



**SPORTS**

Van Buren County  
wins district **1B**



**LIFESTYLES**

Mullins crowned Little  
Miss Valentine **4B**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2018**  
**McMinnville, Tennessee**  
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# Southern Standard



James Clark photo

Deputies and police officers converge on Gary and Gail's Pit Stop on Monday where Ben Steele is accused of acting irate and making death threats. Steele was reportedly wearing only swim trunks and cowboy boots, which are pictured in the parking lot.

# 'I will kill you'

## Half-dressed man threatens deputy

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

A local man wearing nothing but swim trunks and cowboy boots was taken into custody Monday after threatening to kill people at two Mt. Leo businesses. Nicholas Benjamin Steele, 37, was arrested Monday at Gary and Gail's Pit Stop after brandishing a screwdriver and yelling at a deputy, "I will kill you," according to a Sheriff's Department

report. The incident began Monday afternoon when Steele reportedly showed up at Gant Oil Company and made threats to kill employees there. He fled when employees notified law enforcement and eventually made his way to Gary and Gail's Pit Stop. "He was belligerent upon arrival," said Sheriff Jackie Matheny. Deputy Derek Boles was the first on the scene and he observed Steele wearing only swim trunks

and cowboy boots. He was holding a screwdriver in his right hand with his right hand raised in the air. He reportedly yelled at the deputy, "Back up (expletive deleted). I will kill you." Faced with the verbal threat and what was described as hyper and erratic behavior, deputy Boles made the decision to hit the suspect with a taser. "He pulled the probes right out of his body," said Matheny. "The taser was ineffective."

Deputy Boles called for backup and received plenty of support when no less than nine officers with the city and county responded to the scene. With guns pulled, Boles was ordered to the ground and he complied with this command. As he was searched and being taken into custody, a switchblade was also found on his person, according to Matheny. When in the back of a patrol car, Steele reportedly told deputy Boles, "I was planning to kill you."



**STEELE**

I was going to stab you with the screwdriver." When at the booking room at Warren County Jail, a search warrant was executed to draw a sample of Steele's blood to determine if he was under the influence of any intoxicants. According to Sheriff Matheny, Steele remained in jail Tuesday under \$40,000 bond. He is charged with aggravated assault, resisting arrest and DUI. He was booked at the jail Feb. 8 for a separate aggravated assault charge.

## Officers to carry Narcan



Lisa Hobbs photo  
**Narcan will be carried by all McMinnville police officers. Pictured is patrolman Paul Springer with Narcan nasal spray.**

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

McMinnville police officers and Warren County sheriff's deputies will soon start carrying a prescription medication to help fight opioid overdoses. Naloxone, also known as the brand name Narcan, is used to reverse the effects of an overdose of heroin or narcotic painkillers known as opioids. Paramedics and emergency room doctors have used it for years to save lives.

Continued on **5A**



**With school absentee rates soaring around Middle Tennessee, Warren County has been relatively lucky thus far, according to Director of Schools Bobby Cox.**

## Schools avoiding worst of flu season

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

This good news is nothing to sneeze at. The Warren County School System is faring well this flu season, so far at least. According to Director of Schools Bobby Cox, absenteeism hit a high of 9 percentage last week. "Our percentage today is back close to normal," Cox said on Tuesday. "We are at 6.11 percent absent." Prior to the three-day weekend, the absenteeism percentage was on the rise last week with 5 percent Wednesday, 8 percent

Thursday, and 9 percent Friday. "It's was 9 percent on Friday which was the day before the long weekend," said Cox. "Hopefully, we will be on normal path now and have normal attendance." Attendance is tracked on a daily basis. "We don't want to see 10 percent or more for an extended period of time," said Cox. "We had six unfilled subs on Thursday. That's not unusual." Several Middle Tennessee school systems have not fared as well, said Cox, as Coffee, White and Putnam counties closed last week due to absenteeism rates over 10 percent.

# Underground concert series not buried

## Music plays on in Cumberland Caverns

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

It promises to be a bright weekend in a dark cave as two days of entertainment are planned this Saturday and Sunday at Cumberland Caverns. The music begins Saturday at 2 p.m. when Cumberland Caverns Live and Security Federal team up to offer Celebrate McMinnville, a community gathering that recognizes the importance of keeping music in Warren County. Admission to Celebrate McMinnville is \$3.33 to coincide

with the concert venue at Cumberland Caverns, the Volcano Room, being 333 feet underground. Entertainment will be provided by Josh Wanamaker and Tanner Hillis. Cumberland Caverns officials are excited about Volcano Room upgrades they say enhance the concert experience. There will also be prize package giveaways, kid-friendly activities, and snacks from local eateries. On Sunday, the second install-

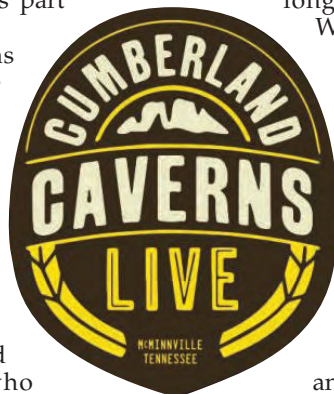


**MEADOWS**

ment of Cumberland Caverns Live cranks up the music with Chris Knight and special guest Travis Meadows. Performances start at 3 p.m. Meadows has lived an eventful life as an orphan turned preacher, preacher turned songwriter, songwriter turned drunk, and now a drunk who he says is learning to be a human being. "My writing is pretty much a journal of my life," said Meadows

during an interview with the *Standard*. "Writing songs is a fire inside me. It's part of my psyche." Meadows has lived in Nashville for the past 15 years after moving to Music City from Jackson, Miss. "So far I've been able to keep the lights on playing music," said Meadows, who added he only performs in Nashville about once or twice a year. "There are so many free shows in Nashville, it's hard to make any money."

Meadows will be joined at Cumberland Caverns by his longtime sideman, Whiskey Jack. Meadows sings and plays guitar while Whiskey Jack plays electric guitar, mandolin, and lap steel guitar. "We make a lot of noise for two guys," said Meadows. "Plus I tell a lot of stories and try to bring some laughter so it should be a fun night." Tickets for both shows are on sale now thru Ticketfly and CumberlandCavernsLive.com.



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