

POLICE BLOTTER

DRUG CHARGE

An estimated 2.89 grams of crystal methamphetamine was confiscated from a man being arrested Tuesday, Dec. 20, for a probation violation.

Jason Lee Phillips Sr., 45, of Gold Road was carrying an cigarette pack allegedly containing the substance, a glass pipe with residue, and a shortened straw.

New charges of possession of a schedule 2 drug and paraphernalia were added. Bond was set at \$13,500.

SHOPLIFTING

A man and woman shoplifted articles of clothing late Monday afternoon from Dirt Cheap, Mooresville Highway, a Lewisburg Police Department report said.

Security video showed they spent around an hour in the store without purchasing anything, and that the woman hid at least one item inside her shirt.

The suspects are described as white, in their 20s or 30s. She has a short, heavy build, with dark hair and the man is slim, of average height, with tattoos on the right side of his neck and both arms, and wearing a black hat with the word "progress" and a black t-shirt with the word "KING."

They were seen leaving in a gray Pontiac Grand Am.

THEFT

A purse was stolen from a vehicle outside Walmart's Vision Center area on Wednesday, Dec. 28, police said.

Loss was estimated at \$1,600, including a \$1,300 cell phone.

The report did not say if the vehicle was locked.

Given up on your 2023 reading list yet?

By **Danny Tyree**

"Time Enough at Last."

The new year reminds me of that classic "Twilight Zone" episode starring Burgess Meredith as a put-upon bookworm.

(No, he wasn't reading on the wing of an airplane! Get your episodes straight, with "The Twilight Zone Companion," for Pete's sake!)

True bibliophiles are all the same. Whether our preference is studying the rise and fall of empires or the rise and fall of heaving bosoms, we eagerly anticipate how many volumes we can absorb in the pristine, wide-open next 12 months.

The lucky few exceed their wildest expectations. The rest of us find one obstacle or another curtailing or demolishing our plans.

Some readers persevere and come up only a few chapters short when New Year's Eve ends. Other poor wretches finish the year woefully short of even scaled-back goals. ("Maybe next year I'll find out if Thing One and Thing Two get out of that box!")

Sometimes kowtowing to political correctness is the cause of our failure. ("No, you're not going to be reading anyone's 'Collected Works.' Works implies a meritocracy! Down with systemic Dewey Decimal System!")

Family obligations put read-

ing on the back burner. Even if you're full-blooded Cherokee, you'll find relatives from "the old country" magically arriving unannounced to spend three weeks!

Sometimes totally unexpected family tragedies intervene. ("Who could have guessed that my ceiling-high stack of backup encyclopedias would somehow bury Grandpa alive? Say, I wonder if Guinness has a record for Most Harrowing Non-Coalmine Rescue Attempt?")

Finite hours and competition from podcasts, streaming services and video games chip away at good intentions of curling up with a good book. ("Tonight's true-crime podcast: it's truly a crime what you're doing to your poor spine as you curl up with...")

Sometimes your enthusiasm wanes when you realize no one outside your book club cares about the milestones you pride yourself on. ("Dostoevsky? Tolstoy? Aren't they the guys who invented pickleball? Grab a seat and I'll tell you about the Volley from Hell...")

Longer commutes, mandatory overtime and stressful promotions can all cut into precious reading time. Say goodbye to Louis L'Amour and John Clancy. Now all you have time to read is "100 Clients You Must Suck Up to Before You Find the Sweet Release of Death."

Even good news such as grandchildren moving closer can be detrimental to your reading goals. ("Grandpa, why didn't Stephen King autograph this first-edition book with ink that could withstand peanut butter and jelly?")

Don't get me started on social obligations and household chores. Sometimes you just can't help going into Beastie Boys mode. You gotta fight for your right to paaaaage turn! ("Yes, I could use this pressure washer to clean the vinyl siding or...I could use it to hold you at bay while I finish these brain teasers.")

Me? With the hope that springs eternal within the heaving or non-heaving human breast, I aspire to finish reading "The Roswell Legacy," Gary Marshall's "My Happy Days in Hollywood" and "The Grand Ole Opry: The Making of an American Icon" this year.

I hope that you can meet all your own reading goals this year. Maybe you'll even order my second self-published book from Amazon. (Search "Danny Tyree Why.") Hint hint.

"You're traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of Tyree being encouraged to hold onto his day job..."

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History of the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce

By **Lynda Potts**
Special to the Tribune

Marshall County has existed since 1836, and since those earliest days, businessmen, and later women, have worked to provide a strong, progressive community. Before there was ever a Chamber of Commerce, a local Board of Trade promoted the retail merchants and industries. Then in 1922, when the Rotary Club of Lewisburg was formed, those Rotary members decided to organize the Chamber of Commerce. That was probably their first major project. The earliest meetings of the Chamber were held in the second-story rooms of what is now the 111 Venue on First Avenue, owned by Jack Cathey. One of the first projects of the Chamber was to remove the seven toll gates between Lewisburg and Nashville. That was long before the days of paved highways and Interstate 65. The toll gates helped to pay for the maintenance of the rural roads. Because Jim McCord, who served as city mayor for 25 years and later became Governor, and

Jimmy Joe Murray, owner of the Murray Farm Sale Barn and later WJRM Radio, were active members of the Chamber, the Chamber promoted the local dairy industry, which at one time boasted the largest production of Jersey cows in the entire nation. They obviously were also responsible for getting the UT Dairy Experiment Station here. A local credit bureau was another early Chamber project. Early on, an annual Christmas parade was always provided by the Chamber. This included a reviewing stand set up downtown in the middle of the street where state, county, and city dignitaries sat together to review the parade. The Rotary Club took over the parade several years ago. Then, the annual Octoberfest was also a "brain child" of the Chamber. The day included good food and vendors, but also hay wagons, pony carts, entertainment, and all kinds of activities. The Lewisburg Lions Club now uses Octoberfest as a main fundraiser.

For many years the Chamber was more of a

men's club where businessmen met and ate together to discuss the growth of the county, but in 1952 the Chamber decided to promote and build a recreational facility for the whole community. Mr. Ewell Butler, grandfather of Chamber member Eddie Wiles, was Chamber president and thought a recreation center could breathe new life into the Chamber. He called on his good friend, Preston Hopkins, grandfather of Chamber member Bobby Hopkins, to chair the Chamber's Recreation Committee. Preston Hopkins cleverly made a list of 28 county residents he believed were able to contribute \$1,000 for the project. The project was very popular and soon \$130,000 in cash was raised. Today this would be equivalent to \$1,434,000. The stockholders of a private country club - that never materialized - donated their 80-acre site on the Mooresville Highway. The contractor gave his services at no fee, and the architects charged very little. Materials were purchased at wholesale prices, and a great deal of labor was donated. Employees at local industries actually donated a day's pay and several days of free labor to the project. Many ladies made draperies for the clubhouse and stocked the hotel-style kitchen. The local Woman's Club was organized with the purpose of making sure the clubhouse was always looking its best for those who used it. The conservative value of the facility at the time was \$250,000. The site included, among other amenities, a 60 x 135 foot swimming pool with attached bathhouse, a 9-hole golf course, a picnic area, a playground with swing sets, slides, merry-go-rounds, a baseball diamond, a football stadium, and the beautiful clubhouse which seated 300 people. It would be an understatement to say that we were the envy of every small community surrounding us because the concept was new and a real attraction for those locat-

ing an industry in the South. Of course, that original clubhouse was razed several years ago, but a newer, state-of-the-art facility replaced it. One of the best programs that came out of this new Marshall County Recreation Center was the Red Cross Swim Program, which served to teach many local children how to swim.

When the Chamber of Commerce built the Recreation Center, an apartment was attached to the main clubhouse. This provided the living quarters for the Recreation Center manager, who was also hired at the time to oversee some of the activities of the Chamber. The Chamber, at the time, had a part-time person who answered the phone and accepted memberships in an office downtown, but the Recreation Center manager was an integral part of the organization, and the meetings were often held at the clubhouse. After 20 years, the Chamber negotiated with the County and the City to take over the reins and jointly support the Center. Several office managers and/or executive directors have served the Chamber. Among them are Evelyn Orr, Margaret Stepp, Sue Houston, Sharon C Collins, Dr. John G. Meredith, Angela Brown, Sue Hill, and Ritaanne Weaver.

The Lewisburg Industrial Park was an outgrowth of leadership by the Industrial Development Committee of the Chamber. Ted Dunning and Jack Adams were instrumental in purchasing property in what is now the Lewisburg Industrial Park. They and other members of their Chamber committee signed a loan on behalf of the Chamber. Later the land was transferred to the City of Lewisburg. These men, all Chamber members, took it upon themselves to spend their own money to recruit industry for the area. They often flew out of state to meet with prospective industries. They were businessmen and knew that industry

brought employees who needed goods and services. Remember this was before the days of an industrial recruiter. These same men also spent their own money to fly to Washington, D.C. several times to lobby for the Columbia Dam, which almost became a reality. Obviously, these Chamber men had more foresight than the politicians in Washington because that project would have served us well during this growth boom we are experiencing.

Over the years, the Chamber rented several spaces in the downtown area for an office, but in 1975, the Chamber membership voted to purchase a building of their own at the corner of Second Avenue North and Water Street. Soon after this, Jim Moon and other board members organized a full day of activities for what became the annual 4th of July Celebration. This celebration was the big fundraiser for several years. All of the money was used to pay off the loan on the building and to renovate its interior. For years, the back office of the Chamber, which has its own entrance, was rented to the United Givers Fund. Today Jerre Ann Agent has her business in that space. This is added income for the Chamber.

In 1983, when Lewisburg was chosen as a pilot community for Tennessee Homecoming '86, Chamber members Betty Ann Ogilvie and J.B. Floyd co-chaired the Vision Committee for the Chamber. With the help of Chamber members, industries, retail merchants, and a very caring community, a 24-hour day care center for working mothers was built on property donated by G.E. Childress on Fox Lane. The facility was known as Wee Care and operated successfully for a number of years until Mrs. Ogilvie's retirement. It was later bought by a private company. CNN in Atlanta came to film this new and innovative concept for national viewing when it was built.

In 1996 the Chamber

answered the call to a state-mandated leadership program as part of the Three-Star designation for Tennessee communities. Lynda Potts has been the volunteer coordinator of Leadership Marshall since its inception. Many persons who are in political positions or sit on local committees today are graduates of this worthwhile program. This program is still operated out of the Chamber and currently has seventeen members.

Projects for the past 15 years have evolved around fundraisers to maintain the building and the daily operations of the Chamber. The Chamber has hosted many pageants, but this new board is hoping to do less of that and conduct more interactive events. The Chamber has participated in job and career fairs, helped host Appreciation Dinners for Industry, and rented the conference room at the office to new industries and retailers for recruiting employees. For many years the Chamber members met monthly, then they went to quarterly meetings. Eventually, the full membership meetings were held twice a year: one in the summer as part of the 4th of July Celebration and one in December. For the past several years, there has not, unfortunately, been enough interest to have the summer breakfast. Covid kept the organization from hosting events the last two years, but the leadership is now ready to have member coffees and events. The goal of the Chamber is to cooperate with Greg Lowe at the City and with Emily Darnell, our JECDB director, and others in an effort to make Lewisburg and Marshall County a great place to live.

Members and the public can follow the Chamber on its Facebook page.,

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