

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think Brett Kavanaugh should be confirmed as the next Supreme Court Justice?

YES 34 percent
NO 66 percent

EDITORIAL

Mark Gwyn a great local success story

The longest tenured TBI director in state history is from McMinnville.

That distinction belongs to Mark Gwyn, who was honored with a retirement party Thursday afternoon at First Baptist Church.

"He's still McMinnville," said former Circuit Court Judge Charles Haston in praising Gwyn from the podium.

Gwyn is proof of the first-rate citizens we are capable of producing right here in Warren County. Talk often centers around our drug problem and soaring jail population while we overlook personal achievements made by Gwyn and many others.

Those who have followed Gwyn's law enforcement career know he got his start in 1985 as an officer with McMinnville Police Department. He worked his way up the ranks at the TBI and was appointed TBI director by then-Gov. Phil Bredesen in 2004.

Gwyn was reappointed by Bredesen in 2010, and reappointed again by Gov. Bill Haslam in 2016, becoming the first three-term director in TBI history.

The title of TBI director was earned. Once Gwyn got his foot in the door at the TBI as an agent, he produced results, gaining convictions in some of the most high-profile cases in the state.

His success as an agent led to his promotion to TBI

administration where his value continued to shine. Gwyn showed he could handle being in charge of the state's three crime labs, which was one of the contributing factors in his promotion to TBI director.

Once director of Tennessee's top statewide law enforcement agency, Gwyn kicked aside complacency and continued to stay in the know about the latest criminal activity gripping the state.

Years ago, he warned that heroin use would be on the rise and that drugs laced with fentanyl, a powerful painkiller, would lead to more overdose deaths.

More recently, Gwyn focused on the human trafficking problem facing Tennessee and the nation. He noted the TBI would continue to pour resources into fighting this travesty.

And just months ago, during his first public appearance after retiring from the TBI, Gwyn told Rotary Club members about how the growing distrust in police is becoming a dangerous trend for both officers and the public.

"I never once considered we weren't safe and secure with Mark Gwyn as our TBI director," said state Rep. Judd Matheny while addressing the crowd.

We at the *Standard* are proud to honor Mark Gwyn for his distinguished law enforcement career and are just as proud to say he is Warren County's own.



Remembering Hubert Boyd

When Hubert Boyd died on Wednesday, we lost another one of our "Greatest Generation." He lived through the Great Depression, answered our country's call in World War II, served with honor, and returned home to serve his community and state in every way he could.

Mr. Boyd was drafted into the U.S. Army during his senior year in high school in 1943. He was barely 18 at the time. "They were looking for infantrymen, anyone who would go over there in the snow and ice without any place to sleep except a foxhole if you were lucky enough to dig one," he said in an interview with the *Standard* in 2012. "It was rough on an 18-year-old boy."

However, Hubert Boyd took it like a man, through thick and thin, mostly thick. His wartime service took him to North Africa, Italy, France, and England. He also participated in the invasion of Southern France, with his infantry "band of brothers" in the 45th Division. Along the way, he was wounded in action twice.

In a conversation with his nephew, Larry Boyd, Mr. Boyd recalled how the German soldiers "came up and kicked him while he was on the ground to see if he was still alive. He said it was awfully hard to take that kick and not show any emotion, but they would have shot him again if they thought he was still alive."

Despite his wounds, Hubert Boyd persevered through the vicissitudes of infantry combat to become a decorated World War II veteran, including two Purple Heart Medals and the Combat Infantry Badge, among others. That said, Hubert Boyd was no Rambo or any other pumped-up "pseudo-hero." He was a genuine hero, proud of his service to our nation, but humble and grateful when it came to himself.

Hubert Boyd returned from the horrors of war to hearth and home. He graduated from Middle Tennessee

State Teachers College, now MTSU, in 1950. He was a founding member of Westwood Church of Christ. He later donated land behind the church for a playground and park.

As Westwood elder Tim Deason has aptly said of Mr. Boyd, "He always tried to make things right. There was so much good in him. That's one of the things I admired."

That goodness in Hubert Boyd's heart and soul continued to shine brightly throughout his meaningful life. One of his largest labors of love and lasting legacies was his servant leadership in starting F.C. Boyd

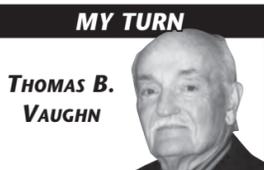
Christian School, built on land he donated along with his brother Clark and sister Margaret. Named after their father, the new school opened in 1979 and has continued to thrive for

nearly 40 years. Mr. Boyd also built the Boyd Christian School Gym, in memory of his late uncle J.R. Boyd and friend J. K. Stanley. And he continued to support his beloved school and church throughout his life.

I've come to know Hubert Boyd as a friend through the years. In recent times, we've shared many conversations, including a few joined by his friend and mine, Jack White. We always had a good time with Hubert, because he was always friendly and funny, too. Like so many others, Jack and I were indelibly impressed with the essential goodness of the man we called "Mr. B."

Hubert Boyd made a good living in the nursery, rock quarry, and related businesses, but he made a meaningful life for himself and others by being the good man he was -- to his faith, his family, his friends, and the many lives he touched for the better along his 93-year journey in this life.

And that will be his everlasting legacy. Retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn can be reached at tbvbwmi@blomand.net.



MY TURN

THOMAS B. VAUGHN

JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



Jail expansion in new hands

The jail expansion project is back to the drawing board -- design and funding. This is what happens when elected officials stall on implementing what is a must-needed expansion.

I've received some slack from my column two weeks ago urging jail expansion. One person said I need to rethink my stance. When I rejected the suggestion, he said the focus needs to be alternative sentencing and not incarceration. Ankle bracelets were suggested.

How the program works: an electronic device is tethered around the ankle. They are designed to be tamper-resistant and must be worn at all times. The device uses a radio frequency signal to communicate back to a monitoring station. If the person leaves a certain area, GPS monitoring functions are supposed to alert the monitoring station.

Warren County commissioners approved ankle bracelets to monitor non-violent misdemeanor offenders in 2015 and designated funding to begin the program. At that time, the inmate population was in excess of 300. Today, the inmate population at the jail is in excess of 300. Apparently, ankle bracelets alone are not the answer or there's a flaw somewhere in the system.

My irritation is the thought of people sleeping on a concrete floor with nothing more than a mat. How that doesn't bother everyone, I'll never know. I assume it's a situation of out of sight and out of mind. If you don't see it, you can pretend it isn't happening. I have far more compassion than most, obviously. Yes, most of the people in jail have a debt to pay society. I just feel that paying that debt shouldn't include sleeping on the floor with a mat like an animal.

As I expected, the new members of the Warren County Commission want their own look at the proposed jail expansion and that's why this project, once again, was pushed into the future. We are back to the drawing board when it comes to project design and funding.

One new commissioner voiced his belief that changing the cells from two-inmates to four-inmates would lower the cost. I don't know if it would or not. I do know former sheriff Jackie Matheny asked for two-man cells because at this current time he has troublesome inmates and no way to segregate them from others. Maybe Sheriff Tommy Myers sees that need differently or maybe he will also request the need for two-man cells. We shall see.

By the new committee list that was presented by County Executive Jimmy Haley and will likely be approved by the full Warren County Commission on Sept. 17, on the County Corrections Partnership Committee are Steven Helton, chair, Carl D. Bouldin, Steve Glenn, Scott Rubley, and Joseph Stotts.

So, there are three new members of that committee who'll have a front-row seat to the issues out there. Hopefully, when they finally see that something needs to be done, they do it. Don't kick that can down the road again. The can is dented beyond belief and has been kicked enough.

Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191.

Skyscrapers won't reach God

Sept. 3 was the celebration of National Skyscraper Day in America. The world's first skyscraper was built in Chicago in 1885, standing only 138 feet tall and 10 stories high. A building now needs to be 40 stories high to be classified as a skyscraper. The tallest building in the world is now 2,722 feet tall, including the antennae.

The desire to build upwards goes all the way back to the days of the Old Testament when people tried to build the Tower of Babel. Genesis 11 tells us that at the time there was only one language spoken on the earth. People decided one day to use bricks and mortar to build a city, and a tower to reach to heaven. Their decision to build the tower came from their pride and rebellion against God, just like the devil himself. If they could reach heaven, they believed they would have no need of God, just like so many people in our world today.

Genesis 11 also tells us the tower builders wanted to make a name for themselves, not wanting to be scattered throughout the earth. But that is exactly what God wanted Adam and Eve to do from the beginning. He told them to be fruitful, and to multiply, and to replenish the earth, which meant He wanted them to settle and occupy the entire earth that He had created. The builders of the tower wanted exactly the opposite, which

was to stay put. Therefore, God confused their language so they could not understand each other, and not be able to complete the building of the tower. God scattered them from the site of the tower, and they stopped working on it.

At the time of the building of the tower, God came down to see the city and tower. He concluded they had united together because they had one language, and there was nothing that they would be restrained from doing because there would be no limit to their imagination, the same reason God destroyed the earth with the Great Flood in the days of Noah.

Genesis 6:5 tells us "God saw the wickedness of humanity was great on the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually."

We can only imagine how God would feel and what He would say if He came down to earth today. The world has been getting progressively more and more evil and wicked since the days of the Tower of Babel. One day God will judge the earth and its inhabitants, but we can avoid it all by fully obeying God and doing His will.

Larry R. Steffee is pastor of the Center Hill Brethren In Christ Church on Miller Road in Smithville. Everyone is welcome to attend. For information, you may email lrsteeffetn@yahoo.com.

WORDS FROM ABOVE

LARRY STEFFEE



Established 1879
Southern Standard
Publication No. 506-840

Patricia Zechman, Publisher
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager
Dale Stubblefield, Circulation Director

Phone: 473-2191
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110
FAX: 473-6823
Email: standard@blomand.net
Website: www.southernstandard.com

Copyright Standard Publishing Company,
All Rights Reserved

2018 PRESS AWARDS
A PRIDE WINNING NEWSPAPER
UT-TPA Press Awards
2016