



SPORTS

First National wins battle of banks **1B**



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WEDNESDAY

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Martin removed from committee



The full Warren County Commission meeting was a packed house Monday night. Several visitors held signs showing their discontent for statements made by Commissioner Michael Martin during a Health and Welfare Committee meeting. Pictured are Rebecca Ross and Harrison Lombardo.

Commissioner ousted by 22-2 vote

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

Commissioner Michael Martin has been ousted from the county Health and Welfare Committee by his fellow commissioners.

It was an almost unanimous vote of no confidence for Martin to remain on the committee and serve as its chairman.

The measure to make new committee assignments passed 22-2. Joining Martin in voting against his removal was Commissioner Blaine Wilcher.

Specifically, Wilcher abstained. However, abstention votes are recorded as a vote against.

Wilcher says his decision to abstain stemmed from being named chairman with the removal of Martin.

"It would be a conflict for me to vote Michael out knowing I was, in effect, voting for myself as chairman," said Wilcher. "I was the vice chairman so I would become chairman through natural ascension. Martin has accused me, since the beginning, of being difficult because I didn't get

the chairmanship."

The new committee assignments, as recommended by County Executive Herschel Wells, also placed Commissioner Teddy Boyd as vice chairman on the Health and Welfare Committee and added Commissioner Richard Grissom to fill the vacant spot created by Martin's removal.

The vote indicated Martin's fellow commissioners believe he is no longer fit to hold that position due to his outbursts June 12 that included expletives made in the direction of Wilcher and the *Southern Standard* reporter covering the meeting. His actions that day also resulted in an assault charge against him due to his actions reportedly placing Animal Control director Kim Pettrey in fear for her personal safety.

Removing Martin as chair of the Health and Welfare Committee is significant because that is the committee which oversees Warren County Animal Control. Martin has made numerous statements which make it seem like he has a negative view of animals, and of Pettrey, although Martin has denied any personal grudge.



MARTIN

D-Day vet dies at 93

Jordan 'among the last of a great generation'

A United States Army veteran who survived the historic D-Day invasion and spent more than a month as a prisoner of war died Sunday at his home.

William Magness Jordan was 93.

"He was among the last of a great generation," said retired Army Col. Thomas B. Vaughn. "He risked his life in World War II, spent time at a POW camp, and when he came home he didn't ask for anything."

Funeral service for Mr. Jordan is Wednesday at 2 p.m. at McMinnville Funeral Home. Obituary information is available on 2A.

As a 19-year-old, Mr.

Jordan was one of the thousands of soldiers who stormed the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He fought for his life as stacks of bodies accumulated on the sand.

Nearly a week later, while hobbled by a leg injury from shrapnel, Mr. Jordan was captured by Germans and held as a POW. He watched as other prisoners were shot and killed in front of him. He would spend six weeks as a POW before managing to escape from a hospital with the help of a Frenchman disguised as a hospital worker.

Continued on 3A



JORDAN

Spreading smiles



Lacy Garrison photo

Walmart associate Karen Skillern pushes customer Amanda Stewart in a buggy after learning about her reputation as the "best door greeter" by those on Facebook.

Walmart associate exudes positivity

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

She may be new to Warren County, but Walmart associate Karen Skillern has already made a positive impact. Everyone seems to know this Houston native, who joined the Walmart team in October.

A recent 11-second video of Karen on Facebook has been shared 326 times, received nearly 700 reactions and has been viewed 15,000 times since last Thursday. With a lengthy string of 246 comments, people took to Facebook to express their love and appreciation for this hilarious Walmart door greeter.

Renee Avantes said, "Oh, she's a burst of sunshine and so nice. Her happiness is contagious!"

Added Felicia Adams, "I just love her positive, glowing spirit. Such a joy to walk in Walmart when she's there!"

After catching Karen near the pharmacy entrance yesterday afternoon, she couldn't say enough about how much she enjoys her job.

"I believe in God and I love all these people," said Karen. "Every one of these people mean something to me and I can tell when something is going on with them so I talk to them and sometimes we pray about it because occasionally you have to renew a person's faith."

Karen said she had her own business in Houston, but had to close it when her daughter was injured.

"My daughter was hit by a car when she came back from the war in Iraq and I thought I had lost her, but I know through the power of prayer that God brought me through it," said Karen. "So nobody knows my journey, can you dig it?"

Many customers also bragged Karen is beloved by their chil-

dren. They were quick to describe the extra things she does daily, such as cleaning off buggies for babies, speaking to every kid and even buying them candy.

"My boys love her," said customer Keith Fleming. "We go in and if we don't see her, my boys make sure to find her."

Her big personality and enthusiasm is so cherished, many customers seek her out before leaving the store.

"Oh, I love that woman," wrote Josh Alford. "I stand in her line every time no matter the wait! #positivitybreedspositivity"

It's not only the customers who adore Karen, but her co-workers enjoy her company and fun-loving spirit too.

"Karen is the reason I work here," said Walmart associate America Gray-Douglas. "I used to come in as a customer, but decided to apply because she's a hoot. I love working with her."

Win a grill!



The *Southern Standard* is giving away this gas grill as a door prize at our customer appreciation day this Friday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. That's in addition to free banana splits and discount subscriptions. Newspaper intern Emma Holmes shows the grill with the help of Rascal the friendly dog. For more information, see page 3B.

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