



## SPORTS

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Cannon County **1B**



## LIFESTYLES

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football season **4B**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**AUGUST 22, 2018**  
**McMinnville, Tennessee**  
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# Southern Standard

## County rejects tax increase

### Proposal would have added 14 cents

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

Warren County commissioners rejected a proposed property tax hike Monday night.

The county's current property tax rate is \$1.96. It marks the 16th straight year the county has not had a property tax increase.

A last-minute motion by

Commissioner David Rhea to increase it to \$2.10 failed 19-4.

Commissioners voting against it were Terry Bell, Carl D. Bouldin, Carl E. Bouldin, Teddy Boyd, Wayne Copeland, Randy England, Richard Grissom, Ron Lee, Gary Martin, Michael Martin, Gary Prater, Kenny Roberts, Scott Rubley, Tommy Savage, Tyrone Sparkman, Diane Starkey, Phillip Stout, Blaine

Wilcher, and Michael Shane Wilcher.

Voting for it were Rhea, Morris Bond, Carlene Brown, and Charles Morgan.

Commissioner Carolyn Miller was absent.

Rhea cited education and jail expansion as two of several reasons why the increase is needed.

"Education: surrounding counties offer better benefits and bet-

ter pay. We do not need to lose our teachers. Jail: the bid was \$8.331 million - nearly \$2 million over the budget. Other buildings: airport is in need of a maintenance building. They are using three hangars and are losing revenue on those three hangars. They need a maintenance shed bad. We need a place for storage in this facility here, because we are running out of space. We have build-



**RHEA**

ings in need of repairs. We need to be prepared for future expansion: buildings, roads, schools and industrial."

His motion included a desire to split the increase equally between debt service and general fund.

Rubley urged the commission to continue to have faith in the budget-setting process.

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**Commissioner Diane Starkey, right, participated in her last Warren County Commission meeting Monday night. Starkey leaves after 12 years. She chats with Commissioner Carlene Brown, who will begin her second term Sept. 1.**

## Outgoing county commissioners bid farewell

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

Terry Bell had just finished his last Warren County Commission meeting Monday night when he was asked about his political future.

"I'll be on the ballot again for something," said Bell. "Right now I'm just not going to say for what. I'm not going to let one failure keep me down."

Bell, who served for 16 years, is one of 11 commissioners leaving the County Commission. He didn't seek re-election in order to run for County Executive, a position the voters gave to Jimmy Haley.

Bell's 16 years are part of 116 years of experience that left the County Commission on Monday. New commissioners are scheduled to be sworn in Monday, Aug. 27, and take office Sept. 1.

Michael Martin served for 24 years and is the most experienced commissioner leaving. He says he never missed a full Warren County Commission meeting his entire career.

"We built all these schools and the jail with no tax hike," said Martin when asked to name a top accomplishment. "But in the near future, they're going to have to raise taxes. There's no way around it. I think we raised the tax rate a nickel my whole 24 years."

As for what he'll do now that he's not an elected official any more, Martin said, "I can pick up the phone and complain to someone else for a change."

Teddy Boyd leaves after serving 16 years, 13 of those as chair of the Safety Committee. In his role, he directly supervised the county's EMS Department.

"We have an ambulance service director who has really improved our services," said Boyd, adding the department's fleet of ambulances and support vehicles has never been in better working order.

In her 12 years, Commissioner Diane Starkey says she's enjoyed the camaraderie she's developed with other elected officials and believes they've been effective serving the county.

"I'm most proud of what we've accomplished through the Education Committee of renovating and building new schools for our community," said Starkey.

Bell has been one of the most vocal supporters for keeping the tax rate unchanged and says the county has been able to fulfill all its needs without a tax increase thanks to economic growth. Bells says county employees have received \$5,500 in raises the past five years, including \$1,500 this year, and the county has been able to provide more funding to volunteer fire departments and the Warren County Senior Center.

"We're definitely moving forward," said Bell, who pointed out the county budget approved Monday night has an estimated \$18.7 million ending fund balance, the highest since at least 2009.

## Course set for parade



**Sophomores had the X-factor at last year's Homecoming Parade, avoiding the dark side and capturing first place in the float competition. The class of 2020 will try to repeat as champions Sept. 7.**

## Homecoming plans announced

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

McMinnville officials have approved this year's route for the 2018 Homecoming Parade for Warren County High School.

The parade will be held Friday, Sept. 7, and begin at 1 p.m. Later that day, the WCHS Pioneers will take on Shelbyville Central High School's Golden Eagles.

According to the letter presented to the city for consideration, the parade route will be unchanged from last year. Line-up on West Colville Street will begin at 12 p.m. At 1 p.m., the parade will begin at Tire Mart, run the length of Main Street, turn right, and end at the Farmers Market.

"I will be working closely with Chief Bryan Denton, Major Mike Lane, and McMinnville Police Department on the details of the

parade once this proposed route has been approved," said WCHS executive principal Jimmy Walker.

There will be no pep rally at the Farmers Market at the end of this year's parade. The pep rally is being held the high school.

McMinnville's Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved the parade route, as well as the closure of West Colville Street beginning at 11:45 p.m. for parade entries to line up.

## Trash cited by state



**The city has been cited twice by the state for trash outside its transfer station. The mess has been created by McMinnville Green, a recycling company leasing a portion of the property. If not resolved, it could result in the city losing its transfer station permit.**

### City gets second violation due to McMinnville Green

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

McMinnville Green's business relationship with the city of McMinnville is being tested by the state. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has issued a second notice of violation after an inspection of the city's transfer station. McMinnville Green, a private recycling business that also uses the transfer station, is creating unsightly conditions, according to the report.

"A company is presently recycling solid waste at the site and using part of the transfer station building for recycling operations," said TDEC field office manager Bryant Stephens. "The recycling operations are causing the wind-blown and loose unconfined solid wastes to occur across the transfer station site."

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