



Dunkin' Valentine's Menu:  
Page 15

# DEL AWARE

Delaware Valley High School - Milford, Pa.

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## PLCs aim to standardize learning, assessments

*School administration hopes to grant all students an equal learning experience, but some students do not see results.*

BY GIA SCIMECA

Arts & Lit Editor

Professional Learning Communities, or PLCs, are a way for teachers to collaborate with other teachers who teach the same course to ensure students are being assessed uniformly.

"No student should be given a different assessment that's easier or harder than another student," administrator Ms. Jessica Hubal said.

At least once a month, teachers meet in order to discuss the curriculum, test dates and rewriting tests and analyzing results to make the course better for students.

"I feel like since we've been doing PLCs, it really makes the team approach to working at DV," math chairperson and teacher Mrs. Christine Marcial said. "You don't feel alone in creating your own materials."

While teachers and administrators feel that PLCs are helpful, some students feel as if it is not truly being executed to its full potential.

"In the past, I took a class that was important, and I felt behind because all of the other classes were ahead," senior Noelle Holderith said.

Holderith feels as if classes should be taught similarly because it keeps students taking the same subjects but in different classes on the same page.

Ms. Hubal recalls her personal experience in high

school, saying that even during her time in school, students would discuss the difficulty of the teachers.

"We want to try and eliminate that stigma," Ms. Hubal said. "It's the same course no matter what teacher you have."

Senior Anna Sickler feels that one of her AP classes was taught differently than the other classes.

"In my class, we would have almost 100 question tests, and then in another teacher's class they would only have 30 question tests," Sickler said. "They would also have a lot of projects and take home tests to boost their grades."

PLCs have the potential to foster communication among teachers within their departments.

"Ms. Fitzkee and I communicate ideas and help each other out," English teacher Mrs. Crystal Wummer said. "The kids only benefit from our collaboration."

*"It's the same course no matter what teacher you have."*

- Ms. Jessica Hubal

## Athletes get together on first annual signing day

BY KRISTEN LANGELOTTI

Opinions Editor

The first ever group signing day took place on Feb. 5 in the Media Center. This was a decision made between administration, the athletic department and guidance. They all wanted to make this an event that students and families could look forward to.

Group signing day included a mix of student athletes who are continuing their athletic careers in college.

Tables were set up in the Media Center in three rows. On the Smartboard next to the tables, they portrayed the athletes who were there, the school they signed with and what sport they are going to be playing at the collegiate level. Each athlete's signing session took about 3-5 minutes.

"I liked seeing where everyone was going and their accomplishments. It was nice having all the teachers and coaches in one spot," senior Ashlynn McCardle said. "It was a good experience and I liked seeing all the athletes as one."

High school principal Mr. Lou DeLauro plans to do another group signing event in the spring for new commits or those who couldn't attend this one. Over the summer, he will see which improvements he can make for the future, and he will also speak with other districts to see how they run their events.

"There are several schools that have done this, and it is something we want to continue to do," Mr. DeLauro said. "We want to improve and grow along the way."

Eleven athletes and their families were involved in this event.

Athletic director Mr. Sean Giblin expressed how convenient the group signing was.

"I think it's a neat experience to have the kids together, and it ensures that both staff and coaches were able to attend," Mr. Giblin said.

Numerous staff and students expressed positive feedback regarding the event.



Senior athletes Isaiah Berrios and Ashlynn McCardle attended the first-ever signing day held in the Media Center on Feb. 5. These two, along with nine others, committed to play collegiate sports.

 @delaware\_news

# School News

## DV Drama concludes winter performance with 'The Crucible'

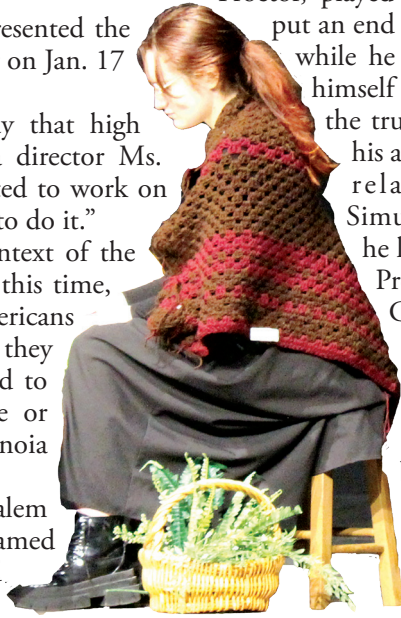
By GIA SCIMECA  
Arts & Lit Editor

Members of the Drama Club presented the play "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller on Jan. 17 and 18.

"The Crucible' is a classic play that high schools perform commonly," drama director Ms. Sarah Fitzkee said. "I've always wanted to work on it, and I have the cast that was ready to do it."

Miller wrote the play in the context of the Red Scare during the Cold War. At this time, the U.S. government expected Americans to turn in their fellow citizens whom they suspected of being communist. It led to many false accusations out of spite or out of fear of arrest and created paranoia among many Americans.

The play takes place during the Salem witch trials, in which young girls named Abigail Williams, Mary Warren and more accused villagers of witchcraft.



The two are played by junior Addie Del Mauro and senior Marissa Gates, respectively. Farmer John Proctor, played by senior Chris Fleming, works to

put an end to the trials while he fights with himself to reveal the truth between his and Abigail's relationship. Simultaneously,

he labors to prove that his wife Elizabeth Proctor, played by sophomore Madison Curchoe, is innocent.

According to Del Mauro, she finds her character to be highly misunderstood despite being awful.

"She comes with a lot of family baggage and trauma, and she never learned how to deal with things," Del Mauro said.

The characters in the show were based on real people from Salem,

but their storylines were changed. For example, Miller changed the ages of Proctor and Williams to make their relationship more believable.

*"I've always wanted to work on it, and I have the cast that was ready to do it."*

- Ms. Sarah Fitzkee

"In the show, John Proctor is in his mid 30s but in real life, he was about 60 at the time," Fleming said. "In the show she [Abigail Williams] is 17 but in real life was 13."

Fleming discussed Proctor's religious beliefs, which become a major factor in the play for why his family is targeted for witchcraft as in the play. Proctor was not going to church as frequently due to his distaste in Reverend Samuel Parris', played by sophomore Logan Woodward, way of teaching the Bible.

"In the show, he is an Atheist, which is not very accepted by them [the Puritans], so he just goes to church to go to church," Fleming said.

In the spring, DV Drama will perform "9-5 the Musical."

*Semi-formal*  
**DANCE**

**THEME : GLOW**  
**FRIDAY, FEB. 21**  
**6-9 P.M.**  
**HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM**  
**ADMISSION \$7**

**STUDENT COUNCIL WILL BE SELLING GLOW ACCESSORIES ALONG WITH REFRESHMENTS**

**JUNIORS AND SENIORS, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO INVITE A GUEST, SEE STUDENT COUNCIL ADVISER MRS. CRYSTAL WUMMER IN C18 FOR DETAILS**

Compiled By Lauren Donnelly

## Inquiring Photographer

"WHAT ARE YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY PLANS?"  
COMPILED BY KAYLA SYKES



*"Hangout, go to the mall and exchange gifts"*  
**Keirsten Linehan & Colton Eckert**  
Class of 2028



*"Dinner and movie"*  
**Maddy Caruso & Alex Calvario**  
Class of 2027



*"Going out to dinner"*  
**Brianna Waldron & Justin Estevez**  
Class of 2026



*"Date night"*  
**Claire Marotta & Gavin Crane**  
Class of 2025



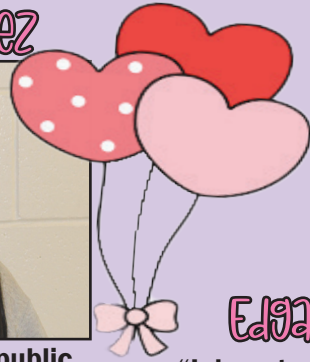
# School News

Valentine's Day traditions celebrated differently around the world  
ESL STUDENTS SHARE HOW THEY PARTAKE IN THE HOLIDAY IN THEIR OWN CULTURE.

JUNIOR YUI LOPEZ



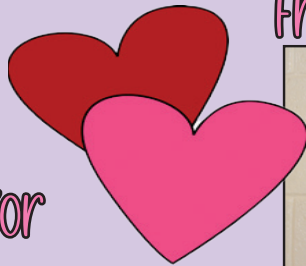
"In the Dominican Republic, we give chocolates, candies and flowers to your friends, girlfriend or boyfriend."



JUNIOR  
EDUAR GUERRERO

"I do not celebrate Valentine's Day in Peru."

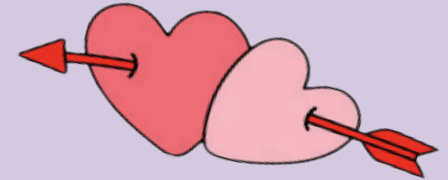
Compiled by Kim Smyser



FRESHMAN HENRY ROJAS



"Valentine's Day in Mexico means chocolates and flowers with friends and family."



SOPHOMORE  
YEVA KOLKOVSKA

"In Ukraine, we do not celebrate Valentine's Day, but some couples give presents to each other like flowers or sweets."

**Come down to Cinderella's Closet in C13 during fifth period to find stylish formal wear for prom, semi formal and other events!  
Keep an eye out for an upcoming event during lunch this spring before prom.  
All attire should be returned to C13 after use.**

## CTE students compete in SkillsUSA

By REILLY NEWTON  
*Sports Co-Editor*

Building, electrical, automotive and culinary CTE students competed in SkillsUSA last month.

The regional competition was hosted at three separate locations: Johnson College on Dec. 7, Luzerne County Community College on Jan. 9 and Wilkes Barre CTC on Jan. 23.

In individual and team challenges that required them to think on their feet, 15 students competed against 13 other schools in their respective divisions.

Building CTE students were only presented with the finished product and had to be able to use the supplies provided to them to recreate a design closest to that product, with a few twists and turns incorporated.

"Usually they'll throw some things in there you won't need, [but] there is more than one way to skin a cat," Skills USA adviser and building CTE teacher Mr. Keith Fitzpatrick said.

Judges use rubrics to determine scores and look for accurate and precise results.

"They do have a very specific set of plans that

you have to do everything to," Mr. Fitzpatrick said.

Students who qualified to go to States are as follows: senior Peiper Sivo, first place in culinary arts, junior Johnathan Osborne, first place in cabinet



Contributed Photo

**Junior Lucas Valentin competed in the plumbing category at Skills USA Regionals.**

making and junior Lucas Valentin, first place in plumbing.

"I'm proud of Luke and John. Since we've been

doing skills we haven't had anybody win for either plumbing or cabinet making," Mr. Fitzpatrick said.

Peiper, who competed against seven contestants, had a perfect score of 100, 17 points above second place.

"I was nervous the day before the competition," Peiper said, "but [the day of] I wasn't as much. I was just focused on finishing as soon as possible."

Peiper competed at Luzerne County Community College. Each student was given their own work station and had to make four dishes that were to be judged on plating, proper techniques, taste and proportions.

"I was pretty confident when I saw how all my meals turned out," Peiper said. "I knew I did well but [I] wasn't expecting first place."

States is held in Hershey, Pennsylvania at the Hersey Lodge on April 2, 3 and 4. Mr. Fitzpatrick's goals for the competition are to focus on getting the kids experience.

"They get to see all the best CTC kids from all over the state," Mr. Fitzpatrick said. "It gets them out of [our] kind of bubble."

# Opinion

## Government views clash with public priorities

By EMMA CIANCIO

*Editor-in-Chief*

It's an undeniable truth: people across the country hold vastly different perspectives on controversial issues. But what I am confident to say is that the American people are far more worried about the amount of innocent people dying at the hands of gun violence, drug abuse and a multitude of other tragedies, rather than a ban on a social media app.

As a teenager, it's often assumed that my opposition to the TikTok ban is simply because I'm attached to social media. That couldn't be further from the truth. My real concerns lie in the countless homeless veterans who are forgotten, innocent lives lost to senseless school shootings and the urgent environmental crises that threaten our future. These

are the issues that demand our attention and action, not the regulation of a social media platform. My focus is on real, pressing problems that impact lives every day.

Why is our government putting so much time and energy into a ban that won't benefit the American people? Why not strive as a nation to put together stable housing for homeless veterans? Why not establish laws that put a tighter restriction on who can and cannot buy guns? Why not find a way to lower the price of insurance and healthcare in America?

These laws and restrictions may take time to implement, but with the right focus and research, our nation has the potential to achieve a better outcome. Crafting these regulations won't be easy, but it will be impactful. As a nation, our common goal should be to move forward and create a better tomorrow. So why continue to put countless lives at risk by ignoring the

real, urgent issues we face? It's time to act, to prioritize the well-being of our citizens, and to make meaningful change.

There is no solid proof that TikTok is dangerous for the American people. There is the obvious claim that TikTok can be bad for your mental health, but isn't all social media? If we are going to take the step to ban an app because its owners are foreign to us, why not ban all social media platforms as they are critical to our mental health?

We stand at a crucial crossroads, where the decisions we make today will shape the future we leave behind. We must choose whether to continue down a path of inaction, or rise to the challenge. Our complacency will only lead to further decline, while action can spark transformative change. It's time to refocus, the time for change is now.

## Why is public school recruiting a problem?

By TOPHER DELLABELLA

*Entertainment Editor*

As high school sports become more popular, concerns for illegal recruiting at public schools continue to grow as well.

Illegal recruiting is the act of a public school encouraging a student athlete to transfer schools based on their athletic ability. Many public schools have gotten in trouble for recruiting. The trouble that these schools get into for this is definitely deserved.

Public high school coaches who look through other schools, districts and sometimes other states to try and build "super-teams" for any sport are

wrong. Illegal recruiting poses a huge risk to the competitive balance of leagues. It is unethical and looked down upon in the sports world. However, if a student athlete and their family move to a different area and transfer to a different school, that is completely fine.

There are some cases where coaches are giving their school faulty addresses for a student athlete when they don't or have no intention to leave the area where they are from. This is probably the worst part of high school recruiting. You can chase championships with the talent you have, not the talent you have to bribe to get.

## Applying to college? Here's how to lessen stress

By KRISTEN LANGELOTTI

*Opinion Editor*

The pressure of college applications can be intense for high school students. The fear of not getting into a desired college, the stress of maintaining high grades and the anxiety of meeting application deadlines can be overwhelming. However, there are ways to cope with this pressure and make the process manageable.

Staying organized and practicing self-care is crucial. Break down tasks or goals into smaller, more manageable progressions to ensure that nothing is missed. Create a timeline for yourself to keep track of deadlines and reduce

procrastination. Make sure to take breaks, get enough sleep and engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation.

Seek support from friends, family and teachers. Talking about your feelings and concerns can provide relief and offer new perspectives. Teachers and counselors can provide valuable advice and help with application materials. Do not hesitate to ask for help.

Remember that there are many paths to success and not getting into a dream college is not the end of the world. Keep your priorities in perspective and focus on what you can control to ensure things will work out in the end.

OLIVIA VAN TASSELL  
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## Letter Guidelines

The Del.Aware is an administrative reviewed publication of the journalism class of Delaware Valley High School. The Del.Aware will print acceptable letters written by current students which may be edited or condensed for reasons of libel, good taste, grammar and punctuation.  
**Mail:** Letters to the Opinions Editor, Del. Aware, 252 Route 6 & 209, Milford, PA 18337  
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# Opinion

## OUR OPINION

### Parking passes: expensive, dangerous, inconvenient

While parking passes are overall marketed as a necessity for students who drive to school, they prove to be more of a financial burden rather than a worthwhile investment.

Consider the whopping price of \$50 for an unassigned spot. For students who are already strapped for cash, that's a lot of money to pay for a parking spot when the lot is already overcrowded and inconvenient. Seniors are especially forced to park farther from the doors due to the high amount of juniors who take their spots. This fact overall defeats the purpose of "the senior lot." Why must students pay for a spot that is not promised to them?

Superintendent Dr. Brian Blaum explains that the money from parking passes goes to a general fund that is used to payout a variety of expenses district wide, like maintenance for the parking lot. Some of this money also goes to senior events, but at what cost?

Even while this price overall benefits the senior class and its events, it places a burden on students who may not have the money to pay. Think about the cost of car insurance and gas. Students should not have another financial burden regarding their vehicle.

"I think parking passes are annoying, due to no

assigned parking spots," junior Tim Jason said. "It puts me out of \$50, which is two gas tanks."

Unlike Delaware Valley, Port Jervis High School provides a more student-friendly approach by not charging any fees for parking on campus. Instead of paying to park, all students need to do is register their vehicle to secure a parking spot.

Many students have voiced that they would be willing to pay for a parking pass if they were given a designated spot in the school's lot or had the opportunity to personalize and paint their parking space. Without these incentives, the cost feels like a waste, especially when the parking lot is overcrowded and the "assigned" spaces are rarely guaranteed or convenient.

Not only is the price of the parking pass outrageous, but the overall concept of the sticker is too. Car stickers are another way in which the wrong person can gain information about you. The parking pass sticker can give clear indication where you attend school, which is overall dangerous for young drivers.

"Even though I paid the ridiculous fee, I haven't put the sticker on my car," senior Claire Marotta said. "I don't like the idea of advertising where I go to school if I am in an unfamiliar area."



Illustrated by Ethan Doering

## Corporate greed makes tuberculosis an unnecessarily deadly disease

By CHRISTOPHER FLEMING

Contributing Writer

Although tuberculosis (TB) is a curable disease, it killed 1.6 million people in 2021, marking more deaths than malaria and homicide combined. Despite that, only .018% of U.S. deaths are TB-related and up to 7% of all deaths in the Philippines occur from TB. This means that you are 388 times more likely to die of TB in the Philippines than in the U.S. This is because of profit-driven healthcare companies who look to exploit the poorest people in the world to make their shareholders happy.

The company at the heart of the matter is Danaher. In 2010, they created a device that would test for the presence of TB. The device works with a machine and cartridges. They profit off this machine in a printer-

style business model. The machines are sold at a low profit margin, while the cartridges are sold at a high profit margin. This results in some hospitals in high risk areas having a machine but few cartridges.

There are two types of cartridges: one that just scans for TB (MTB/RIF) and another that also determines what drugs would be needed to treat that person (XDR-TB). In 2023 amid public backlash, Danaher agreed to lower the prices of the (MTB/RIF) TB test from \$9.98 to \$7.97. However, Danaher refused to lower the price of the better and more accurate XDR-TB test, despite the fact that there is no evidence that the test costs more to produce. So the current price still sits at an exorbitant \$15 per test. They also agreed to release a third-party audit every year to prove that they are not making a profit on these cartridges. This audit is more than a year late, and the prices remain

stagnant.

We live in a world that chooses to let these people die. When people need essential materials to live, and the systems and organizations in place (to no fault of the supply or the logistics of transport) are lacking those materials, that is us choosing to live in a world in which millions of people die of a curable disease.

"Anywhere you have extreme poverty and no national health insurance, no promise of health care regardless of social standing, that's where you see the sharp limitations of market-based health care," anthropologist and physician Paul Farmer said.

Danaher's money is soaked with the blood of men, women and children who have been taken advantage of just to make Wall Street happy.

# School News

## Mr. Bates, Mrs. Cohen take on teaching AP Courses

BY OWEN CARSO

Online Editor

This year, Mr. Evan Bates and Mrs. Marielle Cohen each took on their first AP class: AP Literature and Composition and AP U.S. History, respectively.

"I love being able to dive deeper into topics, and I really enjoy the conversations that I get to have with students about different topics within U.S. History," Mrs. Cohen said. She took AP U.S. History in high school and did well on the test, but she believes it is entirely different to teach it.

Mrs. Cohen's favorite subjects to teach in American history are World War I and II. She is looking forward to seeing how her students perform on the AP test.

Senior Arianna Healey is a student in Mrs. Cohen's AP Class.

"What I enjoy most about the class is probably the stations we do," Healey said. "She puts out documents on all the desks, and we have to go around, analyze them and write down all our questions and

everything. It gets us ready for the AP test, so I think it's really helpful."

On the other side of the school, Mr. Bates enjoys exploring universal themes from literature with his AP students.

"I like going through the use of language and more to the connections we make to everyday life," he said. "And I guess I enjoy looking at literature in the rawest form, making connections to people, making connections within oneself, to how we handle the goods and the bads of life."

Mr. Bates wants his AP students to leave his class with a stronger appreciation for literature.

"The students who took my class because they're smart or they just want the GP Hike but they're not into literature—I want those

students to enjoy it," he said.

Mr. Bates believes that classical literature allows students to tap into past cultures, and it enhances their capacity for empathy.

"You're able to empathize with people on a level that you won't be able to attain doing anything else," he said. "You can't just sit down quickly and read a book, even if you're reading very fast. You have to commit to it."

Senior Mia Thompson is a student in Mr. Bates's class.

"I love the open conversations he has with us. He's very casual and conversational with all of us, and he brings up lots of great points that you might not get in another class," Thompson said.



## Special Olympics ski trips unite students

BY EMMA SIMMONS

Sports Co-Editor

The Special Olympics ski trips to Ski Big Bear have just begun their second year back as a program at the high school. Providing an exciting opportunity for both regular and special education students, the ski trips help foster new skills and forge connections between peers.

Special education teacher and ski trip organizer Ms. Hailey Vogel noted the value the ski trips have to the special education program.

"It gives students an opportunity to work together and learn from each other in a different setting out in the community," Ms. Vogel said.

Throughout the several trips, special education students start learning different skills such as skiing or snowshoeing, which can promote some of the physical motor skills they need improvement on. The students get paired

with a regular education student depending on skill level, working together towards the goal of learning or improving their abilities.

"It helps our kids [special education students] learn, and it gives regular education kids an opportunity to participate meaningfully and be leaders and role models," Ms. Vogel said.

Even though the trips will no longer accept students as volunteers this year, upcoming juniors and seniors can contact Ms. Vogel to participate.



Sophomore Ethan Reilly-Conklin

## Warrior Cafe goes all out for dinner

BY MICHAEL ELARO

Managing Editor

After a successful soft opening for the Warrior Cafe, according to CTE teacher chef Alex Niosi, the culinary CTE program is hosting their second event for the general public. On March 7, there will be a dinner service at 5 and 5:45 p.m.

"The launch was extremely successful. We got a lot of positive feedback," chef Niosi said. "They [customers] asked if we could do it more frequently."

The students are once again creating their own menu and completing all the restaurant services themselves, from the cooking to running and serving their food.

Senior musician Bella Como was invited to provide a live acoustic performance during the dining experience.

Students from the business CTE created advertisements for this event that are posted on social media. Reservations can be made by calling (570) 296-1896 anytime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Michael Elaro/Del.Aware

Senior Peiper Sivo flattens dough that will be turned into pasta.



Emma Ciancio/Del.Aware

Senior Bella Como is set to perform live during the dinner on March 7.





# How to fund your future

## A financial need-based form of student aid: FAFSA

BY AVA KRASZEWSKI

*Community News Co-Editor*

As college applications begin to close and financial aid packages roll in, other forms of financial support become available to graduating seniors.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is a financial need-based scholarship form and is open for anyone to apply. The application for the 2025-26 school year opened on Nov. 21. The form must be completed by June 15.

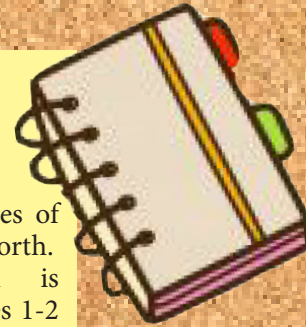
FAFSA is a form filled out by the student and a parent or guardian, that determines the amount of federal student aid received from the U.S. Department of Education. Information required to fill out the application includes, but is not limited to, social security

numbers, tax returns, balances of bank accounts and total net worth.

After the application is finished, which normally takes 1-2 days to fill out, it will take between one to three days for the form to be processed. Once the form is received and processed, the student will be able to view their estimated federal student aid.

A student may be able to qualify for a federal pell grant, which is a form of government financial aid which does not require to be paid back.

Students may also receive federal direct loans, which is aid that must be repaid with interest. Most students also may be eligible for a federal work-study. This is a way for students to pay for school through a part-time job while at college.



This webpage has links to the scholarship forms, deadlines and other helpful resources students can use.



## Scholarships provide experience, financial aid

ELLA BECKER

*School News Co-Editor*

The financial burden of going to college is often a concern for students who plan on attending, but scholarships are available to those who meet the requirements.

English 12 teachers have given students a packet full of scholarship opportunities.

Ms. Jessica Hubal, the assistant principal for academic affairs, emphasizes the urge to go online and apply for scholarships by the deadline for multiple reasons.

“College is not cheap, I’m sure parents, guardians, friends and past teachers are saying ‘Apply for those scholarships,’” Ms. Hubal said. “You don’t want to pay any more than you have to for these college classes.”

Although the financial aspect of applying for scholarships is the largest encouragement, the writing process is also very important. Ms.

Hubal encourages students to write an individual essay for each scholarship and to not write a generic essay.

“Read what the scholarship is about, and then think about a time in your life you can relate to,” Ms. Hubal said. “If you’re going for engineering, write about engineering.”

Although the school provides opportunities to help make the process easier, it is still important to manage your own time properly and to not put everything off until the last minute.

“Set aside the time and do not wait,” Ms. Hubal said. “I always know when scholarships are due because the guidance office lines are out the door.”

The school website also provides scholarship search sites, which provide a larger access to scholarships to apply for. The webpage updates regularly with new opportunities along with the guidance X account (@DVHScounselors) and their Instagram (@dvhs\_counselors).





67%



33%



71%



29%

# Pol's Polls

During the weeks leading up to the publication of the Del.Aware's first edition of 2025, the staff compiled a number of polls relating to common debates in pop culture and posted them to our website.

As a staff, we were inspired by Mr. Bryan Pol who originally informed us of this idea back in November after being influenced by his student senior Maxine McNamara.

The polls were posted weekly and were taken by students, staff, faculty and other members of the community.

Compiled by Michael Elaro and Olivia Van Tassell



85%



15%



52%



48%



59%



41%



92%



8%



78%



22%



# CUPID'S CORNER:

## Valentine's Day Puzzles

### Strands

Use the theme to find the five words. The letters for a word don't have to be in a straight line. Words can be in any direction and all letters will be used.

Theme: Valentines

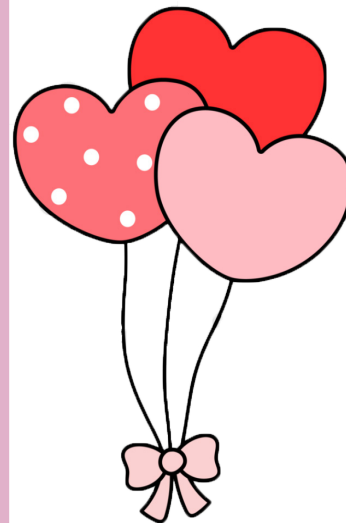


H T F I  
e n c g  
A D A D  
R Y I L  
T P O R  
C U V E

Compiled by Ava Kraszewski

### Famous couples

Fill in the blank to complete the names of the famous couples.



1. ROMEO and -----
2. ZENDAYA and -----
3. BONNIE and -----
4. ROSS and -----
5. JACK and -----

Compiled by Etain Starr

### Connections game

With the 16 words listed below, there are four words that will go into each category. There are four categories varying from easy to difficult.

LOVE BLUSH FLOWERS ROSE  
KISS STRAWBERRY AMORE XO  
CUPID CHOCOLATE AMOUR CANDY  
AMOR JEWELRY CARNATION HEART



Compiled by Lauren Donnelly

### Word scramble

Unsort the scrambled names to reveal the Valentine's Day candies.

1. DCNYA EASTRH
2. ERAWTSTEST
3. NFU PDI
4. T@CLCAH@E
5. PDICSU LDNEB & MsM



Compiled by Kayla Sykes

Be the first person to correctly complete all four puzzles and see Mrs. Lordi in C13 after morning announcements to receive a prize.

# Community News

## Milford's Valentine's Day activities

*The Hotel Fauchere, Flagship Cinema and Anne Street Park hold annual Valentine's day activities.*

BY AVA KRASZEWSKI

*Community News Co-Editor*

### *Igloo dining at the Hotel Fauchere*

The Hotel Fauchere, located at 401 Broad St., has begun its annual igloo dining experience. Behind the building, the hotel has four igloos set up with dining and festive decor. All igloos are heated and have bluetooth speakers, providing a cozy, romantic atmosphere.

The cost of the igloo dinner reflects the one-of-a-kind experience. It is \$300/ per igloo, including food, and



*Ava Kraszewski/Del.Aware*  
**The Hotel Fauchere's annual intimate and unique igloo dining on display on its back lawn.**

\$100 for a reservation deposit. Due to the fact that it is an outdoor dining experience, reservations may be cancelled because of poor weather conditions.

If you are looking for a special place to take your loved one for Valentine's Day, and have the funds for it, the Hotel Fauchere's igloo dining may be the perfect place for you.

### *Movie at Flagship Cinema*

For those who are looking for a less expensive option, the Flagship Cinema in the Westfall Town Center is showing one Valentine's Day movie. The theatre will be playing "Heart Eyes," which is a Valentine's Day horror film. If you are not interested in horror movies, the theatre will also be

showing "Captain America: Brave New World" and "Paddington in Peru," which are both released on Feb. 14.

Adult evening tickets are \$13.25 while child and senior tickets are \$10. All day-time tickets are \$10. The movie theater also has a "Super Tuesday" deal where all ticket prices are \$7.75 on Tuesdays. Popcorn, snacks and drinks are also available for purchase.

### *Ice skating at Anne Street Park*

An even less expensive option for Valentine's Day is Anne Street Park ice skating, which is completely free. The rink is located in the baseball field of Anne Street Park. Those enjoying the ice rink can bring their own ice skates or can borrow those in the rink's nearby shed. This option is the perfect inexpensive, cute date.



## KFC opens in Port Jervis

BY OWEN CARSO

*Online Editor*

A new KFC location opened in Port Jervis on Dec. 28.

The KFC, located on 290 E Main St, Port Jervis, is roughly eight minutes from the high school and is convenient to Exit 1 off I-84. Whether it can compete with Popeyes—which is just three minutes from the high school—is still up in the air.

KFC occupies the building that

was previously a combined Dunkin' and Baskin Robbins. The Dunkin' has relocated across the street, and there is no longer a Baskin Robbins.

The KFC menu includes chicken sandwiches, chicken tenders, chicken pot pie and varieties of chicken bowls. Sides include southern classics like their "secret recipe fries," mashed potatoes and gravy, mac and cheese, biscuit, sweet corn and coleslaw.

KFC recently added Korean barbecue saucy nuggets to its menu. The KFC website says the following about its new Korean Barbecue sauce:

"A sweet and savory umami sauce with soy sauce, garlic, sugar and sesame. This is the sauce for the global flavor explorers and fans of umami flavor."

Social media posts indicated a busy opening weekend, including lots of traffic. There is a KFC app for customers to order on, but the app does not service the Port Jervis location at this time.



*Owen Carso/Del.Aware*  
**The new KFC is an eight-minute drive from the high school.**



*Kim Smyser/Del.Aware*



*Kim Smyser/Del.Aware*

## Local ice skating rink provides winter festivities for Milford

**The re-opening of the Milford Borough ice skating rink offers a fun, free activity for the community. The rink is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the rink is lit from dusk until closing.**

**The heated shack beside the rink offers over 100 pairs of ice, figure and hockey skates that are available to use at no cost. All donations go directly back into the rink for shovels, heating, laces for the skates and other necessities to keep the rink open.**

Compiled by Kim Smyser



# Community News

## New burger joint provides community with hearty comfort food

BY EMMA SIMMONS

*Sports Co-Editor*

Bubba Jay's Smashburgers and More, a restaurant new to Dingmans Ferry, recently impressed me with its delightful atmosphere and delicious food.

Walking into the restaurant, I was immediately greeted by a waitress and seated. A notable amount of time passed before I received the food after ordering (about 30 minutes), but it was easy to ignore considering the comfortable atmosphere and entertaining wall decor.

Although the restaurant's name may suggest otherwise, the menu provides a wide variety of choices along with the extensive burger options: flatbreads, dinners, specialty subs, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, chicken wraps, a kids menu and gluten free alternatives.

Both myself and the person I attended with

ordered a meal and water: he ordered the chicken and waffles, and I ordered the Avocado Club Burger, which I upgraded with fries for an additional \$1 on top of the \$13.99 price. Our meals in total came out to \$33, which I personally believe was completely reasonable considering the expensive pricing for some of the other local options.

The burger was delicious. It was well cooked, came out hot and had a considerable amount of toppings. The portion was a good size and appealingly presented.

What set Bubba Jay's apart from local restaurants for me was the sheer amount of options on the menu. The person I attended with is a particularly picky eater, and he found something he enjoyed. I think anyone could find something they would enjoy at this restaurant.

Overall, Bubba Jay's provided a refreshing take on food service in our local community, and

I recommend it. If you enjoy comfort food and supporting small businesses, check out Bubba Jay's at 1831 PA-739, Dingmans Ferry, PA.



Emma Simmons/Del.Aware

The Avocado Club Burger comes with a side of fries.

## New donut shop provides fresh donuts to community

BY ETAIN STARR

*Community News Editor*

Wee Wops Donuts is a cafe and donut shop that sells freshly brewed espresso and handmade donuts.

The shop is located through the doors of Carini's at 203 6th St., Milford. Wee Wops is open Wednesday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The menu consists of a variety of

donuts made fresh from scratch daily. Some of the specialty donuts include Boston cream, maple bacon, Nutella cream filled and chocolate with crushed hazelnuts. The owner is focused on serving quality products, so the flour used to make the donuts is never bleached or bromated.

They also have a variety of coffee products like iced lattes, macchiatos, drip coffees and cappuccinos. They pride themselves on serving fresh coffee as their coffee beans go from the farm to the cup in as little as 10 days, whereas the average time is 180 days. The shop also serves a variety of other drinks including hot chocolate, tea, chai and matcha.

Wee Wops Donuts first opened in late November and has been thriving since. The owner named it Wee Wops based off a childhood dream of owning a duck. She thought Wee Wop sounded like the noise ducks make when they walk. Duck shaped donuts are often served to show the inspiration for the name.



Etain Starr/Del.Aware

The wall art showcases the variety of specialty donuts they have available each day.

## Pike County Public Library hosts coat drive

BY ELLA BECKER

*School News Co-Editor*

With the cold weather in full blast, it is hard for those who are not as fortunate to stay warm, so the Pike County Public Library hosts a clothing drive to help those in need.

The library is hosting their 5th annual "Coat & Sock Drive," where they accept donations of coats and brand new socks for those in need. Their mission is to keep Pike County warm throughout the cold harsh winter months.

The drive is currently active during all open hours for both branches in Milford and Dingmans, which can be found on the website [pikecountypubliclibrary.com](http://pikecountypubliclibrary.com).

They have two drop off locations, including the front porch of the Milford branch and inside the Dingmans branch.

They accept donations for all ages, styles and sizes but ask that coats are clean, gently used and that

all socks are brand new.

It is also open for more than just donations. If someone needs a coat, they are encouraged to just take one free of cost. Their motto is "Need a coat? Take a coat. No questions asked."

If you have any questions, the phone numbers for each branch are on the PCPL website along with their Facebook page.



Ella Becker/Del.Aware

The Milford branch holds its coat exchange on the front porch.





# HOW WELL DO WARRIOR COUPLES KNOW EACH OTHER?

## Mr. & Mrs. Moran



**If Mrs. Moran could take a vacation anywhere, where would it be?**

His answer: Peru

Correct answer: Peru

**What is Mrs. Moran's favorite memory with you?**

His answer: 36 hour pass, basic training break

Correct answer: 36 hour pass, basic training break

**What is Mrs. Moran's favorite gift that you have gotten her?**

His answer: A tattoo

Correct answer: A ring that represents their kids

**What is Mr. Moran's favorite breakfast food?**

Her answer: Bagels

Correct answer: Bagels with cream cheese

**What is Mr. Moran's ideal date night?**

Her answer: Staying in and eating food

Correct answer: Chill with food

**What is Mr. Moran's favorite restaurant?**

Her answer: Kupferpfand'l in Germany

Correct answer: Kupferpfand'l in Germany

## Mr. & Mrs. Krasulski

**If Mrs. Krasulski could take a vacation anywhere, where would it be?**

His answer: Puerto Rico

Correct answer: Iceland

**What is Mrs. Krasulski's favorite memory with you?**

His answer: Kayaking on our first date

Correct answer: "Our wedding"

**What is Mrs. Krasulski's favorite gift that you have gotten her?**

His answer: Vacations

Correct answer: Engagement ring

**What is Mr. Krasulski's favorite breakfast food?**

Her answer: Belgium waffle with a sliced banana

Correct answer: Pancakes or bagels

**What is Mr. Krasulski's ideal date night?**

Her answer: Going out to a restaurant

Correct answer: Dinner and entertainment

**What is Mr. Krasulski's favorite restaurant?**

Her answer: Texas Roadhouse

Correct answer: Carrabba's





# KNOW THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS?

## Trevor Phillips & Cara Churchill

**What's Trevor's favorite restaurant?**

Cara's answer: Chipotle

Correct answer: Chipotle

**What is Trevor's dream job?**

Cara's answer: State trooper

Correct answer: State trooper

**What is Trevor's favorite video game?**

Cara's answer: "He does not play video games"

Correct answer: "MLB the show"

**What is Cara's favorite flower?**

Trevor's answer: Lily

Correct answer: Lily

**What is Cara's favorite gift you've gotten her?**

Trevor's answer: Live photo frame

Correct answer: Initial necklace

**What is Cara's favorite movie?**

Trevor's answer: "The Notebook"

Correct answer: "The Hunger Games"



## Gino Gualandi & Olivia Cruz

**What's Gino's favorite restaurant?**

Olivia's answer: El Patron

Correct answer: El Patron

**What is Gino's dream job?**

Olivia's answer: A coach

Correct answer: No dream job

**What is Gino's favorite video game?**

Olivia's answer: "Fortnite"

Correct answer: "Fortnite"

**What is Olivia's favorite flower?**

Gino's answer: Roses

Correct answer: Roses

**What is Olivia's favorite gift you've gotten her?**

Gino's answer: Nike sweatshirt

Correct answer: Concert tickets

**What is Olivia's favorite movie?**

Gino's answer: "The Hunger Games"

Correct answer: "The Hunger Games"







# Lifestyle

## Fashion Aware: Matching Sets

BY OLIVIA VAN TASSELL  
*School News Editor*

After the pandemic, there has been a rise in lounge wear as people have begun working from home, and there has been an overall shift to prioritize comfort over formality in daily apparel.

Matching sets first rose to fame in the early 2000s, with Juicy Couture and Adidas tracksuits becoming extremely popular with both celebrities and teenagers. Around the 2010s these outfits went out of style, often being seen as lazy and unattractive.

During 2023-2024 many famous influencers and celebrities like Alix Earle, Hailey Bieber and Selena Gomez popularized this type of apparel.

Now matching sets are making a comeback. These matching sweat suits are being mass produced by

many popular brands including Victoria's Secret, White Fox Boutique, Aerie, Alo Yoga, Edikted and Hollister.

These sweat suits provide comfort, while also appearing clean because the outfit is made for you. Wearing a matching set can make getting ready in the morning easier as your outfit is already coordinated, almost like wearing a uniform.

Though



sets are often bought as a pair, they can also be worn separately and are easily able to mix and match. The prices of the sets can range from \$20-\$60 per piece making the total price between \$40-\$120.

These outfits can be worn as a travel outfit, to school, to the gym, to shop or to run errands.

Matching sets are often worn with an updo hairstyle, like a slicked back ponytail or bun and comfortable shoes like Uggs or sneakers.

Matching sets are cute, comfortable and can be quite affordable depending on where you purchase them.

During the winter season, while being stylish.

## Hobbies: a simple way to enrich your life

BY KAYLA SYKES  
*Sports Editor*

As a senior in high school, I tend to look back and ponder the decisions I've made throughout my years in school. If I could go back and change one thing, I would have picked up a hobby.

Hobbies include sports and clubs, as I have definitely spent my fair share of time in both of them, but outside of school, I have never had my own hobby to fall back on.

Like I've said in a previous column, it is important to take time for yourself, but I think it is also important to find your own hobby to enrich that time with.

While enriching your mind in a hobby, it is easy to let go of any stress you might be dealing with. You also get to control the time, money and effort you want to put into your hobby. If you find yourself succeeding within it, you never know what future success could come out of it.

Painting, drawing, music, cooking, baking and gaming are some of the hobbies that come to mind. I know many people who have been able to use their hobbies to escape their daily stresses and find peace.

Even now, I haven't found a hobby for myself yet. I've realized I am not that creative or artistic, but you don't always have to be good at something to enjoy it. If there are hobbies that you don't enjoy, you have to remember there are so many out there. Some unique hobbies I know people enjoy are gardening, beekeeping, knitting, crocheting or even collecting.

I think hobbies could help anyone find peace and joy if their life feels too overwhelming. Don't be scared to try new things and enrich your life. Not only could it lead to happiness but also a more balanced life.



## New Year, New Trends

# 2025

BY GIA SCIMECA  
*Arts & Lit Editor*

As the new year rolls around, there have already been predictions of what trends will become popular during the year. With the impact of the short-lived TikTok ban, it has sparked apps that people moved to as a way to combat the U.S. ban due to its suspicion from the government that it has relations to the Chinese Communist Party.

### REDNOTE

With the TikTok ban originally supposed to occur on Jan. 19, many people ran to Rednote as a protest.

Despite the app being from Singapore, the U.S. government suspected it to have connections to China.

Instead of moving to American-based apps, many people from TikTok made the shift to an actual Chinese app.



### BOHO CHIC

Many people on TikTok have made predictions on what fashion trends will become popular during the year, and one that was particularly mentioned was Boho Chic.

The style is a mixture of hippie and bohemian styles, which was first popularized in 2005.



# Lifestyle

## How water bottles evolved from plastic to stainless steel

BY SHANNON EBY  
*Lifestyle Editor*

The first water bottles were invented in 1622 in the UK and were originally made of ceramic and glass. They were inconvenient for everyday use and mainly used for transporting water over short distances.

People saw the commercial potential of water bottles and began packaging them from the Holy Well and selling them to people who couldn't make the trip.

In the 20th century, industrialization of plastic revolutionized the water bottle industry. Plastic bottles were lightweight, durable and inexpensive to produce in mass quantities.

These characteristics made plastic bottles the desirable product for consumer consumption in order to stay hydrated better throughout the day. The shift to plastic bottles has had economic and cultural impacts.



Water bottles created more jobs in the industry and the popularity of water bottles had contributed to the global development of water culture. Other positives include making hydration convenient and more accessible.

However, the global use of the plastic bottle has had negative consequences on the environment, which has led towards a shift of sustainable alternatives. Some of the negative impacts include, major pollution of waterways and how plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose leading to a long term polluted environment.

The rise of stainless steel bottles is important to reduce the reliance on plastic water bottles and transition to a more sustainable, environmentally friendly alternative. By using stainless steel, not only are the oceans and rivers being protected, but also significantly reduced the amount of landfill waste.

“By using a reusable water bottle, you could prevent an average of 156 plastic bottles from filling our oceans annually,” inspire clean energy said.

In recent years, there has been an enormous shift to stainless steel water bottles because they can be used for many years without having to be replaced. They are also safe and non-toxic, as they do not contain chemicals that can leach into waterways contaminating the drinking water.

As the demand for stainless steel water bottles continues to expand the creation of many brands of these water bottles emerged. Brands such as Owala, Stanley and Yeti are three of the most prominent, well known brands of the 21st century.

These brands all have their own unique style when it comes to the production of these stainless steel bottles.

The transition to stainless steel bottles has been revolutionary in the water culture industry as more brands are shifting to the use of stainless steel.

## Dunkin' drops Valentine's Day menu items

BY ETAIN STARR  
*Community News Editor*

As the seasons change and holidays come around, Dunkin' Donuts always drops a specialty menu. Many people wait year round for their favorite seasonal items to come back. Dunkin' correlates their specialty drinks and food items to the time of year, like pumpkin for fall, fun fruity drinks for the summer and heart-shaped items for Valentine's. Dunkin' released their Valentine's Day menu on Jan. 29 and will last until Feb. 18. The menu includes the Brownie Batter Donut, Cupid's Choice Donut, Valentine Sprinkle Munchkins and a Raspberry Lava Cake Iced Coffee.

### BROWNIE BATTER DONUT

The Brownie Batter Donut is a fan favorite. It is a heart-shaped donut with a chocolatey, brownie batter filling, topped with chocolate icing and fun Valentine's Day sprinkles.

### CUPID'S CHOICE DONUT

The Cupid's Choice Donut is another popular item on the menu that many wait year round for. It is a heart-shaped donut with thick Bavarian Cream. The donut has a strawberry-flavored icing and is sprinkled with heart-shaped sprinkles.

### RASPBERRY LAVA CAKE ICED COFFEE

This drink is brand new to the menu. It is an iced coffee with a flavor of rich chocolate lava cake and hints of raspberry.



## 2025 in's and out's

BY AVA KRASZEWSKI  
*Community News Co-Editor*

As 2024 comes to an end and the new year begins, here are some in's and out's for this year. Follow this advice for a successful 2025!

### What's in:

- » Dressing up & looking presentable
- » Being financially mindful
- » Exercising
- » Eating healthy foods
- » Staying hydrated
- » Reading

### What's Out:

- » Negative self-talk
- » Procrastinating
- » Being late
- » Having a high screen time
- » Caring about what other people think
- » Holding grudges



# Arts & Literature

## Spotlight Artist: Maya Zhivkovich

BY EMMA SIMMONS  
*Sports Co-Editor*

An artist since a young age, junior Maya Zhivkovich thrives on implementing art in her everyday life.

"When I was five, I took an art class in Milford for seven years. I would just do my own thing for two hours every Saturday, and I saw my art teacher's paintings and that really inspired me," she said.

An avid oil painter, Maya usually paints people, faces and bodies.

"The cons of it [oil paint] is that it's long drying, but that's good because I can leave it out for days and still change it," she said.

Maya recently won a full-tuition scholarship for a pre-college program at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. At the week-long program, she will have the opportunity to take classes and experiment

with different mediums. She won the scholarship through the submission of her painting titled "Grief, A Mother's Embrace."

Maya credits her dad for being one of her biggest inspirations in her art.

"He does art on his own time so I get to see his abstract work and it's very inspiring," she said.

In school, Maya has taken both the Drawing 2 and AP Studio Art classes, and she plans to take Painting 2 her senior year. She credits painting as being the activity she most enjoys and values both inside and outside of school.

According to Maya's AP Studio Art teacher Mrs.



Contributed Photo

**Maya's scholarship-winning oil painting, based off of her and her mother, is titled "Grief, A Mother's Embrace."**

Tricia Kaylor, Maya stands out due to her complete dedication to art.

"She paints every night and is always ahead on projects. You can see her love for oil painting and her devotion to her journey of sharpening her skills," Mrs. Kaylor said.

Maya believes that anyone starting art should use it as an outlet if they are struggling to voice how they feel.

"If I can't express in words what I want to say, then I use my art, and I think people should look at it that way," Maya said.

## Spotlight Musician: Jack Hancock

BY KIM SMYSER  
*Opinions Co-Editor*

Junior Jack Hancock has been influenced by music ever since he first began playing when he joined the orchestra in third grade.

"The other people I'm in the orchestra with are all dedicated musicians," Jack said. "It is fun making music with them. They inspire me, and I hope that I inspire them too."

Jack devotes the majority of his time into his favorite instrument, the upright bass, which he plays in the orchestra, but he is also very skilled at the electric bass in the pit band for school musicals. Every Sunday, Jack participates in a hand bell choir at his church.



"He brings joy and happiness to my classroom which is really nice," orchestra teacher Ms. Lauren Flack said.

Jack's older brother, Max, who played the bass the year before him, inspired him to play the bass.

He frequented a program hosted by Marywood University several times in middle school, and he participated in the county band, playing the upright bass his freshman year.

Although Jack does not plan to play an instrument professionally, he does hope to pursue playing the upright bass in college.

"He is always willing to help when I'm not there. He will step up and conduct my class," Ms. Flack said.

## Spotlight Writer: Daniella Perunsky

BY KAITLIN GELARDI  
*School News Co-Editor*

Senior Daniella Perunsky, a writer with a preference for dystopian and fantasy genres, has been writing since she was in eighth grade.

Daniella was inspired to write during COVID - 19 after discovering indie authors on Instagram who were her age. Daniella appreciated their work and realized that she could also pursue writing.

Daniella recalled one of her first writings, a dystopian piece, about a futuristic Earth. The story is about a group of individuals who have supernatural abilities as a result of being struck with chemicals.

When planning out her writings, Daniella creates an outline of how she wants her work organized. She then gets a general plan of what ideas she wants to incorporate.

Although Daniella has not been in any writing competitions, she is involved in school programs and hopes to get more involved in college.

As an active member of the Creative Writing Club, Daniella converses with other writers and exchanges advice.

"To me, it's [Creative Writing Club] great for sharing ideas with other people,"

*"Don't be afraid to share your writing with other people and get advice from them."*

**- Daniella Perunsky**

Daniella said. "It actually helps inspire me a little bit."

While the club inspires her, Daniella

feels that the AP Seminar curriculum improved her writing abilities, especially with essay writing and research papers.

Although Daniella believes it is easy to be discouraged from writing, she encourages other writers to keep practicing.

"Don't be afraid to share your writing with other people and get advice from them," Daniella said.



# Arts & Literature

## 'Nickel Boys' film offers unique cinematic experience

*Meeting author Colson Whitehead at Vassar College inspired me as a writer.*

BY OWEN CARSO  
Online Editor

I recently had the opportunity to meet Colson Whitehead, the two-time Pulitzer-prize winning author of "The Nickel Boys" and "The Underground Railroad."

I read "The Nickel Boys" over the summer for my AP Literature and Composition class. The story follows an African American youth named Elwood Curtis who is sent to an all-male reform school in the 1960s. There, he encounters the unspeakable horrors of racism, but he also makes friends with Jack Turner, a fellow Black student with a much more pessimistic outlook on society's capacity to change. It is a story that tackles loyalty and abuse, friendship and oppression.

In early November, I was touring Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and I saw a poster in one of the dorms informing students that Colson Whitehead would be giving a lecture on campus the very next day. As a prolific writer myself, I'm always looking for opportunities to meet other writers—and Whitehead

is the best of the best. The very next day, on Nov. 11, my mom and I returned to Vassar College to hear Whitehead speak. Whitehead delivered a fascinating, and often humorous, account of his life as a writer, from his experience right out of college writing for a New York City newspaper, all the way up to the books he would like to write in the future.

During the Q & A, I got up and explained that I was not a college student, and I told him my English class had recently read "The Nickel Boys." Then, I asked him his thoughts on the book's upcoming movie adaptation. He said he was looking forward to it—he had only seen clips of it at that time—but he was interested in hearing my thoughts on the movie, so he invited me to e-mail him after I saw it.

Three months later, I saw the movie at a theater in Middletown. Like the novel,



Contributed photo

**Whitehead held a book signing after his talk.**

the film was brilliant. It stayed true to the plot of the book while also adding its own artistic touch. The camera angles tell the story from a first-person perspective—a creative decision that made me feel as though I myself were experiencing Elwood's life.

Furthermore, in the intimate moments between Elwood and the people close to him, the characters look directly into the camera. The effect is that these characters seem like real people who are devastated by abuse and racism, even as the Civil Rights Movement is gaining ground.

While I highly recommend both the book and the movie, I would advise reading the book first, as it will greatly enhance your understanding of the film.

## District festivals create better musicians, memories

BY ELLA BECKER  
School News Co-Editor

The PMEA District 10 music festivals took place throughout January into February. The selected students had the opportunity to display their talent through rigorous practice and a performance.

The District Band festival highlighted the musical abilities of seniors Owen Carso, Sophie Allen, junior Grace Stevens and sophomore Claire Choi at Catasauqua High School from Jan. 23 to Jan. 25. The Jazz Band festival highlighted senior Matthew Sicina from Jan. 31 to Feb. 1 at Muhlenberg High School.

The District Orchestra Festival also highlights students' musical abilities. Students who made the cut were Choi, Allen and senior Eric Choi. The festival took place from Jan. 11 to Jan. 13 at Parkland High School.

The District 10 Choral festival took place Feb. 6 and Feb. 7 at Twin Valley High School. The students highlighted at this festival were sophomore Madison Curchoe and junior Ashantia Dicette.

The concerts these students performed in were different from an average high school concert. To make Districts, the students had to practice and perfect an advanced piece and then perform it in a live

audition among band students from many schools in northeast Pennsylvania to be selected. At the festival, they rehearsed a collection of music pieces as a group before their performance.



Contributed Photo

**Grace Stevens, Owen Carso, Claire Choi and Sophie Allen performed in the District Band concert.**

"The audition piece is a professional level song that takes countless hours of practice to perform," band director Mr. Richard Bullock said. "Mrs. Craver and I also work with each student in the months leading up to the auditions to get the students as comfortable with the music and the audition process as we can."

Performing at PMEA Festivals provides experience and professional insight to high school musicians.

"District Band gives our students the opportunity to perform difficult music with other top musicians all while working with guest conductors from around the United States," Mr. Bullock said.

District Band is not where the auditioning ends for those who made the cut. Mr. Bullock encourages his students to also make it to Regional Band and potentially All-States.

"I'm so proud of all of our students who auditioned, as they dedicated so much of their time to make themselves better musicians," he said. "Best wishes to Grace and Claire as they are moving on to Region Band in March."

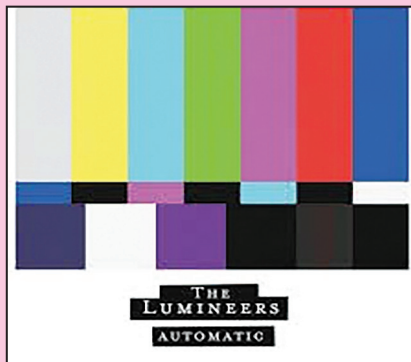
# Entertainment

## The Lumineers release fifth studio album

By EMMA CIANCIO  
Editor-in-Chief

Alternative-Folk duo, The Lumineers, announced its fifth studio album "Automatic." The album will be released today at noon. "Automatic" is made up of 11 tracks, compared to The Lumineers last album, "Brightside," which only had nine tracks. The songs featured on "Automatic" were written and produced a month before the announcement of the album. Although the full album is being released today, The Lumineers have already dropped "Same Old Song" and have released the name of two other songs on the album "You're All I Got" and "So

Long." After 20 years of making music together, "Automatic" shows band members Wesley Schultz and Jeremiah Fraites exploring new sounds and topics, which is predicted to make this album their most vulnerable and touching album yet. When the two artists came together to write this album, they realized that the reason for the rawness in the new album is because they are both new fathers who are experiencing the changes and challenges of life. "Automatic" will be available for purchase, today, in stores such as Target and Walmart and is now available for pre-save on Spotify and Apple Music.



Source: IMDb

## 67th annual Grammys take viewers by surprise

By SHANNON EBY  
Lifestyle Editor

The Grammy award show, hosted by Trevor Noah on Feb. 2, took fans and others in the music industry by storm.

Beyoncé won album of the year, best country album and best country duo/group performance. This caused controversy, as many fans thought country artists like Chris Stapleton and Lainey Wilson were robbed of their chances of winning all because she is a more well known artist.

Beyoncé entered the night with the most nominations at 11, making her the most nominated artist in history with a total of 99 nominations.

Other artists like Billie Eilish, Kendrick Lamar, Post Malone and Charli XCX all received seven nominations, while Taylor Swift, Sabrina Carpenter and Chappell Roan all earned six nominations.

Lamar swept all five categories he was nominated in winning for his song "Not like Us" blocking out artists like Swift and Eilish from receiving awards.

There were many notable performances throughout the night like Eilish, Chappell Roan, Charli XCX and Carpenter all delivered outstanding performances. There was also a surprise performance from The Weeknd, who broke his year's long boycott of the Grammys due to him calling it corrupt.

This year's show not only showcased the best in music. There was also a tribute to all those who lost their lives during the devastating wildfires that ravaged through southern California. Members of the LAFD presented the album of the year to Beyoncé.

## SZA releases anticipated album 'SOS Deluxe: LANA'

*The new album contains 38 total songs with 15 deluxe tracks.*

By ANNABELLE DORO  
Entertainment Co-Editor

"SOS Deluxe: LANA" by SZA dropped Dec. 20 after a year of teasing the album.

SZA first teased the album on her Instagram on Dec. 10, 2023. She posted a picture of her in a field captioned "LANA." Fans were expecting her to release "LANA" in spring of last year, but SZA only dropped "Saturn," the lead single.

This album is the deluxe version of "SOS," an album SZA released Dec. 9 2022, and includes 38 songs.

Out of all 15 deluxe tracks, some of my favorites are "BMF," "Love Me 4 Me," "Kitchen" and "Drive." I love the instrumental on "BMF" and the way she sings "Kitchen" is beautifully done. I love how personal she is on the album, especially on the songs "Love Me 4 Me" and "Drive," which makes it easier to relate to her.

The album has one feature by Kendrick Lamar on

"30 For 30." I love when SZA and Lamar work together, but I am not the biggest fan of this song. I do not think this song lives up to their other collaborations like "All the Stars" and "luther."

The deluxe tracks sound completely different from the standard edition songs. The deluxe tracks are more R&B and coffee shop sounding whereas on "SOS," the songs were more hip hop.

SZA's name is Solana Imani Rowe, but growing up she went by Lana, which was the inspiration for the album's title.

In addition to collaborating on music, SZA is set to go on the "Grand National Tour"

with Lamar this summer. The two will be going to cities across America and have one show in Toronto. SZA and Lamar also performed together at the Super Bowl Halftime Show on Feb. 9.

This album has been one of my favorite listens, and I am so glad she finally released these angelic songs.

Aside from this album, SZA also starred in a movie with actress Keke Palmer called "One of Them Days."

The movie released in theaters on Jan. 17 and made \$11.8 million the opening weekend. The comedy film shows just how versatile SZA can be. Whether it's music or acting, SZA always delivers her best performances.





# Entertainment

## 'Heart Eyes' proves better than expected

BY SIASIA BEAN

Science & Technology Editor

"Heart Eyes" is a Valentine's day themed rom-com thriller film that exceeded my expectations. With a shocking introduction that quickly goes from mundane to violent, it immediately establishes the movie's namesake character: the Heart Eyes Killer.

The movie revolves around this character's various murder sprees, which most often target couples on Valentine's day across multiple cities. Like many thriller films with a masked killer, the movie misleads viewers as they make guesses on who the one behind the mask might be, making for an exciting reveal. The killer reveal genuinely was not predictable at all, and even surprised my sister, who often easily predicts movies like these.

Though I went in thinking the movie could be corny, I was both pleasantly and

unpleasantly surprised by how much better it was than I had expected. Unpleasantly, the movie contains a multitude of extremely gory scenes that are very hard to watch, including a woman getting crushed inside of a spinning machine, experiencing a beheading, getting stabbed through the mouth and similarly graphic deaths. Some gore is expected from a thriller film, though I was slightly surprised by the intensity and frequency of them in this movie. The scenes are the type that make you want to look away, that's if you see them coming before they appear on screen.

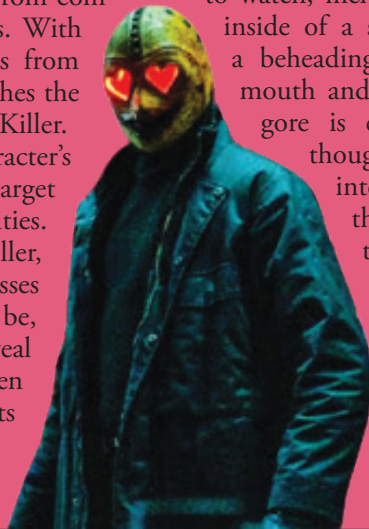
The movie creatively weaves between sweet romantic scenes and brutal violence in an interesting way, keeping me invested in the characters' romantic tensions but also in

guessing who's committing the killings and who might be targeted next.

I found the romance somewhat silly but also fascinating, since the dynamic was complicated by professionalism, exes and the presence of a nearby killer.

The movie grapples with these ideas and also discusses the nature of whether or not you can really have a "storybook romance."

As some movies do, there are attempts to use popular slang words; some being more accurate than others. Though there are some cliches and cringeworthy moments, the film fulfills its purpose as a creepy thriller and by all accounts has a happy ending for the main characters. It's what you would want out of a Valentine's day themed thriller film and was decently entertaining, so I rate this movie a 7.5 out of 10.



## 'It Ends With Us' results in a lawsuit

BY GIA SCIMECA

Arts & Lit Editor

After the release of the film "It Ends With Us," Blake Lively received hate for how she promoted the movie. Lively encouraged the movie to be seen with friends as a fun night out when the entire premise of the movie was to raise awareness on domestic violence.

Lively sued director and actor Justin Baldoni for allegedly sexually harassing her and making a smear campaign against her. Lively claims that she, Baldoni and other people involved in the film had to attend a meeting to address "the hostile work environment" because of his behavior.

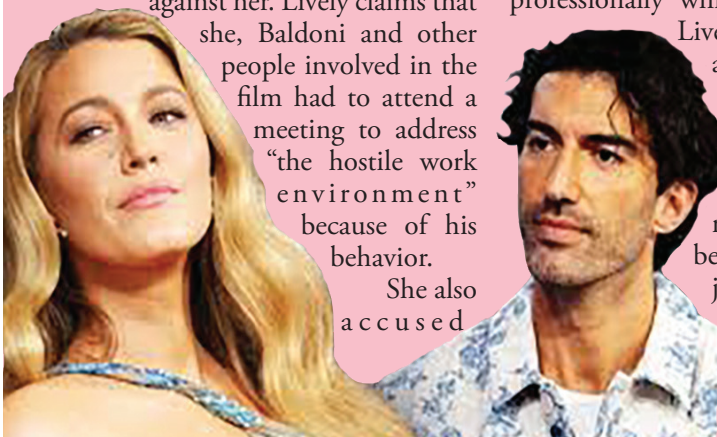
She also accused

Baldoni of hiring a crisis manager to diminish her credibility, which Baldoni denies.

On Jan. 16, Baldoni filed a lawsuit against Lively and her husband, Ryan Reynolds, for \$400 million in damages for extortion, defamation and invasion of privacy. He claimed that the sexual harassment charge was based on doctored information for selfish reasons.

Baldoni's lawyer on Jan. 21 released behind-the-scenes footage to further support his claim that he acted professionally while on set. Previously, Lively alleged that Baldoni acted out of character in a speechless scene of them dancing together. Lively told him that it would be romantic to appear to be talking rather than just kissing.

The case is still ongoing, with Lively's legal team requesting a hearing.



## TikTok returns after Trump delays ban

BY TOPHER DELLABELLA

Entertainment Editor

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of banning the social media platform TikTok in the United States on Jan. 17. The ban of this app was set to be in effect on Jan. 19.

When the news broke about the ban of this app, TikTok stars took to their accounts to give their goodbyes to the app. One last trend was also started where TikTok users would share their confessions before the app went dark.

The banning of TikTok officially went into effect on the evening of Jan. 18. When trying to open the app, users were left with a message regarding the ban on their screen.

The message that appeared was, "A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S. Unfortunately, that means you can't use TikTok right now."

It was also stated that newly appointed President Donald Trump would try to fix this problem.

"We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office."

On the morning of Jan. 19, TikTok returned from this short ban after President Trump gave the ban a 75-day extension. When users opened the app, they were left with another message on their screens.

The message read, "Thank you for your patience and support. As a result of President Trump's efforts, TikTok is back in the U.S.!"

TikTok is currently not available in the app store and hasn't been since the ban. Devices with TikTok installed and unlocked are now selling for thousands of dollars on eBay.

It is unknown what will happen to TikTok after the extension, but the app can be saved indefinitely and back in the app store with any American-based buyer purchasing the app. One of the several companies currently eyeing the app is Microsoft.

# Science & Technology

## Astronaut conducts first spacewalk of the year

By ANNABELLE DORO  
*Entertainment Co-Editor*

Astronaut Suni Williams, who has been stuck orbiting space since last summer, was able to spacewalk on Jan. 16.

Williams is the first to do a spacewalk this year with the last one being an aborted walk last summer. However, this was not her first spacewalk, it was actually her eighth.

This spacewalk was six hours long and went really well,



according to NASA. Spacewalking refers to work outside the shuttle that needs to be done and how long the work will take.

The next spacewalk she did was on Jan. 23 alongside Butch Wilmore who is stuck in the same aircraft as Williams.

The idea of a spacewalk sounds like a light and fun experience, but according to Dr. Kirsty Lindsay, it is more weight than a heavy gym session on Earth. The spacesuits make up most of the weight when an astronaut does spacewalk.

A spacewalk typically lasts six and a half hours, but it is mainly based on tasks that need to be done while in space. Many tasks include maintenance with the shuttle

itself to prevent helium leaks and malfunctions, but some also include testing new technology and equipment.

Williams has been an astronaut since 1998 and has spent time in space equivalent to 322 days on Earth. She has a record of 50 hours and 40 minutes dedicated to spacewalks and has completed nine in total, according to NASA. She holds second place, bested by Peggy Whitson, who has accomplished 10 spacewalks.

Wilmore has been an astronaut since 2000 and has spent 178 Earth days in space. He has completed five spacewalks as of Feb.

Williams and Wilmore have been stuck in space since June 5, 2024 due to failures on their shuttle. The two were supposed to come back Feb. but are now expected to return to Earth by spring of this year.

## Scientists aim to revive woolly mammoths

By SIASIA BEAN  
*Science & Technology Editor*

A de-extinction project has been launched by the Colossal Laboratory that aims to restore the woolly mammoth as a living species using surviving mammoth DNA fused with that of modern elephants.

Colossal has outlined five main goals which could be achieved by the restoration of the Woolly Mammoth:

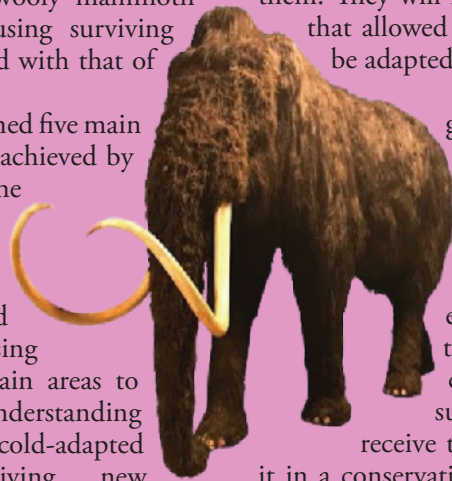
Proving that the revival of an extinct animal is indeed possible, increasing the resistance of certain areas to climate change, understanding genetic traits in cold-adapted animals, and driving new techniques which could contribute to preventing the extinction of elephant species. They also intend to use this project to make advancements in genome editing technology.

The project is broken down into ten

major steps, which will end with the first woolly mammoth calves being born. After gathering enough DNA to work with from both living elephants and the extinct mammals, the scientists will compare them. They will identify important genes that allowed the woolly mammoth to be adapted to the cold.

The scientists will then go through a lengthy process to determine what genetic edits can be made and test them.

Following that, they will alter an elephant egg's genetic code so that mammoth genetics can be inserted. Finally, a surrogate elephant will receive the altered egg and carry it in a conservation facility. Unlike other prehistoric species, the last of the woolly mammoths appeared just 4,000 years ago. Additionally, many woolly mammoth specimens have been well preserved in blocks of ice, making it easier to gather their DNA for restoration.



## Monkeys will never type Shakespeare, study finds

By OWEN CARSO  
*Online Editor*

In a recent study, two Australian scientists concluded that, given an infinite amount of time, a monkey typing on a typewriter would never type the complete works of Shakespeare.

The study, conducted by professors Stephen Woodcock and Jay Falletta of the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, challenged the long-held thought experiment known as Infinite Monkey Theorem, which holds that a monkey with infinite time would eventually type Shakespeare because of random chance. They found that the amount of time it would take for a monkey to type Shakespeare is longer than the lifespan of the universe.

Heat Death Theory—the prevailing theory of how the universe will end—holds that in approximately 100 billion years, the

universe will have reached a state of maximum entropy. Put simply, the universe will expand and cool until the temperature throughout is absolute zero, and all life will cease to exist (including monkeys).

Woodcock and Falletta also made a series of calculations based on the global population of chimpanzees—roughly 200,000. If every chimpanzee simultaneously typed on a typewriter for the duration of their lives, the probability that a chimp would type even a short phrase such as, “I chimp, therefore I am” is one in 10 billion billion.

“It is not plausible that, even with improved typing speeds or an increase in chimpanzee populations, monkey labor will ever be a viable tool for developing non-trivial written works,” the study found.



# Science & Technology

## What's in your drink?: Skittles Drinks

By MICHAEL ELARO  
Managing Editor

Skittles recently released its own drink in 2024 called Skittles Drinks. These colorful drinks come in four flavors: original, wild berry, sour and tropical. They can be bought online and in person in bulk and individually in stores like Walmart or websites like Amazon.

While different in taste, each flavor has generally the same ingredients and nutritional facts. The only difference between the drinks are the ingredients used for coloring, like Red 40 or Blue 1. The first three ingredients are common, non risk consumables; filtered water, sugar apple juice from concentrate and natural flavors. However, they each contain minimal amounts of acesulfame K, an artificial sweetener that has been linked to an increased risk of cancer and pregnancy complications.

Acesulfame K has potential side effects of disrupting the metabolism, which can affect body weight, blood sugar and appetite regulation. While there are researchers who support these claims with some evidence, The National Cancer Institute has found no evidence of a link to cancer and the FDA declared it is safe to consume.

The presence of artificial food dyes may also raise concerns over the consumption of the Skittles Drinks. The FDA has been criticized for not evaluating Red 40 in over a decade and the media has begun asking questions regarding the safety of its consumption. Blue 1 currently lacks research of long term effects of its consumption and also may

be recommended to not be consumed.

The serving size for the Skittles Drink is one bottle, 414 mL each. Each drink is 140 calories and contains no fats or cholesterol. They have 10 mg of sodium, 32g of carbohydrates and 32g of sugar. These drinks do not have protein content.

Skittles Drinks may be a fun beverage to try-out but shouldn't be consumed regularly. Like any drink with a high sugar content, it is important to track how much you drink and stick to the serving size. Looking at the ingredient list and confirming you have no allergies to what is in the drink is also a must.



## FDA establishes federal ban on Red 40

By KAITLIN GELARDI  
School News Co-Editor

Red 40, the synthetic bright red food dye common in dairy products, sweets and beverages, was declared to be banned in the United States on Jan. 15.

Although Red 40 has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) since 1971, for decades individuals and scientific studies have reported allergic reactions and hyperactivity in children as effects on consumption of the dye.

The sole reason that Red 40 is being banned is due to researchers' concerns related to long-term health effects.

These effects may include behavioral changes, asthma, skin irritation and subtle inflammatory responses in the colon and rectum.

Not only has Red 40 affected humans, but studies show effects are prevalent throughout mice. Testing has revealed that the dye may result in the acceleration of immune-system tumors and inflammation

in the distal colon and rectum in mice.

Despite Red 40's ban, other artificial food dyes still remain on the market. Other dyes are being monitored, however, and the FDA conducts regular reviews of studies in the case of potential concerns.

The ban will take time to execute. Though the dye has already been banned in the United States, companies have until Dec. 31, 2027 to remove the dye from their products. Due to this, items that contain Red 40 will not instantly disappear, and the process will take several years.

While Red 40 ultimately seems harmless, the long term effects raise concerns. The ban ensures that these effects are avoided, which results in the improvement of the public's health.

Dietitian and diabetes educator Caroline Thomason elaborates on the extent of Red 40's effects in USA Today.

"Research is ongoing, and current evidence suggests that it's generally safe in moderation for most people," Thomason said



## Is Dyson Airwrap worth expensive price tag?

By EMMA CIANCIO  
Editor-in-Chief

You've probably heard the hype surrounding the Dyson Airwrap by now. I have owned the Dyson for a year, and I'm absolutely blown away by its results.

The Airwrap comes with six attachment heads that work interchangeably with the blow dryer base. Two of the attachments straighten your hair, while the two barrels curl your hair. The old version of the Airwrap's barrels

needed to be switched when curling different sides of your hair, however the newer barrels vary in size, one long skinny barrel for tight curls and one short thick barrel for loose waves. The other two attachments can either be used to dry your hair or give it

volume.

I always looked at styling my hair as a chore, but the Airwrap cut the time in half. With a normal blow dryer or curling iron, it takes an hour and a half to finish my hair, but with the Dyson I am able to finish my hair in 30 minutes.

The Airwrap is on the market for \$600, however there is the occasional sale that knocks the price down to somewhere between \$499 and \$550. While the price tag on the Dyson is not ideal,

I am confident to say I have given up on any other hair tool I have.

Every product has its negatives. For me, the fact that you have to clean its filter after every use is a flaw that needs to be worked out.



# Sports

## Cheer surpasses expectations at competition

By REILLY NEWTON  
Sports Co-Editor

The girls varsity cheer team competed at Roxbury High School in Roxbury, New Jersey, on Jan. 25.

In their respective divisions, the game day team tied for second out of four teams, while the performance team, with their highest score of the season, placed fifth out of 10 teams.

"[They were] outstanding," head coach Jen Marchetti said. "Both of them were our best performances of the season."

Outside of Nationals, that competition is one of the most difficult ones they compete in. The team uses it to see how they stack up against really talented teams, coach Marchetti

explained.

"We just exceeded our expectations for that one," coach Marchetti said.

The following day on Jan 26, the team hosted a tournament at the high school. A total of 16 teams participated. While the DV team did not compete in



Contributed photo

**The cheer team hits their stunts at Nationals.**

it, they opened the day with the game day team performing an exhibition.

The cheer team wrapped up their season at the National High School Cheerleading competition on Feb. 7-10.

Held at the ESPN complex at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, the team performed their game day and traditional routines.

"Unfortunately, neither team made it out of prelims, but both routines scored higher than the previous year," coach Marchetti said.

Coach Marchetti noted that seniors Stephanie Monroe, Rylee Wolak, Charleigh Cook and Caterina Catizone all had two perfect routines leading the team on a positive note.

## Spotlight Athlete



Caterina Catizone, SENIOR

**"She's a really hard worker, but she also brings a lot of fun and energy to practices and competitions."**

**-Head coach Jen Marchetti**

## Unified bocce ball team sweeps Western Wayne

By KRISTEN LANGELOTTI  
Opinions Editor

The Warriors won their last game against the Wildcats on Feb. 4. DV's team one scored 8 points, while Western Wayne scored four points. DV's team two scored eight points, while Western Wayne scored three points.

Head coach Hailey Vogel feels that the team performed very well.

"I couldn't be more proud of them," coach Hailey Vogel said.

On team one, junior Colin Stanley scored the last point with an assist by senior Peyton LaRocco. Sophomore Rhyanne Rettinger and freshman Josiah Suarez scored the

last two points for team two.

According to coach Vogel, Stanley and sophomore Samantha DeFazio were the top scorers of the game.



Ava Kraszewski/Del.Aware

**Junior Sophia Zapata aims for the pallino in a recent game.**

Coach Vogel also recognized Stanley and senior Luke Peereboom on team one and Suarez, Rettinger and DeFazio on team two for being key players.

Coach Vogel acknowledged how much progress there has been since their first game.

"Since none of the kids have ever played, their ability to learn the game and different strategies has shown significant growth," coach Vogel said.

Coach Vogel and assistant coach Mikayla Simanski goals for the season were to learn the game and have fun. They feel as if they had achieved this.

## Eagles dominate Chiefs in Super Bowl rematch

By TOPHER DELLABELLA  
Entertainment Editor

The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22 in Super Bowl LIX on Feb. 9 in New Orleans. The two teams both met in 2023 at Super Bowl LVII when the Chiefs reigned victorious with a 38-35 win.

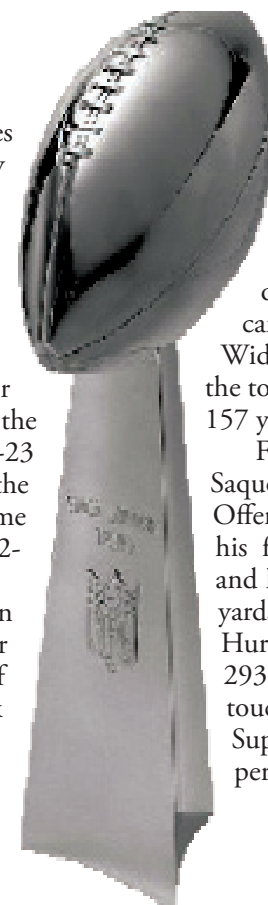
To get to the Super Bowl, the Eagles defeated the Washington Commanders 55-23 in the NFC championship, the Chiefs pulled off a close game defeating the Buffalo Bills 32-29 in the AFC championship.

The Chiefs have been in five of the last six Super Bowls, winning three of them. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes won Super Bowl MVP in all of his three Super Bowl wins. The last and first Super Bowl the Eagles won was in 2018 against the New

England Patriots in Super Bowl LII. They beat the Patriots 41-33.

Mahomes finished this year's Super Bowl with 282 total yards and three total touchdowns. Most of the Kansas City quarterback's touchdowns came later in the 4th quarter. Wide receiver Xavier Worthy was the top receiver for the Chiefs with 157 yards and 2 touchdowns.

For the Eagles, running back Saquon Barkley, who was named Offensive Player of the Year, made his first Super Bowl appearance and had 27 carries for 57 rushing yards. Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts ended his game with 293 total yards and three total touchdowns. Hurts was named Super Bowl MVP for his performance in this game.





# Sports

## Wrestling falls to Buckhorns in district final

BY LAUREN DONNELLY  
*Lifestyle Co-Editor*

The wrestling team competed in the District 2 AAA dual championship on Feb. 1. The team lost a tough battle against Wallenpaupack with a score of 38-17.

Senior Luke Brazanskas wrestled



Senior Brady Colville hand fights with his opponent.

first for the Warriors and started the team off strong with a win by major decision. Senior Topher DellaBella had a crucial pin in the heavyweight match. Sophomore Andrew Elliott and senior Brady Colville also collected victories.

Head coach Lou DeLauro highlighted performances by Brazanskas and DellaBella.

“Luke starting off with a win gave us some momentum, however,

it shifted rather quickly after that,” said coach DeLauro. “I believe the heavyweight match, with Topher’s pin, shifted momentum back to us.”

Overall, coach DeLauro noted that the team did an excellent job competing despite injuries and other factors.

“I do think it was a pretty successful year for us,” coach DeLauro said. “It’s something we’ll continue to grow on.”

The Warriors will compete individually in the district tournament at Wilkes-Barre Area High School on Feb. 21 and 22.

## Warriors defeat Invaders on senior night

BY AVA KRASZEWSKI  
*Community News Co-Editor*

The girls basketball team defeated the West Scranton Invaders 69-59 on Jan. 30. The senior night win improved their record to 6-12.

The Warriors were led by senior Ciara Newton with 15 points, senior Keira Lazzaro with 13 points and six rebounds and senior Rainna Carr, junior Brianna Waldron and sophomore Amanda Aragona each had 10 points. Waldron also recorded her first career double-double.

Head coach Mikaela Smith was proud

of how the seniors performed.

“I felt each senior came out and did their job very well,” coach Smith said.

Coach Smith also highlighted Carr as fulfilling her role as a defensive force, while also contributing to the offense.

“I told Carr going in, I said, ‘Rainna, that is your job to lock her down in the paint, I don’t care if you don’t score any points,’” coach Smith said. “She even stepped up and ended up scoring 10 points for us.”

Coach Smith was also impressed



Senior Keira Lazzaro

with how the team improved their offense since the beginning of the season. She said that the girls improved their offensive IQ and became more collected and patient.

The Warriors will be playing in their first district game on Feb. 18 against the Wilkes Barre Wolfpack.

## Girls swim captures victory against Comets

BY EMMA SIMMONS  
*Sports Co-Editor*

The girls swim team won a hard-fought battle 95-90 against the Abington Heights Comets on Feb. 5.

Head coach Chelsea Shatt noted her pride in each and every girl’s effort and performance against a tough opponent like the Comets.

“Before the meet, I reminded them that



Senior Michelle Zakharova races after her opponent in the 200 meter freestyle.

every point mattered, and it was not just the first place points that were going to win the meet. The girls took that to heart and raced the person next to them every time,” coach Shatt said.

Coach Shatt highlighted mainly the importance of the divers’ performances to the Warriors’ victory.

“[Seniors] Etain Starr and Jess Willson going one and two in diving was absolutely crucial to our win,” coach Shatt said.

She also highlighted seniors Michelle Zakharova, Olivia Cruz and Maya Sussman, as well as freshman Grace Holderith and junior Riley Hunt for helping the team succeed.

The meet was an intense back-and-forth battle, with all athletes fighting to earn placement. The athletes who were not swimming were devoted to cheering for and supporting their teammates.

“The team works best when they are rooting for each other and working together as a team,” coach Shatt said.

Coach Shatt predicts both Tunkhannock and Abington Heights as the team’s upcoming strongest opponents at Districts, which occur on Feb. 22 for diving and Feb. 28 for swimming.

## Spotlight Athletes Boys Wrestling



Luke Brazanskas, SENIOR

“He is competitive and puts his team above himself.”  
-Head coach Lou DeLauro

## Girls Basketball



Brianna Waldron, JUNIOR

“She was a massive threat for us on both ends of the floor during the West Scranton game.”

-Head coach Mikaela Smith

## Girls Swim



Etain Starr, SENIOR

“She broke 200 in her diving score recently, which is a great accomplishment. Her hard work is paying off!”

-Head coach Chelsea Shatt

# Sports

## Warriors edge Buckhorns in nail-biting victory

By KAYLA SYKES  
Sports Editor

In their second meetup with the Wallenpaupack Buckhorns, the Warriors emerged victorious last Tuesday, 62-60.

The entirety of the game was a neck-and-neck battle; while DV was outscored 26-24 at half, they came back to finish the Buckhorns 38-34 the second half.

Freshman Trey Newton led the Warriors with 16 points, followed by sophomore Sam Wood and senior Isaiah Berrios each putting up 13. Defensively, head coach Kris Holtzer recognized seniors Logan Olsommer and Berrios for their play.



Senior Isaiah Berrios

However, coach Holtzer believes that their defense struggled during the game.

"We lost some assignments, and we kind of just lost guys," he said.

Despite struggling defensively, the Warriors were still able to work the floor on offense.

"I thought we were taking too many threes, but we started to get into the paint and open it up," coach Holtzer said.

According to coach

Holtzer, Berrios had a major turning point in the game with two three-pointers in the third quarter. Accompanying him, junior Tyler Lombardo also played a huge role with his drives to the basket.

Even with the close game and a shortened rotation, coach Holtzer remains proud of the team.

"I love this team. They battle," he said. "I didn't play a lot of guys, but we are all happy we won."

The team faced Valley View and Scranton away last Friday and the Tuesday, respectively, coming out of their away stretch 0-2.

The Warriors battled North Pocono last night and begin playoffs next week.

## Girls wrestling pulls off comeback victory

By TOPHER DELLA BELLA  
Entertainment Editor

The girls wrestling team defeated Western Wayne with a 42-30 comeback victory on Feb. 3. Their record advanced to 7-6 on the season.

Seniors Gianna Balu, Juliet Fitzpatrick, Olivia Montanino, Emily Smith and Kristen Langelotti all picked up pins for the team. Junior Ella Smith also picked up a pin for the team.

Head coach Evan Bates is happy with how the match went when facing a tough team.

"We knew Western Wayne was going to be a tough match," coach Bates said. "It shouldn't have gotten that close, but I am very happy with how the girls performed."

Coach Bates also applauds the warriors for how their dual season went.

"I think the season went great," coach Bates said. "We had a few losses, but those came from top schools in the state."

The warriors will start their individual season as they head to Wilkes-Barre Area High School for the individual district tournament. The

team is extremely confident and ready to compete.



Topher DellaBella/Del.Aware

Senior Juliet Fitzpatrick looks to secure a pin against her opponent.

## Warriors defeat Comets to remain undefeated

By ETAIN STARR  
Community News Editor

Boys swim added another win to their record after beating Abington Heights 109-76 on Feb 5. Their record now stands at 10-0.

According to head coach Chelsea Shatt, the boys secured the win by placing second and third in their most competitive events.



Etain Starr/Del.Aware

Senior Shane Naturale swims the butterfly to secure the win in the medley relay against Abington.

The boys gained nine points from the 100 yard freestyle race with sophomore Ryan O'Connell placing second, senior Joey Kessler coming in third and sophomore Sam Fisher placing fourth.

Another race where the boys gained nine points from coming in second, third and fourth was the 50 yard freestyle. Kessler placed second, senior Shane Naturale came

in third and freshman Dylan Sevek placed fourth.

In the 500 freestyle, seniors Tyler Ingraham and Liam Fass placed first and second.

Coach Shatt feels that this season is heading in a great direction.

"It is going very well, and I'm excited with how things are going," coach Shatt said. "I'm pleased with how we are remaining undefeated. The boys are great at raising each other up when needed."

Coach Shatt's goal for the end of the season is to win Districts and have some kids qualify for States.

## Spotlight Athletes Boys Basketball



Sam Wood, SOPHOMORE

"He's been solid. He doesn't complain and always does whatever we ask."

-Head coach Kris Holtzer

## Girls Wrestling



Andrea Boronow, SENIOR

"Andrea works extremely hard to get better every time she's in a room."

-Head coach Evan Bates

## Boys Swim



Liam Fass, SENIOR

"He is training really hard and wins when we need him to."

-Head coach Chelsea Shatt