

tion becomes the largest of its kind in the area this Saturday, January 5.

"This auction brings in a high quality of items and sellers. We collect items for it all year. You can't go out and get this every day. Some of this stuff is hard to find," says Greg Lawson, owner of Fountain City Auction.

Fortunately for customers, an extensive collection of popular items will be available such as antique gas and oil items, retro vending machines, vintage toys and cap guns, bicycles, and a selection of old-fashioned Coca Cola

and Texaco gas pumps. A few items can be found and historic TEXACO, SHELL, and SAVOCO gas pumps, a huge selection of pedal cars and tractors, and hundreds of signs in neon, metal, and porcelain varieties.

Lawson says the biggest change in the past 24 years of running the auction is the online element which made this event the sixth most viewed online auction in the nation last year, and the number one most viewed in the state of Tennessee on the AuctionDeps website.

...Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY LANE BELL FOR KNOX NEWS

Greg Lawson of Fountain City Auction is ready for the first big sale of the year. The 14th annual Advertisement Auction is this Saturday at noon.

and a live auction presented by Home Federal Bank, is open 1 - 10 p.m. The all-ages celebration begins at 10 p.m. with The Echo Brothers performing classic rock favorites on the Market Square stage. The countdown to midnight begins at 11:55 p.m., topped by the ball drop, fireworks and a group singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

Frank Murphy from Classic Hits 93.1 FM and Hall Smith of WATE Channel 6's program "Living East Tennessee" will emcee the event. Party favors, including beer, "2009" hats and inflatable "Bandstock" noise makers, will be available while supplies last. No mobile food or alcohol sales will take place on the square on New Year's Eve. However, downtown restaurants, including those participating in the Pappasert Trail, will be open and offering specials. It's always a good idea to call ahead for hours and dinner reservations.

Visitors should be aware of temporary closures around Market Square. Parking on Wall Ave will be limited to one-way traffic.

‘Violins of Hope’ coming to Knoxville

By Mike Stealy
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"They once asked a Jewish musician why are there so many Jewish violinists. He looks at the violin, how small it was, and said 'It's one of the only instruments you can

