



Ephrata Alumni Association

**2020 COVID-19**

**Newsletter**

www.EphrataTigersAlumni.com

Facebook.com/EphrataTigersAlumni

**Board of Directors**

President Michael Lehmann, Vice President Jerry Pitts, Secretary Beverly Mayer, Treasurer Gail Smith-Scellick. Members Linda Pierson, John M. Kriete, Roberta Davis, and Terri Moncrief.



***Associated Student Body Officers 2019-2020***

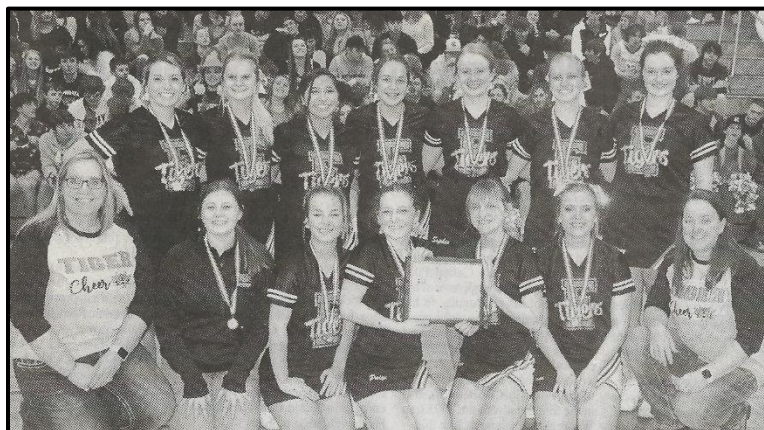
Leaders of Ephrata High School students include (l-r) Caden Sheneman, boys social chair; Madelen Owens, treasurer; Page Wood, treasurer-elect; Carter Mills, vice president; Gabriel Navarro, president; Kaitlyn Olsen, girls social chair; Jacey Heston secretary and Emmie Dilling, publicity manager. President Navarro received a life membership from the Ephrata Alumni Association for his leadership endeavors on behalf of the students at the school.

This talented group of Associated Student Body officers have created a popular weekly video bulletin that helps students to “be in the know”. *Tuesday Newsday* is a three to five-minute segment that combines music, humor, special guests, teacher Joe Wolf’s weather report and a run-down of athletic events and activities at the high school. The goal of the project is to get more students involved in school activities, attending games and participating in a weekly contest such as nominating classmates for acts of kindness; names going into a drawing with the winner to appear in a future broadcast. Unfortunately, the plug was pulled because of COVID-19. Don’t despair! Tiger students and supporters can keep up with the activities of the Associated Student Body by going to their Facebook page:

**[https://www.facebook.com/Ephrata-High-School-ASB-127982998025614/photos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/Ephrata-High-School-ASB-127982998025614/photos/?ref=page_internal)**

In December 2019 the student body officers along with other students, played Santa; collected a record \$5,255 to purchase presents in order to give local teens a happy holiday. The annual gift drive includes a good-natured rivalry, as classes compete to raise the most money. The money was divided into \$20 increments and used to purchase a wide variety of gifts which were donated to the Ephrata Food Bank for distribution.

***Cheerleaders Honored***



The Ephrata High School fall cheerleading staff won the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association’s academic state title for 2A cheer staffs with a cumulative grade point average of 3.80. Front l-r: coach Michelle Derr, Mariah Parrish, Jocelyn Julian, Paige Wood, Paige Long, Emma Buchmann, coach Heather Wood, (back) Destiny Park, Sydney Anderson, Laisha Sandoval, Gina Todaro, Sophie Butterly, McKinley Fulk, Tiffany Alexander.

## Chapter Wins National Award



The Ephrata High School FFA chapter was honored with the 3-Star National Chapter Award during the 92<sup>nd</sup> annual National FFA Convention held at Indianapolis. The National Chapter Award Program is designed to recognize FFA chapters that actively implement the mission and strategies of the organization. The 3-Star National Chapter Award is one of the highest honors local chapters can receive through their work in FFA. Pictured

outside of Lucas Oil Stadium are (l-r) FFA co-advisor Terra Smith, Trey Maryott, Courtney Qualls, Aryn Hall, Autumn McHargue, Reid Waters, co-advisor Kent Devine. Ephrata School District and community support contributed to making the trip a reality.

## Students Offered CTE Options



“The CTE (career and technology education) program continues to expand and we are actively creating more opportunities for students to explore their career path,” said director Sarah Vasquez (at left), who has taught at Ephrata High School for the past 13 years. Formerly called vocational training, district administrators and school staff have refocused the program to offer students work-based learning, earn college credits and industry-recognized certifications, and leadership opportunities.

The Ephrata School District has a high graduation rate, with over 90 percent of all seniors graduating on time. And, through courses offered at the high school, Vasquez said there is a focus on getting them enrolled in college or vocational schools, enlisted in the military, or employed in the workplace.

**For the complete news article go to [EphrataTigersAlumni.com/EHS News](http://EphrataTigersAlumni.com/EHS%20News)**

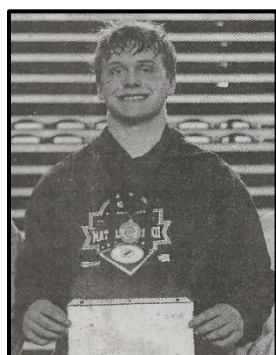
## All-American Award



Ephrata High junior Kye Mangold, whose third season with the Tiger track team has been canceled because of COVID-19, has been honored by the U.S. Paralympic Track and Field Association as a high school All-American in the shot put after he won the event last spring at the state 2A finals in Tacoma. Kye is a four-time state champion in the ambulatory division – he won all three throwing events (shot, discus, javelin) in 2019 and was first in the shot and second in the discus and javelin in 2018. Ephrata High School athletic director Bryan Johnson (EHS-1999) presented a special award to Kye during an Ephrata district boys basketball game.

## Fall and Winter Sports 2019-2020 Highlights

Senior runner Kaidyn Johnson, scored her first ever **cross-country** win at the CWAC meet, placed 11<sup>th</sup> at districts and 37<sup>th</sup> at state meet. The **girls' soccer** team beat the Quincy Jacks for the 39<sup>th</sup> time in 22 years. They finished tied for third in the league standings, third in the district and were in the state playoffs for the first time in five years; losing out in first round. The Tiger **football** beat Quincy in the Battle of the Basin game for the third year in a row and for the eighth time in the last 11 years. (Senior team members at right.) After beginning the season with five straight losses they finished with four wins in the final five games. Madee Owens, a first-team all-CWAC selection has signed to play **volleyball** at Big Bend Community College. The girls' and boys' **basketball** teams failed to qualify past CWAC district playoffs.



**Mac Laird caps 42-0 season by capturing 195-pound title at state 2A tournament.** And, he accomplished this feat in grand fashion. During the tournament he went 4-0 with three pin-fall victories. The first pin in 94 seconds, the second pin in 82 seconds, the third pin in 72 seconds. He scored 14-6 in the championship to win the gold medal. Last season Laird finished as runner-up in the state meet. Also wrestling in this year's state meet was senior Kevin Pellayo who finished fourth overall, posting a 3-2 record with two pins. He also wrestled in the 195-pound division.



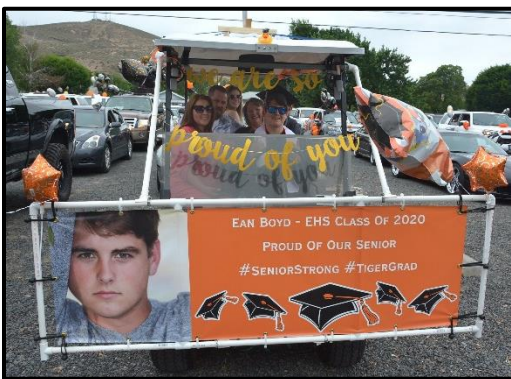
**2019-2020 Tiger Girls wrestling team** is looking more like an actual team with a roster of 10 girls; all freshmen and sophomores who are a mix of newcomers and veterans. The Tiger girl grapplers are (front l-r) Amber, Deleah, Maysol, (middle) Zoe, Krystyna, Maria, (back) Shelby, Danna, and Rashann. Not pictured-McKell. It's a girl's revolution. After years of trying, Ephrata High appears to be establishing female roster for Tiger wrestling. Entire news article located at [EphrataTigersAlumni.com/EHS News](http://EphrataTigersAlumni.com/EHS News).

## Graduation Celebrations 2020



The **"Be The Light"** movement, events honoring Ephrata High School graduating seniors, were held April 24<sup>th</sup> thru June 5<sup>th</sup>. The various school's sports venues were lit up on Friday's nights including Kiwanis Field-Football Field/Track & Tennis Courts, Johnson-O'Brien Stadium-Baseball Field, Softball Complex & Soccer Complex. Members of the community were able to show their support of this years' graduates by driving vehicles around the venue while honking their horns and showing other signs of recognition.

A **Tiger Strong Caravan** took place on May 29<sup>th</sup> for all of the Ephrata Tiger Community. The caravan was comprised of Ephrata School District staff members wishing to connect with their "awesome" tiger students. The 11-mile caravan, led by school busses and followed by a long line of individual vehicles, wound strategically throughout town and on a southern rural route to the cheers of on-lookers.



A **Graduates Parade** was held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, winding from Ephrata Heights, down "C" Street to the high school campus. Decorated vehicles, each carrying one graduate and their family members, waited in a long line to take part in the

**2020 Graduation Drive-In ceremony.** The ceremony personally recognized each of the 192 graduates on a provided stage; complete with family viewing and picture taking.



Search: [Ephrata High School 2020 Virtual Commencement Ceremony](#)  
[Ephrata High School Class of 2020 Awards Presentation](#)  
[Ephrata High School 2020 Graduation Livestream](#)



The committee for the Ephrata Alumni Association's "Noted Alumni" Project is looking for information regarding Ephrata High School graduates who have shown themselves to be "heroes" in the fight against the 2020 coronavirus outbreak.

Please contact the association with short stories/pictures about the heroes of the pandemic who have attended Ephrata High School. Stories can be told of working at home creating masks to working on the front lines in the medical field. There are heroes all around you... take a good look and support the association's effort to recognize them. Send information about someone you know about or of yourself. [EphrataTigersAlumni.com/noted alumni](http://EphrataTigersAlumni.com/noted_alumni) for submission form.

## ***2019 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees***

Stories of these athletes, coaches, team and community supporter can be found at [EphrataTigersAlumni.com/Noted Alumni](http://EphrataTigersAlumni.com/Noted Alumni)



## ***2020 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees***



The **2020** members of the Ephrata High athletic Hall of Fame have been named. Three former Tiger standout athletes were included: [Mary Beth Nelson-Fletcher](#), a 1986 graduate, a three-sport athlete, competing in a trio custom fit for her 6-foot-3 frame - volleyball, basketball and track. Fletcher is EHS' all-time leading scorer with 1,483 points. [Skip Molitor](#), a 1970 graduate, was an outstanding three-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball. Molitor was named a team captain in all three sports during his senior year. [Jim Forrest](#) played football and basketball before graduating from EHS in 1969. Forrest was named a team captain in both sports as a junior and senior. He earned all-state honors in football his senior year.

Coaches named are [Bill Betcher](#) whose football coaching career was from 1984 to 1992. During this time, the Tigers had a 90-8 record and appeared in the state championship game four times; winning the "A" title in 1986 and 1987. Betcher served as the EHS athletic director 1988-2000. And, [Gary Archer](#), a basketball and baseball player, who graduated from EHS in 1965. In 1971 he joined the Tiger baseball coaching staff, serving for the next 31 years. Archer was recently named to the Washington State Interscholastic Basketball Hall of Fame as an assistant coach.

[Dave Middleton](#), a 1963 EHS graduate, has been named to the Hall of Fame for his many years as "The Voice of the Tigers." From 1980 to 2005 he broadcast Tiger games as the play-by-play man at KULE-AM.

The first Tiger team to win a state championship, the [1973 Girls Track Team](#), was named to the Athletic Hall of Fame. It took 53 years of competitive sports to bring home a state championship trophy. The team of twelve athletes scored 88 points to win the meet (second place team had 42). The athletes won five of the 15 events and set two state records. Champions included: Deb Agranoff-100 yards, Susan Schuh-440 yards, Dodi McAlpine-880 yards, and Marsha Kinney-long jump. The team of Kinney, Agranoff, Schuh and Lisa Lybecker teamed to win the 440-yard relay.

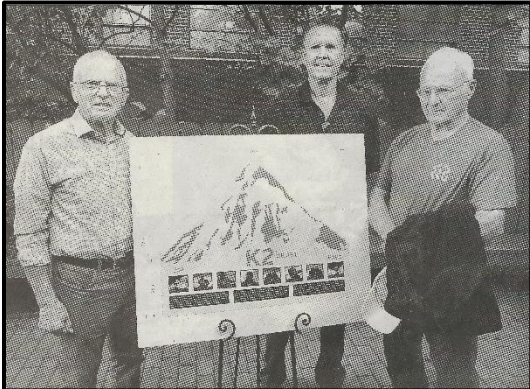
**Note:** Beginning in August the alumni association will begin reporting expanded stories of these honorees to its membership. The awards ceremony will take place September 25-26, 2020.



## From the pages of the Grant County Journal

9-23-19

### “Two guys from Ephrata” and their K2 legacy”



Ephrata businessman Mike Scellick (center) displays the depiction of a proposed metal sculpture of K2, the world’s second-tallest mountain, that will recount the mountaineering legacies of Jim Wickwire (left) and Fred Dunham (right), who grew up in Ephrata and began climbing together following high school graduation in 1958. The two men, now 79 and still remarkably fit, were part of an American team which attempted to climb the 28,251-foot peak in northern Pakistan in 1975. The expedition did not succeed then but Wickwire returned in 1978 and reached the elusive summit with Lou Reichardt.

Scellick is seeking to raise \$20,000 to commission the large, stainless steel sculpture, which will be in place at the Sun Basin Plaza in downtown Ephrata. Donations can be made to Scellick’s recently formed Historical Ephrata Foundation, which aims to fund permanent displays that showcase the community’s history, heritage, and personalities. Scellick said that he wanted to recognize and raise awareness about “two guys from Ephrata” who are among the Pacific Northwest’s elite climbing pioneers

A retired surveyor residing near Kittitas, Dunham continues to regularly rock climb with friends. Through the years, Wickwire also made several attempts on Mt. Everest, but called K2 his “dream mountain.” Wickwire, a retired attorney living in Seattle, said he was “deeply gratified” by the proposed display. “Not for us,” he said, but for kids to look at and be inspired to pursue their own dreams.” For more information about the Historical Ephrata Foundation, call Scellick at 509 754-4300.

3-12-20

### Remember Back When?

The year 2020 marks 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Columbia Ridge Elementary annual “Jump Rope for Heart” fundraiser. The annual event was organized by Columbia Ridge P.E. teacher Carrie Wanke. The “heart-healthy hoppers” employed, along with the long and short jump ropes, pogo sticks, pogo balls and hopper balls to rack up the minutes. The last jumper standing earned prizes. The event was a much anticipated happening back in the “good old days”.

10-17-19

### Ephrata Grad Completes Training



Lt. Col. Erik Saks, United States Air Force Commander of the 24th Training

Squadron, presented 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Aaron Key, a 2005 graduate of Ephrata High School graduate, with his certificate of recognition. Key became one of the USAF’s newest commissioned officers following completion of an eight-week Officers Training School in Montgomery, Alabama in a class of 800 candidates. Key received special recognition for outstanding academic achievement during the training. He will now be assigned to Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, where he will be a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (drone) pilot. Key began his Air Force career while attending Brigham Young University-Idaho.

10-21-19

### Sherri Patterson Honored



Ephrata School District food service specialist Sherie Martin Patterson, a 1973 Ephrata High School graduate, was honored as the 2019 distinguished alumni during half-time of the homecoming game. Patterson announced her retirement at the end of the year during the event. She is shown here with Homecoming king Jayce Moore and queen Emmie Dilling. The Tigers beat Selah 30-20.

Winter supplement 2019-20

### Tiger Roots Leading Eagles and Devils



Two former Ephrata Tigers who were teammates on the 2008 state 2A boys’ basketball championship team will be sharing their basketball knowledge as coaches at the B level. Daniel Simon (left) is entering his second year as the head coach of the Soap Lake boys while Ross Buchert is the new coach of the Wilson Creek boys.

9-12-19

## Ephrata Goes to the Movies



"A History of Movies & Entertainment in Ephrata" was compiled and financially supported by (above l-r) Jack Lee, Mary Ann Lee Truscott and David Lee, the children of longtime Ephrata theater owners John and Mary Lee. All three are graduates of Ephrata High School, respectively in 1957, 1965 and 1961.

From the Campbell and McDonald's Opera House to the Marjo Theater and its current incarnation – the Lee Theater-Ephrata residents have had opportunities to enjoy a night at the "show house" since 1913.

David Lee, who lives in Colorado, noted that over the years he has become "a fan of towns. When we drive through a place, I ask myself 'what kind of a town is this?' And I've observed that a town which keeps its stories alive is a good town with an identity."

One of Mary Ann Truscott's fondest childhood memories was being able to treat her whole class to a private showing of Snow White on her birthday. "My classmates were always envious of me because I got to go to movies free," she said. "One year, on my birthday, my parents surprised me by closing the theater and inviting my whole class to a special showing."

The billboards are a tangible reminder that our town works together as a community. Mike Scellick, who is in charge of putting the kiosks together added, "There is a tremendous amount of history in Ephrata. Many people in this community have fond memories of a time when going to the movies was a big event."

10-05-20

## Operation Christmas Child



Operation Christmas Child's North Central Washington team leader is Darla Pheasant Grubb, Ephrata High School graduate in 1978 and of Eastern Washington University.

Local residents were encouraged to pack gift boxes filled with personal care items, clothing and accessories, crafts, and toys for a child to be distributed during the 2019 holiday season. This year's area goal is to 9780 boxes, which will contribute to the 11 million shoeboxes expected to be collected worldwide.

The operation is a program of Samaritan's Purse, a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization.

2-27-20

## Dircio's Landscaping Inc.

Jeovani Dircio, a graduate of Ephrata High School, graduated from college with a degree in architectural engineering. Upon returning to Ephrata he combined his personal work ethic with an entrepreneurial spirit to evolve and grow a landscaping business with a customer base of 600 customers and multiple contracts with business in Grant, Adams and Spokane counties.



Dircio's business offers a wide range of services through a storefront business next to the Ephrata post office. He wanted his family business to be a visible presence in the community. His services include all types of residential and commercial landscape installation and management.

The lessons that Dircio learned from childhood continue to resonate with him. "Looking back to my first job as an 11-year-old boy delivering papers at the Grant County Journal and making \$50 every two weeks and giving half of that to my parents, I even then realized that if you want something, you have to work for it," he said.

## Obituaries

**Mary Lou Boleneus Gonseth**  
March 13-1928 – May 11, 2020

Mary Lou graduated from Washington State College in 1951 earning a B.S. in Home Economics and immediately began her 25-year teaching career in the Ephrata School district. She retired in 1983 with breaks for child raising. She was responsible for teaching many young women to use a sewing machine and helped them learn their way around the kitchen.



**Leo "Mac" McIntee**  
July 19, 1930 – May 12, 2020

Leo enlisted in the US Army following high school graduation and served for four years in Germany. Following discharge, he attended Western Washington College of Education on the GI bill, graduating in 1956 with a BA in Education with training to be a science and math teacher. He taught two years in Peshastin-Dryden then moved to Ephrata where he taught until his retirement in 1987.



An avid Tiger sports fan, Leo was regularly asked to lead a cheer. Students would chant, "We want McIntee!" to call him down to do his famous "locomotive" cheer.

Photos 1959 and 1960

# Mission Statement

The mission of the Ephrata Alumni Association shall be:

- To promote fellowship among graduates, former students, faculty and staff members of Ephrata High School for its well-being as an educational community.
- To establish a scholarship fund for the benefit of Ephrata High School graduates.
- To maintain an accessible historical archive of Ephrata High School and its students through the Association's website.
- To provide support to Ephrata High School activities.
- To coordinate Alumni Association activities.

*As a member your support is necessary in order to accomplish our mission.*

*Help our association grow.  
Sign up a new member.*

## *Ephrata Alumni Association 2020 Membership Application Scholarship/Memorial Donation Form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year \_\_\_\_\_ Associate(supporter) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Associate membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Honoring \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Associate membership is available in both the life and annual levels of membership.

Annual membership fee of \$10.00 is due each January. New memberships accepted at any time for current year.

Life membership of \$100.00 is a one-time fee gratefully accepted at any time.

Scholarship donations and Memorial donations to honor deceased alumni are welcome at any time.

Mail to: Ephrata Alumni Association  
Treasurer Gail Smith-Scellick  
703 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Ellensburg WA 98926

*EphrataTigersAlumni.com*

For full listing of memberships individually and by class.

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