

Todd County Standard

HOLIDAY COOKING

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Dye records revealed

Judge: State failed to get girl out of abusive home before she was murdered

BY RYAN CRAIG
 TODD COUNTY STANDARD

A circuit judge has admonished the Cabinet for Health and Family Services for not protecting 9-year-old Amy Dye, revealing social workers and possibly other officials ignored repeated signs of abuse.

Her adopted brother, Garrett, admitted last month to beating Amy to death with a hydraulic jack handle on Feb. 4, but according to court doc-

uments, as tragic as her death might have been, her life was filled with abuse — both physical and mental — and is a deplorable picture of what happens when those who are assigned to protect a child fail.

In a ruling Monday, Franklin County Circuit Court Judge Phillip J. Shepherd awarded the Todd County Standard access to public records in the state's possession relating to Amy



Amy Dye

Dye. Shepherd, writing in a court order, said the cabinet must follow an attorney general's opinion, which said the cabinet violated the Open Record laws of Kentucky and that the Standard was entitled access to the records.

Shepherd said in his opinion that the social services' dealings with Amy Dye are a tragic example of the "potentially deadly consequences of a child welfare system that has completely insulated itself from meaningful public scrutiny."

"In this case, an innocent ... girl was brutally beaten to death after enduring months of physical and emotional abuse in a home approved by the (state) for her adoption," Shepherd said.

Shepherd said that Amy was put in the Dye home despite there being a "substantiated" incident of child abuse prior to her placement.

The judge also blasted the state for



Garrett Dye

allowing Amy to stay in the home after "repeated reports of suspected abuse and neglect later made by school officials."

Questionable adoption

According to the factual findings of Shepherd's court order, Amy Dye was removed from her biological home in another state "due to severe neglect and sexual abuse." Amy was adopted by Kim Dye and was put into her home.

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VETERAN LIVES WITH AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE



Danny Greenfield poses with the plethora of medicines he takes each day. Greenfield, a Vietnam War veteran, was exposed to the poisonous herbicide Agent Orange while in Vietnam.

BY CATHERINE DARNELL
 TODD COUNTY STANDARD

People on the outside might consider Danny Greenfield a lucky man.

After all, he came home from Vietnam with only a truck wreck injury to show for his time. His wife, Barbara, was waiting for him. While

he was overseas, he was assigned a relatively soft job constructing bridges, building up bases, transporting in convoys. The Army helped him get his GED while he was there. Here he fathered three kids and held down jobs.

But with his duffel bag and Bronze Star was another thing he brought home, although there would be some time before he had a

name for it:

Agent Orange.

Agent Orange is a poisonous herbicide that was used during the Vietnam War to kill the brush and forests where the enemy might hide. Turns out it had the same effect on humans who came into contact with it.

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RYAN
 CRAIG
 —
 Home Cookin'

The Standard comes knocking, in your mail ...

Let me throw a few tidbits your way: 195 awards since 2006; 75 of those were first places; named best small weekly for five straight years and considered by some rural journalism experts to be one of the best weekly newspapers in the nation.

We toot our horn not to brag but to say that we take pride in our newspaper and we take pride in our county. That is why when we decided to mail this newspaper to everyone in Todd County it was our way of telling/reminding the people who we are and that our paper is not only the best source for Todd County news, it is the only one that is produced and gathered by Todd County people in Todd County.

Also, for those of you who live in the county, you will see our Discover Todd County Fact Book that comes out every two years. (For those of you who live out of county and want one, give us a call or an email and we'll work out a way to get you one.)

So sit back and enjoy this newspaper and if you are not a subscriber, then please consider letting us bring Todd County's news into your home each week. Call 270-265-2439 and for about the price of a steak dinner, you can have a great newspaper. And we promise reading our paper will mean a lot less calories.

Guess who has moooved back to Guthrie?

Animals are lucky for lotto players

BY CATHERINE DARNELL
 TODD COUNTY STANDARD

They're baaack. The giant pink elephant and the Holstein sporting sunglasses, once icons at two convenience markets in Tiny Town, were brought out of deep storage and back into the light at the parking lots at Favourite Lotto and Lotto Express.

A couple of years ago, Guthrie Mayor Scott Marshall and the stores' owner, Andy Wadhwa, struck an agreement that the larger-than-life

animals would be taken away and stored, that having them there was an eyesore and hindered economic development.

The reason Wadhwa brought them back was complaints from customers that hadn't been winning lately. Really. He said

they believed that the elephant was a sort of good-luck charm for the lottery tickets they bought.

"People who play the lottery are superstitious,"

he said. Putting back the animals, particularly the elephant, is a service to the community, he figured.

Marshall got the business he was courting at the time, Wadhwa reasoned, so the animals reappeared last week, just as quietly as they disappeared almost two years ago.

Wadhwa and other people believe the statues are a tourist attraction.

Tanya Burks, a cook at the Food Giant deli in the area, is in the amen corner.

"I'm glad it's back because of the fact that it was so important for directions to go somewhere," she said, having worked in that store the pachyderm calls home. "I loved that elephant." She said a lot of people had taken pictures of it.

That's probably true. Two of those visitors were sitting at a table inside one of the stores. "It's neat," said Melanie Freshour from Mississippi, who was taking a break along with fellow truck driver Billy Spikes. "I took a picture on my phone."

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