

STREET SMART

www.ejbreneman.com

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TOYS & TOTS

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated this year. Despite the rough economy, we collected \$610. Becky Steltz, Jari Williams & I (Lynn Pepple) managed to spend all of it in less than an hour at Wal-Mart. Some of the wonderful toys we bought included Lego's & Mega Blocks, both a Football & a Soccer Ball (we had to take the Soccer Ball away from Mike Polak as the office is not the place to practice), a skate board*, folding scooter, sleds, Transformers & Bionicles, (2) Hess Trucks*, Matchbox Cars & Dump Trucks. An Easy Bake Oven, Barbies, Cabbage Patch doll and more baby dollies* and Arts & Crafts sets for girls. Books, Puzzles and Board Games (remember them? Life, Trouble, Operation) for all ages. Stuffed Animals, Fisher-Price* and Playschool toys for infants & toddlers. Thank you for helping to make many children very happy on Christmas morning.

(All toys marked with an asterisk* were donated.)



Drawing Winners

Michele Mull - Glass Photo Coasters

Delores Texter - EJ Breneman Mug

Rex Jandrew - Cooler Bag

Jim Sloss - Folding Camp Chair

LCPL Michael Wells & Victor Flores were the 2 Marines who picked up the toys for the children.

We also have some employees that kept spreading the Christmas goodwill. Todd Thanhauser, who's band "ESCAPE" played at California Bar & Grill for the Y102 Toys for Tots Breakfast, as shown in the picture above. They were really rockin' for 6:00 in the morning. We also have the anonymous employee who helped with traffic at the same venue.

WARM MIX ASPHALT (WMA) – A COOL IDEA:

2

In this generation of “green”, it is easy to get misled by fancy sales or marketing slogans touting a product that may or may not actually protect or improve the environment. The paving/hot mix industry has tried its hand at several new ideas over the past few years (porous paving, high content RAP mixes, shingle mixes, etc... to name a few) to genuinely increase the industry’s use of recycling, create less pollution, and improve energy efficiency. Many of these ideas and processes have been a great success and have had real and long-lasting benefits to our environment. The latest idea is the use of **Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA)**.

WMA technology allows for the production and placement of asphalt pavement material at lower temperatures than conventional hot mix technologies. Conventional asphalt hot mix is produced at around 320 degrees F while warm mix is typically produced at ranges of 215 to 280 degrees F. Although the WMA process has been used in Europe for many years, the first public demonstration of WMA in the USA was performed in 2004. Since that time, the process has been used in at least forty states. It has been broadly embraced by public works managers and contractors alike.

WMA was originally explored for its environmental benefits which include reduced fossil fuel consumption, reduced emissions, and savings on electric usage. Other benefits that have been realized are the ability to pave later into the season in cold weather climates, ability to store material for longer periods in silos, longer windows to achieve compaction, and increases in RAP usage in the mix.

Producing WMA can reduce energy consumption during manufacturing by an average of twenty percent and can also lower total life-cycle greenhouse gases by about five percent. This is the equivalent of eliminating the fuel usage generated by one million tons of hot mix produced annually! Running WMA with twenty-five percent RAP can also potentially offset pavement life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions by fifteen percent; this also equates to eliminating the equivalent greenhouse gases produced by three million tons of hot mix produced annually! These are huge numbers in our effort to protect the environment.

So far throughout the nation, implementation has proceeded with virtually no complications. There are many ways to produce WMA including additives in the liquid binder, additives at the plant, water injection systems to foam the asphalt, or combinations of all of the above; many more will be developed over time. Many states have adopted permissive specifications allowing a contractor to produce the mix anyway it sees fit as long as it falls within the specification; PA is one of them. However, many states haven’t embraced the technology fully and opened up the use of the process for all projects; PA is also one of these states.

The owners of EJB Paving & Materials Co. have just approved the purchase and installation of a warm mix system for our drum plant. Installation will be accomplished over the winter and we will experiment with WMA in the spring. The type of system to be purchased has yet to be determined. We are excited to enter into this new technology and hope to see it benefit EJB in many ways into the future.

The WMA process will be discussed at the Leesport meeting in 2010.

Steve Bright – V.P./Operations Mgr EJB P&M Co.

FROM RODNEY TREICHLER FOR THE SHOP

It’s that time of year again. The cold weather and the end of the season in the North. We took delivery of the Roadtec SP200 Spray Paver (see Street Smart’s 2009 2nd issue) in November. The other equipment is back in the yard and the shop is busy with winter service and repairs.

If you know of any equipment repair needs, let us know so we can fix it over the winter.

From everyone at the shop - “We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!”



Street Smart Staff

*Steve Bright *Lynn Pepple *Paula Blankenbiller
Lynn Hait * Kim Hunt * Michele Mull
Lyn Shay * Rosemary Sobotor*

*Published and written IN-HOUSE triannually
for the employees of
E.J. Breneman, L.P., and EJB Paving & Materials Co.*



*All comments and/or corrections
are welcome. Contact the staff by
calling
610-678-1913 or by filling out the
Street Smart form at
www.ejbreneman.com.*



The Federal Highway Administration has a link to E. J. Breneman's ALLWAYS GREEN brochure on their GHP Digest Page under Reuse and Recycle. We are the only private company listed on their website as a "Green Company."



MILESTONES

5 Years Robert Ream— 9/15/2004 Rusty Hoover— 12/3/2004 Keri Arthur— 10/29/2004	15 Years Randy Sohn— 9/19/1994
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The New EJB VIP Parking Lot



Tucker Schreiber, (former EJB Paving & Materials Co. intern) and Jenna Hornberger were married on 10/10/09 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Schreiber!

Correction

The employees who worked on the I 80 job were (Lyndell Ricard, Tim Belschwinder, Jason Sockalosky, and Austin Lorah. We regret that the names in the last issue were incorrect.





SAFETY COMMITTEE
A Review of 2009

2009 was a busy year for the safety committee. A total of seventy-one reported claims and nine near miss accident reports kept the committee busy investigating and implementing procedures to avoid re-occurrences or prevent accidents from happening. The following issues were addressed during the 2009 construction season:

- The safety committee continuously promoted and encouraged employees to submit near miss accident reports so issues could be addressed prior to an injury or property damage occurring. The near miss accident reporting “contest” was extended through 2009 to help encourage employees to report near miss accidents while having their name entered into a drawing for a paid day off during 2010.
- Rubber padding, thin mesh and screenings were put on the lowbed so equipment could be loaded safely during inclement weather.
- Several options to “spice-up” the quarterly safety bonus program were reviewed.
- Standard instructions for hooking up a trailer were distributed to employees through a tool box talk.
- Procedures were developed to ensure the safety of the generator connections and wiring on the Novachip Pavers.
- The pump and drive motors were replaced on unit 22031.
- The Company Safe Backing & Hand Signal policy was distributed to employees and sub-contracted drivers.
- The shop developed a schedule to install horns on the side of pavers. The horns will help the dump man get the attention of the operator when needed.
- Unit 12801 was weighed to determine how much material can be safely transported.
- A schedule to replace back-up alarms and install red/green lights on pavers is currently being developed to help avoid future backing accidents.
- The shop is researching the cost to install additional strobe lights on vehicles.
- Additional anti-theft devices will be installed to deter theft while equipment is parked on the jobsite.
- Employees will receive additional training during lay-off that will help them avoid backing accidents.

The safety committee was quite busy during the hours they met this year. It takes time, cooperation, dedication and persistence to incorporate changes in equipment or procedures that may have been done the same way for years. A special thank you to Rodney Treichler and the shop employees who complete the circle of cooperation, dedication and persistence by implementing the ideas discussed during the safety committee meetings.

Current safety committee members have agreed to serve an additional year on the safety committee. Please see a member listed below to submit your ideas, suggestions or near miss accidents. Remember, it takes everyone working together to create a safe work environment!

2010 Safety Committee Members

Jim Marks	Rodney Treichler	Lyn Shay	John DeMartino
Kerry Hafer	Rusty Magee	Dave Shay	Dean Etchberger
Tim Belschwinder	Lyndell Ricard	Roy Knieriem	Ken Beissel

News from the Home front

Glenn McNeil (proud father) and daughter, Molly.

Molly McNeil was senior co-captain of the field hockey team at East Stroudsburg University, PA. Molly was selected & played in the NCAA Division II National All-Star game held Nov. 21, 2009 at Wakefield University in NC. She was also selected to the 2008/2009 NCAA II National Academic Squad. She is a four year letterman and is majoring in Athletic Training. She intends to go to graduate school upon graduation from ESU in May 2010.





SAVE THE DATE!

-Lyn Shay, Safety Manager

5

The annual companywide meeting is scheduled to be held at the Berks Products Pavilion in Leesport, PA on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010. As in the past, this meeting will be mandatory; starting at 8:00 a.m. and ending at noon. The meeting time has been scaled down because the annual safety training will be conducted for each division at a later date. Individualized crew training will be done during the lay-off season and will concentrate on specific equipment and job site hazards that each division faces daily. At the end of the safety training, employees will receive an OSHA 10-Hour & flagger certification card in addition to completing a Smith System defensive driving refresher course. Employees will also be First Aid/CPR, respiratory and forklift certified if needed. Additional information regarding the companywide meeting and safety training will be mailed to employees during the first week of January, 2010. Until then,

 ***Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!***

RESTAURANT REVIEW BY LYNN HATT

STOUCH TAVERN

Main Street, Womelsdorf, Pa.
Dates back to 1700's-Famous for having George Washington for a guest.
Upper scale, steaks and seafood
Old Inn décor, Colonial
Waiter/waitress service

Real good food, everything from salad to dessert
Pricey, but you get a lot of food
Classy place—no jeans, tee shirts & baseball caps allowed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



JANUARY

Jim Marks—1/1
John DeMartino—1/5
Harry Wileman—1/7
Sam Perez—1/10
Mike Pecika Jr—1/10
Steve Orischak—1/10
Marv Correll—1/10
Todd Thanhauser—1/12
Will Stripling Jr—1/15
Dale Miller—1/23
Becky Steltz—1/23
Fred Drum III—1/23
Tim Shane—1/23
Steve Beissel—1/27
Lynn Pepple—1/29

Jackie Stamper—1/30

FEBRUARY

Steve Bright—2/2
Keith Hotzman—2/5
Alan Tyson—2/9
Kyle Hosler—2/12
John Orischak—2/12
Roger Schmidt—2/15
Mark Rohrbach—2/16
Rich Bassler—2/18
Nate Schucker—2/18
Tom Beck—2/21
Glenn McNeil—2/24
Jim Sloss—2/25
Dan Hosler—2/25

MARCH

Cole Underkoffler—3/2
John Kennedy—3/5
Mike Polak—3/9
Sarah Baer—3/10
Rosemary Sobotor—3/11
Kerry Hafer—3/13
Eduardo Ramirez—3/18

APRIL

Keri Arthur—4/1
Jason Joy—4/1
Jeff Klopp—4/2
Tony Kasprzak—4/8
Austin Lorah—4/23

Mike Mobley—4/27
Lynn Kauffman—4/27

GOING GREEN WITH E.J. BRENEMAN by John M. DeMartino

One of the most common recent catch phrases is “Going Green”. The phrase can be heard at home and in the office, at school, athletic events and in many publications. The phrase is easy to say, rolling off the tongue and reaching a saturation point, which could be a good thing. However, to be effective, Going Green needs to be more than a catchy phrase.

At E. J. Breneman, we not only talk the talk but we walk the walk. Our first recycling project was in the mid 1980’s when it wasn’t cool to recycle. Over the last 30 years we have continued to expand the role of cold in place recycling as well as full depth reclamation which both utilize existing materials to help rebuild the road. In addition, we have pioneered the use of microsurfacing and ultrathin paving which reduces the use of natural resources to produce as well as covering more ground with less material as both are applied at a nominal thickness.

We also have developed a process where we can recycle used signs, such as stop signs and street signs, restoring them to meet applicable safety standards while saving money. In most of our conventional bituminous mixes, we utilize RAP material, which is bituminous material that is removed from various projects in the area, crushed, sized and reintroduced into the virgin mix as a partial substitute for aggregate.

Cold in place recycling requires approximately 75% less energy than hot in place recycling and approximately 80 % less energy than conventional hot mix overlay. Full depth reclamation requires approximately 85% less energy than hot in place recycling and a staggering 88% less energy than conventional hot mix overlay. While the field numbers are impressive and visible, Breneman has been aggressively going green in several other less glamorous but equally important areas.

Fuel is an obvious green target. For the last three years, EJB emphasizes quick recognition of potential projects and bids. We then get the plans or specs delivered to us overnight, conduct our review and whenever possible, overnight our bid back to customer. This process typically required two to three separate trips to pick up plans, review project and then deliver bid. We have now reduced three trips to one.

Paper is the second big target of our initiative. Typically during the construction season, we have approximately seven crews in the field each with seven people on a crew. In the old days, each person would keep track of his time for the week and then submit to the foreman at the end of the week. Today, all of our foreman and superintendents are equipped with laptops and all time, production reports and daily equipment sheets are submitted electronically. The savings look something like this:

TIMECARDS

3	average sheets of paper per day per man
7	average crew size
5	average work days in a week
4	average work weeks in a month
8	average length of season
3360	Estimated savings – in sheets of paper – which is approximately 16 reams of paper

BIDS

On average, Breneman bids approximately 600 projects per year. Traditionally we get the original bid into the office and make two copies. One copy would go to superintendent for his job review and one would be retained to be filled out with actual bid and the original would be kept on file. Then, after we typed our bid, we would make a copy of the actual bid and then finally submit bid. For our comparison purpose, let’s assume bids are on average, 50 pages. Savings in this example are a bit more pronounced.

600	average bids per year
50	average pages per bid
3	average copies per bid
90,000	estimated savings – in sheets of paper – which is approximately 180 reams of paper.

MISCELLANEOUS

7

In addition to the items listed above we work hard to continue the transition to a paperless company in the operations part of our business. Our foremen receive their job packs electronically by way of their laptops. Weekly operation meetings are conducted utilizing a laptop and projector which eliminates hard copies of schedules, agenda and notes to be printed. A typical operations meeting used to involve approximately fifty pieces of paper per meeting and now involves approximately five.

Our internal accounts receivable and accounts payable are reviewed and approved electronically. We are in the process of standardizing and formatting our bond request forms, certificate of insurance, material certifications and any other document that is used repeatedly and converting those into an electronic version. All of our job files are saved electronically and placed on our network so that anyone can access the complete job file from anywhere. Additionally, this has saved a tremendous amount of physical space. What used to occupy four, four drawer filing cabinets is now contained in one cabinet.

The fuel used to heat our maintenance shop and produce material at the blacktop plant is actually used oil. All of the paper that comes through the office is recycled, including junk mail, old plans and newspapers. Cans and bottles are placed in recycling containers in our lunch room. We are switching the lights at our maintenance facility to a more energy efficient bulb and fixture that will reduce our energy cost significantly.

Will we ever be truly paperless? Doubtful, but by converting as much as we can to an electronic media, we can lead by example to our customers, our employees and our peers.

RECIPE CORNER

CHRISTMAS BROWNIE PIZZA PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 – 20 ounce Duncan Hines Brownie Mix
- 1 – 8 ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 – 8 ounce can crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 T sugar
- 2 Bananas, sliced
- 1 cup fresh strawberries sliced
- Marshmallows
- Maraschino cherries
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- Coconut
- Chocolate syrup, for drizzling
- Whipped cream
- Mint, for garnish



- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 15-inch pizza pan
- Prepare brownie mix according to directions on box. Pour onto prepared pan. Bake for 20 minutes or until done.
- Remove from oven & cool.
- Beat cream cheese while adding pineapple & sugar together in a bowl. Spread mixture over brownie crust.
- Arrange banana, strawberry slices, marshmallows, and cherries over cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle with nuts & coconut.
- Drizzle with chocolate syrup. Add whipped cream on top & mint for garnish. To serve, slice as you would a pizza & enjoy!!

NOLLAIG SHONA



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Phil Wagner, Controller and one of the owners of E. J. Breneman was lucky enough to spend a week in Ireland earlier this year. As you can see by the picture, he turned into a leprechaun for Halloween. Now he's stopping by to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas in Gaelic.

And the stockings were hung by the chimney with care in the hopes that all roads will soon need repair.



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