



DOG-GONE FUN

Friday was National Dog Day, making it a special time for the world's estimated dog population of 400 million.

Our four-legged friends can learn more than 1,000 words and the fastest dog, the greyhound, can run up to 44 mph. It's estimated a dog's sense of smell is 10,000 times stronger than a human's.

In honor of dogs, here are a few quotes.

"We could have bought a small yacht with what we spent on our dog and all the things he destroyed. Then again, how many yachts wait by the door all day for your return?"

JOHN GROGAN

"A dog owns nothing, yet is seldom dissatisfied."

IRISH PROVERB

"Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence you are wonderful."

ANN LANDERS

"I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves."

AUGUST STRINDBERG

"You can't surprise a man with a dog."

CINDY CHUPACK

"When a dog runs at you, whistle for him."

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

"Cats are smarter than dogs. You can't get eight cats to pull a sled through snow."

JEFF VALDEZ

"Who knew dog saliva can mend a broken heart?"

JENNIFER NEAL

"Old age means realizing you will never own all the dogs you wanted to."

JOE GORES

"If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

MARK TWAIN

"We are alone, absolutely alone on this chance planet. And, amid all the forms of life that surround us, not one, excepting the dog, has made an alliance with us."

MAURICE MAETERLINCK

Patels look to clean up in new business

Operating a dry cleaners and a hotel incorporate many of the same elements. Customer service is a top priority in both businesses and doing laundry is a non-stop requirement.

With those similarities in mind, Harry and Rachel Patel have purchased Hale's Dry Cleaners on Lyon Street. The business has been owned for the past 28 years by Gary and Phyllis Harrell.

Harry and Rachel already own McMinnville Inn, a 49-room facility on Sparta Highway, along with another hotel in Cookeville. The chance to buy an established dry cleaners was an opportunity too promising to overlook, they said.

"This is so much like hotel work, only people are not staying overnight," said Rachel. "With a hotel, we are always cleaning, always washing. It's the same thing with this. We are taking people's clothing and they expect us to be responsible with it. There are a lot of irons out there so people could certainly press their clothes at home. They bring it here because they expect it to



be done right."

The Patels have owned McMinnville Inn since 2008. In those 10 years, they have seen their share of stains on towels and bed sheets and worked their magic to get them clean.

Gary could be called a stain doctor for all the clothing he's revived during his years at the cleaners. He says tomato sauce and BBQ sauce are two stains he's removed from clothing in recent days. With an arsenal of chemicals at his disposal, Gary can get out almost any stain, with two exceptions.

"The two toughest stains are fountain pen ink and magic marker ink," said Gary. "It's almost impossible to get those out. We'll try our best, but it's really difficult. Whoever invented the magic marker wanted it to last."

Already a retired



Harry and Rachel Patel are the new owners of Hale's Dry Cleaners. They say dry cleaning work is much like their other business, McMinnville Inn.

school teacher, Gary says he's ready to embrace full-time retirement. His son, Randal, has a 4-month-old baby and Gary is ready to enter the grandparent stage of his life.

"I'm looking forward to watching him grow up," said Gary.

Gary doesn't have a timetable for when he will leave the business for good. He's gradually phasing himself out as Rachel and Harry become more comfortable with day-to-day duties.

"They are used to the hospitality business and they will do well with this," said Gary. "They have the energy and they are picking it up fast."

Rachel says she's looking forward to owning a business that closes.

"The hotel business is 24-7 for 365 days a year," she said. "It never closes and it's hard work. During Bonnaroo, people will start checking in at 10 p.m. and they will check in all night till 6 a.m. When they're done checking in and you're ready to go to bed, it's time to clean rooms."

Harry says they are planning some major



After 28 years, Gary Harrell has sold Hale's Dry Cleaners on Lyon Street. He is phasing himself out of the day-to-day operation.

equipment upgrades because there are a few machines which are growing outdated. Outside of that, he says customers won't notice too much of a difference because they are keeping the same staff, the same hours, and the same name.

Hale's Dry Cleaners can be reached at 473-2586. Store hours are Monday thru Friday

from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m.

GET RELIEF FROM YOUR JUNK

As the years go by, it's easy to accumulate junk. Before you know it, you're overrun by stuff you don't need, or even want.

Continued on **4C**



If you have junk you haven't found time to clean up, save yourself the trouble and call Still Small Junk Remover. The phone number is 743-6013.

Toxic impact revealed

HOUSTON (AP) — A toxic onslaught from the nation's petrochemical hub was largely overshadowed by the record-shattering deluge of Hurricane Harvey as residents and first responders struggled to save lives and property.

More than a half-year after floodwaters swamped America's fourth-largest city, the extent of this environmental assault is beginning to surface, while questions about the long-term consequences for human health remain unanswered.

County, state and federal records pieced together by The Associated Press and *The Houston Chronicle* reveal a far more widespread toxic impact than authorities publicly reported after the storm slammed into the Texas coast in late August and then stalled over the Houston area.

Some 500 chemical plants, 10 refineries and more than 6,670 miles of intertwined oil, gas and chemical pipelines are found in the nation's largest energy corridor.



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BBQ Dinner Ticket: \$8.00

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