

Business

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New space, same vibes

When Galloway Station moved, most regulars followed. » Page 13

FYI

Volunteers still needed for Day of Caring

The United Way of the Ozarks' 21st Annual Day of Caring is still seeking volunteers from area businesses and organizations. The volunteers will work on projects at United Way partner and affiliate agencies. The Day of Caring is 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 22 from Projects will be at over 55 of United Way's partner and affiliated agencies in the Springfield and surrounding area. The volunteer effort will help area agencies keep funding available. If interested in volunteering, contact Shellie Jones at 863-7700 or sjones@uwozarks.com or visit www.uwozarks.com and click on the Day of Caring button.

New Mexican restaurant to hire 150 jobs

The Cantina Laredo restaurant chain will be hiring to fill 150 staff positions before the restaurant opens in September. Located at 4109 S. National Ave., the restaurant will be the first of its kind in Springfield and will feature an upscale dining experience. The Mexican eatery is owned by local franchisee CL Springfield, L.L.C. and will be managed by Jeff Anderson, who has had previous experience as the general manager of The Tower Club, according to a news release from the company. Cantina Laredo is interviewing for servers, kitchen workers, hosts and bartender positions. Until construction is completed, applications will be accepted in person at the Howard Johnson Hotel, 3333 S. Glenstone Ave. Those interested in the positions can visit clsgf.com/apply or call Jeff Anderson at 414-4057.

Chase to hire 200 positions

Chase Bank is hiring more than 200 positions for its local customer service center. The majority of the new positions will be customer service jobs paying around \$11 an hour. Interested applicants

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Courtesy of Rotaract

Rotaract members Lindsey Neddenriep (left), Adrienne McCoy and Andi Masterson present a \$12,300 check to Boys and Girls Town. The donation was the largest ever for Rotaract to the charity.

Making friends and giving back

By Daniel Snyder

After graduation day, college friends will often move away and a new phase of life begins. Finding a group of like-minded young professionals to hang out with can be tough.

That's where Rotaract comes in.

Rotaract is an international Rotary club for 18 to 30-year-olds to come together for service-orientated community involvement and to help each other out during a time in their lives when many are buying a house or starting a family.

"Whether you are from Springfield originally or not, graduating college, getting your first real job and starting that chapter of life can be intimidating," said Adrienne McCoy, past president and longest serving member of Rotaract. "Groups like Rotaract help to ease that entry into the real

world. For the most part, we are all in our first or second out-of-college job. We are just starting to lay roots in the area and grow our businesses."

During Rotaract's twice-monthly meetings, members also hold a professional development program.

"That's a little different than the rotary clubs because most of those meet weekly," said Rotaract president Lindsey Neddenriep, a member since

2010. "It is a good group for going through the same experiences together because we are the same age. We are experiencing some of the same milestones, like promotions at work, weddings or several of our members have started new families or purchased a new home, so it's nice that we're there for each other to congratulate one another."

The name Rotaract comes from the words rotary and action. The action aspect of the group comes from the fact that they are heavily involved with the Boys and Girls Town of Missouri and other charities.

"We don't just focus on Boys and Girls Town," Neddenriep said. "We try to showcase a lot of other non-profits, so our members can get a feel of what charities they can support, maybe as a board member in the future or a volunteer on their own time. We've helped

Convoy of Hope, Ozarks Food Harvest, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the list goes on and on."

In Springfield, there are currently five Rotary clubs and one Rotaract club—with 60 members. In addition, there are four chapters of Interota, a high school Rotary club. Each group has a separate local and international mission, but many times they work together for common causes.

Springfield Rotaract

Address: 425 W. Walnut St.
When: Noon on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month
Web: springfieldrotaract.org.

"Locally, all five Rotary Clubs and Rotaract working together have raised over \$1.3 million for children's charities through the Rock'n Ribs BBQ Festival," McCoy said. "We also hold a basketball tournament for Special Olympics that raises approximately \$14,000 each year."

For McCoy, being a part of the group has helped her both in her professional and personal life.

"Rotaract introduced me to so many business people and allowed me to build relationships with them," McCoy said. "This is not a networking group that passes out business cards and rewards based on referrals. It is all about getting involved in the community together and building relationships. Through those relationships, a great added benefit is that business also grows."

Other members also enjoy helping out the Boys and Girls Town, but in more personal ways.

"It's not just through fundraising, but a lot of our members get really excited to go over there and just hang out with the kids," Neddenriep said. "We are able to hear back from them at the end of the year to hear how much our help meant to them."

MO. is one awesome state

By Daniel Snyder

A new initiative launched by Bryan Simpson, owner of Five Pound Apparel, aims to put negative rumors about Missouri to rest.

Missouri is Awesome—through the fundraising website, Kickstarter—seeks to raise money to begin a new clothing line and a new website.

Currently, Five Pound Apparel donates a portion of sales to international charities, but Simpson wanted to do something local.

"The whole idea behind our store is that everything we sell benefits people around the whole world," Simpson said. "We're doing so much around the world, but we're not really doing much locally."

It began with Simpson printing

Springfield T-shirts that said "SpringVegas" on them. The idea took off and the shirts were a hit. To garner more support for the pro-Springfield clothing line and for local charities,



Photo courtesy Five Pound Apparel

Simpson went online and posted a video, featuring local comedian Jeff Houghton. It soon went viral.

"We utilized the Kickstarter to expand upon that idea, and present this to the whole state," Simpson said. "We launched it and it took off. I guess one of the cool things is that it kind of reaffirms this idea that people do have a lot of pride about being from Missouri and the Midwest. People really want to own this concept that Missouri is awesome."

As of publication the Kickstarter fund is already at \$26,772, well beyond their goal of \$5,000.

"I think Missouri gets a bad rep sometimes and for us it is the ability to turn the table and say, here are all these people that are excited to own it and be proud about it," Simpson said.

For more information, visit 5poundapparel.com.



Courtesy of 5 Pound Apparel

Comedian Jeff Houghton stars in the video.