

HMS Stages “Amazing” Musical

by Jenn Edmonds

The Hampton Middle School Drama Club delighted audiences with four spectacular performances of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* November 21st to 23rd. Eighty-three middle

schoolers (cast, stage crew, and orchestra), seven student high school helpers, and several directors, costumers, and engineers embraced the challenge. “The whole show is sung, so there was a lot of music

to learn for both the actors and the pit,” said Assistant Director/Choreographer Rebecca Heller.

“It was a lot of hard work and there

(Continued on page 13)



Photo by Dave Edmonds

Local Veterans Celebrated

by Julie Mikus

On November 4, 2024, the Hampton community came together for the annual Hampton Heroes event, recognizing United States veterans as part of Veterans Day observances.

This event united Hampton students, faculty, community members, and leaders to reflect on the honor, courage, sacrifice, and commitment of those who have served the nation.

(Continued on page 12)

Memorial Bench Honors Late Council President

by Mary-Theresa Watson

Visitors to Hampton Community Park may have spotted a few new benches that have been strategically placed since the Township’s Comprehensive Plan was updated and adopted in mid-2021. One bench sits along the trail above the Orchard-Ling pavilions and another is positioned near the soccer fields, but it is the bench that rests along the trail above the Grubbs Pavilion that holds

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Police Information

The Hampton Township Police Department (HTPD) is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of our residents and guests by providing the very best in law enforcement services. Thank you to the staff for helping to keep our community safe.

A summary of noteworthy incidents that occurred are listed below. These incident statistics included, but WERE NOT LIMITED TO, the following between the dates of 10/6/2024—11/5/2024:

Hazardous Conditions

On 11/1/24, HTPD was dispatched to Parkwood Church, 4289 Mount Royal Boulevard, for a smell of natural gas. Hampton Fire Department arrived on scene and determined the smell of gas was coming from a broken gas line located behind the stove. HFD contacted People's Gas and ventilated the interior of the church.

Disabled Vehicle

On 11/8/24, HTPD were dispatched to 3915 William Flinn Hwy. for a report of a disabled vehicle in the roadway. Upon arrival, the vehicle was located just north of the intersection, on the northbound side. Officers were able to push the vehicle off the roadway. The driver stated that he had AAA on the way and he was advised to call back if he needed further assistance.

Vehicle Accident

On 10/21/24, HTPD responded to William Flinn Hwy. and McNeal Rd. for a two vehicle accident with injuries, one vehicle roll over with entrapment. Shaler /Hampton EMS, Hampton VFD and Hampton Fire Police were also on

scene. Both southbound lanes were closed, and traffic was diverted from the scene. The drivers of both units were transported to the hospital and Leo's Towing removed both vehicles from the scene.

On 11/5/24, HTPD were dispatched to the area of William Flinn Hwy. and Mt. Royal Boulevard for a report of a 3 vehicle accident with no injuries and one tow needed.

Upon arrival, contact was made with all involved individuals and confirmed there were no injuries. Information was exchanged between all involved parties. One unit was towed from the scene by Zang's Towing.

end

Presents from Police Toy Drive

The Hampton Police Department is once again teaming up with other local police departments for the annual "Presents from Police" program. This year's donations will go to the Sun Rise School, The Children's Institute, and UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

New and unwrapped toys may be dropped off at the community center, municipal building, or police station during regular business hours or at two Hampton locations, Edward Jones (4960 William Flinn Highway) or State Farm Insurance (5006 William Flinn Highway).

Thank you for your consideration in donating and helping to make a difference for a young child during this holiday season!

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A NOTE FROM THE HAMPTON NEWS

As *The Hampton News* continues to strive to bring you informative and interesting stories, we welcome feedback, ideas and submissions. We are always happy to hear from you and want to help keep the neighbors connected! The deadline for submissions is on the 15th of each month.

Please support the advertisers this month since they help provide this publication, and remember to SUPPORT local!

Production, Print and Design: Laurie and John Rizzo

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There are more cars on the road than ever, and even more than you can imagine around the winter holidays! Here are some simple tips when heading out on the road:

- Inspect your tires, tire pressure, oil, brakes, and lights.
- Get proper rest. Driving makes people tired. (Especially long distances)
- Don't drive distracted. It's easy to surf your phone when stuck in traffic.
- Travel early in the day, while it is light out. The more you can see, the more you can prepare for hazards.
- Fuel up beforehand. Don't get stranded in cold weather.

I hope you all have a safe and happy holiday season!

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Pasquale's Pizza De Resistance

by Erin Bell

Hampton Township just got a little more vibrant! Over the summer, Pasquale's Pizza on Ferguson Road unveiled a delightfully fun new mural on the side of their building. The piece was a collaborative effort between two longtime employees, delivery driver Chris Quast and shop manager Angela Elstner.

The notion for a mural came about when shop owner Matt Schlegel decided that he wanted to transform the space outside the shop—and he knew exactly who he could count on to bring the project to life. Quast is a practiced graffiti artist who has honed his craft at Color Park and other legal graffiti spots around Pittsburgh, while Elstner has demonstrated her creative aptitude in handling all of the shop's seasonal window art and pizza box decorating. Together, the duo created something that draws in

community members and brings smiles to the faces of those who pass by.

The mural celebrates the surrounding communi-



Artist Chris Quast, owner Matt Schlegel and artist Angela Elstner

ties of Hampton and Shaler and depicts fun renditions of menu items like the ice cream sundae, milkshake and their color-changing spoons. It also features two pairs of



wings in both Hampton and Shaler colors as a cool photo opp for anyone who visits. In addition to the mural, the shop's Cone Zone now offers a place for customers to hang out and enjoy themselves with shaded picnic benches as well as games like hopscotch and Connect 4. Quast says, "I think the mural brings unity to the community. We love to see the customers coming together, taking photos and enjoying our art."

The mural has certainly created a cheerful and welcoming environment for customers, which, according to Quast and Elstner, also reflects the Pasquale's workplace culture. Both artists described Pasquale's as their home away from home. Elstner said, "Pasquale's has given me the opportunity to grow and gotten me to open up and talk more. It is like a second home to me and I love talk-

(Continued on page 5)

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Library News



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hamptoncommunitylibrary.org

The Hampton Community Library would like to wish everyone a happy, peaceful holiday season!

Thank you for filling this year with good reads, great food, laughter and lively conversation.

What a Wonder-Fall World! Drop-in Storytime!

Join us as we fill our mornings with stories, songs and crafts designed to celebrate discovery as we interact with our environment. All ages and abilities welcome! Come early and stay for all the activities or come later and stay for a few; you decide!

Tuesdays and Thursdays*

Now through December 12th from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

10:30 a.m.- "Stories & Songs" 10:45 - "Investigate and Create"

11:00 a.m.- "Stories and Songs" 11:30 a.m.- "Parachute Play"

11:50 p.m.- "Stories and Songs" 12:00 p.m.- "Stay and Play"

**times are subject to go longer or shorter*

News and Views! First Fridays!

Friday, December 6th @ 1:00 p.m. in the library.

This longtime discussion group is led by local author and journalist Gerry K. Smith--with a new format inviting members to

participate as guest leaders the *First Friday* of the month. Discussion topics welcome from all. New members are welcome to come share, or just listen.

Meet Me at the Movies!

Tuesday, Dec. 10th @ 1:00 P.M.

The Department of Community Services and the Hampton Community Library are excited to partner in this new program for adults. Join us in Great Room A of the Community Center to watch this film based on the popular book by John Grisham, *Skipping Christmas*! Please visit the library to find out what movie we will be viewing. Snacks are encouraged! No registration is necessary.

Card Club!

Wednesdays, from 1 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Adults! Join us Wednesday afternoons for a game of 500 Bid or something new! Come out and show your skill, teach someone a new game or just enjoy some time out with friends new and old!

Murder by the Book! A Mystery Book Discussion

Wednesday, Dec. 18th @ 6:30 p.m. See Me, by Nicholas Sparks.

The Mystery Book Group will meet back in the library.

Please call the library to request a copy of the book. Everyone who is interested in great reads is invited to join us!

(Continued on page 5)



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Library

(Continued from page 4)

Betty's Book Buzz Discussion Group.

Friday, Dec. 20th @ 1:00 p.m.

A Winter Dream, by Richard Paul Evans.

Betty's Book Group will be meeting outside the library for its annual holiday luncheon.

Save the Date! It's a "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff!

Saturday, February 8, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calling all home cooks to stir up their favorite homemade soups! What is your claim to fame: chicken noodle, French onion, beer cheese or salmon chowder? Enter your soup in our "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff and gain bragging rights for a year! Entry fee is \$10. Registration begins January 2, 2025.

Closings:

December is busy with the hustling and bustling of the season. Here are some dates to remember for early closings and closings: Tuesday, December 17th the library will close at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 21st 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, December 23rd 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24th through Thursday, Dec. 26th closed.
Friday, December 27th 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 28th 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Monday, December 30th 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 31st and Wednesday, January 1st closed.

When in doubt, please check our website

hamptoncommunitylibrary.org. Please do not rely on Google! The website will always have the most up to date information!

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(Continued from page 3)

ing about how awesome my boss is!"

As to whether Pasquale's customers can expect to see more creative installations in the future, Elstner added, "[Owner] Matt has even more plans for paintings that we can do, and he always gives us full creative freedom." Quast in particular plans to continue moving forward with street art. "I've only been using spray paint for a year now and it had been an interesting medium to use. The possibilities seem endless and I'm looking forward to seeing what I can create next."

Visit Pasquale's Pizza at 2412 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 to snap a photo and check out the mural in person.

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20328 R4-23

Mikus Spearheads Fundraiser for Hurricane Victims

by Laurie Rizzo

About a month after Hurricane Helene devastated southern US states, the residents and business leaders of Hampton came together to support the hundreds of thousands affected by the storm. The hurricane caused widespread flooding, destroyed infrastructure, and swept away homes, resulting in numerous casualties. "I told my husband we needed to take action, so we immediately initiated a fundraiser for Samaritan's Purse," remarked Hampton resident Julie Mikus.

Samaritan's Purse is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes volunteers and resources in response to national disasters. Based in Boone, North Carolina, the organization itself was also impacted by the hurricane.

In the heavily affected regions of western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee, Samaritan's Purse conducted 210 helicopter and fixed-wing missions, delivering emergency relief supplies to some of the most isolated areas.

Mikus is no stranger to disaster; her small hometown of Etna experienced a historical flood in 1986 when she was fifteen. A flash flood, resulting from five inches of rain in just three hours, claimed eight lives in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, with estimated damages today nearing \$50 million.

"I witnessed our neighborhood inundated with floodwaters. It was devastating. My brother swam to our best friends' house to rescue their dogs. The National Guard took control of our

streets, and my family assisted with mud-outs for weeks," Mikus recounted. Over the summer that year, she served as a camp counselor for young children impacted by the flood.

Her father took on leadership roles, collaborating with local celebrities and sports teams to secure free appliances for flood victims. He also organized a significant fundraiser at All Saints Catholic Church.

"My entire family participated in the recovery efforts at that time. Giving back is deeply ingrained in me," she stated.

"It's no surprise that my wife reacted strongly to the unfolding events of Hurricane Helene. She joined various social media groups to monitor how nonprofits, churches, and ordinary citizens were responding to the disaster," Neil Mikus added.

A few days later, Julie received an email from a group called PGH Trailers for Helene. Without hesitation, she reached out to the organization to offer assistance. The group had already delivered supplies to the affected areas.

"I told my husband that we couldn't stop with just the fundraiser; we needed to do more. So, we set a goal to collect ten winter coats for PGH Trailers for Helene," Mikus explained.

The initiative rapidly gained momentum. Within days, Julie's office was filled with donations. A month later, she and her husband had amassed over 200 boxes of supplies, including first aid kits, tents, blankets, and survival items.

"Strangers began calling, expressing their support and informing us they had heard about our efforts. The donation drive went completely viral!" Julie exclaimed.

(Continued on page 7)



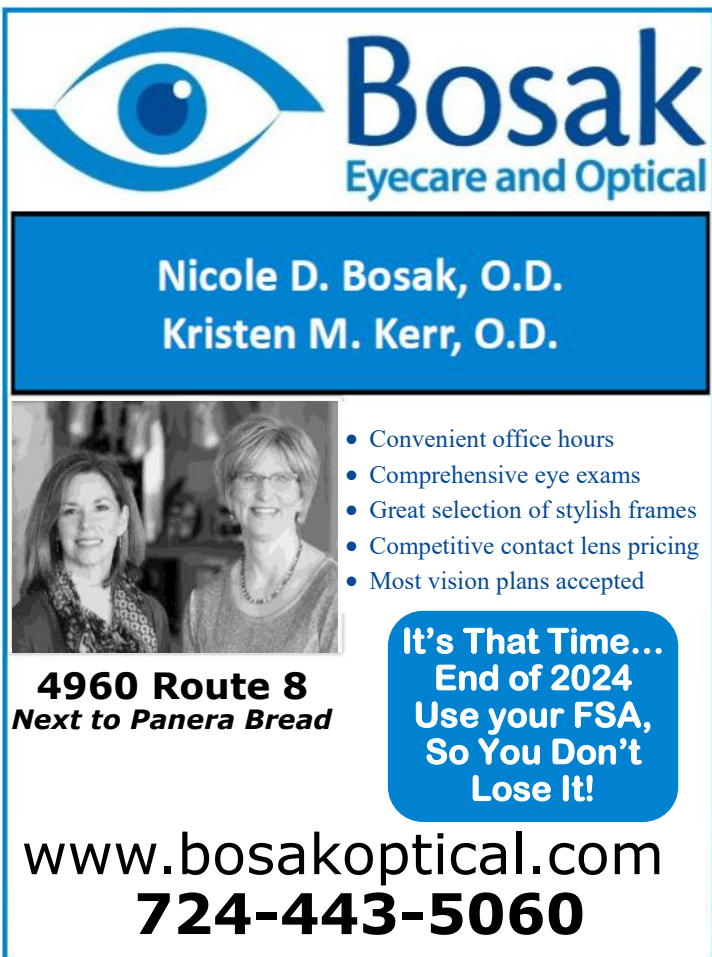
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Hurricane Fundraiser

(Continued from page 6)

Giving back became a family affair, as Julie's brother joined the cause, contributing over forty new space heaters among various supplies. A Hampton resident and United States Marine Corps War Veteran, Ted Hazlett, Jr. stated, "Veterans serve every day; it's what we continue to do for America."

Many local businesses also contributed significantly to the effort. Hampton-based Critchlow Enterprises helped coordinate chainsaws, purchased by large donations for the effort. In mid-November, the chainsaws were transported by PGH Trailers for Helene to the areas in dire need. Critchlow's provided guidance on the necessary equipment and highlighted additional supplies essential for the mission.

Julie's office at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices - The Preferred Realty served as a donation center, facilitating the collection of three trailers' worth of supplies for hurricane victims. Office manager Adrian Horner played a crucial role in managing the donations.

"Our home garage transformed into a donation center! The outpouring of support from community members was remarkable. It was a true movement of God," Mikus said. "We were honored to assist the incredible efforts of PGH Trailers for Helene. They are the real heroes!"

In total, the drive resulted in the dispatch of seven trailers filled with donations from Hampton alone, while PGH Trailers coordinated numerous drop-off locations throughout the region.

"When the trailer left our driveway, I had to catch my breath! It was a beautiful sight, a testament to the love and support for victims we may never meet," Julie reflected.

Her husband added, "Our Christian faith inspires us to donate our time, money, and resources to assist those in need."

The recovery for Hurricane Helene victims will be long and challenging, with many still unaccounted for and countless homes and lives affected. PGH Trailers for Helene plans to continue their missions to support the victims. To learn more and support their efforts, visit PGH Trailers For Helene's website:

www.givesendgo.com/pghtrailersforhelene

When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers – so many caring people in this world.

- Fred Rogers



Above: Gary Miller of PGH Trailers for Helene

Below: The truck leaving the Mikus residence



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Aquinas Students Recognize Veterans

by Michael Burchill

In celebration of Veterans Day, Aquinas Academy students performed a color ceremony giving special recognition to all Aquinas Academy alumni and all veterans who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.



Master of Ceremonies, senior Anne Dolan, delivers an address.

The ceremony was conducted entirely by members of the Aquinas student body members ranging from 2nd grade through 12th grade.

The service opened with a student color guard presenting and posting the national colors and all of the military service organizational colors. While a reviewing stand of active duty, retired and former officers observed, the eight person unit marched under the command of Lara Hainan. Anne Dolan acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Other student

speakers included Louis Bentivenga and Morgan Randall. The orchestra and the choir performed the National Anthem and

other patriotic melodies. The ceremony was highlighted with the presentation of a Memorial Wreath and the rendering of ceremonial honors with the sounding of "Taps" by student trumpeters. It concluded with the retirement of the colors. The color guard departed marching to the orchestra's rendition of the Washington Post March.

Mr. Greg Dolan, middle school history teacher, commented "A few of the students in the color guard



Junior Lara Hainan, who served as the Color Guard Commander inspects the Color Team.



Senior Harold Tarr played the bass drum for the band during the Veterans Day Ceremony.

learned last week about the importance of military discipline, including marching in formation, and how George Washington passed the winter at Valley Forge training and drilling with his men. These virtues of discipline and self-control complemented today's expression of patriotism, and our Founding Fathers would be honored by this tribute."

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Fresh Food Donations Make A Difference

For the third consecutive year, the Hampton Rotary has committed to purchasing \$10,000 worth of eggs, butter, milk, and cheese. These fresh products are delivered to three North Hills community outreach distribution sites in Allison Park, Millvale, and Bellevue. This initiative supplements the dry goods distribution at these food pantry sites from November through April.

Rotary members shop, load their vehicles, and deliver these perishables, ensuring they remain cold until they reach the pickup points. This addition is often a delightful surprise for the recipients. Project chair Hal

English mentioned that the club shops and delivers about 25 times during the winter months when the need is greatest.

This year, the Hampton Rotary is inviting everyone to scan the QR code below to donate funds; adding to the club's \$10,000 commitment. All donations go directly to those in need without any overhead costs. Last week, a generous shopper asked English why they were buying so many carts of milk, eggs, and cheese and then gave him \$20 in the parking lot to

support the effort. The Rotary is extending this kindness to help buy more fresh eggs, butter, milk, and cheese.

In the photo, Rotary member Shawn Wright is seen shopping and distributing these fresh products.



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4349 Middle Road	\$899,000	\$776,000	127
2569 Hillview Court	\$725,000	\$752,000	5
2967 Chautauqua Drive	\$675,000	\$650,000	92
4239 Lampl Road	\$585,000	\$550,000	154
2972 E Hardies Road	\$490,000	\$480,000	23
4211 Latour Court	\$530,000	\$460,000	66
2924 McCully Road	\$399,990	\$395,000	45
3184 Morningside Drive	\$374,900	\$369,000	72
3959 Catherine Drive	\$359,000	\$350,000	2
5251 Stella Drive	\$342,000	\$336,700	111
4107 Circle Drive	\$339,900	\$329,000	50
3929 Farmview Drive	\$337,500	\$327,500	4
2796 Drake Court	\$259,900	\$258,400	8
3070 E Bardonnor Road	\$239,000	\$237,000	12
2836 W McNeal Road	\$225,000	\$225,000	41
3890 Bonita Drive	\$225,000	\$221,000	94
5063 Harvest Lane	\$219,900	\$210,000	16
2123 Duncan Ave	\$165,000	\$160,000	5
2473 Ankeny Drive	\$119,900	\$85,000	44

TIP OF THE MONTH:

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Lighting: Inspect and clean light fixtures, and change any lightbulbs that need replacing. (You can shop specifically for energy-saving options to reduce your electricity bill.)

Windows: Get winter ready by resealing all windows and, if necessary, adding weather protection to further insulate your home and cut back on how hard your temperature regulation systems have to work to keep your home at a pleasant temperature.

Attic: Check attic ventilation and ensure there are no holes, pests, mold or other obstacles that prevent your home from operating at its best.

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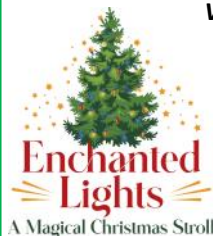
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Memorial Bench *(Continued from page 1)*
 special meaning for a local woman and, in truth, the entire Hampton community. This bench, along with an adjacent Kwanzan cherry tree, sits in remembrance of former Council President Mike Peters, who, after battling pancreatic cancer, passed away just over a year ago. Donated by Mike's wife, Debbie Peters, the bench is the first to be placed as a memorial.



Originally from Harrisburg, Mike's family moved to Hampton in 1967, and he went on to become a proud graduate of Hampton High School. Years later, in 2017, he joined Bethany Blackburn and Carolyn Johnson in running for Township Council; the threesome won their seats, and Mike would go on to serve a four-year term as Council President.

"As a long-term resident of Hampton," Debbie recalls, "Mike sincerely cared about this community. He made every effort to serve the residents well during his term on Council."

While the proposal to install benches and plant trees was part of the Comprehensive Plan for the ongoing evolution of Hampton Township, the dedication aspect of the plan was initiated by Melanie Martino, Parks & Recreation Programs Administrator. Melanie worked closely with the Public Works Department to determine the logistics

required for installation and maintenance for future bench and tree additions to the park.

Since the community park trail project was approved and the first phase completed while Mike was still on Council, having the bench as part of the trail made a perfect pairing. The location of the bench also provides a beautiful view of Hampton Community Park, offering a nice respite for walkers. Debbie also donated a flowering tree, which has been planted near the bench and promises a spring bloom of beautiful cherry blossoms.



Thrilled with the lovely memorial to her husband, Debbie was on hand in late October for the installation and has visited frequently ever since. While Debbie and Mike's daughter, Janelle, their son-in-law, Jon, and their grandchildren, Laine, Maisie, and Reece recently visited from Washington, D.C., Debbie happily brought them to the park to see it for themselves. The group sat together in the sunshine, taking in the view from Mike's bench as they remembered a kind and hardworking man who gave so much to the community he loved.

Note: The Township of Hampton plans to have a Memorial Bench program for residents later in 2025. Information on this opportunity will be available in the fall for those interested in a memorial bench in the Hampton Community Park.



Mike and Debbie's family left to right on bench grandchildren: Reece and Laine, their daughter Janelle, and Debbie. Standing: Mike and Debbie's son-in-law Jon holding their youngest granddaughter Maisie.



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Musical

(Continued from page 1)

were a lot of ups and downs, especially with the vocal ranges that I needed," said 8th grader Carson Ohodnicki who played the role of Joseph. "It's like stepping into a different world than I'm used to," said Ohodnicki. "I enjoy the company and the memories and the experiences I get out of it."

"This show is special because there are a lot of roles and that gives a lot of kids a chance to shine. The kids really had fun making their characters come to life," said Heller. "The musical was a great way to make a lot of new friends in different grades since we spend so much time rehearsing together," said 7th grader Chloe Edmonds, who played Gad's wife. More photos at www.thehamptonnews.com.

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Hampton Heroes

(Continued from page 1)

Held at Fridley Field, the ceremony commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Marlynn Lux, Principal of Hampton Middle School. Aiden Casey, a junior at Hampton High School, performed "Reveille," the bugle call that signifies the start of the day for military personnel.

The formalities continued with the Presentation of Colors, conducted by scouts Alexandar Barbiaux and Trey Smith. This tradition, which dates back to the inception of the United States, holds significant meaning in military ceremonies.

The Hampton Middle School 8th grade choir and orchestra, under the direction of Mrs. Heather Heere and Mrs. Amy Stepson, performed "The Star-Spangled Banner," the anthem celebrating the American victory over the British during the War of 1812, symbolizing American pride, resilience, bravery, and heroism.

The guest speaker for the event was Colin M. Boley, a retired Sergeant Major of the United States Army. The Hampton Middle School 8th grade band also performed the "Marches of the Armed Forces," which evokes the traditions and history of each military branch. This piece

serves not only to honor the branches of the military, but also to reflect the collective commitment of citizens to recognize active duty personnel and veterans for their service.

This year's Hampton Heroes included:

Charles Battista, Nick Endres, Robert F. Gaertner Sr., Mark Gartner, Catherine Gehry, Amy Knight, Zachary Merritt, Richard Silvester, and Richard Thomas.

In a patriotic gesture, the Hampton News extends its heartfelt gratitude to each inductee for their service to our country.



Left to right front: Lindsey Williams, Catherine Gehry, Robert F. Gaertner, Amy Knight, Amy McKaveney, Scheryn Bennett, Charles Battista, Dr. Marlynn Lux, Dr. Rebecca Cunningham. Back: Rob Mercuri, Arvind Venkat, Zachary Merritt, Dr. Michael Loughead, and Mark Gartner.

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Remembering an American Revolutionary War Patriot

by Stacey Shaffer
photos by Shirley Derbis

In anticipation of America's 250th Anniversary in 2026, over 40 people gathered on November 9th to honor Revolutionary War Patriot, Private John Walter, with a grave marking ceremony organized by the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter, NSDAR, at his little-known gravesite on Wyland Avenue in Hampton Township. The heartfelt ceremony was led by Stacey Shaffer, Regent of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter, NSDAR (National Society Daughters

of the American Revolution), along with numerous other Chapter members. Remarks were also delivered by American Legion Hampton Post 296 Commander, Mark Hieber, and PSSDAR State Vice Regent, Susan Gillette Meer.

Local youth contributed significantly to the ceremony: the Pine-Richland/Mars JROTC provided the Color Guard, Parkinson's Ferry Children of the American Revolution President, Hannah Koontz, led the Pledge of Allegiance, Pine-Richland student, Jarah Casciani, performed the National Anthem, and Mars students Nathan Deemer, Alayna Renton, and Christopher Fagely, performed on the strings. The Kushkushkee Trail Chapter dis-

(Continued on page 17)



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Revolutionary War Patriot

(Continued from page 16)

played information about Walter and other local Revolutionary War Patriots on display boards also posted at Hampton Community Center for a month prior to the ceremony to engage community members interested in local Revolution-



Left: Jeremy, Rebekah, Stacey, front
Laura Grace Shaffer

ary War history.

Ginny Campbell, a member of the Kushkushkee Trail Chapter, researched and presented John Walter's biography. Born on January 20, 1761, in Berks County, PA, John Walter enlisted at the age of 15 in 1776 and was discharged in 1779 after serving in the Pennsylvania 8th Regiment of the Continental Army for three years. The 8th Regiment, under General George Washington, marched over 300 miles to New Jersey. Walter saw action in multiple battles and survived the brutal Valley Forge encampment. After his military service, Walter married Ann Catherine Freund on October 9, 1783, and be-



Mark Hieber ringing the bell

came a farmer. In 1794, John and Ann were among the first pioneer settlers in Pine Township, but his farm became part of Hampton Township in 1861 after his death. Both John and Ann are buried at the Wyland Avenue gravesite, which is just feet from the road.

Founded in 1890, the DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history, and securing America's future through better education for children.



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Hall Receives Distinguished Award

by Zach D'Amico

The Hampton Township School District proudly announces that senior Abby Hall has received the 2024 Distinguished Student Award from the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE). Hall was honored on November 8th at the PAGE conference and awards ceremony in Pittsburgh.



Abby Hall

"Abby was nominated for her independent inquiry projects in STEM, literacy, and elementary education over the past three years," said Dr. Melissa Survinski, Enrichment Facilitator. Hall collaborated with HHS enrichment facilitators Dr. Survinski and Mr. Scott Stickney to develop literature-based activity kits featuring STEAM activities for elementary students. She selected books, designed activities to meet PA State Standards, and created all components of

the activities and worksheets. Additionally, Hall produced a child-friendly learning guide, instructional videos, and packaging for each kit. These kits have been distributed to Hampton's elementary enrichment students and Urban Impact.

"We are incredibly proud of Abby for her dedication, creativity, and effort in developing these activities outside of her regular classes. We are thrilled she is receiving this recognition," said Dr. Survinski. "Abby aspires to be an elementary teacher, and we tailored her work to focus on elementary education, incorporating career development into her enrichment."



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Where Are They Now?

Introducing Aeyrn McAuley! Aeyrn grew up in Hampton Township, attending Wyland Elementary School and continuing through the Hampton school system, graduating high school in 2018. She pursued her bachelor's degree in creative writing through online courses at Full Sail University.



Aeyrn has two older brothers and was particularly close to the eldest, who inspired her love for gaming. Her passion for writing was ignited by playing 'World of Warcraft' from the age of seven.

Her book, titled "Little Sister, Big Trouble!", was inspired by her desire to get her English Bulldog, Wilbur, a little sister, who is expected to join their family next year. Aeyrn not only wrote but also illustrated the book. She acknowledges the significant help she received with the illustrations, as drawing is not her strongest skill. Her best friend, who lives in Japan, was instrumental in guiding her through the drawing process and providing critiques until the illustrations were perfect. This is her first completed and published book, with more projects in the pipeline.

You can meet Aeyrn and preorder her book and/or a T-shirt on Saturday, December 7th, at Threading The Needle, located at 2984 Harts Run Road, 2nd floor, Allison Park, PA, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Current Events

Al's Bike Drive is Underway!



The drive is just days away and your donation and help is appreciated! This year's delivery date is Thursday, December 5th!

For the third year, the team has partnered with Variety The Children's Charity to build and donate adaptive bicycles for children with disabilities. Each adaptive bike is custom made based on the child's individual need. The bikes are approximately \$2,500 to buy and build. The goal is to donate bicycles to Toys for Tots AND 15 adaptive bikes for children with disabilities.

Donations are securely accepted at www.alsbikedrive.org or a check can be sent to Al's Bike Drive 1736 Ferguson Road, Suite 200, Allison Park, PA 15101.

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable

Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Roundtable
"Cease Firing! Life and Death at the Swope Manor,"
presented by Kellie Gormly.
Monday, December 16th at 7 p.m.
Hampton Township Community Center
3101 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA.
The presentation is free and open to the public.

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Current Events

Santa's Sparktacular

Thursday, December 5th begins with:

6:30 p.m. Food trucks

6:45 p.m. Premier Dance Academy's performance

7:00 p.m. Fireworks followed by Santa and Rudolph

Vendors are set up inside the Great Rooms serving beverages and samples to keep everyone's spirits bright and merry!

Be sure to visit the Hampton Police social workers and their furry friend! They will be accepting gift cards and toy donations for individuals and families in the community.



Elf On The Shelf Search Happy the Elf will be hiding in different places throughout the Community Center on Monday, November 25 until December 23rd. Visit the Community Center Service Desk for details and to sign up.

Neighborhood Santa Tour

Santa Claus will be coming to your neighborhood on Saturday, December 14th with the help of the Hampton Volunteer Fire Department! There is a Santa Tracker for people to view the tentative time Santa will arrive in or around your neighborhood. Visit www.hampton-pa.org to view the app. If your neighborhood is not on the route, come to the outside of the Community Center at 3200 Lochner Way at 9:00 a.m. to catch a glimpse before he starts his route.

Christmas Concerts

The North Hills Chorale will present Christmas concerts entitled "Cradle Him in Song" on Saturday, Dec., 7th at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec., 8th at 4 p.m. in the St. Vincent Hall Auditorium, located in St. Louise Convent, 8150 McKnight Road, Pittsburgh 15237. Free-will offerings accepted. Attendees are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food donation for the NHCO Food Pantry. More information is available at www.nhchorale.com.

Hampton Bands' Holiday Extravaganza Keeping Music Education A Priority

by Colleen Nolan

The Hampton Band Association is thrilled to announce the Hampton Township School District's 13th Annual Hampton Bands' Holiday Extravaganza on Saturday, Dec., 7th, 2024 from 9 a.m.—3 p.m. at Hampton High School.

Hampton Township's "Tradition of Excellence" includes their music program in a big way. "We are very excited about this upcoming fundraising event which supports our amazing musical arts programming at Hampton," Superintendent Michael Loughhead said. "This event is a longstanding tradition that is emblematic of how our school community values and supports our student musicians. We encourage everyone to come out and participate in this fun and well-organized event to benefit the musical arts here at Hampton."

The parents who make up the Hampton Band Association begin preparations for this event in August. With hundreds of band parents pulling together and the help of the high school band member volunteers, this event grows in popularity year after year. "Last year was record-breaking. We had the most number of vendors, most number of attendees and we raised

A Hero's Legacy

Documentary Premiere

Robbie Kirsopp, a 2022 graduate of Hampton High School, is set to release a full-length documentary about his father, Sgt. Robert Kirsopp, who passed away in early May 2024. The film chronicles his father's life, highlighting his military service, role as a Hampton police officer, and the people who made his life remarkable.

The Kirsopp family will host an event on Dec., 28th at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Center in Ross Township to premiere the documentary and express their gratitude to the community for their support over the years. Additionally, all proceeds from the film will be donated to the "It's About The Warrior Foundation" to assist others in the community. This is a rare opportunity for all ages to witness a story of courage, perseverance and inspiration! Tickets can be ordered with the QR code below. Space is limited, order today.

Date: Saturday, December 28, 2024

*Location: 3579 Masonic Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15237*

*Time: 7-10 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m.
\$10 tickets, Free parking*



the most amount of money we ever had," said Jennifer Blakeley, co-chair of the event committee. "With 160 vendors and around 1,000 attendees last year, we've attracted corporate sponsors and a record number of local businesses placing advertising in the event program. All proceeds benefiting the K-12 music programs."

A community tradition for over a decade, this event is a great kick-off to the holiday season! With so much to offer, kids and adults alike enjoy the unique shopping experience, band performances, Frosty's Kid Zone (visiting with Santa and Frosty, making crafts, face painting, story and dance time), breakfast and lunch at the Band Dad's Cafe', Basket Raffles and over 10,000 cookies at the Cookie Walk!

"The band families really support it. To pull this event off, it really requires something from everybody," Chad Himmler, high school Band Director, said. "And when you add up all the pieces, it produces a big community event that is also a really important event for our band program." We invite everyone to attend this year's Extravaganza! Come and see what it's all about! For more information about the event please contact the event committee co-chair, Jennifer Blakeley at blakeleyfamily5@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date! It's a "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff at Hampton Community Library!

Saturday, February 8, 2025

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Calling all home cooks to stir up their favorite homemade soups! What is your claim to fame: chicken noodle, French onion, beer cheese or salmon chowder? Enter your soup in our "Soup"er Bowl Cookoff and gain bragging rights for a year! Entry fee is \$10. Registration begins January 2, 2025.



Depreciation Lands Museum

Doll Tea

January 26th, 2025 2-3 p.m. Hear ye, young ladies age 5 and older! Treat your favorite doll to an afternoon of tea, treats, and crafts, and learn what life was like for girls in the 18th century.

Come to the Depreciations Lands Museum's Doll Tea. \$15 per child and doll companion \$12 for museum members. Space is limited; register by visiting our website:

dlmuseum.org/events

Doll Tea Event



Thank you Hampton!

86 units of blood were collected during the October 31st blood drive at Hampton High School, helping up to 258 area patients! The next blood drive is scheduled for January 29, 2025 at Hampton High School from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Please consider participating!



Free Admissions for Hampton School Events for Seniors

Hampton residents age 60 and older can access all HTSD events for FREE with the District Gold Card! This includes admission to athletic events, Drama Club productions, and annual musicals at both the high school and middle school. To apply for your Gold Card, visit the District Administration building on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Ask for Becky Parker and bring a photo ID with you. Any questions, call 412-492-6321.

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Rep. Arvind Venkat

30th District
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A Successful Legislative Session, School Safety Grant Awarded, and a Meaningful Diwali Celebration

by State Rep. Arvind Venkat

My colleagues on both sides of the aisle and I recently brought this year's legislative session to a close. I want to thank Gov. Josh Shapiro for signing the inclusive payment reimbursement for health care providers law I collaborated on with state Rep. Greg Scott ([Act 58 of 2024](#)) and state Sens. Greg Rothman and Nikil Saval's law that designates Diwali as an official holiday in Pennsylvania ([Act 112 of 2024](#)) this session.

There's still much work to be done, as I hope to see my bills that enhance food allergy awareness in restaurants and other food establish-

ments, create needed materials to help stem the tide of the opioid epidemic, regulate artificial intelligence in health insurance claims, and more become law. I will continue to advance these needs and many others as your voice in Harrisburg and back at home.

I'm happy to share that the Hampton Township School District was awarded a \$700,000 state grant for roof replacement work at Hampton Township Middle School. These dollars will help ensure our students always stay safe and are able to excel to their highest potential in and out of the classroom.

I also want to thank everyone who came to my office's Diwali event. What a terrific night of food, culture, and camaraderie it was, made even more fitting by Act 112 recently becoming law.

I want to wish you and your family the happiest of holidays, and I look forward to talking with you again in 2025.



State Senator
LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS
38th Senatorial District



As we near the end of the year and move past the 2024 General Election, I want to take this opportunity to thank the county election employees here in Allegheny County and across the state.

These elections workers, and the thousands of poll workers who join them every election, are our friends, family, and

our neighbors. They are all dedicated to ensuring that our elections are free, fair, and properly administered.

Whether your preferred candidate won or lost in this election, your neighbors remain your neighbors. I urge you to reject the outside forces looking to divide us and instead remember what makes Western Pennsylvania so strong: that we look out for each other and work together to build bridges and solve problems.

I thank each and every one of you for the work that you've done this year to build community, and I look forward to continuing that work with you in 2025.

I wish you and your family a joyful, safe, and peaceful holiday season.



Jeremy Shaffer

Residents of Hampton,

I am looking forward to serving you and other communities in the 28th House District. I will be sworn in on January 7th, but our constituent service office will be transitioned from Rep. Mercuri on December 1st. You can continue to reach the main office at 412-369-2230 for any questions or concerns.

Our area is one of the best in the world to live in and I will be working hard with both parties to make it even better. One of our biggest challenges are the high taxes and regulations that drive people and businesses away from our

region and state. Pennsylvania is one of 5 states that is losing population. The good news is that we have all the ingredients to turn this around. Our region has a work force second to none, great schools and universities, excellent health care options, abounding outdoor activities in all seasons, and natural resources all around and below us. I am optimistic about our future and ask for your suggestions from big to small on ways we can grow our region and state.

The bills I plan to introduce this January will first focus on government reform: term limits for the state house and senate; redistricting reform; downsizing the state legislature; and campaign finance reform.

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