

## FROM 1A/LOCAL

# Alleged Baseball Bat Assault Refuted By Witnesses

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STAFF WRITER

A conflicting version of a violent encounter between two men early Friday at a Horton Highway mobile home emerged in statements given to a Greene County Sheriff's Department detective made available today in a report.

No charges have been filed in the case, which remains under investigation.

An initial report was filed by a man who lives at the trailer, who told deputies that two other men came over about 2 a.m. Friday

and he was assaulted with a baseball bat, resulting in a broken leg.

Statements by three other witnesses contradict that version and claim that the man who said he was struck with the bat was actually the instigator. They allege he caused serious injuries to one of the men who went to the mobile home to assist his estranged wife. The woman is allegedly the girlfriend of the man who said he was struck with a bat.

The 33-year-old woman said the boyfriend had placed her in fear for her

safety, prompting her estranged husband and another man to come over to the trailer.

She wrote the boyfriend "was intoxicated on some substance" and had grabbed her by the hair and struck her on her head with his fists.

She wrote in statement provided Friday to investigators that when her husband and her daughter's boyfriend came to the trailer, they told her to get her belongings and leave with them. At that point, according to the woman's statement, her husband

was struck in the head by the boyfriend with a pot or frying pan, and then attempted to stab him with a broken handle from the pan.

The husband was choked by the man who had claimed to be struck with the bat and the two wrestled on the floor. The woman's boyfriend "would not stop aggressing," she wrote, until the two men left.

"At no time while I was in the house did I see any 'bat' as alleged," the woman wrote.

The husband who went to the trailer wrote in a

statement that soon after arriving, he was struck in the head with a frying pan and the boyfriend jumped on him, and hit him with the broken pan handle.

"He struck my head and cut my ear open" and there was "blood gushing everywhere," the alleged victim's statement said.

The man "did not have a bat that I saw at all," he wrote.

A report by Detective Sgt. C. Michelle Holt said the offender stabbed the victim around the ear with the broken pot handle, causing a laceration as the pair

struggled inside the trailer.

The husband and the other man who accompanied him left after the encounter, with the victim seeking medical treatment for "stitches and a fractured skull," Holt's report said.

The man who was at the trailer initially told sheriff's deputies that the pair had come there and assaulted him with a baseball bat. Photos of the head injuries suffered by the estranged husband who went to the trailer are included in the report.

No charges had been filed as of Tuesday morning.

## CLASSES

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if we're willing to ante up and have all these classes ..." he said. "The average cost for a teacher in Greene County schools is anywhere between \$55,000 and \$60,000 per teacher."

Members of the committee were told that 450 students were allegedly traveling to the center of the county to either attend the Greene Technology Center, the Thomas Howard McNeese Education Center for ROTC or for dual enrollment at Walters State Community College.

County Commissioner Butch Patterson brought up some of the questions he has heard from citizens around the county.

"If kids are doing things online, do we have the ability to ... where we offer (a class) and kids from all four high schools be in a room and basically, it's virtual learning," he said. "Is that something you can or cannot do? Because I got asked that question."

McLain said distance learning can be done if the system has the technology to do it. He said when he was principal of North Greene, the school did a lot of distance learning classes.

But he said it was still not as good as having a teacher face-to-face with students. Plus, there still has to be an adult in the room to monitor the students.



Members of the Greene County Education Committee listen to Director of Schools David McLain during their regular monthly meeting Wednesday.

SUN PHOTO BY NICK SHEPHERD

Teacher employment also came up during the meeting. There are approximately 165 teachers in the school system, including the 12 teachers at GTC. To run the single high school,

only 145 to 150 teachers would be needed, McLain said.

While it at first sounds like teachers may lose their job, that may not be the case.

There are approximately 10

to 20 teachers every year who either leave the school system voluntarily or retire. Some redundant positions, like teachers of the same subject, would potentially be eliminated. But

those positions would be used for different courses.

"It might mean some teachers will have to go back and take some classes," Commissioner Dale Tucker said. "That's true in industry. It happens all the time in industry. If you want to keep your job, you have to go get re-certified or something. Nobody wants to see anybody lose their job. Sometimes, you've got to be proactive."

Members of the school board denied rumors saying the school system had made any decision on property. McLain said he has no contact with property owners or any real estate agents. The only thing that has been discussed publicly is that one high school would be located somewhere in the center of the county.

Toward the end of the meeting, Patterson said he had learned a lot in the four years he has been a commissioner, and the only reason he ran was for the children in the county. He also announced he will be seeking re-election and would be filing his petition soon.

He said he still had some work to do for the kids.

"I'm not going to quit on them now," he said. "I knew the county education system needed help. Obviously I've learned a whole lot more in the last four years. We got a lot of places that need some help. But every kid needs the same shake. And I'm in the kid business."

## CENTER

FROM PAGE 1A

community center, the church fixed and remodeled the interior, which had fallen into disrepair, to be able to use it for services, he continued.

Worship services for the church have been held at the community center for the past 16 months, Goss said, but the congregation has now increased to the point that it is about to outgrow the building.

Exploring the option of expansion of the existing building, the church wanted to be able to obtain the property before making any extensive investment, he said.

In that exploration, Goss said it was discovered the charter for the community center had not been updated. The property had originally been deeded to the Greene County Board of Education by J.H. Parman and his wife in 1916 for the construction of a school in the community, according to deed documents.

The Flag Branch School

was located on the site until the school was closed and its students started attending Camp Creek Elementary School.

In April 1961, the county sold the property to the Second District Community Center for \$150. The community center, a non-profit organization, remains the owner. The center's charter states that, if the community center non-profit organization ceases to exist, the property can only be transferred to another non-profit.

In its investigation, Goss said the church found that the charter had been revoked in 1983 due to failure to pay the appropriate fees to the state. The church paid the fees, and the charter was reinstated in November 2017.

If it stays on the property, the pastor said, the church plans to build a sanctuary onto the existing building and preserve the historic nature.

Ronnie Waddell, who lives in the area and went to Flag Branch School before it was closed, attended the Jan. 19 meeting and

would like to see its heritage preserved and remain a community center.

Waddell and others interested in keeping the center as a community facility have scheduled the meeting on Friday and are encouraging those living in the area to attend.

Through his investigation into the community center, Waddell has received a copy of the original charter of the Second District Community Center. This charter indicates the community participation in the Flag Branch center as the officers who signed and enacted the original charter were deacons from local churches.

The charter states that the purpose of the Second District Community Center is "providing and maintaining for the citizens of the Second Civil District of Greene County, Tennessee, a community center and voting place which can be used by all of the citizens of said district for the purpose of Christian education, social endeavors, and community projects all for the benefit of general welfare

of the people of said community."

In the past, the center has been used by people in the community for reunions, showers and other events, according to Minnie Banks, who also discovered documents related to the property in her research of the history of a nearby church.

When it was chartered, there were people in the community who made donations for the creation of the community center. Banks said those people gave in good faith that the facility would be used for the benefit of the people living in the community and that covenant should be preserved.

In doing research about her church, Banks said that she found documents providing information about the original owner of the property, Giles Parman. A soldier in the Revolutionary War, Parman was given a land grant for the

property for his military service by George Washington. He helped found Solomon Lutheran Church, and Banks said she also found documents that also indicate that the first Baptist church in the area may have been located on this property.

People do not object to the Cross Roads Cowboy Church use of the property, she added, but would like to have it available for use by the community as it was originally intended.

It was suggested at the meeting that the church

be given a 100-year lease. However, Goss said the church is not interested in a lease.

The church wants to follow God's direction and is open to finding another location for services, he said. "If it comes to a point that we have to leave, it is not going to hurt our feelings," he said. "God will open up a door."

"We have been grateful to use the property," Goss continued. "It has been a wonderful location. But it may be time to move on and we are OK with that."

## TVA

FROM PAGE 1A

"Implementing the stated proposal in the President's 2019 budget of selling TVA's transmission assets would require Congress to act legislatively."

An outline of the White House's plan says the federal government owns and operates certain infrastructure that would be more appropriately owned by state, local or private entities.

"Federal ownership of these assets can result in sub-optimal investment decisions and create risk for taxpayers," the plan outline says.

Alexander said the idea of selling TVA's transmission lines keeps popping up, regardless of who is president.

He cited his opposition to then-President Barack Obama's similar, failed 2013 plan.

"When President Obama proposed this in 2013, all it did was undermine TVA's

credit, raise interest rates on its debt, and threaten to increase electric bills for 9 million Tennessee Valley ratepayers," Alexander said in a statement.

Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee added that he thinks "selling TVA is a very unlikely outcome."

TVA is the 1930s product of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and aimed to help the region recover from the Great Depression. Its coverage area carves through seven Southern states.

school children on a museum tour. The museum's Johnson Family gallery was the focus of much of their interview, the spokesman said.

The feature will air this

Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on WJHL-TV.

It's not clear what time the actual segment occurs within the show, the spokesman said.

## CBS

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They interviewed museum Operations Director Betty Fletcher and followed

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