

All smiles as Aspen Dental opens for business

The spot that used to bring smiles for cheesy calzones and 2-for-1 pizzas is now looking to bring smiles for an entirely different reason.

Aspen Dental has opened at Cumberland Plaza in the spot formerly occupied by Rafael's Italian Restaurant. It makes the 29th Aspen Dental location in Tennessee.

Dr. Ashley Boling is the local owner and she's also a practicing dentist at the new facility. She's joined by Dr. Joshua Kaliher and a friendly staff of professionals designed to make your visit as enjoyable as possible.

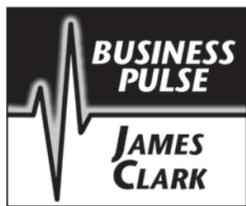
"One of the things we offer is in-house financing for patients who need a payment plan," said Brittany Hinman, who serves as regional manager. "It's a great way for patients to get the care they need and not pay everything up front."

Aspen had a soft opening Wednesday before having its first full day Thursday. When I stopped by Thursday afternoon, the office was opened wide with a lobby brimming with patients and exam rooms full of people getting cleaner teeth.

The folks at Aspen realize most people don't enjoy going to the dentist and realize the thought can create tremendous anxiety. From my standpoint, a trip to the dentist ranks very high on my list of Things I Never Want to Do. It's ranked right below stepping in a bear trap.

If you've been putting off dental care and want to find out what your mouth needs, Aspen has a \$19 offer for new patients that provides X-rays and an exam. That will give you an idea of what to expect.

Aspen also touts its flexible hours with



Brittany pointing out the office is open till 7 p.m. every Thursday and one or two Saturdays a month.

"We accept walk-in patients," said Brittany, "because we realize if you have a toothache you're not going to want to wait."

Aspen Dental has an in-house lab at every office. This is a huge benefit, according to lab technician Steve Weldon, who has made dentures for 33 years. He says if dentures have to be sent off, as is common in many places, it typically takes three to four days for every step and every fitting. With an in-house lab, dentures can be made and properly fitted in one day if the lab is not busy.

The local office has a staff of about 10 so it's providing employment as well as dental care. Call (931) 450-7177 for an appointment.

DANCING TO TOURISM DOLLARS

The hip, trendy thing to talk about when it comes to economic development is attracting tourism dollars. Reggae at Smooth Rapids is a local event which is doing just that and it's set for this coming weekend, Aug. 3-5.

Entering its fourth year, the musical festival is ready to blossom. It drew an estimated 800 to 1,000 visitors last year, including 350 campers. Organizers have intensified their marketing efforts this year and bolstered the lineup with some quality entertainers including Afroman, The



Aspen Dental opened Wednesday at Cumberland Plaza. Pictured, from left, are local store owner and dentist Dr. Ashley Boling, Dr. Joshua Kaliher, and regional manager Brittany Hinman. To make an appointment, call (931) 450-7177.



Remember when? The property that's now Aspen Dental was once Rafael's Italian Restaurant in this file photo from November, 2017.



Every location of Aspen Dental features an on-site lab for denture work. Steve Weldon, who has been in the business for 33 years, is pictured making new choppers.

Quasi Kings and Good Nature.

"In years past, we didn't want to be overwhelmed," said organizer Jeremy McMinn, co-owner of Smoke N Bricks. "But this year

we're ready in terms of volunteers, security and planning needed to handle a larger crowd."

Smoke N Bricks organizes the annual festival with Smooth Rapids. In recent years, one of

Jeremy's duties has been to park cars.

"I've really been surprised with the number of out-of-county and out-of-state license plates I see," said Jeremy. "There

are a ton of people who travel from over 50 miles away to get here. We bring a lot of new faces to town."

Jeremy says most local residents opt for a day pass, which is \$25 per day. Music starts Friday at 6 p.m., and it begins Saturday and Sunday at noon. A three-day weekend pass is \$75 and includes tent camping.

Food trucks will fill the campground to provide a wide selection of eats, and merchants will include Factory Connection. Jeremy says the community campfire is a great place for late-night jams and there will be a silent disco where visitors dance inside a tent while wearing Bluetooth headphones. Jeanette Jordan will teach yoga on Saturday and Sunday morning.



The campground was filled with tents during last year's Reggae at Smooth Rapids. There were an estimated 350 campers last year, according to organizer Jeremy McMinn.



Next weekend's Reggae at Smooth Rapids has 21 bands in the lineup over three days. Pictured is a performance at last year's festival.

Continued on 4C

Stocks slide

(AP) - Technology companies led a slide in U.S. stocks Friday, adding to the market's losses from another tech-driven sell-off a day earlier.

Twitter plunged more than 20 percent, its second-biggest loss since going public in 2013, after the social media network said its monthly users declined in the second quarter.

While technology stocks made up much of the market's drop, smaller-company stocks fell more than the rest of the market. The losses outweighed gains in banks and phone companies.

Even so, the S&P 500, the market's benchmark index, had its fourth weekly gain in a row.

The week ended largely as it began, with investors focused on a cavalcade of company earnings reports,

most of which have topped Wall Street's forecasts.

"There were clearly high expectations coming into second-quarter earnings and we've seen where companies have performed well relative to those expectations, they've typically been rewarded, and where they have fallen short of those expectations, either in current quarter or future guidance, is where you're seeing (selling) occur," said Bill Northey, senior vice president at U.S. Bank Wealth Management.

The S&P 500 index fell 18.62 points, or 0.7 percent, to 2,818.82. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 76.01 points, or 0.3 percent, to 25,451.06. The Nasdaq composite index, which is heavily weighted with technology companies, lost 114.77 points, or 1.5 percent, to 7,737.42.

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GOSPEL MEETING
AUGUST 5TH THROUGH THE 8TH
 AT THE
SMYRNA CHURCH OF CHRIST
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 MCMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

**SPEAKER:
 CHRIS
 WHITAKER**

Sunday Morning Bible Class..... 9:30 A.M.
 Sunday Morning Worship..... 10:30 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Worship..... 1:00 P.M.
 Monday through Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

There will be lunch served after the Sunday Morning Service.

EVERYONE WELCOME

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 UNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST
 2178 Pigeon Hill Rd. McMinnville, TN
 August 5th through August 8th

Speaker Larry Acuff
 Lithia Springs Church of Christ
 Song Leader Blake Ferrell

Sunday morning class 9:00,
 worship 10:00 Lunch following
 Sunday Night Service 7:30 p.m.
 Mon-Wed. 7:00 p.m.