

Evans Print & Media: Two decades of quality service

By NICOLE VIK
Staff Writer

It has been 20 years since Greg Evans started Evans Printing from scratch. He can recall being 4-years-old watching printing presses. "My brother Terry would put me on a chair and say, 'if this thing messes up just hit this button.' That's how I grew up."

The Evans family members have been in the printing business in one form or another for six generations. Evans parents owned newspapers in Illinois and knew it was what he was always meant to be doing himself. In 1998, he opened Evans Printing after working for Monroe County Publishers as a production manager running a web press and organizing all of the printing.

"I just started the business and didn't have any customers," Evans said. "But I dealt with a lot of people

and I saw a need for the community and the county."

Evans saw a lot of printing jobs leaving the community when he made the decision to open his original location, which was in a small strip mall off of Wisconsin Street. He started with one employee who would watch the shop while he went out to sell printing jobs.

In the evenings, he would come back to the shop and do all of the printing on his own. He would go home, rest and do it all over again for the first year.

By 2001, Evans Printing had outgrown the location and relocated to a strip mall off of Highway 27 just one month prior to 9/11. As everyone was mourning the tragedy that took place in New York City, Evans couldn't help but feel a tinge of anxiety after having just expanded.

"That was devastating to this country and it put businesses down in

the slump but we managed through it, believe me I've been through the hard times," he said. "I've been through it all with just that little bit of light at the end of the tunnel."

Evans made it through and by 2015 he was shopping for a bigger building to expand yet again. He was all set to purchase another building when he was contacted by a broker who told him the building on River Road was for sale.

At that time, he was told the Sparta Herald and the Monroe County Democrat had already been sold to another firm. The deal fell through and it was ultimately offered for purchase to Evans and he got more than he had originally bargained for going from seven to 21 employees and becoming Evans Print & Media.

Evans decided to combine the two papers into one, the Monroe County Herald. "It was a good decision," he said, adding he had never envisioned



Greg Evans, owner of Evans Print & Media Group is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Herald photo by Nicole Vik.

going the "newspaper route" because he had always favored the printing aspect.

"My father called me an editor's nightmare back when I wrote sports in high school and so he said, 'Greg, just go into printing.' And I said, 'not a problem.' I took his advice," Evans explained. "It worked. We were successful for 18 years before I bought the newspaper and that's been successful."

Evans has always been challenged with new things that people want and he said he never backs down on buying a piece of equipment to do that.

"I always try to keep the customer satisfied," he said. "Customer service is a huge thing for me."

According to Evans, designing has evolved over the years with a variety of different programs and software for computers. Evans Print & Media offers a wide array of printing services including but not limited to large format prints, mailings, screen-printing, short-run digital products, etc.

"You don't have to order 1,000 brochures or books anymore," Evans said. "You can order 50 of them and it's not like you're paying \$400 to \$500 anymore and it gives individuals many more options."

Earlier this year, Evans expanded again by purchasing what is now called the Hillsboro Sentry Enterprise. The purchase was personal to Evans as his parents owned the paper when he was in high school.

Evans Print & Media continues to grow and make improvements and hopes to implement a new website for job printing that will allow individuals and businesses to order and reorder jobs online. He is hopeful it will launch sometime in September.

"It's worked out pretty well. I'm glad that I made the decision that I did to open," Evans said. "I've always enjoyed it and there's always something new going on. I've had to evolve over the years and I have enthusiasm for the business."



Another brick in the wall

The 3rd Gen LLC development on Superior Avenue is showing significant progress since spring and through the summer. The building will feature a mixed use of retail, apartments, office space and restaurant, Murray's On Main. Pictured are views from the side of the construction site and the back along Kilbourn Avenue. Workers for Market & Johnson, the general contractor, and sub-contractors have been able to keep the \$11 million project on schedule. The building will consist of three stories and 70,000 square feet. There will be 11 apartments on the third floor. Murray's will seat 110 to 120 people, have seating for 60 people at its bar and offer a 400 person capacity banquet room. The tentative completion date for the entire project is February, 2019. Murray's On Main is targeted to open sometime in December. Herald photo by Bob Kliebenstein.

Dental renovation underway for Scenic Bluffs

Scenic Bluffs Dental

for computer systems and general updates to the facility and equipment.

an expansion in 2007, to bring the total number of operatories to 14.