Reaching beyond her roots

By David Laprad

Tena Roberson might have grown up poor, but instead of allowing poverty to squash her spirit, she was inspired to reach beyond her humble beginnings. Her efforts yielded the fruit she sought: Today, she’s deputy general counsel and chief privacy officer at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee (BCBS). “I saw my family struggle,” she says. “I didn’t want to go through that.”

Roberson not only knew she wanted to make more money, she also knew how she wanted to make it: From middle school on-ward, she’d wanted to be a lawyer. “The TV shows I watched growing up made it look interesting,” she says. “Plus, I enjoy learning.”

Roberson wound up being the first member of her family to go to college (although to be fair, she says she’s the oldest of her four siblings). She earned her undergraduate and Juris Doctor degrees at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, a stone’s throw from where she grew up, and then headed to Chattanooga with her future husband. Her first job provided her with the humble roots many attorneys put down before moving on to bigger things: working as a general practitioner at a small firm in Dunlap. Growing up, she’d been drawn to litigation, but she soon learned that was not her preferred line of practice. “Trying cases in front of a judge and a jury looks romantic and noble on TV,” she says, “but once you start practicing, you find out it’s nothing like that.”

Roberson continued to work as a litigator when she moved to Leitner Warner, a large insurance defense firm based in Chattanooga. Seven years later, she became pregnant with her first of two children, an event that prompted her to change course. “I liked the work decently well,” she says, “but my career wasn’t heading in a family-friendly direction.”

A softball buddy who’d been a Tena Roberson is deputy general counsel at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee, where she also serves as chief privacy officer. (Photo by David Laprad)

Tri-State Home Show packs them in

Thousands attended the Tri-State Home Show at the Chattanooga Convention Center last weekend. The Homebuilders Association of Greater Chattanooga, which produces the annual event, made good on its promise to present a bigger and better event, offering over 500 booths showcasing the latest products and services for the home. Pictured: A local resident writes a message of thanks on a two-by-four that non-profit Steps 2 Hope will use in the construction of a home for Jason Smith, a soldier who lost his legs to an IED while serving in Afghanistan. More photos on pages 9 and 20. (Photos by David Laprad)
Battle of the band(width)
Fast, available Internet more important than state vs. FCC game in legislature

By Sam Stockard

Joyce Coltrin’s business is wandering in Bradley County’s technological wilderness. And it’s likely to remain there — because of legal threats — until the General Assembly changes state law.

Located on Tunnel Hill Road in Cleveland, J&J Nursery sits in an area of southwest Bradley County with little or no Internet access, just three-eighths of a mile outside the Electric Power Board, the Chattanooga utility that provides electricity and one of the fastest broadband services in the nation.

Coltrin, who says her plant business is struggling because of technological shortcomings, says it’s a recreation of a portion of Exhibit 1 filed by the EPB with the PCC.)

Coltrin, who says her plant business is struggling because of technological shortcomings, and about 150 other Volunteer Energy customers are stuck in a pocket of weak connectivity.

They and hundreds of others just outside the Electric Power Board’s range also are caught in a hodgepodge of service areas.

"I guess we just feel it's unjust we have been singled out by the telecoms," says Coltrin, leader of Citizens Striving to be a Part of the 21st Century.

"We are such a small little pocket.

The FCC recently adopted an opinion and order preempting state laws in Tennessee and North Carolina by allowing Chattanooga’s EPB and the city of Wilson, N.C., to expand their broadband service outside their footprints.

Both offer gigabit-per-second broadband, voice and video service, and, in Chattanooga’s case, the high-speed network helped lure Amazon and Volkswagen to the area, an FCC release states.

But while state law permits electric companies to offer statewide telecommunications services, Internet and cable services are limited to the system’s footprint.

"Those are artificial boundaries," Coltrin says. "If they make laws that make me a substandard citizen, that’s something the FCC has to address.

Nearly 150 people from Bradley County attended a recent community meeting to glean

information from EPB and Volunteer about the FCC decision.

The room was full of energy, but might have received some bad news from the power suppliers. EPB and Volunteer Energy don’t want to step into a new frontier on the basis of an FCC ruling alone.

Both utilities want the backing of state law.

"Any discussion of an agreement between EPB and VEC is premature, although we have been talking for quite some time," says Patty Hurley, vice president of marketing & economic development for Volunteer.

"What needs to happen first is that the state law is changed to allow EPB to offer Internet service out of its present footprint.

The FCC’s ruling faces legal battles and delays, Hurley notes, and a change in state law would eliminate the need for federal intervention.

Says J.Ed. Marston, vice president of marketing for EPB: "The FCC’s ruling shows citizens have a right to basic utilities, and in modern society that includes Internet and cable, Brooks says.

"The FCC is saying EPB should be able to go where they need to to provide services," Brooks says.

Regardless of what’s happening to residents in rural areas surrounding EPB’s service, Tennessee’s most powerful political leaders oppose the FCC’s decision, including Gov. Bill Haslam, Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey and House Speaker Beth Harwell.

"Our job is to create a level playing field and then to do everything we can to make it be a net gain to the state," Haslam says in an Associated Press report.

The governor raises an eyebrow about telecommunications companies being forced to compete with government-subsidized broadband, since Chattanooga used stimulus money to fund its gigabit service. However, he admits for-profit businesses aren’t offering the same high-speed Internet across Tennessee as EPB is in Chattanooga.

Google plans to set up fiber-optic service in Nashville, and AT&T is planning gigabit-speed service in the state’s capital city, though the time frame is uncertain.

Putting up a roadblock
Just when EPB and Bradley residents such as Coltrin thought municipalities operating electric plants to provide services outside their electric system service area.

He is quick to point out he is sponsoring the bill because the city of Cleveland made the request, and the Cleveland legislative delegation supports it 100 percent.

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Local Mock Trial teams go to state competition

By David Laprad

CSTHEA (Green) and Signal Mountain (Black) will compete in the state high school mock trial competition this month after finishing as the top two teams in the local competition last week.

Competing as the prosecution in a case that involved the death of a motorcyclist in an alleged texting and driving incident, CSTHEA defeated McCallie (Blue). Signal Mountain prevailed over East Hamilton as the defense in the same case.

Judge Jeff Hollingsworth, who presided over the East Hamilton v. Signal Mountain (Black) mock trial praised both teams for their performance. “A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, I was in high school, and I would not have been able to do anything close to what you did,” he said.

Attorney Mark Warren, one of the two jurors responsible for deciding the winner of the case, told parents they can be proud of their children. “What we saw here tonight was outstanding,” he said before offering specific feedback to each competitor and team. “Everyone was amazing.”

The local Mock Trial competition includes high schools and teams of home schooled students from District 7, which includes Bradley, Hamilton, McMinn, Marion, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties. It is run by the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Chattanooga Bar Association. The YLD of the Tennessee Bar Association runs the state competition.

The state competition will take place in Nashville March 27 and 28. Representing CSTHEA (Green) will be students Jeremy Till, Stephanie Hamilton, Grant Stafford, Turner Bryant, Peter Zeglen, and Hayle Mas-sengale. The team’s coaches are

Holt compares the FCC’s decision to President Barack Obama’s proposal to give amnesty to limit the deportation of illegal immigrants.

“I think what we see from Washington is a steady flow of unconstitutional and unwise actions, and in this we see yet another,” Holt says.

They also contend their stance has nothing to do with campaign contributions. In the 2014 election cycle, Tennessee candidates netted $64,000 from the telecommunications industry, $211,400 from AT&T and $137,700 from Comcast.

The governor alone received $64,150 in campaign contributions, while Speaker Harwell got $12,850 and Casada received $9,500, according to the Associated Press.

Say Casada, however, “No up here makes those decisions based on that.”

Philosophical differences

In making their argument, Durham says several times the FCC’s decision is tantamount to giving police in Franklin the authority to write speeding tickets in Memphis, and it makes no difference that Bradley County residents are willing to pay for broadband connections.

“Don’t understand that logic,” Coltrin says.

Neither does Lindsay Hathcock, executive assistant for Bradley County Mayor Gary Davis.

“Our concern is equity of service for our citizens and the customers throughout Bradley County,” Hathcock says. Hathcock contends it’s not fair, for instance, when some area students can log on to the Internet at home to work on assignments while others might have to drive several miles to a library for Internet access.

Bradley County’s government isn’t concerned about whether the broadband is provided publicly or privately, he notes. But so far, private Internet providers such as Charter Cable, Comcast and AT&T U-verse aren’t stepping in to fill the gap because of high installation costs vs. low return, he says.

The practically

EBP Fiber serves most of Hamilton County and part of Brad-ley County already, along with portions of several other coun-tries, including North Georgia. Marston says it is prepared to serve southeast Bradley if the law allows.

The super-fast, one-gigabit-per-second service is standard for EBPs customers and is considered an economic driver, helping turn Chattanooga into a sort of Silicon Valley of the Southeast.

In the wake of the FCC ruling, EBPs is well aware of the potential for legal challenges, spokeswoman

Sydney Selman, Kenneth Sand- ers, Jesse Dawson, and Elizabeth Ortiz. The team’s coaches are attorneys Charlie Poss and Hallie McFadden.

“We want to get clarification of what we can do legally before we take action,” she says.

First, EBPs wants to provide broadband outside its footprint, only where it is requested. Second, financial factors must be weighed, and third, technical issues could come into play as well, Bailey says.

If it’s good policy, though, to allow municipal-owned utilities to operate outside their footprint, Durham argues it should be done legislatively.

With this type of legislation languishing for seven to eight years, Brooks faces long odds persuading legislators to follow his lead.

State Sen. Mark Norris, “Regulation Freedom Resolution” to the Senate floor recently to stop the federal regulators from handing down state mandates. He cited the FCC’s “inaction.”

Yet, Brooks contends, “The FCC ruling gives us cause to con-tinue work on HB1430.”

And from the standpoint of daily reality faced by people such as Joyce Coltrin, Brooks doesn’t consider this federal law “intrusion.”

Instead, he believes it is an “ex-clearance.”

Sam Stockard can be reached at ststockard4@gmail.com.
No go-no zones? No matter. Lynn, Ketron have a plan.

File this under ultra-preventative measures. State Rep. Susan Lynn and state Sen. Bill Ketron admit they’ve never seen a “no-go zone” in Tennessee. Yet they are sponsoring legislation enabling the state attorney general to investigate such areas where people and public workers are being systematically intimidated or excluded, report it to the Department of Justice and, ultimately, eliminate such zones to comply with state and federal law.

“There are some people who feel like it is happening in parts of the country and even Tennessee. However, they’re always told, no, this isn’t happening,” says Lynn, a Mt. Juliet Republican.

“But you have to remember, it’s not a legally defined term. Until it’s a legally defined term, it’s very hard to investigate and see if it’s happening.”

Once the term is defined, the attorney general can field complaints, check into the situation and take action.

“We can figure out how to stop it so everybody lives really in peace. That’s why our country was founded, one of the reasons, so we can stop it so everybody lives really in peace.”

Karen Finney of Media Matters for America says “no-go zones” where Muslims are prohibited are a myth driven by politics and the quest for website page views. Finney says they are based on largely Muslim suburbs filled with living conditions and little opportunity for children, which leads to radicalism.

Galloway, meanwhile, contends language in the “no-go” zone bill is incredibly broad and could be used to single out religious groups.

At the same time, he points out Lynn campaigned for re-election as a small government legislator who helped ferret out needless laws and eliminate them. Consequently, he doesn’t understand the need for a law to control a non-existent problem.

“I would not favor seeing areas of town being taken over by ethnic or religious groups,” Galloway says, noting he wants sheriff’s deputies and police officers to remain the law enforcement agencies in control.

From a practical standpoint, when Galloway looks at Nashville mosques such as in Murfreesboro Road and Murfreesboro, he sees places where a Hispanic-owned business could be forced to move to a mosque or a Muslim-owned shop.

“It’s diverse,” says Galloway, a Mexican of Scottish-Italian descent. He grew up in a military brat and moved here six months ago for a job opportunity after 10 years in Houston.

Lynn, a transplant from New York State, says: “This is America. Everybody should be free to conduct commerce, to traverse in the public areas, to go into privately-owned public spaces.”

When Lynn presents her bill, presumably she won’t have any examples to show legislators. In that case, legislators will have to decide whether this is paranoia or prevention.

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Don’t tell an agriculturist there are no farmers

While stopping by the Quick-ity Sack the other day to pick up a bottle of water, a farmer saw some of his discussion buddies conversing around the coffee drinkers table. They exchanged pleasanties about the weather, county politics, and how well he cleaned up. They were kidding him about his Sunday-go-to-meeting wear being his attire during the middle of the week. He explained to them he was on his way to Nashville for a National Agriculture Week celebration to honor farmers in Tennessee, and needed to look his best. Of course, he heard the usual comments about how it would take more than nice clothes to do that. That comment didn’t bother him, but one of the guys made the statement that there are no longer any farmers around, and they shouldn’t be all that concerned about having an entire week to celebrate that in his county, as he downed his sausage and biscuit with a carton of milk.

Delaying his trip for a few minutes, he looked at his sausage-eating friend and commented that the only marketing concern a Tennessee farmer had in past years, when selling his crop or livestock, was the price he would receive down at the local sale barn or grain elevator. He didn’t concern himself with what’s being exported overseas, the need for soybeans in Asia, or even what’s being bought on the west and east coasts. His primary concern was what is being paid for his product in his own hometown.

His friend stopped drinking his milk and looked at the dressed up farmer with somewhat of a “What?” smirk on his face. He continued with his stump address in front of the Yoo-who box. He continued on by saying, “Today, that has all changed. With the world population at 7.3 billion as of this month, and expected to reach 9 billion by the year 2050, the Tennessee farmer has to focus on the global challenges, as well as the local agricultural concerns. With exports from our state of raw agricultural products totaling in the billions of dollars, international trade and continued changes in farming technology worldwide, trade issues have major impacts on Tennessee farms. A world event thousands of miles away from a Tennessee farm can change a farmer’s commodity prices immediately.” He now had the attention of all the coffee drinkers.

“You said the number of farmers has decreased around here, and you’re right,” he said to his sausage-eating friend. “But you’re wrong about there being none left around here.” He was now in his prime National Ag Day speech mode as he continued to address the captive audience.

“Technology is allowing farms to get larger,” he said. “Fewer farmers are producing more, and the trend has no visible end. Less than two percent of our population today produces the food we eat. More than three million people farm or ranch in the United States. More than 74,000 farms are located in Tennessee. Individuals, family partnerships or family corporations operate almost 99 percent of those farms and the thousands of people who receive their incomes from agriculture are a major source of our economy as well. So many today have been brought up with fairy tale books of farms that relate to growing our food the way we used to do it so many years ago,” he continued. “Farm equipment has evolved dramatically from the team of horses used in the early 1900s. A new technique called precision farming boosts crop yields and reduces waste by using satellites and computers to match seed, fertilizer, and crop protector applications to local soil conditions. Today’s four-wheel drive tractors have the power of 40 to 300 horses. This makes for a large capital investment, as farmers pay anywhere from $97,000 for an average 160 horsepower tractor to $270,000 for a four-wheel drive model.

Today’s combines can harvest 900 bushels of corn per hour or 100 bushels of corn in under seven minutes! With modern methods, one acre of land in the U.S. can produce 42,000 pounds of strawberries, 11,000 heads of lettuce, 25,400 pounds of potatoes, 8,900 pounds of sweet corn, or 640 pounds of cotton lint. The efficiency of U.S. farmers benefits the Tennessee consumer in the

*Trailer of Tears historic route signs unveiled*

Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Soddy-Daisy, and Lakeview, in a joint effort with the National Park Service (NPS), have installed signs and markers that retrace the Trail of Tears through this area. The new signs were unveiled last week during an event at Ross’s Landing in Chattanooga. Following the dedication, guests were invited to a hike of Brown’s Ferry Federal Road, a section of the Trail of Tears located at 701 Moccasin Bend Road. The unveiling supports the continuing effort by the NPS to preserve and develop the national historic trail for increased public awareness and use. Pictured: Bob Bennett, NPS superintendent, announces the unveiling of the new signs. (Photo by David Laprad)
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Tri-State Home Show photos
Photos by David Laprad

(Above) Thousands packed the aisles of the home show throughout the weekend.

Harvey Wysong of Cutting Horse gives two collapsible saw horses to Jason Smith, a soldier who lost his legs to an IED while serving in Afghanistan. Non-profit Steps 2 Hope will build a home free-of-charge for Jason Smith next month [steps2hope.com].

Best Buy Metals was on hand to display its roofing products [www.BestBuyMetalRoofing.com].

Fischer Landscape Company had one of the more eye-popping booths with its outdoor patio build, complete with an arcing stream fountain [www.FischerLandscapeCo.com].

Chattanooga Rocks shows off its supply of local stone [www.ChattaRocks.com].

L-R: Cathy Barclay and Debbie Downs, real estate professionals with The James Company [www.ChattanoogaListings.com].

More photos on page 20.
News stuff. John Glasgow’s body, inside his clothing, was found last Tuesday near his skull had been found the week before. Searchers also found his wallet, driver’s license and a credit card. The Conway County sheriff, Mike Smith, said the investigation was now done. And when asked if the case was now a criminal one, Smith said, “absolutely not.” Perhaps one of you legal types out there could tell me, if that’s the case, why are they sending the remains to the state Crime Lab for further investigation?

Smith also said that the discovery would hopefully bring peace to the Glasgow family. I hope so too. And it looks like this will remain forever one of the state’s most mysterious. But one never knows.

Another mystery was the source of a cry for help rescuers heard coming from inside a partially submerged vehicle, in the frigid Spanish Fork River in Salt Lake City. The voice they heard was a female, and everyone heard it. Inside the car they found a body, 25-year old Jennifer Groesbeck, and her 18-month old daughter who had survived for 13 hours in the car and is now recovering in a hospital.

Another miracle happened to Sheena Keynna, who walked in front of a freight train while she was texting; never a good idea. She escaped with only a broken arm.

Python Puffs. A guy in Australia got ready for his morning cereal fix and was a little surprised to find a 7-foot python inside the box. He said when he peeked inside and the reptile popped his head out, he dropped the box and ran out the door. I’d be with him there. And I guess he bought the jumbo size at Sydney Sam’s Club. A seven-footer would never squeeze into my box of Grape Nuts Flakes.

If you’re rich and in Finland you may want to slow down. Fins base fines for speeding on how much money you make. One millionaire found out the hard way, when he was charged $60,000 for going 64 in a 50 mph zone.

Olive in South America, a college art teacher was granted permission to legally change her name to the entire alphabet. She said she did it to remain anonymous. Now everyone just calls her 26.

Where Wolf? A Georgia legislator introduced a human bill of rights. His constituents that one of his purposes was to prevent labs from combining genes of man and beast. Rep. Tom Kirby told us inside the box. He said when he peeked inside and the reptile popped his head out, he dropped the box and ran out the door. I’d be with him there. And I guess he bought the jumbo size at Sydney Sam’s Club. A seven-footer would never squeeze into my box of Grape Nuts Flakes.

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If you’re rich and in Finland you may want to slow down. Fins base fines for speeding on how much money you make. One millionaire found out the hard way, when he was charged $60,000 for going 64 in a 50 mph zone.

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Realtor preparing to ‘Dance with the Stars’

By David Laprad

Realtor Jeremy Callahan is no stranger to new challenges. There was a time when he’d never sold a house. Today, he’s an agent for a leading real estate firm in Ooltewah. Now he’s hoping his ability to learn and do new things will serve him well on the dance floor.

Callahan is one of eight local celebrities who will be competing to win a mirror ball trophy in the eighth annual Dancing with the Chattanooga Stars, a fundraiser for Partnership for Children, Families, Children, and Adults. “There’s just one catch: he’s never danced before.”

“My wife laughed when I told her what I’m doing,” he says. “But I’m going to be helping a lot of people, so it’s going to be worth it.”

Each Dancing with the Chattanooga Stars participant is paired with a professional instructor from Dance Tonight, a ballroom dance studio located on East Main Street. Partnership has placed Callahan with Catharine Coll. It’s first instruction was perhaps the most important: have fun.

“The key to an event like this is to enjoy yourself,” Coll says. “So I’m going to start Jeremy out with the basics, and then we’ll go from there.”

Dancing with the Chattanooga Stars is about more than pulling off great moves; it’s also about raising money for the programs Partnership, a non-profit human services agency, provides in its mission to strengthen vulnerable families and individuals.

Callahan has chosen to raise funds for the agency’s Elder Care Management program. “My grandmother had rheumatoid arthritis, which was very crippling,” he says. “Through its Elder Care program, Partnership helps seniors maintain independence in their own home. They also protect them from exploitation, abuse, and neglect.”

Callahan has ambitious plans for raising money. In addition to asking local businesses for donations, he’ll be creating a web site with videos of people who have benefitted from the services Partnership provides, and holding a fundraiser at Big River Grille Downtown (time and date to be determined). The dancer who raises the most money will win the Grand Dancing Champion Award.

Callahan joined Signature Brokers this year as its newest residential agent. He’s a native Chattanoogaan and graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he majored in communications and marketing. He recently returned to Chattanooga after several years in the real estate industry in Nashville.

“Chattanooga will always be home to me,” he says. “You can leave the office after work, and within minutes be on a hiking trail or in a kayak on the river. When you add this to the tremendous growth the Chattanooga area has experienced over the past few years, it was an easy decision for us to bring our growing family and our real estate business home.”

Although Callahan is determined to have fun, he says he’s nervous about his date with a dance floor. However, he and Coll have plenty of time to prepare for the event, which will take place Saturday, June 20 at 8 p.m. at Tivoli Theater.

To purchase tickets, go to ChattanoogaOnStage.com. To donate to Callahan’s fundraising campaign, go to DancingWithTheChattanoogaStars.com and click on his picture. Contact Callahan at (423) 972-4423.

Realtor preparing to ‘Dance with the Stars’

February 2015 residential market report

There has been talk of abundant cold and snow this winter (unless you live in California). When weather patterns turn bad, like wicked bad in New England, real estate industry pundits tend to go gloom, assuming that Americans hungry for homeownership are bothered by a little frozen precipitation. The nation will unfreeze, inventory is expected to rise, and home sales are widely expected to increase. These are good times, indeed, and many of us now have an ever-increasing shared experience that we can walk uphill to school both ways.

New Listings in the Chattanooga region decreased 6.0 percent to 917. Yet we are up year-to-date by 2.8 percent to 2,008 units. Pending Sales were up 33.4 percent to 774, which reflects a 34.6 percent year-to-date increase to 1,482 units. Inventory levels shrank 22.1 percent to 4,139 units.

Prices were fairly stable. The Median Sales Price decreased 1.4 percent to $135,000. Average Sales Price decreased 4.5 percent to $153,527. However, year-to-date comparisons show slight increases, with Median Sales Price increasing 1.5 percent to $136,000 and Average Sales Price increasing 2.2 percent to $163,411.

Days on Market was down 22.2 percent to 98 days. Sellers were encouraged as Months Supply of Inventory was down 29.4 percent to 6.0 months. Another positive for sellers is Greater Chattanooga saw a 2.2 percent increase in the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

In national financial news, rumors that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac could one day be a thing of the past have people wondering about the future of the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. But let’s not sound the alarm just yet. A drastic change to lending’s gold standard is certainly not on the immediate horizon.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen seems to have no immediate interest in raising interest rates for the first time since 2006. The economy remains stable, which should keep housing rolling through the short-named months.

The Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors is “The Voice of Real Estate in Greater Chattanooga.” The Association is a regional organization with more than 1,500 members, and is one of more than 1,400 local boards and associations of Realtors nationwide that comprise the National Association of Realtors. The Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors services Hamilton and Sequatchie counties in southeast Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade, and Walker counties in northwest Georgia. For more information, visit www.gcar.net.

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100 YEARS AGO

What was going on in Chattanooga in 1915?

Saturday, March 20

The 20th anniversary of the Chattanooga Women's Club was brilliantly celebrated with a banquet at the Hotel Patten. Covers were laid for 150. Mrs. H.D. Huffaker, retiring president, presided. Mrs. George W. Danning, president of the Tennessee Federation, was a guest. Mrs. John Fletcher, presided as Toastmistress.

March 21

President Wilson has appointed Reeree Bennett, a former Chattanooga, to the post of United States Marshall on the island of Puerto Rico. Mr. Bennett was reared in Jasper, Tenn.

March 22

Miss Bessie Oehmig has returned from a few days visit to Mrs. George W. Stephenson on Lookout Mountain.

March 23

Invitations to the wedding of Miss Grace Shackleford to Hill have been extended to Miss Mamie Shackleford, Mrs. W.A. Holmes.

March 24

A new class has been started at the YMCA to study birds and botany. On Saturdays will be field trips under the direction of the educational committee. Those wishing to join may apply at the YMCA office.

March 25

Temps for Teens certification will be held on Tuesday, March 31. The high bidder will win the right to name a specific kit and the opportunity to meet the newly named foxes.

Sunday, March 21

The Chattanooga Zoo is offering the public the opportunity to hold and interact with these fennec fox kits through individually purchased Fennec Fox Encounters. (Photo by David Laprad)

With faces cuter than a basketful of kittens and bouncy play that kicks up more sand than a dust devil, a pair of fennec fox kits have done their share to brighten up the Chattanooga Zoo's desert exhibit. But the zoo has one more job for them: participate in fennec fox encounters. Fennec fox encounters are individually purchased experiences that allow guests to go behind the scenes at the zoo to hold the kits, interact with them, and get their photo made with them.

The conclusion of the encounters depends on the growth and behavior of the kits. Zoo supporters can also bid on the right to name the kits.

Sunday, March 22

The naming auction is underway now and will continue through Tuesday, March 31. The highest bidder will win the right to name a specific kit and the opportunity to meet the newly named foxes. "Our fennec fox kits are very important to us," says Zoo CEO David Laprad. "We're excited to be able to offer these experiences to educate and inspire others to become animal lovers through their caring and cuteness while they're young." For more information on the fennec fox encounters and the naming auction, visit www.chatt-zoo.org/wild-encounters.

Saturday, March 26

The 4 Bridges Arts Festival will return to the First Tennessee Pavilion April 10 through 12. The event will feature a variety of arts and crafts, including painting, glasswork, jewelry, textiles, photography, sculpture and more, as well as local food, children's art activities, and entertainment. This year's jurors are Katie Delmez, curator at the First Center for Visual Arts; Bill May, executive director at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts; and Peggy Wood Townsend, director of Public Art Chattanooga.

The festival will begin with a preview party Friday evening. Festival and preview party tickets may be purchased at www.4bridgesartsfestival.org or at the First Center (101 E. 11th St.). Preview party hours are 5 to 7 p.m. Festival hours are Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.4bridgesartsfestival.org.

Muse of Fire Project

The Muse of Fire Project will present its Spring Series of original short plays written by kids and performed by grown-ups at the Chattanooga Public Library Theater on Friday, April 17 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, April 18 at 3 and 7 p.m. The Muse of Fire Project is an after-school program that provides children from Chattanooga the opportunity to write their own plays and work with professional actors and musicians to create live theater productions. The theater is located on the first floor of the library at 1001 Broad Street downtown. Tickets are free, with a suggested donation of $10 per person for children age 12 and under. For more information, visit www.themuseoffireproject.com.

April Palate 2 Palette

The Craniofacial Foundation of America (CFA) will host its 8th Annual Palate 2 Palette event on Saturday, April 25. The event will begin at 5 p.m. with the Gallery Stroll. Following the stroll, guests can go to the Bubbles and Sweets after party at Track 29 from 8 to 10 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit the CFA, a non-profit organization that supports the work of the Tennessee Craniofacial Center (TCC) at Children's Hospital at Erlanger and Erlanger Heath System. For tickets or information, visit www.p2pchattanooga.com.
The Critic's Corner

‘Run All Night’ dares you to stay awake

I was going to start this review by suggesting Liam Neeson stop making movies. Not because he isn’t a terrific actor (he is), or because he lacks charisma (he has charm and personality to spare), or because he seems to be tired of making movies (he still brings a lot of energy to his roles). No, I was going to suggest retirement because Neeson is essentially stuck playing the same role over and over and over again.

Ever since Neeson struck gold with the original “Taken,” he’s generally played a grizzled older man with a shadowy past and special skills that allow him to find and take out anyone, anywhere, anytime. His character is usually flawed; maybe he’s a deadbeat dad, or a drunk, or married to his work instead of his incredibly hot younger wife.

While I’m glad to see Neeson finding regular work and connecting with audiences in a specific way at this stage in his career, it pains me to see him being consigned to elevating the same role over and over again.

Neeson’s latest assembly line film is “Run All Night,” which features the deadbeat dad, drunken version of his stock character — an assassin named Jimmy Conlon. The story revolves around Conlon’s efforts to protect his estranged son and ex-wife from his former boss, Shawn Maguire, after he kills Shawn’s son.

What hurts me about “Run All Night” isn’t its mediocrity, or the fact that it’s strangely boring, but that you can see the bones of a compelling movie through its thin skin.

For starters, Ed Harris and Neeson have a couple of well written, well acted scenes together. In a better movie, these two would have made a classic pair of adversaries. I especially liked how Maguire truly wanted to keep his feet on the straight and narrow after turning away from a life of violent crime. He’s not just bad to the bone, but has more depth than the typical brutish crime boss.

The casting of Joel Kinnaman (“The Killing” and “Robo-Cop”), another terrific actor, adds emotional resonance to the role of Mike Conlon, Jimmy’s son. He and Neeson also have some good exchanges, and watching the protective layer of ice around Mike melt as he slowly warmed up to his dad would have been a pleasure in a good film.

Also, director Jaume Collet-Serra had flashes of brilliance while filming “Run All Night.” There’s a shot in which Jimmy cockes and fires a shotgun, with the camera anchored to what looks like the stock of the gun. This makes the weapon look stationary while the world spins around it. It’s a nice shot.

So what happened? None of these fine ingredients affected the flavor or texture of the final product. Instead, they get lost in a long, mundane shoot out in which men chase each other through houses and streets, grime and shout at each other, and fire round after round after round in an endless shootout. I struggled to stay awake, and as I was walking out, a man told his movie companion “Run All Night” was the most boring movie he’d ever seen.

Although he was probably exaggerating, he was right about the movie being dull. I can’t even see “Run All Night” being a good rental at home. I don’t want Neeson to stop making movies. There’s a reason filmmakers are snatching him up to star in their movies. I just want to see him in movies that return the favor and serve him well.

Two stars out of four. Rated R for strong violence, language, sexual references, and drug use. David Laprad is the assistant editor of the Hamilton County Herald and an award-winning columnist and photographer. Contact him at dlaprad@hamiltoncountyherald.com.

Chattanooga Fire Department rescued dogs injured in house fire

Chattanooga fire investigators are trying to figure out what started a house fire Sunday that left two dogs seriously injured. The Chattanooga Fire Department received the alarm at 2:20 p.m. and responded to 2018 Line Street with five fire companies. Battalion Chief Rick Boatwright said smoke and flames were visible when the first firefighters arrived on the scene. As the firefighters pulled hand-held hoselines to make an interior attack, their efforts were hampered by debris and other materials.

Chief Boatwright also said the house appears to have been renovated several times, which created false ceilings, walls and other hidden spaces that made it difficult for the firefighters to get to the fire.

No people were found inside the structure; however, firefighters found two dogs fairly quickly. One was chained up outside in the front yard, and another was inside the house. As a firefighter carried the dog out, it was showing symptoms of smoke inhalation, so firefighters used a pet rescue mask to administer oxygen to it. The dog’s condition improved, and it was handed off to personnel with McKamey Animal Center. A few minutes later, a third dog was found in an attached outbuilding. Unfortunately, it was suffering from significant burns and smoke inhalation. Firefighters attempted to administer oxygen to the dog, but it was too combative and was handed off to McKamey Animal Center personnel.

The house was considered a total loss. Chief Boatwright said the remaining walls and debris presented a hazard to the surrounding neighborhood, so a trackhoe with city public works was going to be called in to demolish the rest of the house.

Source: Chattanooga Fire Department

The Hamilton County Herald is pleased to publish numerous columns from inside and outside sources. The opinions and views of these columnists are their own and do not necessarily convey the opinions of The Hamilton County Herald.
Brainbuster—Make your brain tingle!

By Kay Bona

OK, cook potatoes, here's your chance to see how much you know about some of America's favorite TV shows. I'd wish you good luck, but I'm not sure that's a good thing! So, I'll just say have fun, and you have no right to report your score to anyone!

1. What strange habit does Robert on "Everybody Loves Raymond" have when he eats? He puts his food to his nose before he eats it; he puts his food to his chin before he eats it; he smells his food before he eats it; he doesn't have a strange habit when he eats.

2. Colin Farrell, star of "Alexander" and "Phone Booth," starred as Billy Callahan in an episode of "My Lucky Charm." When J.D. and Turk first met him, they assumed he was Irish, but Billy puts on an American accent and tells them he is from where? Kansas; New York; California; Ohio.

3. What is one of the following characters was first seen in the second season episode of "The Last Word"? Elle Greenaway; Ashley Seaver; David Rossi; Emily Prentiss.

4. In opening scene of "M*A*S*H," we see a surgical bus driving along a dirt road across the Korean countryside. On the bus are several members of the M*A*S*H 4077th. /That evening, before they go to sleep, they share stories about their first loves. What was the name of the French woman Potter fell in love with in the show? Colette; Corinne.


6. In the fifth season of "Gray's Anatomy," Dr. Bailey tried to pull off a "domino surgery." What was involved in this procedure? Bone marrow donation; kidney transplants; stomach stapling; liver resections.

7. In "Stargate: SG-1," how long can a wormhole stay open? Forever; 38 minutes; 15 minutes; four minutes.

8. During the 1988 presidential race, one of the candidates turned to his opponent during a nationally televised debate and uttered a phrase that's now a part of the political vocabulary to imply that if elected, he would ruin the country. The candidate was not a war hero or a student leader. Of course, this led me on a personal mission to figure out what the quotes mean. I am so excited about spring being here! This was the first week it actually felt like spring in the southern end of Connecticut, and the weather comes thunderstorms.

I was not freezing cold outside. Yes, we have had those too, but the weather comes thunderstorms. It was not so neat though was the power goes out. Happily, I don't need any special training for those times. I would consider that a huge DIY accomplishment. These are great to have for those times the power goes out. Happy spring (well not technically, but close enough for me).

April Sherrill is a staff writer for the Hamilton County Herald. Contact her at april@dailydata.com.
I swear Crossword
By Victor Fleming


Possessed of a keen sense of humor, Judge Smith doped bar, bench, and the public on April 1, 1985, handing down Kilkenny v. State, a fictitious case in which “twin brothers… sought to use their remarkable resemblance to avoid justice.”

In his opinion listed Steve Engstrom as counsel for the appellants and then Assistant Attorney General Ted Holder for the State. Each lawyer had to his name being used. Weeks later, Catt was being cited nationwide when folks began to sus out the truth.

Per the opinion, an undercover officer, Javert, “arranged to buy cocaine from an Irish immigrant he had come to know as Kilkenny Catt.” After the buy, a second deal was made. Real cocaine was delivered the first time, sugar only the second time.

The prosecutor accordingly charged Kilkenny only with unlawful sale of cocaine in the first transaction. At a preliminary hearing, Javert identified Kilkenny as “the man I dealt with. If that’s not Kilkenny Catt, he looks enough like him to be his twin brother.”

In each transaction, Javert said, “he noticed the scratch on the seller’s cheek. Before the hearing, however, the scratch had healed.”

In this juncture, “Kilkenny disclosed the existence of his brother Gallico and said… Gallico had been the seller in both instances. The prosecutor, caught by surprise, responded by blaming Gallico” with felony fraud – according to sell cocaine, then delivering sugar instead.

The State got the judge to “submit to the jury not only the actual charge filed against each twin but also the charge against the other twin as a lesser [included] offense.” And the jury yelled them both. “One sack. Kilkenny, charged with selling cocaine, was convicted of selling the counterfeit, and Gallico just the reverse. Identical five-year sentences were imposed.”

Google it. It’s worth reading. Here’s my favorite excerpt: “Learned counsel’s... argument is that both verdicts cannot be upheld, because if offense A is less than and included in offense B, then logically offense B cannot be less than and included in offense A. Reference is made (we hope not with unseemly jocularity) to the classic Greek fable of the two serpents that began to swallow each other tail first and eventually succeeded, disappearing altogether. This argument has a superficial appearance of logic, but... the Criminal Code dictates a different conclusion.”

Here’s my second favorite: “Only the twins know which was actually in the courtroom that day. Can they hide behind their guilty knowledge? We cannot better answer that question than by quoting the eloquent language of Chief Justice Harris, speaking for a unanimous court: ‘No!'" Commercial Printing Co. v. Lee, 262 Ark. 87, 553 S.W.2d 270 (1977).” Affirmed.

Victor Fleming is a district court judge in Little Rock Ark., where he also teaches at the William H. Bowen School of Law. Contact him at viefleming@att.net.

I Swear Crossword

Across
1 Tax pros, for short
5 Take... of faith
10 Foreman player
14 Classic cartoonist for "The New Yorker"
15 Reply to "You are not!"
16 Poet laureate, in slang
17 1984 Brian De Palma thriller starring Melanie Griffith
19 Achy from a workout
20 Busy mo. for 1-Across
21 Downwind, on a ship
22 Environment-friendly energy choice
23 Nancy Reagan, ... of Davis
24 What’s seen in a looking glass
25 It’s name, possibly
29 It’s south of Haer.
30 Garlic sauce
31 Abacus result
32 High of test
34 Loads and loads
35 24, 4, and 58-Across, e.g.
39 Writer Hecht and others
40 Moon landing craft
41 Abolition, to David
42 Embassy rep.
43 Penn, e.g. (abbr.)
44 Sports car roofs
45 It’s remarkably similar to something
51 Warning color
52 Social connexions
53 Insomnia cause for a princess
54 When some take coffee
55 Piero’s pal
56 "Richard Pryor film, with "The"
57 Comedian Rusher
58 Screw
61 Hatchway
62 Blank sheet item
63 The... of Law
64 American of Court
65 Sections of seats
66 Versatile vehicles
67 "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"
70 10... tails
71 Like one side in a worker’s dispute
typically
72 Models of excellence
73 "High Society" studio
74 Directed by Blake Edwards
75 Subject of a worker’s dispute, maybe
76 Remote feature
77 Tragic king of literature
78 It... gains
79 Alternative to Captain Morgan
80 Penn, e.g. (abbr.)
81 Decide not to take part
82 Magazine about celebrities
83 Give one’s permission
84 American of Court
85 The... of Law
86 Balance sheet item
87 Diplomat Gromyko
88 Chinese restaurant sauce
89 Poolside enclosure
90 Foreman player

Down
1 Posthole enclosure
2 Move forward
3 Inflated Gronyo
4 Chinese restaurant sauce
5 Garlic sauce
6 Soup
7 House of roast
8 Communication used at Gallaudet
9 "Murders in the Rue Morgue"
10 "Murders in the Rue Morgue" short story
11 "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"
12 "The Murders in the Rue Morgue"
13 "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" novel
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I Swear Crossword

By Victor Fleming

Death of her husband in a 2011 auto accident. She was driving their Range Rover and rolled the SUV. Her husband did not survive. Now she’s looking for insurance damages. “The jury will be highly confused,” said insurance company lawyer. We are too.

News out of Oklahoma not having to do with a fraternity. Some Oklahoma legislators are trying to keep AP U.S. history classes out of public schools, claiming they teach only the negatives about our country. They do not teach “American exceptionalism,” the bill’s sponsors say.

Finally, some are in London was in a hurry and pushed and cursed another guy on the subway. The pusher was stressed because he was late for a job interview. When he got there he had a little discouraged to find his job interviewer… you guessed it, the same guy he had bullied the train. Hope he had other interviews scheduled.

Source: The Week

Last week’s solution

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Sweepstakes on how to solve Sudoku that was printed in the March 6, 2015 Hamilton County Herald. Here is the correct puzzle solution.
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S SALE Sale at public auction will be on April 3, 2015 at 10:00 A.M. local time, at the west door, Hamilton County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee, pursuant to the Order of Sale of Wilson & Associates, P.L.L.C., as Substitute Trustee, by an instrument duly recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Hamilton County, Tennessee, pursuant to Section 23-2-801, Tennessee Code Annotated, and other relevant laws, and (upon cash being tendered) to the highest bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and encumbrances, and to any other bidders. Insufficient funds will not be accepted. Amounts received in excess of the winning bid will be held in escrow subject to further order of the Court. Failure to carry out a sale by the Substitute Trustee as required by law will be subject to the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court of Hamilton County, Tennessee. The property may be subject to condemnation by the Federal Government or the State of Tennessee to provide the right of way for a public road.

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NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated of the date said trust estate is located in the City of Chattanooga, County of Hamilton, State of Tennessee, and being described in a deed dated February 26, 2015, and recorded in Plat Book 26, Page 58, in the Office of the Register of Hamilton County, Tennessee; SECOND CIVIL DISTRICT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, and being identified as the property purchased at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the sale to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., at the foreclosure sale plus any amount in excess of the expenses necessary to conduct the foreclosure sale, to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., attorney for the Trustee; RESOLVED that publication be made for four successive weeks in the Hamilton County Herald, a newspaper published in Hamilton County, Tennessee, notifying said non-resident that unless such defendant shall, within 30 days after publication, appear and file a written answer stating his or her objections, if any, to the sale and the house or other evidences of title which the Trustee may have, said Trustee will sell at public auction, on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at the west door, Hamilton County Courthouse, located at 415 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title, and interest of the grantors in the property described in the document to the Trustee for $128,000.00. Any property address provided is not part of the legal description of the property.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE the following real estate located in Hamilton County, Tennessee, notifying said non-resident that unless said defendant shall, within 30 days after publication, file a written answer stating his or her objections to the Foreclosure sale, then the property shall be sold at public auction, on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at the west door, North Chattanooga Judicial Center, 5501 Betty Jane Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37412, to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title, and interest of the grantors in the property described in the document to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., attorney for the Trustee for $128,000.00. Any property address provided is not part of the legal description of the property.

NOTICE OF NON-RESIDENT NOTICE STATE OF TENNESSEE, COUNTY OF HAMILTON, SECOND CIVIL DISTRICT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE OF RESERVE FINANCED SALE WHEREAS, default has occurred in the performance of the covenants, terms, and conditions of a Deed of Trust dated of the date said trust estate is located in the City of Chattanooga, County of Hamilton, State of Tennessee, and being described in a deed dated February 26, 2015, and recorded in Plat Book 26, Page 58, in the Office of the Register of Hamilton County, Tennessee; SECOND CIVIL DISTRICT OF HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, and being identified as the property purchased at the foreclosure sale, the entire purchase price is due and payable at the conclusion of the sale to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., at the foreclosure sale plus any amount in excess of the expenses necessary to conduct the foreclosure sale, to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., attorney for the Trustee; RESOLVED that publication be made for four successive weeks in the Hamilton County Herald, a newspaper published in Hamilton County, Tennessee, notifying said non-resident that unless such defendant shall, within 30 days after publication, appear and file a written answer stating his or her objections, if any, to the sale and the house or other evidences of title which the Trustee may have, said Trustee will sell at public auction, on Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at the west door, Hamilton County Courthouse, located at 415 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402, to the highest and best bidder for cash, all right, title, and interest of the grantors in the property described in the document to Wilson & Shapiro & Ingle, LLP., attorney for the Trustee for $128,000.00. Any property address provided is not part of the legal description of the property.

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NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE STATE OF TENNESSEE, HAMILTON COUNTY, at 10:00AM local time, at the Hamilton County Courthouse, Chattanooga, Tennessee, will be sold to the highest bidder subject to all unpaid taxes, prior liens and claims of lien, and any other encumbrances which may exist, to the highest bidder subject to the right of redemption of the mortgaged premises for a period of two (2) months after the date of sale, further to the terms and conditions set forth in the Deed of Trust and the instrument of sale. The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of TOY STUDIES, which is the successor in interest to Preferred Trust Services, LLC, as Substitute Trustee by instrument filed or to be filed in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Subject to Stipulations as made on legend of recorded plat.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S SALE WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the debts and obligations secured by a Deed of Trust given by Michael E. Ross, et al., to Preferred Trust Services, LLC, as Substitute Trustee, recorded in Book HCH3T-3/6,3/13,3/20/15, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee, and in the State of Tennessee, in the County of Hamilton, Tennessee, there is hereby sold, to the highest bidder, for cash, on the premises described above, and for the sum of $180,000.00, being the amount to which the sale is subject to the right of redemption of the mortgaged premises for a period of two (2) months after the date of sale, further to the terms and conditions set forth in the Deed of Trust and the instrument of sale.

The sale is subject to the terms and conditions of TOY STUDIES, which is the successor in interest to Preferred Trust Services, LLC, as Substitute Trustee by instrument filed or to be filed in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee. Subject to Stipulations as made on legend of recorded plat.

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S SALE WHEREAS, default having been made in the payment of the debts and obligations secured by a Deed of Trust given by Michael R. Looney and Maria Marissa Looney, et al., to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee, recorded in Book HCH3T-3/6,3/13,3/20/15, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee, and in the State of Tennessee, in the County of Hamilton, Tennessee, there is hereby sold, to the highest bidder, for cash, on the premises described above, and for the sum of $180,000.00, being the amount to which the sale is subject to the right of redemption of the mortgaged premises for a period of two (2) months after the date of sale, further to the terms and conditions set forth in the Deed of Trust and the instrument of sale.

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Notices

The Hamilton County Herald offers the ability to view notices in PDF. To access a notice, enter the notice number in the search box on thenoticedotices.com website.
Tri-State Home Show photos

Photos by David Laprad
(Continued from page 9)

Chapman Landscape came all the way from Pikeville to set up and sell its pondless waterfall.

A representative of Access Door Company shows off the ability to open their garage doors with a smart phone [www.AccessDoorCompany.com].

Marie King, Realtor with the Todd Henon Group at Keller Williams Downtown, brought her smile to the show [www.kw.com].

A young girl embroiders her name in fabric using the HQ18 Avanté long-arm quilting machine, on display at the Bernina Chattanooga Sew N Quilt Studio booth [www.berninaofchattanooga.com].

Small, established local companies like Wilkerson Tile were well-represented at the show [www.ChattanoogaTile.com].

Need an entrance to a secret room in your haunted mansion? Consider installing this bookshelf by Wood Hollow Cabinets [www.WoodHollowCabinets.com].

The 501st Legion Midsouth Garrison provided security at the show. (Actually, they were there to keep kids entertained.)