



Director of Schools Bobby Cox gives awards to Dibrell principal Sheila Gann.

Schools awarded for excellence in academia

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

Five Warren County Schools were officially recognized for jobs well done in student academic growth.

"Every year we try to provide awards to our schools for the job that is job No. 1, which is educating our students and making sure we do the best we can," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "We've been very successful with that. Being able to say you are in the top 5 or the top 10 or the top 5 percent and 10 percent in the state is something that's very important."

Cox used the official results by the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System, which measures the impact schools and teachers have on student academic progress, to unofficially calculate how local schools performed against other schools in the state.

"These are official unof-

ficial, I guess you'd say, results," he said. "They are not necessarily recognized by the state of Tennessee, but they are recognized by us. What I do is, when we get our data back, I go into the TVASS website and I search our schools. You can rank them from top to bottom, every school in the state that meets their category. Then, we see how many schools there are in that and determine what 5 percent is and what 10 percent is in the state."

According to his calculations, the following schools were recognized:

- Dibrell Elementary principal Sheila Gann was presented three awards: 1) Top 5 percent for third grade English language arts; 2) Top 5 percent for fourth through eighth grade math; 3) Top 5 percent in fourth through eighth grade English language arts.

Centertown Elementary principal Pam Cowan was presented two awards: 1)

Top five schools in the state in second grade literature; 2) Top 10 percent in second grade English language arts.

• Eastside Elementary principal Carol Prater was presented an award for being in the top 10 percent for second grade English language arts.

• Morrison Elementary's principal Kim Cantrell and instructional coordinator Tamra Newby were presented three awards: 1) Top 10 percent in second grade math; 2) Top 10 percent in second grade literature; 3) Top 10 percent in fourth through eighth grade science.

• Warren County Middle School principal Gerald Tidwell was presented an award for being in the top 10 percent in the fourth through eighth grade science.

TVAAS measures how much students grow in a year, and shines more light on student progress than solely considering their score on an end of the year test.

"These are official unof-



CAROL PRATER



KIM CANTRELL, LEFT, AND TAMRA NEWBY



PAM COWAN



GERALD TIDWELL

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TBI report shows DUIs up on college campuses

STATE ROUNDUP

officers were trying to serve a warrant.

The TBI said in a Thursday statement its annual crime study detailing the volume and nature of crime on Tennessee's college and university campuses also found that overall, crime schools had reported decreased by nearly 3 percent from 2016 to 2017.

The study found there was a 27 percent decrease in reported rape offenses, from 63 in 2016 to 46 in 2017. Robbery offenses decreased by 55 percent, from 29 in 2016 to 13 in 2017.

TBI director Mark Gwyn says the study hopefully will assist authorities and raise awareness about the threat of crime.

TULLAHOMA (AP) — The TBI say a man has been wounded by police when

Shelton has been hospitalized, but police didn't provide his condition. The TBI said no officers appear to have been injured.

CLARKSVILLE (AP) — The TBI say a man is dead after a stand-off with police.

The TBI said in a news release the shooting hap-

pended Friday after a stand-off that lasted several hours in Clarksville. The release says authorities went to an apartment to discuss the man's ex-girlfriend, who recently went missing in Middle Tennessee.

The incident escalated after several hours, and SWAT officers breached the apartment door, but police say the man fired several shots in the general direction of officers. During the next few hours, SWAT officers used tear gas and negotiation but were unsuccessful and again breached the door.

The release says the officers were met by the man holding two weapons pointed in the direction of the officers, who fired, striking him several times and killing him. No officers were injured.

necessary.

"We estimate our budget in May," said Cox. "It's our best guess. I can't control who's going to retire in June, July,

August or any other time during the year. If we have to hire someone in who has more experience than the person who retires, that's going to cost us more. You are allowed to move money from one budgeted account to another budgeted account. It's a budget amendment and it's allowable. When we have to do that, I follow my process to the letter."

Cox says the audit report makes it appear money has been misappropriated when it has not.

"We have never had to take line item category changes to the County Commission," he said. "Linda has done this a lot longer than I have and that has never been done. Last year, the county was given an award for no audit findings but we did the same thing during that year. There's not any money missing. There's not any money been misappropriated. It's all been done in the public eye. The way this makes it look is that we've done something wrong. That bothers me. We've done things the same way this year as we have in year's past, but for some reason, we have this finding."

Finding two: General ledger payroll liability accounts were not reconciled with subsidiary payroll records and payments each month in the General Purpose School, School Federal Projects, Central Cafeteria, and S c h o o l w i d e Consolidation funds.

Cox says the state's second finding has been a longstanding issue as well and going forward, general ledger payroll liability accounts will be reconciled with Warren County Board of Education compliance personnel on a monthly basis.

Director of Schools Bobby Cox says proposed budgets at the beginning of the year are estimated guesses by department directors on expenditures during the next year and all department directors are allowed to move money between line items when

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