



SPORTS

WCHS teams start their seasons this week **1B**



BUSINESS

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Standard



Debris removal at Pepper Branch Park is the first step in cleaning up the mess left by recent flooding. Pepper Branch Park and Riverfront Park lie in floodplains.

Lisa Hobbs photo

Floodwater havoc

Storms leave lengthy cleanup

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

Repair work continues for damage sustained at Pepper Branch Park and Riverfront Park during recent heavy rains. Cleanup has been underway at Pepper Branch Park last week.

"We're in the process of removing all the debris and putting rock down. That's the bulk of our part," said McMinnville Public Works assistant director Brad Hennessee.

At Pepper Branch Park, flood waters knocked down the railing on the dam overlook, relocated the "Pepper Branch" tree

limb from the entrance and washed it down to the bridge, and swept away a bench that had been located next to the river, among other damage.

"We know where the bench is that got washed away," said Hennessee. "Once we're through with debris removal and place rock, we're going to hoist the overlook's guardrail out of the river and retrieve the bench. It's going to be a process and done in phases."

Both parks are located in a 100-year floodplain, which refers to the probability of that type of flood happening in any given year. A 100-year event has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year.



Railing from the dam overlook was washed into the river.

Officers try to slow fatalities

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

There were 18 traffic fatalities on Warren County roadways in 2017, the highest total in more than a decade.

Seven of the fatal crashes, 39 percent, involved some type of impairment, according to the Tennessee Highway Patrol. There were 37 known alcohol-related crashes in Warren County last year.

To help combat the increased number of traffic fatalities in Warren County, the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Warren County Sheriff's Department and McMinnville Police Department will be conducting sobriety checkpoints throughout the county this Friday, March 16, in efforts to rid the roadways of impaired drivers and decrease crashes involving alcohol.

The checkpoints will take place from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. and may be located on US Highway 70S.

"Individuals who make the irresponsible and dangerous choice to drink and drive are risking their license, their free-



SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

WHEN: This Friday

TIME: 6 p.m. to 2 a.m.

WHERE: Around Highway 70S

dom, their life and the lives of others," said Highway Patrol Lt. Billy Prater. "Officers will concentrate their enforcement efforts on removing impaired drivers from the roadways of Warren County. Officers will be on active patrol prior to and after the checkpoints observing for vehicle occupant's not wearing seatbelts, distracted drivers, and any hazardous moving violations.

This is one of many events planned throughout the year to combat the rise in fatal crashes."

In addition to impairment, eight of the fatal crashes last year were involving unrestrained vehicle occupants.



PRATER



Big Smo indicates he wants what was already a lively crowd to get even louder during his concert Friday night at Park Theater.

Big Smo like a rappin' volcano

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

The rhymes were flowing from Big Smo's mouth and the crowd was erupting in excitement for what was the biggest show to date at the Park Theater.

Concert-goers crowded the stage and Big Smo rocked the house with his artful blend of country and rap music.

"We sold 550 tickets for this, our biggest show so far," said Park Theater manager Kevin Roberts.

A wordsmith who often sings in a bullfrog baritone, Big Smo got the audience in

gear with "Redneck Rich" when he crooned,

"I always got something hooked up to my hitch Yeah I'm redneck rich."

Big Smo called a friend from the audience on stage and sang to her during a touching rendition of "Never Get Old to Me."

"All I need is one microphone and two shots of Hennessy," sang Big Smo.

He also energized the crowd with favorites such as "Country Outlaw" and "Say My Name."

Big Smo gained fame in 2014 with the release of his studio album "Kuntry Livin'," which made three different Billboard charts.



"We know, and it is undisputed, Mr. Lima was on that road for the first time in his life. Witnesses knew he was supposed to stop because they've driven that road all their life. This case is not about what the witnesses knew, but about what Mr. Lima knew."

— Defense attorney Larry Bryant

Lima not guilty of top charge

But jurors convict on one count for fatal accident

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

Jurors returned a guilty verdict against Gregory L. Lima on Friday for failure to yield the right of way resulting in death.

However, Lima escaped the more serious charge of reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon when jurors found him not guilty of that charge.

Lima will be sentenced for the Class C misdemeanor of failure to yield resulting in death on June

22 and he faces a maximum penalty of 11 months, 29 days in jail.

The case stems from a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Old Smithville Highway and Smithville Highway on Aug. 28, 2014. Lima, driving a Saturn, failed to stop at the intersection and entered the path of an oncoming Ford F-250 driven by Jordan Clark. Fatally injured was Lima's passenger and uncle, Leon Carter.

Outlining the state's case to the



LIMA

jury was prosecutor Felicia Walkup, who says Lima's actions that morning were reckless and she asked the jury to find him guilty.

"There is no question in this case Mr. Lima had the responsibility to yield and he did not," Walkup said.

Walkup reminded the jury they heard from three independent witnesses and heard testimony that "the roadway was fine," "visibility was fine," "it was close to daylight," and "everyone had their headlights on." The three witnesses all saw the red car driven by Lima, 26 at the time, approaching the intersection.

Continued on **2A**



Habitat house

Warren County High School junior Aaron Myers provides volunteer labor Saturday morning during a workday for the county's 30th Habitat for Humanity home. Angie McBride is the owner of the house, which is being constructed in the Mt. Leo area.

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