

FREE

December 23, 2021-January 5, 2022

NEXT EDITION: JANUARY 6

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30



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NEWSPAPER, LLC

Volume 18, No. 26

www.mt-peaks.com



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Mountaintop Family Church held a drive-thru live nativity on Friday, December 10 and Sunday, December 12. Cars stopped to contemplate the importance of the birth of our Lord.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Betsy Smith gets help packing cookies by Nuangola Library President Betsy Johnson and board member Joan Bigelow at the annual Christmas cookie sale on December 11 at the library.



The children of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Preschool have been busy little elves this Christmas season. Pictured are Emma, Ryan and Aubrey, from the playschool class, showing off their Santa masks.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

The youth group of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in White Haven hosted a breakfast with Santa on December 11. Santa stopped by to visit with the children and hand out gifts. Visiting with Santa are Meia Sanute, Ivy Clark, Axel Fisher and Scarlett Correll.



The infamous Jack the goat was captured just in time for Christmas after roaming Mountain Top for several weeks.
See story, page 6

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

EVERY SUNDAY SPIRITUAL YOGA

Join Stairville United Methodist Church, 1790 Stairville Road in Mountain Top for spiritual yoga on **Sundays** at 5:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the class is outdoors but there is room to move inside if needed.

Bring your own yoga mat. A donation basket will be available and donations are given to the church. The class lasts 1 hour, all levels welcome.

JANUARY 15 LEGO SAY CAMP

Mountaintop Family Church will host a one day Lego Robotics Camp on **Saturday, January 15** from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for students in grades 3-6. Seating for this day camp is limited and registration will be accepted

upon receipt of the \$10 registration fee. Face masks are required for all children participating as well as for all adults working with children. Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 for more information.

KIDS PAINTING PARTY

Mountaintop Family Church will host a painting party for ages 8 and up on **Saturday, January 15** from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The cost of \$20 covers supplies and instructor guidance. Seating is limited to 16 and seat is secured upon receipt of payment. Face masks are required for all children participating as well as all adults working with children. Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com for more information.

JULY 9

TRAIN EXCURSION

The Rotary Club of Mountain Top is excited to announce the return of its steam train excursion on **July 9, 2022**. Tickets can be purchased by mailing payment to P.O. Box 244, Mountain Top, PA 18707, or in person at Century 21 Smith Hourigan Group, 69 N. Mountain Blvd., Mountain Top. There will be an Event Brite purchase option as well. Tickets are \$70.

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Ice House owner Jim Mack, left, is shown accepting some framed photos from Historical Society member Joe Kubic.

Historical Society donates photos

The Mountain Top Historical Society recently donated a number of photos from the early days of Mountain Top to the Ice House Pub. Owner Jim Mack has the photos displayed throughout the pub's dining room.

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Editor and Publisher: Maryellen Aton 570-868-3070
Advertising Sales: Wendy Griffiths 570-249-1233
Photo Journalist: Norberta Kosin
Correspondent: Claudia Strycharz

P.O. Box 218
Mountain Top, PA 18707
Phone: 570-868-3070

email:
publisher@mt-peaks.com
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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 27

Monday: Chef salad with chicken, whole wheat dinner roll, fresh orange, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Penne and turkey, meat sauce with whole wheat penne, Italian vegetable medley, tossed salad, pineapple, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Turkey biscuit stew, mixed vegetables, parselied potatoes, biscuit, fresh fruit salad, milk and coffee

Thursday: Stuffed pepper with meat sauce, peas & carrots, mashed potatoes, whole wheat dinner roll, gelatin, milk and coffee

Friday: Center closed for New Year's Eve holiday

Regular and health plus menus are available. The suggested donation is \$2.

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

at least one day in advance by calling 868-8517 before 1 p.m. Bonita Tomcho is the director of the center.

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
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ALL ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 23

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Due to a very high volume of local news, some pictures and stories did not fit in this edition. Watch for them in future editions.

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Crestwood Menu

Crestwood School District operates "Offer vs. Serve" meal programs following the guidance of the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

overseen and regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the PA Department of Education.

Due to the recent Covid

pandemic, Crestwood School District is providing a reimbursable breakfast and lunch at no charge for all students, regardless of family income. This benefit is set to expire June 30, 2022.

While meals are currently free of charge during the 2021-22 school year, parents/guardians are encouraged to apply

for meals benefits. This confidential information is used by both CSD and state agencies to determine funding for a variety of programs. Failure to apply for benefits could disqualify your student/family from additional benefits that may be available.

In order to qualify for a reimbursable free breakfast or free

lunch, students must take all necessary meal components per USDA guidelines.

For lunch, each plate must have at least three components and one component must be a fruit or vegetable to be counted as reimbursable. If the plate does not contain these items, the student will be charged ala carte pricing.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the food service program, contact the Food Service Director at 570-474-6782 ext. 313.

Elementary Schools and Secondary Campus

Week of December 27

Monday-Friday: No school, holiday break

Week of January 3

Monday: Barbecue rib sandwich or chicken nuggets with roll; featured veggies: curly fries, tossed salad, choice of fruit and milk

Tuesday: Nachos grande with beef or chicken served over tortilla or cheeseburger on a roll; featured veggies: ranch refried bean dip, lettuce and tomato cup, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Open faced turkey sandwich with gravy with cranberry sauce or hot dog on a roll; featured veggies: au gratin potatoes, homemade cole slaw, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: Homemade mac & cheese with dinner roll or chicken parm sandwich; featured veggies: stewed tomatoes, fresh cucumbers, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Stuffed crust pizza or ham and cheese melt on pretzel roll; featured veggies: broccoli and cheese, Caesar salad, choice of fruit and milk

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We Deliver!

Jack the goat returns home just in time for Christmas

The saga of Jack the Missing Goat, which captured the attention and hearts of hundreds of people across Mountain Top earlier this month came to a happy ending thanks to the determination of his owner and the kindness of strangers.

Jack, owned by Hilari Kilhenny of Dorrance, went missing in early December after jumping a fence around his pen at Kilhenny Farm located on Blue Ridge Trail. Shortly after he fled, there were numerous sightings across Mountain Top which were posted on social media. Jack finally was captured Dec. 14 near the Dorrance exit of Interstate 81.

"Jack is home safe and sound," said Kilhenny a few hours after his capture. "The entire town of Mountain Top came together to help us," she offered.

In particular, Kilhenny expressed her appreciation to Robert Hess who spotted Jack along the interstate early in the

morning of Dec. 14 and contacted her, and Kelly Giberson and Albert Siley, all of whom she met through social media.

The couple, owners of male and female goats, suggested bringing one of their goats to the area to try to attract Jack. Rather than bring a female goat to the site, they decided to rub some female scent onto Legend, a male goat. The idea worked, Jack was attracted to the scent on the goat and came close enough for Kilhenny to get a rope around his neck and capture him.

"I can't thank that couple enough," Kilhenny said of Giberson and Siley. "I wouldn't have gotten him without them."

Kilhenny explained that she and her husband got Jack as a wedding gift in late November. "He arrived earlier than we expected," she noted. She said the barn where they planned to house him wasn't quite ready, so they lodged him in a smaller

building near the barn.

"He is very athletic. He cleared the (surrounding) fence with no trouble," Jack's owner related. She said he hung around the area for a few days, just out of their reach, before fleeing to the nearby Small Mountain Quarry. "I couldn't safely get a noose around him," she reported. After a few days he headed into Mountain Top. That was when sighting started being reported on social media and Jack became a cult hero.

"He's safe and sound now in the barn," a much-relieved Kilhenny offered after his capture.

She said she's planning to open Kilhenny's Orchard next summer and Jack the Goat will be the orchard's mascot. "We will probably have Jack the Goat t-shirts," she said.



Kelly Giberson and Albert Siley with their goat Legend who lured Jack; Hilari Kilhenny and Robert Hess who spotted Jack along I-81.



Jack the goat with his captors, Albert Siley, Kelly Giberson, Robert Hess and Legend.

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This group is for parents, grandparents and stakeholders in the Crestwood School District.

We aim to come together to stand up for our kids in the face of mandates and irrational actions that are damaging to their education.

We acknowledge that COVID is a real virus that needs to be taken seriously, however we know the minimal risk it poses to our kids. Risk/reward assessment should be up to the parents, not the district.

What we stand for:

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- School board transparency when it comes to curriculum and district policy
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What we are not:

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AND
HAPPY NEW
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[www.facebook.com/groups/
csdparentsforfreedom](https://www.facebook.com/groups/csdparentsforfreedom)

Crestwood Parents For Freedom

We've Got Mail ...

Renninger family grateful to all who supported the Concert for Rebecca

Dear Editor,

The family of Rebecca Renninger would like to thank the following people for making the *10th Concert For Rebecca And All Victims of Domestic Violence* another great success! A total of \$6,370 was donated! This was the most ever for one concert event! All the money is sent to Domestic Violence Service Center and Victims Resource Center in Wilkes-Barre.

Approximately 200 people attended, and 45 raffle baskets were donated!

This would not have been possible without help from the following people: Sand Springs Country Club/John Shema for hosting the event; Don Shappelle & The PickUps Band (Don Sennett, Barry Dervinis), additional musicians John & Sam Lukas, for providing great live music; Deputy Attorney General Angela Sperrazza, Domestic Violence Service Center Tammy Rodgers, Victims Resource Center Tammi Burke for their educational speaking; Maryellen Aton/Mountain Peaks for their beautiful ad; Stephanie Grubert/Mountain-top Eagle; Pat Rushton/Citizens Voice; Pastor Michele Kaufman/St. Paul's Lutheran Evangelical

Church; Tom, Michelle, Rachel, Rochelle for helping with the basket raffles; Rick Pancygrau/Band roadie. Thank you to the following businesses and organizations that donated: WELCA Group, Reillys Garage, Big Log Mgmt., Sand Springs Country Club, Triangle Pharmacy, A&R Supply, Carone's Supermarket, Ice House Pub, Wychock's Beverage, Blue Ridge Golf Course, Wheels Bar & Grill, Edgewood Golf Course, George Burger & Sons, Cavanaugh's Grille, Adelina's Restaurant, III Guys Restaurant, Gallery of Sound, Lisa's Beauty Shop, Mountain Top Animal Hospital, Abe's Hot Dogs, Weis Supermarket, King's Restaurant, Thrivent Financial/Doxsey Family, Junie G's Restaurant, White Haven Lions Club, Wyoming Valley Athletics Club, and John Augustine.

Thank you to every person who donated raffle baskets!

Thank you to all the people who attended this very important event.

There will never be an admission fee for the concert because it is about raising awareness for women and men in abusive relationships to seek help before it is too late!

Sincerely, Terry, Michelle, and Timmy Renninger

Feed A Friend big success again this year

Dear Editor,

This year's Feed A Friend project was again a great success thanks to the generosity of the people of Mountain Top and surrounding areas.

We were able to provide the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal to 77 Mountain Top area families. Meals included all of the traditional items such as cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, as well as fresh foods such as carrots, celery, onions, and potatoes. We were also able to provide eggs, milk, bread, and butter. The families also had the choice of either an apple or a pumpkin pie. Turkey vouchers were provided by CEO; however, some did not receive a voucher. No family left without a turkey if they needed one.

It is not possible to thank everyone individually; how-

ever, there are a few that were instrumental in making the project a success. Kara at Carone's Market, thank you for dealing with basically everything associated with our fresh food purchase and dealing with my many phone calls. Thank you to Carone's Market for the great prices on the fresh items we needed, the paper bags for distribution, and for collecting monetary donations. Weis Markets thank you for the donation of baked goods. The Boy Scouts under the direction of Mike Hill for picking up donations and delivering them to St. Paul's. Thank you to the people of Mountain Top who donated food either into our barrels, at a food drive, or had the Boy Scouts pick up on your porch. Thank you to the small crew (due to Covid) that helped us

sort food. That was a huge undertaking! Thank you to the people and organizations that donated money, including, but not limited to, anyone who donated at Carone's, Thrivent Financial, Fairview Elementary teachers and support staff, Crestwood support personnel, and Ready Maintenance. Please know that no deed went unnoticed, no matter how small and even if you haven't been mentioned. You have all in some way helped make Thanksgiving better for many of our neighbors in need. In addition, the Mountain Top food bank shelves have been stocked with over 18,000 pounds of food. God bless you all and may you all have a blessed and safe holiday season.

Kevin and Terry Scott
Feed A Friend coordinators



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News in Brief ...

Rice employees to get holiday bonus

As has been the tradition, full-time employees of Rice Township will be getting a holiday bonus again this year. Supervisors at their December 7 meeting approved a \$50 holiday bonus, although it may have been more were it not for the recent amendments to the state's Sunshine Act.

The \$50 bonus was listed

on the supervisors' agenda which was posted online and available to all attendees as required by the Sunshine Act. When supervisor Carl Smith suggested an increase in the bonus, since it has been \$50 for the last few years, secretary/treasurer Jeffrey Beck and solicitor Chad Sweigart advised the change could not be made because it was already published on the agenda.

Supervisors noted Beck was elected to the board of directors for the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Risk Management Association of which Rice Township is a member. His term expires at the end of 2026.

Rice Township officials had hoped a Greenways, Trails and Recreation program grant for which they applied last spring would finance construction of

another pickleball court and repairs to tennis courts. They will have to look elsewhere for the money, however. The township recently was notified it did not receive the grant.

Rice and Fairview pass budgets

Rice Township supervisors gave final approval to the township's 2022 budget at their December 7 meeting. The fiscal plan calls for general fund expenditures of \$2,820,406 with no tax increase. The property tax rate remains at .26 mills.

Fairview Township supervisors also passed the township's 2022 budget at their December 7 meeting. The budget for expenditures of \$1,759,378. The property tax rate to fund

the General Fund budget will remain at 1.45 mills. The township also imposes a .3 mill fire tax to support operation of the Mountain Top Hose Company No. 1.

Fairview traffic light to be adjusted

Fairview Township plans to make a minor adjustment to the timing of the traffic signal at South Mountain Boulevard and Kirby Avenue. Township officials have heard from residents about backups on Kirby Avenue, particularly in early evening hours. The township plans to have an additional four seconds added to the green signal facing Kirby Avenue and the exit from the Turkey Hill and Fidelity Bank.

See News in Brief, page 11

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Outgoing supervisor Marshall receives certificate of service



Wright Township supervisors at their December 13 meeting presented outgoing supervisor Michael Marshall with a Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors certificate of service. Marshall served a six-year term on the board. Board chairman Matthew Howton, left, presents the plaque to Marshall.



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Life Insurance Riders That Help Pay for Long-Term Care

Life insurance has many uses, including income replacement, business continuation, and estate preservation. Long-term care insurance helps provide financial protection against the potentially high cost of long-term care. If you find yourself in need of both types of insurance, a life insurance policy that combines a death benefit with a long-term care benefit may appeal to you.

Here's how it works

Some life insurance issuers offer life insurance with a long-term care rider available for an additional charge. If you buy this type of policy, you can pay the premium in a single lump sum or by making periodic payments. In any case, the policy provides you with a death benefit that you can also use to pay for long-term care related expenses, should you incur them.

The amount of death benefit and long-term care allowance is based on your age, gender, and health at the time you buy the policy. The appeal of this combination policy lies in the fact that either you'll use the policy to pay for long-term care expenses or your beneficiaries will receive the insurance proceeds at your death. In either case, someone will benefit from the premiums you pay.

Long-term care riders

The long-term care benefit is added to the life insurance policy by either an accelerated benefits rider or an extension of benefits rider.

Accelerated benefits rider

An accelerated benefits rider makes it possible for you to access your death benefit to pay for expenses related to long-term care. The death benefit is reduced by the amount you use for long-term care expenses, plus a service charge. If you need long-term care for a lengthy period of time, the death benefit will eventually be depleted. This same rider also can be used if you have a terminal illness that may require payment of large medical bills. Because accelerating the death benefit can have unfavorable tax consequences, you may want to consult your tax professional before exercising this option.

Example: You pay a single premium of \$50,000 for a universal life insurance policy with a long-term care accelerated benefits rider. The policy immediately provides approximately \$87,000 in long-term care benefits or \$87,000 as a death benefit. If you incur long-term care expenses, the accelerated benefits rider allows you to access a portion, such as 3% (\$2,610), of the death benefit amount (\$87,000) each month to reimburse you for some or all of your long-term care expenses. Long-term care payments are available until the total death

benefit amount (\$87,000) is exhausted (about 33.3 months). Whatever you don't use for long-term care will be left to your heirs as a death benefit.

(The hypothetical example is for illustration purposes only and does not reflect actual insurance products or performance. Guarantees are subject to the claims-paying ability and financial strength of the issuer.)

Extension of benefits rider

An extension of benefits rider increases your long-term care coverage beyond your death benefit. This rider differs from company to company as to its specific application.

Depending on the issuer, the extension of benefits rider either increases the total amount available for long-term care (the death benefit remains the same) or extends the number of months over which long-term care benefits can be paid. In either case, long-term care payments will reduce the available death benefit of the policy. However, some companies still pay a minimum death benefit even if the total of all long-term care payments exceeds the policy's death benefit amount.

Continuing from the previous example, if the policy's extension of benefits rider increases the long-term care benefit (the death benefit — \$87,000 — remains the same) to three times the death benefit (\$261,000), the monthly amount available for long-term care increases to \$7,830. On the other hand, if the extension of benefits rider extends the length of time the monthly long-term care benefit is available, then the monthly payments (\$2,610) are extended for an additional 24 to 36 months beyond the initial number of months (33.3) available.

Other provisions

Typically, qualifying for payments under a long-term care rider is similar to the requirements for most stand-alone long-term care policies. You must be unable to perform some of the activities of daily living (bathing, dressing, eating, getting in or out of a bed or chair, toilet use, or maintaining continence) or suffer from a severe cognitive impairment.

An elimination period may also apply: you pay for the initial cost of long-term care out-of-pocket for a specific number of days (usually 30 to 90) before you can apply for payments under the policy. As with all life and long-term care insurance, the insurance company will require you to answer some health-related questions and submit to a physical examination before issuing a combination policy to you.

Is a combination policy right for you?

Deciding whether a combination policy is right for you depends on a number of factors. Do you need life insurance and long-term care insurance? How much life and long-term care insurance will you need? How long will you need it? Will the long-term care part of a combination policy provide sufficient coverage?

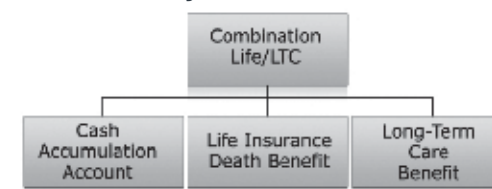
A long-term care rider may not provide as many features as a stand-alone long-term care policy. For example, the combination policy may not cover assisted living or home health aides. It also may not provide an inflation adjustment, an important feature considering the rising cost of long-term care. The tax benefits offered by a qualified long-term care policy may not apply to the long-term care portion of combination policies, which could result in taxation of long-term care benefits received from the policy.

What if your life insurance needs change as you get older and you find that you no longer want life insurance protection? It's not uncommon for people to drop their life insurance in their later years if there's no compelling need for it, but if you surrender the combination policy, you're also forfeiting the long-term care benefit it provides, usually at a time when you are most likely to need it.

And keep in mind that as you use your long-term care benefits, you're depleting the death benefit — a death benefit you presumably wanted to pass on to your heirs or perhaps use to pay for estate taxes.

Finally, compare costs of combination policies to other forms of life insurance, such as term insurance, and stand-alone long-term care policies. Depending on your age and health, the cost for the combination life policy may actually be higher than the total premiums paid for separate life insurance and long-term care policies, especially if your life insurance need is temporary (such as income replacement during your working years) rather than permanent.

Example of Combination Permanent Life/LTC Policy Features



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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 9

Plans for Rice Township field moving forward

Plans for Rice Township's multi-purpose field are moving forward, but it most likely will be next summer before construction actually begins.

Brian Smith of Barry Isett and Associates told supervisors at their December 7 meeting that the firm is working on the design of the field and hopes

to bid the project next March or April with construction to start in the summer. He said the required wetlands study is complete and the firm is waiting for permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Smith outlined the plans for the project to supervisors and residents. In addition to the soccer/lacrosse field, the project includes expansion of the parking lot near the softball field, construction of an ADA accessible trail that loops

around the field and will connect to the existing trail. He noted there will be a retaining wall around parts of the field that can be used for seating to accommodate up to 100 spectators.

The township received a \$200,000 state Department of Community and Natural Resources grant and a \$240,000 Greenways Trails and Recreation Program grant for the project. In response to questions from supervisors, Smith said he does not expect

inflation in the construction industry to have significant impact on the project. Supervisors also discussed the possibility of installing a conduit for electric wiring should they decide to add electrical service or lighting in the future.

In other news ...

Township supervisors made it clear at their December meeting that they want the Ice Lakes dam repair project completed by next summer. Township engineer Andrew Pasonick reported the project

is on hold while crews from FABCOR wait for the water level to recede. "The water is still flowing over the spillway," Pasonick explained. He said the company could erect sandbags and pipe the water away from the dam, but that work would entail a large expense.

Supervisor Rick Arnold told Pasonick he feels strongly the project needs to be wrapped up. "We're not going into next fall with this," Arnold stated. "We can't continue this into another year," he added.

Rice supervisors approved a resolution which states department members will not have to make payments into the police pension fund in 2022.

Recycling center sets holiday hours

The Wright Township recycling center will be closed on Saturday, December 25 and Saturday, January 1 for the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. The facility will accept recycling on Wednesday, December 29 and Thursday, December 30 from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wright Park projects moving forward

Some projects connected to Wright Township park are moving forward.

Township supervisors approved engineering agreements with Barry Isett and Associates for two projects in the township park.

They approved a \$14,750 contract for design work for removal of architectural barriers in the municipal park upper parking lot. The project, including engineering costs,

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New books now available at M.S. Kirby Library

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The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide To Caring For People Who Have Alzheimer Disease And Other Dementias ~ Nancy L.

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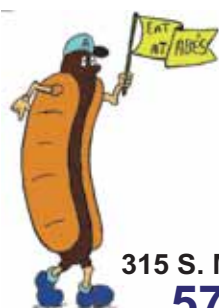
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Weis Markets donates \$100,000 to CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank



Weis Markets presented a check for \$100,000 to the CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank at their store in Mountain Top on December 14. From left are members of the Weis management team: Cheryl Sorkine, Ja-

son Scholz, Store Manager; Gene Brady, Executive Director of the CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank; Scott Bogert, Assistant Store Manager and Ashley Harrison.

Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

Weis Markets recently announced a donation of \$100,000 to CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank in Pittston as part of the company's Fight Hunger program to support local food banks.

The two-week program, beginning in November, gave Weis customers across its seven-state market area the option of rounding up their orders or purchasing \$1, \$3, \$5 or \$10 vouchers to help support families in need in their communities. It also ran the program in September.

"Every year, we look forward to partnering

with our generous customers to give back to the communities we serve," said Weis Markets Vice President of Advertising & Marketing Ron Bonacci. "This total represents combined customer and company donations. It is the perfect way to finish 2021 and celebrate the season of giving. We are grateful to our customers and to CEO Weinberg Northeast Regional Food Bank for their service to the community."

The Fight Hunger campaign, which began in 2008, has raised more than \$1.3 million in 2021 and over \$5 million since 2008.

Santa makes a stop at the American Legion



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Dakota Burman' was so excited to get a gift from Santa.

The American Legion Mountain Post 781 held its annual Christmas party for children of members on Saturday, December 11 at 2 p.m.



Landon Columbo thinks about what he wants for Christmas.

at the Post home in the large meeting room. Santa handed out presents to all the children who came to see him.

Blasko completes Eagle Scout project



From left, Game Commission NE Region Wildlife Management Supervisor Kevin Wenner; Eagle Scout candidate Andrew S. Blasko, IV; Andrew S. Blasko, III.

Andrew S. Blasko IV, of Mountain Top recently completed an Eagle Scout service project aimed at helping out Pennsylvania's bat population, one of the commonwealth's most misunderstood species of mammals whose population has plummeted in recent years.

Blasko, a member of Boy Scout Troop 473 in Freeland, constructed 10 wooden bat boxes and delivered them to the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Northeast Region headquarters in Dallas.

The boxes are designed to provide female bats with an ideal place to roost and rear their young in the spring and summer months. Each box can hold over 200 nursery colony bats and may help local bat populations in areas where it is erected.

"Several species of Pennsylvania bats have been suffering from the disease white-nose syndrome, that weakens and kills bats in their winter hibernacula," explained Game Commission Wildlife Management Supervisor Kevin Wenner. "Some bat species have experienced population declines as high as 95 percent. Projects such as this provide bats with ideal locations to establish nursery colonies."

Blasko enlisted the help of other Troop 473 scouts and their leaders to help build the boxes. The boxes will be erected by Game Commission wildlife habitat enhancement personnel on state game lands and other cooperator lands in the Game Commission's Northeast Region. Bat boxes are placed within openings with appropriate solar exposure, to warm the bats and their pups, while in relatively close proximity to a body of water, so that the bats have easy access to emerging insects.

Eagle Scout service projects develop a scout's leadership skills and provide important lessons in project development and management. An Eagle Scout service project must benefit the community and it is considered the "application phase" of what an Eagle Scout candidate has learned thus far through scouting.

"Bats benefit humans by eating insects. They reduce agricultural damage and prevent possible disease transmission," Wenner added. "Andrew did an excellent job in visualizing this valuable project and seeing it to completion."

Each year, the Game Commission works cooperatively with Boy Scouts across the state in their quest to become Eagle Scouts.

Kiwanis and Key Clubs partner to help Salvation Army



Dakota Langlitz, Riley Robbins, and Danny Saunders collect donations.



Sarah Shipton and Kiley Kondraski volunteer in front of Carone's Market.



Mike Hill, a representative from the Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top, left, presents Lt. Ismael Ortiz a \$500 donation.

On Saturday, December 11 the Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top and the Crestwood Secondary Campus Key Club partnered together to raise funds for the Salvation Army. Together they raised \$583.89 to help those in need in our community. Thank you to Carone's Supermarket and the generosity of their shoppers to make this donation possible.

In addition to the kettle collection, the Kiwanis Club made a separate donation of \$500 to the Salvation Army.

Crestwood students paint windows at Triangle Pharmacy



Students of Crestwood art teacher Crystal Lovett painted the front windows of the Triangle Pharmacy with a Charlie Brown winter scene. Shown in photo are Jessica Graziano.

Lilliana Ashby and Crystal Lovett. Other students who helped but are not pictures are Brenna Wehrenberg, Tobin Strawser, and Brady Womer.

Holiday painting party held at St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top held a holiday painting party on Saturday, December 11 at 3 p.m. There was also a cookie exchange that everyone participated in. Sixteen people attended the painting party that cost \$30 per person.

Stephanie Scott starts by carefully painting the sides of her painting.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo



Christmas party held at Stairville UMC

The Stairville UMC Joy Circle hosted its annual catered Christmas dinner and party for the members of Stairville, Faith and Slocum United Methodist Churches on Tuesday, December 14 beginning at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

There was a gift exchange and a wild game of dirty bingo. Everyone had a great time of fellowship and fun.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Dorothy Myers, Theresa Kellow and Christine Kellow open their gifts during the gift exchange.

News in Brief ...

Continued from page 11

is funded through a \$114,168 Luzerne County Community Development block grant.

A \$68,250 contract for design work for the municipal park road improvement project was approved. That work is being funded through a \$685,984 state Intermodal grant.

Secretary/treasurer Pam Heard told supervisors the township park master plan committee is moving forward. She said the committee has

Teen programs set at Kirby Library

The following are the January teen programs:

Teen game night for grades 6-12 will take place on Tuesday, January 4 from 6-7 p.m. Have fun playing various games and eating snacks.

Middle School Book Club for grades 6-8 on Tuesday, January 18 from 6-7 p.m. They will be discussing *Winger* by Jerry Spinelli and other fun activities. Books available at the library circulation desk.

Teen Hot Cocoa Bomb Making program for grades 6-12 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 from 6-7 p.m. Make and decorate your own hot cocoa bombs.

Teen Book Loot Bag for grades 6-12. Registrations runs the first two weeks of the month. Get a book to check out, craft and other goodies to keep. Register at kirbylib.org or fill out a registration form at the library.

Teen craft bags for grades 6-12 are available every week in the YA room of the library.

Registration required for all programs. Please register at the M.S. Kirby Library, 35 Kirby Avenue, Mountain Top or call 570-474-9313.

begun working with its consultant and completed a draft of a survey to be sent to residents. The survey is intended to solicit input from residents on what they would like to see in the park. One area to be considered is the future of the ice rink. Supervisors voted in August to name the rink the Brian Madry-Tanner Kahlau Memorial ice Rink. A dedication ceremony is planned for January 8.

In response to a question from a resident, supervisor Matt Howton said work on the

rink has been completed and it will be ready for use once the weather cooperates.

Wright Township supervisors also entered into an agreement with the engineering firm for work on a pollution reduction plan associated with the state MS4 requirements.

In other news ...

At their December 13 meeting supervisors reported they received an application from Dianne Hoppersberger for a vacant position on the township recreation committee. They did not act on the

appointment, however. Hoppersberger also submitted a letter asking to be considered for the township Emergency Management coordination position. She currently is alternate

EMA coordination. Stanley Gutkowski, who has served as EMA coordinator for a number of years, told supervisors he is giving up the volunteer position at the end of 2021.

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

From left, Lauren Lokuta, Kathy Muntzenberger and Erin Barno from St. Jude Youth Group show off some of the cookies they made for the cookie walk.

Cookie walk held at St. Jude's

St. Jude Parish held its 5th annual cookie walk that benefits the Youth Ministry program on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in St. Jude School cafeteria. Each container cost \$10. The sale continued until sold out of cookies. Members of the youth group baked many cookies that were put out on large trays for customers to choose from.

Rice Township announces appointments, promotions



From left are the township's first female officer Allison Atkinson; new Chief of Police Harry Ehret, Magisterial District Judge Ferris Webby and newly appointed Sergeant Shaun Zane.

Rice Township supervisors appointed a new chief

of police, a new sergeant, and a new patrol officer at their December 7 meeting.

The appointments included the township's first female officer. All three were sworn into office by Magisterial District Judge Ferris Webby.

Veteran officer Harold Ehret was named chief of police. A 23-year veteran of the department, Ehret served as sergeant the last 12 years.

Shaun Zane was promoted

from patrol officer to sergeant. Zane has been a member of the department for 21 years.

Autumn Atkinson was appointed patrol officer. The township's first female officer, Atkinson was a corporal with the Luzerne County Sheriff's Office prior to being appointed to the Rice Township position. Previously, she worked part-time at Newport Township and Ashley police departments.

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Senior citizens enjoy a complimentary breakfast



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos

John Eichorn enjoys breakfast with his grandkids Erellyn and Riley Iracki.

The Crestwood School District held a breakfast for all senior citizens from the Mountain Top area on Sunday, December 12 from 8 to 11 a.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Seniors came to enjoy a complimentary breakfast and some holiday fellowship in the high school cafeteria. The breakfast included scrambled eggs, crispy bacon, breakfast sau-



Friends Joan Jones and Joanne Osiecki came out early to have breakfast together.

sage, hash brown potatoes, fresh fruit, assorted pastries and cookies and much more. Beverage choices include 100% fruit juice, hot coffee, hot tea or hot chocolate.

Sponsors of the breakfast were the Crestwood Educational Support Personnel Assoc., Crestwood Education Assoc. and Crestwood Football Booster Club.

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Santa makes a stop at Slocum Fire Company

Santa stopped at the Slocum Township Fire Company on Saturday, December 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. The elves gave away hot cocoa and

hot dogs to the children. All the children who visited with Santa received a special gift from him.



Lily Segeda, 4 gives Santa a big hug.



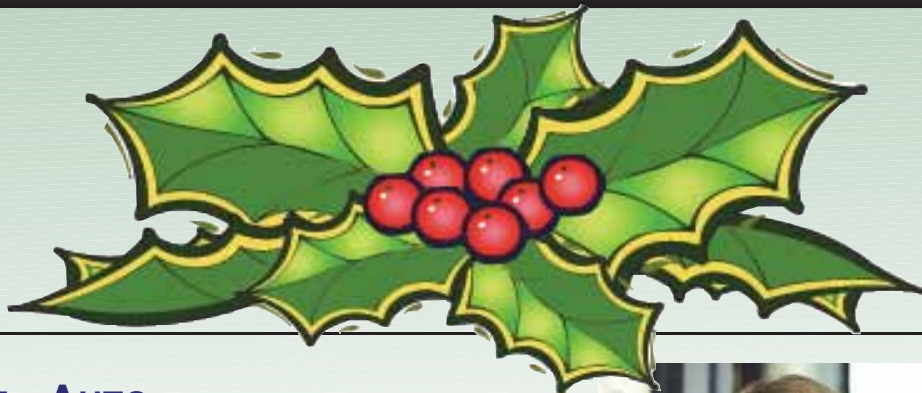
Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photos
Ten-month-old Wesley Brendza holds onto Santa's hand as he gazes up at him.

Santa greets drivers



Santa was at the Mountain Top Historical Society Christmas display along Route 309 on December 17, greeting passers-by along the busy highway.

Happy Holidays!



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570-474-6060

Sunday worship is held at 9 & 10:45 a.m. online and in-person. Masks required indoors.

Christmas Eve services: 7 and 11 p.m. in-person and livestreamed.

Visit the church's Facebook page: Christ on the Mountain Top or its website: christon-themountaintop.org.

CONYNGHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

Join them for worship on Sundays online on Facebook and in person at 10:30 a.m.

Due to a sharp rise with the Delta variant cases of Covid 19 in the area the church is asking everybody to wear masks in church. Also please practice social distancing where possible. Following CDC guidelines wearing masks also applies to people who have been vaccinated.

Kids and Youth Sunday school at 9 a.m.

They have several programs, ministries, and groups geared towards adults that allow anybody of any age to faithfully participate in the

life of the church and to grow in their faith.

Adult Sunday school classes meet every Sunday at 9:15 a.m. in the social hall. In these classes they dig deep into the Bible. Adult Sunday School classes focus on interpreting Biblical Scripture, understanding historical features of the Scripture, and providing a meaningful message for use in the world today.

The church offers many small groups. The purpose of the small group ministries is to help all members and community grow in faith and friendship together so that they may be better disciples of Jesus Christ.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

Join them online weekly on Sundays at 10 a.m.

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

The Christmas Eve candle-light celebration is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, December 24 and will include the sacrament of Holy Communion. Before the service, members will glorify God and praise him with music and song beginning at 7 p.m. They welcome everyone to come and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Christmas is a wonderful time to recommit your life to the Lord and renew your faith. We listen to the Christmas carols,

See Worship, page 23



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Really enjoying a Christmas cookie and brownie is sixteen-year-old Owen Bachman.

Soup luncheon and cookie exchange held at Mountain Top Presbyterian Church

The Mountain Top Presbyterian Church held a soup and salad luncheon, and a cookie exchange on Sunday, December 5 from 12 to 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The meal was a great time for members to gather and fellowship, enjoy a delicious meal together and exchange cookies. Church members made the soups and cookies.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 22

singing of the birth of the King, the hope of peace on earth, the joy of new life, the wonder of God's love and the fulfillment of the promises of the prophets. All this, wrapped up in the tiny life born to a poor young girl and her betrothed "blue collar" fiancé. There's a song that asks "What if God was one of us?" The secret is that he was – just like one of us. The child born to Mary grew up as a normal youth and matured into a regular man. That is, until he was about 30 years old. Then, he showed

the world who he really was and his true purpose. God's gift of salvation became one of us so that God himself would save us. (Isaiah 63: 9 and Hebrews 2:17) On Christmas we remember that love was born that night. A love that would envelop the world with the hope of peace and new life. Come and witness again the birth of the Prince of Peace.

On January 6, Christians celebrate Epiphany, the day the wise men found the baby Jesus and gave him their extravagant gifts in homage to a newborn King. They had been seeking him for approximately two

years and had probably put a lot of thought into finding the perfect gift for this baby. They brought gold as a proper tribute befitting the new king; frankincense which was a sweet incense only allowed to be burned in religious ceremonies and signifying the child's future role as the anointed one of God; and myrrh, a fragrance used to prepare bodies for burial, foretelling the child's future. Although their gifts were luxurious, those wise men also understood that a greater gift had been given to them and to the whole world in the birth of this small child. The gift of life everlasting had come from heaven. That is the perfect gift and the one which we all should seek. Come begin the new year at Emmanuel as they seek for the perfect gift together.

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 our lives are influenced by Them and how we can be an influence to others around us.

You may drop off bags of aluminum cans in the crates provided for them at the back of the church's lower parking lot and they will get rid of them for you. They collect aluminum cans to raise money to benefit struggling families in our community. Your contributions help needy families in our area.

If you are in need of pastoral care, call Pastor Lou Aita at 570-582-9550 or email him at aitatl12@ptd.net. E-mail access is emmanuel_ucc@hotmail.com and the website is emmanuel-ucc.org.

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

Masks in church are no longer required if you have been fully vaccinated, but they strongly urge everyone to wear a mask for your own protection. Also, those who receive Holy Communion on the tongue are asked to come up at the end of the Communion line. Anyone with Covid-19 symptoms should not enter the church. You are also asked to sanitize your hands as you enter and leave the church.

Christmas Mass schedule: Christmas Eve at 4 and 9 p.m.; Saturday Christmas Day Mass at 8 a.m.; Sunday Mass, December 26 8 and 9:30 a.m.; Friday Mass, December 31 at 8 a.m.; Saturday New Year's Day Mass at 8 a.m. and Sunday Mass, January 2 at 8 and 9:30 a.m.

The choir will continue to practice on Thursdays from 3:45-4:45 p.m. All are welcome to join in this music ministry of praising God. Please contact the office if you are interested.

The choir will sing a Christmas medley of hymns at 8:30 p.m. prior to the Christmas Eve Mass at 9 p.m.

Bingo at Good Shepherd Church on Tuesdays is back. The kitchen opens at 5 p.m. and the Early Bird game begins at 6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, call the parish office.

A Young Adult Contemporary Mass will be held at Good Shepherd Parish on each of the four Sundays of Advent at 6 p.m. 8. All are welcome!

The Queen of Our Hearts Rosary Group invites you to pray the rosary in church on Saturdays from 5 to 5:45 p.m. They will pray the rosary, the Infant of Prague Novena, and

See Worship, page 24

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 23

the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

MOUNTAINTOP FAMILY CHURCH

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

Mountaintop Family Church holds Sunday services at 9 and 10:30 a.m. for one hour along with KidsTown Children's Ministries. During both services, teens are invited to a special youth service after joining the adults in the sanctuary for worship.

MFC will hold Christmas Eve services on December 24 from 5-6 p.m. and 6:30-7:30 p.m. They invite everyone to come celebrate the birth of our Savior with special Christmas music and sharing the Christmas story together.

Sunday morning services are also available through live-stream: MFC Webpage: www.mfcchurch.com/live-stream; Youtube: search for Mountaintop Family Church; Facebook: go to Mountaintop Family Church Facebook page.

A one-day Lego Camp will be held on Saturday, January 15 from 9 a.m.-noon for students in grades 3-6. Seating for this day camp is limited and registration will be accepted upon receipt of the \$10 registration fee. Face masks are required for all children participating as well as for all adults working with children. Please contact the church office for more information.

MFC will host a painting party for ages 8 and up on Saturday, January 15 from 10 a.m.-noon. The cost of \$20 covers supplies and instructor guidance. Seating is limited to 16 and seat is secured upon receipt of payment. Face masks are required for all children participating as well as all adults working with children. Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 or katie@mfcchurch.com for more information.

MFC's Wednesday Small Groups are meeting in person again! Men and women are invited to attend the Men's Small Group and Ladies Small Group; both meet at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Starting Point Youth for students in grades 7-12 meets in the Youth Room from 6:30-8 p.m., Ground Zero56 for students in 5th and 6th grade will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. in the sanctuary and the Royal Rangers and Girls Ministry programs for children 4 years old through 4th grade will meet from 6:30-8 p.m. Registration forms and payment required for Royal Rangers and Girls Ministries. Please contact

the church office if interested. No registration is necessary for Ground Zero or Starting Point Youth. There will be no small groups or children's/teen ministries on December 29.

Young adults out of high school are invited to get together for a time of fellowship, prayer, Bible study and fun! Canvas, a small group for Young Adults meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at various locations. Contact the church office for more information and to see where they will be meeting this week.

During Sunday morning services and Wednesday programs face masks are strongly recommended for children and leaders to help keep the students safe as well as for those who may have a compromised immune system or are at risk in any way.

See Worship, page 25

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Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

From left Judy Light, Jess Light, Jackie Elick, Karen Desoye and Therese Smith enjoy the evening of fellowship and camaraderie.

Advent by candlelight at St. Jude's

The women of St. Jude Parish held its annual Advent by Candlelight on Friday, December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. It was a beautiful evening of fellowship, spiritual reflection and beautiful table settings. This year the guest speaker was Kylie Ballinger.

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 24

Please contact the church office at 570-474-0900 if you have any questions or would like more information.

MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

Service: Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Brook Selby, Pastor
5126 N. Lehigh Gorge Dr.,
White Haven
570-580-0808

Mountainview Community Church Christmas Eve service is at 7 p.m. on December 24. The service will also be livestreamed on the church's facebook page: www.facebook.com/MountainviewNEPA.

There are a wide variety of

small groups available to join in person, via conference call or on Zoom.

Together Family Ministries: Anchor Your Family To Christ. On the 2nd Sunday of the month they will meet for 15 minutes after the service for Together Family Prayer. They will gather together and pray with their children.

On the 3rd Sunday of the month at 9:30 a.m., they will have Together Family Mornings. They will have juice, snacks and family teaching with practical and meaningful application. Let's give our family the wisdom to stand firm in the face of whatever the world throws at you. This is for the whole family, kids and parents.

This is not a dropoff program..

Mark your calendars and save the date for Together Family Conference 2022 at Kalahari Resorts Waterpark in Poconos Manor, PA! TFC will gather from July 31-August 2, 2022.

For more information, please contact Pastor Brook 570-580-0808 or check out the Involvement page on their webpage at www.mountainviewNEPA.org.

MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Fran Fink
Lily Lake Road, Slocum

Come worship in a real country church. Built in 1891, Mt. Zion still has no running water and uses an outhouse for their rest room facilities.

For more information about church services contact Diane Webster at 570-379-3713.

NEW HOPE WAPWALLOPEN CHARGE

Services:
Faith UMC: 8:45 a.m.
Stairville UMC: 10 a.m.
Slocum UMC: 11:15 a.m.
Scott O. Miller, Pastor
Stairville Road, Mountain Top

For any needs or concerns, please contact: Faith UMC: Wilma Baratta at 570-200-5329; Stairville UMC: Christine Kellow at 570-868-3413; Slocum UMC: Charles Herring at 570-868-6478.

Join Stairville United Methodist Church for spiritual yoga on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. Weather permitting, the class is outdoors but there is room to move inside if needed.

Bring your own yoga mat. A donation basket will be available and donations are given to the church. The class lasts 1 hour, all levels welcome.

Pastor Scott can be reached by phone, text, or email at:

570-200-5388, email: somiller@susumc.org. Visit them on Facebook at New Hope Wapwallopen.

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 join them for in person worship services. You can also join via Facebook Live on the NLCC homepage. Come grow with them as they study God's Word on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in person or via Zoom. Please contact Pastor John for the link.

The 10:30 service includes kinder church for ages 4-6 years and junior church for 7-12 year olds.

Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m.

For additional information, visit the church's website at nlccmountain-top.com.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNTAIN TOP

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Interim Pastor: Neil Partington
9 Chestnut Street, Mountain Top
570-474-9951

You are invited to join in worship on Sunday, December 27. Masks are optional. There is a sanitizing station available in the narthex. If you have been ill during the 2 weeks prior to any service, you are asked to stay home and join in on Facebook. They will continue to make the service available live on Facebook and for replay. Please con-

See Worship, page 26



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 25

tinue to mail in your tithes.

Christmas Eve candlelight service will be December 24 at 7 p.m. Come and welcome the Christ Child.

The Fireside Chat Bible study has resumed Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Please note the following numbers: Zoom Link <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83505317603>. Meeting I.D. 83505317603, Zoom Phone: 267-831-0333.

If you have to prepare an end of year report for January's annual meeting, it is time to start gathering your information to get to the church office as early as possible.

How you can get involved: Join the Sunday School class or Zoom Bible study.

The Deacons are requesting the college addresses of any members or friends of the church who are away at school.

The church is collecting diapers and sanitary products for Brandon's Forever Home. For more information see Elder Nancy Badal.

If you have any questions about the church or its ministries call 570-474-9951, email at pbychmt@verizon.net or find them on Facebook: Presbyterian Church of Mountain-top PA.

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

The church doors are open for worship services on Sunday mornings. Services are also live on Facebook every

Sunday morning, you can tune in by opening Facebook and typing St. James Lutheran Church, Hobbie, in the search line.

Christmas Eve service will be held at 7 p.m. on December 24. Pastor Brown will be doing services at both churches on Christmas Eve.

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

Please be aware that anyone who is not fully vaccinated against Covid 19 is strongly encouraged to still wear a face mask. If you are experiencing Covid 19 symptoms, please do not enter the church. Call the Parish Office, 570-474-6315 if you have any questions.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Monday evenings from 5:30-7 p.m. in the St. Jude Adoration Chapel.

Religious Education December schedule: December 26 & 27: No classes; January 2: No classes. Classes resume for Monday nights January 3.

Regular office hours have resumed, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Closed for lunch 12-12:30 p.m.) Questions, call the office, 570-474-6315, ext. 221.

ST. MARTIN-IN-THE- FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services: Sunday 10 a.m.

3085 Church Road, Mountain Top
570-868-5358

Everyone, regardless of their faith or background, is wel-

See Worship, page 27



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

The congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church gathers to listen to Pastor Michele Kaufman lead the special Hanging of the

Greens service and receive an understanding of how to prepare themselves for Christ's arrival on Christmas day.

Celebration of Hanging of the Greens held at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Mountain Top held a special Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday, December 12 at 7 p.m. The church invited all members, friends, and family of the

congregation to come celebrate the Hanging of the Greens that took everyone on a journey of what the holy season of Advent means and how we prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival.



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 26

come to attend worship services. St. Martin-in-the-Fields is an inclusive and modern Episcopal church, incorporating the best of both Catholic and Protestant traditions. As an inclusive church, St. Martin's recognizes divorce and the remarriage of divorced people, male and female clergy, single or married, LGBTQ equality, and a Eucharist open to all baptized persons, regardless of their faith background.

They uphold five marks of mission which includes proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, teaching and nurturing new believers, safeguarding the integrity of creation, and of particular impor-

tance to them, responding to human need through loving service and seeking to transform unjust structures in society; and, challenging violence of every kind. The charitable work they do individually, and collectively as a congregation reflects their commitment to these increasingly crucial needs in our area.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields is a member parish of The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem.

For more information on St. Martin's services and upcoming events, visit smartintimeless.org or call 570-868-5358.

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

Saint Mary's has confession on Saturdays from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Holiday Mass schedule: December 24, Christmas Eve 4 p.m. and midnight; December 25: 9 a.m.; December 26: Regular Sunday Mass times 9 a.m.

There are no Religious Education classes on December 26 and January 2. Classes resume January 9.

The next meeting of the youth group will be held on Sunday, January 9, from 5-8 p.m. in the social hall. This will be the annual Christmas party. There will be an optional \$10 change gift exchange.

Visit Saint Mary's website: stmarydorrance.org; Facebook Page: Saint Mary's of Dorrance and Saint Mary's of Dorrance Youth Group or call 570-868-5855 for more info.

Parish office is open Monday and Wednesdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Molly will be at St. Jude office Tuesdays and Thursdays. Calls will be forwarded on those days.



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Carol Tredinnick puts raffle tickets into the ticket cups for the prizes she hopes to win at the Chinese auction.

Slocum UMC holds auction and craft sale

The Slocum United Methodist Church held its annual Christmas open house, craft sale and Chinese auction on Saturday, December 11. The church was beautifully decorated as it was in the early 1900s. There were crafters showcasing their handmade crafts, and a huge Chinese auction with over 100 different prizes. The auction featured Christmas decorations, new items, vintage items, home décor, and gift cards. Homemade food was available for purchase.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Services: Saturday 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10:15 a.m.


Rev. Peter O'Rourke,
Sacramental Minister
411 Allegheny St., 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. Parish offices will be closed December 23 and Christmas Eve.

The Diocese of Scranton strongly recommends that all parishioners and visitors wear a mask while attending Mass, regardless of vaccination status. With the high increase of Covid-19 infections, they have a responsibility to protect their own health and the health of their neighbors.

Christmas Mass schedule: Christmas Eve: Masses at 4 p.m.; children's nativity story at 6 p.m.; Christmas Day Mass at 10:15 a.m. Feast of the Holy




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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 27

Family, December 26 at 10:15 a.m.; Solemnity of Mary, December 31 Mass at 8 a.m.; Epiphany of the Lord January 1, vigil Mass at 5 p.m.

Faith Formation: There will be no classes on December 26 and January 2. Classes will resume on January 9.

Confession schedule: Saturday, 4 to 4:45 p.m.; Sunday, 9 to 9:45 a.m. You may also schedule an appointment.

St. Patrick choir is looking for new members. Adults and children in grades 3 and up are invited to join. Practices are on Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7 p.m.

Lectors are needed for both masses. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in back of the church or you can call the office at 570-443-9944.

Mass intention requests for 2022 are being accepted. Please note that masses will not be scheduled over the telephone to avoid errors. All mass requests must be completed in writing on the forms available on the table at the entrance of the church. Completed forms may be placed in the offertory basket or brought to the parish office. If you have any questions, call the office at 570-443-9944 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 9 & 11 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Rev. Michelle Kaufman, Pastor
316 S. Mt. Blvd., Mountain Top
570-474-6616

Office hours will be Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., closed Thursdays. As always, you can call the church office and leave a mes-

sage for any inquiries.

Christmas Eve services will be at 5 and 10 p.m. indoors, and 7 p.m. drive in. There are many individuals concerned about large group gatherings for various reasons. The church wants to make sure you have every opportunity to worship this holiday.

On Sunday, December 26, there will be only one worship service at 10 a.m. Please mark your calendars now to note the time change!

The ladies luncheon, held once a month is scheduled for Wednesday, December 29. All participants should meet at the church for 11:45 a.m.

The next healing service will be held on January 5 at 11 a.m. These services include a time of reflection, anointing and Holy Communion.

Through another Thrivent grant, they would like to donate once again to Michalene's Mission. They provide food, cloth-

ing, and services to the local homeless population, many of whom struggle with drugs and alcohol. At this time, they could use socks, one or two man tents, and personal sanitary wipes. There is a bin in the narthex to place your items in.

They invite you all to consider joining them on Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. in the Parish Hall for Bible Study! They are currently studying National Geographic's, Atlas of the Bible: Exploring the Holy Lands.

The Food Bank continues to distribute food to clients every Friday. Drop off donations at the church on Fridays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

**ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Janell Wigen, Pastor
418 Berwick St., White Haven
570-443-9424

Sunday morning worship

service is at 9 a.m.

The church is using Zoom so you will still be able to attend services. It is held on Sundays at 10 a.m. If you are not able to join a computer, phone or iPad, you can call into the worship service.

The number is 1-646-876-9923. Press the # sign after the prompt. The meeting room ID again is 557 531 789 and the password is 470085.

ST. PAUL'S DRUMS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Pastor Todd and the congregation invite you to worship

See Worship, page 29

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Worship Together ...



Elaine Banks of White Haven has two containers that she is filling with a large variety of the home-made cookies that were baked for the cookie walk.

Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Cookie walk held at St. Paul's

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in White Haven held a Christmas cookie walk on Saturday, December 18 beginning at 1 p.m. There was a homemade quilt that was raffled off, and beverages were available to wet your whistle. The proceeds of the cookie walk will help defray the cost of the youth group's travels to Minneapolis for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022.

St. Jude church and school present drive-thru nativity

For the first time, students and families of St. Jude school and church presented a living drive-thru nativity on the parish grounds on the evening of December 12. Cars entered from Church Road and drove slowly through the multiple scenes depicting the Birth of our Lord.

The story starts with the annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her she will conceive a son and that he will be called Jesus. Next, we see Jesus and Mary on their journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem where they go to register for a census mandated by Rome. Then there are the angels who appear to shepherds in a field and tells them not to be afraid; they bring good



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable (Lilly, Gracie, Chris and Lisa Holtz and Jill Stasch).

news of joy for all people. Next the inn keepers tell Mary and Joseph that there is no room at the inn. Mary and Joseph are sent to a nearly stable Mary gives birth to a

son and she names him Jesus. Finally, three Wise Men traveling from the east with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to worship the newborn King.

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Continued from page 28

with them every Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and for Bible Study every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m.

They are an active, praying congregation with great plans for after the pandemic. They have a great family of people but have plenty of room to grow.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WHITE HAVEN

Services: Sunday 11 a.m.

Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

Bill Lester, Leader

305 Berwick Street, White Haven
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AL holds Wreaths Across America ceremony

As a soaking rain fell, American Legion Mountain Post 781, with help from area scouting organizations and the Rotary Club of Mountain Top participated in "Wreaths Across America Day" at Albert Cemetery on December 18.

In a moving ceremony Martine Columbo and Leonard Biel reminded the audience of a favorite line quoted by Ronald Reagan - "freedom is not free" and that by laying these wreaths we remember our fallen veterans; we honor those who serve and we teach our children the value of freedom. Wreaths were laid in honor of the seven military services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Command, Coast Guard, National Guard and those missing in action.

Wreaths Across America was started in 1993 when the owner of a wreath company in Harrington, Maine found that he had a large surplus of wreaths as he was nearing the end of the Christmas season. Remembering a childhood experience at Arlington Cemetery, he was able to arrange for the wreaths to be sent to Arlington and placed on graves in the older section of the cemetery that had few visitors.



Mountain Peaks/Norberta Kosin photo

Navy veteran Ed Groth lays a wreath in honor of the seven military services: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Command, Coast Guard and National Guard.

The tribute continued quietly until 2005 when a photo of the graves at Arlington adorned with wreaths covered with snow appeared on the internet. After that, requests from around the country poured in from individuals and organizations asking how they can help. In 2008, congress voted to designate the third Saturday in December as "Wreaths Across America Day." In 2020, 1.7 million wreaths were placed on veterans' graves at 2,557 locations across the country.

Santa stops at Junie G's for breakfast



Mountain Peaks/Claudia Strycharz photo

Victoria Randazzo and her brother Vinny visit with Santa at the breakfast held at Junie G's Restaurant.

Women's Club makes wreaths for residents of Mountain Top Health Care



From left are R. Leeds, J. Fallbright and S. Travis showing off the wreaths they received.

The residents of Mountain Top Health Care Center received handmade wreaths from the Mountain Top Women's Club. The Women's Club made one for every room. The center would like to thank them for their beautiful work, and bringing joy to the residents. They greatly appreciate their dedication to the community and the health facility.

Thanks for 18 great years!

Happy Holidays

From the Mountain Peaks Staff:
Maryellen, Wendy
Norberta, Claudia, Pat

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