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January 6-19, 2022

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Polar Pop!

raises money for Special Olympics

Crestwood High School students, faculty and staff recently raised over \$400 for Special Olympics through its Polar Pop fundraiser.

Students from the secondary campus voted for the teacher/administrator/staff member they wanted to see get an ice cold water balloon popped over their head during a pep rally. Participants voted by putting their donation into canisters labeled with the teacher's name. The teacher/administrator/staff member who received the greatest donation amount would be the recipient of the "Pop!"

Top "vote-getters" were Jeff Pierantoni, secondary principal; William Kane and Tia Lambert, secondary teachers; and paraprofessional Aaron Keller. The four had balloons popped over their heads during the school's winter sports pep rally held the afternoon before the winter holiday break.

See Polar, page 6



Crestwood para-professional Aaron Keller, left, about to get doused while Joey Gzemski, right, shivers under the cold water from a balloon popped by Nolan Dunnum.



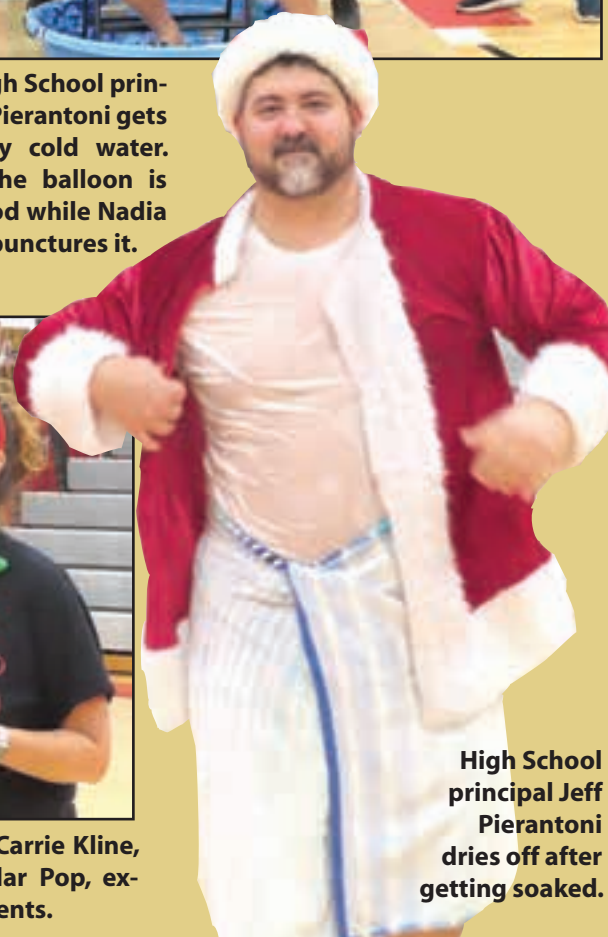
English teacher Tia Lambert, left, and history teacher William Kane prepare to get soaked with cold water. Popping the balloon over Mrs. Lambert is Kyla Pratt while Kyleigh Dougherty soaks Mr. Kane.



Above: High School principal Jeff Pierantoni gets doused by cold water. Holding the balloon is Jacob Wood while Nadia Premany punctures it.



Middle School teacher Carrie Kline, who organized the Polar Pop, explains the event to students.



High School principal Jeff Pierantoni dries off after getting soaked.

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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. 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.

FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP

The Knights of Columbus, St. Jude's Council #6440, is sponsoring

its annual free throw championship to be held on **Saturday, January 15** from 1 to 5 p.m. at the gym at St. Jude's School on Route 309 in Mountain Top. The championship is a free event and open to all boys and girls, ages 9-14, regardless of religious affiliation and who live in the Mountain Top area. The eligibility date is January 1. A signature of a parent/legal guardian is required along with a verification of the participant's age, a birth certificate.

The competition consists of 15 free throws from the foul line. There are 14 divisions based on age and gender. If there is a tie within a division, there will be a 5 shot shoot off and that will continue until there is a winner in that division. That shoot off will occur during and near the end of

that 4 hour time period only. All winners in each division are welcome to compete in further competition, a District the following week, a regional one in February and the State competition in March.

If anyone has any questions contact the Recorder, Stanley R. Gutkowski III at 570-474-5785 or email him at cdc100@ptd.net.

FEBRUARY 1 AL AUXILIARY MEETINGS

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 781 will hold its monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the legion home in the downstairs meeting room. Executive meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regu-

lar meeting. Meeting dates are **February 1, March 1, April 5, and May 3**. All auxiliary members are encouraged to come, bring a guest and ideas for some fund raisers and veterans' programs.

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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Mountain Peaks
a peek into life in the
Mountain Top community

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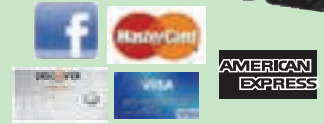
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Active Adult Center Menu

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 January 3

Monday: Beef cobb salad, whole wheat dinner roll, fresh fruit salad, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Kielbasa and sauerkraut, green beans, mashed potatoes, whole wheat dinner roll, jello, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Lemon butter fish, broccoli, stewed tomatoes, macaroni and cheese, chocolate pudding, milk and coffee

Thursday: Open face roast pork sandwich, roasted red pepper soup, mashed potatoes, whole wheat bread, fruit crisp, milk and coffee

Friday: Stuffed cabbage with tomato sauce, peas and carrots, buttered noodles, fresh fruit yogurt, milk and coffee

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.

Week of January 10

Monday: Turkey cole slaw pita, potato salad, whole wheat pita, fresh fruit salad, milk and coffee

Tuesday: Honey mustard chicken, broccoli, sweet potatoes, whole wheat dinner roll, vanilla pudding, milk and coffee

Wednesday: Vegetable lasagna, cauliflower and peas, whole wheat dinner roll, fresh apple slices, milk and coffee

Thursday: Baked ham, halushki, whole wheat dinner roll, grapes, graham cracker, milk and coffee

Friday: Cheeseburger, vegetable barley soup, potato salad, whole wheat sandwich roll, sugar cookie, milk and coffee

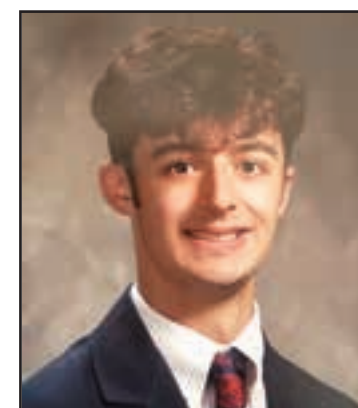
Lavan earns piano award

James Lavan earns Paderewski Medal-National Piano Auditions Award

James Lavan recently achieved the 10 Year National Piano Auditions Award and the prestigious Paderewski Medal from the American College of Musicians. Along with successfully performing in the auditions for a decade, qualifying for honor recitals at the Dorothy Sutton Festivals, Lavan also qualified to perform

at Carnegie Hall in New York City with a change in venue to the Kimmel Theater in Philadelphia due to the pandemic. He has studied under Diane Shuleski in Mountain Top and at the Conservatory at Wilkes University.

He is currently a freshman pre-pharmacy major at Wilkes University.



James Lavan

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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 January 10

Monday: Brunch 4 Lunch: Fresh baked cinnamon roll with breakfast sausage or chicken tenders with roll; featured veggies: tater tots, broccoli salad, 100% fruit juice, choice of milk

Tuesday: Italian meatball and cheese hoagie or cowboy burger on a roll with cheese, onion rings and barbecue sauce, featured veggies: steamed golden corn, baby carrots, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Famous Comet Bowl: Popcorn chicken mashed potato bowl with din-

ner roll or hot dog on a roll; featured veggies: steamed corn, Caesar salad, choice of fruit and milk

Thursday: Homemade beef and cheese lasagna with dinner roll or chicken patty sandwich; featured veggies: steamed garden peas, garden salad, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Pepperoni pizza or turkey and cheese hoagie; featured veggies: steamed carrots, black bean salad, choice of fruit and milk

Week of January 17

Monday: No school, Martin Luther King holiday

Tuesday: Mini corn dog nuggets or cowboy burger on a roll with cheese, onion rings and barbecue sauce,

featured veggies: seasoned curly fries, black bean salad, choice of fruit and milk

Wednesday: Brunch 4 Lunch: French toast sticks with breakfast sausage links or hot dog on a roll; featured veggies: hash brown potatoes, steamed mixed veggies, 100% fruit juice, choice of milk

Thursday: Barbecued pork rib sandwich or chicken parm sandwich; free Oreo pudding cup, featured veggies: tomato soup, celery sticks, choice of fruit and milk

Friday: Italian style dunkers with sauce or ham and cheese melt on a pretzel melt; featured veggies: steamed carrots, broccoli salad, choice of fruit and milk

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Polar ...*Continued from page 1*

Eight of the school's scholastic sports teams raised money for the project and volunteered members to participate in the Polar Pop as well.

Crestwood recently earned the status of "Champion School" under the Special Olympics with its Unified Program. This new initiative is a collaborative effort among members of the student body from diverse populations. Students from the school's special needs community join students from the general education population to participate in a variety of activities once a month. The club has created holiday cards for local nursing homes, designed ornaments to distribute to community members at the senior breakfast,



Girls lacrosse player Brooke Lapinski prepares for a soaking from teammate Bella Caparuscio

and arranged and advertised Crestwood's participation in a nationwide Polar Pop fundraiser.

All money raised will go to participating schools in the area through the Special Olympics.



Aidan Jardine gets ready for Luke Swerdon to pop a balloon over his head.

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Happy Birthday



Charlotte Noelle Bensavage celebrated her 4th birthday on January 1. She shared her special day with family at Chako's Bowling Center.

Charlotte is the daughter of Samantha and Mark Bensavage of Mountain Top. Charlotte is the little sister to Natalie, Luke, and Logan.

She is the granddaughter of Mary Jo and Richard Shutt of Mountain Top and the late Edward and Agnes Bensavage.

Saint Nicholas visits Saint Jude School

You might have had a few questions December 6 if you walked around Saint Jude School. Like, why are there so many colorful shoes on student desks? Who is the man with the miter and staff? And why are children so excited to see him? Well one name will answer all of those questions ... Saint Nicholas!

The students were treated to a visit from the saint himself on the feast day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of generosity. Saint Nick visited the classrooms and left each child a special treat. Students asked him all kinds of questions and got to meet the man behind the legend that began in the 3rd century. A special thank you to Carone's Market for helping Saint Nick fill all of his treat bags!



Kindergarten students Jack Frusciante, Jacob Soucy, Nolan Hiscak and Grayson Lauri enjoy their time with St. Nicholas.

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News in Brief ...

Zoning change will not happen in Wright Township

It appears a parcel of land in the Crestwood Industrial Park which owner Joseph Thomas wants to re-zone and sell to developer Rob Mericle won't get that zone change.

A public hearing on a request by Thomas, president of Maple Hill Holdings, to change the zoning of the approximately 33.5-acre property he owns from R-1 (residential) to I-1 (industrial) was held on November 15. During that hearing, after hearing concerns of neighbors, Thomas amended his application to exclude approximately 10 acres of wetlands abutting neighboring residential properties.

The parcel fronts on Elmwood Avenue in the Crestwood Industrial Park and extends west, bordering residential properties along Crestwood Drive and South Mountain Boulevard.

At the township's December meeting, an ordinance approving the change was on the supervisors' agenda. However, that approval never came, despite language in the proposed ordinance that stated the board of supervisors "determined that the best use of the land in considering the surrounding area is to rezone it from R-1 to I-1."

In fact, when it came time to address the zoning change request, board chairman Matt Howton asked for a motion to deny they change. None of the five supervisors made the motion and it died.

Solicitor Jack Dean explained that supervisors had 45 days to act on the change and if no action was taken by Decem-

ber 30, it would be considered denied.

Supervisors held a special meeting on December 20 to approve the township's 2022 budget, but the zone change was not on the agenda and was not mentioned. With no further meetings scheduled, action on Thomas' request is not likely.

More than a dozen neighbors expressed their opposition to the proposed zoning change at the November 15 hearing. They expressed concerns about noise, pollution, increased

traffic, the impact on wildlife and the effect of the change in zoning on their property values. They noted the township ordinance requires only a 50-foot buffer from industrial use property to their homes.

After hearing the concerns of residents, Mericle, who wants to build a "flex building" for light industrial use, offered to exclude an approximately 10-acre piece of the property from the zoning change, leaving it residential. The par-

See News in Brief, page 9

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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 8

cel is primarily wetlands and extends from a power line to the rear and side of existing homes. He also offered to stipulate there would be a 200-foot buffer instead of the 50-foot required in the ordinance. Thomas amended his application to reflect the changes proposed by Mericle.

Wright supervisors approve budget

Wright Township supervisors did approve the township's 2022 budget at the December 20 meeting. The fiscal plan calls for general fund operating expenses and revenue totaling \$2,255,487; Liquid Fuels revenue and expenses of \$183,174; and capital fund revenue and expenses totaling \$2,176,994. Property tax will remain at one mill which includes .8 mill for the general

fund and .2 mill fire tax.

Litter problem near Crestwood Drive addressed

At their December 13 meeting, Wright Township supervisors heard from some residents of Crestwood Drive about a littering problem near their homes. Residents said truckers often park on Crestwood Drive and regularly throw debris from their vehicles. "We're getting tired of cleaning up their litter," one residents commented.

Police Chief Royce Engler noted there are "no parking" signs along sections of the road and urged the residents to call police when they see illegally parked trucks. Truckers sometimes park their vehicles along the road, and Elmwood Avenue, while

See News in Brief, page 14

Exploration Day

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Kiwanis support trunk or treat



The Kiwanis of Mountain Top supported the trunk or treat sponsored by Christ United Methodist Church and the Crestwood Key Club. Brian McLaughlin, President; Ed Griffiths, Wendy Griffiths, Secretary and Dan Saunders are shown at the booth. Kiwanis is a global community of clubs with members and partners dedicated to improving the lives of children. For more information, call Brian at 570-762-8624.

Girl Scout Troop 33268 spreads holiday cheer



Girl Scout Troop 33268 helped spread holiday cheer by Christmas caroling for the residents at Smith Health Care facility. Smiles were contagious as the scouts sang *Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*, among other favorites.

Pictured are Ella Herbst, Anna Joseph, Allison Joseph, Kameron Kemper, Alexis Mihalos, and Jamie Kearns.

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Game night held for residents at Mountain Top Health Care



Shown with the gingerbread houses are Florence, Anita, Karen and Dauriz.

A game night was held for the residents of Mountain Top Health Care which included decorating gingerbread houses. Guardian Corporation supplied the gingerbread houses to create a competition thru all of its facilities. The grand prize was a New Year's Eve celebration package. Other activities included bingo, Yahtzee, chess and Sorry.



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Check Us Out !!

Local photographer releases children's book about puppy adoption

Mia McGlynn, a photographer and personal development coach based in Mountain Top published her first children's book, a journey of adoption from the perspective of litter mate brothers. Images and details of the book, as well as event booking availability, can be found on <https://www.midlifemediator.com/books>.

Titled, *Alpha & Whiskey - Gotcha Day*, this book is based on the real-life adoption story of McGlynn's pittie/staffie mix puppies as they joined a rather large family with three other dogs.

McGlynn explains, "I grew up with foster and adopted siblings so the idea of blending a family is one that is very close to my heart. I used my pup's 'gotcha day' to relate to what children can experience when there are big, sometimes scary, changes. An open heart and an open mind can create space for wonderful adventures, places, people and love."

Alpha & Whiskey - Gotcha Day follows the journey of brothers, together, discovering a whole world outside of their crate as they are adopted into a new family! They make the trek with their new human parents where they experience car rides, shopping, hugs and all sorts of new smells. Readers learn how sometimes big changes lead to amazing places! And that, family, comes in all shapes and sizes!

McGlynn hopes that this fun puppy tale encourages curiosity, adaptability, and openness for readers to apply in their own lives when presented with new relationships and experiences.

Alpha & Whiskey - Gotcha Day is available on Amazon



Mia McGlynn

in print.

More about Mia and her other works or information to book a live event can be found



at www.midlifemediator.com.

For more information visit: <https://www.midlifemediator.com/books>.



Participating club members, from left are, Carla Bednar, Jen Gerhard, Mary Ann Molendini, Bernie Jespersen and Monica Weidick. Missing from photo are Jeanette Tait and Linda Kostic.

Lioness Club participates in clean up

The Drums Lioness Lions Club recently participated in the Lions World Wide Clean-Up Day. To support this worldwide environmental project, the Drums Lioness Lions members selected to provide environmental and community service by picking up litter around the Butler Township Community Center, ballfields and playground.



ROCHELLE DOTZEL, CPA

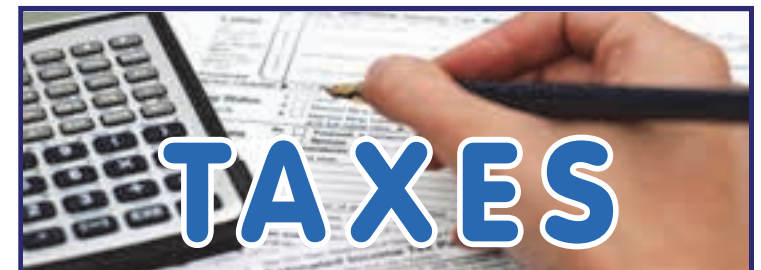
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Rice Township announces appointments, promotions to police force

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



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News in Brief ...

Continued from page 9

waiting to make deliveries or pickups. One township official said the debris tossed onto the road from trucks at times has included bottles of urine.

Dorrance Township approves budget

Dorrance Township supervisors at their December meeting approved the township's 2022 budget. Revenue and expenditures total \$852,145. There is no tax increase. The property tax rate remains as .75 mills.

Dorrance Township solicitor Donald Karpowich told supervisors the only item still missing to complete the Pennsy Quarry inspection report is a current certificate of insurance. His office sent the company a copy of the expired 2018 insurance certificate to clarify what is needed.

Ice rink dedication scheduled

Dedication of the Madry-

Kahlau Memorial Rink will be held Saturday, January 8 at 2 p.m. at Wright Township park. The rink is dedicated to the memory of the late Brian Madry and Tanner Kahlau.

The Wright Township Recreation Board is looking for public input on the future of the park. The board is working with a consultant to develop a park master plan and has developed a brief survey to get public input. Among the goals of the master plan is to determine a vision for the ice rink, i.e. renovate or replace it.

The survey can be found on the Wright Township Municipal Park Facebook page or at the following link: <http://ow.ly/WT9C50HgPQQ>.

COG Center open January 8

The Mountain Top COG compost facility in the Crestwood Industrial Park will accept live Christmas trees on Saturday, January 8.

Only live trees will be accepted, and all ornaments must be removed. The facility is open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Worship Together ...

Editor's Note: If you have any questions about worship times or church activities, please contact the church. Things change quickly due to Covid-19. We try to publish accurate information but things may change between publications.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Services: Sunday 9 & 10:45 a.m.
JP Bohanan, Pastor
175 S. Main Road, Mountain Top
570-474-6060

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

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.

There are 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 class-

es 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.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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. 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.

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.

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.

The next joint parish Baptismal Preparation class will be held at Good Shepherd Parish on Wednesday, January 26, at 6 p.m. in the St. Joseph Room. Enter through the library door


See Worship, page 17

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 16

(white storm door) located at the ramp entrance to the church. Call the parish office at 570-788-3141 to register. This class is mandatory for all parents who wish to have their child baptized.

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 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.

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. 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.

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.

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

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..

For more information, please contact Pastor Brook 570-580-0808.

MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Services: Sunday 9 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Fran Fink
Lily Lake Road, Slocum

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See Worship, page 18



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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 17

water and uses an outhouse for their rest room facilities.

On January 9, Bill Bowden will lead the worship service.

The Friendship Club will meet for breakfast on Thursday, January 13 at 9:30 a.m. at the Parkway Diner in Nanticoke. Theme for this month is "New Year's Blessings."

Cindy Faust will lead the worship service on January 16.

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.

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.

Everyone is welcome to join them on Saturday, January 15 at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Beast Feast. Please bring any game meat dish you want and a dessert to share. (You can bring a side dish if you prefer). Please bring a non-perishable

food item or monetary donation for the Mountain top food bank.

Join the congregation on Sunday, January 30 for the 5th Sunday fellowship potluck luncheon after the 10:30 service. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

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, January

9, Epiphany Sunday. 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 continue to mail in your tithes.

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 informa-

See Worship, page 19

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 18

tion to get to the church office as early as possible.

How you can get involved: Join the Sunday School class or Zoom Bible study. Volunteer to serve on a board.

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.

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.

Beginning January 9 all Sunday 2nd grade religious education classes will meet each

week. They will no longer do a split schedule for 2nd grade.

Regular office hours are 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**

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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.

The next meeting of the youth group will be held on

See Worship, page 20

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Worship Together ...

Continued from page 19

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.

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.

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.

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 message for any inquiries.

Through another Thri-vent grant, they would like to donate once again to Michaelene's Mission. They provide food, clothing, 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.

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We've Got Mail ...

All of us must work together to save our state senators

To the Editor and people of Luzerne County:

The Pennsylvania Redistricting Committee has released its senatorial map, and it has a devastating impact on Luzerne County. We must let them know how deeply disappointed we are with the redistricting

map, and how much it affects the municipalities, and people of Luzerne County. It appears that they have gone out of their way to punish Luzerne County, and all the municipalities it encompasses. Luzerne County is one of the largest and most populous counties in North-

east Pennsylvania. Despite this they have taken our two most popular senators and sliced and diced their districts, leaving Luzerne County divided among four different senatorial districts. Now most people in Luzerne County know their State Senators. They are local and have worked with Luzerne County residents and know their problems and needs.

At this time we are faced with the Covid epidemic, spiraling economic problems, deteriorating state roads, new state programs, constantly expanding state mandates, and various state departments who are constantly issuing new regulations that has everyone confused and frustrated. During these traumatic times we should not be radically changing things. Luzerne County needs state senators who are familiar with the people of Luzerne County. We need representation that we can count on, someone we know, and who can explain the state edicts. All of us must work together to save our State Senators. That means the Luzerne County Commissioners, all of the Luzerne County Municipalities, and the people of Luzerne County. It means people writing letters and showing up at the meetings of the redistricting committee. The Luzerne County Commissioners and municipalities must pass resolutions to show how much this map hurts us. Luzerne County deserves to have State Senators who are local and who we have worked with for years, and who will fight for the needs of Luzerne County.

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St. Jude elects National Junior Honor Society officers

Saint Jude School has elected the National Junior Honor Society officers for the 2021-2022 school year. Officers pledge to promote the five principles of National Junior Honor Society in their planning throughout the year. The five principles are: scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship and character. Newly elected officers are as follows: President: Matthew Mascarenhas; Vice President: Michael Grandzol; Secretary: Emily Conway; Treasurer: Maximus Bleiler.



The newly elected NJHS officers at Saint Jude School, from left are Matthew Mascarenhas, Michael Grandzol, Emily Conway, and Maximus Bleiler.

WNEP's Ryan's Run raised more than \$500,000 with help from the community

On November 7 a team of almost 60 runners represented Allied Services and WNEP's Ryan's Run in the TCS New York City Marathon. The field of athletes was reduced from its usual 33,000 to around 25,000 to allow for Covid-19 precautions. For athletes representing WNEP's Ryan's Run, the race was the culmination of months of training and fundraising. On November 12, the campaign, now in its 12th year, came to a close with the announcement that a total of \$507,054 was raised for Allied Services in 2021.

The campaign kicked off in late August at a concert hosted by 12-year corporate sponsor Mohegan Sun Pocono. In the following months, the volunteer runners spent many hours training and raising funds.

The proceeds from this year's campaign will benefit individuals with disabilities and life-changing injuries served by Allied Services, enabling the non-profit health



From left Robert Cole, PhD, Senior Vice President, Chief Analytics Officer, Allied Services; Steven Davidowitz, runner; Atty. Bill Conaboy, President & CEO, Allied Services; Ryan Leckey, reporter/producer, WNEP TV; Jim Brogna, Vice President for Strategic Partnership Development, Allied Services; Lynn Giacomi, RN, Health Services Manager, Developmental Services, Allied Services.

system to invest in cutting-edge technology and services. Each day, Allied Services and its staff and volunteers touch the lives of more than 5,000 people. The continuum of care provided by Allied Services includes mental health serv-

ices, home health, non-medical home care, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, hospice and palliative care, residential care for individuals with disabilities, skilled nursing, personal care, and vocational services.

Crestwood Wrestling

Pittston Area at Crestwood on 12/22/2021

Pittston Area High School (PAH) 45.0 Crestwood High School (CRHS) 30.0

126: Kevin Roby (PAH) over (CRHS) (For.) 132: Santino Casarella (CRHS) over (PAH) (For.) 138: Julian Everitt (PAH) over Ethan Zabroski (CRHS) (Fall 1:53) 145: Jake Aftewicz (PAH) over (CRHS) (For.) 152: Vinny Bonomo (PAH) over (CRHS) (For.) 160: Sal Biscotto (PAH) over (CRHS) (For.) 172: Jimmy Spindler (PAH) over Logan Rolles (CRHS) (Fall 2:30) 189: Lincon Bibla (CRHS) over Kevin Hower (PAH) (Fall 2:03) 215: Magnus Bibla (CRHS) over Xavier Blackshear (PAH) (Fall 1:07) 285: Chris Smolenak (CRHS) over Jake Mills (PAH) (Fall 2:50) 106: Oscar Ciriaco (PAH) over (CRHS) (For.) 113: Sam Jeckell (CRHS) over (PAH) (For.) 120: Dominic Bernardi (PAH) over Jack Andrews (CRHS) (Dec 5-4)

Crestwood vs. Central Columbia at Bob Rohm Team Duels on 12/28/2021.

Crestwood Hs (CRHS) 36.0 Central Columbia Hs (CCH) 28.0

106: Nicholas Webb (CRHS) over (CCH) (For.) 113: Sam Jeckell (CRHS) over (CCH) (For.) 120: Double Forfeit 126: Double Forfeit 132: Alex Hosler (CCH) over Santino Casarella (CRHS) (MD 11-2) 138: Ethan Zabroski (CRHS)

over Hunter Dietterick (CCH) (Fall 0:34) 145: Josiah Ceballo (CCH) over James Barret (CRHS) (Fall 0:56) 152: Colton Chipoleski (CCH) over (CRHS) (For.) 160: Alex Roberts (CCH) over (CRHS) (For.) 172: Greyson Shaud (CCH) over Logan Jasnoski (CRHS) (Fall 0:34) 189: Lincon Bibla (CRHS) over Joshua Worthington (CCH) (Fall 4:35) 215: Magnus Bibla (CRHS) over Aiden Hidlay (CCH) (Fall 0:53) 285: Aiden Jardine (CRHS) over (CCH) (For.)

Crestwood vs. Bloomsburg at Bob Rohm Team Duels on 12/28/2021

Bloomsburg Hs (BLHS) 39.0 Crestwood Hs (CRHS) 21.0

145: Nasir Kelly (BLHS) over James Barret (CRHS) (Fall 0:36) 152: Jake (thomas) Fogelsanger (BLHS) over (CRHS) (For.) 160: Jesse James (BLHS) over (CRHS) (For.) 172: Kayden James (BLHS) over Logan Jasnoski (CRHS) (Fall 3:31) 189: Nicholas Wharton (BLHS) over Lincon Bibla (CRHS) (Dec 6-0) 215: Magnus Bibla (CRHS) over John Berger (BLHS) (Fall 1:36) 285: Aiden Jardine (CRHS) over Graden Thomas (BLHS) (Fall 2:39) 106: Nicholas Webb (CRHS) over (BLHS) (For.) 113: Double Forfeit 120: Hank Nuss (BLHS) over (CRHS) (For.) 126: cayetano smith (BLHS) over (CRHS) (For.) 132: Santino Casarella (CRHS) over ashton horan (BLHS) (Dec 8-2) 138: Double Forfeit

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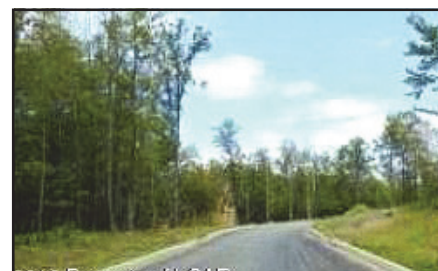
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ANTONIO 262-7652 \$100,000



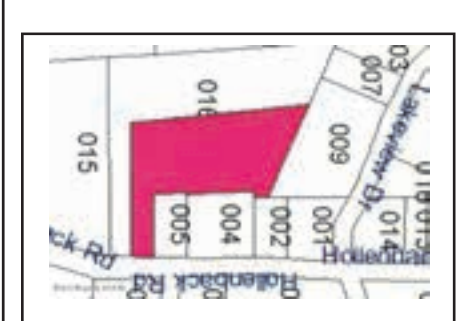
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