



SPORTS

Team Chaos downs
Sun Drop for title **1B**



INSIDE

Hundreds of local ball players
are pictured in our
Kids of Summer section

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Jacien Willoughby, front, is followed by his sister, Chavela Willoughby, as they prepare for their first day of school Wednesday at WCMS.

School year begins

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

Chavela Willoughby looked a little sheepish as she stepped off the bus Wednesday morning. The sixth-grader was bracing for her first day at Warren County Middle School. Fortunately, she had her own cheering section. Her brother, Jacien Willoughby, knows the ropes at WCMS as a returning eighth-grader. "I've been telling her how great it is here," said Jacien. "It's a fun school."

The 2018-19 school year took its first steps into the classroom Wednesday with 6,573 students enrolled with the Warren County School

System as of Day 1. That's in line with last year's first-day total of 6,616. "We're still picking up some new students and dropping some no-shows so those numbers will fluctuate," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "Overall, it was a really smooth first day. To my knowledge, there were no hiccups. Even traffic seemed to flow pretty well."

The biggest change for students surrounds a new three-tiered attendance policy that was adopted over the summer. Tier I starts after three unexcused absences and requires a conference between the student, a parent and school official. A fourth unexcused

absence activates Tier II and more intervention steps. Tier III involves a meeting with the truancy board in an effort to resolve attendance issues before court. When it comes to meals, a program that provides free breakfast and lunch for all students, regardless of income, remains in place. Security is always a focal point and the school system has secured grant money to improve building security. "We're going to meet with Sheriff Tommy Myers to see about any changes he sees that may need to be made," said Cox. Students will get their first two breaks Sept. 3 for Labor Day and Sept. 14 for Fair Day.

ENROLLMENT BY SCHOOL	
SCHOOL	STUDENTS
Bobby Ray	581
Centertown	524
Dibrell	471
Eastside	422
Hickory Creek	665
Irving College	268
Morrison	427
Warren Acad.	15
WCMS	808
WCHS	1,918
West	474
TOTAL	6,573



Lacy Garrison photos
Alex Delane stands at the defense table Thursday at Warren County Courthouse.

Victim's memory cloudy in rape case

BY LACY GARRISON
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

There were many ifs and uncertainties from the witness stand Thursday as day one of the rape trial against Alexander Delane began at Warren County Courthouse. One witness testified to a night of drinking and drug use, and the victim herself couldn't remember the actual rape when questioned from the witness stand. The defense maintains no rape took place with defense attorney Larry Ross saying there was some kissing and touching between the two but little more than that. The alleged incident took place more than two years ago at a cabin in Rock Island. Several friends were staying there at the time. Witness Madison Shirey testified she saw Delane on top of the victim late in the evening after the victim had been put to bed by friends due to her intoxicated state. However, Shirey could not say with certainty any penetration was taking place when she saw the two. When questioned about the events of that night, the alleged victim testified she couldn't remember many exact details. She testified to telling a friend she thought Delane was cute early in the night, then later telling that friend she did not want to go to bed with him. She said she was alerted to the alleged rape when friends woke her up asking if she was OK. She admitted she was uncertain about what happened, although she did experience a sensation consistent with having sex. Day two of the trial continues Friday morning with the trial expected to go to the jury on Friday.



Madison Shirey testifies from the witness stand Thursday at Warren County Courthouse.

Milton tells of dog attack

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

A loose dog has bitten a Westwood resident. Sharon Milton says she was taking a morning stroll on July 25 on Sioux Trail when she was bitten on the back of the leg by a border collie.

"I was just walking," she said. "I saw two dogs off in the distance. They appeared to be border collie mixes. I didn't think anything about it. One came up behind me and bit me. I was in shock and in a lot of pain. I started yelling for someone to help me. A lady I saw walking



MILTON

heard me. She turned around and came back to help me." A 911 call was made. Responding to the scene were McMinnville Police Department, Warren County EMS, and McMinnville Fire Department first-responders.

Continued on 5A

County Commission welcomes several new faces

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

If experience is playing a game of hide and seek, it's found a good hiding place on the Warren County Commission. After last week's county election, Carl E. Bouldin and Gary Prater remain as the savvy veterans of the County Commission. Bouldin has 25 years of experience, followed by Prater with 20 for a total of 45 years. That almost equals everyone else.

When new members take office Sept. 1, the remaining 22 commissioners will have a combined 50 years of experience between them. "I don't know what to expect," said Bouldin. "It's going to be different I know that, especially with a new county executive. I don't know how he's going to organize the committees. If he asks me for advice, I'll tell him what I think. If he doesn't ask, I'll keep my mouth shut."

The massive County Commissioner turnover wasn't

entirely dictated by voters. Terry Bell (16 years), opted not to seek re-election to run for county executive. Charles Morgan and Wayne Copeland (10 years each) just decided not to run again. But several longtime commissioners were defeated at the polls, including four with 12 or more years of experience. In all, 116 years of combined experience will be leaving the County Commission on Aug. 31.

Continued on 3A



Joseph Stotts and Christy Ross celebrate on election night after learning they had won their first terms on the Warren County Commission.

EXPERIENCE LOST

COMMISSIONER	YRS
Michael Martin	24
Terry Bell	16
Teddy Boyd	16
Diane Starkey	12
Morris Bond	12
Charles Morgan	10
Wayne Copeland	10

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