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Jerry Taylor, (r.) is handing over the keys and cleaning machines to new owners, Jeff and Angie Gindovec. (c. front and back) Long-time employees staying on are (l. to r.) Linda Miller, Marilyn Kuffa-Burkett and Judy Foster.

Huron's Mr. Clean Is Hanging It Up

Jerry Taylor, who has been Huron's Mr. Clean for the past **52 years**, is unplugging the silk press and putting away the spot remover. He's sold **Modern Kleeners** to Jeff and Angie Gindovec, a couple who have strong ties to Huron. For 32 years, he's been up at 3 a.m. and arrives at the South Main Street plant at 4 a.m. to turn on boilers and warm up the steam machines.

Jerry's father opened Huron's first coin-operated Laundromat in the Enderle's Market Plaza (now Huron Market Plaza) in 1960. It was a huge facility that young Jerry and his family kept in spotless condition. Theirs was one of the first laundries in the country to offer coin-operated dry cleaning.

In February, 1978, Jerry bought Modern Kleeners from the late Harold (Hump) and Ruth Haber. They had operated their business on Mill Street for many years but were relocated during Huron's Urban Renewal project. Sharon Warren worked for the Habers for 2 years before Jerry bought the business and though currently on sick leave, she has far more seniority than her boss. Longevity seems to be the hallmark of all Jerry's employees, Judy Foster has 20 yrs., Linda Miller has 6 yrs., and Marilyn Kuffa-Burkett is the short-timer, at 2 yrs. Jerry's wife, JoAnn, pitches in as a "temp" whenever she's needed.

Jeff, a 1976 HHS grad., grew up in the dry cleaning business and even found his wife, Angie, while working at the French Tex Cleaners in Sandusky, then owned by his parents. "I never dreamed that I'd marry George Jefferson, teased Angie, talking about the star of a 1970's TV comedy. "But, I always remind Jeff that George's wife, Weezie, never worked," she said teasingly.

The couple operates a dry cleaning store in Amherst and does all the work for the dry cleaning outlet at the new car wash, dog wash and laundromat/dry cleaner on Route 250, across from the Sandusky Mall. They plan to make the Huron store the hub of their operation, installing a full-service shirt department, drapery cleaning equipment and offering clothing repair.

The biggest change that Jerry has noticed down through the years is the fabrics used in ready-to-wear clothing. But, the one thing that has remained the same is the loyalty of his customers. "We have a great customer base that has remained loyal down through the years and my wife, JoAnn and I are so grateful. We'd like to say 'Thank You' to each and every one of them."

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After 83 Years...



Dealership Has Hyundai & New Owner

A car dealership founded in 1927 has changed hands and brands. Louis Dorr founded Dorr Chevrolet in 1927 and his son, Richard Obermiller continued the family business. In 1981, his son-in-law, Bruce Molnar, joined the team and ran the business in recent years.

Located at 12400 Milan Road, in Milan, the dealership is an integral part of the auto history of the Huron-Milan area. Earlier this year, Bruce and his wife, Shelley, sold the business to Colin MacLean, a veteran of 30 years in the car business. Several years ago, the dealership became known as Dorr Hyundai.

Now known as Route 250 Hyundai, MacLean explained that it made good business sense to add the dealership to his Elyria Hyundai facility, located at Route 57 and I-90 in Elyria. "This gives us good leverage to get the word out about Hyundai quality throughout North Central Ohio." New and used cars, complete service, and parts departments are available at each location. "Our main goal is customer service," said MacLean. "We work hard to take care of our employees so that they can take good care of our customers."

Colin Maclean



Rotarians, Tina Murray (l.) and Anne Hinton, are being a bit corny, as they let midway walkers know about their delicious sweet corn and Rotators during the River Fest.

Fun, Games & Fitness Await On MetroPark Hiking Trails

The 2010 "Go Take a Hike" events will kick off at 2:59 p.m., Sunday Sept. 12th at Eagle Point in the East Sandusky Bay MetroPark. Hikers will be able to choose from two different trails, enjoy the music of the Skunk Cabbage Band, free food, and getting in shape. Other hiking dates and locations are: the Huron River Greenway on Sept. 19th, Hoffman Woods on Sept. 26th, Castalia Quarry on Oct. 10th and Edison Woods on Oct. 17th. Walkers can choose from 11 designated trails and can even bring their dogs. Those completing 8 trails will receive an Arkansas walking stick and those who have walked for five years receive a special medallion. During these walks, folks can play a new game, letter boxing, which combines orienteering, art and puzzle solving. To register, phone 419-625-7783, ext. 221 or go to www.friendsoferiemetroparks.org or www.eriemetroparks.org.

When East Side residents, Jim and Josephine West were raising their six children, money was often tight, but the family ate well, thanks to Jo's wonderful way with traditional Italian recipes.

A pot of marinara sauce was simmering on the stove just about every day. "I have wonderful memories of my brothers John, Steve, and me sneaking out into the kitchen to dip a crust of bread into the pot for a taste of the sauce," recalled Jimmy West, now patriarch of the family and owner of Pizza Box restaurants in Milan and Huron for some 30 years. "No matter where Mom was in the house, she seemed to have a sixth sense about when we got near that pot of sauce and in seconds she'd be there poking at our hands with her long cooking fork," he added, grinning widely.

All of the family has pitched in down through the years to make a colossal success of the two Italian eateries. Josephine, or "Chubby" as she's known to her many, many friends, passed on her cooking skills to daughters, Kathy Work, Connie Cook and Kim Zadell. They've honored their mother by creating a cottage business of making and marketing "Josephine's Homemade Spaghetti Sauce."

A bright red label on the old-fashioned Mason jars bears a photo of the West family matriarch when she was still a teen-ager. Inside, is the delicious authentic sauce that the girls have been selling for the past two years at area Farmers' Markets and both restaurants.

The girls don't see the day-long cooking sessions as work, but view it as "fun, a chance to sit with our sweet mom while the sauce is simmering. "It's just a wonderful time for us to all be together," said Connie Cook, who's been working at the Milan Pizza Box for 32 years.

It's All In the Sauce!



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Remembering



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John Henry Bartzen

A memorial service at the United Methodist Church commemorated former Chamber member and long-time Huron businessman **John Henry Bartzen**, 87. He operated the Sohio Standard Oil station at the corner of Main Street and Cleveland Road for 42 years.

John served in the U.S. Marine Corps, Company B, Signal Battalion, 3rd Amphibious Corps, during World War II. He and his wife, LaVerne "Tiny," were married for 60 years and had three sons.



A Marine Corps Honor Guard of veterans provided a 21-gun salute during the service. Back row, l. to r., Glen Downey, Bob Keech, Derrick Chennault and Desi Moran. Front row, l. to r., Chuck Knight, Bill Porter, Rob Heidl, Bob Zeto and Jim Dee.

...Dust settles at Con Agra



The train shed at the Con Agra plant has come down, but not without giving the demolition team a few problems. The strength of this building and the fumigant storage shed on the east side of the property, are testament to the great construction work by many local laborers in the late 1940's

Former Chamber Member, Betty Yonek, Passes Away

Betty Yonek, an active Chamber member for many years, passed away on Aug. 2nd. Her son, Gary, was Chamber director for several years and is still an active supporter of our group. Betty and her husband, George built the Huron Healthcare Center in 1983 and operated it for many years, generating some 100 jobs for the Huron area. It is now known as Admiral's Pointe Nursing & Rehabilitation.

In the mid-to late-1970s, the Yoneks operated the Thrifty Laundromat in what is now the H&R Block building. "This was back in the days when Lawson's was just accross the street. It was a busy corner," recalled her son, Gary. "Mom opened every morning, she would prep the vending machines and coin changers, never stopping during the course of the day. Mom kept the place spotless and thought nothing of pitching in to help customers fold blankets or carry out heavy baskets, and would come back late in the evening to close up shop." he said reminiscing.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, George, and in addition to Gary, is survived by another son, Kenneth, of Gahanna, OH.

Around Town

30th Anniversary Fest at Old Woman Creek

As a part of its 30th anniversary celebration, area residents will have an opportunity to tour the laboratories at Old Woman Creek Reserve and learn how research conducted there increases understanding and conservation of coastal wetlands. The open house is planned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 4th. Monarch butterfly tagging, guided trail walks, research seminars, and demonstrations will be offered throughout the day. For detailed information, go to www.oldwomancreek.org. Throughout the month of August, tours of the estuary by canoe or kayak are planned on Thursdays, Aug. 12th and 26th from 9 to 11 a.m., and on Aug. 19th from 6 to 8 p.m. A limited number of canoes and personal flotation devices are available. Reservations are necessary and can be made by phoning 419-433-4601.

Outdoor Pops Concert at McBride Arboretum

A special outdoor pops concert at McBride Arboretum will kick off the fall season for the Firelands Symphony Orchestra. Carl Topilow, music director and conductor of the orchestra, will take up the baton at the flower-filled grounds on the campus of BGSU Firelands at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 29th. Live show performers from Cedar Point will also entertain at the free concert. Guests are asked to bring a lawn chair or blanket. For information, phone 419-621-4800.

Volunteers Needed for Rev3 Triathlon At Cedar Point

Revolution3, a world-class triathlon, is coming to Cedar Point on Sept. 12th. The Volunteer Center of Sandusky is coordinating recruitment of the many volunteers needed for this event. These types of large triathlon races depend on community and volunteer support to be successful. A FullRev Triathlon consists of a 2.4 mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bike ride, finished off by a 26.2 mile run. The run will go through Huron and Gabriele Beck, director of the Volunteer Center, asks that residents consider being race monitors for this portion of the course. To volunteer, contact the Volunteer Center, 419-627-0074.

Island Hopping Trip Set For Seniors

The Erie County Senior Center is sponsoring an island hopping trip on Wednesday, Aug. 25th. A visit to Kelleys Island is planned in the morning and a stop at Put In Bay in the afternoon. For information, contact the Center at 626-2560 or online at www.eriesenior.org.

Who Do You Think You Are?

Ever wondered who your ancestors really were? Lisa Yako, owner of **Historical Research Partners**, and a super sleuth of the past, will lead those in a quest to discover their family history at 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26th, at the Huron Public Library. Registration is required and can be made online at www.huronlibrary.org or by phoning 419-433-5009. A Red Cross Babysitting Class will be offered at the library from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 24th. Participants must be 11 years or older. For information and to register, phone 419-626-1641. Cost is \$35.

Musical Tour of China at State Theatre

"Beauty and Melody" offers State Theatre audiences a true musical banquet which evokes centuries of Chinese music and culture. The group of young Chinese women will perform at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Sept. 24th. Goodwill donations will be accepted at the door. For information, phone 419-626-9835 or go to www.sanduskystate.com

Women's Equality Day

"Elusive Equality: Court Decisions and Women," is the topic for this year's observance of Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920. The event is planned at 6 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 26th, at the Oberlin Inn. Guest speakers are Harry Hirsch, a professor at Oberlin College, and Reid Wood, professor emeritus at Lorain County Community College. Reservations are to be made by Aug. 17th. For information, contact Mayor Marilyn Shearer, 419-433-2456.

After Hours!

August 26- Thurs.

Business After Hours
Ice Cream Social
Pied Piper Ice Cream Stand
On the Lawn, 507 Huron St.
Hosted by: Chris & Kelly Wechter
5-7 p.m.

September 23 - Thurs.

Business After Hours
Wine Tasting/Gourmet Hors d'oeuvres
The UPS Store
4920 Milan Road, Sandusky
Hosted by: Jerry Bogner
5-7 p.m.

HURON PAST & PRESENT

Short Takes *...from Sheila*

Longtime BGSU Firelands Staffers Leaving

Dr. Jim Smith, associate dean for academic programs & services at BGSU Firelands for many years, has been named new dean of the Ohio University Lancaster Campus.

Jim served as acting dean of the Firelands Campus for more than a year then returned to work at the main campus. John Clark, Firelands representative on the Chamber board, affectionately refers to Dr. Smith as "James II."

Marketing and communication director, Leslie Ruszkowski has retired after 18 years of service. A native of Cleveland, she plans to stay in the Huron area, which she has come to love.

United Way Spearheads Prescription Savings Plan

United Way of Erie County has partnered with FamilyWise Discount Prescription Cards to provide assistance to county residents who may be struggling to pay for their prescriptions.

The cards can potentially save an average of 30% or more or \$20 per prescription and are accepted at most local pharmacies. There is no enrollment eligibility. To receive one of the cards and for information, contact [United Way](#), at 419-625-4672 or by e-mail at pbrumbaugh.uwec@bex.net.

Habitat Needs A Few Good Volunteers

The Firelands Chapter of Habitat for Humanity can use a few good volunteers. Opportunities include: lunch providers, construction/carpentry, Women Build, and the Restore, which sells new and gently used building materials to the public at a fraction of retail prices. [The store is located at the corner of Route 250 and Mason Road. For information, phone 419-433-2609.](#)

Food Bank Seeks Farmers' Market Volunteers

The Second Harvest Food Bank, based in Lorain, is seeking volunteers for its Farmers' Market program. This is a collaborative effort of Second Harvest and its member agencies. Clients choose from 10-12 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables in the program that is made possible by the Ohio Agricultural Clearance Program. An essential component of this plan is volunteer participation. [To help out, contact Joseph Hrinda, agency relations coordinator, 440-960-2265, ext. 232 or \[jhrinda@secondharvestfoodbank.org\]\(mailto:jhrinda@secondharvestfoodbank.org\).](#)

Using the Grapevine Valuable Management Tool

By Paul Burri

Back around 1966, The Miracles recorded a song called, "I Heard it Through the Grapevine." Just to be sure the term "grapevine" is not totally obsolete, here is my definition: grapevine—an unofficial and informal communication channel for gossip, rumors and other undocumented news or policies.

Knowing how to use the grapevine can be an extremely valuable tool in business and especially in small business. If you are not sure whether your company has a grapevine, believe me – you do have one even if you have only two or three people. You need to know how to talk into it and how to listen to the return message.

Here's an example, say you own a small business and because the economy is slow (does this ring any bells?), you are thinking of cutting the hours of your employees down to 32 hours a week. Problem is, you're not sure whether this will cause a "revolt" among your staff and perhaps even cause you to lose a few of your key people. So, instead of posting an official memo on the company bulletin board, you subtly put it out on the company grapevine and then wait to hear how they feel about the idea. There are several ways to do this; allow one of your phone conversations to be overheard, leave an "incriminating" note lying around, ask one of your most trusted employees to start the rumor, etc.

If you are not experienced at this, you will be amazed at how quickly the word spreads on the grapevine. Now suppose you don't hear any major negative feedback to your rumor. That probably means your employees are amenable to the idea – even though they may not like it. (After all, they probably knew before you did, that business was getting slow.) On the other hand, if there is an explosion of negativity and resistance to the idea, you will hear that pretty quickly, too.

The advantage of using the grapevine is it gives you deniability. When one of your employees comes to confront you about what they heard about cutting hours, you are in the position of denying that you were even considering such an "outrageous" idea. You can say, "Where did you hear that? I have no idea who started that rumor."

Then you have time to go back and think about whether to go ahead with the idea or to think up an alternate approach to cutting costs – including payroll costs.

-Paul Burri is an entrepreneur, inventor, columnist, engineer and iconoclast. He is not in the advertising business, but he is a small-business counselor with the Santa Barbara chapter of Counselors to America's Small Business-SCORE. He can be reached at pburri@west.net.

Street Smarts

Puzzled About Your Future?

The Sandusky Career Center, 2130 Hayes Ave., helps people of all ages fit into the ever-changing job market. Classes are offered in office, computer, and systems support skills. For those seeking employment in law enforcement or fire and rescue fields, they offer pre-certification classes. In addition, classes in Industrial training and health occupations are also offered. [For information, phone 419-625-9294 or go to \[www.sanduskycareercenter.org\]\(http://www.sanduskycareercenter.org\).](#)

Taste Success With EHOVE Programs

EHOVE Adult Career Center offers classes in many different career areas, as well as, customized training services. There are also programs using computers for Lifelong Learners. New programs include: green industries, retail marketing, and manufacturing technology. [For information, phone 866-256-9707, ext. 280.](#)

Barb Schlette Joins Prudential

Barb Schlette, a Chamber volunteer and a veteran realtor with a quarter-century of experience, has joined Prudential Stradtmitter Realty, 1212 Hull Road, Sandusky. She has been awarded the Medallion Club and President Sales Club awards in previous years.



As a 43-year resident of the Huron area, Barb derives a great sense of accomplishment in helping sellers sell their homes and being able to help buyers find the home of their choice. She has served on various committees with the Firelands Association of Realtors. You can [contact Barb at 419-625-7888.](#)



Get a Head Start on Business Skills

A class in Small Business Basics is being presented by the Ohio Small Business Development Center of Terra Community College at the Erie County Chamber of Commerce offices, 225 W. Washington Row, Sandusky, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 15th.

The free seminar, conducted by Bill Auxter, director of the Center, will answer questions about starting, buying or expanding a small business. [To register, phone 800-826-2431 or 419-559-2210.](#)

BWC Premium Rates Just A Click Away

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation is transitioning from the traditional paper premium rate letter to an electronic notification of premium rates for the current policy year.

In the coming weeks, Ohio employers will receive a more cost-efficient postcard directing them to the agency's website, ohiobwc.com. Here they can set up an e-account, access their account data, and claim information online.

For assistance, phone BWC's Customer Contact Center at 1-800-OHIOBWC from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday -Friday.

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