

Business

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Some Like It Hot
Pizza and Hots brings New York-style to Springfield. » Page 14

FYI

Minorities in Business awards local leaders

Three Springfield residents were recently recognized for their contributions to the community at the annual Minorities in Business Heritage Awards.

Denny Whyne received the achievement award for his life-long leadership in the Springfield community. He is a former Springfield City Council member and has held several volunteer leadership positions for various organizations, according to a news release.

Dr. Leslie Anderson, a professor at Missouri State University, received the advocacy award. Anderson has served as interim vice president in the office for diversity and inclusion at MSU and has chaired the president's commission for diversity at the university.

Joe Robles, owner of Joe Robles State Farm Insurance, received the community service award in honor of his community activities. He serves on the board of directors for Crime Stoppers for the greater Springfield area and other organizations.

Workforce development to move into vacant space

Price Cutter has closed its location at 2900 E. Sunshine St., and the city's workforce development department is moving in, officials have announced.

The workforce development department, located at 1514 S. Glenstone Ave., will relocate and officials with Price Cutter say employees at the Sunshine location were offered comparable positions within the company, according to a news release. Officials with the Missouri Career Center said they plan to move into the new location sometime in July. For more information on the services offered by the Missouri Career Center, call Bill Dowling at 887-4343.

Express Employment ranked No. 1 franchise

Entrepreneur Magazine has recognized Express Employment Professionals as the No. 1

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Bambino's raises funds to benefit Rountree

By James Hanson

Springfield native Andy Faucett, owner of Bambino's Café, holds a place in his heart for Rountree Elementary School, where he attended school as a young boy.

Over the years, Faucett has held fundraisers for the school and for Jarrett Middle School, Parkview High School and various clubs at Missouri State University.

Faucett said Bambino's is "a neighborhood restaurant."

"They do nice things for you and you want to do nice things for your neighbors," he said. "Everyone in this neighborhood has treated Bambino's very well."

When school kicked off for the 2011-2012 school year, the Rountree Elementary Parent Teacher Student Association held Owlpalooza to continue the group's efforts to upgrade the school's playground.

The group intends to raise \$75,000 for new playground equipment. Phase I of the playground equipment, approximately \$35,000, was installed on the playground in January.

Phase II of the project would



Mary Faucett (left) and her son, Andy, shown at Rountree Elementary School Playground. Andy owns Bambino's Café and is currently working with the Rountree PTSA to raise funds to help bring more playground equipment to the school.

include new portable soccer goals and implementing a program called "peaceful playground."

Jackie Carter, vice-president of the Rountree PTSA, said it needs about \$500 to complete that phase.

"We are about a year ahead of schedule," she said. "Our goal was to have the playground fully equipped by May 2015, but we are way ahead of schedule. We are planning the second Owlpalooza for August 13, 2012."

Faucett decided to hold another fundraiser after meeting with Rountree Neighborhood Association Chairman Brian Ash: a Facebook check-in deal for the month of February.

Whenever customers eat at Bambino's and uses their smart phones to check in on Facebook, Bambino's donates \$1 to the Rountree Elementary PTSA.

Faucett said Facebook is a fun and new way to try something that hasn't been done before.

But he said there are some challenges, as some people aren't Facebook-friendly. Faucett he said he is a little unfamiliar with everything Facebook, himself.

"If people show up and they want to do the check-in but are unable to on their phone or they don't have a smart phone, we will still donate a dollar in their name and post it on Facebook," Faucett said.

Carter said the PTSA is thrilled about the partnership with Bambino's Café.



Photos by James Hanson

Hannah Grier, (left) plays with some of her friends, Drew, Brett and Peyton Faucett on the newest playground equipment at Rountree Elementary. The equipment was phase 1 of an effort by the Rountree PTSA to bring new, updated equipment to the school.

"It is definitely a community effort to make any improvements in these difficult times. We have to work together as a group to change things. I think it is a great utilization of technology to meet those goals," Carter said.

Ash said Rountree the school and Rountree the neighborhood are "very much intertwined."

"With the new community garden and new playground equipment, that will not only benefit the school but also benefit the community," he said. "When we talk about the school and the neighborhood, we talk about 'strong roots.' I went to school at Rountree and I feel very passionately about Rountree the school and Rountree the neighborhood."

Faucett said the fundraiser is important to him because he has memories of playing kickball on

the playground at Rountree.

"But even if I hadn't grown up here, we are all a part of the same neighborhood and that is important," he said.

He said he thinks the new playground equipment will benefit both the students and the neighborhood and should enhance the kids' learning experience.

"Anything we can do to help them," Faucett said. "And you know, maybe I will go over there and play around on the new equipment too."

Faucett said the goal was to raise \$1,000. Although he didn't have exact figures, he said it appears that goal will fall short. However, Bambino's will host a Rountree Dinner night, from 4 - 10 p.m. March 29, where 20 percent of sales will be donated to the Rountree PTSA.

Sixth-annual Trading Hands Kids Sale set for March 22-24

By James Hanson

Consumers looking for a bargain when shopping for clothing, toys, shoes, baby gear, books, baby furniture and more, can expect to find some deals March 22 through March 24 at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds E-Plex, during the sixth-annual Trading Hands Kids Sale.

Julie Rhoads, sale organizer, said the event provides an opportunity for families to meet growing-children's needs, without

breaking the budget.

Rhoads said the event was started in September 2006 at the Expo Center.

"It has had a lot of growth and more and more families participating," she said. "Our main focus is to give families an opportunity to sell their kids' outgrown clothing and items. And give people an opportunity to buy quality gently used items at below retail cost. It can really stretch their budget."

Besides selling and buy-

ing, consignors have an opportunity to donate all unsold items to charity.

Rhoads said this spring the group is proud to be partnering with the Springfield PTA Clothing Bank and Newborns in Need.

She said more than 350 families are expected to participate in this year's sale.

Rhoads said sales like the Trading Hands Kids Sale are a growing trend across the country.

"There are a lot of these

sales coming up in big markets as well as smaller towns," she said. "Economically, it is just one of those things that has grown as a way to help people stretch their dollars further."

She said people often think the event is only for consignors but that is not the case.

"Anybody can come and shop and we are always open to new consignors," Rhoads said. "If you have a few items or a hundred

items we will be glad to help you sell those.

All items sold are gently used and are closely inspected before being approved for sale.

Consignors set their own prices, shop before the public and receive up to 75 percent of their total sales. Those interested should visit tradinghands.net to register and print their tags for their items.

For more information or to volunteer, call 496-5837.