



Park Theater is set to offer Southern gospel Jan. 19 with four-time Dove Award winner Karen Peck & New River. Pictured, from left, are Susan Peck Jackson, Karen Peck and Ricky Braddy.

Peck to play Park

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

Park Theater is ringing in the new year with a new-comer to its stage.

Karen Peck & New River will be performing locally on Friday, Jan. 19.

"We are so excited and consider it an honor to host such a talented group at the Park Theater," said facility manager Kevin Roberts. "This is their first time performing at our theater and hopefully it won't be the last

time. It is rare for theaters to get the opportunity to host a group that has 15 No. 1 Southern gospel songs and has received numerous Southern gospel awards."

Karen Peck & New River is based in Gainesville, Ga.

Along with four Dove Awards and 15 top hits, the group is a four-time Grammy Award nominee. Peck's soprano voice has garnered 11 Favorite Soprano Fan Awards from the readers of Singing News Magazine, Southern gospel music's leading fan and trade publi-

cation.

The band's album "Pray Now" featured the No. 1 song for October 2015 and garnered the Dove Award for Album of the Year. Their previous album "Revival," has had two consecutive No. 1 songs with "Revival" and "Finish Well."

Tickets can be purchased at Park Theater or online at Ticket Biscuit. General reserved and balcony tickets are \$17, and preferred reserved in rows A-D are \$22. Doors open at 6. The performance begins at 7 p.m.

Woman run over by car she was pushing

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

A woman was run over by a car Monday afternoon while trying to push the disabled vehicle off Smithville Highway.

The woman, Marcie Alsobrooks of Dowelltown, was taken to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital for treatment after the 2006 Chevy Equinox she was helping to push ran over her leg.

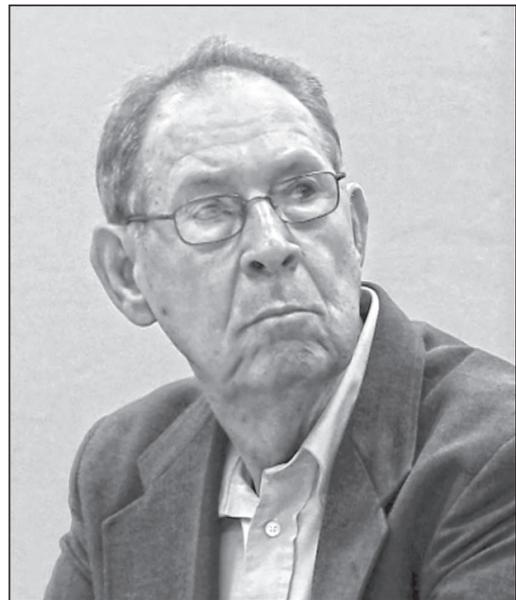
According to Highway Patrolman Rodney Whiles, Alsobrooks was a passenger in the vehicle when the engine died just as they passed the Warren-DeKalb County line.

"They decided to get out and push the disabled vehicle out of the road so it wouldn't be a traffic hazard," said Whiles, noting two of the passengers got behind the vehicle while Alsobrooks stood outside the driver's door and pushed while guiding

the steering wheel. "They coasted the vehicle onto R. Arnold Road just inside Warren County."

However, upon rolling onto the gravel from the pavement of Smithville Highway, Alsobrooks lost her footing and was

run over by the driver side rear wheel of the car, the weight of the vehicle rolling over her knee to hip area. Whiles said he is unsure if it was the change in grade or the looseness of the gravel that caused the accident.



Wayne Copeland has served on the Warren County Commission since December 2008. He was appointed by commissioners to fill an unexpired term and has been elected twice. He said Monday he will not seek re-election.

Copeland not running again

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

Warren County Commissioner Wayne Copeland has voiced his intent to not seek re-election in August.

"I'm not going to run anymore," said Copeland. "I'm just through."

The announcement was made Monday during a county Policy and Personnel Committee meeting to re-appoint three members to the county Audit Committee: Copeland, Danny Martin and Emily Horton.

The five-member committee, which also includes Commissioner Randy England, Wayne Cantrell and Ken Martin, was established in 2015. While terms of the county commissioners are one year, the other members are appointed to two-year terms.

Copeland asked what happens in August when his time on the Warren County Commission is up,

but his term on the Audit Committee is not.

"If you aren't going to run anymore, your term (on the Audit Committee) will continue until after the election," said Commissioner Tommy Savage. "The next county executive will nominate someone to fill your spot on the committee. August is a long ways away, Wayne. Are you good with serving until then?" Copeland shook his head in affirmation.

The county Audit Committee meets annually to review the state's audit of Warren County government and to make suggestions for improvement, if any are needed.

Policy and Personnel Committee members unanimously approved the three reappointments. However, final approval is needed from Warren County Commissioners during their monthly session Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 p.m. The measure will be presented in the form of a resolution.



Pictured is some of the damage from Hurricane Irma in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. This home slid into the Atlantic Ocean during the September hurricane, part of an estimated \$50 billion in damages, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

It was a year of disasters and higher temperatures

WASHINGTON (AP) — With three strong hurricanes, wildfires, hail, flooding, tornadoes and drought, the United States tallied a record high bill last year for weather disasters: \$306 billion.

The U.S. had 16 disasters last year with damage exceeding a billion dollars, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Monday. That ties 2011 for the number of billion-dollar disasters, but the total cost blew past the previous record of \$215 billion in 2005.

Costs are adjusted for inflation and NOAA keeps track of billion-dollar weather disasters going back to 1980.

Three of the five most expensive hurricanes in U.S. history hit last year.

Hurricane Harvey, which caused massive flooding in Texas, cost \$125 billion, second only to 2005's Katrina, while Maria's damage in Puerto Rico cost \$90 billion, ranking third, NOAA said. Irma was \$50 billion, main-

ly in Florida, for the fifth most expensive hurricane.

Western wildfires fanned by heat racked up \$18 billion in damage, triple the U.S. wildfire record, according to NOAA.

Besides Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina all had more than \$1 billion in damage from the 16 weather disasters in 2017.

"While we have to be careful about knee-jerk cause-effect discussions, (many scientific studies) show that some of today's extremes have climate change fingerprints on them," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd, a past president of the American Meteorological Society.

The increase in billion-dollar weather disasters is likely a combination of more flooding, heat and storm surge from climate

change along with other non-climate changes, such as where buildings are put, where people move and how valuable their property is, said Deke Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

"Perhaps it is time to mandate urban development in a more resilient and sustainable manner given the increasing frequency of weather extremes, especially along the nation's coasts," Susan Cutter, director of the University of South Carolina's Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute, said in an email.

The weather agency also said that 2017 was the third hottest year in U.S. records for the Lower 48 states with an annual temperature of 54.6 degrees — 2.6 degrees warmer than the

20th century average. Only 2012 and 2016 were warmer.

The five warmest years for the Lower 48 states have all happened since 2006.

Arndt said the U.S. — which has had above normal annual temperatures for 21 straight years — is showing the same warming effects as the rest of the world. The burning of coal, oil and gas emits heat-trapping gases that change Earth's climate.

This was the third straight year that all 50 states had above average temperatures for the year.

Five states — Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and New Mexico — had their warmest year ever.

Temperature records go back to 1895.

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