

# OPINION

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## The American Press Corp: Friend or foe?

President Trump, already fond of labeling certain outlets "fake news", escalated his war with the media last Friday when he tweeted that media "is not my enemy, it is the enemy of the American people. SICK!" At the Advocate, we do our best to keep opinions on these editorial pages (pages 4 and 5 on Wednesdays) and facts on our other pages. We believe that presenting opinions as facts is a disservice to our readers and our community. Let us know how you think we are doing. Here are how various people reacted to the President's assertion, both locally and nationwide:

### Marsha Blackburn has been ambiguous in her statements on Trump's "Enemy of the People" quote

Wolf Blitzer tried four times Monday afternoon to get U.S. Rep. Marsha Blackburn to explicitly denounce President Donald Trump's declaration that major media outlets in the United States are the "enemy of the American people," but the Middle Tennessee congresswoman refused to do so. Eventually, she tripped over a mild statement about how she would have expressed her frustration with the media differently than the president had.

**Wolf:** Congresswoman, do you agree with the president that elements of the mainstream media here in the United States are the 'enemy of the American people'?

**Blackburn:** I think that many times the opinion-based journalism, where individuals are putting their opinion into what they're reporting is what frustrates a lot of people, Wolf.

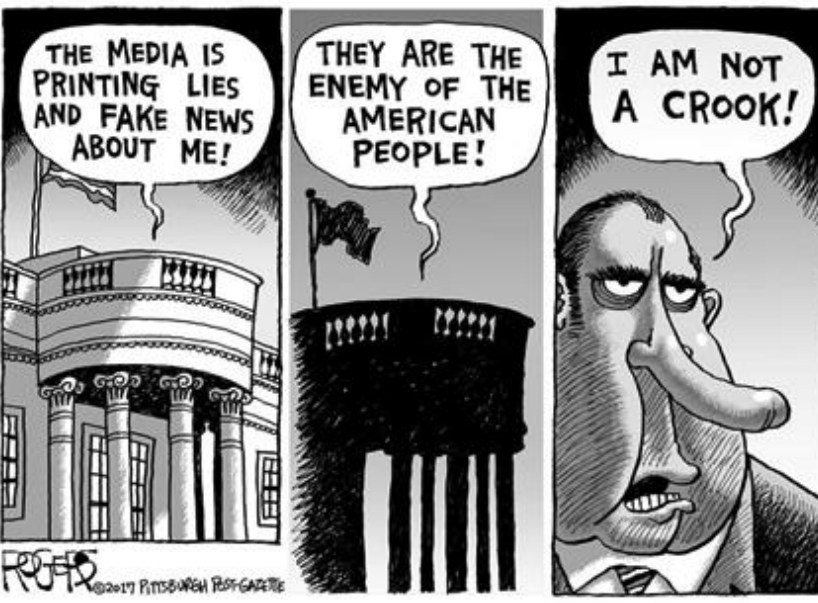
**Wolf:** Congresswoman, let me interrupt, for a second. But even if people in the press are expressing opinions, whether on the left or the right, way out opinions — does that make them 'enemies of the American people'?

**Blackburn:** I think that what it does is to cause people to have to look for different sources for getting their information. We see a lot of people whether it's from the left or the right, who say 'I just want somebody to report the news.'

**Wolf:** I don't disagree with you, congresswoman, I'm just wondering, the language, the words that the president uttered about the media being the 'enemy of the American people.' Those are strong words and I assume you don't want to be associated with words like that do you?

**Blackburn:** What I want to do is make certain that I do my best and the president is going to have his opinions, I'm going to agree with him many times, there are times I'm not going to agree with him, but I think it is important that news be reported factually

I...I...and I would not say he, he went too far, it would not be my choice of words, it would not be how I would have expressed frustration with the press



### George W. Bush called a free press essential

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Former President George W. Bush said Monday "we all need answers" on the extent of contact between President Donald Trump's team and the Russian government, and didn't rule out the idea that a special prosecutor could be necessary to lead an investigation.

The Republican also defended the media's role in keeping world leaders in check, noting that "power can be addictive," and warned against immigration policies that could alienate Muslims.

"I am for an immigration policy that's welcoming and upholds the law," Bush told NBC's "Today" show.

Bush's comments came after a prominent Republican in Congress, Rep. Darrell Issa of California, called for a special prosecutor to investigate whether Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and was in touch with Trump's top advisers during the campaign.

Bush said he would trust Senate Intelligence panel Chairman Richard Burr to decide if a special prosecutor is necessary.

"Bush said the U.S. won't be able to convince authoritarian governments, including Russia, to open up their governments to media scrutiny if U.S. leaders try to discredit their own press.

"We need an independent media to hold people like me to account," Bush said. "Power can be very addictive, and it can be corrosive. And it's important for the media to call to account people who abuse their power, whether it be here or elsewhere."

### Media says they are not the enemy, although evidence says otherwise.

Editor - President Donald Trump set off a firestorm when he said Media is the Enemy of the American People.

One Dictionary Definition of Enemy is a place to start with this latest Trump Crumb fed to a starving media eager to condemn President Donald Trump. According to what's written by those that know is the last word in defining 'Enemy' or 'foe.' Enemy is an individual or a group that is seen as forcefully adverse or threatening. They conclude, 'Enemy is a strong word, and emotions associated with the Enemy would include anger, hatred, frustration, envy, jealousy, fear, and distrust.

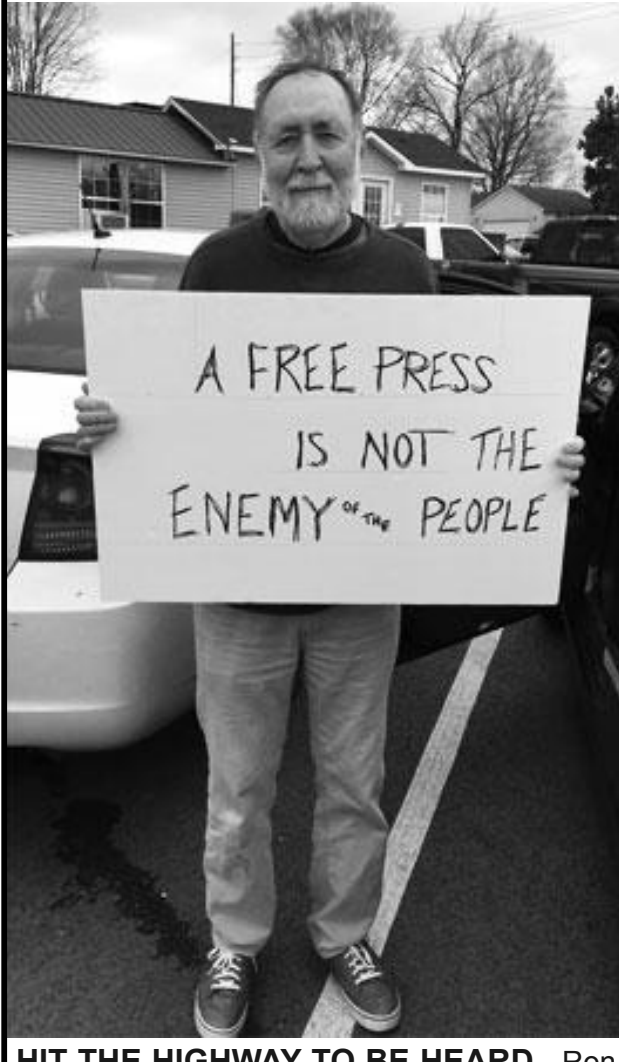
These emotions describe the Main Stream American Media perfectly. Donald Trump has single handedly driven the Main Stream Media to the point where they have proven they are the Enemy of The American People .

**James Allen Whitehead; Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, USA**

**Editor's two cents:** I think that it doesn't matter why we protest, but how we protest (in a civilized, non-violent, non-vulgar, rational manner), and of course, THAT WE ALL ARE ALLOWED to peacefully protest - press, citizens, right, left, all of us. That is what we should all be fighting for instead of splitting hairs over who has the best issues and organizers. Once we lose the ability to voice our opinion, to assemble, to disagree, to compromise rather than to dictate, then all is lost (or so it seems to me). Just to be clear: Riot=bad; peaceful protest=good; and the ability of an independent free press to report on both/either is ESSENTIAL. - EKB

### McCain warns: Dictators shut down the press

Trump's attack on the media brought a rebuke from Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona (ex Presidential candidate and war veteran/POW), who said "the first thing that dictators do is shut down the press." He added: "I'm not saying that President Trump is trying to be a dictator. I'm just saying we need to learn the lessons of history."



**HIT THE HIGHWAY TO BE HEARD** - Ron Brown, of Lawrenceburg, wanted to voice his concerns to our Congressman Marsha Blackburn and found out she is not scheduled to appear here in the near future but was to appear in Fairview in Williamson County last week, so he decided to make the 80 mile round trip. The meeting was not limited to Fairview constituents but attendance by reservation was limited to 50 and Brown had to be content with registering his protest outside the meeting with a group of 2-300 (Brown's estimate). Brown is pictured here leaving for the meeting with his message in support of a free and independent press (the message on the back assured he was not paid to be there and in fact, despite some reports, no paid protestors were positively identified). Brown said he is concerned about possible collusion between Russia and forces inside the U.S. to affect the American election. "The public deserves the truth. It is in all (Democrats, Republicans, ALL) our best interests to get it. Transparency of government is impossible without a free press. If a foreign country is trying to interfere with our country, it is extremely serious. Some of the hacking has already been proved. Whether there was a connection between the campaign and the Russians has not been proved and should be investigated."

### First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

### On grassroots and free speech

By Emily Weathers Kennedy

Dang those pesky grass roots. They take hold in your yard and spread like there's no tomorrow, crowding out your beautiful plants and stubbornly refusing to die even with all sorts of poisons and weeding by hand. Before you know it, grass roots are joined by wild onions, and then dandelions pop out with millions of tiny seeds to spread in the wind. What is a gardener to do?

Metaphorically speaking, Barack Obama's 2008 election was also primarily the result of a grassroots campaign that spread like Bermuda grass roots across social networking sites, allowing people to gather, mobilize support, and wage a proverbial fight largely without leaving the comfort of homes. A new generation of voters, including college students and twenty-something-year-old graduates, took the initiative in ways the older generation had to scramble to understand and master themselves.

Did the other side take heed? You might have thought another round of grassroots politicking started for the GOP with the rise of the Tea Party movement. On Fox News, Tea Partiers were proclaimed to be spontaneous grassroots activists who represented middle class folks gathering to show their outrage and protest taxes and executive orders. To be fair, foot soldiers in the movement are exactly that, like-minded neighbors and friends, associated by ideas and background, not party, who feel they have been overlooked and are eager to enter the fray - many with little policy expertise except that they are mad as hell and not going to take it anymore.

But do they really represent a spontaneous grassroots movement?

Despite attempts to make the movement appear organic, the actual organizers of Tea Party events were lobbyist-led think tanks Freedom Works and Americans for Prosperity. They also provided most of the funding. In a New York Times OpEd, Paul Krugman noted that their money came from the Koch, Scaife, Bradley, Olin, and other reliable funders of right wing infrastructure including Exxon Mobil.

I recall these events as if they were yesterday, so I was surprised when a Conservative Political Action Committee (CPAC) representative recently stated that she just couldn't respect the recent grassroots movement that began with protests across America including the Women's March on Washington after the inauguration. She complained that it was organized, wasn't spontaneous, and was vulgar in tone with the hats and all. She then said that the protesters didn't have a real message; they were just protesting because they didn't like Trump.

Her argument seems a little ironic when you consider that President Obama's race seemed to be a major issue in the widespread protests against his administration. It is difficult to forget the vulgarity of some of the Obama protests including signs, effigies, and protesters caught on video saying, "Hang the lying Kenyan traitor!" and "Plenty of trees in the front yard," and "Wouldn't be the first one hung on one of them trees. Another said, "We've got rope," and yet another screamed "Don't snap his neck, you pull him up watch him choke to death."

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## On Grassroots... Continued from A-4

That said, two wrongs don't make a right. I am all for safe, peaceful protests that don't resort to violence, vulgarity, or name-calling.

And, in spite of naysayers' assertions, the message from marchers and protesters gathering at town hall meetings across the country is pretty clear. People are afraid, especially with Trump's cabinet picks who threaten to destroy gains in such areas as the environment and healthcare. People don't want to lose their insurance. Neither do they want polluted air, water, and food. They also don't wish for immigrants to be singled out as threats because of their religion or others to be blockaded by a wall.

When a candidate loses the popular vote by 3 million people, it is expected that without a real mandate, the new president will alienate if his policies are polarizing. When that president threatens the very foundation of the Constitution's First Amendment with attacks on the press, the alienation becomes downright threatening.

It is in the best interest of the new administration to respect the grassroots movement by people in the country who feel marginalized. Like any gardener, one can whack away at the weeds, but the roots are there. It is in every person's right to protest and expect his or her voice to be heard, and the senators and congressmen in our country must listen and act because that is their job. They only work for the American people after all.

*Emily Weathers Kennedy is a freelance writer, blogger, artist, photo stylist, and decorator. Her work is online and in product catalogs. Emily lives with her husband, 4 dogs, and 1 cat and writes from their farm in Loreto, where she was born and raised. The Kennedys have three beautiful, smart, grown-up daughters.*

## Of Parks and Plays



By LaShawn Baxter, editor

Sometime in the 80's, when I was still a kid, mom took me to see "Annie Get Your Gun" at the David Crockett State Park Amphitheater. Bucky the deer was still a friendly fixture at the park and he came close to the seating area for a visit. Seeing Bucky was a thrill and the play was lots of fun.

A couple years ago, mom and I went to the park restaurant basement for the Wings to Soar program. We heard all about different birds of prey and enjoyed seeing them fly around the room. The work the group does is very important and mom and I both enjoyed the program very much. We donated above the asking price that I believe was \$3.

A few years ago, mom and some friends and I went to see "Thataway Jack" at the Crockett Theater. We laughed until our bellies hurt. We had a great time.

Several years back, my friend Michele and I worked as prop girls on "A Christmas Carol." I knew the production, a very elaborate one, would be magic and it was. I will always remember the school kids' collective gasp as Elrod Moore, the Ghost of Christmas Present if I recall the story correctly, rolled out in his wheelchair in a beam of red light - an accident of lighting Bob Augustin told me this week. What a perfect accident.

We are lucky in Lawrence County to have such wonderful offerings. The Lawrenceburg Community Theatre and David Crockett State Park are just two of the great things about Lawrence County.

## Letters to the Editor

### Tennessee Reconnect encourages adult learners to go back to school

Letter to the Editor - Adult learners in Tennessee currently have a great opportunity for assistance in returning to school. As part of Governor Haslam's "Drive to 55" initiative, Tennessee Reconnect gives those wanting to return to some type of post-secondary school opportunities not only for financial aid, but for one on one advising. There are eight Tennessee Reconnect Communities in Tennessee that are charged with helping adult learners understand how to return to school and to help with financial aid opportunities available to them.

Each adult learner is assigned a Reconnect advisor who will work with the adult to break down barriers that might stand in their way. The advisors assist the adult learner assess available career options. Advisors help the adult learner with how to request transcripts, get out of default on student loans, understand the application process, and work with representatives of the school to answer any questions that the adult learner might have. The advisors will offer encouragement and support as the adult learners embark on the life changing opportunity to return to school. Advisors help the adult learner to understand prior learning assessments and how they might be apply as credit toward a certification or degree. Financial aid options will be explored with the adult learner. The advisors will be available for the adult learner to and through their educational experience.

If you think you are interested in returning to school, check out the Tennessee Reconnect website, [www.tnreconnect.gov](http://www.tnreconnect.gov) or the South Central Tennessee Reconnect website, [www.sctnreconnect.org](http://www.sctnreconnect.org). Complete the simple inquiry form and submit. A Reconnect advisor will contact you and help get you started on the path to completing your education.

**Dwight Fox, Director, South Central Tennessee Reconnect**  
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## Overtime rules; behavior need to change

To the Editor - I am an avid football fan and when I was younger I attended a local game every Friday night during season, but now I'm no longer physically able to go, I watch college and NFL games on TV. I really looked forward to the Super Bowl and I was really wanting the Atlanta Falcons to win, but I was disappointed before the game ever started. When they played the National Anthem I saw a few of the Falcons Black players drop down on one knee with their head bowed and I looked at the Patriot Players and they all stood proudly during the National Anthem. Another thing I noticed was ex-president George Bush was sitting in his wheelchair in front of the dugouts to greet the players when they came out onto the field, only a few shook his hand of the Falcon players, they just ran on by him, but when the Patriots players came

## From the County Executive's Desk ■ By Lawrence County Executive T. R. Williams

# Shoal Creek and sycamores



T.R. Williams

I believe you will all be pleased to know that a proposal to change the name of Shoal Creek in Lawrence County, Tennessee and Lauderdale County, Alabama has been officially denied.

A group whose identity was not revealed asked last year that Shoal Creek go back to its original name, Sycamore River. The change would

have made the group eligible for grant funding, we were told. I thought it was a bad idea, and a majority of officials polled in our two counties agreed.

A Monday morning email from the U.S. Board on Geographic Names told me that its members made the decision "citing a reluctance to change a long-standing name, a lack of local support, and the negative recommendations of the Alabama and Tennessee state geographic names authorities."

Can you imagine the logistical nightmare that would follow if Shoal Creek's name was changed? It would not only make existing maps and highway signs wrong, it would complicate every conversation about fishin'.

According to County Historian Kathy Niedergeses, the earliest records in Lawrence County call it Shoal Creek. "In 1809, the U.S. Army made a list of white squatters living along the creek while it was still in Indian hands, and it is labeled 'List of Intruders on Shoal Creek.'" Andrew Jackson's 1814 Campaign Map lists it as Shoal Creek. It was Shoal Creek when David Crockett built "an extensive grist mill, and powder mill, all connected together, and also a large distillery" there.

Some early sources outside Lawrence County refer to it as Clear Creek, Clear Water River, Schoal Creek, Shoal River,

and Shoals Creek, she said. References to it as Sycamore River are few and far between, and appear to originate in Lauderdale County.

I'm assuming the name came from sycamore trees growing along its banks. Since I wouldn't know a sycamore if I walked into one, I decided to do a little online research. Turns out I've seen them all my life - they grow in moist areas, like creek banks and bottoms - and Lawrence County has plenty of them.

A sycamore holds the record for the largest native tree, with a trunk measuring over ten feet around at four feet above ground. Their bark peels away in patches, leaving young trees with trunks like camouflage. Mature trees have smooth white trunks and branches. The East Tennessee State University arboretum website says, "They can grow into massive trees, with towering white trunks visible from afar, and stand out brightly in the leafless winter landscape."

Local Extension Service horticulture agent Wendel Smith doesn't recommend sycamores for most home landscapes. It grows big and is "gorgeous," he says, but its seed balls and large, stiff leaves can make a mess. It's also prone to a seasonal leaf disease that can make it unsightly during the summer.

If the name is still ringing a distant bell, you may also remember the sycamore from Sunday School. Zaccheus, the tax collector, climbed one to get above the crowds and catch a glimpse of Jesus. Many of us sang about that "wee, little man" and the sycamore he climbed. The Bible reference actually calls it a sycamore-fig, a species native to the Middle East and Africa.

Now I can appreciate the sycamore and identify it, but I still don't want the name of my favorite creek changed. If it was good enough for Davy Crockett, it's good enough for me.

## Do obituaries really have to be polite?

**tyrades!** by Danny Tyree  
*"The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones."*  
- William Shakespeare.



The story went viral, so you've likely heard of the 74-year-old Texas man whose death emboldened his embittered daughter (against the advice of the funeral director) to post a scathing online obituary that catalogued his myriad shortcomings as a father and human being.

The obvious question now is "Will this be a News of The Weird FLUKE, or the beginning of a TREND of brutal honesty -- gray print merges with 'The Jerry Springer Show?'"

Of course members of Polite Society are aghast that this story might inspire others to coarsen our culture and tamper with the genteel way dirt naps have "always" been tiptoed around. Just as an insincere congressman can defer to "the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina," we're supposed to give the deceased a glowing (or at least neutral) send-off, even if the consensus of 97 percent of scientists is that they demonstrably weren't worth the dynamite it would take to blow them up. This pattern is carried out because...well, just because.

It goes along with the old pious paradigm of "If you can't say something nice about someone, don't say anything at all - because the irrepressible scamp may come at you with a switchblade."

Perhaps the "prim and proper" folks should donate funds so likely-to-be-trashed sociopaths can afford to arrange retorts to be published posthumously. ("I'm ashes and you're glue. Whatever you say about me bounces off and...ah, skip it.")

Yeah, yeah, it's supposedly unsporting to kick someone while they're down. Maybe Uncle John should've realized when he was DROWNING KITTENS that someday HE would be the one vulnerable and deceased.

Philosophically speaking, if there is no afterlife, the taunts can't hurt the un-dearly departed. Or, if the deceased goes to The Bad Place, the critiques are the least of his worries. If he someone reaches the Good Place, he can chuckle and forgive the venting.

Many people find the standard obituary template (birth and death dates, survivors, employment history, etc.) to be claustrophobically bland. They pay for a more personalized tribute a week or two after the bare-bones death notice,

## Don't repeal Obamacare without a replacement

From the Tennessee Justice Center

**Congress is about to repeal the Affordable Care Act, or ACA, better known as Obamacare. So far there is no concrete plan to replace the law. Some leaders demand repeal right away, but would delay implementation of the repeal for several years until Congress can come up with a replacement. This "repeal and delay" approach is irresponsible. It will endanger the health of Tennesseans, especially those living in rural communities.**

**Everyone agrees that the ACA has problems that need fixing, but many Tennesseans are benefitting from it. Many now have coverage because the ACA bans denying insurance to people with preexisting medical conditions. The ACA's premium tax credits provide affordable coverage to nearly 100,000 individuals living in rural Tennessee.**

**The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office has warned that "repeal and delay" will cause millions of Americans to lose coverage and cause already-high insurance premiums to skyrocket. The uncertainty will destabilize health and insurance markets, leading to the closing of yet more rural hospitals.**

**Tennessee Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker are right in telling Congress not to repeal the ACA until they have something better to replace it with. That is plain common sense, and our other representatives should follow their advice.**

out, each and every player showed respect and shook his hand.

After witnessing the disrespect shown by the Falcons I made the most sudden change of my lifetime in wanting a team to win and the Patriots pulled it out and won. I was happy with the win but I do think there should be some rule change. If a game goes into overtime I don't think the flip of a coin should decide the winner. I think each team should get equal opportunity.

P.S. To the Nation players who didn't show respect for our Country during the National Anthem, you should leave the U.S. and go to another Country that's better, you won't find it. You are making more money per year than most people in foreign Countries make in a lifetime.  
Howard White; Leoma, TN

so maybe we could have a two-tiered system for negative obituaries, to allow for a "cooling off" period. ("Okay, I'm back on my meds now. I wrote WHAT about Aunt Geraldine? Boy, is my face red!")

I understand your trepidations about slippery slopes. Justifiable denunciations of wife beating or substance abuse might eventually open the door to nitpicky dishing of more subjective behaviors. ("Sure, my father won six medals in Operation Desert Storm; but I'll bet his comrades would have bayoneted him if they had heard the way he slurped soup.")

And yes, it would be ideal to have some FACT CHECKERS for the more incendiary obituaries; but, frankly, I'm glad if a warts-and-all obituary can bring a wronged person closure, catharsis or peace of mind. I would rather their bottled up emotions get released against an urn on the mantel than against my Chevy S10 when I'm slowing the progress of their 18-wheeler.

Ultimately, aren't we being less than totally honest when we claim that decent people NEVER speak ill of the dead? I don't hear many (sane) people chirping, "Give Hitler credit for making Anne Frank famous. What a Hollywood agent he could've made!"

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## Views From The Top of The Summit of Lawrenceburg



Patti W. Odom, Director

Hello from The Summit! Today I want to take you on a "tour" of The Summit through this article. For those of you who have never visited our facility it will give you a little insight into exactly who we are. To those of you who have visited us it will just be a refresher.

As you arrive at our front door, you will be met by 2 extremely spoiled cats; Precious and Pumpkin. They bring such joy to our residents. It warms my heart to see so many of them interacting with these sweet pets. Walking in the front door you see our Dining Room. The menus for the day are for all to see. If any resident does not like the meal being served that particular day there is an optional menu to choose from.

On into the Living Room where you will always find several of our ladies. They love to sit together and visit with each other. Our Bistro is also located in the Living Room. Residents and their guests are welcome to enjoy a snack and a cold drink located there, any time of the day.

Down the hall is where all the action is! Our Activity Room. Each day our Activity Director has lots of fun planned. From Exercise, Crafts, Card games, Bingo, Singings, Bible studies, Chat time and much more. There is something for everyone to enjoy. Our full time activity director makes sure there is never a dull moment.

Each shift we have 2 caregivers. One makes certain the residents get their medications. The other is busy assisting with showers, dressing and providing the best TLC you will find anywhere. Each resident is issued a Personal Help Button on admission to The Summit. These are worn on their arms, like a watch. Residents are encouraged to use these to call for assistance from our caregivers any time help is needed. An emergency generator ensures that our residents are never without power.

At The Summit we do not offer what many facilities call "levels of care." With those levels, the resident is charged additional fees. We provide all our residents needs at one set Price. The only additional charges are : telephone, toiletries and their medications. Sound good? How about visiting The Summit in person soon? We would love to show you why our motto has always been, "Let us be your home away from home."

No recipe this week. Sorry for that. The "tour" we just went on together, took all the space. Look for one in next weeks article.

Thought for the day: "Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile."

Patti Odom, Director  
& The Summit Residents

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