

Judkins announces candidacy for County Commissioner

My name is Lori Judkins and I am an independent candidate for District 5 County Commissioner.

I was born in McMinnville and have lived here all of my life. I graduated from WCHS in 1990. My parents are Eugene and Doris Wilcher. I have one son, Tyler, who recently completed the Mechatronics program at Motlow. I am a special education teacher at Hickory Creek Elementary. I have been a special educator for 23 years.

I received a bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders from MTSU and a master's degree in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Tech. I am certified to teach special education, speech language therapy, and I hold an administrator license. I am a member and an association representative of Tennessee Education Association. I enjoy kayaking, playing softball, swimming, and spending time with my family, friends, and pets. I attend church at Westwood Church of Christ.

Promoting economic and industrial development is an area of particular interest to me. Growth management is one of the toughest problems facing local governments today. I would like to see this county grow and be a prosperous and safe environment in which to live. I would like to see our residents obtain good-paying jobs with-

out having to travel out of town. I would like to see more options for employment, retail, and restaurants. Capitalizing on our natural resources to bring in tourism is a step in the right direction.

I also have a compassionate interest in our animal shelter. I do not believe closing the facility is the answer. I believe this would be a huge disser-



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vice to our community and outrage the majority of citizens. I have been to this facility on several occasions and have adopted pets myself. I think the staff do their very best to maintain the facility.

I believe extensive research is the answer to making good decisions and plays a vital role in economic growth and problem solving. I consistently research information in the educational realm to keep up with current laws and teaching practices. I would like to utilize my research skills to help make team decisions regarding the prosperity of this county.

I feel like my background with research, children, the educational system, parents/ stakeholders, and my leadership training would be an asset to the panel of district commissioners. I feel as though I am a fair person and believe in listening to all facts before I make any decisions. I am educated, determined, fair, people-friendly, a good listener, and I have experience working with the public.

My vision for Warren County is to grow economically, maintain safety both in the community and in our schools, and to maintain a cooperative local government that strives for the very best for our citizens. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming August election for District 5 Commissioner.

Sign up now for Viola Valley Half Marathon

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

Sign-ups are off and running for the seventh annual Viola Valley Half Marathon, which is set to take place Saturday, May 19, at 7 a.m.

The race is a big draw with runners across the United States lacing up their sneakers and descending on the tiny town of Viola.

In 2017, the race attracted runners from New York to Texas.

"Runners love this course," said race organizer Kevin Deason. The race features a scenic, 13.1-mile course that travels the peaceful, tranquil rural roads of three counties - Warren, Grundy and Coffee.

"Runners tell us they love the course for the scenery, the organization, the enthusiasm of the volunteers, and the residents of Viola Valley," said race organizer John Nunley. "This is our seventh year and the race continues to grow in participation."

Early registration is \$40. The price goes up after April 20.

Participants of all fitness levels are welcome.



Runners leave Viola Town Square at the start of last year's Viola Valley Half Marathon.

This includes competitive and recreational runners, as well as walkers. The race has received solid reviews with participants pleased with the course and hospitality in Viola.

Last year's top female

finisher was McMinnville resident Anne Myers, who finished the race at 1:42:33, while top male finisher was Winchester resident Eric Shull at 1:21:39.

Funds raised from the half-marathon are used

for the improvement of the Viola community. Register now at active.com or visit Viola Valley Half Marathon on Facebook in order to receive the early registration discount.

JROTC

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Hutchison said he joined Raiders because he wanted to be physically fit.

"I was overweight," he said. "When the recruiting drive came to the high school, it was 'raise your hand if you'd like to join Raiders. This is a physically fit, insane team.' I raised my hand. All my friends said I couldn't. My mom and my dad doubted it. I pushed through it, and I'm now in shape. It has been amazing."

He added, "When I started Raiders, I weighed 155 pounds. None of it was muscle. I dropped down to 124. Right now I weigh 155 again, but it's mostly muscle now."

A 10-member team offered a demonstration of their skill Thursday for Rotary Club of McMinnville. The group constructed a one-rope bridge between two trees in front of the Blue Building. Members pulled themselves across the rope, from one tree to the next.

the more the rope will sag. Anytime when we cross that area in a competition site, people get wet. That's something we accept as part of it."

Howard was asked how many of his cadets go into service after graduation.

"The reality is that JROTC is not a recruitment tool of the military," said Howard. "U.S.

Army commanders have deemed the mission of the JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens. It's not about recruiting. I would say three or four out of 20 cadets go into the military. Everyone else goes into the career that they choose."

The Raider Team will be competing at the Alabama A&M Senior

ROTC Drill Meet this Saturday, April 21.

Attention Kroger Customers

On Wednesday the Southern Standard inadvertently inserted the wrong Kroger flyer into the paper. The flyer was for next week April 26. We apologize for this mistake. This week's flyer will be inserted in Friday's edition of the Southern Standard. Once again we apologize to Kroger customers and our readers.

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