

FREE

Mountain Peaks



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December 24, 2019-January 8, 2020

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DEADLINE: JANUARY 3

NEWSPAPER, LLC

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos



During the National Wreaths Across America Day on December 14, Dianne Hoppersberger places a wreath on the grave of her veteran uncle who recently passed away.



Nuangola Library Board member Joan Shirk checks the cookies at the Nuangola Library cookie sale on December 14.



Carol Morreale has a little giggle as Alberta Balliet checks out Santa's beard at the Christmas party at the Active Adult Center in Mountain Top on December 9.



From left, Janet Giarratano, her sister Michelle Clark, Patti Heller and Anita Moyer enjoy the wafer supper at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, December 15.

Connor Davis, 4, whispers in Santa's ear what he wants for Christmas at the Slocum Volunteer Fire Company Christmas party on December 8.



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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

DECEMBER 28 SAUERKRAUT SALE

On Saturday, December 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Emmanuel UCC is holding a homemade sauerkraut sale available to purchase for your holiday meals. The sauerkraut will be sold by the quart for \$4.50 no limits.

Emmanuel UCC is located in Dorrance Township at the end of Alberdeen Road. Please call the church office at 570-868-5675 will any questions.

DECEMBER 27 FOOD FUNDRAISER

The American Cancer Society Telethon Committee is sponsoring a food fundraiser to help ease the stress of the holidays. Consider taking a break from the kitchen in January by participating in the American Cancer Society-Greater Hazleton Unit Capriotti's food fundraiser.

You can order 5 lbs. of frozen chicken fingers for \$26, 25 frozen meatballs for \$16, 4 dozen frozen pierogies for \$26 and/or one 9" frozen strom-

boli for 7.25, keep them in the freezer and just pop them in the oven or on the stove when you need a little extra help.

Order from an ACS Telethon Committee member or call 570-459-1212. Orders are due Friday, December 27 and payment to the American Cancer Society is due with the order.

Your order must be picked up at The First Presbyterian Church, 201 W. Broad Street, Hazleton on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, between 4-6 p.m.

JANUARY 6, 21, 25, FEBRUARY 3, 11 LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYER REGISTRATIONS

Mt. Top Area Little League baseball and softball will be offering sign ups on the following dates for the 2020 season.

Baseball and softball programs for boys and girls ages 4 thru 15, must turn age 4 by August 31, 2020 in order to play.

Programs include t-ball, coach pitch, girls softball and boys baseball.

The registration dates are:

Monday, January 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, January 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Saturday, January 25, 3-5:30 p.m.; Monday, February 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.; and Tuesday, February 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

No sign ups after March 1, and no late sign ups accepted.

All sign ups at Crestwood Middle School cafeteria and High School cafeteria.

Visit www.mountaintoparealittleleague.com for details, forms, fees and additional information. Call 570-762-0379 for additional information and or questions.

JANUARY 14 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION TO MEET

Sons of the American Le-

gion Mountain Post 781 will meet on January 14 at 6 p.m. at the Post Home. For information, contact Lenny Biel at 474-2161 or mtsals0781@gmail.com.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEETING

The next monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus St. Jude Council #6440 is Tuesday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of St. Jude's school. All current members are asked to attend. New members are always welcome. Please call the Recorder, Stanley R. Gutkowski III, for more information at 570-474-5785. Visit them at www.stjudekofc6440.org or like them on Facebook at [stjudekofc6440](https://www.facebook.com/stjudekofc6440).

JANUARY 18 LEGO DAY CAMP

Mountaintop Family Church will host a one day Lego Robotics Camp on Saturday, January 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for students in grades 3-6. This day camp is limited to 18 students and registration will be accepted upon receipt of the \$10 registration fee. Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 for more information.

KIDS PAINTING PARTY

Mountaintop Family Church will host a children's painting party for children 6 and up on Saturday, January 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The

See Places To Go, page 9





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NEW YEAR!

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South Main Road houses its very own Christmas Land

The sign in front of 257 S. Main Road in Wright Township reads "Christmas Land."

That's certainly not an exaggeration.

Driving by the home located just a short distance north of Nuangola Road, motorists often slow down to catch a better view of the scores of lighted Christmas decorations that cover the front and side yard of the home.

And that's just the outside. Inside are many more decorations including Christmas village buildings from around the world and a working American Flyer model train that is 71 years old.

The home, inside and out, is decorated each year by its owner John Glawe and 18-year-old Crestwood High School senior Austin Douglas



Christmas Land at 257 South Main Road in Mountain Top.

who refers to Glawe as "Uncle Doug."

Douglas, a former neighbor and a friend of Glawe, began decorating the home a few

years ago. "Uncle Doug doesn't have any children, so I thought it would be nice to decorate his property to bring him some Christmas cheer," Douglas

explained.

"It takes me back to when I was a kid," Glawe said of the decorations. "My dad would

decorate the house and I would help. Of course, it never got this extreme," he noted. Glawe said he and Douglas begin decorating his property in early October, finishing in early December. "A lot of people enjoy it," Glawe related. "They drive by here and sometimes stop on the road to look at it." The display includes a life-size sleigh loaded with lighted gifts, Santa, snowmen and numerous blow-up figures, including Santa's reindeer and wooden soldiers.

"I don't have any kids, so Austin comes over and does all this," he said.

Douglas pointed out that his 96-year-old aunt Doris Yurchak had a collection of nearly 290 Christmas village build-

See Christmas, page 32

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Santa makes a stop at the Active Adult Center in Mountain Top

The AAC located in Wright Manor in Mountain Top held its annual Christmas luncheon and party on Monday, December 9 beginning at 11 a.m. There was live entertainment provided by Al and Deidra, a visit from Santa Claus and special beef dinner.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Santa took some time to visit every table and is having a fun chat with John Dopp, Rose Kotyk and Bill Thomas.

Adelina's hosts fundraiser for Howton



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

From left, proprietor Lisa Cummings, Anita Peters, Matt and Wendy Howton stand in Adelina's during the dinner fundraiser.

Adelina's Restaurant in Mountain Top hosted a fundraiser for Matt Howton on Wednesday, December 11 from 4 to 8 p.m. The event was held to help Mountain Top resident Matt Howton with medical bills from his recent heart transplant. Adelina's owner Lisa Cummings and Anita Peters co-organized the evening where 25% of dinner bills of those stating they were dining in support of Matt was donated to help with his exuberant medical bills. Adelina's also donated a raffle basket and there was a 50/50 raffle too.

Crestwood Menu

Elementary Schools

Breakfast available daily. Available daily: peanut butter and jelly sandwich, assorted deli sandwiches and wraps.

Week of December 30

Monday: No school, Christmas break

Tuesday: No school, Christmas break

Wednesday: No school, Christmas break

Thursday: Barbecued ribby on a bun or chicken patty on a bun; featured veggies: steamed broccoli, celery sticks with ranch, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Meatballs and marinara with cheese on a roll or cheesy pizza with pepperoni; featured veggies: steamed carrots, cucumber slices, choice of fruit and milk

Week of January 6

Monday: Hot ham and cheese on a pretzel roll or chicken mashed potato bowl with a dinner roll; featured veggies: mashed potatoes, steamed corn, choice of fruit and milk

Tuesday: Nachos grande, tortilla chips or cheeseburger on a bun; featured veggies: refried beans, tomato and onion salsa,

fruited jello, choice of milk

Wednesday: Chicken in gravy over a biscuit or hot dog on a bun; featured veggies: steamed peas, try bok choy, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: Beef and cheese lasagna, garlic bread stick or chicken patty on a bun; featured veggies: steamed corn, romaine salad, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Italian dunkers or meatballs and marinara with cheese on a roll; featured veggies: green beans, romaine salad, choice of fruit and milk

Secondary Campus

Breakfast available daily.

Grill line open daily with

cheeseburgers, chicken patties, grilled chicken and pizza.

Assorted salads, wraps and sandwiches available daily.

Week of December 30

Monday: No school, Christmas break

Tuesday: No school, Christmas break

Wednesday: No school, Christmas break

Thursday: Asian sesame chicken over rice or barbecued rib on a bun; featured veggies: steamed broccoli, carrot sticks, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Mini corn dog nuggets, pretzel stick or Italian dunkers with dipping sauce; featured veggies: sweet potato

fries, chick pea salad, choice of fruit and milk

Week of January 6

Monday: Sloppy Joe on a pretzel roll or popcorn chicken with a dinner roll; featured veggies: green peas, baby carrots, choice of fruit and milk

Tuesday: Chicken fajita with cheese sauce on a soft tortilla or chicken bacon ranch on a bun; featured veggies: refried beans, tomato and onion salsa, fruited jello, choice of milk

Wednesday: Penne pasta

and meat sauce, garlic bread or cheesy hot dog on a roll on a roll; featured veggies: steamed corn, romaine salad, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: French toast sticks with sausage links or barbecued rib on a bun; featured veggies: potato triangles, fresh cucumber slices, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Oven roasted turkey over bread with gravy or Italian dunkers with dipping sauce; featured veggies: au gratin potatoes, romaine salad, cranberry sauce, choice of milk



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Wednesday: Mexican Night — Mexican Menu Available
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Thursday: Lobster Tail \$19.95

Friday: Prime Rib Night 12 Oz. \$18.95 • 16 Oz. \$21.95

Saturday: Chicken Pot Pie/Fried Chicken Dinner \$9.95

Sunday: Wacky Burger \$7.95

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American Legion hosts Christmas party for veterans

The American Legion Post 781 in Mountain Top hosted its annual Christmas party and luncheon for the veterans from the Veteran's Administration and veterans from throughout the area.

There was live music and karaoke was provided by Carol Jean Davis and JT as well as veteran Carl Alber from Mountain Top.

Dinner was a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings, rolls, desserts and beverages.

Employees from First Keystone Community Bank were on hand to assist the veterans with their meals.

The event is organized and held by members of the American Legion, the



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Karen Kalie, left, First Keystone Community Bank, Berwick and Laurie Nudo of First Keystone Community Bank, Mountain Top enjoy a comic moment with veteran John J. Wrazien.

American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. There was a visit from Santa Claus and gift bags were given

to all the veterans from the VA. Some and bingo was played by all following the luncheon.

Rotary donates to food bank



Pictured from left are, Claudia Vitiello, John Kanyuck, Michelle Reilly, Florence Pedley, Kevin Hooper, Louise Wendt, Shane East and Beth Langston.

The Rotary Club of Mountaintop recently presented its annual donation to the Mountain Top Food Bank. Thank you to all who support the Farmers Market sponsored by the Rotary Club and headed by John Kanyuck. Proceeds from the market benefit the food bank. The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday, 7:30 a.m. at the Chalet Restaurant. Guests are always welcome.!



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Active Adult Center Menu

Active Adult Centers sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties offer hot noon meals Monday through Friday to people age 60 and over.

If you did not order a lunch and would like one, call the center at 570-868-8517 to check for any cancellations.

Week of December 30

Monday: Rosemary roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas & pearl onions, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, blushing pears, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Chicken Alfredo and bow tie pasta, broccoli & red peppers, garlic spinach, margarine, chocolate chip bread pudding, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Center closed for New Year's Day

Thursday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, parslid carrots, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, greek yogurt, milk and coffee

Friday: Turkey Sloppy Joe on whole wheat sandwich roll, roasted red potatoes, vegetable barley soup, margarine, chocolate chip cookie, milk and coffee

Week of January 6

Monday: Caprese pork chops, brown rice, garlic broccoli, crackers, margarine, diced pears, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Salisbury steak with gravy, herbed mashed potatoes, lima beans, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh apple slices, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Baked fish with dill & mustard, macaroni

& cheese, stewed tomatoes, broccoli & cauliflower, crackers, margarine, cherry jello, milk and coffee

Thursday: Teriyaki glazed pork, sesame brown rice, stir fried vegetables, carrot ginger soup, margarine, fresh melon, milk and coffee

Friday: Stuffed cabbage w/ meat sauce, mashed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat dinner roll, margarine, fresh apple slices, milk and coffee

The center is located at 460 South Main Road, Mountain Top.

Seniors are invited to attend lunch daily. Regular and health plus menus are available. The suggested donation is \$2. Make your reservations at least one day in advance by calling 868-8517 before 1 p.m.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 28: EDDIE APPNEL DUO • 8 P.M.

SATURDAY, JAN. 4: KELLY REILLY DUO • 7 P.M.



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Places To Go ... Things To Do ...

Continued from page 2

cost of \$20 covers supplies and instructor guidance. Seating is limited to 16 and seat is secured upon receipt of payment. Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com for more information.

TRIVIA FUNDRAISER

A trivia fundraiser to benefit the Crestwood senior lock-in will be held on **Saturday, January 18** at the American Legion,

1550 Henry Drive in Mountain Top. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., games begin at 7 p.m.

How to play: Teams: 1 to 6 players/team; \$10 per team member; must be 21 to play. Your \$10 fee includes pizza, soda and water. BYOB if alcohol is preferred, prizes awarded to the top 3 teams.

Also included, at a minimal fee for additional prizes: Head to Head Trivia, Last Man Standing Trivia, Barrel of Fun raffle and a 50/50 raffle.

Register your team online at

<https://givebutter.com/idYzsZ> or mail payment to Senior Lock-in Trivia, 20 Park Lane East, Mountain Top, PA 18707. Make checks payable to Crestwood Secondary PTA.

Teams are limited, first teams that register get the opportunity to play.

JANUARY 19 FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The St. Jude's Knights of Columbus will be hosting the an-

nual free throw championship on **Sunday, January 19**.

The event will start at 1 p.m. and be held at the gym of St. Jude's School.

The event is free and open to all boys and girls ages 9-14, regardless of religious affiliation. A signature of legal guardian is required along with proof of age, a copy of their birth certificate.

For more information call Recorder, Stanley R. Gutkowski III at 570-474-5785.

JANUARY 21 MT. TOP CARES MEETING

Mt. Top Cares meets on the third Tuesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Christ United Methodist Church, 175 S. Main Road in Mountain Top.

The next meeting is **January 21**.

Mt. Top Cares is a support group for those who have been affected by a loved ones substance use disorder.

For more information email mttopcares19@gmail.com or call 570-262-3793.

JANUARY 26 CHS CLASS OF 1970 REUNION MEETING

The Crestwood High School class of 1970 is holding a class meeting on **Sunday January 26** at 2 p.m. at Abe's Lunch at 419 S. Main Street, Wilkes Barre. All classmates are invited.

JANUARY 28 PHOTO CLUB MEETING

The Mountain Top Photo Club invites anyone interested in photography to attend its meeting held at King's Restaurant on **January 28** at 6:30 p.m. Monthly workshops are given by talented members on a wide range of subjects having to do with the various aspects of photography, and field trips to various places are on the calendar. Whether new to photography or the professional photographer, all are welcome. Visit www.MountainTopphotoclub.com or visit its Facebook page at Mountain Top Photo Club.

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News in Brief ...

Dorrance Township approves budget

Dorrance Township supervisors approved the township's 2020 budget at their December 9 meeting.

The general fund budget calls for revenue and expenses totaling \$662,583. There will not be a tax increase for 2020. The property tax rate will remain at .75 mills.

Supervisors voted to enter into an online auction contract with Auctions International, Inc. for the sale of a 1986 Trail King trailer and a hopper spreader side tanks. The auction runs until December 31. Bids will be accepted or denied at the January 6 meeting.

Tax Collector Beverly Lukashewski informed supervisors she will be resigning at the beginning of the year due to

moving out of the township in 2020. She has two years left on her term. Kelly Haffner is deputy tax collector. Supervisors will need to appoint someone to complete the term.

Wright Township residents will see an increase in property taxes in 2020

Wright Township supervisors approved the township's \$2,495,924 budget for 2020 at a special meeting on December 19 and voted to raise property taxes for the first time in 10 years. The increase includes a .2 mill fire tax and an additional .0484 mill increase in the general fund property tax for a total increase of .2484 mills. Township property owners will pay 1 mill taxes in

2020. Supervisors Louis Welebob Jr. and Donald Zampetti voted against the budget and the tax hike.

The combined tax hike will mean a property tax increase next year of \$24.84 for every \$100,000 of assessed valuation. The 1 mil total tax rate means a home assessed at \$100,000 would pay a total of \$100 in property taxes in 2020.

Leaders of the township's volunteer fire department attended the special meeting and raised concerns about the impact of the fire tax on their ability to raise additional funds through fundraisers and donations.

"Why are you enacting a .2 mill fire tax?" fire chief Dave Pettit asked supervisors following their vote. "Our donation base is going to go to zero," he predicted. "What are we going

to do when we lose our donation base?" he asked.

"This is probably going to kill our bazaar," Pettit predicted. "This is probably going to be the last one," he added.

Pettit told supervisors residents simply are not likely to make donations on top of the fire tax. "Nobody goes to the county or the school board and says, 'here's a \$50 or \$100 donation'," Pettit offered.

The .2 mill fire tax is expected to generate \$109,362 revenue in 2020, all of which will go

directly to the fire department. The tax is intended to take the place of the township's annual contribution to the fire department which is approximately \$100,000. The 2020 budget calls for the township to also pay \$38,000 for fire hydrant costs and \$21,467 workman's compensation insurance, both required by law.

At the supervisors' October work session, fire department leaders asked them to consider

See News in Brief, page 11

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(Across from the Soccerplex)**Wishing Everyone a Happy,
Healthy New Year!****Petroski Builders, Inc.****570-760-5488****News in Brief ...***Continued from page 10*

enacting the fire tax. However, the firefighters were seeking a higher tax that would allow the department to implement part-time paid firefighters beginning in the first quarter of 2020. Their plan is to staff the department with one firefighter on duty 12 hours a day, seven days a week in 2020. Beginning in 2021, the staffing would change to 24-hour coverage seven days a week with

two paid, part-time firefighters. The paid part-time staff would be supplemented with volunteers.

In order to cover all the department's operational costs and provide full coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week, fire department officials estimated a fire tax of 1 mill to 1.1 mills would be required. That tax, they said, would cost each household an estimated \$146 to \$161 annually.

"This is not close to where

we need to be," Pettit said of the .2 mill fire tax.

Zampetti told Pettit the township has been very supportive of the fire department, pointing to the nearly \$100,000 donation in 2019. "We're supporting you the best way we can without killing our residents," he stated. He noted the fire department requested \$250,000 for 2020. "If we went to \$250,000 some of our residents would be losing their homes," Zampetti predicted.

Supervisor Matt Howton, a member of the fire department, pointed out to Pettit the fire tax gives the department a guaranteed income. "That's one of the reasons I voted for it," Howton stated. "It's a first step. It can be reviewed in a year," he added.

"This is a start," said board chairman Michael Marshall. "We had to start somewhere," he said.

Township resident Patricia Davis, who is the township secretary/treasurer in nearby Dorrance Township, told supervisors she would not be likely to make an additional donation on top of the fire tax. "Some things I see (in the budget) don't make sense to me at all," she noted. She questioned the need for a full-time township secretary/treasurer and a full-time assistant. "I would rather see you give the fire department what they need to put on part-time firefighters 12 hour a day," she offered.

Supervisors also voted at their special meeting to purchase a 2020 Ford Interceptor police vehicle at a cost of \$47,442.83. The purchase will be financed through a loan from Fidelity Bank.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Annette and John Ruggiero came out to enjoy the complimentary breakfast and meet with some friends.

Complimentary breakfast held for seniors

The Crestwood School District held a complimentary breakfast for senior citizens (age 60+) from the Greater Mountain Top Area on Sunday, December 15 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Crestwood Secondary Campus, South Cafe. The breakfast was held buffet style and the menu included scrambled eggs with toast, breakfast sausage, crispy bacon, hash brown potatoes and assorted pastries, coffee and tea. The breakfast also included a made-to-order omelet station. Additional guests were welcome for the cost of \$6 for adults and \$3 for students with children under 5 eating for free.

GFWC holds wacky, tacky Christmas party



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Holding some of the large stuffed stockings for the New Root Center are, front row from left, Jacquie Fine, Ady Burner, Laura Fontenova, Gaylene Hunter and Leigh Michel; back row

from left are Corine Sworen, Mary Jo Givens, Dianne Kwiatek, Jane Ciarmatori, Sally Currie, Margo Hill, Sharon Aronovitz. Lois Gutkowski and Tina Daley.

The GFWC Mountain Top held its final meeting of 2019 and Christmas party on Monday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church. The theme for the party was *Wacky Tacky Christmas Party* and just about everyone wore their wackiest and tackiest

Christmas outfit. Everyone brought an appetizer or dessert to share and a wrapped gift for a couple of games. The guest speakers came from the New Root Recovery Center and the club presented them with giant Christmas stockings to take back to the center.

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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 11

Wright Township supervisors made appointments to two boards at their December 9 regular meeting, but not without some controversy. Dr. Bernard Graham was named to the Environmental Advisory Council by unanimous vote.

However, when a motion was made to appoint Scott Snyder to the zoning hearing board, supervisor Louis Welebob Jr. raised some objections. Welebob said he was

not aware of a letter of interest submitted by Snyder and that he was not interviewed by board members.

Marshall said he spoke to Snyder who expressed an interest in the post. He noted there has been a vacancy on the zoning hearing board for over one year and that it needed to be filled. The appointment passed on a 3-1 vote. Zampetti, who voted in favor of Snyder's appointment, recommended that the protocol for appointments to boards and commissions be followed in the future.

Programs offered at Nescopeck State Park in January

The following programs will be offered at Nescopeck State Park in January 2020. Register through the online calendar of events found at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/> or by calling the park at 570-403-2006.

Thursday, January 9

Wildlife in Winter: Hibernation is Not Sleep; 7 p.m. Registration required. This talk is part of the Adult Learning Series and is aimed at ages 16 and up.

Join Dr. Henry Smith, avid outdoorsman (and sleep medicine specialist) to learn how local wildlife survive the winter season. Learn about animal energetics in winter, and the various coping strategies Pennsylvania wildlife use to survive

until spring.

Saturday, January 18

Birds and Beans; 8 a.m.-12 noon. No registration necessary.

Hone your bird identification skills on visitors to the bird feeders while enjoying a hot beverage. Park staff will be on hand to answer questions about bird identification, selecting a bird field guide, winter bird feeding, and other birdy interests you may have. This is a program for all ages with some crafty activities for the kids as well.

Wednesday, January 22

Bald Eagle Watch for Seniors; 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Registration required.

Seniors and retirees are invit-

ed to join the staff for a field trip to the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Lackawaxen River in search of wintering and resident bald eagles. They'll make a morning coffee and restroom stop as well as a stop for lunch in Hawley, but plan for a full day in the field; pack a drink, snack, and dress to be outdoors. Participants will be responsible to cover the cost of anything they wish to purchase on the trip, including lunch.

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Junior auxiliary thankful for success of doll raffle

Dear Editor,

The Mountain Top Junior Auxiliary Unit 781 would like to thank all those who helped make their American Girl Doll raffle a great success.

The raffle was chanced off after the children's Christmas party on Saturday.

The following were the winners: Tony Scarano, 1st prize The 2019 American Girl Doll, Kate Todorich; 2nd prize The American Girl Doll Christmas Outfit, Audrey Tkatch; 3rd prize The American Girl Doll Dog.

Anyone that would like to be a part of our very active Junior Auxiliary may contact Ava.(avagroth@yahoo.com).

Qualifications are: you must be under 18 years old. Your father mother, sister, brother, grandfather or grandmother must be or have been a veteran. If they are living they must be a member of the American Legion Post 781.

Sincerely,

AL Junior Auxiliary

Ungvarsky recognized



Michael Marshall, chairman of the township board of supervisors, presents Ungvarsky with a plaque at the board's December 9 meeting.

Wright Township officials recently recognized Carl Ungvarsky, long-time member of the township planning commission and Environmental Advisory Council who has retired from both boards.

Michael Marshall, chairman of the township board of supervisors, presented Ungvarsky with a plaque at the board's December 9 meeting. Ungvarsky served on the Environmental Advisory council for 15 years and on the planning commission for 12 years.

"Carl made significant contributions to the planning commission through his engineering background and expertise in the field of stormwater management," planning commission chairman Dr. Thomas Urosevich said of Ungvarsky.

Mountain Top on the Move makes donation to Wreaths Across America



Mountain Top on the Move, Inc. recently made a donation to Wreaths Across America, that were placed at Albert's Cemetery in Mountain Top. Pictured are, Laurie Nudo, Secretary; Dianne Hopersberger, President; Danny Frascella, Vice President; Katie Lick, Treasurer. Missing, Anneliese Moghul, Second Vice President.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Tom Podolak chooses cookies to take home for the holidays.

Cookies galore found at Nuangola Library

The Nuangola Library hosted its annual cookie sale on Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the library located in Nuangola. No baking required for the many who came out to purchase cookies! The selection of Christmas cookies was amazing and sold for only \$8 per pound. There was a variety of festive poinsettias and wreaths from Old Post Farm and plenty of unique gift ideas from many local vendors and artisans selling a variety of gifts and stocking stuffers.

We Three performs at Kirby Library



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

We Three plays the song Stardust from the Great American Song Book at the Kirby Library on Monday evening, December 9.

The Marian Sutherland Kirby Library in Mountain Top hosted and evening of Christmas songs, songs of Broadway and those from the Great American Songbook all performed by the trombone trio We Three. The free concert was well attended with both young and old all to hear some of the best music from a by-gone era.

St. Paul's Preschool and Playschool get visit from Santa

Santa came to visit St. Paul's Preschool and Playschool in Mountain Top during December. He visited with each class and made sure each child was on the "nice list" and gave them each a candy cane.



St. Paul's 2 day afternoon Preschool class.



St. Paul's 2 day Playschool class.



St. Paul's 3 day afternoon Preschool class.



St. Paul's 3 morning Preschool and 3 day Playschool classes.

Santa Claus visits St. Mary's Christmas party

St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dorrance held its annual children's Christmas party on Sunday, December 8 beginning at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Saint Theresa's Guild sponsors the

Christmas party for children of the parish through donations and the annual turkey bingo. This year 116 children of the parish registered for the festive event.



One-year-old Melissa Schock visits with Mrs. Claus.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos



Twins Austen and Xavier Moreillon, 7, enjoy their lunch before Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive.

Piano students present Christmas recital



Piano students of Mary Jane Kotansky presented a Christmas recital at The First Welsh Baptist Church in Plymouth on Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m. Pictured from left are, 1st row, Sarah Nochumson, Anna Morris, Alexander D'Alonzo, Lilah Hilal, Eva Tidwell, Simran Sharma, Swati Sharma, Mary Jane Kotansky, Stephanie Kotansky; 2nd row, Richie Lont, Autumn Lont, Mia Correll, Hannah Fauberbach; 3rd row, Liam Dobash, Aidan Brakvatne, Jake Marich, Mark Mikle, Alex Marich, Paige Devlin, Jordan Ceklosky, Alexis Panzik. 4th row, Ellie Morris, Nevaeh Tidwell, Kaitlyn Gaughan, Kia Esfahani, Michael Enochs, Ella Panzik, Keira Shybloski. Absent from photo, Josh MacDonald, Conal Tuck, Nolan Tuck. The piano studio is located inside EK Fitness in Mountain Top.

Signs of the season ...

There were plenty of Christmas trees to choose from this year of all shapes, sizes and types. The weather wasn't always good, but tree dealers began selling right after Thanks-

giving and in some cases sooner. It began to look a lot like Christmas early this year with houses twinkling with Christmas lights and decorated Christmas trees in the windows.



Mountain Peaks/ Claudia Strycharz photos From left, Killian Balut, Celia Balut, Sadie Balut, mom Erin Rogan, and dad John Balut brave the wet weather on Saturday December 14 at Helen and Ed's Tree Farm in search of the perfect tree.



George Burger from George Burger & Sons Garden Center shows a tree to Mason Zavisotoski, 14 and his dad Michael on a rainy Saturday, December 14.

Santa Claus makes a stop to visit children in Slocum

The Slocum Township Volunteer Fire Co. held its annual children's Christmas party on Sunday, December 8 at the fire hall. The children enjoyed pizza, hot dogs and other snacks and

beverages with Santa. Each child was able to visit with Santa and tell him what they want for Christmas. There was live music and Christmas songs to bring in the Christmas season.



At left: Tommy and Regan Richmond visit with Santa.



At right: Four-year-old Brayden Mal-kemes tells Santa what he would like for Christmas this year.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos



At left: Santa listens carefully as Riley Hudzik, 9, tells him what she would like for Christmas.



At right: Georgia Witinski, 6, quietly tells Santa what she would like for Christmas.



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Veterans honored and remembered during wreath laying ceremony at area cemetery

National Wreaths Across America Day is an event in December that is dedicated to remembering the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution and is observed on a Saturday in mid-December every year.

This year national Wreaths Across America Day was held on Saturday, December 14.

Wreaths Across America

Day pays tribute in cemeteries where veterans are buried nationwide. Their mission includes raising awareness of the sacrifices veterans make for their country and encouraging more people to remember.

Wreath-laying ceremonies are held at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,100 additional locations

in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

The American Legion Post 781, including American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, Riders, Boy Scout troop 434 (sponsored by Post 781) and Jr. Auxiliary, gathered with members of the community, Rotary Club of Mountain Top, Mountain Top On The Move and Adopt Vets to pay tribute by laying 65 wreaths on veteran's graves at the Albert Cemetery in Mountain Top at 10 a.m.

Families and friends also put wreaths on graves of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

At right: Auxiliary member Sharon Gancarcik puts a wreath on the grave of her long-time high school friend who died in Vietnam.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

Part of the ceremony included a three-gun salute and the playing of taps by Al Finn.



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JP Bohanan, Pastor
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570-474-6060

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Holy Communion is served the first Sunday of every month. Sunday School: Children in Pre-K thru 4th grade meet during worship from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Grades 5 thru adult meet at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Choir practices Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Cherub Choir, Kids Choir, Adult Bell Choir and Kids Bell Choir also practice on Thursday evenings.

Christ Church offers a community Cancer Support Group meeting the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Grief Support Group meets by appointment. Breakfast Fellowship Group meets at the Chalet, Thursday at 8 a.m.

Mt. Top CARES (Community, Advocacy, Recovery, Education, Serenity): This is a peer-to-peer support group for those affected by a loved one's substance use disorder. The goal of CARES is to offer a safe place for people to share their story, find support, understanding and empathy. Contact the church office for schedule.

For more information: church office: 570-474-6060, church email: ChristUM-ChurchOffice@gmail.com; Pastor's email: bohanan.jp@gmail.com. Web: Christonthemountaintop.blogspot.com.

CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Calvin Collins, Pastor
411 Main Street, Conyngham
570-788-3960

Religious studies are at 10 a.m. Prayer Circle meets on the first and third Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the church library. Brothers in Christ meet every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Church office hours: Pastor Calvin will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. At all times, he will be available for pastoral care and concerns and may be reached at 570-788-3960. Hours are subject to change due to visitation.

The church secretary is available Tuesday 10:30-12:30, Wednesday 10:30-12:30, and Thursday 9:30-1:30. Other secretary office hours are available; call 570-788-3960.

Hours are subject to change for emergencies and holidays.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.
Michael & Kim Pickreign, Pastors
3577 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-678-7231

Services are casual and fam-

ily friendly. They are a group of believers passionate about sharing the gospel of Christ, healing broken hearts and seeking liberty for all who are oppressed.

Cornerstone Food Pantry is available for anyone who is in need. Pickups are available Sundays after the service, around 11:45 a.m. and by appointment.

The church is handicap accessible. For further information contact Pastor Pickreign.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Louis Aita, Pastor
7768 Blue Ridge Trail, Dorrance
570-868-5675

On Saturday, December 28 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Emmanuel will have its homemade sauerkraut available to purchase for your holiday meals. The sauerkraut will be sold by the quart for \$4.50 no limits.

Teen Talk is for anyone in 7th grade and above. They meet on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. to talk about God and Jesus, how their lives are influenced by them and how they can be an influence to others.

If recycling, place the cans in large bags and drop them off in the large crates at the back of the lower parking lot.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Faye Brennan takes her time deciding which items to bid on.

Christmas open house held at Slocum UMC

The Slocum UMC in Slocum Township held its annual Christmas open house and Chinese auction/craft sale on Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. downstairs in the fellowship hall. There were many beautiful Christmas items to bid on as well as crafts for last minute purchases. The kitchen served a variety of homemade foods. Many patrons visited the sanctuary to see the beautifully decorated historical church.

The Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank is housed at Emmanuel UCC and is open by appointment only. All contacts are kept strictly confidential.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Lou Aita at

570-582-9550 or email him at aitat112@ptd.net. E-mail access is emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com and the website is emmanuel-ucc.org.

See Worship, page 21

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 20

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4 Rittenhouse Place, Drums

570-599-8123

Faith Church Drums (formerly Valley Community Church) offers a unique and inviting place to and for worship. There is one worship time on Sundays with a blended service which includes contemporary choruses, a hymn, responsive reading, a time of reflective corporate prayer, and inspiring/dynamic preaching. The worship setting includes bistro tables with padded chairs, and a few rows for traditionalists.

The Holy Grounds Cafe is open every Sunday as they serve coffee, soda, tea, juice, bagels, snacks, and more.

Dinner Church Community Ministry. Once a month F.C.D. offers a free meal to the community.

Upcoming events: Ignite Young Adults (ages 25-40) children/teens of adults are invited every 2nd Tuesday of the month.

On Tuesday, December 31 from 6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. 1st

annual Christian New Year's Eve celebration: Michael O'Brien, Joseph O'Brien, 2018 America's Got Talent finalist; Jessie Comrie, Christian rapper.

For information you can check www.yourvcc.com.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 8:45 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Scott O. Miller, Pastor

1448 Slocum Road, Wapwallopen

570-200-5388

Pastor Scott and the congregation invites all to join worship service. Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month.

Sunday School is held from 9:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for children ages 4 through 14.

You can email Pastor Scott at somiller@susumc.org or call him at 570-200-5388. Find them on Facebook at [newhopewapwallopen](https://www.facebook.com/newhopewapwallopen).

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

Services: Saturday: 6 p.m.

Sunday: 8 & 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Michael J. Kloton, Pastor

Route 309, Drums

570-788-3141

The Faith Formation registration form for 2019-2020 is now available to be downloaded. Please go to the "Downloads" page of their website for the printer-friendly (PDF) form.

Please note that the new day/time for confessions is Saturday from 5-5:30 p.m.

As the parish breakfast is growing, more help is needed - setting up tables, serving, and clean-up. The Confirmation students are always welcome to help! We always strive to make sure all patrons enjoy a great breakfast. Please call Barbara Lawrence at 570-788-1676 if you have any questions or want to join the team.

Tuesday night bingo at Good Shepherd Church starts with an early bird game at 6 p.m. They play 22 games each week and payouts range from \$50 to over \$500. Regular games pay \$100 each. The kitchen opens at 5 p.m. with special soups, sandwiches, beverages, ethnic foods and a variety of other goodies including fries, pretzels, candy, chips, and more. They also provide complimentary coffee, tea, and cake to players and volunteers.

GRACE INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
and 6 p.m.

Brian Korner, Pastor

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Dorothy Myers of Stairville UMC looks on as Eva Myers opens her gift.

Joy Circle holds annual Christmas party

Stairville United Methodist Church in Wapwallopen and the Joy Circle hosted its annual Christmas party with members from all three churches in the New Hope Wapwallopen Charge. The evening included a catered dinner, an ice cream bar and desserts, the giving of gifts and dirty bingo.

Blue Ridge Trail, Slocum Twp. 570-868-6298

An old fashion Bible believing church still using the 1611 King James Version Bible and singing old favorite hymns.

Mid-week fellowship and prayer meeting is the first Wednesday of every month. Meal at 6 p.m. and prayer meeting at 7 p.m. Some fluctuations with this service can occur, so please call before attending to confirm.

Sunday School classes for children of all ages will help

them learn at their level.

Children will love Junior Church during the Sunday morning service. Kids K-4 through 6th grade will be excited as they sing, learn memory verses, get prizes and hear preaching at their level.

A well equipped, well staffed nursery is provided for infants and toddlers.

The church has a bookstore, "Growing in Grace." They have a good selection of KJV Bibles, music, and various other items.

To contact the church call 570-868-6298 or email Kornerb@Truevine.net.

HARVEST CONYNGHAM VALLEY

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

Jeff Butala, Pastor

475 Main Street, Conyngham
570-788-1055

Come and experience verti-

See Worship, page 22

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 21

cal worship and unapologetic preaching of God's word! Harvest CV seeks to develop grace and truth worshipers who share the good news of Christ with boldness!

Sunday children's ministry is age specific. Each child is loved and cared for by approved and responsible adults and youth support staff. At Higher Ground, each child is valued and taught the Word of God in age appropriate ways that encourage children to learn and enjoy their time in Harvest's Children's Ministry.

Everyone is encouraged to join a small group. Find one that fits your schedule. Contact info@harvestcv.org or indicate "Small Group" on the Friendship Register during a church service, or simply ask someone how to get more involved in small groups. Groups are currently gathering and forming.

For more information visit harvestcv.org or Harvest Conyngham Valley on Facebook.

MOUNTAIN TOP BAPTIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Dale Mooney, Pastor
865 Church Rd., Mountain Top
570-868-6863

Mountain Top Baptist Church invites you to join them for services. They offer a fully staffed nursery for all Sunday worship services for ages 0-3.

Sunday School for all ages is held on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. is a Bible study for the adults. There is a Bible study class for teens and younger ones have fun in the Kids4Truth Club with singing, Bible les-

sons, memory verses and other activities.

The Kids 4 Truth clubs curriculum and program is a local-church-based children's education ministry that utilizes a lesson time, a TruthBook time (memory and recitation), a song time, and a reward time in order to fortify young hearts and minds with the essential teachings of the authentic Christian faith.

The primary goal of this program is to help boys and girls know, love, and worship God by grounding them in essential Christian truth. Kids 4 Truth clubs work to ensure that boys and girls of all ages will learn what Christians believe and why they believe it.

MOUNTAIN TOP FAMILY CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 & 10:30 a.m.
Brian Knorr, Pastor
209 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-0900

MFC invites families to church on Sundays during the contemporary services. Come a few minutes early for a continental breakfast with coffee, tea, bagels, and danishes.

KidsTown Children's Ministries takes place during both

services for children 8 weeks old through 6th grade. The certified KidsTown staff provides a safe environment for children to grow in their relationships with God and with others.

There will be no Ladies' Groups, Men's Group, Starting Point Youth, Ground Zero, or Children's Ministries on Wednesday, January 1. All Wednesday groups will reconvene on Wednesday, January 8.

A Preschool Play Group will meet Thursday, January 9 at 10 a.m. in the KinderTown classroom. Play Group meets the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month and is for all infant through preschool aged children accompanied by a parent or caregiver. There will be no Play Group on December 26.

MFC will host a one day Lego Robotics Camp on Saturday, January 18 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for students in grades 3-6. This day camp is limited to 18 students and registration will be accepted upon receipt of the \$10 registration fee. Please contact the church office for more information.

A children's painting party

See Worship, page 23



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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Ellie Rebarchak, 2, and her big sister Natalie, 6, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Santa visits St. Patrick's Church

St. Patrick's Catholic Church in White Haven held its annual Santa breakfast in the Parish Hall on Sunday, December 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus were on hand to chat with the children and ask them what they want for Christmas. Breakfast was enjoyed by the many who came see Santa.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 22

will be held on Saturday, January 18, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for children age 6 and up. The cost of \$20 covers supplies and instructor guidance. Seating is limited to 16 and seat is secured upon receipt of payment. Please contact the church for more information.

A mother/daughter pajama party will be held on January 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. They invite all moms to bring their daughters to this fun girly night out. Wear your favorite pajamas and they will have ice cream, play games and do crafts. The cost is \$3 per person and can be paid that night. Please sign up by January 19.

Ground Zero56 meets every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. and is for all students who are in 5th and 6th grade.

Starting Point Youth is for students who are in 7th-12th

grade and meets every Wednesday in the Youth Room. There is a snack shop open from 6-6:30 p.m. and the youth service is from 6:45-8 p.m.

Contact the office or email debbie@mfchurch.com for information.

MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Service: Sunday 10 a.m.
Brook Selby, Pastor
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,
White Haven
570-443-9438

Mountainview is a family church. They believe that through their relationships with one another and with Jesus, they will experience the freedom, confidence, and the full life that is available to them. Their mission is to provide an environment where anyone can encounter Jesus' love and guidance.

Every 4th Sunday is Family Sunday, when the children stay

in the service and the church shares communion together.

The church holds Thursday Family Faith Nights. There is

dinner together followed by the various kids' groups. While adults wait for their kids they can take part in a class called Christianity 101 which will be an opportunity to explore questions about the faith. Dinner, fellowship, fun and spiritual growth all in one night! How awesome is that?

For updated information on Mountainview Community Church, their small groups, and various activities, please visit www.mountainviewnepa.org and Facebook page: Moun-

tainviewFMC.

Mountainview is located about 1 mile from the Rt. 437 intersection in White Haven.

MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 9 A.M.
Pastors: Bob Thomas and
Rev. Fran Fink
Lily Lake Road, Slocum

Come worship in a real country church. Built in 1891, Mt.

See Worship, page 24



Monica Cahalan, Cathy Cimakowsky, Kelly Bednar, Rachel Boellmann and Joan Gug-

liemanni have a wonderful time together in the spirit of Christmas.

Ladies enjoy Christmas party at Mountaintop Family Church

Mountaintop Family Church hosted its annual ladies Christmas celebration on Friday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone brought a wrapped ornament for an ornament exchange and a large covered dish to share for dinner. The church was beauti-

fully decorated for Christmas. Following Pastor Debbie Knorr welcoming the ladies, she prayed over the meal and everyone proceeded to the buffet tables. It was a wonderful night of fellowship and fun during the Christmas season.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 23

Zion still has no running water and uses an outhouse for their rest room facilities.

On Sunday, December 29 Cindy Faust will be the special guest speaker.

Rev. Fran Fink will lead the worship service on January 5.

Mt. Zion would like to wish everyone a blessed 2020. May God's love light your way and lead you into a New Year that shines with His special joy. Happy New Year!

For more information regarding the church services and activities, please contact Diane Webster at 570-379-3713.

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Services: Sunday

8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: John Broglin

570 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5155

New Life Community Church, invites you to come and worship the way it used to be.

All ladies are welcome to join in for a time of fun and fellowship on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.

All are welcome to come sample some delicious ways to prepare wild game at the annual Beast Feast on Saturday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. Cost is only \$3.

Everyone is welcome to join them for a time of Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN TOP

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, December 29. The message will be delivered by Pastor Neil Partington.

Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m. Classes are available for all ages.

The choir practices every Thursday at 7 p.m.

All friends and church family are invited to join in corporate prayer for this time of the church's transition. Prayer will be held between Sunday School and church, about 10:20 a.m.

Please donate your food items weekly to be given to the Mountain Top food bank. The need is great for packaged items, mayonnaise, coffee and sugar canned corn, red beets, variety soups and cranberry sauce are also needed.

They will also be collecting supplies and clothing (new) for Brandons Forever Home. A bin will be located in the narthex. If you have questions please contact Nancy Badal or any of the Presbyterian Women's group.

2020 dates to purchase bulletin covers to honor or recognize someone are now available. A month's supply of bulletin covers is \$35. Flowers are also available to purchase for \$35 for the vases or a special arrangement for the pedestal. Contact Lisa Bachman to schedule flowers or call the church office.

Looking ahead: December 29:



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Sheila Bender sings the opening hymn, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, as the choir sings with her.

Christmas cantata ushers in the season with song

Mountainview Community Church in White Haven held its annual Christmas cantata with White Haven's Community Choir on Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m. and Sunday afternoon December 15 at 3 p.m. This year the choir ushered in the Christmas season with a dynamic musical performance, *He Shall Be Called*. The program was directed by new Choir Director, Nate Spanos. He led this year's

choir in a musical that was filled with praise with a touch of the traditional carols that many know and love as well as contemporary worship songs. The Community Choir members are from White Haven United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church of White Haven, St. Patrick's Parish, and Mountainview Community Church.

All reports are due to prepare for the annual meeting which will be held in January; January 26: Annual corporation/congregational meeting; February 1: Soup cook-off and bake sale.

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Email: pbychmt@verizon.net.

If you have any questions about the church or its ministries please call 570-474-

9951 or find them on Facebook.

See Worship, page 25

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 24

STAIRVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.
Scott O. Miller, Pastor
Stairville Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5640

The congregation invites you to come and worship with them this Sunday. Communion is celebrated every 1st Sunday of the month. There is plenty of parking behind the church.

Choir practice is every Thursday at 3 p.m.

The J.O.Y. Circle meets every second Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the large fellowship hall. They make the plans for all church events, new members are welcome.

ST. JAMES EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
Oliver Brown, Pastor

827 E. County Road, Wapwallopen 570-379-3878

Pastor Brown conducts Bible Study on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month beginning at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

No Sunday School classes on December 29.

St. James Lutheran Church is planning a bus trip to the Ark Adventure (the model of Noah's Ark which was built to the original measurements and specifications listed in the Bible) and the Creation Museum. The ark is an amazing re-creation built in Kentucky based on scientific facts and knowledge of the period. It is inspirational, educational, and fascinating and appropriate for all ages. Not only is the ark itself fascinating, but the story of how and why it was built is also captivating. The trip will be April 18-19. The price is \$300/person and includes bus, admission to the

ark and the museum, hotel and breakfast on the 19th. Anyone interested in taking this two-day bus trip can sign up in the narthex. If you are interested or would like more information contact Shelly Lawton at 570-854-2161.

Boy Scout Troop 300 continues to meet at St. James Lutheran Church on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8 p.m.

Cub Scout Pack 379 meets on Sunday evenings from 6-7 p.m. Kindergarten through 5th grade boys are welcome to join. Call Billy Jo Scott at 570-854-3755 for more info.

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30 & 11 a.m.
Father Joseph J. Evanko, Pastor
420 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6315

Religious education for kindergarten thru 8th grade will not be held on Sunday, December 29 and Monday, December 30. Classes resume on January 5 and 6.

This school year join your friends for a fun night of service, games and snacks. Once a month starting at 7 p.m., the youth group will meet in St. Jude School cafeteria to work on a service project. They will also have games and snacks! Feel free to invite friends too!

Wafer Christmas supper held at St. Mary's

Saint Theresa's Guild of St. Mary's Church in Dorrance invited members of the parish to the annual wafer supper held on Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m. in the social hall.

Everyone brought a covered dish to share. Beverages were provided by the church. The hall was beautifully decorated with tables set for Christmas, including an Oplatki at each setting.

Everyone enjoyed an evening of delicious food, fun and fellowship.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo
Elaine Polak and Dianna Koch help themselves to some hors d'oeuvres.

Youth night dates are: January 14, February 11, March 10, April 4 and May 14.

The following items are needed for the Mt. Top Food Bank: Boxed soup mix instead of Ramen noodles, noodles, rice, boxed macaroni and cheese, vegetable soups, cream soups, baked beans, jelly, peanut butter, canned fruit, tuna, ketchup, mayonnaise, pudding, jello, sugar, hot chocolate and coffee.

The Parish office hours are Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday:

closed and Sunday: 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Services: Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
285 Pond Hill Mt. Road,
Wapwallopen
570-735-8531

Are you looking for a relaxed but traditional family church service? The congregation of St. Mark's invites everyone to join them as they share God's Word and celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday.

St. Mark's is a small country church with a big Christian heart! They believe they are called to: Be the body of Christ: His heart, His hands, His voice! Like them on Facebook, "St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pond Hill PA", to see pictures and announcements.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 25

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.
Rev. Daniel FitzSimmons, Rector
3085 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5358

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church is an inclusive and modern Episcopal Church that incorporates into its liturgy the best of both Catholic and Protestant traditions while remaining open to new directions from the Holy Spirit.

AA meetings: Mondays year round in The Common Room at 7 p.m.

Sunday School: Sundays year round in The Common Room at 10 a.m.

The Book Nook: Stop by and visit the Book Nook, where you can select from a wide selection of books at very low prices. The Book Nook is open on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Book donations are welcome and much appreciated.

Everyone is invited to participate and attend choir rehearsals, which are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to celebrate Holy Eucharist with them on Sundays. For more information, visit smarintimeless.org or call Janeann Lokken at 570-868-6895.

ST. MARY'S OF DORRANCE

Services: Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.

Father Joseph Evanko, Pastor
3529 St. Mary's Road, Dorrance
570-868-5855

The church warmly welcome all visitors! Contact the

parish office if you would like to become a member of the parish.

Religious Education classes are held weekly on Sundays from 10-11:15 a.m. Please call Stacy Panas with any questions or concerns at 570-332-3801. Students will not have class December 29.

All students in seventh grade and older are invited to the Youth Group Christmas party on Sunday, January 5, 5-8 p.m., in the dining room. There will be a \$10 optional gift exchange. Please RSVP to Molly for menu purposes.

Youth Group focuses on SSS, spiritual, service, and social. Meetings are typically held twice a month on Sundays from 6-8 p.m. Questions or for more information please call Molly at 868-5855 or 262-4628.

The church is looking for parishioners who would like to partner with the seventh and eighth grade students to journey with them as they prepare for Confirmation. Your commitment would include praying for them, and offering them encouragement and support via cards and letters. Call the parish office if you are able to share your love of the Catholic faith with one of the young adults, or if you would like more information.

The Knights of Columbus is

Breakfast with Santa held at Saint Jude School



The eighth grade class at Saint Jude School put on a wonderful holiday breakfast. Shown, row 1: Ethan Brenner, Lauren Lokuta, Donato Strish, Ahyaan Sayed; row 2: Molly Grove, Kaden Ayre, Kyle Kocon and

Santa is quite bust this time of year! That's why it was an extra special treat when he took the time to stop by and share some Christmas cheer at the Saint Jude School annual breakfast with Santa. Families were treated to a delightful breakfast of pancakes

Alex Martin; row 3: George Sabatini, Kaylee Gryboski, Sister Ellen Fischer, SCC, Margaret Mary Ganter, Olivia Bilbow, Avery Chepolis, Francesca Basalyga and Jenna Medvitz.

and eggs while children visited with the Big Man himself. Children were also invited to make some Christmas crafts to add to their holiday cheer. Students from the eighth grade class served as waiters and parents helped to cook the delicious holiday meal.

looking for a few good men! If you are interested in giving back to your church and community and having fun while doing it call John Baab 516-241-5297.

Office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. In case of emergency call 570-474-6315

See Worship, page 27

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 26

and follow prompts for emergency. The office will be closed on January 1 and will close at noon on December 31.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Services: Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday: 10:15 a.m.**

**Rev. Peter O'Rourke,
Sacramental Minister
411 Allegheny Street,
White Haven
570-443-9944**

St. Patrick's Church welcomes all to visit and worship with them. Contact the parish office if you would like to become a member of the parish. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

Faith Formation (CCD) classes for grades Pre-K to 8th are held in the Parish Center from 9 to 10 a.m. every Sunday. There will be no Faith Formation classes on Sunday,

December 29. Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5.

Parish offices will be closed on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Pro-Life baby bottles are available on the table as you enter the church. Please return your donation by Friday, December 27. All proceeds benefit babies and mothers.

The next Children's Mass will be on January 19 at 10:15 a.m. The 3rd grade students will lead them in prayer.

Youth folk group is looking for new members! Practices are held on Thursdays from 5 to 5:45 p.m. in the church.

The Rosary is recited each Tuesday at 5 p.m. The Miraculous Medal Novena is prayed each Tuesday morning after the 8 a.m. Communion Service.

Weekday Masses are held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 a.m.

If you would like information

about joining the Knights of Columbus, please contact Jim Curto at 570-443-8494.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
**Services: Sunday 9:30 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6616**

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Mountain Top encourages you to join them for worship this week. The following is a brief summary of upcoming worship and service opportunities. Communion will be served on December 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study is held every Thursday at 1 p.m. They welcome interested persons to attend. Have some fun with learning; only 2 hours a week with a knowledgeable teacher. Snacks provided.

The hoagie group needs new volunteers! If you can help, please contact the church secretary for more information 570-474-6616.

The first Sunday of each month has been declared "Food Bank Day" and they ask that members bring non-perishable food items in order to keep up with the demand for food.

Every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday at 7 p.m. AA meetings are held, at 6:15 p.m., on



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

Prophet dancers, Lauren Hayden, Jenna Medvetz, Grace Tedford, Abigail Young, Melody Josefowicz, Anna Ostaltsov and Allison Van Pelt dance anticipating the coming of the Savior of the world.

St. Jude's presents Christmas program

Family and friends filled the church on December 19, as the St. Jude School students presented Lessons and Carols – Shepherds Await. Using scriptures reading, music and dance they told the story of the role of the shepherds from the beginning of time through the birth of Jesus Christ.

Wednesdays Weight Watchers meetings are in session. Every Thursday NA meets at 6 p.m. Stress & Anxiety Management: Every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

The church office is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 9 a.m.

**Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Janelle Rothrock, Pastor
418 Berwick St., White Haven
570-443-9424**

Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday at 9:15.

Sunday school for ages pre-school through confirmation classes, is from 10 to 11 a.m. throughout the school year.

Activities at St. Paul's include: youth group for those in grade 4 through 12 the first and third Sunday at 6 p.m. Quilters on Monday at 9:30 a.m., Adult Bible Study on Tuesday at 7 p.m., community lunch each Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish House.

**ST. PAUL'S DRUMS
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Services: Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

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See Worship, page 28

Worship Together ...

Continued from page 27

Adult Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Rev. Debra L. Hebden, Pastor
335 W. Butler Drive, Drums
570-788-3051

Pastor Debra and the congregation invite you to worship with them every Sunday. Fellowship time follows the service.

Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of the month.

Ongoing ministries include Tuesday evening Bible Study at 6 p.m.

For more information, contact them at www.stpauls-drums.com or Email: stpauls-drums@gmail.com.

WHITE HAVEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
3rd Saturday 5 p.m.
Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
David Botzer, Pastor
900 Buffalo St., White Haven
570-443-7153

White Haven UMC welcomes everyone in the community to worship with them. Communion is shared the first Sunday of the month. A contemporary communion service is held on the third Saturday of the month at 5 p.m.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Dave at 570-443-7153.

Cookie walk benefits St. Jude youth ministry



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

St. Jude Parish Youth Ministry held its annual cookie walk in the school cafeteria on Saturday morning, December 14. Members of the Youth Ministry made a variety of cookies for the event. Proceeds from the cookie walk

benefit the Youth Ministry activities. From left are, Youth Ministry members: Kathy Muntzenberger, Carley Pocono, Aubrey Jumper, Francesca Basalyga, Allen Angon, Betsy Scanlan and Josh Van Pelt.

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Santa visits children at American Legion

The American Legion Post 781 in Mountain Top held its annual children's Christmas party with Santa on Saturday, December 14 at 2 p.m. There were snacks for all the children who came and of course presents. Fifty children pre-registered for the event. The event always brings delight to the faces of the children.



At left: Jill Augustine and her dad John visit with Santa. Brother Jack couldn't make it to the party this year, so she has his present to take home.



At left: Nine-year-old Emma Nuss enjoys her visit and the gift from Santa.

At right: With a big grin Dayton Adamczyk is so happy to receive this gift from Santa.



Children's Christmas party held at Slocum VFW



The Slocum VFW Post 7918 held its annual children's Christmas party on Sunday December 15 at the post home. The children were able to visit with Santa and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

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S.A.L. visits VA for Christmas



From left, Len Biel, S.A.L. District Commander; Bill Fema, District Sgt.-At-Arm; Ed Baker, 781 S.A.L. Chaplin; Scott Baker, S.A.L. State Commander; Dave Weidner, District Adjutant and Craig Kamowski, 781 S.A.L. Historian.

Sons of the American Legion (S.A.L.) State Commander Scott Baker and members of District 12 recently visited the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center. Legion family members visited with VA residents and handed out Christmas cards and gifts.



Shown in photo are, from left: Lindsey Lokuta, soccer; Jared Weisenberger, soccer; Emily Urbanski, tennis.

Wyoming Seminary names fall sports MVPs

Wyoming Seminary Upper School recently named the Mountain Top area athletes who received Most Valuable Player Awards, Coaches Awards and Gold Awards for the fall season. Athletes who earned four varsity letters or three varsity and one junior varsity letters in their sport receive Gold Awards.

In boys soccer, senior Jared Weisenberger of Mountain Top received the Gold Award; in girls soccer, sophomore Lindsey Lokuta of Mountain Top received the MVP Award; in girls tennis, senior Emily Urbanski of Mountain Top received the Gold Award.

Winter commencement held at Misericordia University

The following are local Misericordia University students who applied and were eligible to participate in the winter commencement ceremony on Sunday, December 15, 2019: Amanda Bohn, Mountain Top, biology, Bachelor of Science; Eugene Cannon, Drums, doctor of physical therapy; Ashley Casem, Mountain Top, doctor of physical therapy; Darlene Casey, Freeland, nursing, BSN; Hope Gernhart, Glen Lyon, Master of Business Administration; Thomas Gernhart, Glen Lyon, organizational management, MS; Lauren Gorney, Glen Lyon, organizational management, MS; Shannon Gulyas, Mountain Top, nursing, BSN, and Lesley Herring, Freeland, Master of Business Administration.

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Christmas ...

Continued from page 4

ings she collected during her travels around the world. They were displayed on a large platform in her home in Hobbie. The home was destroyed by a fire two years ago and Douglas managed to salvage 200 of the buildings and other vintage decorations that now adorn the inside of Glawe's home.

This year, three of the buildings are displayed under the revolving tree in the living room of the home. Also, under the tree are two vintage working model trains. One is a 71-year-old American Flyer train which Glawe said his parents purchased for her sister on her first Christmas in 1948. The train not only is in per-



Austin Douglas arranges gifts on Santa's sleigh.

fect working condition, it still emits smoke and operates on its original transformer. The company, Glawe noted, is no

longer in business. The second train on display is another collector's dream, a classic Lionel model. Both chug under the tree through the village Douglas and Glawe created.

Also, under the tree is a nativity scene that Glawe said his parents purchased in 1945.

While decorating the property and home for Christmas takes several weeks, Glawe and Douglas said they enjoy the work. It's taking everything down and putting it away that becomes a chore. "And, it gets depressing when it's all down," Douglas noted.



Doug Glawe shows off some of the decorations inside his home.



The nativity scene purchased by Glawe's parents in 1945.



Part of the Christmas village collected by Doris Yurchak.



A vintage model train circles under the Christmas tree.



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