

OPENING OF DOVE HEALTHCARE — SOUTH

Friendly waves

New rehab facility offers public use of therapy pool

By Christena T. O'Brien
Leader-Telegram staff

When Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer suffered a severe knee injury during a January 2006 playoff loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, his surgeon called the damage potentially career-ending.

But Palmer returned to the football field after surgery and months of rehab that included use of a HydroWorx therapy pool with underwater treadmill cameras that allowed Bengals' trainers to observe his movements as Palmer jogged in neck-deep water, which kept him from overtaxing his knee.

Residents of the Chippewa Valley now can use a similar therapy pool at Dove Healthcare — South, a new state-of-the-art rehabilitation facility on Highway 93 that opened Monday.

"I'm very hopeful that the community — after watching it be built for 13 months on a very visible road — has a chance to use the building and see how a futuristic model of that short-term piece of long-term care can be seen and used," said Jim Deignan, chief executive officer of Dove Healthcare and its affiliates, noting the entire facility's design took another 12 months and the planning of the project almost a decade.

The pool, which is part of the Transitions Rehabilitation program, is the first warm-water aquatic therapy pool in Wisconsin with a height-adjustable floor that functions as an



Staff photo by Steve Kinderman

Jeff Sauter, aquatics director, demonstrated the HydroWorx therapy pool at Dove Healthcare — South. The pool features water between 92 and 94 degrees and a height-adjustable floor that functions as an underwater treadmill.

■ Dove Healthcare is hosting a public open house from 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday at its new south location at 3656 Mall Drive, off Highway 93. A ribbon-cutting is set for 3:30 p.m.

underwater treadmill, he said. It also features resistance therapy jets and hydromassage.

"Aquatic therapy is well known for its amazing effects with enhancing recovery and preventing injuries," Deignan said. "The fastest way to recover from an injury is

to begin the rehabilitation process, but oftentimes pain levels and fear of falling impact the ability to start.

"The pain commonly associated with rehabilitation and a variety of conditions and diseases, (like) arthritis and fibromyalgia, can be decreased or even eliminated in water because it reduces the weight bearing on joints."

Jeff Sauter, the new facility's aquatics director, has seen firsthand the effects of water therapy. He and his wife, Donna, used to own Unity Health & Fitness, which once sat

where Dove Healthcare — South now stands. Their facility included a pool. His sister also suffers from cerebral palsy and has benefited from water therapy.

"It can make an amazing difference," said Sauter, who has been fielding phone calls from people interested in taking the plunge in the pool themselves after seeing the aquatic therapy sign in front of the building and medical providers interested in sending patients over.

The pool is part of a 4,000-square-foot rehabil-

itation gym for inpatient and outpatient therapy, which includes a 1996 Cadillac to help practice entering and exiting.

"Whether you're the driver or the passenger, you still need to be able to get in and out of the car," Deignan said.

An apartment setup includes a bathroom, bedroom and fully stocked kitchen so people learn to live independently, Deignan said.

Also included are an array of cardio equipment, stairs and an overhead lift system.

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Dove/Facility has three neighborhoods

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Dove Healthcare — South includes the following features:

■ Three distinctive living neighborhoods — Bluebird, Hummingbird and Oriole — that feature 50 private rooms, private bathrooms, a laundry room that can be incorporated into an occupational therapy regimen and a spa with a fireplace.

"We said, 'Please make this look and feel like a Holiday Inn Express,'"

Deignan said. "That's what we said, and I think we've been able to do that for the most part."

■ Multiple outdoor fenced-in courtyards and a walking path that surrounds the entire facility — both of which can be used in therapy, Deignan said.

■ The Fireside Bistro in the lobby, where residents and the public can enjoy chef-prepared menu items daily. O'Brien can be reached at 830-5838, 800-236-7077 or christena.obrien@ecpc.com.

Very big deal

Black bear shot near Cumberland may be state's largest

By Dennis Anderson
Star Tribune

What probably will be the largest black bear shot in Wisconsin this fall was taken last weekend by Rhonda Anderson of Sarona, a fourth-grade teacher.

The animal weighed 658 pounds live weight, 564 dressed. Anderson was in a four-person party that included her husband, Brian. They were hunting behind three Walker hounds and a Plott hound when the youngest canine in the bunch, a mere 6 months

old, got on the hot trail of the big bear, finding it in a cornfield while the hunters and other dogs took a break.

"We really just let the young dog out to stretch his legs," said Cody Fankhauser of Cumberland.

Also in the group of avid bear hunters was Rich Einum of Rice Lake.

Anderson's bear green-scored 21 10/16 at a taxidermist on Monday (scorers don't reduce the fractions). The Wisconsin state record is 22 12/16. That bear was taken in 2002 in

Washburn County.

Anderson's bear was shot in Barron County, in the general vicinity of Cumberland.

The state Department of Natural Resources doesn't keep records of bears or other animals taken by hunters. But Linda Olver of the agency said Monday that wildlife managers rarely see bears in Wisconsin that field-dress at more than 500 pounds.

A bear reportedly weighing about 700 pounds was killed last fall near Menomonie. An

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Fest to be (Cheddar) block party

Carver has appeared on Letterman show

By Chris Vetter
Chippewa Falls News Bureau

CHIPPEWA FALLS — Troy Landwehr, 33, began carving cheese sculptures when he was 11.

Landwehr will carve a 150-pound block of Cheddar cheese into the Oktoberfest logo Friday at the seventh annual German-inspired festival at the Northern Wisconsin State Fairground. He brings tools used for carving clay, such as knives and wires.

"Cheddar works the best because of the oils and consistencies," Landwehr said. "The harder cheeses can crum-

ble. The soft cheeses don't hold their shape, and an arm would sag or snap off."

Landwehr, who lives in Freedom, north of Appleton, is busy most weekends carving cheese somewhere. Sometimes it's a small sculpture for a wedding or anniversary party, but he also appeared on "The



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If You Go

What: Oktoberfest.
Where: 300 Jefferson Ave., Chippewa Falls — Northern Wisconsin State Fairground.

When: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Cost: \$13 for a button, good for admission all three days, \$8 for a one-day pass. Children 12 and younger are free Friday and Saturday with a paid adult. All children are free Sunday with a paid adult.

Information: Call 723-0340 or go to www.chippewachamber.org/oktoberfest.