



POST PHOTOS/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

Mary Beth Kondard and Mel Ackley sprucing up the counter at Wendy's.



POST PHOTO/KYLIE SHAFFERKOEETTER

Bill Luke, left, and Jake Apaliski with one of the signs that have been catching drivers' eyes.

Signs tickle drivers' funny bones

DALLAS - "Forget the Joneses," "Be your wife's best friend," "Do something charitable" and "Don't whine." These are just a few of the suggestions offered to the community by the employees of Little Lumber on Rt. 118. The messages written in black letters are bold against the white background of the sign board in front of the store, which might normally be used to advertise prices.

"It has proved to be the best advertising," said Kathy Miller, an employee. "People really notice it. They call up and compliment us all the time."

The first message was put up

during the blizzard last year and captured the sentiment of many. It read, "What's next, locust or famine?" The store continued with the idea, using the sign to show support for local school teams, such as the Lake-Lehman band.

So who thinks up all of these clever bits of free advice? "We all write them," explained Miller. "Some Jake (Jake Apaliski, store manager) won't let us put up. He's our censor," she said with a grin.

"We put them up to make people smile," said Miller.

by Kylie Shafferkoetter

Skanderson receives bachelors degree

Kami M. Skanderson of Dallas received a B.S. in Special Education from Slippery Rock University at its winter commencement.

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Business

(continued from page 1)

Denise and Phillip DeLuca of Dallas recently opened Back Mountain Gold and Silversmith, along Memorial Highway in Dallas. The glittering store opened its doors to the public four months ago.

Denise DeLuca said she and her husband are very pleased to be in Dallas and with their clientele. "I'm very happy. For being so new, business is doing very well," DeLuca said. "We really love this area and it's growing," she responded when asked why they chose the Back Mountain as the location of their business. This is the couple's first business together. Phillip DeLuca has been a jeweler for several years.

The DeLucas are the only employees of the store. Interestingly, the gems are not always the center of attention for some passersby. "Many times clients from Classic Cuts next door come over to see my daughter Deidre, 2," said DeLuca with a laugh.

"It's a nice area full of nice people."

Jim Sanderson
Big Apple Bagels

Two more new business owners who agree the Back Mountain has proven to be a profitable investment are Jim and Ken Sanderson of Big Apple Bagels in the Dallas Shopping Center and Steve Kecip of Wendy's.

Wendy's, on Rt. 309, celebrated its one year anniversary Feb. 15. Kecip, who worked as a franchise consultant for the company all over the east, said he is impressed with its workers and the area. "I love this area. There is a rural flavor and a downtown area for convenience. The people are great and they have an incredible work ethic. It's easy to hire smiles," said Kecip of his employees.

Wendy's employs 48 people, 37 of whom started when the restaurant opened. The workforce at the restaurant is made up of approximately 50% students and many people who worked for the former Acme market a stone's throw away. "The employees are so willing and able," said Kecip. "There is a solid core of people to hire from."

Kecip said business is going strong, but he believes business would increase if he were allowed two exits. Many people who live behind the restaurant on Mill St. feared that if an exit had been placed there, it would have increased the traffic in their neighborhood.

Jim and Ken Sanderson, brothers from Clarks Summit, are doing well with their franchise. Jim Sanderson said he is impressed with the cooperation among business owners in the area. "It's a nice area full of nice people. Also, other business owners are supportive. There is a close knit group of business owners here," he said.

The brothers saw a perfect opportunity to provide bagels to the community. "Since there was no other bagel shop in the area, it

The people are great and they have an incredible work ethic. It's easy to hire smiles."

Steve Kecip
Wendy's

was the perfect spot for us," said Sanderson.

The store employs 14 people and has been open since July. Many of the employees are students at Lehman and Dallas high schools and College Misericordia.

New businesses whose owners are no strangers to the business world include Creative Designs on Memorial Highway in Shavertown and Grange National Bank on Memorial Highway in Trucksville.

Grange Bank opened quietly Feb. 18. To celebrate with more of a bang, L. Lee Posten, bank manager, said a grand opening with plenty of prizes to be given away will be held some time in March. The bank turns 90 years old this year, and the small bank that was started in 1907 in Laceyville has grown into a large success. Posten said he anticipates good business and added, "people don't know we're open."

Posten said the Back Mountain location was considered a complement to the Edwardsville branch. Although not everyone knows it's now open, there are some keen observers who decided to let Grange Bank help them with their futures. "We had two young boys, around seven and nine years old, come in with their Mickey Mouse banks and open a savings account," said Posten.

John Mackey, an interior designer from Scranton, opened Creative Designs in November. The shop sells a variety of floral arrangements and unique gifts in the space previously occupied by Southfork Floral.

Mackey was not available for comment, but Linda Renzini, store manager said "he loves the area." Mackey did many renovations to the store and creates the inviting

window displays. Renzini said the owner is happy with his decision to open a store in the Back Mountain. "We've adapted to the area very well. I think we've done a good job of keeping the old customers, while serving new ones,"

she said. "The people are extremely friendly and nice."

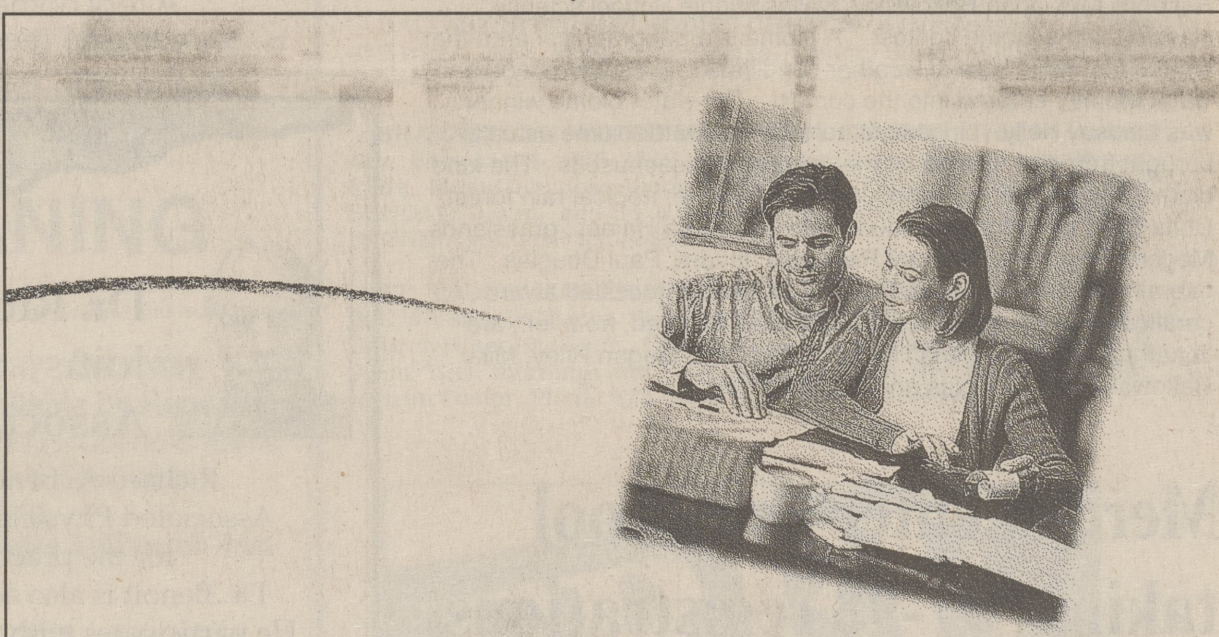
Richard Belza, floral designer, said business is steady. "It was phenomenal over Christmas. We had many different ornaments. I hope people don't think we're just an ornament shop," he said.



Cindy Charnetski showed off some of the items at Creative Designs in Shavertown.



Grange National Bank opened a new office last week in the Pendragon Center in Trucksville. On hand were staff members, foreground, from left, foreground: Mabel Harter, customer service rep.; Cindy Panco; Karen Nemeth. Behind; Laurie Popson; L. Lee Posten, branch manager; Ann Ondish, customer service rep.; Roger Harding, customer service rep.; Joan Elston. The drive-up window opens at 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday. The lobby opens at 8:30 a.m. each day.



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