

New look, same great service at Dairy Queen

By JACKIE SZYMANSKI
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The southside Dairy Queen is getting a makeover and, according to owner Brian Winn, it's going to be better than ever.

"We're totally remodeling it," he said of the restaurant at 606 Hastings St., South Williamsport.

In addition to physical renovations — they're incorporating brand new DQ Grill and Chill and Orange Julius options — Winn said the atmosphere will be getting a facelift as well.

"It will be totally different — more casual and more upscale," he said.

Although Dairy Queen is a national franchise, each Dairy Queen restaurant is individually owned and operated, Winn said. This provides each owner with a bit of creative license, allowing them to serve up DQ's tasty treats in their own unique way.

A Dairy Queen's vibe "depends on the person who's running it — and the workers," Winn said.

At the South Williamsport branch,

it's all about friendly service.

Winn said his amicable staff are always dishing up great customer service along with the food. "I think that gets people to keep coming back," he said.

In addition to their famous array of frosty desserts, Dairy Queen's menu includes lunch and dinner fare, such as sandwiches, chicken strips, burgers, hot dogs and fries.

Blizzards, soft-serve ice cream infused with candy bits, remains the most popular ice cream product, but "cakes are a big item too," Winn said. Or combine the best of both worlds and order a Blizzard cake. After you choose a favorite Blizzard flavor with "whatever kind of ice cream you want," the DQ folk will layer it with fudge, freeze it, frost it, then add blizzard toppings.

"We're a great place for a great treat," Winn said.

He expects the renovations to be completed by mid-April, although the restaurant is open for business now.

For more information, call Dairy Queen at 321-1819.



JACKIE SZYMANSKI/Sun-Gazette

Owner Brian Winn and employee Jessica Miller are part of a team committed to dishing up great customer service along with the food at Dairy Queen, 606 Hastings St.

Comfort Systems combines new ideas with classic service



JACKIE SZYMANSKI/Sun-Gazette

Rocky Lane, co-owner, stands next to one of several fireplaces on display in the Comfort Systems showroom, which is located at 216 S. Market St.

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Lane said he couldn't be more proud of the crew of trained technicians, who "always bring their A-game."

"We've been very very fortunate," he said. "Some of these fellows have been here since day one."

He said that they handle a number of different situations each day and "it's a unique group of people who can roll with the punches."

In general, people are a big deal at Comfort Systems, and Lane and his colleagues do all they can to provide for each client's needs.

"So much has come up lately with the increase in electric rates, oil costs," he said. "We sit down with customers to find the most efficient and afford-

able system for their home."

Last year, Comfort Systems held a grand opening for its new showroom, which now exhibits their complete line of gas and propane fireplaces.

The showroom, which is at 216 S. Market St., is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends.

For more information, call 321-9241.

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All ages are welcome at West Branch Tennis

By JACKIE SZYMANSKI
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West Branch Tennis Club has provided indoor tennis to the Susquehanna Valley for 34 years, since its inception in 1976. Laurie and Steve Wilson, who took over the business six years ago, are always glad to help a new member pick up a racket.

According to Steve, tennis is a sport that you can begin — or return to — at any age, unlike some rough-and-tumble activities like football or dance.

"Tennis is the perfect thing to come back to," he said. "It's a great feeling when you have customers laughing and having fun like kids again."

"You outgrow a lot of sports, but not tennis," agreed Kelle Racine, program and events coordinator for the club, which is at 840 Route 15.

The air-conditioned facility, whose members range in age from 4 to 86, is equipped with six indoor courts, as well as a pro shop and locker rooms.

Promising an option for every age or experience level, programs at the tennis club include group beginner instruction for adults, junior clinics for ages 8 to 18, Pee Wee tennis for ages 4 to 7 and Cardio Tennis, as well as private lessons.

Each of West Branch Tennis Club's experienced instructors have been certified by the Professional Tennis Registry.

The registry, which is headquartered in Hilton Head Island, N.C., named the club its 2006 "Facility of the Year," recognizing its outstanding commitment to the promotion of the sport.

In light of their success in the community, the staff at West Branch Tennis Club have been



eager to give back.

Last October, the club organized a tennis luncheon to benefit the Kathryn Candor Lundy Breast Cancer Foundation. According to Racine, the event raised more than \$1,500 for the fund.

Laurie explained that they decided to hold the event because "we've had ladies here who have battled breast cancer — it really brought it home."

This dedication to the health and well-being of

their clientele — as well as an obvious passion for the sport — is what continues to maintain West Branch Tennis Club's status as a local institution.

These days, although the couple still shares an appreciation for the sport and its role in their lives, Laurie said that Steve tends to spend more time on the courts than she does. "But she can still beat him," Racine countered, with a laugh.

For more information on programs at West

JACKIE SZYMANSKI/Sun-Gazette

Laurie Wilson, owner, and Kelle Racine, program and events coordinator, stand behind the counter in the lobby of West Branch Tennis Club. Promising an option for every age or experience level, programs at the club include group beginner instruction for adults, junior clinics for ages 8 to 18, Pee Wee tennis for ages 4 to 7 and Cardio Tennis, as well as private lessons.

Branch Tennis Club, visit www.westbranchtennis.com or call 326-2828.

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