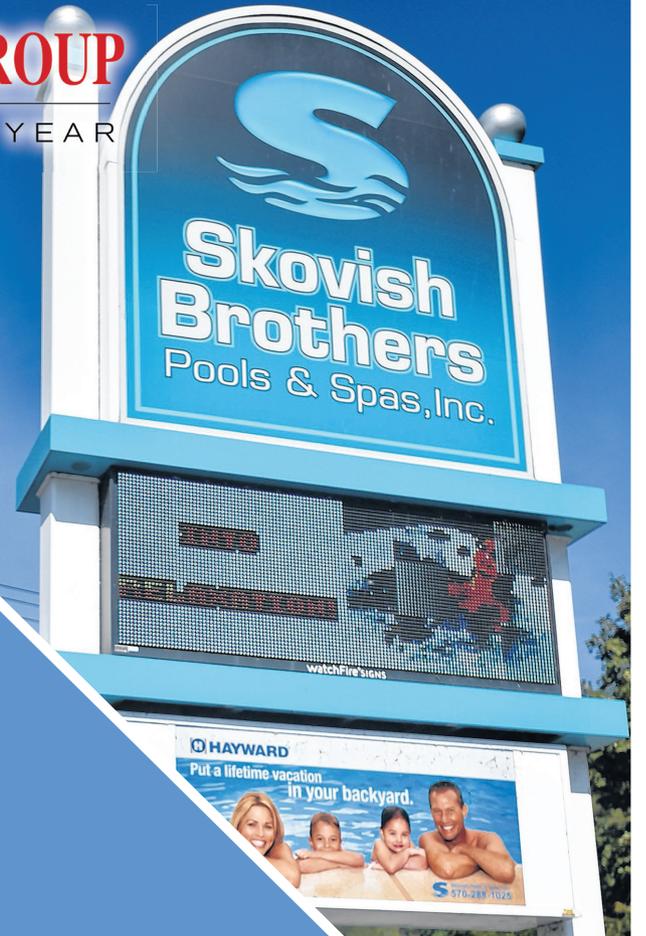


TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

2018 LEGACY BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Shop
Local
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West Side

Thursday, March 7, 2019



Grotto Pizza

– Gateway Shopping Center, Edwardsville

570-331-3278

www.grotopizzaPA.com

Grotto Pizza at the Gateway Shopping Center in Edwardsville opened its doors in 1996. The restaurant featured a large sports bar, dining room, and delivery service to the greater West Side, from Swoyersville to Plymouth. The location was an immediate success and earned a devoted customer base.

In 2007, Grotto Pizza expanded into the space formerly occupied by a Pennsylvania Fine Wine & Spirits store, essentially doubling the size of the restaurant. This remodeling project added a second dining room, a large private party room, and a big arcade area known as the "Kids Zone!"

The legendary taste—Grotto Pizza's family recipe for pizza introduced in 1953—remains a local favorite. But more than that, Grotto Pizza has become a social hub for the people of the West Side. The bar always draws a crowd for sporting events plus live music—and never a cover charge—on Fridays. The private party room hosts birthdays, anniversaries, and business meetings, while programs such as the Community Fundraiser program allow non-profit organizations to raise funds fast. Of course, Grotto Pizza still delivers, with a lineup of combos and great deals to fit any size gathering.

Grotto Pizza in Edwardsville is open seven days



a week. Information and special, daily features, discount delivery combos, the community fundraising program and more can be found at www.grotopizzaPA.com.





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2019 Inaugural Events

March 24 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

April 7 - Michael Smerconish, host of Sirius XM's The Michael Smerconish Program on POTUS Channel and on CNN television network.

May 2 - Holocaust Commemoration Day: "Who Will Write Our History" Executive Producer, Nancy Spielberg

May 5 - Israel Independence Day - Belly Laughs featuring comedian Joel Chasnoff and Israeli celebrity Chef Lior Lev Sercarz

June 5: Temple Israel Annual Dinner honoring Marvin and Isobel Slomowitz

June 6 - Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the "Voyage of the Damned," of the M.S. St. Louis with guest speaker Scott Miller, United States Holocaust Museum.

Sept. 22 - Grand Opening Event

Oct-Nov: Jewish Film Festival with Temple Israel, Wilkes-Barre

Nov. 13 - Behind the Scenes of Saturday Night Live with Cameraman Jan Kasoff

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May 7

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<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michael-smerconish-american-life-in-columns-tickets-53925510654>

Michael Smerconish April 7

SiriusXM and CNN Host and Sunday Philadelphia Inquirer Columnist Michael Smerconish brings his new book "Clowns to the Left of Me, Jokers to the Right: American Life in Columns" to the stage with a dynamic, visual presentation.



Saturday Night Live! November 13

Jan Kasoff, 5-time Emmy award-winning, former NBC cameraman who spent over 25 years on SNL will share with us what life was like on the set, including the rundown of the typical SNL work week, the challenges that he faced operating on-air and some insider trivia about life on-set

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The Beer Deli offers quality, fresh food ... and, of course, beer

By Marcella Kester
For Times Leader

FORT FORT – For Jodi Rivero, everything seemed to fall perfectly into place back in 2011, when she and her late husband, John, were finally able to turn their dream into reality. That dream was owning a local business, and the business became The Beer Deli.

Originally owned and operated by the Roccograndi family, the well-known eatery first opened its doors in 1987. When the Roccograndis were ready to retire from the business, they passed it to the Riveros. “John and I purchased it and continued as a family-owned and operated business,” she said, currently running the deli with 10 employees. With an ample dining area The Beer Deli provides options for dining-in or take-out as well as catering for events or large-scale deliveries.



The Beer Deli has been a staple establishment on Welles St in Forty Fort for decades.

Marcella Kester | For Times Leader

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With a classic deli menu that reads across a large wall, the establishment serves up over 50 menu items, offering tried-and-true favorites such as corned beef, turkey clubs and Rueben while incorporating weekly \$5 specials and seasonal dishes like soups and salads.

Although the deli has remained true to its roots, Rivero explained that she is always looking up new and affordable ingredients. The Beer Deli has begun to incorporate microgreens and is currently working with Wolfpack of Nanticoke. Going back to the first half of the deli's name, Rivero also offers a wide variety of beers and more. From local crafters to national names the establishment provides a wide variety of import and domestic brews.

Of course, running a business doesn't come without its challenges, and Rivero is not immune to the battle of cost versus quality.

“The most difficult part is keeping up with rising costs while delivering a quality, fresh product. Yes, our burgers are a little more expensive but they are eight ounces and made fresh daily,” she explained while also raising concern about the effects proposed increases to the minimum wage would have.

One thing Rivero need not worry about is the support from her patrons. From

See 'BEER' | 5

Business: The Beer Deli

Owner: Jodie M. Rivero

Years in Business: Formed in 1987, purchased business in September 2011

Location: 175 Welles Street, Forty Fort

BEER from 4

offering homemade favorites such as coleslaw and potato salad to having classically-trained chef Will Kuchta, the business continues to see familiar faces walk through the door.

“We have a huge repeat customer base,” she said. “The atmosphere is very friendly and has that hometown feeling. That place where everybody knows your name.”

The Beer Deli is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Marcella Kester | For Times Leader

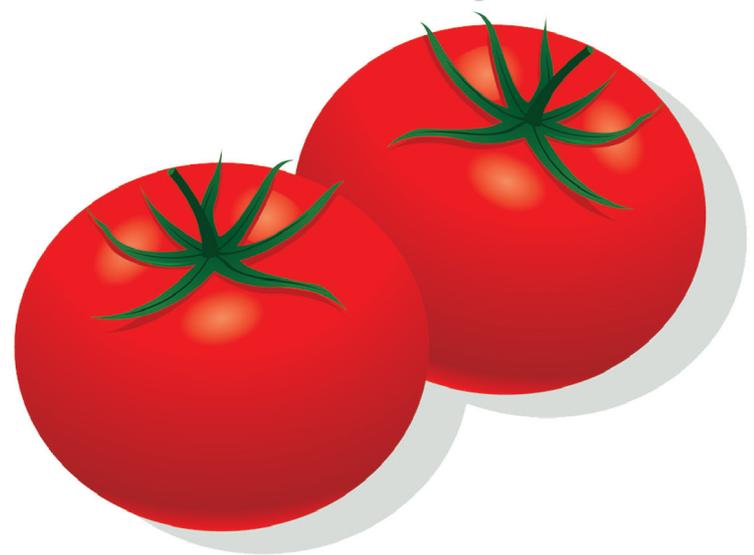
True to its name, The Beer Deli not only offers a vast selection of menu items, but brews as well.



Marcella Kester | For Times Leader

Jodie Rivero finishes a customer order at her business. Rivero has owned The Beer Deli since 2011.

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Find the right gift for any occasion at Simon & Company

By Marcella Kester
For Times Leader

KINGSTON – It was mid-afternoon and Emile Zafrany was hard at work: first with a customer looking for a gift for her daughter, then with a couple seeking a quote on an item and, finally, a friendly face on the hunt to turn something old into something new.

It's all in a days work for Zafrany, who owns Simon & Company Jewelers in Kingston.

While the location has been around for about 23 years, Simon & Co. was actually founded in 1940 by Zafrany's father, Simon, out of Casablanca, Morocco. Today, the company spans from America to Europe while offering timeless, quality jewelry and handcrafted gifts.

The statement holds true for the area jeweler, whose location is covered in exquisite pieces of handheld art. Its that collection of items, Zafrany said, that makes Simon & Co. unique from any other store in the area.

The company prides itself on its collaborative nature with artists, shopping both within the U.S. and overseas to find beautiful, one-of-a-kind pieces.

"Simon & Company is committed to discovering the newest and most creative artists worldwide and presenting them to our clients," he said. "Our competitors cannot find the same thing, so we have a unique stock."

Going through rows of gift-wares that range from silver- and gold-clad serving trays to pastel bowls, fine china and Venetian glasswares, Zafrany told



Simon & Co. Jewelers owner Emile Zafrany stands behind a display case in his Kingston store.

See 'SIMON' | 7

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SIMON from 6

the stories of their creators to the likes of Julia Knight, Michael Aram and more.

When asked why he decided to add such pieces to a jewelry shop his answer was simple – because there was nowhere else in the area to buy such gifts. Having such an assortment of items and artists in one area allows customer to easily shop in one place for special, luxury items.

Aside from gift-wares, Simon & Co. has a vast selection of jewelry (more than 3,000 pieces) that starts as low as \$10. While he offers everything from silver and gold to diamonds and pearls Zafrany also repairs, creates and repurposes jewelry.

Longtime client Patricia Rosenthal has seen Zafrany for all three.

Bringing in several items of both old jewelry and family heirlooms, the two spoke candidly as they discussed the next steps in repurposing the pieces into a new ring.

“The quality is fantastic, he’s very creative,” she said of Zafrany’s handiwork.

That’s music to Zafrany’s ears, who believes in offering quality at good value to clientele.

“If you offer good service, good value for the item you are selling then you’ll have a captivated audience.” he said.

“You dream it, I’ll make it. Nothing is impossible.”



Aside from jewelry, Zafrany sells gift-wares at his Kingston shop such as one-of-a-kind Venetian glass.

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Hi, my name is Tony Morrash, and I am the owner of TM Supply in Luzerne. If you're tired of visiting the big box stores for your building supply needs, and you're tired of going back to the box stores only to find out your sales clerk, is now selling garden supplies. Then come see me and my staff at TM Supply. We are your family owned, local Home Center, in business for over 60 years.

The following is a newspaper article that was written 20 years ago about Tony and his company. Although it is basically the same, it has been updated to today's world.

Every Saturday since he was 13 years old, Tony Morrash climbed into the car with his Dad and went to work at Koury's Incorporated. His job consisted of sweeping floors, loading trucks and helping on deliveries; he was paid a couple of dollars and lunch

- some Abe's Hot Dogs.

Tony began working everyday after school and picked up hours around his school activities. This schedule continued through college too. As he grew older, his responsibilities grew with him. By the time he graduated from Wilkes College, he was managing the business. Then in 1989, he was given an opportunity to purchase the company he had worked for since he was 13 years old.

Koury's Incorporated was founded in 1957, in Wilkes-Barre, by Maurice Koury, Tony's mentor. "The man was like a second father to me, and taught me more in business than any classroom ever could. There is an old Japanese Proverb: Better than a thousand days of diligent study, is one day with a great teacher! Mr Maurice Koury was that great teacher!", Tony said.



Tony did purchase Koury's Incorporated in 1989 and changed the name to Koury's Home Center, where he continued to supply both home owners and professional contractors with building supplies. The company has grown based on the principle of customer service and satisfaction. An informed sales staff, low prices, quality products and a wide variety of in-stock merchandise has allowed this small family owned business to compete with the large builder outlets.

"Big is not always best", Tony says, we are big enough to buy right, yet small enough to call our customers by their first names. You're not just a number when you walk in my store."

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In 2001, Koury's Home Center outgrew its location, changed the name to TM Supply and moved 278 Union Street in Luzerne. They now have a huge showroom with plenty of parking, and they still go by the motto of: You Shop, We Load!!!

Sixty years have brought many changes to the building industry. TM Supply now offers professional installation of all products sold. Also today, there are literally hundreds of styles of doors, windows and interior products to choose from, and TM Supply's turn around time, for this special order material, is unmatched in the area. TM Supply has over 100 years experience to help you with all your needs.

However, there have been two other major changes at TM Supply: Tony Jr. has worked his way through college and has been added to the staff too! So stop in today, visit our huge showroom, meet three generations, and let us help you with all your projects!!!

And the last change is: Now Tony takes his Dad to work, and buys him some Abe's hot dogs for lunch!



Showroom 56

– United Penn Plaza, Kingston

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www.showroom56.com

Showroom 56 is inspired by the individuality, creativity and art of fashion. It's the area's largest and most extensive women's clothing boutique, offering a captivating array of apparel, shoes, jewelry, accessories and more. It houses brands like Free People and Dolce Vita to Hudson, Jovani, and Kendra Scott, just to name a few! Your style can be retro, Boho or modern; from jeans and a T-shirt to a black tie evening gown, Showroom 56 has a look for you.

Showroom's team takes pride in ensuring you a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, from the eclectic and extensive inventory to the way you will be treated by the knowledgeable staff. It's a place where moms and daughters mingle and girlfriends meet. Shopping at Showroom 56 is truly a delight.

Showroom 56 is also a proud "Gold" winner of the 2019 Times Leader Readers' Choice Awards for BEST CLOTHING STORE! It offers more than 3,000 shopping square feet of pure style and fun.

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