

Nashville Business Journal

FirstWord

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When Dell and Hewlett-Packard computers roll off the assembly line in Middle Tennessee this year, they will have something in common, according to Nashville Business Journal staff writer Bush Bernard.

They'll be manufactured in a building T.W. Frierson Contractor Inc. constructed.

"How could we have predicted five years ago that our little company would be involved in so much?" says Winston Hickman, executive vice president and co-owner of T.W. Frierson.

Frierson built the 360,000-square-foot manufacturing center in the Eastgate Business Park in Lebanon that Dell is using as its first manufacturing center. Frierson also is one of the contractors on Dell's manufacturing and technical support buildings near Nashville International Airport, scheduled to be finished this summer.

In addition, Frierson is constructing a 375,000-square-foot manufacturing center in the Mid-South Logistec Center in LaVergne for Celestica Inc., a company that makes computers for Hewlett-Packard. That building is scheduled to be completed in November. A 260,000-square-foot building also is being built, and tentative plans call for four other buildings to be built in the complex, ranging in size from 31,250 square feet to 220,000 square feet.

"Tell Compaq we're ready," Hickman says.

Going once, going twice...

NPT Channel 8's Passport 2000 Auction currently has more than 100 merchants which will participate April 28 and 29, reports NBJ staff writer Judy Sarles.

The auction, which has a travel and entertainment theme, replaces the general merchandise format the public television station, formerly known as WDCN, used for 29 years. The auction expects to offer viewers more than 130 travel, entertainment and dining items, including a New York trip and tickets to The Late Show with David Letterman, travel to the Galapagos Islands, and a Zamboni ride at a Predators hockey game.

NPT also reports its March on-air membership drive brought in a record \$307,000.

Tennis-E anyone?

Gov. Don Sundquist has decided to use his power to change the name of the state, reports NBJ staff writer James Evans.

On May 1, Sundquist plans to change Tennessee to Tennis-E for the day as part of the kickoff celebration for the third-annual USA Tennis Month.

"It's been the first time we've launched it in Nashville," says Brian Walker, communications manager for the United States Tennis Association.

Walker says the USTA was interested in initiating tennis month in Tennessee because of the state's name, but first it had to convince the Governor to change the name. "The state's name really lent itself to it," Walker says.

The majority of the day's events will be held in Centennial Park. Tennis stars Alexandra Stevenson and Patrick Monroe are scheduled to participate. Memphis, Chattanooga and Knoxville also will celebrate the day. After Tennessee, the month-long celebration will move through other states, including New York, Oregon, Indiana and Connecticut.

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