



...thanks the sponsors of our
2018 Pennsylvania Society Broadband Kickoff Reception



CrownMedia

Hallmark
CHANNEL

Hallmark
MOVIES & MYSTERIES

Hallmark
DRAMA



REELZ



PCN
pcntv.com



NewsClips

December 7, 2018

NBC News
Media mega-
mergers under
threat with
Democrats
controlling the
House

Fierce Video
Comcast joins
digital movie hub
service Movies
Anywhere

Reuters
Exclusive: Amazon
targets airports for
checkout-free store
expansion

Politico
Documents:
Zuckerberg
allegedly blocked
rivals from
accessing Facebook
data

Associated Press
Ex-Fox News
reporter expected to

Work to string holiday lights in the trees along downtown Lewisburg's (Union Co.) Market Street began Thursday and is expected to wrap up Friday ahead of Late Shoppers Night promotion. Stores and restaurants downtown run specials as late as midnight at the annual shopping event.

Susan Kauffman of Black Dog Jewelers, 437 Market St., president of the Lewisburg Downtown Partnership, said the promotion is both drives revenue and also acts as a community holiday party. Having the lights shining in the trees as they have for years lets people know the town is open for business, she said. "What we have in downtown Lewisburg is like a Hallmark movie. It's a quaint little town with decorations and spirit. Without that, we're in the dark and it's like the downtown is closed," Kauffman said.

Three crews from Citizen's Electric, Service Electric and East Buffalo Township moved down Market Street from Water to Seventh hanging lights from trees on the north side. They used bucket trucks to access the branches and plug lights — 4 strands for large trees, 3 for smaller — into outlets beneath the center globe of the borough's three-globe light stands.

Workers switched over to the south side before noon, lifting parking restrictions where they could. Borough workers provided traffic control. Should they have the time tomorrow, they'll add lights to trees between Seventh and Eighth streets, Ed Richard, borough foreman, said. "If it goes as good as it's going today I don't think we'll have a problem," Richard said, adding it took between 30 and 45 minutes to remove existing defective lights and redecorate each tree.

[be Trump's choice for UN ambassador](#)

Washington Post
[Trump's likely pick for attorney general said Justice Department's antitrust chief gave 'inaccurate' account of meeting with Time Warner](#)

Pennlive
[Despite having three millionaires as candidates, Pa. governor's race didn't break any spending records](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
[Editorial: Tragedy, irony or both – Kathleen Kane drama reaches climax with her jailing](#)

William Lowthert, borough manager, said the 200 strands of white lights measure at 25 feet each. The borough called ahead to Cole's and didn't buy the store out of its entire stock, Lowthert said. The lights plus extra materials like extension cords will cost the borough about \$1,000. "It's nice for the community for us to get out and light the town up for everybody," said Andrew Hans of Citizen's Electric.

Bill Lambert of Service Electric was observed carefully navigating his truck's bucket around branches. "It's a little difficult when they're filled up like this," Lambert said.

Borough council voted at a special meeting Monday to buy and hang the lights. The utility companies and the township all volunteered a truck and labor. There were three trucks and eight laborers in all including three borough employees. Council's decision to buy the lights is a temporary fix. Lowthert said the far majority of lights strung in 45 trees downtown are beyond repair. Council members intended to wait until next year to replace the lights, citing cost and logistics concerns. Community members including downtown merchants demanded an immediate fix and council ultimately agreed.

The lights should last a few years, officials said previously said. In that time, efforts will be made by Lewisburg Downtown Partnership to fundraise for more expensive and more durable commercial lighting. – *Sunbury Daily Item*

[The downtown Coudersport building that previously served as the Adelphia Cable Operations Center](#) will be sold to Zito Media, according to John Wright, executive director of the Potter County Housing and Redevelopment Authorities. The almost \$2 million sale is set for Dec. 14. The building, built during the Adelphia boom in 2000, has been mostly vacant for several years. A bank in Chicago, American Metro, recaptured the building as part of a failed loans collateral in 2008 but eventually sold it to the Potter County Redevelopment Authority in 2013, which is when Zito Media began to lease it.

James Rigas, CEO of Zito Media, said the company had the opportunity to purchase the building at the cost of what was left on the mortgage. He said the purchase was delayed until a tax issue was resolved.

The tax issue rose from the building being off of the tax rolls for so long. A settlement agreement was drafted and eventually agreed on between the taxing bodies (the county, Coudersport borough, Coudersport school) and the redevelopment authority. Potter County Commissioner Doug Morley said commissioners were looking to create a tax break that could act as an incentive for someone to buy the building. The hope was that if the tax burden was lessened, it would enhance the ability to sell the building.

Morley said he believed the agreement is for seven years, in which the first year the owner would pay 14.28 percent of the full tax amount. The second year, the owner would see an increase in taxes and would pay 28.58 percent, and the increases would continue until 100 percent of the taxes were being paid yearly. Wright said they will start off at paying about \$36,000 in taxes per year and will increase about \$12,000-\$15,000 each year, until the company is paying the full amount of the taxes, approximately \$106,000. This would allow potential buyer to put money into repairs, expansions and other things,

increasing the building's assessed value, and not be hit with a large tax bill the first year, Morley said.

Morley said the market value of the building is \$3,629,000, while the assessed value is \$1,300,630, approximately half. Wright said without an adjusted tax assessment, Zito Media would have continued to lease the building. "We're very fortunate to have the Rigas family and Zito Media in the heart of downtown," Wright said. He went on to say the company has created a lot of jobs and economic force in the community. He said nobody else in town would be able to carry the building, as it's too much of a financial burden. Wright said before the Redevelopment Authority purchased the building, the American Metro was looking into a possible demolition of the building. "We're fortunate not to have lost this asset," Wright said.

Of the four floors in the building, Rigas said Zito Media is currently using about one and a half floors of the building and UPMC Cole is subletting half a floor. He said their lease goes for another year, but he's not sure what the health system's future plans are. "It's certainly a great space for us and a great home for the company. It creates the room to be able to expand," Rigas said. He noted that expansion depends on many factors, including how well things are going in the industry and the availability of financing, among other things. Rigas said Zito Media employs about 120 people in Coudersport. "We're excited about it," Rigas said about the purchase. "The redevelopment authority has been great to work with and we appreciate them stepping up."

Rigas said Zito is turning what was an unused asset that was empty for many years into a fairly productive asset. — **Wellsboro (Tioga Co.) Gazette**

The Pennsylvania's Capitol Rotunda is a grand public space, making its tiled floor and marble staircase ideal backdrops for speeches — and protests — throughout the year.

The Christmas season is no exception, as Gov. Tom Wolf and school children discovered Thursday. When Wolf went to light the tree in a noon ceremony, his speech was briefly drowned out by protesters calling him Grinch. They were upset he has not rescinded a months-old state prison directive that slows the delivery of inmates' mail, which state corrections officials say has been used to spread dangerous illicit drugs. "Have a heart, have a heart," Patricia Vickers, wearing a Santa hat, yelled from the audience. Others stood on the Rotunda steps and unfurled a banner — "Wolf, don't be a Grinch. End cruel mail policies now!"

Wolf looked up from the podium but never missed a beat. He kept reading from his notes about the Douglas fir tree's 18-foot dimensions and how seniors from across the state had made the decorations. Then Capitol police slid past the tree and up the steps to escort the protesters outside, where they continued their First Amendment right to protest government. Afterward, Wolf said he could not tell who or what the protesters were shouting about during the ceremony. In reply to a reporter's question, Wolf said he stood by the Department of Correction's policy. "We obviously have a safety problem that affects the prisoners and the staff and we want to do something about that to keep everyone safe," Wolf said. "I think we are

trying to do it the right way and we are working with different groups to protect everyone's constitutional rights."

In early September, Wolf and Corrections Secretary John Wetzel changed the way inmates receive mail following a 12-day lockdown of all state correctional institutions. It was in response to the flow of synthetic drugs, primarily K2, a chemically made drug, that was being dripped and dried onto inmates' letters and family photos, prison officials said. It was sickening staff and leading to unruly behavior among inmates.

Around the same time, prison officials in Ohio and Florida also reported a rise in medical and security problems linked to synthetic drugs.

Wetzel halted the direct delivery of mail and paperback books to inmates. All mail must be sent to a Florida facility, where it is opened, inspected and scanned into a computer to be printed on different paper and mailed back to Pennsylvania. In the cold outside the state capitol, Vickers handed out fliers with Wolf dressed as the Grinch and proclaiming: "Repeal the DOC policies now!"

Vickers, a Philadelphia resident, said her son Kerry Marshall has been in prison 30 years following his murder conviction while he was a juvenile. There's no excuse for what he did, Vickers said, but she still loves him. It's not right for the state to punish all inmates for the actions of others, she said, by denying them the chance to receive a real Christmas card or family photograph. Family is often all inmates have to help them onto the road to reform and the reprinting of mail interferes with those connections, she said. "We are trying to get Wolf's attention," Vickers said.

It was the first Christmas lighting protest in about six years, said Troy Thompson, spokesman for the state Department of General Services. The last one occurred when citizens gathered outside after the shooting death of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin by a neighborhood watchman, George Zimmerman, in Sanford, Fla. "Everyone has a right to the First Amendment," Thompson said, adding others have a right to enjoy the tree lighting ceremony, too.

Christmas carols were performed by the Quakertown High School Varsity Singers, and Santa Claus greeted youngsters. The Rotunda tree — harvested from Crystal Spring Tree Farm in Lehighton — will be lit from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. until Jan. 7. The Capitol's outdoor trees will be lit from 5 p.m. until midnight. — **Allentown Morning Call; see photos of the Capitol tree lighting from Pennlive**

The inauguration of Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and Lt. Gov. John Fetterman will take place Jan. 15, with a swearing in ceremony set for noon at the Capitol in Harrisburg. Additional events will be held throughout the day in Harrisburg on Jan. 15, with an open house from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the governor's residence, and a celebration from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center. The swearing in is free. The farm show celebration costs \$100 per person, and \$50 for seniors and students.

Wolf will spend Jan. 14, the day before the inauguration, taking part in community service projects, according to an announcement Thursday. More details of the day's events will be released later and posted at wolfinauguration.com. Wolf, of York County, recently

defeated Republican Scott Wagner, also of York County, for a second term as governor. – *Pennlive*



**Broadband
Cable Association
of Pennsylvania**

127 State Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101
717-214-2000 (f) 717-214-2020
bcapa.com

First in Broadband.
The Future of Broadband.®