

# BUSINESS



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Deborah Morris checks out the new Aldi grocery store during last Friday's open house. Aldi is located on South Jefferson Avenue.

## Aldi opens



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Putnam, Cookeville and Aldi officials were on hand for an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday at Aldi's. The "no frills" grocery chain has approximately 1,000 stores in 29 states. It is the first for the Upper Cumberland.

## Clean Care combines car wash, maintenance operations

COOKEVILLE — A branch of CAO Carcare, Clean Care, located at 420 Neal St., is providing motorists with a new one-stop-shopping service concept in auto maintenance. Combining exterior cleaning services with oil/fluid changes and preventative maintenance, Clean Care may be one of the first facilities of its kind in Cookeville, but its owner Roger Thomas is no stranger to either the car care business or the area. Thomas has been a local business owner for more than 20 years and feels that Clean Care is the culmination of experience gained with both wash facilities and lube type operations.

"I knew about how much the customer could see, how the waiting facility should look — it should be clean, not like an auto shop," Thomas said. "I wanted it to be open air, light and knew how comfortable it should be, and the customer's car is visible at all times during its service. I also wanted this to be a corporate center. Employees from other locations can come for training. It has really excited me. It turned out very

well, and I had knowledgeable people to help me with what I wanted to accomplish. We have a good customer base — people depend on us. I just wanted to move to the next level."

Needing a visionary to help him realize this new concept, Thomas turned to Sanders Pace Architecture in Knoxville. Principals John Sanders and Brandon Pace assisted not only with the design of the building, but helped to refine its purpose and function and even assisted in branding this exciting new addition to the region.

"I knew somewhat what I wanted, but he made it a reality," said Thomas of Sanders' influence. The two began to collaborate immediately.

"John is down to earth, he just sits down and talks to you, brainstorm — then they enhanced those ideas, going beyond and out of their way to add to your concept, and make you very comfortable," Thomas said.

Those brainstorming sessions led to the unique design for Clean Care, and the project has already received two design awards. One is an Honor Cita-

tion by the American Institute of Architects-East Tennessee Chapter for Design Excellence and a Second Place nod from NOLN Magazine for the Best Lube for 2008 nationally.

"Our concept was to reflect the style of care for the ongoing functions within by creating a clean and modern aesthetic comprising of a white metal skin, expansive uses of glass and a two story lobby space," Sanders said.

"We felt it was important to create a more professional image for this type of facility that is typically overlooked by the design community and we applaud Roger for challenging and trusting us with the creation of this very important endeavor. In addition to the obvious design elements, the building also incorporates some green aspects. Rainwater is captured and recycled in the wash process along with the cleaning agents. The expansive daylighting techniques both in the lobby spaces and in the tunnel itself reduces the overall demand for lighting and power consumption during the daylight hours."



Clean Care is located on Neal Street, across from the Cookeville Mall. The building has already won two design awards for its modern concept.

## Employees honored

Two employees at Nashville State Community College in Cookeville recently received five-year service awards. Brandi Hill, left, testing center and admissions specialist, and Mike Franklin, right, computer network specialist, were recognized at Nashville State Community College's general assembly in Nashville. With Hill and Franklin is D.D. Tennant, director of the Cookeville campus.

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