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Hall of Fame adds a little 'Sunshine'

Warren County native Dottie West joins country music's greatest stars

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

The Country Music Hall of Fame finally has some "Country Sunshine."

Warren County native Dottie West was announced Tuesday as

one of three inductees in the class of 2018. Joining her in the Hall of Fame are country greats Ricky Skaggs and Johnny Gimble.

The Country Music Association selects an anonymous panel of industry leaders to determine Country Music Hall

of Fame inductees. The induction ceremony will take place in October.

Born Dorothy Marie Marsh outside of McMinnville on Oct. 11, 1932, Dottie West is proof it's possible to rise from rural Warren County to the grandest stage in country music. She won a Grammy Award, sang duets with Kenny Rogers, and was a mainstay at the Grand Ole Opry.

"She was a superstar by any measure," said

local songwriter Thomas B. Vaughn, who helped organize the annual Dottie West Fest in McMinnville for several years. "She was not only a tremendous singer/songwriter, she was queen of the duets and sang with Jim Reeves, Don Gibson, Jimmy Dean, and most notably Kenny Rogers.

Considered one of country music's most groundbreaking artists, her career took flight in the 1960s with her Top 10

hit "Here Comes My Baby Back Again." The song won her a Grammy in 1965 for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. It marked the first time a female in country music received a Grammy.

One of her career signatures was a jingle for Coca-Cola titled "Country Sunshine." The song reached No. 2 on Billboard's country chart in 1973.



DOTTIE WEST

Continued on 5A

Eggcitement



Lacy Garrison photo

Sisters, from left, Selena and Ana Ogden, along with cousin Dylanie Ogden cannot contain their excitement as they show off their colorful egg collection Saturday during the 17th annual Easter Egg Hunt held by Kids of Community. More egg hunts are scheduled around the community this coming Saturday.

Ex-firefighter's lawsuit dismissed

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

It took more than three years to extinguish a legal fire at McMinnville Fire Department.

A lawsuit filed by ex-firefighter Joey Sweat for "wrongful retaliatory discharge" has been dismissed on appeal.

Sweat was terminated March 20, 2014, along with then-Fire

Chief Keith Martin and firefighter Seabert Cox. The terminations came after a year-long unrest within the department with complaints from city firefighters regarding rules enacted by Martin that included eating breakfast before coming to work, no dining out, no use of personal communication devices, and no TV before 5 p.m.



JOEY SWEAT

Continued on 5A



HERB ROWLAND



RODNEY WHILES

Democratic sheriff candidates face off

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

Both Democratic candidates for Warren County Sheriff expressed reservations about arming teachers with guns during a political forum Monday night sponsored by the Southern Standard and WCPL.

Herb Rowland and Rodney Whiles introduced themselves then answered questions about the opioid epidemic, jail expansion, and arming teachers with guns. The forum took place at Warren County Administrative Offices in front of a standing-room-only crowd.

The two Democratic candidates are on the May 1 primary ballot. The other five candidates running for sheriff are independents and will not appear on the ballot until the General Election on Aug. 2.

There is a school resource officer assigned to every school in Warren County. These SROs are certified deputies, which gives the Sheriff's Department a presence in every school.

When asked about arming teachers in the name of security, Whiles said, "I think it would be beneficial in some



Other candidates participating in Monday's political forum will be featured in coming editions of the Standard before early voting begins.

areas, and in some not. In elementary schools where teachers could be trained in firearms and weapons retention where we can teach them how to hold that weapon and not let them take it away from them, I can see it being beneficial. On the high school side where you have gentlemen larger than me and in a lot better shape and physical condition than some of them, I can see it would be very scary to try to teach that teacher to retain that weapon against someone twice as strong as them. When law enforcement arrives and we have an active shooter situation, how are we going to be able to identify a teacher with a weapon versus a true threat with a weapon?"

Continued on 6A

Commission reins in Horsin' Around

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

McMinnville Planning Commission members voted "neigh" on a rezoning request for property currently being used by an equestrian-based organization. The decision is not final.

The organization, called Horsin' Around, is a nonprofit program that allows men, women and children with special needs to spend time with horses. It is currently utilizing property at 386 Viola Road. The property is owned by Joe David Mayfield and leased to the group for \$1.

However, the property is zoned residential. By current zoning restrictions, that property cannot be used for such purpose. The property would need to be

commercial.

Mayfield asked the McMinnville Planning Commission for the 11-acre tract to be rezoned from R-1 to C-2 in order to allow the organization to remain, a request that was denied Tuesday.

"This is a difficult situation for us," said David Marttala, chair of the Planning Commission, "but we have to look at the community as a whole. It's fairly well surrounded by residential. It's a great organization and we fully support what it's trying to do, but we can't bend the rules."

Member Steve Harvey agreed, and added that rezoning to commercial would open the property to other uses in the future.

Continued on 2A



Lisa Hobbs photo

Horsin' Around organizers Holly McBride and Neal Cox gave two presentations Tuesday, one to members of the McMinnville Planning Commission and one to audience members in attendance. The effort was an attempt to rezone property the organization currently uses.

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