



One of two slides is attached to the new playset at McMinnville Housing Authority's complex in Morrison. The playset was made possible by \$7,000 in donations from members of the community.

Swingin' good time at Morrison Housing complex

BY JAMES CLARK
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The last screws weren't even attached, but Autumn Roberts couldn't wait to rush out to the new playset and start to swing.

Despite temperatures in the 30s on a windy Wednesday afternoon, Autumn hopped on a swing, then jumped off and scaled a climbing wall.

"This is great," she said.

The new playset at the McMinnville Housing Authority complex in Morrison comes thanks to \$7,000 in community donations in a project spearheaded by local resident Joseph Stotts.

"I grew up there and have some wonderful memories," said Stotts, who said he lived at the housing complex from ages 5 to 15. "I rode my bike over every square inch of

that place."

Seeking a new playset for children at the complex, Stotts set out to raise the money himself. He soon realized he would need more than expected.

"I started with a goal of \$3,000," said Stotts. "When I got there, I started looking around and discovered \$3,000 doesn't buy much. I didn't want to throw that money away on an inferior product so I kept on fund-raising to get something good the kids can really enjoy. I can't say enough about how people in Morrison and McMinnville have supported this. And for the people who donated, I want them to see the finished project and know their donation went to a good cause."

The playset itself cost \$5,650. Stotts spent the rest of the money on railroad ties to surround it and rubber mulch to provide a

more forgiving surface.

The playset is much needed, according to McMinnville Housing Authority director Patricia Basham. She said the only play equipment at the complex, four swings and a small chain-link backstop for a ballfield, have been there since 1978.

"My money is being cut every time I find out about money," said Basham. "Housing authorities are on the bottom rung the way things are going. I'm doing good to keep the roofs from leaking, let alone buy playground equipment. For a child who was raised out there to give back to the community in such a way is just great. We're very excited about this."

Volunteers helping Stotts assemble the playset Wednesday include Mark Seymour, Sloan Seymour, Herschel Wells Jr., and Eric Frazier.



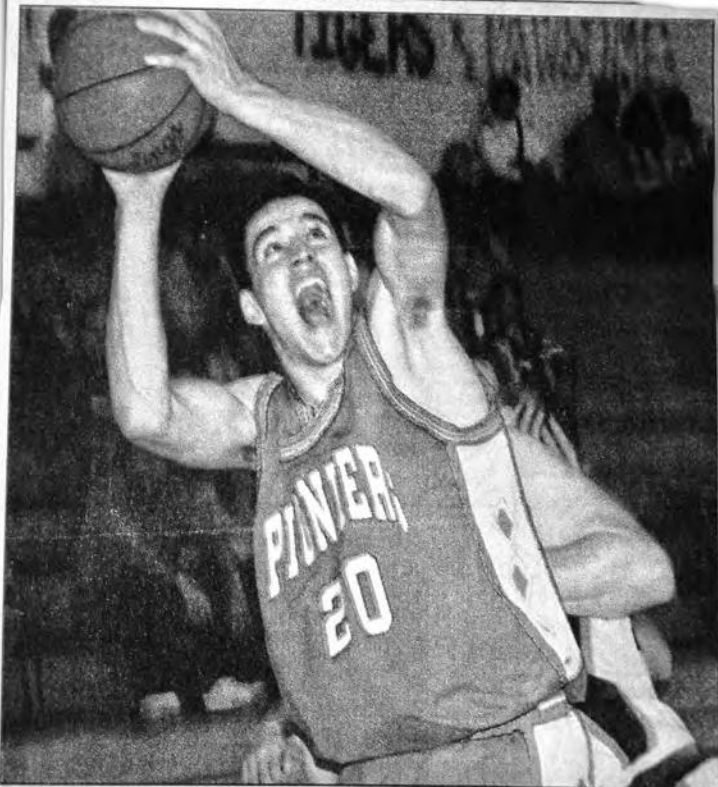
Autumn Roberts was quick to hop on the new playset at McMinnville Housing Authority's complex in Morrison as soon as it was constructed Wednesday afternoon.

PUBLISHER'S Pics

Standard publisher Pat Zechman has been in the newspaper business for 50 years, the last 26 years as publisher/general manager of the **Southern Standard**. Zechman wants to give back to the community and the **Standard** alike and it has led her to creating the Publisher's Pics feature. This week, Zechman goes back to March 1998. Look for more Publisher's Pics on the **Southern Standard** Facebook page.



Heather Hodges, left, and Allison Rogers encourage Tyler Klasek and his look-alike, Jimmy 'the Fonz' Blankenship, principal at Hickory Creek Elementary School, to participate in the hula hoop contest being conducted in the gymnasium. The Fifties Day sock hop was an incentive reward for the students to reach their goal selling discount cards.



Pioneer Jared Jones gets hit from behind while shooting a short jumper against DeKalb County Tigers Tuesday night. Jones scored 20, but it was the Tigers who won in overtime.



The Pioneerette Dance Team won first place in the UDTA championships in Orlando. The Pioneerettes are Heather Lawrence, Amanda Mills, Brittany Bryant, Jennifer Barnes, Le Ann Kilts, Bethany Hitchcock, Nicole Robinson, Nicole Bryan, Jessica Grissom, Jennifer Sweeton, Jane Ann Hitchcock, Jaclyn Graham, Delra Underwood, Andrea Bair, Lasey Nash, Jennifer Dudley, Amy Barlow, Christie Roller, Julie Martin, Jacqueline Hayes, Brooke Sparkman, Jackie Holder, Becky Bratcher, Brandy Cheek and Barrett M... Photo provided