

Business

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A New Pour

Flo Eatery & Wine Bar uses unique wine machine » Page 15

FYI

417 Pet Sitting partners with Kringle Talk

Amanda Brown, owner of 417 Pet Sitting has announced that she will once again partner with Kringle Talk, to raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS). Kringle Talk is a website where people can make a customized letter from Santa to the kids. The letters are \$10 each, with \$3 from each card going to the ACS. For more about the program, visit kringletalk.com/147.html or call Amanda Brown at 827-PETS.

Tyson Foods, Inc. and McDonalds fight hunger

On Nov. 16, Tyson Foods Inc. supported McDonald's annual Cans for Coffee food drive by donating 32,000 pounds of protein to the Ozarks Food Harvest. This marks the third year the two companies have worked together to fight hunger in the area. According to the Ozarks Food Harvest, Missouri ranks in the top 10 states for the number of food insecure households, making food drives such as Cans for Coffee even more important. Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri and serves 28 counties, distributing nearly nine million pounds of food annually.

CoxHealth physician earns rare certification

Hussam Alhawari, MD, an endocrinologist with CoxHealth Adult Medicine and Endocrinology Specialists, recently became one of only 120 physicians in the United States to be ECNU (Endocrine Certification in Neck Ultrasounds) certified. Drs. James Bonucchi and JonBen Svoboda with the clinic also hold this certification. The certification is for endocrinologists who perform consultations and diagnostic evaluations for thyroid and parathyroid disorders.

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LOCALLY OWNED

Riding on a data cloud

By Janice Mason

While technology changes quicker than a blink of an eye, the average person needs someone behind the scenes making information user friendly and readily available to all.

Richard Harris, CEO of Moonbeam Development, has spent his entire adult life on the cusp of the latest trends, from computer hardware, to software and now mastering the mobile age.

He said his purpose is "to help businesses get their message, what they are about, out to a new market that is exploding."

"I mean the mobile market is huge," he said. "We can use their existing websites to pull that data down into a mobile device."

Harris writes the programs that end up on cell phones across the planet, cornering the app market. He started as a computer tech at the Assembly of God (AG) headquarters, where he worked for 15 years. He ventured to two other companies and came back to AG before striking out on his own.

Harris began Moon-

beam Development three years ago working from home. He has been in residence at his physical office on Division Street for six months. His office wall is lined with certificates donning Bill Gates' signature, skills learned along his long path of software development. At Moonbeam, Harris specializes in mobile apps (downloadable applications), everything from brain-twisting visual experiences to apps that help bring businesses into the 21st Century.

He communicates with and profits from three main app technology companies: Apple, Google and Symbian. Harris said the industry has changed from computer software to what is called, "cloud" computing.

"Google is positioning themselves in the industry to provide everything—word processing, things that we all use—email, video, YouTube, all this stuff," he said. "You can connect to all of those websites, to your phone, with your computer, so you are connecting to the cloud. The data and everything is not on your device. It's on the cloud."

Harris first made a name for himself writing hardware reviews for technology magazines.

"They would send me the gear, I would write a big review about it and they would publish it either in the magazine or the website," he said. "I had a room at the time that was wall-to-wall junk.



Photo by Janice Mason

Richard Harris, CEO of Moonbeam Development, writes programs that end up on cell phones across the planet. He says that in all of their Android apps, there have been more than 5 million downloaded.

They get content out of it. I get hardware and I get paid.

"All of that fell apart somewhere around 2000, the whole website, tech industry kind of took a nosedive. The market got flooded and blogging became real popular, so all of a sudden, you didn't have to pay someone to write something."

With the change in the way people acquired information, came the need for new ways to distribute technology. The digital age brought software to cell phones and computers without having to deal with physical equipment.

"About five years ago, there was another paradigm shift in the industry," he said. "What happened was, all of a sudden, digital transportation for all software became really viable. I could get on my

Moonbeam Development, LLC

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iPad and go to iTunes and download a song. There's nothing in the middle. All of a sudden more portable devices became available to more people.

"What happened was, guys like me said, 'hey, all of a sudden, I can write something and rather than worrying about hosting it somewhere, getting it out in front of millions of people, I can let them do it.' I can say, 'hey, I've made this app and it's up to you guys,' and they put it in their app store."

Apps, sold one at a time, became an avenue for income that brought Harris to the place he is today.

"We are one of the largest Google Andriod

developers," he said. "Our Useless Facts app has 1.7 million downloads. It's an entertainment app full of thousands of random facts. All total, in all of our Android apps, we have more than 5 million downloads."

Until the fast-paced world of mobile technology morphs into something new, Harris hopes to ride the app wave into the future.

"The mobile market is growing more than any other computing platform," he said. "We focus on mobile and web technologies because those are the two technologies. Even in the next 10 years, that's going to be it."

Nixon cuts ribbon on Expedia's new facility



CFP file photo

Expedia celebrated its move to the old terminal at the Springfield-Branson National Airport on Nov. 18, with a ribbon cutting ceremony done by Governor Jay Nixon-D. With the expansion of their operations center, Expedia's workforce has gone from 270 workers to over 570, with another 200 to be hired soon.

On Nov. 18, Gov. Jay Nixon joined Expedia and community leaders to cut the ribbon on Expedia's new facility in Springfield, which will create 500 new jobs in southwest Missouri. The online travel giant renovated a portion of the former terminal building at Springfield-Branson National Airport into a customer service, operations and support facility. The renovations were made possible by \$5.8 million in incentives through the Missouri Quality Jobs Program.

Under this program, a business must commit to create a certain number of jobs that pay wages above the county average and offer health benefits for employees. In exchange, the business is eligible to retain a portion of the withholdings taxes that would be paid to the state for those new jobs. The state's package also includes \$1.2 million through the New Jobs Training Program and \$325,000 in Recruitment Assistance.

Expedia has a five-year lease on the former airport terminal building. The new facility will support both Expedia and its sister brand, Hotels.com. Expedia has employed 270 people in the area and hired 300 additional employees to date. They expect to hire an additional 200 workers.