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Johnson County Mayor

August 4

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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

County Sheriff, Jail, Health Care Provider hit with Federal Civil Rights lawsuit

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

As it was first reported by WJHL Channel 11, Johnson County, Sheriff Edward Tester, the Johnson County jail, and its health care provider, Quality Correctional Health Care, are just some of the parties hit this week with a federal civil rights lawsuit.

Attorney Christopher Rogers filed the suit on behalf of his clients, Juan Carlos Casanova and his wife, Jenny Casanova, claiming "intentional and reckless" actions at the Johnson County jail

See **Lawsuit Page A4**

MOUNTAIN CITY, TN

Mountain City employees indicted

Former Bookkeeper and Current City Recorder face charges

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has resulted in the indictment and arrest of two town officials Donna Nelson, a former bookkeeper, and Sheila Shaw, the current recorder for the Town of Mountain City in Johnson County.

On July 15, 2022, the Johnson County Grand Jury indicted Nelson on one count of theft over \$2,500 and one count of official misconduct. Shaw was also indicted on one count of official misconduct. Arrest by the Mountain City Police department was made on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. Nelson and Shaw were both released on bail the same day. Mountain City Mayor Jerry Jordan officially suspended the city recorder on Thursday, July 21, 2022.

A release from Mayor Jordan posted on the town's Facebook page states, "Sheila Shaw has been suspended until further notice due to her being charged with official misconduct." It also states that "the decision to suspend Shaw must be confirmed by the city council at its meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2022."

According to the Tennessee Comptroller's office, the investigation of Nelson and Shaw began after Mountain City officials identified several questionable transactions.

Investigators determined that Nelson stole at least \$3,959.71 from the town between July 2017 and September 2021.

"One of Nelson's responsibilities

See **Indictment Page A4**

Johnson County Community Theater entertains with 'Curtain Up'

Karla Prudhomme
FREELANCE WRITER

Johnson Countians and visitors alike were entertained this past weekend with Johnson County Community Theatre's new production, *Curtain Up*. This hilarious comedy by Peter Quilter is a story of five women who inherit a crumbling, old, dilapidated theater from a man they all loved in diverse ways. His daughter (Lydia Nicholson), ex-wife (Karla Prudhomme), mother (Janet Griffith), secretary (Bridgette Berger), and girlfriend (Cheri Potter) are all determined to restore the crumbling theater, no matter the personal cost and no matter what happens. The five women

See **'Curtains Up' Page A10**



Candidate snipe signs for the August 4, 2022 elections on SR 421 in Mountain City, TN, Tuesday, July 26, 2022. With only a week left for voters to decide and amid the early voting period, many are looking forward to the race being over, while others are yet to make a choice in the contentious county election season. Photo by Tamas Mondovics

Absentee By-Mail Request deadline is July 28

By Tamas Mondovics
EDITOR

With early voting ending this Sunday, there is another must-remember deadline for voters to keep in mind.

The deadline for Tennessee voters to request a ballot to vote absentee by-mail for the August 4 State and Federal Primary and State and County General Election is Thursday, July 28.

"County election commissions are accepting absentee by-mail requests now for the Aug. 4 election," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "If you meet one of the reasons under Tennessee state law to vote absentee by-mail and plan to do so, I encourage you to request and return your ballot early to ensure you meet the upcoming deadlines."

See **Election Page A4**

Local's Deli celebrates opening day with an evening of music

Submitted

The dream of Local's Deli owner Tim Payne became a reality on Friday when Local's Deli was filled with the sounds of friends greeting friends, laughter, and music. Cars lining both sides of the street and people filling the sidewalks were reminiscent of the downtown of past decades that many native residents remember fondly. "It does look like the good ole days," said Linda Miller. "I know that sometimes Daddy had us working in tobacco or garden, but we always finished, so we had time to go to town."

Linda Miller

sometimes Daddy had us working in tobacco or garden, but we always finished, so we had time

See **Local's Deli Page A10**



Patrons visit a downtown Mountain City landmark that now sees new life as the Local's Deli. The restaurant has seen a steady flow of customers since its opening last weekend. Photos by Jeanie Bower



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