

Business

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? Contact editor Jodi Pospeschil at editor@mcdonoughvoice.com or (309) 833-2114

BIZ

Continued from Page A6

with your Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org. The shop you select should have a good track record of resolving any complaints.

- Get recommendations. Talk to friends and family for recommendations.
- Ask your auto insurance agent, auto parts salesperson, or other business people you know.

- Do not pay in full until the repairs are complete.
- Look for a mechanic with experience working on the same automobile model and make as yours. Seek out a mechanic with good credentials, updated knowledge and skill.

Some shops display ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) certification, which indicates the mechanic has met basic standards in a specific technical area. You can also check for shops that participate in the AAA auto service program. But be careful; an ASE test or other certification is not an indication of ethics and integrity.

- Interview mechanics. Are they willing to answer your questions? Do they convey a positive, professional image? Ask if the technician or shop has experience working on the same model vehicle as yours.

- Ask the shop for the names of customer references. Then call those references.

- Look for a shop with a clean and well-maintained repair area.

-GateHouse News Service

Counseling office expands

Ryan Hagan

news9@mcdonoughvoice.com

Synago has added three new counselors to its local practice. In addition to Bill Syrcle, the practice's founder, Emily Roberts, Dawn Kedzior and Vickie Beard now make-up Synago's counseling team. The business has expanded to the entire first floor of its current location, across from St. Paul Catholic Church.

When asked what sets Synago apart from other counseling services, Bill responded, "Our Christian emphasis. It's a big part of our individual lives, it's a part of how we do business, it's a part of how we do counseling." While the practice specializes in counseling with a Christian focus, it does not require clients to seek religion-backed support. "We see people from all walks of life," the group said.

The practice offers a homey atmosphere with discreet, private parking. Synago's services are for everyone - individuals, couples and groups and do not require a doctor's referrals.

"Anyone can call and schedule an appointment," Syrcle said.

Roberts hopes to focus on depression, grief, loss, fertility, cross-cultural relations and sexual abuse issues. She has worked in counseling for over 20 years, has 8-year-old twins and lived in Turkey for six years. She will also be teaching Synago's joint parenting class for divorced couples. She has a master's degree in marriage and family counseling from Southwestern Theological Seminary, a master's degree in biblical counseling from Colorado Christian University and is a licensed clinical professional counselor.

Dawn Kedzior has 23 years of experience in child welfare. Her specialties include children and



The counselors at Synago.

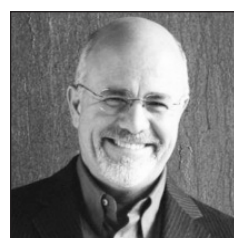
families. She is also interested in pet therapy. She earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Iowa and is a licensed clinical social worker.

Vickie Beard works with a diverse range of topics including: children, teens, marriage, family, addictions, eating disorders and play therapy. She has a master's degree in education and is a graduate of Western Illinois University's counseling department. She

will soon obtain her certification as a licensed professional counselor. She said she uses lessons learned from her own life experiences to help others.

Bill Syrcle has 12 years experience in counseling. He earned a master's degree in clinical psychology from Western Illinois University and is a licensed clinical professional counselor. Bill also teaches Synago's executive coaching classes, which are designed "for anyone in a corporate setting desiring to cultivate growth."

For more information about Synago call 833-2008 or visit www.synago-llc.com.



DAVE RAMSEY

The weak can't help the weak

Dear Dave,
My husband and I have been married less than a year, and already we're having huge disagreements over money. He's got a big heart, but often he'll just give money to friends and family. Sometimes this leaves us short when it comes to monthly bills, paying off debt and saving anything. I guess he thinks we'll get by somehow, but it scares me. What can I do?
Summer

Dear Summer,
It sounds like he does have a big heart, and I'm sure that's one of the reasons you love him. But this kind of behavior is completely irresponsible. What's worse, it's driving you crazy. At this point, you have every right to be scared and frustrated, because the message he's sending you is he wants to take care of everyone else before he takes care of you and your family. That's not a good idea.

Broke people can't help broke people, meaning only the strong can help the weak. At this point, you guys should be working together to get your own financial house in order. I'm talking about becoming debt-free, with a
See RAMSEY — Page A9

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