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SECTION **C**

GET PERSONAL

Trainee navigates tasks of sweet job

Teen sets out to memorize host of treat combinations

By **SHERRI EASTBURN**
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Within the first hour of starting her job at Ritter's Frozen Custard in Franklin, Samantha Souders tucked her blonde ponytail under the signature blue hat and tied the matching blue apron over her jeans and white shirt.

With a name tag that read "Trainee — Samantha" pinned to her apron, Souders followed Ritter's manager Duane Stahl of Franklin around the small, circular establishment. He pointed out where to find napkins, straws, cups and spoons.

Stahl then pointed above their heads at six giant color posters of Ritter's specialties. That's when Souders learned that selling ice cream involves a lot more than scooping flavors into waffle cones.

"That's the Grizzly Cub Sundae," Stahl said. "Hot fudge, peanuts and two scoops of vanilla."

Stahl pointed out the set of scales next to the ice cream freezer. A list of weights for every product was posted on the wall near the scales.

"This one's going to weigh 11 ounces, do you know why?" he asked.

"Because of the peanuts?" Souders said. "Yes," Stahl said. "Remember, no whipped cream on that one."

When a customer ordered a Hoosier Delight, Stahl rang up the order on the cash register.

Before Souders turned rather tentatively toward the trimmings, she said, "Strawberry, right?"

Stahl responded with a smile and a nod. Souders carefully scooped strawberries into a clear plastic container. She slowly added two scoops of vanilla, whipped cream, two wafer cookies and a cherry.

"I was kind of worried that I was going to spill it," Souders said as she handed over her first Hoosier Delight creation.

Souders, 16, is home-schooled. She said she hopes to earn enough money at her

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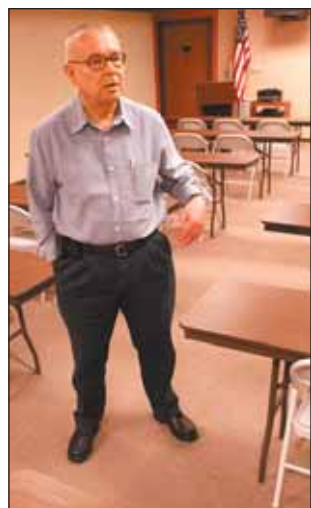


STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com
Samantha Souders, 16, makes frozen treats last week during her first day of work at Ritter's Frozen Custard in Franklin.



The Black and Decker Storm Station has a light that turns on if the power goes out, a flashlight that is always charged and a weather radio. A charging port will power cell phones. The device costs about \$100.

Be ready just in case



STAFF PHOTOS BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com
Forrest "Tug" Sutton speaks about disaster preparedness at the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. Sutton is in charge of Johnson County Emergency Management.

Disaster kit first step in preparing for emergencies

By **ANNETTE JONES**
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Hurricane Katrina was a wake-up-call, not only for emergency management officials, but for everyone.

While the southside is not likely to see such a widespread disaster, the area is at risk of tornadoes, flooding and severe storms and blizzards, which can significant cause wind damage and power outages.

"Tornadoes are my biggest fear," says Forrest "Tug" Sutton, Johnson County Emergency Management director.

A tornado on Sept. 20, 2002, ripped through the southside, resulting in \$10 million in property damage. Fortunately, no one was killed and few were injured.

But it changed the way Joseph and Jane Brewington of Runyon Lake Drive in Greenwood

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INSIDE
How to prepare an emergency plan and stock a disaster-supply kit.
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PLAY IT SAFE

Emergency car kit items:

Battery powered radio and extra batteries

Flashlight and extra batteries

Blanket

Jumper cables

Fire extinguisher (5-pound, A-B-C type)

First-aid kit

Bottled water and nonperishable, high-energy foods such as granola bars, raisins, peanut butter

Maps, shovel, flares

Tire repair kit

Fire safety

- Plan two escape routes out of each room.

- Teach family members to stay low to the ground during a fire.

- Teach family members never to open a hot door. Feel bottom of door with the back of your hand to see if it's hot.

- Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken household members.

- Purchase a fire extinguisher (5-pound, A-B-C type).

- Have a collapsible ladder on each upper floor.

- Test smoke detectors monthly. Change batteries annually.

SOURCE: American Red Cross



AP PHOTO
Custom-made envelopes made by graphic designer Julie Weiss are a way some people choose to make a handwritten letter more special. The handwritten note is far from passe.

Letters gaining value in e-mail era

Recipients treasure handwritten notes

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Melissa Walker follows a ritual when she opens her daily mail. She goes through all the bills and the boring printed stuff first.

Then, if it's one of the lucky days, she takes a deep breath and savors the prize: a handwritten, hand-addressed note from her dear friend in Wisconsin.

E-mail may have revolutionized our communication, making it faster, easier, more practical.

But that does not mean the handwritten note is dead. Instead, the act of putting pen to paper seems to have gained in currency.

Now, it's what you do to say something special, or heartfelt, or really important.

It's not a question of being e-mail ignorant. Walker, a history professor in South Carolina, spends lots of time on the Internet.

But that's just the point. She could easily e-mail her college friend, Janet, but instead they choose entertaining postcards, and dash off a few personal notes.

"It's so much more satisfying," she says, her voice evoking the delicious anticipation you felt as a child when the mailman brought something special.

"Many people mistakenly think a new technology cancels out an old one," says Judith Martin, who writes the syndicated Miss Manners column. People are charmed by handwritten letters, she says, precisely because they are rarer.

"You glance at an e-mail," Martin says. "You give more attention to a real letter."

Not just older folks do it. A. Michael Noll, a communications professor at the University of Southern California, says he was stunned not long ago when he asked his class of undergraduates whether they wrote letters by hand.

"More than half of them raised their hand," he says. Later he

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It's so much more satisfying."

Melissa Walker, on handwritten notes, which she sends regularly

'A la carte' cable could reduce TV's cost — and choices

Some viewers feed channel-surfing needs to find TV euphoria

By **FRAZIER MOORE**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

For cable subscribers, "a la carte" sounds appetizing: Pick the channels you want and pay only for them.

Spare your family from networks you never watch and don't want your kids exposed to. And save money in the process.

There's gung-ho talk about a la carte pricing for cable TV service, much of it from the Federal Communications Commission as

COMMENTARY

well as from Capitol Hill. But I'm not convinced.

For starters, I'm suspicious about that term. A la carte — sounds mighty French, doesn't it?

Besides, I'm happy with the current plan.

You subscribe to a tier of cable or satellite service, then get a bundle of channels.

The more you pay, the wider the selection of channels you can flip through from your La-Z-Boy.

A la carte? Mais non!

I want cable to stay the way it is: as American as a salad bar. And I don't mean the kind where they weigh your plate.

Call it Freedom Vision! Build

your own salad, all you can eat. Pay one price. Then go back for more!

When I settle down for TV-watching, I picture a vast salad bar beneath the Plexiglas sneeze-guard, so many channels to choose from, in any combination and quantity I wish.

There are standard items like the TV equivalent of lettuce, shredded cheese and bacon bits.

Maybe I'm in the mood for cole slaw or tabbouleh.

Maybe Jell-O with fruit.

Maybe I'll try something I don't even recognize.

And if I don't feel like anchovies or pickled beets, I'll just pass them by.

Maybe I'll get them some other time.

The bounty of the salad bar

apparently rubs some observers the wrong way.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin is pushing a la carte as a weeding-out process for parents who are worried about what their children might see.

Of course, a decade ago the FCC championed sex-and-violence guidelines for TV indecency that, used in conjunction with V-chip technology, let parents block any show carrying a rating they objected to.

It proved a huge inconvenience and remains a huge flop.

So how vigilant are parents likely to be now in identifying family-friendly channels to subscribe to, then monitoring their content to make sure they live



A la carte cable? No thanks. Sometimes channel-surfing is a joy in itself.

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