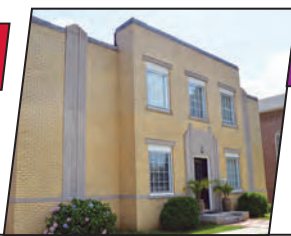




SPORTS

Pioneers begin scrimmages **1B**



LIFESTYLES

Medical Clinic building has rich history **4B**

WEDNESDAY

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Southern Standard



Motorcyclist, 21, killed in crash

Former sheriff driving other vehicle

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

A former Warren County Sheriff has been cited for a fatal motorcycle accident Saturday afternoon that claimed the life of a 21-year-old.

Jay Alan Webster of Morrison died from his injuries at Saint Thomas River Park, according to McMinnville Police Department.

Former Warren County Sheriff Kenny Taylor, 69, was cited for failure to yield. An investigation into the wreck continues with assistance from the Tennessee Highway Patrol and District Attorney's office.

The crash took place Saturday around 4 p.m. at the intersection of Colville and Depot streets in downtown McMinnville. Taylor was crossing Colville heading north, up the hill, in a 2016

Toyota SUV when he pulled into the path of a 1987 Harley Davidson motorcycle driven by Webster, who was heading east on Colville, toward Mt. Leo.

Taylor was reportedly not injured.

McMinnville Police Chief Bryan Denton said blood samples were taken from Taylor and the victim, per department policy, and those samples will be analyzed by the TBI. He said

dozens of photos were taken from the crash scene and the road was marked to assist in the investigation.

"We have our own trained reconstructionists and the THP has a crash team its sending down later this week and we feel pretty confident we can reenact the scene and find out what happened," said Denton. "Right now were are in a fact-finding mode. We're going to get all the facts, see what the



WEBSTER

toxicology reports show, and work with the District Attorney's office to make a determination from there."

Taylor was elected Warren County Sheriff in 1986 and served three years before resigning in 1989.

It marks the third fatality on a Warren County road this year and the second involving a motorcycle.

Obituary information for Mr. Webster is on page 2A.



JIMMY HALEY



RAY HIXSON



TERRY BELL

County executive candidates face off

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

Three candidates for Warren County Executive all seem pleased with the county's low tax rate, which has gone 15 years without an increase.

Some critics say keeping the tax rate unchanged is not a positive because it doesn't allow for growth and "progress," but the candidates at the Southern Standard/WCPI forum Monday night don't subscribe to that logic.

"Tax increases are not always a way to fix a budget," said Jimmy Haley, who is looking to transition from McMinnville mayor to county executive. "If you study the budget, you understand about growing revenue through other sources and how a take hike is not always the answer. We grow tourism initiatives. We grow better jobs. When you become more fiscally responsible and you cut out waste, there's always ways to increase revenues without putting a tax burden on our citizens."

Terry Bell has been one of the biggest supporters of keeping Warren County's tax rate unchanged during his 16 years on the commission, which includes being chair of the Budget and Finance

Committee.

"I think that's a positive thing for Warren County," said Bell when asked about the 15-year streak. "It should be one of our best recruitment tools. We're bringing in a new hotel and one of the first things the owner wanted was a reduction in property taxes. So he will bring in jobs and bring in growth and in return we'll have the sales tax revenue, the hotel tax money and other things to spend so I think it is a good thing."

Ray Hixson is using the credentials he's established during a successful business career to encourage voters to consider him for the county executive job. He says low taxes are definitely a benefit.

"I think it's a great thing and I'd love to keep it that way for another 15 years," said Hixson. "We can't guarantee that by any means, but we can increase revenue in other ways by better paying jobs. If keeping the taxes lower draws these people in to do business and makes them happy to be in Warren County then we won't be raising the taxes because we'll have revenue from that so I'm very happy to say we haven't raised taxes. I think if we can eliminate anything that's wasteful, we can keep it that way."

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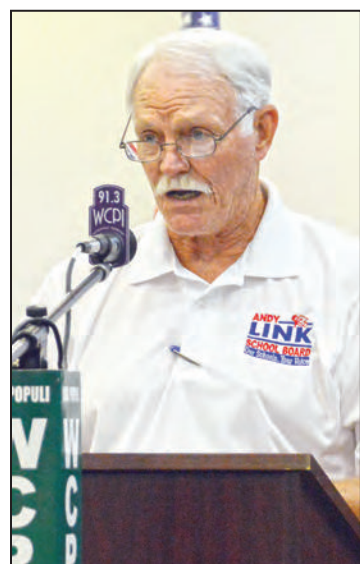
Slippery slope



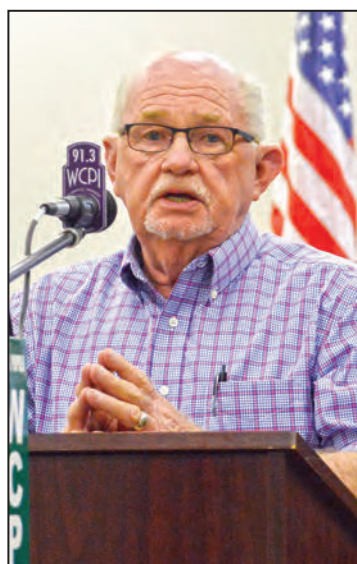
James Clark photo

Members of the First Baptist Church youth group work to beat the heat by transforming the hill outside their church into a giant water slide. Aaron Templeton, 11, uses a pool float to add velocity to his trip down the hill, making it almost like a water park ride.

School Board race gets testy



ANDY LINK



JAMES BENNETT

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

It got testy Monday night in the race for the 1st District School Board seat with challenger Andy Link claiming a conflict of interest exists with current School Board member James Bennett and his wife.

The comments were made during a Southern Standard/WCPI political forum held at Warren County Administrative Offices.

"The wife of current board member James Bennett is Dr. Courtney Bennett and she holds the director-appointed position of administrator of adult education/ annex director,"

said Link. "I am not questioning the success or qualifications of Dr. Bennett. I am only expressing what seems to be a conflict of interest. The School Board members hire the director. The director hires a board member's wife. The School Board member then votes on anything that can impact or benefit his wife's job."

When it was his time to speak, Bennett didn't shy away from addressing the situation with his wife.

"My opponent has referred to me as getting my wife a job, which is incorrect," said Bennett. "What my opponent didn't tell you was this job was offered to another person in the system three times and they

turned it down. The situation of the job was opened up. Mr. Jimmy Walker, the principal of Warren County High School, did an application process. She was selected from that application process. The night that she was transferred from Warren County High School as a behavior teacher over the behavior program, I was not at the board meeting. I had nothing to do with that whatsoever. That's not a conflict of interest to me because in a small, rural community like this, we all have people who are relatives in some manner."

Mr. Bennett then leveled some claims of his own.

Continued on **2A**

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