

JOURNAL ERA



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In the Heart of the Best County of the Best State of the Union

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Moersch seeks wedding tent extension

Oronoko planners grant special use permit to Hamel for retreat cabin for missionaries

Oronoko Township Planning Commissioners granted a special use permit to Dr. Loren Hamel at their meeting last week. Hamel plans to build a facility for retreats and other gatherings on his property off of Tudor and Snow Roads.

Hamel first approached the planning commission with his

plans last fall. Since then, commissioners recommended and township board members approved a rezoning change for the land from R-2 residential to Estate residential and surrounding area.

While the R-2 residential designation allows for both sin-
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Berrien Township Planning Commission

Plans for *Sticky Spoons Jam* advance in Berrien Township

---No liquor, tobacco or fuel can be sold---

A proposal for a new store on Pucker Street is moving forward after action last week by the Berrien Township Planning Commission. The commission is now meeting on the first Monday of the month rather than the second Monday.

The request for a special use permit was scheduled to be acted on at this week's Berrien Township Board meeting. Aiye

Akhigbe of *Sticky Spoons Jam*, LLC is asking for a special use permit in order to open a commercial kitchen and store on her Pucker Street property which is zoned agricultural-residential.

Berrien Twp. Trustee Julie Burke is on the planning commission along with Karen O'Dell, chairman; and Doug Shelton, Dave Reidlinger, Chris
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Programs for three and four-year-olds are open to the public

Preschool program expands its offerings at Trinity Lutheran

---Programs prepare children for kindergarten---

Trinity Lutheran School Preschool Director and teacher Tory Parrish is announcing her program offerings for the fall. Her classes prepare children for kindergarten, and the classes are open to the public--not just church members. The program has been in place at the Berrien Springs' school for more than 30 years.

"We set it up to feel like their home environment" Mrs. Parrish said. "Students learn 50 percent of their letters, numbers one to 10, and proper behavior in the classroom. I give them opportunities to show their creativeness through art projects."

"We focus on providing a Christ-centered, loving environment," she emphasized.

The PM Preschool for three and four year olds is a three

day program for those three and four years old by September 1st. The classes will run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The PM Preschool for three and four year olds is a four day program for three and four year olds by September 1st, Monday-Thursday, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

The AM Preschool for four and five years olds is a five day program and it runs from Monday-Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

"In the three and four year old preschool classes we work on playing cooperatively with others, waiting-your-turn, using supplies properly (crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks), beginning to learn letters, num-
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Andrews University student Elena Petrie, an Animal Science major, holds up triplet lambs Olaf, Elsa and Anna at the university's Agriculture Education Center.

Pre-veterinary course of study offered

AU students apply classroom learning to the care of farm animals at Ag Education Center

"Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee,
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead."

---William Blake, *Songs of*

Innocence

Not much says spring more than newborn baby lambs and goats frolicking over the pasture and that's what they're doing most days at the Andrews Uni-

versity Agriculture Education Center. The goats and lambs are among the animals making their home at the Agriculture Center under the care of Andrews staff
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Agriculture Education Center

(Continued from Page 1) and students.

The Agriculture Education Center is located on the north side of the campus on the site of the former dairy farm, which closed in 2018. The university's agricultural heritage is a rich one and goes back more than a century to when it was a major focus of Emmanuel Missionary College, Andrews' precursor, and a reason why they located here in Berrien Springs.

While the center isn't open to formal tours by community members, people can walk in for self-guided tours such as many did over the Easter weekend. The center is at the end of Dairy Road which is gated to limit motorized access to authorized university staff and students.

Katherine Koudele is the chairman of the Department of Sustainable Agriculture at Andrews and always enjoys seeing the baby animals born each March. "It's so much fun to see the little ones jumping and running over the grass during the spring," she said.

She asks visitors interested in coming out to honor the signs located around the Agriculture Education Center property, to be careful of the animals, and to not bring their dogs if at all possible. Any dog on the property should be leashed.

Koudele said the center offers current students hands-on experience in the caring of animals and allows prospective students the chance to come and see the facilities. Andrews offers students a variety of agriculture education opportunities including a pre-veterinary course of study allowing them to get a Bachelor's of Science degree in Animal Science.

On a recent visit to the center, three Andrews' sophomores were on hand to help take care of the animals. Besides the goats, sheep and lambs, other animals making their home there include miniature pigs, chickens, rabbits, cattle, and even a peacock. The peacock was brought to the center after being found on campus by university employees.

Jennifer Diaz is studying animal science but not sure of what she plans to do after graduation. She's taken animal handling, animal science and agriculture businesses classes her first two years at Andrews and comes out to the center to watch over the animals when she has a chance. "I like to have new experiences," she said.

Elena Petrie hails from Montana and is also studying animal science. "We come to feed and take care of the animals two times a day," she said. "The university's ag program is one of the reasons I chose Andrews. It's nice that we have the animals here."

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Dr. Katherine Koudele, chairman of the Agriculture Education Center at Andrews University, feeds Harriet, one of the many goats students take care of at the center, formerly the dairy farm.



Jennifer Diaz, an Animal Science major at AU, cuddles one of the baby goats. (Kathleen Pullano Photos)



Andrews University Animal Science major Daryna Kulinich holds up an Americana chicken that lays green eggs.



AU student Jennifer Diaz feeds a piece of apple to Waldo, a pot-bellied pig.

Agriculture Education Center

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"I'm not sure what I'll do long term, we'll see where the path leads," she added. "This program gives us hands-on experience. We can give shots and medications after Professor Koudele shows us how to do them. We can check on the newborn lambs to see if they're okay--that's a lot of fun."

"We also give tours to prospective students who are thinking of coming to Andrews," she said. "Now is an especially popular time with people liking to see all the new lambs."

Daryna Kulinich, a Chicago native, plans to study to become a veterinarian after graduating from Andrews. "I always wanted to do something with animals and I looked at Adventist schools offering animal science programs," she said. "I thought coming to Andrews would give me a great start."

Koudele said giving students a start on their path to becoming a veterinarian or another career in animal science is the overall goal of the center and the Andrews agriculture program. She noted that there is a need for large animal veterinarians and she hopes the Andrews' experience will encourage more students to pursue that field.

She and other Andrews staff presented the university with their ideas about doing more with agriculture education after the 2018 decision was made to close the dairy. They had their plans accepted in the spring of 2019 and the program began that fall with the first animals arriving. There are currently 42 students in the program.

The five-phase plan on converting the dairy farm site has continued on since then, albeit a little slower due to the pandemic. Some first phase items already done have included seeding a pasture and preparing the small animal and calf barns. Right now, students learn about raising calves in the fall and the lambs and other small animals in the spring.

Koudele noted that the "overall picture" of what the center will look like when it's done has remained the same, but that the plan has evolved somewhat with some things done faster and other work being put on hold for a while. "There are tons of possibilities," she said.

Right now, she said work has started on creating a Bobwhite quail sanctuary on land near the freeway as well as preparing to house more large animals.

Future phases include getting greenhouses and horticultural gardens up and running, developing an outside horse arena and walking trails, and converting the former manure lagoon into a pond for fingerling fish.

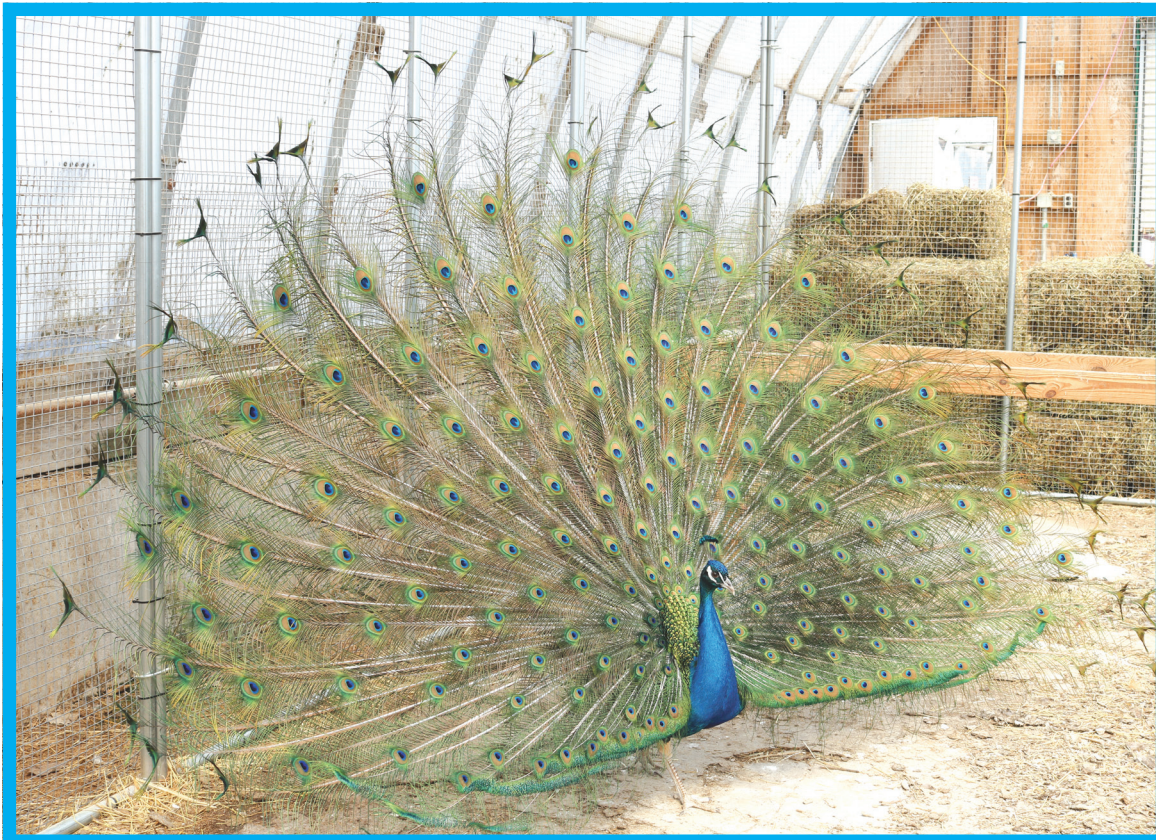
One of the plans on hold at the moment due to the pan-



Dr. Katherine Koudele shows off Dora, a Dutch-Belted cross breed of cattle.



AU Animal Science major Jennifer Diaz cradles a Dwarf rabbit named Oscar, one of several rabbits at the farm.



Jason the Peacock showed off his colorful feathers during *The Journal Era's* visit.



The farm features a variety of chickens that lay different colored eggs.



demic and other factors is working with area schools to promote agriculture education. "I've talked with the ag teacher at Countryside Charter about doing something collaboratively," she said. "We want to be a teaching farm and a research farm, not a petting zoo."

Andrews students who are animal science majors take an animal related course each semester. Biology majors or any non-animal science major who wants to take care of an animal, would also need to take an animal science class, Koudele said.

"We want to give them that experience," she said. "When we started, no one was doing what we're doing. When we were developing this idea of the agriculture education center, the president of AU asked me to bench-mark it against what other schools like ours were doing. Schools that were private, church-related schools that had an agriculture program and

fewer than 2,000 undergraduates. So I did that--I benchmarked seven schools and they all had animals available for their animal science students to work with, but none of them were assigning an animal each semester to a student. No one else gives them a chance to apply what they have learned in the classroom to the degree we offer here at the college level.

"Each student gets a different animal to care for," she emphasized. "We want them to do as much as possible. They see the birthings and give medications."

Koudele noted that the agriculture education experience is good for students to have, no matter what career they decide to pursue. For example, she said it is good for students who are pursuing work overseas and in international development to know about caring for plants and animals.

People interested in learn-

ing more about the Andrews Agriculture Education Center or donating to the center project can visit their website at www.andrews.edu/agriculture.



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