

The Oracle

Volume 45 Issue 4

Student Newspaper Of Shaler Area High School

March 2019

High School to host Holocaust event this evening

by Julia Falgione

Shaler Area High School will be hosting An Evening of Holocaust Remembrance & Education this evening from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will be made possible by an organization called L.I.G.H.T. (Leadership through Innovation and Genocide Human rights Teaching) which was created by high school teacher Mr. Nick Haberman.

“The goal is to give students the opportunity to take leadership roles in teaching the Holocaust, Genocide and Human rights. Instead of me talking to the Holocaust survivors, you will. Instead of me planning some of this event, the students will,” Haberman said.

The idea for the event stemmed from the shooting that occurred last October in the Tree of Life synagogue.

“After watching the tragic events at the Tree of Life unfold last October, I felt this overwhelming sense of sadness and helplessness. Mr. Haberman then sent an email out to the staff to help us cope and about how to talk to students about the it. It was then, that I went to him to ask what else can we do,” said Ms. Kristen Susany who also helped organize the event.

During the event, in the high school lobby, there will be a traveling museum piece on the Wannsee Conference from Classrooms Without Borders. It was curated by a man named Mitius Hoss, the former director of the U.S. program action reconciliation service for peace.

There will also be an exhibit from the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, called “CHUTZ-POW!”

“CHUTZ-POW” is a comic series that highlights the heroes and resistance stories of the Holocaust. The creators encourage everyone to be an “upstander.”

“An upstander is one who speaks up when they see something is wrong and acts to make the situation right; this is considered the opposite of a bystander.”

There will also be a musician, Christopher Sforza, who plays traditional Klezmer music, the tradi-

tional music of eastern European Jews. Haberman noted that many of the musicians who played this meaningful music had tragically lost their lives as a result of the Holocaust.

In the L.I.G.H.T. center, next to the library, Shulamit Bastacky, a Lithuanian Holocaust survivor, will be participating in the Butterfly project.

“She is going to be sitting and painting with Shaler Area children. They will paint ceramic butterflies. With the butterfly project, each painted butterfly represents a child in the Holocaust who had lost their life,” Haberman said.

The butterflies the children will be painting will all be brought together to create a Holocaust memorial in the school, similar to one in the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Yolanda Avram Willis will also be speaking about her experiences during World War II. She was a hidden child in Greece and also wrote a book about her experiences. There will be an opportunity to purchase her book and receive a signature from her at her informational table during the event.

There will be numerous informational booths at the event to be able to inform the community further on the issues being highlighted.

“The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, Classrooms without Borders, the History Club, L.I.G.H.T, Japanese Honors Society, Global Scholars with the help of French Honors society, the Holocaust class and the Tree of Life Synagogue will all have booths outside of the auditorium,” Haberman said.

The Japanese booth will be participating in the Peace Crane Project where everyone will be able to fold paper cranes to show support for the project.

AN EVENING OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE & EDUCATION

In Commemoration of the Tree of Life Synagogue



Shaler Area High School

March 28th, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 pm

@LIGHTcenterSA

This event hopes to bring the community together and educate all ages on many difficult issues.

“I want to introduce children to themes of empathy and tolerance and kindness and compassion. I want high school students and their family members to share a moment of Holocaust education together by seeing Holocaust survivors speak. I want the general community to know that Holocaust, genocide and human rights teaching does not stop when you turn eighteen,” Haberman said.

Senior places twice in Pittsburgh Brain Bee

by Stephen Adametz

On February 16, senior Andrew D’Agostino competed at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Neuroscience in the Pittsburgh Regional Brain Bee. D’Agostino competed in both the individual and team competitions, placing first in the team competition, despite being a team of one. He was runner up for the individual competition, and brought home two trophies.

As the runner up in the individual competition, he qualified for the national competition as an alternate, in the event the winner cannot attend.

The contest, consisted of rounds of questions in the format of written, fill-in-the blank, and verbal questions.

Mr. Timothy Taylor, an anatomy teacher at Shaler High School helped mentor D’Agostino for the competition.

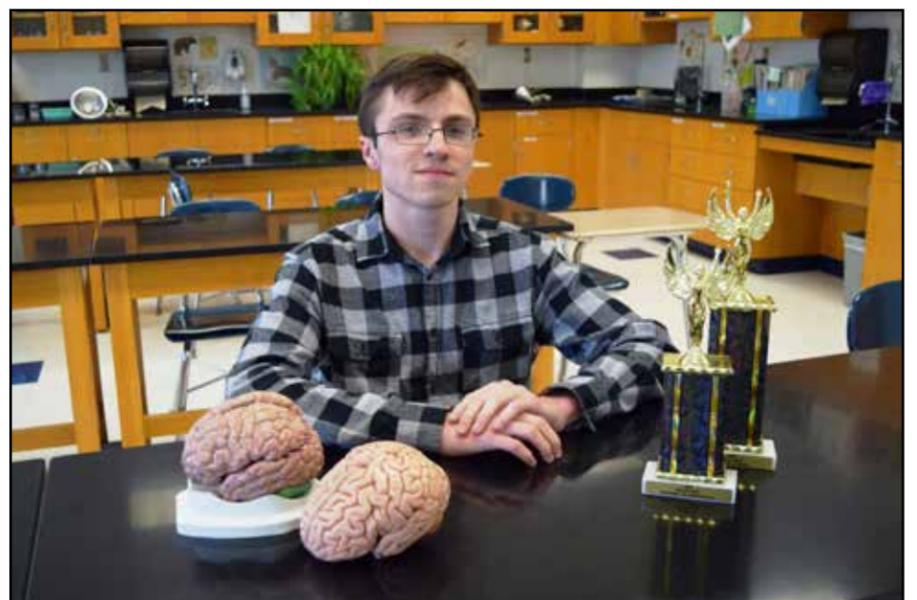
“I produced review materials and copies of the book, Brain Facts, for them to study. We played a lot of Kahoots to test our knowledge,” he said.

Although five or six students originally attended meetings for the competition, D’Agostino was the only one able to continue with it and attend the competition. Many of the other students had mandatory practices for the musical.

Taylor said D’Agostino also attended meetings last year, and is now enrolled in his Honors Anatomy and Physiology class.

Aside from being an Honors Anatomy student, and attending about six study sessions with Mr. Taylor after school for an hour, D’Agostino also put in a lot of time on his own.

“I studied for about 20- 25 minutes a day for two weeks leading up to the competition.”



Andrew D’Agostino

D’Agostino’s success in the Brain Bee is something he hopes can continue in years to come, despite his graduation in June.

“I am glad I was able to represent our school, and hope that I can inspire students next year to try and do the same thing during the next brain bee,” he said.

Although D’Agostino is not sure what college or university he will be attending next year, he plans to study neuroscience or another similar topic.

OPINIONS

Brexit threatens the peace between Ireland, Great Britian

by James Engel

Although America, in this point in its history, is a very divided nation there stands an even more divided nation across the Atlantic. And in this month of St. Patrick's Day, I feel it's very appropriate to talk about Ireland and how Brexit could affect the island.

Brexit is a term used to describe the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union which was voted in a 2016 referendum. It's been three years and the Brits still haven't figured out a way to leave the Union on their terms and our counterparts across the pond look dumber than we do to the rest of the world.

Britain chose to leave the EU for the same dumb reasons we elected Trump. The British people were promised economic benefits, they were tired of the "status quo", and they were especially fearful of immigration because of the EU open border policy.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has a "deal" with EU for trade policies and the exit process, but it's been repeatedly voted down as the Labour Party seeks a second referendum and far right Conservatives think they have some negotiating power over the entire continent.

But back to the topic at hand, Ireland. Brexit has everything to do with the Irish future. For those unfamiliar with Ireland, the island is divided with the majority of it belonging to the Irish Republic, a sovereign nation mostly made up of Catholics, and Northern Ireland or Ulster, which belongs to the United Kingdom and is mostly composed of Protestants, with a strong Catholic minority. For decades the Irish Republican Army, IRA, fought British paramilitary groups and the Ulster Volunteer Force, UVF, for a United Ireland in a conflict known as the Troubles.

This conflict, essentially a guerilla war in inner cities and car bombings throughout the British Isles, officially ended in 1998 with the Good Friday Agreement. But the effects of the conflict are still felt and the Republic still seeks reunification, while

the North sits in turmoil. As of now there is an open border on the island as both are EU member states and therefore passports and border checks do not occur, but if Britain leaves the EU then this policy halts, and there is a divided island once again.

This is the problem. A hard border **cannot** work. If Britain places a hard border requiring passports and stops on Ireland again, then things will be blown up and people will be killed. A hard border is what started the Troubles, and if there's a second hard border, you better believe they'll be a second iteration of the Troubles.

Over 3,500 died in the conflict, the vast majority of which were British soldiers. If Britain seeks avoid this fate again and save their boys they've got three options.

First, the UK can hold a second Brexit referendum and decide to stay within the EU. This option is looking increasingly likely as May's deal has failed time and time again, and her opposition continually calls for a second referendum, as the first was only passed by 2 percent.

Overall, for Britain, I think this is their best option. Admit that they screwed up, try to put it behind them, and remain in the EU. It's like getting in an argument with your partner and realizing the only way to make things work is to just concede your point.

Britain's second option is leave the EU but negotiate with the Republic of Ireland for an open border between the two states. This would be similar to the policy between the United States and Canada prior to 9/11 where no passport was required to cross the border, but both states were both clearly sovereign and differing entities.

This would be the best policy for British Conservatives who seek to leave the EU. They'd get the best of both worlds. They could leave their despised Union while simultaneously having a lower chance of being blown up by the IRA. Although they'd soon realize the non-Irish consequences of leaving the EU.

Britain's final option, and the most revolutionary, is a border poll. There is a

clause in the Good Friday agreement, which brought Ireland to a truce, that says that if it is clear that the Northern Irish population is interested in uniting with the Republic, then a referendum must be held, this idea is colloquially known as a border poll.

Ten years ago this idea would have been laughed at, but Northern Ireland overwhelmingly voted to remain in the EU, and they could do this by uniting with the Republic. Even so, the Democratic Union Party, DUP, will be sure to block any attempts to hold a border poll and will remain loyal to Britain. But, if Irish nationalist party, Sinn Fein, gains enough support to let the poll happen, Ireland could finally see the light of unification.

Overall, for the two Irelands and the world, this is the best option. The Republic would finally have no need to fight and would achieve its long looked upon goal. Northern Ireland would reap the economic benefits of the EU, and would avoid the turmoil and unstable feelings of the UK as it goes through this failing process.

For the world, I think this would provide much relief and hope. There are few conflicts that are as continuous, there is always fighting in Ireland, the Palestinians and Israelis are constantly fighting, and the Indians and Pakistanis continually fight over Kashmir, the Korean Peninsula is divided. To be able to wipe one of these "never ending" conflicts away, and finally see the headline "**IRELAND UNITED**" would provide an immense sense of relief and hope to the world.

It would be like the fall of the Berlin Wall. This may be wishful thinking, but as Britain continues to fumble they make this dream closer to a reality.

Brexit has proved a major difficulty for the United Kingdom, and they've placed themselves in quite a predicament regarding Ireland. The island is again on the verge of violence. A hard border will only result in destruction, and if Britain seeks peace it will avoid it.

Ireland must be at the forefront of the Brexit conversation and cannot be overlooked when reporting and speaking of Brexit. If not, the old Gaelic adage *Tiocfaidh ár lá*, or *Our Day Will Come* could finally come to fruition and unification could finally be more than a hope.

Library should be open to students during all periods

by Brandon Kurzawski

Since the start of the school year, there has been an increase in the number of days that library has been closed during certain periods. Anytime a class is scheduled in the library, it's restricted to tutoring only and no one else is allowed in. Some students have lucked out during their Study Hall period with the library being opened, while others have had numerous days where the library has been closed. At this point, it's constantly closed to a point of becoming a nuisance.

Sitting inside a study hall has a different atmosphere than the library. Rather than being trapped in a classroom for 42 minutes, there's more room in the library for activities and more resources available to students.

Whenever the library is closed, it makes it more difficult for students to work together and collaborate when needed. The library not only serves as a resource to this school, but as a gateway between study halls. When that gateway is closed, gathering proves to be more difficult since a wall has been built around the library for that period blocking everyone from getting in.

In past years, if a class was scheduled in the library, the library would remain open, but students would not be allowed on the computer lab side of the library. The old policy worked better. The idea of shutting down the library doesn't make sense; people can socialize quietly without interrupting a class, especially with the amount of space within the library.

There is space for plenty of students to be able to sit and enjoy the library. If students become disruptive to the class on the other side of the library, they should be just sent back to their study halls.

Last year, access was much more limited with the annoying yellow passes that had to be obtained from teachers. The passes are gone now and it is nice to see that students are able to easily access the library, but what's the point if the library is never opened because of a class?

Students should be allowed in the library even when a class is using the library. Students can still quietly collaborate with one another while a class is still going on; it's not a hard concept.



The Oracle
Student Newspaper of Shaler Area High School

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The Oracle

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The Oracle is the official student newspaper of Shaler Area High School. Although it is published by the journalism classes, one does not have to be enrolled in a class to contribute.

Opinions expressed in **The Oracle** are those of the individual writers. Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. Any letter intended for publication must be signed, but names will be withheld upon request. Articles and letters may be mailed to the high school (ATTN: The Oracle) or emailed to oracle@sasd.k12.pa.us.

The Oracle reserves the right to condense or omit any letters or articles unfit for publication.

Verszyla shares stories of a life in broadcasting

by Brandon Kurzawski

Without the use of technology and knowledge of meteorologists, no one would have an idea what was coming from the sky above or what they'd be waking up to in the morning. Most know former KDKA chief Meteorologist Jeff Verszyla for his many years of forecasting the Pittsburgh weather, but many may not know who he is known as in southwest or the day his meteorology career fell into place.

Jeff Verszyla had other things lined up for himself before becoming a well-known Pittsburgh Meteorologist. A graduate from Allegheny College in Meadville, he was a double major in Broadcast Communications and English.

After graduating from college, he got his first gig in broadcast journalism working at a radio station as a morning show producer at Variety 96 (now 96.1 KISS.) After two years, he moved from Pittsburgh to South Texas for a radio job at KVLV for his own morning show.

In Texas though, Verszyla didn't go by his real name.

"My name was much too strange for them; [the town] was very Hispanic influenced, so Jeff Verszyla went away and Jeff Martin was born," Verszyla said.

Nine months into working at KVLV, Verszyla was let go from the station, but he didn't let being laid off discourage him.

"Failure is never an option, so the last thing I was going to do was come back to Pittsburgh with my tail between my legs; I knew I was going to figure it out," Verszyla said.

After his layoff at the radio station, he began looking into a teaching career since there was a shortage of teachers in the area. While looking into teaching jobs, Verszyla did freelance work at a country music station. The parking lot of the radio station was shared with an ABC TV affiliate where he got to know people that worked at the TV station.

Verszyla found out that the TV station needed someone to fill in for a week to broadcast the weather while a morning weatherman was on his honeymoon. Verszyla had got to know the main meteorologist at the station and was asked if he would be interested in broadcasting the weather in the morning.

"At the time, I had only one suit. So I went to a store kinda like Goodwill and bought another suit and alternated them throughout the week," Verszyla said.

For Verszyla though, this was his first time broadcasting weather.

"I had never done weather; I had one meteorology course I took in college and had never worked with a chromokey wall [green screen], we never really had that kind of technology at Allegheny College back then," Verszyla said.



Jeff Verszyla

Verszyla described his first day has hard and was unsure about what he was doing, but after the second day he had found the job to be natural and easy for him.

"The second day it was just easy for me; I wasn't nervous, it didn't feel awkward to me; it just felt natural for me," Verszyla said.

After filling in for a week, Verszyla returned to freelancing at the radio station. He continued to look into different school districts in Texas for a potential gig in teaching. Eventually, the TV station had called him back and asked for him to do some freelance work for the station.

Verszyla continued to freelance throughout the summer. Toward the end of summer, he began to receive teaching offers from different school districts. A school district had offered him a job as teacher, but he wanted some time to think about the offer. Shortly after getting off the phone with the school district, Verszyla had received a call from the TV station news director to come and speak with him.

Within a couple hours of receiving the job of-

fer at the school district, the news station offered him a full time position which he accepted over the teaching position.

"I thought, 'This is crazy because I just got offered another job a couple hours ago,' so I said, 'give me the weekend and I'll let you know on Monday.' I thought about it over the weekend and I didn't accept the teaching position," Verszyla said.

Verszyla spent two years at the station, eventually becoming the morning weatherman. At the time however, Verszyla still didn't have a degree in Meteorology. While working at the station, he earned his degree in Meteorology through Mississippi State University through "distant learning" which is the equivalent of modern online classes today except with VHS tapes.

"This was at a time where it the beginning of was what was called distant learning where you didn't have to be on campus or in a classroom; I could do it at home, you'd watch the lectures and fit in the work

Cont. on page 6

Calendar for 2019-2020 school year released

by Stephen Adametz

Every year, school officials approve a new calendar for the upcoming school year. The 2019-2020 calendar was recently posted on the Shaler Area School District website.

Superintendent Sean Aiken said that year-to-year, you may not see major changes in the calendar. Often times, the calendar will be modified based on yearly differences and breaks will be tailored around holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

For the upcoming school year, there will be a couple changes that usually have not been seen on Shaler's calendar. The most notable of these changes is the modification of how spring break will work.

While the break is usually split up with three days before the weekend and two days after, next year all five days off will be in the week leading up to Easter. Although this may be inconvenient for people who have big Easter celebrations on Sunday, this change is one many have asked the administrators for, as it carved out a week that many can take a vacation over spring break. "We've actually had many requests for this change over the years," said Aiken.

Another change that was made, relates to how Christmas and New Year's was placed compared to how it usually is. Next year, students to have a few more days off before Christmas due to the weekend and will go back quicker than they usually do after New Year's.

"Usually our last day before break is a day or two before Christmas Eve, but this year students will have a weekend before Christmas Eve and will come back sooner after New Year's, he said."

Many adjustments like this change year to year based on how the holidays fall.

This year we have used all of our snow days, and many have wondered if administrators plan to build in snow days like some other districts in the area do. Aiken said that although this is something that they have considered, our current plan is the best option for us.

Building in snow days could potentially lead to extra work for students, as it is not guaranteed the snow days would actually be used. Instead of

having 180 days of schools, students would have 184.

Aiken said that although this is something that they have considered, "our current plan is the best option for us as a district."

Due to the tradition of Shaler prom being held Memorial Day weekend and graduation being the first Friday in June, the current plan would help stick to that schedule. If we build in four extra school days that students had to do, students would have to go further into June or come back much earlier in August.

The calendar was approved by the district's school board on February 20.

For the 2019-2020 school year the first day of school will be Wednesday, August 28th.



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Eye on Zion

Can we just assume the Duke sensation will be an NBA star?

by Dominic DiTommaso

The brutal wind that has recently hit Pittsburgh might very well have been caused by the sighs of relief coming up from North Carolina from Duke basketball fans, as they finally have found “the guy”, Zion Williamson, that can win them the National Championship. Or have they?

Here’s my issue: I can’t be completely sold on Zion being a dominant NBA player like so many are. I can’t be completely sold on Zion being in the category of LeBron or Kevin Durant, or even James Harden or Russell Westbrook.

The upcoming NBA Draft class, from top to bottom, doesn’t look very strong. It’s strong at the top, but through the second round, it looks mediocre at best.

Let’s remember that the player who will be the second overall pick plays alongside Zion at Duke, R.J. Barrett. Does that help Zion? Does that mislead you a little bit? R.J. Barrett is really good. He’s a slasher, he’s got more of a scorer’s mentality than Zion. He’s slightly above Zion in scoring average, and he’s taken 268 more shots than Zion, and led the ACC in scoring.

Not to mention, that maybe another top-five draft pick plays for Duke in Cam Reddish! This was the guy who hit the big shot to win the game at Florida State. He’s turned into their closing clutch-shooter.

Not to mention, that the best point guard in college basketball, Tre Jones, plays for Duke.

Now I’m going to withhold a little bit, because I need to see Williamson play more in the NCAA Tournament, especially the Final Four, if Duke can get there. I want to see the Semifinal and the Final, and I want to see Zion take over these games.

He got a critical and-one in the UCF game, but he missed the free throw that would have tied the game.

I’ve watched a lot of Duke games this year, and they did lose back in December to Gonzaga. Gonzaga’s pretty good. This was a close, late game, and Zion did make a big mid-range soft jump shot.

He has a great combination of power and touch, and he is a great power-leaper. His jump shot did tie



the score, but then over the last minute, Zion didn’t touch the ball. Barrett took the final shots of the game, going 0-5 in the final minute. It went to show that Barrett’s got that dog in him.

And this all leads me to my last point, which is Zion’s shot. It’s okay, but it’s not great. He’s tried some threes, he’s sort of backed off of them, but he’s 14-48 from three, which is 29 percent.

He doesn’t necessarily need to develop a three-ball (NBA MVP candidate Giannis in Milwaukee obviously doesn’t shoot threes), but Zion is 6’6” and 285. So that’s a lot of force going up, and that’s a lot of force going down. So he’s going to need the shot to help take some of that “load” off of his body, and off of his shoes.

I’m fearful that we’re all a little too swept up in all the highlights and dunks that have dominated social media, YouTube, and SportsCenter.

If Zion enters the dunk contest next year, he might as well be the only one to enter, because he’ll

win it and it won’t be close. We might as well have just Zion enter and watch him make about three dunks, then call it a night, but I’m not sure if dunks translate into NBA championships.

Zion grew up playing a lot of point guard, so he’s got some point in him. He enjoys passing the basketball, and I think he has the vision and capability of being a good passer. And he tries on defense, averaging 2.2 steals per game, which is really good for his size. So Zion has the instinct to be able to anticipate on defense. But does all of this add up to KD or LeBron? I don’t see that yet.

And again, Zion is playing on, by far, the best team in college basketball, and has, by far, the best coach in college basketball in Mike Krzyzewski on his bench, so does that camouflage weaknesses he may have? Probably.

I’m afraid that everyone has become prisoner of highlights and of the scoreboard.

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Huntington LEARNING CENTER

High school musical turned out to be a Beauty

by James Engel

Shaler Area has done it again! The high school production of *Beauty and the Beast* was nearly unanimously well received with sold out shows for almost all of its productions. Although this show presented some new issues not before seen on the Shaler stage, the cast, crew, and pit still managed to put together one of the most fantastic shows ever produced at the school.

"It was a very stressful process, but in the final week, BAM, we were there" Junior Bella James, who played Cogsworth, the castle's clock said.

Stress is nothing new to a Shaler Area production, but this year the music department faced new issues to contend with.

"This book was a little more scattered, there were scenes that were a little questionable, some of the timing and pacing with the music that was given and what actually needed to happen in a scene was a little more constricted" Mrs. Kristin Tepsich, one of the co-directors of the musical said.

On top of script issues the musical cast and crew faced the new enforcement of eligibility rules this year that became a problem earlier in its production.

Even so, the music department still put on a wonderful show with many unique characters that students had to adapt to.

"I think Belle is such a complex character so I really had to dig in with each scene, and figure out exactly how she would react," senior Natalie Carey, who played Belle, said.

There were other similar responses regarding the difficulties of adapting to certain characters.

"I learned how he would react to things, and it was really fun to get into another being's brain," junior Michael Bly, who played Lumiere, said.

Bly also talked about his initial nervousness towards performing with a French accent.

"The accent was the toughest part, I've never had to do a French accent for anything before," he said.

Since his freshman year, Junior Alex Almonte has been at the forefront of each musical, and this is perhaps his best role, but it didn't come easy while playing the Beast.

"I had a lot of struggles with my voice...I had to lower it and totally embody the character, and when



Natalie Carey and Alex Almonte share the stage in "Beauty and the Beast"

I sang I had to make it deeper and richer," he said.

Although the cast at first may have struggled to encompass the new personalities of their characters, they eventually settled into their characters, and made many great memories throughout.

Pit Band Director, Mr. George Tepsich had a particular affinity for one of musical's larger numbers, *Be Our Guest*, saying, "When we did that number, musically it was fun, and there was tons of dance on stage."

Even though this stage performance was meant to be performed for an audience, it seems like the cast and crew performed just as much for each other and themselves as they grew closer throughout rehearsals and productions.

"Each rehearsal something new would be added whether it was something with the set, new costumes, new dances, and we all kind of came together as a family and it was clear that we were all working very hard to make the show as special and as magical as it could be," James said.

Clearly the cast enjoyed their time on stage and

so did the community that came to enjoy their talent. During bows and the final dance there seemed to be several minutes of unceasing applause for their hard work, which the department seems to have appreciated.

"I think the show went really well, and I think the reactions of the community really showed how well it went," Carey said.

Carey's counterpart on stage, Alex Almonte, added, "The most rewarding part of any show is seeing the support from the audience, and you see that during bows and when you come out after the show, but it's so awesome to see how much people enjoy coming to watch our musicals."

It was very clear how hard the cast on stage, the band in the pit, and the directors backstage worked to put on such an enormous production and the finished productions emphasised the talent of each individual that performed.

"It was very fulfilling in the end to see all of our hard work pay off... I'll never forget the magic we brought together," James said.

Verszyla shares stories of life in broadcasting — from page 3

while you could," Verszyla said.

After spending many years in South Texas, Verszyla wanted to return closer to home in Pennsylvania. He was offered two jobs, one in California and one in Pittsburgh, but decided to take the job in Pittsburgh at KDKA-TV.

"There were differences in markets, Pittsburgh being bigger, and I chose here and was back here for 23 years until recently when I was let go," Verszyla said.

He still didn't let this most recent layoff get in his way of his life and career. Through the support of the community, he continues to forecast the weather on a daily basis on his Facebook page.

"There were so many people after I was let go from the station that said to me, 'we trusted you for giving us our weather for so many years; we love that information, we trust you, we don't trust other people,' so I started [forecasting] through my professional Facebook page doing Facebook lives every day at 3 P.M. and other variations of media," Verszyla said.

While working in the broadcast television world, raising a family can be a challenge because of working extensive hours during the week. Verszyla used to put in over 50 hours of work in just one week and not get home until later at night. With the new flexibility, Verszyla enjoys the ability to be with family and children during the week.

"Not being available for as many activities that they're involved in really started to bother me; I like now the flexibility to be there for their activities," Verszyla said.

Through his many years in Pittsburgh forecasting, Verszyla has seen many major weather events occur within the area. One event that Verszyla as well as



many Pittsburghers can recall is the snow-making event 'Snowmageddon' which occurred back in February 2010. Snowmageddon dropped over 20 inches of snow overnight in the Pittsburgh area which many woke up to the next morning.

"It was a high impact system and it changed over the course of just the day it was occurring; we knew it was going to snow; I did see a lot of snow, but not as much that ended up happening," Verszyla said.

Verszyla was at the station that night tracking the storm system as it progressed forward. Though, this storm was an unpredictable one. Originally, the forecast called for higher amounts of snow between 8-12 inches which was expected, but instead that amount

ended up doubling overnight. That night, Verszyla ended up driving himself and colleague in the treacherous snowfall. A ride home would usually take Verszyla only 25 minutes instead turned into over 2 hours.

"It was one of the most fun and surreal experiences I've ever had because we were just having a ball in the car; you couldn't see the roads either so you just kinda guessed where the roads were; it almost felt like a zombie apocalypse because there was just no one out and of course I was the only one out there," Verszyla said.

With the rise of social media platforms, a return to Broadcast Television seems unlikely for Verszyla as he continues to pursue his social media broadcasts.

"I need to be on board with the way people gather information; everyone is moving away from the normal 4, 5, 6 o'clock newscasts and instead gathering the information as they need it from their mobile devices," Verszyla said.

Isn't it ironic? Don't you think?



Did you know?

* In 1963, major league baseball pitcher Gaylord Perry remarked, "They'll put a man on the moon before I hit a home run." On July 20, 1969, an hour after Neil Armstrong set foot on the surface of the moon, Perry hit his only home run playing for the San Francisco Giants.

* The Olympic flag's colors are always red, black, blue, green, and yellow rings on a field of white. This is because at least one of those colors appears on the flag of every nation on the planet.

* The average lifespan of a major league baseball: 7 pitches.

* At any given time, there are 1,800 thunderstorms in progress over the earth's atmosphere.

* Erosion at the base of Niagara Falls has caused the falls to recede approximately seven miles over the past 10,000 years.

* In space, astronauts cannot cry because there is no gravity and tears can't flow.

* If you have three quarters, four dimes, and four pennies you have \$1.19. you also have the largest possible amount of money in coins without being able to make change for a dollar.

* The main library at Indiana University sinks over an inch a year. When it was designed engineers failed to take into account the weight of all the books that would occupy the building.

* San Francisco cable cars are the only National Monuments that can move.



DUNDEE, Fla. — Authorities say a Florida man didn't want to show up for his shift at a Hardee's restaurant, so he called 911 and reported he'd just been robbed.

WFTS-TV reports that 32-year-old Brian Anderson of Dundee told dispatchers Tuesday that two gun-carrying men took his necklace, money and his phone before jumping into a car and driving away.

Polk County sheriff's deputies went to the scene and quickly realized that a robbery never happened.

The agency said Anderson confessed, adding that "Brian didn't have to go to his 11 a.m. shift at the restaurant." Anderson is charged with misusing the 911 system and knowingly giving false information to law enforcement.

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ -- Chris Ferry's sons wanted to wish him a happy birthday, but they were in the Sunshine State and he was back home in New Jersey. So they decided to rent a billboard near Atlantic City for \$2,000. The display featured his face and the words "Wish My Dad Happy Birthday — Love, Your Sons."

They also included his phone number.

As a result, the billboard has been the gift that keeps on giving because Ferry's phone has been ringing off the hook with calls and texts.

"Every state in the union, Luxembourg, Nepal, Kenya, Philippines. ... That little island in the middle of the Indian Ocean, they tried calling me," Ferry told Inside Edition.

Kelly Ripa and Ryan Seacrest of ABC's "Live With Kelly and Ryan" also tried to call Ferry on the air, but he missed that call. His mailbox was full.

Ferry estimates that he's received more than 15,000 calls and texts so far, according to CBS New York.

Ferry sees the humor in the prank, but he has stopped answering many of the calls and he's also changed his voicemail, according to Philadelphia radio station KYW. His new message begins, "Thank you for calling to wish me a happy birthday, I really very much appreciate it ..."

BERLIN — A German court has ruled that a dog owner isn't fit to carry a firearms license after his dog shot him with a rifle.

The Munich administrative court dismissed the man's appeal against an earlier decision by Bavarian authorities to withdraw his license to own a rifle, as well as his hunting permit.

The decision followed a 2016 incident in which the man, a passionate hunter, was shot in the arm after his dog managed to release the trigger on a loaded rifle that was lying in his car.

The court ruled the hunter couldn't be relied upon "because it must be assumed that he will handle firearms and ammunition carelessly in future as well."

SAN ANTONIO, Tx -- Three people snatched a small shark from a pool at the San Antonio Aquarium and smuggled it out in a baby carriage over the weekend, the aquarium said Monday.

One suspect is in custody and "the shark is alive and well and on its way back to the aquarium," Jenny Spellman, the aquarium's general manager, told NBC News.

Leon Valley Police Chief Joseph Salvaggio said officers initially refused to believe that the 911 call that came in Saturday was real. But "they finally convinced me that it was true somebody had walked in and stole a shark out of an aquarium," he told NBC affiliate WOAI of San Antonio.

Spellman said her reaction was "just absolute shock."

Security video released Monday shows the sharknappers strolling through the aquarium's hallway pushing the baby carriage along on Saturday before they drove off with the 16-inch shark in a red pickup truck.

The aquarium said the thieves brought their own net with them to snag the shark from an interactive "touch pool" at the tide pool exhibit while an attendant was assisting other visitors.

They then ducked into a room and emptied out a bleach bucket, into which they deposited the shark. They used the bucket to transfer the shark into the stroller and "hurried up the stairs and out to the parking lot."

BELGIUM -- They're either the world's most accommodating criminals, the greediest, the most optimistic, or the dumbest—or maybe all of the above. The BBC reports on 15 tense minutes for a Belgian e-cigarette shop owner, identified as Didier, when a half-dozen wannabe armed robbers showed up around 3 p.m. at his store outside Charleroi.

"I told them clearly that 3 p.m. is not the best time to hold up a store," Didier said. He managed to say if they came back later on, he'd possibly have many more euros to hand over. To his surprise, they agreed that was a good idea and left. The cops didn't buy Didier's story that the suspects would actually return, but they did—not once, but twice.

First the suspects showed back up at around 5:30 p.m., and Didier shook his head. He told them to come back at 6:30, when the store would close for the evening. The hopefuls were back at Didier's door an hour later—and plain-clothes cops were there to nab them.

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