



Our heritage is also our livelihood

Staff writer Jack Brubaker's recent series of articles about the state of historic preservation in Lancaster County was timely and informative.

Lancaster is a special place, whose residents have long valued and protected its exceptionally rich history and unique character. It is important for all of us who live, work and govern here to understand our shared responsibility to preserve our historic resources. This is especially important for the continued economic vitality of our community.

The slow but steady loss of historic buildings and the erosion of community character that comes with it will eventually have serious negative economic impacts for heritage tourism in Lancaster County. This should be of great concern to public officials and the business community. Once we look like anywhere else, the visitors will go somewhere else. A real double whammy -- the charm, character and quality of life that local residents value are lost and the economic benefits gained from sharing that character with visitors are lost, too. It happens one building and one community at a time.

Let's work together to preserve, enhance and celebrate the best of our rich cultural heritage for the benefit of those of us here today as well as the generations of Lancastrians yet to come.

Mark N. Platts, President, Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area

Mistaken about Santorum

So, former Sen. Rick Santorum is leading an online petition to stop any laws enforcing universal background checks on gun purchases (front page, March 8). Such laws would prevent at least some weapons from getting into the hands of criminals and the mentally disturbed, hence obviously saving innocent lives over the course of time.

I was always under the impression that Santorum was a pro-life Christian. I was sadly mistaken.

Steven Jones, Landisville