



Members of the Donegal High School marching band after their championship win

Marching band soars to victory

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

Throughout this past season, the members of Donegal High School's marching band set their sights high - very high, actually. With a theme of "Look to the Stars," their show focused on using what's above us to find our way. They found their way right to the top when the band took home first place at the Cavalcade of Bands Championship held in early November. It marked the end of a very successful and award-winning season for the group.

Coming off a first-place finish at a Manheim Central competition earlier this year, the band lost the top spot to a Pen Argyl-based band, which squeaked by the Donegal band in the next competition to win first place by just half a point. Donegal wanted friendly revenge at the Cavalcade.

"We were first in our division all season, so having someone 0.5 ahead of us going into the

championships was not a good feeling," recalled Sadie Hakkinen, a senior who plays the clarinet and is the president of the band. "We were trying to keep morale high."

The band walked away with awards for first place in its

"We worked so hard.
We rehearse a lot.
Marching band is our
life during the season."

division as well as honors for High Visual Effect, High Overall Effect and High Auxiliary.

"Our show was about how people navigated by looking to the stars, the North Star and the constellations to find their way," said senior Aidyn Zell, who plays the trumpet and is the band vice president. "We performed five songs at the competition."

The show opened with a solo performed by Aidyn, followed by a second section that featured a solo by Sadie.

Next, the band moved into "Follow the Drinking Gourd," where a quartet of singers performed a traditional piece used to instruct slaves how to navigate the Underground Railroad.

"They called the Big Dipper the 'drinking gourd,' and they would follow the North Star and finally be free," explained Samantha Alampi, a junior who plays the synthesizer and is the band secretary. The show concluded with music focused on more modern methods of space exploration and aviation.

"No other band had a live vocal part at the competition," said Samantha. "Some had recorded vocals, but ours were performed live at every single performance."

The 30-member band performed in six competitions throughout the region this year.

Last year, the band won first

See Band pg 4

Festive fun Chris

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

Need a break from the cold and bustle of the holiday season, but still want to be in the festive spirit? Look no further than the



Members of Glossbrenner make at Community Christmas

Musical will bring to local

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

"The series is a wonderful way to enjoy a variety of musical talents on a winter Sunday afternoon. Debra Ronning, coordinator of Music at Donegal, said the series at Donegal is offered community free of charge as a musical outreach." Each series in the series will begin at 2:00 p.m. at Donegal Presbyterian Church, 1891 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy.

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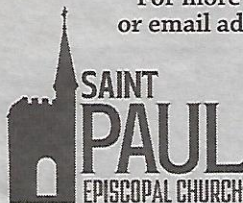
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teachers, administrators
and support staff!

Free Christmas dinner will feature food and fellowship

BY CATHY MOLITORIS

The members of Ruhl's Church believe food and fellowship go hand in hand with their mission of spreading God's love. With that in mind, the church will host a free dine-in Christmas dinner on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. The dinner will be held at the church, 4810 Elizabethtown Road, Manheim.

The meal will be served buffet-style and will feature baked ham, baked potatoes, green beans, rolls and dessert. During the dinner, guests will be invited to sing along to some traditional Christmas carols.

"Years ago, Ruhl's Church held a Christmas Eve celebration on Dec. 23 and served a free sit-down ham dinner," said church member Kris Gray. "We continued the tradition for a few years until the pandemic changed the venue to a



A previous Christmas dinner at Ruhl's Church

drive-through meal in 2020 along with the 'Drive to Bethlehem' with scenes from the real Christmas story."

That event was very well received over the past few years, she said, adding, "Because of the overwhelming positive responses from those attending the event, we continued to hold it yearly through Christmas 2023."

Still, the church members missed the opportunity a sit-down meal provided for socializing and community.

"We wanted to welcome people to return inside the church and enjoy some sweet fellowship over a delicious meal," Gray shared. "With all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is a blessing to be able to relax over a meal with friends."

She also extended an invitation to the community to attend the church's traditional Christmas Eve candlelight service at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 24.

"We hope you can join us as we celebrate the true reason for the Christmas season - our Savior's birth," she said.

Ruhl's Church is handicapped-accessible, and parking is available in a large lot.

The ham dinner is free, but reservations are required by Wednesday, Dec. 11. To make a reservation, call 717-665-4499.

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December 8th from 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. | December 21st from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.



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*Shuttle will also be available to take you to the Model Railroad Club Display at Elizabethtown Library (in the basement)



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5 - 7 PM

Experience the miraculous birth of Jesus through a captivating 90-minute guided tour of Bethlehem, featuring dramatic performances and musical elements. To conclude your journey, refreshments will be provided.

Etown Grace Church
305 Anchor Road
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Register online or feel free to visit anytime between 5 & 7 PM, but expect possible delays.

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