NEPA
BEST PLACES TO WORK
December 16, 2017
TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP
Honoring 56 Northeastern Pennsylvania Businesses

Building Blocks Learning Center staff pose with their award.

Photo by Bill Tarutis | Times Leader
Web.com Named “Best Place to Work 2017”

If you’re looking to grow with an innovative company, check out Web.com in Drums, Penn. - recently named one of Northeast Pennsylvania’s (NEPA) Best Places to Work.

“NEPA Best Places to Work is meant to highlight the best, most innovative places in the area, and each business is voted for by readers. With its excellent culture and strong reputation locally, it’s no surprise that Web.com is a part of this honor,” said Mike McGinley, Times Leader Media Group’s major account representative.

With over 3.5 million customers, Web.com provides a full range of Internet services to small businesses to help them compete and succeed online - from building their brands online, reaching more customers and communicating better with the customers they have.

A Company of Service:

Although a large company with over 3,000 employees, Web.com maintains a small-company feel that fosters individual career progression. A casual and comfortable work environment encourages employees to be themselves, while a deep commitment to innovation keeps employees striving to do their best.

A service-oriented company, the Web.com mission and values are at the heart of its culture. Simple, yet powerful, these values inspire all employees to embrace service, communication, teamwork, courage, and passion in all that they do.
Employees at the Drums location have long exemplified dedication, team spirit and civic involvement. They know how to have fun while also giving back to the community through activities such as:

- Holding a Heart Walk that raised more than $20,000 to help the Northeast Pennsylvania Heart Association fight heart disease and stroke
- Making children’s holiday wishes come true through the Christmas Angels wish fulfillment program sponsored by Luzerne County Children & Youth
- Providing a safe environment for hundreds of special needs children and adults to trick-or-treat at the annual Trail of Treats Halloween costume party
- Putting on an employee talent contest, Web’s Got Talent, that raised money for local charities including the Janet Weis Children’s Hospital, The Shriners Hospital, Wounded Warrior, ARC of Luzerne County, Protect Our Winters and more
- Winning the Grand Prize in the Hazleton Chamber of Commerce holiday decorating contest, including Best Theme, “Holidays at the Movies.” As the prize, TV station WYLN filmed and aired a commercial starring Web.com employees.

“Our employees in Drums consistently reflect the Web.com values, found in all Web.com employees, through their dedication to quality in every customer interaction,” said Web.com Chairman and CEO David Brown.

Competitive Benefits:

Web.com proudly offers a comprehensive, competitive, flexible benefits package that includes a wide range of choices and programs that will best meet the needs of each individual or family. From stock options to tuition reimbursement, the benefits of Web.com are a cut above the rest, aimed to support and nurture employees.

Web.com also fosters a company-wide commitment to wellness. From annual heart walks with our partners at the American Heart Association to an onsite health clinic for employees, wellness at Web.com is a company priority.

Making Headlines:

Being named NEPA’s Best Places to work is an incredible honor, but it isn’t the first time that Web.com’s Drums office has made headlines.

In 2016, Web.com on-shored customer service jobs that had formerly been outsourced to the Philippines. The move, which culminated with hiring 74 new Web.com employees at the Drums location, brought Web.com’s entire customer service operation back to North America.

Pennsylvania’s Governor Tom Wolf personally visited the office to thank Web.com for bringing new jobs to the community.

Interested in being a part of one of the best places to work in PA?
Head over to web.com/careers to learn more.
Employers celebrate ‘Best Places to Work’ honors bestowed by TL readers

By Kulsoom Khan
kkhan@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE — One might think of only businesses when it comes to ranking the best places to work, but don’t tell that to faculty members from Wyoming Area Catholic School in Exeter.

“All of our opinions are taken into consideration and we feel as though we are heard and it’s like our school,” said Erin Weiss, a teacher, who has worked at the school for 10 years and is an alumnus as well. “We all have a say and we all pitch in and we just have a lot of fun. There’s no reason not to.”

That was certainly clear as Weiss, one of her fellow teachers and the school’s principal ate, drank, and laughed as only good friends do at an awards banquet Tuesday honoring the school as one of the “Best Places to Work” in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Some 55 other businesses and organizations in the region — from health care centers to restaurants to marketing companies — were also honored at the event sponsored by the Times Leader Media Group.

Times Leader readers voted on the Best Places to Work and the winners each received a plaque during the celebration at The Woodlands Inn.

Times Leader Media Group Publisher Mike Murray congratulated the award recipients and offered some encouraging words as well.

“We’re here tonight to start a tradition hopefully where each year we will recognize those businesses locally that do so much for the market,” he said.

Michelle Morgan, senior director of publisher development for Wilkes-Barre marketing firm Pepperjam, said her company was excited to receive an award. “It’s great to be recognized in the community,” she said.

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Kayleigh and Bill Werkeiser of Performance Kia pose for a photo.
HONORS
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One of Morgan’s favorite things about her job is her colleagues. “I love the people,” she said. “We have a really great atmosphere — a good environment.”

Recruiters from Step By Step, a social service company whose main office is based in Wilkes-Barre, were also thrilled to be honored.

Step By Step has over 600 employees in the area — from Clarks Summit to Hazleton. Recruitment Coordinator Sue Kauffman loves the “diversity of the agency” and meeting different people.

“One of the most exciting parts is that our product is people,” said Tom Wagner, a recruitment assistant. Both Kauffman and Wagner use to work with clients, but now use that experience as recruiters to hire new employees that can also work well with clients.

Here is a complete list of the winners:

- All-In Custom Vapes
- Baker Tilly Vantagen
- Bear Creek Community Charter School
- Bedrock Technology
- Benco Dental
- Building Blocks Learning Center
- Carpenter Dental
- Cooper’s Seafood House
- Creek Side Concrete LLC
- DiMaria Special Events Catering
- EDSI
- Evolutionary Computers
- Express Employment Pros
- Family Hearing Center
- Frontier Communications
- Geisinger
- Geisinger Health Plan
- Gerrity’s Supermarket
- Golden Technologies
- GWC Warranty
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Honesdale Home Depot
- Jays Lawn Service
- Kane Is Able
- Liberty Tax Service
- McCarthy Tire Service Co
- McDonald’s
- Mercy Center Nursing Unit
- Metz Culinary Management
- Mondelez International
- New York Life NEPA General Office
- NFI Distribution
- Pennsylvania American Water
- Pepperjam
- Performance Kia
- Pride Mobility Products
- RCN
- Riverview Ambulatory Surgical Center
- Sakari Salon
- Simply Certificates Inc.
- Skyzone
- Step by Step Inc
- Taylor Rental/BX3 Supply
- The 411 Studio
- The Beer Deli
- The Hearing Center of NEPA
- The Lands at Hillside Farms
- The Pittston Memorial Library
- The Woodhouse Day Spa
- The Woodlands
- Tobyhanna Army Depot
- US Hydrations
- Volunteers in Medicine
- Watkins Dental Group
- Web.com
- Wyoming Area Catholic School

Regina Corchado, right, and Daina Cali, both of Pepperjam in Wilkes-Barre, take appetizers Tuesday from Woodlands Inn server Cassy Giarratano at the inaugural ‘NEPA Best Places to Work’ event sponsored by the Times Leader Media Group.
FOR THREE GENERATIONS, Benco Dental has been delivering success, smile after smile, to dental professionals throughout the United States. As a family-owned enterprise, Benco has the luxury of focusing on its customers, and investing for the long term. Where public companies look at quarters, they see decades.

That passion and laser-focus has enabled Benco Dental to become America’s most innovative dental distributor. And every one of those innovations was designed to create a difference that matters to its customers.

Thanks to those innovative practices and a commitment to its team, Benco Dental was named one of NEPA’s ‘Best Places to Work’.

Opportunities to volunteer outside of the company during the workday promote team building, as well as a positive connection to the community. A profit-sharing program increases with each employee idea put into action. Annual horseshoe and basketball tournaments create a sense of fun. Onsite access to a fitness center, quarterly massages and wellness programs reflect the company’s heartfelt commitment to its associates.

Associates at Benco Dental also receive recognition every five years for their continued dedication to the company. They benefit from a reward system, which allows those with exceptional performance to redeem BencoBucks for products and gift cards from a variety of vendors. The company enables employees to purchase convenience services onsite, such as breakfast and lunch from a full service cafeteria, right down to postage stamps. An emergency fund for hardship is established with donations from company-wide events.

With a caring family culture, and helpful and supportive people, Benco Dental empowers great people to do great work.
We empower great people to do great work.

“I love our caring, family culture!”

“I enjoy working with such helpful and supportive people.”

THE BENCO DIFFERENCE
We drive dentistry forward by leveraging innovative solutions and our caring family culture. Our world-class customer experience is built on painless tools, the broadest and boldest selection of products and services, hug pricing, experts who help customers succeed, and people who smile.
A CAREER BREAKTHROUGH!

We’re honored to receive the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader’s award for one of the Local Best Places to Work. We owe this honor to all of our employees who are driven by our values to deliver breakthrough performances every day.

Since 1995, GWC Warranty has been helping dealers give car shoppers the confidence to become car buyers, and provided coverage for more than 8.5 million drivers so they can drive worry-free.
Best Places to Work

EXETER — Pride Mobility Products Corporation, headquartered in Exeter, is no stranger to lists naming it one of the best places to work.

The corporation found its way on Team PA’s list encompassing the whole state for the past two years.

The company, which sells a wide array of mobility products including power chairs, scooters and lift chairs, has facilities in Duryea; Pontotoc, Miss.; Tampa, Fla.; Chicago; Las Vegas and Mesquite, Texas, as well as subsidiaries across the globe.

Vice President of Human Resources Denise Truesdale, of Taylor, said that with 985 employees domestically, somehow employees still feel like a family.

“You come in, and everybody knows everybody, and there’s just that gelling and we all take care of each other,” she said. “Everyone is fueled by the passion that we can help people at the end of the day.”

General Manager of Public Relations Mark Smith, of Shavertown, who uses Pride’s products himself, explained its distinction from other corporations.

“We’re not just making products, but life-sustaining products. Life-changing products,” he said.

Annie Luzetski, of Hanover Township, who works in international sales and has been with Pride for 15 years, has a cousin who uses the chairs.

“You can really see how the products change people’s lives,” she said, which she added speaks to the types of people who work at Pride.

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From the Best Place to Work in Pa. celebration dinner at the Lancaster County Convention Center are Pride Mobility employees Allan Breymeier, Director, Business Management & Logistics, Carolyn Furman, Human Resources Specialist, Kelly Bronson, Human Resources Generalist, Krystal Huff, Payroll Manager, Marza Cyphert, Human Resources Generalist, Denise Truesdale, Vice President, Human Resources.
A special THANK YOU to all our loyal guests who have supported us and helped to make us the premier luxury Day Spa in NEPA for over 14 years!

We look forward to serving you and many others in the years to come!

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The premier luxury day spa in NEPA

The Woodhouse Day Spa has been the only true dedicated Day Spa in NEPA for over 14 years. They are located in a beautiful 4,500 square foot Tudor Home that was built in 1911, on Wyoming Avenue in Kingston.

The Woodhouse Day Spa is a peaceful haven dedicated to a sense of personal well-being and regeneration of mind, body and spirit. You are invited to indulge in an environment of luxury, privacy and comfort. With their remarkable facilities, they provide the perfect sanctuary where you can relax, unwind and revitalize yourself and your five senses. The spa offers everything from luxurious body treatments to soothing skin care treatments - all where the focus is on you exclusively. They have over 40 different services to offer such as massages, body treatments, manicures, pedicures and facials.

The staff at The Woodhouse Day Spa is committed to your personal well-being, and it is their privilege and pleasure to serve you on your journey to greater wellness. Their goal is to help you return to your world renewed in mind, body and spirit so that you can achieve the health, energy and vitality you deserve.

The Woodhouse Day spa has numerous gift items in the spa boutique including bath and body products and products for the home, such as essential oils, diffusers and more. Gift cards are available to purchase at the spa or online at Kingston.Woodhousespas.com.

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Thank you for choosing RCN as one of the “Best Places to work in NEPA”

And a special thank you to our employees who provide exceptional customer service every day to our residential and business customers!

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To view a complete listing of our career opportunities and to apply on line, visit our website at www.rcn.com/careers

We are proud to be an EEO/AA employer M/F/D/V.
Culver said that the morale boosters work, and that he enjoys the company get-togethers. “The big thing for me is the employee appreciation and recognition,” Culver said, touting the company celebrations. “It was great to network and meet the people you email ... put a face to the people you talk to ... you have good lines of communication, chit chat (and) learn a little bit about them, their life stories.”

The morale and sense of responsibility among employees lends to better benefits. “Supplemental life insurance, longterm disability, tuition reimbursement ... you just keep naming it and we got it,” Trusdale said. “Being self-funded, we have a lot more control over that, but it’s discipline too. When we have our open enrollment meetings, employees are always so engaged ... employees want to make sure they’re doing all the right things so we can keep all the co-pays low.”

“For seven years, our co-pays did not change,” Luzetski testified.
As a human resources and benefits-focused organization, it goes without saying that our job is to help our clients put their employees first.

We also walk the talk in our workplace. Our core values have always kept our own employees in sharp focus and we’re grateful this commitment is being recognized.

Thank you to the employees of Baker Tilly Vantagen and to you, the readers, for positioning us as one of the best places to work in Northeastern PA.
When a trio of local leaders went into business together in 1997, they had one goal in mind: to deliver a uniquely valued benefits and consulting services experience to small and mid-sized businesses. Twenty years later, Baker Tilly Vantagen has earned a solid reputation for staying true to that goal.

“We set out on this journey because we saw what services weren't available to most employers,” said Kim Wylam, founding partner and President of Baker Tilly Vantagen. “We knew we'd be on to something if we invested in solid systems, surrounded them with great people, and situated both within the employer’s reach.

Despite quantum leap advancements in technology, time has not proven us wrong when it comes to the service aspect. When our servicing teams deliver sound results, we make the people who hire us look good. When that happens, everybody wins.”

Baker Tilly Vantagen's business model is focused in two areas: employee benefits administration and human resources consulting. The administrative services include benefits enrollment and eligibility management, employee benefits communications, contact center support, insurer cost accounting support, COBRA administration and FSA/HSA administration. Based in Clarks Summit, the firm's clientele has grown to include a diverse mix of business and industry that maintains operations across the country and employees in all 50 states.

“We make a difference for employers by focusing in areas that our competitors either don't or won't”, said Eric Pochas, Director of Client Services. “Experience tells us most employers are generally bad at handling employee benefits inquiries and reconciling what they are paying insurers.

We're talking a serious amount of reputational and financial risk here, so it is important to us that our core service offerings include these types of value-added components.”

On the human resources consulting front, Baker Tilly Vantagen brings expertise in targeted projects and broad strategic initiative support. Compensation studies, policy reviews, job description development, compliance assessments and executive recruitment are popular areas of concentration. Within the past year, the consulting practice also has supported large international human resources program development initiatives and embedded itself within the HR operations of two major institutions of higher education.

Behind it all are the people of Baker Tilly Vantagen. The company has grown from 5 to 70 professionals who are aligned with the organization’s service operations, various support functions and consultative practices. The firm's annual Stewardship Day and H.E.R.O. program as well as long-standing commitments to the United Way, the Women’s Resource Center and the Susan G. Komen Foundation are among the ways it sets out to make an impact beyond the business.

“It makes me so very proud when I stop and think about all that we've become and all that we've accomplished together over these past 20 years,” Wylam said. “We still have our sleeves rolled up, and we’re still on a mission to do what it takes to make those we serve look good.”

To learn more about Baker Tilly Vantagen, visit bakertillyvantagen.com
Dr. Louis Sieminski, CCC-A Audiologist

Dr. Sieminski is a native of Wyoming Valley and has dedicated his professional career to helping hearing impaired children and adults in Northeastern Pennsylvania for over 30 years. He is Board Certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association and is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology.

Dr. Sieminski helped establish the Pennsylvania mandated program whereby every newborn is screened for hearing loss. He continues to serve as a Board Member on the Advisory Committee of the Pennsylvania Department of Health which oversees this initiative.

Dr. Sieminski has lectured both nationally and internationally on the topics of hearing loss and the most recent advances in hearing aid technology.

Dr. Sieminski and his wife, Libby, reside in the Back Mountain. Their son, Jason, is an attorney in Philadelphia and recently founded Spruce Law Group, LLC. Jason is married to Cheray Lynch Sieminski who is a principal with Berkeley Research Group, LLC.

Dr. Renee Monahan, CCC-A Audiologist

Dr. Monahan has dedicated over 25 years of her professional career to diagnosing hearing loss and improving the hearing capabilities of infants, children and adults. Dr. Monahan is a PA licensed Audiologist and maintains a Certificate of Clinical Competence in Audiology from ASHA. She is a fellow with the American Academy of Audiology and the Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology.

A native of Junedale, PA, Dr. Monahan attended Bloomsburg University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders and a Master of Science degree in Audiology. She earned her Doctor of Audiology degree from Salus University (formerly PCO School of Audiology) in Philadelphia, PA.

Dr. Monahan and her husband, Jim, reside in White Haven, Pennsylvania. They have 2 daughters, Kelly and Shannon. Dr. Monahan is actively involved in the White Haven community. She is a member of the White Haven Area Community Library Board of Directors, serves on several of the library’s committees and engages in volunteer work with her church, St. Patrick’s in White Haven.

Dr. Joseph Motzko, CCC-A Audiologist

Dr. Joseph Motzko, Audiologist, was raised in Hawley, Pennsylvania and graduated from Wallenpaupack Area. In 2008, he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelors of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh. While at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Motzko was an active member of the rugby football club, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Triangle Fraternity. In 2011 he entered the Doctorate of Audiology program of Bloomsburg University, and received his Doctorate in Audiology Degree in May 2015. During his time at Bloomsburg, he was on the executive council for the school’s Audiology Student Association and served as a Regional Delegate for the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association.

Dr. Motzko is a highly skilled Audiologist who enjoys evaluating and helping children and adults with hearing loss.

Dr. Motzko currently resides in Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania with his wife, Gina.

Ms. Erin Engman,
Office Manager

Erin was born and raised in White Haven, PA. She is a 1996 graduate of Crestwood High School and graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree of Sociology. Upon graduation, she relocated to Annapolis, MD where she worked in an administrative capacity within the medical field. She was employed by Anne Arundel ENT. After residing in MD for seven years, she returned to NEPA in early 2008 and was hired as the office manager of The Hearing Center.

Ms. Sherri Piccola,
Patient Care Coordinator

Sherri was born and raised in Hazleton, PA. She is a 1983 graduate of Hazleton High School. Her background is in the Secretarial/Legal field. She joined the office staff of The Hearing Center in December of 2010 as Receptionist. She has two children, Kelly and Kyle.
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At the Hearing Center, we believe that our job isn’t finished until our patients’ lives are improved. The Hearing Center’s staff of professionals has over 70 years of experience in bringing the best possible hearing care to the Northeast Pennsylvania area. We will work with you to find the hearing solution that best fits your individual needs and budget. We specialize in helping patients of all ages with their hearing loss and tinnitus. Call us today and take the first step toward improved hearing.

Dr. Joseph Motzko, Audiologist; Sherri Piccola, Patient Care Coordinator;
Erin Engman, Office Manager; Dr. Renee Monahan, Audiologist; Dr. Louis Sieminski, Audiologist

601 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston
(570) 287-8649
www.hearing-center.net
Performance Kia strives to create ‘fun’ work environment

By Patrick Kernan
pkernan@timesleader.com

MOOSIC — Bill Werkeiser, general manager for Performance Kia in Moosic, said he didn’t believe there was “one perfect ingredient” that made the car dealership one of the best places to work.

“I grew up hearing that if you love what you do, you’ll never work a day in your life,” Werkeiser said.

Performance Kia was one of 56 area businesses voted the “best place to work” in the region by Times Leader readers.

Werkeiser said every decision he makes at Performance Kia is about both making buying a car a great experience for the customer and making sure employees are excited about coming to work every day.

“I look for people who have a passion to help others, because that’s what it’s about,” Werkeiser said.

Performance Kia has been open since May 2015, after taking over the location straddling Birney Avenue from the former Ertley Kia.

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General Sales Manager Bill Werkeiser at Performance Kia.

ROSS & MITCH KORNFIELD WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF AND MANAGEMENT AT THE WOODLANDS FOR MAKING US NEPA’S PREMIERE DESTINATION FOR EVERYTHING FROM THE HOTEL, WEDDINGS AND CATERED EVENTS TO LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & NITELIFE. YOUR HOSPITALITY AND DEDICATION TO CUSTOMER SERVICE IS WHAT HAS SEPARATED US FROM THE COMPETITION FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS.

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KIA

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In addition to selling cars on one side of the street, the dealership offers full service to customers at their service center on the opposite side of Birney Avenue.

In the two-and-a-half years the dealership has been open, it’s grown to become the top volume Kia dealership in the area, according to employees.

Werkeiser says a lot of the success is owed to the work environment.

“We try to have a good, fun atmosphere,” he said.

This comes by way of various employee programs, including both an employee of the month and employee of the year program and incentives from the company for the employees who offer the best customer service.

“When we get positive reviews on social media, we’ll read them to employees,” Werkeiser said. “It’s about showing them recognition.

Werkeiser said these techniques are effective at decreasing employee turnover, adding that Performance Kia is able to boast numerous employees who have been around since the beginning.

Salesperson Fred Benson is one employee who’s been around since the beginning, and he says he has no plan on leaving any time soon.
Golden Technologies is proud to be a true American manufacturer of power lift and recline chairs. Family-owned and operated, our headquarters in Old Forge, PA, is the largest facility in the world dedicated solely to the manufacture of lift chairs. Our other product lines—mobility scooters and power wheelchairs—are assembled in our Mobility operations facility in nearby Kingston, PA, all by Golden Technologies’ employees. We’ve serviced the home health care retail industry since 1985. We are proud to provide jobs for more than 400 Americans, contributing to the strength of the economy.

The history of Golden Technologies is a story that defines the American dream. Founded in 1985 by Robert Golden, Sr., and Fred Kiwak, Golden Technologies was founded on the pledge to “build it right the first time,” a motto that still holds true today. In fact, that promise is proudly displayed on a banner hanging above our lift chair manufacturing floor, reminding our employees every day of the commitment we have to our customers. Golden Technologies is committed to manufacturing the highest quality products in the durable medical equipment industry.

Golden and Kiwak began manufacturing lift chairs in a one-car garage in West Pittston, PA, a small town where families worked hard to survive as the Pennsylvania coal mining era was ending. The pair partnered with some of the finest craftsmen in the region and worked together to design and build lift chairs that would withstand years of use. As their reputation for quality spread, the business grew, and quickly became a family operation, employing several members of the Golden and Kiwak families. Robert Golden’s son, Richard, was one of the company’s first employees. He was named CEO in 1991, a position he continues to hold today. Robert Golden, Sr., has since retired from the day-to-day activities. Kiwak continues to be actively involved as our Vice President of Research and Development.
Golden expanded into the personal scooter business in 1996. Today, we offer several models of scooters serving a wide range of needs, from the portability of the Buzzaround LT, Buzzaround XL and LiteRider scooters, to the luxurious appointments of the Companion models, and the outdoor, heavy-duty Patriot scooter with a 400 lb. weight capacity and the Avenger four-wheel scooter with a 500 lb. weight capacity.

In 2003, Golden Technologies was awarded the U.S. Veteran’s Administration contract to supply our Companion scooters to all U.S. Veterans through Veterans Administration Medical Centers throughout the nation. We are very proud that the quality and durability of the Companion scooters, and our dedication to this program, has enabled us to renew this contract with the U.S. Veteran’s Administration every year since.

Our expansion into the power wheelchair business was the latest step in offering a line of products to help those with varying levels of disabilities. Since 2005, our Golden Compass series of power wheelchairs provides the maneuverability and stability of true center-wheel drive performance of the Compass Sport and the Compass HD (Heavy Duty) models. In addition, we offer a unique consumer power chair with the all-new LiteRider Envy Power Chair, which features 2-22 Amp batteries and offers an impressive operating range up to 15.5 miles! It is with great excitement that Golden introduced the Golden Buzzaround Extreme Scooter in 2016. This scooter is truly the first hybrid scooter in the industry, as it features the portability, maneuverability, and easy disassembly of a lightweight scooter, yet it offers the awesome benefits of a full-size scooter!

Here are just a few of the awards Golden has received:

- 2017 Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- 2016 Telly Award for Video Production on the DayDreamer Lift Chair Commercial
- 2015 Pennsylvania Governor’s Entrepreneur ImPAct Award
- 2015 Medtrade HME Innovative Retail Product Award
- 2015 Best Pick by Mobility Management Magazine for the Golden Compass Sport Power Wheelchair

Careers at Golden
Golden offers job opportunities at three locations: Old Forge, Kingston, and Laflin, PA.

We employ people in many departments, such as Sales, Accounting, Customer Service, Information Technology, Marketing, Operations, and Production. We are accepting applications for many areas, both office related and factory floor related. These jobs may involve phone support, technical support for lift chairs and mobility lines, and order entry.

We offer competitive compensation, daytime shift only, health benefits, 401K and paid time off.

Visit www.goldentechnologies.com under Resources/Careers or call 800.624.6374 x492 for more information regarding careers at Golden.

Sincerely,
Richard Golden, CEO
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• In School Band Program
• K-2 Cougar Cub Basketball
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• Additional Pre-K enclosed playground with developmentally appropriate playsets
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Wyoming Area Catholic School
Eileen Rishcoff, Principal
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KIA
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“I’ve been in the business for 20 years, and Bill is the best manager I’ve ever had,” Benson said, adding that he was glad he made the switch from another dealership to join the Performance Kia team.

What Benson loves most about the company is the “fun atmosphere,” along with the “knowledgeable” team.

“And I see a real chance of advancement, since they always hire from within the company,” he said.

Corey Kime, the dealership’s internet sales manager, has also been around since the beginning, and he was just named this year’s employee of the year. Kime chalks up his success to a year’s worth of hard work, making sure his phone is on 24 hours a day in order to help out his co-workers.

Kime says he’s always willing to do this to help out the work force he’s come to greatly appreciate.

“Everyone here is great; it’s different from other places,” Kime said. “It’s the best company I’ve ever worked for.”

Finding passionate employees like Kime and Benson is key to making sure the car-buying experience is as good as possible for customers, Werkeiser said.

“We want to make sure everyone who comes here leaves happy,” he said. “And without the right employees, we can’t make that happen.”

Performance Kia is located at 4225 Birney Ave., Moosic.
Family atmosphere, culture key at Benco Dental

By Brigid Edmunds 
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PITTSTON — If there’s one thing that the employees of Benco Dental enjoy about the company, it’s the family-like atmosphere. “If you need something, someone is always there to help you,” said Kris Weaver, a senior parts experience specialist.

Weaver, who is from Swoyersville, has been with Benco for eight years and said his favorite part of the job are the people in the company. “It’s like a family,” he said.

Benco Dental, headquartered in Pittston, is the largest privately-owned dental distributor in the United States. They offer supplies, equipment and services to dentists across the nation. A family-owned business, the company was founded in 1930 by Benjamin Cohen.

Over the past 87 years, Benco has grown from the Pittston location across the country, with more than 65 regional locations, five distribution centers and three design showrooms, one in Pittston, one in Southern California and one in Texas.

Benco Dental was one of the 56 area businesses voted the “best place to work” in the Northeastern Pennsylvania. In addition, Benco has been named one of the Best Workplaces in Health Care for the second consecutive year and Pennsylvania’s Best Places to Work for 12 of the past 14 years.

Chuck Cohen, Benco’s managing director, echoed Weaver, saying it’s the people that make Benco stand out as a company. “Great people want to work where other great people work,” Chuck said.

He and his brother, Richard, are the third generation owners of Benco, and Chuck said as a family business based out of Northeastern Pennsylvania, they think in terms of “decades instead of quarters.”
BENCO
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Chuck said when he asks employees what they like about the company, he hears the word “accessibility” a lot.

“My brother and I are very hands on,” he said.

George Rabel, vice president of culture and people, said the positive atmosphere “starts with the Cohen family.”

“(They) want it to be a family culture,” Rabel said. “It starts with the Cohens setting the tone of the family culture.”

He said there are multiple factors that contribute to that culture, including collaborative work between employees and giving back to the community. Rabel said they work to get people on board that are self-aware and charitable.

Rabel said another level of the success of Benco is the company’s commitment to its employees. In addition to trying to create a family-type atmosphere, Rabel said management also tries to host themed events in the office and have different activities and stress-relief events for employees.

“Things that helps keep people healthy and well,” Rabel said.

Benco also has a wellness program for employees, which Rabel says helps with the overall health of employees, which has a ripple effect throughout the company.

“If people are healthy, it shows in their work,” he said. “Then insurance costs go down. Everybody wins in the end.”

Kris Weaver, a senior parts experience specialist at Benco Dental, works at his computer in the company’s Pittston office. Benco was voted one of the best places to work in Northeastern Pennsylvania by Times Leader readers.

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Gerrity’s provides an ideal environment for employees

By Mary Therese Biebel
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LUZERNE — If Roxane Dorzinsky, of Hanover Township, worked in a different kind of place, maybe she’d be afraid to tell the boss he’s wrong.

But Dorzinsky works for Gerrity’s in Luzerne, where good-natured Joe Fasula was glad when she told him not to put dark green cabbage leaves into the cole slaw they were making.

“The green leaves don’t grind,” Dorzinsky explained as she reminisced about the incident.

“I was just trying to help, and there I was getting yelled at,” Fasula protested with a laugh. “Here, I thought I was doing a good thing.”

His choice of cabbage leaves may have been off, but Dorzinsky and other Gerrity’s employees say Fasula and his mother, Joyce, provide an ideal environment for the 1,100 employees that work in the Gerrity’s chain of nine supermarkets in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties.

An online survey of Times Leader readers shows plenty of people agree, with Gerrity’s becoming one of 56 area businesses voted the “best place to work” in the region.

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“We put our employees first and then they in turn put the customers first,” Joe Fasula said, explaining the philosophy at the family-run business. “I'm a big believer in letting every employee take ownership and make decisions.”

“They're just such wonderful people to work for,” said Jean Bilbow, of West Wyoming, who monitors the self-serve check-outs at the store on Union Street in Luzerne. “Whenever I'm dealing with a customer and have to decide what to do, I think 'what would Joe do?' or 'what would Joyce do?'”

Joyce Fasula, known to customers as the "Mom" who designs Gerrity's weekly dinner specials, is the president and CEO of the business. “She's the final word on all decisions,” vice president and co-owner Joe Fasula said, explaining it makes sense to have a mother and grandmother in charge of groceries because she has much in common with the women who make or influence the food-buying decisions in most households.

Gerrity's supermarkets trace their beginnings to a small meat market William Gerrity opened in West Scranton in 1895. His son, Joseph Gerrity, eventually took over and in 1964, hired a delivery boy named Neal Fasula.

Neal Fasula later earned a degree in accounting from the University of Scranton and started a career in New York City, but when Gerrity's meat market caught fire and burned down, Neal Fasula returned to become a partner to his former boss and help him rebuild. A few years later, Joe Gerrity retired and sold his half of the business to Neal.

In 1980 Neal opened the first Gerrity's Supermarket in West Scranton, keeping the well-established name but expanding the business beyond meat market to a full-service supermarket.
“We’re going to start selling beer and wine here,” Joe Fasula said as he chatted with co-workers and customers in the Union Street, Luzerne, store which already has such amenities as a sushi section and a deli that offers freshly made subs.

Customer Karen Allen, of Swoyersville, said she enjoys shopping at Gerrity’s and knows it’s a good place to work. “I have two daughters that work here, and two grandchildren,” she said.

The supermarket business can be challenging, store manager Dwayne Kalinay, of Harveys Lake said, but he enjoys a challenge.

“One day I wore a pedometer here, and I put on nine miles in nine hours,” he said. “I’m always running here and there. It’s customer service. You can write that 10 times.”

One gauge of the employees’ dedication is how they persevere through an obstacle, like a huge snowstorm, to get to work.

On a particularly snowy day last March, for example, Bilbow the checkout monitor, shoveled out her driveway by hand because the regular plower didn’t make it to her house.

And Kalinay, the manager, made his way to the Luzerne store by 3 a.m. so he could start shoveling and salting the parking lot — also by hand. “I was out of breath by 6:30 a.m.,” he said, “but the store was ready to open at 7.”
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Our family-oriented culture, office perks, and locally recognized wellness program make Pepperjam one of the BEST places to work in NEPA.
GEISINGER
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Administrative Director Dan Landesberg came to Geisinger three and a half years ago after working at a hospital in Queens, N.Y. Even though he is not originally from the area, he fit into “the Geisinger family” pretty quickly.

The unique factor about the different Geisinger Health Centers in the Northeastern Pennsylvania region is that the services, latest technologies and vast amount of space make employees and patients feel as though they are in a big city institution, but with a “small town feel”.

“What I really loved about making the transition from a more urban setting to here is the family aspect,” Landesberg said. “I think you end up in a scenario, where it’s really neighbors taking care of neighbors.”

Orthopedic Surgeon and Philadelphia native Dr. Anthony Balsamo came to Geisinger nine years ago as a locum. He had considered going to Cleveland Clinic or a hospital in New York City, but the other employees and the environment at Geisinger made him want to pursue a full-time position there.

“The people here really care about what they’re doing,” he said. “I think there is a respect between the nurses, the doctors, the therapists. The team respects each other, and I think that’s the best thing for the patient.”

Balsamo also has the opportunity to work with medical students and residents and teach them as well, which he says is a “very rewarding feeling”.

Michael DiMare, physical therapy supervisor, Daniel Landesberg, administrative director, and Angelo Venditti, chief nursing officer, pose for a photograph on the helipad of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.

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Nurses are in high demand at Geisinger. Even though there are currently 800 to 1,000 currently employed in the Northeast region, administrators have plans to recruit another 110 more next year.

Angelo Venditti, chief nursing officer for the Northeast region said that Geisinger plans to bring nurses not only from local colleges, but also from other states and countries, including Jamaica and the Philippines. He believes that diversity in employees helps Geisinger serve the public.

“It’s important to have different perspectives, different cultures,” Venditti said. “It’s how we work together to care for patients.”

Anita Baldoni, a registered nurse, who works in the Progressive Care Unit actually graduated with a Business Degree from King's College. While she was a student at the college, she worked as a nursing assistant at Wesley Village, an assisted living facility in Pittston and found that she liked interacting with people and patients. “I just love helping people,” Baldoni said.

While working in the business field, she decided to pursue night school at Misericordia University to get her nursing degree. Baldoni also said that she has grown a great deal professionally since accepting her position at Geisinger five years ago.

“I’ve learned a lot about myself personally along with the organization as a whole and how we strive to intake our patients’ care personally.”