



SPORTS

Stars and Stripes Fun Run kicks off Fourth festivities **1B**



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County's cuties compete in Fourth pageants **4C**

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ROGERS



WEST

Couple jailed for burglarizing three stores

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

A McMinnville couple has been sentenced to serve 155 days in jail for breaking into three stores and trying to burglarize another in January.

Eric Lee Rogers, 26, and Ashley Jean West, 29, both of Rebel Hill Street, received the jail time from Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley.

They were sentenced for three counts of theft, three counts of burglary, and one count of attempt to commit burglary.

The stores suffering break-ins were Country Club Market on Manchester Highway, and Medley's Market and Wanamaker's Market, both on Beersheba Highway in the Irving College area. The Medley's store in Viola was vandalized, but the suspects left before gaining entry.

The break-ins began around 3 a.m. Country Club Market was hit and had an estimated \$6,000 worth of lottery tickets stolen along with cigarettes. At Medley's Market, an estimated \$400 in cigarettes was reported stolen.

Continued on **3A**



Fun on the Fourth

Lacy Garrison photo
Kate Williams picked a perfect face paint selection considering she had just finished the Stars and Stripes Fun Run in downtown McMinnville on the Fourth of July. Kate smiles before joining her family in other downtown festivities. For more Independence Day photos, see page 4C.

James Clark photo
Dr Pepper provided another dazzling fireworks show Wednesday night at the Civic Center. The Standard thanks Dr Pepper for this Fourth of July tradition.



Hotel project nears final hurdle

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

It was a resounding "yes" from the city of McMinnville for property tax relief to attract a \$10 million hotel development.

Now the process is working its way through Warren County government.

The McMinnville Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted 6-0 to provide David Hunt of Hunt

Properties a 70 percent tax rebate annually for the next 20 years if he will move forward with plans to construct a Hilton Gen 8 Hampton Inn Hotel, along with a restaurant and retail space, on the empty lot on Sparta Street across from Saint Thomas River Park Hospital. Vice Mayor Ben Newman was absent.

Specifically, city officials approved Tax Increment Financing. The TIF agreement arranged between Hunt and Industrial Development Board

director Don Alexander states the city will reimburse 100 percent of after-development property taxes.

Hunt will receive 70 percent, 29 percent will go to Warren County Schools, and 1 percent to IDB to handle paperwork.

The deal does not include the pre-development property taxes. Those are \$6,685 annually and are divided between city and county governments.

Hunt has proposed to build a 74-room hotel with an indoor

swimming pool and approximately 2,000 square feet of conference room space. A retail center would be approximately 20,000 square feet. The restaurant has not been named.

Plans for the project have been submitted to the Warren County Tax Assessor's office and an appraisal has been set at \$9.73 million.

After receiving final approval from the city, the county's Financial Management

Committee and Budget and Finance Committee have approved the agreement. The measure must now be accepted by the full Warren County Commission on July 16 for its last local hurdle.

If the tax relief is OK'd by county government, state officials must also approve the agreement. Alexander says getting state approval is usually routine if there is no objection at the local levels.

Sweet business



Margaret Hobbs photo

Nothing says summertime like a lemonade stand and customer Terry Brewer couldn't pass by without stopping. Manning the stand are brothers, from left, Lee and Noel Davis. They utilized the shaded lot at the home of their grandparents, Glenn and Lynn Davis, and the sign used by their father at his childhood stand.

City gets \$10K grant

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

McMinnville has been awarded a state grant designed to help communities strengthen their retail landscape.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development awarded 30 communities a \$10,000 Retail Academy Grant for retail training programs.

"This type of training is exactly what small towns and rural communities need to thrive in today's competitive retail environment," said Debbie Sain, manager of marketing and communications at McMinnville Electric System.

Retail Academy 101 and Retail Academy 201 programs will be offered in September. The goal is to provide cities with the resources and education necessary to grow their retail, which will lead to higher sales tax and property tax collections for the communities.

The Retail Academy, developed by leading national retail advisory firm Retail Strategies,



Lisa Hobbs photo

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development has awarded McMinnville a \$10,000 Retail Academy Grant to strengthen and grow retail.

educates communities on best practices to attract new retailers while providing resources to support and grow existing local businesses.

McMinnville Electric System, along with the city of McMinnville, Main Street McMinnville, and McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce, applied for the grant and was one of only 16 communities to be chosen to participate in the 101 training opportunity, which is an introduction to retail recruitment for local

leaders.

The Retail Academy 201 program offers advanced retail site selection training to communities that have completed the 101 program. Fourteen communities were selected to participate in the second level of training.

The grant was open to communities across the state with populations of less than 25,000.

Attending the seminar with Debbie Sain will be Chamber president Mandy Eller and Main Street McMinnville executive director Katie Kemezis.

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