



Valentine's Day: Insert 1-4

# DEL AWARE

Delaware Valley High School - Milford, Pa.

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## In Memory of ... Camiren Byrne

BY LILY COSENTINO  
News Co-Editor

Camiren Byrne, known by loved ones as "Cam Cam" but oftentimes as "Cam" was a freshman student at Delaware Valley high school who was

funny, outgoing, caring, brave and most of all strong.

Cam loved playing video games; two of his favorites were "Call of Duty" and "Fortnite." Not only did Cam love video games, he loved going to the movies or just staying at home watching some of his favorites such as "Star Wars," the character Miles Morales and he loved Marvel movies.

On Oct. 14, 2020, Camiren was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer that he battled for over two years called synovial sarcoma that surrounded the joints in Cam's left arm. When Cam and his family first received the diagnosis it was

really hard to understand and come to terms with. As their journey continued, Cam never stopped being positive and teaching not only his family lessons, but everyone around him.

One thing those around Cam have learned is to always listen and have patience. He never stopped being brave and always showed how strong he was.

Cam and his dad often found themselves leaning on each other through the experience.

When asked how Cam should be remembered, his father Justin Byrne said, "How caring and strong he was, he never showed weakness."



Contributed Photos



## Billy Hicks

BY NICOLE STEINBERG  
Managing Editor

Billy Hicks, also known as Lil Bill, a senior at Delaware Valley, was a son, brother and friend. Tragically, he passed away on Dec. 19, 2022, at the age of 17.

Billy was diagnosed with stage 4 colorectal cancer, which is very unheard for someone his age. He spent most of his 2022 year at Janet Weis Children's Hospital fighting this disease.

"His nurses and doctors absolutely loved him. They talked about how amazing of a young man he was," Billy's mother, Dawn Vellani said.

"Just remember, we never forget our kids and the struggles they endure," nurse Karen Johnston said.

For Billy's Make a Wish, he was building a computer, but unfortunately he never got to finish it.

These past few months have been difficult for not only his family but for his friends as well.

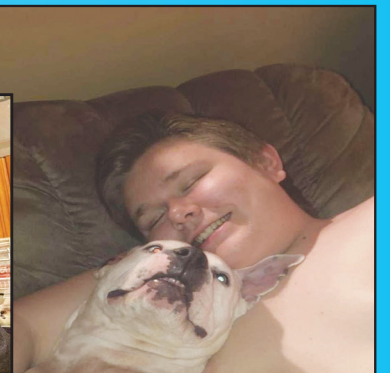
"I just wish he was still with us to graduate because I know he would be so successful and create a life for himself," senior Kayla Simmons said.

"He has made a huge impact on my life, and I would not be the same person without him," senior Ben Dreher said.

Vellani said that throughout Billy's fight, he taught her to never give up.

"I was there for his first breath, and I was there for his last," Vellani said. "No parent should ever lose a child. He is my hero."

Rest in peace Billy and thank you for all of the memories. You will never be forgotten.



Contributed Photos



# School News

## Dr. Blaum takes over as new superintendent

BY LUCAS PAULEY  
Editor in Chief

At the Dec. 20 school board meeting, Dr. Brian Blaum was unanimously approved for the position of superintendent.

Graduating from Western Wayne High School in 2000, Dr. Blaum moved onto Marywood University where he would study comprehensive social sciences. He later took graduate courses at Wilkes University where he received his master's then returned to Marywood University to attain his Ph.D.

His career in the district began in 2004 when he was hired at Delaware Valley Middle School as a social studies teacher. After two years, he made his move

to the high school where he taught for an additional seven years before making the jump to administration. He worked as an assistant principal, principal and in 2020, took over as director of secondary education.

"It taught me to never lose touch with our teachers and students," Dr. Blaum said. "Having that connectivity and that closeness with the whole school community was super important."

As superintendent, Dr. Blaum assumes the role as an academic leader for the school district and the various responsibilities that come with it.

"To support our principals, to support our teachers in giving them the resources

they need," Dr. Blaum said. "Being here for people in the role they need me to be."

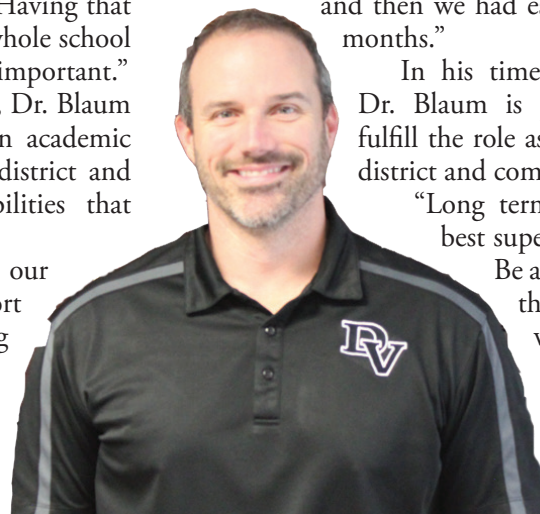
In his first year, Dr. Blaum hopes to give the district a sense of

stability following a time of repeated turnover with superintendents.

"Our school has experienced a lot of unusual turmoil this year because of all the changes," Dr. Blaum said. "We went over 20 years with two superintendents and then we had essentially four in six months."

In his time as superintendent, Dr. Blaum is pushing himself to fulfill the role as best he can for the district and community.

"Long term goal is to be the best superintendent I can be. Be a positive resource for the community. That's what I want to do," Dr. Blaum said.



**Attention juniors and seniors: Student Council will host a semi-formal dance on Feb. 17 from 6-9 p.m. in the middle school gym. Entrance to the dance will cost \$5. Students can also purchase carnations with a special semi-formal tag to invite someone to the dance.**

## Business CTE showcase creativity in podcast

BY TIFFANY GONZALEZ  
Opinions Editor

Recently, the Business CTE program and teacher Mr. Jeff Luhrs decided to start a podcast called "The Warrior Experience." It will be posted on Anchor with Spotify.

Their first podcast that was posted on Jan. 30 was recorded and directed by Level 1 Business CTE sophomores Marissa Gates, Nathaniel Elabdouni and Kelsey Linton. This 11-minute podcast episode had special guest Officer

Mark Moglia who talked about his background in his field and mentioned some life lessons.

"It was kinda scary at first but turned out to be lots of fun, and obviously recording with Officer Mogs was awesome and made it so much easier." Sophomore Marrisa Gates said.

All students are encouraged to listen to their podcast to hear all of the different segments these students come up with throughout the rest of the year.



## Cinderella's Closet provides thrifty, free attire

BY SOPHIA BALL  
Sports Co-Editor

Not looking to spend hundreds of dollars on prom dresses and suits? Cinderella's Closet provides a variety of formal attire in all shapes, sizes and colors at no expense. Cinderella's Closet is a school-administered program welcome to students who's looking to save and not spend in a thrifty way.

"I think Cinderella's closet is a wonderful resource for students looking to not spend so much money on a memorable event," English teacher Mrs. Leslie Lordi said.

The program provides shoes for both men and women, purses, accessories, ties and over 50 dresses and over at least 20 suits. Dress styles

include ball gowns, floral, mermaid and two-pieces. If interested in not spending hundreds for just one night, see Mrs. Lordi in D4 to browse through all styles of dresses and suits. When prom items should be returned.



Sophia Ball/Del.Aware

# School News

## Drama Club stages 'Radium Girls'

By JEONGHO KOH

*Science and Technology Editor*

The high school's winter drama production, 'Radium Girls', was performed on Jan. 20 and 21.

The plot primarily follows a woman named Grace Fryer in a court battle with the company that put people's lives at risk due to exposure to Radium. The characters in the play have various personalities ranging from comedic to solemn, but the play consistently keeps a tragic tone.

This production was inspired by an event that occurred during World War I. In the 1910s and 1920s, many women working at radium plants painting clocks contracted radium poisoning due to the paint containing radioactive materials. The play portrays this situation.

According to director Ms. Sarah Fitzkee, 'Radium Girls' was chosen for performance this winter due to its strong dramatic material.

"I chose 'Radium Girls' and Mamma Mia [the spring musical] at the same time. I wanted a balance in my season with something cheerful like Mamma Mia with something serious like Radium Girls. The cast has also been asking for more mature renditions for them to really sink their teeth into," Ms. Fitzkee said.

Junior Sam Walzer played as the titular Grace Fryer in the play. She said that she had to express a great spectrum of emotions.

"It was a challenge to play as a real person because you have to really get into them and become them, but it was a great experience to portray Grace Fryer, and I feel good about my



Jeongho Koh/Del.Aware

performance," Sam said.

The main antagonist of the drama, Arthur Roeder, was also a real individual who existed. He was the president of the corporation in which the numerous cases of poisoning were happening. Roeder was played by senior Tim Cortes.

"I don't usually play the role of villain, so it was a different experience but still a rewarding one. This cast we have right now

has a lot of potential," Tim said.

Overall, Ms. Fitzkee praises the cast saying that they 'knocked it out of the park' and hopes that all the ensemble audition for 'Mamma Mia' in the spring.

**Scan the QR code to check out the results from the SkillsUSA competition on our online newspaper!**



## Puzzle Fun

In this issue, the Del.Aware's puzzle fun is a Valentine's Day sweetheart hunt. We have hidden sweetheart candies on various pages throughout the issue and also a couple on our online Del.Aware page. Be the first person to come to Mrs. Lordi in D4 with the total number of candies to win a prize. Max Walsh was the winner of last edition's puzzle.



\*This sweetheart does not count toward the final number.\*

Compiled by Kat Quinn

## Lanfrank retires, will be missed

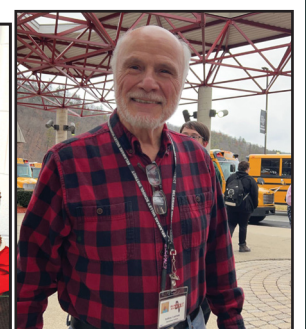
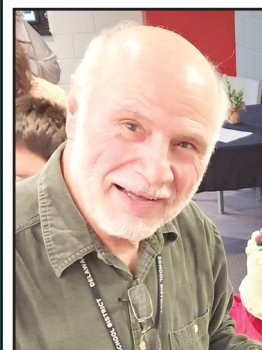
By HAILEY KELLY

*Arts and Lit Editor*

Hall monitor Anthony Lanfrank retired on Jan. 6 after working 27 and a half years for the district. On Jan. 4, faculty and staff threw a surprise retirement party for him in the Warrior Cafe, which was filled with family and friends.



Contributed Photos



Tiffany Gonzalez/Del.Aware



# Opinions

## Grammy voters do not understand hip-hop

BY SHAUN RYAN  
Entertainment Editor

Grammy nominations are announced annually, and every year, music fans clash in regards to the eligibility of these nominations is the albums, songs and people who are nominated.

This year specifically, there is no category more disappointing than the Best Rap Album nominees. The members of the academy have shown time and time again that they are not educated on what makes a hip-hop album great.

The nominations are as follows, DJ Khaled's "GOD DID", Future's "I Never Liked You," Jack Harlow's "Come Home The Kids Miss You," Kendrick Lamar's "Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers" and Pusha T's

"It's Almost Dry."

When considering what a huge year 2022 has been for hip-hop, these nominees are extremely disappointing. The most astounding of these nominations is Jack Harlow's debut album, which is almost unanimously agreed to be less than extraordinary.

The fact that Harlow was nominated over artists like JID and Denzel Curry, makes me completely lose faith in the academy. These artists are industry veterans who have both released albums that far surpass the mediocrity of Harlow's debut album.



Contributed Photo

**Kendrick Lamar has been nominated for a Grammy after not releasing an album for five years.**

## Skip Bayless needs to be held accountable for his tweet

BY AIDAN MCBRIDE  
Sports Editor

On Jan. 2, Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin suddenly collapsed on the field during a game against the Cincinnati Bengals that caused the game to be postponed and eventually canceled. It was later discovered that he suffered cardiac arrest on the field. While millions across the world, including many professional athletes, shared their thoughts and prayers online, sports analyst Skip Bayless put out an inconsiderate tweet about the importance of the game, seeming to prioritize it over the life-threatening injury that occurred minutes prior to his tweet.

Bayless posted a tweet stating, "No doubt the NFL is considering postponing the rest of this game - but how? This late in the season, a game of

this magnitude is crucial to the regular season outcome ... which suddenly seems so irrelevant."

Considering Hamlin's heart stopped on the field and had to be resuscitated, the game should not have been the main concern, but it was for Bayless. Although he apologized and claimed to have prayed for Hamlin, Bayless' tweet showed where his mind was at the time: the game.

If Bayless only cared about the game and its outcome, he should not have tweeted anything. For someone with a large platform within the sports community, to disregard the health of an athlete who almost died doing his job, is unacceptable, and the backlash Bayless is facing from the sports community is well deserved.

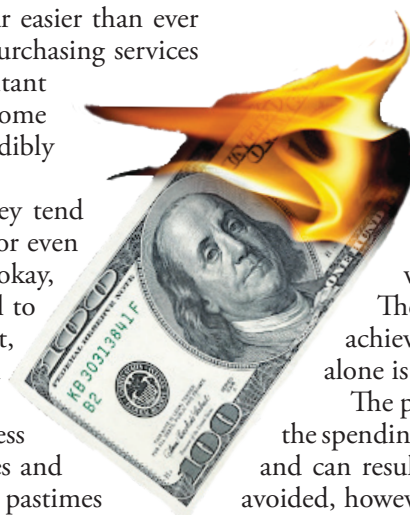
## OUR OPINION

## Spending big on interests is beneficial

In the modern age of technology, spending has become far easier than ever before, with many online marketplaces and digital means of purchasing services being readily available for all. This means that blowing exorbitant amounts of money on silly or meaningless things has also become more accessible over time, yet big spending can be incredibly rewarding when done responsibly.

Almost everybody has that one thing or type of thing they tend to spend a little more on, whether it be shoes, clothes, devices or even cars, nearly everyone has an interest that they invest in. This is okay, as long as we remain responsible. For example, is it detrimental to budget out \$200 to spend on a pair of shoes? Most likely not, as, chances are, whoever buys the pair will hold them in high regard, making sure to take care of and maintain them.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of lavish spending is the happiness that comes from whatever is purchased. It is our hobbies and interests that make us who we are, and oftentimes these pastimes are where extra savings or budget openings go, and that is okay. What is a little extra money if it makes someone genuinely happy?



By the same token, these purchases that make people happy also serve as a goal to work towards. Working for money to spend on gas, food or other necessities is not as appealing as saving funds for a new cell phone, to give an instance. With a clear objective to strive for, whatever one may have to do for moolah suddenly becomes much more bearable.

Especially at younger ages, the act of saving money for any reason develops a sense of responsibility. Ultimately, the only one who controls how someone spends money is the person himself. The blame falls on one set of shoulders, yet so does the sense of achievement in having saved or budgeted for something. That feeling alone is a great motivator to continue to spend in a smart manner.

The potential downsides of major spending show themselves only when the spending becomes excessive. Excessive spending stems from irresponsibility and can result in someone lacking the means to buy necessities. This can be avoided, however, by staying on top of budgets and having enough discipline to stop when compelled to spend more.





# Community News

## Family Promise enters the Pike County area

By HAZEL BURO

World News Co-Editor

The non-profit organization Family Promise has recently expanded to Pike County, looking to help families in the area.

"Family Promise is dedicated to addressing the root causes of homelessness, from offering prevention services to providing emergency shelter," DV's homeless liaison Dr. Jayson Pope said.

Dr. Pope is part of the district-wide team that works with a network of agencies, Family Promise being one of



Source: Family Promise

**Family Promise provides shelter for people in need.**

them. Any students at risk of or experiencing homelessness are advised to see their school counselor, social worker or building principal. Families and students also can dial 2-1-1 for more community based resources.

Family Promise provides housing to needy people with a variety of solutions, including Rapid Re-Housing, Section 8 Housing, SHARE Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing programs.

According to science teacher Mrs. Amanda Pope, the Pike County Family Promise facility was projected to be finished in January of 2023, but was set back and is hoped to be finished by springtime.

## Surprise Popeyes' location exceeds local expectations

By JAMES ZAYATZ

World News Editor

Recently, Popeyes has opened in Matamoras, stirring up the community. Some claim it as a new favorite place to grab a bite, while others quickly express a distaste for it, causing a slight controversy.

This new location has established itself quickly, building a growing customer base through the shock of a new, unexpected restaurant, as well as its close proximity to the high school.

Its menu does not reinvent the wheel, nor does it have an abundance of options, but it is also not so limited that customers would have trouble deciding what to eat.

A common occurrence in fast food

restaurants is that one menu option is more enjoyable, or a better choice overall, than the others. Through extensive personal research and testing, I can wholeheartedly conclude that the best meal at this new Popeyes is a classic, the chicken sandwich. This being said, it would be criminal to discredit the mac and cheese, a must-try.

Food aside, the staff in this new location are remarkably friendly and very efficient, especially when taking into account the hungry barrage of students that lines up once the school day ends.

Popeyes may not be everyone's first choice, but I do recommend giving this one a try if you find yourself in the market for a quick bite.



## Winter Activities In Community

By KAT QUINN

Community News Editor

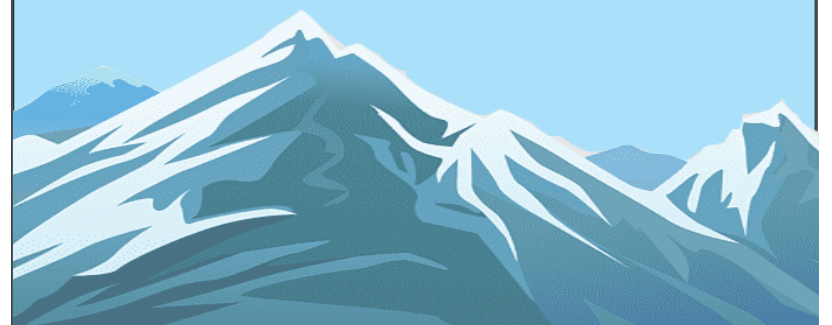
**The following places are local and are places to spend your time during the winter season.**

**Montage Mountain:** Located in Scranton, this resort offers several slopes varying from beginner level to expert. With 140 acres, there are many views and trails to explore.

**Shawnee Mountain:** Located in East Stroudsburg, Shawnee Mountain is a great place to learn how to ski and snowboard, while snow tubing is also available. There are 23 slopes and trails for a range of difficulty. Prices range depending on age.

**Skylands Ice World:** This ice rink, outside of Sparta, offers figure skating and hockey lessons. This rink is occupied by many events such as hockey tournaments and parties. A regular day admission is \$16, for all ages.

**Mount Peter:** The slopes at Mount Peter are a great place to learn how to ski/ snowboard or go snow tubing. Located in Warwick, this would make a great day trip. Mount Peter now has its own ski team that includes ages 8-19.



# World News

## California authorities identify 72-year-old gunman

By KAYLEE KURCON  
*Opinions Co-Editor*

On Jan. 21, shots were fired inside Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Los Angeles killing 10 people and injuring 10 others. This incident occurred on Lunar New Year's Eve.

Only 20 minutes after the initial shooting, the suspect walked into Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in a town nearby. Police say he probably walked in there with the intent to kill more people but was disarmed by two community members and ran away.

The next day, on Jan. 22, police identified the suspect as Huu Can Tran, a 72-year-old Hemet resident. Authorities found him inside a white cargo van that was spotted leaving the crime scene the night of the shooting.

A SWAT team determined Tran had a self-inflicted gunshot wound and pronounced him dead at the scene. Multiple pieces of evidence were found inside the van linking Tran to the shooting.

Inside the van, which had stolen license plates, a

handgun was found.

The weapon that had been confiscated by community members in Alhambra was a magazine-fed semi automatic assault pistol, with an extended magazine attached, according to authorities.

This particular assault weapon is illegal to possess in California, so questions have been raised as to how he obtained the gun and if he did so legally.

The shooting occurred near where tens of thousands gathered for a two-day Lunar New Year festival. Although authorities declared that the motivations remain unclear, some speculate that the

shooting may have been motivated by ant-Chinese hate.

Two law enforcement sources say Tran had recently shown up to the Hemet police station claiming his family was trying to poison him. Speculations on the suspect's mental state have been brought up, questioning if he had been suffering from mental illness considering his visit to the police station.

President Joe Biden was briefed on the shooting Sunday morning, tweeting, "Jill and I are praying for those killed and injured in last night's deadly mass shooting in Monterey Park."

The shooting has left

California residents devastated as it is one of the worst in modern Los Angeles County history. Anxiety and devastation is running high among LA residents.



Source: the new yorker

**Lunar New Year celebration ends in mass shooting, sending the city into panic.**

## Sicilian mafia boss detained after 30 years

By NICOLE STEINBERG  
*Managing Editor*

Convicted Italian mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro was detained on Jan. 16, after being on the run from authorities for almost three decades.

Messina Denaro was eventually caught and arrested at a private clinic in Palermo, Sicily, where he was being treated for an undisclosed medical condition. Italian State Television reported that Messina Denaro was taken to an undisclosed location shortly after his detainment.

Messina Denaro was convicted of several different crimes during the past three decades, including the murder of a 12-year-old boy, whose body was found submerged in a container of acid and Antonello Bonanno, the partner of a rival boss.

After the arrest, Italian police

found several different hideouts located in a small town named Campobello di Mazara in Sicily, Italy. Police found luxury clothing and expensive jewelry hidden in the hideouts.

Police have begun to question the doctors who helped him at the clinic.

Messina Denaro is still in jail pending trial, a trial date has yet to be established.



## Russia threatens nuclear war if defeated in Ukraine

By NICK GELARDI  
*News Editor*

The ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine has reached a new level of danger recently, as Russia has realized the prospect of possibly being unsuccessful in their efforts to invade Kyiv becomes increasingly likely.

There have been talks between countries of NATO, including Germany, the United States and France to provide Ukraine with armored fighting vehicles. A meeting was held on Jan. 20, in Germany, between NATO countries about possible strategies to defeat Russia's expansion into Ukraine, but they are now reconsidering sending help to Ukraine after nuclear threats were made.

"The loss by a nuclear power in a conventional war can provoke the outbreak of a nuclear war," deputy head of Russia's security council Dmitry Medvedev said. "The nuclear powers do

not lose major conflicts on which their fate depends."

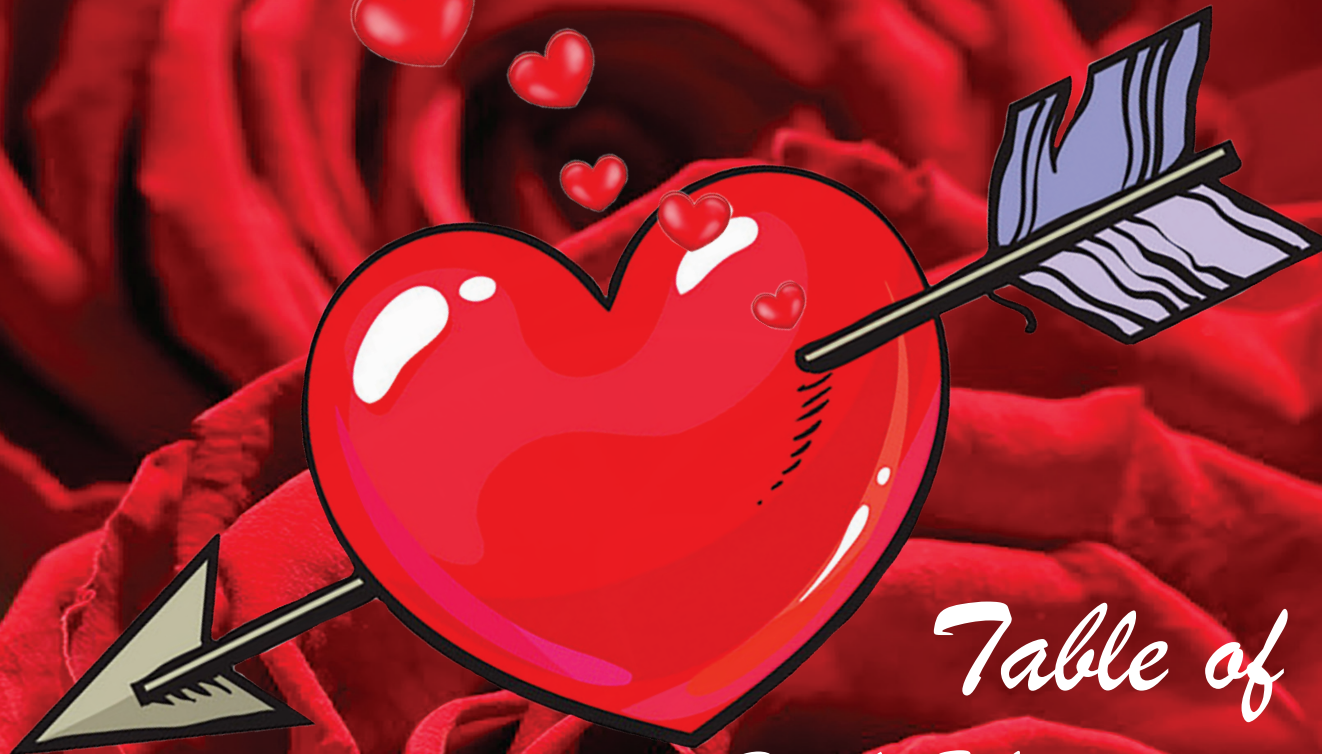
Medvedev has been noted to be a close ally of Vladimir Putin and has also served as Russian president from 2008 to 2012. This is the first time during this conflict that Russia has been faced with and acknowledged the possibility of defeat.

Medvedev's comments do have substance as nuclear war can be considered even more likely if Russia is defeated in Ukraine because of Russia's long-standing doctrine, which permits Russia's use of nuclear forces if the state of the country is threatened.

The fallout from the deadly invasion of Ukraine has continued to increase the hostility between Russia and the United States, the two largest nuclear powers. A tough decision has to be made by NATO that can either prevent or start World War Three.



# *Special Edition: Be Mine, Valentine*



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# Pop-up Photo Box



## Materials:

- Construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- String
- Recycled small box or jewelry box
- Photos of your choice

## Directions:

- Cut a slip of paper that's about 2 inches wide and 2 inches long.
- Fold in accordion style about 2 inch squares, and glue each picture or text in a square.
- Glue your piece of string on the back of the first square to make a handle.
- Glue the last square to the base of the box.
- Decorate your pop up photo box to your liking with stickers, paint, etc.

# Sugar Lip Scrub



## Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon coconut oil
- 1 tablespoon organic honey
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 tablespoon lukewarm water
- Small recycled container

## Directions:

- In a small bowl, mix the coconut oil and honey together.
- Add in the brown sugar and lukewarm water to the mixture.
- Pour the mixture into the container and apply!



DIY  
GIFTS

# Chocolate Covered Pretzels

## Ingredients:

- Pretzel rods
- Whatever type of chocolate chips you would like
- Sprinkles/crushed up cookies

## Directions:

- Melt chocolate on the stove or in the microwave.
- Add some fun sprinkles or toppings of your choice.
- Get your pretzel sticks and dip them into the melted chocolate.
- Put the chocolate covered pretzels on a plate and place them in the fridge until the chocolate hardens.



# Showing Love Around the World

## France :

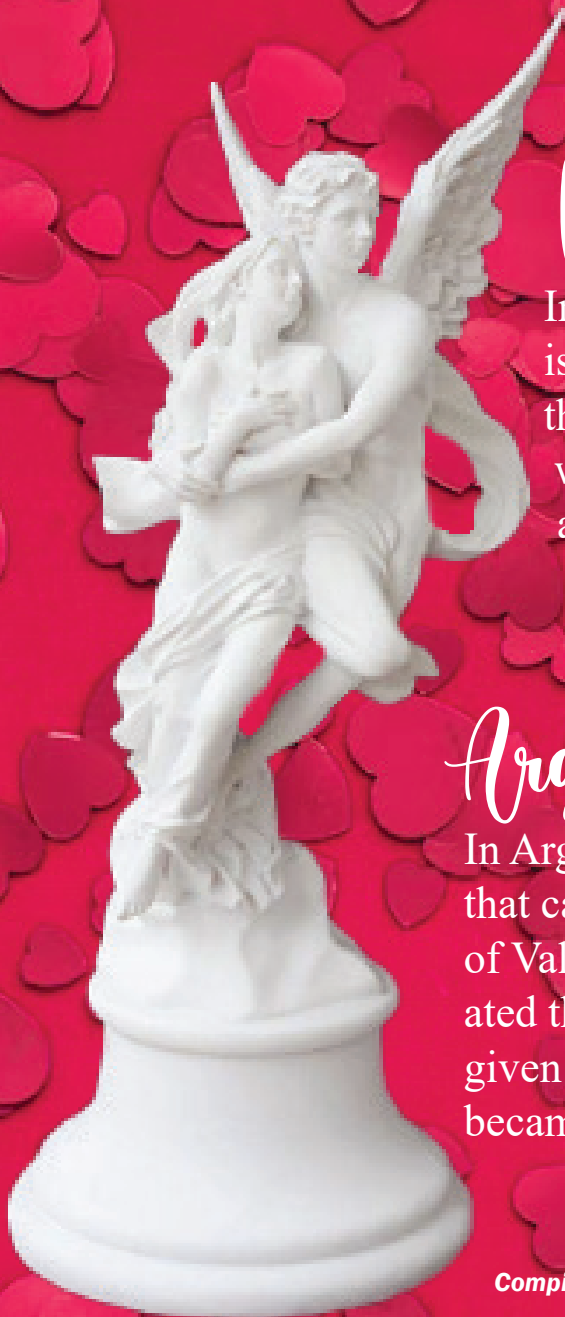
In France, Valentine's Day is celebrated only for those in love, not for friendships, like we do in America. Children do not bring each other cards and give presents to their friends. In France, this day is celebrated only by adults who are either married or in a committed relationship.

## Korea :

In Korea, rather than the men giving chocolate and presents to women, it is the opposite way around; women give chocolates to the men as a sign of their affection. In March, the favor is returned on White Day when men give women chocolates. Black Day, celebrated in April, is meant for people who are single and did not celebrate in either February or March.

## Argentina :

In Argentina, Valentine's Day is celebrated over a week in July. It is estimated that candy sales in Argentina increased 20% during this week. The new form of Valentine's Day originated from when a candy company named Arcor created their "Candy for a kiss" campaign. The idea was that candy would be given in exchange for a kiss on the cheek. Sales skyrocketed and the tradition became a sensation.







# Valentine's Day Date Ideas

Restaurants

Waterwheel  
Dimmick Inn  
Bar Louis  
Hotel Fauchere  
El Patron  
The Erie  
Chris and Gina's Cafe

Classics Movies

"Notebook"  
"Romeo + Juliet"  
"La La Land"  
"Dirty Dancing"  
"Pretty Woman"

Ice Skating

Milford park  
Ice Time Sports Complex  
(Newburg, New York)  
Skylands Ice World  
(Stockholm, New Jersey)  
SportsCare Arena  
(Randolph, New Jersey)  
Ice Vault Arena (Wayne, New Jersey)

Flowers

Price Chopper  
Walmart  
Laurel Grove Florist (Port Jervis, New York)  
Gifts  
Irene's Kitchen (Milford, Pennsylvania)  
Edible Arrangements  
(Middletown, New Hall Milford PA

Movies

Compiled by Nicki Musselwhite

# Valentine's Day: celebrating Joy through love

By MADDIE GIFFORD  
Staff Writer

For a holiday that is supposed to be all about love, Valentine's Day is considered one of the most hated holidays across the world. When it gets closer to this special day, people tend to talk about how they don't like this holiday and say that it is pointless if you don't have a date, but many people don't think of Valentine's Day as a day of showing one's love and appreciation for others.

There are many positive things that go along with the holiday, and I feel that they should be recognized more. I partly love this holiday because everything in stores is pink and seeing hearts everywhere, but I also think that being able to show friends, family members, and significant others love is what is special about this day.

A good thing about Valentine's Day is that you don't need a significant other to participate. Exchanging gifts with your friends and having "Galentine's Day", or just buying something for someone you care about is another way to take advantage of the holiday. Spending the day with loved ones on Valentine's Day is another pro and is something that could make anyone's mood change or make someone's day. The holiday is also a reason to give yourself a break from work or your normal schedule and do something special for yourself or someone else.

Another benefit of this holiday is getting a random day in February to just have an exciting day at school or work and celebrate the people you have around you that love you.

If you can make someone happy for one day by doing something little during a holiday that they might hate, it will definitely change their mood and maybe their perspective. Everyone appreciates effort.

# WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

COMPILED BY TIFFANY GONZALEZ



"Going to El Patron"  
Emma Ciano and Dylan Anderson



"Dinner and a movie"  
Ryder Machado and Antonina Como



"It's a surprise."  
Fiona Ring and Cyril Jaeger



"Watching a scary movie"  
Alivia Wieder and Karter Peereboom

# Valentine's Day: a commercialized, stressful holiday

By KAYLEE KURCON  
Opinions Co-Editor

Valentine's Day is dreadful for two types of people - single people and those in relationships. This day is a sad reminder for those who are single that they don't have that "special someone." However, those who are in relationships on this holiday might just have it worse.

There is unnecessary pressure on couples to make this day special by capturing their entire relationship in a day of presents and dates. The amount of money blown away for this holiday is astronomical when considering what the day is actually celebrated for.

Valentine's Day is the annual celebration of love, friendship and admiration. By centering the day around gifts, it makes the holiday seem more commercialized than pure.

Not only is the gift giving aspect of it pricey, but it can also be difficult and stressful to find the "perfect" present. Surveys claim that men spend twice as much money on gifts for their significant others than women do. From flowers to jewelry, men seem to struggle to know what is too much and what is too little.

Many couples spend this night going on romantic dates, which can also be a handful to plan. The expectation for a romantic date is to go somewhere fancy, which typically requires a reservation far in advance.

The couple has to decide what they will want to eat, how much they will want to spend and how far they are willing to travel to a restaurant. All of these deciding factors make the choice tough, especially if both people are not on the same page.

If the couple does decide to eat out, many restaurants have prix-fixe dinners on this holiday, which really rack up the bill.

The holiday meant to be pure and romantic is really just a commercial spectacle pushed onto couples by unrealistic expectations created by companies to make more money.



# Arts & Literature

## Spotlight Artist: Cordelia Anc

By JEONGHO KOH

Science and Technology Editor

Senior Cordelia Anc has dabbled in various art techniques, but one of her favorite methods of creating art is through pottery. Her introduction to sculpting was through the ceramics class.

"I initially joined because I was excited to use the pottery wheel, but I really liked how I was able to work with my hands. The class really called to me," Cordelia said.

She also stated that the pottery wheel was very difficult for her to utilize correctly.

Cordelia mostly finds inspiration

from ancient pottery and especially enjoys creating art pieces that emulate it, but her personal favorite project was a rabbit mask inspired by the game Dead by Daylight. It was a side project which she did in her own free time.

The experience of ceramics has let Cordelia to hone in on working with her hands amongst other artistic skills.

"I got better with taking an idea in my head and actually making it into a material art form. It's like taking something

two-dimensional and working it to become three-dimensional," Cordelia said.

It's always great," Olivia said.



## Spotlight Writer: Sara Flick

By LUCAS PAULEY

Editor in Chief

For most of us, long car rides consist of staring out the window, fighting over who's controlling the music, naps and more staring out the window. But for senior Sara Flick, a long car ride is what started her journey into the world of creative writing.

"The first story I wrote was on my way up here from Texas because I had so much time in the car my mind got to work, and I wrote a short story on that drive," Flick said. "I fell in love with it."

With inspirations such as J.R.R Tolkien

and Holly Black, Sara has explored fantasy writing, as well as the young adult genre.

"Fantasy gives me a chance to escape into a different world," Sara said.

*"She is one of those rare students who will discuss her process with me before committing to it on paper, as she most recently did with a sonnet essay,"*

- Mr. Bryan Pol

## Spotlight Musician: Jeongho Koh

By HAILEY KELLY

Arts & Lit Editor

Over the course of his high school career, senior Jeongho Koh has greatly advanced himself musically. He is part of the chorus and chamber choir.

Jeongho started singing his sophomore year because his friend recommended that he should join the chorus. He considered that it would be fun and unlike other classes. Jeongho ended up joining and has been involved ever since.

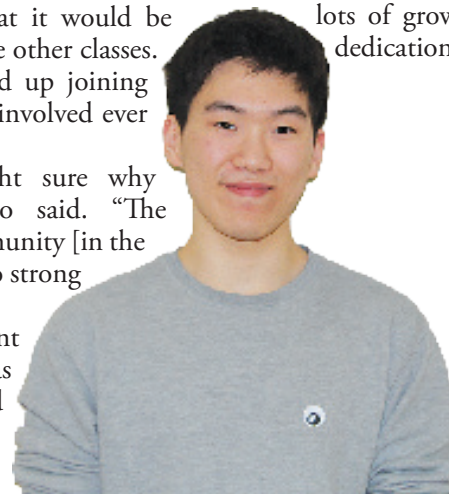
"I thought sure why not," Jeongho said. "The sense of community [in the chorus] was so strong that I stayed."

Koh went to Districts as a Bass 2, and is heading to Regionals.

Although he has been working hard to improve as a singer, Koh was still surprised when he heard the news.

"He's a fabulous young man, a brilliant musician. He brings a positive impact to the whole chorus," chorus director Mr. Richard Horst said.

Mr. Horst chose Jeongho as Spotlight Musician because he works very hard; he's shown lots of growth and dedication.



## Fashion Aware: Slicked-Back Bun

By MADDIE GIFFORD

Staff Writer

One of the newest trends that many teens have been participating in is slicked back hairstyles.

Girls' hairstyle trends have changed over the years varying from things like messy buns, high ponytails, space buns and many more. Slicked back low ponytails and low buns have been a popular style for models on the runway and an easier, more professional style for working.

This style has been getting more attention from teenagers as an everyday style. Low buns and ponytails have also been used more in the gym as an easy way to keep hair out of the way. This style has been known as an "it" girl style and is becoming more popular because of less damage on the hair and being able to do an easy style that still looks good.

This easy hairstyle is done with either hair gel, or a hair stick, which is a stick of gel that lays hair back, and a hair band to put it up.

Influencers for this style have been models Hailey Bieber and Bella Hadid.



# Entertainment

## 'Sons of the Forest' finally set for release

By MICHAEL HELT

Science and Technology Co-Editor

Independent video game development company Endnight Games is finally prepared to release their "Sons of the Forest" title on Feb. 23. While the game was previously expected to be released in October of 2022, the development company took to Twitter to announce their desires to further polish the game.

"Sons of the Forest" is a horror-themed survival game, where the player takes the role of a helicopter crash survivor. While native monsters and unhappy tribes will be a regular sight, the player must build a home and explore to collect gear and resources.

Similar to the game's predecessor, "The Forest," the player's main goal is to search the island's various cave systems and landforms for a missing person. "The Forest," released in 2018, saw the player assume control of a father in search of his son.

According to the "Sons of the Forest" page on Steam, the player will be "sent to find a missing billionaire on a remote island."

The horror game is only confirmed to be initially released on PC, but Endnight's development team hasn't ruled out the possibility for future releases on the Playstation 5 and Xbox Series S.

During a developer interview, Endnight Games said, "We would love to come to console in the future, but are currently focused on delivering the best experience

possible to PC players."

In the Tweet posted by Endnight Games on Aug. 31, 2022, which included the release delay announcement, the development team confirmed that their next title will come at a cost of \$29.99. There is currently no option to pre-order the horror game, although there is possibility for that to change before Feb. 23.

While not all information is available on the game, Steam's page mentions the inclusion of several changes from the previous release. These changes range from multiple new weapons, the passing of seasons and new structure blueprints.

Endnight Games mentioned in a previous interview that the playable world for their newest title will be "roughly 4x the size of 'The Forest.'"

To date, Endnight Games has released three separate trailers involving the "Sons of the Forest" title. Each trailer provides the viewer with a new glimpse of the visual upgrades from the previous game and showcases a multitude of new motion mechanics for the

player.

Also present in the short videos is a new group of creatures introduced to add to the title's horror theme.

"With horror and fear, we hope early on when the player is struggling the game is a lot scarier," the development team said.



Source: Gematsu

## Aire Webster revealed to the world

By KAYLEE KURCON

Opinions Co-Editor

Headline: Aire Webster revealed to the world

Kylie Jenner shared her son's name and face with the world on Jan. 21, leaving Instagram in shock.

Jenner posted a series of four pictures captioning it "AIRE," with a heart emoji. In the comments, grandmother Kris Jenner wrote, "I love you Aire Webster."

Jenner and Travis Scott welcomed their son last February initially naming him Wolf Jacques. However, a month later on March 21 she announced on her Instagram story that her child's name is not Wolf anymore.

Her reasoning for the change was because she felt "it wasn't him." She didn't specify if the change would only be to his first name or if his middle name was going to be changed too.



Fans speculated the desire for privacy had to do with her postpartum struggles. This is not the first pregnancy Jenner has tried to keep hidden, however. She also kept her pregnancy with her daughter Stormi hidden until she gave birth in 2018.

After announcing that she had changed her son's name, Jenner stated during an appearance on "The Late Night Show" in September that she still had not legally changed it. She claimed she did not want to announce his name just to change it again, so the couple decided to keep it private.

Rumors and speculations circulated social media about what the new name would be and when it would be revealed. The announcement ended up being unexpected and surprised all of social media.

## 'Puss in Boots' sequel receives great review

By JEONGHO KOH

Science and Technology Editor

"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" was released in theaters on Dec. 21, 2022, with a budget of \$90 million. Grossing a respectable \$200 million at the international box office, the majority opinion is the sequel is better than its predecessor, the film 'Puss in Boots'.

I really enjoyed myself when I went to see this production on the big screen. The plot is a simple one: multiple opposing groups race each other to reach a place called the Wishing Star where a single wish will be granted, and the setting changes drastically throughout the entire movie. The visuals are phenomenal.



The colors in this movie were lively, vibrant and immensely enhanced the setting

However, it is the characters who made the movie so fun to watch. I liked every single one of them, and the growth that many of them display adds to the experience. Many of the side characters are adapted from fairy tales and nursery rhymes, which was creative. My personal favorite character was Big Jack Horner; he was incredibly goofy and ridiculous, but at the same time, he was also legitimately threatening and evil as a villain.

I went to go watch "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" with pretty high expectations after seeing all the praise it was receiving, and the film did not disappoint. It won't be a waste of your ten bucks.



# Science & Technology

## What's in your drink?: Celsius

By KAT QUINN  
Community News Editor

It is well known that most energy drinks are described as unhealthy, but Celsius has recently risen in popularity. Initially seeming harmless, some people are now speculating that this energy drink is no safer than the others.

These Celsius drinks are appealing to customers; they taste good without any sugar. They are sweetened with sucralose, which is better than other artificial sweeteners, but still not the best ingredient to be consuming on a daily basis. It is also clear on the label that it speeds up metabolism and burns body fat.

Like many energy drinks, Celsius is packed with a high caffeine content into one serving. This causes the consumer to be affected by the caffeine for

a while, but left exhausted as it rubs off. This particular drink is made up of green tea, guarana, chromium and taurine. High doses of green tea leaf extract can be linked to liver issues. Unlike other energy drinks, Celsius contains guarana extract, which is stronger than caffeine and has not yet been approved by the FDA. Because of this ingredient, Celsius drinks are banned by the NCAA. Not much is known about the ingredients that are a part of the drink's "MetaPlus Proprietary blend," since the amount and daily value is not listed on the can's supplement facts.

A can also contains vitamins, such



as vitamins B6 and B12. Most people don't realize that you can consume too much of one vitamin.

This brand is targeting a group of teenagers and young adults, especially athletes and students. These groups of people are starting to drink them on a daily basis, and their bodies start to rely on it every day.

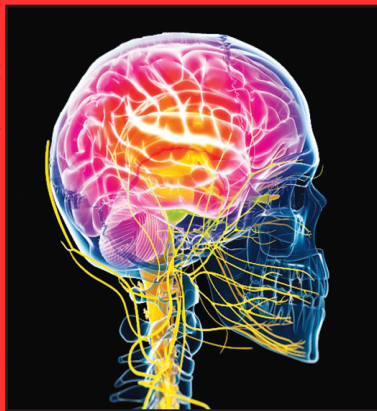
Although energy drinks are not generally healthy to drink every day, Celsius could be considered to be one of the safest, considering the low sugar and low calorie content. The best way to avoid complications with caffeine is to consume only the recommended amount.

## Gut microbiomes proven to have effects on the brain

By AIDAN MCBRIDE  
Sports Editor

In human and animal bodies, there are tens of trillions of microtubules that reside in the intestines, which are called gut microbiomes. According to researchers at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, gut microbiomes play a key role in brain damage, but scientists are looking to find a solution by altering them.

In an experiment where scientists studied gut bacteria in mice, it was found that the bacteria affected the behavior of immune cells, including those in the brain, and the affected behavior can lead to damage in the brain tissue. The behavior, due to gut bacteria that produces short-chain fatty acids, can worsen neurodegeneration in conditions such as Alzheimer's disease.



Source: scitechdaily

**Gut microbiomes can have an immediate effect on the structure of brain tissue.**

"We gave young mice antibiotics for just a week, and we saw a permanent change in their gut microbiomes, their immune responses, and how much neurodegeneration related to a protein called tau they experienced with age," senior author David M. Holtzman, MD, the Barbara Burton and Reuben M. Morris III Distinguished Professor of Neurology said.

On Jan. 13, the findings were published in a journal called Science, and the scientists who put the findings together opened up the possibility of reshaping gut microbiomes in order to prevent neurodegeneration.

"What's exciting is that manipulating the gut microbiome could be a way to have an effect on the brain without putting anything directly into the brain," Holtzman said.

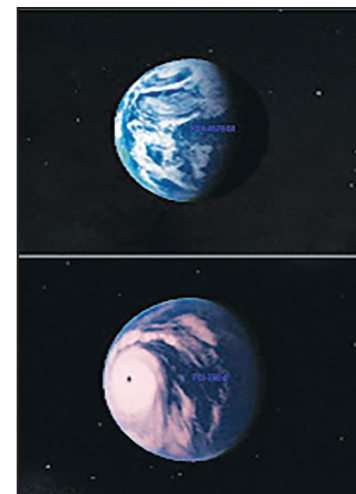
## NASA discovers new Earth-size planet

By MICHAEL HELT  
Science and Technology Co-Editor

On Jan. 10, NASA scientists discovered the existence of an Earth-like planet called TOI 700 e. The planet orbits a star named TOI 700 within the habitable zone, which is the range of distances from the star where liquid water could be present on a planet's surface.

According to information collected by NASA, the planet is likely very rocky and about 95% of the size of Earth. The newly discovered planet takes approximately 28 days to orbit its star, which places it in the middle when compared to the orbit of neighboring planets TOI 700 c and d.

In the first year of research with TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite), NASA scientists were able to identify three other planets in the system, named TOI 700 b, c and d. Along with TOI 700 e, TOI 700 c and d also orbit within TOI 700's habitable zone.



Source: celestia

**TOI 700 d appears slightly larger than Earth. The newly identified TOI 700 e is 5% smaller than Earth.**

"We're looking forward to the other exciting discoveries hidden in the mission's treasure trove of data," Allison Youngblood, a research astrophysicist and TESS deputy project scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, said.

# Sports

## Girls wrestling team dominates in tournament

BY AIDAN MCBRIDE  
Sports Editor

On Jan. 29, the girls wrestling team traveled to Honesdale for a tournament. Although there were no winning teams officially recorded, the team was confident that they won, according to head coach Evan Bates.

Senior Sarah Seltzer and sophomores Tori Depew, Juliet Fitzpatrick and Olivia Montanino all won their brackets. Senior Alia Narvaez-Wiener placed second. Junior Sam Monroe, sophomores Gianna Balu, Danielle Eisloeffel and Samantha Opalka and freshman Wert Walzer all finished in third place. Senior Alyssa Jones, sophomores Kristen Langelotti

and Andrea Boronow and freshman Lidia Lumpkin all finished in fourth place, and Jada Rivera placed fifth.

"[The team] performed really well," coach Bates said. "There was a lot of new competition."

At the time of the release of the last issue, Dec. 22, there were 85 schools that participated in girls wrestling, but there needs to be 100

participating to be PIAA sanctioned. Currently, there are 96 participating schools, so the sport is continuously growing.



Nicole Steinberg/Del.Aware

**Senior Sarah Seltzer takes down her opponent. Seltzer placed first in her bracket.**

For the first time, there are qualifications to make it into state competition. May 5 is when Regionals takes place, and the top four wrestlers from each weight class qualify for States.

"Having a qualification validates the

## Spotlight Athlete Girls Wrestling



Victoria Depew, SOPHOMORE

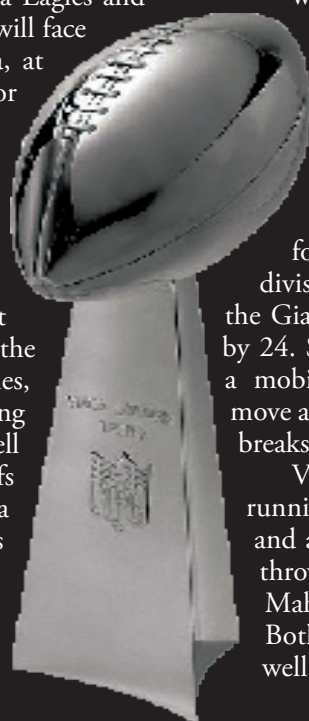
**"She doesn't just raise the bar as far as intensity, but she brings a lot of excitement."**  
- Head coach Evan Bates

## Eagles, Chiefs headline SuperBowl LVII

BY BOBBY RUSSO  
Staff Writer

After both of their wins this past Sunday, the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs will face off in Phoenix, Arizona, at State Farm Stadium for Superbowl LVII on Feb. 12.

Both teams this year were considered powerhouse teams throughout the season. Expecting and most likely to make it to the SuperBowl. The Eagles, who are known for running the ball exceptionally well this year. The Chiefs have always been a passing team and always complete passes for a good amount of yards because of their rocket arm of a quarterback Patrick Mahomes.



Mahomes has been battling a high ankle sprain which has limited his movement outside of the pocket. Even with his bad ankle sprain, he was able to throw two touchdowns and throw for 326 yards during last week's game.

On the other hand, quarterback Jalen Hurts' last game threw for 121 yards and rushed for 38 yards. Then, in the divisional round they beat the Giants by 31, and the 49ers by 24. Similar to Mahomes, he's a mobile quarterback and can move around the pocket if a play breaks down.

Viewers can expect a lot of running plays from the Eagles and a ton of passing and balls thrown through the air by Mahomes and the Chiefs. Both teams also have very well constructed defenses too.

## DV alum immerses himself in football world

BY CASSANDRA JOYCE  
Sports Co-Editor

Robby Sabo, a 2001 DV graduate, has made a name for himself in the world of sports as a columnist covering the New York Jets on his website Jets X-Factor.

On his website, Sabo writes columns about the Jets, discusses different sports betting websites, does film breakdowns and records podcasts.

Sabo played football, basketball and ran track during his time at DV. He was on Coach Keith Olsommer's first football team, which although he says they were not the most skilled team, he accredits the experience to teaching him a lot about the game.

"You learned a lot in terms of trying to fight through, get over the hump and establish something," Sabo said.

Sabo currently helps coach football at Port Jervis High School by listening on the headset in the booth and game planning throughout the week. He believes this helps him in what

he does for his job, especially in the film breakdowns he does called Sabo's Sessions.

"Quantity is at an all time high. If the quality pops off the page, that's what's going to stick in people's minds, so knowing the sport inside and out, being a real expert and digging into the film really carries a long way," Sabo said.

Recently, Sabo was featured on Bruce Beck's sports show on NBC to talk about the Jets. According to Sabo, he had met Beck a few times before and was invited to come on the show after colleagues had recommended him. Sabo has also been featured on various podcasts and radio shows and has his own with former Jets player Wayne Chrebet. Ultimately though, writing and running the business is what Sabo is passionate about.

"Do what you love. Nothing is ever unworkable," Sabo said. "I didn't get into this until 2014. If you want something and you want a certain life, you really have to sacrifice."



# Sports

## Boys swim, dive defeats Wallenpaupack

BY SHAUN RYAN  
Entertainment Editor

On Jan. 26, the boys swim and dive team defeated Wallenpaupack 135-35 pushing them to a 3-0-1 record for the season.

The Warriors pulled ahead early, outscoring Wallenpaupack in the 200 yard relay. The first relay team consisted of seniors Keith Sublett and Eddie Nieves, sophomore Liam Fass and junior Matthew O'Connell with a time of 1:50.25. The boys placed first in all relay events.

Fass placed first in the 200 yard



**Sophomore Shane Natural pushes off the block to start his event.**

freestyle with a 2:26.80. time. Seniors Jake Manning and Sublett placed first and

second in the 50 yard relay. The boys had a time of 24.48 and 24.86 respectively.

Nieves and Manning placed first and second in the 100 yard butterfly as well. Nieves had a time of 1:02.17., and Manning followed with a 1:05.46.

Sophomore Tyler Ingraham placed first in the 500 yard freestyle with a time of 5:38.74, beating his closest competitor by over three minutes.

Sublett placed first in the 100 yard breaststroke with a time of 1:06.94. Juniors Douglas Jacobs and Erik Fass followed him with second and third respectively.

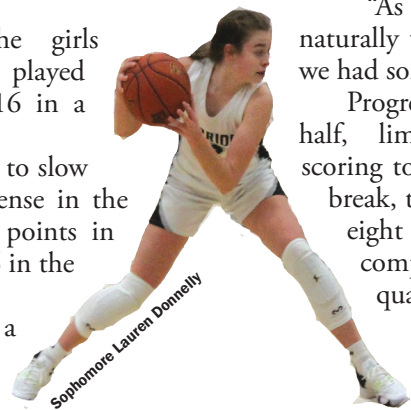
## Girls basketball loses 35-16 on the road

BY LUCAS PAULEY  
Editor in Chief

On Jan. 26, the girls basketball team played Honesdale, losing 35-16 in a road loss.

The team struggled to slow down the Hornets' offense in the first half, allowing 25 points in the first quarter with 16 in the second quarter alone.

"I think we did a great job in the first quarter limiting their second chance points.



We were more of a cohesive defensive unit," head coach Lindsay Duffy said.

"As the game progressed, naturally we got a little tired, and we had some missed assignments."

Progress was made in the second half, limiting the opposition's scoring to ten. Coming out of the break, they outscored Honesdale eight to four and stayed competitive into the fourth quarter.

"In the second half, I think we did a much better job of taking care of the basketball and

moving it around to get the best shot, not the first available shot," coach Duffy said.

The team was led in scoring by freshmen Brianna Waldron and Jordan Dickerson who both scored five points.

"We have many things to improve on, but we have a lot of potential," Waldron said.

Although the team is young, with only one senior, this gives underclassmen the opportunity to prove themselves on the varsity level.

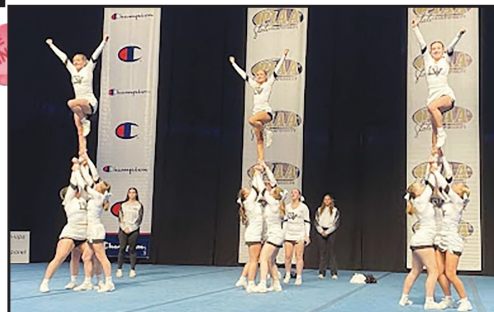
"I think it has inspired them into knowing what they need to get to, to be successful and win in this league," coach Duffy said.

## Cheerleaders place 12th at States

BY TIFFANY GONZALEZ  
Opinions Editor

The cheerleaders traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania, to compete in the PIAA State Cheerleading Championships on Jan. 27 and Jan. 28. They qualified for this competition when they placed second at the Wilkes Barre Area High School PIAA District II competition. At States, the team placed 12th overall in the AAA varsity small division.

There are three rounds of the competition they attended at States: preliminaries, semi-finals and the finals.



**The cheerleaders finished in 12th place at States on Jan 27.**

The girls scored so high in preliminaries that they automatically advanced to

the finals. This is the first time this has happened in a decade for the competition cheerleading team.

Earlier in the month on Jan. 15, the cheerleading program hosted its 22nd Annual Tri-State Cheer Challenge.

At this event, the high school session started at 11 a.m., and the varsity team performed to close out that session. Then the comp proceeded to have the longest standing full and libs competition.

On Feb. 10-14, the cheerleaders head to Orlando, Florida, for ESPN Worlds which will conclude their 2022-2023 season.

## Spotlight Athletes Boys Swim



**Keith Sublett, SENIOR**

**"He has been an amazing leader and has swum top times in the breaststroke so far."**  
- Head coach Chelsea Shatt

## Girls Basketball



**Brianna Waldron, FRESHMAN**

**"She's shown great improvement and is a tenacious, physical defender. She is transitioning more into an offensive threat."**  
- Head coach Lindsay Duffy

## Cheer



**Alexis Grimes, SENIOR**

**"Through her role as a captain, Alexis has shown great leadership. She has also pushed herself to accomplish many new skills including a standing tuck and full up."**  
- Head coach Jen Marchetti

# Sports



## Warriors lose tight game against Trojans

By SOPHIA BALL  
Sports Co-Editor

Continuing their season with a 8-7 record, the boys basketball team lost a hard fought game against North Pocono with a score of 53-42 on Jan. 24.

"The game was huge, it would have gotten us right into the mix for the division," head coach Kris Holtzer said. "But the effort was there tonight, we just didn't make smart enough plays down the stretch."

Senior Jake Brower scored 16 points with four three pointers, senior Ronnie



McManus scored 13 points and junior Tommy Parker scored 10 points with two three pointers. According to coach Holtzer, during the second half, they were trying to swing the ball to get some movement on the court.

"We just kept encouraging the guys to shoot because I thought we got good shots in the first half even though there were a lot of jumpers that

we missed. They did a good job and kept battling," coach Holtzer said.

Senior Tyee Irving made two out of two free throws, McManus made three out of five and Parker made two out of three.

As stated by coach Holtzer, junior Jackson Corrie and Parker have done a great job playing defensively and McManus, Parker and Brower made some big shots for the team.

Supporters are encouraged to come out and cheer on the boys tonight at Wallenpaupack Area High School at 6:45 p.m.

## Girls swim, dive remain undefeated

By CASSANDRA JOYCE  
Sports Co-Editor

On Jan. 17, the girls swim and dive team defeated Dunmore 133-45, improving their record to 4-0.

All three relays were won by DV teams. The 200 yard medley relay team, consisting of sophomores Maya Sussman, Olivia Cruz and Michelle Zakharova and junior JoAnn Jagger, placed first with a time of 2:14.31. The 200 yard freestyle relay team of Jagger, Cruz, sophomore Eva Bogusta and junior Anaya Ruiz won with a time of 1:55.14. Bogusta, Zakharova, Ruiz and



Cassandra Joyce/Del.Aware

**Sophomore Olivia Cruz is a part of the 200 yard medley relay team that placed first against Dunmore.**

senior Maggie Holderith placed first in the 400 yard freestyle relay.

## Boys wrestling dominates Bangor 59-0

By FRANCESCA ANTONECCHIA  
Entertainment Co-Editor

The boys wrestling team continues with a strong season currently having an 11-1 record. On Jan. 26, the Warrior's senior night, the team competed against Bangor Area High School, shutting them out of 59-0.

"District 11 is one of the known areas for wrestling, so anytime you beat them, especially the way we did is definitely a positive," head Coach Lou DeLauro said.

Seniors Brady Colville, AJ Dierksen,

CJ Walton, junior Aiden Black and sophomore Travis Walton all pinned their opponents.

"Senior night is a big night, and we had a lot of seniors who were motivated to be out there," coach DeLauro said. "Some of the younger wrestlers fed off the upperclassmen's enthusiasm and energy."

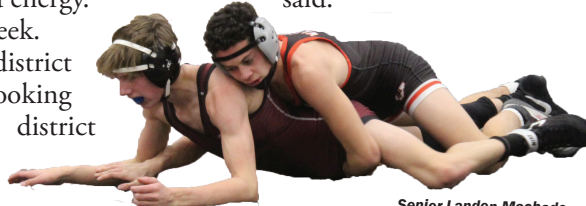
Districts started this past week.

"Our goal is to always be district champions, and we are looking forward to getting into the district tournament and hopefully have an opportunity to

compete in the team state championships again," coach DeLauro said.

The Warriors will compete at Pocono Mountain East High School on Feb. 7 at 7 p.m.

"Our kids are in good shape right now and ready to compete," coach DeLauro said.



Senior Landon Machado

## Spotlight Athletes Boys Basketball



Jackson Corrie, JUNIOR

**"It's hard to take him off the floor. He just wants to win and plays as hard as he can."**  
- Head coach Kris Holtzer

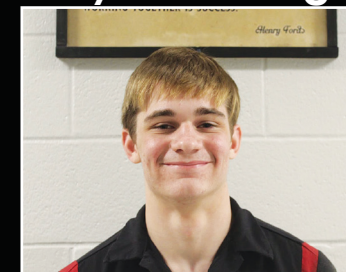
## Girls Swim, Dive



JoAnn Jagger, JUNIOR

**"She has been performing well, despite injuries and has emerged as a strong leader."**  
- Head coach Chelsea Shatt

## Boys Wrestling



CJ Walton, SENIOR

**"CJ has been consistent all year, he is a good leader and he's a good role model."**  
- Head coach Lou DeLauro