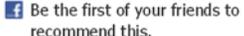


Father and son wrap boats, outdoor structures in plastic for winter

By **Steve Tarter**
Journal Star

Posted Nov 18, 2010 @ 08:24 PM


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PEORIA — Terry Himes has started wrapping for the holidays.

But we're not talking about any gift boxes or ribbons here. As the owner of Fast Wrap Central Illinois, Himes and son Drew are wrapping bigger items — such as 36-foot boats.

The Fast Wrap crew spent Tuesday wrapping boats at the Peoria Boat Club, 100 Spring St., and Wharf Harbor Sales, 99 Alexander Ave.

After wrapping the vessel in plastic film, Himes and his team apply heat guns to help form a close seal. Additional tape is applied to secure the job, protecting it from winter elements, Himes said.

A 36-foot wrapping job costs from \$300 to \$500 and takes two to three hours to complete, Himes said.

Based just south of Decatur, Himes picked up the Fast Wrap regional franchise this summer and looks forward to wrapping things up across central Illinois.

"You can wrap almost anything. So far, we've done boats, jet skis and air conditioning units as well as a hay baler," Himes said.

Fast Wrap, with corporate headquarters in Reno, Nev., was founded in 2007 by Mike Enos, who, according to the company website, was inspired by a need to protect his boat for the season. The chain now has 60 franchises nationwide.

Among the more unusual things wrapped by the company are an oil rig (requiring 30 semi trucks' worth of plastic film), a military aircraft and a 50-foot tall octopus at a Utah water park.

"We haven't wrapped a building yet, but we have a bid in to wrap a sporting goods store still under construction in Springfield," Himes said.

"We'd like to do more work for the ag industry. We just finished wrapping a 30-foot bean platform (for a combine)," he said.

While shrink wrapping isn't a new concept, the idea of a wrapping service that comes to the customer is, Himes said. "We go wherever we need to go," he said.

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So, what happens to all that plastic film when the wrapping comes off in the spring?

In a country that is terribly blighted by discarded plastic bags blowing across the landscape, the last thing we need is more sources of plastic garbage to add to the mess.

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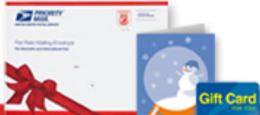
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