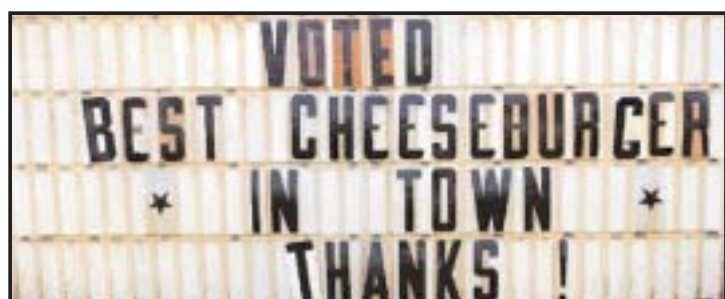


Valley Life

News tip? Story idea?
 Contact Assistant Editor
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Grilled to perfection



TRIBUNE-STAR READERS
 VOTE PARK AVENUE DINER'S
 CHEESEBURGER 'BEST OF
 THE WABASH VALLEY'



Customers say quality of meat makes big difference in taste of burger



Tender loving care: Jamie Conway prepares a cheeseburger at the Park Avenue Diner. The cheeseburger was voted the best in the Valley. Above, Conway holds a cheeseburger that was voted the "Best of the Wabash Valley." She's the cook/co-owner of the diner.

By CHAD STEENERSON
 TRIBUNE-STAR

Tribune-Star readers say that Park Avenue Diner has the best cheeseburgers in the Wabash Valley. And I'd say they made a pretty tasty choice.

"Meat is a big thing," co-owner Jamie Conway said. "We get all of our meat from Fox's [Grocery at 6898 N. Clinton Road, across from Sky King Airport]." Conway said they only buy fresh (never frozen), high-quality meat.

The cheeseburger (I had mine with bacon) could've come straight from my family's kitchen. Maybe it was what Conway described as "tender loving care" in the preparation (something that several readers mentioned on their entry forms for the contest). She said they serve about 200 hamburgers and cheeseburgers per week.

Conway laughed when I asked about one reader's comment that the cheeseburgers had a "special secret ingredient." She said that except for the tender loving care, there is no real secret.

But I had my doubts. My burger was big and very juicy with a touch of seasoning — I'm not sure what the seasoning was, so I'll chalk that up as a secret. (The onion rings totally rock, too.)

And as I pondered what made this burger so outstanding, it occurred to me that anyone can go to any of various fine establishments and get a very good cheeseburger, but not all of the other burgers taste like they're straight from home. This one does.

I give the cheeseburger two buns up. Park Avenue Diner is at 2693 E. Park Ave. in North Terre Haute. They are open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Delivery is available on the north end of town for a \$10 minimum and \$2 delivery charge. Their phone number is (812) 466-3399.



CONWAY

YOU SAID IT

"You get the most meat for the price and it has a great taste."

— Shane Bryant, Terre Haute

"It is made fresh and cooked well and served with a smile."

— Paul Markle, Terre Haute

"It was thick and juicy and messy, and if it ain't messy it ain't good."

— Robin Adamson, Terre Haute

INSIDE



AT YOUR LEISURE

It's easy to imagine Miranda Lambert being pushed down the Shania Twain/Faith Hill route. But fortunately for her, Sony Nashville wanted Lambert just the way she was — a feisty Texas gal who prefers classic country to today's slick country pop.

Lora L Phipps
 Attorney-At-Law

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