

NOTES FROM THE MAYOR

February 4, 2015

Drug Summit Monday

Are you concerned about the drug abuse problem in Tullahoma? Do you want to be part of the solution? Please attend our first ever Summit to develop a community plan for the prevention of drug abuse in Tullahoma, Monday, February 9th at the Thoma Lecture Hall at THS from 11:45 to 1:30. Remember, great cities are intentional, not accidental. If we want to curb drug abuse in Tullahoma, we must have a plan of action. The State Commissioner of Substance Abuse Services, Doug Varney, will kick off our meeting. Concerned citizens, businesspeople, criminal justice, medical, educators, government, media, recovery and treatment, and faith-based individuals are all invited. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to 247-2542. Seating is limited.

Congrats, Wendell!

As the Tullahoma Pride Face book page often reminds us, there is almost always a Tullahoma connection. The latest example is long-time Tullahoma realtor and auctioneer Wendell Hanson's auctioning of Elvis Presley memorabilia earlier this month at Graceland in Memphis. Wendell is nationally-known for his auction school located in Tullahoma. Because of this work, Wendell was the go-to person to auction the Elvis items, which included Elvis' jewelry, concert scarves, even his first driver's license. Wendell even auctioned the blue light the Shelby County Sheriff gave Elvis for his vehicle.

The highlight of the auction was Elvis' first record, *My Happiness*, a birthday gift for his mother. The original vinyl record cost Elvis \$4. Some 60 years later Wendell sold it for \$300,000! Wendell's work even made ABC's Good Morning America, CBS and NBC the next day. What made the auction even more special was that it was held on Elvis' birthday, which also happens to be Wendell's birthday. But this was not Wendell's first unique auction. Last year he auctioned the pistol Bonnie Parker had sewn in the hem of her dress at her last stand. Yes, that Bonnie of Bonnie and Clyde fame. Way to go, Wendell!

DECA club does well

Congratulations to the THS DECA Club for an outstanding showing at their Regional competition in Murfreesboro last Monday. Of the 39 THS students participating, 36 qualified to go to the state competition to be held in March at the Opryland Hotel. DECA is sponsored by THS Marketing teacher Sharon Woodard. The club emphasizes marketing, hospitality, management and finance. The Murfreesboro competition featured 1,100 students from 22 Middle Tennessee high schools. By the way, many THS students placed first in their respective specialties.

On a side note, 15 professionals from various Tullahoma companies met with the students Sunday evening before their competition to practice role plays and scenarios. Thanks to these professionals, the students' previous preparation and Ms. Woodard's dedication, THS DECA came out on top!

Way to go, Barbara

I hope you saw the photo in last Wednesday's News of Barbara Ridner at the reception honoring her 50 years of service to Citizens Tri County Bank/First National Bank of Tullahoma. Very impressive tenure. I decided to do a little research. According to Fortune magazine more people are working longer and retiring later than ever before, but very few make it 50 years at a single employer. Tenure length for U.S. employees at individual firms averages 4.6 years. Only one in ten employees has logged 20 or more years with a single employer. The 50 year tenure rate is so small the Bureau of Labor Statistics does not keep data. Barbara's long tenure with her employer is a testament to Barbara and her employer. I was pleased to honor her with her own "Barbara Ridner Day in Tullahoma". Congratulations, Barbara! Now get back to work!

Latest Time-Table available

How many presidents have visited Tullahoma? Where is the Hanging Tree in town? What was Tullahoma like in 1860? Has a U.S. Supreme Court Judge ever lived in town? All of this and more is in the newly-published, 76-page, 24th edition of the Tullahoma Time-Table. The Time-Table is the official publication of the Historic Preservation Society of Tullahoma. Stop by Couch's downtown and pick up your copy for only \$10.

Thought of the week: "Do just once what others say you can't do and you will never pay attention to their limitations again." James Cook

Have an idea or suggestion? Contact me at mayor@tullahomatin.gov, voice mail 581-0360, PO Box 807, or Facebook.