

School system tackling troublesome trees

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

Warren County School System plans to chip away at a tree problem.

According to Director of Schools Bobby Cox there are 38 trees that need to be removed. Due to cost, the project will be done over time.

“There are several trees at the Central parking lot that are hanging out,” Cox said. “We probably aren’t going to be able to do all those at one time. We need to try to chip away at them as funding allows. I would recommend we accept this bid.”

The county Financial Management Committee met to review the only bid received on the project, which was from McMinnville Lawn and Garden at \$24,500.

“We’ve talked to owner Scottie Keel already about doing some as we can,” said Cox, who added that other companies were contacted about submitting a bid. “We asked some of the others to come take a look at it. They knew it was out for bid. They didn’t bid. I don’t know



Lisa Hobbs photo

Troublesome trees are slated for removal at Warren County School’s Central Office, 33 tree in all. Five other trees located at Bobby Ray Elementary, Hickory Creek Elementary and Warren Academy also make the list for removal.

why. This was the only bid we got.”

Of the 38 trees, 33 are located at the Central Office.

Also making the chopping block: one tree at Bobby Ray Elementary,

three at Hickory Creek Elementary and one at Warren Academy.

Committee members unanimously approved the bid from McMinnville Lawn and Garden for \$24,500.

Warren County Schools considers joining VOLCO for food purchases

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

Warren County Schools is seeking to consolidate its group purchasing cooperatives in an effort to reduce the cost to provide students with nourishment.

Consideration is being given to entering into the Tennessee Volunteer Cooperative, also called VOLCO, with several other school districts.

“We’ve been in cooperative agreements before for commodities but never this one,” said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. “This is a cooperative buying agreement with other school districts. It will be with Bedford County, Coffee, Dickson, Fayetteville City, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lincoln, Lewis, Manchester City, Marshall, and Stuart. What it will do is allow us to buy cheaper because we’re bidding collaboratively.”

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DIRECTOR OF SCHOOLS BOBBY COX

measure before members of the county Financial Management Committee. Purchasing cooperatives are used to reduce costs. At this time, Warren County School Nutrition is currently involved in Commodity Cooperative Group, Bread Buying Cooperative Group, Milk Cooperative Group, and

Food Cooperative Group. All the current cooperative groups involve different districts. VOLCO would replace all the current cooperatives.

Total expenditures for 2016-17 for food products was \$1.3 million. Warren County School nutrition foods are purchased using federal funds. The funds are used in all food service programs: breakfast and lunch.

The measure must be presented to the Warren County School Board for its consideration.

“This hasn’t gone before the School Board yet,” said Cox. “I wanted to see if we had committee approval to do it before taking it to the board. I looked through it. I didn’t see anything out of the ordinary. We’re in cooperative agreements now for commodities. If it enables us to buy at a lower price, I’m good with doing it.”

Financial Management Committee members approved entering into the cooperative.



GRAND JURY

Indictments were handed down this past week by the January session of the Warren County grand jury. Included in indictments:

Jesse Joey Ortega was indicted on charges of aggravated assault, assault, aggravated child endangerment, reckless endangerment and preventing a 911 call.

Sarah Margaret Lewis and Roger L. Womack were indicted on charges of child endangerment, initiating the process to manufacture meth, reckless endangerment, evading arrest and grand theft.

Charles Cole was indicted on charges of aggravated assault and assault.

Christopher Ray Hughes was indicted on the charge of evading arrest, tampering with evidence, possession of meth and introduction of drugs into the county jail.

William Gauge Rambo was indicted on the charge of theft over \$10,000 and possession of meth.

Danny Ray Murphy was indicted on charges of simple possession of meth and tampering with evidence.

Adrian Magness Womack was indicted on charges of possession of drugs.

Billy Ray Wood was indicted on charges of

burglary, criminal trespass, theft and shoplifting.

Shelby Yates was indicted on the charge of shoplifting.

George Guindon was indicted on the charge of domestic assault.

Christopher Tyler Young was indicted for resisting arrest.

Kelly Adams was indicted on the charge of criminal impersonation.

Todd Alan Schmeling was indicted on the charge of shoplifting.

Joshua Wayne Taylor and Todd Schmeling were indicted on charges of possession of meth, simple possession of marijuana, and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Chelsea N. Smith was indicted on charges of unlawful possession of a weapon and drug paraphernalia.

Eva Maria Arevalo was indicted on the charge of grand theft.

Jared Sims was indicted on the charge of theft.

Kendal M. Smedley was indicted on the charge of simple assault.

Ashley Renee Muncey was indicted on the charge of theft.

Tiffany Marie Jones was indicted on the charge of being an accessory after the fact.

Larry Kenneth Doak was indicted on the charge of violating an

order of protection.

Charlie Barnes was indicted on the charge of third-offense driving on a suspended license.

Scottie Nathan Copping was indicted on the charge of third-offense driving on a revoked license.

Mikaella Garcia was indicted on the charge of second-offense driving on a suspended license.

Kimberly Lynn Johnson was indicted on the charge of driving on a suspended license.

Rodney Brent Meeks was indicted on the charge of driving on a revoked license.

Amanda Sowell was indicted on charges of driving on a suspended license.

Lashaie Wright was indicted on the charge of driving on a suspended license.

Lawmakers to turn focus on opioid abuse

NASHVILLE (AP) — Tennessee lawmakers have gavelled in for a legislative session colored by upcoming elections, House Speaker Beth Harwell’s bid for governor and Republican Gov. Bill Haslam’s final lap before he hits term limits.

The Republican-led General Assembly began the session around noon Tuesday.

Lawmakers don’t face a weighty choice that will drive a months-long debate, like last year’s Haslam-backed roads-

funding law.

Legislative leaders and Haslam say a main focus will be opioid abuse, a less divisive topic before state elections for governor, all 99 House seats and 17 of 33 Senate seats.

Lawmakers can’t fundraise during the session, so they have incentive to finish quickly. The candidate filing deadline is April 5 and the primary is Aug. 2.

Harwell is one of five leading Republicans, alongside two Democrats, running for governor.



Eminem is set to headline the 17th annual Bonnaroo Music Festival in Manchester this June.

Eminem to headline Bonnaroo

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

“The Real Slim Shady” is set to make a return to Manchester.

Music star Eminem was announced Tuesday as the headliner of the 17th annual Bonnaroo Music Festival. He is the best-selling U.S. music artist of the 2000s

and owner of 10 No. 1 albums on the Billboard charts.

Eminem wowed the crowd with a widely appealing show during his previous appearance at Bonnaroo in 2011. He closed with “Not Afraid” before answering cheers and returning for an encore of “Lose Yourself.”

Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at www.bonnaroo.com. The music festival is set for June 7-10.

Other top acts include The Killers (pop), Muse (electronic metal), Sturgill Simpson (country), Sheryl Crow (rock/country), Future (hip-hop) and Bassnectar (mixed beats).

Bonnaroo has drawn crowds as large as 80,000 fans during its 16-year history in Manchester. Headliners have included Paul McCartney, The Police, Elton John, Pearl Jam and U2.