

BUSINESSES: Marina, furniture store both expanding

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Munoz said she helped her father lose 90 pounds and her mother lose 40. Now, she hopes her new business will offer a similar benefit to customers.

Pioneer Nutrition makes metabolism-boosting teas and serves healthy shakes packed with protein, vitamins and minerals. The shakes serve as a "meal replacement," Munoz said.

In addition to fitting in with one's diet plan, they are designed to add convenience to customers' busy lifestyles, Munoz said.

"It is a quick option for lunch that is a lot healthier than fast food," she said.

Pioneer Nutrition also counsels clients on their weight-loss goals by crafting meal plans and hosting "weigh-ins" at the facility.

The business is open from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It can be reached at 904-584-5885.

MARINA EXPANDS AMENITIES

Even in the dead of winter, officials at Midtown Marina in East Dubuque have found a way to stay busy.

Owner Jeremy McDowell said crews are in the process of constructing new docks and upgrading others.

By the upcoming boating season, Midtown Marina will feature 14 new boat slips and

business tips sought

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16 refurbished ones.

McDowell said there is currently a waiting list for boat slips at the marina.

Some of the upgraded slips are designed to better meet the needs of boaters, McDowell explained. For instance, some spaces that previously accommodated houseboats — which are waning in popularity — have been altered to accommodate increasingly popular pontoon boats.

The improvements are part of a broader plan at Midtown Marina. Jeremy and his wife, Brenda McDowell, took over the marina from his parents, Sandy and Arnie McDowell, in 2017.

"When we took over, we had an idea of certain things we could do and make better," Jeremy McDowell said. "We've been able to take off and really make a go of it. We have a vision of being here and being successful for another 20 or 30 years."

The expansion of the docks is just one of multiple projects the new owners have overseen.

Last year, crews increased the number of campsites from four to 12. McDowell said he plans to add another seven

sites this year.

The improvements have Jeremy feeling optimistic as warmer weather approaches.

"We believe we're going about things the right way here," he said. "We're hoping to have a really good summer."

FURNITURE STORE EYES EXPANSION

For the second time in less than a year, a Dubuque furniture store is expanding its presence in Plaza 20.

Affordable Furniture & Treasures, 2600 Dodge St., will relocate to a larger location within the same shopping plaza in early May.

Owner Gary Higgins said the business, which opened early last year, will move into the space currently occupied by Second Chances, a consignment shop that will close next month.

The new location spans 6,500 square feet, Higgins said. The business currently has a 1,750-square-foot retail space, as well as a warehouse spanning 2,700 square feet.

The move also will allow the business to double its workforce from five to 10 employees.

Plenty of work must be

done before the move is made.

"We are totally gutting it," said Higgins. "The walls are coming down, and we're putting in brand-new flooring."

Since opening the furniture and antiques store last year, Higgins has been pleasantly surprised by the interest from local customers.

The high demand prompted the company to start utilizing the additional warehouse space, located behind the former Save-a-Lot grocery store in Plaza 20, last summer.

Once the move is complete, the business will consolidate all of its operations in one structure.

"We're happy to be here," Higgins said. "We feel like it's a thriving place."

Affordable Furniture & Treasures is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Higgins said those hours likely will be expanded once the move is complete.

The business can be reached at 563-582-5597.



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