

## Gallatin councilman charged with assault, disorderly conduct

SHERRY MITCHELL

The Gallatin News

A newly-seated Gallatin City Councilman was cited and charged Monday in relation to an incident that occurred earlier this month at a former liquor store.



Carter

Steven J. Carter, 32, who represents District 5 in Gallatin, was charged with simple assault and disorderly conduct for his part in a melee that took place on April 9.

According to the arrest affidavit, Gallatin police were called to the scene of the now vacant Red Carpet Liquor Store on 226 Locust Ave. with a report of a fight between a large group of people; some of which had just left the neighboring bar, Our Spot.

Two arrests were made - Adriantez Williams was arrested for disorderly conduct and Artaviona Bettis was arrested for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest and public intoxication.

After patrol officers then cleared the area, two individuals came to the Gallatin Police Department to report that during the fight, they were assaulted by Steven J. Carter.

While reviewing video footage from a nearby business, police body cam footage and a cell phone that had recorded the incident, Carter was observed fighting.

According to the affidavit, "Through review of this evidence I have determined that just moments prior to the patrol officers arriving on scene, Ste-

See COUNCILMAN CHARGED on A11



Danny Garwood has patterned his musical playing style after some of the greatest blues musicians.

RICK MURRAY

## Teen channels old soul to keep the Blues alive



RICK MURRAY

The Gallatin News

"The jazz and blues clubs are like the jazz and blues musicians - they're disappearing." - Buddy Guy

For over 100 years, the blues has been recognized as one of America's most original musical genres. Drawing inspiration from African American stories and songs from the deep south,

the blues reflects living through tough times and sadness through melancholy tones, rhythms and lyrics performed with strong emotion.

The style's popularity crescendoed during the 1940s and 1950s when it was regularly performed in blues clubs across the country. Since then, the genre has been in a decline, primarily due to the passing of such legendary blues giants such as Muddy Waters and B.B. King and the rise of pop and country music. As a result, many musicologists have begun to proclaim that the blues is dying and that it will soon fade away.

However, the blues is not dead yet, and it will be around for many years to come if 14-year-old Danny Garwood has anything to say about it.

Garwood is an eighth grade 'A' stu-

See TEEN GUITARIST on A10

## Mayor unveils \$52.4M budget

SHERRY MITCHELL

The Gallatin News

Gallatin Mayor Paige Brown last week unveiled a proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year which takes effect July 1. On Tuesday night, the city council approved the \$52.4 million budget on first reading with several revisions.

If approved on second reading, Gallatin's current property tax rate of 80 cents per \$100 of assessed value would remain the same with no city property tax increase to residents.

While the initial budget request from city departments was \$66 million, the \$52.4 million budget that was approved is a \$2.6 million increase over last year's budget and includes \$10.5 million in reserves and \$11.4 million in the rainy-day fund.

The new budget calls for 15 employee reclassifications, 13 new positions, and longevity pay for employees with at least three years of service equal to \$100 per year.

In addition, each city employee would receive a \$1 hourly payrate increase at a cost of \$1.2 million in accordance with last year's pay study to help



Brown

employee retention and be competitive with other markets.

"What that does - it helps make us more attractive in those lower wage positions where we have such challenges filling those positions," Brown said.

That \$1 per hour increase would equate to a 5% salary increase for someone making \$40K per year, Brown said. For those making less than \$40K, that percentage of increase would be higher.

A \$3.7 million difference between the general fund operating revenue and actual operating expenses will be used for capital projects, Brown said, along with an additional \$2.8 million coming from reserves for more than \$6 million for capital projects in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

In the area of Community Enhancement Grants - donations from the city to non-profits, more than a dozen agencies could receive a combined total of \$289K - a decrease of \$10.3K over last year's budget. The new fiscal year budget takes effect July 1.

## School board approves \$200K director contract

TENA LEE

The Hendersonville Standard

Scott Langford will begin his tenure as Sumner County's next director of schools on July 1 at an annual salary of \$200K, according to an amended employment agreement approved Tuesday by Sumner County school board members.

The agreement is contingent upon Langford accepting it, School Board Chairman Tim Brewer noted following the vote in which school board members Josh Graham, Steven King and Andy Lacy voted no and Allen Lancaster abstained.

Langford, the school district's current Chief Academic Officer, was hired by the board in a special-called meeting on April 4. He'll follow Director of Schools Dr. Del Phillips who will retire from the position effective June 30 after a 12-year tenure.

In a rare move last June, board members voted on a two-year contract for Phillips that allows him to collect his full salary of \$210,172 from July 1,

2023 through June 30, 2024 while serving as a consultant to the new director.

During Tuesday's meeting, several motions to amend the Langford's contract failed including a motion by Lancaster of District 3 to amend a proposed severance pay of two years' salary to 18 months.

Lancaster compared the proposed agreement with one extended for several years to Phillips and noted that Phillips' agreement only allowed for 18 months of severance pay.

"I just think it should be the same as Phillips' contract and so we don't set some sort of precedent moving forward," said Lancaster.

Andy Lacy of District 11 asked Brewer, who negotiated the contract, what the reason was for the change.

"We thought it was reasonable to put in there," said Brewer.



See DIRECTOR CONTRACT on A8



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## TEEN GUITARIST

From A1

dent at St. John Vianney School who has a passion for music, particularly the blues. Despite his young age, Garwood is both a serious student of the genre as well as an extremely talented guitarist.

"All my life, there has always been music playing around our house," says Garwood. "When I turned eight, I started learning to play the guitar. At first, I took private lessons and spent some time at the School of Rock. However, as I got older, I began to be tutored by different guitar mentors, including blues guitarist Jim Gustin."

Garwood's keen interest in the

blues was kindled by his father Michael, a lifelong fan of the genre who used to frequent blues clubs in his native Chicago.

"My Dad taught me about the blues, and how it is performed with heart and feeling," says Garwood. "The blues allows me to pour out my emotion into my guitar. Whether I am having a bad day or a good day, I can express myself through my music."

Since discovering the blues, Garwood has explored the musical catalogs of some of the greats in the industry. He has become a fan of such legendary artists as Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Freddie King and Buddy Guy, and his music is shaped by their influence.

Garwood's individual performance style is patterned after one of his blues heroes, the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, who is generally acknowledged as one



14-year-old blues guitarist Danny Garwood stands by his collection of guitars and music memorabilia. RICK MURRAY

of the greatest guitarists of all time. "There is a Vaughan quote where he says, 'I use heavy strings, tune low, play hard and floor it,'" says Garwood. "While I don't use heavy strings, I do play hard, and I floor it."

Garwood's guitar prowess and musical acumen has led to him performing at venues around the country, including the Redkey Palace (Indiana), the Charles Bender Theater (Texas), the Ground Zero Blues Club (Mississippi) and several clubs in the Home of the Blues, Memphis' historic Beale Street.

He has also had the privilege of performing with some of the genre's most famous artists, such as Bob Margolin, Ally Venable, Cristone 'Kingfish' Ingram and Greg Guy. Recently, he had the occasion to perform a set with 86-year-old blues legend Buddy Guy on the stage of the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

"Several months ago, I saw Buddy at a show in Evansville, Indiana. As part of his normal routine, he strolled through the venue and greeted fans, including me. He handed me a guitar pick and asked me if I wanted to play with him on stage. Of course, I said 'yes,' but it didn't happen that night," says Garwood. "However, when he came to the Ryman, we made some texts and calls to some of his people,

and he ended up calling me up to the stage for a few songs. It was a moment that I will never forget."

During 2022, Garwood was invited to perform at the Dallas International Guitar Festival, one of the preeminent events for established and rising performers. He was selected for the event after the organizers viewed a video of one of his performances which had been submitted by his father. He will be making an encore appearance at this year's festival in the '10 Under 20' competition, which showcases some of the most talented young guitarists in the world.

To help promote his burgeoning career, Garwood has developed a significant online presence, including a website (DannyGuitarwoodGarwood.com), a YouTube channel and Facebook and Instagram pages.

Despite his talent and growing fame, Garwood is quick to point out that he could not do what he does without the encouragement of many others, including his family and his school.

"My parents and my younger brother Jack have been very supportive of my music," says Garwood. "When I am not in school, we are often on the road to music gigs and workshops around the country. They are the reason that I am able to live my dream."



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## MCCALL COLUMN

From A4

ating two and three levels of blossoms. On this day they were magnificent.

And then, I saw another. Standing against a backdrop of evergreen trees, this one showcased a thousand blossoms. I will look for it again in years to come.

As I ventured deeper into the hollow, dogwoods seemed to be everywhere - high on the hills, and places where I had never seen them before. Suddenly, I was caught up in a sense of wonder. That's when the hollow came alive, and I began to recall things from years gone by.

Beyond the herhouse I remembered hens running headlong for the safety of the tree line when the shade

of a red-tailed hawk came gliding across the open ground.

The old feed barn no longer smells of mules, but the very thought of it made my nose burn.

And after 60 years I can still remember the light in my grandfather's eyes, and the smell of his flannel shirts, and the feel of his whiskered old beard; and my grandmother's - made from scratch - chicken pot pie, and her crapple jelly, and little biscuits.

The dogwoods are blooming in the Brim Hollow, another testament to the Resurrection. Lord willing, I will see them again before my time is through.

Jack McCall is a motivational humorist, southern storyteller and author. A native Middle Tennessean, he is recognized on the national stage as a "Certified Speaking Professional." Email: jack@jackmccall.com Cell: 615-973-8645; Copyright 2023 by Jack McCall.

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