

Weight loss center to open at Southpoint

Cheryl Drangstveit, who has medical management experience in Black River Falls and Hixton, WI, will be opening a Physicians Weight Loss Center at 2839 Mall Dr., Eau Claire, in early January.

"I have a passion for this program. I lost 73 pounds and became healthy through the Physicians Weight Loss program. With a nurse and physician on staff, the health benefits even outweigh the weight loss," said Drangstveit, who will open a 1,140-square-foot center next to Jersey's Sports Bar in the Southpoint Shopping Center.

Akron, OH-based Physicians Weight Loss Center has more than 80 franchise outlets nationwide, including Wisconsin centers in Baraboo, LaCrosse and Onalaska. The business offers six different weight loss programs.

Dean Larsen of Acquisition Realty & Development handled the lease agreement. Space is being leased from Larsco, LLC. TBL

In-Brief

■ Dr. M.J. Gonstead, who started Gonstead Chiropractic, 431 E. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, in 1985, has welcomed *Dr. Melissa Stangl* to the practice beginning in January. The full-service chiropractic office also provides massage therapy services through Accent on Massage, which is operated and managed by Ute Boehm.

■ River Valley Property Management, LLC, recently purchased the assets of the *Queen's Plaza Laundromat* at 2820 London Rd., Eau Claire, from Erin Madden. According to River Valley Property Management President Nick Pathos, the company is in the process of remodeling the premises and upgrading and installing new laundry equipment. Once the remodeling is complete, the business will become a 24-hour laundromat. River Valley Property Management leases the 3,000-square-foot location from Pathos Properties. The laundromat has been operating within the Queen's Plaza Shopping Center since 1975.

■ Net income at Wisconsin's credit unions rose nearly 13 percent over the first nine months of this year as income from loans and fees increased, according to a report by the industry's regulators. The growth came despite the fact that the number of state-chartered credit unions dropped by 10 to 260, according to the *Wisconsin Office of Credit Unions*. The industry has been undergoing consolidation as smaller credit unions merge into larger ones. Net income for the nine months ended Sept. 30th was more than \$93 million, up from about \$82.5 million. The ratio of delinquent loans increased to 1.16 percent from 1.07 percent.

■ The *Kwik Trip* gas/convenience store at 2327 N. Clairemont Ave., Eau Claire, is being remodeled to accommodate a new kitchen and fresh food display area, according to Kwik Trip Inc. Real Estate Specialist Scott Teigen.

■ Shelton, CT-based Shelton Winnelson, a plumbing and heating wholesaler, has installed a digital signage system from Eau Claire-based *StrandVision, LLC*, to inform customers of price specials, events and training seminars. The Internet-based service includes frequently updated national and local news, weather and sports, as well as Shelton Winnelson announcements. "The StrandVision digital sign increases sales and leads to better attendance at our seminars and generally makes customers more aware of the services we offer," said Shelton Winnelson President Prisco Panza. StrandVision delivers low-cost, high availability hosted digital signage services through a patent-pending, Internet-based approach that eliminates the need for complex and expensive online hardware. It delivers content directly to subscribers' LCD and plasma televisions and computer screens.

■ Sacred Heart Hospital has announced the recent management appointments: *Andrew Bowman*, who joined Sacred Heart in 2004 as a staff nurse in the medical telemetry oncology department, has been appointed director of cardiology services. *Darla Derks*, who most recently worked in the hospital's catheterization laboratory, has been appointed assistant director of cardiology services. *Loren Lortscher*, who previously served as nurse manager of surgical services at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Appleton, WI, has been named director of the hospital's center for surgical care.