

ROOKER REPORT

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TRIED, PROVEN CURRICULUM WILL REPLACE COUNTY'S TWO-LEVEL COURSE

NEW DIRECTION FOR DUI OFFENDERS

A new curriculum designed to significantly impact the long-term behavior of DUI offenders will be implemented in Davidson County starting next month, replacing the current two-level chemical dependency program.

The new curriculum, titled "Prime for Life," was announced by Dr. Margaret Reynolds, director of the Metro Safety Center, which administers driver safety courses for the local court system.

The 20-hour program will be phased in over a four-month transition period to allow current enrollees the opportunity to complete the existing program, Reynolds said. All new cases beginning Sept. 1 will be assigned to the new curriculum, which will be fully implemented by Jan. 1.

While the current course, which entails Level 1 and Level 2 training, carries a \$200 enrollment fee, the new rate will be \$220, pending final approval by the Metro Council.

Reynolds pointed out that 23 individuals have qualified to teach the new



course by undergoing extensive four-day training provided by the Prevention Research Institute, which developed the concept.

'It's a form of organized sanity.'

--Dr. Margaret Reynolds
Safety School Director

The curriculum was designed based on significant research regarding the most effective methods for changing human behavior, Reynolds said. "The information is presented in a nonthreatening format that follows an educational path, drawing the client to his/her own conclusions regarding risk reduction behaviors necessary to prevent health related and impairment problems," she added.

The goal of the single-course program is to have students take a look at themselves and establish personal "plans" to reduce risks of repeating their mistakes, Reynolds said. "It's a form of organized sanity," she added, noting

that the course emphasizes computer powerpoint presentations while minimizing the traditional use of video tapes. Only one video clip finds its way into the curriculum, she said.

SEE NEW DUI CLASS, PAGE 2

ERIC SCHMIDT'S ART FRESHENS JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM AMBIANCE

It takes amazing talent to make the walls of the jury assembly room in the courthouse where carefully selected artwork has become a traditional visual feast for visitors.

Drab, plain walls that once offered little or no appeasement for the hundreds of citizens who while away their time there each month have been transformed in recent years to a virtual art museum.

Outstanding works by local artists have been granted space to show off their works to an appreciative captive audience, adding a new dimension to the total jury experience. Indeed, many citizens make their favorite paintings a permanent reminder by purchasing them from the artists at prices posted alongside each work.

But first, the exhibits must pass the scrutiny of jury coordinator Cheryl Kennedy, whose idea it was to showcase the art and who determines whether works submitted are of acceptable quality.

Over the past two years, the works of such local luminaries as architectural artist Phil Ponder have graced the sprawling room's walls, as well as a variety of other genre and themes.

The latest artist to join the select group is 48-year-old Eric Schmidt, a self-taught painter whose natural talent did not emerge until a few short years ago but who has quickly developed in a masterly manner.

You will agree with that assessment once you enter the room's outer area to be greeted by a glorious blend of subtle and bright colors that portray



ERIC SCHMIDT

nature's floral existence, providing a cheery, yet calming, beginning to an anxious day.

As you absorb the beauty of the eight pieces of work and try to visualize the artist behind the brush, your mind could betray you. For Schmidt is an unlikely match of the generally conceived prototype. His artistic impressions are products of self-imposed therapy, borne of a trying period in his personal life and nurtured into a gratifying hobby.

Schmidt earns his living as an employee of Community Corrections, a division of the state trial courts.

He qualified for his job following a year of service as a law clerk and court officer for Criminal Court Judge Cheryl Blackburn.

His creative senses come alive at the end of the work day and provide a release valve to job-related mental fatigue.

The results of those sessions are mirrored in meticulously detailed watercolor and acrylic offerings derived from inspirational photographs he has taken for that purpose.

The pride and joy of his collection is a lifelike, brilliant-red Macaw, depicted on canvas with unerring strokes of acrylic paint. Appropriately, it is the most valued work in the exhibit, which is dominated by exotic blossoms of magnolia, calla lilies, morning glories, Stargazer lily and Siberian irises offered up in yellow, pink and purple.

If you miss seeing Schmidt's work this time around, expect an encore at a later time when he will display his artistic passion for birds.



MACAW ON CANVAS

CHEERS...

◆ With her courtroom in the courthouse undergoing renovation, Chancellor **Ellen Hobbs Lyle** has taken up temporary residence in the Ben West Building where she has been well received. The chancellor has made favorable comments about her interim setting as well, calling it a well-organized and friendly place to conduct business. She is hearing cases in one of the building's four General Sessions courtrooms.

◆ Just winning at home is enough to please most youth baseball teams. Playing in a world series is gratification at an entirely different level. Just ask General Sessions Judge **Casey Moreland**, who helped coach the **Tennessee Athletics** to the championship of the Mid-State Baseball Association and the Southeast Regional title of the prestigious National Amateur Baseball Federation -- you know, the organization that produced such major league standouts as **Brett Boone**, **Ken Griffey, Jr.** and **Todd Helton**, and others. Well, the Athletics earned a trip to the World Series in Dayton, Ohio for players 14 and under and let their presence be known by bringing home a third place trophy. Probation officers **Jimmy Waggoner** and **Scott Yates** rounded out the coaching staff while team players **Jay Moreland** (the judge's son) and **Brad Cobb** (son of Metro Codes Director **Terry Cobb**) were selected to the All-World Series team. Salute!

◆ A tip of the hat as well to **Reed Johnson**, son of General Sessions bookkeeper **Janice Johnson**, for being named "camper of the year" at the **Cedar Tree Day Camp**. Quite a feat for a five-year-old.

◆ Belated congratulations to Traffic Violations Bureau summer employee **Katherine Robinson** for keeping family tradition alive at Goodpasture Christian School. Katherine became the school's first graduate last year to play the same sport as a parent and the first alumna whose parents graduated from Goodpasture. She was on the girl's basketball team, the same sport in which her mother **Nancy Oakley Robinson** was a standout on her way to becoming the school's first Homecoming Queen. Her father, General Sessions Judge **Gale Robinson**, was a member of the football team. Other "firsts" for the family could be in the offing. The Robinsons have three other children attending the school.

◆ Nashville attorney **Quenton White** was sworn in this month as the first African-American U.S. Attorney for Middle Tennessee. His appointment to the federal post came more than 10 months following his nomination by the Clinton administration. He succeeds **Wendy Goggin**, who had served as interim U.S. attorney since June 1998. The Middle Tennessee District covers a 33-county area.

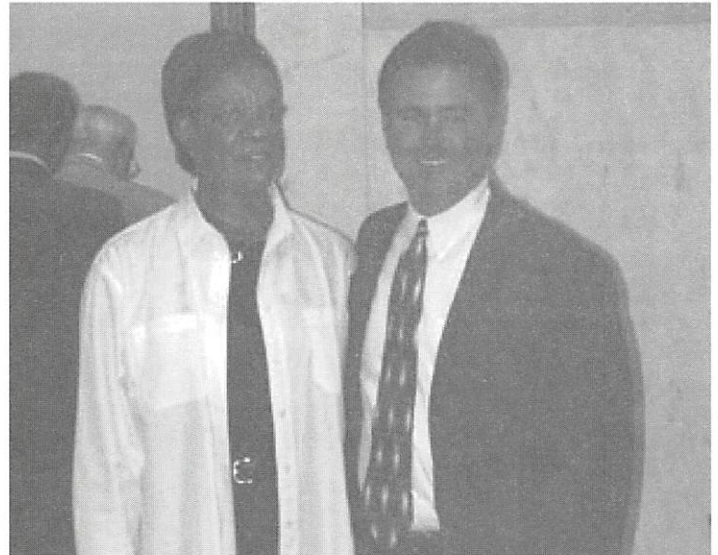
◆ **Leon Ruben** is entering an unprecedented fifth term as presiding judge of the General Sessions Court with one primary agenda: reaching an acceptable solution to the current court space dilemma. It is a problem precipitated by a growing judiciary that already is bursting at the seams and in dire need of a workable space reassignment. Judge Ruben has the experience and business acumen to negotiate a satisfactory solution to the problem.

...TEARS

Former Sheriff **Fate Thomas**, 73, passed away July 25 at Centennial Medical Center where he had checked himself in 13 days earlier with a heart problem. Thomas was sheriff for 18 years and was known best for his willingness to help those in need. In recent years, he had made his living selling automobiles and helping his son **Fate Thomas Jr.**, in the barbecue business. Death came following heart bypass surgery. In addition to his son, he leaves two grandchildren. The county has lost a loyal servant and a dear friend.

September Birthdays

Circuit Court Clerk	Traffic Violations
3 Annetcia Donigan	5 Annette Wheeler
15 Trey Everett	11 Bill Cartwright
23 Candy Rucker	15 Dickey Fuqua
29 Betty Thompson	20 Nancy Capps
Probate Clerk	21 Tony Eden
5 Anita Riggan	22 Elaine Howell
18 Ricky Deatherage	27 Leslie Allumbaugh
Bob Bradshaw	Don Rosso
General Sessions	28 Elizabeth Harris
21 Stephanie Phillips	



CIRCUIT COURT CLERK RICHARD ROOKER STRIKES A POSE WITH VETERAN GENERAL SESSIONS DEPUTY CLERK MARGARET BLAIR DURING A SEMI-RETIREMENT RECEPTION IN HER HONOR ON JULY 28. BLAIR HAS LOGGED ALMOST 35 YEARS WITH THE CIVIL DIVISION OFFICE.

NEW DUI CLASS

(FROM PAGE 1)

The program has been used for the past ten years in the state of Georgia where a three-year study of 230,691 DUI offenders by Emory University found:

- Offenders who did not attend the program recidivated at twice the rate of those who attended.
- Many students reported significant reductions in alcohol use for extended periods after class with 92 percent endorsing abstinence or drinking less in the future.
- Only 8 percent of participants did not intend to make any changes in their drinking habits.

Although Georgia does not require follow-up clinical treatment, such service is offered in Davidson County where studies have shown a lower rate of recidivism with treatment compliance. Therefore, the program's success rate here is potentially higher than it's sister state.

Reynolds said the center's Level III assessment -- a supervised treatment program for chronic offenders -- will be retained for the purpose of clinical treatment referrals.

JULY

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

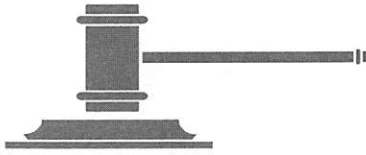
CASES CONSIDERED	4
Auto Accidents	2
Negligence	1
Legal Malpractice	1

(Source: Megan Gregory, Case Coordinator)



DISPOSITIONS

Settled	4
Not Settled	0



JURY

TRIAL VERDICTS

ABBREVIATIONS:

P	PLAINTIFF	CP	COUNTER PLAINTIFF
D	DEFENDANT	CD	COUNTER DEFENDANT
ST	SOFT TISSUE	GSA	GENERAL SESSIONS APPEAL
PP	PERMANENT PARTIAL	TCPA	TN. CONSUMER PROTECT ACT

APPEALS GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of July 17

CIRCUIT COURT

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-2902	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH	HUNG JURY	
98C-2343	PERSONAL INJURY	8TH	DEFENDANT	
97C-1759	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND	DEFENDANT	
98C-1262	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH	DEFENDANT	
98C-2590	LEGAL MALPRACTICE	8TH	DISMISSED*	

*--PLAINTIFF DID NOT SHOW

Week of July 24

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-3193	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	6TH (P)	\$3,020	(P-72) (D-28)
97C-496	AUTO ACCIDENT	1ST (P)	\$50,000	(P-18) (D-82)
97C-496	" "	1ST (CP)	\$40,386	" "
98C-2871	AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$3,000	ADMITTED
99C-72	AUTO ACCIDENT	5TH (P)	\$8,000	
99C-3429	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	3RD (P)	\$6,770	(P-40) (D-60)
99D-2838	CRIMINAL SEXUAL BATTERY	5TH	GUILTY	

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
P-\$9,295	DEFENDANT

Week of July 31

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-31	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	8TH (P)	\$5,742	ADMITTED
99C-2528	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	6TH (P)	\$25,473	
99C-2528	" "	6TH (CP)	\$1,498	
99C-2838	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	5TH	DEFENDANT	
99C-997	AUTO ACCIDENT/ST	2ND	DEFENDANT	
00C-189	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST* (P)	\$1,000	
00C-920	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	3RD* (P)	\$5,280	

*--JURY WAIVED

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
P-\$5,655	DEFENDANT
P-\$100	PLAINTIFF

NON-JURY TRIAL RESULTS

APPEALS GENERAL SESSIONS

Week of July 10

CASE	TYPE	COURT	VERDICT	PCT. FAULT
99C-1140	SLIP/FALL	5TH	DEFENDANT	
99C-68	WRIT OF CERTIORARI	1ST (P)	\$1,000	
99C-2964	GSA/CONTRACT	6TH (P)	\$3,982	
00C-1049	METRO APPEAL	1ST	DRIVING SCHOOL	
99C-2904	CONTRACT	1ST	UNDER ADVISEMENT	
99C-3591	GSA/CONTRACT	1ST (P)	\$7,500	
96C-2480	MALICIOUS PROSECUTION	5TH	DISMISSED*	
98C-2233	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH	UNDER ADVISEMENT	
99C-3210	WORKERS COMPENSATION	8TH (P)	27.5% VOC. DISABILITY	
99C-3590	GSA/CONTRACT	5TH	DEFENDANT	
00C-711	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$5,077	
00C-775	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$6,799	
00C-488-489	METRO APPEAL	8TH	DRIVING SCHOOL	
00C-1039	GSA/AUTO ACCIDENT	8TH (P)	\$2,363	
98C-2429	CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$26,915	
00C-915	GSA/CONTRACT	8TH (P)	\$6,483	

*--ON CROSS MOTIONS

JUDGMENT	APPELLANT
P-6,438	DEFENDANT
\$50 FINE	DEFENDANT
P-\$8,695	DEFENDANT
TRANSFERRED	
P-\$14,999	DEFENDANT
DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
P-\$3,400	PLAINTIFF
\$25 FINE/\$50 FINE	PLAINTIFF
DISMISSED	PLAINTIFF
P-\$2,783	DEFENDANT

SEE PAGE 2 FOR JULY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE RESULTS

TRENDS



CASE ANALYSES

AUTO ACCIDENTS

PLAINTIFFS 49
DEFENDANTS 13

RATIO: PLAINTIFFS 3.5-1

MONTH-BY-MONTH

MONTH	TOTALS	JURY	NON-JURY	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY-MARCH	27	18	9	20	6	1
APRIL-JUNE	28	23	5	20	3	5
JULY	14	12	2	9	4	1
YEAR TO DATE	69	53	16	49	13	7

JURY AWARDS

MONTH	TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	77,000	2,000-60,000	7,500
FEBRUARY	85,0040	1,762-45,000	12,786
MARCH	14,723	1,258-7,500	1,988
APRIL	87,598	448-45,000	21,075
MAY	71,357	200-35,000	4,519
JUNE	105,896	308-61,500	14,696
JULY	149,169	1,498-50,000	12,208

NON-JURY AWARDS

MONTH	TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	271,989	1,500-260,000	5,242
FEBRUARY	22,900	1,950-15,000	2,975
MARCH	8,756	N/A	N/A
APRIL	5,800	N/A	N/A
MAY	13,000	N/A	N/A
JUNE	N/A	N/A	N/A
JULY	2,363	N/A	N/A

SOFT TISSUE CASES

MONTH	TOTALS	DOLLAR RANGE	\$MEAN
JANUARY	17,000	2,000-8,000	7,000
FEBRUARY	8,777	1,762-7,015	N/A
MARCH	14,465	1,615-7,500	2,175
APRIL	42,150	3,150-39,000	N/A
MAY	39,696	200-35,000	1,498
JUNE	95,833	308-61,500	17,012
JULY	32,713	1,498-25,473	10,904

*GENERAL SESSIONS APPEALS

MONTH	TOTALS	PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	NONE
JANUARY-MARCH	7	7	0	0
APRIL-JUNE	4	2	1	1
JULY	5	4	0	1
YEAR TO DATE	16	13	1	2

OTHERS



CONTRACTS YTD PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS NO VERDICT
46 33 4 9

JULYAWARDS: \$57,756-- TOTAL AWARDS TO DATE: \$180,844



MISCELLANEOUS

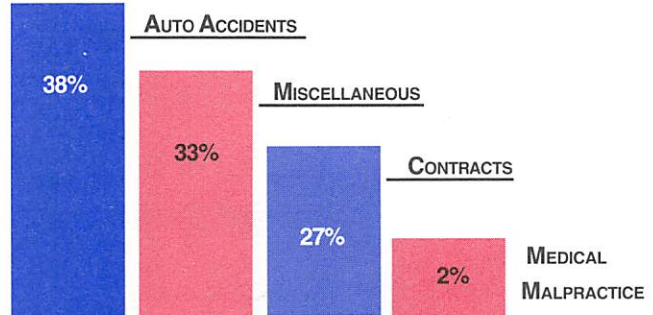
59
PLAINTIFFS 36
DEFENDANTS 14
NO VERDICT 9

MALPRACTICE

3
PLAINTIFFS 0
DEFENDANTS 2
NO VERDICT 1



CIVIL TRIALS By CLASS



Statistics compiled for the month of July

CASE INFORMATION

Circuit Court

NEW CIVIL CASES FILED	301
CIVIL CASES CONCLUDED	260
NEW DIVORCE CASES FILED	253
DIVORCE CASES CONCLUDED	243

General Sessions Civil

NEW CASES FILED	2,921
EXECUTIONS ISSUED	2,962
GARNISHMENT PAYMENTS	3,403
JUDGMENTS COLLECTED	\$585,141
ORDER OF PROTECTION PETITIONS	216

Probate Court

NEW CASES FILED	163
CASES CLOSED	223

Traffic Violations

MOVING CITATIONS	20,494
PARKING VIOLATIONS	7,029
TOTAL FINES COLLECTED	\$357,762
NULLIFICATIONS	1,622
NULLIFICATION FEES COLLECTED	\$17,853

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