

6th Annual

TIMES NEWS

tn

2024 Readers' Choice

Special Edition

TIMES NEWS
— MEDIA GROUP —

BLOCKER YAMAHA- KAWASAKI

Best motorcycle, ATV & UTV sales, parts and service

Off-road vehicles for the entire family, with an honest, no pressure sales approach. The family business started in 1971 has longtime staff who ride what they sell and service.

Address: 497 S. Ninth St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-0440

Online: www.blockers.com and on Facebook

WENTZ AUTO BODY

Best auto body

The business provides full-service collision repair, full-service mechanical repair, detailing, used auto sales and paintless dent repair.

Run by Gary and Roxanne Wentz, and sons Chris and Matthew, Wentz Auto Body is a one-stop shop for all of your automotive needs.

The friendly staff is ready to answer your questions and explain the repair process. They also assist with all aspects of your car repair needs, including helping with car rentals and working directly with insurance companies.

Started in 1976, Gary Wentz saw an opportunity to launch his own business to fill a need for a local auto body shop that provided expert collision repairs and excellent customer service. He opened his first shop in Lehighton and has been so successful that the business

now occupies four facilities just outside Lehighton.

Address: 350 Interchange Road, Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-3710

Online: www.wentzautomotive.com and on Facebook

RENTSCHLER CHRYSLER JEEP DODGE RAM & CHEVROLET

Best auto dealer

Rentschler Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram & Chevrolet is a new and preowned auto dealer, providing sales, service, parts, detailing and auto body services for 50-plus years. It's no hassles, no gimmicks, just transparent pricing, with an upfront and honest approach.

Address: 255 N. Walnut St., Slatington

Phone: 610-767-1171/610-767-1181

Online: www.rentschlerchryslerjeepdodge.com

SNYDER TIRE

Best tire dealer

Jesse Snyder, the owner, said they want to be fair and treat customers how they would want our friends and family treated.

Bob and Liz Snyder started Snyder Tire in 1980, Bob and Liz gave the business to their son Jesse, who is now the owner. Erin Snyder is the office manager.

Address: 103 E. Penn St. Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-3336

Online: www.snydertire.net

See **AUTO** on Page 3



The Readers' Choice award for best motorcycle, ATV and UTV sales, parts and service goes to Blocker Yamaha-Kawasaki in Lehighton. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



Rentschler Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram & Chevrolet in Slatington prides itself on an upfront and honest approach, making it a favorite with readers. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

Make it a routine!

Nothing beats a cup of coffee and a paper.
Enjoy the **TIMES NEWS** 6 days a week.





Josh Krebs started his business six years ago, and has expanded into Krebs Auto Detailing in Leighton. It was voted best auto detailing by readers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

AUTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

KREBS AUTO DETAILING

Best auto detailing

A Ceramic Pro Elite dealer, Krebs Auto Detailing offers a full line of ceramic coatings, window tint and paint protection film packages. In addition, it offers detailing services, automotive accessory sales and installation, fluid film rustproofing, windshield chip repair/replacement and painless dent repair.

Josh Krebs started six years ago as an owner/operator with no employees. Satisfied customers continue to spread the word about the services provided, helping the business continue to grow.

Address: 7420 Interchange Road, Leighton

Phone: 610-533-4125

Online: www.krebsautodetailing.com

MCFARLAND & SONS GARAGE INC.

Best towing company

A full-service mechanical business, McFarland & Sons specializes in wheel alignments, ADAS calibrations, A/C service, inspections and emissions. The garage offers towing and deals with all major tire companies.

The garage has been in business for more than 60 years. Owner Troy McFarland's father Calvin started the business in 1964 and the business has remained family-owned and operated, serving their own local community.

Address: 396 W. Lizard Creek Road, Leighton.

Phone: 610-377-4999

Online: mcfarlandsgarage.com and Facebook/McFarland and Sons Garage Inc.

See **AUTO** on Page 4




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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOTERS!
2024 Reader's Choice Award for Best Credit Union

AUTO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ADVANCE AUTO PARTS

Best parts store

Advance Auto Parts Inc. is a leading automotive aftermarket parts provider that serves both professional installers and do-it-yourself customers. Advance operates stores and Worldpac branches in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The company also serves independently owned Carquest branded stores across these locations in addition to Mexico and various Caribbean islands.

Address: 77 Blakeslee Boulevard Dr. E. Leighton
Phone: 610-377-6107
Online: www.AdvanceAutoParts.com.

LIBERTY AUTOGLASS

Best auto glass repair

Liberty AutoGlass strives to provide the best customer service in the auto glass repair/replacement industry. "We are fully aware of the important nature of our services in regard to safety, value and

convenience," the business says on its website. "Modern auto glass repair and replacing requires an attention to detail and a dedication to technical excellence. The glass being repaired or replaced provides much more than just protection from the elements."

Services include: auto glass replacement, windshields, back glass, door glass, vent glass, quarter glass, glass for side/door mirrors, windshield repairs such as stone hits, headlight restoration and windshield wipers.

Address: 509 N. 1st St., Leighton
Phone: 610-377-7787
Online: www.libertyautoglass.us

TNT AUTO REPAIRS LLC

Best auto service, oil change

Tim Snyder started working in the same shop in 1989 and worked his way up to being the owner. Everyone takes pride in a job well done. Employees take care of everybody's car like it was their family riding in it. TNT does automotive repairs, from minor to major.

Address: 619 Iron St., Leighton
Phone: 610-377-2642



Advance Auto Parts in Leighton was voted best parts store by readers. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



Attention to detail and dedication to technical excellence is the priority at Liberty AutoGlass in Leighton, voted best auto glass repair by readers. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO




**Thank you for
voting us your top
Auto Detailer!**

**Powered by Ceramic Pro
610-533-4125**

Other services we offer:

- Window Tint
- Undercoating
- Auto Accessories
- Paint Protection Film

<https://www.krebsautodetailing.com/>



These girls aren't the only ones who like Dance with Kim. The Lehighton dance studio was voted best dance studio by readers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DANCE WITH KIM

Best dance studio

From your child's first class through graduation, your child will thrive at Dance With Kim.

"Our dancers go beyond technique to develop important life skills, learning to be respectful and confident young people who share their gifts and talents with the community. We also offer Ready Set Dance," said owner Kim Semmel.

She started right out of high school gathering numerous dance and business certifications in the field.

The business is now in its 38th season.

The studio offers fun and educational dance camps, Dancer Mania guest teacher

workshop and intensive, and a nonprofit Dance with Kim for a Cause that offers help to people or organizations in need within the local communities.

The studio offers a convenient location, many classes to choose from, background checked staff, secure facility, full time administrative team, study area for students and community service opportunities.

"Our recreational and competitive programs are both well received with the addition to Edge performance training developed by Brittany Pry," said Semmel.

"It prepares dancers and athletes to train smarter and safer."

She added that dance boosts confidence, coordination and compassion for

others.

Dancers learn hard work, perseverance and teamwork.

"As we like to say ... We don't just teach dance, we create great people!" Semmel said.

Address: 248 S. Fourth St., Lehighton
Phone: 610-377-4884
Online: www.dancewithkim.com

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON

Best hotel

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson in Lehighton is known for its community-focused hospitality, modern



Country Inn & Suites By Radisson in Lehighton makes it a priority to be community and family focused. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

amenities and welcoming design that sets it apart from other hotel chains. Making our guests feel comfortable and giving a sense of belonging that they can call home.

Fred Leshner, owner and manager, has been in business for 20 years. Caitlin Swartz is the general manager at the hotel that prides itself on being community and

family focused.

Address: 1619 Interchange Road, Lehighton
Phone: 610-379-5066

See **ENTERTAINMENT** on Page 7

- Whitewater Rafting
- Kayak Shop
- Bicycle Shop
- Bicycle Repair



THANK YOU FOR YOUR VOTES!



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Understood for learning & attention issues

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The logo features the year '2024' in large white font on a blue background. To its right is a circular emblem with 'TIMES NEWS' at the top, 'tn' in the center, and 'Readers' Choice' on a banner below. Further right, the word 'WINNERS' is written in large white font on a blue background.

AUTO

ATVBlocker Enterprises
 Auto Body.....Wentz Auto Body
 Auto Dealer New Rentschler Chrysler Jeep Chevrolet
 Auto Dealer PreownedLehighton Ford
 Auto Detailing..... Krebs Auto Detailing
 Auto Glass Repair Liberty Autoglass
 Auto Parts.....Advance Auto Parts - Lehighton

Auto Parts..... NAPA AUTO PARTS - Lehighton
 Auto Service TNT AUTO Repairs LLC
 Car Wash Lehighton Car Wash
 Motorcycle Accessory ShopBlocker Enterprises
 Motorcycle DealerBlocker Enterprises
 Oil Change..... TNT AUTO Repairs LLC
 Tire Dealer SNYDER TIRE COMPANY
 Towing Company.....Mcfarland & sons garage

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS

Amusement Park.....Knoebels Amusement Resort
 Art Gallery..... Tamaqua Community Arts Center
 Bed & Breakfast The Inn at Birch Wilds
 Bingo Franklin Township Vol. Fire Company
 Block Party/PicnicPalmerton Festival
 Bowling Alley..... Fritz's Lanes & Pro Shop
 Campground Sunny Rest Resort
 Casino Wind Creek Bethlehem
 Concert Venue.....Penn's Peak
 Craft Classes..... Love 4 Art Studio
 Dance Studio..... Dance with Kim
 Drive-In Theatre..... Becky's Drive-In
 Family Entertainment.....Palmerton Festival
 Firework DisplayPyro Joe LLC
 Golf CourseBlue Shamrock Golf Club
 Gymnastics..... Tumble with Denise
 Hotel Country Inn & Suites
 Local Band/Musician..... The Preps
 Local Fall Attraction..... Yenser's Tree Farm
 Local Haunted AttractionWaldorf Estate of Fear
 Martial ArtsMountain Karate Academy
 Miniature Golf..... Bear Rock Junction Mini Golf
 Movie Theater..... Roxy Theatre
 Outdoor Pool.....Palmerton Memorial Park
 Party DJ.....Layne 'Doc' Roberts
 Party Supply Rental..... Incognito Photo Booth



Roller Skating Rink..... LaRose's Skating Rink
 Ski Resort.....Blue Mountain Resort
 Sports Facility..... Valley Royale
 Tourist Attraction Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway
 Wedding Venue The Barn at Graver's Tree Farm
 Whitewater Rafting Lehighton Outdoor Center



Pyro Joe customizes each fireworks show, no matter the budget. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



In business for 78 years, Becky's Drive-In is known for friendly service, customer satisfaction, clean grounds and an emphasis on employee relations. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

PYRO JOE LLC

Best Fireworks Display

Owner Joe Pachorkowsky got the fireworks bug when he was growing up in Lower Towamensing Township.

Now, in his business based in Franklin Township, he says people will never see the same show twice.

"Each show, no matter the budget, is completely customized," he says.

In business for more than

20 years, his motto is to treat every customer as his only customer.

What sets him apart is friendly service, originality and being budget friendly.

Address: 1149 Main Road, Lehighton

Phone: 484-629-9589

Online: <https://www.facebook.com/Carboncountypa?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

BECKY'S DRIVE-IN

Best drive-in

This outdoor movie venue shows double features on two movie screens.

Becky's is known for friendly service, customer satisfaction, emphasis on employee relations and clean grounds.

William "Becky" & Alice Beck, founders, built the drive-in in 1946, making it 78 years in business.

Their children and grandchildren keep it going.

Becky's offers activities for children to do before the evening, including the trackless train and fire engine rides, moon bounce and free playground.

There are special events during the season, including

fireworks to celebrate their anniversary.

A Dream Come True benefit car show is held in October.

Since 1986, the drive-in has raised over \$243,000 for DCT of the Blue Ridge Chapter.

Address: 4548 Lehigh

Drive, Walnutport

Phone: 610-767-2249

Online: www.beckysdi.com

See **ENTERTAINMENT** on Page 8

BUY RECYCLED AND SAVE



When you buy products made from recycled materials, recycling keeps working.

To find out more, call 1-800-CALL-EDF.



The Barn at Graver's Tree Farm in Tamaqua was voted best wedding venue. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



After 77 years of service to the community, the Palmerton Memorial Park ranks number one with readers as best outdoor pool. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO.

ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

THE BARN AT GRAVER'S TREE FARM

Best wedding venue

Authentic, Amish-built, fully renovated barn dedicated to weddings and events desiring rustic charm and elegance. The venue is owned by Audrey Graver.

Address: 841 Dairy Road, Tamaqua
Phone: 570-386-8932
Online: www.graver-estate.com

MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION

Best outdoor pool

The Palmerton Memorial Park Association is a nonprofit organization created for the benefit of the residents of the Palmerton area in memory of veterans who served in the military during WWI and World War II.

The Palmerton Memorial Park has an outdoor swimming pool with pavilions for



Fast-paced punk rock band The Preps blasted to the top with readers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

picnics and family gatherings, refreshment stand, basketball courts, volleyball court, and a zero entry baby pool.

The overall size of the pool, including the enclosed grass area, is what makes it such a great place.

In addition, the pool has an incredible staff who put the safety of patrons first.

Swimming lessons for children are offered, as well as lap swimming and a water aerobics class for adults.

The goal is to provide a family-friendly environment at a low cost while maintaining a safe and clean facility.

The 2024 season marked its 77th year.

The association is a nonprofit that is funded completely through season memberships, daily admissions and donations.

The association does not receive any financial support from the local municipality, unlike most other public

pools.

Address: 1255 Third St., Palmerton
Phone: 610-826-5357
Online: www.palmerton-pool.com; Facebook: Palmerton Memorial Park Association

THE PREPS

Best local band

The Preps are a fast-paced punk rock band.

and played with notable acts including The Ramones, The Misfits and Dropkick Murphys. With their 30th anniversary approaching, they are getting ready for a rockin' ride with new albums dropping, and their timeless motto, "We're Here To Rock," echoing in the air.

Address: 134 Mauch Chunk St., Leighton
Phone: 484-464-3681
Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/thepreps/>

LAROSE'S SKATING RINK

Best roller-skating rink

LaRose's has been operating for 98 years.

LaRose's is open for private roller skating parties.

Included is two hours of skating, unlimited guests, skates, games, decorations, paper products and a message on marquee.

In addition to roller skating, the rink offers drinks, and hot and cold snacks. They also have video games.

A pizza package is available for parties.

Address: 2800 Interchange Road, Leighton
Phone: 484-629-6095
Website/Facebook: laroses.net

Since blasting onto the scene in 1996, they have played many high-profile shows, including tours on the East and West coasts. Locally, The Preps have helped shape the local original music scene and released several studio albums.

The foursome, comprised of lead singer and guitarist, FatLou; drummer, IHG; bassist, John Knepper; and lead guitarist, Jimmy Buskirk, has toured across the country



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With more than 320,000 passengers in 2023, Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway is one of the biggest tourist attraction in the Poconos and Eastern Pennsylvania. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ENTERTAINMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

LEHIGH GORGE SCENIC RAILWAY

Best tourist attraction

Reading Blue Mountain and Northern Railroad presents the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway, with scenic train rides in the Jim Thorpe area.

There are also RBMN all-day excursions between Reading and Scranton areas.

Under the leadership of owner Andy Muller Jr. and Senior Vice President and General Manager Matt Fisher, the railroad prides itself on customer service and affordable pricing.

The Reading and Northern Railroad is a privately held railroad that focuses on freight customers, with the big difference being that the railroad enjoys hosting the public on many different passenger train trips and excursions. The passenger department started in Berks County nearly 40 years ago.

In 2023, the scenic railroad hosted over 320,000 passengers, making it one of the biggest tourist attractions in the Poconos and Eastern Pennsylvania.

Address: 1 Susquehan-

na St., Jim Thorpe

Phone: 570-325-8485

Online/Facebook:

www.LGSRV.com / Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway

BEAR ROCK JUNCTION INC.

Best miniature golf

For the last 18 years, Bear Rock has provided children and their families with a fun experience and memories to cherish for years to come.

Activities include mini golf, Go-Karts, train ride, a corn maze, pumpkin patch, glow golf and ice cream.

Pets are welcome on the grounds, but should be leashed and cleaned up after.

Address: 8181 Route 309, New Tripoli

Phone: 610-298-888

Online: www.bearrock-junction.com

FRITZ'S LANES & PRO SHOP

Best bowling alley

A bowling center and bowling pro shop, Fritz's Lanes' motto is to keep people happy.

Dennis and Beverly Fritzingler loved to bowl and

wanted a job where they were the makers of our destiny.

"It's a lot of fun most of the time," Beverly Fritzingler said. They leased the bowling alley from 1996 to 1999, then purchased it in 1999.

They've run the bowling alley for 28 years altogether.

"People come here and typically spend 1½ to 2 or 3 hours here doing an activity that people of all ages can enjoy together," Beverly Fritzingler said.

Address: 100 S. Second St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-5022

PENN'S PEAK

Concert venue

Penn's Peak, the mountaintop entertainment venue in Jim Thorpe, can comfortably host 1,800 concertgoers.

The venue, in business for 20 years now, is complete with a broad open-air deck for summertime revelry and a full service restaurant and bar aptly named Roadies.

Penn's Peak opened in 1998 as Rambler's Ranch, a country music venue, with a performance by legendary singer Ray Price. The original owners closed after barely two years, but the venue was reborn as Penn's Peak in



Nonprofit organizations offer a variety of food choices at the Palmerton Community Festival. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

2003 with a sold-out concert by Brad Paisley.

Penn's Peak patrons enjoy a breathtaking 50-mile panoramic view of the Appalachian Mountains.

The picturesque venue is available for weddings, banquets and private rentals.

Guests can enjoy free, live entertainment on the deck during the warmer months.

Address: 325 Maury Road, Jim Thorpe

Phone: 866-605-PEAK
Online: PennsPeak.com and Facebook: PennsPeak

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Best bingo

Franklin Township Volunteer Fire Company currently has 45 active firefighters, 10 active fire police and operates four pieces of apparatus that respond to fires, rescues and other emergency calls within the township. The fire company also provides mutual aid to neighboring communities.

The fire company was formed in 1968, when a few men had a vision and began planning.

On April 14, 1970, these men attended a meeting of the Franklin Township supervisors and two weeks later, the supervisors appointed a charter committee. The formation of the fire company and auxiliary began. By November 1971, the group had raised \$16,000 and was officially chartered April 21, 1972. The current building opened May 12, 1974.

In addition to firefighters and fire police, the company boasts a roster of approximately 50 active auxiliary members who have continued the fundraising activities in supporting the efforts of firefighters and fire police.

Funds raised go directly back to the community through the purchase of equipment, training and entertainment.

Address: 2440 Fairyland Road, Lehighton

Phone Number: 610-377-1244 (Call 911 in case of emergency, NOT the fire company)

Online: www.facebook.com/ftvfc4

PALMERTON COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Best block party/picnic

The Palmerton Community Festival, celebrating its 35th year, is one of the largest events in Carbon County, with professional and local entertainment along with ethnic food stands, rides and games.

The Palmerton borough park provides a perfect setting to enhance the event.

What makes the festival stand out from other events is the homemade ethnic foods, the free entertainment, and the number of nonprofit groups participating to raise funds for their specific cause.

Many former Palmerton residents return home for festival weekend.

Address: P.O. Box 266, Palmerton

Phone: 484-522-8899

Online: Palmertonfestival.com and on Palmerton Community Festival.

BUCKNO LISICKY & COMPANY

BUCKNO LISICKY & COMPANY

Best tax return preparation

Buckno Lisicky & Company provides accounting/auditing, bookkeeping services, estate/retirement planning, tax returns, and planning and compliance services.

The company has an ongoing commitment to affirm and continue to establish long-term professional relationships that

focus on the growth and success of its clientele.

Buckno Lisicky & Company offers the expertise, stability, confidentiality and integrity you need, backed by sound advice and planning for current financial needs as well as long-term goals.

The company is in service more than 50 years. It was founded in 1969.

Address: 1167 Interchange Road, Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-6960

Online: www.bucknolisicky.com



In business since 1902, Mauch Chunk Trust Company now has seven branches and remains locally owned and independently managed. It wins best bank and mortgage company. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

MAUCH CHUNK TRUST COMPANY

Best bank and mortgage company

Mauch Chunk Trust Company was incorporated in 1902, and has remained a locally owned and managed independent community bank ever since. The main of-

fice is in Jim Thorpe, with seven branches serving Jim Thorpe, Albrightsville, Nesquehoning, Lehighton, Hometown and West Penn.

Mauch Chunk Trust has been in business for 122 years. The business was started as the Second National Bank of Mauch Chunk in 1864.

Address: 1111 North St., Jim Thorpe

Phone: 570-325-2265

Online: www.mct.bank



FIRST COMMONWEALTH FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Best credit union

First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union began in 1959 as the credit union for Western Electric. The mission is to empower your pursuit of financial happiness. At the heart of the mission

is a deliberate effort to redefine being 'small-minded' in a positive context.

Rather than focusing on how the credit union is similar to larger institutions, it has chosen to celebrate the more personal approach to banking and the dedication to delivering exceptional value to its members.

Address: 6126 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 100, Allentown

Phone: 610-821-2403

Online: www.firstcomcu.org

WILDONER INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

Best insurance agency

Wildoner Insurance Agency has offered auto, home and business insurance to residents and business owners in Carbon County and the surrounding area for more than 70 years.

The agency has been family owned and operated, with Charles E. Wildoner growing the business by helping area residents and businesses with their insurance needs after World War II.

It has been a family owned and operated business since 1946, when Charlie and Joan Wildoner determined to provide the com-

munity with the best personal and business insurance options.

The tradition of serving local communities continues to this day with Charlene Wildoner Grant and Joe Grant still providing the best service and options.

The company prides itself on being "local and approachable and not a "1-800" or "internet-based" company.

"We are your local insurance agent that is available for coverage, claims and help with all your insurance needs right in your backyard," said Charlene Wildoner Grant, president/owner. "Our mission is to develop an insurance program that best fits the needs of each of our clients."

Address: 701 North St., Jim Thorpe

Phone: 570-325-3651

Online: www.wildonerinsurance.com

2024 **tn** WINNERS

Readers' Choice

FINANCIAL

Accountant Frey & Company CPA
 Bank Mauch Chunk Trust Company
 Credit Union First Commonwealth Federal Credit Union

Insurance Agency Wildoner Insurance Agency
 Mortgage Company Mauch Chunk Trust Company
 Tax Return Preparation Buckno Lisicky & Company

FOOD AND DRINK

Bakery Wild & Free Bakery
 Bar Radical Wine Company
 Bartender Jocelyn DeMarco (Molly Maguire's Irish Pub)
 BBQ Big Creek Bar-B-Q
 Beer Distributor Masons Cold Beer
 Best Kept (Dining) Secret Perch at Jim Thorpe
 Breakfast Parryville Volunteer Fire Company #2
 Brunch Perch at Jim Thorpe
 Burger-Local Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Butcher/Meat Market Thomson's Meat Market
 Catering Sapore Restaurant
 Cheesesteak Sapore Restaurant
 Chinese Myst
 Coffee UnCommon Grounds Mobile Cafe
 Crab Cakes Sapore Restaurant
 Deli Cindy's Deli
 Dessert Corner Cone
 Diner Bowmanstown Diner
 Dinner Sapore Restaurant
 Distillery Eight Oaks Farm Distillery
 Donuts Baker Ben's Bakery
 Family Restaurant Sapore Restaurant
 Fastest Delivery Service Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Fastest Takeout Service Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Fine Dining Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Food Truck Kitty Kat Concessions
 French Fries Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Friendliest Service Kitty Kat Concessions
 Grocery Store - Local Mallard Market
 Grocery Store - National/Regional Giant Food Stores
 Happy Hour Sapore Restaurant
 Hoagies Cindy's Deli



Hot Dogs Cindy's Deli
 Ice Cream Corner Cone
 Iced Tea Zimmerman's Dairy Inc.
 Italian Restaurant Sapore Restaurant
 Kid's Meal Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Lunch Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Margarita Sapore Restaurant
 Milkshake Corner Cone
 Natural Food Store Nutritional Needs
 Outdoor Dining Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Pierogies Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Pizza (Local) Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Produce Hometown Farmer's Market
 Restaurant Server Kayla Ahner (Sapore Restaurant)
 Soup Sapore Restaurant
 Sports Bar Sapore Restaurant
 Taco Papa Al's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
 Treats & Sweets Corner Cone
 Wedding Cakes Wild & Free Bakery
 Winery Radical Wine Company
 Wings Sapore Restaurant



Thomson's Meat Market makes sausage, beef sticks, jerky and so much more. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTOS

THOMSON'S MEAT MARKET

Best meat market/deli

Thomson's Meat Market and Deli has been a staple for meat and more for 42 years.

Jake Thomson, owner, said, "We make homemade sausages, beef sticks, ring bologna, bacon, scrapple and much, much more."

His dad started the business in 1982. "I bought it from him in December 2015," said Jake Thomson.

The meat market provides fresh beef, pork, chicken, homemade sausage, beef sticks, ring bologna and jerky.

They pride themselves on selling quality products, with most products made on-site.

Address: 430 Washington St., Walnutport
Phone: 610-767-4592

Website/Facebook: Facebook.com/Thomsons-MeatMarket

GIANT FOOD STORE

Best grocery store national/regional

Giant's mission is "Connecting Families for a Better Future."

The Giant Co. has been in business for 100 years and continues to evolve.

Michele Rex, store manager, began in retail in high

school and has been in the industry for 41 years.

"We have our team promises, where our associates can grow through new opportunities," Rex said. "Make a difference, and be you!"

The Giant Co. also has promised to their customers to serve with kindness.

Address: 1241 Blakeslee Blvd. Dr. W., Lehighton

Phone: 570-386-4146
Online: www.giantfood-store.com

PAPA AL'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Best burger-local; fastest delivery service, fastest takeout service, best dining, best French fries, best kid's meal; best lunch, best outdoor dining, best pierogies, best pizza (local) and best taco

Papa Al's Italian Restaurant is a family-owned restaurant with a commitment to service and value in the family tradition for the last 30 years.

"We strive to provide you with consistently delicious

food at fair prices in a warm, inviting and friendly atmosphere," said co-owner Al. "We use only the finest and freshest quality ingredients available in preparing each meal individually. It may take a few extra minutes, but we take great pride in providing you with an outstanding dining experience."

The menu includes pasta, pizza, strombolis, wraps, panini, burgers, specialty fries, specialty pierogies, wings, hot subs, cold subs, cheesesteaks, clubs, homemade soups, authentic Mexican tacos/ fajitas/ quesadillas, salads and Italian appetizers. Italian dinners and sauces are made in house, never frozen.

The restaurant offers lunch specials and delivers to Palmerton and surrounding areas: Lehighton, Bowmanstown, Weissport, Walnutport and Slatington.

Papa Al's offers catering, online ordering and a small outdoor seating area. The business started on Dec. 14, 2014, out of a food truck parked at George's P&H on Little Gap Road in Aquashicola.

"We did exceptionally well and decided to open up an actual restaurant seven months later at 315 Lehigh Ave., Palmerton, said co-owner Sam Alvarado. "It was a complete leap of faith, as this property sat on a residential street and not on the main drag in Palmerton." After six years on Lehigh

Avenue, they moved to Delaware Avenue in 2019 and went under full demolition to renovate the space from a gym to a restaurant. They opened their doors in December 2020.

The restaurant plans a new menu with new items and a "private" room for meetings, small gatherings, birthday parties, etc.

The owners believe in giving back to the community, donating to many events in the Carbon County area.

"That will never change as we are forever thankful for the support that we have received and continue to receive from our patrons," Alvarado said.

Address: 346 Delaware Ave., Palmerton

Phone: 610-824-7163, 610-824-7164

Online: www.papaalspalmerton.com

PARRYVILLE FIRE COMPANY #2

Best breakfast

Parryville Fire Company serves breakfast platters for people to dine in or take out on the first Sunday of every month.

The fire company has been serving the community since 1910, and has been serving breakfast at least 20 years.

They are particularly proud that, "while we are not all you can eat, you will not leave hungry with our



A staple in the community, Giant grocery store in Lehighton was voted best grocery store national/regional.



Papa Al's keeps growing, with an eye on new menu items and an area for small gatherings.



Corner Cone offers more than 40 flavors of soft serve ice cream and 26 hand-dipped flavors.

portions and the quality of the meats we serve from Thomsons Meat Market in Walnutport."

Address: 359 Main St., Parryville

Phone: 610-852-2350

CORNER CONE LLC

Best ice cream, milkshake, dessert, treats and sweets

Pamela and Larry McCullion, along with their son Levi, are the proud owners and founders of their family owned and operated ice cream shop that opened in July of 2016.

Corner Cone serves 40-plus flavors of soft serve, 26

hand-dipped flavors, along with milkshakes and a variety of sundaes and Italian ice.

One of the top features is "Pop Pop's" Banana Split, to honor Larry's father, Lawrence McCullion Sr., who loved ice cream, but passed away unexpectedly six weeks before opening day.

Corner Cone is a seasonal ice cream shop, which opens Mother's Day weekend through Labor Day from 5 to 9 p.m. daily.

They pride themselves on fast and friendly service and great products.

Address: 103 S. Eighth St., Lehighton

Phone: 570-249-1755
Facebook: Corner-ConeLehighton/

See **FOOD** on Page A14



Radical Wine offers an urban vibe with over 20 varieties of wine 12 draft beers and more. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

FOOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A13

RADICAL WINE CO.

Best winery, bar

Radical Wine Company is an urban-style winery similar to a craft brewery.

When you visit, expect a fun, laid back vibe with a variety of options, including 20-plus varieties of wine, 12 draft beers, five sangrias, eight wine slushies, mix and match flights, mixed drink specials and even wine infused soft serve ice cream.

They also donate to local animal shelters and rescues.

Address: 511 Mahoning Drive E., Lehighton
Phone: 610-365-7969
Online: www.radicalwine.com

CINDY'S DELI

Best deli, hoagies, hot dogs

Founded in 2012, Cindy's is a small-town deli and hoagie shop specializing in fresh deli meats, salads and sandwiches.

They also offer catering.

In business for 12 and a half years, owner Caitlyn Moyer said a door opened for a new opportunity after one closed behind her.

"I've been sailing along the business route ever

since!" Moyer says. "I really appreciate all the love and support I have received over the years. These last two years have been challenging to say the least, but to have friends with me makes the road a little less bumpy."

Moyer says it's the personal touch and fresh ingredients that sets them apart from other businesses.

"We have a lot of fun with food all day long."

Address: 828 Main Road, Lehighton.
Phone: 610-379-4747
Online: www.cindysdeli.com

KITTY KAT CONCESSIONS

Best food truck and friendliest service

Mary Pachorkowsky said Kitty Kat Concessions is the alter ego of Pyro Joe LLC.

The business, which started three years ago, specializes in fresh squeezed lemonade, brewed iced tea, homemade tomato pie and your favorite desserts.

Her motto is, "Treat your customers like family and provide fresh products at an affordable price."

She adds, "My husband, Joe, has been through a lot of medical issues that have changed the course of our lives over the past two years."

"We try to be the best



It may be small, but Cindy's Deli takes a top spot with readers. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

people we can be by giving back to others as much as possible. I like to say that we are the stand with a heart."

Address: 1149 Main Road, Lehighton
Phone: 484-871-1227
Online: Facebook, Kitty Kat Concessions

MOLLY MAGUIRES IRISH PUB

Best bartender Jocelyn DeMarco

Mollie Maguires has the perfect location in Jim Thorpe, located directly across the street from the train station.

"We offer an excellent selection of Irish food and drinks with that classic pub feel. Day drinking on the deck is ideal or coming by on Wednesday nights for music bingo," says bartender Jocelyn DeMarco.

"We have the best staff around," DeMarco said. "Team Work Makes The Dream Work."

DeMarco started off serving full time at Molly Maguires back in 2016, moved to Atlantic City in 2018 and continued to grow her skills and work her way up to bartending at McCormick and Smicks.

She moved home due to Covid.

"I went back to the best restaurant I know and got my job back and here we are!" she said.

"I met so many amazing people from specifically bartending and made many

friends from all over that I'll never forget Our "Cheers!" Bar welcoming feel! From the staff to our amazing locals who are willing to answer all of the questions for me when I'm running around mixing up drinks!"

Address: 5 Hazard Square
Jim Thorpe
Phone: 570-325-4563

WILD AND FREE BAKERY

Best bakery

Wild and Free Bakery was in business for two years, offering croissants, cupcakes, cookies, scones, bread, cakes and more.

"We aim to make all of our products fresh with the best ingredients!" said owner and baker Connie Hoffman.

They closed their shop in the Slatington Farmers' Market, and plan a new format.

Plans have not yet been finalized, but founder and baker Connie Hoffman said tentative plans include joining forces with another local business, where some of the bakery's breads, croissants and other popular products would be available for purchase.

Wild & Free fans can follow the business' Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest updates.

Address: Formerly 8281 PA 873, Slatington
Phone: 570-249-7345



Mary and Joe Pachorkowsky of Kitty Kat Concessions strive to give back to others as much as possible. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



Jocelyn DeMarco, a bartender at Molly Maguires Irish Pub in Jim Thorpe, won the Reader's Choice award for best bartender. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See **FOOD** on Page 15

FOOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

BIG CREEK
BAR-B-QBest BBQ
and food truck

Big Creek Bar-B-Q owner Daniel Graver has been running his rustic roadside barbecue pit for over 10 years.

He found a love for running a smoker at a young age, and with his family's support he set out to make a career.

He offers homemade barbecue with roadside convenience, or he can drop off and/or provide on-site catering.

The business delivers quality homemade food at a fast pace and an affordable price.

Address: 712 Blakeslee Blvd. Drive East, Lehighton
Phone: 484-523-8041
Online: Facebook.com/Bigcreekbarbq

SAPORE'S
RESTAURANT
& SPORTS BAR

Best in catering, cheesesteaks, crabcakes, dinner, family restaurant, happy hour, Italian restaurant, margarita, soup, sports bar, wings and Kayla Ahner for restaurant server

Sapora offers a little something for everyone. The restaurant incorpo-

rates the finest ingredients in homemade Italian dishes. The restaurant is family owned and operated for nearly 15 years.

The business appreciates each and every one who supports it. "We are truly blessed and so thankful to our community and supporters," says Kayla Ahner, a manager and server.

"This year being one of the best years yet winning 13 categories is truly remarkable. We are so proud of our hardworking staff who does an amazing job day in and day out.

"We are also so grateful and proud one of our very own

servers took the win this year. She truly deserves it and works super hard to have this award," said the restaurant staff.

Ahner said she enjoys going above and beyond for the staff and customers.

"We love being a part of this community and look forward to bringing delicious meals for many years ahead," Ahner said.

Address: 99 E. Bridge St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-5666


Online: www.saporelehighton.com

Facebook: Sapora Restaurant

See **FOOD** on Page 16




Kayla Ahner, who works at Sapora's Restaurant & Sports Bar, was voted best restaurant server by readers. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Thanks to all who voted!

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Voted best distillery, Eight Oaks Farm Distillery grows all the grain for its products.



Community oriented, Mallard Market was voted best grocery store-local by readers.



The secret's out. The area's best brunch and best kept dining secret is Perch at Jim Thorpe. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTOS

FOOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Best grocery store - local

Mallard Market is a family-owned neighborhood grocery market.

They take pride in helping you provide your family with the best quality goods.

Owned and operated by KP for seven years, Mallard Market has been a Lehighon staple for grocery shopping for over 20 years.

The business is community oriented, providing sponsorships to many local

nonprofits.

Address: 161 S. Second St., Lehighon

Phone: 610-377-5090

Website/Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LehighonMallardMarket>

EIGHT OAKS FARM DISTILLERY

Best distillery

Eight Oaks Farm Distillery has been in business for eight years. The distillery is veteran-owned and family-run, located in the rolling farmlands of the Lehigh Valley.

This farm distillery grows

all the grain needed to craft their products.

Address: 7189 Route 309, New Tripoli

Phone: 484-387-5287

Website/Facebook: eightoaksdistillery.com

UNCOMMON GROUNDS MOBILE CAFE

Best coffee

UnCommon Grounds Mobile Cafe serves up amazing coffees, hot/iced chocolates, apple ciders, fruit shake-ups, and other nonalcoholic specialty beverages.

They have a variety of

made-from scratch baked treats as well. When you want more than a common coffee experience, its coffee and espresso is small batch roasted weekly and ground to brew so you always get the freshest cup possible.

Address: Lehighon
Phone: 484-632-7452

PERCH AT JIM THORPE

Best brunch and best kept dining secret

Perch is known for its bagels, made fresh in-house daily.

The menu includes coffee, tea, hot chocolate bombs, specialty drinks and smoothies.

Coco-Mojo, a "Mauch-Tail" made from fresh mint, cucumber, lime and coconut water, is a favorite.

Sandwiches include classics like the OG, a meat stack loaded with sausage, ham and bacon paired with our maple butter and Dietz and Watson Buffalo Pepper-jack cheese on their French toast bagel, The Big Poppy, pastrami piled high with a fried egg, buffalo pepper jack cheese, arugula, and their dill pickle cream cheese, or The Spring Zing, bacon, egg,

cheese, red onion, spinach with their Zesty Red sauce on your bagel of choice.

Lunch favorites include the Sweet Pig (a hot ham and swiss sandwich on a pressed Portuguese Roll with a caramelized pineapple-habanero salsa and red cabbage slaw) and Summer Roll (an Asian-inspired chicken wrap loaded with fresh veggies and herbs).

Address: 300 Mauch Chunk St, Lehighon

Phone: 610-377-2233

Online: PerchJT@gmail.com, perchjt.com and on Facebook.



Mason's Cold Beer, with stores in Jim Thorpe and Lehighon, was selected as the best beverage distributor. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTOS



The iconic Bowmanstown Diner garnered the most votes in the category for the best diner.



AOK
HEATING,
AIR CONDITIONING, & ELECTRICAL

610-780-7363

AOK Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical won the Readers Choice category for best electrician.

AOK HEATING, AIR CONDITIONING & ELECTRICAL

Best electrician

Owner Shane Ketchledge has 25-plus years experi-

ence. AOK was founded in 2015 and provides the best possible quality services to the local community at an affordable price.

Services include heating and AC repairs, installations and service; water heater repairs and replacement; and electrical repairs, upgrades

and installations, AOK offers no nonsense service with recommendations you can trust, and wants to earn your business and keep you as a valued, long-term customer.

Address: 1476 Blakeslee Blvd. Dr. W. Lehighton
Phone: 610-780-7363
Website: www.aokqualityservice.com

STOVES 'N STUFF COUNTRY HEARTH AND HOME

Best stoves and fireplaces

Stoves 'n Stuff, headquartered in Tamaqua, is the area's leading specialty hearth retailer.

The business features new products that expand the warmth of the hearth to the entire living space, and offers country home décor, season-

al decorations and unique gift items to help customers bring a cozy, country feel to the entire home.

Address: 561 West Penn Pike, Tamaqua
Phone: 570-386-5656
Online: stovesnstuff.com

ANDREWS' BACKHOE SERVICE

Best excavating service

Andrews' is a small excavation company specializing in shed pads, building pads and footers, downspout drains, sidewalk and concrete removal, pool pads, pipe installation and well lines.

Owner Clay Andrews said that he has operated equipment for over 30 years, being in business for himself for four years. The company has midsized equipment that won't damage yards or septic.

Address: Kunkletown
Phone: 610-392-6149
Online: Facebook

ALL BRAND VACUUM REPAIRS - SALES - AND - SERVICE

Best vacuum repair

Bob Silver sells new vacuums by Oreck, Perfect, Riccar, Simplicity and Clean Obsessed. All new vacuums sold in the store are serviced for warranty at its location.

The store services Dyson, Shark, Hoover, Electrolux, Aerus, Dirt Devil, Riccar, Simplicity and most others.

It is also an authorized Kirby service center. You can also find bags, belts and filters in the store.

Silver has been selling Oreck for more than 40 years and ABV for more than 10 years. Silver originally sold Oreck Vacuums at his Silver Furniture store in Lansford.

When he retired from that location, he continued in Lansford and now Tamaqua.

Address: 300 Center St., Tamaqua
Phone: 570-668-1120

FLEXER MASONRY

Best masonry contractor

Randy Flexer is the owner and has been doing masonry work since graduating from high school and has been in business for five years.

With a history of successfully completed projects, Flexer Masonry has built a reputation for reliability and excellence in the masonry industry.

Address: 456 Mahoning St., Lehighton
Phone: 610-704-1093
Online: Facebook

CUSTOM DREAMSCAPES AND GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

Best landscaper

Providing installed services for landscaping, hardscaping and general construction for homeowners to commercial properties.

Owner Roy Haydt strives "to treat every job as if it is my own home!" Haydt has been in business for six years and stresses attention to detail, saying that quality comes first; even if it takes longer than expected, it's going to get done right.

Address: 88 Walnut St., Lehighton
Phone: 570-620-5555
Online: Customdreamscapes.com

REDLINE FLOOR COVERING INC.

Best flooring and carpet service

Redline Floor Covering has been in business for 38 years. Owner Wayne Redline states that the company is dedicated to its business and its customers, and said its employees — David Zurn, James Fisher, John Fisher, Robert Tessitore and June

Redline — are great.

Address: 860 Interchange Road, Lehighton
Phone: 610-377-8181

KUDLESKY'S WORKSHOP & HANDYMAN SOLUTIONS

Best powerwasher

Fixing the little things to keep your world turning. In 2023, Ed Kudlesky took a bold step and founded Kudlesky's Workshop, driven by a vision to serve the local community for all their home improvement needs. What began as a small operation, handling tasks like changing light bulbs and completing minor odd jobs, has grown significantly over the past year.

As a small, family-owned and operated business, the company prides itself on providing personalized, high-quality service.

"Many of the repeat customers have become like family, entrusting us with their homes, and for that, we are genuinely grateful," said Elizabeth Kudlesky, project manager.

Address: 435 W. Patterson St., Lansford
Phone: 570-985-9161
Online: Facebook

NS PAVING & LANDSCAPING LCC

Best paving contractor

NS Paving & Landscaping is a third generation, family owned and operated company that has been in business for 30 years.

It handles all commercial and residential asphalt paving, seal coat and landscaping maintenance.

Address: 5790 Interchange Road, Lehighton
Phone: 610-379-4785
Online: www.nspavingandlandscapingllc.net/

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FOR THE HOME

Appliance RepairKoch's TV & Appliances Inc
 Appliance Sales - Local..... R A Ahner Furniture & Appliances
 Aquatic Landscaping.....AquaStyle Creations
 Cleaning (Residential/Commercial) . Mountain Maids Cleaning, LLC
 Coal Supplier..... Kattner Coal and Oil Inc.
 Electrician AOK Heating, Air Conditioning & Electrical
 Equipment Rental..... M&S Hardware
 Excavating Service.....Andrews' Backhoe Service
 Flooring & Carpet ServiceRedline Flooring
 Furniture Store..... R A Ahner Furniture & Appliances
 Garage Door CompanyPalmerston Garage Door
 Garden Center/NurseryThe Route 443 Flower Tent
 General Contractor..... Aquastyle Creations
 Heating & Air Conditioning Home Comfort Solutions, LLC
 Home Builder..... Future Homes
 Home Improvement Store - ChainLowe's Home Improvement
 Home Improvement Store - Local M&S Hardware - Lehighton
 Kitchen Remodeling Country Tile
 Landscaper.... Custom DreamScapes & General Construction LLC.
 Lawn Equipment Sales..... Hillside Small Engine
 Masonry Contractor Flexer Masonry
 Masonry SupplyForest Inn Masonry Supply Inc
 Mattress Store..... R A Ahner Furniture & Appliances
 Oil Company.....K&K Oil Company
 Paving ContractorNS Paving & Landscaping LCC
 Plumber Home Comfort Solutions, LLC
 Powerwasher..... Kudlesky's Workshop & Handyman Solutions



Propane Company Button Energy
 Rain GuttersPatriot Seamless Gutters
 Residential Security Systems.....Secure Technologies Inc
 Roofing Contractor..... Russell Muffley Roofing & Siding
 Snow Removal Equipment..... Hillside Small Engine
 Stoves & Fireplaces.....Stoves N Stuff
 Tree Service..... Lang's Landscaping
 Vacuum Repair ALL BRAND VACUUM REPAIR



MISCELLANEOUS

Best Place to Work..... Home Comfort Solutions, LLC
 Best Producer of a Local Product..... Zimmerman's Dairy Inc
 Non-Profit..... Lehighton Downtown Initiative
 Times News Paper Carrier Lori Gibson



Aquastyle Creations was voted the best aquatic landscaping. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



Ahner Furniture offers furniture for the whole house, as well as appliances and custom made furniture. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



K&K Oil has been delivering heating oil, kerosene and more for 26 years. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HOME

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AQUASTYLE CREATIONS LLC

Best aquatic landscaping and general contractor

What started as a hobby transformed into a five-year business, driven by passion and built on excellence. The company creates one-of-a-kind natural-looking water features that are easy and simple to maintain by using the best products and the right building techniques.

Owners Robert and Lucinda Anthony design, install and maintain ponds, waterfalls and streams using Aquascape products.

"Watching a pond being created from a spray-painted outline on a customer's property to the final rock being placed on the waterfall is one of the joys in my life," said Robert Anthony, a certified Aquascape contractor. "Water features should be enjoyed and not a chore to maintain. We feel it's important to listen to our customers' ideas. Communication is very important to us so we can make your pond or water feature unique to you and your home. Everyone has their own style and visions for their property. We strive to make it a reality."

AquaStyle Creations can bring your backyard dreams to life in a short amount of

time. Anthony's creativity, work ethic, dedication and attention to detail ensures customers that he will build exactly what they envisioned while adding an artist's touch that will leave them in awe.

"There is nothing like seeing the joy on our clients' faces when I can transform their property into an oasis," he said. "There's something about the sights and sounds of water that we are all drawn to. We are truly blessed to be able to share that with others."

The company serves Carbon and Schuylkill counties, and the Lehigh Valley and Poconos area. It also can help with any general contracting work that needs to be done.

Address: 247 S. Third, St., Lehighton

Phone: 484-353-1003

Online: <https://aquastylecreationspa.com> and on Facebook

R.A. AHNER FURNITURE AND APPLIANCES

Best appliance sales local, furniture store, and mattress store

Ahner's offers new furniture including living room, dining room, bedroom/mattresses, custom made furniture, as well as new appliances from all major brands at very competitive prices.

The store also continues to offer a wide range of pre-

owned furniture and appliances. Delivery, installation, service and delivery/removal are available.

Family owned and operated in the same location since 1968, the business was started by Ronald Sr. and Ruthann Ahner as a used furniture store, allowing Ronald to leave his job at Scotty Fashions in Lehighton.

The store's friendly team offers excellent sales assistance as well as ongoing customer support.

Address: 1231 Mahoning Drive E, Lehighton

Phone: 570-386-4758

Online: www.ahnerfurniture.com

K & K OIL COMPANY LLC

Best oil company

K & K Oil Co. owner Walter Zlomsowitch has been promptly delivering home heating oil, diesel, kerosene and gasoline for 26 years.

"My team cares and we always try our best," Zlomsowitch said.

sowitch said.

Address: 1257 Municipal, Road, Lehighton

Phone: 800-964-6451

Online: www.kandkoil.com

HOME COMFORT SOLUTIONS LLC

Best heating and air conditioning, plumber, and best place to work

Home Comfort Solutions offers quality service at an affordable price, while making its customers the No. 1 priority.

The business is a local, family owned and operated company with more than 20 years of experience servicing greater Carbon County and beyond.

When your heat is out or your sink is leaking, you need fast, experienced and reliable service you can trust.

Home Comfort Solutions'



Home Comfort Solutions makes its customers the No. 1 priority. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

mission is to provide customers with an affordable range of home comfort solutions, including installations, replacements, repairs and routine maintenance for all types of plumbing, heating and cooling systems, as well as 24

hour emergency service.

Address: 134 Mauch Chunk St., Lehighton

Phone: 484-464-3681

Online: www.homecomfortsolutionsllc.com

See **HOME** on Page 20

Redline Floor Covering, Inc.

Sales & Installation

We would like to thank all of our customers for their support, loyalty and trust that has contributed to our success for being in business the past 37 years. We truly value your business and the relationships that have come out of it.

Sincerely, All of us at Redline Flooring, Inc.

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610-377-8181

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Palmerton Garage Doors won the Readers' Choice category for garage doors. The company has more than 30 years of experience in residential and commercial garage door installation and service. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO



Voted best homebuilder, Future Homes has been building custom homes since 1982. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

HOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

FUTURE HOMES

Best homebuilder

Future homes was started in 1982 and offers custom new home construction of your dream home.

Address: 7355 Interchange Road, Lehighton

Phone: 610-951-4444

Online: www.futurehomespa.com

HILLSIDE SMALL ENGINE LLC

Best lawn equipment sales and best snow removal equipment

Hillside specializes in outdoor power equipment sales and service. The business sells Gravely zero turn mowers, Ariens walk behind mowers and snowblowers and Stihl handheld power equipment.

Hillside also sells gear for tree climbers/arborists such as ropes, carabiners, harnesses, etc.

The best-selling products are a tie between chain saws and zero turn mowers, with the most-requested services being mower repairs and chain saw chain sharpening.

The business started in 2009 as a repair shop, and in 15 years has expanded to the best brands of equipment and safety gear.

Hillside cares about its customers and tries to educate them not only on how to use their equipment, but on how to take care of it so they get many years of use and enjoyment from their investment.

Address: 4088 Long Run Road, Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-4398

Online: Facebook

FOREST INN MASONRY SUPPLY INC.

Best masonry supply

Established by Richard and Barbara Getz in 1978, Forest Inn Masonry has masonry and hardscaping products, decorative stone, pallet stone, driveway stone and natural stone.

The business offers fresh concrete deliveries with its trucks and bulk and bag coal as well as wood pellets. The business carries a full line of products from EP Henry, Nitterhouse, Techo-Bloc, Breeo

and Kickler.

Alaska and Enviro stoves are on display and a complete line of chimney pipe.

Richard and his cousin Luther Hittner had started a contracting business and saw the need to open a masonry yard that supplied block and cement in this area. While Barbara ran the office and helped the customers in the yard, Richard did deliveries or helped his crew.

Address: 6160 Interchange Road, Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-5593

Online: @ForestInnMasonrySupplyInc

COUNTRY TILE

Best kitchen remodeling

Country Tile features a large showroom of ceramic, glass and porcelain tiles, along with tools and setting materials, granite and quartz

tops, Bertch kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities, and Kohler, Delta and Moen faucets and fixtures. Treat every customer like family, so they continue to bring theirs.

The business was started in 1978, after a tile company misinformed the founder about how to install tile in his own home. That got him re-searching and perfecting the craft, which he then enjoyed and passed on to his son and grandsons.

Country Tile cares about its customers and truly wants them to have the home of their dreams, with quality craftsmanship at a great price.

Address: 1190 S. Center St., Tamaqua

Phone: 570-386-2500

Online: <https://ctileshowroom.wixsite.com/countrytile> and on Facebook

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HOME

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PATRIOT SEAMLESS GUTTERS

Best rain gutters

Patriot is a full-service gutter company, specializing in residential and commercial installations. The company is proud to win the category for the second year in a row.

In business for 15 years, Patriot also offers a gutter guard that will outperform the competition at a fraction of the price. Other services offered include: soffit, fascia, and snow retention systems. Patriot is a full-service gutter company that can offer affordable solutions for any project, in any weather. The company's experienced sales team will assess your



home or business and make recommendations that make sense.

After exploring various job opportunities, owner Kevin Garris knew he wanted something more. In 2009, he established Patriot Seamless Gutters LLC.

In 2010, the company expanded to York, while continuing to operate a satellite office out of Hamburg. Patriot Seamless Gutters LLC successfully served York County and the surrounding communities for seven years. During that time, Kevin earned

several business awards, including the Home Advisor Elite Contractor.

In 2017, the main office returned to Berks County where Kevin and his family have found their forever home in Kempton.

Patriot Seamless Gutters LLC began with a pickup truck, a trailer, and one employee — Kevin Garris,

Today, the business has grown to a fleet of multiple trucks and multiple full-time crews.

The growth has given the company the ability to serve a larger area with the same

quality and service it has provided from the start.

"Patriot Seamless Gutters is committed to delivering exceptional service. We believe that the customer's needs are of the utmost importance," Garris said. "Our team brings years of experience to accommodate a variety of budgets and architecture styles."

Address: 156 Turkey Road, Kempton

Phone: 610-737-7535

Online: <https://www.PatriotSeamlessGutters.com>;

Facebook: Patriot Seamless Gutters

RUSSELL MUFFLEY ROOFING AND SIDING

Best roofing contractor

Russell Muffley Roofing and Siding is a roofing and

siding company who specializes in asphalt shingle roofing and vinyl siding installation.

The company has been in business for 45-plus years.

Jonathon Muffley took over the company from his father, Russell who started the company.

"We are a local, family business who take pride in quality work," Jonathon Muffley said.

Address: 767 Fireline Road, Palmerton

Phone: 610-852-2287

Email: muffleyroofing@gmail.com

MOUNTAIN MAIDS CLEANING LLC

Best cleaning (residential/commercial)

Between family, work and the ever growing to-do list, there is simply not enough

time in the day to make sure your home or office is perfectly clean. That's why Mountain Maids Cleaning was established in 2023.

Mountain Maids Cleaning is a family owned and operated cleaning company in the Pocono Mountains and surrounding areas. It is licensed, insured and bonded. The services are personalized to meet the needs of your home, business or rental property. The business offers free estimates and convenient flat rate pricing.

Mountain Maids Cleaning provides all the cleaning supplies and equipment needed to clean your space. Customer satisfaction is the number one priority, so the company says: "Trust our family to take care of your needs!"

Address: 9560 Interchange Road, Lehighton

Phone: 570-778-0880

Online: www.mountainmaidscleaningllc.com and on Facebook

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2024 WINNERS

HEALTH

Alternative & Holistic Health	Zen with Zegley
Assisted Living/Personal Care Home/Nursing Home.....	St. Luke's Assisted Living and Personal Care
Athletic Training	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Behavioral Health Services.....	Behavioral Health Science Center
Cancer Center	Cancer Center at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Carbon
Cardiology	LVPG Cardiology - Carbon
Chiropractor	Dr. Daniel W. Steigerwalt, DC
Day Spa.....	Cinder & Sage
Dentist	Bruce A Hartman DMD
Dermatologist	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Diabetes Management	LVHN Diabetes and Metabolism Center - Carbon
Emergency Room.....	Emergency Room at Lehigh Valley Hospital–Carbon
Eye Care Specialist	Houser Newman Associates
Family Doctor	LVPG Family Medicine
Fitness Center	The Zoo Health Club
Fitness Class	The Zoo Health Club
Gastroenterologist.....	Lehigh Gastroenterology Associates LLC
General Surgery.....	LVPG General Surgery-Carbon
Hearing Professional	LVPG Ear, Nose and Throat-Carbon
Home Health Care.....	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Hospice Care.....	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Hospital	Lehigh Valley Hospital–Carbon
Internal Medicine.....	LVPG Internal Medicine - Carbon
Kidney Dialysis	LVHN Kidney Care (Nephrology)
Laboratory Services	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Carbon Outpatient Laboratory Services
Massage Therapist.....	Amber Tresslar (Milhalko Chiropractics)
Medical Supplies	Perfect Balance Boutique
Neurologist	LVPG Neurology - Carbon
Nurse	Lehigh Valley Hospital - Carbon Nurses
Obstetrics/Gynecology....	LVPG Obstetrics & Gynecology - Carbon
Oral Surgery	Carbon Oral Surgery Associates
Orthodontist	Banning Orthodontist, P.C.
Orthopedic Care.....	Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Institute/LVPG Orthopedics and Sports Medicine-Carbon
Pain Management	LVPG Pain Specialists-Carbon
Pediatrician.....	LVPG Pediatrics-Lehighon
Personal Trainer.....	Gwen Remaley (The Zoo Health Club)
Pharmacy - Chain.....	LVHN-Carbon Retail Pharmacy
Pharmacy - Local	Lehighon Pharmacy
Physical Therapist	Phoenix Physical Therapy
Plastic Surgery	LVHN Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Pulmonary Care.....	LVPG Pulmonology and Critical Care Medicine-Carbon
Senior Fitness/Wellness	The Zoo Health Club
Sleep Medicine.....	LVHN Sleep Disorders Centers
Speech Therapy	LVHN Rehabilitation Services–Carbon
Spine Care.....	LVHN Advanced Spine Center
Urgent Care	LVHN ExpressCARE-Palmerton
Weight Loss Management.....	Lehigh Valley Health Network
Yoga Studio	Zen with Zegley



LEHIGH VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK

• Best athletic training for LVHN Athletic Trainer Services

• Best Cancer Center

• Cancer Center at Lehigh Valley Hospital - Carbon

• Cardiology - LVPG, Cardiology - Carbon

• Dermatologist - Lehigh Valley Health Network

• Diabetes Management

• LVHN Diabetes and Metabolism Center

• Emergency Room - Emergency Room at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

• Family Doctor - LVPG Family Medicine

• General Surgery - LVPG General Surgery-Carbon

• Hearing Professional - LVPG Ear, Nose and Throat-Carbon

• Home Health Care - Lehigh Valley Health Network also offers outpatient and partial programs.

• Hospice Care Lehigh Valley Health Network

• Hospital - Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

• Internal Medicine - LVPG Internal Medicine-Carbon

• Kidney Dialysis - LVHN Kidney Care (Nephrology)

• Laboratory Services - Lehigh Valley Hospital - Carbon Outpatient Laboratory Services

• Neurologist - LVPG Neurology

• Nurse - Lehigh Valley Hospital - Carbon Nurses

• Obstetrics/ Gynecology -

See **HEALTH** on Page A24



Lehigh Valley Health Network racked up Readers' Choice awards as the best in multiple categories. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



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HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A23

Obstetrics &
Gynecology - Carbon• Orthopedic Care
– Lehigh Valley
Orthopedic Institute/• LVPG Orthopedics
and Sports Medicine-
Carbon• Pain Management –
LVPG Pain Specialists-
Carbon• Pediatrician – LVPG
Pediatrics-Lehighton• Pharmacy – LVHN-
Carbon Retail
Pharmacy• Plastic Surgery –
LVPG Plastic and
Reconstructive
Surgery• Pulmonary Care –
LVPG Pulmonology
and Critical Care
Medicine- Carbon• Sleep Medicine –
LVHN Sleep Disorders
Centers• Speech Therapy –
LVHN Rehabilitation

Services-Carbon

• Spine Care – LVPG
Advanced Spine
Center• Urgent Care – LVHN
ExpressCARE-
Palmerton• Weight Loss
Management-Lehigh
Valley Health Network

Thank you, Carbon County, for your overwhelming support of LVH-Carbon and Lehigh Valley Health Network! We are winners in 29 Times News Reader's Choice health care categories, with three years of caring marked with expansion and care for our community

Located in the heart of Carbon County, LVH-Car-

bon is a full-service hospital that offers access to many Lehigh Valley Health Network services in a location that is convenient for you.

LVH – Carbon moves into its third year of service and is proud to provide our community with a wide range of services, including:

- Comprehensive heart care
- State-of-the-art surgical care
- Leading-edge cancer care
- Intensive care unit
- 24/7 Emergency medicine
- Advanced imaging services
- Outpatient laboratory services
- Health Center
- Dedicated orthopedics facilities

Since its June 2022 opening, the hospital has exceeded most predictions for patient volumes. ER visits, hospital admissions and outpatient testing have been more than anticipated. Work began quickly to add four additional medical-surgical beds and a state of the art seven-bed intensive care unit, which opened in 2023.

The Health Center at Carbon offers a wide range of primary and specialty care services including rehabilitation, walk-in lab, breast health services, and more.

The outpatient laboratory services and an all-new Cardiac Rehabilitation Center are now open at the adjoining Health Center. LVH-Carbon also has added a DEXA scan machine to diagnose osteoporosis as well as pulmonary function testing to determine how well the lungs exchange air.

The Diagnostic Care Center at LVH-Carbon features walk-in laboratory services and Imaging services:

- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Echocardiogram
- Electrocardiogram (EKG or ECG)
- Exercise Treadmill Stress Test
- Holter Monitor
- Nuclear Stress Test
- Pulmonary Function Test (PFT)
- Stress Echocardiogram Breast Health Services

are now conveniently located on the LVH-Carbon campus, featuring the latest technology enhancements. In addition to the latest 3D mammography unit, the Breast Health Services location now offers automated breast ultrasound. ABUS is the only breast cancer screening technology FDA-approved for use in women with dense breast tissue. Ultrasound is a non-invasive, effective way to look inside the body at organs and soft tissue.

LVH-Carbon has welcomed many new physicians to the community, expanding access to a higher level of care and delivering more primary care clinicians and more clinical specialists.

"We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve the residents of Carbon County – and for the incredible support we have received from the surrounding community," says LVH-Carbon President Christine Biege. "Our growth is a direct response to how our community continues to support Lehigh Valley Health Network. We are thankful and appreciative and resolved to continue to heal, comfort and care for our community."

LVH-Carbon comprises more than 100,000 square feet of clinical space between the hospital and adjoining health center located on Blakeslee Blvd. Drive E. in Lehighton. The campus offers abundant, convenient free parking and smart charging stations available for electric vehicles.

The hospital deepens Lehigh Valley Health Network's commitment to the local community, a partnership that has been in place for decades. LVHN is reinforcing its commitment to Carbon County by providing better access to more comprehensive care closer to home while still having the resources of the entire health network available.

LEHIGHTON
PHARMACY INC.

Best local pharmacy

We run a small town local pharmacy, helping people getting the medication as

cheap as possible and quick as possible.

The pharmacy offers free delivery, free diabetic supplies, and free blister packing.

Umesh Patel opened the Lehighton pharmacy almost three years ago.

"Our company just loves helping the community," said Manager Jami Lassell.

"We are there when ever you need anything, we will go above and beyond for our patients," Lassell said. "A happy customer keeps our days going. Especially when they come into the store with a smile on their face."

Address: 428 S. 7th St., Lehighton

Phone: 484-613-0440

THE ZOO
HEALTH CLUB

Best fitness center, fitness class, senior fitness/wellness and Gwen Remaley fitness trainer

The Zoo is a state-of-the-art gym with fitness classes, tanning, saunas, personal trainers. The commercial health club is open 24/7 with key tag access.

Owned by Gwen Remaley and Colton Davidson for seven years, the gym has been in business for almost 12 years. The owners pride themselves on their relationship with members and family friendly atmosphere.

The business offers tanning, fitness classes, personal training and infrared saunas as well as the largest and newest variety of equipment in the area.

"We have something for everyone," Remaley said. "We wouldn't be able to do anything that we do without the support of our members that are like family, and our wonderful community!"

Address: 1241 Blakeslee Blvd. Dr.E., Lehighton

Phone: 570-818-4440
Online: zoogym.com/lehighton

See **HEALTH** on Page 25



Thank you for voting us best
physical therapist!

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Orthopedic & Neurological Rehabilitation
Sports Injuries | Concussion Therapy | Vestibular Therapy
Pre & Post Surgical Rehabilitation

Phoenix PT-Lehighton
1018 Blakeslee Blvd Drive East
Lehighton, PA 18235
610.377.5845

Phoenix PT-Tamaqua
565 W. Penn Pike, Unit 1
Tamaqua, PA 18252
570.240.8286

www.phoenixphysicaltherapy.com

HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

MIHALKO CHIROPRACTIC PC

Best massage
therapist Amber
Tresslar

Mihalko is a chiropractic office also providing massage therapy, generally co-treating patients.

Stacey and Amber are equally booked.

The practice cares about patients' mobility and well-being. The office has three employees (Six if you include the dogs).

Amber started in the physical therapy world, and made the switch to massage six years ago, and never looked back.

"I love implementing my knowledge from PT, and a cherished colleague from whom I've taken several continuing education courses, to truly balance your muscles and get to the root of the problem," Tresslar said.

"I'm not just 'rubbing your back' because your back hurts. I'm correcting the balance of your pelvis so your back and knees stop hurting, and then giving you exercises to maintain it," she said.

Address: 656 Delaware Ave., Palmerton
Phone: 610-826-4136

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Best physical
therapist

Phoenix provides outpatient physical therapy and occupational services.



Banning Orthodontics was voted best in orthodontics. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rachel Robb, clinic director explained, "We have an intentional company culture that we call The Phoenix Way. Our PTCares (Phoenix Team Cares) framework includes our 20 Fundamentals that help guide us daily in providing exceptional patient care, communicating effectively, delivering excellent customer service and embracing teamwork."

Phoenix Physical Therapy has been focused on supporting the communities with local outpatient clinics for more than 25 years.

The Lehighton clinic opened its doors in 2004 and Tamaqua is one of our newest clinics which opened its doors in March of 2024.

"When you choose Phoenix, you join a family," Robb said. "Our highly trained staff is dedicated to engaging with their patients and providing personalized one-on-one care. From your first appointment to your last, you can expect the highest quality of care."

Address: 1018 Blakeslee

Blvd, Dr. E, Lehighton; 565 W Penn Pike Unit 1, Tamaqua

Phone: 610-377-5845 (Lehighton); 570-240-8286 (Tamaqua)

Online: phoenixphysicaltherapy.com

ZEN WITH ZEGLEY LLC

Best yoga class

Melissa and Jim Zegley's mission is to offer knowledge, support, and services to individuals seeking wellness and a natural lifestyle through reiki, yoga, meditation, and ayurveda.

Their business philosophy centers on ensuring both financial and physical accessibility. They believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience the benefits of wellness practices, regardless of their financial situation or physical limitations.

Their commitment is to make wellness accessible and inclusive for all, fostering

a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.

Through their personal journey with yoga, meditation, reiki, and ayurveda, we discovered a profound desire to support others on their path

to wellness. Zen with Zegley has been in business eight years.

Each person's unique needs are a priority, and services are tailored to provide the most effective and

supportive experience. Our dedication extends beyond just offering services — it's about fostering a genuine connection, ensuring that everyone feels valued and supported on their wellness journey.

Address: 344 N. 9th St., Lehighton

Phone: 570-778-7968

Facebook: ZenwithZegley

BANNING ORTHODONTICS

Best orthodontics

Banning offers braces for children and adults.

"We treat our patients like family," said owner Dr. Lisa Banning.

The business started 21 years ago.

"Our care and concern is for every patient," Banning said.

Address: 17 W. Broad St. Tamaqua



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ORTHODONTIST!**

Banning Orthodontics, P.C.

**2024 Readers' Choice
WINNER**

Creating Beautiful Smiles

Banning Orthodontics, P.C.

LISA M. BANNING, DMD, MSD

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Valley Royale is a tennis club and more.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VALLEY ROYALE

Best conference/ meeting space

Valley Royale is a tennis club, a private event space, an Airbnb and a nonprofit that hosts free tennis clinics in Carbon County.

Jennifer Everett, owner, bought the property in 2019 and the first season was in

2020.

"We aren't just a tennis club! We really try to open up the entire property for the community to use for any need whether that's wedding or senior photos, a meeting space, or hosting a fundraiser."

Address: 738 Mahoning Dr. E., Lehighon
Phone: 610-508-2761
Website/Facebook: valleyroyale.com



Salon Indigo was voted best hair salon.

YOUR PET CONCIERGE LLC

Best pet boarding

Your Pet Concierge offers drop-in and dog walking services, pet waste removal and pet sitting services.

"We are extremely passionate about what we do and are dedicated to always

providing your pets the same love, care and attention that you give them," said owner Heather Williams. "It's all about your peace of mind and your pet's mental and physical well-being."

Williams first began pet sitting through Rover, and fell in love with pet care. "At the age of 48, I finally understood what I was meant to do," she said.

She started her own busi-

ness in 2022. "This isn't just a business venture for me," she said. "We will, do and have gone above and beyond for our pet families. We pledge to put their safety and well-being above all else every time."

Address: 51 Berwick St., Beaver Meadows
Phone: 570-436-0212
Online: www.yourpet-concierge.net

SALON INDIGO

Best Hair Salon

Salon Indigo is a full service hair and lash salon. Some of the product lines used and sold include Amika, Loma, Redken and Pravana.

The salon, which opened in 2019, provides hair color and lightening services.

"We are committed to providing you with exceptional service that will allow you to feel renewed and refreshed with each visit," said owner Christy Alexander.

Address: 191 S. First

St., Lehighon
Phone: 610-379-4744
Website: www.salonindigo.com

BAMBI ELSASSER DREAM TEAM DESTINATIONS WITH DREAM VACATIONS

Best travel agency

Bambi Elsasser has been in business for seven years, planning land and sea destinations for both domestic and abroad travels. Her business got started with her fascination with travel.

Address: 278 Ashtown Dr., Lehighon
Phone: 610-509-6465
Website/Facebook: Dream team destinations by Bambi

See **PROFESSIONAL**
on Page 27

Recipes From Our Readers
37th Annual Cookbook

TIMES NEWS LEHIGH VALLEY PRESS LVP
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Submit your 'ORIGINAL' recipes for the Recipes From Our Readers 37th Annual Cookbook
published November 6 & 7, 2024

All participants will be entered into a random drawing to win a \$350 Gift Card from Giant Food Store in Lehighon.
First 100 people who send in their recipes will receive a FREE Chef Hat Jar Opener!

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Any accompanying photos must be emailed to dhall@tnonline.com

OR
Mail recipes to
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P.O. Box 239, Lehighon, PA 18235
c/o Donna Hall

RECIPE DEADLINE: MON., October 21 at 11:59 PM

PROFESSIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

VIOLENT VENUS TATTOO STUDIO

Best tattoo shop

Amanda Zellers has built up a client base as a tattoo artist for the last 19 years.

Zellers apprenticed during high school at another local tattoo studio in Lehighton.

Eventually that business closed, but over the years she has worked for other studios and privately.

"I always wanted my own storefront business where I wasn't a commission to someone else," Zellers said. "I've built up the most amazing and loyal following of clients over the last two decades. They support me unconditionally and through all of that encouragement they gave me the push to make that jump into my own storefront and I am so very thankful for that."

Address: 195 S. First St., Lehighton
Phone: 484-629-5221
Online: www.facebook.com/violentvenustattoo



Violent Venus won the tattoo shop category. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

residential users and quickly expanded into commercial clients. We also service municipal and nonprofit accounts. Our customer service is paramount."

Address: 2689 Kirk St., Slatington
Phone: 610-799-4000
Online: keystoneotechnologyllc.com

OAK HOLLOW DESIGNS

Best party planner

Oak Hollow Designs is a wedding and event planning company that specializes in day of coordination, décor rentals, unique designs, wedding decorating and cleanup services.

Full service package provide décor rentals, decorating, day of coordination and cleanup services.

"Once you book with us, you are family," said Cheryl Heim. "We give 100% of ourselves to make sure our client's wedding or event is all they dreamed about."

This woman-owned business was built from the ground up.

Heim was always crafty, and while raising her children, she made crafts to sell at craft shows. By saving her money she was able to obtain

the startup money to rent a building and start buying inventory.

Four years later, her business has become successful and is still debt free, something that makes Heim truly proud.

Address: 3322 Summer Valley Road, New Ringgold
Phone: 570-691-8839
Online: www.OakHollowDesigns.com

COUNTRY CLIPPERS PET GROOMING

Best pet groomer

Country Clippers is an all-breed dog and cat grooming business, and they sell leashes, collars and harnesses, dog and cat toys and flea products.

"We focus on good customer and pet relations with our clients, and fair, reasonable pricing," said owner Stacy Goldberg.

In business with partner Jennifer Litchauer since 2001, they have 30-plus years of experience, having worked for boarding kennels and a veterinary hospital.

Address: 195 Clayton Curve, Palmerton
Phone: 610-284-2626

KEYSTONE TECHNOLOGY LLC

Best computer services

Keystone, founded in 2003, provides IT consulting, computer and network services and repair.

"We also provide remote management services to our clients," Andrew Gildner said.

"These services allow us to manage their security and systems from our location. This helps to ensure uptime and security for their systems."

Gildner said clients use the remote management product to secure their systems and a hosting platform where their data is stored in local data centers, instead of on-premises.

"We treat our clients as we would want to be treated," he said. "We started by servicing



Rachel Wagner, owner of Sprays by Rach.

SPRAYS BY RACH

Best tanning salon

Rachel Wagner started the tanning business three years ago.

The business provides luxury personalized custom spray tans, with the highest quality products/solution used to provide natural looking tans.

Wagner provides a personalized technique and a friendly, comfortable, empowering environment.

Address: 232 Delaware Ave., Palmerton
Phone: 610-785-0550
Online: www.instagram.com/live.for.da.tan

BLUE BOMBER NOTARY LLC

Best notary public

Blue Bomber Notary offers notary, title and registration services and has Carbon County dog licenses available.

Owner Wendy Borger likes to give back to the community.

She prides herself on providing the best customer service.

"We want to be affordable and compassionate for people," she said. "We are always ready to help."

Address: 210 Delaware Ave. Palmerton
Phone: 610-824-2583

BUGGE PRODUCTIONS

Best photographer

Brenden Bugge offers portraits, music videos, documentaries, advertising, commercials, with coverage of weddings, parties and engagements

"Literally anything," he said. "The beautiful thing about photography is that the possibilities are endless."

He wants to bring the best quality work for the customer. "I want to make the client as comfortable as possible," he said.

Address: 223 W. Broad St., Tamaqua
Phone: 570-225-6894

DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER LLC

Best auctioneer

Dean R. Arner Auctioneer is a second-generation auction company. Owner Dean R. Arner has been in the auction business his entire life and he loves what he does.

During the last 10 years in business, they have evolved into a full-service auction company specializing in real estate, antiques, firearms, coins, farm equipment, tools and quality household goods.

Address: 315 Snowdrift Road, Andreas
Phone: 570-386-3389
Online: www.deanarnerauctions.com

COLLINS CRITTER CONTROL

Best pest control

Collins Critter Control's specialty is trapping nuisance animals at a reasonable cost.

"Our most requested service is trapping groundhogs," owner Collin Leibensperger says. "I enjoyed the outdoors my whole life and figured this year it was time to start making money for what I enjoy doing."

Not only does he trap nuisance animals, but he shows clients how to prevent future nuisance animals.

Address: 311 Mulberry St., Tuscarora
Phone: 570-573-4104

IRON VALLEY REAL ESTATE NORTHEAST

Best real estate agency/agent

Iron Valley is a full service real estate company assisting both buyer and sellers with all of the real estate needs. Kristen Obert has been in business for five years at Iron Valley.

"We truly care about our clients and want the best for them, always putting their needs above all else," she said.

Address: 3295 Forest Inn Road, Palmerton
Phone: 610-826-2232
Online: www.ironvalley-realeasteneast.com

LHH LEARN & PLAY CHILDCARE CENTER INC.

Best preschool

LHH is a quality child care center and preschool center that has been in business for over 20 years.

Address: 335 N. Fourth St., Lehighton
Phone: 610-379-4333

See **PROFESSIONAL** on Page 29



2024 tn WINNERS
Readers' Choice

PROFESSIONAL AND SPECIALTY SERVICES

Attorney	Rapa Law Office, P.C.	Music School.....	Off the Charts Music School
Auctioneer	Dean R. Arner Auctioneer, LLC	Nail Salon	The Seventh Moon Wellness Spa
Barber Shop	Tribe Pride Barbershop	Notary Public.....	Blue Bomber Notary LLC
Bicycle Repair	Leighton Outdoor Center	Party Planner	Oak Hollow Designs
Computer Services.....	Keystone Technology LLC	Pest Control.....	Collin's Critter Control
Conference/Meeting Space.....	TrailSide Events	Pet Boarding.....	Your Pet Concierge, LLC
Cosmetologist	Danielle McCarthy	Pet Groomer	Country Clippers Pet Grooming
	(The Seventh Moon Wellness Spa)	Photographer	Buggé Productions
Daycare	LHH Learn and Play	Pool/Spa Repair	PDC Spa & Pool World
Dog Training	Passion 4 Paws Dog Training Co.	Preschool	LHH Learn and Play
Dry Cleaner/Laundromat	Moore Cleaners	Printer	L.E. Williams Printing Solutions
Funeral Home	Ovsak Funeral Home	Radio Station.....	Colossal Radio
Hair Salon.....	Salon Indigo	Real Estate Agency/Agent.....	Kristen Obert,
Hydraulic Work	Pencor Hydraulic Hose & Fitting		Broker Iron Valley Real Estate Northeast
Junk Removal/Clean Outs.....	Ahner's Cleanout	Tanning Salon	Sprays by Rach
	and General Contracting	Tattoo Shop	Violent Venus Tattoo Studio
Kid's Birthday Parties	Fritz's Lanes & Pro Shop	Travel Agency	Bambi Elsasser-
Lawn Maintenance	Shellhamer's 4 seasons		Dream Team Destinations with Dream Vacations
Monument Company.....	Walter's Monument Company	Veterinarian.....	Rush Veterinary Center

SHOPPING

Antiques	Anthracite Vintage Mercantile & Auctions	Home Party Consultant	Trina Marie Fixl - Color Street
Bicycle Shop	Leighton Outdoor Center	Homemade Crafts	Love 4 Art Studio
Bridal/Formal Wear.....	V. K. Bridal Couture	Kayak Shop	Leighton Outdoor Center
Clothing	Mest Up TeeZ LLC	Kid's Consignment	Used Kids Stuff
Consignment Shop.....	BawdyPlus	Pet Supplies	AfFORDable Pet Center, Inc.
Convenience Store	Old Time Corner Store	Pool/Spa Sales.....	PDC Spa & Pool World
Farmer's/Flea Market	Leighton Downtown Farmers Market	Produce Stand/Grower.....	More Pickles Please 1380
Firearms.....	A F Boyer Hardware & Guns	Produce Stand/Grower.....	Seltzer's Nursery and Farmstand
Florist.....	The Flower Patch & Gift Shoppe	Sign Shop.....	Frontline Graphix Inc
Gift Shop	One More Chapter	Sporting Goods Store	Valley Athletic Supply
Hobby Store	One More Chapter	Tree Farm.....	Crystal Spring Tree Farm

PROFESSIONAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

PDC SPA
& POOL WORLD

Best pool/spa repair

PDC Spa & Pool World has been in the business of providing specialized spa, hot tub, sauna and pool sales and service for our customers for 43 years.

"We are here for you after your purchase for all the help and questions you have so you can enjoy your purchase for years to come," said manager Steve Haydt.

The business has an in-house service technician for spa/sauna repairs and also an in-house pool installation team.

Address: 701 Bridge St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-5637

Online/Facebook:

www.pdcspaworld.com/
Facebook-PDC Spa and Pool World

TRIBE PRIDE
BARBERSHOP

Best barbershop

Tribe Pride has been in business for six years. They specialize in modern and traditional haircuts in a clean and relaxing environment.

They strive for perfection and take pride in making everyone feel good when they leave with their new cut.

Audra wants to say "thank you" to everyone for their support!

Address: 531 Bridge St., Lehighton

Phone: 484-629-0505

Facebook: Tribe Pride Barbershop

SHELLHAMMER'S
FOUR SEASONSBest lawn
maintenance

Shellhammer's offers quality lawn care and land-



PDC Spa & Pool World was voted best in the pool/repair category. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

scaping to the community, with spring and fall cleanups.

They also offer snow removal, but lawn care is the most requested.

Nathan Shellhammer started mowing some properties in addition to his full-time job and then just continued to grow "until it was time to take the business on a full-time adventure."

"This year is our third year running the company full time," he said.

Address: 78 Jones St., Quakake

Phone: 484-629-3640

Facebook: Facebook@Shellhammer's Four Seasons

OFF THE CHARTS
MUSIC SCHOOL

Best music school

Off the Charts offers music lessons of all kinds and sells instrument essentials.

In business for four years, they teach kids from the studio to the stage.

Dustin Rehrig said, "Our business got started with my

dad's dream of being able to teach anyone music no matter their age, learning disabilities or even special needs."

As the only music school in town, Rehrig said the business offers more than just regular lessons. "We have a recording studio, a rehearsal space and room for parties."

Address: 306 Delaware Ave., Palmerton

Phone: 610-900-6933

Online/Facebook:

www.otcmusicschool.com;
Off the Charts Music School - Facebook

PASSION 4 PAWS
DOG TRAINING CO.

Best dog training

Passion 4 Paws offers basic obedience, advanced obedience, therapy dog training, canine good citizen testing and private lessons.

The business specializes in "giving dogs and their owners a new leash on life," Erika Yob said. "We believe that no dog should be left behind."

Custom Monument Designs

- monuments
- markers
- benches - lettering
- repairs

2nd Generation Craftsmanship
2nd Generation Family Business

Walters Monument Company
348 East White Street, Summit Hill | 570-645-3415

In business about 20 years, Yob said they all got started with their own dogs.

"We don't turn any dog away," she said. "We specialize in shelter and rescue pups. We have lots of experience with fearful, reactive and aggressive dogs."

Address: 2022 Main St., Northampton

Phone: 908-342-8040

Website/Facebook:
passion4pawsdogtraining.com

THE ANDREW
P. OVSAK
FUNERAL HOME
& CREMATORY
SERVICE INC.

Best funeral home

The funeral home was established in 1952. Todd and Andrea Kriner have been involved for more than 40 years and have personally owned the business for 25 years. Andy Ovsak started the business and through his encouragement, support and family enthusiasm, the business was able to remain as it is — a family-owned and op-

erated care giving business. They assist a grieving family at one of the worst times of their lives with caring funeral services before, during and after the loss of a family member.

Address: 190 S. Fourth St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-0520

Online: www.ovsakfh.com

WALTERS
MONUMENT CO. INC.Best monument
company

The original owner Craig Walters Sr. bought the business from the Bruze family after working for them for about eight years.

He managed the sales, manufacturing and installation of cemetery memorials for 30 years.

Craig Walters Jr. is now carrying on his father's legacy.

The company strives to provide customers with the best quality granite and designs at the lowest cost.

The company employs an artist on-site who does

custom-made drawings and etchings, a Computer-Aided Design team featuring hundreds of designs, a sandblast operator, two salespeople, and two foundation and delivery men.

The company offers free quotes, appointments and cemetery engravings and cleanings.

The business takes great pride in excellent craftsmanship and friendly service.

Address: 348 E. White St., Summit Hill

Phone: 570-645-3415

Online: www.waltersmonument.com; cj@waltersmonument.com

THE SEVENTH
MOON WELLNESS
SPABest cosmetologist
Dani McCarthy, senior
stylist/salon manager

The Seventh Moon is a full service spa/salon offering Aveda and Milkshake products.

Address: 701 Bridge St. B103, Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-3002

2024 Readers' Choice

tn

Congratulations Lori Gibson

VOTED BEST TIMES NEWS PAPER CARRIER

"We love Lori, she is very faithful and dependable delivering our Times News paper. She is very caring and friendly. Congratulations to her!"
Ralph & MaryAnn K, Lehighton

"Congratulations to our Times News paper carrier, Lori Gibson, for winning the award for Best Paper Carrier. She has been our deliverer for a good many years, always giving us excellent service. Lori has always been dependable and consistent with delivering our paper daily and has become a fast and friendly buddy to our three small dogs. Whenever I see her she always has a smile on her face. Lori has been the best carrier we have ever had. Congratulations again, Lori!!"

Monroe & Nan C, Lehighton

AF BOYER HARDWARE & GUNS

Best firearms

Customer service is the No. 1 priority, said Abel Boyer.

The store is celebrating 156 years in business.

The business started as a Quarry Supply Store in 1868.

"We believe that customer service is the most important thing," Boyer said.

They are five generations strong. "Going the extra mile to take care of our customers is in our blood."

Address: 130 Main St., Slatington

Phone: 610-767-3162

Online: afboyer.com



Abel Boyer and his wife, Shannon, pride themselves on the multigenerational gun business. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAWDY PLUS

Best consignment shop

Any plus-size vintage is quick to sell because high quality vintage pieces in larger sizes are rare. Customers also love finding name brand jeans, graphic T-shirts, and pieces from brands like Torrid, Lane Bryant and Modcloth at lower prices than the mall.

"We have also been told we have a great spacious and comfy fitting room," said Bethany Moyer, who owns the store with Andrew Chew.

"We believe that all bodies are beautiful and want to do

our part to bring inclusive fashion at affordable prices to our local community."

After starting out with online sales and pop-ups around the area in 2021, they opened the brick and mortar store at 77 Broadway in Jim Thorpe in September 2022. There are only a handful of plus-size focused consignment shops in the country, and most are in large cities.

"We are happy to be able to serve the Lehigh Valley, Poconos, and NEPA as the area's premiere destination for plus-size fashion," Moyer said.

Address: 77 Broadway, Jim Thorpe

Phone: 610-703-4526

Online: bawdyplus.com

COLOR STREET

Best home party consultant - Trina Marie Fixl

Color Street offers revolutionary nail polish strips, nourishing hand and nail care products and premium makeup.

"At Color Street, we believe one brilliant idea can change everything," Trina Marie Fixl said. "Our revolutionary, patented real nail polish strips and ever-expanding line of premium beauty products empower beauty lovers around the globe and inspire our community of independent stylists to express themselves in full color."

Fixl just celebrated her five-year anniversary with Color Street at the global conference in July.

She began her career on Feb. 7, 2019.

"My VIPs love the games and interaction in my group — I take extra special care of them and pride myself in outstanding customer service," Fixl said.

Address: 4188 Bunker Hill Lane E., Walnutport



Leighton Outdoor Center is the winner of five categories. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

Phone: 570-249-9198
Online: Facebook.com/groups/TrinaMariesVIPs and colorstreet.com/trinamariefixl

LOVE 4 ART STUDIO

Best homemade crafts

Love 4 Art Studio provides paint parties at your place or at the studio. Paint and craft parties provided.

Love 4 Art Studio started this has a hobby five years ago.

Address: 468 Delaware Ave., Palmerton

Phone: 610-295-9272

Online: Facebook/Love4artstudio

LEHIGHTON OUTDOOR CENTER/ JIM THORPE RIVER ADVENTURES

Best kayak shop, bicycle shop, sporting goods shop, white-water rafting, bicycle repairs

Jerry McAward, owner of Leighton Outdoor Center, has been in business for 17 years, but six years in the

new building. The business got started with years of running the river rafting business, which led to building the Leighton Outdoor Center.

McAward said, "A 'specialty shop' experience is what every member of our staff delivers."

Address: 123 Lehigh Drive, Leighton

Phone: 610-377-1230

Online/Facebook: www.jtraft.com, locbiking.com, leightonoutdoorcenter.com

AFFORDABLE PET CENTER LLC

Best pet supplies

Affordable Pet Supplies carries food for dogs, cats, small animals, reptiles, fish, ponds, house birds and wild birds.

The business has a dog wash and dog training.

"Healthy natural food make healthy happy pets," is the business motto for Bill and Mary Ellen Ford.

"We started with nothing 18 years ago." Mary Ellen said.

Mary Ellen was a vet tech and Bill had the pet food knowledge.

"We talk to customers

and ask questions to find the proper products they need. Every pet is different, so are all the products," Bill said.

Address: 2022 Main St., Northampton

Phone: 610-440-0245

FRONTLINE GRAPHIX INC.

Best sign shop

Frontline Graphix makes vehicle graphics, signs, banners and T-shirt printing.

The business prides itself in "exceeding customer expectations in everything we do and holding ourselves accountable at every step," said Joe Kehrl, president.

He has been involved in graphics his whole adult life. He ran the graphics department at KME Fire Apparatus for 21 years.

"When they sold KME, we decided to start our own business," Kehrl said. "Reputation is everything. We strive to dedicate attention to detail in every project. We specialize in emergency vehicle graphics."

Address: 71 Sunrise Drive, Jim Thorpe

Phone: 570-657-6292

Website: www.frontlinegraphix.com

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THANK YOU!

570-436-0212

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Pet
Concierge**

ZIMMERMAN'S DAIRY

Best producer of a local product

A locally owned dairy since 1900, Zimmerman's produces its own line of drinks and distributes a full line of dairy products.

Address: 808 Bridge St., Lehighton

Phone: 610-377-0340

Online: www.zimmermansdairy.com and on Facebook

LEHIGHTON DOWNTOWN INITIATIVE

Best nonprofit

The formal name associated with the acronym LDI is Lehighton Downtown Initiative. It was formerly known as the Lehighton Downtown Initiative Committee. The LDIC was revised in 2016 to LDI on the recommendation of the Main Street America Assessment.

Officers include Ryan Saunders, president; Tracie Saunders, vice president; Gabrielle Elsasser, secretary; and Bambi Elsasser, treasurer.

The LDI consists of dedicated volunteers ranging



Tom Zimmerman IV, left, with Alex Sherba. Zimmerman's donated drinks for the No. 9 Mine in Lansford for the Labor Day fundraising picnic. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

from local business owners and enthusiastic residents, to involved borough council members, all very compassionate about the community and vision of its downtown revitalization, Saunders said.

The LDI has several community friendly events it hosts throughout the year: Wine on the River on the first Saturday in May; Christmas in July

market event in mid-July in the lower park; and LDI has hosted the Lehighton Fireworks for the past several years.

Coming this December is the third annual Hometown Vintage Christmas on Dec. 14 in downtown Lehighton on First Street. LDI has hosted several movie nights in the amphitheater each year, and the local farmers market has

been operating over the past seven years.

Recently LDI has purchased, and will have installed, a new PA and all-weather speaker system for the Lehighton Borough building. This will allow better quality sound for events in the amphitheater and wireless microphone capabilities to enable groups to make announcements that can be



A band plays during the annual Wine on the River, sponsored by the Lehighton Downtown Initiative. TIMES NEWS FILE PHOTO

heard through both upper and lower parks during events as well. The LDI has plans for a beautification project for downtown, with trees and colorful vegetation that will be planted along Sgt Stanley Hoffman Boulevard within the next few weeks.

"Our efforts would not be possible without the support

of our many sponsors which we proudly honor at each of our events," Saunders said. "Our sponsors are as dedicated and passionate as we are to bring great things to our community.

Online: Facebook@ Lehighton Downtown Initiative - LDI



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Hours: Weds thru Sun 10:00-6:00
101 N Main Lane, Lehighton Pa 18235



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Winners in 30 Times News Reader's Choice health care categories.

Best Hospital Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

Best Athletic Training

LVPG Orthopedics and Sports
Medicine-Carbon

Best Behavioral Health

LVHN Behavioral Health

Best Cancer Center

Lehigh Valley Topper Cancer Institute

Best Cardiology

LVPG Cardiology-Carbon

Best Dermatologist

Lehigh Valley Health Network

Best Diabetes Management

LVHN Diabetes and Metabolism Center

Emergency Room

Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

Best Family Doctor

LVPG Family Medicine

Best General Surgery

Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

Best Hearing Professional

LVPG Ear, Nose and Throat

Best Home Health

LVHN Home Care

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Lehigh Valley Hospital-Carbon

Best Plastic Surgery

LVPG Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgery

Best Pulmonary Care

LVPG Pulmonary and Critical Care
Medicine

Best Sleep Medicine

LVHN Sleep Disorders Centers

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LVHN Rehabilitation

Best Spine Care

LVPG Advanced Spine Center

Best Urgent Care

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