



MIDMISSOURI

Retired railroad employee meeting slated next week

The Jefferson City unit of the National Association of Retired and Veteran Railway Employees has scheduled an informational meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday in the second-floor meeting room at Hy-Vee, 3721 W. Truman Blvd. in Jefferson City.

Representatives of the Railroad Retirement Board will provide information about survivor benefits and the board's services and to answer questions from current and former railroad employees and their friends and families.

NARVRE provides information to railway workers and retirees about their pension benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act. Local units provide a forum for active and retired railway workers to air retirement concerns and get help with issues related to their retirement benefits.

For more information, contact Pat Hiatte at 573-295-6435 or Terry Stock at 573-645-7302.

Overnight bridge work begins Sunday

One eastbound lane of U.S. 54 will be closed on the U.S. 54 bridge over U.S. 50 in Jefferson City beginning Sunday for bridge maintenance.

In addition to that work, crews will be working in the following locations around Jefferson City over the next two weeks:

- Eastbound U.S. 54 over McCarty Street. Bridge maintenance is scheduled 6 p.m.-4:30 a.m. Sunday through Sept. 21.
- Eastbound U.S. 54 over the Katy Trail. Bridge maintenance is scheduled 6 p.m.-4:30 a.m. Sunday through Sept. 21.
- Eastbound and westbound U.S. 50. Concrete repairs in each direction between Missouri Boulevard and Eastland Drive are scheduled 7 p.m.-5 a.m. Sunday through Sept. 21.
- U.S. 50/63 over Vetter Lane. Bridge maintenance is scheduled 6 p.m.-4:30 a.m. Sept. 17-21.

Volunteer opportunities

Capital City CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) seeks volunteers to become advocates for abused and neglected children in the court system. Training is provided from professionals in the legal and welfare fields, and volunteers will have the support of CASA to help through each case. You must be 21 years of age and submit to a background check. For more information, contact the CASA office, 893-2272.

Capital Region Medical Center Partners seek volunteers in several areas of the hospital including: Capital Cup Coffee Bar, Gift Shop, Information Desks, Waiting Rooms, Goldschmidt Cancer Center and helping transport patients and families. Orientation and training is provided. Contact Karen Sholes, 632-5032.

Not-for-profit groups that would like to be added to the database for periodic inclusion may contact News Tribune Co., 210 Monroe St., Jefferson City, MO, 65101, by telephone at 761-0240 or send an email to edast@newstribune.com.

Tell us about your event or news! You can submit stories for News Tribune briefs by emailing them to nt@newstribune.com. If you prefer to submit items via hand delivery, email, fax or mail, call 761-0240 for assistance.

COMINGEVENTS

SATURDAY

- **New Bloomfield Farmers Market & Flea Market**, 7:30-11:30 a.m., New Bloomfield School Bus Parking Lot.
- **Cole County Extension Fall Festival 2017**, 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Jefferson City Jaycees Fairgrounds, 1445 Fairgrounds Road.
- **Capital City Farmers Market**, 8:30-11:30 a.m., downtown Jefferson City, 300 block of East High Street.
- **Lincoln University Farmers Market**, 9-11:30 a.m., Lincoln University Dickinson Research Facility parking lot, 1219 Chestnut St.
- **Wii Play Game Day**, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Osage County Library, Linn.
- **Project Home Connect Donation Day**, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., First Baptist Church Gymnasium, 301 E. Capitol Ave.
- **Jefferson City Labor Day Parade 2017**, 11 a.m.-noon, downtown Jefferson

Please see Events, p. 4



Post your event in this calendar and online at newstribune.com/go or by emailing the details to nt@newstribune.com. If you prefer to submit items via hand delivery, email, fax or mail, call

761-0240 for assistance.

Plastics company to open in coming weeks

By Philip Joens
 pjoens@newstribune.com

Construction on Axiom Plastics' new factory in Jefferson City is on schedule, and the factory is expected to be operational in six to eight weeks, officials from the Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce said Friday.

New Albany, Ohio-based Axiom plastics announced Aug. 4 it is building a factory in the chamber's spec building at the corner of Shamrock and Algoa roads. During a monthly coffee meeting with chamber members, Director of Economic Development Missy Bonnot said work is progressing on the factory, which took months to bring to Jefferson City.

Axiom makes plastic bottles for commercial use, including bottles used for 5-Hour Energy. The company employs approximately 1,000 people across four other factories in suburbs of Toronto;

Atlanta; Los Angeles; and Columbus, Ohio. It plans to invest \$25 million in the Jefferson City site and create 70 jobs within three years.

Interior and exterior renovations of the 50,000-square-foot building are on schedule, Bonnot said. Once finished, the company plans to begin a 70,000- to 80,000-square-foot addition that could be complete next spring.

Approximately 10,000 square feet of office space is being constructed now inside the factory. Bonnot showed pictures of sheet rock walls under construction during Friday's meeting. The company also has added lights to the interior. Outside the building, two silos were added to store resin used for manufacturing plastics.

Bonnot said the company is known for speed. "Very aggressive timeline," Bonnot said. "They have a customer that's expecting plastic bottles at

Please see Chamber, p. 4

Jefferson City suspect sought in armed robbery

Jefferson City police are investigating an armed robbery at a local business that occurred Friday afternoon.

The robbery occurred just after 3 p.m. at Verizon Wireless, located in the 2100 block of Missouri Boulevard.

The suspect threatened an employee with a semi-automatic handgun and demanded money and phones.

No one was hurt and the suspect escaped.

According to security camera footage, the suspect is a black male about 6-foot-2-inches tall who was wearing what appeared to be a wig. He was driving a grey Dodge Caravan.

Anyone with information is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 659-TIPS.

Parent educator quick to respond to child's needs after car crash

By Phillip Sitter
 phillip@newstribune.com

A Jefferson City mom recently took to Facebook after a traumatic incident to praise the parent educator who serves her daughter, highlighting how the Parents as Teachers program serves local families.

After a recent car crash, Sarah Quick and her 4-year-old daughter, Emma, have their lives and health to be thankful for in addition to Emma's parent educator, Sara Gretlein.

The Quicks were traveling in a 2016 Honda Fit the evening of Aug. 6. As Quick was driving westbound on U.S. 50, just east of Meadow Lane in Osage County, the car went off the right side of the road and collided with a road sign at about 7:45 p.m.

"I still don't know what happened," she posted on Facebook the next day, aside from eyewitness statements that her compact car rolled four or five times.

The smashed-up vehicle came to rest upside down in a grassy field. Fortunately, mom and daughter escaped with only minor injuries, and several bystanders came to their aid. Quick wrote in particular that the field her car landed in belongs to a roofing business owned by Rudy and Matthew Yutz; the two men packed up her and Emma's personal belongings from the car, stayed with them and let them use their business' restroom.

Emma's injuries went beyond minor physical bruises from the straps and chest clip of her car seat.

"She's afraid of literally everything," Quick said she told Gretlein over the phone when she called to set up her daughter's first monthly home visit after summer break.

After the crash, Quick said, Emma was afraid of riding in a car and being out of her mom's sight. She would wake up at night in terror.

Gretlein adapted her next home



Julie Smith/News Tribune

While Karsten Dierking plays with toys at Southwest Early Childhood Center, his mom, Lisa Dierking, right, visits with Parents as Teachers educator Sara Gretlein. As with home visits and school, Gretlein observes the children, their actions, play style, and interaction with parents and siblings after which she may have suggestions for ways to improve communication, skill development, etc. Dierking is the Family School Advocate at SWECC and Karsten attends the school; both are involved in the PAT program.

visit with Emma as a parent educator, though, and brought some books generally about "dealing with fears," told from a 4-year-old's perspective, Quick said.

She said Emma is still afraid of being in a car in the dark, but her nightmares have mostly stopped. She

attributes a lot of that to Gretlein.

"She gave us all these pointers and clues to how we could get over things," Quick said.

Gretlein said she feels parent educators need to be able to think quickly and adapt to families' situations. Once

Quick told her about Emma's new needs after the crash, "I'm thinking, OK, I need to adapt that visit to where I'm helping her. How can I help you with the things that are going on with your family right now, with the trauma that Emma's gone

Please see PAT, p. 4

Killing it on the court



Emil Lippe/News Tribune

ABOVE: Collier Nichols, center, hits the ball over the net Friday during the second annual Guns & Hoses Sand Volleyball match at Binder State Park. All proceeds go to United Way. RIGHT: Jefferson City firefighter Jason Karr reaches for high fives after the JC Fire team beat the JCPD Police team in two sets.



End of DACA concerning Missouri's immigrants, undocumented

By Brittany Hilderbrand
 brittany@newstribune.com

President Donald Trump's call to end the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program has some Missourians on edge about the future of immigrants and undocumented children.

However, before calling it quits, local officials recommend the undocumented population get informed about their options.

"There are a lot of questions out there pertaining to DACA and the president's call for action, but the best thing for everyone to do including those who may be affected is to get educated," said Alberto Hernandez III, attorney at Gibbs, Pool and Turner, P.C. in Jefferson City.

Hernandez has specialized in immigration law and policy since 2005.

"I don't have an exact count of immigrants who are eligible, but there is a larger immigrant population in Mid-Missouri than people may expect there to be," he said.

Trump announced Tuesday his administration would bring an end to the five-year program that provides protection to immigrant children who were mostly raised in the United States — having lived in the country before age 15.

In Missouri, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services accepted 3,883 DACA applications through March, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

Immigrants who are granted deferred action status are granted relief from deportation and a work permit for a two-year period.

Please see DACA, p. 4



Julie Smith/News Tribune

Making way

Andrew Bax, upper left, prepares to shovel concrete down a chute Friday while Cody Moore, middle left, and Marshall Schaffer, at right, work it inside the form to remove air pockets. At lower left is Troy Schulte using a rubber mallet to shake the wet cement down and remove air. They are Jefferson City Parks and Recreation employees who've built the base on which will rest a sculpture Capital Region Medical Center will place in the middle of the roundabout at Jefferson and Stadium. The concept is a welcoming symbol to those who pass west of the hospital.

DACA:

Continued from p. 1

Since the announcement, several area agencies and public servants have voiced opposition to interfering with the future of affected immigrant children, emphasizing they had no choice in where they were brought.

John R. Gaydos, bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Jefferson City and general chairman of the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, stood in unison with bishops statewide to emphasize many young adults came to the United States as young children and have never known any home but this country.

"Enacting a new DACA program, however, would not only be compassionate, it would benefit the common good," Gaydos said.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Missouri, shared those sentiments, adding more than 90 percent of DACA participants are in school or working and many have served in the military.

"Taking young people who were brought here through no fault of their own and have never known another country, and kicking them out of America is as dumb as it is counterproductive," McCaskill said in a news release. "Republican leaders in Congress should use this opportunity to finally stop sitting on their hands and tackle this issue so there is certainty and the rule of law to allow these young people to keep contributing to America."

In a separate news release, U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Missouri, said the current state of the program has left DACA recipients in legal limbo for too long.

"Congress now has a responsibility to work toward a legislative solution," Blunt said.

The Trump administration is giving Congress six months to come up with a legislative fix before the government stops renewing permits for people already covered by the program, the Associated Press reported.

As a rule of thumb, the Department of Homeland Security has the power to make certain decisions about enforcement of immigration laws. Only Congress, through its legislative authority, has the power to create a path to permanent lawful status and citizenship.

Hernandez said the most important thing for affected immigrants to do is ask their congressmen and congresswomen to take a serious look at immigration reform and not be afraid to ask questions.

"The best way to prepare for the changes to come within the next six months or so is for immigrants seeking DACA or work eligibility to utilize resources such as the American Immigration Council, the American Civil Liberties Union and Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri immigration services department or call an immigration lawyer," Hernandez said.

For more information on resources for immigrants, visit the websites of the AIC, aclu-mo.org; ACLU, americanimmigrationcouncil.org; or Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri, ccnmo.org.

Advocates in higher education institutions also have said immigration reform should not interfere with the progress made by many students who have been granted deportation relief through the program.

Michael Middleton, interim president at Lincoln University, said DACA provides hope to those protected at higher education institutions across the country.

"In higher education, we believe strongly in creating the authors of tomorrow, no matter where their story began," Middleton said. "The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program provides hope to a population that entered this country when that same hope could not be found elsewhere."

University of Missouri System leaders disclosed in an emailed statement that more than 35 students across the system's four campuses are currently protected under DACA, noting UM System officials are willing to work closely with those students "to provide support and guidance during this period of uncertainty."

Chamber:

Continued from p. 1

their facility very quickly. It's going to happen very quickly."

The deal also came together rapidly. Bonnot said the chamber began discussions with the company Feb. 14, and Axiom officials made their first site visit 10 days later.

Axiom Plastics will receive two Chapter 100 tax abatements to move into the building, which will equal about a \$1.1 million tax abatement over 10 years. The abatements will include a 75 percent tax abatement on the real value of the property over 15 years and a 75 percent tax abatement on the value of personal property inside the buildings for seven years.

The chamber estimates Jefferson City, Cole County and the Jefferson City Public School District will receive a return of \$1.9 million in

tax revenue over that 10-year period.

During just the first year, Bonnot said, Axiom will invest \$14 million, which includes \$10 million in machinery alone. She said the presence of the 10-year-old spec building elevated Jefferson City above the rest of the competition.

"Had we not had that spec building, they probably would have looked us over," Bonnot said.

Axiom plans to create 48 jobs in the first year the factory is open. These jobs will pay an average of \$34,583 per year in the first year, with a total payroll of \$1.66 million.

Seventeen more jobs will be added in year two, increasing payroll to \$2.1 million.

In the third year, Axiom plans to add five more jobs, bringing the total number of jobs to 70. Payroll should also increase to \$2.22 million.

Average hourly wages will drop slightly from \$16.62 per hour the first year to \$15.24

per hour the third year. Bonnot said the dip will take place because several high-paying managerial positions will be created in year one, while lower-paying laborer positions will be added in years two and three.

She said Axiom's leadership team appeared to do research on the community and site before it approached the chamber.

Bonnot said Axiom was impressed with the community and the facility in Jefferson City from the start.

"Our prospects come to us with a wealth of information," she said. "They were ready to start negotiating 10 days after we started working with them."

Jefferson City beat out larger cities like Kansas City, Chicago and St. Louis for the factory.

"The hardest job the chamber does is trying to recruit new business to Jefferson City," Bonnot said. "If you land 1 percent of the projects you're working on, you're good."

PAT:

Continued from p. 1

through and also mom, too? And so I'm looking for resources to take on that visit."

Gretlein has 21 years of experience as a parent educator. Parents as Teachers programs are mandated in every Missouri school district, and they serve parochial and home-schooled families who reside within district boundaries, too.

Katie Epema, Parents as Teachers coordinator for Jefferson City Public Schools, said the district is serving 661 children in 461 families this year. All Title I-eligible families in the district's preschool programs participate in the PAT program, but participation is open to any family with a child aged pre-natal to just before starting kindergarten.

"It is hard to say goodbye" as children graduate to "big kid school," Gretlein said. She and the district's 11 other full-time parent educators each serve 60-70 children from about 45 families. The educators work around parents' work schedules, even if home visits have to be in the evening or on weekends. At-risk families and those with more needs get two monthly visits.

If families aren't comfortable with home visits, they can come to a special classroom at the district's Southwest Early Childhood Center, Gretlein said.

Regardless of where they meet and when, "we talk about child development, we talk about what they look for their child to be doing," she said. Parent educators bring books and other resources and set up families with additional in-program or community resources as needed.

Epema said while "every visit looks different with every family because we individualize it to their specific needs," there are some basic topics including sleep, safety, health, nutrition and discipline all parent educators cover.



Courtesy of Sarah Quick

In her role as a Parents as Teachers educator, Sara Gretlein works with Emma Quick at the Quick family home.

Gretlein said parent educators like her also perform developmental, hearing and vision screenings and can refer families to further services as needed.

PAT is free for all families, though Epema explained a waiting list for home visits has developed after significant state budget cuts in 2009.

Quick said her daughter was on a wait list for about a year after she found out about the program at KidsFest when Emma was 6 months old.

Funding for the PAT program is a separate budget line item than the state's foundation formula for public elementary, middle and high school programs. Epema said the district now contributes more than the state's allocation, and state funding for the program has dipped since 2009 to about 60 percent of what it was. The district's number of full-time parent educators has dropped from 22 to 12, including a recent hire, and

case loads have shrunk, too.

"Prior to the budget cuts, we were able to serve a lot more families," Epema said.

"Our recruiting efforts aren't quite the same as what they used to be" because of the post-budget cuts waiting list, she continued, adding, "It feels weird to recruit families knowing they're going to be on a waiting list for a while."

However, she said, "Even if families are waiting for personal visits, we make sure they know they can use drop-in and play (classroom)" and can connect with a parent educator for questions. The center has mass-screening events once a month, "so even if they're not interested in being enrolled or they're not enrolled yet, they can bring their child in" for developmental, hearing and vision screenings and be connected to other resources.

Gretlein has three daughters and said she has incorporated some things she's learned as a parent educator into her own parenting.

"If I've made good connections with a family, if I see them progressing and see that connection that they're building with their child and the growth in the child, all of those things, when I see that in a visit — and I see it all the time — that really makes my day," she said.

"Our goal is to empower the parents to be their children's first, most important teachers, to help them be ready to succeed in school and in life," Epema said. "We like to say everybody can use PAT because kids don't come with instructions."

The PAT program is having a child development screening by appointment from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at Southwest Early Childhood Center, 812 St. Mary's Blvd. The screening is free and is for any child 3 months to 5 years old who lives within JCPS district boundaries. For more information, visit jcschools.us/Page/12717 or contact Katie Epema at katie.epema@jcschools.us or 573-659-2350. Other dates will be available throughout the school year.

Events:

Continued from p. 1

City, East High Street.
 • **Pokemon Card Game Day**, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St.

- **Evening at the Amphitheatre feat. Capital Jazzfest and Capital Chalk Art Fair**, 1-6 p.m., Riverside Park, 300 Ellis-Porter Drive.
- **Bingo**, 1-4 p.m., VFW, St. Martins.
- **Cole County Farmers Market**, 2-4 p.m., Capital Mall, 3600 Country Club Drive.
- **"Miss You Grandma,"** 2 p.m., Stained

- Glass Theatre, 830 E. High St.
- **Teen After Hours**, 6-9 p.m., Missouri River Regional Library, 214 Adams St.
- **"The Trip to Spain" film screening**, 7 p.m., Capitol City Cinema, 126 E. High St.
- **Fast & Furry Glow 5K**, 7-10 p.m., Jefferson City Animal Shelter, 2308 Hyde Park Road.

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Financial Associate
520 Dix Rd Ste D
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-635-7343
tom.ittner@thrivent.com
connect.thrivent.com/tom-ittner

Appleton, Wisconsin • Minneapolis, Minnesota
Thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

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