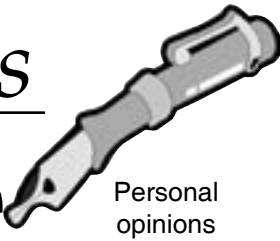


Our readers Write



First let me say on the sales tax referendum, to vote "For" and repeal the 1997 1 cent increase, or vote "Against" the repeal and keep the sales tax at 2-1/2 cents, should be taken very seriously.

It is an issue that voters need to exercise their right and vote—regardless of their position. We should not allow a small minority decide such an important issue. I would strongly encourage citizen responsibility. Take the time to vote.

Regarding the sales tax itself, people should remember that county government promised each time they asked the voters to vote on a sales tax referendum that the proceeds of the tax would be used for our schools. Over the past 30 to 40 years, did county government and the Board of Education not know our schools were not being maintained properly and were falling down?

At the same time did county government not know that hundreds of thousands of dollars each year of the first 1-1/2 cents tax increase was being used to fund the Solid Waste Department?

Officials knew, they must be replaced. If county officials did not know, they must be replaced.

The time has come to hold those responsible accountable.

Urge all voters to vote Dec 1 on the sales tax repeal issue. And make a commitment to vote in the county wide elections in 2010.

Next, it has been proven, to me, over and over again that the words of the mayor, the board of county commissioners, the board of education and even the sheriff don't always match their intent or actions or even if they were informed words.

As a family appointed one-man oversight committee and long-term observer of our local government, I feel confident in saying that they are not as bad as you may think they are, but they are sure as hell not as good as they may think they are.

For generations the citizens of Hardin County have covered under the threat of retaliation in the event they dared to publicly question the decisions of their local government and accepted the consequences and unintended consequences of these decisions, with just an occasional grunt.

A good example of this is the last binding referendum we had in Hardin County. Anybody remember federal court-ordered constitutional rights at the jail or the wheel tax?

It has been alleged that our local government has historically kept the citizens in the dark and fed them a bunch of half truths and misinformation that led to the current negative public trust issue. But then again did the citizens really understand or care what they were hearing?

But how about the citizens, themselves? You know, it never ceases to amaze me when I see folks wake up from an indifferent apathetic coma about their local government, only to find out they don't understand what is going on or that their local officials have been less than straightforward about whose interest they are representing or what

Benefit

A benefit will be held on Dec. 5, at East End Sports Complex, East End Drive, for Danny Odle who suffered a heart attack on Oct. 15.

There will be a huge inside yard sale/rummage sale starting at 6 a.m., with furniture, clothing of all sizes, household goods, electronics. The toy walk begins at 10 a.m. There will also be a bake sale, biscuit sale.

All proceeds will go toward medical expenses and loss of work wages.

"promises" were made.

We need to have the debate about whether or not some folks can make the argument that county government actually promised the voters that there would be no consolidation in the long range plans and/or the unintended consequence of knee-jerk tax reform in Hardin County.

One of the unanswered questions in my mind is, why didn't the folks make that same argument the first two times they were told the sales taxes would be used for schools and the children.

This knee-jerk tax reform and its consequences, and more importantly some unintended consequences, present

far more serious problems than the alleged violation of a perceived promise.

There can be little doubt that Hardin County adds to the State of Tennessee's ranking among the "Terrible Ten" most regressive tax systems in the country. As a matter of fact, Hardin County ranks among the "Terrible Ten" most regressive tax systems in the State of Tennessee with its well above average reliance on sales taxes revenue as a primary funding resource.

There is substantial agreement on the characteristics of good tax policy. The principles can be summarized by saying state and local tax systems should: Provide appropriate and timely revenues; Distribute burdens equitably; Promote economic efficiency and growth; Be easily administered; and Ensure accountability.

Hardin County appears to have a lot of work to do to

develop these characteristics. Are we sure we trust the current officials to do the work?

Again, the sales tax referendum should be taken very seriously and is an issue on which voters need to exercise their right and vote—regardless of their position. Be responsible citizens, take the time to vote.

Ted G. Cook,
Hard Rock Rd.



Pickwick Grill opens its doors

Tony and Mary Ann Smith held the grand opening for their new restaurant, Pickwick Grill, Saturday.

Those in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony included, from left, Dave Giesler, president of the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce; Rhonda Carter, manager of Pickwick Grill; Mary Ann Smith, co-owner of Pickwick Grill; Elvis, special guest to the event; Tony Smith, co-owner of Pickwick Grill; Hardin County Mayor Kevin Davis and Beth Pippin, executive director of the Hardin County chamber.

The new 1950s-themed restaurant at 7375 Tenn. 57, Counce features a breakfast menu and assortment of items such as blackened catfish, barbecued ribs and other grilled items made with 100 percent Black Angus beef.

Hours of operation for the restaurant are Monday to Saturday 5 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Pickwick Grill at 689-9869.

TOYOTA THANKSGIVING SALES EVENT

NOVEMBER 17-30 ONLY! DON'T MISS OUT!

BEST DEALS OF THE YEAR!

JUST ANNOUNCED ZERO PERCENT FINANCING ON 10 OF TOYOTA'S BEST-SELLING MODELS!

'10 CAMRY • '10 COROLLA • '10 RAV4 • '09 HIGHLANDER • '10 TUNDRA
'10 SEQUOIA • '09/'10 AVALON • '10 YARIS • '10 MATRIX • '10 SIENNA

Excludes Camry and Highlander Hybrid models.

LOWEST LEASES OF THE YEAR!

NEW 2010 CAMRY LE 4-DOOR SEDAN MODEL #2532 \$169 PER MONTH 36 MONTH LEASE ⁴ \$2899 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING	NEW 2010 RAV4 4X4 4-DOOR SUV MODEL #4432 \$229 PER MONTH 36 MONTH LEASE ⁵ \$2499 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING
NEW 2009 VENZA 5-DOOR SEDAN MODEL #2810 \$269 PER MONTH 36 MONTH LEASE ⁶ \$2799 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING	NEW 2010 SIENNA LE 2WD 5-DOOR 7-PASS. VAN MODEL #5336 \$329 PER MONTH 36 MONTH LEASE ⁷ \$2999 DUE AT LEASE SIGNING

LIMITED TERM FINANCING

0

% APR¹

Toyota Has The Highest Retained Value Of Any Car Manufacturer⁸

WHICH IS WHY TOYOTA LEASES GIVE YOU MORE CAR FOR THE MONEY AND LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS!

The above leases exclude state & local taxes, tags, registration & title and insurance. Security deposit waived subject to approved credit through TFS/TLT - Tier I PLUS only.

GET BIG CASH BACK!⁹

- '09 HIGHLANDER **\$1,000**
Excludes Hybrids
- '10 CAMRY **\$750**
Excludes Hybrids
- '10 COROLLA **\$750**
- '10 YARIS **\$750**
All Models
- '10 SIENNA **\$750**
All Models
- '10 AVALON **\$750**
All Models

TUNDRA

PLUS \$1500 CASH BACK⁹
 2010 TUNDRA CREWMAX
 -OR-
\$1000 CASH BACK⁹
 '10 TUNDRA REG & DBL CABS

LIMITED TERM FINANCING

SEE YOUR LOCAL TOYOTA DEALER TODAY!

ROBINSON TOYOTA

1377 Highway 45, By-Pass • Jackson, TN • 731.668.1234

buyatoyota.com

TOYOTA moving forward

1. Limited term financing subject to approved credit through Toyota Financial Services - Tier I-, II & III only. Not all customers will qualify for lowest rate - see dealer for terms and conditions. Must take retail delivery from new dealer stock between 11/17/09 and 11/30/09. 2. EPA mileage estimates for new 2010 Corolla with manual transmission. Excludes XRS. (26 MPG City), 2010 Camry 4-cyl. with manual transmission (22 MPG City), 2009 RAV4 4-cyl. 4WD (21 MPG City), and 2010 Sienna 2WD models (17 MPG City). Actual mileage will vary. 3. New 2010 Corolla LE Model 1838. Lease end purchase option \$11,238. 4. New 2010 Camry LE Model 2532. Lease end purchase option \$14,235. 5. New 2010 RAV4 4x4 Model 4432. Lease end purchase price \$15,901. 6. New 2009 Venza Model 2810. Lease end purchase price \$16,884. 7. New 2010 Sienna LE Model 5336. Lease end purchase option \$14,325. 8. 2009 IntelliChoice®, Inc. www.intellichoice.com among non-luxury full-line car manufacturers. 9. Customer cash directly from Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Dealer participation may affect consumer cost. Must take retail delivery from new 2010 dealer stock between 11/17/09 and 11/30/09. *NO SECURITY DEPOSIT subject to approved credit through Toyota Financial Services/Toyota Lease Trust (TLT MI & OH) - Tier I PLUS customers ONLY. Excludes state and local taxes, tags, registration and title, and insurance. License and applicable fees are extra. Lessee may be charged for excessive wear based on Toyota Financial Services/Toyota Lease Trust (TLT MI & OH) standards for normal use and for mileage in excess of 36,000 miles at the rate of \$0.15 per mile. Must take retail delivery from new dealer stock between 11/17/09 and 11/30/09. VEHICLE IMAGES USED FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. INDIVIDUAL DEALER PRICES MAY VARY. Expiration for this ad is 11/30/09.