

Pool opens up free admission

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

Smokin' in McMinnville begins Friday and residents will be given free admission to Gilley Pool.

The Friday freebee is from 4 to 8 p.m. "A little over a week and a half ago, we were discussing in the Smokin' in McMinnville committee ways to get more people out," said McMinnville Parks and Recreation director Scott McCord. "We talked about being open from 4 to 8 p.m. and about admission

being half price. Since we're only open for four hours, we thought about having a free day."

In order to encourage participation in activities, entries in the various BBQ competitions offered during the event are allowed free admission to the pool. However, their free day is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The request to allow visitors free admission into the pool from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday was made before the city Parks and Recreation Committee on Tuesday.

"I think it is fine," said Alderman Ben Newman. "I think it's a good idea."

Admission will be first come, first serve. There is a limit as to how many individuals can be at the pool at one time.

"So, this would be until you reach capacity," said Newman. "Do you know what that number is?"

McCord replied, "It's around 800. Close to 800. We've had plenty of experience with that this year."

According to a guesstimate, the pool hit capacity 10 times over the 2018 summer.

Committee members unanimously approved the request.

County Commission

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That doesn't include County Executive Herschel Wells, who has 16 years of county experience. He will be replaced by Jimmy Haley, who has city government experience, but none in the county.

"We're going to have some challenges," admitted Prater. "The first thing we're going to have to do is learn how to work together and get along. We have to think about one thing, Warren County."

The county is losing four of its nine committee chairs.

These are typically more experienced commissioners who already know established procedures. One committee, Building and Grounds, is losing four of its five members.

Steven Helton is one of the many new commissioners elected to their first term of office. He describes his attitude as "nervously excited" and believes a solid group is in place.

"We have good people who got elected across the board," said Helton. "There's a lot of brain power. If we work together as a team, there's no obstacle we can't

overcome."

One of the big challenges will be widespread turnover in nearly every county department. This includes the Sheriff's Department where Tommy Myers has been elected sheriff to replace 24-year veteran Jackie Matheny.

With the county on the verge of a jail expansion project and housing over 300 inmates daily, many officials have said reducing the recidivism rate is a top priority.

One thing which will aid newcomers is the introduction of required training for

county commissioners. In a bill passed this year at the urging of the Tennessee County Commissioners Association, all newly elected commissioners must complete an orientation program in year one, then have seven additional hours of training each year after that until they reach eight years of service.

The training requirement does not impact those re-elected and returning to office. However, once a commissioner leaves office for any reason, then returns, the requirement applies.

VETERANS CORNER

Southern Standard

AMERICAN LEGION POST 173
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at Billy's Restaurant (2822 Nashville Highway in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 pm for dinner with the meeting to follow at 6:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members are also welcome to attend. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @post173 to stay up to date on all American Legion activities.
New Post address: American Legion Post 173, P.O. Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111. The Ladies Auxiliary meets at the same time.

THE BOBBY RAY DETACHMENT OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the first Thursday of each month at the Warren County Administrative Building (201 Locust Street) in the Magnolia Room. Doors open at 1800 and the meeting starts at 1830. All honorable discharged Marines, Navy FMF Corpsman and Navy Chaplains who served with the marines are invited to attend. For more information call 931-934-5619.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER (POST 173)
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the third Saturday each month at Gondola Restaurant (305 Mullican St. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 9:00am for breakfast and the meeting will follow at 10:00am. We will ride after the meeting. We are looking for new members. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ American Legion Riders Chapter Post 173 McMinnville. For information please contact Director John A. Davis at American Legion Rider Chapter Post 173, PO Box 173, McMinnville, TN 37111.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, ROYCE DAVENPORT CHAPTER 1112
Monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at Billy's restaurant (2822 Nashville Hwy. in McMinnville). Members will meet at 5:00 p.m. for dinner, with meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Prospective members will need to bring copy of DD Form 214 to verify service and join. Everyone is invited to visit our Facebook page @ VVA1112 to stay up to date on all VVA and AVVA activities.

Associate Vietnam Veterans of America, Royce Davenport Chapter 1112
Meeting is the same time and place as the VVA (see above). Anyone can be a member. There is no requirement to be related to a Veteran in anyway, however Veterans can also join. Please come and join our organization. Royce Davenport Chapter 1112 will again be collecting non-perishable items for the Warren County Emergency Food Bank during the Main Street Live Concert Series on Friday nights starting June 9, 2017 and continuing through the series. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 5064
Our MONTHLY MEETINGS are typically held on the third Thursday of each month of the VFW Post Home (3340 Sparta Highway) at 7:00 pm. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. Call 931-668-8392 for more information. **The VFW Auxiliary meets at the same time.**

Starkey bids Education Committee sad farewell

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

August's monthly meeting of Warren County government's Education Committee ended with a sad farewell.

The five-member committee lost three of its own during the recent election. Commissioners Diane Starkey and Morris Bond were not reelected, while Commissioner Terry Bell opted not to seek reelection to run for county executive.

"I know the committee is going to change," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "I want to say I appreciate your service and what you've done. I know we haven't always seen eye-to-eye on things but we've accomplished a lot. This committee has worked well. We've done a lot of building projects. We are all passionate about Warren County and what we've built. I do appreciate Morris, Diane, and Terry and the work

you have done."

Starkey offered her goodbye.

"I want to say a big thank you to the members of this committee and Bobby and Allen (Hill) and everyone else who has attended these meetings and here," Starkey said. "I've always supported Warren County Schools. I know the schools are educating our students and doing a great job."

As Education Committee chair, she also served on the county's Budget and Finance Committee. Starkey says being an educator on those two committees put her in a difficult position.

"Snide remarks have been made about me and the role I serve here. It has been difficult to serve on the Education Committee and the Budget and Finance at



STARKEY

the same time and be the only educator on these committees. I am hearing the school's needs here and then going to Budget and Finance and balancing a budget at the same time."

She added, "I want all of you to know I want only the best for our schools. I hope our teachers always get rewarded for their hard work because I've been there and I know how hard it is. I hope building projects continue."

Remaining are Commissioners Carlene Brown and Scott Rubley. However, with the election of a new county executive, those two members aren't guaranteed to return. Jimmy Haley will recommend committee assignments to the full Warren County Commission after he is sworn into office.

Hickory Creek gets temporary chiller for a cool \$19K month

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

Hickory Creek Elementary came within a day of starting the year as the hottest school.

According to Director of Schools Bobby Cox, the school's air conditioner went out Monday and a temporary replacement was installed Tuesday - one day before school went back into session.

"The chiller started going out two weeks ago," said Cox. "It covers the whole school. We had people coming down to try and fix it. We replaced the parts they said we needed. It didn't help."

The information was presented to the county Education Committee.

"We have to get a temporary chiller," said Cox. "It will be here tomorrow onsite. It will be installed and up and running. It will cost us \$19,000 a month until we get the new chiller put in. The new chiller will be at least \$200,000."

Commissioner Diane Starkey, who taught at Hickory Creek last school year, said, "I believe it was going out last year."

On Monday, the chiller went out completely.

"We knew it was going out but we didn't think we would have to replace it right at the beginning of school," said Cox. "It was

running about 40 percent, but it was totally down this morning. We'll go out for bids hopefully this

week or next week." No timeframe was given for the bid process to be complete.

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82nd Annual Shady Grove Cemetery Picnic

Saturday, August 11th

10:00am Petting Zoo, Kids Games & Bingo
10:30am Homemade Ice Cream & Concessions
2:00pm Field Games
4:00pm Cake Walk
4:30pm Live Music
6:00pm Live Auction Begins

All proceeds are for the upkeep of the Shady Grove Cemetery

Donations for the Auction or Trust Fund Appreciated

Construction work on bridge now underway

TDOT has a bridge repair project under way on Highway 8 over the Collins River in Warren County.

The bridge is located at the foot of Harrison Ferry Mountain.

According to TDOT, the bridge is currently reduced to one 11-foot lane to allow the contractor to begin repair work on the existing bridge. While the bridge is down to one lane, traffic will be maintained and controlled by a temporary signal for the safety of the traveling public.

The estimated project completion date is Aug. 31, 2019.

The contractor for the project is Jamison Construction LLC of McEwen, Tenn., and the contract amount is \$1.3 million.

Motorists should expect periodic delays and use caution in the work zone.



Bridge repair is under way on Highway 8 and should last around a year. The completion day is Aug. 31, 2019.

Girl, 9, shot by brother

LAFOLLETTE, TENN. (AP) — Police say a 9-year-old girl has been accidentally shot and killed by her 10-year-old brother in Tennessee.

In a statement posted on

Facebook, LaFollette police say the girl suffered a gunshot wound to her head and died at a hospital.

Police say officers were called to the shooting Wednesday night at a

Little Caesars. They say the girl had been sitting in a vehicle outside the pizza restaurant when her brother accidentally shot her.

Officers tell WVLT-TV they're investigating.

The annual picnic at

Center Hill Cemetery on Hills Creek

will be

Saturday, August 11

Concessions and Auction

Please bring items to be auctioned.

If unable to attend, please mail donations to:

Center Hill Cemetery
c/o Gene Rhea
990 Hills Creek Rd.
McMinnville, TN 37110

Your Support Is Greatly Appreciated!