

# Bennett announces run for District 1 School Board

Longtime Warren County educator and incumbent School Board District 1 member James B. Bennett is seeking re-election during the 2018 general election.

Over the course of the last four years, Bennett has been integral to the placement of a school resource officer at every school in the county. "Making sure our students are safe was one of my main goals when elected four years ago," said Bennett.

During his tenure, Bennett has remained focused on continually improving campus safety

across the school district. "I want to keep the safety of our students, teachers, and our parents as my first priority. No student should ever feel afraid at school."

If re-elected this year, Bennett has already laid plans to work with Warren County High School executive principal Jimmy Walker, as well as with other School Board members, to place a third school resource officer at the high school.

"Each year, the student population increases at WCHS," said Bennett. "We need to ensure we have enough officers on

campus in the event the unthinkable ever occurs."

Bennett also wants to be proactive and help develop improved safety plans for each school. "Sadly, this is the time we live in, and we have to be prepared in order to keep students and staff safe."

Aside from being focused on student safety, Bennett has worked with the current School Board to help implement a new set of teaching



**BENNETT**

standards, which replaced the previous Common Core standards.

"Since the implementation of these new teaching standards, our system has seen an overall increase in the performance of our schools. We currently have two schools in our district that have achieved state accolades this year. Dibrell Elementary and Morrison Elementary both received Reward School status by

the state Department of Education," said Bennett. "Our system is on the right track, and we want to continue moving forward with the focus on student success."

Bennett is also proud of the work being done at Warren County High School where there is an increased focus on post-secondary education and training for students.

"WCHS is focusing on each student being college or career ready," said Bennett. "The Mechatronics program at WCHS has been a model program that has been looked at by educational leaders from other states."

WCHS is also focused on helping seniors secure Tennessee Promise funding, which will enable each graduate the chance to attend college for two years free of charge.

"I'm very proud of where our school district is now and where we plan to go in the future," said Bennett. "I'm asking for your continued support and your vote this year so I can continue to work for you and for the betterment of our schools. As long as our main focus is on doing what is right for our students and teachers, we can't go wrong."

# GOP candidates take soft stances amid gun control debacle

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — In gun-friendly Tennessee, President Donald Trump's ideas to ban bump stocks and bar people under 21 from buying semi-automatic guns have put the leading GOP candidates for governor in a tough spot. In response, they have mostly avoided taking firm stances.

Trump has added further uncertainty with his ongoing, unpredictable evolution on gun control.

Trump suggested he would support requiring a review of firearm purchases online and at gun shows, ideas the powerful National Rifle Association opposes.

Trump has said the ban on bump stocks, which enable guns to fire like automatic weapons, would be addressed by executive order.

U.S. Rep. Diane Black said she's currently not sure she'd vote for the bump stock ban, adding she doesn't think the device is the "reason that all this happened." But she said would want to hear more information about it. She also said

raising the minimum age for gun purchases needs to be decided state-by-state, but she opposes it. She steered the conversation toward mental health.

"I do not support raising the age requirement for firearms," Black said in a statement Friday. "We shouldn't infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners because of the actions of a deranged individual."

Businessman Bill Lee said he'd be open to a possible bump stock ban, but not to raising the weapon age limit.

"I have concern whenever we take away a constitutional right, the right to bear arms," said Lee, a Franklin construction company owner.

House Speaker Beth Harwell and businessman Randy Boyd have not offered concrete positions.

Harwell has said Trump's support of a bump stock ban makes it more high profile and gives it more credibility, but she said she needs to study the issue further. She didn't take a stance

on raising the age.

Harwell said the issue might be handled in Washington, though state lawmakers can try to address it this year.

Citing uncertainty about what will come out of Washington, Boyd's campaign instead mentioned mental health and increased security through well-trained officers in schools.

Term-limited Republican Gov. Bill Haslam has spoken out in support of both changes. He has said "it's just crazy" to him that 19-year-olds can't buy a beer, but can buy semi-automatic weapons.

Both Democrats echoed Haslam's drinking age comparison.

House Minority Leader Craig Fitzhugh of Ripley said he'd support both changes.

Former Nashville Mayor Karl Dean said Tennesseans need to ask themselves what age limit makes sense for semi-automatic weapons.

He said he supports a bump stock ban.



Lisa Hobbs photo

**Consideration is being given to placement of a small loop drive at Bobby Ray Elementary as part of its future renovation. The pull-in area would be placed off Chancery Street and would be used by campus visitors once an addition is complete and the main entrance is relocated to what is now the back of the school.**

# Bobby Ray visitor parking could receive circle drive

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

A proposed project at Bobby Ray Elementary could include a circle drive off Chancery Street, if the Tennessee Department of Transportation approves.

"We have been looking at different ways to do visitor parking onto the site," said Upland Design Group architect Allen Hill in an update to members of the Warren County Board of Education. "One thing that was discussed is approaching TDOT about the possibility of having a few, maybe four, parking spaces that would be directly off Chancery, a pull-in area. It would be a little loop drive."

Part of the school's makeover is construction of a new addition just off Chancery Street to be used

as a new entrance. Parking, as originally proposed, would be along the side of the campus. Visitors would have to walk from that area to Chancery Street and down the sidewalk into the main courtyard to access the entrance.

A loop drive would provide better access to the new addition for campus visitors, but it would require another access point onto Chancery Street. Being a state route, TDOT approval is required.

"We do have some concerns over whether or not TDOT will allow us to do it at all," said Hill. "Our approach would be to do some preliminary drawings and submit them to TDOT and try to get a preliminary approval on that before we proceed. At this point, we don't know if it's feasible or not."

Hill requested School Board permission to begin geotechnical and land survey negotiations, after reviewing the site with Dave Allmon, who has worked with Warren County Schools in past projects and is the owner of Allmon Engineering.

Hill's estimates the land survey would not exceed \$5,000 and the geotechnical investigation would not exceed \$5,500.

Board members approved Upland Design negotiating that work at the not-to-exceed estimates. Prior to signing, contracts must be reviewed to ensure negotiations were in the best interest of the school system and approved by legal counsel.

Construction at Bobby Ray is projected to begin immediately after the 2017-18 school year ends.

# Fines for Environmental Court could cost \$150

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

A trip to McMinnville's Environmental Court could cost defendants \$150 in fines and court costs.

On its way to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen is a measure to set court costs at \$100. Fines, for individuals found guilty, are set by the state at \$50 per day per violation.

"What you see here reflects the fees we've come up with," said Community Development Department director Nolan Ming, of himself and city attorney Tim Pirtle. "We, basically, took the existing court costs from Municipal Court and moved those over to the Environmental Court. They are pretty straight forward."

A breakdown of the \$100 court cost: \$47.23 for affidavit and warrant service, \$11 judgement, \$11 docketing, \$7 bill of cost, \$7 subpoena, \$13.75 state tax, and \$3 for technology/ software/ online payment cost. The court cost will be required to be paid regardless of the final ruling.

Setting court cost is the final step in the process for the Community Development Department to hear code violation cases in-house. Once the measure is approved by the board, residents cited for violations will appear before Ming, who will decide if a violation exists. If a violation exists, the defendant will be charged \$50 per day for each day the violation continues to

exist.

Alderman Steve Harvey asked if people would be required to pay the court cost, even if they were found not in violation.

Ming stated it would be up at his discretion whether to charge the court cost and that decision would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

For persons who refuse to right the wrong, the \$50 fine can be a daily assessment.

"The fine is limited by the Tennessee Constitution to \$50 per violation," said Pirtle. "Although, in the case of repeat or serial offenders, that fine can be assessed on a daily basis after the judgment is entered. From the date of the judgement forward, it can accrue \$50 per day until the violation is corrected or the codes defi-

ciency is remedied."

McMinnville Environmental Court will work similar to that of McMinnville Municipal Court with Judge Tim Reed.

"Effectively, there is no difference between the two," said Pirtle.

"The enforcement authority is the same. This will allow Nolan to control his operation and the enforcement with his operations. (Reed's) docket can be really lengthy, particularly in regard to traffic offenses."

Defendants who do not feel they have been treated fairly by Ming have 10 days to appeal his decision to a Court of Record.

The city Building and Grounds Committee approved the court cost structure. It will be presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for its consideration.



**MING**

**GOSPEL MEETING**  
**MARCH 11 - 14, 2018**  
**EAST END CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
102 Edison St., McMinnville, TN 37110  
(Corner of Sparta & Edison St.)  
**Speaker: Larry Acuff**  
**Service Times:**  
**Sunday 9am, 10am & 7pm; Mon. - Wed. 7pm**  
*Come and hear Gospel preaching from the Bible!*

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**GOSPEL MEETING**  
**BETHANY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
1206 Old Nashville Highway  
McMinnville, TN  
**MARCH 11 - 14**  
**GUEST SPEAKER:**  
**PAUL MEACHAM, JR.**  
**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY.....9:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP .....5:00 P.M.  
MONDAY - WEDNESDAY EVENING .....7:00 P.M.  
  
COVERED DISH MEAL FOLLOWING  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP  
  
EVERYONE WILL BE WELCOME!  
  
COME, STUDY GOD'S WORD WITH US!

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