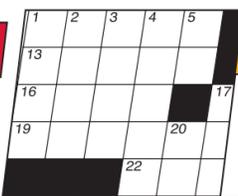




SPORTS

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FRIDAY

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Standard



Six sheriff candidates take stage

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

How much should inmates be put to work when serving time at Warren County Jail?

It was a hot topic of discussion Tuesday night as the six candidates for Warren County Sheriff took center stage during a *Southern Standard*/ WCPI political forum.

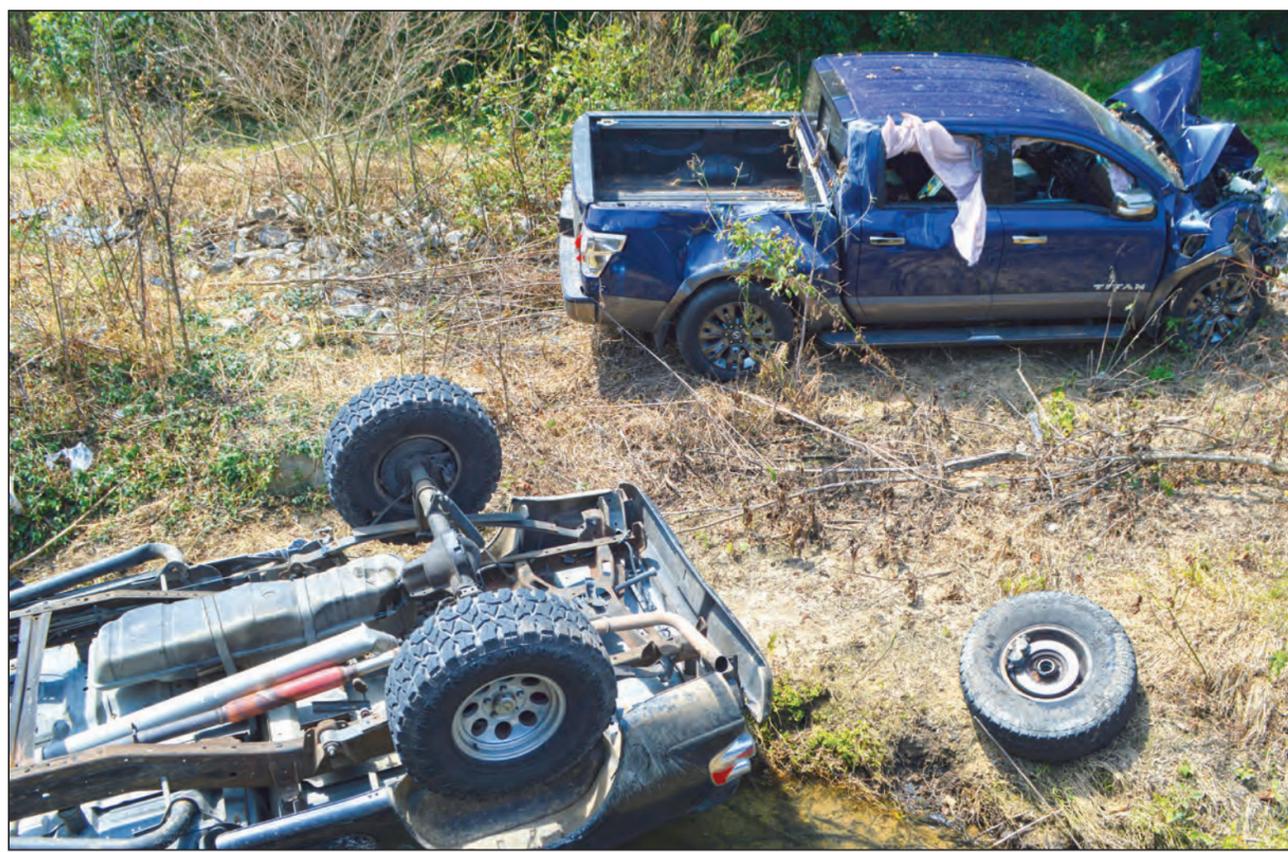
According to information conveyed during discussion, Warren County Jail was housing 332 inmates as of Tuesday morning. The jail has a regular work crew that consists of 65 inmates who perform clean-up duties around the county.

That's not nearly enough, according to Rodney Whiles, who says the county could be saving money by utilizing more inmate labor.

John Morgan countered by saying any more inmates on work release would present a safety risk to the community because they could easily escape from custody while they're outside the jail and commit an atrocious crime such as rape.

Bobby Edwards says he would institute major changes if elected sheriff, while Billy Joe Crouch, Tommy Myers and Marc Martin all contend major upgrades in radio technology are badly needed because it puts officers at risk.

Candidates also discussed their views on arming teachers with guns, managing a 100-person sheriff's department, and other law enforcement issues. To read excerpts of what all six candidates had to say Tuesday night, see page 8A.



Lacy Garrison photos

After two vehicles crossed the center line on Mt. Zion Road, the impact of the collision left both trucks off road below a bridge. The Ford F150 flipped and landed upside down in the creek bed.

Two airlifted

Head-on collision in Viola injures Murphy, Meadows

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

Two Viola residents were airlifted after a head-on collision Thursday morning.

Tammy Murphy, 46, was traveling northbound in a Nissan Titan on Mt. Zion Road, while Thomas Meadows, 18, was driving a Ford F150 outbound when both vehicles crossed the center line for unknown reasons, hitting head on.

The impact caused the Ford F150 to flip over the bridge on Mt. Zion Road and land

upside down in the creek bed.

Highway Patrol officer Wade Myers responded to the wreck with injury call just before 11 a.m. When he arrived, both vehicles were off road beneath the bridge. Two Life Force helicopters landed in an old softball field nearby.

"Both of the drivers were airlifted with Meadows being transported to Erlanger and Murphy to Vanderbilt," said Myers. "After speaking with the driver, Thomas Meadows, he said both vehicles had crossed over the line. Neither drivers were wearing their seatbelts."



Viola residents Tammy Murphy, 46, and Thomas Meadows, 18, were airlifted from an old softball field in Viola after a head-on collision on Mt. Zion Road.

Early voting begins Friday

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

Early voting begins Friday for what figures to be a heated countywide election that features races for county executive and sheriff.

Polls will be open at the early voting room at Warren County Administrative Offices from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Early voting lasts until July 28 with Election Day on Thursday, Aug. 2.

"With quite a few races on the ballot, we're hoping for a great turnout," said Election Commission deputy Susie Davenport.

"There are several major offices where the incumbent is retiring. We're hearing a lot of talk about the governor's race and we're going to have a new U.S. senator too."

Locally, there are six candidates running for sheriff after the retirement of Jackie Matheny. There are four candidates running for county executive with the retirement of Herschel Wells.

Other races include trustee, circuit court clerk, register of deeds, and all 24 seats on the Warren County Commission. School Board and constable races are also on the ballot.



Continued on **6A**

Civic Center work could cost \$9M

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

McMinnville officials are bracing for sticker shock when it comes to the cost of renovating the Civic Center - with one estimate being \$9 million.

"We are going to know in the next three months what that project is going to cost us," said Finance Committee chair Everett Brock. "The bid documents are going out at the beginning of August and they'll be back on the 30th. We will know something by Sept. 1. I fear there is going to be sticker shock."

At this time, the actual cost of Civic

Center renovation and expansion is unknown. The city is in the architectural stage. Actual cost will not be known until the project is bid.

Brock said a \$6 million Civic Center project would be an annual payment of approximately \$400,000 for the next 20 years and a \$9 million project would be an annual payment of \$600,000.

Brock's statement was made during a city Building and Grounds Committee meeting that kicked off budget discussions for fiscal year 2018-19. Reviewed was the proposed budget of Community Development Department director Nolan Ming.

"One of the biggest changes is we are

adding a full-time employee," said Ming, who also requested \$50,000 for two new vehicles. "One of the biggest changes is in transportation. We have money in there for two new vehicles. We have two really old Ford Rangers and the Tahoe. I feel like it's time to upgrade."

Last year's approved budget was \$389,970. This year's budget request is \$463,410, an increase of \$73,440.

Brock expressed a desire to start "penny pinching" now in departmental budgets for what could be a big expenditure later at the Civic Center.

Committee members approved Ming's budget as requested. It will be sent to the city Finance Committee for consideration.



On with the show

Lacy Garrison photo

Nathan Carpenter, 12, portrays the vain Jackdaw in a student-led interpretation of Aesop's Fables at Warren Arts. Jupiter, portrayed by Kaden Hobbs, 13, is just about to crown Jackdaw king before the other birds protest. See story on page 3A.

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