



SPORTS

County softball champs decided **1B**



The Greek Station opens at Three Star Mall **3C**

BUSINESS

SUNDAY

MAY 20, 2018

McMinnville, Tennessee

southernstandard.com

Vol. 140

No. 60



\$1.25

Southern Standard



Ladet, 41, charged with rape of child

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

A McMinnville man faces two rape charges for sexual abuse prosecutors say started when the female victim was just 13 years old.

Edward Ladet III, 41, has been indicted by the Warren County grand jury for two counts of rape, one count of sexual battery by an authority figure, and one count of continuous sexual abuse of a child, a new statute that went into effect in 2016.

Ladet remains behind bars at Warren County Jail awaiting his next court appearance, which has been set for June 6.

According to the indictments against Ladet, the abuse took place between May 15 and Nov. 15 of 2016. According to the date of birth of the alleged victim, she would have been 13 when the abuse started and turned 14 before it ended.

On the two most serious charges of rape, the indictment says, "the sexual penetration was accomplished without the consent of (the victim) and Edward Ladet III knew or had reason to know at the time of the penetration that (the victim) did not consent, constituting the offense of rape."

The alleged victim did not come forward initially. It took more than a year before she made the accusations.

"It went to the grand jury and there were indictments a month or two after she came forward," said assistant district attorney Tom Miner. "About the time the abuse was reported, Mr. Ladet went to Arkansas. He had to be extradited and brought back here."

Because Ladet was in another state, it took 57 days from the time he was indicted to the time he was booked at Warren County Jail on April 29. Ladet has family members who live in Arkansas. Miner said Ladet has not admitted guilt.

Rape is a Class B felony, punishable by eight to 12 years in prison. The other two charges are Class C felonies, which have a sentencing range of three to six years, according to Tennessee Code.

Miner says he believes it's the first time a local resident has been charged with continuous sexual abuse of a child, a new statute.



LADET



Katherine Shelton flashes a big smile as she receives her diploma from headmaster Alan Smith during Covenant Academy's graduation ceremony Friday night.

Emotional farewell

Five seniors graduate from Covenant Academy

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

Chloe Hillis couldn't fight off tears when giving her valedictorian speech Friday night at Covenant Academy.

"It's in this building where we've learned to be students, friends, teammates and so much more," said Hillis before becoming one of five graduates in Covenant's class of 2018.

It was a night to cherish for the all-female class which includes Nicolette Newby, Katherine Shelton, Crosley Smith and Kaylee Smith.

Continued on **2A**



Covenant Academy valedictorian Chloe Hillis gets emotional as she gives her speech Friday night during graduation.

Upcoming ceremonies

THURSDAY

Boyd Christian School graduation, Central Church of Christ, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY

Warren County High School graduation, Nunley Stadium, 7 p.m.

Matheny honored by Exchange Club

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

Warren County Sheriff Jackie Matheny has been honored with the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds for his countless achievements and contributions to the community.

After serving his country in the Air Force, winning the Toughman Contest and Boxing Southeastern

Regional Golden Glove Championship, Matheny returned to McMinnville to begin his career in law enforcement in 1986.

While working for McMinnville Police Department, he was wounded in the line of duty. Even so, he persisted in his career and volunteer work refusing to let his injury keep him from helping others.

Matheny says he found his calling working with the youth of Warren County and has done so in multiple

facets, including coaching and teaching. He has coached baseball, basketball and football from little league to middle school age and became the first middle school football coach.

In 1990, he began teaching the DARE program, which he did for 28 years. He's taught thousands of children to respect others and lead lives free from violence and substance abuse.

Continued on **2A**



Exchange Club president Neva England, left, stands alongside Jackie and Katie Matheny on Tuesday night. England received Exchange-ite of the Year, while Jackie Matheny was honored with the Book of Golden Deeds.

Carnival colors



The carnival at Northgate Shopping Center received a little extra color Thursday afternoon as the skies were blessed by a rainbow following a rain shower.

Seth Wright photo

School Board eyes video scoreboard for WCHS

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

High school sports enthusiasts, a SportableScoreboard may be coming to Charlie Dalton Gym at WCHS.

At a recent School Board workshop, members discussed the perks of having a video scoreboard that is paid for by advertisements at certain levels.

"It would be sponsored by businesses in the community," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "This company is the one that actually solicits the advertisements. They are the ones that go out to the business and they would provide,



The School Board is considering adding a video scoreboard to Charlie Dalton Gym similar to this one.

setup and train us on how to use the equipment."

When it comes to potential location spots for the stationary scoreboard, the

School Board discussed the option of placing it on the south wall on the left side because of the available wall space.

"Anytime you can enhance the facilities our players use on home game nights, I think it is beneficial for those players and those who are attending our games," said WCHS boys basketball coach Chris Sullens. "Whether it be a new scoreboard, bleacher upgrades and or a new sound system, any upgrade to our home gym would be a welcome addition to our team and the fans who support our student-athletes."

Continued on **2A**

THE WORKS VEHICLE CHECKUP **\$44.95**

931-668-2177 **KIDD**

kiddford.com

SYNTHETIC BLEND OIL CHANGE* • TIRE ROTATION & PRESSURE CHECK
MULTI-POINT INSPECTION • BRAKE INSPECTION • FLUID TOP-OFF
BATTERY TEST • FILTER CHECK • BELTS & HOSES INSPECTION

6 91868 37133 5