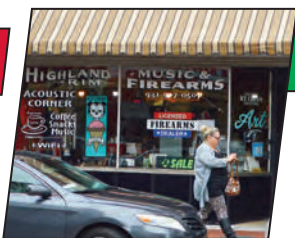




SPORTS

WCHS falls
to Upperman **1B**



BUSINESS

Vacancy coming
to Main Street **3C**

SUNDAY
JANUARY 7, 2018
McMinnville, Tennessee
southernstandard.com
Vol. 140
No. 3



\$1.25

Southern



Standard

County may join opioid lawsuit

Litigation claims drugmakers put profits ahead of people

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Warren County government could join a movement to sue prescription drugmakers for their role in the opioid epidemic.

The county Budget and Finance Committee met Thursday and listened to a proposal by Galligan & Newman, Attorneys at Law to file against manufacturers for damages caused by opioids, which are pain killers such as morphine, methadone, buprenorphine, hydrocodone,

and oxycodone.

Attorney Michael Galligan presented committee members with a Centers for Disease Control map of the United States depicting how opioids have affected different areas of the country. Tennessee is largely in black, which depicts the worst hit opioid areas.

According to CDC stats, providers in the highest prescribing counties prescribed six times more opioids than those in the lowest prescribing counties, and the highest



GALLIGAN

prescription rates are in small cities or towns, more residents who are white, and more people who are uninsured and unemployed.

Another graph showed the U.S. consumption of oxycodone soared from 1980 to 2015. In 2015 alone, 300 million pain prescriptions were

written.

Galligan said manufacturers and distributors aggressively pursued doctors to prescribe opioids for pain,

falsely representing that those medications were not as addictive as they actually are.

"In 2014, we in this country consumed 69 percent of the world's opioid painkillers," said Galligan. "We have less than 5 percent of the world's population, however. Why was that? It was because drug manufacturers and distributors concocted a scheme to convince the medical profession and others that these painkillers were not addictive or very little addictive."

Continued on **2A**



• According to the CDC, 28,000 people died from opioid overdoses in 2014.

• CDC researchers estimate the economic burden of the epidemic to the country in 2013 was \$78.5 billion.



Gov. Bill Haslam is shown getting a flu shot in October. Free flu shots are available locally.

Free flu shots now available

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The Warren County Health Department is offering flu vaccines at no charge.

Influenza activity is widespread in Tennessee, so health officials say it's extremely important for anyone over 6 months old to get a flu shot now.

The flu vaccine is especially important for infants, young children, pregnant women, adults over age 50, and for those with chronic medical conditions. The flu shot remains great protection against influenza.

The Warren County Health Department is currently offering flu vaccinations at no cost to patients until vaccine supplies are depleted. Patients may walk in to request a flu vaccine any time during regular clinic hours.

"Getting a flu vaccine is the best way to protect yourself, family members and others from the flu and help keep our community healthy," said Warren County Health Department director Andrea Fox. "We urge everyone who has not received a flu shot yet to get one now."



For more information about the flu and free flu vaccines, call the Warren County Health Department at 473-8468.

It's also important to help prevent the spread of flu and other winter viruses by practicing good health habits:

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



The deadline to qualify for county government elections is Feb. 15

Election races take shape as deadline nears

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

With the qualifying deadline for the county elections over a month away, and most county offices up for grabs, the field of candidates is extensive.

Jimmy Haley is looking to upgrade his part-time position as mayor of the city of McMinnville for a full-time job as Warren County executive. At this time, he is running unopposed as an independent in the General Election on Aug. 2.

Two current county commissioners, Terry Bell and Michael Shane Wilcher, have picked up qualifying papers for county executive, but neither petition has been filed. Candidates can pick up papers for as many offices as they like, but they can only file for one. Wilcher has also picked up papers for his county commission seat.

Primary Elections will be held May 1. The only candi-

dates who will appear on the Primary Ballots will be those who are running on a party platform of Republican (R) or Democrat (D). Independents automatically advance to the Aug. 2 election.

With the retirement of Warren County Sheriff Jackie Matheny, the vacant office is heating up with six individuals filed: Herb Rowland, Rodney Whiles, Billy Joe Crouch, Bobby Edwards, Marc Martin, and Tommy Myers. Rowland and Whiles are Democrats. The remaining four are independents. Papers are out for John Morgan (I).

Register of Deeds Terry K. Smith (D) has filed. He will face opposition from Wes Williams (D), and Danny Cummings (I).

When it comes to County Commissioner seats, some are hot and some are not. However, the majority of qualifying papers picked up have not been filed.

Continued on **2A**

Another employee tries to burn Yorozu

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A Yorozu employee has been charged with arson after he allegedly set fire to a second-story boardroom, marking the second time someone has tried to burn the plant in under a month.

The suspect, Dorris Lee Markum, 43, is charged with aggravated arson which carries 15 to 25 years in prison. He joins Roy Anthony Haley, 47, who allegedly tried to torch a ladies' bathroom inside the facility last month. It is not known if the two incidents are related, or the motive behind the arsons at the 1,200-plus employee facility.

In Markum's case, sheriff's investigator Jody Cavanaugh said Markum was seen entering the plant carrying a blue bag.

"He entered a second set of doors that

does not need a badge scan to enter," the investigator noted, adding that shortly after Markum entered, smoke was detected. "In a second-floor conference room, there was a smell of kerosene and a fire was started. Some people in a second conference room smelled smoke and found the conference room on fire."

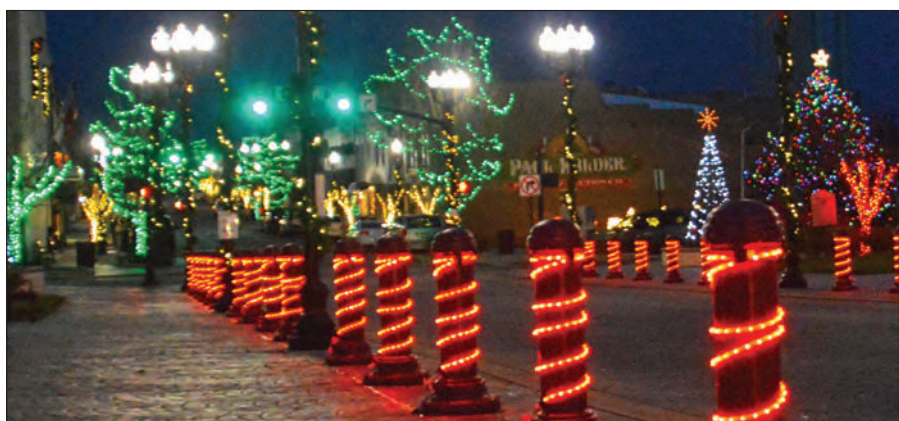


MARKUM

In a surveillance video, Markum can reportedly be seen going back to his vehicle with a blue bag about 10 minutes later.

"The video shows him remove something from the blue bag out of his trunk and place a white bag in the trash and then clock in to work," the investigator said, noting the plant safety coordinator then went to the garbage can after viewing the video. "He (the coordinator) went to the trash can and found a white bag with a kerosene can inside."

No one was injured and the conference room sustained no major structural damage.



This weekend last chance to see lights

Local residents have one last opportunity to take a gander at the Christmas lights and decorations in downtown McMinnville.

According to McMinnville Public Works assistant director Brad Hennessee, the removal process begins Monday.

"The Christmas tree and the decorative lighting downtown will be removed starting Monday, Jan. 8," said Hennessee. "Everything will remain lit throughout the weekend so if you'd like to see the lighting again, Sunday night will be your last chance."

In the past, the lights were off and removal began the first week of January. Hennessee says inclement weather pushed the effort back a week.

"We were afraid removal might damage the wiring or the lights themselves during the very cold temperatures," said Hennessee. "The temperature should moderate into next week and should not hinder removal efforts."

It took eight weeks to place the light display. It is anticipated that removal and storage of the lighting will take 2-3 weeks.

THE WORKS™
VEHICLE CHECKUP

\$44.95

931-668-2177
kiddford.com

KIDD

Ford

SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL CHANGE* • TIRE ROTATION & PRESSURE CHECK
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION • BREAK INSPECTION • FLUID TOP-OFF
BATTERY TEST • FILTER CHECK • BELTS & HOSES INSPECTION

249865

6 91868 37133 5