

LOCAL/STATE



Several indicted by grand jury for drug charges

BY LINDSAY MCREYNOLDS
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Eleven people have been arrested and more arrests are expected following indictments returned by the Putnam County Grand Jury last week in response to an investigation by the Cookeville Police Drug Unit of the 13th Judicial District Drug Task Force.

• Mary Elizabeth Schmidt, 26, of Spurgeon Drive in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of more than .5 grams of heroin, the sale and delivery of more than .5 grams of metham-

phetamine and the sale and delivery of under .5 grams of methamphetamine. She was being held with a \$75,000 bond.

• Vicki Marie Claborn, 56, of South Jefferson Avenue in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of methamphetamine in a drug-free zone and the sale and delivery of buprenorphine in a drug-free zone.

She was jailed with a \$60,000 bond.

• Terry D. Dunn, 30, of Riley Lafever Road in Baxter, was charged with the sale and delivery of oxymorphone in a drug-free zone and the

sale and delivery of buprenorphine. He was arrested with a \$20,000 bond.

• Jennifer Renee Bailey, 35, of Nashville Highway in Baxter, was charged with the sale and delivery of more than a half gram of methamphetamine and the sale and delivery of more than a half gram of methamphetamine in a drug-free zone. Bailey was arrested with a \$30,000 bond.

• Richard D. Budd Jr., 43, of Boatman Road in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of a counterfeit controlled substance and arrested with a \$15,000 bond.

• Demetrius Miguel Daven-

port, 40, of Flintwood Avenue in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of oxycodone in a drug-free zone and the sale and delivery of oxycodone and was arrested with a \$50,000 bond.

• Clinton Andrew Allen, 31, of North Dixie Avenue in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of buprenorphine in a drug-free zone and arrested with a \$25,000 bond.

• Roman Martinez, 27, of East 20th Street in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of less than .5 grams of methamphetamine and arrested with

a \$50,000 bond.

• Harold Eugene Phy Jr., 52, of Spurgeon Drive in Cookeville, was charged with two counts of the sale and delivery of more than .5 grams of methamphetamine in a drug-free zone and arrested with a \$75,000 bond.

• Joni Lee Gosnell, 33, of Breedlove Drive in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of buprenorphine and arrested with a \$15,000 bond.

• Tiffany Paige Golden, 23, of Lovelady Road in Cookeville, was charged with the sale and delivery of more than .5 grams of ICE.

Committee recommends refinancing debt

BY JIM HERRIN
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The goal is to save money.

That's what Putnam County Executive Randy Porter said Monday as he spoke to members of the county's fiscal review committee about refinancing about \$14.4 million in debt.

"It's kind of like refinancing your house," he said.

"You get (a loan) at a higher (interest) rate and refinance it at a

lower rate. That's what we're doing with this bond."

Porter said the county will save over \$2 million by refinancing from a 4.5 percent interest rate on bonds to a 2.5 percent rate.

The money in question was initially borrowed as part of a bond issue in 2007 that paid for construction of the EMS/911 building and the new health department/election commission building. Part of that money was also

used to renovate the old health department building on Dixie Avenue for use as the County Clerk's office.

Porter gave commissioners two options for refinancing.

"The savings will average about \$180,000 a year," he said. "Proposal A takes that \$180,000 and puts it all back into debt service to increase your bonding capacity."

"Proposal B takes half of the savings and puts it into debt service

and takes the other half and pays toward the bond (in order to) pay the last payment off a little early."

The fiscal review committee recommended approval of Proposal B.

The proposal is similar to one approved by the county commission last December in which they agreed to refinance the \$53 million bond issued to cover the cost of constructing three new schools.

Porter said the

county has not had to issue any bonds over the past couple of years, but said future bond issues are inevitable.

"There's coming a year that you're going to have to build a new school, you're going to have to do something with the jail and all of these kinds of things that are growing as we grow," he said.

"So there's coming a day that we're going to have to issue another bond. My goal would be

that we have a bonding capacity to issue that without a tax increase."

Also Monday night, the nominating committee forwarded the names of five people interested in filling a commission vacancy on to the full commission for a vote.

Chris Cassety, Adam Johnson, Brian Jones, Rick Poston and Michael Reep have all expressed interest in serving out the term of the late Reggie Shanks in District 6.

Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic getting a new home

BY LAURA MILITANA
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A non-profit agency that has been in Cookeville nearly 30 years will be getting a new, bigger home thanks to the help of some generous donors.

Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic is getting a new building on North Dixie Avenue. J&S Construction — along with eight subcontractors — is donating all its services to the agency to get the building ready.

More than 50 people from J&S — from office staff to family members of employees — descended on 714 N. Dixie Ave. this past weekend to get the demolition done.

"This is our way of giving back to the community," Jack Stites, president of J&S, said. "We believe in what the Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic does."

Nancy Knowlton, director of the Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic, was moved to tears after she saw the amount of work done in just a few hours Friday morning.

"I cannot say thank you enough," she said as the workers gathered for lunch.

Cookeville Pregnancy



Laura Militana | Herald-Citizen

Nancy Knowlton, director of the Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic, wipes tears of joy from her face as she thanks the workers for their volunteer spirit.

Clinic has been at the same location on Willow Avenue its entire existence.

"We've been looking for a bigger place for the last seven years," she said.

"But nothing stuck out to us — until we saw this building."

The proximity to Tennessee Tech University is what makes it so appealing to Knowlton.

"I was a Tech student when I found out I was pregnant," she said. "I

didn't have anywhere to go for help."

The clinic began as the Crisis Pregnancy Center when a committee of individuals wanted to take a positive stand against abortion. After years of prayer and planning, the CPC opened in August of 1998 as an outreach ministry of First

Baptist Church. It became its own 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 2003.

Knowlton has been with the agency since its inception.

"I started as a receptionist, then was made director in 1995," she said.

And it's grown significantly since then, help-

ing thousands of people in not only Cookeville and Putnam County, but the region as a whole.

The clinic expanded again in 2000 by adding a part-time administrative assistant position and in 2001, additional office space was rented and in 2002, a part-time abstinence coordinator position was added.

In January 2006, the board decided to convert to the medical model for pregnancy resource center in order to provide ultrasound on site for those clients in crisis.

The Baby Bucks program also began around this time.

It's an education/maternal assistance program that helps provide the things necessary during pregnancy and after the baby is born.

It is open to clients who are currently pregnant and up until the child turns one year old.

Clients earn Baby Bucks by coming to the CPC once a week and completing tasks.

The medical conversion was completed in January of 2007, allowing the clinic staff to

offer pregnancy testing and confirmation by way of ultrasound.

Around this same time, the name was changed to Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic.

The agency has four basic principles:

* To assist women who are in (or fear they are in) a crisis pregnancy situation;

* To assist pregnant women who desire to carry their pre-born children to term;

* To promote sexual abstinence before marriage throughout the community;

* To help women overcome a past abortion decision.

"We don't judge anyone on their decisions," Knowlton said. "This clinic is open to all women who need help."

The new building is 5,000 square feet.

Work continues this weekend on the project, with CPC officials hoping to move in early next year.

Visit www.cookevil-lepc.org or search for Cookeville Pregnancy Clinic on Facebook for more information.

Deceptive vets charity dissolved

Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, Tennessee Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery, III and law enforcement partners in 24 states announced a settlement with VietNow National Headquarters, Inc., an Illinois nonprofit corporation, resulting in the organization's termination.

In March 2017, Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette alleged thousands of deceptive solicitation violations

against VietNow for misrepresenting its charitable programs to donors through misleading telemarketing solicitation scripts. In its most recent financial statement, VietNow reported raising nearly \$2 million nationwide; only 5 percent of funds raised went to charitable programs. Attorneys general in multiple states soon began their own investigations of VietNow, which led to the present negotiated resolution.

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