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A DIRECT MAIL PUBLICATION - 25TH YEAR - NO. 48 Friday, December 2, 2022 MIDDLEBURG, PA 17842

Santa Claus Is Coming to Kratzerville Volunteer Fire Company

Edited by Kay Poeth



On Thursday, December 15 from 6-8 pm, Santa Claus will be visiting the Kratzerville Volunteer Fire Company to meet with local children and to hear their Christmas wishes. Santa invites children of all ages to come to the Fire Company located at 62 Fire Hall Road, just off of Route 204 to receive treats and to share their Christmas lists.

Boy Scout Troop 441 of Kratzerville will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots and visitors can add their donation to the barrel. Each year the scouts collect toys for children who wouldn't have gifts under the tree without the generosity of others.

Food is available for purchase during the event including pizza, chicken fingers, cheeseburgers, fresh cut fries, and more. The social hall will be non-smoking while Santa is visiting.

Mifflinburg Turkey Trot

By Jamiee Joiner



Mifflinburg's Turkey Trot kicked off on Thanksgiving morning continuing a tradition for families from near and far that started the day with a 5K run or walk. This annual event held in Mifflinburg Community Park allows participants a feeling that they have earned that big Thanksgiving meal that they will enjoy later on in the afternoon.

The event is hosted by the Mifflinburg Boys' Lacrosse Team together with the Herr Memorial Library. A representative of the Herr Memorial Library confirmed that they had a total of 300 people who participated in the event which was a great turnout. Those that signed up prior to October 29th received a commemorative t-shirt, and Dr. Doug Spotts, a former Mifflinburg resident, acted as the celebrity turkey for this year.

The proceeds of the event benefitted both the Mifflinburg Boys' Lacrosse Team and the Herr Memorial Library. In addition, participants were encouraged to contribute a non-perishable food item which would be donated to a local food bank. The Lacrosse Team and the Herr Memorial Library are both very thankful for the support of the volunteers, participants, the lacrosse players, and the turkeys!

Mifflinburg UMC's Thanksgiving Feast



Volunteers from Mifflinburg UMC provided 164 Thanksgiving meals for area residents.

Early on Thanksgiving Day, Mifflinburg United Methodist Church volunteers gathered to prepare a delicious holiday meal for their Annual Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. 164 meals were provided for Mifflinburg residents, including some of our first responders. The meals were provided for take-out, dine in, or delivery within the borough. Additionally, about a dozen volunteers were also fed. Only a small amount of turkey, gravy and cranberry sauce was left over, so the meal was considered a huge success! Thanks to the amazing volunteers and all of the people who ordered dinners. Blessings to you all!

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Deeds & Courts

Community Calendar

Heartland Youth Football Champs

By Kay Poeth

Congratulations to the Mifflinburg A-Varsity Football team, a division of 5th and 6th graders, who won the District Championship on Sunday, November 20. They beat Shikellamy 19-13.

The team was undefeated for the season with an 8-0 record, earning a bye into playoffs. The team then went 3-0 in playoffs en route to the championship. Mifflinburg defeated Bloomsburg 39-0, Muncy 19-0, and Shikellamy 19-13 to win the championship.

During the season, Mifflinburg went 11-0 and outscored opponents 378-25. The boys have been playing together for years. They began the season on August 1 with the mindset of winning the title.

According to Chris Snyder, "We coaches asked a lot of them all season in practice. They never complained, they just put in the work. What makes them special is they're good football players, but even better young men."

Way to go, Mifflinburg Wildcats 5/6 division on winning the Heartland Youth Football Championship.

Light Up Little Buffalo State Park!

On Saturday, December 17 from 6-9 pm, Little Buffalo State Park will be lit up for the holidays. Little Buffalo's lighted trail is brought to you by Little Buffalo State Park in conjunction with The Friends of Little Buffalo. Meet Santa, cook marshmallows over an open fire, and enjoy the thousands of lights and displays located along this quarter mile trail in the park's East Picnic Area.

This is a free program but donations are graciously accepted. Proceeds this year will be going towards restoring their historic train car, which is in dire need of repairs and was once a fun addition to the holiday trail. All donations provide future programs, festivals, and recreational activities at the park.

Please bring a flashlight as the parking areas are dark. Hot chocolate and cookies will be for sale by the local 4H all 7 nights. Daily events so far are as follows: Dec. 17 - West Perry Mustang Chorale -Time TBA; Dec. 21 - Newport Ensembles - Elementary chorus, Minivation, & Innovation -Time TBD; Dec. 22 - Dixie's Dance Studio - 6:30 pm and Dec. 23 - Greenwood Swing Choir "Out of the Blue" - 7:30 pm

Well behaved pets are welcome, but must be restrained at all times. Your pet will likely not enjoy this as much as you will due to the crowds. For more information, email littlebuffsp@pa.gov or call the park office at 717-567-9255.

Evan Hospital Granted Funds for EMT Training and Support

Evangelical Community Hospital was recently awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the Greater Susquehanna Valley Community Fund at the First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania (FCFP). The funds are designated to support an EMT training program of Evangelical Regional Mobile Medical Services (ERMMS) that allows for expansion and growth of the Hospital's Emergency Response program.

The ERMMS EMT Training Program is designed as an eight-week program. Each week of the program, trainees undergo four days of classroom instruction at the EMT Training Center in Selinsgrove and one day of supervised, hands-on training working on an ambulance in the community. Participants accepted into the program are immediately employees of ERMMS receiving payment for the time they put into learning how to care for the area's patients.

An EMT provides emergency medical care to individuals in need—they assess, stabilize, and transport patients who need routine medical care or who are experiencing life-threatening emergencies. EMTs on scene may provide basic life support services.

Classroom instruction and curriculum content is provided by Harrisburg Area Community College EMT instructors. The field work on local ambulance calls is supervised by an ERMMS preceptor. At the conclusion of the eight-week training program EMT trainees will have met all requirements and certifications for employment as an EMT except the Pennsylvania EMT Certification. This final level of certification requires sitting for a two-phase examination that is comprised of a hands-on demonstration of skill and a written test.

To qualify for ERMMS education program, a candidate must be 16 years of age, have an interest in becoming an EMT, and be willing to make a commitment to 18 months of full-time employment with ERMMS upon receipt of certification. For more information on the EMT Trainee Program, visit www.EvanHospital.com/Careers.

Deeds:

Lance R. Yocum, Mifflinburg to Wayne B. & Emily R. Hoover, Mifflinburg property in West Buffalo Township for the sum of 700,000.00.

Cody M. Heidler, White Deer to Tisha Watson, White Deer Township property in White Deer Township for the sum of 182,000.00.

Robert A. Paterson & Gail P. Flynn Miller & Scot B. Paterson & Tucker O. Paterson Trust to Gail P. Flynn Miller & Wayne S. Miller, Lewisburg property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 1.00.

Patricia A. Pick by Lucinda A. Marks to Craig J. & Denise L. Paskovich, Mifflinburg property in Lewisburg Borough for the sum of 58,000.00.

Stephen F. & Linda M. Butterff, Millmont to Matthew S. & Christina D. Morseman, Millmont property in Hartleton Borough for the sum of 240,000.00.

Debra H. & Calvin J. Webb II, Johnstown & Scott E. & Kristin I. Henninger, Lewisburg to Douglas R. Bird, Watsonstown & Makaula Lynn Finan, Watsonstown property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 240,000.00.

Steven J. & Tami S. Catania, Million, Pa. to Cory D. & Bobbie J. Botts, Millmont property in 320,000.00.

Beulah M. Loss, Lewisburg to Chrles A. & Jody A. Estright, Lewisburg & Stephen E. & Ashley M. Blyler, Lewisburg property in Buffalo Township for the sum of 40,000.00.

Elaine G. Pentz Rockey & Robert E. Rockey, Lewisburg to Clinton R. & Julie K. Rockey, Lewisburg property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 1.00.

Janet S. Hartman to Colin E. & Samantha M. Gessner & Jane P. Spickler, Mifflinburg property in Buffalo Township for the sum of 400,400.00.

Alpha & Omega Realty LLC, Milton to Frederick J. III & Melissa J. Bennett, Orangeville, Pa. property in White Deer Township for the sum of 270,000.00.

Gary L. Kauffman, Lewisburg to John C. Taylor Jr., Watsonstown & Terry S. Fogelman, Largo FL. & Nathan H. Clemens, West Milton property in Lewisburg Borough for the sum of 165,100.00.

Debra H. & Calvin J. Webb II, Johnstown & Scott E. & Kristin I. Henninger, Lewisburg to Scott E. & Kristin I. Henninger property in East Buffalo Township for the sum of 1.00.

Divorce:

Amy Boyer, Mifflinburg from Jennifer Campbell, Orange, Ct. they were married for 8 years.

Marriages:

Irisbel Melendez Martinz, Lewisburg to Miguel Sanchez Torres, Lewisburg

Andrew Stanfield Crago, Lewisburg to Rachel Maria Farnelli, Montrose Pa.

DISTRICT JUDGE JEFFREY ROWE, LEWISBURG

Charged Robert Frank Caszatt, 30, of Selinsgrove, with use/possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a small amount of marijuana for personal use, non PA vehicle not registered, and fail to use safety belt-driver and vehicle occupant on November 28.

Charged Corey Lee Cummings, 38, with retail theft on November 22.

DISTRICT JUDGE JEFFREY L. MENSCH, MIFFLINBURG

Police

MILTON STATE POLICE

Assault with Weapon 12:16 a.m. November 13, at 360 White Deer Run Road, in Gregg Township. PSP responded to a report of a stabbing that occurred at the facility. The suspect, James Cloud, 34, of Kenmore, NY, was taken into custody without incident. Charges were filed through District Court 17-3-02.

Crash 11:50 a.m. November 21, on International Drive at its intersection with AJK Blvd, in Kelly Township. A 2016 Toyota Corolla was stopped at the intersection traveling south on International Drive and a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu was stopped at the intersection traveling east on AJK Blvd. The Toyota Corolla was stopped before the Chevrolet Malibu. The Chevrolet Malibu then proceeded to turn right through the intersection without yielding the right of way to the Toyota Corolla. Both vehicle entered the intersection and the Chevrolet Malibu struck the Toyota Corolla in the rear passenger door with its front driver side bumper. Both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene. No injuries were reported. The driver of the Chevrolet Malibu was issued a warning for stop signs and yield signs.

Found Property/Drugs 8:12 a.m. November 22, at 160 Commerce Park, in White Deer Township. PSP was dispatched to a report of a found handgun magazine with ammunition. Anyone with information regarding the owner of the lost magazine is asked to contact police at 570-524-2662.

Crash 12:47 a.m. November 21, on SR 15, in White Deer Township. A 2015 Scion FRS driven by Seth J. Smith, 20, of Williamsport, was traveling north on SR 15 in the left lane. The front bumper and hood struck a deer in the roadway. No injuries were reported. Smith was issued a warning for driving vehicle at safe speed.

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Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 8-4
Thursday 1-4 • Friday By Appointment

Publisher/Owner: Susan Weaver

In-Office Staff: Valerie Hollenbach, Hannah Nelson & Chloe Eddy

The Union & New Berlin Gazette were merged to become the Union Times in 1822 and this was the start of the Union County Times. A lifetime of Newspaper Publishing.

Standard postage paid at Post Office, Middleburg, PA 17842. Send all address changes to Union County Times, Inc., P.O. Box 356, Middleburg, PA 17842.

Subscription Rates: Out of County \$40.00, out of state \$50.00, Newsstand 50¢

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Deadlines: Articles and Display advertisements must be submitted by 4 p.m. Tuesday to be considered for publication. Community Events must be submitted by 12 noon Monday. Legal Notices and Classifieds must be submitted by 12 p.m. Tuesday. There will be **no exceptions** to this rule.

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Safe Driving Around School Buses

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) was joined today by the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Newbery Township Police, and West Shore School District transportation partners to reinforce the importance of school transportation safety and highlight the potential school transportation challenges posed by changing daylight conditions. The results of Operation Safe Stop, an annual school bus enforcement and education initiative that was held on October 19 this year, were also announced.

Operation Safe Stop data revealed that participating school districts and law enforcement agencies reported witnessing 155 violations of the law, down from the 252 reported last year. The initiative is held in conjunction with local and state police departments, school districts, and pupil transportation providers to conduct enforcement, raise public awareness about the consequences of improper passing of school buses, and reduce occurrences. Convictions for breaking the School Bus Stopping Law increased from 314 in 2020 to 348 in 2021.

"The increase in convictions of the School Bus Stopping Law last year is just one reason why we're reminding motorists of its importance. One incident of passing a school bus is one too many," said Acting Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration Mike Keiser. "With additional challenges such as darkness coinciding with more of our students' school bus ride times and the distraction of the quickly approaching holiday season, it is important that motorists remain vigilant while sharing the road with school buses and students."

The School Bus Stopping Law requires motorists to stop at least 10 feet from the bus when approaching a school bus with its red lights flashing and stop arm extended. Motorists approaching from all directions are required to stop. The only exception to this law is when motorists encounter a school bus stopping on the opposite side of a divided highway when lanes of the highway are clearly separated by a divider, such as a concrete barrier or grassy median.

"Drivers might consider the penalties if convicted of disobeying Pennsylvania's School Bus Stopping law steep - a \$250 fine, five points on your driving record and a 60-day license suspension," said Corporal Zeina Black, Permits and Bus Safety Unit Supervisor with the Pennsylvania State Police. "But even worse than these penalties, a tragedy could occur if either a driver or a student is not paying attention to their surroundings."

Some safety tips for students to remember while waiting for or loading and unloading the bus include:

- Get to the school bus stop five minutes early, so you won't have to run across the road to catch the bus.
- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic.
- Line up at least five giant steps away from the curb or the roadway to wait for the bus.
- Never run after the school bus if it has already left the bus stop.
- Never push when getting on or off the school bus.
- "Student safety at school bus stops and in school zones is of the utmost importance and requires the undivided attention of all motorists," said Department of Education Secretary Eric Hagarty. "Local school districts work hard to identify the safest locations possible for school bus stops and to train their staff. But to ensure that students remain safe, we urge all drivers to watch for the flashing lights of school buses and always stop when students are getting on and off."

Drive Through Narcan Distributions at The Miller Center in December

Community Health and Wellness at Evangelical Community Hospital is offering free Narcan distribution events at the rear entrance of The Miller Center, 112 North 15 Street, Lewisburg, from 4-6 pm on the following dates:

- Thursday, December 8, 2022
- Tuesday, December 20, 2022
- Thursday, December 29, 2022

These events are for anyone who has someone they care about who has the potential to overdose through opioid use. The Narcan will be distributed with no questions asked and a short hands-on demonstration will be given to recipients on how to administer it to someone in need.

The distribution will be anonymous. Any questions can be directed to Community Health and Wellness at 570-768-3200.

Union County Plan Being Updated

It is time for Union County to update its comprehensive plan which was last revisited more than a decade ago. The purpose of the plan is to examine a variety of issues that touch the lives of county residents on a daily basis such as broadband connectivity, economic development, energy resources, housing, land use, natural resources, transportation, sewer, water and many others. The goal of the planning process is to identify actions that can be taken to overcome challenges that our communities are facing today or will be in the near future in order to maintain and strengthen Union County's economy, family-friendly culture and quality of life.

"As elected officials we know that our residents care about the county and have concerns or opinions about what direction we should be headed in terms of our policies, programs and services" said Union County Commissioner Chairman Jeff Reber. "But we also know how difficult it is to make sure everyone's voices are heard and not just a few people", added Reber.

Commissioner Stacy Richards said the comprehensive plan serves as a blueprint for the future and the county wants to learn about ideas the citizens have, no matter how big or small. "All Union County households should have received a postcard about our survey. Please take a few minutes to go online and complete the survey. It's an easy way to share your thoughts and it will help us shape the county's future", added Richards.

As a commissioner that was present during the development of the existing plan, Cultivating Community: A Plan for Union County's Future, Preston Boop said "this is a chance for you to have a say in the direction Union County takes in the coming years. I would encourage you to get involved. If you don't participate then someone else will decide for you and you may not like the results." Boop added that it is important to have a plan because local government has limited resources and needs to be smart about its investments in projects and services.

Whether you are a lifelong resident of the county or new to the area the plan will likely include a topic that interests you. In addition to the online survey the county Planning & Economic Development Department will also be holding public meetings in the future and will provide an online forum for viewing information and sharing ideas.

For more information about the comprehensive plan update residents can visit the county website at www.unioncountyplan.org to take the survey and sign up for notifications about upcoming public involvement opportunities and general updates about the planning process.

Mechanicsburg Man Receives Jail for Child Endangerment

District Attorney Mike Piecuch (pronounced "pea-YET-sue") has announced the sentencing of Michael B. Damgaard, age 34, formerly of Mechanicsburg. Senior Judge Dudley Anderson accepted Damgaard's pleas to felony endangering welfare of a child, felony criminal use of a communications facility, and misdemeanor simple assault. Judge Anderson imposed a total sentence of 9 to 23 1/2 months in jail to be followed by 7 years of probation.

After meeting online, Damgaard drove from his home to Snyder County multiple times in May and June 2020 to have sexual relations with the victim, a minor female. This occurred at a local motel and in the woods near the victim's home. Damgaard also assaulted the girl's mother when confronted coming out of the woods with the girl. The victim reported that Damgaard had threatened her in order to coerce her into performing sexual acts for him.

Damgaard, who had been out on bail, was taken immediately into custody after being sentenced. Sexual offender conditions of supervision will apply. The Defendant must submit to a psycho-sexual evaluation before being paroled, and must comply with any treatment recommendations. He cannot have contact with any minors other than family members. His digital communications/social media will be subject to monitoring by the probation department.

D.A. Piecuch said, "I'm grateful that the victim's courage exposed Damgaard's crimes. People who sexually exploit children often target the most vulnerable children by design. These victims are the least likely to report these crimes, and when they do report, the trauma they've suffered makes it difficult to face their perpetrator in court. Withstanding the ordeal of cross-examination by the defense can be too much for some victims, and understandably so. This is what makes these types of cases so challenging to prosecute."

D.A. Piecuch added: "The mental and emotional torment the victim in this case has suffered is beyond description, and preventing her re-victimization on the witness stand was paramount. This plea agreement had three other basic goals: to hold the defendant publicly accountable, to punish his crimes with jail time, and to require long-term court supervision once he's released. Because of the victim's courage and resilience, these goals were achieved."

Litter Hawk Youth Award Program Combines Fun and Litter Awareness

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is announcing the Litter Hawk Youth Award Program, a recognition program for students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade, who complete a designated project specific to their grade level. Kids can participate individually or as part of a lesson initiated by schools, home-schools, scout troops, 4-H clubs, environmental clubs or other organized groups.

The Litter Hawk Youth Award Program is a way for kids to share their hope, optimism and concerns about litter and inspire others to care for their communities through art, words or video. In response to Pennsylvania's new anti-littering education campaign, PA Fights Dirty: Every Litter Bit Matters, the theme is: Show Us How Every Litter Bit Matters to You. Projects include:

- Grades Kindergarten through 4 - Poster
- Grades 5 and 6 - Essay or video

Two entries will be selected as winners in each grade level. First place will receive a \$50 gift card. First runner-up will receive \$25 gift card. All participants will be recognized with certificates. The deadline to participate is January 31. Winners will be announced in April in time for Earth Day celebrations.

The Wolf Administration released its Litter Action Plan in 2021 in response to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's 2019 Litter Research Study which found Pennsylvania has more than 500 million pieces of litter on its roadways. As part of the plan, the state launched a public awareness campaign, PA Fights Dirty: Every Litter Bit Matters, this summer. The campaign calls upon Pennsylvanians to ensure every piece of their trash, regardless of size, is disposed of properly.

"We wanted to help bring awareness to the state's new anti-littering campaign by incorporating it into this year's Litter Hawk theme and have students show us and tell us how every piece of trash matters when keeping our neighborhoods clean and beautiful! Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful believes that engaging youth in protecting the environment not only creates a direct impact on changing behaviors and attitudes, but also influences their friends and families," said Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "We are all responsible for keeping our communities clean and beautiful. This program provides a fun and easy way for students to illustrate respect for the environment and their community."

The Litter Hawk Youth Award program was created with funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. For more information, downloadable promotional posters and an online entry form, visit <https://www.keppbeautiful.org/grants-awards/awards/litter-hawk/>. Additional questions can be answered by Michelle Dunn at mdunn@keppbeautiful.org or 877-772-3673 ext. 113.

Property Tax/Rent Rebate Appointments

Union-Snyder Agency On Agency

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate program is funded by the PA Lottery thru the Department of Revenue. It benefits eligible Pennsylvanians age 65 and older; widows and widowers age 50 and older; and people with disabilities age 18 and older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. It is important to note that half of Social Security income is excluded in the calculation. Property Tax/Rent Rebates are based on property taxes or rent paid the previous calendar year. You or your spouse must have been at least 65 years old as of Dec. 31 of the claim year OR you were a widow or widower during all or part of the claim year and must have been 50 years or older as of Dec. 31 OR you were permanently disabled during all or part of the claim year, 18 years or older during the claim year and were unable to work because of a medically determined physical or mental disability. If you applied for Social Security Disability and were denied benefits, you are not eligible for a rebate as a disabled claimant. You must have owned and occupied a home or rented and occupied a home, apartment, nursing home, boarding home or similar residence in Pennsylvania during the period for which you claim the rebate.

The Union-Snyder Agency on Aging is currently offering appointments at the Beaver Springs Senior Center and the Penns Creek Adult Resource Center for individuals that think they may qualify for this program. Please call 570-524-2100 or 570-374-5558 for an appointment.

PUBLIC REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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Property Description: Rural 2.29 acre homestead with frontage on Silver Creek. 3 bedroom 1.5 bath home with metal roof and vinyl siding. 2 stall horse barn. Heated, insulated shop 3,660 sq. ft. Outdoor furnace, hot water heat with backup propane heat. Drilled well and standard septic.

Open House Dates: Sat. Dec. 17 @ 1 P.M. For more details or a private showing call Meryl @ 717-629-6036.
Terms: Settlement on or before March 7, 2023. \$20,000.00 down payment on the day of the auction. 2% transfer tax to be paid by the buyer. Real Estate taxes to be prorated from settlement day.

Annual Property Taxes: \$1,796.83

Attention Realtors: Broker Participation offered to Realtors with a buyer, your buyers must be pre-registered.

For additional pictures go to www.beiler-campbellauctions.com or www.GoToAuction.com or www.auctionzip.com ID# 23383

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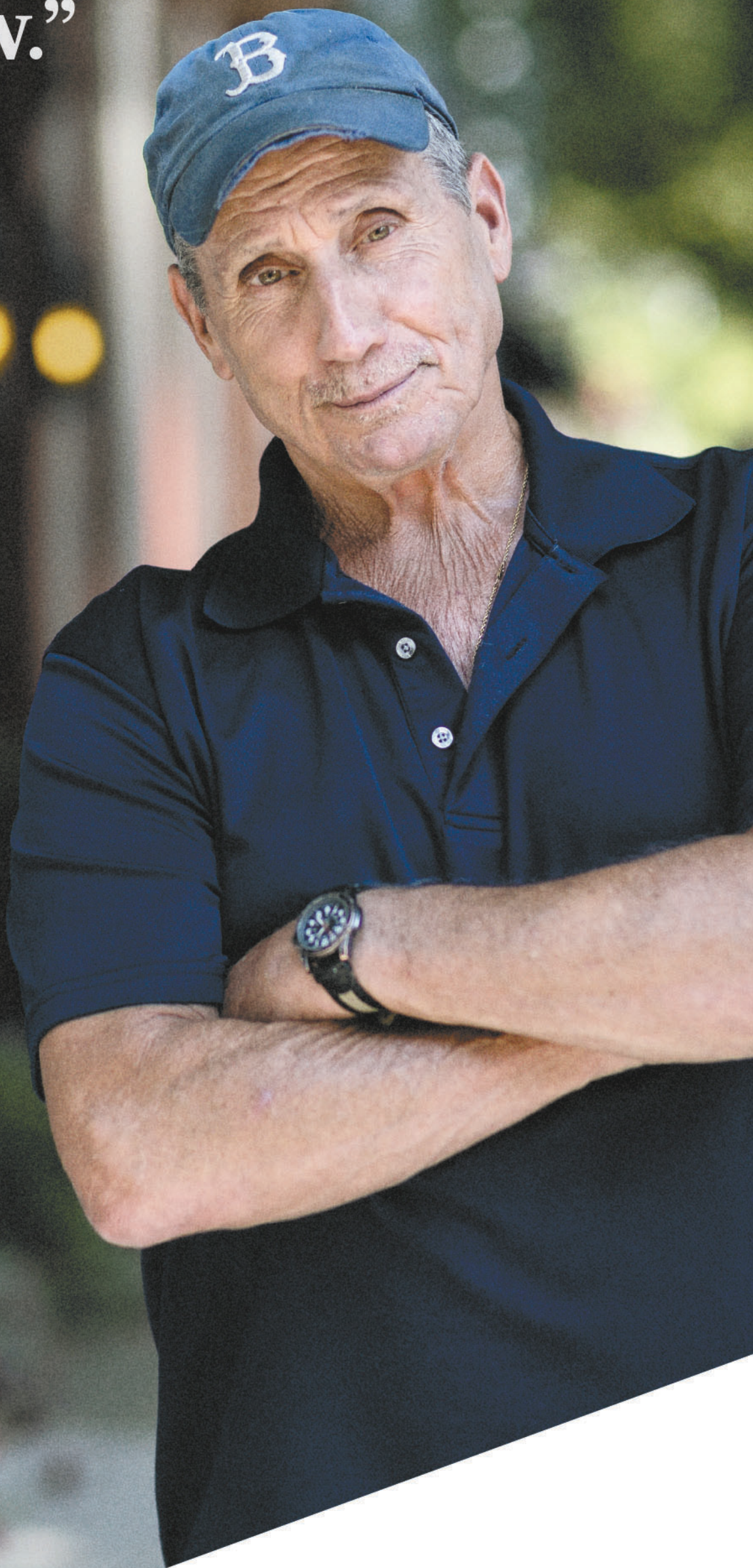
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What happens when you wake up in the middle of the night and feel pain like nothing you've ever had before? For Lewisburg resident Frank DiTaranto, it meant a trip to the emergency room and the discovery of a rare type of tumor in his neck. But he got a new lease on life when Dr. Sanjay Konakondla and the world-class team of radiologists and specialists at Geisinger removed the cancer.

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See the whole story at [geisinger.org/stories](https://www.geisinger.org/stories)

Library a Part of The Christkindl Tradition



Herr Memorial Library in Mifflinburg along with the Public Library for Union County in Lewisburg, and The West End Library in Laurelton make up the Union County Library System.

Set in the heart of the Christkindl Market, the Herr Memorial Library has naturally been a part of the town's yearly holiday tradition.

For over 10 years the library has participated in the Mifflinburg's annual German Christmas market. "In the past, we had a small coffee house inside in the Discover room and provided a small, but warm, place to stop by for coffee and cookies," said Pam Steele fundraising coordinator for the library.

Four years ago, the library was offered an outdoor hut. "We approached the Christkindl committee to see if there were any particular food items needed at the market," said Steele. "They replied that in prior years there was a booth selling haluski and it had been missing from the market for a few years." The library fundraising committee decided to put on their chef hats and create the perfect holiday haluski to sell as a fundraiser for the library.

"The ingredients are butter, onions, noodles and cabbage, both fresh and seasoned," said Steele. "We trialed a few different variations of that and had a taste testing session at a board meeting where the final recipe was decided upon."

Visitors at the market can purchase a warm serving of haluski for \$5 or take home a quart of it for \$10. Proceeds benefit the Herr Memorial Library.

"We are delighted to be a part of the Christkindl market, celebrating the joy of the holiday season with our wonderful community that has been so abundantly supportive of us over the years," said Library Director Corrie Post. "The Herr Memorial Library has been a vital part of the Mifflinburg community for over 70 years. Our extensive collection of books, media and other materials, combined with the many programming opportunities available make the library a perfect destination for information, literacy and lifelong learning."

Funding Secured for New Berlin Police Department Radio System



Senator Gene Yaw (R-23) recently traveled to New Berlin Borough, Union County to speak with Chief of Police Joshua Dreisbach (pictured left) and Borough Secretary and Treasurer Rebecca Witmer (not pictured) after the Borough secured a \$25,000 state investment to upgrade their police radio system.

State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) recently announced a \$25,000 state investment for the Borough of New Berlin, Union County. The grant was used to upgrade the radios for the Borough's Police Department.

"This state investment will assist New Berlin in meeting the public safety needs of the community," Sen. Yaw said. "It's an instrumental component of their emergency response efforts, and I was happy to advocate on their behalf."

The grant covered the purchase, installation, and programming for two APX 4500 Motorola vehicle and mobile units and four APX 900 portable units. The new units have improved efficiency, better wireless connectivity and allows for interoperability among other P25-compliant organizations and first responders. In addition to the full grant amount, additional costs incurred were covered by the Borough.

"The New Berlin Borough and New Berlin Police Department sincerely thank Senator Yaw for his support of municipal law enforcement," said Rebecca Witmer, Borough Secretary and Treasurer. "Senator Yaw was instrumental in helping secure this grant for communication equipment, which will help provide better law enforcement services to our small community and surrounding areas. We are proud to have a Senator who goes above and beyond to help local, small communities like us."

Evangelical Hospital's New Electronic Health Record

Evangelical Community Hospital will be transitioning to one, integrated platform for its electronic health record (EHR). The Hospital will go-live with the new system, Epic, on December 4, 2022. This strategic move by the Hospital modernizes the patient process creating a seamless, safe, and more consistent healthcare delivery system for all patients in the community.

Epic is a leading developer of comprehensive healthcare software and is used by numerous academic medical centers around the world. The transition to Epic will make way for quality improvements, best-in-class patient experiences, and efficient intake of new patients as well as the moving of existing patients to where they need to be to receive the best possible care in a timely manner.

"The platform takes into consideration all of the facets related to patient care and places them into one system that makes seeing all information in one place possible," said Dale Moyer, Vice President of Information Systems at Evangelical. "For our clinical staff this means no longer logging out of one system into another to get all the information they need about the patient. For our patients it means better access to their own information and smoother sharing of vital medical data and test/imaging results with providers outside of the Evangelical system for seamless care experiences."

During the go-live, patients can be assured that Evangelical will continue to deliver patient care with the same excellent standards for which it is known. Patient safety and well-being remain the Hospital's main priority. Care teams will continue to have full access to existing patient data during the change for the best possible care.

"We owe it to our patients as a community hospital to be forward thinking about what the needs are now, but also about what they will be in the future," said Kendra Aucker, President and CEO of Evangelical.

The implementation of Epic includes a switch to Epic's patient portal, MyChart. Patients will be able to access their medical records, see lab results, talk to their care team, and request prescription refills, among other functions. Looking ahead, moving to Epic is the next step in making it possible for patients to schedule appointments through the patient portal, something that will come in the next phase of implementation.

For patients using the current Follow My Health patient portal at Evangelical will need to transition to the MyChart patient portal. Patients will have no access to Follow My Health once Epic is live on December 4, 2022. Information will be provided on how to switch to MyChart on the Hospital's website as well as at the Hospital and Evangelical-related physician offices.

The transition to Epic will take place at the Hospital and all primary and specialty care offices associated with Evangelical. For more information on the transition to Epic, including signing up for MyChart after December 4, 2022, visit www.Evan-Hospital.com.



ONLY 51 ¢ FOR GAS, but if you look close you will see that's for a half gallon on this pump, one of many in Snyder County which had to be changed when gas prices went over 99.9¢.

It wasn't planned, but this photo also shows the Ubiquitous Post Photographer, who takes every U.P.P. Photo.

The Scratching Post Cat Café in Lewisburg Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Five years ago, two friends had a crazy idea to take their love of felines and open one of Pennsylvania's first rural cat cafes. The café was opened under the non-profit Cherished Cats Rescue Alliance, an organization focused on helping cats in need. Through that organization, The Scratching Post Cat Café opened in downtown Lewisburg, and has become a fixture for locals and visitors ever since. To celebrate their 5-year anniversary, The Scratching Post will be hosting an open house celebration during Lewisburg's Late Shoppers Night, Friday, December 2, at their location at 230 Market St. in Lewisburg.

"It is amazing to think it's been five years," Angela Brouse, cofounder of The Scratching Post, noted. "The outpouring of support from the community was incredible, right from the start. You can see that in the fact that the café is run completely through the work of volunteers - people who share our love of animals, want to see them be healthy and well, find them loving forever homes, and to help control the pet population through responsible spaying and neutering."

Café Co-owner and Cherished Cats Rescue Alliance President and Founder, Sarah Kline adds "Most businesses don't survive their first five years. The fact that we were able to do it as a non-profit, operated entirely by volunteers, during a pandemic, amazes me. We definitely had to work hard and come up with alternative plans these last few years, but we feel we've come out of this stronger and better than we were."

Over the past five years, Cherished Cats has built partnerships with groups at Bucknell and Susquehanna universities, and has trained more than 100 volunteers each year. Thanks to their efforts, more than 1,800 cats have been saved from lives on their streets and been adopted approximately 600 of them from the café, and the rest straight from the rescue.

"That's the best part of this work, seeing the excitement and joy on their faces when a family adopts a cat, and knowing that the cat will now be well cared for and have a warm place to sleep," said Kline. "All we wanted was to save cats from sleeping out in the cold. It's amazing to see how far we've come."

Additionally, Cherished Cats has a robust trap-neuter-release program, commonly called TNR, that works to humanely trap stray or feral cats and sterilize them to help control the population. Since its founding, Cherished Cats has helped to fund and TNR nearly 1,350 cats. "We have amazing volunteers, fosters and donors who help us with our work. We couldn't do any of this without their partnership," Brouse commented.

What's next for Cherished Cats and the Scratching Post? "We just want to be able to keep going and keep saving lives" said Kline. "Our hope is that five years from now our numbers will actually decrease, because that means we are making a dent in the overpopulation of cats and kittens in our community. They don't have a voice, so we need to be their voice and keep advocating for them."

The Scratching Post Cat Café is open Thursday-Sunday from 12-5 pm. Admission is \$5/person and the cost helps to pay the rent and keep the lights on. Visitors must be age 5 or older. Stop by on Late Night Shoppers night on December 2nd from 5-9 pm to help to celebrate their anniversary.

To contribute to Cherished Cats or for more information about the Scratching Post, visit cherishedcats.org.

Hats, Gloves & Scarves Collection

The Ladies Auxiliary of Kratzerville Volunteer Fire Company is collecting new hats, gloves, and scarves as a Christmas outreach. New items should be brought in and dropped off. They will be placed on a tree throughout December. All donations will be given to Children and Youth, the Sunbury Homeless Shelter, and Geisinger Children's Hospital. The fire company is located at 62 Firehall Road in Selinsgrove.

Use the Free 511PA Tool to Check Road Conditions

With winter weather soon to be here, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) encourages motorists to "Know Before You Go" by checking conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles by visiting www.511PA.com.

"511PA provides motorists the tools they need to be prepared before they get on the roadway," said District Executive Eric High, P.E. "511PA helps motorists to make decisions regarding alternate routes, adding extra time to their travel, or if they should remain at home."

PennDOT maintains nearly 40,000 miles of state-administered roadway and 25,400 bridges, which translates to approximately 95,000 snow lane miles. During the winter months, the public can find plow-truck locations and details of when the state-maintained roadways were last treated by selecting the "PennDOT Plow Trucks" in 511PA legend.

Motorists can check conditions on major roadways by visiting www.511PA.com. 511PA, which is free and available 24 hours a day, provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 1,000 traffic cameras.

511PA is also available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts. Subscribe to PennDOT news and traffic alerts in Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour and Columbia counties at www.pennDOT.pa.gov/District3.

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