



Greg Hamel (r), owner of Blackwater Junction Restaurant, poses with his daughter, Jennifer, and his father, Ken. Staff photos: Heather Makechnie

Local Food Vendors Holding On Through Tough Times

By Heather Makechnie
Beacon staff

In light of the current economic difficulties, the *Beacon* is interviewing local business people about how it is affecting them. We previously focused on artisans in the area. In this issue we are looking at food sales.

Jake's Market

Jen Braley, manager of Jake's Market, states that everything is pretty much the same. "We have not down-sized but have, in fact, added more menu items. Our suppliers have raised their prices. Of course, when wholesalers raise theirs, we must raise ours as well. We have not had to lay anyone off. Lunch is still our busiest period, and we are usually flooded by Proctor students at that time."

Circle K

Nekeba Brisk, manager of Circle K in Cilleysville, agrees. "Sales seem to be the same as last year at this time. There is very steady traffic in the prepared food section. We have not had to raise prices. We have had no lay offs. And we have added some really great specials to the menu. Like the pork loin, mashed potato and green bean special we are serving today for \$5.99, or our Tuesday special: two small sub sandwiches for \$8.00."

Proctor Food Service

Arthur Makechnie, Proctor Food Service Director, estimates that there has been more than a 20% escalation in food consumption over last year. "The students tend to take carry-away items like apples, oranges, and dried fruits such as prunes. While more faculty have been utilizing the dining hall, it

may also be that the students' expendable allowances have been lowered. However, that is just conjecture."

Art continues, "That doesn't explain the increase in salad and deli meat consumption." Art says that prices for dairy and poultry products sky-rocketed in September, but they have come back down and leveled off since then. Produce has become more reasonable, but grocery items are still inching up.



Heidi Clark (l) and Joanie Mead of Jake's Market.

"Our food budget for the year has been pushed to the limits. The wholesale prices from our purveyors are so high for a couple of items that we go to the local supermarket and purchase them there. For instance, a gallon of milk at Market

Basket is \$1.20 cheaper than what we can get from the milk delivery company. \$1.20 here, \$1.20 there, after a while it adds up to real money." There have been no lay-offs at Proctor.

KJ's Country Store

Mickey Michael, manager of KJ's in East Andover, says that the new owners of the convenience store (which used to be East Andover Marketplace) have not had to lay off any workers. In fact, they have hired three new part-time employees.

"At first," says Mickey, "we sold a dozen or so donuts a week. But now that we carry Brothers donuts, they are flying off the shelf. We easily sell a dozen and a half a day. We started with four pressurized coffee thermoses, and now we are up to six pots of Green Mountain coffee. We put in a new pizza oven and started out selling a dozen pizzas a day, but then we got slammed one weekend, and soon we were doing 35 pizzas, 10

See Food on page 34

OBITUARIES

GLORIA J. (HAZEN) THISSELL, 62, of Worcester, Massachusetts, died peacefully on May 1, 2009 after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born in New London on April 17, 1947, the daughter of Howard Everett Sr. and Shirley Maxine (Towle) Hazen. She was raised in New Hampshire and graduated from Franklin High School.

She loved her husband, her children and extended family, and her beloved dogs, Gizmo and Bandit. She enjoyed sewing, country music, good conversation, shopping, humor, and visiting the ocean. She was very friendly and sociable with everyone. She was very honest, compassionate, and giving.

Gloria is survived by her husband, Milton W. Thisell, formerly of East Andover and now of Worcester, Massachusetts; two daughters, Andrea M. Follo and husband Robert of Maynard, Massachusetts, and Corinna M. Thisell of Enfield, Connecticut; two sisters, Marilyn E. Hurd and Charles of Franklin, and Eleanor M. Hazen of Laconia; two brothers, Howard E. Hazen and wife Kathryn of Franklin, and Kenneth H. Hazen and wife Louise of Warner; and many other relatives and friends.

Friends called at the Chadwick Funeral Home in New London on May 5. A service was held on May 6 at the First

Free Will Baptist Church of Sutton with Fred Davis officiating. Burial followed in North Sutton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society at Cancer.org or at 2



Commerce Drive Suite 110, Bedford 03110; or to the Worcester Animal Rescue League, 139 Holden Street, Worcester MA 01606.

GEORGE ARMAND KUCHINSKY, 77, of Pine Garden's Park in Belmont, died peacefully at home Saturday, May 9, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer, with his loving wife, Carol, by his side.

Mr. Kuchinsky was born July 13, See Obituaries on page 34



Mindy Grinold Bicknell

Licensed Massage Therapist

Therapeutic massage for

- Relaxation
- Sports Injuries
- Sore Muscles
- Well Being!

19 Newport Road
New London • 526-2049

SMART MEMORIAL HOME



In Support of
The Andover Beacon

Funeral Directors

J. Douglas Smart

Scott W. Davis

Brian D. Constant

SmartFuneralHome.com

Chadwick Funeral and Cremation Service

Would you feel more comfortable learning about pre-planning in a small group?

Charlie and Marion Hafner would be happy to speak to your bridge club, church group, fraternal organization, COA, social group, coffee cluster, or just an interested group of friends. We can meet at the Funeral Home or at your usual meeting place.

We will answer your questions and guide you through the preplanning process. Your friends may have some great ideas which you haven't considered. Please make the time to preplan.

Call Charlie or Marion Hafner at 526-6442,
or e-mail us at Hafner@tds.net.

Charles and Marion (Chadwick) Hafner
526-6442 • www.ChadwickFuneralService.com • Hafner@tds.net