



The new dartboard at the **Standard** office is already creating memories. Unfortunately for **Standard** sports editor Jeffery Simmons, the memories are more like nightmares.

In honor of Jeff, here are some quotes on losing.

"The greatest test of courage on earth is to bear defeat without losing heart."

ROBERT GREEN INGERSOLL

"If you are explaining, you are losing."

J.C. WATTS

"About the only time losing is more fun than winning is when you're fighting temptation."

TOM WILSON

"If a tie is like kissing your sister, losing is like kissing your grandmother with her teeth out."

GEORGE BRETT

"Losing a game is heart-breaking. Losing your sense of excellence or worth is a tragedy."

JOE PATERNO

"Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing."

VINCE LOMBARDI

"All good is hard. All evil is easy. Dying, losing, cheating, and mediocrity are easy. Stay away from easy."

SCOTT ALEXANDER

"Winning or losing of the election is less important than strengthening the country."

INDIRA GANDHI

"I am just a human being trying to make it in a world that is rapidly losing its understanding of being human."

JOHN TRUDELL

"The secret of genius is to carry the spirit of the child into old age, which means never losing your enthusiasm."

ALDOUS HUXLEY

Rafael's Italian Restaurant back in business

Here's the fabulous, spectacular news of the week. Rafael's Italian Restaurant is reopening this Monday.

Prepare to feast.

I realize these past four months have been trying times for the powerful legion of Rafael's followers, similar to the painful four months McMinnville residents were forced to endure without Hardee's in 2016.

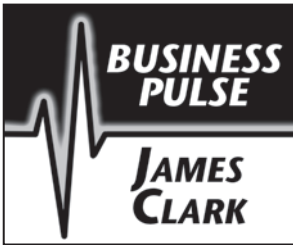
But just like the majestic Phoenix was reborn from the ashes in Greek mythology, Rafael's will rise again Monday.

Get ready for calzones, 2-for-1 pizzas, and all your traditional Rafael's favorites. The new location is 1111 Sparta Street and the phone number remains the same, 474-3301.

LET THERE BE NICE HOUSES

In last week's column, I mentioned a conversation by Industrial Development Board members in which they pointed to a lack of new homes in Warren County in the \$150,000 to \$250,000 price range. This report is an extension of that segment.

In continuing to examine new homes being built in our community, I had a conversation with local developer Waymon Hale on Friday. I was



interested in learning about Stone Creek Crossing, an upscale development just past the high school off Vervilla Road. Waymon tells me homes in this subdivision are in the \$250,000 to \$400,000 price range.

"It's a nice development that will have a sidewalk around the whole neighborhood and it has upscale street lights like they have downtown," said Waymon. "I requested the land to be annexed into the city so it has police protection, fiber optics, and city sewer."

All Warren County taxpayers can be thankful for this new subdivision because it's taken what was formerly an empty field and transformed it into a multi-million dollar development. And as long as the housing boom continues, Waymon sees no end in sight to home construction at Stone Creek.

"We're going to keep three to five under construction at all times during this first phase,"



Pictured is one of four homes currently under construction at Stone Creek Crossing. Developer Waymon Hale says homes in the upscale subdivision are available from \$250,000 to \$400,000 and he plans to have three to five under construction at all times while the economy is strong.

said Waymon. "If that fills up, we'll have to build new roads but I have the land to do that. Housing is all based on the economy. As long as we keep selling them, we'll keep building them."

Warren County real estate has been selling at a frantic pace, and at high-dollar values. It's certainly a different climate than seven or eight years ago when there was virtually no new home construction here and property values received a drop kick.

Waymon says four homes are currently in the construction phase at Stone Creek. The next



Stone Creek Crossing off Vervilla Road is filled with nice homes.

home is scheduled to be complete in six to eight weeks.

If you're interested in getting a home custom built at Stone Creek, Waymon says that's not a problem as long as the home is compatible with building restrictions in the subdivision. You can give him a call for more information on such a project at 473-8074.

If you'd like information on finished homes at Stone Creek, realtor Mialan Powers is handling those properties. She can be reached at 224-6706.

As the old saying goes, "Home is not a place ... it's a feeling." If you'd like to snuggle in to a new home at Stone Creek, that opportunity awaits.

DRAGON'S LAIR READY TO CONQUER

Few things are more dangerous, more feared, in fairytales than entering a mystical dragon's lair. Fortunately, local residents won't have to deal with that level of anxiety when entering Garner Loudermilk's new store, The Dragon's Lair.

The store is located in the lower level of Plaza Shopping Center near Gary Steele Karate Studio. The Lair specializes in wizard games such as Magic the Gathering, Pokemon, and Yu-Gi-Oh!

"My idea is to give kids a chance to interact and talk with each other face to face," said Garner. "It gets them away from the screen of a video game. This is a safe environment for kids to come and play. We have plenty of seating inside and also outside in the lobby. There's a drink machine and several restaurants within walking distance."

Garner said wizard-based games have become popular with people of all ages and he has personally known people to play from as young as age 8 to as old as 64.

"Magic has been out for 25 years so it's become a generational thing," said Garner. "There are some fathers who played and they're now teaching their sons. It's a great way to socialize."

Continued on **5C**



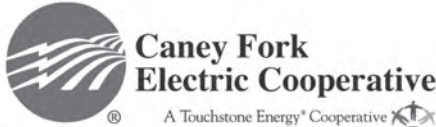
Food is delivered to Rafael's Italian Restaurant on Friday in preparation for the grand reopening at 1111 Sparta Street this Monday.



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Berea Church of Christ

8143 Francis Ferry Rd., Rock Island
Cordially invites you to attend our

Gospel Meeting

with guest speaker from Smithville Church of Christ

Bro. Dan Gulley

April 8th - 11th, 2018

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:15am

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am

Sunday Evening Worship 7:00pm

Monday - Wednesday Evenings 7:00pm

Fellowship Meal to Follow

Sunday Morning Worship