

HERALD-ARGUS BUSINESS



**Insure It
With
Snyder
Insurance**

OWN ONE?

361 W. Main St.
Westville, IN 46391
219-785-2714
Committed to Our Community

1905 Franklin St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-4343

Whitaker, Redding join Samaritan Counseling

The Samaritan Counseling Centers has announced the addition of two new therapists to their staff.

Elizabeth A. Whitaker, MA, LMHC, received her degrees from Bluffton and Ohio State universities. She has worked as a therapist in different settings, including community mental health as an addictions therapist and treated various mental and emotional concerns at the counseling center at a university.



Whitaker

She will see children, adolescents, couples and those dealing with substance abuse issues, as well as provide group therapy. This year she has provided counseling at two schools thanks to grants from the Unity Foundation and Alcoa/Howmet Foundation. She also is an adjunct faculty at Kaplan University and is the contributing author of "Couch Talk" for Mom to Mom NW1 magazine. A resident of Michigan City, she is married to Ryan and has two young sons.

Sharyn F. Redding joined the staff in March and is available to schedule appointments at the Michigan City, La Porte and Valparaiso sites. Sharyn received her masters degree in social work at Indiana University and her undergraduate degree in social work at Anderson University.



Redding

In addition, she received a certificate from the Family Institute of Chicago in the two-year program of family studies and practice. Sharyn is an experienced therapist, having worked in community mental health and addiction centers for many years as well as home health services.

She provides therapy to people of all ages and offers individual, family, couples and group therapy, as well as educational programs. Other areas of expertise include holistic health: Integration of body, mind and spirit; family effects of various addictions; trauma issues; grief and loss; and coping with depression and anxiety. Also from Michigan City, Sharyn is married to Glen and has an adult son.

The Samaritan Counseling Center's mission is to help people and organizations heal and grow by improving their spiritual, emotional and physical well-being. The have been a resource in La Porte County since 1981 and

By Gabrielle Gonzalez
Staff writer
219-326-3870, ext. 3870
ggonzalez@heraldargus.com

LA PORTE — With more than 30,000 different trees and varieties of flower species, Small's Landscaping isn't so small.

Originally established in La Porte, Small's now conducts business at their massive nursery at 310 North 325 East in Valparaiso.

Landscape designer Becky Whitacre and her sister, Nancy Marshall, recently received a high honor for their implementation of an elaborate landscape for a home. They were awarded as Total Landscaping Care Magazine's North American 2013 Landscaper of the Year.

Whitacre attended a landscape nursery program at Michigan State University, the only female in her class. Marshall, who served as president and project manager consultant, developed a knack for accounting when attending a local business school.

The family business was established in La Porte by their father, Walter Small, originally known as Small's garden center. When the sisters took over the business, they took out the retail and gifts aspect to focus on creating exotic and unique garden scenes and established a name for themselves with their hard-surface lawn and pond backyards. They also work with waterscaping, custom containers, irrigation, outdoor kitchens and seasonal decor.

They have had booming business in landscaping and maintenance since they took over and moved to Valparaiso 13 years ago.



Whitacre (left) and Marshall pose with some of their plants.



Becky Whitacre (front) and her sister, Nancy Marshall, owners of Small's Landscaping, pose with a copy of the article featuring Small's Landscaping winning the 2013 Landscaper of the Year award. Photos on the wall display some of their work.

Photos by Bob Wellinski

this fall.

"We think outside the box," Whitacre said. "Our landscaping style is not flat but it is angulating, with rolling layers, and with color."

Small's examines their canvas — the land they will use. Then they go back to the office to sketch and design the work for the client to review and add input. Clients also can visit their business to personally look

at the products and plants that will be used in their design. At the next stage, the sisters have certain crews who perform tasks such as building waterfalls, as well as a gardening and a disassembling crew.

They landscape for the circumference of the home's outside and also cater to designing for businesses and large commercial front and back yards.

"Landscaping is very personal," Whitacre said. "We want to create our client's paradise."

Whitacre said great motivation is getting calls from clients who say they "love their yard" or say they "practically live in their backyard now."

They have clients as near as Illinois, Michigan and Indiana and as far as Texas, Colorado and California.

Through any season, Whitacre said they will maintain or create any scenic landscape, making sure it is original and custom made.

Flowers and trees range from any annuals, perennials and native plants to tropical palm trees, Japanese maples and colorful magnolias. They specialize in ground and hanging pots, which they fill with colorful boutiques that flow over the rim of the bowl.

Winning the award earned them a cruise to Australia as well as a new Bobcat and added recognition in the landscaping business community.

community.

They also received three awards by the state this year for residential landscaping, residential hard-scapes and commercial landscaping. The duo also received state recognition in 2008 and 2009.

For more information visit www.smallslandscaping.com or call 219-476-7400.

Follow Gabrielle on Twitter @GabbyGonzalezHA.



Marshall (front) and Whitacre go over plans for an upcoming landscaping project.

Horizon Bancorp named a top 200 community bank in the nation

Horizon Bancorp has once again been listed as one of the top 200 community banks in the country by

the nations top community banks based upon its three-year average return on equity as of Dec. 31. This rank-

advisers work extremely hard to provide exceptional service and are committed to providing one-on-one fi-

executive officer.

Learn more about Horizon Bancorp's ranking by visiting www.americanbanker.com/

ern and Central Indiana and Southwest Michigan through its commercial banking subsidiary Horizon Bank.