

BACK MOUNTAIN BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: FIREPLACE GALLERY



Daniel A. Dembowski, owner, Fireplace Gallery, stands by one of the shop's fireplace displays.

Fireplace Gallery offers wide range of products, services

By ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER
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When the Fireplace Gallery, located midway between Dallas and Tunkhannock, created its business slogan of "your most complete fireplace and chimney experts," it wasn't bluffing.

More than just a store that sells fireplaces, according to owner Daniel A. Dembowski, 44, of Noxen, "Fireplace Gallery is a full service hearth shop. Services include everything from your basic chimney repairs, stainless steel chimney liner installations to sales of wood, gas, coal, stones, furnaces and custom-built fireplaces. We also sell wood pellets, bagged and bulk, coal, delivery available and we refill propane tanks."

The shop also offers a free storage program for wood pellets, so customers can purchase early orders to get the best price at the beginning of the season and store it until needed. Some of the other many services it offers include chimney cleaning, stone and brick work, rebuilding of chimneys and many jobs similar businesses often refuse due to the degree of difficulty, according to Dembowski. The shop accepts both residential and commercial work.

Some products offered include basic wood, pellet and coal stoves and commercial central heating systems which burn coal.

Dembowski said the best part of his



A fireplace display at the Fireplace Gallery, located midway between Dallas and Tunkhannock.

MEET THE OWNER:

Owner: Daniel A. Dembowski
Favorite fireside snack: S'mores
Family: Wife Kathi and three children
Hobbies and interests: Fishing, deer hunting, motor sports
Dream vacation: Fishing in Alaska

job is the "customer satisfaction" aspect.

"When you know that you've provided good service to the customer, and they show it," he explained. "I think that's a good deal for the customer and the Fireplace Gallery. I get the satisfaction of helping someone out, and they are happy because they are getting a

good fireplace and heat source that is keeping them warm and saving them money. It's a very satisfying job."

Dembowski started the business about 17 years ago as a service company out of a truck and a garage. He worked his way up to an 8 by 24 foot office trailer with 10 stoves, then built the current location which opened in 2001. He now employs three staff members.

He said the main reason the business was able to grow so much over the years was the support from his customers.

"It's the biggest thing for any business," he said, "the customer satisfaction. We sell quality products, we provide high quality service, we do a lot of work that other stove shops do not do, we service all makes and models of stoves and fireplaces. We're very accommodating for people, we're very flexible, we're not just set in our own ways. We're here because of our customers, so we need to offer them what they need, as long as it's within safety guidelines."

His advice to other businesses just starting out is to "provide an honest service."

"You've got to have business every day," he added. "If it's worth doing, you've got to do it every day. You can't build a business part time."

He said another aspect that contributes to the success of his business is that it provides products that help people save money, such as furnaces and coal and services that help keep people safe, such as chimney cleaning. He added that staff members at Fireplace Gallery are friendly and helpful, and share his goal of providing quality and customer satisfaction.

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Daniel A. Dembowski
Owner



Dallas Post photographer wins Press Association award

Dallas Post photographer Bill Tarutis was recently awarded a third place in the feature/single picture category in the Northeast Pennsylvania Press Association Region 3 Monthly Clip Contest for this photo he took of a Cub Scout Pinewood Derby.

Rafferty named priest-in-charge at Prince of Peace



The Reverend Joseph Rafferty has been called to serve as the priest-in-charge at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, 420 Main St., Dallas.

Father Rafferty will begin worshipping at Prince of Peace today, June 2. Plans are underway for an official installation

and celebration to be held in the fall.

CHURCH BRIEFS

SUMMER HOURS

The Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church, 1011 Mountain View Drive, Lehman, will begin summer worship service hours today, June 2. Contemporary service will be 8:30 a.m., followed by a coffee get-together and the traditional service will begin at 10 a.m. These hours will be for the months of June, July and August.

Graduates will be honored at the 10 a.m. service today, June 2.

RUMMAGE SALE

The women of the Orange United Methodist Church, 2293 W. Eighth St., Dallas, will hold their annual spring rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8 at the church hall.

Food, refreshments and Welsh cookies will be available for sale. For more information, call 333-4626.

RUMMAGE SALE

A rummage and bake sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, June 7 and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 8 at the Alderson United Methodist Church, Pole 108, Harveys Lake.

Saturday is Bag Day where everything that fits into a bag is \$2.

For more information, call Nancy at 639-5688 or the church office at 639-5401.

GET READY FOR VBS

Orange United Methodist Church invites all children ages 3-12 to get ready to dive into fun at "Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God" Vacation Bible School.

Vacation Bible School will be held from 5:45 to 8 p.m. Sunday, June 16 through Thursday, June 20 at the church, 2293 W. 8th St., Dallas. The adventures includes regular Deep Sea Voyages into Bible fun and creative crafts, hands-on mission work, water science and music.

To be a part of the excitement, call Leslie at 333-4269.

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Volunteers needed for pantry garden

The Back Mountain Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to assist with its garden at The Lands at Hillside Farms that supplies fresh produce to clients of the food pantry.

Dates will be set up for planting, prep work, weeding, watering and harvesting. A large group of volunteers is also needed to mow the grass on a regular basis.

Volunteers can donate time every week or every other week.

Anyone interested in helping is asked to call Mandy at 674-9777 or email her at mandy@foopanga.org.

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