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ECRWSS

SMALL CAST FILL 50+ ROLES - UP TO 12 CHARACTERS EACH

Whippany Park High School Theatre

Whippany Park High School Theatre recently presented Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic, a Harry Potter comedic spoof by Matt Cox.

For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain Wizard School and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs... who just happened to be there too. A tale for anyone who has never been destined to save the world.

The talented students of WPHS served as cast and crew for this production by Matt Cox, presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.

A small cast of less than a dozen students embodied all 50+ roles in the show, meaning students played up to 12 characters each!



(above, l-r) Megan and Oliver, played by Emily deRonde and Diego Fuentes.

(above, l-r) Nathaniel Kotlyar, Ava Woroch,

Emily deRonde, and Diego Fuentes.



(above) Ethan Dill dressed as a dragon fights Marco Ippolito



(above) Nicholas Zinckgraf



WHIPPANY PARK HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE

Whippany Park High School Theatre has been putting on fully student-run performances for nearly 60 years! They put on two crowd-pleasing performances a year – a fall drama and a spring musical. The Whippany Park High School Theatre invites you to watch Broadway in Whippany, as they pay tribute to award-winning performances.



(above from left) Evelyn Chen, Stellina Hyland, Marco Ippolito, Onyx Garcia, and Ava Woroch



(above) Ava Woroch, center, as Sally Perkins is sorted into her school house by Narrator, Chloe Makowski and Stellina Hyland.

(left) Veronica VanSlyck, center, tells the origin story of the Puffs to Stellina Hyland, Ava Woroch, Evelyn Chen, Marco Ippolito, Onyx Garcia and Diego Fuentes.

Courtesy Photo

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NEW JERSEY DAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

High school seniors in New Jersey who are service and patriotism. U.S. citizens, are in need of financial assistance to continue their education, and plan to attend a college or university in the U.S., may apply for one or both scholarships offered by the New Jersey State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

The Vail Scholarship provides a one-time award of \$2,000 to a student who plans to major in political science, history, government or economics.

The New Jersey State DAR Scholarship offers a one-time award of \$1,000 to a student who reflects the DAR objectives of community

The deadline to submit applications is December 31, 2025. Scholarships will be awarded in April 2026.

For application forms, contact Elizabeth **Snyder-Continental** Chapter DAR ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical, service organization open to women 18 and older who are descended from a man or woman who aided the cause of American independence. The mission of the DAR is to promote education, historic preservation, and patriotism.

Learn more at www.DAR.org.

CAFE FOR THOSE WITH MEMORY LOSS

Christ Church, Summit, NJ

Too often, those living with memory loss can suffer from social stigma and isolation. A Memory Cafe is a social gathering for those living with cognitive loss, together with their care-partners. It's a welcoming community where all feel safe, accepted, and understood.

"The Gathering Place" is a monthly Memory Cafe hosted by volunteers at Christ Church in Summit. They meet the first Wednesday of every month, from 12 - 2 p.m.

Guests socialize over a light, nutritious lunch

and share friendship, information, and often a few laughs. It is non-sectarian and all are welcome. From guests: "It was enjoyable, uplifting, and worthwhile," and "I wish my mother had something like this to participate in while she was able."

A suggested donation is \$5 per person. RSVP is requested for menu-planning. Contact Brenda Dodds 908 273-5549 or brenda@ccsnj.org. Christ Church is located at 561 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ.

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CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN GRAND STYLE WITH FREE CONCERT DEC. 14

Music always puts people in the holiday spirit, and a spirited free concert featuring the renowned Hanover Wind Symphony (HWS) and the outstanding Morris Music Men will make the holidays shine even brighter.

Called "Holidays in Hanover: Wassailing Through Hanover," the festive performance will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m., at Memorial Junior School, 61 Highland Ave., in Whippany.

Speaking about the grand holiday concert, HWS musical director and conductor Matthew Paterno of Parsippany says, "Please join the Hanover Wind Symphony and the Morris Music Men as we go 'wassailing' through the early American village of Hanover! Hear the music of the holidays as you might have heard it in the houses and on the street corners of our special town!"

HWS and the Morris Music Men will go back

and forth, with one group performing, then the ensemble. They come together to connect other. "The idea is 'wassailing,' or spreading good health and good cheer through the village of Hanover in early America," Paterno adds.

A finale, combining both groups, and inviting audience participation will be a Christmas sing-

One of only a handful of outstanding community-based adult wind bands in New Jersey, the renowned 70-member Hanover Wind Symphony (www.hanoverwinds.org) delights audiences of all ages by giving a contemporary twist to traditional favorites. The large orchestra, made up exclusively of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments, embraces as its mission bringing "Music to People and People to Music."

An all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, HWS plays marches, toe-tappers, and standards while also presenting pieces written by current active composers, some of whom are members of the musically with others, share the enjoyment of music with live audiences, and help mentor the next generation of wind musicians. HWS is a cultural gem treasured by music lovers throughout

Since the late 1950s, the award-winning Morris Music Men (morrismusicmen.org) have been treating northern New Jersey audiences to the uniquely American form of vocal music known as barbershop harmony. An a cappella choral group made up of more than 40 members ranging in age from men in their 30s to men in their 90s, they're a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, the world's largest men's a cappella singing society.

Under the inspired direction of Nate Barrett, a professionally trained musician, the Morris Music Men sing for civic and charitable organizations, private groups, houses of worship, community events, and fundraisers.



(above, l-r) Preparing for the upcoming Holidays in Hanover concert are (from left) Ayden Khan of Wayne, HWS assistant musical director; trumpeter Ester Musilli of Montville; and Matthew Paterno of Parsippany, HWS musical director and conductor.

Courtesy Photo



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ENROLLING IN MEDICARE AND UPDATING YOUR PLAN

By George Sosa, President, The Sosa Insurance Group

Turning 65 marks eligibility for Medicare, a federal health insurance program designed for seniors and certain individuals with disabilities. While the system can be complex, resources are available to help beneficiaries navigate enrollment, updates, and plan changes to ensure their coverage continues to meet their needs.

Original Medicare consists of Part A (hospital insurance) and Part B (medical insurance). Part A covers hospital stays, skilled nursing facilities, home health, and hospice care. Part B focuses on outpatient care, doctor visits, preventive screenings, and therapies. While comprehensive, Original Medicare leaves gaps in coverage, which can be supplemented through Medigap policies. These help with deductibles, co-pays, and sometimes foreign travel coverage, offering flexibility and predictability.

Medicare Advantage (Part C), offered by private insurers, combines Parts A and B and often includes additional benefits like vision, dental, hearing, fitness programs, and lower premiums. These plans have out-of-pocket maximums, but often require use of in-network providers.

Prescription drug coverage (Part D) is also offered through private plans. Each plan has a formulary outlining covered medications, costsharing structures, and potential coverage gaps, though assistance programs like "Extra Help" exist for those with limited income. New Jersey also provides state assistance through PAAD and Senior Gold to help seniors manage prescription

drug costs.

For higher-income beneficiaries, Medicare applies IRMAA (Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount), which adds extra costs to Part B and D premiums based on IRS tax information.

Enrollment timing is crucial. While some may delay enrollment due to employer coverage, late enrollment penalties apply if coverage lapses without creditable insurance.

Every year, Medicare beneficiaries have an opportunity to review and adjust their coverage. The Annual Enrollment Period (October 15 – December 7) allows switching between Original Medicare and Advantage plans, adding or changing drug plans, or returning to Original Medicare. Any changes take effect January 1. Additionally, the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment (January 1 – March 31) allows those in Advantage plans to switch or return to Original Medicare.

When evaluating options, beneficiaries should consider cost, provider networks, additional benefits, drug coverage, and changes in their health or medications.

Understanding Medicare is the first step to making the best decisions for your health and budget. If you'd like help comparing plans or reviewing your coverage for 2026, The Sosa Insurance Group is here to guide you every step of the way. Contact us at 973-902-5445 to schedule a one-on-one review about your Medicare choices.

WINTER WONDERLAND & HANUKKAH HOOPLA HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The Township of Hanover Recreation Department is pleased to announce two festive community celebrations this December: Winter Wonderland and Hanukkah Hoopla, both taking place at the Hanover Township Community Center, 15 North Jefferson Road in Whippany.

Winter Wonderland

Friday, December 12, 2025 6 PM to 8 PM.

Winter Wonderland will be held indoors this year, offering families an evening filled with seasonal cheer and holiday activities. The Community Center will be transformed into a charming Winter Wonderland Village, featuring holiday crafts, warm hot chocolate, and cheerful décor. Children are welcome to create take-home crafts, enjoy the festivities, and bring their Letter for Santa. Please ensure all letters include the child's name and mailing address so Santa can respond.

Hanover Township PBA Local 128 will be on site making and serving hot chocolate for families throughout the evening.

A very special guest will arrive at 7 PM, adding extra excitement and holiday magic. Families are encouraged to arrive early to enjoy all activities prior to the special guest's appearance.

To support local families this season, the Recreation Department will be collecting new, unwrapped toys, as well as canned foods and non-perishable items. Donations are appreciated but not required.

The Winter Wonderland Village will remain open for walk-through viewing during the following weekend hours:

Saturday, December 13th: 10 AM to 6 PM Sunday, December 14th: 10 AM to 6 PM

This indoor Winter Wonderland offers a cozy, family-friendly way for residents to celebrate the season and enjoy the holiday spirit close to home.

Hanukkah Hoopla

Sunday, December 21, 2025 3 PM to 5 PM.

Hanover Township Recreation will also host its annual Hanukkah Hoopla celebration on Sunday, December 21, 2025. Families are invited to join us for an afternoon featuring dancing, crafts, donuts, latkes, gelt, dreidel play, and more.

Guests are encouraged to bring their menorah for a community lighting. A limited number of menorahs will be available for those who need one.

This festive event is free, however registration through Community Pass is required.

Hanukkah Hoopla provides a warm and joyful opportunity for families to come together and celebrate the Festival of Lights.

For more information about either event,
please contact the
Hanover Township Recreation Department
at 973-428-2463
or visit the Township's Recreation
webpage for updates.
hanovertownship.com/209/Parks-Recreation

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The Sosa Insurance group is dedicated to assisting Medicare beneficiaries throughout their Medicare journey.

If you, parents or a loved one is new to Medicare, considering a change or just simply want to review their plan options, please call 973-902-5445 to speak with one of our expert agents. You can also reach us by email at info@thesosainsurancegroup com to request a quote. Consultations are free of charge.



PIPES OF CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO SUMMIT DECEMBER 14



The sound of pipes and drums will once again ring out this holiday season as the 27th Annual Pipes of Christmas returns with performances in Boston, New York City, and Summit, New

Presented by the Learned Kindred of Currie, the beloved concert celebrates Scotland and Ireland's rich musical and spiritual heritage through a vibrant program of traditional carols, hymns, and readings that tell the story of Christmas through a distinctly Celtic lens.

Audiences will experience stirring performances by world-class musicians on bagpipes, brass, fiddle, harp, and organ, alongside the majestic voices of the Pipes of Christmas Choir. Narrations drawn from the works of Scottish poets, scripture, and classic holiday literature bring warmth, reflection, and inspiration to the stage.

Over the years, The Pipes of Christmas has become a cherished tradition for families across generations, drawing capacity audiences from across North America and abroad.

Beyond the stage, the concert has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support educational and cultural initiatives, including music scholarships in Scotland, the United States, and Canada - helping nurture the next generation of artists and scholars.

This year's program will feature new musical selections alongside cherished favorites such as Highland Cathedral, Auld Lang Syne, and Silent Night, performed in the rich Celtic style that has captivated audiences for over two decades.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

- Boston, MA December 5-6, Church of the Covenant at 7PM and Noon
- New York, NY December 13, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church at 2PM
- Summit, NJ Central Presbyterian Church at 2 and 7PM

Complete information and tickets are available on the concert website at

WWW.PIPESOFCHRISTMAS.COM.

• Global Webcast of Concert Highlights to Follow

For those unable to attend in person, concert highlights will once again be shared with audiences around the world through the Pipes of Christmas Global Webcast, premiering on December 19 for subscribers.

The broadcast brings the magic of the live performances to homes across six continents, allowing friends and families everywhere to share in the music, message, and joy of the season.

ABOUT THE LEARNED KINDRED OF CURRIE

The Learned Kindred of Currie is an international Scottish heritage society dedicated to celebrating Scotland's history, language, and culture. The organization sponsors the annual Pipes of Christmas concerts and a variety of educational programs, including scholarships for young musicians, writers, and scholars.

TWO CONCERTS: HOLIDAY TENORS & BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES





New Jersey Festival Orchestra ushers in the Westfield and Sunday, December 7 at Drew holiday season with two major December performances that showcase the full breadth of the orchestra's artistic range.

Under the direction of Maestro David Wroe, NJFO welcomes audiences to celebrate the magic of the season with Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors on December 6 and 7, followed by the orchestra's signature New Year's celebration, Broadway Through the Ages, on December 31 and January 1.

Return of the 3 Holiday Tenors features award-winning vocalists John Kun Park, Luke Norvell, and Michael DeShield, each bringing a distinct artistic profile to this beloved NJFO tradition. Park, praised for his "radiant lyricism," has appeared with major opera houses across the country. Norvell, known for his "effortless charm and ringing tenor," continues to shine as a rising star on both concert and operatic stages. DeShield, celebrated for his powerful presence and versatility, is a frequent soloist with ensembles throughout the Northeast.

The trio joins NJFO for a sparkling program of holiday favorites, classical tenor showpieces, and uplifting choral moments. They are joined by the Holy Trinity Choir of Westfield and Central Avenue Choir of Madison, adding festive warmth and community spirit to this seasonal celebration. Performances take place Saturday. December 6 at The Presbyterian Church in

University in Madison.

The festivities continue with Broadway Through the Ages, NJFO's dazzling New Year's tradition performed in Westfield and Basking Ridge. This year's concert brings together a powerhouse lineup of guest artists: Tess Marshall, acclaimed for her magnetic stage presence and vocal brilliance; Lisa Marie Rogali, a versatile performer equally at home in opera and musical theater; and Peter Kendall Clark, praised for his "commanding baritone and dramatic flair." This year's program also features stars from the Dance Theater of Harlem, adding movement, elegance, and theatrical artistry to this musical celebration. Together with NJFO, the ensemble leads audiences on a spirited journey through iconic Broadway classics.

RETURN OF THE 3 HOLIDAY TENORS

Sat Dec 6, 7 PM The Presbyterian Church, Westfield Sun Dec 7, 3 PM

Drew University, Madison BROADWAY THROUGH THE AGES

> Wed Dec 31, 5 PM **Westfield High School** Thu Jan 1, 2:30 PM **Sieminski Theater**

Tickets are available at www.njfestivalorchestra.org or by calling (908) 232-9400.

MORRIS COUNTY LIBRARY DECEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

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CELEBRATING JANE AUSTEN

Wed., Dec. 3, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Jane Austen at 250: Her Novels and Their Afterlives: Join Patricia Ard, Austen scholar and professor of literature, for a discussion of why Austen's six brilliant novels have earned her lasting fame and a worldwide readership across centuries. Hybrid: attend in-person (no registration required) or via Zoom (registration required at https://tinyurl.com/mcl-austen3).

Austen-themed Friday Afternoon Movies @ 2:00 p.m.:

12/5: "Pride & Prejudice" (2005) 12/19: "Emma" (2020)

No registration required.

In Our Gallery and Exhibit Cases

Austen-themed art, books, artifacts, and other items will be on display during library open hours throughout December.

ALL AGES

Escape Room: The Mad Hatter's Hurried Hunt Sat., Dec. 6, Mon., Dec. 8, & Tue., Dec. 9, various times

Help the Mad Hatter find the lost key to his treasured Time-Locked Tea Caddy! Participants 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required & more info at https://tinyurl.com/mcl-madhatter.

Spanish Conversation for Adults & Teens

Thu., Dec. 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Practice your Spanish language proficiency in a casual, small group environment. A basic level skill is recommended, but any skill level is welcome. No registration required.

ADULTS

Tuesday Book Club

Tue., 12/9, 2:00-3:00 p.m. This month's book is North Woods by Daniel Mason. No registration needed.

Medieval Book Club

Wed., Dec. 10, 6:30-7:30 p.m. We're reading Revelations of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich. No registration needed.

Socrates Cafe

Wed., Dec. 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m. A discussion group using the dialogue of the Socratic Method. No registration required.

TEENS

Celebrate Taylor Swift's Birthday!

Fri., Dec. 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Celebrate Taylor's birthday (Dec. 13) one day early! Come to dance, sing-along, make friendship bracelets and other crafts, take pictures, and have fun with other Swifties! For ages 18 and under. Children under 12 must be with an adult at all times. Registration (required) at https://tinyurl.com/mcl-swifties.

CHILDREN

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all children's programs.

Move & Groove with Miss Jolie

Tue., Dec. 2, 10:00-10:45 a.m. The always popular Miss Jolie returns for more music, movement and fun! For ages 6 & under.

Registration required at inyurl.com/mcl-kids9. A Dickens Tale

Thu., Dec. 11, 4:00-4:45 p.m. Join old Scrooge, bumbling Bob Cratchit, Tiny Tim, old Jacob Marley, and the ghosts while discovering the true meaning of the season. For grades 2 & up. Registration required at https://tinyurl.com/mcl-kids10.

LEGO Club

Sat., Dec. 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Create and build using LEGO! For ages 4-12. Registration required at tinyurl.com/mcl-lego4.

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FIRST VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT WAS BIG HIT

Hanover Park High School

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to the first annual Unified Volleyball Tournament which was held in November. What an incredible night of teamwork, energy, and community spirit.

It was amazing to see our entire school

community come together for a great night of fun!

A special shoutout to our dedicated HP staff who participated and, of course, to the East Hanover Police Department for their support, sportsmanship, and championship win!



(above) Tournament Champions East Hanover Police Department



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ROBERT LITRIO HONORED FOR HIS SERVICE ON VETERANS DAY

Morris County

Eight local veterans were honored by the Morris County Board of County Commissioners at their annual Veterans Day Observance Ceremony held on Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, where they also celebrated the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps and paid tribute to a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient. Among the honorees was Hanover Township resident Robert Litrio.

Robert Litrio of Hanover Township served in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 during the Vietnam War era. For his service, he was the recipient of the National Defense Service Medal. Following his military service, Mr. Litrio attended college and worked in electrical sales. He gives back to his community as an active member of American Legion Post #59. This Veteran is a proud family man with seven grandchildren. He enjoys golf, metal detecting and painting.

The event was held in the county Administration and Records Building in

Morristown, where Commissioner Director Tayfun Selen welcomed guests and shared the county's ongoing support for veterans and their families. Joining the County Commissioners were state Sen. Anthony Bucco and Assemblywoman Aura K. Dunn (Morris-25); Willy Tolba, representing U.S. Rep. Mikie Sherrill and J.D. Bryden, representing U.S. Rep. Tom Kean Jr., along with mayors and councilmembers from towns throughout Morris County.

Among the honored veterans were: Jack B. Bosma, Kinnelon; Vincent J. DeCaro, Randolph Township; Christopher Gardner, Morristown; Charles E. Johnson, Dover; Robert Litrio, Hanover Township; Ronald Pierantozzi, Pequannock Township; Aniceto Rivera, Boonton Township; and Samuel Y. Yuen, Randolph **Township**

More information about the ceremony, and full biographies of the honorees, may be found at: morriscountynj.gov/Residents/Community-Information/For-Veterans/Veterans-Day-2025



(above) Robert Litrio

Courtesy Photo

HELPING TO CREATE LIFELONG READERS

Hanover Rotary Club

dictionaries to students, helping them become lifelong readers. The goal of this program is to assist all 3rd grade students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift for each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn.

The idea for this project began in 1992 in Savanah, Georgia when a local resident gave 50 dictionaries to children who attended school close to her home. The project ballooned over the years as teachers and volunteers started fundraising in Georgia to supply more students with the books.

One of the volunteers, South Carolina's Mary "The Dictionary Project "provides free French, realized to grow the project serious fundraising was needed to support it. With that she and her husband Arno formed the 501c3 association in 1995. Over 31-million children have benefited from The Dictionary Project.

> Across the United States, the program has been picked up over the years by various civic organizations, businesses and individuals. The Hanover Rotary Cub joined the effort in 2001 and since then has been providing dictionaries to Morris 3rd graders on a yearly basis. On Monday November 3rd, over 240 dictionaries were gifted at Salem Drive, Bee Meadow, Mountview Road and East Hanover Central Elementary schools.

> Rotary International is a global network of more than 1.2 million neighbors, friends and leaders who see a world where people unite and

take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

The Hanover Rotary Club is dedicated to enriching lives by providing service to others, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.

If you want to join us or speak at one of our meetings, please visit hanoverrotaryclub.org.

Hanover Rotary meets at 7:30 a.m. Thursday mornings at IHOP, 102 East Hanover Ave in Cedar Knolls.

WHIPPANONG LIBRARY **DECEMBER EVENTS**

To register, go to the Whippanong Library event page at: whippanong.org/events-calendar

Holiday Tree Wall Hanging (Grades 6-12)

Monday, December 1, 6:30 p.m. Whippanong Library

Make a festive tree to add a little holiday cheer to your home. It would make a great gift, too. Must pre-register.*

Jazz Concert with Abe Ovadia Duo Monday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz guitarist, Abe Ovadia, blends tradition with a modern, expressive edge. Come hear him perform reimagined standards and modern jazz compositions Must pre-register.



(above) Hanover Rotarians Jim Colavito, Val Kostenko, Dictionary Project Chairperson Chris Lisewski, Nancy Leone, Debbie Monticello, and Dr. Bob Weger distributing dictionaries to local 3rd graders. Courtesy Photo



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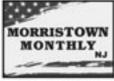




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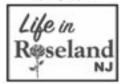
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