



staff photo by Colette Gremaud

Terence Hamilton of Heartland Ice tests fully automated ice vending machine located along US Highway 61 near Missouri Highway 51 in Perryville.

‘Cool’ new business chooses Perryville for first location in Mo.

**By Colette Gremaud
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Perryville is now home to the newest, coolest kind of vending machine. It's an Ice House America ice maker, chipper and dispenser. Perryville is the first city in Missouri to have the modern machine. The second machine will be placed in the Ozarks and there will soon be one in Cape Girardeau.

Currently there are over 400 of the machines in the United States, most of which are located in the southern portion of the country. Another 400 will be added to the U.S. this year.

Terence Hamilton, Heartland Ice distributor and salesman, said the efficient machine located along US Highway 61 near Missouri Highway 51 had 800 vends this Memorial Day weekend alone.

“There’s very little chance that the machine will run out of ice since it can make 5,600 pounds of ice in 24 hours, Hamilton

said.

He said the ice is clump-free. The machine vends ice in a 16-pound bag or in 20-pound bulk.

“Our ice is always fresh and pure and never touched by human hands,” Hamilton said.

“Once the ice forms within the machine it drops down, is chipped and housed in a stainless steel container until it is purchased,” said Hamilton.

The machine has a fully automated on-board computer system that dials Hamilton in case of a technical problem to avoid out-of-order down time.

A new filtered water feature will be added to the machine in the near future. Filtered water has had the chlorine and sediment removed and has been U.V. light sterilized and softened.

Consumers will have the choice of purchasing one gallon of the fresh, clean water for 25 cents or five gallons for \$1.