



Southern Standard

No chance of freedom for Cooke

Defense attorney Bud Sharp, left, talks with Bryan Cooke during his murder trial.



Judge orders consecutive sentences

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

A man who received life without chance of parole will in fact spend the rest of his life behind bars after a judge ruled the sentences will be served consecutively.

Circuit Court Judge Bart Stanley rendered the ruling that will keep convicted killer Bryan James Cooke, 41, in pris-

on until his death.

"This means he's never going to get out," said District Attorney General Lisa Zavogiannis.

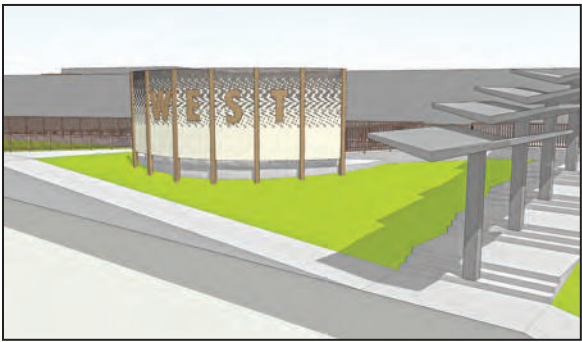
Cooke was convicted Nov. 1 for two counts of first-degree murder following a jury trial. The sentences come for the deaths of his in-laws, Gary and Gail Dodson, who were found stabbed to death in their home in June, 2015.

While the jury rendered two

sentences of life without chance of parole, it was up to Judge Stanley to determine if the sentences would run concurrently, at the same time, or consecutively, one after the other.

Had it been ruled for the sentences to run at the same time, it might have been feasible for Cooke to one day leave prison as a very old man.

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Upland Design Group wants to provide West Elementary with an amphitheater, if funds are available during the proposed renovation project.

Architects look to spruce up West Elementary

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

West Elementary could gain an outdoor amphitheater and lose a tree, if current renovation plans remain unchanged.

"We have been looking at the West project," said Upland Design Group architect Allen Hill. "The one thing we've been looking at is something to improve the appearance of the school. Something to be a focal point of the school. Something to identify it. When you drive up now there's nothing."

The building has no distinguishing features, Hill said.

"We're trying to do something for school identity to improve the feel of the building. We are thinking about a screen wall. The color would be something bright, something shiny. Something that would catch your eye."

The front of the wall would identify the school as "WEST" Elementary. Hill says behind the curved wall would be seating.

"It would be a mini-amphitheater, an outdoor space where teachers could come and have class outside. It's screened and would be in shade. If you remember, there's a sidewalk that goes along the building. We're trying to make that space more useable. If you drive up the drive, there's a lone tree up there. That's the spot where this is going to go. There would be a new ramp that would connect the front entry."

Teachers should refrain from making plans on using the space, as financial constraints might squash the project before groundbreaking.

"This is something that we would like to incorporate into the overall plan," said Hill. "We don't know if the budget will support it, but at least we have something put together. If funds become available, there would be an opportunity to do that."

Members of the county Education Committee reviewed the plans and gave their approval.

"I like it," said Commissioner Diane Starkey. "It's cool."

Warren County School Board members have yet to give their approval for this portion of the plan.



Emily Stefanick and Ethan Duncan work through the quirks of marriage as newlyweds Paul and Corey Bratter in "Barefoot in the Park." In this scene, Paul gets the good news of landing his first case as an attorney, while Corey is more concerned about how the case might impact their night of romance.

Honeymoon over in 'Barefoot in the Park'

BY **JAMES CLARK**
Editor for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

What happens when a couple married for six days moves into their first apartment?

There are some difficult moments -- and plenty of hilarity -- in the Warren Arts production of "Barefoot in the Park," which made its debut Thursday night.

Six more performances are still scheduled, beginning with this Friday night, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Warren Arts building at 605 Red Road.

"This is the most polished and professional show we've done yet," said Chad McGee, who is directing the full-length

play with his wife, Rachel.

"It's also our first full set production, which has required a lot of hours from a lot of volunteers."

As for his general thoughts on the play, McGee was concise, "It's hysterical," he said.

Emily Stefanick plays the leading role of energetic Corey Bratter, who is as bubbly as she is naïve.

"She's buckets of fun," said Stefanick. "She's impulsive, vivacious, a newlywed with grandiose ideas of what being a wife is going to be."

Ethan Duncan plays her husband, Paul, a more level-headed, work-oriented person.

Continued on **2A**



Dorian Loeffler comes on a little too strong in "Barefoot in the Park" as crazy neighbor Victor Velasco. He has affection for newlywed Corey Bratter, who is played by Emily Stefanick.



A youngster chows down on a hotdog during a previous customer appreciation day at the Standard.

Join us for prizes, food, discounts

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

The *Southern Standard* has good news if you're looking to chill out and enjoy a hotdog on Friday.

You can register to win a new freezer, one of several fabulous door prizes up for grabs during our annual Customer Appreciation Day.

The *Standard* will show gratitude to our customers this Friday, Feb. 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free hotdogs, chips, refreshing Dr Pepper, door prizes, and discounts on subscriptions will be offered.

"This is our way of saying thank you to our customers," said *Standard* publisher Patricia Zechman. "I want to encourage everyone to stop by and take advantage of our special rates

and register for the freezer."

In addition to the freezer, visitors can register to win free subscriptions, gift packs and a *Southern Standard* cooler.

Discount subscriptions will be offered for everyone.

- 1 year, \$67 – a savings of \$17.75
- 26 weeks, \$40 – a savings of \$6.75
- 13 weeks, \$27 – a savings of \$3.50

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