

Shuckin’ Shack Oyster Bar coming to Glen Carbon at Meridian Plaza

By BRANDON WELLS

Contractor-turned-franchisee Hunter Yung is partnering with his wife Shannon Yung in becoming the owners of the soon-arriving Shuckin’ Shack Oyster Bar at Meridian Plaza, as part of the 44-acre development at the southeast corner of Illinois 157 and Meridian Road. It will be the first location in the St. Louis region for the popular dining franchise brand.

The Shuckin’ Shack Oyster Bar is a North Carolina company that started at Carolina Beach in 2007 but later started to franchise in 2014.

The sports bar itself offers a wide variety of different seafood options such as its namesake oysters as well as chicken wings and salads.

Having built many different restaurants as a project manager, Yung said this is something similar but also different from what he has been doing for a large part of his life.

“This is a new venture for us, but

it’s something that kind of fits with what I’ve been doing for the past 20 years, so we’re pretty excited about it,” Yung said.

Prior to this, Yung said some larger franchises such as Buffalo Wild Wings and Olive Garden were some of his largest clients. He said he had also helped build one of the Shuckin’ Shack locations, which helped him decide on this path after he met with the CEO and one of the co-founders.

Unlike the other locations, Yung said the Glen Carbon one will be the first free-standing store in the franchise and is currently planned to be around 4,000 square feet of inside seating and between 2,500-3,000 square feet of rooftop space. The architect for the project is also someone who has worked on multiple other locations for the franchise.

After meeting the people who started the franchise and eating at one of the locations, Yung said the East Coast vibe is what drew him in. Yung said the feeling that it wasn’t just another franchise loca-

tion when he dined at the Sommerville, South Carolina, location sold him further.

“Matt Piccinin, the co-founder, he surfs. A lot of the videos that are running in the restaurant will be kind of surf-style,” Yung said. “With Shuckin’ Shack there’s going to be something for everybody.”

Due to the type of menu items Shuckin’ Shack offers, Yung said he sees a demand for a restaurant like it to offer a wide variety of seafood options, particularly oysters, which is something that isn’t touched upon much in the region.

Like every restaurant, Yung said the staff is the key for him, and that the kinds of relationships he wants to build with them are something he’s looking forward to.

“When we’ve built restaurants — and that’s what I’ve specialized in over the last twenty years — it is kind of amazing watching when the ownership comes in, the trainers come in, and the staff cultivate a relationship with the customers,” Yung said. “With any restaurant

I think that’s a major goal to shoot for and that’s what we’re going to do.”

Due to working with his wife for their contracting business before, Yung said he’s figured out the kind of teamwork they need to have to be able to run a business after they’ve come so far from their original careers. He said he’s also prepared to face the new challenges that come with this with his wife as well.

Yung said the agreement he has is to build three stores for Shuckin’ Shack, but that the Glen Carbon one is going to take focus until he gets the location on its feet. For the other locations, Yung said he is looking at O’Fallon, Illinois and in St. Charles County, but it is not set in stone.

Currently, Yung said the date he’s hoping to have the Glen Carbon location open by the Summer of 2023, but that this could change if he feels that it needs more time.

More info about Shuckin’ Shack can be found online at www.theshuckinshack.com.

Camp Ondessonk 27th Annual Golf Benefit held Oct. 8 was a big success

IBJ staff report

“It’s all for the kids!”

The personal motto of Pete Korte, chairman of Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., in Highland, Ill., rang especially true this year at the Camp Ondessonk 27th Annual Golf Benefit.

Because of the unwavering passion and dedication of Korte and his family, friends, and colleagues, close to \$1 million has been raised over the past 27 years, providing tuition assistance for families, and changing countless lives through the opportunity to attend summer camp.

This year’s Golf Benefit took place at the Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville, Ill., on Oct. 8. In addition to the dedication of its volunteers, this event also depends on the support from its many sponsors.

Premium tournament sponsors were Korte & Luitjohan Contractors, Inc., Beelman Ready Mix, Pepsi MidAmerica, Prindable Insurance Agency, and Thomas Young, Sr. The Diamond sponsor was Roland Machinery Company. Platinum sponsors were Ameren Illinois, First Mid Bank & Trust, Jim & Carol Henrichs, Jansen Chevrolet, Keeley & Sons, Midwest Municipal Supply, Jim & Kate Shively, SICAP, and USI Insurance & Bonds. The golfer gift sponsor was Silkworm, Inc., and food and beverage sponsors included US Foods, Trenton Processing, Robert “Chick” Fritz Distributing, and Pepsi MidAmerica.

The Pete Korte Family support of Camp Ondessonk spans decades. His children and grandchildren attended camp and served as counselors, and Pete and his generous employees have donated thousands of hours of their time, equipment, and construction expertise to help build many projects around Camp Ondessonk. The current K&L-assisted project involves laying pipes for a new staff duplex on the property to be named Pete Korte Lodge, honoring Pete’s legacy and support for Ondessonk.

In 2022, Camp Ondessonk served nearly 3,200 campers during the summer, steadily building since the loss of summer camp in 2020, with the majority from Illinois and Missouri.

Organizers wish to express their sincere thanks to Pete and Jane Korte, their beautiful family, the employees at Korte & Luitjohan, and all the businesses, sponsors, and golfers who have supported the campers of Ondessonk for the last 27 incredible years, and in years to come.

About Camp Ondessonk: Since 1959, Camp Ondessonk has been offering summer camp and leadership development programs to youth ages 8 to 16. The American Camp Association and Certified Horsemanship Association accredited programs and facilities give campers the opportunity to explore the outdoors while growing in self-esteem and respect for God’s creation. More information is available at ondessonk.com.



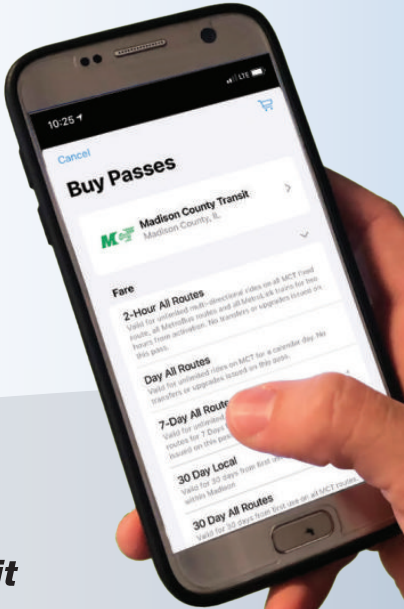
LeadHERship Seminar - The RiverBend Growth Association held its annual LeadHERship Seminar on Oct. 14, at Enjoy Church in Alton. As a part of the event, Karen Wilson-State Farm, title sponsor, presented the 2022 RBGA LeadHERship Empowerment Award to Tammy Iskarous of Riverbend Family Ministries (pictured). More than 200 participants received valuable information from three speakers, Nina DeAngelo, Peggy Lewis LeCompte, and Keisha Gwin; networked with other businesswomen, and visited local vendor booths. Photo courtesy RiverBend Growth Association

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