

Students sign up for new lease on education

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

Education is a key to success and some students are signing on the dotted line for achievement.

National Technical Letter of Intent Signing Day was Thursday at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT).

The event celebrates the value of an occupational education and recognizes the accomplishments of students making the commitment to further their academic careers beyond high school.

Among the high school students signing a letter of intent indicating they plan to attend TCAT after graduation was Warren County High School senior Blake Driver, who expressed a desire to stay local as he pursues his interest as an

automotive technician.

"Automotive is something I like to do," said Driver. "I work on cars on the side. I'd like to have my own business some day."

The event mirrors the NCAA's National Signing Day for students who commit to play sports in college. It is designed to honor students entering an occupational field, emphasizing the college's commitment to help the students gain the skills necessary to compete in high-demand occupations. TCAT was one of several around the country that simultaneously hold a signing ceremony.

Guest speakers included businessman and *Standard* contributor Todd Herzog, who assured students they were making the right choice by continuing their education.

"I view myself as an

advocate for industry," said Herzog. "If they have a problem or a need, I speak to it. I can tell you that advanced skills training is where it's at. I congratulate you on this occasion. I encourage you to go for it. The opportunity is there. The door is wide open."

TCAT director Warren Laux welcomed students to their future school.

"You guys have made a great choice," said Laux. "We are proud you have selected us and we are going to work with you. It takes both parties to make it happen. You have to be a willing participant, and we have the professionals to teach it. Thank you for making that choice."

More than 60 students from Warren, White, Grundy, Coffee, and DeKalb counties participated in the event.



Lisa Hobbs photo

Warren County High School senior Blake Driver was among the many students in attendance during a Letter of Intent Signing Day at Tennessee College of Applied Technology. The event focuses on students who plan on pursuing their academic careers at TCAT after graduation.

Forth, 22, released after drunken target practice

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

A man who got drunk and began popping off rounds with his pistol in his backyard off East Main Street has been released on time-served.

The man, William S. Forth, 22, entered guilty pleas before General Sessions Judge Bill Locke on charges of possession of a handgun while under the influence. He was given an 11-month, 29-day probationary sentence and

must pay \$50 plus costs and was directed to forfeit his handgun.

Police were dispatched to East Main Street after someone called 911 to say they heard gunshots in the vicinity. When policeman Toby Lewis arrived to investigate the call he found Forth.

"He was in the backyard, passed out on a bench," Lewis revealed. "Located near the bench was an almost empty bottle of Wild Turkey."

Lewis said he literally found the smoking gun

while investigating. "There was an odor of alcohol coming from the male's person," he reported. "And, he had a 45-caliber handgun between his feet with spent shell casings nearby."

After being roused, Forth told the officer he had been shooting at cans in his backyard which was in close proximity of his neighbor's house on East Main Street. The officer noted Forth had live ammunition for the handgun in his pocket.

COVENANT ACADEMY HONOR ROLLS

Covenant Academy headmaster Alan Smith is announcing the school's honor rolls for the second quarter:

FIRST HONOR ROLL

- FIRST GRADE** – Ethan Benkarski, Lacey Hillis, Alyssa Johnson, Hunter Johnson, Isaac McVey, Sophie Smith, Benjamin Spanjer, Addisan Stewart
- SECOND GRADE** – Dean Wingate
- THIRD GRADE** – Dean Cooper, Noah Greer, Noah Kell, Alyssa Parsley, Abigail Rogers, Rayleigh Tate
- FOURTH GRADE** – Abigail Brown, Anslee McCrary, Hayden Woods, Walt Wrather
- FIFTH GRADE** – Susanna

- Netherton, Nicholas O'Hara, Emma Sharpe, Ava Claire Wrather
- SIXTH GRADE** – Hailey Sears
- SEVENTH GRADE** – Caleb Hines, Lydia Netherton, Marissa O'Hara, Vansh Patel
- EIGHTH GRADE** – Molly Davis
- NINTH GRADE** – Ashlyn Brownyard, Terry Hines, Sarah Sharpe
- TENTH GRADE** – Arianna Hutchins, Katie-Marissa Pack, Jackson Smith
- ELEVENTH GRADE** – Dalton Burks, Emma Grace Madewell, Anuja Patel, Naina Patel, Alex Stovall
- TWELFTH GRADE** – Chloe Hillis, Nicolette

- Newby, Katherine Shelton, Kaylee Smith

SECOND HONOR ROLL

- FIRST GRADE** – Boone Gannon, Scarlett Gibbs, Sara Greer, Parker Jones, Grayson Potter, Riley Turner, Noah Terry
- SECOND GRADE** – Elliott Moeller, Isaac Smith, Keristyn Seagraves, Kayden Gipson, Leah Mara, Tristan Rudolph
- THIRD GRADE** – Hayden Fults, Blake Jones, Abigail Netherton, Asa Tupper
- FOURTH GRADE** – Matt Breedlove, Emma Copping
- FIFTH GRADE** – Bailey Cooper, James Hines, EmiLee Lassiter, Lilly Petty, Allister Rudolph, Addison Smith, Elsa Smith
- SIXTH GRADE** – Alondra Lassiter, Mit Patel, Ayden Rogers, Jaelin Stovall
- SEVENTH GRADE** – Lanya Byars, Maddie Gibbs, Kaylen Jacobs, MacKenzie Mills, Collin Panter
- EIGHTH GRADE** – Alex Brown, Anabel Lassiter, Smit Patel, Emma Randall, Leslie Vinson
- NINTH GRADE** – Newby Anderson, Ethan Hillis, Madisen Madewell, Gunnar Mullins, David Netherton, Brandy Pennington, Emma Kate Wrather, Daniel Young
- TENTH GRADE** – Randy Cantrell, Erica Clay, Tyler Hillis, Lilyanne Kell, Neal Patel, Reonna Pennington
- ELEVENTH GRADE** – Lance Curtis
- TWELFTH GRADE** – Crosley Smith

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Puppies

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Their overabundance leaves shelter employees and volunteers struggling to care for them, as well as adult animals.

"I know I've said this before and I'll probably keep saying it, but if people would spay and neuter their animals, we wouldn't have this problem," said Pettrey. "The solution is to spay and neuter."

The information was presented during a Health and Welfare Committee meeting to receive a monthly Animal Control report.

During the month of January, the facility received 70 dogs, returned two to owners, adopted out four, and sent 61 to rescue. It also received 52 cats, adopted out three, had four grant-funded adoptions, and sent 87 to rescue. Along with having 22 puppies in its end-of-the-month total, it had 17 dogs and 27 cats.

If you want to adopt an animal, Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center can be reached at 507-3647 and is located at 169 Paws Trail. Puppy adoption fee is \$97, which includes the cost of spay or neuter and rabies vaccination.