

Brighton window



Shoppers check out the variety of goods at the annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale on Saturday at Eagle View Adult Center. Sales were reported to be good. *Daily Post photo*

Police serve, protect, save lives, elicit smiles

Editor's note: This is the third in a series about Brighton first responders.

By Joel Radtke

Brighton Police officers have had their share of honors and worldwide notoriety for their work in the field and the community: from life-saving efforts to comfort care on the streets to the lighter side, releasing a video in July for the nationwide Police Department Lip Sync Challenge.

Police Chief Paul Southard has been with the department for 30 years

Reader to Reader

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• Gas Gauge • MORE • Page 2

and leads the group of 68 sworn Brighton officers.

In 2015 Brighton officer Nick Struck made world news when he was pictured comforting a two-year-old accident victim while emergency personnel worked on her family, ejected from a rolled-over car in the background. Having a 2-year-old of his own at the time, Struck could relate to what he did at home to quiet and comfort his own daughter so he

see Brighton Police Dept. on page 2

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Two Days

Today

9:30-10 a.m. – Music & Movement, Anythink Brighton: Sing, dance, and learn how to play some basic instruments. Appropriate for kids ages 2-6.

Noon-1 p.m. – Kids Cafe: Monday Lunch, Anythink Brighton; drop-in lunch program sponsored by the Food Bank of the Rockies; free; for ages 18 and under.

1-3 p.m. – No-sew Monster Pillows, Anythink Brighton; make an easy and maybe-creepy no-sew pillow; ages 5 and up. Adult helpers recommended for children 10 and under. Online RSVP suggested.

1:30-3 p.m. – Stroke Recovery Support Group, Platte Valley Medical Center Conference Room A; connecting patients and families with others while learning about valuable resources; facilitated by a licensed stroke-rehab therapist; RSVP or info, 303-498-1844.

1:30-3:30 p.m. – Music & Monsters, Anythink Brighton: a teen challenge to work on sound creations or join on the collaborative project; experiment in recording and help create a sound installation; for ages 12 and older.

4-5 p.m. – Kids Cafe: Monday Snack, Anythink Brighton; drop-in snack program sponsored by the Food Bank of the Rockies. Free for ages 18 and under.

4:30-5:30 p.m. – Maker Monday: Sound on the Screen, Anythink Brighton: afternoon in The Studio; make and manipulate sound with experiments and stations; ages 5 and up; helpers needed for kids 10 and under.

6-8 p.m. – Quilting Basics, Anythink Brighton; learn quilting basics; make a seasonal table runner. Plan to attend both sessions to leave with a finished product. All supplies included; for adults. RSVP online.

Tuesday – Election Day • VOTE!

9:30-10:15 a.m. – Baby Bounce, Anythink Brighton; for babies to 23 months, caregivers; songs, rhymes, stories.

10-11 a.m. – Drop-in Tech Help; Anythink Brighton; email, resumes, Internet search, e-readers, more. All ages

2-3 p.m. – Free Legal Self-Help Clinic; Anythink Brighton; Access to Justice Committee free legal self-help clinic; ideal for customers who don't have legal representation and need help navigating various legal issues via remote Internet access. Call 303-405-3298 to register.

2:30-3:15 a.m. – Baby Bounce; Anythink Brighton; time with your little one with songs, rhymes and stories for babies and caregivers; for ages birth-23 months.

4-5 p.m. – STEAM Tuesdays, Anythink Brighton, Learn about a natural facet of Barr Lake; grades K-5. RSVP.

5-6:30 p.m. – NaNoWriMo: Write In, Anythink Brighton; National Novel Writing Month is a fun, seat-of-your-pants approach to creative writing; work toward goal of writing a 50,000-word novel by 11:59 p.m. on Nov. 30; The Write-In provides writers a comfortable, convenient space to work with professionals on hand to assist; ages 12 and older.

5:45-6:30 p.m. – Pilates Mat Class, Platte Valley Medical Center; strengthen abdominals, hips, shoulders, increase flexibility, overall fitness and health; certified Pilates instructor, \$9 per class, RSVP 303-498-1840.

7 p.m. – Bible Study Fellowship, Men's group at Zion Congregational Church, 27th Ave.; Women's group at Brighton United Methodist Church, Eighth Ave.; 7 p.m.; interdenominational, in-depth Bible study. All welcome. To learn more call Kristen at 303-654-0972.

Brighton Police Dept. from Page 1

sang *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* to calm the little girl.

"He was even on the BBC. He made the global circuit for a while." Chief Southard said. "Nick's a very giving, caring guy. Nick will go out of his way to help somebody out."

Struck is a sergeant now with the department, working with traffic safety and accident investigation. "With some of the work he has done, we have been able to obtain some cutting-edge technology for helping out with accident investigations," Southard said.

Struck is just one of many honored by the department each year.

"We do quite a few awards every year," Southard said. "A lot of people do a lot of good things."

In 2017, one officer received two lifesaving awards. "There has been some really quick thinking on the part of some officers in the past that has definitely saved lives."

Mike Erickson received the Life Saving Award for patching a stabbing victim's chest wound to keep air from getting in, allowing her to breathe.

In another instance, a person was shot in the legs during a home robbery and the officer was able to stop the bleeding and save his life, Southard said.

"There are people who wouldn't be here today if they wouldn't have taken the steps they took, he said. "It's pretty incredible work."

"I think if you want to get into this business, no matter what you do, whether you are a police officer or (with) Victim Services or Code Enforcement or whatever you do, you do it for the good of the community," he said. "It goes deeper than just being a job, a lot deeper than that."

Southard said that there are lots of things that officers take on in the field, such as handling serious accidents or deaths, and those things can stick with them. The department has a lot of resources that can help, from employee-assistance programs to peer support teams and a specialist who

works in the department.

"It's a tough job in that way, but it can also be a lot of fun," he said.

"You see the bad things that people do, but you also see the good things, and the good things police officers get to do."

The department has school resource officers who work with kids every day. They also have people who teach the B Right On program (formerly the D.A.R.E. program). "That's a rewarding experience and that's really a way to connect with the kids," he said.

The department has a Christmas program through the Brighton Employee Charities that gathers, wraps and gives out gifts in the community. The department has a scout Explorer Post that "plays a huge role in keeping that organized," he said.

The department's Explorer post volunteer and help with special events. "They always bring awards back from the conferences they go to," Southard said.

Police officers also participate in the Brighton Safety Expo, Touch-A-Truck and many other events. And the Police Department has community interaction on its Facebook page.

The department offers residents a chance to participate in a Citizen Academy each fall. Attendees can work with a mock crime scene, go out to the shooting range, and ride along with an officer.

He said many of the things police officers do on the job go above and beyond. "Those amazing stories ... happen almost every day."

Some used their own money to buy someone dinner or help them get a on a bus so they could get back home.



Chief Paul Southard

"That's part of that doing it for the community and doing it for somebody else," he said.

"We have a lot of community support," Southard said. "We do a lot of good positive interaction with people." People are always saying thank you and always are very positive. We just enjoy that support," he said.

On the lighter side, in July 2018 the department released its own Police Department Lip Sync Challenge video www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBaNXm6g7rM. Members of the department can be seen lip syncing to the *Men In Black* theme. "They did little pieces of it everywhere. They did some at the Armory, some at the park and some (at the police station)."

Other projects the department is working on: telephone and online reporting – so residents don't always have to wait for a police officer.

"There are a lot of things we are trying to make it easier for people to report," he said.

One area of the Police Department that has come together in 2018 is the Sex Assault Task Force.

Since January, the Brighton Police Department and partner Commerce City Police Department dedicated two detectives and a sergeant there. That unit investigates all sex assaults from both cities. "It helps us focus on the victims, the investigation and provide better service, he said. The combined departments received a \$700,000 federal Strategic Policing Initiative grant through the Bureau of Justice Affairs as part of a research project.

Kim Messina, Brighton Police Department Victim Services coordinator, said Chief Southard was a driving force behind putting it all together.

"It's really putting the research and validity behind investigating sex assaults, having advocates embedded within the unit and just a victim-centered approach," Messina said.

Gas gauge

\$2.46.9 Lowest unleaded price at 6 p.m. Sunday:
Murphy Express and Agfinity/Cenex on Bromley.

Funeral notices

Jarrod Andrew "Spud" Landry, 32, died Oct. 26. He lived in Brighton most of his life. Memorial service, 11 a.m. **today** at **Tabor-Rice Funeral Home**.