

**Morning Pointe**  **Assisted Living Services/Alzheimer's Memory Care**

Chattanooga (423) 296-0097 • Collegedale (423) 396-6999  
The Lantern of Collegedale (423) 396-4700  
Hixson (423) 847-1370 • [www.morningpointe.com](http://www.morningpointe.com)

Thursday, October 11, 2012

56°F  Clear

Enter Text  Search

## Opinion

### Rep. Watson: Human Trafficking Legislation

Wednesday, October 10, 2012



Rep. Eric Watson

Several bills regarding sex trafficking were approved by the General Assembly this year. Human traffickers target vulnerable victims which most often include immigrants, children and runaways. A report ordered by the General Assembly and released by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation last year revealed disturbing findings about human trafficking in Tennessee. Seventy-eight of the 95 counties in Tennessee, representing 85 percent of the total counties in the state, reported at least one case of human sex trafficking in the last 24 months. Sixty-eight counties, representing 72 percent of the total counties in the state, reported at least one case of human sex trafficking involving a minor child, while Shelby, Davidson, Coffee and Knox Counties reported more than 100 cases.



[What Happens When You Take a Testosterone Supplement](#)



[The 3 Things You Don't Know About Your Car Insurance](#)



[How Penny Stocks Are Creating Millionaires Every Day](#)

Human Trafficking / Victim's Defense -- House Bill 2<<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB2590>>823 states that it is a defense to prosecution when a person charged with prostitution is charged for conduct that occurred because a person was a victim as defined under the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Human Trafficking / Sexual Servitude -- Similarly, House Bill 2493 was approved which replaces the existing Class B felony offense of "trafficking for sexual servitude" with "trafficking a person for a commercial sex act" and adds the attempt to subject, benefit from, or attempt to benefit from another person's provision of a commercial sex act. The bill clarifies that the offense of trafficking a person for a commercial sex act would be a Class A felony if the victim is a child under 15 years of age and adds that the offense is a Class A felony if the offense occurs on the grounds or facilities or within 1,000 feet of a public or private school, secondary school, preschool, child care agency, public library,

**CHA**  
CHATTANOOGA AIRPORT

**EAST BRAINERD Oral Surgery**  
Drs. Childress & Meyer  
296-8210

When you need a doctor

**BaylorLeads**  
[www.baylorschool.org](http://www.baylorschool.org)

**BALD HEADED BISTRO**

**children's Hospital at Erlanger**

**DeBarge VINEYARDS & WINERY**


**THE Classic BARBER**

**MARTY VON SCHAAF**  
Invites all friends & previous customers to come visit him at  
**MARSHAL MIZE FORD**

**TOP 50 Catholic School in the Nation**

**INTERNET SPEEDS UPGRADED**

AT NO INCREASED COST TO YOU!



30 to 50Mbps  
50 to 100Mbps  
100 to 250Mbps

**2012 Best of the best**

**epb Fiber Optics**

recreational center or public park. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that one in four children who run away are approached for commercial sexual exploitation within 48 hours of leaving home.

This new law also adds the offense of advertising commercial sexual abuse of a minor, which is committed when a person knowingly sells or offers to sell an advertisement that would appear to a reasonable person to be for the purpose of engaging in what would be a commercial sex act with a minor. The bill prescribes a violation would be a Class C felony upon conviction. In addition to any authorized period of incarceration, advertising commercial sexual abuse of a minor would be punishable by a minimum fine of \$10,000 under the new state statute. In a prosecution for advertising commercial sexual abuse of a minor, the legislation says it is not a defense that the defendant did not know the age of the minor depicted in the advertisement.

Human Trafficking / Civil Recourse -- Legislation was approved during the 107th General Assembly that gives victims of human trafficking a civil cause of action to sue the person who has victimized them. The purpose of this new law is to help restore trafficking victims financially at the expense of the trafficker.

Finally, human trafficking legislation was passed which calls for a plan to be developed in the Department of Human Services for the delivery of state services to victims of human trafficking passed this year. The bill seeks to give victims assistance in identifying any services the state offers which will help them recover from this crime.

Like 12 Tweet 6 0 9



October 10, 2012  
**Marc Gravitt, Professional Leadership For East Ridge**

October 10, 2012  
**Republican Congressional Investigation Into Benghazi Attack Is A Smoke Screen - And Response**

October 10, 2012  
**Rep. Watson: Human Trafficking Legislation**

My wife and I would like to ask you to vote for Marc Gravitt for East Ridge City Council. For many years Marc has been active in the East Ridge community. In an effort to help improve the ... (click for more)

The current Republican Congressional investigation into the events surrounding the attacks on our consulate in Benghazi is the perfect example of how the Republican Congress has played obstructionist ... (click for more)

Several bills regarding sex trafficking were approved by the General Assembly this year. Human traffickers target vulnerable victims which most often include immigrants, children and runaways. ... (click for more)



Opinion

Breaking News

Sports

**Marc Gravitt, Professional Leadership For East Ridge**

**Aunt Charged With Murdering 12-Week-Old Infant While**

**Signal Mountain Girls Rally For Golf State Title**