

Entertainment

Local brewpub makes variety easy as ABC

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Beer. It seems whether you love beer or hate beer, everyone has an opinion on who makes the better stouts and ales. Well, the debate will forever rage among drinkers of all ages, but if you want great food and flavorful micro-brews, then you may want to head over to the Appalachian Brewing Company.

The ABC website boasts a 50,000 square footage brewery, making it one of the largest brewpubs in the nation. The varied history of the Harrisburg location reveals ownership by a rail company, printing press and the Works Project Administration between 1915-44. A fire in 1993 nearly destroyed the building before its conversion in 1995.

When the building opened in January 1997, it became a favorite brewery and restaurant for the Harrisburg area. Now with added locations in Gettysburg and Camp Hill, the local chain

provides beer, food and live entertainment throughout the year.

If you stop in for a pint, do not make the mistake of limiting your options. Instead, answer varied tastes with a sampler of 8 brews and a glass of the famous ABC Draft Root Beer. You can also consult the friendly wait staff on monthly brews and favorites.

Harrisburg manager, Joe Hoover, notes the difficulty of naming a specific favorite beer. However, this time of year he points to the Grinning Grizzly Holiday Spice Ale. With hints of cinnamon, nutmeg and orange zest, this frosty winter brew is sure to satisfy.

If you need some suds to go, buying bottles, cases, and growlers is a sure thing. Hoover notes that buying direct from the ABC will save money over buying from the local beer distributors. If you stop by on a Tuesday in Harrisburg or Camp Hill, you will save \$2 on your 64 oz. growler purchases and refills. Gettysburg offers the same

savings every Thursday.

Want a tour that ends in free samples? Joe emphasizes that free tours are held Saturdays at 1 p.m. If you find a favorite, you can order a keg for next day pick up for all your social events.

If your stomach is growling for some good eats, your stomach need growl no more. The ABC menu offers several options from appetizers, pizzas and salads to soups, sandwiches and ABC infused entrees. Not to mention the fact that each location offers daily menu specials that expand their options and offer great discounts.

For my money I would start with the Asiago Hiking Sticks made with Water Gap Wheat dough and served with marinara sauce. The Brewer's Cheddar Ale Soup may be a cardiologist's nightmare, but the mix of beer, potatoes and premium cheddar topped with bacon pieces and sour cream is irresistible. On a cold day, I will stop specifically for a hot, filling bowl of the rich soup.

For the vegetable inclined, ABC offers homemade dressings for their salads. My pick is the Santa Fe Salad with added grilled marinated portabella mushrooms. Served with corn tortillas and Susquehanna Stout BBQ ranch dressing, this is one flavorful salad that will fill you up.

Need a quick lunch? Get a grilled to order Black Angus burger. I personally swoon for the classic cheeseburger but the award winning Switchback Burger with apple-wood bacon, ham and caramelized onions is a BBQ pleasure.

For an entrée that will not break your wallet, try the Chesapeake Chicken—not crab—Cakes in tangy chipotle wing sauce. Served with two sides, it is an effort saving room for dessert.

The Beer Battered Fish and Chips may be an even better option. This London classic is an all-you-can-eat special every Friday for a mere \$10. Young actor Jon Rooney noted it was the reason the ABC was a permanent

post-rehearsal hangout when he performed with the Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival production company.

Finally in food, if you saved room for dessert, there are two menu options I highly recommend. First is the Chocolate Peanut Butter Truffle Pie. This rich and creamy delight will surely win you points if you split one on your next date. Second, the Appalachian Root Beer Float is a simple and inexpensive treat that appeals to the kid in all of us.

As each location has its own changing variety of specials, your best bet is to go online to www.abcbrew.com to find the listing of the pub nearest you. You can also gather information on live performances scheduled for each location. Most events are free of cover charge. You can also book your band or find the next Open Mic Night to showcase your talents.

Better still just stop into the location nearest you with an empty stomach and parched tongue. Happy Eating.

Gosselin sues TLC; cites child labor laws

BRETT ZONGKER
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Jon Gosselin has filed a counter lawsuit against the TLC network, claiming television producers violated Pennsylvania's child labor laws in filming the hit reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8" and are preventing him from working.

The suit seeking more than \$5 million in damages was filed Thursday in Maryland's Montgomery County Circuit Court in response to a network lawsuit alleging Gosselin failed to meet his obligations as an employee.

Gosselin's attorney Mark Jay Heller said the network had the family sign a complicated deal in 2005 without the advice of a lawyer.

"I do not believe we were paid a fair amount for the overreaching and overly restrictive contract — my family was initially paid

\$2,000 per episode for all ten members of my family and the use of my family home for filming," Gosselin wrote in a court filing. He went on to say the family accepted the deal because they were "in desperate need of revenue to meet the needs of our eight children."

Heller said the network also failed to obtain child work permits that would spell out what hours the children would work and how they would be paid. An anonymous complaint to Pennsylvania authorities over a clip that showed TV producers refusing water to one of the children prompted an ongoing investigation, according to Gosselin's court filing.

"I believe that this

case will be the historic case ... that will stand for the principle that the courts will not tolerate corporations, no matter how profitable, to take advantage

in the workplace of infants," Heller said.

TLC spokeswoman Laurie Goldberg said the network won't comment on legal matters.

Gosselin went on to write that he is now unemployed and unable to secure non-entertainment related jobs because of overwhelming media interest in his daily activities.

Gosselin has starred since 2007 on the weekly "Jon & Kate Plus 8," a ratings hit for the network that has been rocked by marital turmoil as Gosselin and his wife, Kate, feuded, then filed for divorce. The couple are the parents of young twins and sextuplets whose family home is in Wernersville, Pa.

TLC's lawsuit filed last month is seeking from Gosselin unspecified compensatory damages,

demanding he return income gained as a result of his alleged breaches of the agreement, and that he refrain from future violations.

The network's lawsuit alleges Gosselin "entered a lucrative arrangement to appear regularly on 'Entertainment Tonight' and its companion show, 'The Insider,' to discuss his family and the problems he was having with Mrs. Gosselin, and he routinely sold photographic rights to various media outlets"

Gosselin's suit counters that he was explicitly authorized to make media appearances on news and talk shows under his contract with TLC.

The network has said that, while both Kate and Jon Gosselin remain under exclusive contract with the network, the show's future is undecided. The final episode is slated for Nov. 23, and TLC is working with Kate Gosselin on a new show.



Photo