

Business

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Business, food is smokin' at Smoker's Delight BBQ

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Brian Israel, owner of Smoker's Delight BBQ and catering based in Indian Head, said he basically started a catering business from his home for family and friends while he held a position in law enforcement and worked the days that he was off to turn his passion and skills as pitmaster into a full-time barbecue business.

"I got really good at it," Israel said. "I started enjoying it to the point where even on my days that I had to work, when I'd get off work, I'd be working the barbecue trailer in some shape, form or fashion, whether it be a catering event ... an event outside of a nightclub or something like that ... starting up the smoker and cooking." "The business started to grow," Israel added. "In 2015, I had to make a choice, either stay working at the sheriff's office ... or, do what you love doing. Do your passion. Go out there and step out on faith ... so, that's what I did."

It was in October of that year when Israel said he made the leap of faith as owner of Smoker's Delight. With tent, tables and smoker in tow, Israel set up at Willing Helpers Hall, where he said his business got its start within the La Plata community.

"I was there Thursday, Friday and Saturday, right in the parking lot," Israel said. "I then began to grow a huge customer base right there ... and we starting taking turkey



Pictured is Brian Israel, owner of Smoker's Delight BBQ based in Indian Head.



Pictured are ribs and chicken in the smoker at Smoker's Delight BBQ based in Indian Head.

orders during the holidays. We did our smoked turkeys and our fried turkeys there that year, 2016."

"We also did an event with the hall with homeless shelter people," he said. "So, we provided about six turkeys that year and the following year. To come to the Willing Helpers Hall to help out with a free Thanksgiving Day dinner to the community, that was our way of giving back to the community and saying

thank you for all that you do."

Since that time, Smoker's Delight has evolved into a thriving food business, serving up smoked ribs, beef brisket, pulled pork, chicken, fried fish, sides and more to customers throughout the Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., areas. Israel said his pit stops include the La Plata Farmers Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and area events, and that he also provides



Pictured left to right are Jeannine E. James, mayor, Town of La Plata; Brian Israel, owner, Smoker's Delight BBQ; Lucretia Freeman-Buster, chief of business development, Charles County Economic Development Department; and Martin Proulx, agriculture business development manager, Charles County Economic Development Department, at the ribbon-cutting ceremony held Wednesday, Oct. 17, at La Plata Farmers Market in celebration of Smoker's Delight's new food trailer.

on- and off-site catering services for special occasions.

Smoker's Delight also welcomed the recent addition of a custom-built food trailer that Israel said he was able to purchase with a loan obtained through Charles County Economic Business Development.

"I've always been look-

ing into getting a trailer, a food trailer, a kitchenette, everything," he said. "I had been going to banks trying to apply for business loans and none of the banks would approve me because I'm too small, or not enough time in business."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the new trailer was held

Wednesday, Oct. 17, at the La Plata Farmers Market. Event attendees included officials with the Charles County Economic Development Department and the Town of La Plata.

"The Charles County Economic Development Department empowers small businesses to expand, create jobs, and promote economic growth. We recognize that small and micro businesses, such as Smoker's Delight BBQ, make an impact on our economy, and at times, find it difficult to access capital for growth and expansion," said Chief of Business Development Lucretia Freeman-Buster. "We were pleased to be able to change this narrative for Smoker's Delight BBQ. Through our Business Development Loan Fund, this small business was able to receive the full amount of funding needed to expand its operation in Charles County."

Going forward, Israel said he would like to grow the mobile side of Smoker's Delight to serve the barbecue needs of customers at additional locations throughout the area.

"I just want to thank the community, the La Plata community especially, for the continued support," Israel said. "I'd like to thank Charles County for having available programs to help and assist small businesses."

For more information on Smoker's Delight BBQ and catering, current locations and menus, go to www.facebook.com/bisrael2013.

Business briefs

Moorefield promoted to chief operating officer at Mona

Mona Electric Group Inc. is proud to announce the promotion of Brian R. Moorefield to chief operating officer, according to a press release. Moorefield joined Mona in 1988 as part of the estimating department and has over 30 years of industry experience. In his new role, Moorefield will oversee the operating groups which include service and construction.

In 1996 Moorefield was promoted to project manager and quickly ascended Mona's company ladder and was promoted to senior project manager in 2002. As senior project manager, he oversaw the largest project Mona had completed to date, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Janelia Farm. With many other successful projects under his belt, Moorefield became Mona's construction manager in 2007, overseeing the daily operations for the organization's large construction group. In 2009, Moorefield was promoted to vice president of construction, where he was responsible for all aspects of the group. In 2012, Moorefield was promoted to senior vice president. Over the years, his role was expanded to include the management of the purchasing department, the field service center and pre-fab. Over his 30 years with Mona Electric, Moorefield has been involved with many different types of projects and has gained a vast knowledge in all areas of Mona's industry, the press release states.

Mona recognizes the continued challenges facing today's electrical contracting industry and has no doubt that Moorefield will continue to exceed market demands while continuing to provide the company's clients with superior service, according to the release.

Precise Systems awarded PMA-299 H-60 Program Office support contract

Precise Systems recently announced the award of a five-year, \$41.5 million contract to Precise to provide program and financial services to PMA-299, NAVAIR's H-60 Helicopters Program Office, according to a press release. H-60 missions include anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, search and rescue, medical evacuation, communications relay, vertical replenishment and naval gunfire support. In accomplishing these missions, PMA-299 manages multiple H-60 Seahawk helicopter variants including the MH-60R, MH-60S, SH-60B, SH-60F and HH-60H. Precise Systems' partners are Don Selvy Enter-

prises and Island Creek Associates. The team will provide support services in program management and financial management for: H-60 research, development, test and evaluation; procurement; foreign military sales; and sustainment projects. "Precise is proud to serve one of the U.S. Navy's largest aviation programs," said Scott Pfister, president, Precise Systems, in the release. "The Precise Team will leverage our extensive corporate experience with rotary wing platforms to provide innovative solutions to PMA-299 and its international partners."

Aina joins BuilderUp as green building guru

Chaney Enterprises, a ready-mix concrete, aggregates, custom blends and related construction supplies provider, recently announced its building supplies and services division, BuilderUp, has hired Tony Aina as green building guru, according to a press release.

Aina will focus on the education, sales and installation of insulated concrete forms (ICF) for BuilderUp. He joins BuilderUp with 16 years of general contracting and sales management experience. Most recently, Aina managed the contracting division at Dean Lumber.

ICFs are insulated foam blocks that lock together and are then filled with reinforced concrete. Originally used as insulation, ICF is now used as a permanent interior and exterior substrate for walls, floors, and roofs, the press release states.

There are many benefits in using ICF, both short- and long-term. ICF installation, done by properly trained professionals, is quicker than traditional materials leading to projects being completed faster and the building being occupied sooner. It requires less maintenance, won't rust, rot or deteriorate, and gets stronger over time. Building with ICF and concrete provides a fire-resistant structure and a safe structure from natural disasters. ICF walls stop more sound and are 12 times quieter than non-insulated concrete walls. Also, ICFs provide long-term economic benefits including a reduction in heating and air-conditioning costs between 25 and 45 percent.

"In today's tight labor market, ICF construction is a highly-desired option because less workers are needed, and this alleviates the pressure felt from the construction labor shortage that we see our customers feeling," said Steve Tripp, chief builder of Chaney's BuilderUp, in the release. "Not only does this help with the labor shortage in the construction industry, but, because ICF installation is so fast, more

jobs can be done per year.

"Today, with rising materials costs, energy costs, and disaster-related costs, ICFs are more in-demand than ever before," Tripp added in the release. "Clearly this is a lot of education to be done on this topic and Tony is dedicated to advancing the building industry with this green product and our installation experts. His customer-oriented focus aligns perfectly with Chaney and BuilderUp."

Maryland Commerce receives OEA funding to help businesses comply with new Department of Defense regulations

The Maryland Department of Commerce has been awarded \$515,636 in federal funding from the Department of Defense (DoD) Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) to assist in-state businesses, according to a press release. Part of OEA's Defense Industry Adjustment grant program, the funding is designed to help Maryland defense contractors comply with recently-enacted DoD enhanced security regulations. As of Dec. 31, 2017, all DoD contractors that handle Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) must meet certain minimum cybersecurity standards or risk losing their DoD contracts. The program will provide support to small and mid-sized prime contractors requiring assistance in meeting the standards.

"Military installations in Maryland contract with companies across our state to provide goods and services and generate an economic impact of more than \$57 billion on our economy," said Commerce Secretary Mike Gill, in the release. "This program will not only help companies protect their data and remain in compliance with DoD regulations, but also retain the defense contracts that help companies grow and military commands achieve their mission."

The Maryland Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MD MEP) has been engaged by Maryland Commerce to coordinate the grant program. MD MEP will educate defense companies on the new cybersecurity standards (NIST 800-171) and provide funding to assess qualified companies for compliance with the new regulations, as well as technical assistance to ensure compliance with the NIST standard. From September 2018 until September 2019, MD MEP will provide cybersecurity compliance assessments to at least 40 Maryland defense contractors, and technical assistance and mitigation support for at least 30 defense contractors in the state, the press release states.