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FEATURED

Premier Dental set to become one-stop, up-to-date facility

By Jordan Gass-Poore New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

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Luigi Massa of Premier Dental Center stands June 14 in one of the center's five new treatment rooms. An open house showcasing the center's recent expansion is planned for late July.

LAURA MCKENZIE | New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

Local dentistry Premier Dental off Common Street will celebrate the completion of their second office expansion with an open house for area business representatives and long-standing customers at the end of July.

Luigi Massa, partner and dentist at Premier Dental, said the construction of five additional treatment rooms began in February, adding to the office's current 10, which serve as spaces for family, cosmetic, and implant dentistry, as well as orthodontics and oral surgery.

"We really try to encompass all aspects of dentistry in one building," Massa said.

The company first expanded its treatment rooms from the original six to nine in 2006.

Massa is joined by doctors Michael Barr and Oscar Vazquez, as well as dentist Brandt Dotson and director Suzanne McCully.

Similar to his coworkers, Massa has 15 years' worth of dental experience.

The Wisconsin native joined Premier Dental after graduating from Baylor College of Dentistry in 2005, after receiving his associates degree in Milwaukee.

He worked as a dental laboratory technician until moving to Texas in 2001.

Massa said the Premier Dental team strives to provide its patients with the best care using up-to-date technology at an affordable price.

He said the latest office expansion will allow the company to incorporate digital scanning of patients' teeth in-house using a cone-beam, computed tomography, or CT scanner.

The CT scanner takes high resolution impressions of teeth, roots, jaw and skull that produce 3D images, which may be used for archiving, diagnosis and treatment planning.

Digital scanning may eliminate traditional cast impressions used by orthodontists who visit Premier Dental two to three days a month.

Traditional cast impressions use a product that has been described by some patients as feeling similar to silly putty. The procedure takes about 30 seconds each for both the upper and lower rows of teeth.

"Now, instead of sending the molds off we can digitally scan them," said Massa. "We can design, stain, engrave (and) add color in office."

He added that this type of technology allows orthodontists and oral surgeons to work with more precision and efficiency, producing quicker results for patients, who usually receive notification in seven to 10 days.

"We're able to do a lot under one roof," Massa said.

