



SPORTS

Late-inning heroics lift Lady
Pioneers to win **1B**



EDUCATION NEWS

Covenant, Centertown
release honor rolls **5A**

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Standard



Early voting period begins

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

Early voting starts
Wednesday at Warren
County Administrative
Offices.

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

If you're voting in the
Republican Primary,
there's nothing to deter-
mine. Every Republican
on the ballot will automati-
cally 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 automati-
cally 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 nomina-
tion. 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 seek-
ing the Democratic nomi-
nation. 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.



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 accom-
plishments, but it is time for
another generation of new ideas,"

said Bernie with a smile.

If you go to our county's web-
site, you'll notice a short bul-
leted 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 judi-
cial system works."

Continued on **6A**



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 origi-
nally charged with
rape.

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



MYERS

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

According to the
warrant for Myers'
arrest, he and the vic-
tim 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 argu-
ment 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 over-
power 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**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

With the concern of opioids, methamphet-
amines, 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 big-
gest moral failure in the 24 years he has been
there is the failure to expand Medicaid.

Continued on **6A**



Lacy Garrison photo

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.

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