

# McMinnville natives among thousands fleeing hurricane

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

Hurricane Florence, a powerful Category 2 storm, has reached the Southeast, bringing potentially deadly storm surges and what could be more than a foot of rain.

The Carolina coasts expect winds topping 100 mph with catastrophic coastal flooding.

For those of us who don't live on the coast, we don't directly feel the effects of Hurricane Florence, but according to Warren County EMA director Jim Cunningham, you can still help, if you feel compelled.

"The Upper Cumberland, along with the state, has coordinated swift water crews along with medical teams, but I'm sure someone from Warren County can volunteer on their own time," said

Cunningham.

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency director Patrick Sheehan has established a Hurricane Florence relief and resources page on TEMA's website with links and information on how to make donations, volunteer, and find shelter locations at [www.tn.gov/tema](http://www.tn.gov/tema).

For Callie and Philip Hitchcock, this is their second time evacuating their home in Charleston, S.C., in the midst of a hurricane threat. Both are originally from McMinnville and fled to Warren County from Hurricane Irma last year. After hearing about the mandatory evacuation going into effect on Tuesday, they decided to leave as a precaution, taking refuge again in McMinnville.

"As a native Tennessean, you can imagine dealing with hurricane activity was a new challenge for us,"

said Callie. "Evacuating isn't something anyone wants to do, but when it comes down to it, material items can be replaced but people can't and that's why we choose to leave. If we hadn't evacuated and the hurricane had drastic impacts on Charleston, I wouldn't want to be the reason someone's loved one is putting their life at risk to save me."

Added Philip, "I'd always rather be safe than sorry, but leaving isn't easy because there's always a chance you won't have something to come back to."

If you have loved ones in North and South Carolina, links to information about Tennessee's Welcome Centers providing hotel availability information to evacuees is also on TEMA's home page.

Landfall is expected Friday morning with the storm moving very slowly.

# Speed limit reduction considered

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

Speeding motorists could be an issue on Highland Drive.

The city's Safety Committee met Tuesday and voted to recommend to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen the 30 mph speed limit on Highland Drive be reduced to 20 mph. Because George Huggins Drive attaches to Highland at Riverview Terrace assisted living facility, that portion of street was also included.

Alderman Mike Neal says he received a request from Warren County Commissioner Joseph Stotts to consider a reduction as a safety measure for people who walk along the edge of the street.

Highland is not a through street.

Highland begins at West Colville Street and ends at Riverview Terrace. George Huggins, a section of it, begins at South High Street and ends at the facility. It is

not a thru street. In between the two drives is private property.

Alderman Ryle Chastain agreed something needs to be done, but says employees of the facility are the biggest problem.

"People do drive down that street really, really fast," said Chastain. "Oddly enough, a lot of times its employees of Riverview Terrace that I've noticed. Now that it's starting to cool off a bit, there are a lot of people walking the loop of George Higgins, High Street, West Colville, and Highland Drive."

Chastain recommended George Huggins, from High Street to the facility, be included and McMinnville Police Chief Bryan Denton agreed.

"We don't have a record of an accident on that street in years," said Denton. "That doesn't mean one can't happen. I don't have a problem with lowering the speed limit at all. I would recommend you include George Huggins Drive."



Lisa Hobbs photo  
**McMinnville officials are considering a speed limit reduction for Highland Drive and a section of George Huggins Drive, two side streets in the S. High Street area.**

# Jail overcrowding

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Grund County is two years into a new \$6.5 million jail that sits behind the courthouse in Altamont.

It had 92 inmates on Wednesday with a capacity of 114.

In DeKalb County, Sheriff Patrick Ray says the jail averages about 75 inmates, but that figure should come with an asterisk.

Ray says he started a policy about nine or 10 years ago of not housing state prisoners in an effort to reduce the population

at his jail.

"We'd be at well over 100 and looking for jail space too if we kept our Tennessee Department of Corrections inmates," said Ray. "We've found the \$30-something a day the state pays is not worth it so if they're sentenced to TDOC we'll start calling around to different jails to see if they want a state inmate. We've sent them as far away as Memphis. It's cheaper on supplies. It's cheaper on food and water. It's cheaper on wear and tear on your jail. And we're not looking at having to

build a new jail."

Warren County officials appeared poised to OK jail expansion plans last month that would have added approximately 145 beds, making total jail capacity around 396.

The county earmarked \$6.5 million for the project.

However, the low construction bid was \$8.31 million, or \$1.8 million over budget. Commissioners were handcuffed, so to speak, because they couldn't approve an expansion project so far over budget.

It will be up to the Warren County Commission, with 11 new members taking office this month, to determine

if borrowing at least \$8.31 million for jail expansion is feasible.

Since the bids were opened in August and are

only good for 14 days, the project must be re-bid unless a contractor is willing to honor its previous bid.

# Chastain approved for vice mayor

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

Alderman Ryle Chastain has been appointed vice mayor of the city of McMinnville.

"I'm thrilled with the opportunity," said Chastain.

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen unanimously approved a recommendation by Mayor Ben Newman on Tuesday night to appoint Chastain to the position.

"I think Ryle has done a really good job during his tenure on the board," said Newman. "I think Ryle brings a good quality to the board, young vigor. He's also available and in town quite a bit. His work schedule allows him to do that. I would make that nomina-



**CHASTAIN**

tion."

In the absence or disability of the mayor, the vice mayor performs mayoral duties.

Newman added, "There will be a lot of times I won't be able to sign checks and there's a lot of them."

The statement brought a round of laughter.

Chastain expressed gratitude on Wednesday.

"I appreciate greatly Mayor Newman's recommendation and the board's approval," said Chastain. "It'll definitely be an honor to serve in the capacity of vice mayor. I plan to assist the mayor and serve the city in any way I can and already have some meetings scheduled in which I will fill in for Ben."

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# VETERANS CORNER

## Southern Standard

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 173**  
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Highway in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 pm for dinner with the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @post173 to stay up to date on all American Legion activities.  
New Post address is: American Legion Post 173, P.O. Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111. The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the same time.

**THE BOBBY RAY DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**  
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at the Warren County Administrative Building (201 Locust Street) in the Magnolia Room. Doors open at 1800 and the meeting starts at 1830. All honorable discharged Marines, Navy FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains who served with the marines are invited to attend. For more information call 931-934-5619.

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER (POST 173)**  
Our MONTHLY MEETING are held the fourth Saturday each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Member will meet at 9:00am for breakfast, meeting to follow at 10:00am. Group will go for a ride after the meeting, weather permitting. Location to be determined by the Road Captain. We are looking for new members. For information contact Rider Director John Davis American Legion Rider Chapter Post 173, PO Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111.

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, ROYCE DAVENPORT CHAPTER 1112**  
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Billy's restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, with meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members will need to bring copy of DD Form 214 to verify service and join. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @VVA1112 to stay up to date on all VVA and AVVA activities.

**Associate Vietnam Veterans of America, Royce Davenport Chapter 1112**  
Meeting is the same time and place as the VVA (see above). Anyone can be a member. There is no requirement to be related to a Veteran in anyway, however Veterans can also join. Please come and join our organization. Royce Davenport Chapter 1112 will again be collecting non-perishable items for the Warren County Emergency Food Bank during the Main Street Live Concert Series on Friday nights starting June 9, 2017 and continuing through the series. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5064**  
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are typically held on the third Thursday of each month at the VFW Post Home (3340 Sparta Highway) at 7:00 pm. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. Call 931-668-8392 for more information. **The VFW Auxiliary meets at the same time.**



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