

Cave concerts

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Said Mayo, "After nine years of partnership, where through my ideas and efforts I brought in hundreds of thousands of tourists and dollars, as well as tens of millions of dollars of branding via PBS and all the other great press: MTV, NBC, *The Tennessean*, *Washington Post* and on and on, all I wanted was a long-term contract so I could continue to work countless hours to make Cumberland Caverns more money and more famous. What they told me instead was not only wouldn't they give me a long-term contract, but if I didn't sign a short-term deal with more money for them, then they would take my idea and do it without me. I guess sad and disappointed is a bit of an understatement."

Herschend says Mayo was seeking a 99-year lease, while Cumberland Caverns countered with a 10-year lease with an automatic renewal for 10 years after that. Herschend says in talking to other people in the entertainment industry, those terms were deemed generous.

"It was assumed I was letting this golden goose wander off when I was really working as diligently as I could to try to keep it alive," said Herschend. "We put together a package we think was rather attractive, but then we found out Todd had purchased another cave and was already moving dirt so he never had any intentions of staying."

Herschend says he believes the real source of friction is Cumberland Caverns would not agree to allow alcohol sales

Cave concerts in the spotlight

Cumberland Caverns Live at Cumberland Caverns

1437 Cumberland Caverns Road
McMinnville
Next show: Son Volt, Sept. 9

Bluegrass Underground at The Caverns

555 Charlie Roberts Road
Pelham
Next show: Balsam Range Underground, Aug. 25

during Bluegrass Underground concerts. He says Mayo has heavily promoted beer sales at his new venue.

"I know the Ryman made a surprising shift in its policies and allowed alcohol sales and it's certainly a revenue stream," said Herschend. "But it doesn't fit with our business model and our philosophy at Cumberland Caverns. Our primary business is serving kids and providing the adventure business of caves and that's not compatible with serving liquor in the cave."

Mayo says customers have expressed their approval of being able to buy adult beverages at his new home, called The Caverns, but alcohol was not a focal point of contract negotiations. He says he believes Cumberland Caverns was eager to take his idea and promote shows without him in the picture.

"To me it's theft of intellectual property," said Mayo. "Now it's America and all is fair in business but, to me, it is profoundly sad and disappointing. But I have to say, they did declare their intentions to take my idea and do it with-

out me and so it's not like I'm shocked."

The end result is there are now two cave-based concert series in adjoining counties. The caves are located just 41 miles apart, according to MapQuest.

Mayo says he is on pace to sell 2.5 times more tickets for Bluegrass Underground at his new location than in 2017. He says he has scheduled 45 concerts this year, up from 30 that was his "sweet spot" in Warren County.

"I now have a venue that I own and can control and the folks in Grundy County are exactly like the folks in McMinnville always



Band of Horses pauses to take a photo with the crowd during a sold-out show at The Caverns on Sunday.

were: enthusiastic, positive and asking 'How can we help?'" said Mayo. "I love that about McMinnville, Grundy County and Tennesseans in general. But I'll always be sad for McMinnville that we were forced to leave by the powers that be at Cumberland Caverns."

Herschend says they have made considerable improvements to enhance the guest experience at Cumberland Caverns and launched their own concert series earlier this year called Cumberland Caverns Live.

Improvements include padded seats, a raised stage, and a second women's bathroom.

Herschend admits having two concert series located so close together has created confusion. He said guests have arrived at Cumberland Caverns expecting to see a show when in fact the concert that night is in Grundy County.

It doesn't help that some online resources still list Bluegrass Underground as taking place in the Volcano Room of Cumberland Caverns. But Herschend

says he believes fans will become accustomed to the two separate locations over time.

"There's nothing that says you can't have two successful underground cave concerts," said Herschend, who has partnered with Atlanta-based RCS Productions to book acts. "I really want to keep everything positive. I wish Todd and his crew the best of results and we have moved on and we're now working with RCS. We have exciting things for 2018 and 2019 in the works."

OBITUARIES

Shannon Catherine Bear, 50

Shannon Catherine Bear, 50, a resident of McMinnville, passed away unexpectedly Monday, Aug. 20 at her home.

She was a longtime resident of Van Buren County, a Christian and attended McMinnville Non-denominational Church on Cadillac Lane. Shannon was preceded in death by mother Catherine Myrtle Tucker Bear and brother Teddy Samuel Bear.

She is survived by her son Emmet (Kimmey) Beals of McMinnville, father Emmet (Shirley Scott) Bear of the Rocky River community, sister Tricia (John) Bear of Henryetta, Okla., two grandchildren Maddy and Grace Beals, former husband George Beals, several aunts and uncles, cousins, many many friends, and nieces and nephews.

Funeral service will be Saturday, Aug. 25, at 2 p.m. at Layne Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Christopher Wiles officiating. Visitation will be Friday from 6 to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 12 p.m. till time of service. Burial will follow at White Hill Cemetery at Rocky River. In lieu of flowers, the family requests assistance with funeral expenses. Online condolences may be made at www.laynefuneralhome.com.

Layne Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Spencer in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 24, 2018

Murrell Franklin Steakley, 76

Murrell Franklin Steakley, 76, a Rock Island resident and Van Buren County native, was born May 21, 1942 and died Aug. 21 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center following a sudden illness.

He was a retired truck driver with Weaver Transport and Hillis Trucking, a member of Friendship Baptist Church and son of the late Murphy Ray and Mona Mae Johnson Steakley. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brothers Garey, Ernest and Ronald Steakley; and sister Barbara Ferrell.

Mr. Steakley is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Andrea and Gene Cooper of Bone Cave; two grandsons, Kylan Myers and Koleby Myers, both of McMinnville; great-grandson, Kaleb Myers; special sister-in-law, Reba Steakley of Rock Island; former wife, Joyce Raptis of Spencer; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral service will be 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at High's Chapel with Steve Breedlove to officiate. Interment will follow at Friendship Cemetery. Visitation will be 10 a.m. Friday until the time of service at High's. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 24, 2018

Polly Woodlee, 87

McMinnville resident and Warren County native Polly Woodlee, 87, was born Aug. 11, 1931 and died Aug. 22 at her residence following an extended illness.

She was a faithful member of Mt. Leo Church of Christ and the owner of Hilltop Acres Nursing Home, McMinnville Flower Shop, Polly's Dolls and Woodlee Trail Townhouses for many years.

She was the daughter of the late Ernest and Julia Martin Hodges. She was married on May 2, 1951 to Wallace J. Woodlee, who preceded her in death Dec. 19, 1999. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by seven siblings, Hazel McCormick, Vara Morgan, Roberta Gribble, Ruby Hodges, Ernestine O'Neal, Opal Reagan and Jimmy Roy Hodges and granddaughter Kim Black.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Judy and Gary Jackson of McMinnville and Joy and Freddy Black of McMinnville; four grandchildren and spouses, Wally and Jamie Rhea, Melissa and Alvin Stembridge, Lucas Black and Stephen Black; great-grandchildren Jacob (Abbie) Argo, Mitchell Stembridge, Hope Rhea, Liam Black, Hunter and Hayden Black, and Andrew Turner; sister-in-law, Carol Woodlee of Lenoir City; and many nieces and nephews.

A graveside service and interment will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 24, at Smyrna Cemetery with Trent Key officiating. Visitation will be Friday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at High's.

A very special thank you to her loving caregivers, Kelly Dodson, Lori Betchart, Becca Farless, Amanda Rucker, Tiffany Youngblood, Nina Hall and Jenny Bridges. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 24, 2018

Judy Ann Harrington, 66

Judy Ann Harrington, 66, a McMinnville resident and Owens Crossroads, Ala., native was born Nov. 6, 1951 and died Aug. 23 at St. Thomas River Park Hospital following an extended illness.

She was retired from Exel in Manteno, Ill., and daughter of the late James and Marie Harden Lewis. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, James Harrington.

Mrs. Harrington is survived by four sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and Dolvin Varnadore of Grant Park, Ill., Nina and Michael Knore of Tullahoma, Eliza and Don Taylor of Centertown and Teresa and Terry Reed of Ashtabula, Ohio; brother Dean Lewis of Centertown; companion of 22 years Anthony Keiser of McMinnville; and several nieces and nephews.

Interment will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at Fuston Cemetery. There will be no service or visitation at High's. Family and friends are asked to meet at the cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.highfuneralhome.com.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.) Aug. 24, 2018



Crash

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Mr. Winburn was killed and his passenger, Deanna Winburn, suffered serious injuries. The force of impact knocked their car down an embankment.

"Our family is devastated," said Joyce Winburn Windham, sister of the victim. "This tragedy was 100 percent avoidable. I never worried that the drug epidemic would touch our lives. It has. Perhaps some good could come from our loss by using this terrible event to educate the public. Methamphetamine destroys lives forever."

Smartt was ordered to serve 364 days of a 10-year sentence for vehicular homicide. Additionally, she was given 180 days of a four-year sentence for vehicular assault. She also had her driver license revoked for eight years.

The jail time is in line with other recent sentences where an impaired motorist was responsible for a crash resulting in death. Cory Forrest Tate was ordered to serve 360 days of an eight-year sentence for a fatal crash that killed a teenage passenger in his pickup in 2012.

In 2013, Ramiro R. Ibarra was released after serving nearly one year of a 12-year sentence for killing a teen passenger while off-roading in his SUV.

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STARRING MARK WALBERG
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HELD OVER 2ND WEEK THRU THURS., AUG. 30

"CRAZY RICH ASIANS"
- PG13 -
7:00 - 9:15

HELD OVER 3RD WEEK THRU THURS., AUG. 30

"THE MEG"
- PG13 -
7:10 - 9:15

HELD OVER 7TH WEEK THRU THURS., AUG. 30

"HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: SUMMER VACATION"
- PG -
7:10 - 9:10

HELD OVER 4TH WEEK THRU THURS., AUG. 30

DISNEY'S "CHRISTOPHER ROBIN"
- PG -
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PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
ADMISSION ADULTS 7.00 CHILDREN 5.00

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For More Information Call Our Community Greeting Service Representative
Garry McBride 931-260-3328

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cope Family Reunion
The Cope Family Reunion will be Aug. 26 @ Wayside Community Center. Covered dish lunch will be served at 12:30pm. Everybody welcome.

Griffith Reunion
The Griffith Reunion will be Sun., Sept. 9 at Morrison Ruritan after church. Please bring food, dessert and the family.

McMinnville Funeral Home
OBITUARY LINE
473-5700
mcminnvillefuneralhome.net
117 Underwood Rd.
473-6606

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