



SPORTS

Swim team
starts season **1B**



LIFESTYLES

Black House
holds fish fry **1C**

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Three men charged with armed robbery at hotel

Suspect's wallet, phone left behind

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

Three men have been charged with armed robbery after victimizing guests at a local hotel Saturday night.

The fact one of the suspects dropped his wallet and cellphone at the scene aided police investigators.

Robert Nathan Ghrist, 29, along with brothers Matthew Justin Collins, 25, and Lucas Ray Collins, 22,

have all three been charged with aggravated robbery for the incident at America's Best Value Inn on Sunnyside Heights.

According to the warrants for their arrest, the three began to stage the robbery Saturday afternoon when Ghrist made contact with a friend who was staying at the hotel. Ghrist reportedly stopped by his friend's room in the afternoon before returning around 8 p.m. that same night.



GHRIST



M. COLLINS



L. COLLINS

"He was acting strangely according to the occupants and very shortly after arrival asked where a Coke machine was and opened the door to get one," the arrest warrant reads. "When Ghrist opened the door, two other men, Matthew Justin

Collins and Lucas Ray Collins rushed into the room while Ghrist re-entered."

The three demanded money from the one male and two female occupants of the room.

Continued on **2A**



David Buck is the driver for Schneider's Ride of Pride truck, which will be appearing at Fairview CIC on Saturday, June 23. Buck is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Ride of Pride to appear at Fairview CIC

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

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

For a schedule of events for Fairview's celebration, see **page 5A**. Schedules for other community celebrations are being accepted now.

Patriotic pride will barrel into Fairview like an 18-wheeler later this month when the community holds its annual Independence Day celebration.

Schneider's Ride of Pride truck will be on hand Saturday, June 23, from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Fairview Community Center. It's driven by military veteran David Buck.

Ride of Pride will be the centerpiece of Fairview's annual Independence Day celebration, which is always held before July 4. This year the celebration has been moved one Saturday earlier because that was the only scheduling slot the Ride of Pride had available.

"I've seen this literally bring a man to tears in 2011 because of the memories it brought," said Sandra Green, who spearheaded efforts to bring Ride of Pride to Fairview. "This has 15 memorials on it and it's very beautiful and emotional."

Memorials depicted on the side of the truck include Arlington National

Cemetery, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, and Korean War Veterans Memorial.

Green said the success of the Huey helicopter at Fairview last year is what stirred her enthusiasm to bring another military tribute this year. She said she began working on the project in January.

"This is something to try and top the Huey helicopter and I think we did it," said Green. "I want to give a big thanks to McMinnville Police Department because one of the requirements is the Ride of Pride must be in a secure location overnight and we have been given permission to use their police pickup."

Continued on **5A**



Lacy Garrison photo

After reading "I Got Rhythm," students used paper plates, paint sticks and rubber bands to create string instruments of their own. Second-grader Landon Knight strums his completed banjo while Savannah Ray adds details to hers. For story, see page 6A.

Top-secret projects continue to develop

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

In an attempt to protect the identity of potential projects, the Tourism Development Board continues using code names while giving updates on prospective property developments.

Tourism Development Board member Mandy Eller gave a brief update on Project Post during Monday's meeting at the Chamber. Project Post could be a reference to VFW Post 5064, a building on Sparta Highway that's been on the market for a couple years.

"Chris, the VP over all fishing, is actually going to be working out of town so we may have to have a teleconference to move forward on that project," said Eller to the other members. "He seemed very positive and Todd said he would love to have a building on that property so he could bring his manufacturing facility to that building and have it open for tours."

Added board member Michael Griffith, "If Todd was looking at doing a manufacturing facility, I wouldn't care to see if they wanted to do a joint venture, which

would help us digest another project a lot quicker. No one else is even remotely interested in this property."

Several board members mentioned the full parking lot of the VFW before Griffith asked if they'd been hearing a lot of push back from the \$5 charge per boat. Several members responded they'd received negative feedback even though Smooth Rapids charges the same amount for river access.



ELLER

"Some conversations I had with the fishermen during the Hardly Strictly Musky Tournament in their criticisms of paddlers, one of the things they said was 'we pay to be here for access, yet we go to get in the water and it takes 30 minutes for kayakers to get their stuff together and get out of the way.'"

As an avid kayaker, Griffith said that he had a conversation recently with Judd Matheny, who is a big paddler as well. Griffith is a proponent for the State of Tennessee to implement what the U.S. Fire Service does, which would be an annual tag displayed by paddlers on their life jackets.

Continued on **5A**



Lisa Hobbs photo

Viola's annual tractor pull is this Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Viola Volunteer Fire Department.

Viola Tractor Pull Saturday

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

The quiet town of Viola is about to get loud with the arrival of trucks, tractors and a sled they'll be pulling.

Rumble in the Valley Truck and Tractor Pull arrives this Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m. Proceeds benefit Viola Volunteer Fire Department. Adult tickets are \$10. Admission for children 6-12 years old is \$5, while children 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets are

available at the gate only.

"We appreciate everyone coming out and supporting us," said Russell Clayborne, captain of the fire department, who says money raised will go into the general fund to purchase equipment or meet grant requirements. "We're always looking for grants to update our equipment and purchase the things we need. However, most of those grants require a match. Usually, it's 10 percent."

Continued on **2A**

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