

Aspen Dental set to open office July 26

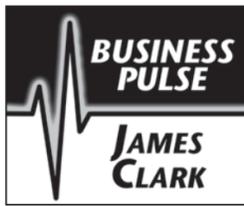
If you want news that will make you smile, Aspen Dental is on its way to McMinnville. The finishing touches are being placed on the new dental office that's been constructed next to Applebee's at Cumberland Plaza.

Many local readers have seen the nice, pretty Aspen Dental ads that have been appearing in the *Southern Standard* and have asked me why the ads are running now before the office is open. One such ad is available just across the page on 2C of today's edition featuring a \$19 exam, complete with X-rays, for new patients.

I have a habit of finding answers when you ask questions so I called Aspen Dental to find out. What I learned is our local office has a scheduled opening date of July 26, which is more than two weeks away.

The reason ads are being published at this time is because the office wants to have a lobby full of teeth ready to be examined when opening day does arrive. Aspen doesn't want to open its doors with no appointments on the books. That's why the push is being made now.

Aspen Dental says one of its goals is to make getting the dental care you need easier to attain. Financing is available and Aspen says it works with most insurance



plans. Emergency patients and walk-in patients are welcome.

If you'd like to schedule your dental appointment, the number is (615) 933-4907. For those so inclined, you can also make an appointment online at AspenDental.com/McMinnvilleTN.

NEW BAKERY OPENS ITS OVEN

Having a new coffee shop and bakery in town has been icing on the cake for many local residents who have flocked to The Vanilla Bean Baking Company on Main Street.

The new business opened just over a week ago and has been quick to establish repeat customers.

"We're already starting to learn people's drink orders," said Sally Roberson who owns Vanilla Bean Baking with her daughter

Kayla Woodard. "We had nine customers return from day one to day two and those are just the customers we know of who paid by credit card. Some people

I've seen every day."

The bakery is fast gaining a reputation for its cinnamon buns, which are delicious and gooey. Another popular item has been the mini donuts, which are smaller so you can eat 15 of them. Children 12-and-under are quickly learning they get a free cookie when they visit.

Sally and Kayla arrive bright and early in the morning to begin baking fresh items daily. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday thru Saturday.

Muffins, scones and cupcakes are some of the other baked items on the menu. There's a wide assortment of flavored coffee drinks with vanilla lattes among the most popular. There's also a drink called The Cuban, an espresso with sweetened condensed milk and milk that's oh so tasty. Sara Blevins has proven to be a talented barista.

"One thing that surprised me is the 3 p.m. coffee rush," said Sally. "I guess people need to get recharged in the afternoon because they'll come in for coffee. I've also been surprised that we sell muffins and scones all day long."

The completely remodeled building has charming décor. One thing that has grabbed attention is the covered patio that opens directly to the parking lot in front of the Farmers Market.



Sally Roberson shows the delicious cinnamon buns available at The Vanilla Bean Baking Company now open Tuesday thru Saturday on East Main Street. The phone number is 507-CAKE.



Lanya Byars is excited about the free cookie.

"We've been asked if we're going to have live music out there," said Kayla.

Added Sally, "I've also been asked a lot about a lunch menu. That's probably the No. 1 question."

The ladies say many new things could be in store down the road, but for now they are concentrating on developing a reliable routine for the bakery business. An expanded menu and live entertainment are not in the immediate plans, although guests are encouraged to enjoy the patio during business hours.

Free wifi is available for customers who want to enjoy a cup of coffee and spend time on their mobile device.

The next milestone for The Vanilla Bean is a ribbon cutting ceremony sched-



Kayla Woodard ices cupcakes in the kitchen of The Vanilla Bean Baking Company. Items are made fresh daily.

uled for July 17 at 11 a.m. During the celebration there will be a drawing for a \$50 gift card.

"This has turned out even better than I envisioned it," said Sally. "I looked all over town and

this is the location I wanted. Main Street is where I wanted to be and the Main Street business community has been so welcoming to us."

Continued on 4C



Patients can schedule appointments now for Aspen Dental at Cumberland Plaza. The office is scheduled to open July 26.



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