



SPORTS

Archery team on target **1B**



LIFESTYLES

Beauty and the Beast packs Park Theater **1C**

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Family traumatized by home invasion

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

A man has been charged with aggravated burglary after pulling an 83-year-old off his own front porch and into his living room, an act which terrified his family members and still leaves them in fear.

Ryan Malone, 36, faces the charge for an incident which took place earlier this month on Winton Street.

According to the McMinnville Police Department report, Royle Cravens, 83, was sitting on his front porch when he was approached by Malone, a person he does not know. Malone was reportedly rambling

about "bizarre events" when he grabbed Cravens by the arm and forcefully led him inside the home and into his living room.

Cravens' daughter, Fredia Coldwell, was inside.

"Our glass door was jerked open and a man was dragging my dad in the house," said Coldwell. "My dad was fighting, trying to get loose. I was shocked and jumped up, yelling for James."

Her husband, James Coldwell, confronted the suspect and tried to push him out

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You don't expect someone to just come barging in your home.

FREDIA COLDWELL

the front door. However, Malone was able to shut the front door and lock it, forcing Mr. Coldwell to take action to subdue him.

"The guy is yelling that they were coming to get him and he needed to get away," said Fredia. "I call 911, hysterical. The 911 operator asks me if he has a weapon. I said I didn't know and I kept



MALONE

screaming. Kudos to her because she was able to get me to take a breath and tell her everything. She already had police on their way. I told her James had wrestled the guy to the ground and was holding him down and the officers needed to come in the back door. I ran outside to meet them and they came flying in from both directions on the road. They ran directly in my house, grabbed the guy from James, handcuffed him, and had him out in about four minutes."

Continued on **8A**



Go to the head of the class! Courtney Curtis, left, is valedictorian of the WCHS class of 2018, while Abigail Mathis is salutatorian.

WCHS valedictorian, salutatorian named

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

Courtney Curtis and Abigail Mathis are used to making graduation speeches. They took the podium and addressed the crowd during their eighth-grade graduation four years ago at Centertown School.

Now they're set for a replay.

Curtis has been named valedictorian of the Warren County High School class of 2018, followed closely behind by Mathis, the salutatorian. Curtis accumulated a 4.6 GPA. Mathis earned a 4.5.

"After being valedictorian my eighth-grade year at Centertown, this is something I wanted," said Curtis.

Added Mathis, "We both gave speeches. Maybe I can just re-read mine. I think I still have it."

Continued on **5A**



For a list of the WCHS top 10 percent, see **page 5A**



Lisa Hobbs photo

Emergency crews work to extricate a couple trapped after their pickup flipped onto its side Sunday on Sparta Highway. The incident was part of a two-vehicle wreck.

Dramatic rescue

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

Everyone escaped serious injury Sunday morning after two vehicles collided on Sparta Highway causing one to flip onto its side.

"We were both looking and neither one of us saw them," said Heather Beecham, 28, who was a

passenger in a Nissan driven by 35-year-old Jason Yates.

According to Highway Patrol trooper Andrew Collier, Yates pulled from Mud Creek Road and into the path of a Dodge Ram traveling inbound on Highway 70S.

"Yates actually clipped the other vehicle, causing it flip onto its side," said Collier.

The pickup contained White

County residents Lonnie Slatton, 81, driver, and his wife Betty, 82. The White County couple was extricated from the vehicle by emergency personnel and transported to Saint Thomas River Park for evaluation.

Yates was cited for failure to yield and exercise due care. Yates, Beecham, and his two underage passengers were unhurt.

Smithville Highway work to start soon



State Sen. Mark Pody, left, looks over expansion plans for Smithville Highway with TDOT representative Joe Gerhig during a public update on the road project last week in DeKalb County.

BY **BILL ZECHMAN**
Special to the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The long-awaited four lane highway connecting McMinnville and Smithville may still be a long way from completion, but actual construction is expected to be visible before the end of 2018.

Tennessee Transportation Commissioner John Schroer said bids for the first phase, a 3.3-mile segment of a "super two-lane," are due to be released to contractors in late summer or early fall. Phase two will follow quickly, adding another five miles of expanded roadway, he said.

The first section begins south of the Warren-DeKalb County line and ends near Magness Road in DeKalb County. The second stretch picks up at Magness Road and continues north to East Bryant Street in Smithville.

"We bought a four-lane right of way," Schroer said, who added environmental studies and design work have all been completed for the entire project. Importantly, the project has been included in the construction budget at the

Tennessee Department of Transportation.

Among the improvements will be straightening curves and reducing the grades, yielding better alignments and visibility for motorists.

The initial two lanes will have wider, 6-foot shoulders, all in preparation for the eventual completion of another set of parallel lanes, the transportation chief explained.

Continued on **8A**



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