2018 THE MERCURY PEADERS' CHOICE

Minners

Noah's Pet Motel — the country club for dogs and cats

country club for dogs and cats." We pride ourselves as being the safest and cleanest place to board your furry friends when you go ing a window seat in their on vacation.

Your dog will be pampered in our heated/airconditioned rooms with 24-hour DVD players that feature pet-friendly movies like "101 Dalmatians," hua" and "Marmaduke." We can provide play time with a kennel tech, Frosty Paws Ice Cream treats, elevated PetCots, couch potato time and senior care for older dogs. These services are not included in our boarding rate, but our prices are so reasonable, lax at home with you!

Since 1989, Noah's Pet tate to add on a few fun ex- in a row winning The Motel has been called "The tras to make your pets stay more like home!

> Our Cattery is in a separate building from the dogs so they can rest easy enjoycozy condos. We allow each friendly cat to have individual roaming time outside of their condo to play with the toys, climb on the furniture or use the scratching posts.

We also offer Doggie "Beverly Hills Chihua- Daycare Monday through Friday, where you can drop your dog off during our morning business hours for a fun, interactive day with other dogs. Then, when you pick up your pooped pooch during our evening business hours, they will come home tired and ready to re-

Mercury Readers' Choice Award for Best Boarding Facility. Each year since 2012, you have recognized Noah's Pet Motel for our quality and care of your pets, and we thank you!

This is the second year, 2018, that we are also the proud recipient of the winner for Mercury Readers' Choice for Best Groomer! Heather has been our groomer for 11 years and does an excellent job grooming dogs as well as cats.

Treat your pet to a vacation at Noah's Pet Motel, open seven days a wee.

We are located at 1661 S. Hanover St. (Route 100), Pottstown, in North Coventry. Call us at 610-323-2206 or visit our website at

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& Formals continues with grandmother or mother got the same great attention to their gown, just with a new customer service as it has fresh look and feel. over the past 45+ years.

Under the new owner- given to everyone all the ful, fun magical experiship of Bridget Zimmer- time. Here the customer re- ence while in the shop. It's

Agnes Edmunds Bridals the same shop where your that you just cannot get at the big bridal stores.

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Dance Studio

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Buffet

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Coventry Parlor at Laurel Locks

Indian Food

Cuisine India

Italian Food

Mamma Maria's Italian Restaurant &

Pizzeria

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Fujiyama

Lunch

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Mexican

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HOME IMPROVEMENT

Eight things to know before hiring a contractor

A press release from A.D. Moyer Lumber

Your home is your most important financial investment. When it's time to perform repairs, add on or remodel, you deserve to know that the people and businesses doing the work can be trusted. There is perhaps little else that can throw a wrench into your life's progress, completely disrupt your home and family and decimate your finances like home improvement fraud.

The good news is it is easily avoided by taking the time to follow these simple steps before hiring a home improvement contractor.

Always get three bids

Generally, consumers make a big mistake on both ends of this spectrum: fail-

or getting far too many bids. A tried and tested method is to solicit at least three bids. Doing so gives you the idea of the general price range of the project and also enables you to quickly identify those who may be way off of the mark on either the high side or the low side.

Don't ever rely solely on price for a project

Use the price as one consideration in the process. Ultimately, you need to select your contractor based on other factors including presentation, communication, professionalism, flexibility and their willingness to provide credentials and refer-

You are going to be in-

deal over the course of your project. Having a respectful, punctual and clean contractor who communicates well is just as important as the price that you pay — especially when they're practically living with you during a large-scale project.

The goal in taking the time to get three estimates is to end up with a high-quality project completed in a substantial workmanlike manner at a fair price. That's a return well worth your time invested.

Price vs value

One of American business magnate Warren Buffett's most famous quotes is, "Price is what you pay; value is what you get."

Don't ever base the deciteracting with this contrac-sion of awarding a home im-

tractor solely on price. The well to add something for the ultimate value of the outcome of the project is what you will be living with (literally and emotionally) for a very long time. Perhaps prominent social thinker and materials being used philanthropist John Ruskin put it best in the 1800s: "Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of intelligent effort."

"It's unwise to pay too much, but it's worse to pay much, you lose a little money – that's all. When you pay too little, you sometimes lose everything, because the thing you bought was incapable of doing the thing it was bought to do."

"The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot

risk you run, and if you do that you will have enough to pay for something better."

Know the quality of

Ask your potential contractor where they will be purchasing the materials. Check the reputation of the supplier(s) and the brand of materials. Quality-conscious too little. When you pay too contractors will not stake their reputation on the installation of inferior products that are not backed by the manufacturer and by the supplier. These products may cost a bit more but ultimately will deliver a higher-quality result and longer-lasting satisfaction.

Visit the supplier show--it can't be done. If you deal rooms -if possible -to

ing to get more than one bid tor and their crew a great provement project to a con- with the lowest bidder, it is view the materials on display. Take the time to talk to an experienced sales person and learn about the item(s).

Spend local

Local, independent suppliers, such as A.D. Moyer Lumber and contractors alike, live and work in the same communities as you. The money they earn is reinvested back into those communities, local governments, parks, schools and emergency services, which benefits all involved.

Avoid large national contractor and supplier conglomerates who seldom have your best interests at heart, use workers from well outside of your region, can be very difficult to deal with, often lack accountability and do not reinvest in sustaining

CONTRACTOR » PAGE 7



THE MERCURY | Reader's Choice • 7 FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

Geyer Auctions — serving the area since 1957

the auction business for on the East Coast have been more than 20 years. Mark managed by Geyer Auction has been the owner of the Ken Gever Real Estate Auctioneers Inc. since 1999. He of the auction business and but small enough to prowas trained by the previ- vide the best service. Certious owner and founder, Ken Geyer, who was one of the leading auctioneers in the tions or for other purposes country.

tate Auctioneers Inc. is a sale of business. member of the PA Auctioneer Association (PAA) and the National Auction Assocontest and have placed in the top 10 in the nation.

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nies are specialists in truck, van, vehicle, equipment and material liquidations. Some ate!

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the local economies.

Verify licensing and

In the state of Pennsyl-

vania (and multiple other

While having this registra-

eral's website. All contractors

walk away quickly!

FROM PAGE 6

insurance

Companies. Auctions are live, online or both.

fied appraisals are available for setting auction expectalike tax/accounting doc-The Ken Geyer Real Es- umentation, insurance or

Real estate auctions

ciation (NAA). Our auction- to sell your real estate and eers have won first-place convert your assets into awards in the PAA calling cash, now is the time to consider a real estate auction. Today more than ever, sellers are choosing the auction also a licensed auction commethod of selling real estate. Auctions attract large Jersey and Delaware. groups of buyers. There are Geyer Auction Compa- no contingencies, and there Auction Companies at 800is no limit to the dollar volume an auction can gener-

Mark Akins has been in of the largest liquidations **Our marketing creates**

■ Impact: The marketing plan will focus on the right Geyer is big enough to buyers. Through online and has worked in every aspect achieve the best results print advertising, prospective bidders will be uncovered. Social media, Craigslist and online listings will be used, in addition to print advertising and mailing campaigns.

> Urgency: Announcing that the property will be sold on a fixed date and time will stimulate partici-If you are in the market pation by all interested par-

> > The Ken Gever Real Estate Auctioneers Inc. is a leading real estate company in the tri-state area. We are pany in the states of New

> > Contact Mark at Geyer 554-5005 or visit www.GeverAuctions.com for more information.

registration number on all they keep their trucks and contracts, estimates, proposals and advertisements. You ing the jobsite clean at day's should also check for docu- end and how they and their mented complaints with the crew present themselves) will Better Business Bureau. Get references and call

them (customers and suppliers)

Always ask your contracstates), all contractors must tor for references. This inbe licensed with the state cludes, of course, refer-Attorney General's Office. ences of recent customers for whom the contractor has tion is not an endorsement completed like projects. But as to the quality of workmanalso ask for references from signed contract before any ship, not having it is a highthe contractor's supplier(s) flying red flag. If a contracthat they will be using for tor is not registered with the your project. Call them or derstand what's in the constate, grab your wallet and stop in and have a brief conversation to get a feel for To verify the registration each individual's perception tractor to ask for one-third of a home improvement conof the contractor in general, tractor in Pennsylvania, go to as well as details of project the Registered Contractors flow, cleanliness, communisection of the attorney gen-

cation and punctuality. The people who sweat the must display their official small details (i.e. how clean

tools, being punctual, leavmost often care more about the big details (like the outcome of your project).

Always have a contract ... and read it!

Nailing down a project's specifics in a written contract protects the homeowner and the contractor. It's critical for you to have a work begins. It's also critical for you to read and fully untract prior to signing.

It's common for a conto one-half of the contract price in advance as a deposit. Don't ever pay the contract price in full until the work is completed to specifications.



Mark Akins

President 647 Congo Road Gilbertsville PA 19525

THANK YOU for Voting for Us!

We Look Forward to Serving You in the Future!



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

ESTATE AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 8 @ 9am

Preview: Friday, September 7, 2018 10am - 4pm Tractors, Tools, Guns, Antiques, Collectibles Location: 125 Seitz Road. Schwenksville. PA

AUCTION - SEPTEMBER 15 @ 11am

Previews: August 26th 5pm-7pm and August 30th 5pm - 7pm Magnificent 7 Bedroom Custom Home on 8 Acres and 13 Acre "Approved" (3 Lot) Subdivision Location: 393 Layfield Road, Perkiomenville, PA Sold in conjunction with: Scott Furman - RE/MAX Classic

REAL ESTATE / EQUIPMENT AUCTION OCT 6 @ 9am

Real Estate Preview: Sunday, September 23 from 1 - 3pm Equipment Preview: Friday, October 5 from 10am - 4pm 2.5 Acres, Office, Garage, Trucks, Equipment, Surplus Inventory Location: 183 Pottsville Street, Cressona, PA

COLLEGE LIQUIDATION AUCTION - SEPTEMBER

ONLINE AND LIVE - SEPTEMBER - 4 DAY SALE Complete Liquidation Burlington County Community College Theater Items/Props, Lab Equipment, Dental Equipment Office Furniture, Tractors, Lighting, Heater, AC units Location: Pemberton Campus - Burlington County

TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT AUCTION - OCTOBER

ONLINE AND LIVE - OCTOBER

Burlington County Roads Dept. - Trucks, Dump Trucks, Equipment Location: 624 Pemberton-Browns Mill Rd, Pemberton, NJ

ONLINE AUCTION BRIDAL TOWN - SEPTEMBER

Preview: TBD

Wedding Gowns, Dresses, Show Cases, Lights, Chandeliers, Heaters Location: Collegeville, PA

REAL ESTATE AUCTION - OCTOBER

Location: 2752 N. Charlotte St., Gilbertsville, PA

REAL ESTATE AUCTION – OCTOBER

Location: 33 Lindy Lane, Boyertown, PA

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10 E Reader's Choice | THE MERCURY FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

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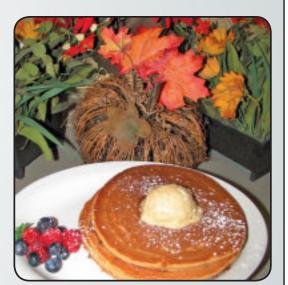








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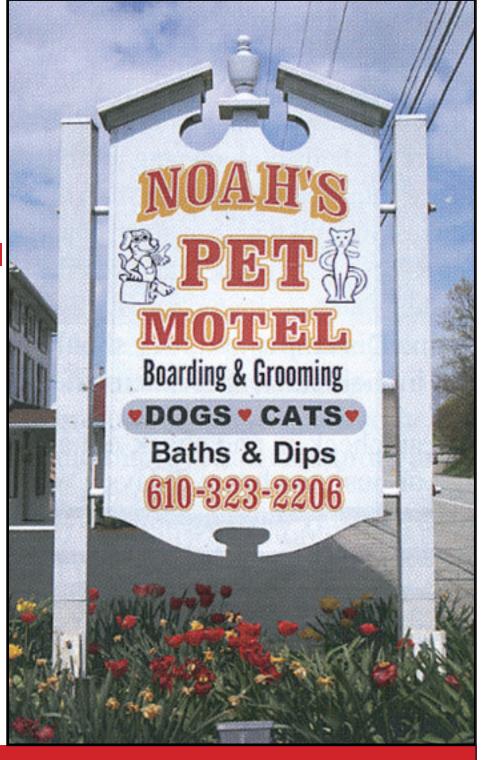
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play area for kids at our more information. kids corn maze!

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

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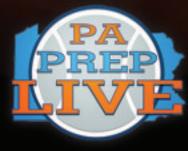
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What's the cost of replacement windows?

When it comes time to update your home, replacement vinyl windows, doors are excellent choices

Year after year, vinyl replacement windows are one of the top 10 projects in REMODEL-ING Magazine's Cost vs. Value Report. And that hasn't changed.

The 2015 report places the average cost to replace 10 vinyl windows, in a mid-range home, at around \$11,198, which will add \$8,163 to the home's value. That's a 73 percent return on investment!

Now that's just an average. So to help you estimate, let's take a look at the top features that could influence the final cost of replacement windows and doors.

Energy efficiency

By far, energy efficiency is the most important quality homeowners are looking for today.

There are many glass options, including Low E glass, gas fills and spacer systems that make a window energy efficient.

Look for ENERGY STAR certified windows and doors. They are designed to deliver maximum results for wherever you live.

Although glass options may add to the cost of windows, you'll appreciate the lower heating and cooling bills and year round comfort they

help provide.

Different types of windows

When selecting windows and doors for your home, style, size and function can affect the cost. The following are few styles with extra benefits that may justify paying more:

- Casement windows are the most energy efficient operable window. They offer a larger viewing area and are also easier to open and close for those who aren't able to lift or slide a sash.
- Geometric styles add curb appeal and unique

style to your home.

- Bay and bow windows add extra space and seating to a room and unique dimension to a home's exterior.
- Patio doors provide a wide open view and easy access to your outdoor living space.

Grids, color and hardware

Adding style to your home with grids, color and hardware will add to the budget, but enhancing your home's unique style is well worth it. Increase curb appeal and be the envy of the neighborhood with exte-

rior colors. Interior colors and wood grains add warmth and character to a home, while window hardware in distinct metal finishes can coordinate with drawer pulls, faucets and lighting for a cohesive look.

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22 E Reader's Choice | THE MERCURY FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

Ty Pennington to help celebrate Rotelle Studio(E) Dream BIG Custom Home Event

Company CEO Peter Rotelle and his ing a new home should attend this event male team of design experts at Rotelle Studio(e) have enlisted reality star Ty Pennington of "Trading Spaces" and "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" fame to help go head-to-head with The Mercury's 2018 Reader's Choice Award custom home builder's all-female design team in the first-ever He vs. She Shed Shindig.

The design contest will culminate in a reveal during Rotelle's Sept. 15th Studio(e) Dream BIG Custom Home Event.

Anyone thinking about buying or build-

to learn how it's possible to build an affordable, distinctive, one-of-a-kind custom home personalized to their lifestyle. Rotelle's in-house architect, interior designers, financing and land experts will be on hand for tours and questions from 1 to 4: p.m. Guests can win a custom-designed outdoor shed, over \$100,000 in custom home upgrades and classic rock concert tickets.

Register at www.rotelle.com for free event passes while they last.

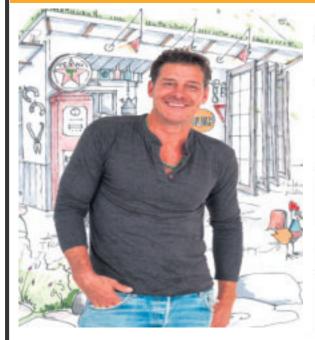






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rotelle.com

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Follow the Shed-to-Shed Build Competition on WMGK 102.9 and Rotelle Studio(e)'s Facebook Page.

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THE MERCURY | Reader's Choice (31 FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

Sanatoga Animal Hospital offers compassionate care

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018



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Pottstown Dance Theatre returns to Olympics and wants you

the Pottstown Dance Theatre!

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We want more dancers cracker"! to join us! You are going to love dancing with us!

have a fall performance in set in the frighteningly spooky house to Oingo Boingo, the "Walking Dead" www.pottstowndance.com theme and a finale to the for more information.

It's been quite a year at iconic Michael Jackson song, "Thriller"! After seeing the ghouls dance, enjoy a spooktacular Halloween Bash with yummies and provement project, the stu- music until 9 p.m. Tickets are available upon arrival gie Hall for a second time and are \$8 per person. Costumes for patrons are optional, but the person with to the 2020 Olympic Games the best costume wins four free tickets to "The Nut-

Dancers from age 3 to adult are welcome to join Classes are starting on the Pottstown Dance The-Monday, Sept. 10, and the atre family! Your dancer repertory ensemble will will blossom right before your very eyes and will the studio, "The Haunted learn a love for the art form Dance Theatre," on Satur- that will last! You will get day, Oct. 6, beginning at 6 world class performance p.m. Come and see dance opportunities that are once in a lifetime! Check us out!

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34 | Reader's Choice | THE MERCURY FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

St. Teresa of Calcutta Day Camp — exciting, fun, educational

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THE MERCURY | Reader's Choice 135

READERS' CHOICE

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36 | Reader's Choice | THE MERCURY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

Kalejta Financial Management voted readers' choice

Kalejta Financial Management, 55 Sunnybrook Road, Sanatoga. Pictured are, from left: Joe LoStracco, Dean Fox, Greg Levengood, Thomas Kalejta, Jane Leonard and Kelly Sutter. Other members of the firm not pictured above are Bill Reif, Kristin Reeser and Lisa Binder.



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THE MERCURY | Reader's Choice • 37 FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2018

READERS' CHOICE

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heritage, we honor the dignity and autonomy of each person who lives and works here, regardless of their faith that any future health needs journey. In everything we do, we're oriented toward building authentic, friendly community, and together we en- you are joy a full calendar of enriching activities that allow us to explore our interests and engage our curiosity toward

Frederick Living is an intimate, family like place — only it's easy to feel connected to you feel at home.

villa homes with a thought-And our complete spectrum ing personal care, licensed Rooted in our Mennonite health care, rehabilitation services, respite and memory support services means that you can relax knowing will be taken care of.

A home as individual as

When you choose a retirement community, you have to consider many things, like convenient services, thoughtful amenities, a rich variety of activities. But most of all,

At Frederick Living, we're proud of the rich, active lifestyle we live here, and we're gratified by the welcoming feeling of community we share here. We're happy that the people who live here feel so comfortable, so connected ... so much at home.

We've designed a variety of residences that offer maintenance-free independent living on your terms. Our villas, charming Dogwood and Maplewood cottages, our new Meadows cottages and convenient apartment homes and patio residences each offer a variety of floor plans and room configurations to suit your style. Our comfortable personal care apartments and nursing care residences are available as well to provide a seamless continuum of care should vou need it so you can rest easy knowabout 300 people live here, so you need to know whether ing you'll always have a home at Frederick Living.

Dad is going to love it here.



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2849 Big Road, Frederick, PA 19435 frederickliving.org

Aspen Village — Frederick Living's personal care memory support neighborhood — offers a secure environment for your loved one who may be experiencing cognitive deficits due to Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

Designed to be as engaging and homelike as possible, Aspen Village provides a comfortable, relaxed setting with beautiful grounds, an abundance of wellness activities, and attentive staff that cares about your loved one's health, happiness and security.

Please call **610-754-7878** to schedule a personal tour. We look forward to meeting you.











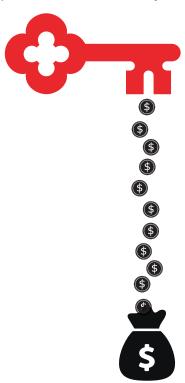
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Potts & Penn Family Diner voted area's No. 1 diner

Potts & Penn Family Diner is located at 80 E. High Street, at the corner of York and East High streets, in what was originally Dempsey's. Although only having been open for less than three years, they have been voted the area's number one diner in the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Readers' Choice contest.

Potts & Penn Family Diner is open daily from 7 a.m.

For more information, check out Potts & Penn Family Diner on Facebook.







www.colestobacco.com

Sanatoga Corp. going strong in its 93rd year of business

It's probably fair to say there products, including Frigidaire, sale support." are few people who've lived in the Pottstown area at one time or another that haven't purchased at least one appliance from Sanatoga Corp., one of the oldest and most enduring family businesses in the area, now boxes?" says Wittenmyer. in its third generation of family ownership.

stores, Sanatoga Corp., which is the largest independent appliance dealer in the area and the only appliance parts dealer its original location. It is operhis sisters, Connie and Karen.

"No one has as many instock appliances anywhere in "And that includes the big-box and department stores." People are frequently surprised to find out how many home appliular domestic and name-brand faster delivery and better after- but we are still going strong."

G.E., Kitchenaid, Electrolux, Whirlpool, Maytag and Bosch, and some of the newer companies like Samsung and LG.

"A lot of people ask, 'How do you compete with the big

of the biggest buying co-op on In the era of big-box super the East Coast, one with over 500 members, permits stores such as this to buy as one and successfully compete with chain stores. Plus, this offers in the area, still operates out of them the ability to order appliances that are not in stock and ated by Bryan Wittenmyer and have them delivered to the store service. The staff has years of in 24 hours, something the "bigbox" stores are rarely able to do.

Wittenmyer points out, "We this area," says Wittenmyer. as an independent dealer have been experiencing increases in sales as customers begin to swing away from the 'big box' stores. They realize that dealances on display throughout the ing with a local business like than the bigger stores do. We've store's two floors. We offer pop- us gives them better service,

The store sells most major home appliances including kitchen ranges, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, microwaves, dishwashers, washers and dryers. Recent additions to the product line are He explains that being part eco-friendly attachments for washing machines that permit users to clean and sanitize clothes without detergent.

Wittenmyer says Sanatoga Corp. has remained strong because of "the family's commitment to quality, affordable pricing and superior customer product knowledge, which is frequently lacking in larger operations.

"We have a lot of returning customers, and we usually know them by name or by face. I believe we have a better relationship with our customers seen a lot of stores come and go,



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