

CBJ

Corridor Business Journal

\$2.00

| A LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS WEEKLY IN IOWA'S CREATIVE CORRIDOR

| JUNE 10 - 16, 2019

FASTEST GROWING COMPANIES

Rabe Hardware – 40 years and counting

The year was 1979. The Bee Gees topped the music charts, gas was 0.88 cents per gallon and Scrappy-Doo was first added to the cast of Scooby-Doo. That was also the year brothers Leo and Jack Rabe purchased Kubicheks Hardware in Blairstown. They renamed the local hardware store and heating shop Rabe Hardware and opened for business on a belief that every customer should be treated like family with honesty, integrity and reliability.

Rabe Hardware continues to honor that legacy today under the direction of Leo's son, Jason (Jake) Rabe. Jake grew up in the family business and at an early age began show-

#24

**42.76%
growth**

Rabe Hardware

Blairstown | Founded 1979
rabehardware.com | First time on list

ing interest in home mechanical services. In 1994, after serving as an F-18 Fighter Jet Mechanic in the Gulf War, Jake became the second generation owner and continues to own and operate the company today.

"Our goal today is the same as it was 40 years ago – to provide products and services that exceed expectations and to do it with honesty, integrity and reliability," Jake Rabe said.

Under Jake's leadership, the company has significantly expanded services to include far more than could have been imagined by its founders. What started 40 years ago as a small-town operation, has grown to become one of Eastern Iowa's most trusted service companies for quality residential and commercial solar, HVAC, plumbing, electrical and fireplace products and services.

In 2007, Jake purchased Travis True Value in Vinton which is now home to Rabe Hardware's second location called Home Comfort Headquarters. With more than 25 operable fireplace displays including gas, wood and electric as well as a variety of wood and multi-fuel stoves; Home Comfort Headquarters is undoubtedly one of Eastern Iowa's most impressive fireplace showrooms.

Most notable of Rabe Hardware's accom-

plishments over the past 40 years has been their rise to the top of Iowa's energy services industry. A long-time advocate of renewable energy, Jake realized early on the role geothermal and solar would have on protecting customers from rising energy costs while improving efficiency and lowering operating costs. Today, Rabe Hardware is widely recognized as one of Iowa's most trusted solar and geothermal experts.

The growing service company now includes two locations, over 20 fleet trucks, 40 employees and a customer base and service area that continues to expand. Listed as a Better Business Bureau "Accredited Business," Rabe Hardware maintains an A+ rating along with a five-star Google Review rating. Year after year they've been the recipient of numerous industry awards including the Geo-Comfort Platinum Dealer Award, the Lennox Centurion Award and the Lennox Premier Dealer Award.

"We're proud of the progress we've made and are thrilled to see what the future holds," Jake Rabe said. "Our success over the past 40 years wouldn't have been possible without the talents and dedication of our team and the loyal customers who look to Rabe Hardware for their home comfort and energy saving needs."

More information on Rabe Hardware can be found online at www.rabehardware.com. ■

The growing service company now includes two locations, over 20 fleet trucks, 40 employees and a customer base and service area that continues to expand.

