

Fall 2021

Chalfont, PA



The Unami Times

Unami Middle School

Newspaper

"The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state."

Unami and Community News

Club Spotlight-Unami Audition Choirs

Author: Amritha Sakamuri

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On December 7th the Unami audition choirs debuted at the Unami Winter concert. At Unami there are two after school audition choirs. There is Warrior Chorale that has recently expanded from 50 students to about 80 students. Within Warrior Chorale there is another select group, U-tunes. U-tunes consists of 25 7th, 8th, and 9th graders.

On December 7th, Warrior Chorale performed 3 songs. The first song called "Jolly Jazzy Christmas" by Douglas Wagner. This song is a jazzy combination of two holidays favorites, "Deck the Halls" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas". The song has two soloists, Joey Kelly, and Gayathri Nair.

The next song is Winter Wolf by Amy F. Bernon. This intriguing and unique piece shows the story of a wolf and its difficulties through the long, hard winter.

For the last song Warrior Chorale combined with 7th grade chorus.

For the grand finale, 7th grade chorus and Warrior Chorale performed a well-known holiday classic "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" but with a twist. Made by J. Fred Coots and arranged by Kirby Shaw, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" has some jazzy transitions and has some cool scat singing sections.

Following the Warrior Chorale Performance, U-tunes performed 3 songs. The first song is "Christmas Time is Here" by Lee Mendelson and Vince Guaraldi, arranged by Teena Chinn. This 3-part accompaniment is a mellow Christmas song with a smooth flow and many unique harmonies.

The next song is "White Winter Hymnal" by Robin Pecknold, arranged by Alan Billingsley. Although the song never specifically states being about the holidays or Christmas, but it does hint to the cold winter season and winter activities.

For the grand finale, U-tunes performed "Throw Open your Shutters" by Amy Feldman Bernon. This festive Madrigal is a SATB (Soprano Alto Tenor Bass) accompanied by piano. This madrigal has several intricate scat singing sections and some holiday hymns.

Overall, Warrior Chorale and U-tunes both were spectacular.

On January 6th, Tamanend Middle School is hosting An Evening of A Capella. Stop by and listen to some of the best choirs in the district and CB South's selective Acapella group Southside.

Unami Times

2022-2023

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Unami and Community News

Midterm Elections

Author: Hari Kasibhotla

This past November, America experienced the midterm elections. Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Green Parties and Independents faced off starting on November 8th. In Pennsylvania, for the Governor's race, Democrat Josh Shapiro ran against Republican Doug Mastriano. Josh Shapiro defeated Doug Mastriano. This is partly due to many Republicans not endorsing Mastriano. Mastriano also did not even air commercials until a week before the elections. On the other hand, Shapiro aired many ads and fundraisers, securing his victory.

In the senate, Democrat John Fetterman faced off against Republican Mehmet Oz. This was a much closer race, with many ads and commercials being aired from both sides. Fetterman recently suffered a stroke, which caused many people to doubt his ability to serve as the state senator. In the end, Fetterman narrowly won by a small margin, 51.2% to Oz's 46.3%. Many owe Fetterman's victory to the abortion issue, with the majority of Americans supporting abortion, which Oz did not. In Pennsylvania's 1st house district, which includes local Bucks

County representative, Republican Brian Fitzpatrick defeated Democrat Ashley Ehasz, 162,000 votes to 200,000. Fitzpatrick will be serving his third term in office, having surpassed all his previous opponents. At the end of the long elections, Democrats kept their control of the Senate, while losing the House to the Republicans.

Informational Sources—

[John Fetterman - Official Campaign Website](#)

[Brian Fitzpatrick For Congress](#)

[Thank you, Pennsylvania. - Shapiro For Governor \(joshshapiro.org\)](#)

Everything You Need to Know About the Nationwide RSV Surge

Author: Deborah Kim

With rampant RSV outbreaks populating the nation, it becomes useful to know more about this unpleasant pathogen that has been rapidly filling up pediatric beds all across the board. The virus, also known as the "Respiratory syncytial virus" is a common respiratory viral infection that typically causes minor symptoms similar to that of the cold. As observed by health experts, RSV has started earlier than normal within children. While adults are also vulnerable to RSV, the hospitals have been receiving far less grown-ups than infant and toddler patients. Nonetheless, some doctors have already begun to notice an increase in adult patients.

Regarding American's seniors, the RSV hospitalization rate for the elderly is nearly ten times higher than the usual point for the current season. As according to recent data from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 6/100,000 seniors have been hospitalized and diagnosed with the virus so far. The unusual circumstances behind the virus's untimely appearance cannot be attributed to any one cause. Dr. Ann Falsey, a professor of infectious disease at the University of Rochester Medical Center, provided the rational, primary cause behind the outbreaks. "I think that older adults were more cautious to continue public health measure like masks and social distance last year because they were still worrying about Covid. But this year we're starting to see older people ending up in the hospital again with RSV because everyone is throwing caution to the wind. And what is the result of such a transition? Our immune systems had been protected by the health precautions we took throughout the pandemic, not just from Covid-19 but also from any other pathogens in general. The sudden exposure to our germ-filled atmosphere, naturally, throws our body's defense mechanisms off guard."

There have been calls by prominent medical organizations for the federal government to declare the RSV surge as a public health emergency. Both the Children's Hospital Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, have been placing pressure on the Biden Administration to do so. The reason is simple. As of Wednesday November 16, 78% of pediatric hospital beds nationwide were full and seven states have had hospital capacity levels higher than 90%. This comes from the observations of NBC News on their data from the Department of Health and Human Services. In a letter sent on Monday November 14, both of the mentioned organizations urged the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra, to declare the RSV surge a national and public emergency. The letter had stated, - "These unprecedented levels of RSV happening with growing flu rates, ongoing high numbers of children in mental health crisis and serious workforce shortages are combining to stretch pediatric care capacity at the hospital and community level to the breaking point," the organizations wrote, adding that "this crisis requires more action and support."

So, the question becomes: What can you do to protect yourself? The Biden Administration suggests that preventative actions can be described as avoiding close contact with the infected, staying home when sick, and covering your coughs. While the general response of the body to an RSV infection is a steady recovery, the virus can be fatal to people with underlying health conditions. However, to be safe from something, you must know it well. After all, the greatest protection you can offer yourself is wariness.

Informational sources— *Everything You Should Know About RSV*—[msn.com](#)—[Everything You Should Know About RSV \(msn.com\)](#) — *Biden administration sidesteps to declare RSV a health emergency*—[Biden administration sidesteps calls to declare RSV a health emergency \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

World News

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade 2022

Author: Ashlee Ranes

Every year for Thanksgiving, one of the most timeless traditions is the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. This year it was again hosted by the today show anchors Savannah Guthrie and Hoda Kotb; another Today Show host, Dylan Dreyer, was also featured, filling in for Al Roker. The parade was, as always, with classic floats, balloons, and musical performances so this piece will summarize the most notable events from 2022's Macy's Parade.

The program immediately began with a performance of Don't Rain on My Parade from Funny Girl on Broadway. Along with the dance ensemble, the song mainly featured former Glee star, Lea Michelle. Michelle has recently taken on the lead role in the Funny Girl revival. The second Broadway show was from Disney's The Lion King. This performance displayed a full range of creatively crafted, lifelike costumes of animals seen in the Lion King.

In addition to the traditional Rockettes, there was a focus on numerous marching bands throughout the program. A total of 7 marching bands with different routines were included.

The highlight of the Macy's parade is usually the floats and balloons. Some notable floats from this year were the Native American tribe float, Peanuts (Charlie Brown), Toys R Us, and the Disney Cruise. Furthermore, some examples of the various balloons are NASA Astronaut Snoopy, Baby Yoda, Ronald McDonald, and Pikachu and Eevee (Pokémon).

Finally, the 2022 Macy's Parade ended with Mariah Carey singing her most iconic song, All I Want For Christmas is You. As a tradition for Thanksgiving, this song always triggers the transition into the holiday season.

Sports

Eagles

Author: Ebrahim Haroon, Pacey Herman

As the Philadelphia Eagles started with an 8-0 perfect record, the Washington Commanders devastated Philadelphia fans with a 32-21 loss. That left them 8-1, a tied record with the Minnesota Vikings as of November 14, 2022. They fumbled three times, and the defense couldn't stop them from running the ball. The officials made a bad call. After that week they signed DT, Ndamukong Suh. In week 11, they played the Indianapolis Colts on November 20 and won 17-16 and the winning touchdown was scored by Jalen Hurts when there was a minute left in the 4th quarter. In week 12, they played the Green Bay Packers on November 27. In the first quarter, the Eagles' quarterback Jalen Hurts rushes 100 yards and wins them 40-33. In week 13 the Eagles played the Tennessee Titans on December 4 and won 31-10. They held the Titans scoreless for the final 33 minutes and 28 seconds. In week 14, they will play the New York Giants on December 11 at 1 p.m.

World Cup Explained

Author: Mufazzal Khan

Disclaimer: This article is written before the World Cup Final on the 18th of December. This issue will most likely release after this; hence some information may be outdated.

The time has come, the FIFA World Cup has returned, and this time, it's taking place in Qatar, a small country in the Persian Gulf. The way it functions is not that straightforward; how do they organize who plays who? Here's how the World Cup works, in a super-simple fashion.

The FIFA World Cup happens every four years, with the first one held in Uruguay all the way back in 1930. Out of the 32 teams that qualify, they will be split into the eight groups. In the Group Stage, each team will play every other team in their group at least once. Based on their wins, losses, and draws, they earn points. Wins grant the victor three points, a draw will grant both teams one, and a loss doesn't give any. The top two teams of each group qualify for the next stage. Here were the selected groups of the '22 World Cup:

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| Group A Netherlands (Q) Ecuador (Q) | Group B England (Q) USA (Q) Iran | Group C Argentina (Q) Poland (Q) | Group D France (Q) Australia (Q) |
| Group E Japan (Q) Spain (Q) Germany | Group F Morocco (Q) Croatia (Q) | Group G Brazil (Q) Switzerland (Q) | Group H Portugal (Q) Korea (Q) Uruguay |

You may notice that 16 of the teams have a (Q) next to their name. Those are the teams that qualified in their respective group. These teams will battle it out in the Knockout Stage. This is the World Cup equivalent of the playoffs; the round-robin format of games is replaced with a bracket. Here is the bracket for the Qatar 2022 Knockout Stage:



Sports

World Cup Explained (continued)

Author: Mufazzal Khan

Because this is written before the finals, I am going to give some notable moments and facts from this year's World Cup at the time of this being written (12/7):

1. The US Team lost their first knockout match to the Netherlands. (NED 3, USA 1)
2. This World Cup marks the potential end of many famous players' international careers, most notably Cristiano Ronaldo (POR), Lionel Messi (ARG), and Neymar (BRA).
3. The most impressive game so far must belong to Portugal, as they recently obliterated Switzerland in the Quarterfinals, even though Ronaldo didn't join until the last 15 minutes. (POR 6, SUI 1)
4. Even with the curse (winning one World Cup and doing terrible in the next), France somehow made their way into the Knockout Stage. Bravo!

Current Bracket



Reviews

Once Upon A Broken Heart, Is It Worth Reading?

Author: Anastasiya Starastenka

Once Upon a Broken Heart is a book written by Stephanie Garber. In the book, we follow the main character, Evangeline Fox, a young orphan girl whose father has recently passed away. Due to this, she is stuck with living with her stepmother and stepsister. When she finds out that her stepsister is to marry the boy that Evangeline is in love with, she is conflicted. Evangeline and her stepsister are very good friends, but Evangeline's heart cannot bear the thought of her stepsister being with the love of her life. So, she turns to the wicked Prince of Hearts to help her stop the wedding. Little does Evangeline know that the prince is so much worse than she thought.

In my opinion, the book is one of the best books I've read. Garber's writing is spectacular. She does a wonderful job at worldbuilding which I find many great book authors struggling with. The book is full of surprises and plot twists. The characters are very memorable, they each have their own personalities and certain traits that separate them from one another.

Reviews

Once Upon A Broken Heart, Is It Worth Reading? (continued)

Author: Anastasiya Starastsenka

Evangeline's character develops really well throughout the story, and she has a very satisfying arc. Another nice thing about the book was that it is a great example of how a sequel should be written. The book is supposed to be the sequel to Garber's Carval trilogy and while it has the elements of the trilogy, it does not completely depend on it when it comes to storytelling. Due to this, the book can be read as a standalone, which is really nice when you don't want to read a thousand pages worth of lore to understand why certain things happen and who's who. One thing that bugged me about the book is the pacing which in my opinion was sometimes inconsistent. Overall, I would give this book a nine out of ten. Good luck reading!

Reviews

Black Panther Wakanda Forever Review

Author: Hari Kasibhotla



On November 11 of this year, the final film of Marvel's phase four, (Starting with the WandaVision TV series in Jan. 2021,) released. It was "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever". There has been recent controversy with the film, mostly surrounding the death of Chadwick Boseman, the actor who played Black Panther in phase three films, who passed away from colon cancer in Aug. 2020. Many did not

Black Panther, whose real name is T'Challa, to be replaced with a different actor. When the teaser for the film released in August, these predictions were confirmed, when it was revealed T'Challa would not appear in the movie. Wakanda Forever gets you pumped up stressed in the beginning scene. The pure adrenaline and the effect of hanging on the edge of your seat. It's one of the biggest plot events, and it is executed perfectly showing how not everything turns out how you want it to. The following scene, the funeral scene that can be scene in the trailer, was also instrumental in making the viewers emotional, actually invested in the movie,



instead of watching blindly. The new character coming to the MCU in this movie, Namor, had a well written origin. His sad origin and rage are good attributions to his current mood in the movie. Shuri, T'Challa's sister, is also an amazing character. You really see her emotional side in this movie. You can also see your rage and darker side. However, the film's pacing is slow. Very slow. There are many events that are not needed, and just drag out the movie farther (Most of these are in the middle and a little in the beginning). The movie would be better shortened, or the plot filled with less small events or more detailed or rich events. Another setback to this film's score is that Namor did some villainous things, but many are quick to forgive him.

Reviews

Black Panther Wakanda Forever Review (continued)

Author: Hari Kasibhotla

It would make more sense to make Namor still seem like an antagonist or negative character, so more character development can be given to him to become better over the course of phase 5. Overall, this film did very well. It gets a 8.5/10

Christmas Movie Recommendations

Author: Leila Vaughan

Christmas is a time to spend quality time with your family. Watching Christmas movies is one of the best ways to do so. You may be thinking, "What movies do I watch?" Well, I have 5 movies to watch this holiday season. How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Home Alone, The Polar Express, Elf, and A Christmas Carol. After watching these holiday movies you will have lots of Christmas spirit!

What is your favorite holiday movie?



[364775-Favorite-Christmas-Movie-.jpg \(720×786\) \(lovethispic.com\)](#)

Why Do We Love the Holidays So Much?

Author: Cecilia Marques

People love the holidays; I think by now that is a well-known fact. The holidays are a time in the world where everything else seems to be put on hold. Political rivalries, global warming, or economic issues are almost at halt when we find sight of the joyous holiday months. Despite everything else that might be going on, there is always the uplifting feeling of hope when the holiday's role around.

During the holiday season, each festive event, cheerful gathering, and jovial party all lead up to the holiday you celebrate. One reason people love the holidays so much is because of the quality time spent with family and friends at such activities. A key part of the holidays is seeing your family members you have not seen in a while or finally being able to see your friend during holiday break. For most of us, family is a source of relief and offers as an anxiety buffer when things get tough. So, seeing people you can trust makes you think of the positive things yet to come. Family time can also encourage keeping a closer relationship with your loved ones so you can build a stronger bond. Bonding and connecting with loved ones are what makes the holidays all the better.

With all the festivities the holidays bring, there also comes the delicious food. With whatever holiday you celebrate, you usually have a traditional assortment of foods that make your celebration unique to your family. Different cultures and religions call for these certain traditions, but sometimes traditions start out of pure accident. Gathering around the table with your family for a holiday meal is a staple to celebrating time with your loved ones. Things such as baking cookies or helping prepare dinner are all apart of celebrating your holiday by keeping traditions alive and family time even more special.

Last but not least, the presents. Exchanging presents at holiday gatherings is one of the most common holiday rituals known to man. Waking up on Christmas morning to presents under the tree, receiving a gift each day for Hanukkah, or finally exchanging handmade presents on the final day of Kwanzaa are what some of us cannot wait to do! The presents and the gifts are not even why we love this part of the holidays but rather the satisfaction and happiness we receive when we see someone we care about enjoying the presents we gifted them. Gift giving and receiving lets us recognize our gratitude towards others and how much we appreciate how they show that they love us.

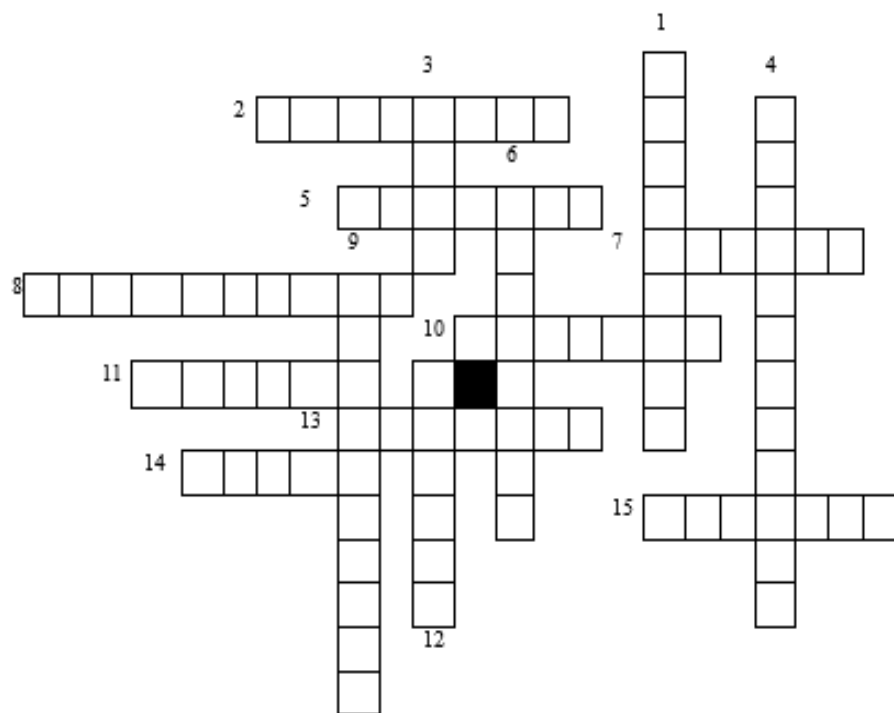
In conclusion, the holiday season is a part of our lives that means a lot to us. Between seeing family, gathering around the table for a delicious meal, and exchanging gifts, love is spread widely amongst each and every one of us. The holidays are a time to celebrate and enjoy yourself, so keep working hard until we see the light of winter break!



Games

Winter Crossword

Author: Ashlee Ranes



Across:

- 2. Where you toast s'mores
- 5. When school is canceled due to weather or icy roads
- 7. A word that refers to both cold weather and the name of a famous animated snowman
- 8. The flavor that is in candy canes.
- 10. Holder for the candles lit during the 8 nights of Hanukkah
- 11. Clothing item that keeps you warm in cold weather
- 13. Another name for reindeer
- 14. This type of bear is associated with colder climates, specifically the arctic
- 15. ___ the Red Nosed Reindeer

Down:

- 1. No two ___ are exactly the same
- 3. Precipitation when the temperature is below freezing
- 4. Popular topping for hot chocolate
- 6. The month when most winter holidays take place
- 9. The classic Christmas themed ballet, best known for the song, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy
- 12. Title of the Disney princess film from 2013

Games

Holiday Word Search

Author: Delia Rucci

The holidays are here! This marking period is full of breaks and holiday fun, but if you ever find yourself bored, we've included a word search in this newspaper issue! Happy holidays!

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| S | L | E | I | O | P | R | Y | Z | W | A | V | D | B |
| L | O | N | E | W | Y | E | A | R | N | F | B | K | C |
| E | H | F | G | J | P | Q | T | S | T | E | K | A | E |
| D | R | A | N | M | W | X | U | V | Y | K | W | O | D |
| D | H | Q | N | X | A | I | B | H | H | A | A | Y | Z |
| I | E | R | K | U | I | T | B | E | L | L | N | S | R |
| N | C | V | G | D | K | M | T | G | I | F | Z | B | B |
| G | S | N | O | K | U | K | Y | X | G | W | A | E | I |
| C | H | R | I | S | T | M | A | S | H | O | A | M | A |
| A | I | D | D | E | F | A | C | H | T | N | B | C | Y |
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| L | M | U | Y | Z | C | A | R | D | E | L | C | V | P |
| E | T | H | A | N | K | S | G | I | V | I | N | G | T |

Words:

Hanukkah

New Year

Snowman

Dreidel

Christmas

Thanksgiving

Bell

Lights

Kwanzaa

Snowflake

Candle

Sledding

Games

Winter Crossword Answer Key

Author: Ashlee Ranes

