

# New WCHS fieldhouse open to public this Sunday

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

There will be an open house at Warren County High School for people interested in seeing its new fieldhouse and weight room.

This Sunday, March 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. Warren County High School will hold an open house to view the new additions to the school.

"We have our certificate of occupancy," said Director of Schools Bobby Cox. "Everything is finished. The kids have been using it. We would love to have the public come out to see the finished product."

According to Cox, the field-

house has been used by the baseball team, soccer team and the school's JROTC for its annual drill meet.

Both the areas were essentially complete last week with the exception of a missing garage door from the fieldhouse which was on back order due to the original door not fitting adequately. Cox says the door has come in and has been placed.

"The roll-up door came in and it was installed Friday," Cox said. "We have pads on the walls for some added protection if the kids run into it. Everything is complete. The parking lot is good. We have plenty of room. They've sown grass around the building. We've got our turf manage-

ment items in - the groomer and the sweeper. It goes along the turf and we pull it with a golf cart. It will keep the turf fluffed. The sweeper is like a grass sweeper. It just sweeps up any trash in there and keeps in level."

The sweeper was provided to the school at no charge, said Cox, and can be used on any of the school's turfed areas.

"We can use it on our other turf areas, like in the softball field and baseball field and the hitting areas. The turf company gave it to us. It's brand new and didn't cost us a thing. That was an expensive piece of equipment."

The fieldhouse and weight room cost approximately \$1.3 million.



Members of the Board of Education view the new Warren County High School weight room during a recent tour. The weight room and fieldhouse will be open for public viewing this Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

## Bologna Day

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"It's impressive Warren County has produced three people who have become such big leaders in our state," said Phillip Prater, one of the many residents who made the trip to Nashville.

WCHS teacher Chad McGee says the event is a great opportunity to chat with elected officials, but said he doesn't have that problem.

"You have extra access when you're a teacher at the high school," said McGee. "You have Mayor Jimmy Haley and Kevin Dunlap all on the same hall."

Warren County Commissioner Tommy Savage made it a point to mention a bridge project he hopes will come to fruition while he was talking to Rep. Dunlap.

"The bridge on Hennessee Bridge Road is currently only 18 feet wide," said Savage. "This would take it to 36 feet wide. It's a project I'd like to get done."

Members of Leadership McMinnville and Youth Leadership were on hand to get a taste of state government. WCHS junior Arrie Hyder asked Gwyn if he is required to carry a gun, to which Gwyn replied he is.

Gen. Haston said he continues to work on a new National Guard Armory for Warren County, but that project seems to be bogged down by the usual pace of government.

"They're cutting the national defense budget every day and not doing a lot of new projects right now," said Gen. Haston. "A new armory is estimated to be a \$7.5 million project. It will probably be up to \$8 million by the time it gets done. Armories are usu-

ally done on a 75-25 split with the federal government paying 75 percent."

Local resident Dennis Kronlage said he was leaving Bologna Day a little disappointed.

"I came here to talk to Janice Bowling, but I was told she wasn't going to be here," said Kronlage referring to the state senator. "I wanted to ask her about expanding Medicare, which is a no-brainer to me. The hospitals are behind it. It will save lives. Those are federal dollars that are just going somewhere else."

Sen. Bowling was on the committee that voted last year to defeat a Gov. Bill Haslam-backed proposal to expand Medicare in Tennessee. The measure never gained serious consideration this legislative session.

Rep. Matheny said he was pleased to see 24 members of Youth Leadership in attendance because it's important for students to see the workings of government.

"I'm a graduate of the Coffee County leadership class and what you learn in that leadership class is not just your day on Capitol Hill in Nashville, but how important it is to do business in your community because, for better or for worse, government is deeply intertwined with businesses now so businesses need to know how to interact with their government."

Rep. Matheny said he is commonly asked by people about Tennessee's financial health, which he says is rock solid. "Overall, folks want to know about the fiscal condition of the state," said Matheny. "Many folks are worried because they hear the fiscal condition of the



WCHS juniors Emma Mullican, left, and Arrie Hyder asked questions Tuesday during Bologna Day in Nashville.



State Rep. Judd Matheny, left, talks with McMinnville Mayor Jimmy Haley about issues surrounding the Driver Testing Center locating in the basement of McMinnville City Hall.

federal government, which always seems to be in some traffic jam, but our state functions very smoothly. We have strong budget surpluses. We're able to put serious money in K-12 education this year and serious money into higher education and transportation, as well as roll back our tax burdens and put money in our rainy day fund and we're projected to have another budget surplus next year. The state is very, very healthy and we have the lowest per capita debt level of any state in the nation."



Tommy Savage, front and Phillip Prater make their way through the food line Tuesday at Legislative Plaza. The Bologna Day meal was catered by Prater's BBQ.

## State auditor

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"Having one person is fine, as long as a second person reviews the accounting," said Reed. "The first thing people think of is fraud. However, what we see more of is errors. Errors happen a lot more than fraud."

All those departments now have more than one person overseeing book-keeping and Cantrell expressed his appreciation.

"I would like to express my appreciation to all department heads for the work they've done in segregating those duties," said Cantrell. "Maybe we

should send out a memo to all those department heads expressing our appreciation."

Committee members unanimously approved drafting a letter of appreciation.

Reeder suggested the committee focus its attention on the county's financial future and not negative findings in the audit report. "Because there aren't

many findings, this committee should focus a lot more of its attention on the financial statements as a whole. Where do we go from here and how can we be more stable? How can we do better in the future? It's not all about the findings, it's about where the county is headed."

The county Audit Committee meets annually to review the state's audit.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Campaign Community Center Supper**  
Sat. March 12th at 5:30. Cost \$5 person.

**Benefit Auction for Bob & Tammy Burch**  
Medical expenses, Bob has stage 4 cancer of the jaw, Tammy has had 2 major surgeries and needs another. Fish or Chicken supper, french fries, slaw, hushpuppies & white beans, dessert & drinks serving at 5:00 pm. March 19, \$7 adults, \$5 children under 6 at Fairview CIC. All donations for auction greatly appreciated for more info call 212-4285.

**Fellowship Meeting The Browntown Church of Christ**  
Sunday, March 13th, Bro. Ralph Thompson will be the guest speaker. Sunday morning services begin with Sunday school at 9:00 and worship service at 10:00. Lunch will follow worship. Evening service begin at 2:30. Everyone one is cordially invited.

**Gospel Meeting East End Church of Christ**  
102 Edison St., March 13-16. Speaker Randy Kea of Griffin, GA. Sunday morning 9 am & 10 am services, all evening services 7 pm. Come hear Gospel preaching from the Bible. All are invited to attend.

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## OBITUARIES

### Gregory Morris Scott, 41

McMinnville resident and Warren County native Gregory Morris Scott, 41, was born March 8, 1975 and died March 8 at his residence following a sudden illness.

A mechanic and member of the Baptist Church, he was the son of Linda Kay Anderson Scott of the Centertown Community and Morris Scott of Rock Island. In addition to his mother and father, he is survived by stepmother, Juanita Scott of Rock Island; son and the love of his life, Skyler Scott of the Centertown community; sister Rachel Hillis and her husband and Greg's friend, Gary Hillis of the Centertown community; niece Shelley Reno of Cookeville; and one aunt, one uncle and several cousins also survive.

A graveside service will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday in New Union Cemetery on Highway 30 with Gary Newby officiating. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at High's. There will be no visitation Thursday. Family and friends are to meet at the cemetery for the service at 1 p.m. Thursday.

High Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.  
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### Warren Paul Gunnels, 88

Black Canyon, Ariz., resident and Overton County native Warren Paul Gunnels, 88, formerly of McMinnville, died March 2.

The son of John A. and Tela Peterman Gunnels, he was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Reynolds Gunnels; son, Stephen Gunnels; sisters, Beatrice Gunnels Garrett, Ostie Gunnels Sullivan, Katherine Gunnels David and Betty Gunnels Patterson; brother, Robert Lowell Gunnels; a baby sister and two little brothers who died as small children, Bernice, John A. Jr., and Booz; nieces, Frances Patterson and Sarah Upton Lusk and nephews, Timothy Gunnels and James A. Garrett.

He is survived by daughters, Helen Sleseman of Arizona and Terry Reed and husband, Randy Reed of Arkansas; grandchildren, Renee Gunnels, Eric Gunnels, Kelly Sleseman Simon and husband, Matt Simon, Corey Sleseman, Bethany Reed and Charley Reed; nephews, Robert Patterson and John Gunnels and nieces, Barbara Scott and Jane Stubblefield.

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### Jewell Bumbalough Kelsey

Jewell Bumbalough Kelsey, a longtime resident of the Gum Spring Mountain community, graduated home to be with the Lord, Saturday, March 5.

Mrs. Jewell worked for Mallory Timers from 1969-2003 where she was fondly known as "Ma." A dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother she loved to cook for her family as was evidenced by her Sunday night dinners. Due to declining health, Mrs. Jewell most recently resided at Morningside Assisted Residence in Cookeville. There she made many new friends, both residents and staff. Her quick sense of humor and sweet personality endeared her to all who knew her. She will be truly missed.

Born Dec. 13, 1925, Mrs. Jewell celebrated her 90th birthday this past December. Mrs. Jewell was preceded in death by husband, Otis Frank Kelsey; parents, Perry and Leora Robinson Bumbalough; sisters, Luetta Burton of Sparta, Jo Marie Lollar of Sparta, Hazel Lack of Crossville; brothers, Dewey Bumbalough of Sparta, Hayden Bumbalough of Sparta.

Survivors include brother Leonard Bumbalough of Sparta; children, Jerry and Ruthie Kelsey of Sparta, Bob and Jennifer Kelsey of Cookeville; grandchildren Ginger Bullington of Sparta, Shawn (Emily) Kelsey of Shelbyville, Jodi and Clay Kelsey of Cookeville; great-grandchildren, Bailey Kelsey of Sparta; Elijah Kelsey of Sparta, and Gracie Bullington of Sparta.

Graveside services will be on Wednesday, March 9 at 1 p.m. with Dewey Young, nephew of Mrs. Jewell, officiating. Online condolences may be made to the family at oaklawnmemorial.com.

Oak Lawn Funeral Home of Sparta is in charge of arrangements.

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