Realtor Helen Scott Hixon has joined the staff of Weichert, Realtors – Yerbey Realty. Hixon is assisting property buyers and sellers in the metropolitan Chattanooga area. She also leases commercial properties.

“With Helen, clients are getting a hard working and dedicated agent with demonstrated success across a wide spectrum of commercial and residential transactions including retail centers, outlet malls, and office leasing, as well as the sale of light industrial, single family and waterfront properties,” said Principal Broker Lacey Williams.

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Weichert, Realtors - Yerbey Realty, serves Chattanooga, Ooltewah, Hixson, Soddy Daisy, Lookout Valley, Fort Oglethorpe, Ringgold, Rossville, Chickamauga and many areas in between. The team brings over 40 years of combined real estate experience to their clients.

A current resident of East Brainerd, Hixon is a member of the Greater Chattanooga Association of Realtors. She is a GRI designee, a graduate of the Tennessee Real Estate Education Systems, completed additional studies in Real Estate Law, Finance and Appraisal from Columbus State Community College, and holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Covenant College.

In her free time, Hixon enjoys living history museums, folk culture, gardens, art, photography, and theatre.

Contact Hixon at (423) 267-0544. For more information about Weichert, visit Weichert.com.

Source: Weichert, Realtors - Yerbey Realty

Weichert welcomes Realtor Helen Scott Hixon

Realtor Helen Scott Hixon has joined the staff of Weichert, Realtors - Yerbey Realty (Photo by David Laprad)
GIGTANK selects startup teams for 2015 Accelerator

Fourteen startup teams from across North America and Europe have convened in Chattanooga to launch business applications that could thrive on gigabit networks. As the newest members of GIGTANK, these entrepreneurs will spend the next three months working with corporate partners, industry experts, investors, and established business leaders to ready their companies for the next-generation marketplace.

Hosted by The Company Lab (CO.LAB), GIGTANK is a boutique accelerator for startups developing high-bandwidth business applications. This year, the program will accommodate 12 startups working with advanced networks, two 3D printing companies, and four specialists who will provide support to all the teams throughout the summer. The teams’ applications address opportunities in virtual reality, big data analytics, beacon and sensor technologies, gigabit Wi-Fi and the Internet of Things, as well as several other areas of promise.

The participants of GIGTANK 2015 come from a diverse array of geographies, backgrounds and skill sets. Some are based as far away as Menlo Park, Calif. and Madison, Wis., while others are located in nearby cities such as Atlanta, Huntsville, and Nashville. A startup from Canada and a startup from Oxford, UK will also participate in this year’s program. Most teams will be present in Chattanooga through July 31, while free housing is available at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). Six teams will participate virtually as part of GIGTANK’s new dual-enrollment partnerships with other regional startup accelerators.

“Chattanooga is a living laboratory for gigabit communities of the future,” said Mike Bradshaw, executive director of CO.LAB. “As such, our program received a great deal of interest from startups based in Southeastern cities where this infrastructure is currently in the works. Some of those companies are already enrolled in other regional startup accelerators, so we decided to partner with those entities to offer dual-enrollment opportunities that complement the resources we respectively provide.”

Partnering accelerators include Atlanta Tech Village, Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center and Rocket Space in Huntsville, as well as others to be announced at a later date.

“Some of our teams are much further along in the startup development lifecycle than those we’ve supported in the past,” said Alex Lavidge, director of GIGTANK.

Adagio, a local startup, will be part of GIGTANK 2015. The company is developing an online platform for multichannel audio applications. From L-R: Dr. Craig Tanis; Jonathan Susman; and Alfonso Gómez-Arzola. (Photo provided)

For more information about GIGTANK 2015, visit thegigtank.com.

Chattanooga Fire Department collects donations for muscular dystrophy

The Chattanooga Fire Department (CFD) held its annual Fill the Boot fundraiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) last week. Holly Carroll, MDA area director, said the funds raised through the event will support life-enhancing programs such as state-of-the-art clinics and research. The donations also make MDA summer camp possible so kids with muscle disease can enjoy what they’ve called “the best week of the year.” Pictured at the launch ceremony Thursday morning at Station 1 on East Main Street (L-R): Interim Fire Chief Chris Adams (holding the boot); 11-year-old Nolan Stapel, a local resident with muscular dystrophy; Deputy Chief Randy Jacks (putting money into the boot); and LT. Keith Liles. (Photo by David Laprad)

For more information about GIGTANK 2015, visit thegigtank.com.
By David Laprad

Open since August 2011, the Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence has provided families with an alternative to other local elementary schools. Enough families have been choosing Chattanooga Charter that it is now expanding both its curriculum and its accommodations.

When the school opened its doors in August 2011 in a space formerly occupied by the YMCA on Brainerd Road, it offered only kindergarten through second grade. Each subsequent year, it took on more students and added the next grade, allowing it to expand its curriculum as its inaugural group of 168 students progressed.

“We like slow growth. You can’t be all things to all people all of the time,” says Marcia Griffin, founder and executive director. For the 2014-2015 school year, Chattanooga Charter added fifth grade and accepted more students, bringing its total number of pupils to 394. With a large number of its students poised to enter middle school, Griffin and her staff faced a choice: Do they stop at fifth grade or continue to expand their program?

“The parents of their students chose for them. ‘They asked us to expand.’ ” Griffin says.

Hamilton County accepted Griffin’s charter for a middle school last August, clearing the way for the expansion. But with the school bursting at the seams, adding another grade meant finding, preparing, and opening a second campus.

Through an unexpected phone call, Griffin learned about the former site of Oak Grove Elementary School, located on Willow Street. The old brick building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places in Hamilton County, had been empty for some time, but was not beyond repair. Griffin thought it was perfect.

“Someone called, said they had heard we were running out of space, and told me about the building,” Griffin says. “We were immensely blessed.”

Though Chattanooga Charter will rent the new location, just as it is renting its current facility.

Even though Chattanooga Charter is expanding to include middle school, it will continue its policy of slow growth, adding only sixth grade for the 2015-2016 school year. However, it will move its fourth through sixth graders to the new location to free up space at its Brainerd Road facility, where it will continue to teach kindergarten through third grade.

Chattanooga Charter began as a vision to start a school in Chattanooga the Jamaican-born Griffin had while living in Florida. Upon moving to Hamilton County, she says she saw the need for more choices in education.

The school, located on Willow Street, will continue to teach kindergarten through third grade, where it will continue to teach kindergarten through third grade.

The candidate must have a strong academic record, strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work well with a team, superior judgment, the ability to effectively handle multiple projects, and the ability to articulate legal strategies and courses of action. Candidates should have a Tennessee bar license or commit to obtaining one as soon as possible.

Real Estate Associate with four to seven years of real estate transactional experience. The ideal candidate will have experience with real estate development, acquisitions, financing and leasing transactions. Experience in the retail sector is preferred.

Corporate Associate with three to seven years of experience. The ideal candidate will have a general corporate and securities background, with some specialization in mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and complex commercial transactions.

We offer competitive compensation and a comprehensive benefit package including medical, dental, vision, 401K and much more. Qualified candidates should submit a cover letter and resume through our online application process at www.huschblackwell.com.
Mill & Martin maintains rankings in Chambers USA 2015

The Chattanooga office of Miller & Martin has been ranked in the 2015 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business as a leading firm in the areas of mergers and acquisitions and general commercial litigation.

In addition, the following attorneys from the Chattanooga office have been ranked in the 2015 edition: John Bode (labor and employment); Roger Dickson (general commercial litigation); and Hugh Sharber (mergers and acquisitions).

The qualities on which rankings are assessed include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial astuteness, diligence, and commitment.

Chambers and Partners, based in London, England, has been researching the U.S. legal profession since 1999, identifying the leading lawyers and law firms through interviews with thousands of lawyers and their clients.

Source: Miller & Martin

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Financial Focus

Stan Russell

Make timely adjustments to your 529 plan

If you have school-age children, you might greet the arrival of June with some relief — for at least a few months, you don’t have to worry about “encouraging” kids to do their homework, study for tests, give you their permission slips for field trips, and so on. But one day, these obligations will give way to a substantially bigger one – paying for college. If you’ve already begun preparing for that day with a tax-advantaged college-savings vehicle, such as a 529 plan, you’re taking a positive step, because higher education is expensive. But it’s not enough to just set up your 529 plan – you may also need to adjust it over time.

Up until this year, you were only allowed to change the investments in your 529 plan once a year. This caused concern among some investors, who wanted the freedom to change their 529 investments in response to movements in the financial markets. But late in 2014, President Obama signed into law the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) act, the key purpose of which was to create tax-free accounts allowing people to save for disability-related expenses. And one provision of the ABLE act also allows 529 plan investors to change their investments twice a year, rather than once.

If you invest in a 529 plan, you might welcome this additional freedom to adjust your investments. Still, keep in mind that a 529 plan is a long-term vehicle that’s not really designed to accommodate frequent “tweaking.” And, as is true with any investment account, such as your IRA and 401(k), you don’t want to over-react to short-term market fluctuations by making radical changes to your investment mix.

Nonetheless, you will almost certainly want to adjust your 529 plan investments somewhat – at least in the long term. If you’ve opened a 529 plan when your children are young, you have many years until you need to tap into the money – which means your account has more time for growth potential and more time to “smooth out” those periods of market volatility, which will certainly occur. Consequently, you may be able to afford to invest somewhat more aggressively when your children are young.

However, as your kids near college, you will probably want to revisit the level of risk in your 529 plan. So, during the last couple of years before you need to access your plan, you may want to consider moving some of your investment dollars to more conservative allocations. By doing so, you’ll cut back on your growth potential, but you’ll also lessen the risk of taking a big hit if you have to start taking withdrawals during a “down” market.

Some 529 plans offer an option that automatically adjusts your investment mix toward a more conservative approach as your children near college age. But you may want to make your own adjustments, possibly with the help of a financial professional, to ensure that your 529 plan accurately reflects your own preferences and risk tolerance.

As you save for your children’s college education, you may find a 529 plan to be a great help. Just be sure to keep a close watch on your plan’s investments as the years go by.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor (member SIPC). Contact Stan Russell at St unrussell@edwardjones.com.

Edward Jones
1206 Pointe Centre Dr., Ste 180
Chattanooga, TN 37421
423-894-0058
In summary, the Hamilton County, Tennessee, building permits include:

- Residential: 23 permits, ranging from $1,000 to $415,520.
- Commercial: 6 permits, ranging from $20,000 to $250,000.
- Industrial: 2 permits, valued at $104,000.
- Electrical: 2 permits, valued at $500.
- Plumbing: 2 permits, valued at $800.
- Sign: 3 permits, valued at $775, $50, and $2,500.
- Mechanical: 4 permits, valued at $4,500, $1,100, $379,750, and $7,200.

The permits were issued between May 18 and June 22, 2015, and the addresses range from Cherokee to Hixson, Tennessee. The values range from $500 to $950,000. It is important to note that specific details about the projects are not provided in the document.
LARRY V. WINDUSTEE, Exec. Trustee, on October 26, 2009 at 2:00 p.m., at the First Tennessee Bank National Association, 300 S. Main Street, Chattanooga, TN 37402, in accordance with the terms and provisions of the Note and Deed of Trust. If the said debt is not paid or tendered in full upon the expiration of said ten (10) minute grace period, then the Trustee will exercise all of the power, authority and remedies given to it under the terms of said trust deed and the statutes of the State of Tennessee in order to foreclose said trust deed and sale the property described as follows: TRACT ONE (1): The South Thirty-one and Ten-tenths (31.10) feet of the West Eighty-eight (88) feet of the South Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northwest One hundred thirteen (113) feet of the Northwest Forty-eight (48) feet of the West Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northeast Forty-eight (48) feet of the South Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northwest Forty-eight (48) feet of the West Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northwest Forty-eight (48) feet of the West Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northwest Forty-eight (48) feet of the West Forty-eight (48) feet of the Northeas...
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continued from page 2

Tennant’s (5) any property standing pendente is not part of the legal description of the property sold and used in the event of any distribution pursuant to the declaration of the Trust.

By virtue of the power vested in the Trustee, and the Right to Issue Subordinate Mortgages Vested in the Trustee to Issue Subordinate Mortgages, and the Right to Exercise Other Powers and Rights Conveyed to the Trustee under this Agreement, the Trustee is hereby authorized to accept, receipt and hold in trust any funds paid in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, and to exercise any power granted him under the terms of this Agreement.

The said property is conveyed as Trustee, not in its individual capacity but as Trustee for BTC: 500,000.

It is hereby noticed that this is the only notice of Trustee’s Sale and that the property is not subject to any prior liens or encumbrances as of the date of this notice.

The sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat, any unpaid taxes, any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may exist on the property, any conditions imposed by any Federal, State or local government agency, State or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey may reveal.

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The aroma of freshly ground and grilled meat.
It was the first thing I noticed as I approached Slick’s, the newly built burger joint on East Main Street. I’d nearly driven past the building, a gray aluminum structure that blends into the scenery a bit too well. But there was no missing the incredible aroma. It triggered a salivary response before I was even through the door.

My sense of smell engaged, I stepped inside, and my eyes went to work. The high ceiling gave the dining area breathing room, while the exposed pipes and pod bay doors behind the bar make the restaurant look like it was built for another purpose - even though the owners, Rob Peterson and Eric Taslimi, raised it from the ground up before opening earlier this month.

I liked the long strings of Edison-style light bulbs hanging over the diners, though. They give the place a slightly festive touch. I also dug the old signs that cover the walls. You know the kind I mean - colorful, rusty, and advertising products and services that no longer exist.

My eyes were scanning the rest of the room when they spotted something in the rear of the room and stopped dead in their tracks.

Most restaurants either disappear into a kitchen or feature an open cooking area. Slick’s combines both approaches by prepping their food in a 41-foot metal trailer that sits inside the restaurant. Its polished, silvery exterior gives Slick’s a very cool visual vibe.

Having captured my eyes, Slick’s worked on my ears next. Light rock was playing in the background at just the right volume to add atmosphere without drowning out conversation. And a steady murmur of voices was coming out of the trailer as the staff worked to feed their customers. But there was another sound - and it made my mouth water all over again:

The sizzle of freshly ground meat hitting the grill.

I was hungry, and determined to get that goodness into me as quickly as possible, so I headed to the order counter, located just outside the trailer, under a giant menu. That was when I realized I had a decision to make before getting any goodness in me, as Slick’s offers a solid selection of burgers.

You can, of course, build your own from freshly ground (it bears repeating a third time - Slick’s meats are never frozen and are house ground) beef, lamb, turkey, or chicken. The beef begins as certified black angus choice cuts, and come in single, double (UTC Double Moc), and triple (Tricky Dick Triple Slick) portions. The turkey is whole grain fed, de-boned, and also ground on site. The lamb is infused with a special house seasoning. Add-ons include caramelized onions, portabella mushrooms, Benton’s bacon, fried eggs, slaw, and more, while the buns are freshly baked at nearby Neidlov’s. (Has your salivary response been triggered yet?) A veggie burger is available as well.

By David Laprad

SLICK’S does burgers right

The aroma of freshly ground and grilled meat.

By David Laprad

SLICK’S does burgers right
coming toward us looked out of place, wearing street clothes an old tire. muddy water. There was nothing now but some driftwood and have up there?

Do what?

“You heard me. It’s like the most beautiful day that’s ever been. We can actually walk outside for more than five minutes and not need a shower.” (I listened patiently, forming useless objections in my mind.)

“The sky is deep blue again,” she continued. “Not that hazy white heat that always makes us think about taking a trip to Canada, which we never do.”

She was on a roll, I hated to admit. I had nothing.

After we had walked about ten minutes, she asked, “So how far you want to go?”

“How bout to here?” I said. No comment.

“OK,” I tried again. “I haven’t been up on that bridge since it opened. Let’s go up there.”

“Deal,” she said.

Mimosas formed a canopy above the old river road, where once I had won a race in my dad’s black 1974 Grand Prix, with the four barrel 455 V-8.

The memory was broken when a guy whizzed by on one of those adult tricycles. He had a helmet and a long pole sticking the four barrel 455 V-8. Once I had won a race in my dad’s black 1974 Grand Prix, with

“I in 1880, Johann Andreas Wiederkehr and his family emigrated from Switzerland to Altus, Ark. (Altus comes from the Latin word for “high.”) He chose St. Mary’s Mountain, near Altus, as the location of his home because the area’s mountains, valleys, and ridges had many different micro-climates, including some resembling the grape-growing climates in Europe’s finest wine regions. Johann dug the cellar, which is now the restaurant.”

Once you walk through the door, you immediately know you’re in a cellar. Although it’s lit up enough for you to see, it’s still dark enough that your eyes have to adjust. It’s also cool, and when it rains, water seeps in around the front door, creating a small pool where the waitresses attempt to mop up when not taking care of customers. If you ask them about it, they’ll quickly tell you that it rains when it rains. To them, it adds drudgery to their jobs; to us it adds to the ambiance.

Lights strung around the ceiling, and candles stuffed down into empty wine bottles on the tables are the only sources of light. The bottles are covered with layers of melted wax that has dripped down the sides for years. The restaurant is quaint, cozy, and welcoming, and the chefs serve up a satisfying lunch on a rainy Saturday afternoon.

Meanwhile, back at the cabin... We’ve stayed at the Lodge quite a few times for Arkansas Press Association meetings. It’s a beautiful lodge located on a bluff at the highest point in Arkansas. The view out of the Lodge (and the cabins) is nothing but valley below. Far below! It’s a picturesque and breathtaking vista.

Our first time to stay in the cabins was just what the doctor ordered. It was quiet, peaceful, and no one was around - no one but the black bear and the deer, which was an exciting sight!

The weather was cool, windy, foggy, and rainy, but since we had absolutely nothing planned, it worked for us. Hubby needed some R&R, and I had my camera, so we were good! Our only regret was that we couldn’t stay longer. So, you might be thinking that my recipe will be one from the Weinkeller Restaurant or from the Lodge – but it’s from neither. Although the food at both places was excellent, I’m changing my tune.

One of my sons, David, has been dating a young lady, Jordan, for quite some time. David came home not long ago bragging about a salad her mother had made, so I asked if I could have the recipe. Some of you might know Jordan’s mother, Karen Hughes, an associate with Smith Williams and Meeks, L.L.P. in Little Rock. As it turns out, Karen got the recipe from a cookbook we both own called “Apron Strings.” Unfortunately, I had stacked the cookbook in among my hundreds of others, so it was barely thumbed through.

The Junior League of Little Rock presented “Apron Strings” in October of 1997. It features over 300 triple-tested recipes, and the salad recipe Karen served, Strawberry Romaine Salad, is considered one of the top five recipes. The four others include Kahlua Cake, Corn Dip, Hot Spinach Dip, and Pork Tenderloin with Mustard Sauce.

David and Jordan said Karen changes her recipe slightly by using just Romaine lettuce and honey-roasted cashews. I’m printing the recipe the way it is in the book, but you can easily make these changes. I want to thank Karen for getting my attention tuned-in to “Apron Strings” again. I have since found numerous recipes I hope to make in the next few weeks!

Kay Bona is a staff writer for the Hamilton County Herald and an award-winning columnist and photographer. Contact her at kay@dailysun.com.

The days of wine and – salads!

By Kay Bona

Strawberry Romaine Salad

1 cup vegetable oil
1/2 cup red wine vinegar
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper
1 large head romaine lettuce
1 head Boston lettuce
1 pint strawberries
1 cup sugar-coated walnuts

For the dressing, combine the oil, sugar, vinegar, garlic, salt, paprika, and pepper in a large jar; cover and shake vigorously. Store in refrigerator for up to one week.

For the salad, tear the romaine and Boston lettuce into bite-size pieces. Combine with the strawberries, cheese, and walnuts, and toss to mix. Shake the dressing and toss together. Serve immediately.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend. Ours was downright relaxing: Hubby and I boated up in a cabin at Mt. Magazine State Park. Other than a black bear and the deer we saw, which was quite exciting, we had a very low-key weekend (which was exactly what we intended).

We did make a trip down the mountain to Wiederkehr’s Winery and Weinkeller Restaurant to have lunch. That’s always a treat! The Weinkeller Restaurant serves Swiss and other European specialties in a charming, candlelit surrounding. The original wine cellar, hand-dug by Johann Andreas Wiederkehr in 1880, was converted to a restaurant in 1967, and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

If you’ve never ventured to the winery, you’re missing out on part of historic Arkansas’ past. Here’s a bit of information from the website:

“In 1880, Johann Andreas Wiederkehr and his family emigrated from Switzerland to Altus, Ark. (Altus comes from the Latin word for “high.”) He chose St. Mary’s Mountain, near Altus, as the location of his home because the area’s mountains, valleys, and ridges had many different micro-climates, including some resembling the grape-growing climates in Europe’s finest wine regions. Johann dug the cellar, which is now the restaurant.”

I pointed up to Overlook. “Remember the fun we use to have up there?”

“Sure do.”

Some joggers went by, breathing hard under the late sun.

We came to the wooden bridge and both remembered seeing rats swimming below one time, in the bayou-looking muddy water.

There was nothing now but some driftwood and an old tire.

Two girls stood on the bridge, taking pictures. A walker coming toward us looked out of place, wearing street clothes an old tire. muddy water.
No desk too big, no chair too small

By David Laprad

John “JJ” Jerman started his business in 2008 in an old, abandoned gas station in Cleveland, Tenn. Today, his company occupies a 137,000 square foot warehouse on Riverside Drive. It seems he chose the right line of work.

Jerman didn’t start out doing what he’s doing today. He used to design buildings and spaces for technology companies. Then, in 2000, the tech bubble burst while he was living and working in Atlanta, and an opportunity presented itself to him.

“I had a client with $1.2 million worth of furniture, and they were going to throw it away,” he says. “Not only that, but they were going to pay someone $40,000 to haul it off!”

Jerman had a client that needed furniture, so he brokered a deal between the two companies, and a new business was born.

“I saw I could make more money doing that than being an architect,” he says, a hint of incredulity still in his voice 15 years after making the deal.

Jerman left the architecture business and, for a while, flipped inventories from home. He decided to take his business into the realm of brick-and-mortar just as the recession was getting underway.

“We brought in a couple tractor trailer loads of furniture,” he says. “The gas station had big roll-up doors where the service bays have been, and a big parking lot out front, so we’d drag the furniture out there when it was sunny.”

The recession was forcing a lot of companies to close their doors, and those companies that were in the market to buy furniture didn’t want new product, so business was good. “We were in the right place at the right time,” Jerman says.

Jerman is no longer at the abandoned gas station, but he still appears to be where the action is. Today, Office Furniture Warehouse is serving a town that’s on fire with entrepreneurial spirit.

His facility is stuffed to the rafters with countless types of office furniture, and he has an additional aesthetic for established businesses. He wants to make sure he has a style that is refined and a new business was born.

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Rental prices continue to astonish with accelerated price growth, which might cause some to think twice before locking in a 12-month lease. Lending practices and mortgage rates will also have a decided effect on the number of buyers who will become homeowners this year. With the release of “Jurassic World” next month, we are reminded of cyclical conversations in both real estate and moviemaking.

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 county in southeast Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade, and Walker counties in northwest Georgia. For more information, visit www.gcarnet.net.

April 2015 residential market report

As we turn the page to the second quarter of 2015, a significant increase in new listings is expected in most markets across the U.S. Spring is when we typically see some of the most desirable gems polished for eager buyers. Though some Google searches and Twitter posts blantly will offer pessimism about the state of the housing market, on-the-street evidence does not support bad tidings, especially when looking at local numbers.

For April, New Listings in Greater Chattanooga increased 12.5 percent to 1,423, which is a year-to-date increase of 6.2 percent. Pending Sales were up 20.7 percent to 880, which is a significant 26.5 percent increase from April 2014. Closed Sales also were up – 11.4 percent to 701. Chattanooga is ahead of the national trend, which showed homes sales slowing slightly in April.

Inventory levels shrank yet again – this month by 27.8 percent to 4,245 units. Months Supply of Inventory was down 37.2 percent to 5.9 months. With demand being greater than supply, Days on Market was down 15.5 percent to 93 days.

This drop in inventory is the greatest we’ve seen in the last six months. Nationally, inventory remains nearly 1 percent below a year ago. Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, recently observed that low inventory levels do not appear to be deterring buyers. “The overall data and feedback we’re hearing from Realtors continues to point to elevated levels of buying interest compared to a year ago. With low interest rates and job growth, more buyers will be encouraged to enter the market unless prices accelerate even higher in relation to incomes,” said Yun.

Greater Chattanooga home prices continued to gain traction. The Median Sales Price increased 8.1 percent to $153,500. The Average Sales Price increased 7.4 percent to $180,310. Homes are being priced correctly for our market, as we saw a 1.7 percent increase to 93.9 percent of Original Price Received.

Despite price increases, the Affordability Index remained positive – we saw a 6.9 percent increase to 186. An index of 186 means the median household income is 186 percent of what is necessary to qualify for the median-priced home under prevailing interest rates. The higher the number, the greater the affordability. Good news for our region.

The national homeownership percentage is the lowest since 1993, when “Jurassic Park” was the highest-grossing movie.
CNE to host homeownership fair June 6

Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) will host a free homeownership fair open to the public on Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will consist of mini workshops covering topics such as budgeting, buying a home, and home maintenance. The homeownership fair will be for both prospective and current homeowners.

The day will be broken up into two different sections: Buying a Home and Maintaining a Home. In addition, three local Realtors will be on location to answer questions and disseminate information. Lowe’s Home Improvement and The Home Depot will be outside providing information and demonstrations on a variety of topics.

CNE will provide free lunch and children activities. Free credit report analysis and mortgage readiness assessments will be offered.

The workshop schedule is as follows:

**Home Buyer Schedule**
- 10 a.m.: Be a Successful Homeowner
- 11 a.m.: Do Your Homebuying Homework
- 12 p.m.: What to Expect from Your Realtor
- 1 p.m.: Understanding Your Credit Score

**Home Maintenance Schedule**
- 10 a.m.: Energy Savings Workshop
- 11 a.m.: Taking Care of Your Yard
- 12 p.m.: Foreclosures Prevention
- 1 p.m.: Preparing a Basic Will

The event will take place at CNE’s office, located at 1500 Chestnut Street. For more information, log on to www.cneinc.org.

**NAPKIN SKETCH SERIES**

Home office can double as family space

Ed Garbee

Setting up a home office is one of the most popular trends in the small business world. Working from home affords a number of benefits, most notably a reduction in work space costs. Secondly, this type of addition creates added value to your home by doubling as guest quarters or space for entertaining.

Before erecting a small outbuilding that has a couple of windows and a door, consider possible uses beyond simple desk space that provides for private phone conversations. A large screen monitor on the wall could pull double duty on family movie night. An exterior deck could provide space for outdoor seating during work hours and serve as an area for entertaining house guests. Adding solar panels to the roof could provide enough power to keep the addition off the grid. Finally, carefully thought out overhangs and window placement could create natural ventilation, reducing or eliminating the need for mechanical ventilation and the associated power requirements.

In this napkin sketch, I’ve laid out my idea for an architect’s private studio, but the spaces could be interchangeable with other types of office uses. The building is sheltered by a deep overhanging roof with an entry at the end of a deep set wood deck.

A table with seating provides a conference area for quick meetings. Opposite the conference table is the work space, with a stand up drafting table and a desk for computer work. Corner space is provided for a large format file cabinet, and a long nook inset in the exterior wall provides book storage for reference manuals.

Windows surround the perimeter, though sill height varies depend-

See NAPKIN SKETCH, page 14
It's tough doing it by yourself

Through the years, I've found myself to be one not to ask for help no matter what. I've built decks where you didn't know if you were coming or going. I once stacked rock for a porch footing that ended in me having to get a shot to get over ‘shoulders while being again. The death defying solo act of hanging a ceiling fan at a height where objects below looked like toys while using a ladder that should have been outlawed, causing my wife to go back porch and pray out loud until I finished, was probably number one on my list of stupifying feats. But I'm a man, and we just seem to do things like this, causing children to marvel and wives to wonder. Let's just wrap this up and call it a day. "When the filmmakers got to that point and said, "This isn't going to work on their next deal."

The one bright spot in the remake is the character of Carol Anne. In the original film, watching it for the first time was like taking a big drink of what I expected to be cold, fizzy soda and discovering it was just so easy to do. Over the years, I’ve slowed down on some of the exciting things, and have found that I now take the advice that Andy gave Augustus Prew. Don't go into deep freeze repaired when he said, "Call the man!" I've reached that age where "Calling the man" works more effectively as a metaphor than as a directive. I care also appreciate my doing so. Guess I've seen too many folks my age fall and hit their head without an emergency button around their neck, and not having one of those bathroom chairs would worry me more concerned about the things I can get myself as an old dude.

There are still a lot of things one person can do alone, but there are just some things that take more than one person. A fitted sheet might work for some people, but mine just come out in a wad. I did a lot of fast-folding and owning one fitted sheet per bed. When the time comes to wash, I wash it and put it back on the bed with no folding. I also leave it. When you put the fitted sheet, checking out the really good for ticks, no matter how you do it. There is no way in the world to hold a mirror and get tweezers to work properly at the same time on your own body. That's a fact we just have to live with. If you can make it work with ease, then you might have more concerns than ticks.

Another household chore that requires two people is the occasional turning of the mattress. You might accomplish this with very little help if you have a twin or single, but when you get into today's queen and king size double-deckers, then you'd better have an additional strong back close by.

Located in my chambers (doesn't that sound majestic) is a fairly new queen size mattress that almost requires a ladder to get into each night. When I bought it, I was given instructions to turn it regularly to keep from voiding the warranty. Turning meant to move the head to the foot in a circular motion. That may sound easy if your bedroom is the size of a gymnasium and your bed is flat with no posts, but neither of those descriptions fit my bedroom. My bed has posts and the location of the bed in the room does not lend itself to a lot of movement. The mattress also has the weight of a steamer trunk, and isn't easy to drag a hold of.

While Jermain's inventory is eclectic, he keeps his business model simple: "We sell furnishing two ways," he says. "We sell to other brokers like ourselves, and we buy it ourselves and sell to other companies."

Jermain's target market is commercial offices. His introduction to these customers often comes by way of commercial Realtors who have tenants that need to furnish an office. "Maybe they have a client that's going from 20,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet, and they need to unload some furniture," he says. "Or maybe their client is going from 10,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet, and they need to furnish that space. The Realtor can hand us this information, and we go work on their next deal."

Office Furniture Warehouse has been in business for many years, it's evolved, it's evolved in terms of the services it provides. The catalog is usually a customer express yourself as a way to do things that they don't yet offer. This is how he came to clean and reupholster used furniture.

"Customers would often say, 'I've got a great chair, but it doesn't go up and down anymore. Can you replace the lift?' Sure enough, we found a resource for lifts, and started a new line of business," he says. From that, people began asking Jermain of Office Furniture Warehouse could also reupholster an exam table. Even the entrepreneur, Jermain said the only response in his vocabulary: "Yes."

Again, Jermain's timing was impeccable. "Doctors are opening satellite facilities, and they want us to set up their offices as cost effectively as possible," he says. "So I've refurbished exam tables that sell for about $4,000 new, but I'm selling them for about a thousand." As with office furniture, Jermain leaves no stone unturned, selling not just exam tables but also assisting with the hospital beds, and stretchers – all for less than new would cost. "I call my business "Made for Lexus buyers," he says. "They like the quality of a Lexus, but they're not going to spend $80,000 on a new one. They might start with one empty, and sell $30,000 on one that has 70,000 miles on it."

With two trucks and five full time installers, Office Furniture Warehouse has the capacity to move a lot of used Lexuses. It also has the heart to give back to the community. Not only does Office Furniture Warehouse support Orange Grove by using its recycling center, Jermain has hired the participants there to organize thousands of keys for filing cabinets and other office equipment. "Now, when a customer asks if we have a key for a specific kind of filing cabinet, we can give them an answer," he says. Office Furniture Warehouse also operates a program called Wishing Well, which sells excess items donated to support Orange Grove and gives the majority of the proceeds to the organization.

While Jermain has been the driving force behind the evolution of Office Furniture Warehouse, he says he's merely fortunate. "It was my mentor who helped me back in the day. We used to leave Atlanta and move to Challenger," he says. "I stumbled onto a mentor who was really good at what he did as well as it did during the recession. Friends in Atlanta were calling me in despair because the city was going to do things they thought were going to fail."

"Call me aminimalist," he says. "Call me a minimalist. But there was a lot of optimism here because negotiation with the City."

So, yeah, I'm lucky to be in Chattanoog.
Vacationing on the easy

C'mon people, now is the time to take a break, use those vacation days you have been hoarding, and let the stress fall from your shoulders. Sadly, sometimes vacation planning can be so stressful, it can ruin the vacation itself, or at least provide a major deterrent when visiting somewhere or trying something new.

When it comes to vacationing with our family I am not going to lie, it can be stressful. With three young kids, and us being a young couple ourselves, the reality is that we are still learning. Conversely, we have learned quite a few great tips along the way that always makes things run more smoothly.

For instance, in the planning process, anytime we are searching for hotels, we always use privacy browsing and ‘incognito tab.’ Unfortunately, companies on the Internet are tracking every site we visit and everything we search for. Using the “incognito style,” eliminates hotel websites from raising prices simply because they know you are looking. You have to be as sneaky as they are!

Heavy research shows when looking a flight, there is a magic time when you can find the cheapest rate possible. To book the best rate available, always wait six weeks out from the flight, and at 3 p.m. on a Tuesday.

This is called the “magic hour.” There are quite a few great tips we always follow when packing. For example, always place a dryer sheet in the bottom and top of our suitcase. This keeps our clothes smelling nice and fresh. In addition to this we always roll our clothes. This allows the maximum space and prevents wrinkles.

One thing I learned last year was to store all of our cords into an extra eyeglass case. This keeps them altogether, and prevents any tangling.

Instead of packing full bottles of shampoo/conditioner for the entire family, we keep our old prescription bottles and use these for holding shampoo and conditioner. This can be a maximum space saver and prevents the chance of the shampoo and conditioner bottles from coming open and leaking.

On the subject of liquids, before you pack any bottles, whether they are bath gels, per- fumes, cream, etc., take the lid off and cover the top with plastic wrap, and then securely place the lid back on. This will eliminate any chance of leakage. Also, double protect yourself by placing liquid filled bottles in a large zip-lock bag.

Always mark your luggage with “fragile.” A Post office workers will most likely place the luggage on the top of the pile, meaning the luggage will come out first at baggage claim. Priceless.

If you forget the USB plug for the phone charger, do not fret and definitely do not go buy one! Always check the television channels. Almost all newer models will have one on the side or back. Get the Wi-Fi password for many hotels, restaurants, and cafes.

Foursquare, a local search and discovery service app, provides a personalized local search for users. Almost the time you will find the password for the particular place you are located, as people frequently post Wi-Fi passwords on this website.

Call the bank and any credit card companies you will be using before you leave. The last thing you will want to deal with is a company putting your card on hold for suspicious activity.

Taking empty water bottles through security at the airport and then filling them once you have passed, prevents you from having to spend $4.00 on the airport H2O. Similarly, you can bring single serving bottles of shampoos and conditioners. If you like to have a drink or a glass of wine on a flight, this is a much cheaper option than buying them once on the plane.

Almost all newer models will have one on the side! Always drop a pin on Google maps, or take a picture with your phone of the location where you parked. This will help when looking for the vehicle after a day of sightseeing. To drop a pin on Google maps, just hold down the location and the pin will post.

If traveling with wine bottles or something of that nature, use children’s swimming arm floats to secure the bottles from breakage.

Probably the smartest and most important tip I received was when my daughter was traveling to Canada with her uncle. Someone told me to make a copy of her passport and itinerary, so in the event her information was lost or stolen, I would have a digital copy I could send to him.

Happy stressless - I mean stress free traveling! Bon Voyage!

April Sherrill is a staff writer for the Hamilton County Herald.

Contact her at april@dailydata.com.
Mother’s Day road trip

In the afternoon of Thursday before Mother's Day, I drive south. I stop at a certain spot in White Hall, Ark., and pick up a mess of fried chicken. Then I drive on to Lake Village, Ark., where I am greeted by twin great nieces Sloan and Amelia, age six. They live on the banks of Lake Chicot with mom Caroline and dad Chuck.

We play, sing, and dance “The Hokey Pokey,” “Itsy Bitsy Spider,” and a couple other songs. They read me the best-seller “Goodnight Moon.” I also read “No David” and a few other kid-lit staples. (“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star,” and a couple other songs. We sing them in January 2013. On this visit, Russell and I toss a football around. We also play, sing, and dance “The Hokey Pokey,” “Itsy Bitsy Spider,” “The Itsy Bitsy Spider,” and a couple other songs. When we got to its apex, we stopped the car and looked out the side. She stood up and looked over the side. “There aren’t alligators in the water,” she said. “Just for that, you can walk back alone to the car and pick me up on this side.” 

Which is what I did.

Vic Fleming is a district court judge in Little Rock, Ark., and an award-winning columnist. Contact him at vicfleming@att.net.

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I Swear Crossword

Across
1. Enters angrily
9. Keep out of sight
14. Slow mover
15. Place for a touchdown
17. Perturb
18. Last syllable
19. Degradable beginning?
20. Colostate
21. Alternatives to Pepsis
22. Orderly type
24. Song Irish?
25. Partner in crime
28. Solenn pronunciation
30. Not agreeable
31. Some embarrasing mistakes
36. Shrimp or tuna dish
37. Solar standard
38. Kindergarten lesson
42. Chikas
43. Days of...
44. Edible mollusk
45. Salon hair style
49. 19th-century photo
51. It’s cold in the North
52. That was a long time
54. Dancer Charisse
57. Apollo 13 astronaut
58. “Do the Right Thing”
60. Highest point in an orbit
61. Prognosticate
62. They go with does
63. Resource called on when all else has failed

26. Shaped like an ellipse
27. Computer menu header
29. Popular dance among toddlers
32. Work on a sentence
33. GED portion
34. Miss per gallon, e.g.
35. Suffolk for poll or tick
39. Mineral water containers
40. Buffalo’s lake
41. Important number on Downing Street
42. Phrase before party or relationship
44. Where John Wooden coached
46. Falls clumsily
47. Chink of grass, in golf
50. Hit lightly and repeatedly
52. Shahe... (hurry up)
55. Cry of pain
56. Remove, in editing
58. Cal. airport
59. Neighbor of Kenya (abbr.)

By Vic Fleming

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.
NOTICES
Continued from page 8
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION, 350 COLUMBUS STREET, NW., WASHINGTON, DC 20410. An offer may be rescinded at any time. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, W&A No. 300561, or any of W&A's assignees, or successors in interest, or the Successor Trust. Any statutory rights of redemption of the governmental agency, state, or political subdivision in which the property is located, shall be protected.
**NOTICES** Continued from page 16

COUNTY TITLES - THE CUL Del. at Park Lawn Cemetery conducted a third and final examination of the lot at Park Lawn Cemetery, as shown on plats recorded in Book 761, Page 319, Register's Office, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Said examination was held on the third (30) day of May, 2015. LARRY L. HENRY, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK at thirty (30) days after the fourth weekly publication of this order, the same being recorded in Book 1547, Page 108, Register's Office, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Said examination was held on the third (30) day of May, 2015. LARRY L. HENRY, CIRCUIT COURT CLERK at

SUBJECT TO easements and other matters as set forth on plat recorded in Plat Book 72, Page 49, in the Register's Office of Hamilton County, Tennessee. All right, title and interest, if any, in said premises is subject to any and all matters shown on the recordable plat or any and all liens against said property for unpaid property taxes; and any restrictive covenants, easements or set-back lines that may be applicable recorded plat any unpaid taxes; and any restrictive covenants, easements, or set-back lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agencies, or any other rights of redemption created by a fixture filing; and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following premises may be included in the description herein shall control. SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION. This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat any unpaid taxes; and any restrictive covenants, easements, or set-back lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agencies, or any other rights of redemption created by a fixture filing; and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following premises may be included in the description herein shall control. SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION. This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat any unpaid taxes; and any restrictive covenants, easements, or set-back lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agencies, or any other rights of redemption created by a fixture filing; and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following premises may be included in the description herein shall control. SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION. This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat any unpaid taxes; and any restrictive covenants, easements, or set-back lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agencies, or any other rights of redemption created by a fixture filing; and any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. In addition, the following premises may be included in the description herein shall control. SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION.
SALES TO TAKE PLACE ON 06/19/15

1605 Bush Rd 37421 L863 Final Plat Raymond Smith Subd Chattanooga Frances E. Ledford Shapiro and Ingle, LLP
5783 Caney Ridge Circle 37363 L112R REsub L112-114 Crooked Creek Subd Ooltewah Brian P. Thomas Wilson & Associates, PLLC
8817 Hidden Branches Road 37341 L12 Morning Glory Farms Subd Harrison Gary J. Christofferson Wilson & Associates, PLLC
2037 Creasman Hill Lane 37379 Begin at steel post at SE corner L2 division of J.T. Creasman 15-acre tract Soddy Daisy Mark E. Tripp Wilson & Associates, PLLC
6097 Gibbs Lane 37363-5515 L863 Hamilton on Hunter Subd Ooltewah Jillian B Morrison Wilson & Associates, PLLC
8612 Oak View Dr 37421 L53 Corr plat Lee Oaks Subd Chattanooga April Brown Shapiro and Ingle, LLP
445 Sevier Street 37343 L47 Sevier Estates Hixson Sarah E. Cook Wilson & Associates, PLLC
3066 Eason Ave 37404 L138 Lakeview Estates Chattanooga Amanda C. Scott Wilson & Associates, PLLC
8250 Nine Mile Road 37421 L42 Autumn Mornings Chattanooga Joey Harrington Wilson & Associates, PLLC
7704 Nautical Way 37416 L66 Holiday Hills Chattanooga Bobby Rivers Wilson & Associates, PLLC
1211 Dongewood Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404 Current Owner, Pursuant to Book 1582, Page 163, Register’s Office, a tract or piece of land, more or less, located in the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:

The undersigned Substitute Trustee, for default having been made in the payment of the debt, and obligation, and the defaults having been declared due and payable, and the time for payment of the same having elapsed, the Holder and Owner of said mortgage, giving written notice of default, and that the default on the part of the mortgagor has, in all respects, been made and done, as more or less is hereinafter set forth:

WHEREAS

Heron 3rd Ave N 37405 Begin at SE corner of 3rd Ave N, 10 ft. alley, between L100,101 Chattanooga Estate Co’s Subd
4441 Florida Ave 37404 L133 Fort Matanzas Subd Chattanooga Amanda C. Scott Wilson & Associates, PLLC
2121 West Park Dr 37404 L42 Autumn Mornings Chattanooga Sandra A. Warnemuende by Deed of record in Book 6512, Page 125.
147 Goodson Ave 37405 Begin on N side 10 ft. alley between L100,101 Chattanooga Estate Co’s Subd
1233 Cherokee Sapelo Rd 37408 Parcel No. 22-1-14
415 Jackson Ave 37379 Parcel No. 22-1-13
1155 Whitehall Ln 37379 Parcel No. 22-1-16
3908 Hixson Pike 37406 L21 Eastwood Park Subd Chattanooga Leonard A. Walker Wilson & Associates, PLLC(2,8),(996,992)
The Chattanooga Zoo has announced the arrival of three new ambassador animals: two serval kittens and a prehensile-tailed porcupine.

The six-week-old serval kittens are currently being hand raised by zoo staff to be trained as ambassador animals. As ambassador animals, they won’t be on exhibit but will have extensive public interaction through education programs, animal shows, media appearances, and more. The Chattanooga Zoo currently has one female adult serval exhibited in the Gombe Forest exhibit area.

The serval kittens were born at the Idaho Falls Zoo, and came to the Chattanooga Zoo on April 27 through collaboration with the Species Survival Plan (SSP). The serval is an African medium-sized cat. Life expectancy is 10 years in the wild, and up to 20 years in captivity.

The one-year-old prehensile-tailed porcupine, along with the serval kittens, is also a new zoo ambassador animal. However, the porcupine will be exhibited when not being used for programming in the Corcovado Jungle exhibit building. Again through collaboration with the SSP, the porcupine came to the Chattanooga Zoo from the Cleveland Zoo in Cleveland, Ohio. These South American native porcupines can live up to 27 years in captivity.

The Chattanooga Zoo will soon be offering WILD encounters for both the serval kittens and the prehensile-tailed porcupine. For more information on the Zoo’s WILD encounter program, visit www.chattzoo.org/visit/wild-encounters.

Source: Chattanooga Zoo

The Chattanooga Zoo is now home to this serval kitten and her sister. The serval is a medium-sized African cat. (Photos by David Laprad)

Jorge, a one-year-old prehensile-tailed porcupine, is another new addition to the zoo.

Source: Chattanooga Zoo
While Peterson and Eric Taslimi have gone the extra mile to ensure they sell a great tasting build-your-own burger, they couldn't be considered expert burger crafters without coming up with a few creations of their own. And that's where I hit a brick wall in the decision-making process. Do I get the Bacon N’ Blue? The BBQ? The Shroom N’ Swiss? The Sweet N’ Sassy? Or the Pittsburg (which comes topped with fries, cheese, and slaw)? I actually opted for my favorite: lettuce, onions, and mustard cooked medium rare. When I was asked if I wanted a pound or a half-pound patty, I thought about how I tend to over shop when I go to the grocery store hungry, and settled for the latter. After adding house cut truffle fries and a sweet, fizzy Coke to my order, I was good to go.

Eight minutes later, a tattooed girl brought me my food, and it was time to engage my taste buds. All I can say is, "Wow.” You know how important the first bite of a restaurant’s food is, right? Like a first kiss, it determines your future relationship with the establishment. If there’s no spark, you won’t want another, but if there’s magic, you’ll be back for seconds. As I bit into the tender meat, and as the juices slid down my chin and dripped onto the napkin I’d wisely tucked into my t-shirt, I envisioned a lifetime of burger heaven at Slick’s. You can taste the freshness in every ingredient, and that, plus their cook’s skill at the grill, makes for a terrific meal.

Chattanooga has more than its share of places to get a good burger. But you can add one more spot to get a great burger to a short list: Slick’s. These guys are doin’ it right.