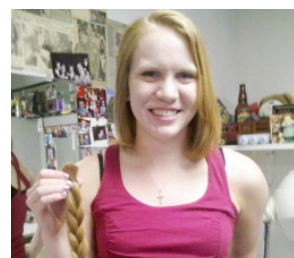


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Park District plans summer camps - Page A5

IN THE KNOW

MHS students learn the ins and outs of Go West

Two Macomb High School seniors recently spent a day learning about the intricacies of a municipal transit system as part of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Career Day Program.

Cole Carmack and Ryan Kimler spent the day with Go West Transit System staff to learn more about the operations of the Western Illinois University and citywide transit system. As part of the career day, they participated in a full tour and orientation of the system, and participated in a meeting on route changes, and they also learned about funding and budgeting.

"APTA Career Day is a great way to introduce prospective WIU students to our service, transit as a career field and the behind-the-scenes operations of a transit system. Ryan and Cole really provided some great feedback in our meetings," said Jude Kiah, director of Go West. "We are proud of our relationship with Macomb Community Unit School District No. 185, and this was one more way for us to continue to build on that partnership."

The APTA National Public Transportation Career Day is a national workforce development initiative that introduces students, grades K-12, to careers in the public transportation industry.

DOWNTOWN MACOMB

A historical loss

Ford Hopkins closes its doors after 81 years

By Sally Adams

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Ford Hopkins owner, Rick Crossett, stood at his pharmacy counter for last time on Tuesday. A landmark Macomb business since 1930, the store is now permanently closed.

Crossett bought the Ford Hopkins Drugstore in 1987 from John N. 'Jay' Albright Jr.

John's father, John N. 'Newt' Albright, had purchased the store in 1950. Ford Hopkins was a chain of drugstores that began in 1930, with 300 locations in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana. The Macomb location opened its doors on May 15, 1930.

John Jr. started working for his father in 1958, with the store being turned over to him in 1963, upon his father's retirement.

Crossett's father had owned Scott's Pharmacy, which was located in the current home of Country Financial at 100 North Side Square.

Rick has owned Ford Hopkins Drugstore for the past 24 years in its final location of 118 N. Lafayette St. It was a business that he felt he could "make go."

"I have really enjoyed building this business up," Rick said Wednesday. "When I bought it, the pharmacy was gloomy, built with two-by-fours and painted an unpleasant green color."

The pharmacy has not been the only aspect of the business to see many changes over the years. At one time the soda

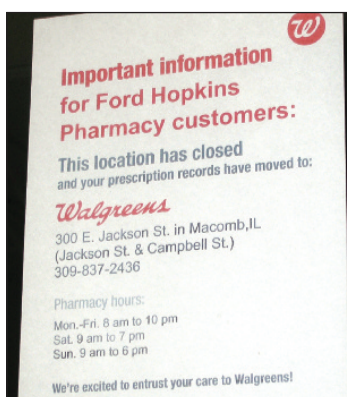


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIU ARCHIVES

ABOVE: The Ford Hopkins store on the northwest corner of downtown Macomb opened its doors in 1930. The store closed permanently on Tuesday night.

SALLY ADAMS/THE VOICE

RIGHT: Customers visiting Ford Hopkins on Wednesday found this sign on the front door.



fountain counter had been made of marble. According to a Macomb Daily Journal article from 1987, when the state started setting sanitary regulations, they converted the counter to stainless steel.

Crossett has sold out the pharmacy portion of the business to Walgreens Co. According to Walgreens spokesperson Robert Elfinger, the transition to Wal-

greens has allowed for a seamless transition for Ford Hopkins customers.

Previous Ford Hopkins customers were able to go to Walgreens Wednesday morning to obtain prescriptions. According to Elfinger, "all files and information have been transferred to the Walgreens location at 300 E. Jackson St."

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FOOD, FRIENDSHIP AND HOPE

Project H.O.P.E. feeds hundreds in Macomb

By Ryan Hagan

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On Sunday, Project H.O.P.E.'s tenth successful meal provided area residents with a hot meal and canned foods, gifts and fellowship at the First Presbyterian Church in Macomb.

Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Eat) had its first meal in August 2010 after some local families saw a need for a hot meal in Macomb.

While preparing pasta salad, C. Kay Best, the program's dinner and pantry coordinator said, "We noticed that other cities were serving hot meals for people with food insecurity (people who do not know where to find their next meal or missing a meal during the week), and we thought Macomb should implement a similar program." She said the meal is free and open to anyone.

The First Presbyterian Church has given the group free use of its Fellowship Hall and storage space. The church will host the group again for its June meal.

The group's Adopt-A-Meal program encourages any church, community, or university group to participate in any part of the meal they wish.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BRENDAN BEST

Chris Adams, a member of the St. Paul Knights of Columbus, barbecues hamburgers at last Sunday's Project H.O.P.E. dinner.

Man pleads guilty to heroin residue

By Nathan Woodside

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An Indiana man pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges that he possessed heroin residue.

Prosecutors negotiated a plea deal with 22-year-old Kelley Deckard resulting in one felony charge of possession of a controlled substance.

The charge stems from an incident in January in which a motorist reported a stranded vehicle in the middle of County Road 1800 East.

When a McDonough County Sheriff's deputy arrived, Deckard, the driver of the vehicle, was found to have a suspended license.

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Rain floods farmland, roads



THE VOICE PHOTOS BY LAINIE STEELMAN AND JODI POSPESCHIL

Numerous local roads and intersections were covered with water early Wednesday after about three inches of rain fell over McDonough County between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.



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WIU student gets jail time for drugs

By Nathan Woodside

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A Burlington, Iowa man pleaded guilty Wednesday to drug charges stemming from three arrests within seven months. As part of a negotiated plea with prosecutors, Ryan D. Kelley, pleaded guilty to one felony count of possession of a controlled substance, two misdemeanor counts of possession of drug paraphernalia and one misdemeanor count of possession of cannabis. According to factual basis reports, Kelley was originally arrested on Sept. 4 of last year when a WIU officer found an illicit pill containing an amphetamine.

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