

**LETTERS** | Area man sends threatening letters to schools, judge

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2003 to one of the women in which he threatened to harm children on a school bus.

"I think I shall wipe out a school bus one morning," Sutton said in his letter. "Just shoot out the front tires and pick off the kiddies one by one as they come bouncing off."

Jones said that during the investigation, Sutton did not send any letters to the women. Jones performed a search in Sutton's home in 2005, and in April 2006, Sutton began sending letters to the police department, although not every letter sent to the officers contained the same threatening content, Jones said. A second letter was sent to the police department regarding Harris, according to the indictment.

The ones sent to the police officers were more taunting," Jones said. "He was really trying to throw us off of him and onto someone else."

A threatening letter written in October 2006 was sent to Adair County Circuit Court Judge Kristie Swaim, at which point the Kirksville Police Department turned the case over to the FBI, Jones said.

The sixth and final count of the Sutton's indictment stated that Sutton sent a letter in March 2007 to a Kirksville resident in which he threatened to kill people who drove Jeeps.

"The drivers of Jeeps will burn when the gates of hell are open," his letter said, according to the indictment. "... It is so fun to send people to hell."

The FBI conducted an interview with Sutton in October 2007 after Sutton failed a polygraph test. Sutton voluntarily provided the FBI with a written confession that led to his arrest, according to a Sept. 5 press release.

Sutton said in his confession that he did not actually plan to harm any of the people mentioned in his letters.



Amy Gleaves/Index

More than 300 members have joined the Inner Circle on picklersfamous.org. Participants receive e-mailed web riddles designed by Todd Kuhns. Those following the online clues should have a good idea of what Pickler's Famous will be prior to its opening.

**PICKLER** | Those in on the secret think Pickler's Famous will bring new life to downtown Kirksville

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still live in town, Kuhns said.

"I really think that we have a lot of great history downtown, a lot of heritage," he said. "Part of the DREAM Initiative and some of these downtown revitalization efforts are focused on bringing back more of that historical character of downtown."

Brad Selby, Kirksville codes and planning director, said city officials know what type of business will inhabit Pickler's Famous, but will leave it to the owners to make the announcement. Selby said he is pleased with the decision to return the build-

ing to its historic appearance.

"It could be the poster child almost for the downtown, in my opinion, in the way the building will look," Selby said. "The building's look is exactly what I think downtown Kirksville should go to."

Selby said the City Council recently encouraged the formation of Kirksville's first historic preservation commission to be later presented to the Council for approval. The Kirksville Historic Preservation Commission's first meeting will take place at 2 p.m. Sept. 19. The KHPC will operate with the goal to identify and

preserve historic properties and landmarks in the City of Kirksville, Selby said. If this commission pans out, it will enable Kirksville to be eligible for participation in the certified local government program. In turn, this will allow Kirksville property owners to receive benefits and grants for businesses declared to be historic properties or landmarks, Selby said.

"We're a historic district," he said. "To be historic you really need to be able to see those historic features of the building the way they were first designed and built. [Pickler's Famous] is a very good ex-

ample of what the downtown could look like."

Hidden Treasures owner Sherry Stacey also said she thinks Pickler's Famous will benefit downtown.

"It's right on target with what we're trying to accomplish here," she said. "You know, adding utility and interest and excitement and fun things for people to do."

Stacey said she knows what Pickler's Famous will be but isn't talking.

"Since they want to be elusive and create mystique and excitement, I don't want to say any more," she said.

**ROUTE** | MoDOT pushes new green route which maximizes the use of existing facilities for proposed bypass

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red alignments. It does not require the displacement of any residents or inconvenience any residents' property. However, it does require \$3.5 million more than the green route and affects the environment slightly more.

Kirksville resident Tim Ernst lives on the southern end of town where the green route is proposed to be constructed, and said he is concerned about the traffic noise the green route would bring. He said he was more concerned about his neighbors, who will be directly affected by the green route.

"I know a couple of people who have really nice homes out there," he said. "The new green route is going right through their front yard."

Ernst said he understands the flaws in the red route and thinks the orange route is the best option to keep traffic farther from town.

MoDOT has a 10-day comment period after the meeting. The meeting is displayed online so anyone who could not attend has a chance to comment on the decision of the alternate route.

Dan Niec, district engineer for the northern central Missouri under

MoDOT, said factors involved in the selection of the route include the cost as well as the impact on people, property and the environment. He said that after the 10-day comment period, all comments will be evaluated and MoDOT will choose which route will be used.

"I think ... there is widespread support for the green route," he said. "There is some opposition to it, but those are primarily the individuals that would be impacted personally."

Councilman Aaron Rodgerson said he thinks the new route definitely will have a huge and positive

effect on Kirksville. He said the construction will take about two years and cost \$28 to \$30 million. He said both local people and out-of-town workers would be hired to build the road. He said he expects to see the economy improve while construction takes place as a result of the additional people in town, and once completed, it will do nothing but help Kirksville.

"In that two-year time, contractors will need a place to stay and sleep," he said. "They are going to eat Kirksville food and shop in Kirksville."

**PLANE** | Fire causes emergency landing

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intended destination, Pittsburgh, Pa. Hall said he escorted Dorrance from the Gulfstream Jet to the Hawker once it arrived.

Dorrance is the grandchild of John T. Dorrance, who invented and perfected the condensed soup process. Today he lives in Paradise Valley, Az., and is worth an estimated \$1.7 billion. According to Forbes Magazine, that figure is growing, and he currently is ranked the 181th wealthiest man in the world.

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