

Back in the driver's seat

State restores Testing Center funding

BY LISA HOBBS

Reporter for the Southern Standard (McMinnville, Tennessee)

The state has restored funding to Warren County's Driver Testing Center after nearly two years of forcing the city and county to pay rent to keep the facility open. Tennessee General Assembly's House Finance, Ways and Means Committee placed \$48,000 for Driver Testing Center rent on Vervilla Road in its 2018-19 fiscal year budget as a recurring expense.

"Thank you, thank you, thank you," said Warren County Executive Herschel Wells to the state. "I'm glad the state is stepping up to take this over. Warren County and McMinnville taxpayers have foot the bill long enough. We've spent \$96,000 saving the Driver Testing Center. It's their building. It's their employees. It's their service."

Continued on 5A



After a two-year hiatus, the state has restored funding for our local Driver Testing Center.







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Truck thief

James Clark photos Trying on their prom attire Wednesday at Kathy's of McMinnville are WCHS seniors, from left, Jaeden Pyburn, Danielle Foster and Shawn Woodlee. The prom is set for Saturday night at WCHS.

WCHS prom to provide students night in 'Greece'

beaten up, sentenced

BY **LACY GARRISON** Reporter for the Southern Standard

(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Seniors stepping into the Warren County High School gym this Saturday will be transported back in time to Ancient Greece, which is this year's prom theme.

Linda Taylor, prom faculty organizer, says with the help of a dozen seniors, she's been able to construct the ancient ruins of the Parthenon, create Greek pottery and set up statues with wisteria and English ivy.

ivy. "Seniors are going to experience a beautiful night in Ancient Greece," said Taylor. "The colors are white, ivory and lilac and everything was easy to build. There will be a fountain in the middle of the gym with a statue holding a clay pot with water flowing out."

Prom is from 8 to 11:30 p.m. with the official program beginning at 10 p.m. Taylor says the class president will welcome the seniors, there will be a brief memorial for Scout Sullivan, a senior prayer, a perfor-



Rachel Grissom gives WCHS senior Nate Cantrell a few tips about adjusting his bow tie Wednesday at Kathy's of McMinnville.

mance by senior Eli Eldridge, and a slideshow of photos that have been submitted by students.

After the senior slideshow, the prom court will be introduced along with the final prom dance to "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. This year's nominations for Prom King are Grant Hitchcock, Wesley Jennings, Shawn Woodlee and Chance Hobbs. For Prom Queen, Danielle Foster, Callie Cathcart, Emilie Blankenship and Maddie Merriman are in the run-

ning for the crown. Seniors will vote digitally through Google forms upon arrival.

Prom Queen nominee Danielle Foster said she grew up anticipating the posting of prom pictures to Facebook each year. Now, it's her turn to post them.

"I work at Kathy's of McMinnville so this year has been very special and fun getting to see all of my classmates try on dresses and get fitted for tuxes," said Danielle. "I am super excited to be on prom court with some of my best friends, but this night is for all of us. I wish it was like the scene in the movie 'Mean Girls' where Cadv wins Prom Queen, then breaks the crown and throws a piece at everyone because everyone will be a queen that night."

After selling numerous prom tickets for \$25 per person, Taylor estimates around 450 seniors will be in attendance for the dance. Formal photography will be offered in the lobby as a fundraiser for Beta Club. For \$10, Rachel McGee will email two posed images to seniors.



A man who stole a Chevy pickup, only to be chased down and beaten up by the victim's family, has been given a four-year prison sentence.

The man, Marcus Conway Boren, 35, of Northcutt's Cove, was sentenced Wednesday for theft of property over \$2,500 and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

The man who was allegedly with him at the time, James Alton Campbell, 43, did not have his case settled Wednesday. He has requested a jury trial, which was set for Jan. 24, 2019.

The incident which led to Boren's sentence happened on Rogers Hollow Road in the Irving College area when Boren tried to steal a 1983 Chevy pickup from a residential driveway. However, the plan quickly went awry when the family heard the pickup being stolen. A multi-vehicle chase ensued.

"The father and other family members followed the vehicle outbound from Northcutt's Cove," said sheriff's investigator Aaron Roberts, noting the stolen pickup became stuck in a nursery field in Grundy County after it rammed one of the pursing vehicles. "Two males fled on foot but family members were able to catch one and hold him for law enforcement."

Boren was the one caught by hostile family members and he was not treated with warmth. He suffered injuries to his face.

Campbell, his alleged partner in crime, was caught about a half-mile away.

Deputies found a handgun in the stolen pickup that did not belong to the family. Since both men arrested are convicted felons, they were both charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.



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