



Read Letters to Santa and Holiday Greetings in the B Section

The Springfield Sun

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McMillin gets second chance at plea deal

By Jane Reid Kleyn
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Former Springfield Tourism Director Stephanie McMillin gets a second chance at the plea deal Judge Samuel Spalding rejected in November.

McMillin and her attorney Ted Lavitt arrived for a pre-trial hearing on Wednesday, December 15, bearing two crucial pieces of paper that convinced Judge Spalding to reconsider the plea agreement from July of 2021. Lavitt presented the court with a check for \$20,000 as a down-payment toward restitution of the over \$68,000 McMillin pled guilty to taking from Tourism funds. The second was a letter confirming her employment and salary that would enable her to make the \$805 monthly payment needed to complete the restitution before the end of the five-year probation agreed to as part of the plea agreement with the Commonwealth Attorney's office.

Judge Spalding stated that if the check cleared, he would reconsider her plea agreement in January.

McMillin is scheduled for a jury trial on January 26 but will appear before Judge Spalding on January 19 for another pre-trial hearing and possible acceptance of the original plea agreement. When asked by the Commonwealth Attorney's office about the agreement's clause for McMillin to serve 30 days, Judge Spalding said he would prefer to see her working and making restitution.

Local couple pleads guilty to sexual assault and endangerment charges

By Jane Reid Kleyn
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Joseph and Joan Brantley entered guilty pleas in Circuit Court on Wednesday, December 15.

Joan Brantley was charged in an August 2021 indictment with two counts of criminal abuse of a child. She pled guilty to two counts of second-degree wanton endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor, and was sentenced to 12 months which was probated for 24 months.

Joseph Brantley also pled guilty to amended charges. In a separate indictment Joseph Brantley was charged with three counts of rape that were amended in his plea agreement to first-degree wanton endangerment with a sentence of five years for each to run consecutively for a total of 15 years. The charges of first-degree sexual abuse were amended to second-degree sexual abuse with a sentence of 12 months on each charge to run concurrently. The plea agreement also requires Brantley to register as a sex offender for 20 years. All other charges in the indictment were dismissed. Judge Samuel Spalding will review the plea agreement and, if accepted, final sentencing will be February 16, 2022. Judge Spalding can reject the agreement in which case another agreement can be negotiated or Brantley can proceed to a jury trial.

Toymakers help Santa bring smiles

By Jane Reid Kleyn
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Photo by Jane Reid Kleyn
Toymakers Bonnie and Ronnie Smith show some of the many toys they design and build. The Smiths have been making hand crafted toys in Springfield for 40 years.

When Santa needs a little help, he turns to Springfield toymakers Ronnie and Bonnie Smith.

"We've been doing this for 40 years," said Ronnie. "I love to see the kids' eyes and the expression on their faces."

The Smiths craft unique toys from wood, mostly pine, but said they have made some from walnut and cherry over the years.

All the toys are designed by Ronnie. "All this farm machinery, I drew up all of that. I take a picture of the farm machinery then I draw it up," Ronnie said.

"My neighbor left a combine sitting outside our house one night. I took a pencil and paper out there and I drew it out, then we made it."

"We have our own patterns," Bonnie added, "nobody else has these patterns."

The couple said they try to add

something new every year and the farm machinery has been a customer favorite. Bonnie said a tractor and hay wagon is their best seller, but several other designs are also very popular.

"One little girl picked up a dinosaur she really loved," Bonnie said. "Her mother didn't have any money with her that night; but I said, 'take that dinosaur.' I gave it to her."

The Smiths said some of the other

favorites are a bunny that hops when you pull it across the floor with a string and a dog that also is string pulled. And they often get requests which Ronnie says he won't promise he can build it, but he will try.

Doll houses are often requested but Ronnie says he can no longer build anything big due to health reasons, so they focus on smaller toys. The largest things he makes now are toy barns

See TOYS page 17

Mackville man indicted for arson

By Jane Reid Kleyn
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Dakota Stover was again indicted for arson in relation to a June 12, 2020, garage fire at a home near Willisburg. Stover, 21, of Mackville, is charged with starting a fire that destroyed the garage and its contents including two vehicles. Stover is also charged with criminal mischief in relation to the fire. Stover was previously indicted on July 17, 2020, for arson in connection with the fire.

The Washington County grand jury met on Wednesday, December 15, and issued the following additional indictments.

Michael J. Lockett, 42, of Antioch, TN, was indicted for receiving a stolen firearm, careless driving, and possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a vehicle. The incident occurred on Sept. 4, 2021. Bond was set at \$5,000 cash.

Kevin Graves, 42, of Springfield, was indicted for trafficking in methamphetamine. Bond was set at \$5,000

cash.

Tyshon M. Montgomery, 31, of Springfield, was indicted on multiple charges. Those charges included possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, tampering with physical evidence, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, terroristic threatening, menacing, public intoxication, trespassing, and persistent felony offender. Bond was set at \$2,500 cash.

Gregorio Maldonado, 37, of Springfield, was indicted on charges of receiving stolen property (a 2014 trailer) and tampering with physical evidence. Bond was set at \$5,000.

James Alan Goodlett, 26, of Harrodsburg, was indicted for violation of an Emergency Protection Order, wanton endangerment, fleeing or evading police, reckless driving and persistent felony offender. Charges stem from a November 2, 2021, incident. Bond was set at \$10,000 full cash.

Stephanie Michelle Stratton, 38, of Springfield, was indicted for possession of synthetic drugs and public

intoxication.

Riquel Logan, 25, of Springfield, was indicted on charges of possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, trafficking in marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of Legend drug. Bond was set at \$2,000 full cash.

John Adam Herr, 40, of Willisburg, was indicted for possession of meth, possession of marijuana, and reckless driving.

Michael T. Shoffner, 42, of Bloomfield, was indicted for trafficking in meth, possession of fentanyl, failure to wear a seat belt, rear license plate not illuminated, and inadequate muffler. Bond was set at \$5,000 full cash.

Eric T. Aubrey, 43, of Taylorsville was indicted for possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

Aaron B. Crawley, 43, of Harrodsburg, was indicted for possession of meth, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana.

Matthew E. Lee, 40, of Bowling

See INDICT page 7

Repaving of Rizer Avenue worsens water drainage

By Jane Reid Kleyn
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The repaving of Rizer Avenue to eliminate the flow of water into yards and residences has rerouted the water and may have made the problem worse Springfield Mayor Debbie Wakefield explained to the City Council at the monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 14.

Wakefield said the repaving brought the street up even with the curb causing the water to flow over the curb rather than channeling it away from homes on Rizer Avenue. The city council voted to install temporary curbing along the affected area while the city works with the contractor that paved to road to rectify the

See RIZER page 5

WC COVID Stats

Total Cases	2511
Recovered	2404
Active	59
Deaths	48