



SPORTS
Pioneers' gutsy effort not enough in Cookeville **1B**



BUSINESS
New coffee shop off to strong start **1C**

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Southern Standard

City can't give \$40K for concerts

State comptroller nixes donation to Cumberland Caverns

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

The music will have to play on at Cumberland Caverns Live without financial backing from city taxpayers.

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office has determined McMinnville officials cannot give \$40,000 to a for-profit private business.

The city Finance Committee met last month and approved the donation, contingent upon

comptroller approval.

RCS Production, which produces Cumberland Caverns Live, requested assistance from the city to help in "generating a buzz" and keeping music at Cumberland Caverns, an appeal made due to the city's previous allocation of funds toward the PBS filming of Bluegrass Underground at Cumberland Caverns.

Creating the difference is that PBS is a nonprofit corporation, and the city's allocation went



toward that endeavor. Both Cumberland Caverns and RCS Production are private, for-profit companies.

Mentioned at a prior meeting was a potential agreement in the works between WCIE-TV and RCS Production to film Cumberland Caverns Live concerts for broadcast. WCIE is nonprofit, owned and operated by the Upper Cumberland Broadcast Council, and an affiliate of PBS.

If that agreement materializes,

city officials will likely reconsider the donation given statements made in support.

"I would like to do something to make sure they stay here," said Alderman Ben Newman. "I don't want them to fizzle out because of lack of capital. I want to keep them here. It helps keep people coming here and helps tourism."

Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury works to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse in government and publicly funded entities. It conducts annual audits to ensure compliance.



Jon Stickly performs during the first Cumberland Caverns Live earlier this year.

Burglaries continue

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

The string of burglaries in the city of McMinnville continued Friday morning when a home on Hill Street was hit and several items were stolen, including sneakers.

"Tennis shoes were taken and we don't usually see that," said McMinnville Police detective Todd Rowland.

According to Rowland, a prowler was spotted around the home early Friday and police were called. However a suspect wasn't found when officers arrived.

After family members left for the morning for work and school, a thief or thieves broke into the home through a window. Electronics were among the items stolen.

Hill Street is a side street located not far from Chancery Street near Ben Lomand. The site of Friday's burglary isn't far from Cash N Dash and an office on Center Street where there were break-ins last weekend.

"We don't have anything directly linking the cases together, but the M.O. is similar," said Rowland, who added residents should take time to be observant and don't hesitate to report anything suspicious.

"It's the Neighborhood Watch mindset," said Rowland. "If you see something that doesn't look right, call us."

Anyone with tips on any of the break-ins can call McMinnville Police at 473-3386.

“
If you see something that doesn't look right, call us.
”
POLICE DETECTIVE TODD ROWLAND

Homecoming Court



Warren County High School's 2018 Homecoming Court has been announced. Pictured, front row, from left, are freshmen Curtlan George, Gracie Brock, Mea Starkey, and Asher Wallace. Second row, seniors Levi Craven, Savannah Saylor, Brent Williamson, Caylie Sherrell, sophomores John Garrett, Anslee Miller, Kaydee Rains, and Kaden Priest, seniors Bree Hayes, William Fernandez, Jasmine Dillon, and Wesley Pepper. Third row, juniors Caden Stubblefield, Hallie Jo Pennington, Mary Humphrey, and Josiah Jackson.

Matheny: Drugs responsible for soaring jail population

BY **BILL ZECHMAN**
Special to the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

As Warren County taxpayers prepare to take on a debt of \$9 million for an "unavoidable" expansion of the jail, they need look no further than the local drug culture as the main force behind the exploding population of inmates.

That is the assessment of retiring Sheriff Jackie Matheny in a farewell address at The Rotary Club of McMinnville and during a WCPI interview

recorded Thursday.

Asked in the radio interview to estimate what portion of the daily jail census, recently averaging 318 inmates, should be attributed to illegal drug use, the veteran lawman replied, "75 to 80 percent, possibly higher."

Matheny formally retired Friday after serving 24 consecutive years as Warren County sheriff. Prior to his first election to that



MATHENY

office, he worked eight years as a patrol officer with McMinnville Police Department. It was during that duty he was shot and seriously wounded by a drunken driver who tried to flee pursuing officers.

But the good experiences outweigh the bad, he said, as he derived pleasure and satisfaction from helping people, especially in their times of cri-

sis and hardship.

Among his most cherished memories are his 28 years as a certified DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer and teacher in Warren County schools. The drug menace hit Warren County not long after Matheny took office as sheriff.

"We had been averaging 44 inmates daily just before I was elected, then on my first day on the job we had 54. Now, after 24 years, that number runs about 320 or more."

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Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church is located on 317 Liberty Lane.

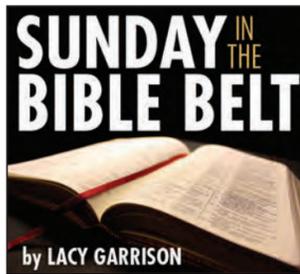
Liberty has long legacy

For over 200 years, Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church has been nestled between large oak trees and Liberty Cemetery.

Inside, the sanctuary features beautiful stained glass windows that cast a bluish hue over the Christians as they worship. The color blue typically symbolizes heaven and heavenly love.

Built in the early 1800s, Liberty Cumberland Presbyterian Church was used as a hospital during the Civil War until it burned to the ground during the conflict. The church was rebuilt in 1867 along with an addition with the help of President Theodore Roosevelt, who sent the necessary building supplies. The current church was built in 1978.

Although the building has historical significance, it's the people



who make it truly special, according to Rev. Dr. Jacqueline DeBerry, who's been pastoring the church since March.

"They are happy and loving and not all churches are," said DeBerry. "There is always laughter in the halls, in the classes, in worship ... there is no pretentiousness. I have not seen an ounce of

that here, which is unusual and I've been a minister 38 years."

With 120 members, many feel the same way, especially those who have grown up at Liberty CPC.

"My mom and dad were very active and it feel like home to me," said longtime member Susie Taylor. "The people are friendly and it's like one big family."

Added Allison Moore, "Our church is family-oriented and welcomes everyone. Liberty CPC is a church with a servant heart for our community and one of the ways we serve is by holding our free community meals where we come together four times a year to serve and deliver hundreds of meals."

Continued on **2A**

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