

DesJarlais gives Warren County a visit

BY **LACY GARRISON**
*Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

Congressman Scott DesJarlais visited several local schools on Thursday to learn about the leadership and advanced workplace development programs offered in Warren County.

His first stop was Warren County High School.

“At the high school, I went over and saw several of the students engaged there,” said DesJarlais. “I talked to several of the students this morning and asked them what their plans are. It’s nice to see they’ve got aspirations to go into engineering, to get engineering degrees from out of this program so I think more and more students are going to find you don’t always have to go to college to get a good-paying job. This gives them a great opportunity.”

The Automation and Robotics Training (ART) Center welcomed

DesJarlais into its facilities for a tour and presentation. Fred Rascoe, dean of career and technical programs, and Larry Flatt, director of advanced robotics, spoke about the history and future of the ART program.

“The thing that’s driving us is there are 7,000 robots within 75 miles of our facility,” said Flatt. “We’re working with robot companies who are allowing us to reach out into regions. I was on the phone yesterday afternoon with one of the manufacturers and he says you basically can draw people from all over the United States to come to McMinnville, Tenn. essee to be taught how to program a robot so that’s what we’re excited about.”

During the presentation, DesJarlais explained the new Farm Bill that deals with the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP recipients will be required to work 20 hours a week, or attend 20 hours of job training, in

a state-mandated program, if they want to continue receiving benefits. DesJarlais suggested the ART program may qualify for funds from this new bill in the future.

“I guess I’m thinking ahead, but if this goes through, is this something that could possibly be a partnership in the next couple of years?” asked DesJarlais.

Rascoe seemed to believe Motlow could accommodate the requirements necessary to receive the funds if the bill, in fact, passes.

DesJarlais said he visited the ART program several years ago and is impressed by the progress.

“To see the number of students that are coming out of this is really impressive and encouraging and the continued growth that we’re learning about today I think is going to make this a key site for future business and a lot of good foresight has gone into the planning here,” said DesJarlais.



Lacy Garrison photo
Congressman Scott DesJarlais observes the Mechatronics technology offered at Motlow State Community College during his tour of the campus. DesJarlais visited several schools Thursday to learn about the advanced workplace development programs offered in Warren County.

EmiSunshine set to shine at Park Theater on May 19

BY **LACY GARRISON**
*Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

Since her breakout at age 9, EmiSunshine has garnered more than 512,000 Facebook followers.

While her music has been described as “old-timey,” she adds her own unique blend of roots music that is equal parts Americana, bluegrass, gospel and country, with a sprinkle of blues.

Now 13 years old, the East Tennessean is scheduled to perform at the Park Theater on Saturday, May 19, bringing news of her new album “Ragged Dreams.” The concert is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Emi has been influenced by legendary artists such as Loretta Lynn, Tanya Tucker and The Louvin Brothers. She combines her youthful, bubbly disposition with deep, meaningful and rather dark song content. Emi says she likes to write music about a variety of content.

“I like to write about the underdog. I write about life struggles, disabilities and the homeless and the less fortunate,” explained Emi. “I also like to write about murder, suicide and cheating.”

Her song “As the Waters Rise,” written and recorded to support West Virginia during the flood, has 1 million views for its music



EmiSunshine, 13, will bring her youthful exuberance to the Park Theater stage for a show May 19.

video. Last month, Emi brought awareness to autism with her emotional original song, “90 Miles,” which now has 463,000 views.

This young artist has performed on “The Today Show,” The Grand Ole Opry and at The Ryman. On April 8, she even appeared on “Little Big Shots” with Steve Harvey.

EmiSunshine said, “I was honored to be invited to the show and this was my last chance. I’ll be 14 in June. The experience was

incredible and meeting Steve Harvey will remain one of my most fondest memories.”

Not impressed? Check out these other EmiSunshine stats:

- Over 14 million YouTube views
- 24,400 Instagram followers
- Performed at The Grand Ole Opry more than a dozen times

For more information, visit the Park Theater website. Ticket prices are \$10 to \$20 depending on seating.

Dog napper gets bitten by charges

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

A local man, who was cited for animal cruelty and was a no-show in court, has been hit with additional charges.

Julian Martinez, 19, and Samantha Brewer, 20, have both been charged with criminal trespassing for allegedly removing three dogs from Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center after hours. The dogs were reported missing by staff the morning of April 24. That same evening, the dogs were discovered with the couple.

Both will appear in General Sessions Court this Tuesday, May 8, for arraignment.

Martinez, the dogs’ owner, was originally

ordered to appear in General Sessions Court on April 3 to answer to allegations he kept three dogs locked in a vehicle. The citation was issued March 19 by Warren County deputy Tyler Glenn. Warren County Animal Control and Adoption Center removed the dogs from his care.

When Martinez failed to appear in court two weeks later, a bench warrant was issued. He was arrested on April 24 by McMinnville Police Lt. Ben Cantrell. The officer witnessed Martinez and Brewer in a vehicle outside Cleaners Express. Both individuals were taken into custody. Brewer also had a failure to appear charge. The dogs were returned to Animal Control.

Martinez also faces

arraignment Tuesday for the citation issued March 19 and his subsequent failure to appear April 3.

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