

School starts

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Another important tip several teachers say makes all the difference is consistent parent-teacher communication. "Most schools have multiple family events during the first month of school," explained West Elementary third-grade teacher Katie

Bussell. "It is critical parents understand how important it is to their child's education that they attend school functions as it provides a great opportunity for parents to meet and get to know their child's teacher." Tina Mullins, who teaches sixth-grade math at Dibrell, encourages parents to leave their child's teacher a voice-

mail to let them know they are appreciated. She says this opens the lines of communication for parent concerns as well. Bobby Ray second-grade teacher Lynette Kesey suggests parents become aware of communication tools utilized by their child's teacher. Every teacher has different meth-

ods or apps, which can give whole class announcements and also private messages between teacher and parent. "Parents should try to find out the best way to communicate with their child's teacher," explained Kesey. "Some teachers are now using programs such as Class Dojo and an app

called Remind to let parents know what's going on in the classroom." Although both Mullins and Josh Thaxton teach math, they both encouraged parents to read to their children every night. Thaxton, who teaches at Centertown Elementary added, "A major tip for parents is check their

child's homework and for the mathematics subject, have students work on grade-appropriate basic facts. For example, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing." Every new school year is a new beginning, use these tips to help your child learn and achieve new academic goals.

Hungry, hungry ducklings



After enjoying gravy and biscuit from Hardee's, Khalessi Reese, 2, feeds the baby ducks at Riverfront Park on Friday morning. Her mother Sonya says Khalessi loves birds and they have 14 chickens and two ducks of their own in Jacksboro.

Reggae at Smooth Rapids

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"It's been neat to see this grow every year," said tie-dye vendor Jonathan Dixon. "I've been here since the beginning and every year it gets a little bigger." Dixon says he sells his T-shirts and tapes-tries at six or seven festivals a year with his business, Pieceful World Clothing. He brought his family and is one of the hundreds of visitors who plan to camp all week-end. "I'll be here till the end so I won't leave till Monday morning," said Dixon, a Rutherford County resident. "But the kids start school Monday so they'll be leaving Sunday afternoon." Jane Kellum made the trip from the Dallas, Texas area. She's traveled all over the world, including visits to South America and New Zealand. "We wouldn't be outside if we were in Texas because when I left it was 111 degrees," said Kellum. "Your town is beautiful. Everything is so much greener than it is in Texas." Kellum was hitting the area's hottest tourist attractions while in Warren County. Her visit included a trip to Cumberland Caverns to see an underground concert from Todd Snider on Saturday afternoon. Harriett Martin accompanied Kellum on her trip. She said they planned to attend

SUNDAY'S LINEUP

- Noon – Natty's Common Roots
- 1:30 p.m. – Great Barrier Reefs
- 3 p.m. – Milele Roots
- 4:30 p.m. – Plainview Vibes
- 6 p.m. – CCDE
- 7 p.m. – Tame The Beats
- 7:30 p.m. – Taco & Da Mofos
- 8:30 p.m. – Tame The Beats
- 9 p.m. – Afroman

Reggae at Smooth Rapids all three days but they wouldn't be camping. "I like to smell good," said Martin. Among the many booths, Andrea Hillis was on hand with the Humane Society. The booth featured an interactive area where children could paint rocks. "Some people can be generous so this is a good way for us to get donations," said Hillis. "We need to have more events like this here in Warren County." Local artist Allen Betschart was pleased to have a booth directly in front of the stage where he was selling his copper-plated jewelry. His festival started with a bang Friday afternoon. "I've already sold enough to pay my booth fee so I'm break even already," said Betschart. "I traded another piece to the BBQ guy so I'll have free BBQ sandwiches all weekend."

Do seatbelts add safety to school buses?

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

While reviewing an operation report, busing and seatbelts were discussed by School Board members. There has been a growing interest nationwide in requiring seatbelts on school buses. Director of Schools Bobby Cox brought up several considerations on the topic. "I think we need to consider that there are really only two buses in our fleet that are eligible for seat belts," said Cox. "The others would have to have chassis and frame changes that would be expensive for sure and it lowers the capacity of the bus." The average cost of adding seatbelts is wide ranging, but it is estimated to

cost anywhere from \$7,000 to \$15,000 per bus. With 55 buses in Warren County's fleet, it is obvious this is a financial concern. "I'm on the fence," said School Board member Helen Martin. "I'm for the safety of the children, but I've just not seen enough to convince me to go that route just yet." Added School Board member Bill Zechman in agreement, "The Alabama study was very revealing and of course, it came about because of a horrific loss of life in a school bus accident. One of the things that you see in that study is the increment of difference the seatbelts make is almost vanishingly small." Several board members agreed that after reviewing the Alabama Governor's study group on school bus seatbelts, they no longer feel equipping buses with

seatbelts is the answer. "All my life I've wondered why we have not required that [seatbelts] and it is not easy to explain why it is just as safe without," said School Board member Teddy Jones. "Why are we required to wear it in our cars? Why do race car drivers have five points of restraint, but we're alright sitting our kids on a bench and driving down the road? But it does, once you look at the evidence very carefully, you understand it." In addition, statistically the number of children injured in school bus collisions is way down the list provided by the National Highway Transportation Board. There are actually more student injuries going to and from school in private passenger vehicles. According to Cox, they



Citing a study, School Board members have decided to forgo pursuing a grant for seatbelts in two school buses because they have not been found to produce a perceptible increase in safety.

are already working to increase safety on school buses through safety training and having the buses inspected regularly. Cox also said they are finishing the process of putting new cameras on all of the buses as well as getting an app activated

so parents can track their children while they are on the bus. "I think studies show buses are one of the safest vehicles on the road as they are," explained Cox. "If there is a fire and you have younger students strapped in on the bus then there is loss

of life there and I don't see any overwhelming evidence to point me toward going in that direction personally." Until more conclusive information is found, the School Board has made the decision not to pursue a grant for the two eligible buses.

SEE YOU THERE

Saturday, August 11
7:30am
Trophies for top bracket finishers

Smokin' in McMinnville
5K Walk/Run

Hosted by McMinnville Warren County Senior Center

McMinnville Civic Center

Registration forms available at McMinnville Senior Center, 809 Morrison St., Exchange Furniture and the McMinnville Civic Center.

Smokin' in McMinnville 5k Walk/Run

Walking Running/FOR SENIOR CENTER

Hosted by McMinnville Warren County Senior Center

Saturday August 11, 2018 * 7:30 am

Race Location: McMinnville Civic Center - Start Point - Clark & Garfield

Please print legibly and complete the entire entry form. More than one entry may be mailed together with the appropriate fees. Please make all checks and money orders payable to McMinnville Warren Co. Senior Center. \$25.00 pre-registration by 8/10/18 for t-shirt order - \$15.00 at the gate with no tee shirt (or \$25 until shirts run out)

Trophies awarded to Top Male and Female Finishers - 5 Age Brackets

First & Last Name: _____

Age on Race Day: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Male ☐ Female ☐

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

T-Shirt Size: Adult M ☐ Adult L ☐ Adult XL ☐

Registration begins at 6:00 AM — Race Starts at 7:30 AM

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!