



SPORTS

Football team continues work **1B**



ENTERTAINMENT

Insanity of 'Deadpool 2' reaches expectations **4C**

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James Clark photo

Bill Lee, a Republican candidate for Tennessee Governor, chats with Jana Wilson-Ringemann outside Prater's BBQ following a town hall meeting Wednesday night. Early voting begins July 13.

On the campaign trail

Bill Lee speaks at town hall meeting

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

Bill Lee is quick to point out he's not a politician.

Lee is a businessman who has helped grow his family business, Lee Company, to employ more than 1,200 people and earn more than \$200 million in annual revenue.

Now Lee is asking for your vote in the Republican Primary as he runs for Governor of Tennessee.

"Our state needs an executive leader, someone who will cast a vision of where we want our state to go, where we want our state to be in 20 years," said Lee during a town hall meeting Wednesday night at Prater's BBQ in Morrison. "Then we have to plan and determine what we can do this year to accomplish that goal to be where we want to be in 20 years."

Lee answered over a dozen questions that were submitted by members of the audience on a wide range of political topics. Many questions addressed education. There was talk about health-care. And Lee was asked his thoughts about sanctuary cities.



Race for Governor

REPUBLICANS

- Beth Harwell, Speaker of Tennessee House
- Randy Boyd, Knoxville businessman
- Bill Lee, Williamson County businessman
- Diane Black, U.S. Representative

DEMOCRATS

- Karl Dean, former Nashville Mayor
- Craig Fitzhugh, House Minority Leader

"By its very definition, a sanctuary city is lawlessness," said Lee in a concise response. "So I'm against them and I would do whatever it takes as governor to prevent them in Tennessee."

Lee was asked about TN Ready, the state's standardized test which has failed three years straight. He says he remains committed to standardized testing.

"You can't improve what you don't measure," said Lee in stating the need to keep the tests.

When asked about technical schools, Lee said industries should join in the responsibility of training workers instead of expecting the state to provide that service.

"I don't believe we need to invest state dollars, tax dollars, in building programs to put trade schools all over the state," said Lee. "We started a vocational training school 10 years ago at my company and we've educated over 1,000 people in trades. If industry is going to be the beneficiary of receiving skilled labor, then industry needs to be a partner in strengthening the training."

Continued on **2A**

Ambulance crash lawsuit looming

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

A pending lawsuit has halted Warren County government's intent to refurbish a wrecked ambulance and get it back on the road.

A used replacement is being sought.

EMS director Preston Denney has notified members of the county Safety Committee an attorney has expressed a desire to inspect the damaged ambulance and it is being held in order to allow time for that inspection.

"They're trying to get an inspection date set up for the ambulance," said Denney. "We are looking at 60 days before it can be released. Then, at that point, we can move forward with the remount. We're at their mercy. We have to agree to their request. It could be 60 days, at minimum."

While the name of the attorney and whom they represent is unknown, it could be Cornelius Hurt, 29, of Nashville. According to reports from March 31, the Warren County EMS ambulance struck Hurt's Nissan Altima. It was stopped on the shoulder from a wreck moments earlier. Hurt was critically injured.

Committee members previously approved hauling the ambulance from Nashville to Select-

Tech in Shelbyville for repairs. Insurance appraisal was \$75,000 for damages.

Denney estimates, between the requested inspection and the timeframe for repair, it could be up to a year before the department receives its ambulance.

"We are looking at nine months to a year before we get that truck back," said Denney. "That puts us down a truck. I spoke with the guy from insurance last week when he brought us the check. He said we could do what we wanted with the money. He said you don't have to wait. He said if we wanted to use the money toward another truck, we could."

Denney said he contacted a Dodge dealership to inquire about a new ambulance and was told the wait is six months so he switched to looking for a used one.

"Three used vehicles, with Dodge chassis, were found. We found other ones but those were more like what we already have. They are 2017s. One we looked at had around 8,000 miles and one had 11,000 miles. The one with 11,000 miles on it is \$161,000."

Committee members approved Denney going out for bids on a used vehicle. The measure will be presented to the full Warren County Commission for its consideration.



DENNEY

School system considers phone system change

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

Could the Warren County School System be disconnecting with its current phone provider?

Director of Schools Bobby Cox gave an update on the schools' phone system. Right now, the school system is in contract with Ben Lomand, which rents its equipment to schools inside the city limits.

Currently, the board has taken bids to update the phone system to Voice Over IP (VoIP), which allows users to use the internet to make and receive telephone calls.

For a recurring monthly price, Ben Lomand bid \$23,015, LBMC Tech bid \$15,668, Digital Group bid \$10,483, and ENA bid the lowest, \$7,923.



Lacy Garrison photo

Bobby Ray secretary Becky Crawford answers the phone frequently throughout the day and believes an updated system would be beneficial. "We need to be able to call into individual classrooms over an intercom or if our students are in the hallways," said Crawford. "They need to be able to hear that announcement and they can't."

Continued on **2A**

School for the Blind band plays cave

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

Students at Tennessee School for the Blind received a memorable experience this week when they performed in the acoustically rich confines of the Volcano Room at Cumberland Caverns.

Twelve students with the choir and six students with the jazz band played for an audience that included members of the Warren County Lions Club, an organization devoted to eyesight preservation.

"I can distinguish the cave formations, although I can't see exact details," said Candi Herrera, a visually impaired student from Oak Ridge.

Herrera has been playing drums since October and has been a student at Tennessee School for the Blind in Nashville for two years. She had eye

replacement surgery as a child, a procedure which provides limited sight.

"I can't read fine print so I was struggling in public schools," said Candi. "I could do all the assignments, it would just take me a whole lot longer and some of my teachers didn't understand."

A junior, Herrera says she is set to graduate next year and is pondering possible career choices.

For students with no eyesight, they were still able to experience the cave with its vast temperature difference and damp air at 99 percent humidity. While the temperature outside was in the mid-80s, the temperature inside the cave is a constant 56 degrees.

"It's an awesome experience being down here," said keyboardist Anthony Bonetti, who has been playing since July 2014.



James Clark photo

Candi Herrera, a student at Tennessee School for the Blind, plays drums during a performance Monday night at Cumberland Caverns.

Continued on **2A**

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