

Saegertown Jr. Sr. High School

18079 Mook Road, Saegertown, PA

The Panther



Press

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PENNC.O.P.E.'s 'Fortress' wins gold

By Jade Allen
STAFF WRITER

The PENNCREST Combined Outdoor Performing Ensemble made history in the Lakeshore Marching Band Association (LMBA) at Championships on Oct. 29 at Erie Veterans Stadium, placing first in Class AA with their show titled "Fortress."

They received a score of 86.68 along with the caption awards for High Music and High General Effect.

This is Maplewood's seventh championship and Saegertown's second, resulting in eight consecutive years that PENNCREST has secured an LMBA Championship.

The first season of PENNC.O.P.E. came to a successful end, but now there are plans to have separate Saegertown and Maplewood marching bands next year.

At a recent school board meeting, Superintendent Michael Healey shared that next year the school board plans to hire a marching band director for Saegertown High



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PENNC.O.P.E. performed their 2016 show "Fortress" for the last time at the LMBA Championship on Oct. 29.

School, causing PENNC.O.P.E. to be disbanded.

Maplewood Band Director Jamie Gardner, who also directed PENNC.O.P.E., said, "It would be nice for Saegertown to have their own band director, but I would also enjoy working with those students again!"

Past Saegertown Marching Band member junior Kaity Gage said, "I think it [PENNC.O.P.E.] is a good idea for this year. But, because the band is staged in Maplewood and I am a cheerleader for football, I can't

do marching band because of scheduling. Having everything staged at Maplewood made it impossible to do both." Gage hopes that marching band will return to Saegertown next year.

The PENNC.O.P.E. Drum Majors Elizabeth Zuber and Jesse Stewart addressed the PENNCREST School Board on Nov. 10 to describe the benefits of the ensemble.

Senior Jesse Stewart thanked the school board for the opportunity to be a part of PENNC.O.P.E. and spoke about the accomplishments and benefits of the group.

Other members voiced their opinions on continuing PENNC.O.P.E. next year.

Maplewood sophomore Karlee Mihailov said: "A lot of my fellow band mates have said they enjoyed combining and would look forward to combining every year after. I believe that the school board should realize that all the odds were against our band, and we have represented the PENNCREST School District well. Not combining next year would be like losing part of my family."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PENNC.O.P.E seniors were presented the LMBA Class AA Champion trophy on Oct. 29 at Veterans Stadium in Erie, Pa.

Assistant principal vacancy may soon be filled

By Rachel Barner
and Hannah
Nicholson
NEWS EDITOR AND STAFF
WRITER

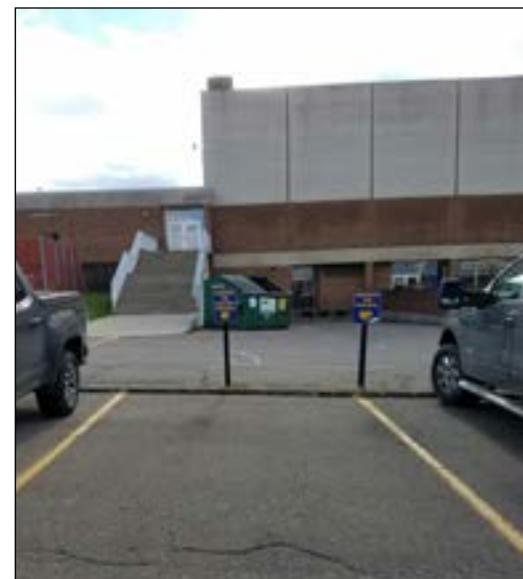
It is day 57 of the 2016-2017 school year, and Saegertown Jr. Sr. High School still does not have an assistant principal.

Interviews for the position will not be conducted until early December because of scheduling issues, according to Principal Tom Baker. That means that the earliest a candidate could be approved by the school board would be at the December 8 meeting.

According to Mr. Baker, there are applicants from outside the district under consideration. If hired from outside the district, a candidate could possibly be held in his or her current position for 60 days. If an internal applicant is selected, that person could be moved quickly and start as soon as possible.

"Yes, I will be sitting on the panel that will be doing the interviews as well as Mr. Caro [Matt Caro, principal of Saegertown Elementary]," said Mr. Baker. He also noted that there are five people, including himself and Mr. Caro, who will be conducting the interviews, and that it is hard to match five people's schedules to find a common time that works for all of them.

Saegertown's student school board representative Sydney Kightlinger spoke about the vacancy at the Oct. 13 and Nov. 10 meetings of the



RACHEL BARNER/SHS

The empty parking space for the Assistant Principal may soon be occupied.

PENNCREST School Board.

In November, she said: "The most pressing concern is the vacancy in the assistant principal position in our building. We are approaching the the fifty day mark, and we still only have one principal. The students are curious when we can expect the position to be filled."

PENNCREST school board president Jason Bakus said, "We are as a board aware of the vacancy, and we are the ones ultimately who will do the hiring although we let our administrators do the interviewing, and then they make the recommendation to us for approval."

Students are looking forward to the position being filled. "I feel like it's a lot of work for Mr. Baker, but it's not been a huge problem. I think giving it time to find one that would mesh well with him is beneficial," said senior Melanie McClean.

“Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” - From the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

When we woke up in the morning, we were still Americans



Sydney Kightlinger and Kaitlyn Walsh

Were we Trump supporters? To say yes would be a lie, but we have always been America supporters. Like a lot of people who thought Pennsylvania would continue the trend of going blue like it has for the last six presidential elections, we were shocked when Pennsylvania turned red for the first time since 1988 to secure an electoral college win for Donald J. Trump.

There has been a lot of protesting around the nation since the election results, but it is so important that we respect the results because the unique and glorious thing about American democracy is our peaceful transition of power.

Whether we supported the Trump Campaign is irrelevant because on Jan. 20, 2017 he will swear to “preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States” as the 45th president of the United States of

America. We hope President Trump does a job that is beneficial to America’s future because as teenagers, America’s future is our inheritance.

According to a 2015 Harvard University’s Institute of Politics poll, 74 percent of 18-29 year-olds don’t trust the government. And this can be attributed to the fact we don’t think the system works for us. Fixing a broken political system is what president-elect Trump campaigned on,

but this didn’t win him the millennial vote. CNN exit polling shows that Hillary Clinton won 55 percent of the millennial vote.

The election results showed for the fourth time in American history that our system isn’t perfect. It is possible for a candidate to win the electoral college while losing the popular vote.

That is exactly what happened in the 2016 election: Donald J. Trump won the electoral college, but Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. Clinton has 62,523,126 votes compared to Trump’s 61,201,031, according to CNN politics as of press time.

However his ability to capture key races and swing states granted him the presidency.

We aren’t questioning that he won this election under the current rules, but we are questioning if current rules are right.

This is the second time in the last five election cycles that the president-elect lost the popular vote.

What if this becomes the norm? But, is changing the Constitution wise? If we amend the constitution for this, where does it stop?

Throughout Trump’s campaign he challenged the strength of first amendment rights, when people, notably journalists, depicted him in a light he viewed unbecoming.

Are we saying Trump will abolish the first amendment? No, we are aware we live within a system of checks and balances, but with a Republican majority in the House and Senate, he could weaken it with his party’s support.

We are posing more questions than answers because we don’t have them, but it is time for an open national dialogue about this. It is time to get involved.

Less than 55 percent of eligible voters went to the polls on Nov. 8. That isn’t a good sign. Let’s say everybody who was registered to vote got up and actually voted; the results could have been dramatically different either way. Saying “My vote doesn’t matter” isn’t exactly a valid statement when millions of people aren’t voting all together.

We believe we have voice, and while our voice didn’t win this time, it doesn’t mean it can’t.

Someone recently said “... never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams.”

We believe that is true, and it is our dream to see a nation of people decide what is right for the village.

Trump Train pulls into the station



Nick Bradley and Austin Brown

Even though president-elect Donald Trump seems to be constantly criticized for his actions, he does bring a unique skillset to the White House.

President-elect Trump can benefit this country in numerous ways. As a businessman, Trump has acquired both financial and negotiation skills which will help him in the Oval Office when addressing America’s economy and dealing with foreign countries.

One of the most notable skills Trump has is his ability to negotiate. You can justifiably dislike him for what he has said, but you have to respect his ability to win.

Trump managed to secure the White House with the cards stacked against him. Accurate or not, he used the negative image critics created for him and turned it to his advantage. And with time, we believe that Trump will be able to ease some of the current discontent.

Trump’s persona led to his new role as President of the United States. People came out to vote for him with the hope that he could bring a different mindset to Washington. Trump’s

goal is to work for the middle class. He supports small businesses and wants those individuals to help this country prosper. He intends to make it more advantageous for business owners to invest in the United States rather than move jobs and factories to other countries. Trump wants to bring the jobs lost back to the country.

Not only will he benefit us when reworking trade deals, but he can also bring spirit to the American people. When it comes to addressing the American people, we believe that Trump was the best available person for the job. He has the ability to con-

nect with an audience and reassure them that he is working for them. Furthermore, Trump is not like the average Republican.

He created an image for himself which looked to showcase how his experiences outside politics would benefit us. Because of his background, he not only gained Republican votes, but he gained support from Democrats too.

If you look at his intentions, he does provide some hope for a broad dynamic of people. Considering the president-elect is not a life-long politician, the benefits that a change of scenery could provide are intriguing.

Realistically, Trump’s agenda will be carried out, in large part, by the individuals with whom he surrounds himself in his cabinet. This group will need to be experienced and compliment Trump’s skillset.

We can only hope for the best and look for Trump to put forth his best effort every day in office.

He has an opportunity to address some of the current issues that our country faces, which we hope, will ultimately Make America Great Again.

Sound-Offs

Lunch this year is a lot crazier. It’s so loud and it takes forever to get lunch. There’s not time to sit down and eat if you buy lunch!

Lunch is too crowded. There’s so many people and it makes it so loud that you almost have to yell at the people sitting right across from you.

I like having seven people to a table because we get more personal space, but I feel like some people get left out, and I can’t sit with all of my friends.

Without tutorial, it makes it really hard to get help if you don’t understand and it’s causing my grades to go down.”

“I don’t understand why they don’t repeat the morning announcements at the end of the day. A.M. Votech student never hear what is going on, and the halls are too loud in the morning before the bell to hear.”

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Two for one: Canine companion accompanies field student in classroom

By Kassie Boyd
STAFF WRITER



KASSIE BOYD/SHS

The question that everyone is asking: Why is there a dog in the halls? The seven year old German Shepherd Kenia belongs to Ms. Sydney Mace, Mr. Steve Simcheck’s field student.

Ms. Mace was gifted Kenia from her father, who runs Summerfield Service Dogs, last summer as a preventative measure after a back injury Ms. Mace experienced when she was sixteen. Kenia helps her handler with everything from retrieving items to getting help in case of an emergency. “She’s amazing,” said Ms. Mace. “I’ve always loved dogs, and felt a connection.”

Kenia goes almost everywhere with Ms. Mace. While they go normal places, like work, and restaurants, Ms. Mace rewards her with little adventures like swimming, Kenia’s personal favorite. “Sometimes the attention is nice, other days it isn’t. Depends on the day,” said Ms. Mace. “She helps me meet people.”

Still in training, Kenia is living proof that an old dog can learn new tricks. “I feel more with her,” said Ms. Mace. “She’s my best friend.” Mr. Simcheck sees Kenia as an asset to the students in his class who provides a sense of comfort to those who need it. “She doesn’t help with the math,” said Mr. Simcheck, “but she does calm down some of the kids. They know she’s there, she’s sleeping, relaxed. I sense that some of my kids need a little bit of that.”

Kenia will be in here in the mornings until Ms. Mace finishes her field work with Mr. Simcheck.

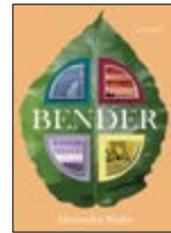
Students of all kinds can appreciate the familiarity of a friendly dog in a place where things can get a bit overwhelming.

“It’s not distracting at all. She’s adorable,” said junior Mike Chess. A study in 2003 by Kurt Kotrschal and Brita Ortbauer from the University of Vienna, Austria showed in a classroom, the appearance of a dog was associated with increased attention toward the teacher in comparison to class in the absence of the dog.

They concluded that the presence of a dog in a classroom could positively stimulate social unity in children and provide a relatively cheap and easy way to improve teaching conditions. “Service animals are a good thing,” said Ms. Mace. “The ones that don’t distract help children.” Such a positive response from both students and teachers is a testament to the benefits of a furry friend in the classroom.

Alumni spotlight: Rigby’s third novel released today

By Hillary Twiford
STAFF WRITER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

It seems that once students walk across the auditorium stage to get their diplomas, we never hear from them again. In light of the recent celebration of alum Shawn Morelli, the question of what other past Panthers have been up to has been raised.

Alexander Rigby is the author of novels “The Second Chances of Primam Wood,” and “What Happened to Marilyn.” His third novel, “Bender,” is being released today. He currently resides in Seattle, Washington. He is the Production Editor at Becker & Mayer and Editor-in-Chief of Red City Review, a literary website. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Political Science and Anthropology.

Rigby was the 2008 valedictorian of Saegertown High School. His time in Saegertown has shaped him a great deal. He even based Alden, the town in his first novel, after Saegertown. “Regardless of what I do, I will always be someone who grew up in a small town, and I wouldn’t take that back for the world. Nevertheless, I think growing up in a small town made me want to get out and see the world,” said Rigby.

Rigby knows what it is like to be a student at Saegertown High

School. He lived the high school experience, and now he has advice to share: “The piece of advice I would give to students at Saegertown is to never let yourself become complacent. Challenge yourself in ways that make you uncomfortable. Face your fears. Put yourself in situations that scare you. Go to places you never thought you’d see. Don’t live a life that passes you by,” said Rigby.

He has also loved writing for as long as he can remember. “To me, writing is a form of artistic expression that allows me to challenge myself in a multitude of ways. There’s nothing more rewarding than coming up with an idea for a story, and actually bringing it to life on the page.”

He encourages young aspiring writers to read and write often because “the more you practice, the better you can become.”

Rigby’s latest novel “Bender” is centered around four different couples from four different places- Egypt, Italy, Pittsburgh, and Argentina. The novel follows them from

The Prez Says: It is time to listen more than we talk

No matter where you land on the political spectrum, we need to come together. This entire election season seems to have written the guide to narcissism. Due to rhetoric and stubborn ignorance, our country continues to become further segregated, resulting in senseless hatred. In my opinion, the root of the cause is because we have forgotten to listen to one another.

No matter what situation life throws at you, listening is one of the most important tools to help you gain an advantage. Rather than listening with the intent to reply, listen to completely understand the person. Not only is listening the ultimate sign of respect, but by really trying to understand the viewpoints of others, you can develop a complete idea or opinion. It seems to me if something is put on social media

that makes it true. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Many people look into what they want to be true rather than what is true. This election is a prime example. Many people evaluated the character and goals of the candidates differently. Some even formulated their own truths about each candidate, rather than just listening to what they actually were saying.

Communication is how we interact with each other. By failing to listen to one another, we besmirch the art of communication. Renowned educator and author Peter Drucker said, “The most important thing in communication is hearing what isn’t being said.”

Ultimately we must remember this bit of wisdom from poet Dean Jackson, founder of lifeinthenow.com: “Listening is an art that re-

quires attention over talent, spirit over ego, other over self.” I am challenging you to actually listen to those around before you formulate your opinions or actions.

This does not mean that you have to agree with everything they may say, as quite frankly it could be absolute nonsense. But remember, no one has a monopoly on knowledge, and the respect you show them will likely become mutual.

From experience, I can promise you that a relationship built on mutual respect is one of the greatest gifts you can ever receive. So take time to learn and listen together.



Austin Brown

Classroom Diagnostic Tool (CDT) measuring student growth

By Ellie Lybarger
STAFF WRITER

CDTs or Classroom Diagnostic Tools are free on-line assessments provided by the PA Department of Education to identify students' academic strengths and show areas in need of improvement. They are computer-adaptive tests, meaning that the questions get easier or harder based on how students perform.



Teachers are using forms like this one to help students set goals for their growth based on CDT performance.

Although the tests have been given by some teachers in the building previously, this year in PENNCREST, the tests will be given in the Fall and Spring in all English, math and science classes to show growth and help students prepare for PSSA and Keystone Exams.

Students in grades 9-11 have taken CDTs in Algebra 1 and 2, Biology, Chemistry 1 and 2, and all English classes, while junior high students have taken CDTs in English, math and science.

This is the first year the chemistry CDT has ever been given at Saegertown.

"I looked forward to giving them so I could see the growth from Chem 1 to Chem 2," said Mrs. Peters.

Most students have received their scores from the fall tests, and many have conferenced with teachers to set goals for growth.

"My students all set a reading goal based on their scores," said English teacher Mrs. Stacey Hetrick, who has given the CDT for several years in her 10th grade classes. "It's really important that kids know where they struggle and realize that they can do things to improve their own performance," she added.

English teacher Mr. Greg Molnar sees the CDT as a "necessary evil," saying that he prepares his students specifically for the CDTs, which takes time away from other topics.

Students taking the test have similar viewpoints. "It's like taking a test to prepare for a test," said freshman Carson Jones. Freshman Kaylee Mulligan said, "I like how they show what I know and what subjects I need to grow in, but I think they are unnecessary." For more information on CDT testing, you can visit pdesas.org.

Pep band debuts at Saegertown

By Hannah Myers and Francis Jageacks
STAFF WRITERS

As the result of last year's budget cuts, Saegertown's marching band program has been split into two: the competing band known as PEN-NC.O.P.E. (combined with Maplewood), and a pep band led by Mr. Jason Ashbaugh, music teacher at Saegertown Elementary School.

Ashbaugh was the band director at the high school from 1995 through 2002. "It came with the job, and I'm

probably not the right person for a competitive marching band. It differs from my philosophy of what a band should be," said Ashbaugh.

This year, the pep band performed the alma mater, "The Star Spangled Banner," and stand tunes at football games. They even teamed up with the football cheerleaders to do some songs and chants.

"If pep band continues next year, then obviously we will do more music and be more involved with the cheerleaders," said Ashbaugh. Principal Tom Baker said, "I'm

looking for ways to include them in more activities, possibly getting them here for basketball games." Senior drum major Jesse Stewart said, "It was fun to be part of such a dedicated group."

Pep band has kept the opportunity for students who want to participate in marching band despite the split and people who want to support the school using their talents.

Seventh grader Nici Oakes said, "I love pep band, and I want to do it again next year."

Alumni Association

By Ellie Lybarger
STAFF WRITER

The Saegertown High School Alumni Association is now accepting applications to join. Membership is open to current juniors and seniors for the cost of \$1, alumni for \$10, and associates for \$5. Applications are available in the office until Jan. 17.

The association's purpose is to establish an organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to graduates of Saegertown High School who require financial assistance to attend a college, trade or technical school in a two- or four-year program.

Since their establishment of Alumni Association in 2001, more than \$34,000 has been donated by members of the Alumni Association to Saegertown graduates.

Additionally, the association holds an annual banquet for previous graduates and their guests to share memories and make new ones.

The association will be holding meetings in the library at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 18.

Senior scholarship applications will be released in January. Six scholarships will be awarded by the Alumni Association at their August banquet.

Music department prepares for winter concert

By Stefanie Arblaster
WEBSITE EDITOR

Christmas is right around the corner, and that means the Saegertown High School chorus and band will put on their annual Christmas concert.

The chorus will be performing classic Christmas carols, including "Little Town of Bethlehem," and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful."

"I'm very upset that it's my last winter concert. Chorus has always been my favorite activity, and to finally see it all come to an end is all very bittersweet," said senior Emily

Burger. The band will be performing Christmas classics as well, including "Carol of the Bells" and "Cambridge Carol". This will be Ms. James' first year conducting both the chorus and band.

"I think it's a good experience getting to work with different directors. She's doing very well, and I'm just really happy that we still have a program," said senior Jesse Stewart.

The Saegertown High School band and chorus will perform on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

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Bathroom policy adopted by PENNCREST school board

By Scout Van Cise
OPINION EDITOR



The PENNCREST School Board approved the Personal Facilities Physical Privacy policy without public discussion at their Nov. 10 meeting. This policy, officially approved for first reading by the board on Oct. 13 states that, "student restrooms, locker rooms, and showers that are designated for one sex should only be used by members of that sex."

The purpose of this policy is to ensure student physical privacy rights and safety while maintaining school discipline in any location in which a student may be undressed in the presence of other students.

If for any reason a student may want more privacy when using the restroom or locker room, he or she may submit a request to the principal of his/her school for permission to use an alternative facility. The request would be evaluated by the

principal, and the student would most likely be offered the use of a more private space.

This policy also applies to transgender students, or students who feel their gender is different from their sex at birth. The policy states that transgender students, "shall, to the extent reasonable, be provided with an available accommodation that meets their needs." Accommodations would possibly include permission to use a single-stall restroom, a uni-sex restroom, or controlled use of an employee restroom.

Chamber singers to perform at Erie Otters game

By Rachel Barner
NEWS EDITOR



The Chamber singer will head to Erie Insurance Arena on Dec. 16 to perform the American and Canadian National Anthems at the Erie Otters game.

Chamber singer director Mrs. Susan James scheduled this event. "I looked on line at the Erie Otters website and got the number to call about singing the anthem. I talked with the gentleman in charge, and I asked if we could sing it on the Dec. 16 and fortunately that date was open," said Mrs. James.

Students are looking forward to the performance because it isn't their usual selection for sporting events. "It's cool we get to sing the Canadian National anthem," said Chamber Singer president Jesse Stewart.

This isn't the first time the Chamber Singers have performed at a professional sporting event. Two years ago, Mrs. James and the Chamber

singers went to an Erie Seawolves game to sing the National Anthem.

"I think it's good for the younger kids who didn't get to go the Seawolves game to experience this and make our concerts easier because if they can sing in front of an unfamiliar crowd, it will be easier," said vice president Kendra Taylor.

Mrs. James added, "We would love to sing anywhere we can. These student singers should be very proud of themselves. They sound awesome!"

Representative Roae wins re-election: What the future holds

By Austin Brown and Hannah Myers
NEWS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Nov. 8, incumbent Republican state representative Brad Roae won reelection for a sixth term. Roae serves as the state representative from the 6th district, which covers the central Crawford County area. During a recent interview, he spoke on what it is like to be elected to represent your community and the type of weight that comes with an elected role.

"It is a very a big honor, and I take my position very seriously. I work as hard as I can to help out our area," said Rep. Roae.

During his previous terms, Roae served on finance, insurance, state government, and human services committees.

"When the new session starts, I will serve on the appropriations committee. That means that I will have to drop one of my current committees, but I am unsure of which one," said Roae.

While Roae is just one of 203 state representatives, his main focus is government spending. "I plan to get spending under control so we don't need a tax increase, to protect constitutional rights [First and Second

Representative Brad Roae visited Saegertown Jr. Sr. High School on Wednesday, Nov. 16 to talk to reporters Hannah Myers and Austin Brown about his plans for his sixth term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Amendments], and to help advance the pro-life cause," said Roae.

When he is not working, Roae enjoys spending time with his three children Rachael, Bradley, and Gregory who attend Maplewood. "I always tell them to keep their options open, to get good grades in school, don't get arrested, don't drink, and stay physically fit. Then they have a lot more options on what they can do with their life," said Roae. He's also been serving as a volunteer firefighter/EMT for East Mead Fire Department for about 18 years. "I really enjoy the opportunity

to help people when they are having some kind of emergency. My dad did it and my grandfather did it, so it's in my blood, I think," said Roae.

Roae welcomes his constituents to reach out to him. "I encourage them to contact me anytime they want to express their opinion on how I should vote for things in Harrisburg."

His 900-920 Water Street, Meadville office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. He can be reached anytime at broae@pahousegop.com. For more information, his website is www.reproae.com.

For more news and updates go to
www.thepantherpress.com

Saegertown Community Christmas Party
A FREE event
Sponsored by the Women's Improvement Club of Saegertown
Sunday, November 27th at 6 pm
Welcome Mr. & Mrs. Claus in the park.
Then gather at Saegertown United Methodist Church
Corner of Euclid and Washington
at 6:30 pm to enjoy refreshments and "make & take" crafts.

Thanksgiving Meal Oddities

Turducken

Salt, brown sugar, water, full turkey, house seasoning, cornbread dressing, full duck, full chicken, paprika, salt, pepper, garlic powder, cornmeal, flour, buttermilk, eggs, vegetable oil, white bread slices, cornbread, crackers, celery, onions, chicken stock, sage, poultry seasoning

To see full recipe visit www.foodnetwork.com



Rosemary Salt-Crusted Venison with cherry sauce

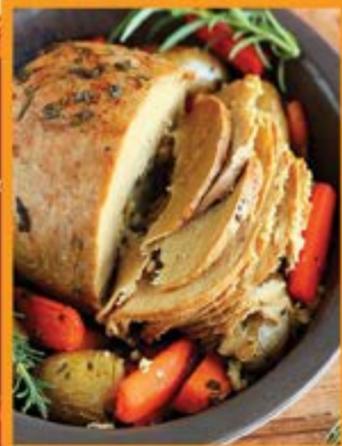
Shallots, olive oil, venison tenderloins, rosemary salt, pepper, dry wine, dried cherries, beef broth, water, cornstarch, butter, lemon juice
To see full recipe go to www.myrecipes.com



Tofurky

Tofurky roast, sweet potatoes, fingerling potatoes, soy sauce, olive oil, thyme, oregano, rosemary

To see full recipe go to www.ilovevegan.com



Created by Emily Ford, Photo Editor

Black Friday Shopping: What we do after being thankful for what we have

By Scout Van Cise
OPINION EDITOR

Thanksgiving has been celebrated since the 17th century in America as a day for family and a time to be grateful.

Relatives typically gather on the fourth Thursday in November to reconnect and bond over a turkey and fond memories they may share.

It also seems to represent the official start of the holiday season, and of course, with holidays comes shopping.

Black Friday, a designated day for the best holiday deals, officially begins on Nov. 26 at midnight, but most stores start their deals Thanksgiving night.

Many deals continue throughout the weekend, and online discounts are at large the following Monday, also known as Cyber Monday.

According to blackfriday.com, "The number of shoppers who visited stores and websites over the entire Thanksgiving weekend (Thursday to Sunday) in 2015 was 151 million."

Between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday, \$7.2 billion was spent online alone last year.

According to the National Retail Federation, almost 102 million people claim to have shopped in

stores over Thanksgiving weekend, while over 103 million said they shopped online. The average spending for one person is nearly \$300.

While Black Friday is a popular day across the United States, many local shoppers anxiously await the sales they are about to discover.

Student teacher Ms. Madison Irwin goes shopping every year at the Millcreek Mall, starting at 9 p.m. Thanksgiving night and finishing around 2 a.m. on Black Friday. "I usually look for deals on things that I know are typically more expensive and that I wouldn't regularly buy at full price," said Irwin.

Senior Emily Ford starts her shopping Thursday night as well. With her mom and older sister alongside her, she hopes to upgrade her camera to the Nikon D7100 for about \$700. This camera normally costs \$900. "The deals start Thursday, and we can usually get to the discounts before everyone else," said Ford.

Unlike Ford, junior and shopaholic Julia Sada's only plan for her annual Black Friday haul is to go with friends and get coffee a few times. "I just go because it's the one time a year you have the excuse to shop until 3 a.m."

Our dinner, or Gallopavo's gallant gobbles: An ode to Turkey Day

By Tyler Brooks
STAFF WRITER

Birdwatcher, John Audubon was the greatest of his day. There was one particular bird that took him ages to find, despite searching New York to New Orleans.

His search was exasperating and heart-breaking. He was exuberant to find the Wild Turkey, (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in Alabama, which quickly elevated itself to Audubon's favorite bird.

Benjamin Franklin jokingly suggested to his daughter the turkey was better to be on the national seal than the eagle-a "Bird of bad moral Character." He called the turkey "a much more respectable Bird."

The Wild Turkey is a noble bird found nationwide. While not the most beautiful, the birds on their breeding ground are gorgeous.

A male displays for females on what he considers prime real estate for getting the ladies, an area called the lek.

His hormones cause his beard and "snood" above his beak to turn bright red. He splays out his tail feathers and gobbles to get as much attention from as many fe-



males as he can. What a player.

The Wild Turkey derives its name from the country of Turkey. The glorious gamebird reminded people of another bird from Turkey, so they named the bird after it.

The turkey of Pennsylvania has a cousin in Mexico- the Ocellated Turkey (*Meleagris ocellata*) that is shades of iridescent green, orange, and blue. Both species eat rocks to aid in digestion.

The turkey is known in Saegertown as a shooting target, and to many as dinner. To others, it is a noble bird who will run upon its own feet more often than not, although it is capable of flight up to

twenty-five miles per hour.

When shot from the wing, the bird sprints away upon its legs, continuing to live on with a busted wing.

On Turkey Day, remember that the bird isn't just dinner but has been in America since before humans.

See the powerful legs, the wings where the bird's mighty feather were, where its tail fan attached to get itself a mate, and finally, where the bird's big ugly mug was.

As Franklin once said, this is "a Bird of Courage."

Tyler Brooks is Saegertown's resident ornithologist.

What are the Panthers thankful for this Thanksgiving?

Sam Michaels (12) - food and my family.
Breanna Ferguson (11) - friends and family who support me through everything.

Jacob Steiger (11) - Campus Life-the family and friends I've met there help me advance my faith.

Ryan Sherry (10) - My family and Grant Phelan's amazing basketball skills.

Karley Price (9) - My garden game- you earn stars to garden your back year. (it's like candy crush).

Sydney Smith (8) - ice cream - the rolo kind. It's my favorite food.

Jake Reisinger (8) - Hairy legs- they keep me warm in the winter when I'm cold.

Drew Hunter (7) - Chinese food.

Anthony Hernandez (7) - Naps (they're soooooo relaxing).

Dylan Flinchbaugh (7) - GIRLS.
Megan Brenot (9) - Chicken nuggets.
Kalib Kiser (12) - Greco's bald spot... It brightens my day.

Carson Jones (9) - Donald Trump's haircut.

Kat Diesing (8) - That no one saw my ripped pants when they ripped on accident.

Autumn Jones (11) - My ponies
Jarrett DeJohn (11) - Demolition derbies and race fuel.

Courtney DeLizio (11) - All my wonderful friends and family.

Kendra Jordan (12) - Music.

Jason Heimbrook (11) - My family

Mackenzie Genaway (12) - My family
Crystal Thomas (9) - Money
Casey Kozalla (9) - My education.

Sam Ravenscroft (12) - My family
Alisa Blaylock (11) - Food because food is amazing.

Dustin Bierman (12) - For all of the people who help me get through everyday.
Daytona English (12) - My friends and family.

Grace Triola (10) - My friends and family.

Megan Pryzbrowski (11) - My bed.
TJ Hasychak (12) - My friends and family.

Alexa Smith (10) - Food.

Kimmy Reisinger (9) - For my family and that they are always there for me.

Darian Beebe (9) - My friends, my pets, and my family.

Ashley Wenzel (9) - My freedom, my

family, and my faith.
Bo Hiles (12) - I'm thankful for Jordyn Gaut.

Morgan Radwick (9) - My family.
Nathan Barner (9) - Food, hunting, fishing, and my family and friends.

Haiku Peters (8) - I'm thankful for food.
Max Ravenscroft (9) - My family and friends and the food that we get to eat on Thanksgiving.

Sam Shelenberger (9) - I'm thankful that the presidential election is over.

Ethan Hayes (9) - I'm thankful for the life I have and that I don't have to worry about things that other people might have to worry about.

Alex Kightlinger (9) - My parents.

Fun Facts about Pies

Pumpkin Pie:

- The American colonists used pumpkin in pie crusts, not in the filling.
- Pumpkin pie was not made until the 1700s.
- Was not served at the first Thanksgiving.



Cherry Pie:

- Belongs to the rose family.
- Canada holds the record for baking the biggest cherry pie in the world.
- It is prohibited to put ice cream on cherry pie in Kansas.



Apple Pie:

- Early English apple pies had no sugar.
- Settlers of the American West made mock apple pie.
- English settlers brought apple pie making into America.

Pecan Pie:

- The pecan pie was created by French people who had settled in New Orleans.
- About 78 pecans are used in the pie.
- Pecan trees can live to be 200 years old.

Fun Facts:

- Cosco sells approximately 1 million pumpkin pies during the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Pie was first introduced to the holiday table at the pilgrims second Thanksgiving in 1623.

Created by Elizabeth Hasko, Director of Marketing

Congratulations to the Key Club on your annual "Share the Warmth" incentive. You made forty-nine elementary students thankful to have a warm coat.



Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

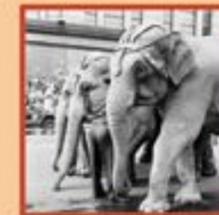
Created by Hillary Twiford, Staff Writer

It takes 90 minutes to inflate a giant balloon.

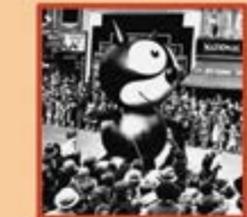


"Macy's Christmas Parade" was originally the title, although it took place on Thanksgiving.

2016 is Macy's 90th Thanksgiving Parade.



There were live animals in the first parade, including monkeys, elephants, and bears from the Central Park Zoo.



Felix the Cat was the first giant balloon featured.

Bowling team is right up the alley

By Elizabeth Hasko
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Saegertown's bowling team achieved a victory at Seneca Lanes last year to win the championship, and the team has high hopes for the upcoming season.

The bowlers started off the year with practices at Lost Lanes on Nov. 3, and they meet every Tuesday and Wednesday to focus on their techniques and performances for their future matches.

Members of the bowling team include seniors Ricky Kanline and Jake Sada, junior Michael Costel-

lo, sophomore Austin Bedow, and freshman Nick Archacki.

"I think our team will do fairly well this year again. I do believe we have a chance of winning (championships), but I don't want my teammates to think we can always win because we can't. We will do our best," said Kanline.

"I feel like the team should work harder for this season due to having a target on our backs because we won last year," said Costello.

The first match for the bowling team is to be announced, but should take place in early December.

Bulldog hockey: Four Panthers pass the puck

By Cami Reynolds
STAFF WRITER

The 2016-2017 Meadville Bulldogs Hockey Team, which includes four Saegertown students, has started their season off strong. Seniors Chase Leech and Luke Triola, junior Dillon Steiner, and sophomore Brendan Leech are lacing up the skates again this season to help the Bulldogs, whose current record stands at 10-1.

"Our toughest competition this year is Saint Ignatius because they are the best team we play," said Triola.

"I feel like this being my last year, I'm looked up to by the younger kids, and if I give my all, they'll give it their all," said senior Chase Leech. The hockey team is coached by Ja-

mie Plunkett.

"Our coach Chief played hockey all the way up to collegiate level, so he knows what he is talking about, and he is hard on us because he knows what our potential is," said Leech.

The hockey team practices three to four times a week to prepare for their games. This year's team is loaded with upperclassmen, giving them an experience advantage since they have been playing together for a while. "I feel that this year we have a strong team with a lot of depth," said Leech.

The Bulldogs will be in action at the MARC in Meadville on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3:45 p.m. against Gilmour Academy and Monday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. against Central Valley.

Boys Basketball looks to bounce back

By Payton Brooks
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The Panther basketball team may have some difficulty overcoming the loss of the fab four, but the boys still have faith that the season will turn out to be successful.

The past season graduates include Garrett Johnston, Brad Amy, Peter Mattocks, and Luke Smith. They guided the team a second place finish in District 10 with 16 wins.

Crucial players for the Panthers, each played significant roles since their sophomore year.

Senior Grant Phelan said, "It's a different atmosphere. Some of the seniors I was very close with, and

I'm going to miss their personalities and the talent they brought to the floor. Life goes on, though." Phelan has been with the team for three years, and he will be a major player.

"I think we will finish in the top three of the region," said sophomore Eli Draa. Draa was a part of the varsity program as a freshman; he will continue this year as one of the tallest players standing at 6'4.

Senior speaking captain Alan McGill, who played up as a freshman, will provide this year's group with much needed experience.

"This season could go in any direction, and it's a matter of getting the right combination of kids on the floor," said McGill.

Nine year head coach Greg Molnar recognizes that this will be a more challenging season than last year.

He cites Mattocks as the former emotional leader of the team and is unsure of who will step forward to take his role.

Phelan summed up his expectations of the season: "There might be games where we surprise people, our expectations are to win as many as we can and be competitive. We will take each game one at a time."

The Panthers will be in action on Dec. 17 in an away game against Vision Quest. The game will start at 1 p.m.

Lady Panthers hope to come together

By Nick Bradley
WEBSITE EDITOR

As the season is quickly approaching, the girls basketball team is preparing to compete in the tough season. Last year, the Lady Panthers tallied a 14-10 overall record, but this year they will be without graduates Becca Siple, Maile Chang, Sadie Mondie, and Lauren Posego.

This year is quite different from seasons past because the team has no seniors on the roster. The Panthers new squad includes juniors Haley Hess, Hannah Nicholson, Ellie Lybarger, Marissa Henry and Beka McClymonds; sophomores Courtney Hess, Carlie Schlosser, Dalaney Wood, and Karlyn Mondie; and freshmen Kaylee Mulligan, Katelyn Young, Hannah Urbanick, Maddie

Mondie, and Sarah Walters.

"I hope the team has a successful season and wins D-10. We all agree that this year will be good but we may not come together. My teammates and I have agreed that this year and next year will be our time to win," said Hess.

The Lady Panthers' first game is Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in Corry against the Lady Beavers.

Wrestlers ready to make some noise

By Cutter'b Pritchard
SPORTS EDITOR

The Saegertown wrestling program has been blessed with great success in the past, and this year looks like no exception. Last year, graduate Nick Monico placed third at states at 152 and junior Cody Mulligan placed sixth at 170.

"We have a full lineup of athletes with experience and some guys who can be workhorses," said Assistant Coach Pat Bradshaw. Senior Jude Mattocks is looking forward to this season. "The best part of the season will be going to the toughest tourna-

ments in the country and doing what we do best, winning," said Mattocks.

After a record of 27-13 last season, the Panthers are looking to pick-up where they left off. Behind the leadership of junior Cody Mulligan and senior Zach Posego, they are set to continue their success. "They lead by example and do the right things consistently," said Coach Bradshaw. "They're the face of the program, and we want kids to aspire to be like them because they are hard working both on the mat and in the classroom."

Posego said, "I think the team will do really well this season. We have a

tough schedule and have the opportunity to be successful."

The team has a lot of experience across the board which will blend well with the young standouts such as freshman Kenny Kiser, who looks to make some noise right out of the gate.

Coach Bradshaw summed up their goals when he said, "We gotta stay competitive and produce stellar athletes. We want kids to wrestle and have fun."

The team's first region event will be at home against the Eisenhower Knights on Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Locals prepare to bag a buck

By Braeden Kantz
STAFF WRITER

After the turkey has been eaten and the snow has fallen, the beginning of the largest hunting event in Pennsylvania begins.

Early Monday morning, an estimated 750,000 hunters are expected to creep into their stands and pursue the elusive Pennsylvania whitetail.

Last year, due to changes in Pennsylvania regulations, there were upwards of 300,000 whitetail killed. That is 14 percent lower than previous years. However, record numbers of new hunters entering the woods may boost this year's harvest count. Sophomore Claudia Fetzner aims to bag her first big game animal this

season with her boyfriend Wesley Price, an experienced hunter.

"We plan on hunting in the woods next to the food plot," said Fetzner. That is the same food plot Price successfully hunted in archery season. Fetzner also archery hunted this year, but was unsuccessful. She is well-prepared for the season: "We set new stands, got warmer gear, and I have had lots of shooting practice."

Senior Grant Phelan has a much different outlook on the season. Since he filled his tags in archery season like Price, his focus has switched to helping his family.

"Last year I did the same thing and pushed deer for my brother and Dad," said Phelan. "So I'm sticking to that same plan this year. It's a lot of walking."

Junior high matmen ready

By Braeden Kantz
STAFF WRITER

As this year's junior high wrestling season approaches, the Panthers are moving out of the weight room and onto the mat.

This year has seen record numbers of younger wrestlers in the weight room preparing for the season.

Seventh grader Landon Caldwell said, "I can't wait to be out there pinning my opponents in front of my friends and the dual meet food."

This season is projected to be a great year for the junior high panthers, even with their captain, eighth

grader Jaden Reagle, nursing an injury that will keep him on the sidelines for the majority if not all of the regular season.

Due to Reagle's injury, PJW (Pennsylvania Junior Wrestling) state qualifier Owen Hershelman, seventh grade, will have to step up to the plate.

He has been lifting with the varsity team to help make the transition from the elementary to the junior high program.

The first match will be Dec. 13 against Eisenhower, a team the Panthers have consistently beaten.

Junior high boys hitting the hardwood

By Grant Phelan
STAFF WRITER

With the leaves on the ground and that familiar winter chill in the air, the familiar sound of THUD THUD THUD can once again be heard, signaling that the junior high boys basketball team is practicing.

Second year head coach Brant Fuller is again at the helm, and the boys will open their season officially on Dec. 2 against Conneaut Lake. There is an electric feeling among the team, with bright hopes for a

successful season.

"The goal is to have a winning record," said eighth grader Max Fuller. "We are going to be pretty good compared to other teams, however, some teams kept their ninth graders." Saegertown will not have any ninth graders suit up in junior high. Their roster includes five eighth graders and twelve seventh graders.

"I think we will be okay, depending on how we gel as a team," said eighth grader Jake Reisinger. "The hope is to become closer with each other and become better."

The hunt is on: Bear season has begun

By Bailey Kozalla
SPORTS EDITOR

The annual statewide firearm bear season has begun. With black bears on the rise in this part of Pennsylvania, according to the PA Game Commission's early sales report, 1,000 more hunters bought bear tags for this season than last.

This would mean that an upwards of 175,000 hunters are pursuing an estimated 20,000 bears within this four-day season.

New for this year, an extended season is being opened in the first week of the regular firearms deer season Nov. 30 to Dec. 3. The Game Commission wants more bear harvests in this part of the state to help suppress the growing number of bear/human interactions.

Brothers Dominic and Devin Steiger bear hunt in Tidioute, Pa. at their grandfather's camp the first weekend of bear season. Sophomore Devin Steiger successfully harvested his first bear last year - his first time bear hunting.

"It was the first day of bear season. I was sitting on this rock, and I heard two shots go off. I saw a bear running on my right hand side.

It stopped 125 yards away. I shot it at it three times with my .270 and hit it once. It dropped five feet from where I shot it," said Devin.

"We see a lot of bear sign in the spring and summer, and we are getting pictures of them on the game cameras, but we can't seem to find where the bears are, but we are kicking out a lot of deer and small game," said eighth grader Hunter Wright.

On the first day of 2016 bear season, Wright went to camp, but didn't find a bear.

According to a Pennsylvania Pressroom interview, Mark Ternent, the Game Commission bear biologist, believes that the 2011 record harvest of 4,350 bears can be topped this year.

"If there are a record number of bears, a record number of hunters, and a record acorn crop, we could be in store for a truly re-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sophomore Devin Steiger harvested his first bear last year

markable year of bear hunting," said Ternent.

Saegertown Archery Bucks

~2016~



Hunter Wright's 8-point with a 12 1/2 inch spread



Grant Phelan's 7-point with an 11-inch spread



Wesley Price's 8-point with an 18 1/2 inch spread



Ryan Peters's 8-point



Cody Demico's 6 point with a 12 inch spread

Compiled by Bailey Kozalla

The Panther Press Staff Volume 11: 2016-2017

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Three simple school beautification projects

By Kassie Boyd
STAFF WRITER

“Gloomy, plain, depressing.” These are words members of the Saegertown Jr. Sr. High School student body have used to describe the building in which they spend eight hours a day for nearly nine months of their year.

The drab gray hallways and scuffed up floors do little to rally excitement at eight in the morning, five days a week. The dim lighting and monochromatic color scheme make Saegertown look a bit more like an institution than a place of learning; however, it doesn’t have to be that way. There are simple ways to enhance the atmosphere.

1. A splash of color

A popular suggestion to both brighten up the school and boost

school spirit is to paint the lockers. Rows upon rows of the same color gray is both boring and predictable. Angela Wright, author of “The Beginner’s Guide to Colour Psychology” describes gray as a suppressive color that directly correlates with a lack of energy. There’s nothing that brightens up your morning quite like a color that translates to hibernation.

A little color would go a long way.

2. Student art

A place so dedicated to children should be made up of bits and pieces of their imagination. Why is it that the only student art on display is from long before many of us were even in the building? Art teacher Mrs. Papinchak recalls a time when students used to leave their best works at school their senior year.

“The student council would pay for it to be framed and matted, and to have a little engraved nameplate with the date,” she said. “Then, they also paid the student for their artwork. Which, at the time, was like \$25 they paid for it, so it wasn’t a lot of money, especially now, but back then it was a little bit more.” Projects art students work on shouldn’t be condemned to a life in a folder stuffed into a drawer in the art room, or tacked up temporarily on cork strips lining the halls.

“This world is but a canvas to our imagination.”- Henry David Thoreau

3. Landscaping

The exterior of our school is a bit of a drag. The flashy sign out front is interesting on its own, but it does little for the plain brick walls and cement structures. Murals are a pop-

ular student solution to that. It may seem a little unrealistic, but the creative power of Saegertown’s most talented students can accomplish anything. A green thumb and a little gardening could also make the walk into school more joyful. And allowing the seniors to paint their parking spots could also add a welcoming pop of color to the exterior, in addition to giving students the ability to express themselves.

Sometimes, what’s on the inside isn’t enough.

The smallest things can make the school day better. High school isn’t forever, but here in the present, doing a little something to make our experience more comfortable will never be a regret we have down the road.



Attitude and atmosphere can go hand and hand in a place where we spend the majority of our teenage lives.

Equestriennes celebrate successful season

By Stefanie Arblaster
WEBSITE EDITOR

With the horse showing winding down as winter approaches, many Saegertown students are celebrating successful seasons.

From October 27-30, junior Autumn Jones attended the Pennsylvania State 4-H show at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Jones, 2013 state champion for barrel racing, shifted gears this year to show hunt seat, a forward style of horse riding.

“It was my first year qualifying and showing at states for hunt seat riding. It was a huge achievement for me,” said Jones.

Junior Michaila DeVore also attended the Pennsylvania 4-H show,

this being her sixth year going to states. “I wasn’t really that nervous because I’ve been there so many times before,” said DeVore. She’s now sixth in the state and won the district champion title.

Junior Hunter Trzeciak attended the All American Quarter Horse Congress show in Columbus, Ohio on October 22-26. With over 21,000 horse show entries, Congress is the largest single breed-horse show in the world. Trzeciak competed in the 14-18 Novice Youth showmanship division with her horse Barbie and entered the semi-finals.

“I was really proud of Barbie. No matter what the results were, I knew she did her best,” said Trzeciak.

Students take the stage

By Hillary Twiford
STAFF WRITER

Several Saegertown students are participating in Allegro Dance Arts’ production of the ballet “The Nutcracker” and the Academy’s production of Irving Berlin’s musical “White Christmas.”

“White Christmas,” the classic Christmas story of two singing groups teaming up to perform a Christmas show in order to perform a Christmas miracle and save a war-pals failing inn features eighth grader Ava Jones, freshman Oliver Smith, and sophomore Madison Morgan. “The dance scenes are amazing, the leads are fantastic, and the sets and costumes are stunning. It’s a really funny show,” said Morgan.

Over Thanksgiving break, “The Nutcracker” includes nine local dancers: seventh grader Abigail Kirdahy, eighth grader Megan Davis, sophomores Mylena Hernandez and

Hillary Twiford, and juniors Sydney Davis, Michaila DeVore, Hannah Smith, and Melanie Twiford.

The traditional holiday ballet with the famous score from Tchaikovsky follows the dreams of the young girl Clara to the Land of Snow and the Land of Sweets after receiving a Nutcracker at a Christmas Eve party. Hannah Smith, who plays the Rat Queen and in the Arabian corps said, “It’s a great show overall. It’s entertaining for everyone to watch, regardless of their age.”

“The Nutcracker” will be showing Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 26 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 27 at 2 p.m.. The production of “White Christmas” takes place Dec. 9-18. Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$16 for students.

For a complete list of showtimes and more information, visit theacademytheatre.org.



Trees of Christmas wraps up Sunday

By Hunter Trzeciak
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Christmas is considered to be “the most wonderful time of the year” and is one of the most popular holidays celebrated here in the United States. Have you ever wondered, though, what Christmas is like in other places around the world? The Meadville Garden Club is giving Crawford County residents a taste of that, with their biennial Trees of Christmas

held at the historical Baldwin Reynolds House in Meadville, Pa.

The festive affair, which has historically seen anywhere between 6,000-10,000 visitors was last held in 2014 with the theme of “A Storybook Christmas.” This year’s theme is “Christmas Around the World.”

The event is being held from Nov. 25-27 from 12-8 p.m. and admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. In addition to touring the trees, at-

tendees can visit the Unique Gift and Sweet Shoppe, which includes hand-made crafts and gifts from local vendors.

If you are looking to get involved, the program needs volunteers for the dates listed above. The shifts available are 12-3, 3-6, and 6-8 p.m. To inquire or join the volunteer organization, you can contact Mary Ellen Pepicelli at 814-337-7369.

Kraynaks: a holiday tradition for many

By Payton Brooks
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Since the opening of Kraynaks in 1949 in Hermitage, people have flocked to the store every year to see the holiday displays, and it has become a tradition for many Saegertown families to visit “Santa’s Christmas Land.”

“Ever since I was little we’ve gone. It’s a tradition,” said sophomore Lydia Betts. Betts goes with her younger siblings to walk through the Christmas Land, as well as to buy ornaments to decorate their tree. Her favorite part of visiting the store, however, is the large section

of different candies and chocolates, and the best thing she has gotten from Kraynaks is a necklace with her birthstone on it from her grandmother.

Freshman Kaylee Mulligan also recalls going to Kraynaks as a child. Although she and her family have not visited for several years, she still has fond memories. “The place you walk through to see the decorations is the best part,” said Mulligan. She is talking about the 300 foot long indoor path surrounded by several Christmas trees adorned in themed ornaments and joined by animatronic animals and characters.

Not everybody who has visited would consider it a tradition, though. Senior Kalib Kiser went to the shop for the first time with his friends this past year. “Going through the hall with all the Christmas decorations was the best part. It was magical. I felt like I was in the north pole and then briefly in a barn because there was a goat display,” Kiser said.

The “Santa’s Christmas Land” display is open until Dec. 31, so if you are searching for activities this holiday season or need to do some shopping, get a group of friends or family together and head down to Hermitage.

Thanksgiving movies? Try something different this year

By Ben Haylett
DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING

Let me ask you a question, other than Charlie Brown, what is your favorite Thanksgiving movie? Can’t think of one? That’s not surprising considering that other than educational specials on public television, Thanksgiving movies aren’t really a genre.

Thanksgiving episodes on sitcoms are about as close as we get to sitting down with our popcorn to see our favorite food related holiday get its due on the silver screen.

While not really considered a Thanksgiving movie, “You’ve Got Mail” is the closest Hollywood has really come. “You’ve Got Mail” was released in 1998, the heyday of chat rooms, instant messaging, and emails, and it follows two business rivals, played by Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan, who hate each other in the real world but fall in love online

in an anonymous chat room. Trouble ensues when Hanks is responsible for putting Ryan out of business, but in classic rom-com style, all is resolved and forgiven by the end.

It’s fun to look at how quickly this story became dated in the era of smartphones, texting, and Skype. The movie immediately transports you back to the late 90s and ten minutes into the movie you’ve completely forgotten how strange the premise seems on paper.

A small amount of the movie is dedicated to Thanksgiving. In one scene Tom Hanks puts aside his differences with Meg Ryan and helps her get through grocery shopping check out, even though she is low on cash. This is a pivotal point in the film, significantly because it is the first time the audience sees them acting more or less civil towards one another, in perfect Thanksgiving spirit, and plants the seed for their romance to be brought out of cyber-



space into reality. If you’re tired of Charlie Brown moping around on Thanksgiving, then give “You’ve Got Mail” a try for a refreshing change of pace this year.



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Sun: Closed

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WHAT WE GEEK!

Math: "I love number theory. It is the only thing that has ever really challenged me, and I love a challenge."

-Glen Ferry, freshman

Geeking: (v)

1. Be or become extremely excited or enthusiastic about a subject, typically one of specialist or minority interest.

"I am totally geeking about ..."

Sports: "It gets your adrenaline going. I love it especially when we're winning."

- Brittney Houck, seventh grade

Birds: "Birds have all this freedom to do whatever they want. If you are anything except a bird, you are stuck somewhere."

-Tyler Brooks, senior

Spiders: "I'm naturally a spider-whisperer; I didn't find the spiders, they found me."

- Scout Van Cise, junior

Makeup: "And when I do someone's makeup and they see it and love it, it makes my heart so happy."

-Emily Fry, junior

We are looking for passionate people.

Tell us what you geek about.

Tell us at sykightlinger@psdmail.org and kawalsh@psdmail.org to be featured in an upcoming issue.