

## Play Pit fills mall with food and fun

It's the end of an era. The store at Three Star Mall that's been lonely and empty for nearly a generation is no longer the old Bookland location.

After 9 years and 10 months, the old Bookland spot finally has a new tenant. Action-packed Pioneer Play Pit opened last weekend and kids are already swarming the new arcade and fun center.

"We received a lot of walk-in traffic last weekend and it was supposed to be a soft opening," said owner Daniel Martin. "We are going to be adding pizza and food this week and we have more games on the way. We're going to have mini golf with a Jurassic Park theme and we're going to add bumper cars, which I think will be a big hit."

Children and adults alike were pumping quarters into the arcade games when I stopped by Friday night. Skee-ball and air hockey were two of the more popular attractions. The kids were taking the tickets they won and redeeming them for toys at the prize center before they left.

Pioneer Play Pit, complete with bounce house, can be reserved for parties. Daniel says a nice feature is fountain drinks are included with each party reservation so kids can return time and time again to fill their cup throughout a two-hour party.

Pioneer Play Pit has been



open on a limited basis thus far, but Daniel says he plans to hit the accelerator this week when he opens a pizza lunch buffet. The adjacent storefront, what used to be The Cookie Shop years ago, will also be open in what Daniel says will be a super-duper snack bar.

The menu will include slushies, cookies, sub sandwiches, nachos, hotdogs, fruit smoothies, and a touch-screen coffee machine that serves eight different drinks. Daniel says the cookies will be baked fresh all day and admits he loves eating them when they're hot from the oven.

Pioneer Play Pit is a great addition to the mall, a place families can pop in for a few minutes while doing a little shopping. It should be a mutually beneficial relationship as Pioneer Play Pit will gain customers from the foot traffic at the mall, and the mall might get a few shoppers from parents whose children are attending a party at Pioneer Play Pit.

Daniel says the Play Pit will be closed Monday and open the other six days of the week. For reservations, call (931) 304-8750.



Pioneer Play Pit has opened at Three Star Mall in the former Bookland location. Rico and Ruby Cagle take part in a spirited game of air hockey, one of the many games available.

### BARKING UP A NEW TREE

Furry Tales started wagging its tail two years ago on North Spring Street. After a successful run, the business has found a new doghouse.

Furry Tales will be moving to a more prime time location on Main Street across from the Park Theater. It will fill the spot between Cumberland Biscuit Company and Topz Metro Deli formerly occupied by Mike Neal's music store.

"We're going to be expanding our retail store and expanding our grooming," said Furry Tales co-owner Angell Boland, who owns the business with her mother, Jill Eckert. "That's twice the space we have now. The dog treats are by far our biggest seller. All the treats are made by us. We've also started our own line called Dirty Dogz. It's a line of shampoo and sprays."

Furry Tales offers doggie outfits and toys. The new sprays can help control fleas or just make your dog's area

smell a little better.

Angell says the projected move-in date on Main Street is May 1. It's great to see Spring Street serve as a launching pad for Furry Tales as the business started small and now it's ready to expand to a larger yard across from the Park. It's definitely something to bark about.

### HOME SHOW BUILDS NEW FOUNDATION

When the economy tanked and construction projects came to a screeching halt, there's one change that might have gone unnoticed. Warren County quietly lost its Home Show.

Now with residential and commercial construction barreling full speed ahead, Homeland Community Bank has brought the Home Show back for the first time since 2010. It will take place next weekend, Friday thru Sunday, at McMinnville Civic Center. Admission is free and visitors can register to win a \$500 door prize.



Pioneer Play Pit will be opening a snack bar at the old Cookie Shop location on the corner. The menu will include fresh-baked cookies, nachos, hotdogs, pizza, and much more. Pictured is Laney Christian preparing a slushie.

"We have 56 booths and a great variety of exhibitors," said Homeland Bank representative Cindy Rogers. "There's been a surge in the last couple of years. Builders and remodelers are really busy. There are so many

new things on the market and so many new ideas out there, we're limited only by our imagination. People are really becoming creative with their spaces."

Continued on 4C



Sarah Cantrell has joined the McMinnville-Warren County Chamber of Commerce as its new member service representative.

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## 2018 Mother/Son Gala

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