

# McWhirter elected library chairman

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

Magness Library has a new leader.

N.P. “Mac” McWhirter, a member of the library’s board of directors for four years, has been elected as its chairman.

“Since moving to Warren County, I have been very impressed with the involvement of citizens in nonprofit organizations,” said McWhirter. “The dedicated, selfless work given by those who have devoted years to the library board has enriched our community in many ways.”

The future of the library is bright.

“Magness Library is much more than a building full of

books,” he added. “It is a cultural center and meeting place for our entire community. No longer the quiet places of the past, today’s libraries are busy, vibrant places. I hope to help raise community awareness of all the resources this library offers. Perhaps most important of all, Magness Library is a place for our children to learn and thrive.”

McWhirter has a strong background in finance, community service, and non-profit organizations.

Retired from Rhodes College, McWhirter was associate vice president of finance and comptroller for 25 years. He had previously served as director of finance for the city of Memphis and as chief administrative officer for Shelby County gov-

ernment.

A Marine Corps veteran who served in Vietnam, he is also a retired certified public accountant.

In June 2013, after commuting for 22 years between Memphis and their Rock Island cattle farm, Mac and his wife Susan, moved to Warren County full-time. When not working on their farm, they spend their time traveling and bird watching.

The McWhirters are lifelong advocates for environmental and conservation groups. Susan has served as president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and Friends of Shelby Farms. Mac has been president of Wolf River Conservancy, president of Chelsea Farms and is currently treasurer of the Tennessee Ornithological

Society.

Pat Bigbee handed over the gavel, but she will remain as a member of the library board.

“The time had come for me to pass the leadership on and Mac is the perfect person to guide the library into the future,” she said. “I truly love this library and I will continue to be involved.”

Library director Brad Walker welcomes the change.

“While it is sad to see Pat go as board chair, I am glad she will continue to serve on the board,” Walker said. “Mac will continue the grand tradition of dedication and service to the library and to the community at-large. I look forward to working with him during his term as board chair.”



Lisa Hobbs photo

**Pat Bigbee, left, has stepped down as chair of Magness Library’s board of directors. Elected to fill the position is N.P. “Mac” McWhirter, who has been on the board for four years and aims to raise awareness of all resources the library offers.**

Also on the board of directors are Bette Myers, Ernest Smallman, Rachel Killebrew, Bill Mullican, Jean Marsh, Trevor Galligan, and Chitra Mukherji.

# Kickin' it up at Civic Center

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

McMinnville Civic Center is adding a kick to its recreation.

Tae Kwon Do classes begin March 6 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hours will be 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for students ages 6-12, and 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for students ages 13 and up.

Instructor Chris Kleckner is partnering with the facility to provide the training.

“This is an introductory class for children and adults,” said Kleckner. “If it turns out well, we will continue to offer it.”

Kleckner is a 6th degree black belt who has been teaching Tae Kwon Do for over 35 years and specializes in Hapkido self-defense.

Tae Kwon Do is an ancient art of self-defense and is one of the oldest forms of martial arts. On top of learning how to protect yourself, his students

will also participate in a beginner cardio regiment, learn stretching techniques, and proper Tae Kwon Do leg and arm movements.

The class will accentuate the five tenets of Tae Kwon Do, which are courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and indomitable spirit.

Self-defense techniques and tenets are taught in a no-contact class. This helps class members learn how and when to use what they have learned and to not misuse their skill for fighting or bullying. Kleckner says class members will leave class feeling stronger, wiser, and more prepared to meet life’s challenges.

Individuals who have a Civic Center membership will receive a discount. Cost is \$40 a month for non-members, and \$35 a month for current members. Payment is due before the first class of the month.

Registration will be taken at the front desk.



Lisa Hobbs photo

**Tae Kwon Do classes will be offered at McMinnville Civic Center beginning March 6 for ages 6 and up. Class instructor Chris Kleckner has been teaching for over 35 years.**

# College planning for WCHS juniors

Worried about how you’re going to pay for college?

Warren County High School is holding a Junior College Planning Night this coming Tuesday, March 6. The event is set to begin at 5 p.m. in the WCHS cafeteria where pizza will be served to juniors and their parents. A few college representatives will be in atten-

dance to provide information.

Starting at 6 p.m., there will be a presentation in the auditorium regarding financial aid, scholarships, and information on how to plan and pay for college before your child’s senior year.

WCHS juniors who plan to attend college and their parents are encouraged to attend.

# Spencer man indicted for Buechel murder

**COOKEVILLE (AP)** — A Spencer man has been indicted on murder charges in a death last month in Sparta.

The TBI said a Cumberland County grand jury returned indictments Monday charging 47-year-old Billy Joe Wannyn of Spencer with first-degree murder, felony murder and aggravated robbery.

Wannyn is charged in the death Jan.20 of Albin Buechel in his home in Sparta.

The TBI said Wannyn was served at the Cumberland County Jail, where he was incarcerated on unrelated charges.

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Two Democratic lawmakers are proposing a ban on child marriages in Tennessee.

During a news conference Monday, Sen. Jeff Yarbrow of Nashville and Rep. Darren Jernigan of Old Hickory discussed legislation to require people getting married to be at least 18.

Yarbrow said Tennessee lets children under 18 get married, often to adults and in situations that could be characterized as statutory rape or rape of a child. He says some girls as young as 10 married adult men.

The Pew Research Center says 5.5 of every 1,000 15- to 17-year-olds in Tennessee were married from 2010 to 2014, ranking in the top 10 nationally.

Yarbrow says only parental consent is enough for 16- and 17-year-olds to marry, while younger children need approval

## STATE ROUNDUP

of a county judge or elected official.

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Jack Daniel’s is turning to state lawmakers to ensure that distillers aren’t subject to property tax on whiskey barrels in Tennessee, which the company says it hasn’t had to pay since at least the end of Prohibition eight decades ago.

The whiskey giant is pushing a liquor barrel property tax exemption bill after an auditor for Moore County’s property assessor recently determined the company’s barrels are taxable. Paying that tax on around 2 million barrels would cost the Lynchburg, Tennessee-based company an additional \$2.8 million this year, according to a legislative fiscal review.

Ralph Cooper, a lobbyist for the Tennessee County Services Association, said the audit determined Jack Daniel’s has not been self-reporting the barrels for personal property tax, as required.

But Jack Daniel’s contends the barrels aren’t taxable because they aren’t equipment. They are part of the inventory. The barrels are sold and reused, often to age other spirits across the world.

The state attorney general has been asked for an opinion on whether the barrel tax would be constitutional. Jack Daniel’s argues it isn’t.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars is seeking to strengthen Warren County by helping organizations that give back to the community.

A blind auction will be held at the VFW on March 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Helping Hands Ministry, Kids of the Community, McMinnville Special Games and the VFW.

“Donated items from event sponsors will be placed in five boxes representing the five branches of military service,” said Tom Davis, VFW quarter-

master. “The boxes will then be auctioned by a live auctioneer. People can bid for their favorite branch of service.”

Bidders will know who the sponsors are, but no specifics on what they donated.

“You’ll know a business provided something, but not what they gave. That’s the blind part,” said Davis. “We will have several sponsors for each branch.”

The four community service organizations will split the proceeds from the auction:

- Helping Hands Ministry partners with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide food and

assistance to Warren County citizens in need.

- Kids of the Community is dedicated to the ideal that all children in Warren County have the right to be important, the right to be recognized, and the right to learn fundamental core values from responsible adults.

- McMinnville Special Games offers a day devoted to children of Warren County with special needs. Offered are Olympic-style games and lots of fun and prizes for participants.




**DAVIS**

- VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs that help veterans of every generation.

“This is a fundraiser for all four of us,” said Davis. “

Music will follow the auction at 7 p.m. Bands performing are “Speak Easy” and “Rock Club.”

If you are interested in sponsoring the fundraiser, contact Davis at vfw-post5064@gmail.com. Event sponsors will be listed on the VFW 5064 Facebook page and updated weekly.



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**6:00 Meet & Greet  
6:00 Appetizers  
7:00 Dinner  
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You'll see a man who looks in the face of defeat and says, "Am I really failing, or is God prevailing?" And you'll be inspired by his relentless determination, which he loves to impart to others through his dramatic story.