

# Standard, WCPI to hold two days of forums

The start of early voting is less than one month away and the *Southern Standard* and WCPI are focusing efforts on helping voters make an informed decision.

The newspaper and radio station will be holding two days of political forums on Monday and Tuesday, July 9-10, at Warren County Administrative Offices. Start time is 6 p.m. each night.

The Monday, July 9 forum will be headlined by the Warren County Executive candidates. Three of those candidates, Jimmy Haley, Terry Bell and Ray Hixson, have

confirmed they will be in attendance. Allie Hyatt declined, citing a prior commitment.

The newspaper will give candidates time to make an opening statement before asking general questions pertaining to county government. Candidates will also be given time for closing remarks.

Early voting is from Friday, July 13 to Saturday, July 28. The county election will be held Thursday, Aug. 2, with those elected to take office Sept. 1.

Also confirming their attendance are the four Republican candidates



BELL



HALEY



HIXSON

running for two seats in the Tennessee House of Representatives. Warren County is divided into two districts, the 43rd and the 47th.

In the 43rd District, Paul Sherrell is the incumbent. He will face

opposition from Jerry Lowery in the Republican Primary. Both have said they will be in attendance.

In the 47th District, longtime state Rep. Judd Matheny has opted to run for Congress, leaving an

open seat. Rush Bricken will square off against Ronnie Holden in the Republican Primary. Both have said they will be in attendance.

These candidates will follow a similar format and be given time to make opening statements before answering general state government questions. Winners of the Republican primaries advance to the Tennessee General Election on Nov. 6.

The *Standard* extended invitations to all six major candidates for Tennessee governor to appear at the forum. This includes Republicans Bill Lee, Randy Boyd, Diane Black

and Beth Harwell, and Democrats Karl Dean and Craig Futzhugh.

Bill Lee and Randy Boyd have both declined to attend, citing prior engagements. None of the other candidates have confirmed.

Preparing for the possible absence of the gubernatorial candidates, the *Standard* and WCPI will be adding School Board candidates Monday night.

Warren County Sheriff candidates will be invited to headline the political forum on Tuesday, July 10, along with candidates for Trustee, Circuit Court Clerk and Register of Deeds.

## Jammin' out at Main Street Live



Above, Runaway Home kicked off the second installment of the Main Street Live summer concert series on Friday night by performing “The Jeffersons” theme song “Movin’ On Up.” The TV show was a sitcom that began in the 1970s and starred Sherman Hemsley as George Jefferson and Isabel Sanford as his wife, Louise.

Right, Blakelynn McKinney is a member of the next generation of Main Street Live summer concert enthusiasts. At 10-months-old, 2018 is her first series and her mother reports she is loving it so far.



## Former bus driver faces statutory rape charges

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — A former Tennessee school bus driver convicted in a crash that killed six children now faces aggravated statutory rape charges.

Johnthony Walker, 25, was arrested Thursday in Nashville, where he was free on bond while appealing his March conviction on criminally negligent homicide and assault charges in the 2016 Chattanooga crash. Hamilton County district attorney general spokeswoman Melydia Clewell says the judge had let Walker stay out of town with ankle monitoring.

The Nashville arrest report says Walker admitted to having sex with a 14-year-old on five occasions. His bail is \$350,000.

Walker wrecked while driving 37 elementary school children on a winding Chattanooga road. Prosecutors said he was

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speeding and talking on his phone.

A judge handed him a four-year prison sentence.

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — The hundreds of artists appearing at the CMA Fest last weekend weren't the only ones trying to court new fans. Streaming music providers had a larger presence at this year's festival, hoping to convert country music fans, who have been slower to adopt streaming compared with other genres.

With roughly 80,000 people in town to watch more than 300 artists perform at multiple stages throughout Nashville, Spotify, Amazon Music and iHeartRadio's streaming platform all used the festival to persuade country music fans to use their technologies as music

Link was taken to Skyline Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

## Urtubees retires



Photo provided

After more than 36 years as a U.S. Postal Service employee, Karen Urtubees has retired. A reception was held for the mail carrier, who says she enjoyed the years she spent delivering mail to customers, family and friends. Pictured with her is dear friend Coty Jones.

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Southern Standard

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