



## SMITHVILLE REVIEW

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# On the winning side this time

It was kind of odd standing on the Smithville side of the football field this past Friday, wearing the Tiger colors and finding myself rooting for the home team.

Now, if you're new reading the paper then you have an excuse not to know that I'm not from around here. I've worked at the *Review* for about six months after coming here from a long stint at the paper down south in McMinnville. That's right, I'm a Warren County boy. I was born and raised there, went to school there and still live there. So, you can kind of see my quandary Friday night.

I've stood on that opposite sideline for many years, often making noise with those rowdy Warren County fans while critiquing my opposite number.

"Why do they keep clanging those annoying cowbells?" I've asked on numerous occasions, hearing the bells clanging when the Tigers made a good play. "Who shakes a cowbell? Do they have

any idea how annoying they are?" This year I had a close up with the cowbells and the Tiger fans as I stood looking across the field at the Warren County side.

"So who you going to root for, Duane?" a friend asked me before the border battle Friday night. "Don't tell me you're going to be a Benedict Arnold."

"You know, Benedict Arnold was actually an American patriot and a hero and was even wounded in action fighting for America," I replied.

"So, you're rooting for the Tigers?" he surmised from my historical diatribe.

"Yep," I nodded. "I like the Tigers. They're scrappy."

Sure, I rooted for the Pioneers all those other years. I was in Nunley Stadium in McMinnville when the Pioneers mopped the field with the Tigers back in 2005 when the series began and

muttered things under my breath those years when the Tigers got the best of the Pioneers, spanking them 50-0 one season.

That's right, my allegiance changed quickly. I like the smaller town, the underdog feel, the fire you have to play with going up against the large Warren County High School.

Granted, as a life-long resident of the Nursery Capital I can safely tell you that the Pioneer football team is playing under a curse. The Pioneers haven't had a winning season since 1990 and even then that season was an anomaly. I haven't the slightest of what the problem is as the rest of the athletic teams are okay. All I know is I graduated Warren County Senior High in 1983 and they were a winning program. However, starting in 1986 the

program came off the rails and has never recovered despite going through a laundry list of coaches, building a \$1.1 million indoor practice facility on campus and having a student population of around 2,000.

With that being said, I was glad when the Tigers pulled out the 19-14 win Friday night. There were bragging rights on the line with my Warren County friends.

"Coach, you've got to win this or I can't go back home," I told Coach Steve Trapp as he led his team onto the field Friday night.

As for my confidence, the sports guy from the McMinnville paper asked me just before the game what I thought.

"DeKalb County by a touchdown," I replied, hitting it on the head.

Now, if I just had some Tiger stuff to wear. That's right, I'm the newest Tiger fan but don't have a thing to wear (men's large). Hint, hint.

Contact Duane Sherrill at



THE NEW GUY

by Duane Sherrill

## Football time

It is that time again - It's Football Time in Tennessee, with high school and college teams preparing to hit the gridiron for another season, and fans showing up to cheer on their favorite teams. There will be border rivals, regional competitions, and an opportunity for players and coaches to put on display both their offensive and defensive skills. There will be winners and losers, but the hope of everyone is that players will give their best effort on the field, and stand proud when the game has ended. The hope of coaches is that every member of the team will learn valuable lessons that they can take with them throughout their entire lifetimes.

It is definitely true that life itself is full of many challenges of different kinds, one of which is a spiritual one. Humans were originally created with a living soul, as God formed Adam of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, so that he became a living soul. An old enemy of God, the devil, soon appeared on the scene, and went on the offensive against the greatest of God's creation. He himself was a created being, but he was not satisfied with the position God gave him in heaven. He rebelled against God, seeking to overthrow Him and take His place in the universe, and that got him kicked out of heaven, along with one-third

of the other angels.

The line of attack that the devil used against Eve was to twist the truth of what God had said to Adam and Eve. Just like the players on the gridiron make every effort to "get in the heads" of their opponents, the devil tried to convince Eve that she could become as wise as God, and know good and evil. He also tried to convince her that she would not suffer the consequences of her decision to go up against God's warning to not eat of the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden. But just like a quarterback who holds the ball too long, or a running back who doesn't have a firm grip on the football, she found out the hard way that actions do have consequences.

Fortunately, God gives each and every one of us our own opportunity to accept His Word today. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that the Word of God is alive, it is powerful, it is sharper than any two-edged sword that can penetrate our hearts and minds, and it can show us what is right and what is wrong. If we will truly rely on it, our way through life can be prosperous and successful.

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WORDS FROM ABOVE

by Larry R. Steffee

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO THE POLICY

The *Smithville Review* encourages readers to express their views on subjects of interest. Letters to the Editor may be edited for length, libel and clarity. Readers should limit remarks to 300 words or less and should have a daytime phone number for verification. Letters without full address and signature will not be published. Mail to: Letters to the Editor, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166 OR email to: [news@smithvillereview.com](mailto:news@smithvillereview.com)

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## Best when read by 2018

I recently discovered a box of chicken tenders in my freezer, hidden underneath a container of very fuzzy cherry chocolate-chunk ice cream. I made a salad and put a few pieces of the microwaved tenders on top.

As I returned the chicken to the freezer, I spotted a little line on the package that said, "Best when eaten before August 2017."

No doubt I had just poisoned myself and had minutes left to live. I looked in the fridge to see if there was some moldy sour cream or sour milk I could swallow to make me purge the deadly meal, but no such luck. I also remembered reading a story a while back that some chicken-packing company had recalled a few billion pounds of chicken parts because of a rare failure of their self-regulated inspection system. It seems their one part-time inspector had gone on his honeymoon or something.

The chicken tenders still tasted good despite being a year out of date. Even so, it's probably best to write a note to Sue before she finds my cold, dead body on the kitchen floor.

How clever the wording is: "best used before," not "spoiled rotten by" or "vile and disgusting by." "Best used" doesn't even imply that the product can't be used after that date; we just assume it. Past that date? Better throw it out and buy some more. Why take a chance?

Now bottles of beer and soda have "best used by" dates on them so you'll know they're fresh. Yeah, you don't want to

show up at that tailgate party with stale beer. As if after eating four pounds of chili, nachos and chips, and taking a few nips from a hip flask, you could you possibly tell the difference.

The label on the soda I'm drinking right now says it contains potassium benzoate, calcium disodium EDTA and something called "Red 40." Will any of that really spoil over time? It also has the words "pomegranate" and "antioxidant" prominently on the bottle. In small print on the back it says "Contains no juice." Should I assume, then, that it also contains no antioxidants? After all, it didn't say it "contained" pomegranate, it just had the word on the label.

Thinking about all this was giving me a headache, so I looked in the medicine cabinet for some over-the-counter relief. I noticed that all my prescriptions expired exactly one year after I got them. Really? So that medicine is perfect for 365 days, but it turns bad in the container on day 366?

How long before they start putting "best used by" dates on big purchases like cars and washing machines? If it works for frozen chicken, imagine how much they could make by getting you to toss out the old fridge. I'm not against the "best used by" idea for some things -- athletes, politicians and teenage pop stars come to mind -- but you should use your own common sense.

By the way, my out-of-date chicken tenders tasted, you guessed it, just like chicken.

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VILLAGE IDIOT

by Jim Mullen