

County executive

Continued from page 1A ly third-grade reading."

Candidates for county executive were asked a number of other questions and also gave opening and closing statements during Monday night's forum. Here are other comments from their presentations.

Q: Name one specific idea you have to improve Warren County.

• TERRY BELL

"My initiative to try to landscape the highways I think will come a long way to making this a better place for us to live," said Bell. "It'll bring in tourist dollars which, in return, they will build restaurants and hotels and all that money coming in will help with our education system. The vocational I think is where we really have to focus. Mechatronics is a good program but everybody can't go through the Mechatronics program. We're going to need welders, plumbers, electricians, and other people to build this community up."

• JIMMY HALEY

"The consortium we put together to get the Advanced Robotics Training Center to McMinnville I think is going to be a deal changer for our community," said Haley. "We all worked hard. We worked as a team. I was relentless in my efforts with the state to get that \$5.5 million grant opportunity from the governor's office Drive to 55. The state has multiple programs now to invest in education and the best thing we can do is to start early intervention programs, particular-

• RAY HIXSON

"My biggest thing is to plan for the future," said Hixson. "I don't see enough planning for it. Buildings that are deteriorating, we take care of that when it happens, but we don't plan for the future of it. I think we really need to do this, have a small budget set aside reallocating money that could be better spent on these so we don't get hit with big bond money. So that's my plan is to plan for the future."

Q: County government has long held the stance it won't fund parks and recreation projects, saying that's the responsibility of the city. Could you see a scenario where the county and city might one day collaborate on a large parks and recreation project such as an indoor pool?

• HIXSON

"I'm all for it anytime we can collaborate with the city," said Hixson. "So far in the past that has not been done in a real congenial way. I would like to see something like this go on. You have to present it and if it's what the county wants, and the city is willing to work with the county, I'd be all for it and we'd work together."

• BELL

"I don't think as county executive you should ever rule out the possibility of anything," said Bell. "It's hard to sit here and answer a question because I have no particulars about what kind of money you're talking about, how you're going to fund it, what's the



Candidates for Warren County Executive, from left, Jimmy Haley, Terry Bell and Ray Hixson listen to a question during the Southern Standard/ WCPI political forum Monday night. Lisa Hobbs photo

maintenance going to be, or anything, so I can't sit here and say yes we'll do it, or no we'll never do it. I hope as county executive when you come into my office with an idea we'll be able to sit down and look at it and see if it benefits Warren County."

• HALEY

"For many years, the quality of life issues did come from the citizens of McMinnville, who pay county taxes as well," said Haley. "The city has prided itself that our parks, our recreation, are open to all citizens. So when you look at what the county has done in the past for recreation, they have been more focused on education, which the city does not do. They have helped fund economic develop-

ment as well and the county sheriff's department so for most cities, the quality of life of our parks and rec seems to fall in the laps of our city taxpayers but it benefits the whole community and becomes an asset we can all be proud of. When recruiters come here and people come to live here, they look at our parks and look our walking trails, they look at our pool. They look at the amenities that go along with our community. That will be something for the County Commission to investigate. I think cooperation between city and county is more important than ever. We're all in this together so we need to work cooperatively together to improve the quality of life for all citi-

zens."

COMMENTS MADE DURING OPENING STATEMENTS

• HALEY

"We live in a remarkable community," said Haley. "I feel like our citizens are our greatest assets. As elected officials, that's who we serve, the people. That's who we listen to. Most of you know how hard I work as mayor of McMinnville. I took a dark city and turned it around, literally turned it into a city of prosperity. I want to do that for the county. I feel like as a county and as a community, we're at a crossroads. We can move forward or backward. We can be proactive or reactive. We have children who sit in classrooms that are underfunded. We have buildings throughout the community that need extensive renovations and repairs ... We need to look at building jobs for our community, higher paying jobs. We need to look at economic and community development that involves multiple resources across the state."

• BELL

"I live in the Rock Island area in the Midway community which I have served in numerous community activities," said Bell. "If you've ever been out there, we have a strong community and that's one thing we need to get back to. Our communities need to come together because we're all the time trying to divide. You have to find ways to fix things. There's always a different way to look at things. You can holler that we have problems, of course we do. Do we want to improve things? Yes we do. There's money in budgets to improve things, but it's easier to get elected if you just run around and holler that the people who have been in there didn't do anything. That's how you win elections. You

run down the guys who have been in there. We've accomplished a lot in this county. Look around at our schools. If you go in the school at Centertown, you should be proud of it. If you go in the school at Morrison, you should be proud of it. Dibrell should be proud of their school. We've got a new school at Irving College. We built a wellness center at the high school. We're now working on building onto Bobby Ray and we're going to build onto West Elementary. We need to focus on our schools because what do we send our kids to school for? We send them to get educated so they can get a job. If we put vocational in there, we'll be able to get them a job faster."

• HIXSON

"I lived in the projects at an early age but that didn't stop me from becoming a successful, self-made businessman," said Hixson. "I've worked hard for everything I have. Nothing was given to me. ... I plan to be here the rest of my life so I want to look out for the county. There will be no politics as usual, not from me. I will do my best every day to do what you, the citizens, need me to do. I will look out for the best interests of the county to the best of my ability. I'm someone who's called a polymath. A polymath is someone with a wide range of knowledge and learning and in my case experience also. We've had a long-standing joke among my family and friends that I'm an encyclopedia of useless knowledge. I just like to learn everything and anything that I can and somewhere along the line it always comes in useful ... I'm a workaholic and I achieve results. Don't know if that's a good thing, but I am. I'm very passionate about what I do. I do it right or not at all. That's what we need in Warren County government and that's why I'm running for this office."

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EARLY VOTING
JULY 13
JULY 28

JIMMY HALEY

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

As County Executive, I'll work hard to fix our county's budget deficit, improve our schools, recruit good jobs, and make our government more efficient and transparent. I'll always remember that I work for you, not the other way around. I've done it as McMinnville's Mayor and I'll do it as County Executive. I'm Jimmy Haley and I'm asking for your vote.

Jimmy Haley

Together, we can build a better tomorrow for Warren County!

PAID FOR BY JIMMY HALEY

Gospel meeting

IVY BLUFF CHURCH OF CHRIST
101 Wade Road Woodbury, TN 37190

JULY 15-19TH

7:00 PM NIGHTLY

Guest Speaker

Charles Williams

Sunday AM Bible Study 9:00 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday - Fellowship Meal after Sunday
Thursday Night 7:00 pm Morning Worship