



## SPORTS

Pioneers ready for spring practice **1B**



## BUSINESS

Local liquor sales expand to Sunday **4C**

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# Southern



# Standard

## Ticket to tourism



Kayaking and outdoor adventure are things the community is trying to promote in the push to attract more tourists to Warren County.

## County looks to be travel destination

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

With natural beauty flowing, music resonating, and culture oozing, Warren County can attract tourists from across the United States.

To make this happen, members of our Tourism Development Board say the next crucial step is to create a photo and video library featuring community events and highlighting tourism assets with regular social media management.

With this goal in mind, photographer Ian Riley has presented a marketing content proposal to the seven-member board.

"The goal would be to create content to speak to the target audience of who you're trying to draw in to spend their money and time in McMinnville and Warren County," said Riley during a meeting at the Chamber

Community Room. "These are the three main categories we have identified: young professionals, retirees and young families with kids."

Riley believes McMinnville offers an authenticity that's not available in places such as Nashville. He believes he can hone in on this with his photography to showcase the best of what the South has to offer.

Riley said his images would allow potential visitors to visualize themselves in McMinnville, whether sitting in a kayak floating the Barren Fork River, or at a yoga session at Isha.

Said Riley, "Good content isn't about good storytelling. It's about telling a true story well. McMinnville and Warren County have a wonderful story. It just needs to get out there and be told and I think it's going to make a good first impression."

Continued on **2A**



Cumberland Caverns has become a notable concert venue, attracting bands like The Mavericks, pictured above.



All the county's voting precincts will be open Tuesday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for the Democratic and Republican primaries.

## It's time to vote

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

Early voting ended Thursday with 2,873 early voters casting their ballots.

That serves as a warmup for the Primary Election which is this Tuesday, May 1. All of the county's precincts will be open for voting from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. No voting will take place at the early voting room on Tuesday.

Early voting turnout was lower than expected by the Warren County Election Commission. However, election administrator Donna Smith said the last day was their busiest with 361 voters. The early voting average was 205 voters a day.

"These primary candidates need for voters to vote because if they don't win Tuesday, they are finished for the year," said Smith. "So for them, it is critical their supporters, or people who will vote for them, turn out instead of thinking I'll just wait until next time because for some of them, unfortunately, there won't be a next election where they will be on the ballot."

While no candidates will be eliminated in the Republican Primary, several will in the Democratic Primary.

**FOR SHERIFF**, Herb Rowland and Rodney Whiles are both seeking the Democratic nomination. Only one will advance.

**FOR REGISTER OF DEEDS**, Terry Smith is looking to keep his job and faces Wes Williams. Only one will advance.

**FOR CIRCUIT COURT CLERK**, Melanie Milstead, Duane Sherrill and Casi Cantrell are seeking the Democratic nomination. Only one will advance.

Four Warren County Commission races will have candidates eliminated.

**IN THE 1ST DISTRICT**, Christy Ross, David Rhea and Sally Brock are seeking the Democratic nomination. Two advance.

**IN THE 7TH DISTRICT**, Susan Rogers, Tommy Savage and Gary C. Martin are seeking the Democratic nomination. Two advance.

**IN THE 10TH DISTRICT**, Gary Prater, Cole Taylor and Harold Hyatt, are seeking the Democratic nomination. Two advance.

**IN THE 11TH DISTRICT**, Mary Elizabeth Roller, Steve M. Glenn and Morris Bond are seeking the Democratic nomination. Two advance.

For those voting Tuesday, a photo ID is required. For information concerning precinct locations, contact the Warren County Election Commission at 473-5834.



**WHILES**



**ROWLAND**

## School Board rejects TN Ready

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

The Warren County Board of Education met Thursday night to discuss various topics, as well as provide an update on TN Ready testing issues.

Mary Humphrey, a Student Advisory Board representative, addressed the School Board with student issues observed during the current state testing.

"The main topics discussed include student anxiety during the start of testing resulting from waiting and not knowing if they would test, frustration with being randomly logged out of the testing site during the test and sometimes multiple occurrences," said Humphrey. She added she'd

seen an increase in discipline due to non-testing student boredom.

Warren County Director of Schools Bobby Cox addressed the School Board and recommended TN Ready scores count for nothing, zero percent.

"I just don't think they are valid," said Cox. "We don't want to hold our teachers responsible for something they have no real control over."

The School Board agreed and voted in approval. Therefore, the local school system is not going to use TN Ready tests and scores.

Before adjourning their legislative session, state lawmakers spent hours determining how to address standardized testing glitches, then passed a bill to hold teachers harmless from the scores.



**COX**

## Dogs forced to live in car

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

A local man could face additional charges for snatching his dogs from Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center.

Julian Martinez, 19, was taken into custody Tuesday, April 24, the same day the dogs were reported missing from Animal Control. The dogs were in his possession.

"Lt. Ben Cantrell saw Martinez parked at Cleaners Express and recognized him," said Police Department Major Mike Lane. "Upon making contact, he saw the dogs in the car and recognized them from a report taken that morning. Martinez and his passenger, Samantha Brewer, were both taken into custody. They both had failure to appear warrants. Animal Control was called."

Martinez lost custody of his three dogs March 19.

According to reports, the dogs were being housed for weeks inside a Honda Civic that had a "strong odor of feces." Despite instructions that Martinez find somewhere appropriate for the dogs, leveled by



According to an arrest warrant, the three dogs were found living in a Honda Civic with a strong odor of feces.

both sheriff's deputy Tyler Glenn and Animal Control officer Deitra Kester, the frisky dogs remained in the car.

Martinez was cited, the dogs removed from the car, and a court date set for April 3. A bench warrant was issued when he failed to appear in court.

Charges are pending, said Lane, on the burglary and/or theft charges



**MARTINEZ**

at Animal Control.

"There are no charges yet," said Lane. "We are actively working with the District Attorney's Office on charges of burglary and theft regarding the removal of the dogs from Animal Control."

Additional locks and surveillance cameras are under consideration for Animal Control due to this incident.

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