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Leslie Snow
Shopper columnist

Bathtime brings back memories of mom

I remember my father kneeling down to talk to me. “Leslie,” he’d say, looking me in the eye, “your mother is going to take a bath now. This is her special relaxing time, so you need to leave her alone.”

I’d nod solemnly and promise to leave my mother in peace, so she could do all kinds of things I didn’t understand. Like “unwind” and “decompress.” But those words meant nothing to me. I just wanted to be near her.

I liked the soft tone of her voice and the way she called me pumpkin pie or kitty cat. I begged to sit next to her during dinner. I liked to stroke her hand when she held me on her lap. I’d twist her wedding band around her finger. I’d trace the blue veins on the back of her hand.

I adored my mother, but she worked full time and I never got enough of her. When she was home, I was her shadow. Even on those rare days when she took some time for herself. Even when she wanted nothing more than to soak in a bubble bath and read the latest best-seller.

But I was just a little girl. I couldn’t imagine she would mind if I sat outside the bathroom door and talked to her while she bathed. Or if a few minutes later, I begged her to let me in so I could sit beside the tub and pour sudsy water over the top of her knees. “I’ll be so quiet,” I’d promise, “just let me get in with you.”

I don’t remember her ever getting annoyed with me. I don’t remember a harsh word or even a sigh. I just remember her scooting over, every time, so I could climb into the tub with her. It’s one of my favorite childhood memories; me in a mountain of bubbles, trying to stay quiet, watching my mom read, feeling content and safe.

That memory has been swirling through my head ever since we

See **SNOW**, Page 3A

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Powell Power Equipment Inc. founder and president Bill Shupe opened his business in 1978. MIKE BLACKERBY/SHOPPER NEWS

Powell Power Equipment has all the parts, plus loyalty

Mike Blackerby
Shopper News Correspondent

Powell Power Equipment Inc. founder and president Bill Shupe built his business on customer service when he opened his doors way back in 1978.

It’s a concept he has never veered from.

Forty years later, familiar faces are still coming back to the popular Clinton Highway business for their outdoor power equipment needs.

“We’ve had very loyal customers,” said the 76-year-old

Shupe.

“We’ve got people who have been with us from the start. People in Powell have supported us very well.”

Shupe came to East Tennessee in the late 1970s wanting to get back into the retail business after working at J.C. Penney in Virginia.

He “did a little studying” about the Powell area and found there were no retail outlets that specialized in outdoor power equipment and mowers. So he converted the

See **POWELL POWER**, Page 3A

Backstage Powell: happenings, comings and goings in town

Mike Blackerby
Shopper News Correspondent

Panthers wrap up great season

Powell High School saw its basketball season come to an end last week in the state Class AAA tournament at Murphy Center in Murfreesboro.

And what a season it was.

Despite falling 53-36 to Whitehaven, the Panthers finished 22-11 under coach Gary Barnes, who directed Powell to the District 3-AAA tournament championship and ultimately its first trip to the state tournament since 2007.

Senior Caleb Tripp wrapped up an outstanding postseason by scoring 11 points and grabbing seven rebounds against the Tigers in the state tournament quarterfinal game.

Junior Desmond Billingsley added 11 points and five rebounds for the Pan-

See **BACKSTAGE**, Page 3A



Powell’s Bruce Chapman (13), Whitehaven’s Simmie Jones (12) and Powell’s Riley Bryant (1) eye a rebound during a Division I Class AAA quarterfinals game March 14 in Murfreesboro. The Panthers were defeated by the team from Memphis, but finished the year 22-11. CALVIN MATTHEIS/NEWS SENTINEL

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