

THE LAUREL

# LEADER CALL

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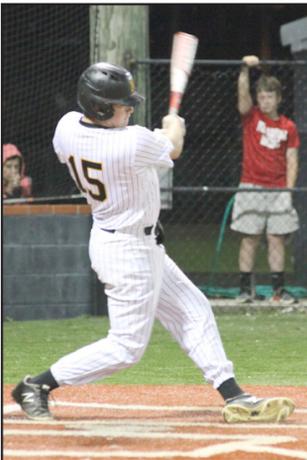
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Serious wreck

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# Ellisville mother's baby tests positive for meth



Wilson

From staff reports

An Ellisville woman is facing felony charges after the baby she gave birth to tested positive for methamphetamine, according to a Facebook post from the Jones County Sheriff's Department.

Jennifer Wilson, 29, was charged with child abuse. Child Protective Services referred JCSD investigators to the case on March 20 after medical personnel notified CPS that there was

meth in Wilson's baby system at the time of birth.

Investigators obtained medical records to verify that information, then took Wilson into custody. She made her initial appearance in Jones County Justice Court on Friday and has been released from Jones County Adult Detention Center on \$25,000 bond.

The Facebook post by the JCSD did not say if the baby is still in Wilson's custody, with a family member or in the foster system.

# Cross-burner says guilty

From staff reports

A Covington County man has pleaded guilty to federal hate-crime charges by burning a cross in a predominately black residential area of Seminary to intimidate the people who live there, according to a press release from the Department of Justice.

Louie Bernard Revette, 37, of Seminary pleaded guilty Friday to federal charges related to his commission of a cross-burning on Oct. 24, 2017. He pleaded guilty to one count of interference with housing rights, a federal civil rights violation, and one count of using fire during the commission of a federal felony. Sentencing has been scheduled for Aug. 20.



Revette

"The defendant's racially motivated actions sought to threaten and intimidate the peaceful residents of this community," said Assistant Attorney Eric Dreiband of the Civil Rights Division. "The Department of Justice will not tolerate abhorrent and hateful acts of intimidation, and we will continue to prosecute anyone who commits a hate crime to the fullest extent of the law."

In his plea, Revette admitted that he traveled to what he knew to be a predominantly African-American residential area of Seminary. He admitted that he left the area, later recruiting a co-conspirator to build a cross to burn near the home of a juvenile victim identified only as "M.H." Revette and the co-conspirator constructed the cross using materials from in and around Revette's residence, then placed the

# BATTLING ABUSE



Ellisville Police Chief Bruce Russell accepts a plaque of appreciation for his work with foster children from Brunette Jones of the Department of Human Services as Sheriff Alex Hodge and Maj. Jamie Tedford look on.

## Ellisville PD's Russell honored for work with foster children

By Mark Thornton editor@leader-call.com

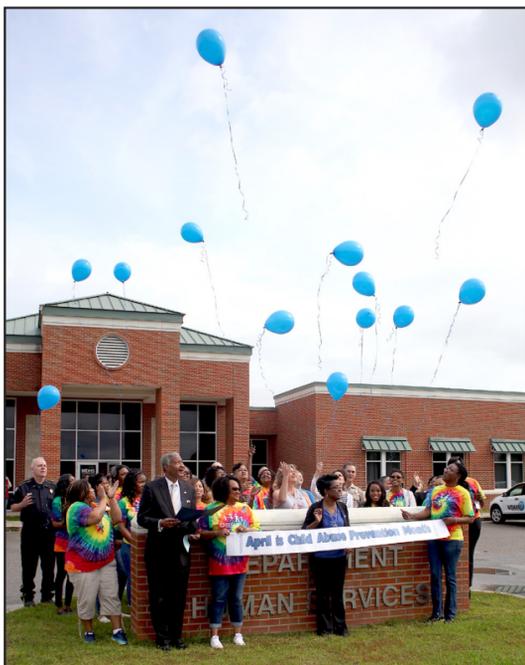
Chief Bruce Russell of the Ellisville Police Department was surprised when he was honored for his work with foster children during a ceremony at the Department of Human Services recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

What wasn't surprising to him was the number of cases of child abuse that social workers with Child Protective Services deal with.

"We started out helping 30 kids, and every year, that number has about doubled," Russell said. "That's just a sad fact in Jones County."

Russell and the EPD have been leading efforts to get toys and other gifts for children who are in foster care every Christmas, said Brunette Jones, who is a social worker supervisor for DHS. She said Russell has been "making a difference," and presented him with a plaque for his efforts.

"This goes way beyond the name on the plaque," Russell said after expressing his surprise at getting the award. The churches, the community and his staff at the EPD "work countless hours" to help



Blue balloons were released in honor of child abuse victims. (Photos by Mark Thornton)

See RUSSELL on A12

See CROSS on A12

