

Business

If I'm in trouble, the dog wrote this

I think it's great any time McMinnville can gain national recognition. Well, maybe not so great when it involves Pamela Rogers, but it is great when it involves *Southern Standard*.

For those who missed it, the *Standard* was featured Monday on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno during the headline segment. Like a number of local residents, I was casually watching the show when I saw Leno whip out a copy of the *Standard* and start talking about dumb criminals. Much like me, Jay loves dumb criminals too.

So I'm proud to say McMinnville grabbed the national spotlight, if only for 5 seconds, for our infamous drunk driver who claimed his dog was driving. For the record, police do not believe this story, mainly because the dog is not tall enough to reach the gas pedal.

Hypothetically speaking, the incident does raise one legitimate question. If the dog actually was driving, would it be a violation of the city's proposed dog ordinance? Is it legal for a dog to leave its property if it's operating a motor vehicle?

That might be something for city officials to consider adding to the ordinance before they hammer out their final proposal.

As for other news that's odd, strange and curious, the new generation of bank robbers is sure getting lazy. Apparently gone are the



days when robbers would wear quality disguises and carry out elaborate plans.

I heard a bank robbery in Sparta was foiled last week when the robber charged into the bank with a knife and a plastic garbage bag over his head. Bank officials refused to give him any money and he left.

It was almost that bad at a recent attempted robbery in Fort Worth, Texas. A man, Michael Reed, tried to rob Eddie's Fried Chicken armed only with a tree branch. That's just not very intimidating.

His first mistake, obviously, was trying to rob a restaurant named Eddie's Fried Chicken. I can picture one guy behind the counter and about \$46 in the register.

Reed's robbery attempt was thwarted when a 56-year-old Eddie's employee picked up a broom and fended off an attack with the tree branch. Reed was arrested a short distance from the restaurant after fleeing.

That's enough foolishness for today's installment. There is great news ahead.



Late night talk show host Jay Leno displays a copy of *Southern Standard* during his headline segment. Leno joked about the headline that said, "Drunk driver claims dog was driving."



Dr. Evelyn Cintron has joined the staff of River Park Hospital and opened an office on Sparta Street. She specializes in internal medicine and is accepting new patients. Her number is 474-7770.

Federal Mogul is hiring 300

This might be the best news I've provided in years. Federal Mogul in Smithville has openings for 300 employees and is hiring this week through the Kelly Services office in Smithville.

For all the folks looking for factory work, your wish has come true. Granted, the jobs are in Smithville but they start immediately and come with medical benefits.

"We'll be hiring over the next three to four weeks," said Kelly Services manager Angela Puckett. "There are going to be too many people for us to handle this at our office, so we're going to have a two-day job fair on Tuesday and Wednesday to accommodate the large numbers."

Angela says the job fair will be held at the First United Methodist Church Christian Fellowship Center. Its hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 17-18. The church is located at 102 West Church Street just off Smithville Court Square.

Applicants need to bring two



Dr. Cintron has provided medical care around the world, even to this remote village in Kenya, Africa. She said villagers had to walk miles for water and had to guard against lion attacks.

forms of ID, be able to pass a hair follicle drug test, and pass a seven-year criminal background check.

Depending on the shift and the job, pay ranges from \$8.54 to \$10.17 an hour. In addition to insurance benefits, there's also hol-

Quote NOTEBOOK

"A conservative is a man who sits and thinks, mostly sits."

- Woodrow Wilson

"Regret for wasted time is more wasted time."

- Mason Cooley

"I don't have a bank account, because I don't know my mother's maiden name."

- Paula Poundstone

"Women who seek to be equal with men lack ambition."

- Timothy Leary

"I hope when I die, people say about me, 'Boy, that guy sure owed me a lot of money.'"

- Jack Handey

"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."

- Albert Einstein

"The second half of a man's life is made up of nothing but the habits he has acquired during the first half."

- Fyodor Dostoevsky

"There are only two ways of telling the complete truth - anonymously and posthumously."

- Thomas Sowell

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Business Pulse

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Dr. Cintron joins River Park staff

River Park Hospital has committed itself to improving the level of health care provided in McMinnville. On a personal note, I like that commitment.

The latest addition to the hospital staff is Dr. Evelyn Cintron, who practices internal medicine and specializes in diabetes. Dr. Cintron opened her local office Monday and saw her first patients Tuesday.

"Nothing makes me feel better than seeing my patients feel better," said Dr. Cintron. "People always think of me as a family practitioner, but internal medicine is different. It's for adults 18 and over and I'm trained to see more complicated and more seriously ill patients."

In addition to diabetes, she also treats patients for heart and lung disease, hypertension, gastro intestinal problems and other issues.

"I believe 90 percent of the problems come from diet, but there are genes too," said Dr. Cintron. "We all have genes and some problems are in the family."

Dr. Cintron was born and raised in Puerto Rico, but she says she's fallen in love with the people of Tennessee. She moved to Johnson City to finish her specialty at ETSU and has lived in the state ever since, a total of 16 years.

She says she likes the direction CEO John McLain is taking River

Park and has a positive attitude about the state of local health care.

"River Park is very determined to recruit good people to work in this area to provide quality care and I'm excited about that vision," said Dr. Cintron, who is fluent in Spanish for Hispanic patients.

As we were talking, the topic shifted to mission work and Dr. Cintron told me about various countries she's visited to provide medical care. One of the most fascinating was rural Africa where remote villagers struggle to survive.

These are people who have to walk miles for water and don't even have the luxury of an outhouse as they use the bathroom next to a tree. Their makeshift huts only have tiny windows because a lion will jump through anything too large. There are no modern conveniences, not even a radio.

One remote village Dr. Cintron visited had perhaps 25 residents. She said that village was probably 20 miles away from any other inhabitants. Travel only took place during the day because any night traveler would most likely be killed by lions.

When I asked Dr. Cintron about national health care issues, she mentioned the folks in this village.

"In America there is great hope things can get better, and I think things will get better," said Dr. Cintron. "But when you think of those people, they have no hope of changing their lives. There is almost no chance things will ever get better for them. Going there was really a life-changing experi-



The Warren County Board of Realtors presents its 2009 officers. Pictured, left to right, are secretary Sally Steakley, director at large Charlene

ence."

Dr. Cintron is accepting new patients. Her office can be reached by calling 474-7770.

Goody's a store that will be missed

Monday is the last day for Goody's at Three Star Mall and it won't be long before the entire chain shuts down. I don't want to be overly dramatic, but the loss of Goody's is a big retail blow to McMinnville.

Just on square footage alone, Goody's is one of the largest non-grocery stores in town. By my count, it ranks No. 6. Including grocery stores, it ranks No. 8 in size.

When a store that big disappears, there's going to be an impact. For starters, the direct impact is there are 24 people who are losing their jobs.

For the Clark family, with two young boys, the impact is it takes away one of our favorite places to buy kids clothing. If there's any consolation, I'm confident we'll find other local stores in which to do business, but Goody's was so handy we'll miss it.

Goody's departure also hurts the mall, which I think all of us want to be a bustling, happening mall. Unfortunately, the mall is feeling the full force of the economic slowdown.

One thing a lot of people overlook is how the loss of Bookland has led to a decrease in mall traffic. Another bookstore would be a tremendous asset, as would another clothing store to replace Goody's.

The trouble is what chain is looking to expand at this time? What chain would consider McMinnville? What can we hope to get, and how long can we expect Goody's to remain empty? If history is any indication, finding a new tenant won't be quick, or easy.

Board of Realtors elects new officers

The Warren County Board of Realtors has named its new officers

for 2009 and its the fine collection of realtors pictured above.

If you're curious about membership, the Warren County board has 17 real estate companies and several associate member local support companies consisting of banks, appraisers, mortgage companies, insurance agencies, and utility companies.

The board adheres to the rules and regulations of our local Multiple Listing System bylaws, Tennessee Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. Local realtors share listing information through their Multiple Listing System and understand the market situation.

Homes and property in Warren County continue to sell and are still

holding their value. If you have questions about real estate, would like to buy or sell, or just need general information, call one of your local realtors. With interest rates at an all-time low, realtors say now is a great time to buy or sell.

Blisk earns national honor

Former McMinnville resident Brenda Pack Blisk, founder and CEO of the Blisk Financial Group at Spire Investment Partners in McLean, Va., has been recognized by Barron's Magazine as one of the "Top 1,000 Financial Advisors" in the United States (No. 21 in Virginia).

Barron's first annual ranking of the top 1,000 advisors from across the country appeared in a special section of its Feb. 9 edition. Listed by state, the advisors were chosen from more than 3,000 nominations.

Selections was based on "both quantitative and qualitative criteria, such as assets under management, revenue produced for the firm, client satisfaction, regulatory record and philanthropic work," said the magazine in a news release announcing its special edition.

This new Barron's listing follows Brenda's recognition in 2007 and 2008 as one of Barron's Top 100 Women Financial Advisors in the U.S.



BLISK

That's all folks

Call 473-2191 with tips.



Renovation work is taking place inside the old Sprint store on Chancery Street near Rite Aid. Property owner Bobby Kirby says the building will be the site of a home health agency expected to open in March.

Toyota to cut production, slash pay

Business Roundup By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. says it is reacting to the slump in U.S. auto sales by further cutting North American production, slashing compensation for executives in the region by up to 30 percent, and offering buyouts to about 18,000 workers.

"We've taken responsible, step-by-step actions to address this issue in recent months, and we hope the new measures will help us adjust while protecting jobs," said Jim Wiseman, vice

The company will cut production days at some U.S. factories in April — from two to eight days according to the amount of inventory at the particular plant. Toyota is also instituting a shorter work week at some plants. Affected hourly employees would work eight hours less per two-week period.

Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi and Texas, as well as auto-parts factories in Alabama, Missouri and West Virginia.

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors sent Washington a message this week: They won't commit to stocks until the government commits to a plan.

Stocks ended lower Friday, pushing the Dow Jones industrial average to its lowest close