



Southern Standard

No charges filed in shooting death

Fatal incident deemed accident

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

No charges are expected in the death of an 18-year-old who was shot and killed last week.

Joshua Dell Smith, 18, died when he was hit with a bullet from a gun being cleaned by his roommate, Dakota Basham,

19. Police initially ruled the death accidental and, upon further investigation, maintain that finding.

"It's been determined to be an accidental shooting," said police detective Todd Rowland. "We're going to present it to the grand jury to cover what we've done."

In such cases, the grand jury is presented information and

determines if there is enough evidence to bring criminal charges, an indictment, against a potential defendant. Charges can still be brought if the grand jury does not indict, but that is not common.

The shooting took place at Bybee Woods, a duplex off Bybee Branch Road. It happened around midnight



SMITH

Friday.

Basham was reportedly standing in a doorway cleaning a pistol and the victim was on the other side of the room when the gun discharged. Rowland said the gun was a 357 Magnum revolver.

"He was under the impression it had been unloaded but there was a round in the chamber and

when he snapped it, it went off," said Rowland.

Rowland said other people were at the residence at the time. He said their accounts support the claim the shooting was accidental.

Basham has not been hit with any criminal charges.

The incident marked the second deadly shooting in Warren County last week.

A man was shot and killed last Tuesday on Harrison Ferry Mountain.

Learning from a dummy



Warren County High School seniors Rob Humphrey, left, and Gabby Jones work with ALEX, a patient communication simulator that mimics real patients in order to teach students how to respond in real-life medical situations. While she is a CNA student at WCHS, he is enrolled in a program called "clinical internship" that allows him to job shadow different aspects of the medical field.

Lisa Hobbs photos

WCHS students benefit from grant

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

The Health Science Program at Warren County High School is not for dummies, but it does have a state-of-the-art mannequin.

ALEX, a patient communication simulator, is a mannequin that mimics real patients in order to teach students how to respond to real-life medical situations, including emergencies. It is the first patient simulator to have speech recognition ability and a high-definition camera.

"I think it's definitely going to

be a benefit to future CNAs because you get to see different scenarios," said WCHS senior Gabby Jones, who has plans to continue her training in the medical field after graduation. "It's much better than what we were working with, a basic mannequin that can't interact with us."

ALEX can see, listen and talk to help medical students with several objectives. This includes: developing critical thinking, conducting initial patient assessments, and acquiring foundational nursing skills.



Warren County High School senior Erik Trujillo gives an enthusiastic "thumbs up" to the purchase of new equipment for the welding program.

Continued on 3A



INSIDE

Don't miss our special Spring Sports section featuring over 300 local athletes

Viola chase ends in crash

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

A man who reportedly sped through downtown Viola at 90 mph before flipping his car Thursday morning has been arrested and faces eight charges, including possession of meth.

Joshua Andrew Biles, 37, was transported first to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital and then to jail where he was booked Thursday afternoon on \$105,000 bond.

The high-speed chase began Thursday morning at 7:20 a.m. when state trooper Wade Myers clocked Biles speeding on Viola Road nears its intersection with Bob Ramsey Road. Biles did not want to stop when he saw the trooper's blue lights as he accelerated in his 2001 Mitsubishi Mirage.

"We were going 90 mph through downtown Viola and 95 mph when he wrecked," said Myers, who

watched the crash unfold. "He went off the left side of the road, clipped a telephone pole, and flipped over a couple times before the car landed on its roof."

Biles had turned onto Highway 127 heading to Hillsboro at the time of the crash. Myers said the entire chase lasted 3.6 miles.



BILES

Myers said Biles was uncooperative at the scene but he was able to determine his identity. He was also able to find 28 grams of a crystal-like substance believed to be meth upon a search of his vehicle.

"That's a large amount, enough to consider it possession with intent to distribute," said Myers, who added he believes Biles was intoxicated at the time of the crash.

His charges are driving on a revoked license, DUI, open container, speeding, felony evading with a motor vehicle, reckless driving, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of meth with intent to distribute.

An adventurous plan

Officials want to attract more tourists

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

McMinnville officials have a plan on how to improve adventure tourism development.

Griggs & Maloney, an engineering, planning and environmental consulting firm, provided city officials with a master tourism plan at the request of the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce.

"We've been working on this adventure tourism plan for a while now and we're really excited to present it to you," said Ryan Maloney, of Griggs and Maloney, who made the presentation with Kevin Chastine. "We hope this document is a living document. We don't want it to sit on a shelf. We always envision it to be a



MALONEY

sellable tool for the community, something you can leverage internally to the organizations that you guys work with and also as a selling point when communicating with external developers or in developing public/private partnerships."

The plan, more than 40 pages, outlined what McMinnville and Warren County currently have to offer tourists, ways to expand into adventure tourism, and ideas on bringing in tourists.

By the plan, "Within 50 miles of McMinnville's Historic Courthouse Square are eight state parks and natural areas, three navigable rivers, and over 125 miles of trails," and those can be used to make McMinnville an adventure tourism destination.

Continued on 2A

Downtown wreck



James Clark photo

Warren County resident Rachel Mitchell was driving this blue Ford Flex that was hit on its driver's side door Wednesday night around 8 p.m. at the intersection by All O-K'sions. Mitchell was on Morford Street and turning left at the light onto Chancery. A white Ford Explorer driven by Karlin Cantrell of McMinnville was on Chancery Street and failed to stop at the red light. There were no citations and no serious injuries reported. The intersection is a common spot for wrecks.

THE WORKS™
VEHICLE CHECKUP

\$44.95

931-668-2177
kiddford.com

KIDD

SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL CHANGE* • TIRE ROTATION & PRESSURE CHECK
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION • BRAKE INSPECTION • FLUID TOP-OFF
BATTERY TEST • FILTER CHECK • BELTS & HOSES INSPECTION

*5-QUARTS

Ford