

Boyd ready for season's second half 1B

SPORT



INSIDE TODAY

And out new state laws now in effect 6A

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Change awaits

BY JAMES CLARK Editor of the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

It promises to be a year of change in Warren County government as a new sheriff and county executive will be seated in 2018.

Sheriff Jackie Matheny and County Executive Herschel Wells will be stepping aside this year and their replacements will take office Sept. 1.

Gazing into the future, local officials with the city, county and school system have established goals for the upcoming year. Chief among their concerns is a federal mandate to make all government buildings ADA compliant by December.

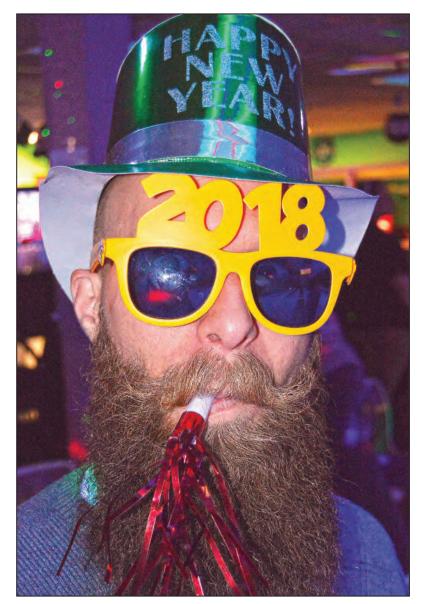
"They knew how to get it done by tying it to gas funding," said Wells. "It's all got to be done by Dec. 19."

Wells says it will cost the county an estimated \$260,000 to get facilities such as the courthouse and county administrative building ADA compli-

Another main concern for the county is a multi-million dollar expansion at Warren County Jail. Wells says an architect has been picked and he thinks work can begin this

'We hope to have plans in April, get bids in May or June, and get it under way in July," said Wells.

Continued on 2A



Ryan Tanay, in full celebration garb, counts down the seconds to the ball drop on New Year's Eve at the KP's McMinnville Lanes.



Farmers Market. Ready for 2018 are Hope, Rachel, Hannah and Hailey Cantrell.

Woman charged for crash that injures children

BY DUANE SHERRILL Reporter for the Southern Standard

(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A suspected drunk driver who caused a head-on crash that critically injured a woman and her three children this past summer has been charged with vehicular assault.

Lawmen say the woman, Samantha Davenport, 37, was driving with a cocktail of drugs in her system when she turned onto the wrong side of Nashville Highway and slammed head-on into the oncoming vehicle driven by Amanda Gipson, 32.

The crash injured Gipson and her three children, ages 9-11, with one of the children later airlifted for treatment of serious injuries at Erlanger in Chattanooga.

The wreck happened in June near Centertown and Highway Patrolman Tony Myers says Davenport's intoxication was likely the reason she was driving on the wrong side of the four-lane divided highway.

'She was impaired by drugs at the time of the crash," the trooper maintained in his vehicular assault warrant against Davenport.

The officer said Davenport unsteady on her feet and had red, watery eves after the crash. She admitted to drinking wine prior the wreck. However, a blood sample drawn from the suspect that night revealed there was more than wine

in her system.

DAVENPORT

"The crime lab returned positive results Alprazolam, Diazepam, methamphetamine and amphetamine," Myers revealed.

Davenport is also charged with reckless endangerment and drunk driving. She will face hearing Jan. 25.

Baby it's cold outside



There's no snow yet in McMinnville, but it's sure chilly. It's going to remain dangerously cold the rest of the week, according to the AccuWeather forecast, with a low temperature of 11 degrees Wednesday, 6 degrees Thursday, and 8 degrees Friday. To find out some cold-weather tips, see page 2A.



Aniston McClure tries archery.

Holiday Fun Days on mark

BY LISA HOBBS

Reporter for the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

Holidays are a time for fun.

With students not reporting back to school until Thursday, a variety of activities have been offered at McMinnville Civic Center.

Holiday Fun Days provided dodgeball, archery, kickball, board games, card games, arts and crafts, and charades. Program coordinator Kyle Clyde says it's been a success and consideration is being made to offering sessions during other school breaks.

"We're thinking about offering one in the spring and fall," Clyde said.

Continued on 3A



It didn't take long for Warren County to ring in the first baby of 2018.

Just 36 minutes into the new year Alia Dawn Brown was born. She was not only the first baby in Warren County, but the first baby born at any Saint Thomas hospital in Tennessee.

Alia is the daughter of Kali Bogle and Rickey Brown. She weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces at birth and was 18.5 inches long. She came one week before her due date.

Alia is the first child for Bogle, 26, and the second for Brown.

Dr. Richard Burke delivered the baby, capping a hectic weekend where he delivered six babies at Saint Thomas River Park.

"New Year's babies usually don't come so close to midnight," said Dr. Burke, who operates Women's Wellness of Warren County, which is inside the hospital. "I really thought she might get here before midnight but it didn't happen. It was her first baby and she had her whole family here supporting her. I'm very blessed to be a part of it and I want to thank all the hospital staff members who were here helping over the holiday."



Alia Dawn Brown is held by mother Kali Bogle one day after her birth. They are joined by father Rickey Brown and delivering doctor Richard Burke.



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