

Schools win \$1,000 as co-finalist for Tri-State award

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

Ensuring all students have access to high-quality learning opportunities in STEM subjects has Warren County Schools leading the way to a regional recognition.

The school district was entered into a Tri-State Best K-12 Practices Contest offered by LEAN Frog and the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents. The competition is open to all schools in Alabama, Louisiana and Tennessee. Of those, two schools are chosen from each state.

Warren County Schools was selected as a co-finalist, and Director of Schools Bobby Cox was presented a \$1,000 check from contest organizers. Oak Ridge Schools was the other co-finalist for Tennessee.

"We at Warren County Schools are very excited to be recognized as a Best Practice Finalist," Cox said.

Gaining accolades was the school's STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) program, a high-quality career and technical education program centered around Mechatronics. The program has helped students develop critical thinking skills, improve problem-solving skills, and begin a career path in engineering and industrial manufacturing.

"Through collaboration, intentional planning, and smart funding, Warren County has developed a sustainable best practice and outstanding STEM program," said Dr. Sherri Headrick, LEAN Frog director of marketing and personnel. "As one of our judges commented, 'The mobile STEM lab going to middle schools is truly exciting!' I

couldn't agree more. This is an excellent best practice that provides exposure, training and advancement for all grade levels."

In 2010, Warren County Schools partnered with local business and industry to develop its comprehensive STEM program. Working with the Tennessee Department of Education, the school system created a rigorous and relevant Mechatronics Pathway curriculum.

Mechatronics is a blend of electronics, mechanics, and computer/processor control technologies that are critical in manufactured products and the manufacturing process in automotive, banking, aerospace, construction, and other industries.

Using the STEM program, students can receive dual credit at Motlow State Community College and get a jump start on a college degree if desired.

Cox says students are the winners in the partnership. "We have worked very hard to build and maintain an outstanding working relationship with our business and industry, as well as our post-secondary partners," said Cox. "It is through these partnerships we have been able to develop and enhance our STEM Education Program and we hope to continue to expose our students to new and exciting technology in the future."

As a finalist, Warren County Schools will compete for a \$4,000 grand prize against the other five schools.

Cox accepted the \$1,000 check at the 2018 Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents Legislative and Learning Conference and presented it to members of the Warren County Board of Education.



Warren County Schools is a co-finalist in the Tri-State Best K-12 Practices contest. The recognition, with the Mechatronics program at the center of it, netted a \$1,000 prize. Pictured are Director of Schools Bobby Cox, left, making the presentation to Warren County School Board chair James Bennett.

Lisa Hobbs photo

State lawmakers divided over arming teachers

NASHVILLE (AP) — Republican lawmakers have advanced a proposal to expand the number of Tennessee teachers who can carry guns in schools, drawing a divide with Democrats just hours after lawmakers found bipartisan common ground on possibly using off-duty officers to fill school security gaps.

The legislation, which passed a House subcommittee Wednesday, would let all school districts decide whether to allow teachers to undergo training by certified private instructors to carry guns in schools, with one armed teacher allowed per 75 students.

there are 17 districts across the state with no school resource officers, most in city systems primarily with elementary schools.

Republican Gov. Bill Haslam's administration, which is undergoing a statewide school safety review, joined with Democrats, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a teacher and others in opposing the bill.

"Do not turn us into a security force," Larry Proffitt, a teacher in Dickson County, told law-

makers.

Earlier Wednesday, Republican Rep. Micah Van Huss of Jonesborough and Democratic Rep. Antonio Parkinson of Memphis announced a bill that would let school districts hire off-duty law enforcement officers to bolster existing school security.

Under it, participating districts would get a list of interested officers. Officers would have to carry a loaded handgun. Districts would choose whether officers would wear uniforms and wheth-

er they would carry rifles. Up to two officers would be offered per school.

Using civil asset forfeiture money, the state would offer a small payment to officers — \$50 per school day and \$50 for afterschool events — with another \$4 covering administrative costs. Any additional money would come from state reserves.

"I've heard of many folks, at least in my area, that want to volunteer to do this," Van Huss said. "So I hope the answer would be, yes, we don't need money to attract folks to keep our kids safe."



FARMER

Teacher fires handgun in classroom

ATLANTA (AP) — A social studies teacher barricaded himself inside a classroom at a Georgia high school Wednesday and fired a handgun, sending students running outside or hunkering down in darkened gym locker rooms, authorities said.

No Dalton High School students were in the classroom when the teacher fired the weapon.

It wasn't immediately clear why the teacher, 53-year-old Jesse Randal Davidson, had the gun. Under questioning by detectives, he refused to discuss what led to the shooting.

The teacher was taken into custody without incident after a 30- to 45-minute standoff with officers, police spokesman Bruce Frazier said. A teacher since 2004, Davidson also serves as the play-by-play announcer for the high school's football team.

teachers was a bad idea.

Twice in recent years, Dalton police say they encountered Davidson exhibiting odd behavior and wrote in one report that he "may be delusional."

Davidson had walked into the police department and told a rambling story about thinking a murder had occurred, police wrote in a 2016 report. But police said they investigated and were not able to verify any of the information.

Police said that after the interview, Davidson was taken to a hospital "based on him thinking about hurting himself."

Police said in another report last year officers found Davidson during a school day sitting on the curb of a street, conscious but unresponsive and being held up by two school staff members. He was again taken to a hospital.



DAVIDSON

"Sparklin' Clean"

WATSON'S

STEAM CLEANING

Pressure Washing • House Washing

Driveway Washing • Roof Washing

931-808-2792

SOUTHLAND

BRICK & BLOCK

Ronnie Simmons

700 Ordway Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37129
Cell: 931-212-5252
Office: 615-893-7146 Fax: 615-893-0110

ronnie.southlandbb@gmail.com



Complete Commercial Printing Services

Invitations | Business Forms
Brochures | Letterheads | Notepads
Sales Sheets | Envelopes | Invoices
Receipt Books | Price Lists

2018	MARCH							2018
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

Womack

PRINTING COMPANY, INC.

All your printing needs since 1922

931-473-7212

105 Donnell Street
McMinnville, TN 37110

THREE STAR CINEMA

Sparta Rd. at Three Star Mall

24 Hr. Movie Answering Service
473-7600

HELD OVER 2ND WEEK
THRU THURS., MAR. 8

"GAME NIGHT"

- R -
7:15 - 9:15

HELD OVER 4TH WEEK
THRU THURS., MAR. 8

"PETER RABBIT"

- PG -
7:15 - 9:15

HELD OVER 3RD WEEK
THRU THURS., MAR. 8

"BLACK PANTHER"

- PG13 -
7:00 - 9:25 FRI. & SAT.
7:15 SUN. THRU THURS.

FRI. THRU THURS.,
MAR. 2 - 8

"JUMANJI: WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE"

- PG13 -
7:00 - 9:10

HELD OVER 4TH WEEK
THRU THURS., MAR. 8

"50 SHADES FREED"

- R -
7:10 - 9:10

- COMING FRI., MAR. 9 -

"WRINKLE IN TIME"

- PG -

"HURRICANE HEIST"

- PG13 -

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WITHOUT NOTICE

ADMISSION
ADULTS 7.00
CHILDREN 5.00