



Gary Steele Karate
advances to finals **1B**



ENTERTAINMENT

'Jurassic World 2' leans
on nostalgia **4C**

FRIDAY
JUNE 22, 2018
McMinnville, Tennessee
southernstandard.com
Vol. 140
No. 74 **75¢**

Southern Standard



The Highway Patrol investigates the crash scene Wednesday morning on Highway 56 where a Dodge Durango rammed the back of a John Deere tractor driven by Garry Wayne Grissom.



Lisa Hobbs photo
Warren County's Codes Department has attempted to get debris removed from property in the Irving College area. The failed attempt prompted the first meeting of the county's committee to consider unresolved issues.

Property maintenance under dispute

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

A dispute over debris and tall grass intensified Monday during the inaugural meeting of the county's Hearing Panel for Overgrown Vegetation.

The gathering was called to address an unresolved overgrowth vegetation complaint issued by Warren County Codes/Environmental Department director Richard Thompson to property owner Christine Hill, who owns land at the intersection of Hill Road and Beersheba Highway in Irving College.

Thompson says he inspected the property prior to the meeting and no noticeable changes have been made despite his notice to the owner the property is in violation of current county code pertaining to overgrown vegetation and debris.

"I've been there two more times since the original complaint, May 31 and today. From the road, I couldn't see any changes," said Thompson.

Representing Hill at the meeting was her daughter and son-in-law, Pam and Tex Perry.

"There have been changes," said Tex. Pam added, "The debris has been moved over to one side."

The couple complained the county is targeting them while ignoring other properties that are in violation.

"My question is about the vegetation and overgrowth. Is there a law on the books?" asked Pam. "If there is, why doesn't it apply to everybody?"

Thompson stated, "It applies to everyone."

"There's property across the road," she said. "All along Beersheba Highway there are homes that have burnt. There's a home that a man lives in and it's so grown up that you can't even see his home. If it applies to us, why does it not apply to everyone?"

Thompson explained he investigates complaints only and being a one-man department, he does not have the ability to police Warren County for violations.

"If you enforced that law to every piece of property which is in violation, it would probably take a department of 20 people," said Commissioner Tommy Savage, who is one of three committee members. A tornado ripped through the area in early 2017 and damaged the property.

"We were hit by a tornado and received no county assistance whatsoever," said Pam.

Continued on **5A**

SUV rear-ends tractor

Nursery worker airlifted

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

A nursery worker was airlifted Wednesday morning in Irving College when the tractor he was driving was hit from behind by an SUV on Beersheba Highway.

Garry Wayne Grissom, 65, was transported to Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga for injuries sustained in the 7:30 a.m. crash.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Grissom was driving a John Deere 790 tractor on Highway 56 near Summerview Lane. He was traveling toward McMinnville and pulling a heavy duty tiller.

His tractor was hit from behind by a 2004 Dodge Durango driven by Maria Hernandez, 28, who had two small children in her SUV. She was traveling in the same direction as the tractor, but going much faster. There is no evidence she hit her brakes before impact.

"She said she never saw him and ran right into the back of the tractor," said state trooper Joe VanBommel. "He was thrown from the tractor and that's what caused some of his injuries."

Hernandez had recently topped a hill, but VanBommel said she still had ample time and distance to react before making contact with the tractor.

"I checked her cellphone and there's no evidence of cellphone use around the time of the crash," said VanBommel. "It doesn't appear drugs or alcohol were involved either so I don't know why she didn't see him."

Hernandez received two citations, one for failure to exercise due care and another for no driver license. VanBommel said she did have a valid driver license at one point, but didn't get it properly reinstated after issues.

Grissom remained hospitalized Thursday for rib, lung, arm and head injuries.

Hernandez and her two children escaped injury.



It's estimated Garry Wayne Grissom flew at least 20 feet from the driver's seat of this tractor. He suffered a number of injuries and remains hospitalized.

Alleged drug dealer receives ill-timed text

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

A suspected drug dealer who received a text message about drug sales as a police officer was handling his cellphone was arrested Tuesday and faces six charges.

Cody J. Elkins, 25, has been charged with delivery of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of meth, possession of hydrocodone, unlawful possession of a weapon, and tampering with evidence.

According to McMinnville Police

Department, officers were monitoring drug activity at 121 Seitz Street and had also received reports a person with an active warrant was staying at that address.

Jesse L. Cates, 28, was found at the residence and arrested on an unrelated warrant from Moore County. As officers arrived, Elkins went out the back door in an effort to escape, but an officer was waiting for him there.

Elkins reportedly reached in his



ELKINS

pocket and threw out a bag that contained a substance believed to be meth. A search of his person revealed a bag with three pills believed to be hydrocodone and approximately \$4,400 in cash.

Elkins granted permission to search his room and two handguns were found along with vacuum-sealed zip lock bags, a vacuum sealer, a scale, and vacuum-sealed

bags with marijuana residue.

Continued on **3A**

County has first unclaimed body

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

Warren County Temporary Morgue has its first unclaimed body that will be cremated at county expense.

County government has a contract with Manchester Funeral Home for the cremation of any unclaimed deceased individuals, an agreement that has not been used yet.

"We have one right now," said Warren County EMS director Preston

Denney of the deceased individual no one has claimed. "This is the first time I have had to use them in last 2.5 years."

An agreement between local government and the out-of-town business is specifically for cremation services.

The full Warren County Commission unanimously reapproved a one-year contract that will extend the agreement until June 30, 2019.

Continued on **2A**

Free banana splits today



Yum! The Southern Standard will be offering free banana splits Friday at our office at 105 College Street from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

What's even better than a banana split? A free banana split!

Stop by the Southern Standard office today from 1 to 3:30 p.m. for your free banana split and your chance to win other fabulous prizes like a gas grill, a cooler, and an ice cream maker.

It's all part of our customer appreciation day to kick off the official start of summer with a cool treat and a discount subscription price on Warren County's hometown newspaper.

You can get a one-year

subscription to the Standard for just 45 cents an issue. That's less than the price of a stamp.

A quick Google search reveals there aren't many items you can buy for 45 cents, not even one of those tiny bags of potato chips that will never come close to filling you up.

But you can fill up your mind with knowledge and stay up to date on local events with a subscription to the Standard. Paying subscribers also get a password that provides full access to our website.

THE WORKS
VEHICLE CHECKUP

\$44.95

931-668-2177
kiddford.com

KIDD

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

*5-QUARTS

