

A new taste treat comes to the Back Mountain

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

SHAVERTOWN — It's dinner time. You're stuck in Route 309 traffic on the way back from the valley, and you're famished.

Up ahead lurks a smorgasbord of traditional fast-food choices — Burger King, McDonald's, Wendy's. A local family is betting you're tired of the same old, same old.

"I know Americans are tired of McDonald's," said H. Kim, part owner and sushi maker for Shavertown's newest takeout restaurant, Sushi Go Go!

"Between 4 and 7 p.m. when it's bumper to bumper on the highway, people can stop by here and pick up dinner," one made with fresh seafood, seaweed, rice and vegetables, he added.

The restaurant opened in March in the tiny building at 196 North Memorial Highway,

next to Gordon Insurance. In recent years a succession of pizza takeouts had occupied the space.

The small, formerly grey building has been transformed. The outside has been painted a shade of yellow bright enough to grab motorists' attention and inside bamboo shades, paper lamps and bright colors abound.

Kim may be correct about the need for new quick food options. On opening day business was heavy. He estimated that lunch brought about 50 people to the takeout only restaurant and at 3 p.m., between the lunch and dinner rush, business was still steady. Mothers with small children, singles and students all filtered through.

Dallas resident Patti Bittner stopped in to check out the selection. "Finally," she said emphatically as she swung open the front door, "sushi in the

Back Mountain. Do you have anything with eel?"

Way back when, she explained, there was a Japanese restaurant in Dallas. "That's where we were introduced to sushi and fell in love with it." Since the restaurant closed, sushi lovers have had to trek down to the valley for a bite of kani or sashimi.

"This is such a good idea," she said while familiarizing herself with the menu. "We were just saying last week, 'I don't want to go all the way downtown. I wish there was a sushi place up here.'"

Kim comes to the area with 10 years of experience making sushi in places like Philadelphia, Japan and Korea, his homeland.

He and his family, who help him operate the business, believe there is room for the new kind of takeout among the area's more typical fare.

"In northeast Pennsylvania it's a very traditional American culture. But I'm a resident of the community and I want to provide some diversification — it can be a part of the culture in Dallas and Shavertown," he said.

Carefully planned, he said the business idea was first tested in a market study that revealed a favorable response.

The restaurant does wholesale and retail business in addition to its takeout menu. College Misericordia is purchasing a number of meals daily to sell in its cafeteria and Kim is busy lining up other customers.

Variety is one thing Sushi Go Go has over its valley competitors, he insists. Places like Wegman's have only standard types of sushi while his restaurant is constantly making new varieties of foods and sauces.

Many types of meals are made daily, but if something



POST PHOTO/ERIN YOUNGMAN

Sushi Go Go! in Shavertown opened last week. Sushiman H. Kim has made the Japanese food in Philadelphia, Japan and Korea. Kyungmi Kim and H. Kim show off one of their eight-inch party trays.

needs to be whipped up, customers can watch Japanese music videos and sip a traditional Japanese drink while they wait.

Bittner bought a meal, some-

thing with eel in it and commented on her way out, "I hope you do well — of course I'll be spending all my money on sushi."

Road super quits, claims mistreatment

By ERIN YOUNGMAN
Post Staff

DALLAS — After 14 years with the borough's road department, lately as supervisor, Charlie Shurites has quit, alleging poor treatment by borough Manager Joe Moskovitz.

"His comments started the first day he got here," said Shurites about Moskovitz. "He treated all of us different. He uses that 'madam president' and stuff with council, but it's not like that with us."

Council president John Oliver said last week that Shurites' resignation is "a casualty" of ongoing changes in the borough and characterized his allegations as, "a myth."

Shurites alleged Moskovitz left "rude and condescending" phone messages in which he'd "start off nice and end up yelling" about how scheduled work was not completed.

"It got to the point where it wasn't worth working there any more. People don't need to be treated like that and that's his style."

He said Moskovitz made numerous changes to his department, from altering the schedule to requiring work be catalogued every half an hour.

He said prior to Moskovitz's hiring, the borough's employees enjoyed going to work.

"Moskovitz said morale has

never been better but it's not. That place has gone downhill since he got there."

Oliver said Shurites is just a disgruntled employee that didn't adapt to positive changes being made in the borough.

"When Moskovitz came on board it signaled a change. Any time you have change you have casualties."

He said that for years the borough had been suffering and that when council made the decision to hire a full-time manager, it was also deciding to address infrastructure problems.

"Before the changes began, employees pretty much operated on their own volition," he said.

"Moskovitz began putting together a structure of supervision — you have a choice as an employee to do as you're told or to leave. I know that's where council is coming from."

Moskovitz also responded to the allegations. "Isn't it interesting, the only people that had problems with me were department heads?"

"They were used to part-time (borough) managers that couldn't do proper oversight."

Asked about alleged rude and condescending treatment, Oliver responded, "It's a myth perpetrated by a small minority of people in the borough that have an ax to grind."

Flower power

Preparing for the upcoming holiday, Sandy Darling creates Easter palm crosses for her family's greenhouse in Dallas. See pages 6 and 11 for listings of Holy Week activities and services.

FOR THE POST/
CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Organizations

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The other project has brought in hundreds of images of the area. The association has invited residents to lend photos of the Back Mountain of yesteryear to the college's archivist. The images are digitized for a permanent collection and then returned to the owner.

Many of the photos have never before been seen and serve to create a cohesive glimpse of the region from its earliest times.

The next meeting of the association is scheduled for May 4 at 7 p.m. Sally Teller Lottick, author of the 1992 book, "Bridging Change," will be the speaker. Lottick will tell the story of Wyoming Valley native Frances Slocum, for whom the state park in Kingston Township is named.

To make reservations, contact Marion Rogers at College Misericordia, 674-3341, or via e-mail at mrogers@misericordia.edu by April 30.

If researching bloodlines is your interest, try the Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. The organization has a library in Shavertown equipped with all the necessary tools of the trade.

In addition to providing research capabilities, it hosts speakers regularly. Hours are posted on the library door, located at 156 Main Street, or you can contact the organization through the mail at:

The Northeast Pennsylvania Genealogical Association
P.O. Box 1776
Shavertown, PA 18708

— Erin Youngman

Interviews

(continued from page 1)

fortlessly outlined who started the first trolley line to venture into the Back Mountain and why, and put the transportation movement into larger historical context.

Lavin and Grabowski sat nearby, tape recorder and video camera in hand.

With the scope of the project expanded, the nine students have been assigned to work on one of four topics.

Lavin and Grabowski are gathering interviews about the region's transportation. The other topics are agriculture, business and the Sisters of Mercy.

After minor first-time technical difficulties, the hour-long interview went off without a hitch. On the way back to campus, the students discussed what went well, what didn't and what they could approach differently in the future.

"I think this is going to be of interest to people in the area," said Lavin. "The information we're getting is so rich."

"If the other interviews go half as well as that one, it's going to be great."

Last fall the group was notified it had been awarded a Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission Grant of about \$5,000. Combined with a \$2,000 Misericordia Strategic Initiative Grant, the group was able to purchase more effective recording equipment and offer a stipend to those involved.

When completed, the interviews will be compiled and placed in local libraries.

The money is also paying communications students to videotape the sessions and cre-

"I think this is going to be of interest to people in the area. The information we're getting is so rich."

Renee Lavin
College Misericordia sophomore

ate a documentary. The group is in discussions with WVIA-TV to air the finished product on that channel.

Austin, who spearheaded the project, said he hopes the college's effort inspires other such programs to pop up in the area.

"It seems to me like an effective way to capture the history of the region," he said.

Wert was prepared with a presentation, but Lavin said many of the interviews will be more off the cuff. The sopho-

more conducted two of the five interviews completed last year.

"All of them are so different," she said. "I definitely like hands-on history — this is what studying history is all about."

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