



**SPORTS**

Lady Pioneers snag a victory **1B**

E	N	V	C	L	T	P	S	B
W	A	R	M	Y	F	I	L	L
D	H	U	L	P	A	D	H	I
M	I	R	W	M	X	Z	Z	V
D	M	C	P	H	I	N	N	I
K	B	F	T	G	A	R	T	H
P	D	R	D	E	O	L	Y	C
B	A	K	E	J	W	B	C	I

**PUZZLEMANIA**

Celebrate Star Wars Day with a word search **7A**

**FRIDAY**  
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# Southern Standard

## Fire destroys home



Fire destroyed a house at 1823 John Oliver Road on Wednesday. North Warren Volunteer Department responded to the scene. Fire Chief Rami Roberts said the cause of the fire is unknown and no one was home at the time. The home is owned by Coletta Hendrix.

Lisa Hobbs photo

## Murder trial delayed by mental issues

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

Prosecutors say they won't have any trouble placing the gun in the hand of accused killer Michael Cody Mills, 28. Mental health issues are what's delaying his trial on first-degree murder.

The jury trial for Mills, originally scheduled this month, is now on the docket for three days in early 2019, Jan. 29-31.

Mills has been charged for the shooting death of Bobby Ashburn, 43, in April 2017.

"The defense has an expert who plans to testify about his mindset and whether there could have been premeditation," said District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis. "We're going to conduct a mental

health evaluation of our own."

Asked whether the prosecution will be able to place the gun in Mills' hand at the time of the shooting, Zavogiannis said, "That's not a problem."

The shooting took place outside a home on Cherry Springs Road in rural Centertown. Prosecutors contend Mills hit Ashburn with four gunshots from a 45-caliber pistol.

During preliminary hearing, Angela Pack said she and Ashburn, her fiancé, went to the home to check on Ashburn's daughter, Hannah Ashburn. Pack said everything was calm and they shook hands with Mills before engaging in conversation.



**MILLS**

Continued on **3A**

# BACK TO THE 80's

## Play provides blast from past

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

Leg warmers and cassette tapes. Pacman and The J. Geils Band.

If you want to electric slide back in time, check out the Warren Arts production of the musical "Back to the '80s," which has three showings this weekend on Red Road.

"It's a very fun show with a lot of music and a lot of dance," said Rob Nunley, who is co-directing the play with Marc Pyburn. "Everything in it has a tie to the '80s, right down to the names of the characters. The kids in the play don't know a lot of the references because they didn't grow up watching 'The A-Team' and 'Alf,' but there's a good

chance their parents get it. If you grew up in the '80s, you probably know every one of these songs."

Catchy tunes highlight the production with songs such as "Centerfold," "You Give Love a Bad Name," "Mickey," "Love Shack," and "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" among the hit list. To add extra flair, a live band performs the songs on one corner of the stage while actors sing and dance.

The play stars Colton Smith as Michael Feldman, the coolest kid at Wang Chung High School. The other leads are Allie Dixon as Tiffany Houston, Jaeden Pyburn as Corey Palmer Jr., and Jana Denning as Eileen Reagan.

Continued on **5A**



James Clark photo

Class nerd Feargal McFerrin, played by Carter Cantrell, uses the crane technique in an effort to exact revenge after getting punched in the face by Michael Feldman, played by Colton Smith. The scene, originally in "The Karate Kid," is perhaps the most iconic movie scene of the 1980s.

# Problem poles coming down to clear sidewalks

Lisa Hobbs photo

Some of the utility poles located in the sidewalk on Morford Street are on their way out. McMinnville Electric System will be moving the ones they own this summer. The project is for ADA compliance.



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

McMinnville Electric System is stepping up and taking down problem utility poles that could prevent city government from becoming ADA compliant with sidewalks.

"We have counted and there are about 20 poles we have in sidewalks that we need to move out," said MES general manager and CEO Rodney Boyd. "We are in the process of relocating those poles this summer. We are going to be working toward doing that to clear the sidewalks in McMinnville."

Bringing the issue to light is a state push to bring all local governments into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act before 2020. If not, the Tennessee Department of Transportation can withhold gasoline tax given to those governments.

For the city of McMinnville, compliance includes sidewalks. ADA sidewalk requirements mandate a minimum width of 4 feet be provided in all cases.

"Not all of those poles belong to McMinnville Electric System," said Boyd. "We've been hammered about several poles here in town and we don't own them. They aren't

our responsibility. We can't make whomever owns them move them."

The poles across from the MES office on Morford Street do belong to MES. Boyd said they held off on relocating those poles because the Downtown Economic Revitalization Project phase three would have required all utility lines to be placed underground.

"Let's do phase three," said Boyd. "That's why those poles are still on the sidewalks, because we were waiting on phase three to happen. If phase three happens and we put all that underground, then the rest of our city looks as pretty

as our downtown does."

The overall downtown renovation project was to be done in three phases. Phase one, the renovation of Main Street, was complete in early 2006. Morford Street, from Sparta Street to the Chancery Street intersection, was phase two. That was complete in late 2011.

Phase three, which would have extended the project down Morford Street to the intersection at Hardee's, was put on hold while the city attempted to find a grant.

Urging the city to move forward with phase three took place during a Joint Economic and Community Development Board meeting.

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