

EARLY WEEK EDITION

# The Athens NEWS



MONDAY

Athens County's Only Locally Owned Newspaper

Aug. 26, 2002



## Progress that goes straight to the belly

Pete Hasemeier juggles Friday in front of Donkey Coffee and Espresso on West Washington Street. Hasemeier can be seen there frequently juggling. Donkey Coffee is among the new or relocated local eateries that are featured in our annual Progress editions today (starting on page 13) and Thursday Photo by Ed Venrick.

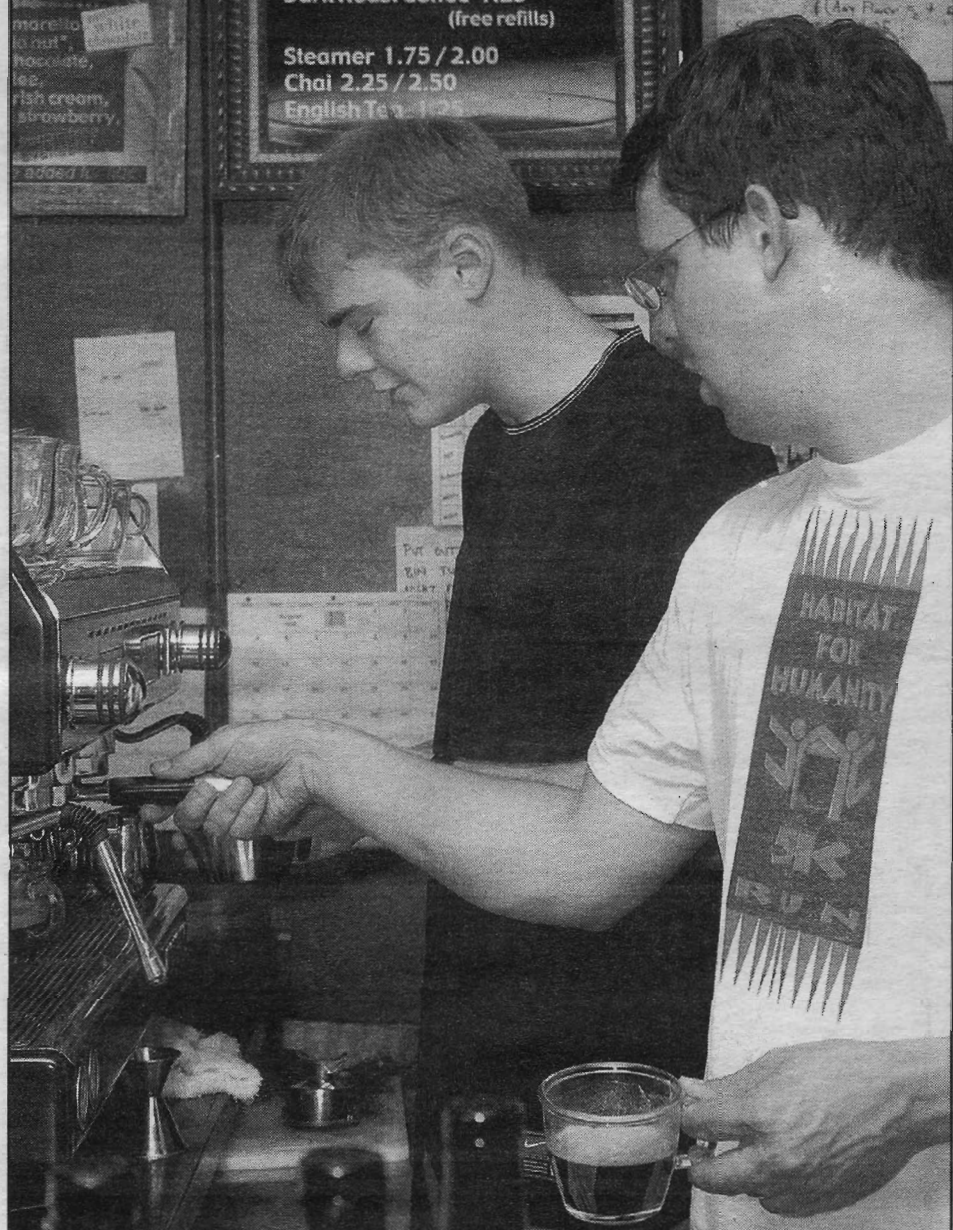


Flavored Latte 2.50 / 3.00  
 Mocha 2.25 / 2.75  
 Cappuccino 2.00 / 2.50  
 Espresso 1.25 / 1.50  
 Hot Chocolate 1.50 / 2.00  
 Americano 1.25 / 1.50  
 Dark Roast Coffee 1.25  
 (free refills)  
 Steamer 1.75 / 2.00  
 Chai 2.25 / 2.50  
 English Tea 1.25

Italian Soda 1.25 / 1.50  
 Cremosa 1.50 / 2.00  
 Frescante 3.25

#### iced tea drinks

Iced Chai 2.25 / 2.75  
 American Iced Tea 1.25



Matt Moore, co-owner of Donkey Coffee and Espresso, left, and Dan Demins test some coffee beans from Italy Friday afternoon. The coffee shop usually serves "fair trade" coffee from Costa Rica but was just testing the beans from Italy for fun. Photo by Ed Venrick.

# New coffee shop tries to create 'third space' for folks

By Ashley McKnight  
 Athens NEWS Writer

Athens' new coffee shop provides a distraction-free atmosphere away from home and work for citizens to enjoy games, conversation and, of course, coffee.

Donkey Coffee, on Washington Street a half block up the hill from the courthouse, is owned by two local couples, Chris and Angie Pyle and Matt and Jessica Moore. The shop opened in early June and according to Matt Moore, is the only local place that sells "fair-traded" organic coffee.

"We have an espresso blend, a house regular, and a house decaf," Moore said.

The shop offers other drinks including cappuccino and a delicious passion-berry iced tea. An assortment of muffins, cookies, scones and cakes are displayed next to the counter. The baked goods sold in the shop come from several local places. The primary source is Lori Johanssen, a certified baker who bakes out of her home, Moore said. Other contributors include Millie's Munchies, My Favorite Muffin, Crumbs and The Village Bakery.

Owning a coffee shop had been his and his wife's dream for a long time, Moore said. "We love people, and we love Athens," he added.

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PROGRESS

-part 1

# Coffee shop

Continued from page 14

Moore said the group wanted to employ the concept of a "third space," which is the idea that most people have two main spaces where they spend their time — work and home. Both places have responsibilities and distractions, so people need a third space without worries where they can go to relax. One of the goals of Donkey, Moore said, is to provide that space for people in Athens.

Leslie Hine, a fifth-year early childhood education major from Cincinnati, lives near Donkey Coffee and said she usually goes there about once a week. She said she enjoys the poetry readings and the fact that she can just sit at Donkey for hours and not feel bad about it, unlike in a regular restaurant.

Donkey has three rooms and each one is mellower than the first, Moore said. They modeled the shop somewhat after Baker Center's Front Room and the Casa Cantina. "We wanted to build on those ideas," he said.

The rooms are equipped with comfortable couches and chairs with ottomans, as well as tables. The quirky, cozy furniture pieces are "cheap new things" that come from all over,

Moore said.

The second room has what they like to call the Justice Table, which has pamphlets with information about local activism such as Habitat for Humanity and the Appalachian Peace and Justice Network. Both Chris Pyle and Matt Moore were involved with Good Works, an Athens homeless shelter started in the early '80s, which opened their eyes to injustice, Moore said. They created the Justice Table to make people aware of the things they can do to fight injustice, he said.

Donkey boasts a handsome collection of artwork; some are personal pieces of the Pyles. Moore said they plan to have a rotating gallery in the back room that will change every month once classes are back in session at OU. "Athens is becoming more of an art town," he said.

Donkey hosts poetry readings on Tuesdays, an open stage on Thursdays and regular live music acts on weekends, Moore said. But, he stressed, Donkey is by no means a bar and its atmosphere reflects that. All of the shows are smoke-free. Some people are glad that it's not a bar or pizza joint, Moore noted.

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Karen Hollish, an OU graduate student from Mount Vernon, Ohio, said Donkey is a nice alternative to the bars since it keeps the same hours as most bars. She goes to Donkey everyday and said she likes the fact that

she can have her coffee refilled all day long. Hollish used to get coffee from McDonald's before she went to work, but she said this is more economical, and she gets to support local business. "I hope it does well," she said.

The Athens News will continue its look at new restaurants in the local area in the Weekend Edition.



L-r: Adam Vogt, Andy Vogt, Ted Vogt 1931-2002, Dave Vogt, Randy Adams, Kathleen Morrow, and Lynda Irvin.

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