



Photos provided

**LEFT:** Tiffany and Phil Johnson, along with their son, Philip, and daughter, Sadie, stand outside Audiophil's Records in Joliet. Treasure hunting for vinyl was a low-key hobby the entire family enjoyed, including their kids, now 11 and 8. The store is part of their hobby. **ABOVE:** In addition to browsing and selling, Audiophil's also buys vinyl straight from the consumer, especially collections. The store, however, does not offer consignment, Tiffany said. Audiophil's also does not sell CDs, unless the artist is a local band or local high school.

# Family fun now a family business

## Couple's love for vinyl records becomes a downtown Joliet store

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Move over, digital music. Vinyl is back.

At least in Joliet.

Last weekend, vinyl collectors Phil and Tiffany Johnson held a grand opening of their jointly owned Audiophil's Records in downtown Joliet, which offers about 3,000 (so far) new vinyl records of a wide range of genres (from Hank Williams to Cyprus Hill, Tiffany said).

"We got some 78s got some 45 mostly what's out there are 33s," Tiffany said.

As one might expect, records such as Iron Maiden and Metallica sell fairly quickly, Tiffany said. Audio-

phil's also has a small collection of playable used records, or as Tiffany calls them, "preloved."

"And we've got a free box for those that are questionable," Tiffany said.

Meaning anyone is welcome to take some home and see if they play.

But the store also has vinyl by local artists, too.

"John Condron and the Old Gang Orchestra just released their new album on vinyl," Tiffany said.

The rarest album that's arrived in the store so far is a promo gold vinyl album of Prince's "Gold Experience."

"Phil hasn't even priced it yet," Tiffany said.

Can't find a particular title at Audiophil's? Let the owners know.

"We'll try our best to find it," Tif-

### If you go

■ **WHAT:** Audiophil's Records

■ **WHEN:** 4 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; noon to 8 p.m. Saturday; and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday

■ **WHERE:** 7 E. VanBuren St., Suite 17E

■ **INFO:** Call 815-319-2143 or visit [www.audiophilsrecords.com](http://www.audiophilsrecords.com).

fany said.

What made these two 35-year-olds with kids decide to open a mom-and-pop record store?

Their own love for vinyl.

"We both work real jobs," Tiffany said. "This is what we do for fun."

Phil himself began collecting vinyl

when he was about 12, Tiffany said.

However, the hobby took off in earnest five years ago after Phil acquired his mother's collection and began seeking more titles.

"We probably have 1,000 or more," Tiffany said. "It's how we listen to music."

Some businesses shy away from downtown, but not the Johnsons.

"Downtown is alive and growing," Tiffany said. "And it's growing. There's great food and live music almost every day of the week."

So far, business is booming and Tiffany credits Joliet residents.

"It's all been word of mouth," she said. "This place is like wildfire."

"Wildfire." Anyone remember that '70s song by Michael Murphy?