



SPORTS
Jennings wins Hilda Lowry Memorial Award **1B**



LIFESTYLES
Relay for Life moves to Main Street **4B**

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Southern Standard

Can county workers take narcotics on job?

Commissioners wonder about 'gray area'

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

Legal counsel could be asked to review Warren County government's employee policy regarding narcotic prescription drug use.

The county Safety Committee will be taking a hard look at a policy that could allow EMS employees to work while taking prescription medication that

might diminish their ability to perform their job responsibilities.

According to Commissioner Ron Lee, there's a gray area in the department's policy manual that needs to be more black and white.

"There is a gray in our policy that I think we need to deal with," said Lee. "If we have an



LEE

employee who has stubbed their toe and they're given a prescription for oxycodone or hydrocodone, whatever it is, and if he comes in with a script and he can have it, he shouldn't be driving our ambulances and he shouldn't be working on our patients."

Commissioner Carl D. Bouladin asked if that

situation exists within the EMS Department, an inquiry Lee did not answer.

None of the members had a policy manual on hand, but Lee insisted a "gray area" exists within it that would allow an EMS employee to continue working even if they were taking a narcotic medication, as long as it was prescribed by a doctor.

Bouladin added, "If you are in enough pain you have to take pain medication, you don't need to be at work."

"Amen," said Lee, who added an employee prescribed narcotic

medication should be placed on leave while they are taking it and only allowed to return when they can pass a drug test.

Commissioner Teddy Boyd stated any change would have to be instituted for all county departments and not exclusive to EMS.

Committee members will meet with EMS director Preston Denney, who was not present, to review the policy and if needed, ask legal counsel for consideration.

Any change in employee policy will require full Warren County Commission approval.



STEWART

Covenant gets new headmaster

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

For recent graduates, it's time for a new beginning. For Covenant Academy, it's also time for a new beginning as Kelly Stewart has been named the school's new headmaster.

Her first day was June 1.

"Covenant Academy has a great curriculum and the school has experienced growth through the years," said Stewart. "I want to continue what's been started and that's combine a Christian environment with challenging academics."

Stewart is a Warren County native with over 15 years of teaching experience with the Warren County School System. She holds an EdS degree in curriculum and instruction from MTSU, and a master's degree in administration.

Kelly is married with three daughters. Two are students at Covenant Academy. She has been a Covenant Academy parent for nearly six years.

Continued on 5A

PREMIERE AT THE PARK



Lucy Hartselle and Luke Nafrada embrace on Main Street during filming for "Until the End." A red carpet premiere for the PG-13 film has been set for Saturday, June 16, with tickets currently on sale.

Taylor's first film to make debut June 16

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

The red carpet will be rolled out at the Park Theater next weekend for the premiere of a film written and directed by McMinnville resident Logan Taylor.

"Until the End" will make its debut next Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m.

"There will be a red carpet, literally, special refreshments and a Q&A with some of the actors," said Taylor. "We're so pumped and excited about this premiere. This is the first film I've ever done and it won't be the last."

A number of local residents landed roles, including Luke Nafrada, who is the co-star. The film also features Cassidy Prater, Nolan Ming, Dr. Doug Haynes, and members of the Warren County Sheriff's Department.

Continued on 5A

Change of clothes doesn't fool police



SHANNON

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

A man who darted inside Walmart and reportedly changed clothes in an effort to avoid police was arrested after being spotted at the self-checkout.

Tyler David Shannon, 28, was arrested after an early morning run from the law on foot last Thursday. Also arrested inside Walmart was Katie Lavere Edmonson, 42.

Continued on 3A



YSI begins

Lacy Garrison photo
Hickory Creek student Collins Blalock blows a bubble while West Elementary student Cody Walker watches during YSI at the science center in Morrison. This is the first week of YSI with around 300 students participating in learning activities.



Over 90 percent of plastic isn't recycled, which is causing a global environmental problem, according to the United Nations.

Isha pushes against plastic

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

How many times do you grab a cold drink, gulp it down, then toss the plastic bottle in the trash?

In recognizing World Environment Day on Tuesday, the United Nations continued its support for a ban on disposable plastics, a push that was echoed here in Warren County by officials at Isha atop Harrison Ferry Mountain.

Isha founder Sadhguru says to bring about change, it is essential to build a global awareness about plastic pollution and

generate a more responsible human population.

"If we continue with our plastic habits, oceans will have more plastic than fish by 2050," Sadhguru said.

The UN notes that by some estimates, as many as 5 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year.

In order to reduce plastic waste, Isha has stopped using single-use disposable plastic at its North American centers. Those facilities cater an average of 80,000 meals per year.

Isha advocates using stainless steel and copper bottles and only recyclable No. 1 or No. 2 plastics if necessary.

When it comes to global plastic pollution, Isha notes:

- Each year, at least 13 million tons of plastic ends up in oceans, the equivalent of a full garbage truck every minute. This smothers coral reefs and threatens vulnerable marine wildlife.
- 90 percent of bottled water is found to contain plastic particles
- 83 percent of tap water is found to contain plastic particles.
- 50 percent of the plastic we use is single-use or disposable.
- 10 percent of all human-generated waste is plastic.
- 91 percent of plastic isn't recycled.

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