



Denise Sanchez The Morning Call

**ESTERLY'S PIZZA AND SANDWICHES**, near Bowers, is owned by Rodney Esterly. It draws people from near and far for its cheesesteaks.

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# No greasy cheesesteaks here

**By Tim Blangger**  
Of The Morning Call

The rolling hills of eastern Berks County, with its ribbons of country roads, Mennonite farms and picturesque villages seems an unlikely place to find one of the best cheesesteaks in the region.

But, in an unassuming sandwich shop just outside the village of Bowers, Rodney Esterly continues a family tradition that dates back some 35 years.

Pizza, subs, hamburgers and other foods are on the menu, but it is the cheesesteak that is by far the shop's biggest seller.

The reason? Esterly thinks it has something to do with the way it is prepared.

"We drain all the grease off the steak. If people are expecting a Philly-style cheesesteak, with a cup full of grease, they'll be disappointed," says Esterly, 34.

Even with white American cheese melted over the steak, the sandwich is light and fluffy. Hours after the steak sandwich is made, the bun surrounding it remains dry. Try that with your typical Philly cheesesteak.

Residents of eastern Berks County have long known about the shop, located in a wood-framed house that was converted to a shop some 35 years ago by Esterly's grandparents.

But, over the years, long-haul truck drivers and delivery folk have made the small shop a must-stop when they pass through the

### THE DETAILS

#### **ESTERLY'S PIZZA AND SANDWICHES**

- **Where:** Near Bowers on the Lyons-Topton Road
- **Specialty:** Cheesesteaks minus the grease. Small is \$3.30, Large is \$4.
- **Hours:** Open 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. daily. Closed Mondays.
- **Info:** 610-682-2068

large cheesesteaks for shipment to Tennessee, Maryland, and Texas have also been destinations, Esterly says.

"People say they just can't get cheesesteaks like this in those places."

The shop is take-out, and has no indoor eating tables. Two outside picnic tables offer some options. And, right around the corner from the shop, Bower's delightful Bill Delong Memorial Park offers many more picnic tables, a short, circular walking path, playground equipment and a small stream for visitors to enjoy.

area, Esterly says.

The shop has produced dozens of cheesesteaks, which are then sent to other places. Most recently, the shop made a dozen

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