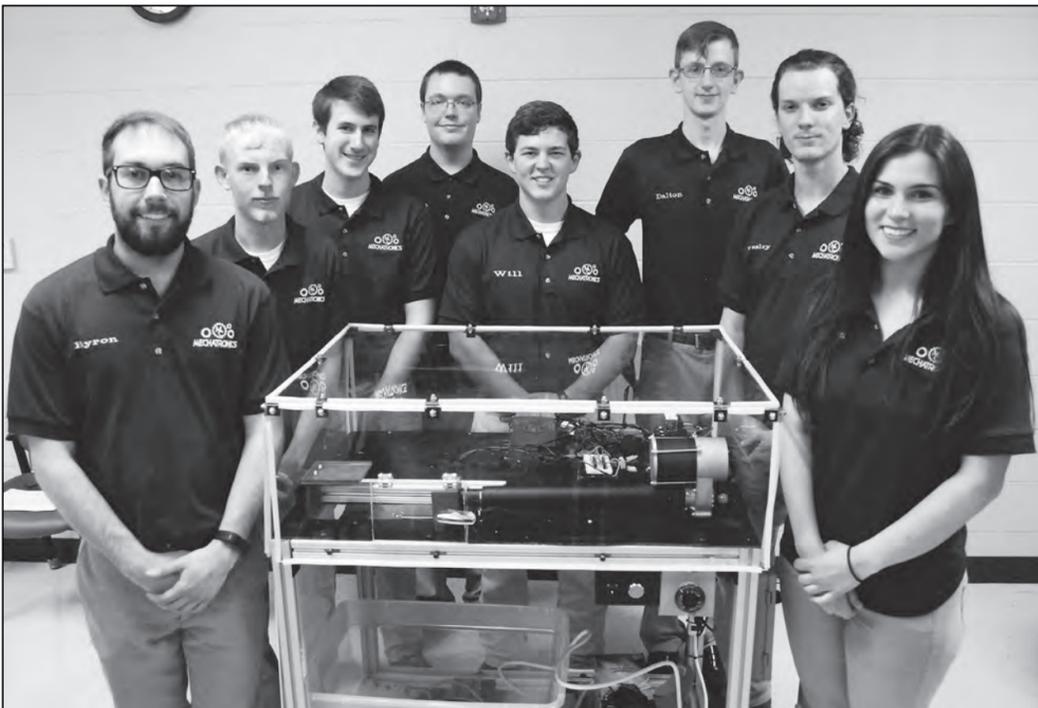




All three liquor stores in McMinnville will be open on Sundays beginning this weekend. The new Sunday hours are made possible by a change in Tennessee state law. Pictured is Keval Sheth, owner of Tree City Wine & Spirits on Sparta Street.



Motlow students who designed and built an automated can crusher from scratch in 15 weeks are, from left, Byron Bass, Kennedy Mart, Micah Pullum, Colton Mullican, Will Hill, Dalton Pack, Wesley Fincher and Allison Gent.

## Business Pulse

Continued from page 3C

That store frolicked in prosperity so Jessica decided to make the next step – open a new location in the big city of McMinnville. She started with a soft opening last weekend before having a grand opening extravaganza on Friday.

"I've really been blown away by the response," said Jessica on Friday. "Even on a rainy Tuesday we had customers packing into the store. Opening right now, with the new spring inventory we have in stock, has really been perfect timing."

The store was hopping

with activity Friday afternoon. All the merchandise at Red Door Boutique is brand new and features the latest fashion trends. Jessica says it's easy to find a look that's right for you.

"One thing we're doing here that we don't do in Centertown is we sell shoes," said Jessica. "We sell make-up and we sell jewelry. You can come in and get a complete outfit from head to toe."

The boutique is geared for women. Jessica says she doesn't offer merchandise for men and children, but she has taken them into consideration.

"We have a very nice seating area for men," said Jessica. "They can hang out there and not have to carry around clothes. They can sit back and relax."

Red Door Boutique is also contributing to the local workforce. Jessica has hired four employees and says they are all very knowledgeable on fashion.

The business is located at Plaza Shopping Center and is open seven days a week. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday thru Saturday, and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The phone number is (423) 364-3187.

### PRAYERS ANSWERED FOR SUNDAY LIQUOR

On a personal note, I don't think the state needs liquor sales on Sunday. Can't we have a one-day break from the never-ending cycle of intoxication?

If you do want to drink on Sunday, that's your business. But can't there be just a smidgen of planning to at least buy what you need on Saturday?

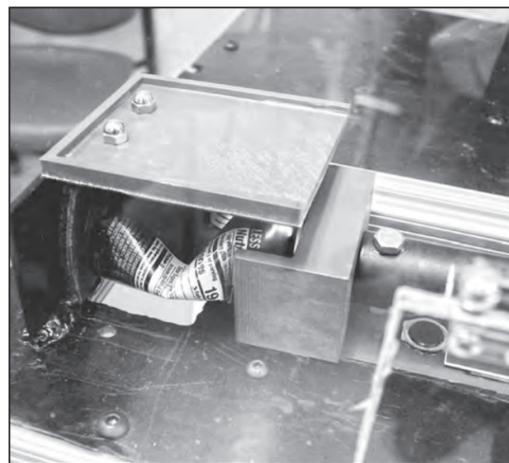
Apparently not. State lawmakers have passed a bill allowing liquor

sales on Sunday. Yes, Sunday. The measure took effect last Friday, April 20, when Gov. Bill Haslam signed it into law.

If the state allows it you might as well do it. After missing opening Sunday last weekend, all three liquor stores in McMinnville say they're going to be open this Sunday for weekend No. 2.

"We thought we would gauge what our customers wanted and we got an overwhelming response for opening on Sunday," said Tree City Wine & Spirits owner Keval Sheth, who said his Sunday hours will be 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. "Our customers said if we were open on Sunday, they would shop here. With the city trying to push tourism and the weather getting warmer, people might want some drinks heading out to Rock Island."

In an interesting twist, liquor stores are permitted to sell beer beginning at 8 a.m. Sunday morning under ABC Board guidelines. That means local residents could get a four-hour headstart on their Sunday beer buying if there was a liquor store that opened at 8 a.m. because



Motlow students designed, programmed and built a can crusher that featured a 450-pound, low-capacity actuator. The project cost \$462 and took 97 days.

current McMinnville guidelines don't permit beer sales until noon on Sunday.

However, local residents will have to settle for two hours earlier for now. Somewhere Liquors at Plaza Shopping Center plans to open the earliest on Sunday with hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

"All we've heard about is buying liquor on Sunday so we're going to be open," said Somewhere Liquors employee Vickie Hillis. "I think some people want to do it just because they can."

McMinnville Liquor and Wine on N. Chancery Street will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. "We're going to see how it goes and adjust the hours," said employee Kelsey Stephens. "We're definitely going to be open. I had at least a dozen people ask me about it yesterday."

### MOTLOW STUDENTS SHOW INGENUITY

Tasked with building an automated can-crushing machine completely from scratch in 15 weeks, local Motlow students rose to the challenge. They completed the project and gave a community demonstration Friday at the McMinnville campus.

"What I learned is everything takes longer than expected," said Byron Bass, one of eight students who worked on the project. I must admit I was well

impressed with what the students created. They developed a tangible design, ordered parts, programmed software, did the wiring, and managed to complete the project below their \$500 budget. They said their exact cost was \$462.

The crusher included a sensor to determine the weight of the can. If the sensor did not determine the can was empty, it would not allow crushing to commence.

The crushing motion itself was slow because students used a 450-pound, low-capacity actuator, but that setup provided plenty of torque. Before giving a demonstration, students were asked what they learned from the 15-week project.

Group leader Will Hill said, "This made me really understand the importance of delegating and delegating in a way where everyone felt like they were a vital part of the project, but no one was overwhelmed with too much work."

Other students said they learned the importance of having a good leader, the importance of realizing your first plan is likely not going to work, and the importance of considering backup plans to every phase of development so the project doesn't collapse if one stage won't work.

From my perch, it's great to see what these fine, young minds created. It's this type of Mechatronic and robotic know-how that's so vital in manufacturing today. It's reassuring to see we have a talented, up-and-coming crop of employees poised to enter the workforce. These students are our tomorrow.

### THAT'S ALL FOLKS

If you are so inclined to call me with your business tips, the phone number is 473-2191.



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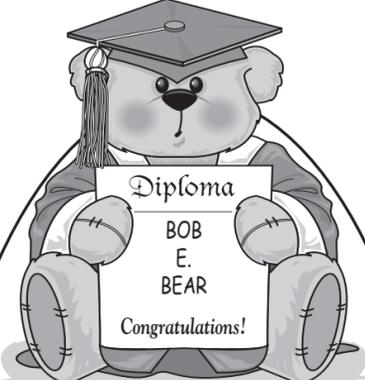


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