

SPORT.

Late-inning heroics lift Lady Pioneers to win 1B



UCATION NEWS

ovenant, Centertown elease honor rolls **5A**

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 11, 2018 McMinnville, Tennessee southernstandard.com

Vol. 140 No. 43





Southern











Lacy Garrison photo

After serving for 24 years as Circuit Court Clerk, Bernie Morris is retiring and expresses her sincere thanks to the voters of Warren County.

Bye bye, Bernie

Circuit Court Clerk prepares to leave office after 24 years

BY LACY GARRISON Reporter for the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

You have to embrace a hectic work environment to be Warren County's Circuit Court Clerk. That's evident after watching Bernie Morris on the job.

Even with a staff of 12 women, Bernie is a busy bee and her desk shows signs of organized chaos. Don't let that fool you. She knows where to find everything and can make a decision on the spur of the moment. That's a requirement for this job.

Come September, Bernie will have been in office for 24 years and she's ready to leave the hustle behind. "I am proud of my accomplishments, but it is time for another generation of new ideas,

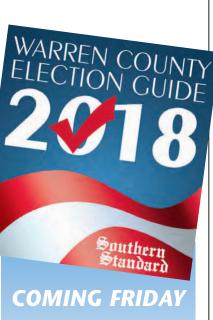
said Bernie with a smile.

If you go to our county's website, you'll notice a short bulleted list of what takes place in the Circuit Court Clerk's office. However, there is much more than that.

The Circuit Court Clerk is responsible for keeping records for court cases and acts as a liaison to the public by answering questions about fines, payments, court appearances and warrants.

"You have to have a tough skin," chuckled Bernie. "We're usually working with unhappy people paying for something or those in our court system, but as a whole, it is amazing how the judicial system works.

Continued on 6A



Be an informed voter. Check out our Warren County **Election Guide**



BY JAMES CLARK (McMinnville, Tennessee)

Early voting starts Wednesday at Warren County Administrative Offices.

Just don't expect much to be decided in the prima-

If you're voting in the Republican Primary, there's nothing to determine. Every Republican on the ballot will automatically advance to the General Election in August.

Only one Republican is running for a countywide office. Ray Hixson, who is seeking to become County Executive, will automatically advance without Republican opposition.

There are seven Republicans running for seats on the Warren County Commission, but since there are not more than two in any district everyone will advance to August.

The Democratic Primary is where candidates are fighting to advance to the General Election. The competition has been fierce in the battle for Circuit Court Clerk where Duane Sherrill, Casi Cantrell and Melanie Milstead are seeking the Democratic nomination.

The race for Warren County Sheriff will also have one less candidate as Rodney Whiles and Herb Rowland are both seeking



Early voting begins Wednesday and continues till April 26. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the week, and 9 a.m. till noon on Saturday. The primary is May 1.

the Democratic nomination. Only one will advance.

For Register of Deeds, Wes Williams and Terry Smith are fighting for the Democratic nomination.

Three Warren County Commission candidates will be eliminated in the Democratic Primary. In the 1st District, Sally

Brock, David Rhea and Christy Ross are all seeking the Democratic nomination. Only two will advance.

In the 7th District, Gary C. Martin, Susan Rogers, and Tommy Savage are seeking the Democratic nomination.

In the 10th District, Harold D. Hyatt, Gary Prater and Cole Taylor are seeking the Democratic nomination.

Myers beats rape charge, gets 8 years

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

A McMinnville man avoided a rape conviction, but was given an eight-year prison sentence for hitting his estranged wife in the face and then having sex with her against her will.

John Dexter Myers, 25, was sentenced outside the normal sentencing range and given eight

years for aggravated assault. He was origicharged with nally

The incident which led to his arrest happened July 4, 2016 when Myers was staying at the home of his estranged wife. Myers had been staying with his parents but had reportedly been kicked



out of their house, which is why he showed up on his estranged wife's doorstep three days before the incident.

According to the warrant for Myers' arrest, he and the victim were watching a movie in the living room when they began arguing about a text message he received. The victim noticed it was from a friend who was frequently in trouble and she told Myers he should not be around that person since Myers was on probation. As the argument intensified, she told Myers to leave the house.

"He pulls out his pocket knife and places it to his throat and states, 'It will be your fault if I kill myself as you made me this way," the arrest warrant reads.

"He then hits her on her left cheek with a closed fist and says, You are going to pay for what you have done.

A struggle erupts and Myers was reportedly able to pull off the victim's clothes and overpower her to the floor. She was fighting his advances and says at no point did she consent to have sex with him.

Continued on 2A

Lawmakers divided on expanding TennCare

BY LACY GARRISON

(McMinnville, Tennessee)

With the concern of opioids, methamphetamines, fentanyl and other drugs in Tennessee, along with mental health issues gripping the state, do lawmakers believe Medicaid expansion would help address these issues?

That was one of the questions posed Friday during the Chamber's annual Legislative Breakfast at the TSU Nursery Research Center.

House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh said the Tennessee General Assembly's biggest moral failure in the 24 years he has been there is the failure to expand Medicaid.

Continued on 6A



The annual Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast was held at the TSU Nursery Research Center on Friday morning. Pictured, from left, are state Sen. Janice Bowling, House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh and state Rep. Paul Sherrell.



931-668-2177





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