

Market

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chickens, and in-store baked goods. Starting December 18, Thomas' will present an impressive 32-foot-long seafood stand with both fresh and frozen seafood.

Physical changes reveal the owners' dedication to the new business. A red and sea green color scheme accents new lighting, fresh paint, and clean flooring. The new entrance leads shoppers past fresh fruits and vegetables, and then on to the bakery and deli. Decals, pictures, and mirrors enliven the walls, and relaxing music fills the air. Computerized checkouts angle shoppers quickly to the exit.

Customers have responded with enthusiasm to the new store. "I have been here at least twice a week," says Ann Marie Flanagan of Dallas. "The ready-to-eat items are great." Chris Evans reports that the store is doing well and meeting expectations.

Effie Bulgaris, Ashley, travels to the Back Mountain several times a week and is happy the new store opened. "The first time here I was very impressed," she says. "The meats were excellent." Marge Brown, Wyoming, noticed the changes immediately. "It's a lot brighter," she comments, "and the bargains are good."

"The people are what makes the store successful," says Chris Evans. "It's the employees." The easy camaraderie between employees is clearly evident in the banter between Gina Holby and John Green, both at work in the meat department.

"The morale is up," notes Green, of Shavertown. He worked at BiLo in Clarks Summit before joining Thomas'. "Customers are more satisfied," adds Holby, an ex-BiLo employee from Plains. "They see different things and then want to come back." Both cite the smaller atmosphere and facelift as key in the store's success.

Evans, Baseski, and Evans hired many workers from BiLo (and it's previous incarnations). "Fourteen of my 15 full-timers are ex-BiLo employees from the area," says Chris Evans.

Monica Silbernagel, Trucksville, used to work for



Paul Shouldice, Shavertown, was checked through the register by Debbie Thompson, Dallas.



The Thomas' Family Market management team, from left; Loren Holmes, produce manager; Jim Keinger, ass't manager; Elmer Blackwell, manager; Chris Evans, co-owner; Nanette Ell, deli manager; Rich Bechetti, bakery manager; Bill Givens, meat manager.

"The people are what makes the store successful. It's the employees."
Chris Evans
Thomas' Family Market co-owner

Acme both here and in Midway, and loves the customers from the Back Mountain. "You're dealing with a nice group of people," she says.

"Experience makes the difference," sums up Chris Evans. He, his partners, and their employees will be using their years of experience to create a store that, with luck, will serve the Back Mountain for years to come.

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