

The Knoxville News-Sentinel

Going (a)long

Sister Maris Stella goes extra yard to promote her hospital

By Jeannine F. Hunter
News-Sentinel staff writer

Sister Maris Stella helps the bewildered at St. Mary's Health System's emergency room.

As family liaison in the emergency room, Stella provides beverages, blankets and offers kind words and information to relatives of patients as they sit in the ER waiting area.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy Sept. 8, 1953. She and her biological sister, Sister Theresita Moran, work at St. Mary's. Maris Stella means Star of the Sea. The name was given to her when she entered the convent.

The Nashville native taught for more than 30 years. She has been with St. Mary's since the late 1980s.

Commercials that began airing in mid-August showcase another side of Stella: Her athleticism.

In the ads promoting the hospital's specialized departments, Stella "throws" lightning quick football passes to former

University of Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, now an Indianapolis Colts quarterback.

"Go long, one time, sister. Longer," Manning instructs in one 30-second commercial.

In another one, she sprints past the hospital to catch a long pass from Peyton.

"It's coming back again," she says. The commercials are among the eight spots currently running on local television stations. They were created by Knoxville-based Atmosphere Pictures.

Stella, 68, is the first nun featured prominently in a commercial for the Catholic institution.

"I'd do anything from my heart for St. Mary's," said Stella in a soft voice. "We take care of the poor and have many types of services. I want us always to be in existence."

While camera tricks abound in the commercials, Stella is no couch potato. Everyday she walks four miles at Ful-

Please see NUN, page B2



Sister Maris Stella, who helps families waiting for emergency room patients, pitches a football and St. Mary's Health System in a series of TV ads with former Vol and Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning.

Margaret Berthage/News-Sentinel staff



1 Come to the market in the country. It's the Ramsey House Country Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today. The annual market at the historic home at 2614 Thorngrove Pike in East Knox County is a fund-raiser to benefit the stone house built between 1795 and 1797.

And it's a day with old-fashioned crafts, floral arrangements and homemade food for sale. There is no general admission charge, but tours of Ramsey House will cost \$4 for adults, and \$2 for children 6 to 12.

There also will be a charge for horse-and-wagon rides around the grounds.

2 If it's September, it's time for the Tennessee Valley Fair. The fair at Chilhowee Fairgrounds off Interstate 40 continues daily and nightly through Sunday, Sept. 19. That's days and days of the Ferris wheel, cotton candy, rabbit exhibits and more.

Daily fair admission is \$6 for adults, free for children age 11 and younger. Fair buildings open at noon daily, except for a 10 a.m. opening today, Monday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 18. The midway opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 14, through Friday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. today, Monday, Sept. 13, and Saturday, Sept. 18, and at noon on Sunday, Sept. 12, and Sunday, Sept. 19. Gates close at midnight each day, except on Sept. 19, when they shut at 10 p.m.

3 Let's go fishin'. It's the 7th annual Duck Pond Fishing Derby for Kids from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. today at the Alcoa Duck Pond. Registration begins at 7 a.m., and there is a \$5 registration fee.

Bring your own pole and bait; all kinds of fish are waiting. The derby is divided by age - age 7 and younger, ages 8 to 10, 11 to 12, and 13 to 15 - and there'll be prizes.

4 From fish to mermaids. It's still a couple of weeks off, but if you're a fan of Disney on Ice and "The Little Mermaid," you'll want to know this now. The ice show will be 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24; 11 a.m., 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25; and 1:30 and 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26. Tickets are \$16.75 for the upper balcony, and \$21 and \$25 for seats on the floor. The lower balcony tickets, which were \$18.75, are already all gone. See, I tell you that you would want to know this.

Amy McRary
News-Sentinel staff writer

Hindus share, celebrate their faith

Holiest of holidays is very much a family gathering

By Jeannine F. Hunter
News-Sentinel staff writer

LENOIR CITY - They prostrated. They sang rhythmic bhajans, or hymns. They worshipped.

Well into the wee hours last Friday evening hundreds of Hindus in East Tennessee gathered at the Hindu Community Center of Knoxville on Krishna Janmashtami.

It was to honor a revered deity Krishna, the eighth avatar, or incarnation, of Vishnu. This is an example of divine incarnation - gods assuming flesh. In Hinduism, reincarnation - coming back in different forms - is a continuous process that ends when souls complete their journey.

"In our religion, we are part of God," said Hindu priest Keshav Joshi at the Hindu Community Center. "When we realize God, only then our soul doesn't come back. That's Nirvana or Moksha, the ultimate goal."

Sri (sometimes Valley Shree) Krishna - or Lord Krishna - delivered one of Hindu's holy texts, the Bhagavad Gita (sometimes written Bhagwad Gita or Shri Arjun Bhagavadgita) on a battlefield to Arjun, a disciple, several millenniums ago.

His divine power is admired. His devotion and affection to his wife Radharani is emulated. And his teachings are ageless.

"Krishna affected me in many ways, one of the biggest things is he taught me karma, a metaphysical equivalent to Newton's Law. For every action, there is a reaction," said Revendra Awasthi, a member of the Hindu community center.

"He also taught me the co-dependence of everything in the universe. And through his devotion to Radharani, he showed me how to love your wife," he added. As Awasthi explained, worshippers chanted a bell beside him, symbolizing their willingness to be pure as they re-enter the temple.

Krishna was born more than 5,225 years ago, Joshi said.

"When he came to Earth he aged like human beings, but he had superpower," Joshi said. "He gave up his body himself, when he thought his work was done. When God, Krishna, did his work, he went to Golakdham, which is just like heaven or Moksha, the ultimate goal."

Please see HINDU, page B2



Children at the Hindu Community Center of Knoxville, above, sing as they join in a worldwide celebration of the birth of Krishna. At left, Sahivam Patel rings the bell at the Hindu Community Center to clear evil thoughts and spirits away as his father, Avinash Patel, holds him.



Photos by Byron E. Smith/News-Sentinel staff

Happy New Year, Rosh Hashanah - at least on Jewish calendar

By Jeannine F. Hunter
News-Sentinel staff writer

Happy New Year, and it's way beyond the 21st century. At sunset on Friday, Rosh Hashanah marked the year 5760 in the traditional Jewish calendar. It symbolizes the Jewish New Year and occurs on the first and second days of the Hebrew month Tishrei. The holiday celebrates the formation of Earth as described in chapters of Genesis. Some branches of Judaism celebrate both days while others, such as many Reform congregations, celebrate the first day. Work is not performed during observance.

Pittsburgh resident Brad "Shlomo" Povelman, owner of a mail-order and on-

revised Jewish calendar that debuted in July. It incorporates the Gregorian or the common calendar inside it.

"With so much emphasis on the year 2000 we wanted to give the Jewish view of time," said Sara Greeger, marketing representative at the more than 9-year-old business.

Perelman, whose fascination with the Judaic calendar and tradition inspired him, said he felt disconnected from what is widely understood about the Jewish concept of time within the secular calendar.

"Judaism is a 24-hour-a-day concept. We have our own calendar that reminds us of this," Perelman wrote in a statement marketing the revised calendar.

The Modern Jewish Calendar's first day

Hebrew text. Rather than listing where Jewish holidays in Gregorian months such as September, October, etc., months are identified in Hebrew.

The Modern Jewish Calendar may be downloaded monthly by visiting the Web site at www.judaism.com, or ordered by calling 1-800-JUDAISM.

There are other ways to note the passage of time from the Jewish perspective, such as a wristwatch on the market that displays the Hebrew date. For the computer savvy there is Jewish Time, interactive software that allows users to view the Hebrew calendar from 5360 to 5960, or 1600 to 2200 in the Gregorian calendar.

The software helps computer users determine when, for example, the days of the

brance Day fall 20 years from now. All of the items help broaden the understanding of a basic and important element of Jewish culture. "The concept of the year, the dates in the Bible matches this calendar," Greeger said. "I am not sure people will hang it on the wall to help them see when their dental appointment is, but it has educational purposes. It helps people see the concept."

The computer software automatically calculates daylight savings or standard time in most locations except in Israel since the interior minister sets the beginning and end of daylight-saving time. Users have to input the information. For information, visit online, www.jewishsoftware.com.

One Jewish woman's search for God takes many turns

As the child of a devoutly secular Jewish home, Lita Schiffman did not expect to spend Rosh Hashanah sitting in worship with her parents and her self-avowed "hipped Unitarian" husband.

Judaism, New Age mysticism, Buddhism and all points in between. This year, the young poet and Internet professional initially decided not to attend a Rosh Hashanah service.

That word means many things to me. This is what life is like for nonpracticing Jews born after the Holocaust, she said. They are marrying non-Jews in record numbers. They are turning to other religions in record numbers.

does play a poignant role, captured in the voices of a diverse collection of Jews who describe their lives of faith, prayer, ritual, tradition and law. A woman who guides Schiffman through a ritual both of cleansing - the mikvah - put it this way: "There is a God. There is a Creator who created the world. He gave us instructions."

all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength." This was a highly symbolic step, said Schiffman. But it also symbolized that, a few pages later, she found herself sitting in a tattoo shop having her upper torso painted with a long, snaking vine in preparation for her naked role as the maiden of honor - sort of - in a fringe pagan wedding.

"I know that I'm not Orthodox," said Schiffman. "I'm not kosher and I still haven't joined a synagogue. I don't even know what the 613 mitzvot are that we are supposed to keep. ... I know that I have come a long way, but I still don't know where I am. But I am a Jew."

Missionary guest speaker for church

Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a five day and evening of inspiration with Martha Hoke, Bible instructor and popular conference and retreat speaker at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 16 and 9:45 and 11:21 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 16. Hoke served with her husband as a missionary in Japan and Switzerland for 23 years.

18 Knoxville men attend Washington 'ManPower' conference this week

By Jeannine F. Hunter. Healing discord, restoring confidence and igniting a God-centered, holistic were some of the goals of a Christian male conference this weekend. Men from East Tennessee joined other nationwide attending "ManPower," a Christian men's conference, which took place Thursday through today at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C.

area churches including St. Joseph's House of Prayer and Trinity Episcopal Church in Christ. This is the third year for men at Biblical House of God to attend. "It's really inspiring and needs men where they are," said Bishop Gary Wright of Biblical House of God. "It deals with hard life issues that men need to deal with."

Wright, who heads up the 12-year-old denomination, said there's a greater interest in "ManPower" from college-aged men. "A lot more of them are going this year. And I'm taking my son (18-year-old Gary Wright II)," Wright said. "I think he's at an area where he has to make some decisions in his life and it will give us an opportunity to do some one-on-one stuff together ... I am looking forward to our father-son time together."

Noted evangelist Richardson speaker at Parkwest Church of God Sept. 26

International Evangelist Carl Richardson will be the featured speaker at the Parkwest Church of God at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 26. Richardson is engaged in his newest campaign, "Million Soul Crusade."

Martel Community Songfest Sept. 12 at Lenoir City church

The Martel Community Songfest is scheduled from 12:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, on the grounds of Martel United Methodist Church, corner of Muddy Creek and Virtue roads near Lenoir City. Rod and beverages will be served from 12:30-2 p.m.

Evening of Miracles Friday October 8th

Angel joined others who took candles and moved the candles in circular motions, spelling out sacred words in front of figures depicting Hindu gods. As worshippers left the center, they ate and chatted before departing to their homes. Jeannine F. Hunter may be reached at 423-521-8444 or hunter@news.com.

Hindu

Continued from page B1 Throughout the ceremony last weekend, children and adults sang in a call-and-response fashion honoring Krishna. Sacramental food, prasada, was offered and placed before and around a constructed lighted cradle filled with flowers.

Sacramental food, prasada, is offered and placed before and around a constructed lighted cradle filled with flowers.

At the hospital, co-workers have complimented Stella. "Everyone loves Sister Maria Stella, so it was great having her featured," St. Mary's spokesman Michael Holtz said. During a recent visit, Stella said she had not seen the commercials on television. Jeannine F. Hunter may be reached at 423-521-8444 or hunter@news.com.

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Continued from page B1 ton High School. She also stretches and line-dances. But the prevailing sustainer to her health is God. "I had two brothers who had open heart surgery," she said. "God is good, and He blessed me with good health, and I'm thank-

Community

Worship at the Anderson Christian Center. Experience Peace! Worship at the Anderson Christian Center. Prayers & Worship. Join and share of the finest musicians and singers from around the country into the presence of God.

Advertisement for a community event featuring a health fair and a happy hour. Includes contact information for a health fair on Sept. 17 at 5760 and a happy hour on Sept. 18 at 5760. For more information, visit www.fox.com or call 5760.

Advertisement for an evening of miracles on Friday, October 8th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Knoxville Civic Auditorium. The event features a candle ceremony and a performance by the Night of Miracles band. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 423-521-8444.

Church Directory listing for the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. Includes services for Good Shepherd, St. James' Episcopal Church, and St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Church Directory listing for the Lutheran - ELCA. Includes services for St. John's Lutheran Church and Lutherans - ELCA.

Church Directory listing for the First Baptist Church. Includes services for the First Baptist Church and the First Baptist Church.

Church Directory listing for the West Knoxville Baptist Church. Includes services for the West Knoxville Baptist Church and the West Knoxville Baptist Church.

Church Directory listing for the Evangelical Church of Grace. Includes services for the Evangelical Church of Grace and the Evangelical Church of Grace.

Church Directory listing for the Christian Science. Includes services for the Christian Science and the Christian Science.

Church Directory listing for the Church of Christ. Includes services for the Church of Christ and the Church of Christ.