

Driver Testing Center

Continued from page 1A

Warren County and McMinnville taxpayers took on that financial burden nearly two years ago with both local governments agreeing to split \$4,000 a month in rent on the building, a stipulation by the state in order to prevent its closure until funding could be revisited.

The state closed the facility

on May 31, 2016 as part of a cost-saving measure and moved its local employees to other testing centers. The controversial closure left Warren countians with long drives to either Cookeville or Tullahoma, the two closest testing stations, to get licenses or certain types of renewals.

A kiosk in the county court clerk's office on Locust Street provided some driver license

services.

A deal was eventually struck between the city of McMinnville and the state: If the city pays the rent, the state would fund everything else and the facility would reopen.

When that agreement was reached, Warren County government decided to pay half the rent. The state reopened the facility Oct. 17, 2016.

Committee debates retirement contribution

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

Warren County government's contribution into its employees' retirement is under review.

The county participates in the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, which is a defined benefit pension plan that covers state employees, higher education employees, K-12 public school teachers, and employees of political subdivisions who have elected to participate in the plan.

Currently, Warren County contributes 11 percent. The state is recommending a minimum contribution of 9.14 percent.

"The state has identified our minimum employer rate as 9.14

percent," said Finance Department director Linda Hillis. "They are recommending we pay more than the minimum. Last year, we chose to pay the 11 percent. It's entirely up to the committee."

Commissioner Terry Bell motioned to lower the contribution to 9.5 percent and stated, "Couldn't we reduce that to 9.5 and help with health insurance maybe? That's 1.5 percent on every employee that could be used to actually help in some other area."

While the committee can recommend to reduce the percentage, it cannot determine where to use the savings. That decision would be in the hands of the full Warren County Commission.

Road Superintendent Levie Glenn pointed out some

employees do not participate in the county's insurance plan.

"Some of the employees don't take insurance and won't benefit from the cut," said Glenn. "The retirement they will benefit if they stay. It's a good benefit for employees. My opinion is to leave it like it is."

When questioned, Hillis said she would take time to generate how much 1.5 percent would be per employee.

"I'm not against it," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "I would like to see what the dollar figure is to see how it affects everybody."

Bell withdrew his motion.

The discussion was tabled until Hillis can estimate the difference if the percentage is lowered to 9.5 percent from 11 percent.



Annual Kayak Fishing Tournament splashes in

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

The annual River Kayak Fishing Tournament for Families in Crisis is casting out this Saturday, April 28, at Smooth Rapids.

"This is our second annual tournament," said Families in Crisis executive director Kristy Stubblefield. "It is a catch and release tournament with two divisions. Proceeds benefit the program."

Division one: fish will be measured with

your own hawk trough board. Division two: fish will be measured by a measuring device provided by Families in Crisis.

Anyone interested in pre-paying for the tournament can bypass morning-of registration and pick tournament ID markers from 7-8 p.m. on Friday, April 27, at Smooth Rapids.

Registration the morning of April 28 is from 5-6 a.m. First cast at official daylight time. Anglers can access water 30 minutes prior to first cast.

The Families in Crisis program offers a 24-hour crisis line, 24-hour emergency domestic and sexual violence shelter, court advocacy, individual supportive counseling support group, and rapid rehousing and homeless prevention.

Weigh in for the River Kayak Fishing Tournament is at Smooth Rapids at 3 p.m. Lunch provided after the tournament. Orion cooler to be auctioned off by silent auction.

For more information, call 473-6543.

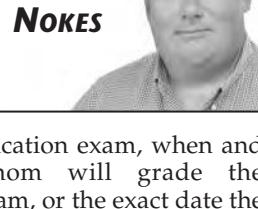
New rules expected for private applicator certification

For those who currently hold a private applicator certification card with expiration date of Oct. 21, 2017, or for those who have never obtained private applicator certification, changes are expected in the near future.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is expected to require all persons receiving their certification to pass an exam. This change is expected to go into effect in the latter part of May this year. However, it may be extended over two years.

It is uncertain how many questions will be on the private applicator cer-

AG NEWS



tification class Monday, May 7, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Magnolia Room of Warren County Administrative Offices.

Certification costs \$50 payable to UT Extension Warren County.

After completion of the training, all participants will receive a form to send to the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, along with \$25, to receive the private applicator certification card. Participants are also welcome to complete their training online through the University of Tennessee at <http://kate.tennessee.edu/utia.html> and follow the instruc-

tions.

Please note this only pertains to individuals who do not have private applicator certification.

For those who already have their current certification, no action is needed. The end of the certification cycle has changed from the traditional October date to June 30, 2020 at which time all cards will expire unless recertified during third year of the certification cycle (Jan. 1, June 30, 2020). Remember, the recertification period for private applicators will begin Jan. 1, 2020 and run through midnight of June 30, 2020, so please remem-

ber to attend in 2020.

FIRST SUSTAINABLE AND FAMILY FARM SUMMIT

Here at the Extension Office, we are getting more and more calls regarding new and beginning farming operations. In hopes of addressing some of those questions, UT-TSU Extension Warren County will be offering the first Sustainable and Family Farm Summit.

This event is offered free of charge with all materials and refreshments being provided. It will be in the Magnolia Room of Warren County Administrative Offices, 201 Locust Street,

McMinnville, Thursday, May 17, at 6 p.m.

Topics include: considerations for new farm families, potential risks and risk management, what is value-added agriculture, and where to find resources to get started.

Representatives from Farm Services Agency and Farm Credit Services will be part of the program. If you are interested in getting started in farming, please consider coming out for a night of fun, food, and information.

CONTACT: Heath Nokes, UT-TSU Extension Warren County, 473-8484, hnokes@utk.edu.

PUBLISHER'S Pics

Standard publisher Pat Zechman has been in the newspaper business for 50 years, the last 26 years as publisher/general manager of the **Southern Standard**. Zechman wants to give back to the community and the **Standard** alike and it has led her to creating the Publisher's Pics feature. This week we travel back to April, 1979. Look for more Publisher's Pics on the **Southern Standard** Facebook page.

