

# Opioid use during pregnancy may hinder infant development

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Learning disabilities and other special education needs are common in children born with opioid-related symptoms from their mother’s drug use while pregnant, according to the first big U.S. study to examine potential long-term problems in these infants.

About 1 in 7 affected children required special classroom services for problems including developmental delays and speech or language difficulties, compared with about 1 in 10 children not exposed to opioids before birth, the study found.

In Tennessee, hard hit by the nation’s opioid epidemic, the rate of affected infants soared from less than one per 1,000 hospital births in 1999 to 13 per 1,000 births in 2015.

Whether the study results would apply elsewhere is uncertain but in Tennessee, most children born with withdrawal symptoms are enrolled in that state’s Medicaid program. Also in Tennessee, a

syndrome diagnosis qualifies kids to receive early intervention services.

The study highlights the “absolutely critical” importance of early detection and intervention, before these children reach school age, to give them a better chance of academic success, said Dr. Nathalie Maitre, a developmental specialist at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. “It really confirms what those of us who do neurodevelopment follow-up of these children are seeing.”

The study involved about 7,200 children aged 3 to 8 enrolled in Tennessee’s Medicaid program. Nearly 2,000 of them were born with what doctors call “neonatal abstinence syndrome.” It’s a collection of symptoms caused by withdrawal from their pregnant mother’s use of opioid drugs like prescription painkillers, heroin or fentanyl. The drugs can pass through the placenta into the developing nervous system.

# Donating for Mr. Roboto



**Motlow recently received a \$4,500 donation from customers of Middle Tennessee Natural Gas Utility District through its Project Hometown Help. The donation is for the Automation and Robotics Training Center under construction at the Motlow McMinnville campus. Funds from the Hometown Help voluntary program, which come from an automatic rounding up of participating customers’ bills to the next highest whole dollar amount, are used to advance education, promote local charities, and provide relief to the disabled and elderly. Pictured from left, are Charles Morrison, superintendent for the McMinnville office; Jerry Cooper, former state senator; Michael Torrence, Motlow president; Larry Flatt, Motlow executive director of advanced robotics; and Mike Corley, district vice president - human resources and general counsel.**

## SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

The Tennessee Highway Patrol will be conducting sobriety checkpoints Sept. 14 and Sept. 21 on Highway 56 and Highway 70S in Warren County.

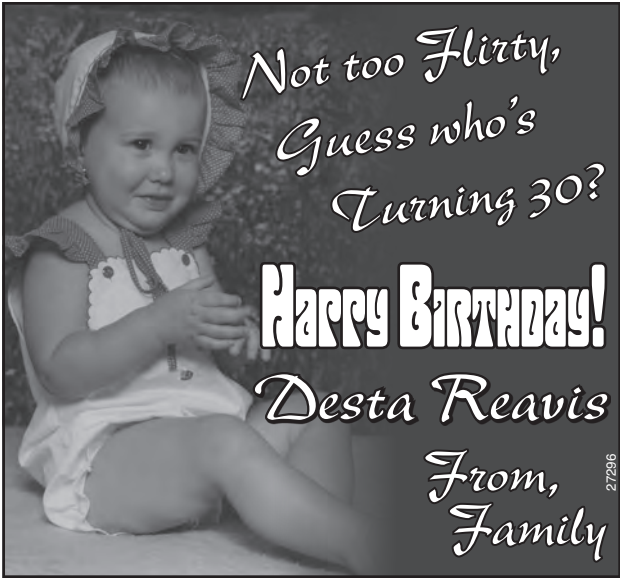
Impaired driving is a serious crime that kills more than 16,000 people and injures 305,000 others every year in the United States.

Troopers will evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment.

Troopers will target those who operate a vehicle while impaired and take corrective actions for other violations observed while ensuring the protection of all motorists.

The Tennessee

Highway Patrol recognizes sobriety checkpoints are highly visible and effective tools in the battle against impaired driving.



### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

*For Free Fair Tickets*

**Q:** Which country music performer will take the grandstands after Faith Jackson? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** When was the fair organized? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** Who was the first president of the Fair Board? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** Who is the current president of the Fair Board? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** On Monday, Sept. 10 rides open at what time? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** Who was the 2017 Fairest of the Fair? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** What day/time is the karaoke competition? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** Carnival attractions are brought to you by? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** What does the A&L stand for? \_\_\_\_\_

**Q:** This annual event has been offered how many years? \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMIT FORM TO SOUTHERN STANDARD**

# PUBLISHER'S Pics

**Standard** publisher Pat Zechman has been in the newspaper business for over 50 years. Zechman wants to give back to the community and the **Standard** alike and it has led her to creating the Publisher's Pics feature. This week's pictures are from Aug. 1982. Look for more Publisher's Pics on the **Southern Standard** Facebook page.



**Election Party**  
State Rep. I.V. Hillis, left, speaks over WBMC radio with Bill Zechman, right, during an election party given at City Bank and Trust last Thursday night as City Bank President Jeff Golden looks on.



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Who would be  
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SCREEN II

FRIDAY thru THURSDAY  
AUGUST 20 - SEPTEMBER 2  
TWO WEEKS

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