



THE DEVIL'S HERALD

Sports

Boys Basketball

Page 2

Inside

Sports Page 2
AG Life Page 3

AG Life

Holiday Movies

Page 3

Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

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CLUBS

We want to take your blood!

NHS blood drive collects life saving donations

By
Gaby Bellaver
Editor

Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. Whether it's for surgery, cancer treatment, or another injury, blood is essential. Donations are needed to help fuel these life saving processes.

On December 7, Avon Grove High School's National Honor Society chapter helped collect vital donations.

For the past few years, NHS has partnered with the American Red Cross to run this blood drive. NHS members have the opportunity to gain service hours or chapter requirements by volunteering at the blood drive.

Once at the blood drive, there is a lot of work to be done before the blood is actually taken.

NHS members helped with check-in before sending donors to the waiting area. Eventually, potential donors were called back for an initial screening.

Things like height, weight, and blood pressure are recorded to make sure the donor is healthy. Iron is also tested; this needs to be tested because if your hemoglobin, a protein that helps with energy and strength, is too low, you cannot donate.

Once a donor passed their screening, they went over to lay on the table and get their blood drawn. Roughly one pint of blood was collected.

But how did donors feel about getting this large extraction?

"I'm nervous," said willing donor Naomi Partridge, "but I'm ex-

cited to help my community."

Although the nerves kicked in, she was able to push through and give her pint of blood.

Where does the blood go after it's extracted?

"The blood will be taken to 700 Spring Garden Street [in Philadelphia] where it will be processed and tested," said Ashley Campuzano. "From there it will be sent to a hospital in need of order."

Campuzano works for the Red Cross as a supervisor. She manages the team out in action, drawing blood from willing volunteers.

On December 7, she made sure everyone was at the blood drive for their appointments, made sure the staff collected blood in a safe manner, and made sure no one had an adverse reaction.

According to Campuzano, only whole blood cells and power reds were collected. The blood will be taken to a lab where alternative blood products will be made.



NHS members, Grace Taylor, Isabelle Huller, and Megan Winiarski, replenish the food station for donors.

-Photo by Gaby Bellaver

If everything goes according to plan and the blood is usable, it can be used for blood transfusions. According to the Red Cross website, a single donation could save nearly three lives.

"I'm a little tired and hungry," said Partridge.

Luckily NHS members had supplied plenty of snacks to keep

the donors happy.

Campuzano further concurred the importance of eating and drinking before giving blood, "Make sure you get a good breakfast and eat lunch and drink a lot of water."

Partridge and the other donors were glad they were able to aid their community.

Events run by NHS are typically based on helping the community, but they also know how to have fun.

During the Holiday Holla, students will have a chance to pie some of their favorite teachers. Tickets will be available for sale during I/E and all three lunches.

AGTV

AG Speaks brings humor to Mondays

By
Jackson Morris
Editor

It started as a joke.

Dylan Raymond, creator of the new AGTV show, *AG Speaks*, says the conception of the new morning show phenomenon started as a joke about students asking other students random questions and recording it.

"It obviously didn't stay a joke for long," says Raymond.

AG Speaks, a post announcement show that airs every Monday, is exactly as initially described. Raymond can be seen walking the halls, asking AGHS students and staff questions such as "What is your favorite flavor of water?" or "What is your least favorite state?"

Outside of the comedic appeal to the show, Raymond says another appeal to create the show was to keep the Avon Grove audience engaged during the morning

announcements.

Raymond, a junior, says that his expectations have certainly been exceeded since coming up with the idea of the show.

"I really love the way it looks, and I've even heard a few people say they like it, and that's all I need. I always thought it was funny, and if at least one other person found it funny, I would've considered the show a success."

"I've even been called the *AG Speaks* kid a few times in the hallway, and I couldn't ask for more," says Raymond.

Raymond, who joined AGTV this year, says that the show is not just a product of his mind, but also a product of the environment it gets recorded in.

"It has a really fun aura around it and there is so much to do. Plus, all the friends I've made and had that were in the club made joining AGTV a no-brainer."

Raymond also talked about his hopes for the future of the show,



Dylan Raymond (right), host of *AG Speaks*, awaits an answer from an unsuspecting student after asking, "What is your favorite decimal?"

-Photo courtesy of AGTV

and eventually passing the chaotic torch on to a successor.

"The main thing I want to see is it continuing. I want to finish out

the show through my senior year, then eventually pass the microphone off to someone else so they can continue the show."



HERALD SPORTS

Dec. 21
Boys Basketball at D'town West, 6:45pm
Girls Basketball vs. D'town West, 6:45pm

Dec. 22
Swimming and Diving vs. Henderson, 7:30pm,
West Chester Area YMCA

Dec. 23
Boys Ice Hockey vs. Unionville, 5:10pm,
Ice Line

Friday, December 17, 2021

Page 2

BOYS BASKETBALL

Red Devils start 3-0

Boys basketball defeats Interboro 69-64 on Dec. 14

By
Maddie Butler
Staff Writer

Through the cheering crowd and bright lights, not one player on the Avon Grove boys varsity basketball team diverted their attention for even a second as they hustled up and down the court during their 69-64 win over Interboro on Tuesday, December 14.



Senior Tyler Arnold sets up the Red Devil offense.

The game started off with a Buccaneer lead, but this was quickly turned around by senior Tyler Newman who went on to make several more shots throughout the game. "Our chemistry is undoubtedly better than past years," states Coach May, the boys varsity coach who has been at AG for three seasons.

When referring to chemistry between players, it is impossible not to bring up seniors Aiden Violette and Tyler Arnold. These two assisted each other many times, making their partnership essential to the team's win.

It also embodies Arnold's statement about the importance of how the boy's "preach family."

Although Coach May noted how the team this year was "senior-led," Adam Ziegler, a sophomore on the team, showed relentless determination at all times while on the court even after some shots were missed.

Ziegler also illustrated excellent sportsmanship by helping opponents up off the court, and showed humility overall despite his numerous baskets and blocks that helped the Avon Grove team to victory and a 3-0 start to the season.

As the players on the team would agree, a great team is often the product of a great coach, which was expressed by Newman who said that Coach May is "one of the best coaches I could ask for."

Coach May's goal is that the Red Devils make the district playoffs, and the players may think that it is attain-

able. According to Violette, "Confidence is definitely at an all-time high" for the team as a whole as they also won their tournament on the weekend prior against Octorara.



An AG player takes a foul shot in their 69-64 win against Interburro on December 14.

OPINION

Opinion content in *The Devil's Herald* expresses the singular view of the writer. *The Devil's Herald* invites letters to the editor. Please email Mr. Gregory (rgregory@avongrove.org).

Don't let consumerism eat up the holidays

High rates of consumption during the holidays lead to problems in the future

By
Naomi Partridge
Senior Editor

With Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday past us, the holiday shopping frenzy has started. From here till Christmas, we will be shopping online, in malls and checking Christmas lists to find the perfect gifts for everyone this year.

There is no problem with a little material indulgence. It is just important to keep in mind that this consumerism is fueling climate change (and money can't buy you happiness).

A consumer is defined as someone able to buy goods and services beyond the satisfaction of basic needs according to The World Counts. In 2017, the consumer class was 3.5 billion and is expected to reach over 5.6 billion by 2030.

This Black Friday, customers spent about \$8.9 billion online and \$5.1 billion on Thanksgiving, according to the *New York Times*.

Consumerism can benefit our society, by growing and strengthening the economy. However, there are many negative aspects

of which people need to be aware.

Consumerism causes more pollution, promotes poor labor standards and does not necessarily lead to increased happiness beyond a certain point.

A study published in the *Journal of Industrial Ecology* in 2015 shows that individual household consumption accounts for more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions. It also accounts for 50%-80% of total land, mate-

rials and water use.

Most of the carbon emission problem is a cause of the production and transportation of the things we buy. And when we consider all the new stuff we will consume during the holidays, the carbon footprint will only grow.

This overconsumption seen during the holidays is only promoted by our economic system. A company's long-term success is driven by a growth model, where they are pressured to sell more products each quarter. In the past century, we have buried organic matter into the air at unprecedented rates, wrecking climate systems and fueling extinction rates. A lot of consumption and materialism today may be seen as a desperate escape from everyday life, but these short-term

This is done to lower the cost of wages when creating products because workers in developing countries such as China and Vietnam will work for much smaller wages compared to workers in the U.S. and Canada.

This causes loss of jobs in North America while also promoting low pay in other parts of the world. Manufacturing jobs in Asia have long hours, dangerous work and little (almost unlivable) pay.

It is important to think about items before you buy them: am I buying these shoes because I love them or because they might make me feel happier?

So what can you do about it? Instead of buying so much, maybe think of giving back to the community. Donate to food drives and give your time to volunteer. The Food Bank of Delaware and Coalition Against Hunger both are looking for volunteers during the holiday season as well as looking for donations such as canned food and dry foods.

You can support small, local businesses rather than supporting corporations such as Amazon and Target. Shopping locally contributes to less sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution, and by supporting small businesses rather than larger ones, you can support your community.

If there is a chance this can't be done, reduce shopping online. It's convenient, but the packaging and transportation that goes into delivering that gift to your doorstep produces a larger carbon footprint than going to the store yourself.

rials and water use.

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This overconsumption seen during the holidays is only pro-

pleasures distract us from long-term risks that are damaging our planet.

Consumerism leads to competition between companies. This competitive drive causes them to seek ways to decrease the prices of their products. An easy way to reduce costs is outsourcing manufacturing to other countries.

Everyone always says money can't buy happiness, and it really can't. A lot of people spend their time buying things when they are sad.

"Retail therapy" might sound like the easiest and cheapest form of help, but it propelled us into this never ending cycle of constantly buying for instant gratification.

"Shopping locally contributes to less sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution."

HOLIDAYS

Winter break allows for family time

By
Maddie Reisinger
Staff Writer

Do you ever find yourself bored or wondering what to do during the winter break? While we all love traveling and spending time with our families, most of us always have a few days during break where we have nothing to do and are home bored.

Last year with COVID-19, many of us were stuck in our houses, but as conditions improve, many of

our fun holiday traditions are able to make their return. Here are some of the popular holiday activities to do near us.

First off, is the Longwood Gardens Christmas display. During the holiday season, Long-

wood Gardens decorate more than 1,000 acres with stunning Christmas lights. Longwood provides a great atmosphere to walk around with family and friends, grab a hot chocolate, or even dinner.

Another popular Christmas activity is ice skating. But how much more fun would skating be outside under the Christmas tree lights? Philadelphia offers a small rink outside City Hall and an NHL-size rink along the Delaware River at Penn's Landing. The Rothman Orthopaedics Ice Rink outside City Hall opened November 5 and the Blue Cross Riverrink at Penn's

Landing opened November 26.

The Herr's Factory Christmas Lights are a great thing to do if you are looking for something quick and local to do. During the Christmas season, the Herr's Chip Factory decorates all of its facilities with a drive through light show. The light show only takes about 15-20 minutes to drive through and is a great thing to do if you're just looking to get out of the house for a bit.

Looking for a good holiday

hockey game. Step out of the house for a little this Christmas and go watch your favorite team. The Flyers are in town against Ottawa tomorrow night at 7:00p.m., or make the trip to Hershey to see the Bears battle the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins at 7:00p.m.

Do you enjoy the snow? If you do then a day trip to a local ski resort may be your thing. Blue Mountain Ski Resort offers everything from skiing to snowboarding and snow tubing. And if you don't

enjoy the snow, then the ski lodge is a perfect place to kick back with a cup of hot chocolate and watch the snow fall.

Are you a fan of the arts? If you are, or even if you aren't, *The Nutcracker* ballet is a well known and loved tradition for many

families around the holiday season. Whether you go into Philadelphia or New York to see the pros, or support a local dance studio in a nearby production, *The Nutcracker* always seems to raise the Christmas spirit.

Looking to do some last minute emergency Christmas shopping while enjoying the holidays? The Christiana Mall is a great place to hangout with friends or to do that last minute shopping while still enjoying the holiday season.

day trip? Philadelphia Christmas Village may just be the perfect place. During the holiday season the Christmas Village comes to life with a huge selection of vendors, ranging from ornaments and clothing to food and anything else you could imagine. The Christmas Village is pet friendly and a great spot to stop to get a bite to eat, catch up on some shopping, or just to walk around and look at the lights. It is located at Love Park and City Hall.

Are you a sports fan, or just looking for some family fun? The perfect holiday activity for you may just be a good old fashioned

HOLIDAYS

Holiday movies provide drama, laughter

By
Emma Mariner
Staff Writer

The holiday season is underway and family time is important. Watching holiday movies can be a great way to spend quality time with your family and friends. This list narrows down some of the best family-friendly holiday movies.

Home Alone (1990)

This movie, regarded as a classic, is one that will make you laugh. This movie is about an 8-year boy that gets left alone during Christmas and has to protect his home from two comical robbers. This cheerful movie will become a tradition in your family to watch.

Elf (2003)

This is a story about a human raised among elves who travels to New York City to meet his biological father. Elf brings lots of holiday cheer with many great one-liners. This heartwarming movie is a must watch during the holiday season for many families.

The Santa Clause (1994)

A story about an ordinary dad who has to take on the challenges of being Santa, this movie is sure to make everyone laugh. This hilarious movie is one that you'll want to go back and watch again or you can watch the sequels.

Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

This classic Christmas story has been adapted into a fun filled live-action movie. This well-loved story has turned into another loved movie and is great to watch over and over again with your loved ones.

Miracle on 34th Street (1994)

This heart-warming film is sure to bring some magic to your house. This film is about a department store Santa that tries to convince a little girl about the

magic of Christmas.

The Polar Express (2004)

The popular children's book adaptation about the power of believing is one to enjoy watching. This movie about a boy who travels to the North Pole and goes through a story of self-discovery is sure to bring some Christmas spirit to your house.

Disney's A Christmas Carol (2009)

Top 5 Hallmark Movies of 2021

- 1 THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE
- 2 MY CHRISTMAS FAMILY TREE
- 3 A CHRISTMAS TREASURE
- 4 NEXT STOP, CHRISTMAS
- 5 MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Recommended by Mr. Gregory

Disney's animated adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic story is a great watch. This story is about an old man, Ebenezer Scrooge, who has lost the meaning of Christmas. This movie explores the true meaning of Christmas.

The Christmas Chronicles (2018)

This Netflix original film is one not to miss. This is a story about siblings who go on a grand adventure to save Christmas with Santa Claus. This heartfelt movie is a good one to sit down and watch during the holidays.

WINTER CONCERT

Chamber Ensemble sets high standards

By
Riley Wiercinski
Staff Writer

The house lights dim as spotlights illuminate professionally dressed performers with stone-cold faces, who allow their instruments to speak for them. Wonderful string music floats through the air as the audience's attention is peaked by the masterful orchestra before them.

It's hard to believe the orchestra is composed entirely of high school students.

"The winter is a time to practice sweet sounds and tones to prepare for the spring, which is more serious and advanced than the winter," says Ruby Queen, a cellist in the Chamber Ensemble. "Our winter concert acts as a baseline for our spring expectations."

As part of the Chamber Ensemble, students are held to a higher standard than the rest of the orchestra. They are determined performers that are given more difficult pieces, like "Lion City" and "Double Cello Concerto," which

are more technically advanced and contain soloists.

As a whole, the orchestra prepares for several weeks during class. Chamber, on the other hand, rehearses during class and after school.

"It's really important to find time to practice, especially when you're a part of Chamber," says Alek Pochan, the first chair cellist.

Most, like Queen, practice their favorite pieces more often.

"My favorite is either 'Lion City,' because of its musical diversity and Mr. Davino plays the rain

stick, or 'Double Cello Concerto,' since I can showcase my abilities as a cellist," she says.

"Mine is probably 'The Minuet, a Midnight Revel' by William Day. It was a suggested piece from last year that I'm super excited about. It contains a lot of great harmonies, which are expressed through the talent of the Chamber Ensemble," says Hugo Pochan, a bassist in Chamber.

Though it is Hugo Pochan's first concert, he holds high expectations of smoothness and professionalism for his peers, as they

worked tirelessly to reach this point of the year. Alek Pochan expanded on these feelings by describing the winter performance as "a culmination of all of our hard work and dedication to our performances."

All in all, the effort put forth by these students is highly noticed throughout their concert as they played extremely difficult pieces with composure and confidence.