



THE EPHRATA REVIEW

Serving the communities of Ephrata, Cocalico



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'Stating' their support

After getting a big send-off from its fans, the Ephrata boys soccer team — making their first appearance in the State playoffs since 2001 — went on to give defending PIAA champ Conestoga a serious scare. In the end, the Mounts came up just a little bit short, suffering a season-ending 2-1 loss at Downingtown West High School.

B3



A great tradition

For the fourth year in a row, the DEI Winters Leadership Memorial Committee will honor those who served on Veterans Day with a luminary tribute along the walking trail.

A19



Main attractions

New Main Theater operator Penn Ketchum continues to add upgrades to the downtown theater.

B7

Early Deadlines for Thanksgiving

The advertising and editorial deadlines for the issue of Nov. 22 are as follows:

- Retail & Classified Display Advertising: Friday, Nov. 17, 4 p.m.
 - Classified Reader Ads: Monday, Nov. 20, noon
 - Editorial: Friday, Nov. 17, 4 p.m.
- The Ephrata Review office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23

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Photo by Missi Mortimer

At the conclusion of last Wednesday's performance of "Sweeney Todd" at the Ephrata Playhouse, actor Preston Schreffler surprised the audience and his girlfriend, Abby Hoy, with an unscripted marriage proposal.

Engaging performance

By Michael C. Upton

"Sweeney Todd," despite the bloody gore, body parts, and its subtitle referring to the "Demon Barber of Fleet Street," is a love story at its core. Preston Schreffler had his own tale of the heart to tell at EPAC Nov. 1 during curtain call.

Schreffler, who portrays Beadle Bamford in EPAC's rendition of the hit Broadway musical, held the applause shortly after the troupe took their bows in order to get the attention of a partially unsuspecting crowd. The most unsuspecting member of the audience was his girl-

friend and fellow thespian Abby Hoy.

"She came to meet me (here) for the very first time," said Schreffler from center stage as he recalled a moment in 2014 when he was performing in the theatre's showing of "Cabaret." "She sat with her best friend, right up there, and she is here tonight with that same best friend."

He asked her to come down to the stage. Wearing a vintage-style red dress, Hoy accepted Schreffler's unorthodox request to join the players on the stage, who by now had slipped to the

edges of the set.

"We met for the very first time right around here, by this trap door, and I'll never forget the first thing I said to her. I said, 'I thought you'd be taller.' And she said ..."

"I thought you'd be taller," said Hoy, evoking laughs from the audience, some of whom were in attendance just for this special occasion.

"And ever since then we knew we were a perfect match, so in sync. It's been three years of adventure, long conversations, and all sorts of fun times.

PROPOSAL, continued on A4

Ephrata Borough discusses being prepared for an active shooter

By Marylouise Sholly

Once again, the Ephrata Borough Council offered a prayer at its monthly meeting for victims of a mass shooting, this one in a Texas church.

Led by Council Vice-President Thomas Reinhold, council members took a moment of silence to pray for the victims' families.

Ephrata Police Chief William Harvey offered something else; active shooter preparedness training.

Since 2000, Harvey has been training civic groups, organizations, and members of houses of worship in methods that could reduce the risk posed by violence or minimize casualties.

Since the Columbine High School shooting in Colorado in April of 1999, police departments across the country have reached out to businesses and organizations to teach protective methods that include evacuation, taking action, or just hiding when possible, in order to save lives, the police chief

explained.

The training strives to teach people to anticipate what they can and to respond appropriately.

Part of the training deals with recognizing indicators of potential violence, so that officials may be notified before a tragedy.

Harvey has trained the employees of several businesses in the area, including Wellspan, media centers, and a number of church congregations in the region.

People may believe that all they have to do is call '911' for help, but that's a big mistake, Harvey said.

"Most incidents happen and are over in under five minutes," Harvey said. "If calling '911' is your plan, then you don't have a plan."

The police chief teaches people to be their own first responders, to be able to respond to a potential or active shooter.

"If you have a group that wishes a presentation about ac-

tive shooters, please call us," Harvey said, referring to the Ephrata Police Department. "I'll be happy to train your group, whether it's a business or a house of worship."

Harvey said he has had a number of requests for this training within the past few months.

He also praised the Ephrata Police Department on its diligence in keeping up with the latest training techniques.

"We're the leading department in the area; cutting edge," Harvey said.

For groups desiring this type of emergency preparedness training, call the department at 717-738-9200.

In other business, borough council is recommending a bid award for the Ephrata Public Library's Exporatorium renovations.

The renovations have been ongoing for more than a year in a building owned by the library at 560 South Reading Road, in order to make it more appropriate. BOROUGH, continued on A4

A probable cause

Ephrata HS senior Ethan Brubaker's Eagle Scout project involves highlighting local police history

By Marc Anthony

Local history intrigues Ethan Brubaker.

He spends spare time poring over old documents and articles at his local library and the Historical Society.

"I believe it's vital in truly understanding and appreciating the evolution of society and the reason why we are the way we are," he says.

Arguable, it's an impressive mindset in our fast forward society. And it is heartening for many to hear about those left in the world who believe in the lessons of the past.

What makes this history buff unique?

Brubaker just finished his junior year at Ephrata High School.

Ethan has been investing in his community throughout grade school, having joined the Cub Scouts in the first grade and several years later becoming a Boy Scout.

He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 48 in New Holland and for his Eagle Scout project, he has designed a display case for the lobby of the Ephrata Police

Department. The display houses all manner of historical artifacts dating from the early 20th

BRUBAKER, continued on A6



Photo by Preston Whitcraft

Eagle Scout Ethan Brubaker shakes hands with Ephrata Police Lt. Tom Shumaker, who helped inspire Ethan's enthusiasm for police history.

Guess who's coming to town...soon!

Christmas kickoff downtown just two weeks from Friday

By Larry Alexander

It was on a chilly December day in 1923 when a throng of Ephrata residents gathered in front of what was then the Good Hotel to light the town's Christmas tree and sing those old traditional holiday songs.

Ninety-four years later, a new generation of townsfolk

will gather at exactly the same place to usher in the Christmas season with an exhilarating celebration that would have astounded their predecessors with costumed figures, music, rides, a laser light show and, this year, fireworks.

SANTA, continued on A6



Santa will make his annual arrival to Ephrata Nov. 24.

RESULTS

Local races from the Nov. 7 election

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| SCHOOL DIRECTOR EPHRATA
(Top four elected) | Geoff Moulton (D) - 20,999 |
| Suzanne M. Delahunt (D) - 1,144 | Craig Stedman (R) - 47,291 |
| Glenn R. Martin (D) - 2,932 | Emil Giordano (R) - 35,663 |
| Philip L. Eby (R) - 2,422 | Wade A. Kagarise (R) - 35,419 |
| David A. Wissler (R) - 2,422 | Mary Murray (R) - 36,463 |
| Timothy W. Stayer (R) - 2,409 | Jules Mermelstein (GRN) - 2,929 |
| SCHOOL DIRECTOR 2-Year | |
| Richard Gehman (R) - 3,328 | |
| COUNCIL DENVER BOROUGH
(Top four elected) | |
| Kalie Joann Johnson (D) - 155 | Ellen Ceisler (D) - 25,464 |
| Matthew R. Stover (R) - 313 | Irene M. Clark (D) - 24,744 |
| Christopher D. Flory (R) - 310 | Paul Lalley (R) - 38,593 |
| Jason South (R) - 284 | Christine Fizzano Cannon (R) - 41,679 |
| Dan Rogers (R) - 285 | |
| JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT*
(Top four elected) | |
| Maria McLaughlin (D) - 26,626 | Dwayne Woodruff (D) - 24,056 |
| Carolyn H. Nichols (D) - 24,416 | Sallie Mundy (R) - 45,280 |
| Debbie Kunselman (D) - 26,264 | |
| | SHERIFF-2 Year* |
| | Chris Genetti (D) - 29,190 |
| | Chris R. Leppler - 40,330 |

*Lancaster County results

GOP dominates local elections

By Patrick Burns

Local voter turnout varied on a chilly, wet Election Day, which featured few contested races and no national or gubernatorial appeal.

The results were as expect-

ed as GOP candidates dominated all contested and non-contested races.

In a contested race for Ephrata School Board, Democrat

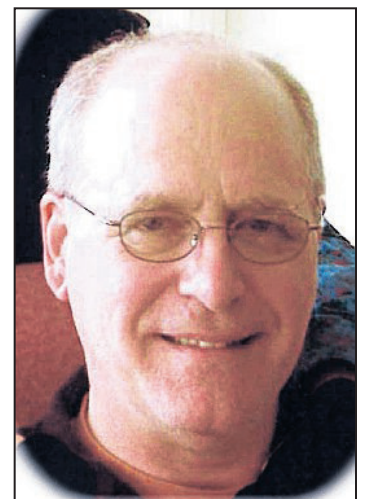
ELECTION, continued on A19

'Skip' Axe, popular basketball coach, dies

Vincent "Skip" Axe, 69, of Lancaster, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017, at Hospice & Community Care, Mount Joy.

He was born in Lancaster to the late Herbert L. and Catherine P. (Ruth) Axe, and was the husband of Christine Anne (Smith) Axe, with whom he shared 48 years of marriage.

Skip was an active member of Lancaster Evangelical Free Church, where he served as a youth advisor, youth Sunday school teacher, and an elder. He had also served as a youth



Vincent "Skip" Axe

AXE, continued on A4





The blue light when lit outside the Ephrata Police station on Main Street in the 1940s alerted police to come back to the station for details about a call received before the advancement to walkie-talkies and police radios.

Brubaker

From page A1
century to present day — from documents and photographs to caps, uniforms and patches. He received approval for the project in December of 2016, after which he hit the ground running.

Starting out, he wanted feedback on the project, so he handed out surveys to retired police officers as well as his fellow scouts. There was a great deal of interest in featuring uniforms and patches, so Ethan dug in and got to work. And then, he saw the light. Literally speaking.

Before the use of radios, a police light was lit in order to notify officers that they were needed. Brubaker discovered a photograph from the 1940s which shows the light used to communicate with members of Ephrata's police department. Ethan was instantly taken by this local artifact and so began his pursuit. "Lt. Shumaker brought up the street light during one of our first meetings and I thought it was a really great idea. I think having that (the street light) be a part of the project would be fascinating and unique." The whereabouts of this light are a mystery thus far. All they have to go on is the old photograph, and the hope that someone out there might have an idea as to where the light is currently residing. Everyone involved in the project is in agreement that this particular piece of local history would be an amazing find; and while Ethan is confident they are creating a rich and quite thorough tapestry of the town and its police department, he says that finding the light "would definitely be a major bonus".

Ethan is the project leader, which means he is in charge of design and assembly while also devoting countless hours to historical research. He is quick to mention the invaluable contributions of the men whose opinions he values most. "Lt. Shumaker of the Ephrata Police Department has been integral to this process, as a mentor and advisor."

His father Dale is a Scout leader whom Ethan credits with helping to keep things running smoothly by lending his time and expertise. Dad knows full well that a big picture outlook is only as good



Ethan Brubaker holds a blue light similar to one which once alerted Ephrata beat cops on the street that a call had been placed for a police response.

as the details it provides. "My father has been a very important figure in helping to develop this project; giving advice, reading over emails and handling all the subtleties that are involved" in this kind of undertaking. The women in his life have left indelible impressions as well. His mother Lynn drives him to Boy Scout meetings and activities, and her organizational skills help bring everything together. Big sister Madison, who just graduated from George Washington University this spring, was a much-needed voice of support and encouragement throughout. This past school year, Ethan took Advanced Placement US History with Wendolen Mellinger, whom he refers to as a "phenomenal" teacher. This is really when things started to fall into place. "One of the cornerstones of the AP class was looking at trends. I garnered a lot more respect for history by seeing the influence it had and how it isn't confined to any one area. Just being able to help preserve it at the local level and to share it with others was a great experience for me."

He has taken those lessons learned in Mellinger's classroom and applied them to his project. "Prior to this school year, I enjoyed history, but I never really delved into it so to say. To be able to work with it first hand and to be able to show people these smaller parts of history that they normally don't think about and the value in them, I'm

very excited."

This summer, he has a lot on his plate. While working hard to complete the project, he also has his schoolwork to attend to. And he just got back from the Pennsylvania American Legion Keystone Boys State — a week long summer program which basically serves as a real-world model for its young community leaders. In July, Ethan will be traveling to Washington D.C. on a missions trip. As far as college, Ethan says he is considering several schools; most notably American University and Georgetown. He wishes to pursue Government or Public Policy as a major.

Ethan is proud of the work he has put into making this historical display a reality. He is grateful to his family and neighbors for all their help and support, and most of all he's excited. Excited by the prospect that a photograph taken more than three quarters of a century ago might actually lead to its discovery. Because it wouldn't just be about the project if this were to happen, it would be about the community it belongs to. And really, history is like any other living thing; when you dedicate yourself to it, the returns are infinite. It just takes a few people who care enough to put in the time and make something old, new again.

You have to wonder if Ethan Brubaker chose this project, or if it chose him.

Santa

From page A1

In many ways the 2017 version of Ephrata's tree-lighting, hosted by Downtown Ephrata Inc. and the Ephrata Area Chamber of Commerce and set for Nov. 24, will mimic last year's. East Main Street, from Lake to State streets, will be shut down between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Festivities will kick off at 5:30 p.m. with music piped across town thanks to the Getz Steam Calliope. Costumed characters including Santa's elves, Rudolph, Frosty and others will stroll the streets. There will be an expanded Toyland located at the Whistle Stop Plaza for the kids to wander through, barrel train rides, ice sculpting and horse-drawn wagon rides provided by Landis Valley Farm Museum. Food vendors and activities for young and old will also highlight the evening.

The Belsnickel, that traditional old German harbinger of Christmas, will arrive on the Lincoln Fire Company's antique fire engine. According to the old German tradition, the Belsnickel visited homes toting sweets for good children in one hand and a hickory switch for the naughty ones in the other. While Ephrata's Belsnickel will not be using any switches he will help to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Claus before departing the festivities.

As for Santa, he will arrive around 7 p.m. on the roof of the Ephrata National Bank and be lowered to the ground by the Pioneer Fire Company ladder truck. He will then walk among the crowd on his way to the Railroad Station where he will set up his headquarters and begin hearing Children's Christmas lists.

Hours for Santa's house will be Thursday-Friday, 5:30-7:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m. through Dec. 22.

The tree lighting will occur around 7:15 p.m. and a spectacular laser light show will cap the evening, although this year a new twist will be added. A display of pyrotechnics will be choreographed to the laser show.

"Since we are firing these from the roof of the bank, they won't be loud bangs and booms," said Jim Brown, a member of the Christmas Tree Committee and director of Facilities at Ephrata National Bank. "They will be more like comets and strobes."

"They will add some excitement as we count down to the tree lighting," said Cindy Mellinger, also a committee member and Marketing and Community Relations Coordinator for Blue Ridge Communications.

After the tree is lit, a community sing-along of holiday favorites will follow.

The tree-lighting and carol sing-along has been an Ephrata tradition since that cold winter's day in 1923. Initially the tree was erected in front of the Good Hotel at 35-37 East Main St. This held true until around 1950 when the Reading and Columbia Railroad ceased passenger rail service to Ephrata. This freed up the parking lot in front of the train station and the tree was moved there. A wooden shack featuring a kerosene heater to fend off the cold evenings served as Santa's headquarters.

In 1976, the Ephrata National Bank purchased the Good Hotel, razed it and erected the bank's annex which stands there today. With an eye to moving the community tree back to its original location, a receptacle was built into a planter in front of the new building. The



Everyone gets in the spirit at Ephrata's tree lighting and Santa arrival ceremony. Shown are scenes from last year's event, including caroling on East Main Street and horse-drawn carriage rides through the town.

tree was brought back in 1981.

"And that's where it's been ever since," Brown said.

Besides the Christmas tree lighting and carol sing, another longtime Ephrata tradition will be observed; holiday movies at the Main Theatre and the free orange.

In bygone days, Ephrata's youngsters were treated to a free movie on Christmas morning, with a box of candy and an orange being handed to the kids as they left. While the free candy and free movies are a thing of the past, Penn Ketchum, head of Penn Cinema which purchased the Main Theatre earlier this year, is offering \$5 movies each Saturday at 10 a.m. from Nov. 25 through Dec. 16, with a free orange handed out to kids after the show.

"Ephrata has a rich Christmas tradition and in years past, the movie theater downtown had been a part of that," Ketchum said. "We are excited to bring some of that history back to life. I think it speaks to how we see our role in the community and it reflects our respect for the great traditions of years past."

The films being shown are the classic: "A Christmas Story" about a young boy wishing for a Daisy air rifle for Christmas (Nov. 25), "Elf" (Dec. 2), actor Jim Carey's hilarious "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" (Dec. 9) and the animated "Polar Express" (Dec. 16).

"We will show four family-oriented Christmas movies in successive Saturday mornings and, as in years past, we will give each child a Christmas orange after the show," Ketchum said. "I'm not saying that kids these days will be super excited about getting an orange, but we think it is fun to give a nod to those who might re-

member the 'old days' and sort of embrace the tradition as a means of honoring the past. Christmas is a time of magic and wonder, two elements that go very well with modern day story-telling, and we're excited to bring some magic and wonder to East Main Street this year. It's a great privilege and we look forward to sharing some joy and starting what may very well become a new Ephrata tradition."

Tickets for the holiday movies went on sale Nov. 1 and are first come, first served. They may be purchased in advance online at thenewmain.com or in person at the box office.

Mellinger said the community holiday event is a family-oriented evening of fun that is "completely free." For helping to make the event free of charge, Mellinger thanked the event's premier event sponsor, the Retreat at Lancaster County, as well as WellSpan Ephrata Community Hospital and Ephrata National Bank (tree lighting and Santa's Arrival), Graham's Auto Sales & Service (Laser Light show), R. E. Lamb (Pyrotechnical show), WNC CPAs and Consultants, LLC (Santa's House) and Members 1st Federal Credit Union (horse drawn wagon rides).

"The only thing families will have to pay for is the food," Mellinger said. "We're trying to make this a destination for families. We want the people downtown to enjoy the evening. We want them to enjoy the food, to go to Toyland, to ride the barrel train. We want them to be a part of the activities. We have a longtime family celebration here and we're trying to keep that tradition that makes Ephrata unique and special and great."

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WellSpan HealthTalks

Your goal is better health. We'll help you get there.

Cooking Demonstration: Healthy Holiday Favorites

Tuesday, November 21 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

The Exploratorium at Ephrata Library
550 South Reading Road, Ephrata

Speaker: Fran Hadley, RD, LDN, CDE
Registered Dietitian, The Wellness Center

Register: Call (855) 237-4222

Cost: FREE

Can holiday food be both delicious and nutritious? The answer is yes, and Fran Hadley, Registered Clinical Dietitian at the WellSpan Wellness Center, will show you how to improve your holiday favorites. Watch the cooking demonstration and leave with tried-and-true healthy recipes that everyone will enjoy. Register early; spaces fill quickly!

Registration is required for these FREE health talks. Please call (855) 237-4222.