

SPORT

Lady Pioneers win battle of top teams 1B



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WEDNESDAY

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Standard

Hot wheels



Firefighters respond to a car fire Tuesday afternoon in the parking lot of Gondola. There was concern because the vehicle was parked close to the restaurant.

Car bursts into flames in Gondola parking lot

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

Austin Nelson said he hadn't experienced any trouble with his BMW in the three years he has

Then it burst into flames Tuesday afternoon as the lunch rush was ending at Gondola.

"I had just gone inside when I heard people asking about the

owner of a white car," said Nelson, who serves in the United States Air Force. "When I looked outside it was smoking pretty badly.'

The car burst into flames, causing a calamity as firefighters rushed to

"I just wanted to get outside and get to my car in case there was an explosion," said Tisha Emberton, who was finishing her lunch inside Gondola.

Nelson said he had just returned

from a trip to Murfreesboro and said the car was running fine. A former Gondola employee, he stopped in to see some old friends and grab a bite to eat. He was surprisingly composed as his vehicle suffered major fire damage.

"As long as I wasn't in it and nobody was hurt, that's all that matters to me," said Nelson. "You can replace a car. I'm glad the people who were parked around it were able to get out of the way."

Committee: Martin alone in desire to close Animal Control

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

The county Health and Welfare Committee has no plans to shut down Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center, says Commissioner

Blaine Wilcher. "Some people are twisting the story into the committee wanting to close Animal Control," said Wilcher. "It's not us. It's (Commissioner) Michael Martin. He's the only one who proposed closing Animal Control.

During an April 10 meeting of Health and Welfare Committee, Martin said Animal Control staff members haven't been doing their jobs and that shutting down the department would free up \$100,000 that

could be better used elsewhere. No other member of the committee voiced a similar senti-

ment. Wilcher read a prepared statement during Monday's full Warren County Commission meeting to dispel the inaccurate rumors and voice support for Animal Control director Kim Pettrey and employees Brandi Bouldin and Deitra Kester.

Continued on 3A



Lisa Hobbs photo

Warren County government has taken no steps to shut down its Animal **Control and Adoption Center. Pictured** is facility director Kim Pettrey, who is currently on medical leave.

IEST Tails

TN Ready flops for third year

BY JAMES CLARK (McMinnville, Tennessee)

The state can't shake its failing grade when it comes to standardized testing.

For the third straight year, problems engulfing TN Ready have made the statewide test a bumbling example of incompetency. Warren County Director of Schools Bobby Cox reports

local online testing was disrupted in Warren County on Monday and Tuesday.

"It's really frustrating," said Cox. "The students are ready, the teachers are ready, and then they can't take the test."

The problems Monday stemmed from students being unable to log on to take the test. In a news release from Education



Commissioner Candice McQueen, the state said the problems Monday were not due to a server crash and had nothing to do with the volume of users.

Cox said some students at WCHS were able to complete the test Monday. Others logged on, but couldn't finish. Others couldn't access the site at all.

On Tuesday, state education officials believe a deliberate attack on the TN Ready system is to blame. In an email sent after alleged attack, McQueen said, "To our knowledge, no student data has been compromised."

Cox said troubles with TN Ready testing are especially troubling because so much is tied to test scores. He said the state is working on plans to grade schools based on these scores.

"With the state going to A through F grades for schools, how can you grade a school or a student if you don't have faith in the results?" asked Cox. "It's mandatory for high school to take the test online and it seems like they can't handle the load of everybody in the state getting on at the same time and who knows what

could happen with a cyberattack. "We had the option of taking the elementary school test online and we said no, we're not going to do that," Cox continued. "And it wasn't because of any fault at the local level. They say they want us to take the tests online because we get the results back faster, but that doesn't seem to happen. They might want to take a look at what the ACT is doing. We just had some students take the ACT with paper and pencil and we got the results back in a week.

TN Ready has been an implosion since its inception during the 2015-16 school year. That year, testing was canceled completely for grades 3-8, and test vendor Measurement, Inc., was fired for failing to distribute enough paper tests once the online version collapsed.

Continued on 3A

Lisa Hobbs

Sip & Saveur part of busy weekend

PLENTY TO DO

- **FRIDAY** Comedian T.C. Cope at Park Theater, 7 p.m. SATURDAY
- Autism 5K Run, downtown McMinnville, 8 a.m. • Big Smo and four other country bands at Cumberland Caverns, 12
- to 4 p.m. Pork and Bands, WCHS, 1:30 to 7:15 p.m. • Sip & Saveur, down-
- town McMinnville, 6 to 9 Country singer Steve Wariner, Park Theater,

BY LISA HOBBS

Reporter for the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

Enjoy historic downtown McMinnville this Saturday, April 21 with an evening for relaxation and socialization at Junior Auxiliary of McMinnville's Sip & Saveur: Tasting and Art Showcase from 6 to 9 p.m.

Sip & Saveur is a showcase for local artists, caterers, and downtown businesses. It provides attendees the chance to sample wine and hors d'oeuvres while admiring the work of some of the area's finest artisans at participating businesses.

This is an adult-only event, and age will be verified at registration.

Participants can stroll Main Street, enjoying live music by The Lund McVey Group with jazz, and Assisted Living with Americana. Businesses include: Sheila Younglove Miner; Heritage Museum; Trendy Trunk; Ryan J. Moore, Upper Cumberland Biscuit Company; Twisted Yogis; Magness Library; Hoover and Sons; Citizens Tri-County Bank; Agee, Owens, and Cooper; Ashley's Attic; Chamber of Commerce; Kimmi's Tea Room; TOPZ Metro Deli; Panther Creek Forestry;

Furry Tails; and Collins River BBQ. Tickets are \$35 in advance at Eye Centers of Tennessee, Security Federal on Main Street, and Warren County Chamber of Commerce. At the event, tickets are \$40. Tickets can be purchased via paypal.me/jamcminnville, reached by Junior Auxiliary of McMinnville Facebook page, or by email at jamcminnville@gmail.com and available onsite at will



photo **Tyler Enslow of** The Lund **McVey Group** performs at Sip & Saveur on Court Square. This year's event is this Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. in downtown McMinnville.



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