

# Pizza used to entice students to eat school lunch

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

School nutrition officials are trying a saucy way to get students to eat school lunches.

They're adding personal pan pizza.

WCMS and WCHS have added Smart Mouth pizza to their daily lunch offerings, providing what director of school nutrition Sandy Dawes says is a restaurant-quality product.

"It's really good pizza and the kids love it," said Dawes. "The children are our customers and we have to give them something they enjoy. Times are changing. It's not like it was back in my day when the two choices were take it or leave it. If it's something they don't like, kids today just won't eat it."

The addition of Smart Mouth

pizza comes as the Warren County School System is trying to hold onto a federal program that provides free breakfast and lunch to every student at every school. The program is in its fourth and final year and Dawes says it may not be renewed.

"There are not as many economically disadvantaged students here as there were four years ago," said Dawes, who stressed that is definitely promising news. However, the improved financial situation will hurt Warren County when it comes to reapplying for the free meal program.

Dawes says one way to help keep the program is to show it's needed. She says that can only be done if students eat school lunches and the numbers are high.

"The kids who receive food stamps, they're going to get free lunch anyway," said Dawes. "This program helps working families

and it helps our principals. They don't have to keep up with who pays and who doesn't. And with everyone getting free lunch, there is no meal shaming. Children don't have to feel bad because they get free lunch."

Dawes says cafeteria managers have worked hard to add menu items students enjoy. For breakfast, there's now a bacon, egg and cheese biscuit. There's also a fruit smoothie that comes with donut rings.

"We need student body participation so we need to entice kids to eat with us," said Dawes. "This program is something we definitely want to keep. The way I look at it, somebody is going to get the money so it might as well be us."

To pay for the pizza ovens and other related expenses, the county approved an expenditure of \$159,744 for equipment and food supplies from Bull's Eye Brands.



**Chandra McCoy stays busy preparing hundreds of Smart Mouth pizzas each day for lunch at WCMS. The pizza has been well-received by students.**



Lisa Hobbs photo

**McMinnville Public Works Department is improving city street imperfections. On Wednesday, a crew was filling potholes and issues created when underground repairs were made by the Water Department.**

# We're in for a bumpy ride

## City water line repairs cause potholes

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

Is your city street providing a bumpy ride?

Underground work to city water lines has resulted in some poor street conditions around town.

"It's obvious that Anthony (Pelham, director of McMinnville Water Department) is doing his job because we've got potholes all over the place that we've made fixing water lining, putting in new water lines, replacing frozen water lines and that type thing," said Alderman Everett Brock. "We've got

a lot of places now that have a lot of bumps. What is our plan to take care of this because some of them are getting pretty jarring?"

The question was asked of city administrator Bill Brock during a regular session of the McMinnville Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

"The only thing we can do during the winter time is patch with cold mix, which isn't very good," Bill Brock said. "When summer comes, I'm sure Public Works and Water will get together and do some better hot mix repairs. We just have to tough it through. There are

some potholes too."

While digging below the street to repair water lines creates manmade issues, potholes are a natural occurrence. A pothole is a structural failure in a road surface caused by the presence of water in the underlying soil structure and the presence of traffic passing over the affected area.

During winter months, the water freezes, expands and thaws, creating a gap in the pavement. As vehicles drive over the gap, the pavement weakens and leads to a pothole.

"I'm certainly not getting onto you, or Anthony, because these are things

that happen," said Everett Brock. "I've just had a lot of comments from constituents wanting to know."

Bill Brock stated, "They do need to go out and take a look at repairing. I'll request that they do that."

A Public Works crew was out Wednesday, after the Tuesday night meeting, filling potholes and correcting manmade issues using cold mix.

Residents can report street issues by calling 473-2553 or online at [www.mcminnville.tenn.com](http://www.mcminnville.tenn.com) by clicking on "Departments," "Public Works," and "Request for Service/Report a Problem."

## New concert series

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City government helped with Bluegrass Underground by underwriting the PBS series for several years. In 2016, officials agreed to a three-year contract of \$62,500 per year.

Late in 2017, founder Todd Mayo and producer Todd Jarrell announced they would relocate to a cave in Grundy County. One year remains on the contract.

Mayor Jimmy Haley said the contract is "under review" when specifically asked if the city intends to pay the remaining year after the departure of Bluegrass Underground to Grundy County. However, the contract contains no stipulation that would require the con-

cert series to remain at Cumberland Caverns.

RCS Production has a goal of offering between 18 and 24 shows in 2018.

"That first weekend, we sold 316 tickets," said Moore.

Plans are to improve seating with mesh folding chairs and community seating. Menu options will be added, including healthier options such as wraps, salads and maybe soups.

Moore outlined the advertising that will be used for marketing the new music series.

"We are aiming for high media coverage in 2018," he said. "We have a lot to say about the new experience in Cumberland Caverns."

The presentation was for information purposes only.



**Stephen Moore, president of Atlanta-based RCS Production, gives a presentation to city officials Tuesday night. Moore asked for \$48,000 to underwrite Cumberland Caverns Live, a new concert series which begins next weekend.**



## TRAFFIC COURT

BY **DUANE SHERRILL**  
Reporter for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Sentences were handed down Thursday by Judge Bill Locke in General Sessions Traffic Court.

Included in court action: Samantha Davenport was bound to the grand jury on charges of vehicular assault, reckless endangerment and DUI. She is charged with driving on the wrong side of Nashville Highway and slamming head-on into an oncoming car while under the influence this past summer. Several people, including children, were hurt in the crash. She also had her probation revoked and must serve the balance of her time.

James F. Summers was directed to serve 30 days of an 11-month, 29-day sentence and pay \$50 plus costs for driving on a revoked license. He was

given an additional 60 days for violation of probation.

James Michael Lance was ordered to serve 10 days of an 11-29 sentence for domestic assault. He was given another 30 days for violation of probation.

Cesar Chavez-Lopez was directed to serve seven days of an 11-29

sentence, pay \$350 plus costs, perform 24 hours public service work, attend DUI Class and lose his driver license for one year for DUI.

Randy D. Ralph was issued a six-month probationary sentence and must pay \$50 plus costs for reckless driving.

Jimmy Dixon, Warren

A. Ross, Dawn M. Freeman, Misty D. Kirk, Thomas G. Lance, Keli Pearl Lankford, Isaac C. Flores, Juan C. Rodriguez, Maria Rodriguez, Ramiro G. Rodriguez, Abel G. Santillan, Michael Dalton and Pasual Esparza must pay \$10 plus costs for driving without a license.

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**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**North Warren Fire Dept.**  
**Jan. 29**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**@Station 1**  
9086 Smithville Hwy.



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