

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2017

DALLAS POST

2017 BEST OF THE BACK MOUNTAIN READERS' CHOICE AWARDS



-GAM-

*I read of a man who stood to speak
at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on the tombstone
from the beginning to the end.*

*He noted that first came the date of birth
and spoke the following date with tears,
but he said what mattered most of all
was the dash between those years.*

With love and gratitude to the
community who voted
**Gary A. Michak: Best Attorney
of the Back Mountain** for a decade.

Gary will be remembered for his
brave and courageous spirit,
his values of justice and compassion
and his mega-watt smile!

Gary's mission on earth was to have
a safer, stronger community.

Please think of how you can
contribute to that cause using
Gary's legacy to guide you.

With grateful hearts,
Courtney, Ariana and Thomas Michak
& The Law Office Staff



Thank You for
voting Gary
as 2017
Best Attorney
in the Back
Mountain.

**GARY
ANDREW
MICHAK**

1960 - 2017

LOCAL FLAVOR



Sue Hand, of Sue Hand's Imagery on Main Street in Dallas, has been voted the Best Artist in the Back Mountain.

ARTIST (ANY FORM)
Sue Hand

For over 40 years, Sue Hand and her husband Joe

have fostered art talent in area children and adults at their studio on Main Street in Dallas. Hand earned a

degree in Art Education from Kutztown State College and received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities

from King's College in Wilkes-Barre. She has created countless paintings that are included in public and private collections in the United States and in 10 foreign countries. This is the 10th year Dallas Post and Times Leader readers have voted Hand Best Artist.

CHILD CARE PROGRAM
Little People Day Care School

Since 1985, Little People Day Care School has provided area parents and caregivers with state-certified programs and teachers for children between the ages of 2 and 12 years old. The facility, located at 96 Huntsville Road in Dallas, is a participant in the Keystone Stars Program.

COLLEGE CAMPUS
Misericordia University
Misericordia University

hosts a variety of programs, lectures and volunteering opportunities for its students, faculty, staff and the community, earning it the title of Best College Campus once again. The university was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1924 and became Luzerne County's first four-year college. Today, Misericordia offers 45 academic programs on the graduate and undergraduate levels. The university was ranked in the top tier of the Best Regional Universities in the Northern category of U.S. News and World Report's 2018 edition of Best Colleges. The Princeton Review recognizes MU as a 2018 Best Northeastern College and MONEY Magazine also included Misericordia in its 2017-18 "Best Colleges" list.

COLLEGE PROFESSOR
Fred Croop

Misericordia University Professor Fred Croop was voted Best College Professor by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers. Croop instructs accounting classes, but also helped students and faculty in the Misericordia University Business Department to create an Internal Controls and Federal Tax Exemption Basics for All Volunteer Organizations Resource Manual. The manual outlines a system of checks and balances to prevent internal theft of funds from nonprofit organizations.



Croop



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Back Mountain Dance Studio was named the Best of the Back Mountain Dance Studio by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

DANCE STUDIO
Back Mountain Dance Studio
 Back Mountain Dance

Studio is the largest dance studio in the community. Since 1990, the studio has provided dance lessons

for children starting at age 3. The studio developed a competition program that has allowed its students

to win prize money, scholarships, regional and national titles.

ELECTED OFFICIAL
State Sen.

Lisa Baker
 State Sen. Lisa Baker (R-Lehman Township) is serving her third term representing the 20th Senatorial District, covering parts of Luzerne and Susquehanna counties plus Pike, Wayne and Wyoming counties. Baker is the chairwoman of the Health and Human Services committee. She also serves on the Aging and Youth, Appropriations, Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure and Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness committees. Baker resides in Lehman Township with her husband, Gary, and son, Carson.



Baker

FITNESS FACILITY
Vitality Health & Fitness for Women

Vitality Health & Fitness for Women has been chosen Best Fitness Facility for the first time. The women-only gym offers circuit training, body sculpting, Piyo, HIIT training, cardio, weights, 70+ classes offered per month, including TNT, Yoga, Zumba, Turbo Kick, Tabata, Body sculpt and more. Vitality Health & Fitness for Women is located at 1230 Memorial Hwy., Suite 2C, in Trucksville.

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

Amy Pryor

Amy Pryor, owner of Vitality Health & Fitness for Women, has been named Best Fitness Instructor for the third year in a row. Pryor



Pryor

has been a certified group fitness instructor since 2014 and teaches several different classes, including Power Hour, Core Crunch, Deep Strength, Butts and Guts, Total Tone, Body Boost, Core Balance and a high interval intense training class.

GOLF COURSE
Irem Country Club

The Irem Country Club features an 18-hole, 6,480-yard course with a par of 72. The golf course was designed by A.W. Tillinghast and opened in 1922. The Irem Country Club is located at 397 Country Club Road in Dallas.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACH

Rich Mannello (Dallas Football)

Rich Mannello has coached the Dallas High School football team since 2015. He was the head football coach at King's College



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Lake-Lehman Knights were chosen Best High School Athletic Team.

from 1991-2009. Mannello said he enjoys helping the area's youth build life-long relationships through high school athletics. Currently, Dallas is 5-2. Mannello resides in Dallas with his wife Bonnie. The couple has a son, Stone, a freshman at Springfield College in Springfield, Mass.



Mannello

HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER Jonathan Saba

Jonathan Saba is a social science and learning support teacher at Dallas High School. He has worked in education for 10 years, nine years in the Dallas School District and one year in the Wyoming Valley West School District. Saba earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology and



Saba

a minor in coaching from Shippensburg University. He earned a masters degree in Special Education from Bloomsburg University and recently became certified in Social Studies. Saba and his wife Erin live in the Back Mountain.

LOCALLY MADE/GROWN PRODUCT

Darling & Sons Farms and Greenhouse
Darling & Sons Farms and Greenhouses, located on Hildebrandt Road in



Darling & Sons Farms and Greenhouse in Dallas Township was voted Best Locally Made/Grown Product.



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 Like us on 

Dallas Township, provides the Back Mountain and surrounding communities with fresh produce as well as wholesale and retail bedding plants, perennials and annuals. The family owned farm is a staple at both the Back Mountain Memorial Library Farmers Market held outside Dallas Elementary School and the Wilkes-Barre Farmers Market on Public Square. Family members staffing the store are always eager to show customers their produce.

ORGANIZED EVENT The Lands at Hillside Farm Fall Festival

The Lands at Hillside Farm's annual Fall Festival gives area families an opportunity to explore the farm and enjoy seasonal activities such as a wagon ride through the fields and a small hay maze for

young children. The event also features several area vendors. All proceeds raised from the Fall Fest benefit The Lands at Hillside Farms Education Department, which hosts a variety of community events throughout the year, including class trips and programs such as a Grief Camp.

PLACE FOR FAMILY FUN The Lands at Hillside Farms

The Lands at Hillside Farms is a 19th-century dairy farm on Hillside Road in Shavertown. The 412-acre property features a herd of Holstein, Brown Swiss and Jersey Dairy cows, Milking Devon oxen, chickens, Dorset sheep, Alpine goats and Sardinian donkeys. Visitors can shop in The Lands at Hillside Farms Dairy Store or mercantile shop. Guests can tour

the educational center and learn about local agriculture and history of the farm. An 1800s greenhouse, designed by Lord and Burnham, has been restored. The 1882 Victorian cottage hosts the annual Christmas at the Cottage event and is available for weddings or other small gatherings. The nonprofit farm hosts a variety of programs, including school field trips, farm tours and lectures.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jessica Standish
Jessica Standish has earned the title of Best Photographer. Standish has a creative eye in capturing moments for eternity. Her studio is located in the Pendragon Center at 1230 Memorial Highway, Suite 2D, in Shavertown.



The Lands at Hillside Farms is an educational farm that is home to many animals for visitors to enjoy. The farm has been named Best Place for Family Fun in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers. It was also awarded Best Organized Event for its annual Fall Festival.

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DINING OUT

ASIAN FOOD

Peking Chef

Peking Chef brought the flavors of the orient to the Back Mountain in 1979 by establishing a restaurant in the Dallas Shopping Center. Patrons can try their chopstick skills or use silverware to dine on a variety of items that include pork egg rolls, shrimp spring rolls, Moo Goo Gai Pan, Sweet and Sour Chicken and General Tso's Shrimp. Peking Chef offers take-out of dine-in services.

ATMOSPHERE/DECOR

Fire & Ice on Toby Creek

Whether you are looking for an intimate dinner for two or dining accommodations for a large group, families or friends, Fire & Ice on Toby Creek has the right atmosphere. The dining

room features cozy dining areas as well as high-top tables in the bar. The casual ambiance and knowledgeable staff create a personal touch to every dining experience. Fire & Ice on Toby Creek is located on Route 309 in Trucksville.

BREAKFAST

Lakeside Skillet

Lakeside Skillet offers a traditional breakfast menu with a selection of omelets, pancakes and French toast, but the eatery will also tempt customers with unique dishes such as Bananas Foster French Toast and House Specialty Pumpkin Nut Pancakes. The variety of offerings earned the Harveys Lake restaurant the title of Best Breakfast by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers. The



Peking Chef offers an expansive menu made with fresh ingredients. The restaurant was chosen as having the Best Asian Food in the Back Mountain.

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Red Rooster Family Restaurant has the Best Dessert in the Back Mountain, as voted by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.



The Lakeside Skillet at Harveys Lake was voted the Best Breakfast in the Back Mountain.

nautical-themed restaurant, located at 3075 Lakeside Drive, serves breakfast daily from 7 to 11 a.m.

BURGER

Crabby's Seafood and Grill

Crabby's Seafood and Grill earned high marks by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers for its burgers. The restaurant's menu boasts a variety of burgers that includes Crabby's burger, a 10-ounce Angus burger with a homemade crab cake on top as well as a blackened Angus burger with Blue Cheese. Crabby's Seafood and Grill is located at 3159 Lower Demunds Road in Dallas Township.

CATERER

Klassic Catering

Whether your event is a casual clambake or a formal dining affair, Klassic Catering can highlight your event with a variety of culinary creations. Klassic Catering, located at 2043 Route 309 (N. Memorial Hwy.) in Shavertown, can formulate a menu around any theme, awarding it the title of Best Caterer by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

CHEF

Michele Lombardo

Michele Lombardo, owner and chef of The Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's, has been voted Best Chef by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers. Lombardo puts her culinary talents to the test as she prepares fresh soups, salads and gourmet sandwiches that include paninis, hoagies, wraps and much more daily. Lombardo's eatery is housed inside Cook's Pharmacy at 1909 Route

309 (Memorial Hwy.) in Shavertown. The Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's offers dine-in or take-out services for those on the go.

CUP OF COFFEE

Dunkin' Donuts

Dunkin' Donuts offers a variety of coffee beverages such as cappuccino, Americano, Macchiato, Latte to tempt anyone's palate. Even the basic coffee drinker can find that perfect brew to keep them moving through the day or night. Dunkin' Donuts off Memorial Highway in Dallas also offers a selection of iced coffees, as well.

DESSERT

Red Rooster Family Restaurant

You will want to save room for dessert when dining at the Red Rooster Family Restaurant which Dallas Post and Times Leader readers have chosen as having the Best Dessert. Homemade desserts range from old-fashioned deep-dish fruit or cream pies to homemade carrot cake. There is always something to satisfy your sweet craving at The Red Rooster Family Restaurant, located at 2407 Route 118 in Hunlock Creek.



With either hot or iced coffee, you can always get a jump start at Dunkin' Donuts. Readers chose the coffee shop as the Best Cup of Coffee in the Back Mountain.



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DINNER MENU**Checkerboard Inn**

The Checkerboard Inn's full menu featuring pub fare or full dinners has earned it the title of Best Dinner Menu. Located at 385 Carverton Road in Trucksville, the Checkerboard Inn dishes up dinners such as chicken parmesan, Classic New York Strip Steak or Clam and Shrimp Fra Diavolo, a variety of salads, pizza and sandwiches.

FAST FOOD**Wendy's**

Dallas Post and Times Leader readers have named Wendy's, located at 461 Route 415 (Memorial Hwy) in Dallas, as Best Fast Food eatery in the Back Mountain. Whether it's a hectic evening or you just want a quick grab-and-go lunch, Wendy's has you covered with a full menu of salads, soups, burgers or chicken sandwiches as

well as a selection of sides such as baked potatoes and French fries.

HOT DOG STAND**Ranch Wagon**

There are so many different ways to serve up a hot dog and the Ranch Wagon offers them all.



Ranch Wagon on Route 309 has been named Best Hot Dog Stand by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.



The Checkerboard Inn was voted Best Dinner Menu in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.



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CK's Cantina & Grill has been voted Best Mexican Food in the Back Mountain.

The drive-up eatery features top-quality hot dogs that can be topped with cheddar cheese, bacon, homemade chili sauce and relish. The menu also offers a selection of sandwiches, sides such as deep-fried pierogies, potato pancakes, French fries and onion rings and pizzas. The Ranch Wagon was established in 1955 on Route 309 in Dallas and still serves drive-up patrons with trays that attach to a

vehicle's window. Guests can also dine in an open gazebo on the property.

ITALIAN FOOD Leggio's Italian Ristorante

Leggio's Italian Ristorante, located at 1 E. Center Hill Road in the former Pickett's Charge Restaurant in Dallas, has been named Best Italian Food by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers. The restaurant offers a selection of Italian

cuisine that includes dishes such as Tuscany chicken, lobster ravioli, flounder Francaise, eggplant parmigiana, lasagna and baked ravioli.

LUNCH MENU

Red Leaf Salad Company

Red Leaf Salad Company, located at 31 Route 309 (Old Tunkhannock Hwy.) offers a variety of salads, wraps and grain bowls, giving lunch-goers high protein, low-calorie options. Salads can be topped with a selection of proteins that include chicken, bacon, salmon and tuna; a variety of cheese, beans, grains pasta, nuts and seeds. Fresh vegetables and fruits add to the flavor while a choice of salad dressings brings the tastes and textures together.

MENU SELECTION

Lum's Fernbrook Inn

Lum's Fernbrook Inn's

entree selections span the sea and land with offerings such as Lemon Pepper Haddock, Delmonico Steak and New England Clam Chowder, earning it the title of Best Menu Selection.

Whether you are looking for a light or full dinner, Lum's Fernbrook Inn, located at 644 Main Road in Dallas, has something to fill your belly.

MEXICAN FOOD

CK's Cantina & Grill

Cheesy warm, and sometimes spicy, chimichangas, enchiladas, tacos, as well as a selection of burgers and chicken for those with more sensitive palates are all available at CK's Cantina & Grill in Dallas. The eatery continues to hold the interest of area consumers looking for a dining experience with a Mexican flare. CK's offers a separate bar as well as an indoor and outdoor dining

area. Take-outs are also available. CK's Cantina & Grill, located at 63 Gerald Ave. in Dallas, provides a taste of Mexico right in the heart of Dallas Borough.

PLACE FOR A FIRST DATE

Fire & Ice on Toby Creek

Whether it's the first date or the 50th date, Fire & Ice on Toby Creek offers intimate dining for two in a little window nook or in the dining room. The restaurant's menu has a variety of options to suit any palate while the casual atmosphere with an upscale flair can fit any occasion.

PLACE FOR A SNACK ATTACK

Sheetz

Sheetz's availability of hot and cold subs, pretzel melts, wraps, burgers, hot dogs and sandwiches as well as munchies like chips, pretzels, nuts, drinks and many other items has



Fire & Ice on Toby Creek's was selected for Best Wine Menu, Best Atmosphere/Decor, Best Place for a First Date and Best Steak in the Back Mountain by the Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

earned it the title of Best Place for a Snack Attack. The Altoona-based gas station, convenience store and eatery has it all. A touch menu system allows

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With all of its options and the fast, touch-screen ordering system, Sheetz has been voted Best Place for a Snack Attack in the Back Mountain.

customers to order any menu item quickly. Many locations are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

ROUND PIZZA

Grotto Pizza

For over 60 years, Grotto Pizza at Harveys Lake has dished up its recipe for fresh pizza. Joseph Paglianite and his parents first formulated the long-standing recipe in

the 1950s and members of Paglianite's family are still serving up the same, round-style pizza today. The handmade pizza crusts combined with Grotto's signature sauce, blend of cheeses and seasonings can be customized with a variety of toppings that include pepperoni, mushrooms, sausage, sweet and hot peppers, bacon, meatballs, black olives, broccoli, jalapeños



The Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's Pharmacy was named Best Sandwich/Sub shop by Dallas Post readers. Shown here are Kelly Hakim, left an employee, and Michele Lombardo, owner of The Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's Pharmacy.

and much more.

SANDWICH/SUB Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's Pharmacy

Blending flavors to create tasty sandwiches such as a Cuban Panini with porketta, ham, Swiss, Dijon and sweet pickle is a talent

trained chef and owner of the Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's Pharmacy Michele Lombardo shares with the region. Lombardo's skills earned the Sandwich Shoppe at Cook's the title as Best Sandwich/Sub eatery by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers for



Grotto Pizza serves up the Best Round Pizza and was also chosen Best Place for Night Time Entertainment in the Back Mountain, as voted by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

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the second year in a row.

SEAFOOD

Lum's Fernbrook Inn

Although it is land-locked, Lum's Fernbrook Inn, located at 644 Main Road in Dallas, is known for its Brazilian and Australian lobster tails. Its menu also offers more delicacies from the deep such as sea scallops, breaded oysters, Lobster Bisque, Maryland crab cakes, crab cakes Benedict and a seafood omelet.

SQUARE PIZZA

Pizza Perfect

Richard Adamchick's original recipe for Sicilian-style pizza maintain's Pizza Perfect's long-standing reputation of offering one of the best square pizzas around. Pizza Perfect, located at 16 Carverton Road in Trucksville, still serves up the original

recipe, which is over 40 years old. Patrons have a choice of a variety of topping options to customize their pizza.

STEAK

Fire & Ice on Toby Creek

Fire & Ice on Toby Creek's Chef Gary Edwards has a knack to pick out the perfect cuts of steak to offer patrons mouth-watering flavors and textures. The Shavertown restaurant offers guests hand-cut fire grilled steaks, rubbed with seasonings and seared to perfection. Fire & Ice on Toby Creek features an eight-ounce Angus center cut filet mignon and a 12-ounce well-marbled Angus grilled New York strip steak.

TAKE-OUT

Hogan's Heroes and Pizza
Hogan's Heroes and Pizza

offers an extensive menu that includes hot and cold hoagies, barbecue sandwiches, wings, calzones, stromboli, platters and pizza, all available for take-out or dine-in.

The eatery offers a separate take-out door that gives customers added convenience by avoiding the bar or dining room. Hogan's Heroes and Pizza is located at 2587 Route 415 (Memorial Hwy), in Dallas.

WINE LIST

Fire & Ice on Toby Creek

The wine list at Fire & Ice on Toby Creek offers a wide selection of white, red and house wines to complement any meal or just to share with friends.

WINGS

Pizza Perfect

Dallas Post and Times Leader readers voted



Pizza Perfect, 16 Carverton Road in Trucksville, has been voted as having the Best Square Pizza and Best Wings.

Pizza Perfect as having the Best Wings in the Back Mountain. The Truckville restaurant's guests can

choose from a variety of sauces, including mild, hot, barbecue, butter garlic and, for the bravest of

customers, the Fireman's Friend.



Everyone here at The Meadows wishes to thank the readers who voted us

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GOODS



Owner Tom Quinn is all smiles as Ye Olde Clock and Gift Shoppe has been named Best Antique Shop and Best Unique Gift Store in the Back Mountain.

ACCESSORY SHOP**Amoré & Bridal Trinkets**

Mary Bartos, owner of Amoré & Bridal Trinkets, takes great pride in providing customers with customized jewelry for their wedding day or to compliment an outfit. Amoré & Bridal Trinkets also offers a selection of accessions such as scarves, wedding garters, cake knives and servers. The boutique also sells milestone medallions and a variety of children's jewelry. Amoré & Bridal Trinkets is located at 29 W. Center St. in Shavertown.

ANTIQUÉ SHOP

Ye Olde Clock & Gift Shoppe
Ye Olde Clock & Gift Shoppe owner Tom Quinn keeps the region's antique grandfather clocks in tune

and on time. Quinn makes repair calls to ensure residents can enjoy the chimes of life. He also sells a selection of antique grandfather clocks that hold a charm like no other. Quinn's family established Ye Old Clock & Gift Shoppe in 1968 to provide uniquely beautiful cuckoo clocks, anniversary clocks, whimsical wall clocks and grandfather clocks.

AUTO PARTS STORE**NAPA Auto Parts - Dallas Auto Parts**

Do-it-yourself auto mechanics feel at home at NAPA Auto Parts Store, located at 2960 Memorial Highway in Dallas. NAPA offers a wide selection of automotive parts, supplies and accessories to get vehicles motoring along.



From left, Wayne Sutton, Dave Spurlin and Dale Sutton of Back Mountain Auto Specialists are all smiles for being voted Best Auto Repair Service in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

There are over 58 NAPA Auto Parts distribution centers, 16,000 NAPA AutoCare Centers and over 6,000 company-owned and independently-owned NAPA stores in the United States.

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Bill Givens, a butcher at Thomas' Market in Dallas, has once again been voted Best Butcher in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

St., Shavertown, provides mechanical repairs and tune-ups on both foreign and domestic vehicles. The garage also offers services for shocks, brakes, clutches, tires, mufflers, fuel injection, electrical system and radiators.

BANK PNC Bank

PNC Bank offers a variety of financial services, including

wealth management, investments, personal and business products. The financial institution has assets of \$372 billion as of June 30. The company is based out of Pittsburgh and has about 2,500 branches and nearly 9,000 ATMs established in 19 states, including the District of Columbia. PNC Bank operates a local branch at 2485 Memorial Hwy. in

Dallas.

BEER DISTRIBUTOR

Bonanza Beverage

Customers of Bonanza Beverage has said the business has an excellent selection at a very fair price. The compliment the service and the friendliness of the staff. All of this was good enough for Bonanza Beverage, located at 235 N. Memorial Hwy. in Shavertown, to be voted Best Beer Distributor.

BUTCHER

Bill Givens

Bill Givens, a meat cutter for over 25 years, has developed a talent of providing choice cuts of meat for Thomas' Market located at the Country Club Shopping Center in Dallas Township. Customers and readers of the Dallas Post and Times Leader continue to name him the Best Butcher year after year.

CLOTHING SHOP

Buka

If your closet needs some updating, check out Buka, a contemporary women's boutique, which has a variety of high-end denim, tees, dresses, sweaters and accessories to offer. Buka, located at 120 N. Main St., in Shavertown, carries a selection of designers that include MOTHER, AG, Paige, Citizens of Humanity, & 7 For All Mankind. Buka opened in the Back Mountain in 2005.

CONVENIENCE STORE

Sheetz

Whether it's fuel for your vehicle or fuel for your body, Sheetz has it all. The Sheetz station, located at 163 S. Memorial Hwy. in Trucksville, provides a convenience for the local resident or those passing through with quick order-and-go foods, snacks and beverages.



Buka offers a unique selection of women's clothing and accessories and won Best Clothing Shop in the Back Mountain.

Thank you for your votes and continued support!

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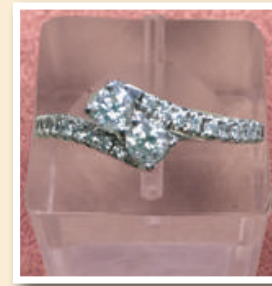
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2 Stone Diamond Ring



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www.BackMountainBacks.com



Fran, left, and Maryann Ochman, operate Ochman's Coins & Jewelry, winner in both the Best Jeweler and Best Estate Jeweler categories.

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Newell's New Mart
Readers gave Newell's New Mart high marks for its customer service. Staff

at the fuel station and convenience store, located at 108 S. Memorial Hwy. in Trucksville, always greet you with a smile and keep

the business clean.

DRY CLEANER
Steven's Town and



Steven's Town and Country Cleaners in the Country Club Shopping Center in Dallas is a repeat winner in the Best Dry Cleaner category.

Country Cleaners
Whether you need wedding gown cleaning and preservation, draperies, comforters or even UGG boot cleaning Steven Lombardo and his staff at Steven's Town and Country Cleaners do it all. The business offers monthly and seasonal specials and even some same-day

services to accommodate clients' needs. Steven's Town and Country Cleaners is located at 71 Country Club Road in Dallas.

ELECTRICIAN
Dave Monk Electric Inc.
Dave Monk offers a variety of services that includes new electrical service, panel and wiring, electrical

service repairs and upgrades, indoor and outdoor lighting, generator installation, pool wiring and custom lighting to name a few. Dave has over 25 years of experience in residential, commercial and light industrial electrical installation. Dave Monk Electric Inc. is located at 165 Dug Road in Wyoming.

ESTATE JEWELER
Ochman's Coin and Jewelry
Fran Ochman and her daughter, Maryann, are always on the lookout for new merchandise to the estate jewelry collection at Ochman's Coins & Jewelry, located at 2607 N. Memorial Hwy. in Dallas. Their inventory includes a selection of Cameos, pocket watches, as well as gold and sterling necklaces, earrings and bracelets. You never know what kind of treasures you'll find at Ochman's Coins and Jewelry.

Thank You!

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Thursday

• \$3 Shiner Draft Pints

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DeLeur's Back to Basics is a repeat winner in the Fireplace/Stove Company category.

FIREPLACE/STOVE COMPANY

DeLeur's Back to Basics
DeLeur's Back to Basics, at 166 Old Highway Road in Dallas, offers a variety of wood, coal, pellet, corn and gas stoves to heat your home. DeLeur's also offers several central heating units, a variety of fireplaces and accessories and a wide range of services and supplies to meet your home heating needs.

FLOOR STORE

KW Carpets & More
KW Carpets & More is a family owned business with over 50 years of experience in floor coverings. The knowledgeable staff provides in-home estimates and installation. KW Carpets & More offers a wide selection of carpeting, tile and hardwood flooring. KW Carpets & More is located at the intersection of Routes 309 and 415 in Dallas Township.

FLORIST

Kimberly's Floral
Kimberly's Floral at 3505 Memorial Hwy. in Dallas, gives its clients the ability to express themselves through a variety of fresh flower arrangements, tropical plants, European/dish gardens, fruit baskets, Mylar and Latex balloons,

balloon bouquets, plush animals, greeting cards and candles. Kimberly's Floral also provides services for wedding and funeral services.

GROCERY STORE

Weis Markets
Weis Markets on Route 415 in Dallas has once again been chosen Best Grocery Store in the Best of the Back Mountain readers' contest. The company's commitment to purchasing locally grown produce and providing great service to its customers is of the utmost importance. Weis Markets was founded by Harry and Sigmund Weis in 1912 who opened their first store in Sunbury.

HAIR SALON



Debbie Hilbert, secretary, and Larry Hilbert, owner, pose inside Hilbert's Equipment and Welding, Inc., winner of the Best Heavy Equipment Store in the Back Mountain, as voted by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

Country Scissors Hair Salon

The staff at Country Scissors Hair Salon gives each client personalized attention to ensure their hair is perfect. This eye for detail has earned it the title of Best Hair Salon in the Back Mountain. Country Scissors Hair Salon offers a variety of services to its customers. Dave Angelella and Erin Williams are co-owners of the salon, which is located at 115 W. Center Hill Road in Dallas.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT STORE

Hilbert's Equipment & Welding
The Back Mountain store offers a selection of outdoor power equipment to help you accomplish any yard



Weis Market has been voted as Best Grocery Store in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.



Country Scissors has been named Back Mountain's Best Hair Salon by the readers of the Dallas Post and the Times Leader.





Dallas Centre Hardware Inc. was voted Back Mountain's Best Home Improvement Center by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

chore. Hilbert's Equipment & Welding, located at 2965 Memorial Highway, Dallas, will also help keep outdoor equipment in working order with a variety of parts available for purchase as well as a repair service.

Hilbert's Equipment & Welding started 44 years ago. Today, the family-operated business continues under the ownership of Larry Hilbert and his son, Larry "Sam" Hilbert.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CENTER Dallas Centre Hardware Inc.

Gerard and Michelle Geise, owners of Dallas Centre Hardware Inc. are in tune with what their



From left, Bob Nause, owner of Top Value Kitchens, Benjamin Wiernusz and Brian Swingle are honored to be named Best Kitchen & Cabinetry in the Back Mountain.

customers' needs and wants. The 36-year-old home improvement center offers everything from lumber, drywall, paint, tools, birdfeeders and so much more. If you can't find what you're looking for, just ask a staff member. Dallas Centre Hardware is located at 44 Main St. in Dallas.

JEWELER Ochman's Coins & Jewelry

Ochman's Coins & Jewelry, 2607 Memorial Hwy., Dallas, offers a wide selection of the finest

quality jewelry in the latest fashion trends, but also buys and sells gold and silver coins and old U.S. currency.

KITCHEN CABINETRY Top Value Kitchens

Top Value Kitchens, located at 17 E. Center St. in Shavertown can assist with any home remodel or new construction design. The knowledgeable staff can help clients create custom blueprints for kitchens, bathrooms, wet bars, offices and craft rooms, using products from

Kraftmaid and Dynasty Cabinets, Cambria and Zodiaq Quartz Surfaces.

LANDSCAPER/GARDEN CENTER

Joey's Landcare
Whether you are updating existing landscaping or embarking on an entirely new project, the employees at Joey's Landcare treat their work as high art — beautiful, timeless, expressive. That motto has earned the Shavertown business the title of Best Landscaper/Garden Center. Joey's Landcare at

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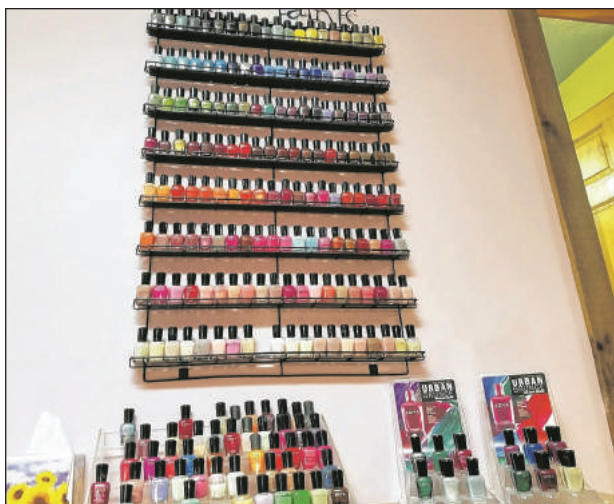


Wendy's

461 Memorial Hwy, Dallas, PA 18612 | (570) 675-4008 | www.wendys.com



Joey's Landcare has been voted Best Landscape/Garden Center and Best New Business.



The Nail Shop is a repeat winner in the Best Nail Salon category.

2048 N. Memorial Hwy., Suite 100, in Shavertown, has a patented planning process built around its customers. Joey's Landcare employees don't touch a shrub until the customer loves the design created especially for them. Then, the customer watches the landscape take shape before their eyes. Joey is looking to expand his services to include storm water drainage systems and land restoration after natural gas pipeline installation.

NAIL SALON

The Nail Shop

Owner Carol Richards and her technicians at The Nail Shop, located above Country Scissors Hair Salon at 115 W. Center Hill Road in Dallas, offer the very best service in providing manicures and pedicures for their customers. It shows as the shop has been voted Best Nail Salon by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

NEW BUSINESS

Joey's Landcare

Joey Irvin, the owner of Joey's Landcare, shows off his green thumb and determination with every job. Joey's office, located at 2048 N. Memorial Hwy., Suite 100, in Shavertown, has become a place for him to showcase photos of completed projects that include retaining walls,

landscape designs and much more.

NURSING/RETIREMENT HOME

The Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

The Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Center has offered round-the-clock medical care and rehabilitation services to the Back Mountain community since 1983. The 130-bed long-term facility is owned and operated by Ecumenical Enterprises Inc. The nursing staff and the Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Auxiliary strive to provide a high quality of life to all residents.

PET GROOMER

The Paw Spa

Robyn Gassew, owner of The Paw Spa, and her staff



The Paw Spa groomer Carmi Robbins trims Wiley, a Labradoodle. The Paw Spa has been voted the Best Pet Groomer in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.



The Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Center has been voted the Best Nursing/Retirement Home in the Back Mountain.

primp and style pups to look picture perfect. Dogs of all breeds are held by a staff member during the grooming process to reduce their stress, Gassew said. The Paw Spa is located in the Twin Stacks Center off Route 415 in Dallas.

PHARMACY

Cook's Pharmacy

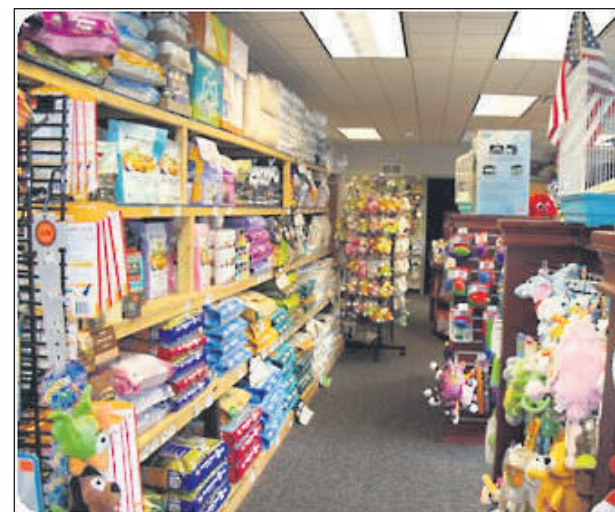
Cook's Pharmacy provides the personal service of a small pharmacy but with all the products of big box stores. The Back Mountain pharmacy offers many services, including compounding, diabetic health, health and wellness programs, an immunization program, natural hormone replacement and pediatric care, to name a few. Knowledgeable pharmacists help customers understand

prescriptions and over-the-counter products.

PLACE FOR PET SUPPLIES

Whiting's Pet Supplies

Carol Whiting has been the owner of Whiting's Pet Supplies at 1290 Memorial Hwy., Suite 3, Shavertown, since 1995. This family owned and operated pet



Whiting's Pet Supplies has been voted Best Place for Pet Supplies.

store has a large inventory of holistic and natural dog and cat food — both dry and canned. In addition to the many name brand pet foods, you will find a very large inventory of pet supplies. The business also features an aquarium room and dog and cat bedrooms. In addition to tropical, freshwater, and saltwater fish; there are many

aquariums from which to choose.

SHOE STORE

Gino's Shoe Store

The Ginocchetti family has been in the shoe business for over 70 years and plans to keep Gino's Shoe Store running for many years to come. Gino's Shoe Store specializes in children's



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Specializing in children's shoes, Gino's carries name brands not available everywhere and offers a personalized service, making sure each fit is perfect.



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All In Custom Vapes is Back Mountain's Best Vape Shop.

shoes, carries name brands not available everywhere and offers personalized service, making sure each fit is perfect.

TANNING SALON

Sun Tan City

Sun Tan City in the Dallas Shopping Center helps customers keep that tropical glow through Northeast Pennsylvania's long cold winters with options of sunless tanning or tanning beds. Sun Tan City has been selected by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers as the Best Tanning Salon in the Back Mountain.

TIRE STORE

Bullock's Tire and Auto Parts

Bullock's Tire and Auto Parts, located at

2021 Memorial Hwy. in Shavertown, is the oldest tire and parts store in Pennsylvania's Back Mountain area, serving customers since 1966. Originally established as a gas station, Bullock's Tire has also served as a U-Haul rental facility for more than 30 years. It is a one-stop shop for your automotive repair needs, providing replacement tires and complete repair services that include lube and oil changes, brake work and wheel alignments.

UNIQUE GIFT STORE

Ye Olde Clock & Gift Shoppe

One-of-a-kind gift ideas are abundant at Ye Olde Clock & Gift Shoppe in the Dallas Shopping Center on Memorial Highway in Dallas.

Owner Tom Quinn has everything from a whimsical Elmer Fudd wall clock to beautiful wooden boxes and handmade jewelry, all made by local artists. Quinn also carries unique figurines made from old railroad rivets, depicting different professions and hobbies.

VAPE SHOP

All In Custom Vapes

All In Custom Vapes offers a variety of vaping kits and e-liquids to be used with electronic cigarettes. All merchandise has a common goal — to help cigarette smokers decrease their nicotine dependency. All In Custom Vapes is located at 28 Dallas Shopping Center off Route 309 in Dallas.

Voted Best Family Doctor

Patrick Kilduff, DO

The Dallas Post Readers' Poll

Thank you to all who voted for me. It is a privilege to serve this community and I pride myself on being attentive to my patients' needs. Always accepting new patients.

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LOCAL PROFESSIONALS



Dr. Frank Bauer has been voted Best Audiologist in the Back Mountain for the second time.

AUDIOLOGIST**Frank Bauer Au.D., CCC-A**

Dr. Frank Bauer of Amplified Hearing has tuned many residents into the sweet sounds of life with a variety

of services offered at his office at 2285 Memorial Hwy., Dallas. Everything from comprehensive hearing evaluations, digital hearing aid consultations,

Tinnitus evaluations, customer ear molds, hearing aid repairs, assistive devices and battery sales have earned Bauer the title of Best Audiologist.

ATTORNEY**Charles Bufalino III**

Attorney Charles Bufalino III has named the Best of the Back Mountain's attorney for the first time this year.

Bufalino has a practice focused on family, business, real estate, general civil and criminal law in the Pendragon Square on South Memorial Highway in Shavertown. He has served the Back Mountain communities since 1991 but has practiced law since 1985.



Bufalino

CHIROPRACTOR**Chiropractic & Rehab Associates**

Chiropractic & Rehab Associates, at 1230 Memorial Hwy Suite 102, Shavertown, is part of the Back Mountain Backs practice. The staff at Back Mountain Backs, with locations in Shavertown and Tunkhannock, offers a wide range of services for its patients and encourages a proactive approach to neuromusculoskeletal health care. The four doctors and their trained staff members provide Active Release Techniques, cold laser therapy, custom orthotics, nerve testing, flexion distraction, functional rehabilitation, interferential current, joint manipulation, massage

therapy, postural training, therapeutic exercise and ultrasound.

COSMETIC DENTIST and GENERAL DENTIST**Dr. Bruce Goeringer**

Dr. Bruce Goeringer topped both Best Cosmetic Dentist and Best General Dentist categories this year. Dr. Goeringer keeps residents smiling by offering a variety of dental care services that include children's dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, preventive dentistry, endodontics, oral surgery and prosthetics. This is the fourth consecutive year readers have voted Goeringer the Best Dentist in the Back Mountain. His practice is located at 15 Lincoln St., in Dallas.

THANK YOU
to the readers of The Dallas Post
for voting me Best Artist!



Sue Hand and her watercolor painting "Early Snow"

Sue Hand's Imagery

35 Main Street, Dallas, PA 18612
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80866041



Dr. Bruce Goeringer has earned both Best Cosmetic Dentist and Best General Dentist awards this year.

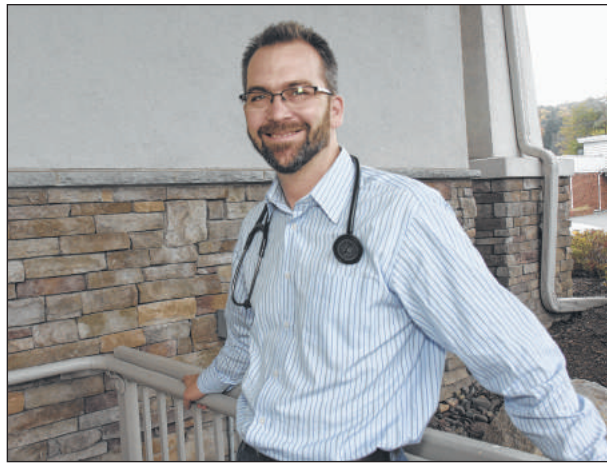


Eye Care Specialists has been voted Best Eye Care Center in the Back Mountain.

EYE CARE CENTER
Eye Care Specialists
 Optometrists James Bozzuto, Darrell Evans, Tara M. Farrell and Richard Roth, of Eye Care Specialists in the Dallas Shopping Center, offer a wide range of services such as ophthalmology, cosmetic facial procedures and laser skin care, cosmetic eyelid

surgery and cosmetic brow lift surgery.

FAMILY DOCTOR
Patrick Kilduff, D.O.
 Back Mountain native Dr. Patrick Kilduff has earned the title as the Best of the Back Mountain's family doctor by Dallas Post readers for the second time. Kilduff is



Dr. Patrick Kilduff was voted Best Family Physician in the Back Mountain by the Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

an on-staff physician at InterMountain Medical Group's Shavertown location. He graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003. His internship/residency was completed in 2006 at Mercy Suburban Hospital, Norristown, where he specialized in Internal Medicine. He also

completed his master's degree in physical therapy at Hahnemann University. Kilduff is board certified in internal medicine and has been practicing at his current location at 176 N. Main St., Shavertown since 2006. He is a member of American College of Internal Medicine, American Osteopathic Association,



Dave and Christine Pieczynski, owners of Premiere Home Builders, have earned their first Best of the Back Mountain Readers' Contest.

Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, Luzerne County and Pennsylvania Medical Societies.

HOME BUILDER/ CONTRACTOR
Premiere Home Builders
 Premiere Home Builders, located at 44 Hartford Ave. in Shavertown, is a

second-generation, family owned business. Dave and Christine Pieczynski, a husband and wife team, pay attention to every detail when building clients' dream homes. Clients are consulted throughout the entire homebuilding experience.

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Honoring the 'best'



Bill Tarutis photos | For Dallas Post
Times Leader Media Group Publisher Mike Murray offers remarks at the 2017 Best of the Back Mountain awards event at Fire & Ice on Toby Creek in Trucksville on Tuesday evening.

Best Seafood winners Patrick Kern and Patricia Sprague of Lum's Fernbrook Inn pose for a photo.



Paul Evans, left, Cheryl Summa and Janelle Bozinko, of Eye Care Specialists chat at the Best of the Back Mountain awards event at Fire & Ice on Toby Creek Tuesday.



Bill Tarutis | For Dallas Post
Best Dentist Dr. Bruce Goering accepts one of his awards at the Best of the Back Mountain ceremony Tuesday evening.



Dr. Joan Greulick, left, accepts the Best Pediatrician award from Times Leader Media Group sales consultant Susan Piccolotti.

For more event photos see pages 32-39 and 45-46.



Lauren Michael Smith and his staff at Smith Insurance Group Inc. were voted Best Insurance Agency.

INSURANCE AGENT Lauren Michael Smith

Lauren Michael Smith, president and owner of the Smith Insurance Group Inc., has been selected as Best Insurance Agent. Smith and his staff assist clients by offering guidance and personal

service throughout the process of choosing the best Nationwide Insurance products to fit their needs.

**PEDIATRICIAN
Joan E. Greulick, M.D.**
Since 1983, Dr. Joan E. Greulick has cared for the children of the Back

Mountain region. Greulick jokes by saying she "feels that she has over 2,000 children." Her extensive medical



Greulick

knowledge and availability to make house calls or have patients come to her home for medical diagnoses has earned her the title of the Best Pediatrician in the Back Mountain for 10 straight years by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

PHARMACIST Jack O'Donnell

For 13 years, pharmacist Jack O'Donnell's medical knowledge, professionalism and customer service have become a trademark at Cook's Pharmacy on Route 309 in Shavertown. He is always available to

answer questions about a prescription, advise about over-the-counter cold or allergy medication, advise customers on shoe fittings or just someone to talk with. O'Donnell's skills have earned him multiple awards by Dallas Post readers.



Cook's Pharmacy's pharmacist Jack O'Donnell is a favorite among area residents who voted him Best Pharmacist.

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ProCare Physical Therapy has been named Best Physical Therapy Facility in the Back Mountain by Dallas Pos readers.

PHYSICAL THERAPY FACILITY

ProCare Physical Therapy

The staff at Pro Care Physical Therapy, located in the Dallas Shopping Center, helps area residents

recover from injuries or medical conditions. The ProCare Physical Therapy staff works with a patient's doctor, specialists and family members to improve the quality of life for their clients.



Lewith & Freeman has earned the Dallas Post readers' votes as the Best Real Estate Agency in the Back Mountain.

REAL ESTATE AGENCY Lewith & Freeman

The staff at Lewith & Freeman is eager to help clients look to sell or buy that perfect residential or commercial property.

With six offices located throughout the area, the agency is committed to providing knowledgeable and experienced service, a company tradition since 1921.

REALTOR

Deb Roccograndi

Deb Roccograndi's knowledge of the Back Mountain and her ability to tune into her client's needs has earned her the award



Deb Roccograndi has been named Best Realtor for the seventh time.

for the Best Realtor in the Back Mountain for the seventh time. Roccograndi is a real estate agent with Lewith & Freeman.

THANK YOU!

C.J. Bufalino Law Offices

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VETERINARIAN**Dr. Mark Stair**

No critter is too small or too large for Dr. Mark Stair, owner of Trucksville Dog and Cat Hospital at 1070 N. Memorial Hwy. in

Shavertown. Since 2001, Dr. Stair and his staff have treated the region's dogs and cats and a variety of smaller animals, ranging from lizards, guinea pigs and birds.



Veterinarian Mark Stair is a repeat winner in the Best Veterinarian category.



The late Gary Michak was honored at the Best of the Back Mountain Awards Event for his service and dedication to the community. Michak passed away unexpectedly earlier this year.

NIGHTLIFE

Ill Guys Restaurant and Sports Bar was voted Best Bar, Best Bar Food and Best Place to Hang Out in the Back Mountain by Dallas Post and Times Leader readers.

BAR**Ill Guys Restaurant & Sports Bar**

Customers keep going back to Ill Guys Restaurant & Sports Bar because of the business's friendly service and ood food at reasonable prices. The restaurant, located at 11 Garbutt Ave. in Dallas, opened in 1989 and offers live entertainment.

BAR FOOD**Ill Guys Restaurant & Sports Bar**

With an extensive variety of food items on its menu, Ill Guys Restaurant & Sports Bar has been selected as Best Bar Food by Dallas

Post and Times Leader readers. The business also offers standard favorites such as pizza, wings and burgers.

BARTENDER**Kassie Harrison (Hogan's Heroes & Pizza)**

Stop in at Hogan's Heroes and Pizza at 2587 Memorial Hwy. in Dallas and let Kassie Harrison serve you. The service is great, the food is delicious, and there's a different special every night. Hogan's offers a restaurant side and a bar side, making it a great place for families or a night away from the kids.



The Dallas American Legion has been voted Best Corner Bar.



J&J Deli on Memorial Hwy. in Dallas has been voted as having the Best Draft Selection.

Thank you!
For Voting
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CORNER BAR

Dallas American Legion

Located at 730 Memorial Hwy. in Dallas, Daddow-Isaacs American Legion Post 7672 has earned the title of Best Corner Bar. The veterans' organization provides a variety of live entertainment and is a hot spot for socializing.

DRAFT SELECTION

J&J Deli

Kick back and enjoy a nice, cold beer after a long day of work at J & J Deli at 3101 Memorial Hwy. in Dallas. No matter what your tastes in beer are, you'll find a variety perfect for you. With more than 400 varieties and new beers every week, you can fall in love with a brand new

beer each time. If you're a fan of craft beers, there's no better place to grab a cold one than at J & J Deli.

HAPPY HOUR

TC Reilly's Pub & Inn

TC Reilly's Pub & Inn at 405 Carverton Road in Trucksville has been voted Best Happy Hour by Dallas Post and Times Leader

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readers. T.C. Riley's is a great place to visit when you want to relax, unwind and enjoy delicious food. There is a fully equipped bar with plenty of flat screen TVs and lots of space for the pool tables and dart board. You can also play a state-of-the-art digital jukebox.

**PLACE TO HANG OUT
Ill Restaurant & Sports Bar**

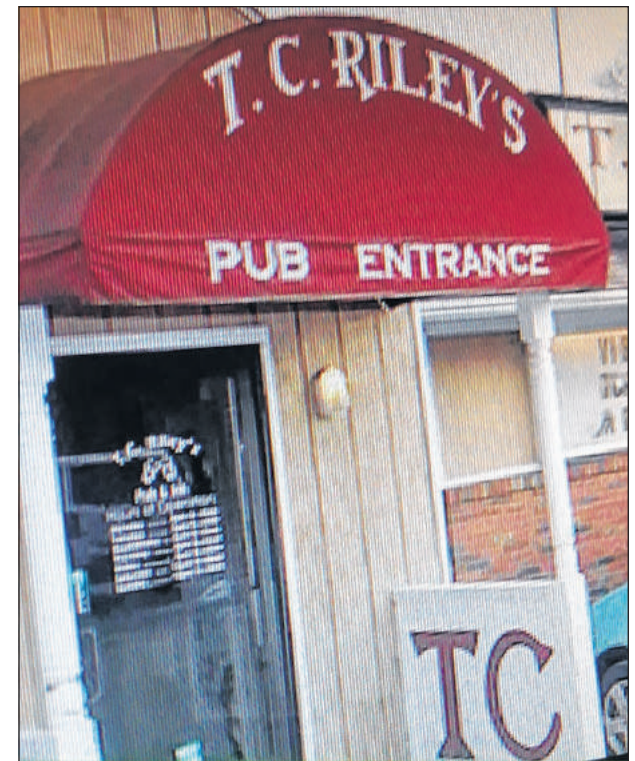
Ill Guys Restaurant & Sports Bar at 11 Garbutt Ave., off Memorial Highway Route (415) in Dallas is open seven days a week, making it easy for customers to hang out there. Hours are noon to

10 p.m. Sunday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

**PLACE FOR NIGHT TIME ENTERTAINMENT
Grotto Pizza**

Grotto Pizza's Grand Slam Sports Bar is always hopping with activities that include live entertainment

and giveaway promotions, all of which have earned it the title of Best Place for Night Time Entertainment. Grotto Pizza and the Grand Slam Sports Bar are located at 3446 Lakeside Dr. in Harveys Lake.



TC Reilly's Pub & Inn on Carverton Road in Trucksville has been voted Best Happy Hour.

Thank You

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"BEST EYE CARE CENTER" 9 Years!



Robert Blase, O.D.



Kristen Epting, O.D.



Darrell Evans, O.D.



Tara M. Farrell, O.D.



Bethany L. Jones, O.D.



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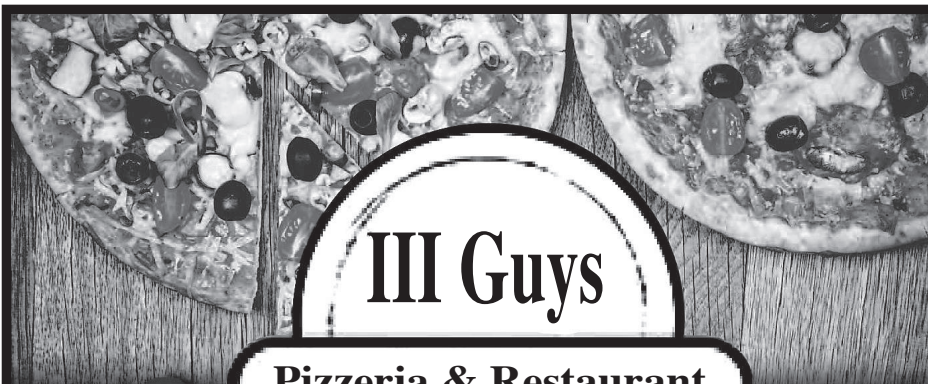
Ranked in the top 2% of Ophthalmology Practices in the U.S.



Bill Tarutis photos | For Dallas Post
Best College Professor Fred Croop, left, and his wife Charlotte arrive at Fire & Ice on Toby Creek.



Best of the Back Mountain award winner Joey Irvin of Joey's Landcare in Shavertown grabs some pizza at the awards ceremony.



***Thanks to All of Our Loyal Customers
and Everyone Who Voted For Us!***

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Sandi and Joe Darling, of Dallas, chat at the bar at the Best of the Back Mountain awards event. Joe Darling accepted an award for Best Locally Grown/ Made Product on behalf of his family's business, Darling's Farms and Greenhouse.



Tom Quinn, left, Rebecca Nicely and Ruth Ann Barna of Ye Olde Clock Shoppe pose for a photo as they wait to receive their award.

Bill Tarutis photos | For Dallas Post



Best Chef Michele Lombardo accepts her award.



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Bill Tarutis photos | For Dallas Post
 Maribeth Jones of Lewith & Freeman Realtors, left, and Christine Pieczynski of Premiere Home Builders pose for a photo.



Richard Shiptoski, of Huntington Township, left, and Mary Bartos, of Harveys Lake, chat over hors d'oeuvres.

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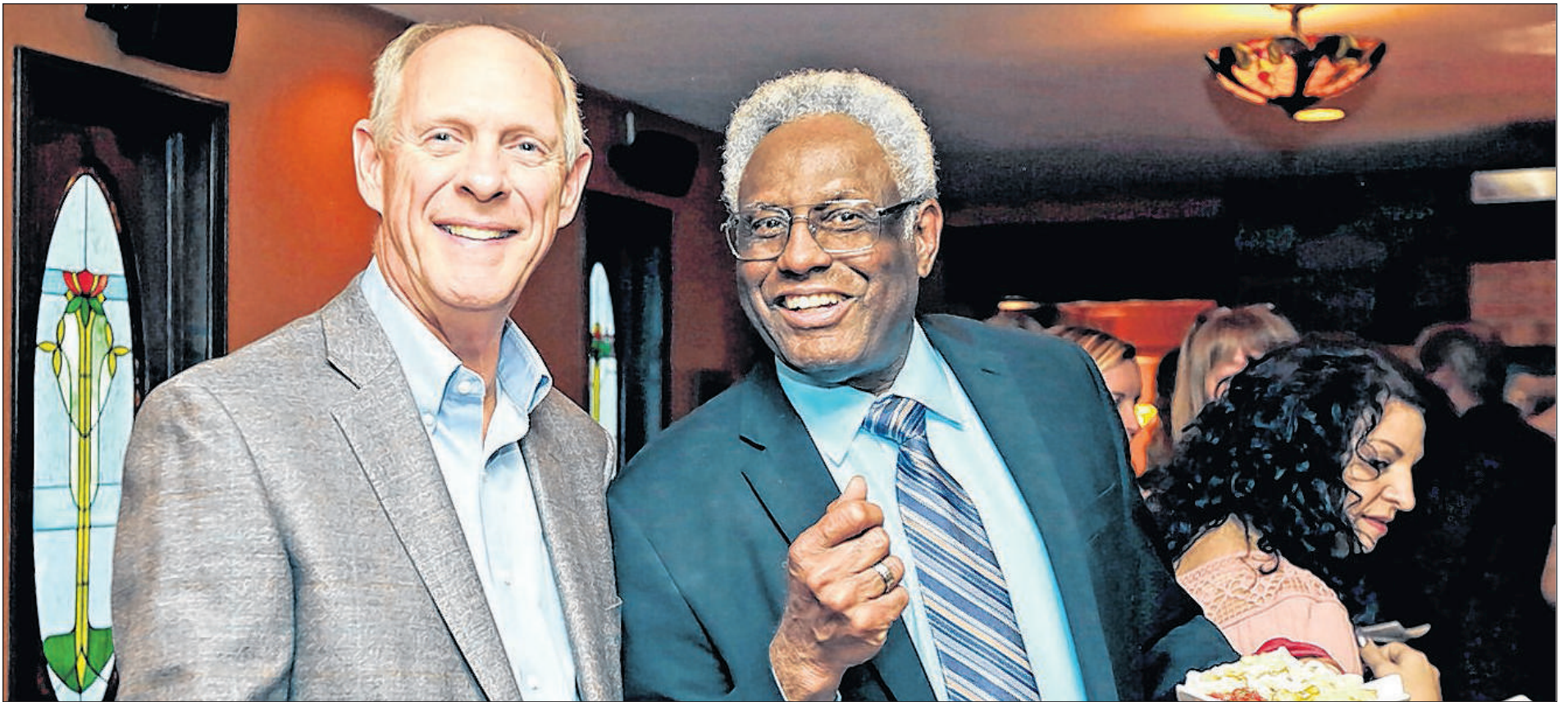
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Best of the Back Mountain award winners Lauren Smith, left, of Smith Insurance and George Tucker of Dallas American Legion chat in the buffet line.

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Joan Krispin, of Swoyersville, takes photos of award winners.

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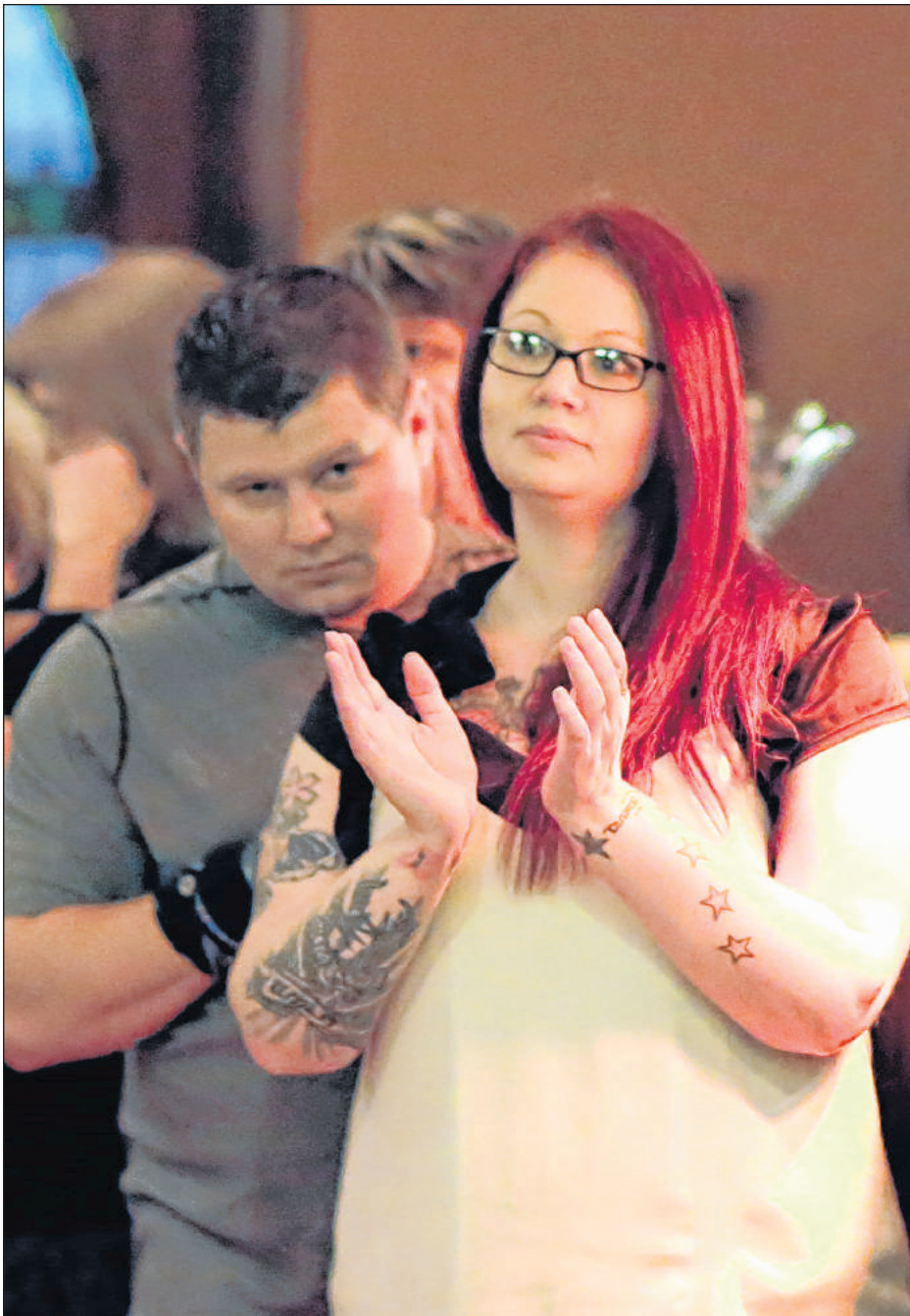
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Kassie and Harry Harrison, of Dallas, applaud award winners.

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Melissa Romanowski, right, of Harding, samples some of the cuisine from waitress Amanda Salinas.



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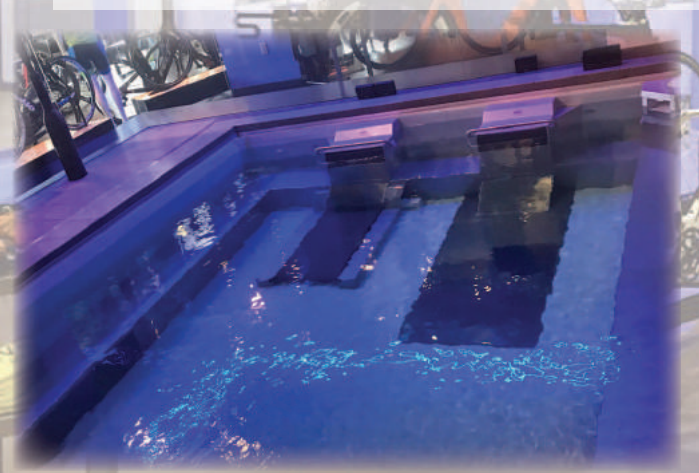
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Heather and Tim Madeira, of Dallas, chat with guests.

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Mike McGinley | Dallas Post

Wood-fired pizza was one of the specialties of the evening.



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My friend and I were seated at a table for two in the corner of the restaurant – an ideal setting for a private business discussion or more intimate dining experience.

On this random Sunday evening, my friend and I had some business to discuss and life events to catch up on, so a quiet table with a friendly, but



not overbearing waiter named John, was exactly what we wanted.

John was terrific, shar-

ing with us the features of the day and immediately taking our drink orders.

Ever the classy gentle-

man, my friend asked for a dirty martini that came out filled to the brim

and shaken to perfection

by bartender Phil. My Tanqueray & Tonic was a nice, strong pour that set

the tone for what was to

be a delicious night.

First – and perhaps something Fire & Ice is best known for – was the bread. Oh, the bread. Fresh baked with homemade roasted garlic humus and whipped honey thyme butter as sides, it was served warm and had a savory taste.

We nibbled on the bread as my soup – thick cheddar potato– came out. To say I enjoyed dunking the fresh bread into this cheddar potato bowl of heaven would be an understatement.

As that was completed, we were ready to move onto salads. I went with the orange cognac with candied walnuts, gorgonzola and orange craisins, while my friend had the beloved Caesar. Both were finished within minutes.

We checked out the vast menu, eyeing up several risotto and pasta favorites and the hand-cut grilled steaks, as well as

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the various sandwiches (the famous Yesterday's Bar Burger, the Sweet Bourbon Pork BBQ, and the Guinness Roasted Beef Short Rib, to name a few).

After much contemplation, we made our final decisions. I chose the spaghetti bake. Built around fresh peppers, it was made with braised beef, sausage torso, red

wine Ragu and ricotta. It was enough to feed two and I thoroughly enjoyed the various tastes I experienced as I made my way through the bowl.

My friend decided on the Caribbean Jerk Ahi Tuna with pineapple salsa, sautéed soba noodles and julienne vegetables.

Both dishes were instant hits from the

minute we tasted until the minute we finished. The dishes were, in our opinion, two of the best meals we had had in quite some time. It made sense to us, considering head chef Gary Edwards explained he's always looking for new, impressive dishes to satisfy his customers' desires. And he's always building new specials around what's

fresh, as was the case with my spaghetti bake and its abundantly fresh peppers that the dish was built around.

Finally, the miniature dessert tray at the end was a pleasant surprise. Considering how full we were, we left just enough room for a tiny raspberry cheesecake. Other choices included lemon crumb tart, a brownie with

white and dark chocolate chunks and a small layer cake.

As if our meal and drinks at the table weren't enough, we decided on just one more libation at the bar and were pleasantly surprised to see some couples taking a break out of their weekend to dine at the bar and the tables. We were among three other

duos opting to have Phil, the bartender, make a final drink before departing.

As we left, we promised to return soon, for there's much more on the menu (both food and drink-wise) to explore.

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Mike McGinley photos | Dallas Post
 Fire & Ice chef and co-owner Gary Edwards shares a lighthearted moment with Times Leader Media Group Sales Consultant Susan Piccolotti.



Courtney Michak, left, wife of the late Gary Michak, and Lauran Hall, paralegal in the Michak Law Office, were on hand for a special tribute to Atty. Michak who passed away unexpectedly on Sept. 20.



Lum's Fernbrook Inn
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Times Leader Media Group Advertising Director Kerry Miscavage chats with Best Butcher Bill Givens. Mike McGinley photos | Dallas Post



Fred Croop and Marianne Puhalla, of Misericordia University, accepted awards for Best College Professor and Best College Campus, respectively.

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