# Business

SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2018



Southern 🕑 Standard

McMinnville, Tennessee

## **Gary and Gail's Pit Stop ceases operations**



GREA

DUOS

IN HISTORY

**SHAGGY & SCOOBY** Zoinks, they would do anything for two Scooby Snacks.



HALL & OATES Best laid-back jams this side of Air Supply



**CHIPS & SALSA** Only chocolate and peanut butter can rival this food combination





Friday was an emotional day at Gary and Gail's Pit Stop in Mt. Leo where the doors closed for good after a memorable 12-year run.

"We've been crying all week," said Amber Dodson, who has been operating the store since the death of her parents in June, 2015. "People will pull up to the drive thru crying because we're closing and that will make us cry too."

Amber's sister, Kelly, was greeting customers in the dining room, although she was hobbled by a bad knee that will require surgery later this month.

"I can't do much so I've been sitting here saying goodbye to everyone," said Kelly.

After much consideration, Amber and Kelly decided to close the store and pursue other career interests. For those who may not know, they've been running the store since their parents were killed. Amber said there were financial reasons for the decision.

"Business hasn't been as good lately," Amber said. "There were a lot of people who would come in here just to see daddy. He was a draw. There are other customers who we've seen around town who tell us they can't come in anymore. They tell us they're sorry, but after what happened they say they just can bring themselves to come in the store."

Customers didn't stay away on the final day



It was an emotional day as Gary and Gail's Pit Stop ended a 12-year run and closed on Friday. Pictured on the last day are employees, from left, Amber Dodson, Amanda Stalcup, Jocelyn Jones, Brianna Cooke, Jamie Brock, Kelly Dodson and Cody Cooke.

14 hamburgers, and there was a massive breakfast rush.

Employees took time to pause during what had previously been normal chores to soak in the finality of the situation.

"I stopped and took a picture of the last pot of homemade gravy we'll ever have," said Amber while flipping burgers with the trusty spatula her father had used for so many years.

As for future plans, Amber says her immediate project will be to clean out the store and find a new home for what's inside. "We own everything in here," said Amber.

After that, she's going to catch her breath before deciding on what employment opportunities to pursue. I'm confident she'll land on her feet because she's a dependable worker. I can say that from firsthand experience because Amber worked alongside me here at the *Standard* many years ago back when her daughter Jocelyn was just a baby. Kelly has two other jobs and says she will have more time to devote to them when she recovers from surgery.

As for the property, it's owned by William Wanamaker, who owns most of Mt. Leo. I didn't get a chance to call him Friday to see if he's formulated any plans for what he'd like to do with it.

From the editors of Business Pulse, I'd like to wish Amber and Kelly the best of luck. I know they felt a certain sense of obligation to keep the market open in memory of their parents, but sometimes your best move is to trudge forward and see what's behind that next door.

#### NEW TAXI IN TOWN

The mass transportation system in Warren County is not one to text home



**CLIFF & NORM** "Can I draw you a beer Norm?" "I know what they look like. Just pour me one."

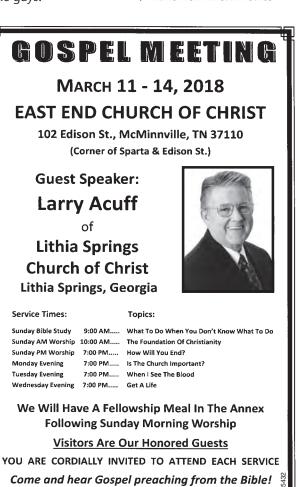


**DAVID & GOLIATH** Uplifting tale provides a glimmer of hope for all the little guys. Friday as they swarmed the restaurant to give Gary and Gail's Pit Stop a royal sendoff. There were huge orders, including one for

#### BlackRock quizzes gun manufacturers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — BlackRock, an investment firm that manages over \$6 trillion in assets, says it is asking gun makers and retailers how they are responding to a high school shooting in Florida, a move that could add pressure on those companies to make changes.

Among the questions BlackRock is asking gun makers is if they require retailers to do background checks or flag unusual orders. Retailers are being asked how much profit they make from firearm sales.

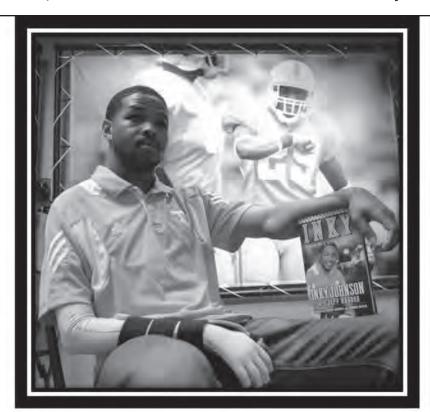


about. For those who don't have their own vehicle, there's not an abundance of choices.

Continued on 4C



Amber Dodson works the grill Friday using her father's famous spatula on the last day of business for Gary and Gail's Pit Stop in Mt. Leo.



### BOYD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL HOSTS MR. INKY JOHNSON

Join us for a heartwarming night of great food, wonderful company, and an amazing opportunity to hear from a man who, through his walk and his talk, embodies and imparts a truly inspirational message.

Tickets on sale now and seating is limited! Call or come by the office to reserve your seat today!



806 Morrison Street, McMinnville, TN 37110 931-473-9631 www.fcbcs.org



in the face of defeat and says, "Am I really failing, or is God prevailing?" And you'll be inspired by his relentless determination, which he loves to impart to others through his dramatic story.