



## SPORTS

Rugby action fierce  
on senior night **1B**



## BEST OF THE BEST

Don't miss your chance  
to vote **6A**

**SUNDAY**

**APRIL 22, 2018**

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# Southern



# Standard

## Racing for autism



Corbin Felton takes off to lead the pack of nearly 500 participants Saturday morning at the start of the Queens for a Cause Autism 5K in downtown McMinnville.

Lacy Garrison photo

## Annual 5K helps local families

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

Saturday proved to be perfect running weather for this year's 7th annual Queens for a Cause Autism 5K in downtown McMinnville. Around 500 participants showed up in support of autism awareness in our community, including 16 teams.

Darlene Bryant, organization director, says their goal is to make a difference locally. With proceeds

from last year's 5K, the organization was able to bring an applied behavioral analysis specialist to Warren County once a week for 16 weeks to work with children with autism. This was provided at no cost to the child's family.

Jenna Sullens, who has a 7-year-old son on the autism spectrum, says this event means so much to them and the other families. She volunteers every year to help with the race and is grateful to see the event grow. "It paid for Hudson's therapy,

which is typically \$230 for a 30-minute session with a speech therapist for autism so that's huge," said Sullens.

"But it's not just therapeutic for our kids, it's therapeutic for us parents too," she continued. "Last year, they hosted a pool party so we could have an afternoon to relax and enjoy spending time with others in our autism family. It's nice to go to a place without fear of judgement."

Continued on **7A**



## CRIME STATS FROM TBI

Statistics from 2017

WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT		McMINNVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT	
Murders	1	Murders	1
Drug offenses	143	Drug offenses	168
Burglaries	96	Burglaries	109
Simple assaults	186	Simple assaults	240

## Meth offenses soar as crime up statewide

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

Meth offenses in Tennessee soared by 37 percent in 2017, part of the reason overall crime in the state was higher last year, according to the TBI. The TBI's annual Crime in Tennessee report was released Friday, showing upticks in crimes such as drug arrests and murder. One of the biggest drops came with DUI arrests, which plummeted 20 percent last year.

All 532 law enforcement agencies in the state contributed data for the annual report.

On a statewide level, meth was one of the biggest risers, going from 11,129 arrests in 2016 up to 15,242 arrests last year.

DUI arrests dropped from 23,704 in 2016 down to 18,913 last year.

The most common time of day to commit crime is between 3 to 6 p.m. The least common time is from 3 to 6 a.m. The warm months of May, June, July and August had the most crimes committed, while chilly February had the least number of offenses.

Among the findings in the 2017 report:

- Reported instances of murder increased 6.7 percent from 2016 to 2017.
- Reported rape offenses increased 3.2 percent.
- Juveniles accounted for 6.4 percent of all arrests, down from 6.5 percent.
- Simple assault accounted for 67 percent of all reported domestic violence offenses.
- Drug/ narcotic violations increased 4.9 percent.

On the local level, the 2017 overview from the Warren County Sheriff's Department indicates there were 1,035 total offenses, with 53.2 percent cleared by arrest.

There was one murder, the shooting death of Bobby Ashburn by alleged killer Michael Cody Mills in April 2017. There were six kidnappings, which were all cleared by arrest. There were eight reported forcible rapes, with seven cleared by arrest.

Simple assault was a common crime in Warren County with 186 reported offenses, 122 of which were cleared by arrest.

Continued on **2A**

## Early voting creeps to finish

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

According to the Warren County Election Commission, turnout for early voting has been sluggish with only 1,563 absentee and early voters casting their ballots as of Friday morning.

The majority have been in the Democratic Primary.

"It's slower than we thought it would be, but a lot of candidates are running as independents," said Susie Davenport, a deputy for the Election Commission. "It only takes one minute to vote and we've not had a line yet."

With early voting coming to an end this Thursday, April 26, voters will have to go to their precinct on Election Day as there will be no voting at the Administration Building.



**Early voting  
continues until  
this Thursday,  
April 26. The  
primary is set for  
May 1.**

Davenport also said young people don't realize they can go ahead and register to vote.

"If your child is going to be 18 by Aug. 2, you need to register before the deadline, which is July 3," explained Davenport.

Election administrator Donna Smith added, "The Election Commission spends \$5,000 on sample ballots so please look at them before you vote."

Early voting hours are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday.

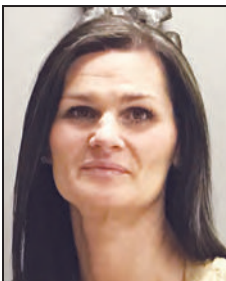
## Asleep at the wheel



Lisa Hobbs photo

**Drowsy driving is being blamed for a crash on Old Nashville Highway on Friday morning. Officers on the scene said Douglas Martin was traveling inbound when he fell asleep behind the wheel, left the roadway at the intersection of Pigeon Hill Road, and slammed into a tree. He was transported to Saint Thomas River Park Hospital.**

## Saine named Morrison's Citizen of Year



**SAINE**

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

Monica Saine has been named 2018 Citizen of the Year by Morrison Ruritan.

"I am surprised, honored, and humbled by being selected as Morrison's Citizen of the Year," said Saine. "Knowing this community appreciates my services has me more

motivated than I've ever been before. I am just getting started with programs and facilities. The best has yet to come."

The Citizen of the Year banquet will be held May 5 at 6 p.m. Reservations can be made until May 1.

Saine was born in Nacogoloches, Texas and moved to Tennessee at the age of 3. She graduated from Coffee County Central High in 1997, and

attended North Carolina State University from 1997-2001.

Saine played professional women's basketball in Las Palmas, Spain in 2002. She worked for Manchester Parks and Recreation for 13 years, beginning in 2003 as its athletic director, activities coordinator, and assistant director.

Today, Saine owns the old Morrison School and has transformed it into a recreation facility called The Spot.

Members of Morrison Ruritan are not eligible for the award, but a Ruritan of the Year will be named and will receive the Arry Youngblood Memorial Award on the same night as Citizen of the Year. The selection will be made by a secret ballot of club members, and the identity of the recipient will not be revealed until the banquet.

Banquet reservations can be made by calling Mike Holland at 939-2540.

**\$44.95**

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