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## **NEPA'rogi hosting "Polka in the Park" celebration Saturday in Nanticoke**

Bob Kalinowski – Citizens Voice

**NANTICOKE — A musical group named “Polka Bandski” will perform Saturday on Patriot Square in Nanticoke as part of a grand opening celebration for the new location of NEPA’rogi, a growing pierogi shop and Polish market in the city.**

**NEPA’rogi is hosting the Polka in the Park event prior to a ribbon-cutting with city officials for the new production facility and storefront at 164 S. Market St., the former location of state Sen. John Yudichak’s office.**

**Festivities kick off from the catty corner Broad Street park at 10 a.m. with a Butter and Bend Rogi Yogi yoga class. Polka Bandski’s one-hour performance then starts at 11 a.m.**

**“They are an eight-piece polka band. They are a collaboration of Polish musicians. As they get gigs, they come together. They found us. They stopped in our shop as customers,” said Lauren Gorney, founder and owner of NEPA’rogi.**

**NEPA’rogi started from a residential kitchen in 2021, then expanded to a food truck that traveled to festivals. For several years, the business operated under the same roof as Tarnowski’s Kielbasa on East Main Street in Nanticoke. Earlier this year, the business relocated to its new location and waited until the busy Easter season was over to have a grand opening.**

**“It’s 10 times the size and gives us the opportunity to expand to more Polish food besides pierogi,” Gorney said.**

**After Polka Bandski performs its one-hour set, the festivities will move to the storefront where a ribbon-cutting will be held with city officials. An accordion player will then perform until 1 p.m.**

**During the event, which runs until 2 p.m., NEPA'rogi will sell fried pierogi, haluski and American pierogi casserole, as well as frozen pierogi to go.**

**NEPA'rogi's mascots Dough Boy and Pickle Nick will be on hand for the event.**

**“The Polka in the Park celebration is recognizing the community that helped us get where we are today. Because of all the support and our rapid growth in our first few years in business, we are able to make a bigger impact here as a small business in Nanticoke,” Gorney said.**

**Gorney thinks it will be a fun celebration for everyone in the area, as so many people here celebrate Polish pride.**

**“The main message from me is that people always ask, ‘Why are people so excited over pierogi? Why is the pierogi business so successful?’ It’s because everybody could relate to pierogi in some way because it’s part of growing up in Northeast Pennsylvania,” Gorney said. “The reason people like pierogi so much is it gives them the feeling of nostalgia and home and that’s really what we are proud of.”**