits to \$1M in repairs

From Page 1

room — except for the HVAC system. It's contributing to mold and other issues at the facility.

**If the problems aren't corrected — and the jail is decertified — Putnam would be unable to house state inmates and, therefore, would lose \$750,000-775,000 worth of annual revenue from the state, Sheriff David Andrews said.**

"If the air conditioning unit is fixed, that's going to be a major lick to solving our problems," Andrews said. "There's a lot of work that's being done. Obviously there's more to be done. Some of the fix has been temporary, and I don't say that to be critical. I say that because if the air conditioning is not fixed, we'll be right back in the same boat."

The motion approved last night, to repair, renovate or replace the heating and air, was crafted during another land and facilities subcommittee meeting, which was just held before the full commission special-called meeting convened.

The \$1 million commitment will "address all deficiencies and repair all items noted in the recent inspection reports," the motion read. The county executive is "authorized to enter into a professional services contract with J&S Construction Inc. to be construction manager as to the needed repairs."

As the construction manager, J&S will assemble a team to assess the justice center's needs, obtain construction bids from subcontractors and oversee the entire process.

Of the \$1 million, nearly half the money, \$450,000, will come from the capital projects fund, or cash the county already has on hand. The other \$550,000, if needed, will come with the issuance of a capital outlay note.

If the capital outlay note is issued, it will be paid back during a period no longer than three years.

Commissioners are hoping that the commitment will be enough for TCI — the TCI board will vote whether or not to decertify Putnam County's jail on Wednesday.

"I'd recommend (we) borrow that (money) from debt service, basically borrowing from ourselves," District 2 Commissioner Bob Duncan said during the land and facilities meeting. "If you want to change the funding source

later in time, we can certainly do that, but what TCI is looking for is a funding commitment. TCI is looking for how we're going to fund it."

"We want to make sure everyone's clear...there's no tax increase involved in this," said District 6 Commissioner and land and facilities chair Chris Savage.

**While the motion received unanimous support from the full commission in a 22-0 vote**

— Commissioners Steve Pierce and Eris Bryant were absent — some did have questions.

For its work, J&S is traditionally paid a percentage of the project cost, said Johnny Stites, CEO of J&S. But the percentage for the county jail project was not known as of last night, a big factor in the decision that some commissioners equated to a blank check.

"Is it going to be 1 percent, 2 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent?" asked District 5 Commissioner Terry Randolph.

"I'm just a little uncomfortable. And, like I said, it's a great company, I've worked with these people before and I've worked with construction management before. I would just like to know what we're going to be charged."

Stites said that the percentage will be determined once an assessment is complete and a scope of work is outlined. As far as completing the assessment, he estimated it would cost less than \$10,000.

"You'll know ahead of time how much money you're getting ready to spend before you spend it," Stites said. "We don't have a clue what we're going to do over there (at the justice center). We haven't been authorized to go to the jail to assess anything yet. That's the only reason why we haven't set a percentage."

With last night's approval, Stites said he would start assembling his team of architects and engineers today. He'll meet with the sheriff and other parties to get the process started.

"And I'm absolutely comfortable it's something you'll be very pleased with. If not, kick us out," he said.

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**Readings:**  
Thursday's high in Cookeville was 96, low 64. Thursday's high in Monterey was 92, low 67.

**Almanac:**  
Friday is the 245th day of the year with 120 remaining. The sun sets at 7:09 p.m. and will rise at 6:15 a.m. Saturday. The moon is a waxing crescent with 28% of the visible disc illuminated.