

## Covenant graduation

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"Some say we ran all the boys away," joked Newby in her salutatorian speech. "I say God kept us together for a reason."

There was no shortage of reminiscing as Shelton read the senior class will and declared what the graduates would be leaving

behind for others. Among things to be left behind were the habits of coloring during class instead of taking notes, and the tendency to blow things out of proportion.

Dr. Dean Northcutt addressed those in attendance and provided a bit of history by saying the school got its start with just 12

students. He joked with the young ladies by saying, "I pity the schools that get you," before reminding them they are at the steering wheel of their future.

"Always remember, you have a choice," said Northcutt. "You have a choice to be successful or not. You have a choice to be productive or not. You have

a choice to be a winner or not."

In keeping in touch with the Christian education offered at Covenant, Northcutt closed by saying, "The Lord has promised us if you follow me, I promise you I'll make you strong. If you seek me, I'll be there. If you hear me, I will lead you."

Before handing out diplomas and declaring the girls high school graduates, headmaster Alan Smith praised them for their drive and determination and noted how much confidence they've gained over the years.

"These young ladies are who they are because of Christ and because of their

families," said Smith.

It promises to be a busy upcoming week for high school seniors as Boyd Christian School holds its graduation ceremony Thursday night at Central Church of Christ before Warren County High School has graduation Friday night at Nunley Stadium.

## Scoreboard

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WCHS athletic director Todd Willmore agreed while explaining how the scoreboard would enhance viewing at Charlie Dalton Gym.

"The video board shows replays and one of our competitors, Stone Memorial High School, got one a couple of years ago and they have raved about it," said Willmore.

However, the School Board touched on some concerns regarding the

sponsorship of the scoreboard.

"The only consideration I've thought about is that other programs might suffer if the community donates to the scoreboard instead of those sponsorships."

A representative from Sportable Scoreboard will at the School Board meeting Thursday, May 24, to answer questions and provide more details on the topic.

## Half marathon draws over 200 runners

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

Despite the discouraging downpour that occurred just hours before the Viola Valley Half Marathon on Saturday morning, over 200 runners showed up from all over America to run the hilly course.

"We have lots of local runners, but also many from places we've never had here before," said assistant race director Kevin Deason. "There is a lady from California and another lady from Hawaii who flew in to run. She's trying to run a half marathon in every state and ours fell on her calendar."

The money raised from the Viola Valley Half Marathon goes back to the community to help local residents going through a difficult time, to support Viola Valley Dogs, and to improve community buildings.

Runner Anthony Shelly, who has completed the 13.1-mile course five times already, said he's drawn to

this race because of the atmosphere, support and pretty scenery. For him, the most difficult part isn't the course, it's the travel to get to Viola.

"I live in Smyrna and I'm in a running group in Nolensville," said Shelly. "I got up at 3:30 a.m. to get ready and I like to arrive a little early."

The race course was saturated with volunteers who cheered runners on while holding posters saying things like "Toe nails are for losers" and "I'm an athletics' supporter." Many runners couldn't wait to jump through the sprinklers and get sprayed with water guns toward mile nine.

"I need four more miles. Who wants to take over?" joked one sweaty runner in passing a volunteer.

Volunteer Zane Thaxton continually filled cups at her water station while blaring "Push It" by Salt-N-Pepa in hopes the lyrics would motivate runners toward the finish. At one point, she even squatted



With some of the proceeds going toward Viola Valley Dogs, it's fitting one would join the race. Volunteer Zane Thaxton bends down to hydrate the thirsty dog at her team's water station Saturday morning.

down to hydrate a local dog that had joined the fun.

This year's top female finisher came from Nashville. Stephanie Amack finished the course in 1:33:36, while Knoxville resident Bobby Holcombe was the overall winner with a speedy time of 1:28:37.

## Shooter claims 10 lives in high school massacre

SANTA FE, TEXAS (AP) — A 17-year-old armed with a shotgun and a pistol opened fire at a Houston-area high school Friday, killing 10 people, most of them students, authorities said. It was the nation's deadliest such attack since the massacre in Florida that gave rise to a campaign by teens for gun control.

The suspected shooter, Dimitrios Pagourtzis, who was in custody on murder charges, also had explosive devices that were found in the school and nearby, said Gov. Greg Abbott, who called the assault "one of the most heinous attacks that we've ever seen in the history of Texas schools."

Investigators offered no immediate motive. The governor said the assailant intended to kill himself but gave up and told police he did not have the courage to take his own life.

The deaths were all but certain to reignite the national debate over gun regulations, coming just

three months after the Parkland, Fla., attack that killed 17 people.

"It's been happening everywhere. I've always kind of felt like that eventually it was going to happen here, too," Santa Fe High School student Paige Curry told Houston television station KTRK. "I don't know. I wasn't surprised. I was just scared."

Another 10 people were wounded at the school in Santa Fe, a city of about 13,000 people roughly 30 miles southeast of Houston, the governor said. The wounded included a school police officer who was the first to confront the suspect and got shot in the arm.

Hospitals reported treating a total of 14 people for injuries related to the shooting.

The gunman yelled "Surprise" before he started shooting, according to Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.



PAGOURTZIS



Runner Keiko Tateiwa smiles as she begins the Viola Half Marathon on Saturday. Tateiwa said her husband recommended the race and she got up at 3:30 a.m. to make it on time.

## Matheny

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Since 1993, Matheny has been preaching and in the early 2000s he also became a licensed minister. He continues to guest preach at many events.

As many people know, Matheny will be retiring after serving the community for 24 years as sheriff, making him the longest serving sheriff in Warren County. During his tenure, his department has more felony drug arrests, has housed more prisoners and served more warrants than any other sheriff in Warren County history.

"He has touched so many lives and is well-deserving

of this award," said Evening Exchange Club president Neva England.

Also during the banquet, England was recognized as the Exchange of the Year by fellow members of Evening Exchange for her hard work and heavy involvement in club programs.

"Neva has been there for every event and promoted it to its fullest," said Exchangeite Jennifer Roberts. "She has kept us up-to-date on activities and has encouraged us to do whatever we can to help."

These awards were presented by the McMinnville Evening Exchange Club on Tuesday night.

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## OBITUARIES

### Danny Joe Hickey, 61

Morrison resident and La Porte, Ind., native Danny Joe Hickey, 61, was born April 8, 1957 and died May 16 at St. Thomas River Park Hospital in McMinnville following an extended illness.

A driver for Martin Transport, a longtime Carrier employee, and a member of Rockliff Church of Christ, he was the son of the late Arthur Eugene and Buna Faye Moss Hickey. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by grandparents, Sam and Alma Hickey, and William and Siddle Moss; and several aunts and uncles.

He was married on May 16, 1987 to DeEtta Hobbs Hickey of Viola. In addition to his wife, he is survived by son, James Samuel Hickey (Cassie) of Viola; brother and sister-in-law, Donald Eugene and Brenda Hickey of Smithville; sister and brother-in-law, Pamela and Earl Stewart of Baxter; nieces and nephews, Corey Stewart and wife Alicia, Kayla Stewart, Trent Prater, Angie Prater, Dustin Prater and wife Lisa, and Hillary (Kaine) Robinson; sisters-in-law, Linda Prater of Viola, Janis Grissom and husband Tommy of Morrison, and Donna Collins and husband Rickey of Viola; and great-nieces and great-nephews, Ian, Alex, Maddie, Dalton, Kyler and Lauren.

Funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20, at High's Chapel with Bill Boyd and Keith Young officiating. Burial will follow at Viola Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. until the time of service Sunday at High's. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.  
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### Betty Jo Hillis, 84

Betty Jo Hillis, 84, of McMinnville passed from this life Thursday, May 17, at her home.

Betty was born Thursday, Sept. 7, 1933 in Carthage. She was the daughter of the late Cordell Hackett and the late Lorene Williams Hackett.

She is survived by her son Thomas Darrell Hillis, three daughters Shina Ann Thompson, Audrey Lorene Hillis, and Donna Kaye Hillis, many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, special friend Sherla Farless, two brothers Jerry Hackett and wife Beverly, Richard Hackett and wife Jean, little lap dog Carley, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband Thomas Floyd Hillis, three sons Jimmy Edward Hillis, Teddy Wayne Hillis, and Joe Douglas Hillis.

Funeral service will be 2 p.m. Sunday at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home with Richard Hackett officiating.

The family will receive friends Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Gardens of Memory Funeral Home, 415 North Chancery Street. Online condolences may be made at gardensofmemoryfuneralhome.com.

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(McMinnville, Tenn.) May 20, 2018

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