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Storm rips through county

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

Trees were toppled throughout the county after a high-wind storm pounded the area early Saturday morning.

Road Superintendent Levie Glenn said two crews began working around 4 a.m. Saturday to clear fallen trees from across roads.

"There were several locations all over the county where there were trees blocking the road," said Glenn. "We first try to con-

centrate on roads where there's only one way out. There was a group that spent the night at Cumberland Caverns and they couldn't get out because a tree had fallen across the road up there. We try to get to those places first."

Glenn said the Highway Department responded to calls all over Warren County from Dibrell to Irving College. Calls continued to be heard over the scanner for most of Saturday morning to clear trees which blocked, or partially blocked, roadways.

"Some residents helped us out with some of the smaller trees," said Glenn. "Our focus at this stage was getting the trees off the road. We'll come back and pick up the brush that's piled up later on if people are concerned about it being in their yard."

In the city, McMinnville Public Works assistant director Brad Hennessee said crews cleared trees across Westwood 6th Avenue and Myers Lane. A tree limb fell and hit the side of a house in the Westwood area on Sioux Trail.



A tree fell and hit the roof of this house on Sioux Trail in Westwood.

A real life-saver



Lisa Hobbs photo

Warren County EMS employee Lynn Miller is retiring after almost three decades of offering emergency medical assistance to people in need. He's now responding to a call for leisure time.

Miller retiring from EMS

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

Lynn Miller began his career at Warren County EMS in March 1991 and has been a life-saver.

"I started out as a dispatcher," said Miller. "Then, the 911 center started up. Leonard Madewell gave me a choice: Go to school or go to the 911 center. I didn't want to go to dispatch so I went to school. I've been riding the truck ever since."

He will officially retire Aug. 2, but his last day on the job as an advanced emergency medical technician is this Monday, July 23.

A man who's spent the majority of his adult life helping save the lives of others found his own reason to continue in the profession in 2011.

"That's McKenzie Reeder," said Miller, who became emotional when he was shown a picture of him with the 11-year-

old in 2011. "McKenzie has been my saving grace."

The two meet under the worst conditions imaginable. McKenzie's family was involved in an automobile accident July 4, 2011. Her father and stepmother were killed when their vehicle collided with another vehicle on Shelbyville Road.

McKenzie, along with six others, were injured. She was among five airlifted from the scene.

"My partner and I were the ones who treated McKenzie," said Miller. "She looked like she was 15 or 16 years old. I found out later she was only 11. That wreck bothered me. I had a breakdown. I was out of work for a little over two months until I could get myself back together. I had a lot on me at the time. When this happened, it just all fell apart. When I came back, I said 'I just want to ride the truck, ride my time out and I'm done.'"



Lynn Miller is pictured with McKenzie Reeder after her auto accident in 2011.

Continued on **3A**



Early voting going strong

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

Local residents are showing an appetite to vote this election cycle.

With high-profile offices such as county executive and sheriff to be determined, activity has been steady in the early voting room. Eight days of early voting are in the books and 3,298 votes have been cast, according to election administrator Donna Smith. That translates to 412 votes per day.

"We've already surpassed our early voting totals for May and we still have a week to go," said Smith. "We've had a number of first-time voters, which is always nice to see, and one thing I'm noticing is we're having a lot of younger people who are voting."

Six days of early voting remain until Saturday, July 28 at noon. Smith predicts Warren County could have 6,000 early votes cast. Election Day is Thursday, Aug. 2.

The race for sheriff has been especially captivating with six candidates battling for the job. With votes getting split six ways, uncertainty continues to swirl around who will emerge victorious.

County executive is viewed much the same way with four candidates on the ballot, although only three have been actively campaigning.

Other countywide races to be decided include circuit court clerk, register of deeds, and trustee. All 24 seats on the Warren County Commission are up for grabs, although the four seats in the 6th and 7th Districts have already been decided.

This election cycle also serves as the primary for state and federal races. Tennesseans will reduce their choices to one Democrat and one Republican running for governor after Aug. 2.

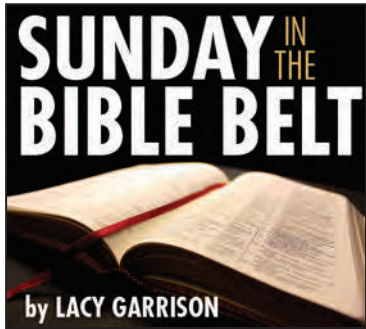
It is also the primary for Tennessee House, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate.

The eternal nature of family

Have you ever driven by the church-like building on Highway 55?

Perhaps, you've noticed a church located next to McMinnville Funeral Home. Both the convention center and meetinghouse are structures utilized by members of The Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints, also known as Mormons.

"Our acronym LDS, sometimes confused with LSD, but you could say we are a different kind of feel-good drug," joked State President Cordell Crawford, who oversees eight other LDS congregations or "wards." "The Warren County area has more than 500 members



of the LDS Church while Tennessee has more than 50,000."

According to Crawford, God has said His purpose is to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man. In His plan of

happiness, the great work of every man is to believe the gospel, to keep the commandments and to create and perfect an eternal family unit.

"This church is very family-oriented," explained LDS member Amy-Jo Stanford. "We believe families can be together forever, which I don't think a lot of churches talk about that. That's why we get married in the temple so we can be with our spouse and children sealed and joined forever."

For members of the LDS Church, family is of central importance.

Continued on **5A**



Lacy Garrison photo

The LDS Church meetinghouse is located on 183 Underwood Road. A unique feature of the LDS Church is crosses are never used on any Mormon buildings. Members of the LDS Church believe the Savior lives so they do not use the symbol of His death as a symbol of their faith.

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