



Southern Standard

Sexting among online dangers for kids



According to cyberbullying.org, 26.3 percent of 17-year-olds surveyed have received a sexually suggestive picture on their phone.

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

How many times have you handed your child your phone, iPad or laptop to keep them occupied? Perhaps your children already have their own. According to American Academy of Pediatrics, 75 percent of children as young as 4 have their own mobile device.

It's easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life, but there are online dangers parents need to realize. Predators, bullying, sexting,

pornography and mature content are among the risks of unsupervised online access.

Just take a look at a few of these startling statistics:

- Average age of exposure to porn is 8-11 years old.
- Sixty-eight percent of teens say their parents don't really talk to them about their social media or gaming use.
- Sexting stat: 9 out of 10 images go beyond their intended recipient.

Shawn Palombo, school counselor at Eastside School, says she has grown increasingly concerned for

young people due to online behavior. Furthermore, she explained that just last year a sixth-grader shared a nude selfie with her boyfriend, who then shared it with multiple others. These type of incidents are becoming common.

"I don't think parents fully understand the dangers or the seriousness of sexting and other online influences," said Palombo. "By the time parents talk with me, they are in a panic because they've been caught off guard."

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Whittaker squanders second chance

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

A woman who stole more than \$30,000, but had the chance to have the grand theft charge erased from her record, did not make the most of her opportunity.

Samantha Gaybrielle Whittaker had her judicial diversion set aside by Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley and was ordered to serve five days in jail for violation of probation.

According to court records, Whittaker was not abiding by conditions of her probation.

Specifically, she did not report to her probation officer, did not maintain employment, did not notify the court about a change of address, and failed to submit to a drug screen.

She was also not making restitution payments and was ordered by the court to begin repaying the \$30,000 she stole.

Whittaker's original sentence came in early 2017 after she went to Cumberland Bonding and informed them her stepfather and business partner, Danny Ray Elrod, had been stealing from the company. According to sheriff's investigator Steven Carpenter, the two had gotten into a fight and Whittaker became mad and decided to tell on her stepfather.



WHITTAKER

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SUV rollover



Lacy Garrison photo

Crystal Adams, owner of the black GNC Envoy, was rushed to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital after being run off Yager Road on Thursday morning. Adams reportedly swerved to miss the vehicle as it crossed into her lane, causing her to run into an embankment before flipping into a neighboring parking lot.

Driver sent to hospital after Yager Road wreck

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

A woman was injured Thursday morning when she was run off Yager Road by another vehicle causing her SUV to flip before landing right side up in the gravel parking lot of Bethlehem Methodist Church.

The woman, Crystal Adams, 39, was rushed to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital by ambulance with complaints of hip pain.

The accident happened just before 10 a.m. a few hundred yards away from the Bethlehem Methodist Church Cemetery. According to Sheriff Jackie Matheny, Adams was traveling toward town when another vehicle crossed into her lane.

When she swerved to miss the vehicle, Adams ran into the embankment and flipped into the church parking lot.

The narrow, curvy, two-lane road is known for accidents and high speeds. Yager, a state aid road, is 35 mph within the city limits. When the city's boundaries end in the area of Meadowbrook Drive, the speed limit increases to 55 mph.



Lisa Hobbs photo

Pioneer Battalion Raider Team members Victoria Looper and Nathan Holmstrom were among a 10-member team that offered a live presentation for Rotary Club of McMinnville members on Thursday. Two trees at the Blue Building were used by the team.

Putting it all on the line

Junior ROTC program beneficial to students

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

Warren County High School's Junior ROTC program motivates its cadets to be good students today and better citizens for tomorrow.

The program is geared toward developing personal confidence, self-reliance, leadership, responsibility and teamwork.

"I enjoy being in JROTC," said Cadet Victoria Looper. "It has really helped me

with my interview skills and it has helped me with public speaking. I'm much more confident now."

She, as well as Cadet William Hutchison, are members of the program's Pioneer Battalion Raider Team, a group of cadets that take fitness to the extreme.

That select group of cadets endure physical conditioning and endurance training in order to compete against other Raider Teams in an obstacle course.

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