

# Old building comes to life

BY ANNE REBAR  
Staff Reporter

An illustrious element of downtown Kirksville for more than 100 years, the Journal Building is under new ownership.

Built in 1905 to house the Journal Printing Company, the Journal Building now serves as a banquet hall for the Wooden Nickel.

Head academic adviser Marianna Giovannini worked at the Journal Building when it still was a printing company. Her family started working for the Journal Printing Company in 1868, and the family took over in 1891. She said she remembers helping her father put books together at the building when she was young. As she grew older she helped in many different areas of the business, she said.

"I remember when the first photo copiers came out, and people would come to us to copy things, and when they would come out of the machine the ink would still be wet, so you would have to dry the copies out one piece at a time," Giovannini said.

Giovannini spoke fondly of her time working at the Journal Building. She said she even lived in one

of the apartments upstairs for a time after she was first married. Everyone who worked there (with the exception of the delivery boys) had been there their whole lives, so it was a lot like a family, she said.

"We had a lot of pride," Giovannini said. "It was a very positive place with a very positive attitude."

When the Journal Printing Company closed its doors in July 1984, it was the city's oldest business after running for 119 years. The building has been used to house the Kirksville Daily Express, Southwestern Bell, an insurance company and a hair salon.

When current owner Dan Vogt bought the building, it had been sitting vacant for a number of years. Giovannini said she was excited that Vogt bought the Journal Building because he was willing to give it some tender loving care.

"It's got a lot of prestige, a lot of heritage, and it was on the brink of going down like a lot of the other old buildings around town that were built around 1900," Vogt said. "I was lucky to save it."

Vogt and his business partners did all of the work on the building, starting with the roof. It took them



Mayank Dhungana/Index

The Journal Building houses a banquet hall, seven apartments and a barber shop. New owner Dan Vogt said he currently is renovating the basement.

about six months to make the transformation.

"When I got the building it was in terrible ... need of repairs," Vogt said. "It was dilapidated, and I started out by roofing it and then re-did the apartments, and then once I got that done the building would kind of support itself, and then about six years ago I decided to use it for banquets. So I re-did the whole thing—about 10,000 square feet."

The building houses a banquet hall, seven apartments and a barber shop. Along with the two rooms downstairs, where events are held, Vogt currently is renovating the basement to create more space for banquet halls.

Dan's wife, Judy Vogt, said the building is good for events because there is so much space, and it is in a good location downtown.

"It has a lot of character because

it's an old building, and people really like that," Judy Vogt said.

The Journal Building also serves as a concert hall. Bands come from all over to play, including Blues Hog, Peter Rolnick and Australian blues musician Harper.

"It's usually blues bands and local bands," Judy Vogt said. "Every once in a while we can get someone who's passing through to come play."

# Heightened concerns lead to plastic alternatives

BY KRISTIN HALUSZCZAK  
Staff Reporter

Metal water bottles might be seen as a trend around campus, but the underlying reason for their popularity is a more serious issue.

When reusable water bottles became popular because people wanted to reduce waste, Nalgene brand was the bottle of choice for most environmentally-conscious consumers. However, after recent concerns about harmful chemicals in plastics, the trend is shifting toward non-plastic bottles.

After studying its effects on animals, the National Toxicology Program found that Bisphenol A, a chemical used in many plastics, could be a cause for concern. BPA might affect the development of the prostate gland and brain and also cause behavioral effects in fetuses, infants and children, according to the NTP. The study also found that BPA affects the development of the mammary gland and accelerates puberty in females.

Mike Herndon, Press Officer for the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition said an independent review board is going over the study.

"[The independent review board] found that FDA needed additional research [to] take in con-

siderations of studies that had come out since the [NTP's] risk assessment," Herndon said.

He said the final review of the NTP study will be released Feb. 24.

"Our suggestion is it's the consumers' choice if they have concerns about the safety of whatever products might have BPA," Herndon said. "We suggest they look for alternatives, like glass and aluminum."

Senior Hannah Hemmelgarn said she is most concerned about BPA exposure in plastic baby bottles and its potential to cause problems in human development and reproduction. She said she avoids plastics whenever possible.

"Those bottles are leaching [BPA], and that can be a huge hormone disrupter and cause a lot of serious issues," Hemmelgarn said.

She said she first learned of the problem during a lecture she attended at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2005.

"I actually don't even eat canned products

anymore, because there's a plastic lining in those cans that leaches things I don't want to be eating," Hemmelgarn said. "It's kind of easy to avoid, if you think about it — plastics haven't really been around that long, and there are lots of options."

Hemmelgarn said most people don't realize the amount of plastics in our environment, and we need to be on guard to protect ourselves.

"I think that once awareness increases, people will start being more concerned, and I think that concern will feed more protests of those kinds of products," she said.

Anthropology professor Bonnie Mitchell said the danger of plastic chemicals became important to her when a good friend brought it to her attention about 10 years ago. Mitchell said her friend, a holistic medicine practitioner, started storing everything in glass containers.

Though BPA can leach out of containers at room temperature, Mitchell said heating of plastics is a concern as well.

I wouldn't put anything plastic into the microwave," Mitchell said. "One of the big things is heating, and when things are heated they exude dangerous chemicals."

It might seem that plastics would be hard to circumvent in today's world, but glass products have been used longer, and they are just as accessible as plastics, Mitchell said.

"I like to shop at thrift stores, and a lot of times you can find glass cookware, and that's pretty safe," Mitchell said. "It's been used for a long time, it doesn't [put] out gas. Plus it helps provide income to various good causes."

Choosing a different type of water bottle is one way to avoid plastics. Mitchell now uses a stainless steel water bottle instead of a plastic one.

"I think it's a process," Mitchell said. "I see people starting to refill their water bottles, so the next step is going to stainless steel."

Mitchell said that when it comes to a person's health, it's good to use caution.

"The overall thing for me is that so many products are put on the market without being tested, and you don't really know what their negative, long-term, especially health [and] well-being consequences might be, so it's safer to stick with stainless steel and glass," Mitchell said.

"I think once awareness increases, people will start being more concerned."

Bonnie Mitchell  
Anthropology professor

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