



# Hickman County Times 50¢

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Monday, November 21, 2011

Aetna, Bon Aqua, Brushy, Bucksport, Coble, Farmer's Exchange, Gray's Bend, Grinders Switch, Little Lot, Locust Creek, Lyles, Nunnally, Only, Pinewood, Pleasantville, Primm Springs, Shady Grove, Shipp's Bend, Spot, Swan, Totty's Bend, Vernon, Wrigley

## Victim of worst domestic assault now recovering

By BRADLEY A. MARTIN  
Shannon Beasley doesn't remember much about the day in 2007 when rescuers carried her damaged body out of her ex-fiance's home and into an ambulance.

"I can remember my mother saying, 'Is she dead?' When I heard that, I felt, 'I'm going to be OK,'" she says. "I had a sense of it. I had no idea how badly beaten — I was beaten so severely unconscious, I had no idea."

Only now can Beasley, 39, explain what happened four years ago, from March 21 to 24, when she went to the home of David Lee Heakin, who asked her to take him to the drugstore for medication that would ease his back pain.

"When we came back we got into an argument about the situation and that was the beginning of my nightmare," Beasley says.

Held against her will, she was beaten with a shovel, a broom and his fists; thrown onto a glass table and through a glass door; dragged naked down a 150-foot gravel path to a creek, where her head was held under an early-spring creek until her assailant thought

Shannon Beasley's story  
First of two parts  
see page A7

she might be dead. She lost track of time. "It seemed like that I would be knocked out and then the next moment I was being beaten and I would wake up and he would hit me and knock me out and I'd wake up and he would hit me and knock me out."

Four days of beatings and abuse by Heakin left her so traumatized that even now she still cannot travel out of her home by herself to go anywhere; still is not sure if she remembers everything.

And she remains in fear. "To this day, I will put stuff in front of the door, I will move furniture in front of the door, I will put stuff on — pots and pans, so I can hear; so he can't get in, and if he gets in I can hear it when he gets in."

Heakin is, for now, in prison, more than halfway through a five-year term on an aggravated assault conviction, the result of a 2008



A photo from the day after she was rescued: Her sunken left eye needed medical care.

Hickman County Criminal Court trial. He had been indicted for attempted first-degree murder for his extended beating of the victim. Beasley thinks her testimony prevented the jury from finding Heakin guilty of the more heinous crime. "All I kept doing was saying, 'I can't remember,'" she says. "That hurt my verdict."

Subsequently, Beasley was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, a mental impairment caused by extreme events. Mostly, this illness is associated with combat veterans; the symptoms include flashbacks as well as the fear of recurrence. "She's definitely the worst case I've personally dealt with," said Lemmie

Nelson, a mental health counselor who was the first one to help Beasley begin to face what had happened to her, and how to cope with it. Three years later, just last month, Beasley testified again against Heakin, this time in a Hickman County Circuit Court civil trial. The jury awarded her \$51,630 in compensatory damages — then \$23,000 more in puni-

tive damages. Punitive, says her attorney, Allston Vander Horst, means that the jury is waving a community flag — that his behavior is flat-out intolerable. Beasley knew that; the money was secondary. "The whole time I was in trial, I shook and I cried the whole time," she says. "But it was worth it."

## Sheriff's report Burglary, arrests; dismissal

Now, 2 others charged

Back on September 7, crooks broke into a Pinewood Road home and stole several metal items, some of which were later found at Imperial Auto on Goose Branch Road.

Taken from the home of Mike Dorton were a washer, a dryer, a welder, steel beams and a steel picnic table, all valued at more than \$4,000. Deputy Ricky Harness said access was gained through a utility room.

A week later, Deputy Ricky Harness arrested Ty Sanders and Darrell Shelley and charged them with the crime, based on information provided by employees at Imperial.

Problem was, it wasn't them; their case was dismissed in Hickman County General Sessions Court before the month was out.

Shelley said he and Sanders went to Imperial and came up with information on two other suspects.

And, on November 10, Harness arrested Terry Lee Marise, 46, and his son, Andrew B. Marise, were arrested and charged with — you guessed it — burglary and theft.

Both of them are scheduled to be in Hickman County General Sessions Court on November 22.

Shelley said he's not happy that he was arrested in the first place, wasn't overly aggravated that he had to spend more than \$1,000 on bail arrangements — money he will not get back.

He was, however, unhappy that the arrest might threaten his livelihood, which just happens to include selling scrap metal.



Brandon Brake, who represents the U.S. Navy on military funeral escorts, was among those at Veterans Day on the Centerville Square.

## Four veterans; a brother lost

The light Veterans Day crowd on the Centerville Public Square appeared to be made up mostly of . . . veterans. Here are the thoughts of four of them, and state Sen. Jim Summerville, whose brother was killed at war.

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Fred Chunn, now a Methodist minister, served in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1978.

"We fought the Cold War mostly," he says. "I was a submarine hunter."

"It was a privilege, really. Everybody had served in my family in all the major wars; you go into Columbia, Sylvester Chunn Highway, my fifth-great grandfather was at Valley Forge in the Revolution. My dad was in the Korean; his brothers were in World War II. And I got the saddle from my great uncle, who was in World War I, the calvary. So it just kind of seems we were always taught to serve was part of what we were supposed to do." How, he was asked, does

his armed service impact him now, nearly 40 years later?

"I think it's always there. I think it grows the older you get. You spend more time on reflection."

"But a lot of things I learned, I learned from the Navy; lessons for life. Knowing how to be steadfast, stick with it, those kind of things. Never give up. One thing I appreciate about the Navy, they always give you enough rope — you could hang yourself, but they give you enough rope to learn. "I'm thankful for the time I had."

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Willie Gilbert, a retired meat-cutter, served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1956 to '58, a period of peace during which he made three Mediterranean cruises. He volunteered.

"It gets to you sort of. . . The training I went through, it was pretty rough training I went through. I could imagine what kind of training (continued on page A10)



## Santa's waiting

Whether you're ready or not, Santa is . . . just about.

What the Jolly Old Soul lacks most is those lists of wishes from youngsters, near and far. What would he do on Christmas Eve without those lists?

In Hickman County, he's asked the Times to spread the word, so here it is:

Send those wish lists in to the newspaper by Wednesday, December 7

so the newspaper can forward them to the elves, who really need something to do right about now. Don't forget to sign your name; he doesn't need your address, you know.

Send those lists to the Hickman County Times at P.O. Box 100, Centerville, TN 37033, or bring them by the office at 104 North Central Avenue as soon as you can . . . because Christmas isn't far away.

Don't miss the  
**Turkey Trot**  
Thursday, 8 a.m.; see page B3

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