



Madison Courtney and her daughter, Leigha, listen as Katy Koontz reads at Gallery Nuance.



Russ Huntsinger enjoys breakfast at The Egg & I with his sons, Harrison and Hudson.

No escaping the future

If George Friedman's predictions come true, the U.S. should expect a major influx of immigration from Mexico, a change in the political alignment of Turkey and Japan, and a major war that will be fought in space around 2060.

Friedman is the author of "The Next 100 Years: A Forecast for the 21st Century." Knox County Staff Dean Rice discussed the book last

week at the Knox County Public Library's Books Sandwiched In series, held at the East Tennessee History Center.

The book was written in 2009. Some of the predictions made by Friedman, founder of Strategic Fore-

Wendy
Smith



casting Inc., have already come true, like the recent rise of Russia, Rice said.

Such predictions are possible because national interests have very little wiggle room. Things may move at a "glacial" pace, but they are always moving, he said. Russia, for example, will always make an effort to expand.

The book predicts a national crisis that redefines the U.S. every 50 years, and the next one is due in 2030. It will be over the lagging workforce caused by a low birth rate, and it will be solved by relaxing immigration laws. In 2080, the crisis



Author Katy Koontz was inspired to write "The Banana Police" by her daughter, Samantha Friedlander. Photos by Wendy Smith

will be over boundary disputes with Mexico – caused by massive immigration.

Astute readers pointed out that Friedman doesn't address such issues as climate change and the predicted shortage of food and water in coming decades.

Rice agreed that the book

has glaring omissions. The current lack of national will that stems from people being tired of "boots on the ground" overseas could have an impact on the country's future, he said.

"I do think we are a country that understands our role, and sometimes our role is to stop evil. But I don't know that we have the national will to do that today," he said.

Books Sandwiched In is sponsored by Friends of the Knox County Public Library. Bringing books together with readers is part of the group's mission, said president Martha Gill.

■ Readers arrested by Banana Police

West Knox author Katy Koontz has gone bananas – in a good way.

She signed copies of her children's book, "The Banana Police," last week at Gallery Nuance, 121 S. Gay St. Event director Teresa Underwood says the gallery hosts an event for a local author once a month.

Koontz's daughter, Samantha Friedlander, was there for the book signing. Her mother was inspired to create the story when Friedlander was a baby; she graduated from Webb School of Knoxville and will be a junior at the University of Pennsylvania this fall.

She's attended several of her mom's book events and says it's fun to watch other kids read "her" story.

Koontz is an award-winning freelance writer, but

the book about the town overflowing with elephants and bananas is her only fiction work. Info about where to find the book, and fun banana facts and recipes, visit www.thebananapolicy.com.

■ There's a new egg in town

Nothing beats a hot breakfast – except a hot breakfast cooked by someone else. So when I heard there was a new breakfast joint in Bearden, I felt compelled to investigate.

The Egg & I opened this month at 5018 Kingston Pike, the former Wok Hay location. The restaurant serves breakfast and lunch items from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday-Friday and 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on weekends.

The star of the show is, of course, the egg in its many forms. But pancakes, waffles and French toast are also important players. One tip – arrive hungry. There are no small plates.

The restaurant is "committed to making friends daily" in a homey environment, says lead trainer Gerry Marion.

Historic change

work on the Hill, too, working for Bolling. She enjoyed

Washington, Humphrey asked the couple to coor-

ville, Stewart worked for TVA for 15 years. He re-

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