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H1N1 virus confirmed at local schools

Illness hits Dibrell, WCMS

By JAMES CLARK
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

There have been five confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in the Warren County School System,

according to director of health services Sonja Walker.

Four of those cases are at Dibrell Elementary while the other is at Warren County Middle School.

"It's just been mild to moderate

cases," said Walker, who indicated overall school attendance has been about normal.

Director of Schools Dr. Jerry Hale says the school system is treating the H1N1 virus, commonly called swine flu, like any other strain of the flu.

That's sound advice, according to DeKalb County Director of

Schools Mark Willoughby, who has been dealing with the H1N1 virus and soaring absentee rates for over a week. Willoughby told the *Standard* yesterday there have been 28 confirmed H1N1 cases in the DeKalb County School System.

"In the spring, when the medical professionals didn't know

how severe this was going to be, they advised people to close schools," said Willoughby. "That has caused a lot of people to really be fearful when in fact this strain has been less severe than other strains. People need to keep their cool about it."

Willoughby said attendance numbers were beginning to

return to normal on Tuesday. That wasn't the case Friday when he indicated close to 400 students in the 2,900-student system were absent. Most of those students were not sick. They did not want to go to school for fear of catching the virus, Willoughby said.

Continued on page 8-A

Clementine Myers to face murder conspiracy again

By DUANE SHERRILL
Staff Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

A decade after her son murdered his girlfriend and two children on Myers Lane, Clementine Myers faces the possibility of life in prison as prosecutors will try a second time to convict her on murder conspiracy charges.

Myers, 72, will appear before Special Judge David Patterson in DeKalb County on Nov. 18 for a pre-trial hearing on the charge of murder conspiracy, the same charge on which jurors returned deadlocked following her trial in 2004. She was convicted on the lesser charge of criminally negligent homicide during the same trial and served two months of a two-year sentence for the conviction in 2007.



MYERS

Ms. Myers was convicted on the felony count for allegedly paying off murder co-conspirator Johnny Lewis, now serving 65 years for his role in the crime, with hush money after her son, Doug Myers, murdered his longtime girlfriend, Dianne Watts, 42, her daughter, Jessica Watts, 10, and house guest Chelsie Smith, 13. The victims were beaten to death and the house set on fire with the help of Lewis on July 31,

1999.

Doug Myers is serving life in prison for his role in the crime. He was turned down last week on his request to have his conviction overturned due to ineffective assistance of counsel and is still serving his life sentence in the state penitentiary.

Continued on page 8-A

'New Moon' actor takes part in local production



Photos provided

The "Into the Darkness" cast performs for the trailer of the film written and produced by local couple Jade and Paul Moser. They are, from left, Wolfgang Weber, Anna Enger, Kiowa Gordon and Dalal Bruchmann.

Kiowa Gordon to star in 'Into the Darkness'

By CHARLIE JOHNSON
News Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

Warren County and Cumberland Caverns played host to a young man named Kiowa Gordon recently, which might not seem significant to those who aren't in the know, but for those who are it's a big deal since Gordon just happens to be one of the cast members in the movie series spawned by the "Twilight" novels by Stephenie Meyer.

The books have become a worldwide phenomenon and the movies are following close behind. Gordon made his debut in the second movie "New Moon" as Embry Call, a member of the werewolf pack. "New Moon" is set for release Nov. 20.

Gordon was in town to film the trailer for "Into the Darkness," a movie script penned by local residents Jade and Paul Moser. Gordon will soon be on his way to Vancouver to begin filming "Eclipse," the next installment of the series. Depending on his filming schedule, the Mosers say Gordon should return to Warren County next May to play the lead in their film.

Gordon, who is 19 and hails from Cave Creek, Ariz., talked with the *Standard* about his newfound fame and how he feels about performing the lead in "Into the Darkness."

"It's a great opportunity and I love working with Jade and Paul and the cast," said Gordon. "The caverns are awesome and I love doing the outdoor stuff."

Gordon says he caught the acting bug from his mom. "When I was younger my mom was an actress and I would always tag along with her on her films," Gordon said. "I didn't start getting into my own films until about 10 months ago when I was offered the part in 'New Moon.'"

Continued on page 7-A



Lisa Hobbs photo

After a little last-minute tweaking, the sign located atop McMinnville City Hall is working — almost. The time and messages can be programmed, but the temperature cannot. While it advertised Smokin' in McMinnville last week, advertising on the sign is not open to the public at this time.

Downtown sign working again

By LISA HOBBS
Staff Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tenn.)

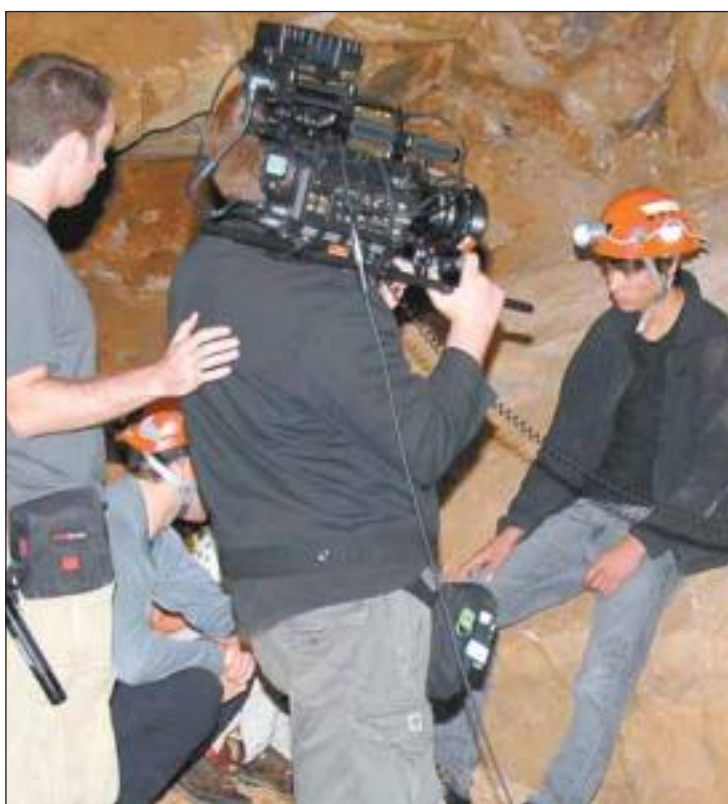
An electronic icon of downtown McMinnville has been saved from the scrap heap. The old fiber-optic sign atop the current city hall is now working. As long as it stays that way, it will not be removed.

After some tweaking last week, the sign is somewhat operational. While it shows the time and can be programmed to show a message, the temperature is missing.

Efforts to get the equipment up and running began shortly after the city purchased the building and moved city government into the floors not occupied by Regions Bank. However, those initial attempts failed.

While the computer was intact, a quick inspection found the fiber-optic cable was cut and the converter box was missing. How the cable was cut and who removed the converter box is unknown.

Continued on page 8-A



The "Into the Darkness" camera and sound crew sets up for a scene at Cumberland Caverns as Kiowa Gordon prepares to perform.

Show your Pioneer pride in style

Standard offers new retro shirt to salute 40 years of WCHS sports

Numerous members of the first Pioneer football team will be in attendance this Friday night as the 2009 version of Warren County football opens its season against DeKalb County at Nunley Stadium. Game time is 7 p.m.

Pioneer athletics is celebrating its 40th season since school consolidation in 1969.

To commemorate the occasion, the *Standard* will have T-shirts available to purchase at the gate for \$10, and several T-shirts will also be given away during the game.

Members of the first football team will

form the tunnel Pioneer players run through as they take the field. Those players will also be recognized at halftime.

Cheerleaders will be selling game programs for \$3 and several of the programs will be stamped on one of the inside pages. If you are lucky enough to buy one of the stamped programs, you receive a free T-shirt courtesy of the *Standard*.

Pioneerettes will also be selling souvenir fans that say, "40 fantastic years of Pioneer sports" that have been donated by the *Standard*.



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