



Mark Hardy/Index

Sophomore Jeff Browning and alumnus Zhian Kamvar play Dance Dance Revolution Wednesday at Angel Island Arcade in downtown Kirksville. The arcade reopened Saturday under the management of senior Will Stevens.

Arcade back in action under new ownership

BY BLAKE TOPPMEYER
Assistant Sports Editor

The location is the same, but the name and owner are different.

Angel Island Arcade had its grand opening Saturday in the same building that housed Xtreme Arcade last year. Senior Will Stevens, the owner of Angel Island, said he thinks an arcade business can be successful in Kirksville.

"I'm really just a huge video game fan, and I've always wanted to own my own business and do this," Stevens said. "The opportunity was here, and I thought it could be profitable in a place like this where there's not a whole lot of entertainment options."

Angel Island is located at 111 S. Franklin Street. Kirksville resident Truman Livingston, who owned Xtreme Arcade, said he had to close his business because he was battling health problems.

"I came out of bypass surgery and just a few weeks after that I was up there trying to open this business up, and it just got [to be] too much," Livingston said.

Livingston said he is happy to see a new arcade open in Kirksville and that he thinks it can build a following.

"We had about 100 to 130 people a week come through there while we were in operation," he

said. "It never broke even, but I think if we could've held on to it for a few more months, I think it probably would've."

Stevens' arcade will feature 11 machines in addition to a Dance Dance Revolution game. He said some of the machines are constructed in a manner that will allow the games to be switched out from time to time, which will keep a variety of games coming into the business.

Stevens said he will try to make the games affordable to attract customers.

"I'm going to try to keep prices as low as possible," he said. "I think most of these machines can really easily be set to a quarter a play. The [Dance Dance Revolution], most notably, is one exception to that. Really, just come out here, drop a quarter in the machine and play. In the future, I'm going to look into the idea of having an all-day pass."

In addition to the arcade games, Angel Island also features a Foosball table, a dartboard and wireless Internet, all of which Stevens said will be free of charge.

"It's not just video games because we have so much space," Stevens said. "We're really trying to create a place where people can come and hang out."

Stevens will be balancing his duties as businessman and stu-

dent this spring. Still, he said it's a task he thinks he can handle.

"Once we get everything started, I estimate that most of my time will be just spent manning the counter and just watching over the place," Stevens said. "I don't expect there to be a whole lot of active duty to be done."

Senior Zach Zamora was at Saturday's grand opening and said he thinks the arcade will be good for Kirksville.

"Truthfully, I think Kirksville could really use a business like this," Zamora said. "I know a lot of my friends from out of town say there's nothing to do in Kirksville. ... I think that with a lot of passion and dedication, a business like this could work."

Zamora said he's impressed with what Stevens has been able to do with the business, considering he still is enrolled at Truman, and that he hopes Stevens will add more machines in time.

"I'd like to see some more nostalgia kind of games like Pac-Man and Donkey Kong or other classics or some newer stuff," Zamora said.

The arcade will be open 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Stevens said he might extend the hours in the summer after spring semester classes are finished.

Professor publishes book, earns national recognition

BY NICK MCKNIGHT
for the Index

Daniel Mandell, associate professor of history, was awarded the inaugural Lawrence W. Levine Award last week.

The award is given annually by the Organization of American Historians for the best book about American cultural history. OAH is the largest professional society dedicated to the teaching and study of American history, according to the organization's Web site, www.oah.org.

Lawrence W. Levine, after whom the award is named, was the former president of OAH and died in 2006.

"[Levine] literally helped create this field of cultural history with his work," said Lee Formwalt, executive director of OAH. "I think the award was a way to honor him."

Formwalt said all the submitted books are reviewed by a prize committee, which consists of three to five distinguished scholars and chooses the first-place winner.

Mandell's book, "Tribe, Race, History: Native Americans in Southern New England, 1780-1880," was released earlier this year. The book has not been reviewed by any academic publications.

"Other than people who were aware of my work, this is the first major reaction to the book that I have received," Mandell said.

The book was part of a project that was a followup to his first book. He said he had been working on it for 13 or 14 years.

"It feels very special," Mandell said. "My work, on the face of it, tends to be about Native Americans. I try to deal with larger issues in my work. I compare native communities to their non-native neighbors. I talk about issues of working people, changes in the economy in the region, changes in

the culture of the regions and so on."

He said the award is special to him because it honors his field in general.

"I had always hoped to reach for a wider view, and this award isn't for Native American studies," Mandell said. "This award is for American cultural history, the broader picture. This award means a lot to me for that reason."

Mandell currently is on sabbatical and is undertaking several future projects.

Steven Reschly, chair of the department of history, said Mandell's accomplishment also benefits the University.

"I think that it is a wonderful thing for the campus and for the University," Reschly said. "It gives us a lot more credibility."

Reschly said Mandell's award was important because recent reports have shown that some prospective students don't believe in the strength of Truman's academic programs.

"They can see that we have a great price," he said. "These kinds of awards and achievements should be made more visible because we know that we have an accomplished faculty — many of whom are doing state-of-the-art research."

Reschly said Mandell's achievement carries even more importance because of the nature of the award.

"I think that this is quite an award," Reschly said. "This is a national award by the leading historical organization covering U.S. history. This is a new award, and his name will always be there as the first recipient."

OAH has more than 9,300 members in the U.S. and abroad and consists of university professors, students, pre-collegiate teachers, archivists, museum curators and other public historians, according to the Web site.

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Dan Mandell
Associate Professor
of History

Passage of school bond issue to allow for building additions

Kirksville schools to get \$14.5 million, tax levy will not increase

BY JEAN KAUL
Staff Reporter

On Tuesday, Kirksville voters made the choice to improve the state of Kirksville public schools by a resounding margin.

Voters approved a \$14.5 million bond issue that will be used to renovate and add to district buildings such as the

Early Childhood Learning Center, the middle school, the high school and the Technical Center. All of this will be accomplished with no new taxes levied against the public. Instead, previous bonds will be extended.

Superintendent Pat Williams said 57 percent of the vote was needed to pass the bond issue, but 77 percent ended up voting in favor of the bond. He said the district was very pleased and overwhelmed by the support.

"We had the good fortune to do this without raising the tax levy," Williams said. "We instead just extend the debt over a longer period of time."

Williams said the \$14.5 million will be split among several areas with an emphasis on improving undersized and overused parts of the district's

schools. New science classrooms will be created in both the high school and middle school.

School Board President Michael McManis said these additions were crucial to the future of Kirksville students.

"The bond issue is important for the future of the kids and community," McManis said. "We need to get kids off to a good start with access to good, quality facilities for math and science."

Williams said about \$5.2 million will be used to renovate the Technical Center, which houses vocational training programs for both students and adults. \$4.6 million will be used to add badly needed classrooms to the Early Childhood Learning Center. The remainder of the money will be used on the high school and

middle school. McManis said the district is particularly proud of the Early Childhood Learning Center, and Mary Shapiro, professor of linguistics, said she agrees. Shapiro has a young son enrolled at the Early Childhood Center, and she said the bond will give the center a boost.

"It's been wonderful," Shapiro said. "The district understands early childhood development is important."

She said she had seen signs of overcrowding at the center.

"They're bursting at the

seams," Shapiro said. "Classes are flowing into the hallway. ... There's no playground."

Despite these difficulties, Shapiro said the enthusiasm of the staff is infectious.

"They do a great job," she said. "They just needed the resources this funding will give them."

The \$14.5 million bond is actually the second part of a two-phase project the district has been working on since 2004. Constructing the Early Childhood Center in 2005 was a crucial part of phase one. Williams said the overwhelming support for phase one of the renovation project and its successful completion gave the district the impetus to continue with phase two.

McManis said the completion of phase one in a successful and timely manner proved the district's commitment to the community.

"It's important to note the school district completed phase one," he said. "We showed we're good stewards of the public's money."

Williams said the bond will be extended eight more years, ending the current debt service levy in 2025. However, in six to eight years the district again will consider the needs of its students and plan further renovations accordingly.

"Depending on our financial circumstances, we'll take a look at the opportunity to do another no-tax bond issue," Williams said.

He said the uncertain future state of the economy will play a huge role in determining the district's actions as it tries to accommodate the needs of its students.

"We had the good fortune to do this without raising the tax levy. We instead just extend the debt over a longer period of time."

Pat Williams
Superintendent of
Kirksville Schools

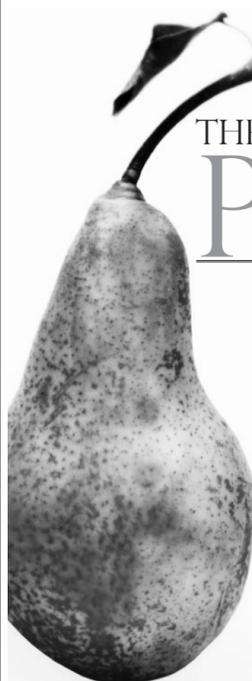


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