

# Horizon Health Paris Clinic 32,000 sq. ft. addition set to open this winter

**Includes expansion of behavioral health**

A two-story addition to the Paris Clinic should be completed this winter, providing additional space for family practice providers and behavioral health services.

Construction of the two-story, 32,000-square-foot addition began last October. It will attach to the existing clinic and expand to the west.

“With the addition of many new services and providers, we have outgrown our existing space. The new space will better serve our patients now and into the future,” said Oliver Smith, Horizon Health president & CEO.

The close proximity of primary care providers to behavioral health services is key in the organization’s movement toward Integrated Behavioral Healthcare. This concept fosters a whole-person approach, treating an individual’s physical and mental well-being. The current clinic space will be renovated to better accommodate the practices of the specialty providers.

“We’ve been looking at this model for quite some

time,” said Samantha Volstorf, Horizon Health psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner. “We know behavioral health is key to a person’s overall health. The benefits of better managing the care of people with a behavioral health diagnosis are many, including longer life span, decreased cost of care, and improved compliance with healthcare treatment plans.”

Volstorf added: “We hope to eventually see less stigma associated with behavioral health, specialized therapists to address key diagnoses we see in our practices, and improved physical outcomes because of improved mental health care. Our goal is to achieve very seamless care for these patients.”

Horizon Health has been working to improve access to behavioral health over the last few years. The addition of telepsychiatry services, psychiatric nurse practitioners, and development of the Life Center have all added to the availability of behavioral health in Paris and the sur-



Submitted Photo

**A two-story addition is being built next to the Paris Clinic. It will provide additional space for family practice providers and behavioral health services.**

rounding communities.

“The addition of HRC and its Living Room program to our campus has been good,” said Lacey Stults, Horizon Health clinic di-

rector. “Those services better address the needs of our patients who are in crisis. The services planned for the clinic expansion will be more outpatient based, such

as office visits and therapy appointments.”

The expansion will be funded through existing capital and loans that were initiated for other projects, but

not used.

“This has been a vision of our organization for a long time,” said Smith. “I’m thrilled to say it is finally coming together.”

# Lake Land College student newspaper staff earns awards from ICCIA

Several staff members of the Navigator News, the student-led Lake Land College newspaper, earned awards from the Illinois Community College Journalism Association (IC-CJA) in a contest judged by professional journalists across Illinois.

“I’ve only had the pleasure to work with the Navigator team for a short

time, but it was exhilarating to see how the students continuously created high-quality and engaging content during a challenging time,” Student Life Specialist Dustyn Fatheree said. “With multiple prestigious awards received by the Navigator staff, it has never been more clear as to the importance student publications have in build-

ing marketable skills and networking possibilities for students. I look forward to this upcoming academic year where the Navigator will continue to develop content for the Lake Land community.”

The students who earned awards were recognized at the annual ICCJA Spring Conference. While participating in the event,

the Navigator News staff members were able to connect with other student journalists from many different areas of Illinois as well as learn from informative speakers.

In the first place category, Madelyn Kidd was awarded for Sports Feature, Jess Oakley for Arts Review and the collective Navigator News staff for Mike Foster

General Excellence.

Taking second place in their respective categories were Breanna Moore for Page Design and Austin Wendling for Sports Photo.

Brett Sawyer earned third place for Editorial Cartoon, and the Navigator News staff placed third for Website.

Also receiving honorable mentions, Jess Oakley

was awarded for Headline and Michael Grovier for News Photo.

“Congratulations to the students who received awards,” Interim Vice President for Student Services Valerie Lynch said. “The Navigator will continue to strive to create innovative and high-quality content for the Lake Land community.”

# ‘Message of Unity’ theme announced for Illinois and Du Quoin state fairs

A message of unity will be the theme throughout the fairgrounds in Springfield and Du Quoin this summer. “One Illinois” is the theme which will be showcased throughout the 2021 Illinois and Du Quoin State Fairs. “One Illinois” is aimed at uniting Illinoisans after COVID-19 led to the cancellations of both fairs in 2020.

“Illinois’ proud agricultural tradition has long been the force that drives our state forward, and the last 18 months have been no different. In March of 2020, when the world seemed to come to a halt, our state’s number one industry kept right on going,” said Govern-

nor JB Pritzker. “While the COVID-19 pandemic demanded a temporary pause to the State Fairs, communities across the state will once again have a chance to come together as “One Illinois” this August to celebrate our number one industry and the people that keep us all going.”

The Illinois and Du-Quoin State Fairs will be hosting onsite mobile vaccination clinics throughout the duration of both fairs to give every fairgoer who wants one a chance to be vaccinated.

“We are excited to bring everyone back together on our fairgrounds in Spring-

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field and Du Quoin,” said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. “If this year has taught us anything, it’s that we are all Illinoisans. This underscores the importance for everyone to get vaccinated. Everyone doing their part will ensure the safety of fairgoers, vendors and staff when we gather to celebrate this summer.”

“We put a lot of thought into this year’s theme,” said Illinois State Fair Manager, Kevin Gordon. “Coming off a year where the fair was cancelled for the first time since World War II, we want to convey a show of unity and strength when people return to the fairgrounds in August.”

“This year’s theme embodies, not only the solidarity Illinoisans have shown throughout the pandemic, but the fellowship that takes place each summer,” said Du Quoin State Fair Manager, Josh Gross. “Our state fairs bring us together to celebrate all Illinois has to offer and we are ready to welcome everyone back to Du Quoin.”

“One Illinois” will be displayed throughout the Springfield and Du Quoin Fairgrounds, as well as on the 2021 Illinois and Du Quoin State Fair logos and merchandise.

Illinois State Fair runs August 12-22, while the Du Quoin State Fair takes place August 27-September 6.

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