The Art of Gunsmithing Steps Into the New Millenium

-Page 14
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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to 2020.
As we enter this new year, many of us seek new adventures. We take the lessons we learned from the past and use them to build on an even better future.

This issue of Companion gives us reasons to explore. We hope to present you with new opportunities to discover food, hobbies, ways to help others, shopping or literary adventures.

In 2020, it is hard to drive 5 miles without running into a brewery. Microbreweries have been popping up everywhere, but the art of brewing is actually very old. It only takes about an hour to reach a 150-year old brewery that still has its catacombs intact.

Bube’s Brewery offers a unique dining experience as well as several options. Ashley Andyshak Hayes recently traveled to the Mount Joy establishment and shares more in this edition.

Newspapers and libraries have a lot in common. Both industries encourage literacy and informing the public and both are believed by many to be dying in today’s culture. Like the Gettysburg Times, the Adams County Library System is going strong. Jim Hale recently visited the non-profit and has more on its offerings.

I know it’s cold outside, but these dark days of winter are a great time to think about summer plans. It’s smart to save for vacation this time of year and it’s also smart to raise money for those affected by cancer. Deb Thomas has more on the Relay for Life and how it helps those affected by cancer.

Bube’s isn’t the only trip back in time we present this issue. Thomas also writes about the ancient art of gun smithing and how its stepping into the new millennium.

And finally, if you are looking for a Valentine’s gift for someone special, Jennie Dillon has a story on a new silversmith in Gettysburg, Body & Soul. The owners are excited about their Gettysburg venture and hope to meet more neighbors soon.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Companion and from all of us at the magazine, I hope you have a wonderful 2020.

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### January/February Events

**January 3**  
First Friday  
New Year,  
Gettysburg Style!  
Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association

**January 4**  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Feast Day of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton  
339 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, MD  
301-447-6606

**January 8**  
6 p.m.  
Open Mic Night  
J&P Winery

**January 10**  
6 p.m.  
Trivia for Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center  
Appalachian Brewing Company

**January 11**  
10 a.m.  
Winter Baking Class  
Hollabaugh Bros.

1 p.m.  
Met Opera: Live in HD “Wozzeck”  
Majestic Theater

1:30 p.m.  
Apple Dumpling Cooking Class  
Hollabaugh Bros.

1:30 p.m.  
Winter Lecture Series  
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

**January 12**  
1:30 p.m.  
Winter Lecture Series  
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

**January 13**  
Noon and 7 p.m.  
National Theatre Live “Hansard”  
Majestic Theater

**January 17**  
7 p.m.  
Dancing with the Local Stars  
Majestic Theater

**January 18**  
1:30 p.m.  
Winter Lecture Series  
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

**January 19**  
1:30 p.m.  
Winter Lecture Series  
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center
JANUARY 25
1:30 p.m.,
Winter Lecture Series
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

7:30 p.m.,
“We Shall Overcome,” a celebration of Martin Luther King
Majestic Theater

JANUARY 26
1:30 p.m.,
Winter Lecture Series
Gettysburg National Military Park Visitor Center

FEBRUARY 1
1 p.m.,
Met Opera: Live in HD “Porgy and Bess”
Majestic Theater

FEBRUARY 3
Noon and 7 p.m.
National Theatre Live “Present Laughter”
Majestic Theater

FEBRUARY 7
First Friday Fire and Ice Fun!
Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association

FEBRUARY 8
7 p.m.,
Winter Baking Class
Hollabaugh Bros.

FEBRUARY 16
8 a.m.,
Spin-a-thon
YWCA Gettysburg & Adams County

FEBRUARY 17
Noon and 7 p.m.
National Theatre Live “Fleabag”
Majestic Theater

FEBRUARY 3
Noon and 7 p.m.
National Theatre Live “All my sons”
Majestic Theater

FEBRUARY 29
1 p.m.,
Met Opera: Live in HD “Agrippina”
Majestic Theater

FEBRUARY 28
5-7 p.m.,
Lenten Fish Fry
St. Francis Xavier Center

For complete event descriptions or to submit your own event, visit the online calendar at www.gettysburgtimes.com

So Much To See And Do!
Though it’s turning 75 this year, the Adams County Library System is very much at home in the 21st century.

There are still plenty of books on the shelves of its six libraries, but if you walk in with the new smartphone or tablet you got for Christmas, staff members will teach you how it works. They’ll also show you how to download books and music or read magazines – all without charge. In fact, all of the system’s services are free.

Through each branch’s public-access computers or high-speed wireless service you can also:
• Get online help creating and posting a resume on various job-search sites, schedule an online practice interview with a real person, and interface with the state employment system.
• Dive into online genealogical information via sources including Ancestry.com. (There’s also a trove of hard-copy materials at the Gettysburg library.)
• Consult online newspaper archives.
• Learn a foreign language through one of more than 90 online courses, including approximately 20 that teach English as a second language.
• Access specific legal documents and information needed to represent yourself in court.

Many services and a wealth of information are available via the system’s website, www.adamslibrary.org, which summarizes the system’s mission this way: “The library that once served as an oasis of information is now here to help you navigate today’s deep, shifting sea of available resources. While our mission will always include providing information, we are now expanding to provide access to new technologies, space for creation and collaboration, and enhanced programs for learning and exploration.” The system also reaches out through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

“We try to look at what the community needs and fit those niches,” Community Relations Librarian Sara Edmiston said, and those needs obviously reach beyond the digital universe and into the real world, including myriad activities at the system’s brick-and-mortar locations in Gettysburg, Biglerville, Carroll Valley, East Berlin, Littlestown and New Oxford.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
The branches offer meeting spaces of various sizes at no charge. Some are equipped with “state of the art” audio-visual equipment, which makes them perfect for anything from a club meeting to a business function or an historical lecture, Adams Library System Executive Director Laura Goss said. But anything goes: The Biglerville library hosted a wedding, she said.

Over the decades, the role of libraries has evolved into “more of a community center,” Edmiston said. “Everybody’s welcome. We have activities for all ages,” from reading groups to a knitting club, Edmiston said.

“We’re looking to really increase the number of programs we offer so we truly offer something for every age at every branch,” Goss said. One of the highest priorities is helping local youth learn, whether as a member of a writing club or a participant in programming focused on science, technology, math, and engineering.

Efforts start with the system’s smallest patrons. “We try to help parents with early literacy, so children are ready to learn when they go to school,” Goss said.

Story times are available for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Sensory Storytime is designed for children 5 and under who have a difficult time in large groups, are on the autism spectrum, have sensory processing challenges, or other special needs.

The system is also reaching out to local public and private schools, seeking out teachers to act as liaisons, and work with classroom professionals to find out what libraries can do to help them most effectively. First graders receive applications for library cards and a free book to keep on their third library visit, Goss said.

Young children are not the only focus. A teen drop-in center is available at the Biglerville library. Participants can work on homework, work or play on computers, or simply hang out, Goss said.

The other end of the age spectrum is a high priority, too. The system regularly sends large-print books to area retirement facilities so residents
can check out reading material from an ever-changing selection, Goss said.

Plenty of activities are available for adults as well. Just one example is the annual Adams County Reads One Book program, which includes events centering on a volume chosen to help bring the community together through reading. For example, in October, “What the Dead Leave Behind” author Rosemary Simpson visited two libraries to take part in discussions of her book about her mystery set in New York during the Gilded Age.

The system has grown steadily over the decades. The six libraries share 43 full- and part-time staff members. The system boasts some 30,000 card-holding members. Physical assets, including regular books, DVDs, and audio books on CDs and videos, total roughly 150,000. Because of digital streaming, demand for music on CDs dried up, so they are no longer offered. However, DVDs still circulate heavily, illustrating that “a lot of people in Adams County don’t have cable” or internet access at home, Edmiston said. Patrons are permitted to check out as many DVDs at a time as they wish, she said.

The system operates on an annual budget of $2.8 million. Approximately half the revenue comes from Adams County and about one-fourth from the state, Goss said, while local fundraising and grants account for the remaining quarter.

Though much of its funding derives from governmental sources, the system itself is not a governmental entity but a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization governed by a nine-member volunteer board. The Jean Barnett Trone Memorial Library in East Berlin library is a separate entity working in tandem with the Adams system.

Adams Public Service Librarian Jessica Laganosky summarized the system’s genesis in a recent Gettysburg Times column. In 1939, “citizens, county librarians from other parts of the state, and the Pennsylvania state librarian discussed the possibility of a countywide system with the Adams County commissioners. After years of planning, the Adams County Library System began taking membership requests in February 1945,” she wrote. A facility opened on Carlisle Street in 1946. Operations moved to the former jail on Gettysburg’s High Street, which is now the borough hall. “In 1992, the library system moved yet again, this time to the current Gettysburg Library and Adams County Library System location at 140 Baltimore St.,” Laganosky wrote.

Residents can help the system mark this year’s anniversary by submitting library-related photos and memories, either by stopping in at any of the system’s libraries or at IloveMyLibrary@adamslibrary.org.

“Any memory you wish to share with others about a library experience” is welcome, she wrote. “It could be a memorable story time, or the memory of checking out a book for the first time, or a memorable program, or even a memorable librarian. Memories can be anecdotal, or if you have a photograph you are willing to share, we’d love to see that too.”

Other anniversary programming is still being worked out, Goss said, but the community can look forward to lots of options.

And, as in any year, the system needs the assistance of dedicated volunteers. Many ways to be of service are available. Anyone interested can contact Edmiston at sarae@adamslibrary.org.
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Welcome Winter!
Not Fine Jewelry, Fine Work!

Fine work is how artist, sculptor and gemologist Marcia Fowler describes her creations. Marcia and her husband, Fred, are the proprietors of Body and Soul Silversmith located at 461 Baltimore St., Gettysburg, next to the Rupp House. The couple opened their shop doors April 4, 2019. Prior to the incarnation of the Gettysburg business, Fred, a retired graphic arts and photography teacher, and Marcia, an artist and sculptor, owned and operated an enterprise in New Oxford for 19 years.

Marcia attended art school in her native Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she majored in sculpting. After college, Marcia sold her large sculptures with great success in galleries in Brazil. Invited to exhibit in a show in the United States, she found it harder to find an audience for her art. For the first time in her career Marcia struggled as an artist. She worked odd jobs to pay the bills until her work finally began to sell. As the years passed, Marcia’s focus on sculpting evolved into jewelry. Marcia, who immigrated here, went back to school to become a gemologist because of her desire to incorporate gems into her works of art. Each of her pieces is handcrafted from the heart. She has now been selling sculptures and jewelry for 35 years.

Fred, who retired two years ago from teaching school in New Oxford, hails from Apalachin, a small town near Binghamton in New York. But Fred wasn’t always a teacher. Relocating to Gettysburg many years ago he taught college before moving on to a community college in Virginia where he worked as a consultant, which led to management with several different printing companies. After ending his printing career with Sheridan Press in Hanover, Fred returned to his pedagogical pursuits, ultimately teaching graphic arts and photography.

Fred and Marcia began their life journey together 26 years ago when they met at a children’s party. “The most beautiful day of my life” is how Marcia describes it still, after 19 years of marriage.

Relocating the shop from New Oxford to Gettysburg was inevitable. Marcia felt the opportunity to open a storefront in Gettysburg was beneficial because it offered a larger artistic community to showcase her talents. She also loves the diversity and history that come with this town. “The icing on the cake,” Marcia says, was the building. The light in the studio and the shop are inspiring, making her feel “delighted to be here.”

With renovations, the second floor...
became their home. Living above the shop has its advantages for Marcia. It enables her to work whenever the muse strikes, which could be any time of day, or night. Don’t be surprised to drive by late at night and see the lights on. Creativity comes at all hours. As much as Fred and Marcia love being in Gettysburg and their beautiful home, both are grateful for the years they spent operating their shop in New Oxford.

When listening to Marcia talk about how her life has unfolded, passion and gratitude resonate in her voice. That very same fervor is shown in every piece of jewelry she creates. Jewelry is personal, typically handpicked and not casually bought. Along with all of Marcia’s regular work, she also does custom orders. Making an emotional connection is very important to Marcia; she hopes her customers can feel her energy pass through each piece of metal. Unlike big box jewelry stores that carry the same items and can re-order from a catalog, Marcia’s pieces are one-of-a-kind and no two pieces will look alike. Marcia’s jewelry are pieces of art created through her heart, spirit, passion and hands.

Fred is the behind-the-scenes person. He takes care of the paperwork and business dealings, which allows Marcia to focus on her art. Sharing the behind-the-scenes venue are their two beautiful dogs, Maya and Nelie. The move to Gettysburg has been very peaceful for the dogs. Fred and Marcia enjoy being able to take them for walks along the streets of Gettysburg. As much as the move to Gettysburg has been fulfilling for Fred, Marcia and the dogs, customers are appreciative, too. Upon entering the Baltimore Street shop, on one wall is a large white board which reads “Friends of Body and Soul.” Folks, be they from near or far, are encouraged to write upon the board about their visit to the shop. Myriad well-wishers have scribbled their sentiments. One wrote “Whoever says diamonds are a girl’s best friend has not bought a piece of art from Marcia.” Another wrote, “Your art has inspired me as well as your amazing personality. I love your energy.”

Body and Soul is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., with some abbreviated hours for holidays. Visit the store’s website, www.bodyandsoulgettysburg.com, to check the hours and for a look at the on-line catalog.
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As the gunsmith’s art has evolved throughout the centuries, so too has life changed for Robert and Brandi Bollinger, owners of an ever-growing, Maryland-based gunsmith business. What began in an 1830’s barn is now a multi-faceted endeavor at a downtown Taneytown, Maryland, storefront. Owning a business wasn’t originally part of the plan for Robert. “I started as a police officer out of high school,” he said. Robert joined the SWAT team, and eventually armored some of the department’s weapons. “That’s how I got into it, firearms in general,” he said. Along the way, he met Brandi and they wed in 2004. As time passed, Robert and Brandi’s family grew with the births of their two daughters, Natali and Nicole, and two American Bulldogs, Dozer and Tank, affectionately referred to as the “shop greeters,” joined the household. In the meantime, Robert took a gunsmithing course, and eventually a business was born.

“Before I knew it, we were in business, no customers, no inventory, just the basic hand tools,” Robert said, noting he had tinkered with the trade since the turn of the millennium, but only made the entrepreneurial leap a decade later, in 2010.

Although there was no specific license, per se, necessary for a person to work as a gunsmith, to operate a business making and selling guns was another matter, requiring Robert to jump through myriad state and federal hoops, which he successfully accomplished, allowing him to open Bollinger Gunsmithing & Sales in the family’s barn.

Robert, ever humble, made light of his skill for the art saying, “Guns are just machines. You have tools to take them apart and put them back together. You learn the nuances of the different manufacturers and the rest is taking apart and putting together.” In the early centuries of gun-making, each piece was made by hand, “cut and filed” with hand tools, he said, but nowadays a “CNC machine” does the work. CNC is computer numerical control, which allows machine tools to be controlled by computer. “You draw it on the computer. The computer cuts it out and you fit it together,” said Robert, making it sound a lot easier than it actually is.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15
is.

While there are people who still do custom work, the time involved makes the end product cost-prohibitive, he said.

“You can’t get people to pay for a custom stock,” Robert said. It takes some 60 or so hours to carve a gun stock by hand, making the cost skyrocket. “I could probably remodel a kitchen for what it would cost” to handcraft a gun. “It takes about three hours if it’s done by a CNC machine, and it’s still completely custom work,” he said.

For years, the “checkering” on major manufacturers’ gun stocks has been done by hand, but even that practice is fast fading. Checkering is the carved cross-hatch diamond design which allows for a better grip. “There were a group of women out west who checkered for the major manufacturers,” Robert said, noting that art is dying because a computer-operated machine can do in 10 minutes what it would take a person an hour or more to do by hand.

As the art has stepped into the 21st century, gunsmithing, machine work and computer skills have become intertwined. “Some machinists do awesome work,” said Robert. “A machinist makes the parts and a gunsmith makes the parts work.”

Robert says he’s not technically a machinist, but his workshop is filled with the tools of that trade, which he routinely uses. “I didn’t go to school to be a machinist, but I use machinist’s tool every day,” from etchings to checkering to cutting barrels.

While Bollinger’s can handle custom-made stocks, gun barrels are a mainstay. “We mostly do barrels. We machine new barrels and put them on,” said Robert.

Making sure all the parts work well together to shoot accurately is key in competitive shooting. “Accurizing” the firearm is what people “want for competition,” to make sure the projectile hits the target precisely.

At 41, Robert said he is the youngest gunsmith he knows; many are now senior citizens, ready to retire and pass the mantle to a younger generation. “It takes a lot of money to get into.” Robert and Brandi grew their business over several years, adding new machines as finances allowed and increasing their customer base, until they were finally able to move out of their barn into their current 19 W. Baltimore St., Taneytown, location.

“From 2010 to 2013, it was part time. We went from having one to two customers a week, to 70 to 80 after the (2012) Newtown shooting,” Robert said.

By the end of 2017, it was time for a change for the growing business, which prompted the purchase of the main street store, allowing for growth of services the Bollingers are able to offer, and expansion of retail sales.

“We now have a customer base of 2,500 to 3,000 throughout the year. I think we are successful because of our versatility; we have the retail plus the gunsmith and custom services. And every time the government talks regulations, sales go up,” Robert said.

The shop also boasts a conference room for training classes. “We teach basic handgun” classes, Robert said, noting the difference in requirements for handgun ownership between Maryland and Pennsylvania, with Maryland being more stringent requiring an HQL (Handgun Quality License) before a handgun may be purchased. That class is one day for four hours. Two-day concealed carry classes, which include the HQL, are also available. The shop also offers passport photography, live scan fingerprinting and notary work.

With its computerized equipment, Bollinger’s also offers customized wood and metal work, everything from creating memorial plaques to decorating the handles of fabric shears. Recently the gun shop also added a new dimension in a “black room” on its second floor where folks, especially youngsters, can play with Nerf guns.

Bollinger Gunsmithing & Sales LLC, 19 W. Baltimore St., Taneytown, Md. 21787, phone, 410-756-5454, is open Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m, and closed on Sundays.
What began as a volunteer effort to help others in need has grown into a years’ long, award-winning career for a Gettysburg native daughter.

Connie Woodruff was recently recognized with the American Cancer Society Regions Club Award. Connie is an American Cancer Society (ACS) community development manager serving Adams and Franklin counties, where she oversees the Relay for Life events, which are near and dear to her heart. The American Cancer Society Regions Club Award bestowed upon Connie recognizes her exceptional accomplishments on behalf of the ACS. The honor is given to an employee who espouses the society’s cultural beliefs and core values while fulfilling ACS’s mission.

“Many, many years ago I did the door-to-door crusade,” Connie said of her initiation into dedicating her life to serving the American Cancer Society.

In years’ past, ACS conducted neighborhood fundraisers with volunteers, called crusaders working under a community captain, going about the areas in which they lived asking friends and family for donations for the cancer society. The crusaders collected contributions and offered information. Connie, at the time a young mother, began what would eventually become her life’s work as such a volunteer, going door to door in her neighborhood to raise funds annually for the society.

“We don’t do that anymore. It’s a different world now,” Connie reminisced, noting the many changes throughout the years, both personal and professional.

Connie graduated from Gettysburg High School in 1974. She went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa., followed by a master’s degree from Bucknell, after which she became a certified school psychologist working at the sheltered workshop, now the Hart Center, as a vocational evaluator. She married her sweetheart Gene during her senior years.
year of college; they’ve now shared 42 years of marriage. Connie and Gene had two children who are now grown, a daughter who is a teacher and a son who is a police officer. After the birth of their second child, Connie opted to stay home to care for her children, but volunteered with the annual ACS campaign.

“Then a staff position opened up. I’d been home with the children, but thought I might get back involved,” Connie said. “The children were in second and fifth grades when I started working for the American Cancer Society.”

Connie has now tallied 27-and-a-half years of dedicated service in the ACS’s employ. While some aspects have changed over the years, many remain the same. The American Cancer Society is still a “volunteer driven” organization, she said. There are 1.5 million volunteers working to fight cancer worldwide through ACS. Relay for Life teams fundraise year round. “The volunteers are excited. They work to get donations and sponsorship,” Connie said.

While Daffodil Days are a visible reminder to donate and help ACS, Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society’s signature fundraiser.

Relay for Life has evolved and grown since one man conceived of the effort more than 30 years ago. In 1985, for 24 hours, Dr. Gordon Klatt ran and walked more than 83 miles around a Tacoma, Washington track, eventually raising $27,000. A year later 340 other people comprising 19 teams joined in the awareness fundraiser, netting $33,000 in donations for ACS. Since its simple beginning, Relay for Life has become a fundraising phenomenon. Locally, in recent years, groups have foregone the original 24-hour format in favor of time periods which better fit their individual communities.

“Over the years, as the world has changed, we’ve started not having them be twenty-four hours, although some still are,” said Connie, for whom the relays are a major part of her job.

In Adams County, the 2020 Relay for Life is set for May 9, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. at Oakside Park in Biglerville. “It’s a fifteen-hour event now, but the teams have been raising funds all year long,” Connie said. The local Relay for Life began at Oakside, temporarily moved to a school in Gettysburg, but has returned to its original Biglerville venue, said Connie. The Chambersburg event is set for May 2, and will be for 12 hours. “Greencastle is the largest, it’s twenty hours.” Set for the third weekend in May, it will run from 4 p.m. Friday through 12 noon Saturday. Also getting in on the giving action are students at Mercersburg Academy, she said. The youngsters will, for the second year, host an abbreviated indoor Relay for Life event at the school on March 29 from 1 to 6 p.m. Also, there is a fundraiser auction in Waynesboro.

Each Relay for Life event boasts games, entertainment, speakers, decorations, sometimes bands even turn out to play. “There is a lot of activity, but the nicest things of all at the events are the luminarias, they are very pretty,” Connie said. The luminarias, decorated with the names of loved ones, line tracks and walkways, or even the pond at Oakside, and are lit when the sky is dark, casting a light into the world in honor or memory of someone who has been touched by cancer.

In addition to the volunteer fundraising efforts, the American Cancer Society provides services to people dealing with cancer, as well as providing education about cancer. “One of the things I do is speak to groups about the programs and services,” Connie said. “Many people don’t know volunteers provide rides for people to get to treatments.” Also, there are three Hope Lodges which provide accommodations for people receiving treatment in Hershey, Harrisburg and Philadelphia, she said, noting a caregiver must stay with the person at the lodge. “They are like a Ronald McDonald House for adults.” If the Hope Lodge is full the ACS partners with certain hotels which will provide a room either free or for a reduced charge. There is also a shuttle van to provide transportation. ACS also offers a 24-hour-a-day hotline, 1-800-227-2345, for people who need information, referrals or other resources.

Like so many people she helps, Connie too is a survivor, having been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003. “This is not a job with closure. There is always more to do,” Connie said.
A trip to Bube’s Brewery in Mount Joy is like stepping back in time. And that’s just the way it’s supposed to be.

“The exciting thing is that the place hasn’t changed,” said Jeffrey Woodman, director of marketing and public relations for the nearly 150-year-old brewery and event space.

Located just over an hour from Gettysburg, Bube’s is the only intact lager brewery in the United States, Woodman said. “Others are much bigger than ours, but they do not have the original structure,” he said. Visitors are “actually walking into the way the brewery was built in 1876.”

Owner Samuel Allen bought the business in 1982, set on preserving the legacy built by Alois Bube, a German immigrant, amidst the boom in popularity of German lager beers in the mid-1800s. Each feature of the original brewery, from the stables to the lager-aging facilities to the tavern and hotel, have been repurposed to create a truly unique and interactive dining experience.

The bright yellow exterior visible from Main Street is deceiving, as most of the building’s interior features dark brick and dim lighting. Just inside the main entrance, in the brewery’s original bottling works, a pub area offers a selection of familiar fare served by friendly staff. On a recent visit, Sunday football was playing on a huge screen in the pub, but the intimate bar seating and subdued lighting made the space a cozy place to grab a bite and a brew. The pub also hosts regular open mic and karaoke nights, trivia, and live music.

The brewery’s original tavern and hotel host murder mystery dinners that sell out every weekend, Woodman said. Down a long flight of wooden stairs, 43 feet to be exact, sits the original lager-aging area, which is today the Catacombs Restaurant. Strings of twinkling lights and seasonal decor brighten the underground space.

The Catacombs features a fine dining menu as well as a variety of themed feasts throughout the year. Bube’s employs its own acting troupe, Woodman said, and guests at the feasts and murder mystery events are often invited to become part of the story.

The brewery recently added a Prohibition-era escape room event to its lineup, challenging visitors to work their way out of a secret hiding space to avoid being arrested by police.

The brewery’s former stables have been transformed into an outdoor beer garden. It’s not open during the fall and winter months, but Woodman says warmer weather brings visitors to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20
the beer garden for the atmosphere and outdoor games, such as cornhole and a giant chess board. While Allen has kept the building’s structure intact, the brewery’s menu has evolved over the years. A variety of small batch beers rotate on a regular basis, overseen by head brewer Mitch Romig. About a half-dozen are on tap at any given time, and are only available in-house, Woodman said. Recent selections included a Belgian holiday ale, an imperial stout, and the Mount Joy Lager, a traditional German lager. Bube’s also offers a variety of guest beers and a full bar.

The brewery’s new chef, Kevin Booth, has developed a diverse menu and a faithful following, Woodman said. Booth’s recent seasonal specialties include a mac and cheese dish with gruyere, bacon and scallion, a smoky seafood gumbo, a creamy seafood lasagna, and seared duck breast with pumpkin gnocchi. Booth and his staff also cater the brewery’s special events, including weddings and corporate events for several hundred people at a time, Woodman said. The original lodging facilities on the building’s top floor are still in use, and guests can reserve one of the themed rooms for an overnight stay. The rooms are particularly popular with bachelor and bachelorette parties, Woodman said. The brewery also owns several adjacent properties, which can be rented as AirBnBs for a night or more.

Maintaining the brewery’s historic structure and ambience is a challenge, Woodman said, as so much of the building is original. However, Allen and his staff are dedicated to keeping this marriage of history and modern, lively entertainment alive.

“We are very special to central PA, that’s for sure,” Woodman said.

Bube’s Brewery is located at 102 N. Market St., Mount Joy. For more information, visit bubesbrewery.com or find the brewery on Facebook.

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