

Starkey seeks re-election to County Commission

Retired Warren County School System educator Diane Starkey is seeking re-election for the 2nd District Warren County Commission seat.

During her tenure, Starkey says she has gained valuable insight and experience, and genuinely cares about the voters in Warren County. Starkey currently serves on the Budget and Finance Committee, Agriculture Extension Committee, and is chairman of the Education Committee. Ms. Starkey has also served on Economic

Development and Animal Control committees.

"I believe experience does count in a position like this. You learn to agree to disagree on many issues, but in the end you should vote and represent what is right for the people in your district and county," says Starkey.

Starkey says during her tenure, the county has continued to focus on building new schools



STARKEY

and renovating others each budget year.

"While serving on the commission, we have built a new school at Morrison, a Wellness Center at WCHS, and completed major renovations at Dibrell, Irving College and Bobby Ray," said Starkey. "More renovations will continue this summer for Bobby Ray and West projects."

Along with the school projects, Starkey says the jail has to be upgraded to meet the demands of overcrowding. Hefty fines could be levied against the county if it doesn't seek the means to alleviate the problems at the jail. Discussion and planning are ongoing for this issue.

"If elected, I will represent you the voters of the 2nd District and will work with the county executive and members of the county court to help build and promote Warren County," said Starkey.

"How we shape our community is up to those living in our county. Trust me with the experience and knowledge to help make us better. Our county has not had a deficit since I have been on the commission so we have done a great job balancing the budget with the revenue we have. I look forward to having your continued support in the upcoming May 1 election. Remember early voting is April 11-26. My email address is destarkey@charter.net if you need to contact me."

TRAFFIC COURT

Judge Bill Locke ruled on the following cases Thursday in Traffic Court.

Brittini H. Fisk was ordered to serve 30 days of an 11-month, 29-day sentence and pay a \$250 fine for simple possession, criminal impersonation, and violation of probation.

Dallas London Mullins was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-29 sentence, pay a \$350 fine, and perform 24 hours public service work for DUI. An additional five days were given for failure to appear.

Donnie Allan Sparkman was ordered to serve 48 hours of an 11-29 sentence, pay a \$350 fine, and perform 24 hours public service work for DUI.

Justin Taylor Stoner was ordered to serve 48 hours for violation of probation.

Terry Barnes had probation revoked and must serve remainder of sentence for violation of probation.

Catarina Lucas Gregorio was given 48 hours to serve of a 30-day sentence for driving without a license.

Jeremy Gunter was ordered to serve 60 days for violation of probation and simple possession. He was also leveled a \$750 fine.

Jerald Randall Jones III was ordered to serve five days of an 11-29 sentence for driving on a suspended license second offense.

Savannah L. Mason was ordered to serve 10 days of an 11-29 sentence for driving on a suspended license third offense.

Tonja R. Miller was given five days of an 11-29 sentence for driving on a revoked license second offense.

Misty Dawn Newby was given seven days in jail and 12 hours public service work for violation of probation.

Bobby L. Sanders was ordered to serve 60 days of an 11-29 sentence and pay a \$750 fine for driving on a revoked license second offense and possession of meth.

Aaron Young was ordered to serve 47 days of an 11-29 sentence, pay an \$850 fine, and perform 32 hours public service work for second-offense DUI and simple possession.

Jail plans

Continued from page 1A

"There is a little bit of fluff in there because TCI may not certify those as beds because they won't be used unless an inmate is sick," said Hill. "It's a little bit of a gray area if those will be certified beds or not."

If not allowed, the maximum inmate space would be 397.

Hill presented a breakdown of estimated cost. Total estimated construction cost is slightly more than \$6 million. The county has earmarked \$6.5 million.

"We didn't want to use the entire \$6.5 million on the expansion," said Hill. "We wanted to save some funds for renovation of the existing building. Renovation is not included in these plans."

While Building and Grounds Committee members unanimously approved Upland Design Group moving forward and having the project ready to bid in July, some members of the County Corrections Partnership Committee voiced a desire to wait until after the county elections.

"We may not be here next year," said Commissioner Carl D. Bouldin. "We may get defeated in our re-election bid. There's one thing for sure, we are going to have a new county executive and a new sheriff. We are five months away from a new election. I think it would be good for the new county executive and the new sheriff to have input on this."

Commissioner Carl E. Bouldin, chair of Building and Grounds, disagreed.

"I think we need to move forward with the jail expansion," he said. "Whomever the new sheriff is, he's going to be thankful this project is underway."

Sheriff Jackie Matheny confirmed the new sher-

iff will be thankful.

"As of yesterday, we had 324 inmates," said Matheny. "The state took 20 over the last month. We've been struggling to keep it under 350. If we go over 350, the state could shut us down. They've told us that 350 is our limit. If we go over that, they will step in and the county will pay the price."

The county has been under the watchful eye of the state due to long-standing overcrowding.

"This plan is based on what the state says you need to do," said Hill.

With Building and Grounds Committee approval, Upland Design Group will move past the preliminary design phase. Upland was asked to include a courtroom space in the design plans, present that for approval, and include it in the bid documents as an alternate.

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

With the recent passing of Stephen Hawking, the world-famous theoretical physicist who didn't allow his physical limitations to hinder his quest for understanding the universe, Rotarians invited Dr. Robert Scherrer to discuss the question "What lies beyond our little world?"

Before offering his insights into the composition of our physical universe, Dr. Scherrer joked that he had "one Stephen Hawking story" to share. As a graduate student at the University of Chicago, Scherrer was dispatched to be Hawking's navigator so Hawking could visit the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, which was an hour away from the hotel where Hawking was staying.

"So I showed up at the hotel at the appointed hour and there was no Stephen Hawking and there was no driver. For an ordinary physicist, I would have just gone in and banged on the door, and said 'Come on. We're leaving,' but this was the great Stephen Hawking even back then and one does not disturb the Great Stephen Hawking, so I just sat and sat in the lobby. And then, 45 minutes later, the driver comes down and says 'We've been waiting for you! Why did you not come knock on our door?' So we drove out and were very late. One of my supervisors was pacing back and forth at the Fermi Lab and told me that if anything had happened to Stephen Hawking he was going to send me to Tuscaloosa, which I guess was a form of eternal exile."

Scherrer, offered a presentation from his research area in cosmology, encompassing work on dark energy, dark matter, big bang nucleosynthesis, and the large-scale structure of the universe.

"Over the last few years, we've really developed a great idea of what the universe is made of and it's weirder than we could have possibly imagined," said Scherrer.



Lacy Garrison photo

Dr. Robert Scherrer, professor of physics and astronomy at Vanderbilt University, offers insight into the unknown during the Noon Rotary Club meeting Thursday. It was the first of a two-part series honoring the late Stephen Hawking.

"It's a smorgasbord of very bizarre constituents: dark matter, ordinary matter, and dark energy."

So where do we stand?

Scherrer explained, "We know, for the first time, exactly what the universe is made of. And yet we don't. We have names for these things and we know their properties and how they behave, but we really don't know in detail what they are made of."

When asked about space travel, Scherrer jokingly said the speed of light is inconvenient and there is no practical form of space travel.

"Unfortunately, of all the things in physics that we think are probably almost certainly true, that's one of the most certain ones. It's been around for 100 years since Einstein and there is no evidence that you can go faster than the speed of light."

Additionally, Scherrer was asked about the significance concerning the Higgs boson particle.

"It's important because we thought it was there

and if we didn't see it that would have disrupted all our theories," explained Scherrer. "Unfortunately, it was the one thing we knew had to be there and it's the only thing that they found new at the accelerator."

Scherrer was the guest speaker during Thursday's Rotary Club of McMinnville luncheon. Next week, another internationally honored physicist and

Vanderbilt professor Dr. Joseph Hamilton will offer further insights into dark energy, black holes in space, and the possibility of intelligent life outside our solar system.

Scherrer is a professor and chair of physics and astronomy at Vanderbilt University. His comments can be heard on WCPI 91.3 FM on Tuesday at 5 p.m., Wednesday at 5:05 a.m., Thursday at 1 p.m., and Friday at 1:05 a.m.

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