



Photo provided

The Warren County Retired Teachers Association met to celebrate the golden anniversary of the group. In attendance were, first row from left, Ava Gregersen, Lillian Daniel, Sherry Hale, Jerry Stubblefield, Wanda Gann, Teresa Knowles, Kay Brownyard and Shirley Douglass. Second row, Barbara Hancock, Debbie Allen, Pat Bryan, Robbie Hitchcock, Bettye Lewis, Cheryl

Priest, Mary Greer, Andrea Mitchell, Martha Kirby, Sharon Elam, Kerry Mullican, Linda Wilson and Joann Braswell. Back row, Syd Prater, Shirley Haley, Jerry Hale, Dianne Starkey, David Graham, Donald Jones, Phyllis Graham, Larry Prater, Betty Boyd, John Douglass and guest speaker Shot Nunley. Not pictured are Sam Boyd and Clarita Wilcher.

## Retired Teachers Association celebrates 50 years

BY MARGARET HOBBS  
Lifestyles Editor for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Members of the Warren County Retired Teachers Association (WCRTA) gathered

in December to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the group. A Christmas brunch was sponsored and held at The Webb House of McMinnville.

The meeting was conducted by association president Jerry

Hale. He welcomed everyone, and introduced speaker Shot Nunley. He is the son of Jess Nunley, who was the first president of WCRTA. In his presentation, he shared his memories of early education in Warren

County, and also shared information from his father.

Jerry Stubblefield and Donald Jones both spoke to the group, giving examples of how teaching was in the 1960s when the organization began.

Approximately 35 retired teachers were in attendance, as well as guests. The group meets monthly, and all retired teachers are invited to attend. More information can be obtained by calling Teresa Knowles at 931-668-3513.

## Senior Center to hold Valentine dinner, dance

BY MARGARET HOBBS  
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

With Valentine's Day less than three weeks away, some folks are thinking about ways to celebrate the day, designated as the day of love.

The 3rd annual Valentine Dinner and Dance is the perfect solution for those wanting a fun night out with their significant other.

The event is presented by the McMinnville Warren County Senior Center, and will be held at their location at 809 Morrison Street.

Festivities will be held Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. with a dinner of lasagna, wedge salad, dinner rolls, dessert and beverage served. Following the meal, dance music will be provided by Steve Harvey, Wayne Wolford, Nick Boldin and Joe Collier.

"This is a great opportunity to celebrate Valentine's Day, with or without a partner," said Senior Center director Connie Smith. "We're hoping the event will continue to grow and everyone have a great time."

The dinner and dance are \$15 per person, and requires reservations. Call 931-473-6559, or stop by the center to make plans and get tickets.

## Blessings in a bag

BY MARGARET HOBBS  
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Blessing Bags is a project presented by McMinnville Special Games, in the effort to provide special needs men and women with items they may not be able to easily access. The useful bags are distributed at events, in an effort to make sure they have everything they need.

The bags should include shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap or body wash, pocket tissues, chapstick, small lotion, dental floss, travel hand sanitizer, travel wipes and travel Q-tips. They should all fit into a gallon size ziplock bag that will close properly.

"People are always asking us what

they can do to help our organization," said Special Games president Holly McBride. "There are many ways to help and this is one of them. We are hoping churches or groups will get their youth involved and raise some awareness about special needs in our community."

The important thing people should know if they are wanting to donate Blessing Bags is every item must be new and unopened and fits into the bag. This makes it easier for volunteers to handle and store. Loose toiletries are not needed.

Blessing Bags may be dropped off at 357 Willow Way in a box designated for the items. For large donations, contact McBride at 931-808-8816.

## Farewell to a friend

Warren County has lost one of its most creative and artistic citizens. Monty Wanamaker, owner and operator of the Southern Museum and Galleries of Photography, Culture and History passed away Tuesday morning at work in the studio he loved.

Born in the foothills of the Cumberland Mountain region of Middle Tennessee, this talented native son displayed an artistic creativity at an early age. It has been told many times that as a youngster, when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, Monty always replied "an artist."

He was more than an artist. I did not become acquainted with Mr. Wanamaker until after he returned to McMinnville after many years of traveling



the world and living in various metropolitan cities. He and partner Chris Keathley opened the museum on Main Street in 2001, displaying their large collection of photography equipment,

memorabilia and various artifacts.

As the saying goes, "We just hit it off," starting a friendship I will continue to cherish. The very intellectual gentleman often spoke in a manner and used words I would need a thesaurus to identify their meaning. He did not boast; this was just a result of his many years of traveling and his extensive education.

He told of traveling to Nashville via a Greyhound bus to enjoy blues performers. On one of these trips, he visited the Nashville Symphony, thus beginning his love for classical music. He knew he wanted to pursue a career in the arts, attending the Memphis

Academy of Arts and other regional colleges. He assisted the director of the Parthenon Museum in Nashville, joined the staff of world acclaimed Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., and lived and worked in New York City as a freelance artist for seven years. Monty wrote poetry, and even designed costumes for the first time while in New York. He returned to work in Washington, D.C. once again before making the decision to return to Tennessee in 1982 to care for his ailing parents.

He seemed content with his life, running the museum and sharing his knowledge with visitors stopping by the business. In fact, he appeared

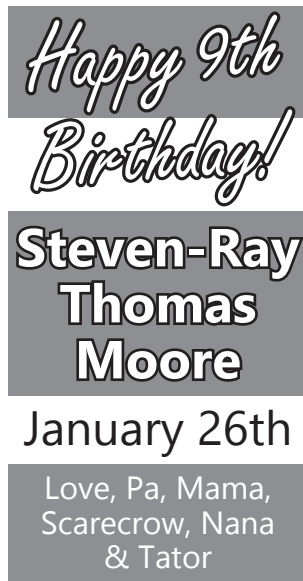
content with all he had accomplished in life.

He always had time to visit with folks, including two young and curious boys enthralled by the many items in the museum.

One afternoon I stopped by with two of my grandsons, Ian and Elliot, and they were very much excited about the rocks, gemstones and Indian artifacts on display. This world-class artisan took time to explain about each item, and answering in detail the many questions posed by the boys. They not only left with information, Monty made sure he gave each of them gifts to take home. The boys remember his generosity and kindness.

I'm sure many folks have memories of Monty Wanamaker, from reading one of his many published books or poems, enjoying one of his pieces of artwork, or even pouring over his annual Landmark Calendars. I feel the best memory is meeting and talking to him personally, and appreciating his uniqueness and many talents.

His life took him full circle, beginning and ending in Warren County.



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