

SPORTS
Pioneers cast first Stone, beat Panthers **1B**



ENTERTAINMENT
Neeson tries for heroics in 'The Commuter' **4C**

FRIDAY
JANUARY 12, 2018
McMinnville, Tennessee
southernstandard.com
Vol. 140 No. 5 **75¢**

Southern Standard

TBI says officers justified in shooting

Three SWAT team members reportedly open fire

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

A law enforcement-involved shooting that left a suspect dead following an armed standoff has been ruled justified based on preliminary findings from the TBI.

“It was a case of shoot or be shot,” said District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis of the initial report from the TBI on the death of Clifford Keller, 34, who was shot and killed by SWAT team members following a standoff on Chestnut Ridge Road in December.

“The preliminary report is it was justified, but we have to wait for ballistics to be completed before we can say something final.”

Deputies went to the remote location off Viola Highway to arrest Keller on outstanding warrants. An armed standoff ensued after he took refuge in a trailer on the property and threatened to shoot a police dog.



KELLER

Keller reportedly fired shots from inside the trailer prompting deputies to call the Critical Incident Response Team, commonly referred to as a SWAT team, to negotiate with him to surrender peacefully. However, officers said he eventually came out of the trailer brandishing a firearm and pointed it in their direction.

From nice to nippy



High temperatures were in the 60s on Wednesday, providing perfect weather to enjoy the Barren Fork Greenway. Pictured, from left, are Piper, Devin and Addisyn Watson. The temperature is predicted to dip into the teens this weekend, according to AccuWeather.

Prepare home for harsh weather

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

With another round of harsh weather looming in Warren County's future, be prepared and protect your pipes from freezing.

McMinnville Water Department director Anthony Pelham says some individuals did not when temperatures dipped into single digits and they suffered the consequences.

“We had probably 60 to 70 service calls where people's water had frozen,” he said. “Most of it was customer issues and what I would consider common sense stuff with people leaving their vents open, pipes exposed, not insulated and not dripping. Leave a little drip if you're not sure. Make sure your vents are closed and make sure you have your crawl spaces closed off.”

Running water through the pipe, even



PELHAM

at a trickle, helps prevent pipes from freezing when temperatures drop. That ounce of prevention is worth a pound of pain. Frozen pipes can burst, causing damage and potential flooding.

Pelham says allowing one sink to drip is prudent, usually the farthest sink from where the water enters the house. That way, the water is flowing through all pipes. Even if the pipes freeze, the decreased pressure in the water system will reduce likelihood of a rupture.

Homeowners should also: remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors, cover outdoor spouts and any exposed pipes, seal cracks and holes near pipes, keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage, and open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow heat to pipes.



FRIGID FORECAST

• The temperature is predicted to drop to 24 degrees Friday and into the teens Saturday and Sunday.

• On Monday the low is expected to fall to 10, followed by a chilly Tuesday with a high of 23 and low of 8.

-- AccuWeather



THE RIGHT MEDICINE?

The District Attorney's Office says it is filing a state lawsuit against opioid drugmakers for damages caused.

Local officials may file two opioid lawsuits

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

Should Warren County's opioid epidemic be treated with two lawsuits against prescription drugmakers, or is that one claim too many?

That seemed to be the issue Tuesday when the county Budget and Finance Committee met to continue discussions on a proposal from Galligan & Newman, Attorneys at Law to represent Warren County government in filing a lawsuit against manufacturers for damages caused by opioids.

County officials were told by District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis that her office is within hours of filing a lawsuit using a different law firm.

“I thought I would let you guys know I retained a law firm about five months ago and we've been working diligently on this issue,” Zavogiannis said. “In fact, I have a rough draft and final complaint in my hand. It will be filed tomorrow.”

She is filing on behalf of the 31st Judicial District, which includes Warren County and Van Buren County.

“Anything that is recouped

from this comes to Warren and Van Buren,” she said. “I'm willing to answer any questions, if I can. I'm not the expert on this. That's why the DA's office can't do this. We do not have the funds, the resources or the ability to do this. We've retained the firm of Branstetter, Stranch & Jennings in Nashville.”

Much like the proposal by Galligan & Newman to county government last week, the firm hired by Zavogiannis

has agreed to accept her case on a contingency basis and will receive a fixed percentage of any recovery funds. If the law firm loses, the district attorney's office is not required to pay.

While Galligan & Newman wants to pursue a claim in federal court, the Nashville firm wants to stay in state court.

Attorney Michael Galligan said his firm would represent Warren County government and seek to recoup monetary damages from opioid manufacturers specific to that plaintiff, such as increased law enforcement costs, jail populations, increased ambulance costs, any opioid-specific programs, etc.



ZAVOGIANNIS

Continued on 2A

Emergencies up for EMS in 2017

Morgue has lively year with 39 bodies

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

Last year saw its share of emergencies for Warren County EMS.

According to EMS director Preston Denney, the department went on more calls in 2017 than the year prior.

“Running counts are done through the calendar year, from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31,” Denney said. “For 2016, we ran 72,066 runs. In 2017, we ran 73,036.”

The total increasing by 970 runs was presented during the county Safety Committee meeting Monday. It translates to more than 80 extra runs per month, or 2.65 extra runs per day.

Use of Warren County Temporary Morgue exceeded expectations in 2017.

“The morgue, for 2017, we had 39,” said Denney. “We had two others that would have been in the morgue, but the medical examiner came to the scene due to the circumstances and picked them up. We would have had 41 if not for that.”

The morgue acts as a temporary holding facility until family members can make arrangements with a funeral home to pick up the body. Constructed in 2015, the facility was projected to handle approximately 30 bodies a year.

“This is an odd question, but how long are they there?” asked

Commissioner Randy England. Denney said duration varies.

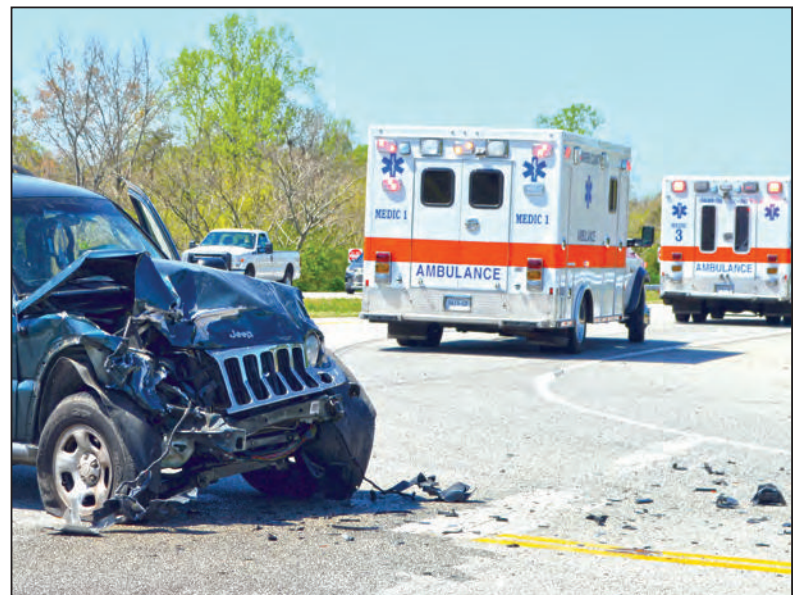
“It depends. Sometimes it's just a few hours. We have had to keep some as long as seven, eight and nine days.”

Commissioner Teddy Boyd asked if there is any charge to use the morgue.

There is no charge to the families, Denney said. Cost of operation is paid by Warren County government using property tax revenue. If any deceased individuals are unclaimed, they will be cremated at the county's expense.

Denney said no unclaimed bodies had to be cremated by the county in 2017.

EMS revenue for 2017 has not been finalized.



Two ambulances respond to a crash near Rock Island in 2017. EMS answered about 200 calls a day last year.

THE WORKS™ VEHICLE CHECKUP **\$44.95**
931-668-2177 kiddford.com **KIDD** |
SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL CHANGE* • TIRE ROTATION & PRESSURE CHECK
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION • BREAK INSPECTION • FLUID TOP-OFF
BATTERY TEST • FILTER CHECK • BELTS & HOSES INSPECTION
*5-QUARTS