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Pg. 11 Spencer Signing

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Saegertown's annual tractor parade brings the community together

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

In Saegertown, they hold a tractor parade every year. On November 22, the tractors lit up and started their engines. All of the lights lit up Saegertown with joy and excitement. There were many cool, creative tractors and also very bright tractors. There were lights on every single tractor and lots of people cheering them on. Many people from the community and Crawford County

come every year to watch this wonderful tractor parade.

The Saegertown High

School Yearbook team also came out and participated in the tractor parade. The kids from the Saegertown Panthers yearbook team include the

Marley Bidwell, Emma Spencer, Carley Mosbacher, Lauren Wright, Michayle White, Brooke Newman, Abby Rockwell, Zyrin Pangatungan,

tractors and floats helped make the night truly magical. It was heartwarming to see so many community members and children come out to celebrate to-

gether. The tractor parade, started by Lacy Baker and her family, has grown into a beloved local tradition

that continues to bring joy and positive impact to our community. It's a festive time of year, and this event is something everyone should come out to see, celebrate, or even join in. A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the individuals who dedicated their time and energy to decorating their tractors and floats, as well as to everyone who participated in the celebration. Your creativity makes this tradition truly special for our community.



Photo Courtesy of Saegertown Lighted Tractor Parade

Panther Mascot, Maddy Pratt, Levi Gardner, Everett Gardner, Cru Scott, Luke Young, Ryder Bailey,

Hailey Miller, Miley Manning, Megan Yuriscic, Allie Staab, and Halie Staab. Several wonderful

together. The tractor parade, started by Lacy Baker and her family, has grown into a beloved local tradition

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Mamdani elected mayor of NYC

Vladimir Petrie
Website Editor

Recently, New York City elected a new mayor. Zohran Kwame Mamdani is the mayor-elect of New York City. He is a member of the Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America. He has served as a member of the New York State Assembly for the 36th District since 2021, representing the Queens neighborhood of Astoria.

The main controversy around his position as mayor is the fact that he is a socialist, which is basically never seen in political roles such as the mayor of New York City. A large part of the Mamdani controversy mostly revolves around criticism that he is antisemitic due to his strong criticism of Israel, particularly his views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and his stance on Israel's status as a Jewish state. Critics, including Jewish organizations and some politicians, allege that his rhetoric is a double standard and fuels antisemitism, while



Photo Courtesy of Inkl

Mamdani asserts his views are based on universal human rights and hold Israel accountable for its actions.

Mamdani has repeatedly de-

scribed Israel's military actions in Gaza as "genocide" and "war crimes," a charge that the Israeli government and many Jewish organizations, such as the Amer-

ican Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League, reject as false and dangerous.

His plans for domestic poli-

tics, such as universal childcare, a rent freeze on stabilized units, city-owned grocery stores, and fare-free public buses, have been criticized as unworkable or too expensive by opponents, who question how they would be funded or implemented.

Mamdani's rise has been met with significant personal attacks, which his supporters and some media outlets have characterized as Islamophobic and racist. These included false claims about his immigration status, accusations of being a "communist," and threats against his life. The ADL announced a "Mamdani Monitor" project to track real-life incidents of antisemitism in the city and hold him accountable, an unusual move for the organization.



Photo Courtesy of Foxnews



Photo Courtesy of ABCNews

Williams wins first at PMEA District Jazz competition

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

As of November 20th, Saegertown high school senior Brady Williams strikes first place at district jazz out of all the other pianists. Ranking second place during 2024, he has moved up his ranking and talent and demonstrated it all beautifully.

What is district jazz? The district jazz competition is a competition between high school musicians who compete individually on their instruments for the opportunity to play as part of an upper-level jazz band. The competition also acts as an audition

put on by the PMEA to assess student musicians for the chance to play at the district-wide festival in February. The PMEA district 2 jazz competition has a wide scope that encompasses seven different counties, including Erie, Crawford, Warren, McKean, Elk, Cameron, and Potter, making Williams' victory all the more impressive.

Brady recounted his experiences and reflected on his victory. "At the beginning of my audition, I got to listen to all the other pianists play, and I was really impressed with the level of talent that some of them had," states Williams. "I think the only reason I won is because I fol-

lowed the directions a little more closely than some of the other pianists."

Brady also enjoyed the environment and the chance to meet new people. "There was some awesome competition and some really great guys I got to have some great conversations with," he said. "It felt really cool to be able to kind of 'geek out' with a lot of different instrumentalists who were all passionate about the same thing."

His teacher, Ms. Adrian Lyons, is just as proud about his final win and grateful to get this opportunity to watch him move on from districts. Williams recounted her reaction, saying,

"Ms. Lyons was ecstatic as well. She's super excited because she's heard of my director, who I'll be playing with in February. I'm her first student who's gone to district jazz, so to have someone who got second place and then first place in his first two years, his first two festivals even, was really exciting for her. I think she almost cried."

Lyons also shared her thoughts. "It was a really good experience. He auditioned really well... I did cry. It's really challenging to get in first band, but he's put in a lot of work, and he's doing a lot of great things, and I'm really proud of the progress that he's made."

The event was hosted by PMEA and held at Eisenhower High School. But what's next for Williams?

On February 12-13, Williams will compete in the district-wide festival, in which guest directors are brought in to direct the bands. Brady will be a member of band one with Dr. Mike Tomaro of Duquesne University. Music was given out based on performance after the auditions, and students have the opportunity to perfect the music together in preparation for the event for a "grueling" two days of rehearsal. This festival will be hosted in Union City and is open to the public.

The origins and practices of Christmas

Aurora Petrie
Managing Editor

Do you ever wonder where the holiday, Christmas, even comes from? Well, Christmas, which is celebrated annually on December 25th, is a religious holiday as well as a worldwide cultural phenomenon. People from all around the world observe Christmas with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. Popular customs include the exchanging of gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, and sharing meals with friends/family. Christmas has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

Although the Bible does not actually mention Jesus' birth date, church leaders had chosen

December 25th; this date was most likely chosen because it aligned with the Roman winter solstice celebration. By placing the celebration on this date, the traditional Pagan festival had been transformed into a Christian holiday.

Today, Christmas traditions are woven from many diverse threads. The Christmas tree, for example, is thought to derive from German Yule trees, which were used to symbolize everlasting life during the harsh winter. Germanic people celebrated Yuletide, a festival that involved feasting around a bonfire, usually lasting up to 12 days, which is where our tradition of a feast is most likely believed to come from. Ultimately, Christmas is a complex holiday; while the spiritual core remains the Christian belief in the birth of a savior, the tradition and timing are rooted in humanity's shared, ancient need to find light and

hope during the darkest days of winter.



Potatoes au Gratin



Ingredients

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 ½ Cups Cream | 1 tsp Salt |
| 2 Garlic Cloves | ¼ tsp Pepper |
| 2 tbsp Unsalted Butter | 2 ½ Cups Cheese |
| 2.5 lb. Starchy Potato | |

Method

1. Cream Mixture: Place butter, cream and garlic in a jug. Mix until combined.
2. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F
3. Slice potatoes: Peel the potatoes and slice them 1/8"/3 mm thick. Or use a slicer!
4. Layer 1: Spread 1/3 of the potatoes in a baking dish, then pour over 1/3 of the Cream Mixture, scatter with 1/3 of the salt, pepper, and thyme. Sprinkle with 3/4 cups cheese.
5. Layers 2 & 3: Repeat for the 2nd and third layer, but do not finish with cheese on the top layer (will add later).
6. Cover & bake: Cover with lid or foil, and bake for 1 hour 15 minutes or until the potatoes in the middle are soft, it might take 1 1/2 hours.
7. Top with cheese, bake again: Remove foil, top with cheese. Bake for a further 10 to 15 minutes until golden and bubbly. Stand 5 minutes before serving.



A Christian's perspective: Is Christmas just a market scam?

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-In-Chief

Christmas is an annual Christian holiday celebrated on December 25th to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ according to many different websites, and that's what it was supposed to stay as. Not so much a holiday but a commemoration of Jesus. But in the modern day, Christmas has become seemingly more of an "everybody celebrates" type of event, and less about religion. Particularly big name brands and companies all around the United States jump on the wagon during the Christmas season and market everything with snow, candy canes, and Santa Claus to get their product to sell. So at this point, is Christmas just a market scam by companies to sell their products better?

One example of when Christmas first began to turn from religion to consumerism—and arguably the first people to start the trend—was Coca Cola in the

1920's.

"Before 1931, there were many different depictions of Santa Claus around the world, including a tall gaunt man and an elf—there was even a scary Claus," a part of Coca-Cola.com's website states. "But in 1931, Coca-Cola commissioned illustrator Haddon Sundblom to paint Santa for Christmas advertisements. Those paintings established Santa as a warm, happy character with human features, including rosy cheeks, a white beard, twinkling eyes and laughter lines." With this, Coke became one of the first brands to start treating Christmas as an opportunity to market their product, rather than leave it to just be about religion. Other brands soon saw this and everyone seemingly jumped onto the bandwagon together leading us to what is now our modern day Christmas, full of advertisements, hallmark movies, stockings, and Christmas trees full with presents.

I reached out to John Authenth, the pastor at Cochranon

Community Church, and asked him a few questions relating to the topic of Christmas from a religious standpoint, one being: "When the Christmas season comes about, do you think sometimes Christians—and especially non Christian or non religious people—forget about the true meaning of Christmas and what we're supposed to be celebrating?"

"One thing that research tells us is that our nation has gotten farther and farther away from our former Christian cultural leanings. What I mean by this is—in times past, going to church every week and identifying as a Christian was just a normal part of being an American (for the most part). That isn't true anymore. Therefore, Christmas has become more of a general annual holiday like any other for a large percentage of our population, and the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration and recognition of the birth of Jesus Christ, is no longer at the forefront."

Intrigued by his response, I continued with a similar question, "Do you believe it is fair to say that for Christmas now, the focus has shifted more toward presents, and materialistic or mythical things rather than focusing on religion as intended?"

"The answer to this question refers back to the previous question honestly. When the religious intent is removed, the materialistic becomes prevalent—Merry Christmas becomes Happy Holidays!"

I also asked Jesse McCullough, an Elder at the same church, the same question. He responded, "There is certainly a giant dose of materialism associated with the holiday. Commercials and advertisements all over television and the internet promote the "perfect" holiday gifts. From a Christian perspective, I think it is important to note that Jesus instructed us to remember His death and resurrection (Easter) and gave no instruction on remember or celebrating His birth." He spoke

a lot on this matter, but something else specific that stuck out to me was, "It is also interesting to note that Christmas did not become a federal holiday in the United States until 1870 (President Grant) while Thanksgiving Day became a federal holiday in 1863 (President Lincoln). The shift in favor of Christmas being a widely celebrated holiday is at least partially attributed to Charles Dickens and his book, "A Christmas Carol," when it was published in 1843."

Even History.com also states, "Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature." Calling Christmas a "worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon" is another great example of Christmas starting to become part of most people's lives, religious or not.

Despite the fact that it seems we can point the start of modern day Christmas to Coca Cola back in the 20's, it is important to note that Coca Cola isn't to be credited with the start of the Holiday, or even Santa Claus himself. They simply expanded upon what was already given to them and others in the market followed suit. Coca-Cola.com adds this to their history page: "Coca-Cola did not create the legend of Santa Claus. But Coca-Cola advertising did play a big role in shaping the jolly character we know today."

It seems that almost everyone celebrates Christmas nowadays, but not everyone who celebrates



Photo Courtesy of Greenwich Time



*Photo Courtesy of
Cochranon Community Church*

is Christian. Authenreith was asked another question relating to this particular curiosity, and was asked, "Do you believe only Christians should be celebrating Christmas? Or do you believe everyone can take part in the holiday no matter their religion (or lack there of)?"

"I do believe Christians should celebrate the birth of our Savior and I'm not against the giving and receiving presents, putting up trees and decorations or any of that, but I think Christians need to step back sometimes and remember what the true meaning of Christmas is. When you look at Christmas (and Easter) from a non-Christian view, it is just another reason to throw a party, get a vacation day and participate in the Americanized rituals of the holiday. Christmas is absolutely founded and based on Christianity—maybe those who don't believe in Jesus should call it something else?"

In a slightly different tone, when McCullough was asked this, he replied a bit differently. "I do not believe that only Christians should celebrate Christmas. Jesus was a gift for all of humanity - those who were looking for Him and even those who are not. I believe Christmas is a wonderful way to be able to find common ground to discuss who Jesus is and the impact He has had on planet earth - even 20 centuries after this birth. The story of the birth of Jesus tells us that he was visited by shepherds and wise men - people at complete opposite ends of the social spectrum. I believe we should welcome everyone to the celebration. More so, I hope people become interested in the story and endeavor to learn more about Jesus ultimately leading to a personal relationship with

Him."

Even with all of this in mind, it comes back to the overall point that Christmas is NOT supposed to be a Holiday at all really, but a celebration of Jesus Christ. It was an event turned into a holiday and that slowly became (and is still becoming) something else, something that it arguably isn't.

I've heard some people wonder how pastors spend their Christmas, especially as devout followers of Jesus Christ. Do they follow their own teachings? Do they enjoy the material gifts? To answer this, Authenreith was asked, "When the Christmas season comes around, despite being a religious man and prioritizing Jesus at the center of your life, do you get excited to spend time with your family and why?" which he kindly replied with, "Even as a pastor, I feel like my own personal family celebration can drift toward the materialistic because of how the culture has changed the intended purpose of the holiday, and this always bugs me! I do look forward to spending time with my family. I mean, I like giving presents and I like opening presents, but keeping the real meaning of the season at the forefront has to be a priority, even for pastors!"

On a similar note, McCullough replied, "Generally speaking, I do not. My family is very closely knit, and we all live within walking distance of each other. My wife coined the term "McCulloughville" in reference to the 20 or so family members who live here. The result is that we see each other frequently and we regularly gather for family meals. IF this wasn't the case, I am sure my opinion would be different. There is part of the season which is made special

by the wide-eyed wonder of the youngest members of the family, but as they outgrow their interest in Santa Claus, Rudolph and the Elf on the Shelf, things change.... The maturing of people has been a beautiful thing to observe. That said, while I am rapidly becoming an old man now, I do still secretly hope for a special toy under the tree each year..."

So with all of this information provided, what do we think? Has Christmas really become just a big money grab, market scam in the US? Or is it just a smaller part of a much bigger religious holiday, as the Christian's intended the focus to be on Jesus?





No Bake Cookies ✨

Ingredients:

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 Tbsp unsalted butter
- 3 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- ½ cup whole milk ✨
- ¼ tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp vanilla extract
- ¾ cup creamy peanut butter (OPTIONAL, or almond butter,)
- 2 cups uncooked quick-cooking oats

Instructions:

1. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside
2. In a medium saucepan, add in the sugar, butter, cocoa powder, and milk. Over medium heat, bring the ingredients to a boil for 60 seconds, stirring constantly, until butter is melted, sugar is dissolved, and mixture has thickened.
3. Remove from the heat and add in the salt, vanilla, and peanut butter until combined and smooth
4. Stir in oats until completely combined and coated
5. Working quickly before the mixture starts to harden, using a tablespoon sized cookie scoop, drop batter onto the prepared baking sheets, a couple inches apart since they will spread slightly
6. Allow to cool completely and harden. (They will harden at room temperature, or you can put them in the fridge.)
7. Serve and Enjoy!!



The case against Santa Clause

Kaiya Levesque
Managing Editor

Christmas is the time of year when kids tend to get most excited because it means making a list for Santa and then getting presents under a Christmas tree on December 25th, Christmas Day. But should kids believe in Santa?

It's a common tradition around the world, the belief in Santa. Santa is the one who leaves most of the presents under the tree each year, but once they reach a certain age, parents usually break the news to them that Santa isn't real. Some kids may be able to handle this fine,

but others can be devastated, as they might have a stronger belief in Santa.

So, should kids believe in Santa at all?

The whole 'Santa is real' debacle started around the 3rd century, with major developments around the 19th century. St. Nicholas, a monk, was born around 280 A.D. in Patara, modern-day Turkey. It was said that Nicholas had a giving spirit and traveled the countryside to help those who were less fortunate and the sick (St. Tammany Library).

Kids shouldn't be told a lie by their parents that Santa is real. This could lead to their own kids lying, thinking it is okay because

their parents lied about something, say Santa, and could pick up on the bad habit of lying.

Some kids could lose the spirit of Christmas because, 'What's the point of Christmas when Santa isn't real?' When parents break the truth that Santa isn't real, kids could also lose trust in their parents, struggling to believe anything their parents say. After all, their parents did lie to them for years.

As children grow, they begin to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy. Encouraging kids to believe in Santa may hinder this cognitive development.

When children eventually

learn that Santa is not real, their emotional reactions can vary. Some may feel disappointment or sadness, particularly if they have invested a lot of emotional energy into the belief. According to University Hospitals, research indicates that children who discover the truth at an older age may experience more negative emotions compared to those who learn earlier or in a gentler manner.

Parents who choose not to promote the belief in Santa can redirect their children's focus to other meaningful aspects of the holiday season, such as the joy of giving, family traditions, and the spirit of kindness; this approach can foster a more genuine under-

standing of the holiday's values without relying on a myth.

In a diverse society, not all families celebrate Christmas or believe in Santa Claus. Teaching children about different beliefs and traditions can promote respect and understanding for others.

In conclusion, while the Santa Claus myth can add a sense of wonder to childhood, there are valid reasons for parents to consider when deciding whether to promote this belief. Balancing the magic of childhood with honesty and emotional well-being in guiding children through their formative years.

The enduring magic of believing in Santa

Trinity Gohn
Editor

For a child, the anticipation of Christmas is a magical, year-long buildup, all revolving around the one figure who makes it all possible: Santa Claus.

We've all experienced the feeling of not wanting to go to sleep on Christmas Eve because the thought of all the great gifts and food you are going to get the next day are playing around in your head. The magical feeling that kids feel on Christmas is something that kids will always keep as a memory. The smell of cookies being made, the twinkling lights, the rustle of wrapping paper- all these things children look forward to for Christmas.

Many children also try to stay on their best behavior so

that they don't get coal as their present. That's where the belief of Santa comes into play. But is it okay for parents to make their children believe in someone that's not real? In my opinion, children should believe in Santa.

Children have a crazy imagination, they have imaginary friends, they play pretend with toys, they play pretend being doctors, what's the difference in believing in Santa? Let them use their imagination however they please.

Even though there is a point in time in a child's life where they eventually stop believing, why make it start sooner than it needs to? It's understandable that it's a bit weird if you're in your teenage years and still believing in Santa, but if you're a little kid still just starting out in life it's okay. Be free with imagination, that's what it's there for! Plus,

there's a bunch of other figures for other holidays too that children believe in, Santa clause is not different.

If you want to tell your child Santa is not real, wait till they're a little older, around 10 or so. You're about to hit your teenage years, and you're slowly becoming not so kiddish anymore.

"Yes they should believe in Santa, because it helps keep the Christmas spirit alive and also gives kids something to look forward to," says Claire Harrison, a student at Sagertown Highschool.

"When they believe in Santa it gives them a better outlook on life, and gives them something to look forward to, it makes them want to try more things in life, if they believe in such little things it allows them to want to believe in more," Aleigha Powell stated, also a student at Sagertown

Highschool.

There's so many good reasons for children to believe in Santa. What's the harm in allowing children to have some belief?



A look into exciting new movies

Lincoln Flowers
Panther Paw Editor

Movie producers are looking to end 2025 with a bang! There are new and exciting movies out now and being released soon. Many of these movies are sequels to earlier films and feature popular characters. Although these movies feature popular prequels and characters, some reviews of the already released movies are mixed.

One groundbreaking movie release is the long-awaited “Zootopia 2” movie. This movie was released on November 26th, 2025, and holds overwhelmingly positive reviews. With a runtime of 1 hour and 48 minutes, it is a thrilling and hilarious movie. With aspects of heartwarm-

ing adventure, audiences of the “Zootopia 2” movie are captured in its magic and find themselves widely enjoying the new film.

Another important movie to look out for is “The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants”, which releases on December 19th, 2025. This movie is described as a journey to the ocean depths to face the Flying Dutchman’s ghost, encountering challenges and uncovering marine mysteries. The movie will feature a runtime of 1 hour and 36 minutes of action-packed and mysterious fun.

“Regretting You” was released on October 24th, 2025. Although the film had many people looking forward to it, many people feel that it was a huge let-down. With a run time of 1 hour and 56 minutes, much of the film’s audi-

ence felt that the film relied too heavily on surface-level emotion and rarely found the full potential of each situation.

“Avatar: Fire and Ash” is an exciting film to look out for coming up as well. With a release date of December 19th, 2025, the new Avatar movie is a sequel to the previous, very popular Avatar movies.

The upcoming and recently released films in 2025 have found popularity, excitement, and occasionally let-downs, though there are certainly movies to look forward to. These films feature popular characters and prequels, adding to the excitement of their releases. With the spare time over the upcoming breaks from school and/or work, many people can find entertainment in checking out some of the new

films, potentially from their favorite characters or prequels.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

Is Predator: Badlands as good as everyone says?

Claire Harrison
Broadcast Director

On November 7, 2025, the movie everyone has been waiting for came out: “Predator: Badlands,” filmed by Dan Trachtenberg and a sequel to the Predator franchise. “Predator: Badlands” is widely considered one of the best films of the year by critics and audiences. Many are calling it the best entry in the franchise since the original that came out in 1987. It’s praised for its action, unique story, and strong performances.

“Predator: Badlands” is about a young Yautja exiled from his clan; he crash lands on a belligerent planet called Genna. Seeking

to prove himself, Dek sets out to find an apex predator called the Kalisk. Along the way, Dek faces numerous challenges. He forms an unlikely alliance with Thia, a malfunctioning android from the Weyland-Yutani Corporation. He also gets a companion named Bud, a small creature from Genna.

When asked, “Would you want to watch the movie?” Kaiya Levesque said, “Yes, I think it would be perfect to watch.” At rogerebert.com, the article “Predator: Badlands” by Matt Zoller Seitz gives the movie four stars out of five. On IMDb.com the movie has a 7.4/10, on RottenTomatoes.com it has an 86%, and on Metacritic.com it has a 71/100. You can watch “Pred-

ator: Badlands” in theaters, on Hulu, but only in the USA, and on Disney+. Elle Fanning takes to the screen as Thia, Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi as Dek, Ravi Narayan as Bud, Reuben de Jong as Father (suit), Cameron Brown as Drone Synth, Alison Wright as MU, and Matt Duffer as Kwei’s Ship Computer.

When asked, “What do you think about the Predator: Badlands movie? Trinity Gohn says, “I would love to watch the movie when I have time.”



Photo Courtesy of Cosmicbooknews

“Wicked: For Good” Review: Pink goes good with green... or does it?

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

[Note: The following article contains mild spoilers for “Wicked: For Good.”]

After one anticipated year, Universal Pictures has finally released the highly awaited “Wicked: For Good,” the sequel to Wicked. After the tragic events of Elphaba Thropp’s disappearance, both Munchkinland and the Emerald City were under severe distress at the thought of the “Wicked Witch of the West” coming out of her hiding to spread destruction across the land. Meanwhile, Glinda, the “Good Witch,” is becoming more

and more popular by the day; the engagement between her and Fiyero is announced.

After serious tension once the Wicked Witch crashes the celebration and states how “our wizard lies,” she moves on back to the hidden forest after a daring chase with the Gale Force. Once escaping the force, she had found the secret tunnel through the road as all animals forced themselves to keep hidden, all afraid of losing their rights as civilians in Oz and Munchkinland and losing their ability to speak. Elphaba had sensed the fear in every single one of them and had hoped to encourage their strength so they could fight back, reminding them that there was “no place like home.” Just before she could finish her final words,

the shadow of the cowardly lion crept from the trees, his voice frantic as he spoke of his fear of Elphaba, remembering the dramatic features of the Wicked Witch cub napping him and forcing him into the woods to fend for himself. After realizing that the lion’s word had a greater effect on the other animals, Elphaba had tried a new route and headed back to Munchkinland to reunite with her sister, NessaRose, who had just been appointed the new governor of Munchkinland. Noticing how distant and cold Nessa had been without their father and the feeling that her lover, Boq, was losing feelings for her, Elphaba had enchanted a spell to lift Nessa’s spirits, which resulted in Nessa floating up into the air very brief-

ly. Watching as Nessa’s mood was immediately leveled back up, she didn’t realize that Nessa was chanting her own spell from the grimmerie, a spell that evidently ends up cursing Boq with forming his heart smaller and colder, turning into a metal nightmare known as “The Tin Man.”

Watching the now cold and brutal Boq as he transformed into the Tin Man, Elphaba had no other choice but to leave him with Nessa, since she had tried to find someone else that would listen to her on the Wizard of Oz. Her second-to-last attempt was all alone in her room, and time was ticking. Glinda was trying to make herself look absolutely perfect for her wedding tonight, but feeling the windows creak open made her stop in her

tracks, her heart pounding in fear and excitement. Stopping in what she was doing, she quickly scurried outside to find nothing but kept looking around. Feeling the dark presence of the green woman, she whipped around to see Elphaba standing behind her looking wicked as ever... but not in Glinda’s eyes. Without a moment to waste, she brought the green figure in quickly, her heart swelling with emotion.

But what happens next? To see, you’ll need to watch the film yourself. This can be done at any of your local theatres, and the experience is truly magical—especially the songs. You could almost say it’s “Wodnerful!”

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-In-Chief

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ero is announced.

After serious tension once the Wicked Witch crashes the celebration and states how “our wizard lies,” she moves on back to the hidden forest after a daring chase with the Gale Force. Once escaping the force, she had found the secret tunnel through the road as all animals forced themselves to keep hidden, all afraid of losing their rights as civilians in Oz and Munchkinland and losing their ability to speak. Elphaba had sensed the fear in every single one of them and had hoped to encourage their strength so they could fight back, reminding them that there was “no place like home.” Just before she could finish her final words, the shadow of the cowardly lion crept from the trees, his voice frantic as he spoke of his fear of Elphaba, remembering the

dramatic features of the Wicked Witch cub napping him and forcing him into the woods to fend for himself. After realizing that the lion’s word had a greater effect on the other animals, Elphaba had tried a new route and headed back to Munchkinland to reunite with her sister, NessaRose, who had just been appointed the new governor of Munchkinland. Noticing how distant and cold Nessa had been without their father and the feeling that her lover, Boq, was losing feelings for her, Elphaba had enchanted a spell to lift Nessa’s spirits, which resulted in Nessa floating up into the air very briefly. Watching as Nessa’s mood was immediately leveled back up, she didn’t realize that Nessa was chanting her own spell from the grimmerie, a spell that evidently ends up cursing Boq with form-

ing his heart smaller and colder, turning into a metal nightmare known as “The Tin Man.”

Watching the now cold and brutal Boq as he transformed into the Tin Man, Elphaba had no other choice but to leave him with Nessa, since she had tried to find someone else that would listen to her on the Wizard of Oz. Her second-to-last attempt was all alone in her room, and time was ticking. Glinda was trying to make herself look absolutely perfect for her wedding tonight, but feeling the windows creak open made her stop in her tracks, her heart pounding in fear and excitement. Stopping in what she was doing, she quickly scurried outside to find nothing but kept looking around. Feeling the dark presence of the green woman, she whipped around to see Elphaba standing behind her

looking wicked as ever... but not in Glinda’s eyes. Without a moment to waste, she brought the green figure in quickly, her heart swelling with emotion.

But what happens next? To see, you’ll need to watch the film yourself. This can be done at any of your local theatres, and the experience is truly magical—especially the songs. You could almost say it’s “Wodnerful!”



Who is this Krampus guy?

Rorie Howles-McBeth
Social Media Editor

Krampus is a folklore legend that comes around. He is an anthropomorphic figure who, in the Central and Eastern Alpine folkloric tradition, is said to accompany Saint Nicholas on visits to children during the night of December 5, immediately preceding the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6. In this tradition, Saint Nicholas rewards well-behaved children with small gifts, while Krampus punishes badly behaved ones by beating them with birch rods.

Krampus is usually featured as a man with horns with one grotesque human foot and one foot of a goat. He is typically covered

in black hair and has a very long, snake-like tongue. Some festivities that happen with Krampus are the Krampuslauf (Krampus run), which involves alcohol, people dressed as the creature parade through the streets, scaring spectators, and sometimes chasing them. Krampus is still believed in in several countries, such as Austria, Slovenia, Germany, and many more. The celebration is also gaining recognition in the United States and parts of Europe. His significance has led to many movies, comics, and shows about him, either telling about him or making him more of a monster.

The clearest origins of Krampus can be found in medieval art and drama and devils in medieval German art, and you'll see their

undeniable resemblance to Krampus. Medieval devils themselves borrowed elements of pagan gods and monsters. Krampus must have some distant pagan background of some sort. All in all, Krampus only comes around during the winter holidays to beat the naughty children.

Is Sledding Dangerous?

Lincoln Flowers
Panther Paw Editor

Sledding is an exciting activity that has held fun memories for kids for thousands of years. The means of sledding have been developed and adapted with modern advancements throughout the millennia. Though it has somewhat changed over time, sledding has been a huge staple of winter activities for kids around the world. With the invigorating activity of sledding, many people are left wondering if it's worth the risk of injuries.

Each year, over twenty thousand people are treated for sledding-related injuries in the United States. Roughly one-third of these injuries are head injuries, which are a huge concern.

Head injuries can lead to serious consequences, including skull fractures or concussions.

Sledding injuries typically occur due to collisions with stationary objects, falls, or incorrect sledding technique.

With many injuries coming from incorrect sledding techniques, it is important to be educated on correct and safe sledding procedures. One big procedure is to choose safe sledding locations. These include hills that are free of obstacles and have a safe, clear stopping point at the bottom of the hill. Another important procedure is to wear protective gear. Warm, waterproof clothing is important to prevent cold-related injuries.

Additionally, helmets or proper head protection are recommended to prevent head injuries.

Many injuries can also be attributed to poor sledding techniques. Proper sledding technique includes always sledding feet first and avoiding riding on top of another person. Furthermore, allow proper time for anyone sledding before you to reach a safe distance down the hill before sledding down yourself. Supervision is another important factor of sledding for young children. For older sledders, it is recommended to have other people around in case of any injuries.



Photo Courtesy of Pixabay

According to a Panther Press survey, this is **Saegertown's Spotify Wrapped**.

Top Artists: Rod Wave, Sublime, Morgan Wallen, Juice Wrld, Luke Combs, Bastille, Jay-Z, LLYR.

Top Songs- Don't Fear the Reaper by Blue Oyster Cult, Desperado by Alice Cooper, Violent Nature by I Prevail, Fireflies by Owl City, Pompeii by Bastille, Fishnets by Treaty Oak Revival, Madeline by Zach Bryan

Top Genres- Rap, Rock, Country


Top Spotify Club- Grit Collective

Now Playing
Spotify Wrapped

15:05 - 14:55

⏮ ⏪ ⏩ ⏭

HOW TO MAKE SNICKERDOODLES

 30-40 Minutes  ~6 Dozen



INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter or margarine, softened
- ½ cup shortening
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2¾ cups Gold Medal Flour
- 2 teaspoons cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon

Step 1: Heat Oven

Heat oven to 400°

Step 2: Mix

Mix thoroughly butter, shortening, 1½ cups sugar and the eggs. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, soda and salt.

Step 3: Roll

Shape dough by rounded teaspoonfuls into balls.

Step 4: Create Coating

Mix 2 tablespoons sugar and the cinnamon; roll balls in mixture.



Step 5: Bake and Enjoy

Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until set. Immediately remove from baking sheet.

By Anna Bradshaw



Christmas Word Search



Find the words below in the word search.

B	S	A	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	F
E	L	F	B	D	E	C	F	O	G	M	I
L	E	W	R	E	A	T	H	R	H	I	R
L	I	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	I	S	E
J	G	M	Q	S	R	H	J	A	K	T	P
K	H	T	N	U	Z	O	N	M	P	L	L
F	G	V	Y	O	X	L	S	E	R	E	A
H	E	U	Z	A	P	L	Q	N	U	T	C
D	I	C	A	N	D	Y	Z	T	V	O	E
P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	W	B	E	C

BELL
CANDY
PRESENT
FIREPLACE

ELF
WREATH
STOCKING
MISTLETOE

HOLLY
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN
ORNAMENT



Senior Emma Spencer makes history for Saegertown wrestling

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

Saegertown senior Emma Spencer has just become Saegertown's very first female wrestler to sign with a collegiate girls' wrestling program. Spencer is a very talented wrestler from Saegertown High School. She has been wrestling basically her whole life. Spencer is a Saegertown Panther graduate of 2026. She is signing with the college Edinboro University for wrestling and is very excited to be a part of Edinboro University to wrestle next year.

Emma Spencer from Saegertown High School gave us some good information about her wrestling career and how she feels about going into a college with new people to wrestle with. Spencer said, "It's a big achievement, and I've been working for this since 5th grade. I never thought I would go to college for wrestling." Spencer went on and said, "Last year or the year before that, I was like, 'Ok, now I think I'm getting interested in this,' so I took a look further into it. I'm also excited for a new team and a new atmosphere to grow in. I'm excited to work with these new girls, these new types of wrestling."

The Saegertown girls wrestling has been very successful throughout the years. They have been hard-working and competitive. All the coaches and teammates are uplifted. Even though some are from different schools, they get along and get the job done. Spencer's success comes from the competitive and hard-working wrestler she is.



Photo Courtesy of
Saegertown Panthers Girls Wrestling



Photo Courtesy of Saegertown Panthers Girls Wrestling



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Faith is built.

Every Monday 7pm - 9pm

Once a month fun Friday events.
Details posted monthly.