

Juniata River Valley Murals



Victory Park Veterans Mural - Juniata River Bridge, 50 S. Juniata Street, Lewistown across from Valero Gas Station. Each service person represents a branch of our military in different wars since 1919. Our own Major General Frank Ross McCoy is the first on the left. Artist- Dwight Kirkland, Black Leaf Studio. 2010.



The Lumina Center - 18 E. Third Street, Lewistown. Imagination and fun reflect what's going on inside this community center. Artist—Dwight Kirkland, Black Leaf Studio



Italian Scenes and Other Vignettes - Burnham OIP Restaurant, 105 S. Logan Blvd. Artist- Dwight Kirkland, Black Leaf Studio. 2010.



Burnham High School Murals- Historic Courthouse, 1 W. Market St., Lewistown. Open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Depicts American Indians and pioneers, iron and steel production in this area and student life. Created by Yar Chomicky, a PSU graduate student in 1953, the 4 panels hung in the school until it closed in 1989.



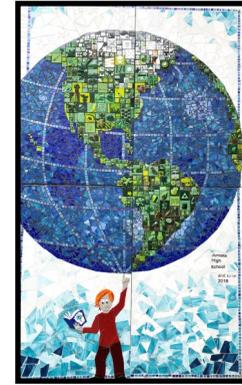
Lewistown Junction- The Regional Business Center Conference Room, 152 E. Market Street, Lewistown. For a viewing appointment call 717-242-8772. Artist—Dwight Kirkland, Black Leaf Studio



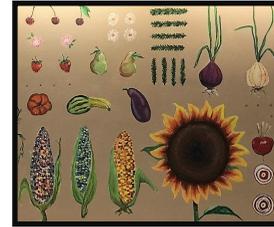
Logan Guard - S.Main Street, on The Square, Downtown Lewistown. Honors our hometown first responders of the Civil War. Artist- Dwight Kirkland, Black Leaf Studio. 2012.



Mifflin-Juniata Arts Festival Artist in Action Mural Collection - created from 17 years of the Artist in Action program at the MJ Arts Festival. Look for some of them in the window of the MetLife office and Downtown OIP.



Glass Mosaic - Juniata County Library, 498 Jefferson St., Mifflintown. The project was funded by the Perry County Council of the Arts' and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts' Arts-in-Education program. Artist- Linda Billet and others. 2018.



Geisinger-Lewistown Hospital Eatery Mural - created by the Mifflin County Junior High Art Club using a "knolling" pattern to create a harmonious layout of many different objects of different sizes. Club supervisor- Jen Hartzler. 2016.



Fiore Family Quilt Block - 254 Crossover Drive, Lewistown. Privately commissioned. 2019.



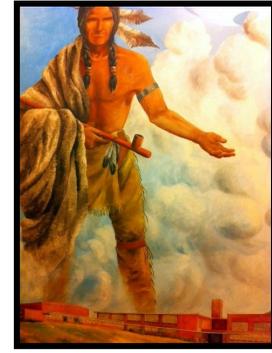
Pabst Blue Ribbon Mural - Bargain Beer & Soda, 10475 US 522S, across from Lowes. Mural was a gift from Pabst Blue Ribbon. Artist- Matt "Duck" Schmohl. 2015.



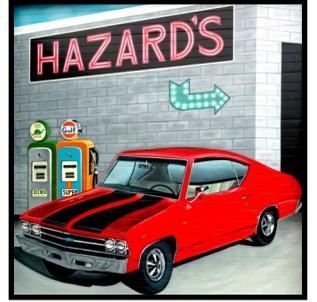
Banana Split Mural - The Crème Stop, 31016 Route 35, McAlisterville. The 7-foot-long mural celebrates the stop's 60th anniversary. Artist- Barry Strawser. 2019.



Dog Park Mural - 1 Derry Park Dr, Lewistown. Artists- Tatum Stroup, Andi Miller, Nathan Parkes and Madison Litzinger. 2025.



Kishacoquillas- Historic Courthouse, 1 W. Market St., Lewistown. Open Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm. Painted in 1966 by Reedsville artist, Anne Kepler Fisher. The mural hung in the lobby of the Kishacoquillas High School until 1998.



Hazard's Distillery Mural - Hazard's Distillery, 26555 Route 75 North, Mifflintown. Artist- Tessa Gross. 2017.



A Mediterranean Port Scene - inside the Downtown OIP, 24 E. Market St., Lewistown. Can be seen from the sidewalk if the restaurant is closed. Artist- John Gummo. On display inside are three Artist in Action Murals owned by the Mifflin-Juniata Arts Council. The selection varies.

New show in town

A mural, created by the late Juniata County artist Dwight Kirkland of Blackleaf Studio LLC, celebrates Lewistown's many theatres that once decorated the town. Kirkland's mural can be found on the side of KC's Gifts, Jewelry and Award store, on the building owned by Mike Buffington, on Monument Square. Five major, long-lived theatres in Lewistown's history are represented in the logos across the bottom, and the fronts of three theatres are illustrated. Kirkland donated his time and labor as a gift to the community, and hoped the mural would be enjoyed for many years to come. He encouraged everyone who appreciates the mural to make a donation to Friends of the Embassy Theater to help with the theater's restoration. "If everyone who liked this mural on Facebook donated just \$20, it would really add up," he said. Donations may be sent to: Embassy Theater Restoration Fund, P.O. Box 203, Burnham, PA 17009.

Roy Rogers was a popular cowboy movie star in the 1930s and 40s. He and his horse Trigger appeared on the Embassy stage on June 16, 1941.

The Miller Theatre was painted from a photo taken on opening night, March 31, 1949. Until 1981, it was a single screen theatre seating 1,200 people. It operates today on West Market Street as Miller Cinema 6. Miller's longtime manager **Bob Hambright** is depicted in front of the theatre. His career spanned 53 years, starting as an usher at the Embassy. He also worked briefly at the Rialto. Hambright passed away in 2003.

Temple Theatre (logo at the bottom) was Lewistown's first theatre. It was located in the Masonic building across the square. It opened as the "Temple Opera House" in 1894. It closed in 1925.

The Embassy Theatre, built in 1927, is currently being restored to its former glory to be an operating historic theatre.

Embassy's original ushers are shown, decked out in their classy uniforms. *Front:* Charles Simms, Harold Bittinger, and Charles Hackenberry. *Back:* Francis Stumpf, Thomas Tomalson, Lawrence Joraskie, and George Barnes.

The Pastime Theatre (logo at bottom, far right) was a favorite Saturday place for kids. They dubbed it the "Shoot-N-Juke" (and other nicknames) because of its western shows. The theater was on Market Street, from 1906 to 1953, in part of the building that now houses the Downtown OIP & Grille.

Jean Acker was a film star in the late teens and early 1920s. She was married to the "World's Greatest Screen Lover," Rudolph Valentino, for a mere 6 hours! During her childhood, she lived in Lewistown, and her father ran the Casino Bowling Alley.

The Rialto Theatre once stood in the area in front of the mural. It opened in 1911 as the Orpheum Theatre, and was renamed the Rialto in 1920. The classic films "Gone With the Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz" played there. It closed in 1958.

Edwin "Doc" Eby, was a local pharmacist who promoted his elixir, WISTO, to celebrities appearing at theatres in town, thus he earned title of Lewistown's Official Greeter. (See Forest K. Fisher's article about Eby in CG Spring '13.)

Fagley is president of Friends of the Embassy.

MURAL BY Dwight Kirkland
HISTORY BY Paul T. Fagley



Tri-Panel Mural - Beside Pennian Bank, Route 35, Mifflintown. Mural sponsored by the Juniata Cultural Arts Committee. Features wildlife and the former Juniata River Bridge in Mifflintown.



Armagh Memorial Field Mural - Milroy baseball field. 8620 E. Back Mountain Rd, Milroy. By the Juniata River Valley Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute, 2024.



Share your selfies on social media and tag us. We'd love to see them!



Juniata River Valley
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