**Business booming during anniversary**

**BY MARY GRACE KELLER/GETTYSBURG TIMES – July 2, 2016**

A&A Village Treasures co-owner Anthony Kylor talks with frequent customers Eleanor Levin and Janet Vizkelety in the pantry.

Independence Day is around the corner and Gettysburg is celebrating its history in full force, making the most of the precious days of booming tourism.

Many of the local businesses depend on the tourists, and on July 1 the streets of downtown were flooded with visitors.

One storefront that often catches the eyes of passersby is Gallery 30 at 26 York St. Colorful gourds line the front of the store, which is home to countless pieces of hand-crafted art. Owner Linda Atiyeh extends her business hours until 8:30 p.m. during the weekend before July 4.

The store sells jewelry, hand bags, leather-bound books, folk art, paintings, pottery -- and almost all of it is made in the United States. Many pieces boast signs which say, "Made in the USA" or "Handcrafted in Pennsylvania." Gallery 30 strives to support emerging artists and is in its 37th year of business.

"Handcrafted is all about empowering independent artists in America," Atiyeh said.

Betty Davis, of Aspers, has worked at Gallery 30 since 2013, and says customers are always telling her how grateful they are to see American-made products.

"People can really relate to the hand-crafted stuff," Davis said.

On the other side of Lincoln Square sits A&A Village Treasures, tucked away at 53 Chambersburg St. Co-owners and life partners Anthony Kylor and Amado Mesa, the letter A's in A&A Village Treasures, run a unique shop. Walking into the main room customers are greeted by an array of aromas. The main floor is stocked with soap, oils and incense. Toward the back there are shelves of vintage cameras, shaving supplies, a rack of T-shirts and more. Locally-made caramel corn is available to taste test. This store has a little bit of everything.

"We're about an experience," Kylor said.

A&A Village Treasures has a fashion boutique in the back room with blouses, necklaces, scarves and the like. Another room holds "The Pantry," which is home to gourmet food. Jam, aioli, hot sauce, chocolate and nuts fill the shelves. Customers can even sample a cup of coffee.

Mesa and Kylor sell products made by local artists and introduce shoppers to these handmade items, like T-shirts made with eco-friendly dyes.

"In our store they're getting a local artisan piece," Kylor said.

Previously, the owners lived in Florida and moved to Gettysburg to be closer to Kylor's family. Their business of seven years brings them joy, and they stay open all year long. Mesa and Kylor usually plan to stay open late when tourist season peaks.

Sisters Janet Vizkelety, of Hanover, and Eleanor Levin, of the Norristown area, frequent the store.

"They have a lot of really good locally made food items," Vizkelety said, wearing a red shirt with a rhino on it from the shop.

Whenever Levin comes to visit her sister they make sure to stop by Chambersburg Street.

"We like to hang out here," Levin said.

After spending a day browsing through shops or touring the battlefield in the summer heat, a large group of tourists seems to be attracted to one ice cream shop in particular -- Mr. G's at 404 Baltimore St.

Customers come in constant waves but the staff is unaffected by the numbers as they move along at a quick pace. If the line is long enough you might find yourself standing next to a cork board full of photos of happy customers.

"Our employees are friendly and our ice cream is good," ice cream maker Donna Mess said.

Mr. G's offers homemade ice cream, soft serve, sundaes, flurries, shave ice and sarsaparilla drinks.

There are a few tables inside the historic John Winebrenner House, or you can take your icy treat outside to more spacious seating. Patrons are often attracted to the ring and hook games in front of the shop. On Friday, a caricature artist drew portraits out front.

Patrons Bernadette and Joe Curry, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, bought chocolate and swirl soft serve.

"We're here every day we're in Gettysburg," Joe said.