

Kids Funfest and Safety Day set for May 19



State trooper Darrell Winningham of the Pupil Transportation Division of the Tennessee Highway Patrol gives a demonstration about what happens in a rollover crash during a previous Kids Funfest and Safety Day at McMinnville Civic Center.

Margaret Hobbs photo

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

Children just want to have fun, and parents appreciate free fun.

Kids Funfest and Safety Day offers both of those, with free activities for families to enjoy. This year's event has been set for May 19.

McMinnville's Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved the use of the back parking lot of the Civic Center for the event, as well as the gym as a contingency for inclement weather, at the request of event organizer Warren County Youth Leadership.

"We respectfully ask the city of McMinnville to once again serve as a co-sponsor on Saturday, May 19," said Jacqueline Becerra in a letter request on behalf of the Kids Funfest and Safety Day Committee. "We hope to receive city approval for the funfest, as we already have the

date reserved with the Civic Center. We wish to utilize the back parking lot weather-permitting, or the interior, if inclement weather."

The funfest is available to all children of the community at no cost. Businesses, civic groups, churches and community organizations that participate offer items free of charge. Officials waive any charge associated with the use of city facilities.

Becerra said they wish to continue the successful event.

"We will reproduce prior year's events including education, food, games, music and various other activities in conjunction with other local organizations, church groups, and businesses," said Becerra. "Kids Funfest and Safety Day is not a fundraiser, rather a concerted effort to provide free educational fun to the children of the area while providing personal safety knowledge."

Specific details on what will be offered will be available closer to the event.

SUV strikes pedestrian while crossing bypass

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

A man was struck by a car Sunday night as he was walking across the bypass near New Smithville Highway.

The victim, Gerald Williams Jr., 29, was airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville for treatment of the leg injury he suffered.

The incident happened around 6:20 p.m. Sunday as Williams was crossing the bypass on foot, heading in the direction of Northgate Center after leaving Applebee's. That is when he reportedly stepped in front of an oncoming Chevy Trailblazer driven by Charles Boyd Jr., who was approaching the green light at the intersection of the bypass and New

Smithville Highway.

The driver saw Williams emerge from the darkness at the last second and swerved to avoid him. However, the passenger-side of the SUV, along with the passenger mirror, hit the pedestrian. The accident prompted the closure of part of the bypass while an investigation was conducted.

No citations are expected.

Ruritan Hall of Famers



Morrison Ruritan has inducted Mike Hullett into the Ruritan Hall of Fame. The distinction is presented to very active members for their dedication to the organization. Pictured, from left, are Sue Anderson, Hullett, Melissa Orrick, and Carla Talbert.

Judge seeks settlements as opioid lawsuits mount

(AP)—The goal is impressive: Hammer out a legal deal that starts guiding the nation out of an epidemic of opioid addiction.

How and when that can happen, if at all, is the subject of talks scheduled to begin Wednesday in a federal courthouse in Cleveland.

The judge is bringing together lawyers for governments across the country, drugmakers, distributors and others to start the conversation. Because the aim is to broker a settlement, the judge has closed the discussions to the public and media.

Opioid addictions and

overdoses are a deepening crisis for the country.

The U.S. Centers of Diseases Control and Prevention says 42,000 people died nationwide of overdoses in 2016 from opioids.

In addition to costing lives, officials have worried that it's hurting the workforce and overwhelming child welfare systems as children of addicts flood the system. In their legal complaint, officials in Everett, Wash., blamed opioid addiction for a spike in homelessness.

A White House Council of Economic Advisers report last year found the national economic impact of opioid

addiction at just over \$500 billion a year.

Cities and counties of all sizes are suing companies that make and distribute prescription opioids. Among the plaintiffs so far: Philadelphia; the state of Ohio; Princeton, West Virginia; the Cherokee Nation; and a consortium of counties across Wisconsin.

More than 250 such claims filed in federal courts across the country have been consolidated under Judge Dan Polster, who is based in Cleveland.

He is pushing for a resolution before the case goes to trial.

Motorcycle crash

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The incident began Monday when Jones noticed Langford traveling on Sparta Highway at what he described "a very high rate of speed." Jones said he attempted to pull over the suspect but he did a U-turn near the old Powers 4-Lane gas station. Jones was in pursuit as Langford turned at the flashing light and headed toward Spencer on Highway 30.

"We went all the way to the foot of the mountain in Van Buren County and

back again," said Jones. "We were going about 125 mph most of the way. I would have called off the chase but I didn't know what he was running for and we didn't pass any traffic. We didn't encounter a single car there or back."

Jones said Langford laid the motorcycle down while trying to negotiate a curve near Walker Nursery. He slid about 100 yards before leaving the roadway and flying over an embankment.

Langford was taken to the hospital in handcuffs and later booked at Warren County Jail.

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of
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