

BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE

J.C. Penney photographer opening own studio

Barry Burns isn't letting the upcoming closing of the J.C. Penney store in Champaign shutter his career.

Burns, who was a photographer and manager of the J.C. Penney portrait studio, is going into business for himself in Rantoul.

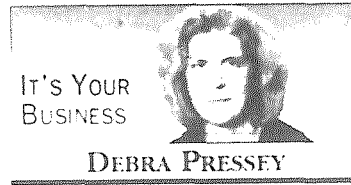
His Burns Photography Studios will open July 1 at 1710 E. Grove Ave.

Burns will employ three other photographers from Penney. His hope is that the 7,000-plus photography customers at the Penney store will find him in Rantoul.

Burns says he will offer photography on location at sporting events, weddings and other occasions, and in any of three studios at his Rantoul building.

At the studios, he has room enough to accommodate a group portrait of up to 30 people, he said.

Burns has been doing photography for 20 years, the last four of which were at Penney, and also has several international customers, he said. He is



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a former regional trainer for Olan Mills Portrait Studio.

His new studio hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For information, call 892-9710.

Store openings

Bed Bath & Beyond has opened its new store in Champaign at 51 E. Marketview Drive, next to Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Bed Bath and Beyond features bedroom, bathroom and kitchen linens and

accessories, window treatments, cookware, dishes, and closet and storage items.

The Champaign store is part of a New York-based chain and is the company's 254th location.

Zales Jewelers has opened a new store at the Factory Stores at Tuscola outlet mall.

Texas-based Zales, which also has a store at Champaign's Market Place Mall, says its outlet store in Tuscola will offer bargains at 20 to 70 percent off retail prices.

Zales operates 57 outlet stores that carry items ranging from Swiss-made watches to diamond engagement rings.

Included at the new store will be some discontinued styles and close-out merchandise, the company said.

Rose & Taylor moves

The Rose & Taylor barber shop and salon in Champaign moved Saturday from 204 N. First St., C, to its new building at 124 N. First St.

The new, larger shop offers hair

care for men and women, plus shoe-shine service, a snack bar and hair products, said Joe Taylor, one of the owners.

New restaurant in Tuscola

Savoia's Italian Restaurant has found a new home in Tuscola.

The restaurant, which opened about six weeks ago, is at 200 N. Park St.

It is open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. And starting July 1, the owner, Vito Moreschi, said he will start opening on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Moreschi, a native of Italy, has been operating restaurants in Illinois for about 25 years.

He last opened a restaurant in Danville called Savoia's Pizza, and sold it last October. The new owner is still operating it under the Savoia name.

Moreschi once operated a restaurant in Streator. He also had restaurants in Westville, Paris and Marshall. He closed the one in Westville and sold the two in Paris and Marshall.

Moreschi said he was drawn to Tuscola because it looks like a nice small town with a good market for a restaurant.

He serves a variety of Italian pastas, chicken dinners, sandwiches, pizzas with four different kinds of crust, salads, appetizers and desserts. The restaurant also has a salad bar.

Savoia's will deliver in Tuscola and within four miles of the town, Moreschi said.

Closing note

National City Bank will close its branch at the Meijer grocery in Champaign on July 28.

National City doesn't have any plans to replace it with another supermarket branch in Champaign-Urbana, said company spokeswoman Terri Wilson.

Are you opening a new business, or changing something at your existing business? Debra Pressey can be reached by phone at 351-5229 or 1-800-252-3346; by e-mail at dpreseyy@news-gazette.com, or regular mail at The News-Gazette, c/o It's Your Business column, P.O. Box 677, Champaign, IL 61824-0677.



Associated Press

Food companies merge

Food conglomerate ConAgra Inc. of Omaha, Neb., maker of brands including Healthy Choice, Swiss Miss and Orville Redenbacher, will acquire Parsippany, N.J.-based International Home Foods, maker of brands including Chef Boyardee, Guiden's and Pampers, in a \$2.9 billion deal announced Friday.

GE, unions suspend talks; more planned today

NEW YORK (AP) — General Electric and negotiators for 14 unions and 40,000 workers suspended talks early today in a bid to settle on a new contract.

Union representatives on Sunday afternoon sent a letter to GE notifying the manufacturer of their intent to strike as soon as July 8, said Peter Mitchell, general counsel for the workers.

Negotiations, which continued past a 12:01 a.m. deadline, were halted about 2:30 a.m., GE spokesman Gary Sheffer said. Officials for GE and the unions said they planned to rest and then resume their talks later in

the day.

Work at GE plants would continue as normal during the talks, Sheffer said.

Negotiations with the Fairfield, Conn.-based company were being held at the RIHGA Royal hotel in Manhattan. Both sides remained hopeful a deal could be reached.

"We're confident that we can reach an agreement that is fair to our employees and protects the competitiveness of our business," Sheffer said.

While saying she was cautiously optimistic, Collective Bargaining Committee spokeswoman Lauren Asplen said

there was still a lot of ground to be covered. She said negotiations hinged upon "the magic three" issues: pension fairness, job security and health-care costs being shifted onto employees.

"These negotiations have always gone up to the wire and have had a lot of movement right up to the end," Asplen said. "Actually, these are not as far along as they had been historically."

According to the union's Web site, agreement has already been reached on some issues, like certain areas of medical coverage.

But some union workers have been showing their displeasure with GE this month. On Friday, hundreds rallied outside the Manhattan headquarters of NBC, which is a division of the company.

On June 16, unionized workers at the General Electric Co jet engine plant in Massachusetts went on a two-hour strike to protest the company's use of outside contractors and to seek increased pension benefits.

About 1,500 of the plant's 3,000 workers, including a number of retirees, were involved in a demonstration Friday at the plant's main gate in Lynn, Mass.

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