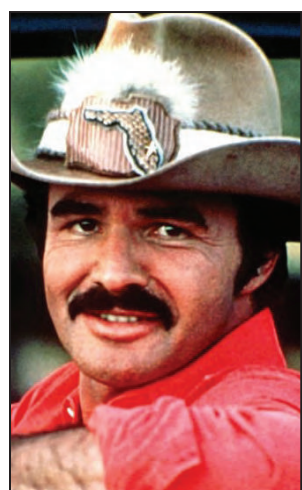




## REMEMBERING BURT

"Smokey and the Bandit" was one of my favorite movies as a lad. Car chases, car crashes and car jumps make for some mindless entertainment.

Burt Reynolds, a star to many, died Thursday at age 82. A hairy man filled with charisma, Reynolds knew how to wear a mustache. Here are his best movie roles:



### 1. "SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT"

Burt Reynolds shows he can outrun and outsmart Sheriff Buford T. Justice while also getting help from a soundtrack that includes a jaunty guitar solo from Jerry Reed on "Eastbound and Down."

### 2. "THE DUKES OF HAZZARD"

Playing the role of Boss Hogg in this movie adapted from the popular TV show, Reynolds makes the fashion blunder of wearing white after Labor Day.

### 3. "STRIPTASE"

What Burt Reynolds did in this movie is secondary and really not important. Let's get to the part about Demi Moore.



### 4. "BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS"

A little-known tidbit about this film is Burt Reynolds suffered a double hernia when he lifted Dolly Parton at the end.

# A second new hotel announced



There was a grand announcement Thursday when hotel developer David Hunt was introduced to the Warren County community during a meeting with Industrial Development Board members and other officials.

Hunt announced he would not be building just one hotel in McMinnville. Now his plans are to build two! Yes, two hotels!

"I met with Marriott officials three weeks ago in Franklin and I really haven't said much about this until now," Hunt said on Thursday. "The plans are to build a second hotel, a Marriott Fairfield, on the same property and probably face the hotels or build them at an angle. We do have the rights to both brands and we plan on having a Hilton and a Marriott at that spot in the next five years."

The Hilton that Hunt referred to will be a Hampton Inn and he plans to have that open in 2019. The location is on Sparta Street across from Saint Thomas River Park at the site of the old hospital. Hunt said the build cycle for the three-story, 74-room hotel is nine to 14 months.

Hunt, of Hunt Properties in Jackson, said one early barrier will be getting plan approval from the state fire marshal. He said this is required before construction begins. Hunt would like to



Pictured is the Hampton Inn owned by David Hunt in Pulaski. Hunt says he's going to develop a similar three-story, 74-room hotel in McMinnville on Sparta Street across from the hospital. He hopes to open it in 2019.



David Hunt says he plans to open a three-story Fairfield Inn by Marriott on the same property as the Hampton Inn. Opening is tentatively set for 2021.

start construction this year, although he says that might get pushed back to early 2019.

"The state fire marshal

does a plan review before you can get started and the office is really running behind right now," said Hunt. "I don't know if you've noticed, but there's so much building going on in Tennessee right now, especially in Nashville."

Hunt says the timetable for the second hotel will depend on occupancy rate of the first. He said if the Hampton Inn opens and has an 80 to 85 percent occupancy rate in its first year then he can proceed with plans for the Marriott. A best-case scenario would have the Marriott opening in 2021. It would also be a three-story unit with approximately 75 rooms.

There's also a gushing river of excitement sur-



Industrial Development Board director Don Alexander, left, shakes hands with hotel developer David Hunt while welcoming him to the community on Thursday.

rounding the retail hub Hunt plans to develop around the hotels. He said he is planning to have two restaurants that are flanked by other retail. He didn't give any names, but said, "The big national chains want to follow the flag of Hilton," which he says in the No. 1 hotel brand in the world.

Looking at two of Hunt's other hotel developments in Tennessee, in Pulaski and Fayetteville, one of them has a Buffalo Wild Wings next door. The other has a Perkins.

Hunt said neither of his hotels will have a bar. When asked about how much he will charge for room rates,

Hunt joked, "As much as I can. I'm a capitalist."

He said his rooms in Fayetteville average \$115 to \$117 a night, and the average is \$120 to \$122 in Pulaski. Hunt said he would not jack up rates should McMinnville have special events that bring waves of people to town.

"To me, that's not being a good community partner," said Hunt.

Since he has started building hotels, Hunt said he gets calls almost weekly from officials in communities like McMinnville that are desperately seeking a new hotel. He said hotels are very expensive and especially challenging in towns with a population below 15,000. "Your chance of success is much tighter than in a big town," Hunt said.

McMinnville had an estimated population of 13,662 as of July 1, 2017, according to the U.S. Census. At that same time, Warren County had an estimated population of 40,651. The county has a median household income of \$36,245.

Continued on 4C



Terry Kidd, all-around great guy, appears in the process of selling his local dealership.



After 15 years in the community, a deal is in the works for Kidd Ford on Manchester Highway to change hands, according to speculation. An official announcement could be made as early as this week.

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