

Restaurants close around Kirksville

BY ANDREA HEWITT
News Editor

Two Kirksville restaurants closed their doors for the final time last weekend.

David Joyner, former general manager of the Kirksville Papa John's, said Sunday was its last day of business.

"It wasn't really a matter of business being slow," he said. "The owners live in Quincy, and they were looking to move back to Kansas where they are from. They owned the Hannibal, Quincy, Ill., and Kirksville store.

"They were first looking to sell them all, and they weren't finding buyers as fast as they'd hoped, so they went ahead and closed down. As far as I know they're going to be cleaning out the stores and moving on."

Between 12 and 15 people lost their jobs, Joyner said.

"I believe that they will find new ownership, and my guess is it will be within a couple of weeks to a couple of months," Joyner said. "It's not for sure, but I know right now Papa John's Corporate is offering a lot of incentives for potential franchisees. That's very enticing to potential investors. I can't see investors passing those up."

The second restaurant to close this weekend

was Manhattan Café and Bakery, which shut down business permanently Friday.

"It had originally planned to close on Saturday, but we ran out of food and baked goods," senior Meredith Rolen, a former employee, said. "We ran out of chicken at about 4 [p.m.] and baked goods at about 7 [p.m.]."

Rolen said business was slow the last couple months, and approximately 15 people lost their jobs.

"It was upsetting. Losing your job is never fun, especially with such short notice. The hours stop, but no one's bills stop. As a waitress I was in there every day, and I was like, 'Wow, it's an empty restaurant, and it's 7 p.m.'"

Meredith Rolen
Former Manhattan Cafe and Bakery employee

Kangas said he's going to try to make and sell the Manna bread at his other Kirksville business, Upper Eastside.

"My wife has said that she's seen me grieving," Kangas said. "I think that's probably a pretty fair statement. It's almost as though someone I know has died."

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The owners announced to the staff Jan. 13 that they would be closing the following week-end, Rolen said.

Former owner Don Kangas said he hopes friends and neighbors who have businesses around the area do well where he didn't.

"I'd like to see the downtown area vibrant and see places for our community to go and find entertainment and fun," he said.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

A closed sign was taped to the door of Manhattan Cafe and Bakery Saturday.

Supreme Court lifts ban on sex offenders

New ruling excludes offenders who were previously charged

BY TAWANDA KANHEMA
Staff Reporter

After years of legal wrangling between Missouri state prosecutors and convicted sex offenders accused of violating laws requiring them to label their houses on Halloween and stay away from day care centers, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled last week that the two laws cannot apply to offenders convicted before the laws were enacted in 2004 and 2008 respectively.

The 2008 law requires convicted sex offenders to avoid any contact

with minors on Halloween and to post a sign that reads, "No candy or treats at this residence." A breach of this law is considered a misdemeanor and can result in one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Two sex offenders challenged the constitutionality of the two laws after they were charged for failing to label their houses to warn minors, despite being convicted before the two laws had come into effect.

Several other sex offenders in Adair County were also awaiting trial for violating the two laws. Their cases were thrown out following the ruling.

There are 64 known sex offenders in Adair County, nine of whom have been classified as unmap-

pable with no known residential addresses, according to the Family Watchdog, a non-governmental organization that keeps track of sex offenders and promotes awareness among families.

Adair County Prosecutor Mark Williams said parents would have to keep track of the registered sex offenders on days

like Halloween and take note of the known addresses of offenders because those convicted before the

new laws came into effect are exempt from labeling their houses.

"Parents should just keep track of the register and notify the sheriff of any suspicious behavior and steer themselves away from the known houses."

Mark Williams
Adair County Prosecutor

follow those restrictions, based on the ruling, but they still have to register. If we could choose, we

would have wanted the restriction on convicted sex offenders living near day cares to apply to all sex offenders, but constitutionally the law cannot apply retroactively."

The Family Watchdog advises parents and guardians to conduct frequent background checks on people that come into contact with minors.

In defense of the constitutional rights of sex offenders, the American Civil Liberties Union of Eastern Missouri has argued that there is no evidence proving minors are at greater risk from sex offenders on Halloween and that requiring offenders to remain in their homes on Halloween is an unlawful restriction of movement imposed on a free citizen.

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