

Blaine Wilcher wants another term to continue progress

My name is Blaine Wilcher. I'm a lifelong resident of Warren County and a graduate of WCHS and Motlow. I'm married to Lorie Pack Wilcher and have three daughters, Lindsay Wilcher Mooneyhan, Kelsey Wilcher and Zoe Wilcher. I have one son-in-law, Michael Mooneyhan.

I have been a member of Dayspring Community Church for over 30 years and have served in many areas including the Youth Group, Sunday school and the Board of Elders.

Like many of you, I work outside Warren County. After working at Nissan, in both Smyrna and Decherd, for 15 years, I took a position as quality manager at Crane Interiors, Inc. in Woodbury. This allows me more time with my family and the opportunity to be more involved and make a positive

impact in my community.

In 2010, I broke the tradition of "not being able to be elected as a Republican." Since that time, I have enjoyed representing the 4th District on the Warren County Commission. I have always worked with other commissioners from all parties to conduct the county's business ethically while being financially responsible. I have voted to keep our taxes low, while providing funds for several new school expansions and improvements, county employee and teacher raises and bonuses, road improvements including two Veteran bridge dedications, Health Department additions and upgrades, and on and on.



WILCHER

Perhaps the most important area I have been involved with is Animal Control. I have been on that committee for both terms and have worked with others to improve the facility in many ways. Some of those changes include the mandatory spay and neuter policy, the sick room addition, the name change that added "Adoption" to reflect our incredible adoption rate and promote it even more and the new Circle Drive.

I was told over two years ago the circle drive wouldn't happen. I didn't give up and continued to bring it up and pushed for it until we were able to get it approved. This involved working with several departments

including the Highway Department, Building and Grounds, Budget and Finance and the public that supported it through fundraising and awareness.

As the county's representative for Families in Crisis, I have helped organize a car show for the past seven years that benefits the organization. I hold a monthly cruise-in for Kids of the Community, in my district, at Three Star Mall. I have also represented the commission on the Main Street McMinnville Committee.

I believe it is my responsibility, as your commissioner, to set a good example for our hometown and counties all over our state. My theme has always been, and will continue to be, Common Sense Government. Please give me the opportunity to serve you more! I ask for your vote and support during this election.

New armory to triple in size once construction complete

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

Design will begin this fall and construction is expected to start in late 2020 for a new National Guard Armory in Warren County.

The project was approved last week by the Tennessee State Building Commission and more details were made available to the *Southern Standard* this week.

Soldiers will have more than three times the space when the new armory is complete. The current armory, built in 1957, is 11,200 square feet. The new armory is projected to be 35,000 square feet.

It will include all necessary parking spaces for personnel and tactical equipment and modern vehicle maintenance bays. Soldiers will be able to conduct home-station training in classrooms and other spaces specially designed to support the latest requirements.

"McMinnville and Warren County deserve a modernized National Guard Armory to support the soldiers assigned to Troop F, 2/278 ACR," said Major Gen. Max Haston, Tennessee's Adjutant General. "It has taken quite an effort to navigate through the bureaucracy of military construction, but I feel our team has been suc-

cessful, even to the point of getting the new armory 100 percent federally funded. I am always excited when Tennessee obtains resources for new facilities, but I am especially proud Warren County will have a long-overdue armory to replace the one built the year I was born."

Funding for armories have typically been 75 percent federal and 25 percent state, while the local government provides the property. Land for the armory was purchased in June 2011 on Highway 55 adjacent to Kidd Ford. The county bought 23.3 acres and then decided that to the state in September 2011.

"I had the honor to command the McMinnville unit in the mid-'80s and the building was showing its age then," said Major (retired) Randy Harris, director of Joint Public Affairs for the Military Department. "I'm glad to see the Soldiers of F Troop and the McMinnville community get this new state-of-the-art facility. No one deserves it more."

Energy-efficient equipment and other green features will help keep future operating costs down. The surrounding community will benefit from knowing the Tennessee National Guard will remain a fixture in Warren County for generations to come.

Endangered Species safeguards could change

DENVER (AP) — The Trump administration on Thursday proposed ending automatic protections for threatened animals and plants and limiting habitat safeguards meant to shield recovering species from harm.

Administration officials said the new rules would advance conservation by simplifying and improving how the landmark Endangered Species Act is used.

"These rules will be very protective," said U.S. Interior Department Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, adding that the changes would reduce the "conflict and uncertainty" associated with many protected species.

The proposals drew immediate condemnation from Democrats and

some wildlife advocates.

Critics said the moves would speed extinctions in the name of furthering its anti-environment agenda. Species currently under consideration for protections are considered especially at risk, including the North American wolverine and the monarch butterfly, they said.

"It essentially turns every listing of a species into a negotiation," said Noah Greenwald with the Center for Biological Diversity. "They could decide that building in a species' habitat or logging in trees where birds nest doesn't constitute harm."

A number of conflicts have arisen in the decades since the 1973 passage of the Endangered Species

Act, ranging from disruptions to logging to protect spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest, to attacks on livestock that have accompanied the restoration of gray wolves in the Rocky Mountains and upper Midwest.

Some species including gray wolves and grizzly retained protection for years after meeting their original recovery goals, often due to court orders resulting from environmentalists' lawsuits.

The proposed changes include potential limits on the designation of "critical habitat" for imperiled plants and animals; an end to a regulatory provision that gives threatened plants and animals the same protections as species at greater risk of extinction; and

streamlining inter-agency consultations when federal government actions could jeopardize a species.

Collin O'Mara, president of the National Wildlife Federation, welcomed the potential for the changes to spur greater collaboration between landowners, government officials and conservationists — even as he cautioned against ending automatic protections for threatened species.

Recycling

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If the city met the 33 percent threshold as a successful recycler, the cost savings of not placing that into a landfill would be approximately \$147,458.

Hennessee said there are still other decisions to be made.

"There are what I consider significant unknown factors at this point in recycling for us," said Hennessee. "One is who sorts it? Does the city go into that business or do we turn that over to someone like McMinnville Green? Second, then what would the arrangement be? Would we dump it and they bail it and sell it and they get the money or does the city get part of that money in return? That information is needed before we can figure out whether its break even, a money maker, or a cost."

Alderman Everett Brock stated he would give the items collected away, if the city could recoup the cost for the day-to-day operations after the initial startup expense in order to keep those items out of the landfill.

Hennessee added, "At this point, all we can give is the equipment needs and the anticipated labor

cost because there is not an agreement in place to determine the other numbers. If McMinnville Green comes to us and says it can take plastics, glass and cardboard right now, we could develop numbers based off that. We just don't know what the cost would be."

The measure was discussed only. No decision has been made.

VETERANS CORNER

Southern Standard

AMERICAN LEGION POST 173
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Highway in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 pm for dinner with the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @post173 to stay up to date on all American Legion activities.
New Post address is: American Legion Post 173, P.O. Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111. The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the same time.

THE BOBBY RAY DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the third Thursday of each month at the Warren County Administrative Building (201 Locust Street) in the Magnolia Room. Doors open at 1800 and the meeting starts at 1830. All members are encouraged to attend. Navy FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains who served with the marines are invited to attend. For more information call 931-934-5619.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER (POST 173)
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the third Saturday each month at Gondola Restaurant (305 Mullican St. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 9:00am for breakfast and the meeting will follow at 10:00am. We will ride after the meeting. We are looking for new members. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ American Legion Riders Chapter Post 173 McMinnville. For information please contact Director John A. Davis at American Legion Rider Chapter Post 173, PO Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, ROYCE DAVENPORT CHAPTER 1112
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Billy's restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, with meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members will need to bring copy of DD Form 214 to verify service and join. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ VVA1112 to stay up to date on all VVA and AVVA activities.

Associate Vietnam Veterans of America, Royce Davenport Chapter 1112
Meeting is the same time and place as the VVA (see above). Anyone can be a member. There is no requirement to be related to a Veteran in anyway, however Veterans can also join. Please come and join our organization. Royce Davenport Chapter 1112 will again be collecting non-perishable items for the Warren County Emergency Food Bank during the Main Street Live Concert Series on Friday nights starting June 9, 2017 and continuing through the series. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5064
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at the VFW Post Home (3340 Sparta Highway) at 7:00 pm. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. Call 931-668-8392 for more information. **The VFW Auxiliary meets at the same time.**

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ELECT

WILLIAM M. HASLACKER

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County Commissioner

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U.S. Navy Vietnam Veteran

Retired GM-UAW

Lives on Harrison Ferry Mountain

wmhaslacker@yahoo.com | 931.743.9688

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VERVILLA PICNIC

The annual Vervilla Picnic for the upkeep of Bascom Cemetery

Saturday, July 21, 2018

Schedule of Activities:

Memorial Service (Speaker - Joey Jacobs)	11:00
Games	1:30-3:00
Cake Walk	4:00-5:30
Parade of Antique Vehicles & Tractors	5:30-6:30
Auction	6:30pm
Fireworks	Immediately Following

Concessions available throughout the day.
Request handmade items for the auction and Baked goods for the Cake Walk.

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27411

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