

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Table of Hope illustrates Morris County's compassion

BY ADAM GENTILE
Editor-in-Chief

Hundreds of families arrived at CCM and were given a collection of food that included turkey, apples, canned goods, and much more, as part of the latest Table of Hope event. The event was run by the Spring Street Community Development Corporation (SSPDC) and featured volunteers from across Morris County including various members of the CCM community who attended the event Saturday, Nov. 21.

The Table of Hope is a program started in 2013 and is run by the SSPDC, a not-for-profit organization founded in 2011 that is focused on dealing with economic, educational, and social needs for the residents of Morris County. According to the SSPDC website, the Table of Hope provided food to over 18,000 families in Morris County since April.



Volunteers helping out at a Table of Hope event.

PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

Before the event began Teresa Williams, a member of the SSPDC, detailed the vast network of support that is needed in

order to organize a Table of Hope event from elected officials such as local mayors, to sponsors like Alstede farms, and finally to the

volunteers who give their time and support.

"We really have great people in Morris County," Williams

said. "What I find so beautiful is that when we go to the communities we expect them to bring their volunteers to serve their communities, and I am so amazed by the volunteer pool who come out and support because it's young people, older people, it's really a diverse group of people and the towns take it so seriously and the people who support the towns take it so seriously."

Dr. Anthony Iacona, president of CCM, said that the pandemic has demonstrated the ability of Morris County's residence to come together as a community and assist one another.

"I love living in Morris County and what I love most about living in it is the people and how they come together, Iacona said. "And while we would never wish for this Pandemic to return or wish it on anyone I think in a lot of ways its brought this community together. I've

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After a two-month season filled with uncertainty, outdoor fall sports wrap up in N.J.

BY SHANE CONNUCK
Sports Editor

RANDOLPH TWP. — Aden Koenigsberg stood under center and glanced at the John J. Bauer Field scoreboard behind the end zone 46 yards away from him. His Randolph Rams had stormed back from an 11-point deficit to lead the 5-1 Irvington Blue Knights, 43-32. With the game clock dwindling down to its final seconds, the senior quarterback took the final snap and knelt down on his home turf for the final time of his high school career.

As time expired, the team in navy blue jerseys jubilated around its home field. The Rams improved to 6-0 and topped the team that bested them in double overtime to end their 9-2 2018 season — exactly 104 Friday nights prior.

"That was the most heart-breaking moment of my life," senior captain Justin Townsend said about the 20-17 loss two years ago, via TAP Into Randolph. "Those



The Randolph Rams walk off the field.

PHOTO BY SHANE CONNUCK

are feelings I will never forget. We were out for revenge tonight."

New Jersey high schools commenced their outdoor fall sports seasons the week of Sept. 28 with much uncertainty. Football teams scheduled six-game

slates with an option to add two "bowl" games afterward, which is how Randolph wound up with another date with Irvington. Boys and girls soccer, girls field hockey and girls tennis have also been in action over these weeks, and have

even seen a semblance of the traditional state tournaments.

As for football, teams traditionally play an eight- or nine-game regular season before entering the NJSIAA group playoffs — many of which conclude at

MetLife Stadium or Rutgers' SHI Stadium. This season, teams have scheduled their final two games — some of which will be played on or the night before Thanksgiving,

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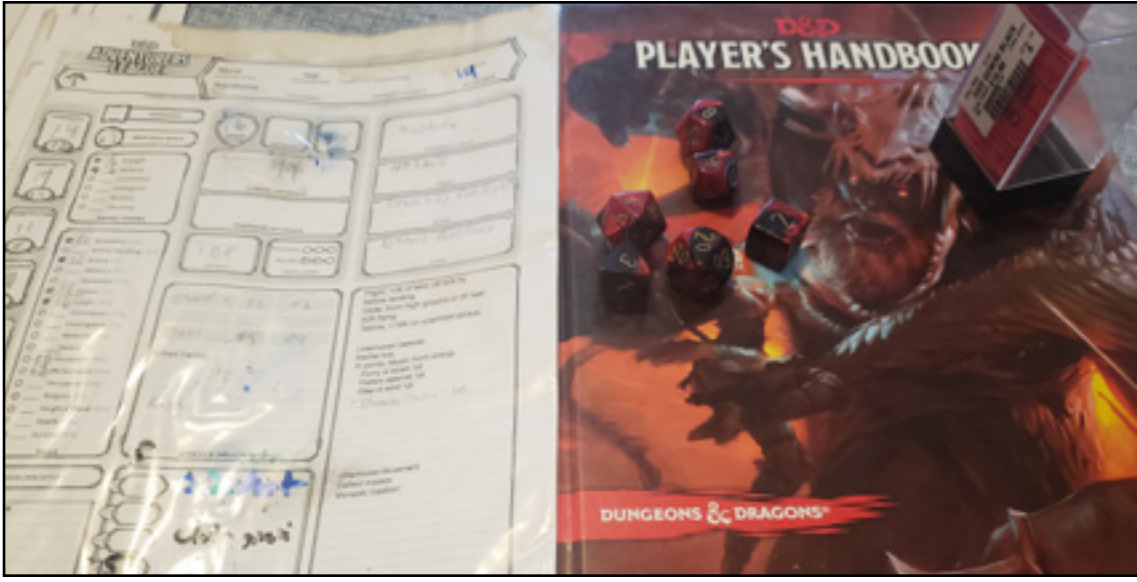


PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

The Dungeons & Dragons Player's Handbook and a character sheet.

Dungeons & Dragons returns

BY DEVON STEPHAN
Contributor

There has been a resurgence in the fantasy tabletop role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons in recent years, due to the numerous popular podcasts based around it that have been released on streaming platforms such as Twitch.

Dungeons and Dragons is currently on its fifth edition, that came out in the latter half of 2014. Wizards of The Coast, the team that developed and continues to work on Dungeons & Dragons, releases several new campaigns and expansions every year the most recent release was Tasha's Cauldron of Everything.

One popular podcast that plays Dungeons & Dragons Fifth Edition is Critical Role, a podcast run by several famous voice actors, the podcast's campaigns are run by Matthew Mercer, a voice actor who has voiced in franchises like Dragon Ball, Justice League, and Fire Emblem. According to twitchtracker.com, Critical Role has an average audience size of over 16,000 for their streams and has an impressive follower count of over 650,000 people.

Brandon Crowell, a local Dungeons & Dragons player, said that the podcast helps to show potential players how to play the game.

"It's [Critical Role] taught

people a lot about how creative people can play Dungeons and Dragons, and also shows that people still really care about this game," Crowell said. "It also doesn't hurt that so many famous people are playing it, which of course draws in more attention."

Local player and Dungeon Master Michaela Malanga stated that the new edition of Dungeons & Dragons is the reason for the game's recent spike in popularity. "I believe the newest edition of Dungeons & Dragons is a lot less complicated than earlier editions, and therefore it's a lot easier to get into," said Malanga. "There's a lot of people who think of Dungeons & Dragons as a math game, wherein the fifth edition it is actually a very creative storytelling game, and I think that's been drawing in many new people."

Dylan Katz, A Dungeons & Dragons player, believes Dungeons & Dragons has resurfaced mainly because of the isolation and stress brought on by current events in the world. "During a time where leaving your house puts you at risk and with mounds of online classwork, being able to set up a time each week to play Dungeons & Dragons is a great stress-reliever, even if it's online," Katz said. "Unlike many video games that have a predetermined ending, Dungeons & Dragons re-

quires you to invent new ways to solve problems and interact with friends to create a grand story that is tailored from the actions each person in the group makes, and that kind of inclusive and intense social interaction is something people really crave right now."

Dungeons & Dragons seems to be on the rise, with one of their most recent releases Explorers Guide to Wildemount becoming number one on Amazon's Best-seller list and breaking new sales records for the game. Wizards Of The Coast team gets ready to release a new supplemental book, Tasha's Cauldron of Everything on Nov. 17, which will further enhance what Fifth Edition Dungeons & Dragons has to offer.

SPORTS

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for the first time — against opponents they would have seen in the state playoffs.

"We wanted to earn more respect from the state, and we don't have a playoff, but we want to play the best opponent available," Randolph head football coach Will Nahan said about playing the Blue Knights, via TAP Into Randolph. "The state matched us with Irvington, and we said, 'that's great.' They are talented across the board and have some Division I recruits, so we said, 'let's go earn some respect tonight.'"

Randolph competes in the Freedom Blue division of the New Jersey Super Football Conference with Morristown, Morris Knolls (Denville), Mount Olive, Roxbury and West Morris Central (Chester). Friday evening, the Mount Olive Marauders handed the Rams their first loss of the season, forcing the two teams, along with the West Morris Central Wolfpack, into a three-way tie for the conference championship as each has a 6-1 overall record and finished the conference slate 4-1.

Field hockey and soccer seasons concluded Nov. 21-22 with a novel state tournament. Instead of playing in their traditional sections — North, Central and South Jersey — that could allow for travel all over those regions, these groups were broken up into regional playoff groups. Mor-

ris County teams found themselves in the North West brackets playing fellow Morris County schools, along with opponents from Sussex, Warren and Passaic counties.

West Morris Central field hockey ended Randolph's season with a 1-0 win Nov. 19 to push the team into the North West C — Group III/IV schools — championship, where they were shut out by one-seeded Warren Hills.

Morris County was well-presented in the North West Jersey boys soccer tournaments. Randolph won the North West D — Group IV — final at home Saturday, with a 3-0 defeat of the John F. Kennedy (Paterson) Knights. Montville — Wayne Hills, Dover — Pequannock and Kinnelon — Boonton.

Randolph girls soccer also won the North West C championship at DaSilva Field on the campus of its high school Sunday afternoon.

Just two months ago, outdoor fall sports teams headed into a truncated season with much uncertainty and a significant lack of preparation. Now that they've made it through, what's next?

Indoor winter sports — boys and girls basketball, boys and girls ice hockey, fencing and indoor track and field — have been pushed back a month from their original Dec. 1 start. Wrestling was bumped to the NJSIAA's novel "special season" — in between the winter and spring — when girls volleyball and gymnastics seasons are scheduled to take place.

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

Review: Trippie Redd's new album fails to live up to expectations

BY MICHAEL ROVETTO
Contributor

The Ohio native Trippie Redd released his third commercial LP, Pegasus, on Oct. 30 with inspiration from the late American singer and songwriter Prince. Trippie Redd has been in the mainstream hip-hop/rap scene for the better part of the past three years. The 21-year-old led a new wave of rap that many refer to as emo-rap.

Trippie Redd's music is a hodgepodge of hip-hop/rap, rock, and R&B. The combination of these sounds creates a melancholy yet calming feeling. This sound is evident within his mixtape series "A Love Letter to You" in which he broke through with his hit single Love Scars

(2017). His debut album, Life's a Trip, and sophomore album, !, added more upbeat, boastful trap sounds with clear emo influence to his discography.

Pegasus is flooded with 26 songs, and the expanded edition includes six extra tracks that were released before the album. The EP was titled Spooky Sounds. The album as a whole creates an eerie feeling and clearly gives off Halloween vibes. This record is much more focused than his past records and is far more euphoric.

However, the abundance of songs coupled with lackluster production, inconsistent delivery, and overall underwhelming lyrics and creativity make for a tough listen. Unfortunately, Redd has failed to live up to his lyrical potential that he showcased in previ-

ous works like A Love Letter to You and Life's a Trip.

Throughout the record, It feels as though he once-promising rapper spends most of his time trying to emulate others in the industry. On the track, Good Morning, Redd uses the baby voice vocal delivery made famous by Playboi Carti. Throughout the album, it seems as though he is biting Future's vocal inflections. Coincidentally, he is featured on two songs, including the loud and bullish track Kid That Didd, which presents an obnoxious distorted beat that is constant throughout the track's entirety.

Features from the likes of Chris Brown, Rich The Kid, Lil Mosey and Lil Wayne sound illustrious on the surface, considering they are some of the most popular

artists in the game. Nevertheless, Chris Brown and Trippie Redd mix about as well as bananas and Sprite on the track "Mood." Lil Mosey's feature on the track "No Honorable Mention" will make listeners want to fall asleep. And features from Rich The Kid and Lil Wayne were not enough to save the underwhelming Trippie Redd vocal performance.

There is only a handful of tracks that are attention-grabbing, and most of them were released prior to the album. TR666 featuring Swae Lee was released nearly three years ago on SoundCloud at the peak of Redd's fame on the platform. Excitement with R&B artist PARTYNEXTDOOR was released as a single in May. Both are tracks that showcase the emo-rap sound that fans fell in love

with.

Another track that stood out was Sleepy Hollow, which clearly draws inspiration from the movie. The thought process is there, but the track as a whole leaves something to be desired. It's an energetic and upbeat song, but only has a run time of 1 minute and 40 seconds.

The album is bloated, with including too many tracks that seemingly have no purpose but to be used as fillers. The production, which is usually not a problem with an artist like Trippie Redd, who uses high-quality beats to create a melodic effect, is inconsistent at best. Trippie Redd's lyrical creativity has evidently reached a standstill as he has not shown much progression throughout his projects.



PHOTO BY ADAM GENTILE

Volunteers help out at a Table of Hope event.

HOPE

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seen a lot of compassion and a lot of people reaching out and connecting. We're here together and we're still here to serve the community."

Eric Wilsusen, mayor of Jefferson Township, mentioned that he agrees with William's that an event like the Table of Hope requires a community in order to succeed.

"I want to thank Table of

Hope they have been excellent to work with," Wilsusen said. "We all have banks and pantries in our community and when I found out about Table of Hope coming to Jefferson and northwest part of Morris County like any good mayor I put my recreation director on it and she made it happen. As much as Mayors like to take credit as Teresa has said this is truly a community effort."

For more information on how to assist with the Table of Hope or any other SSPDC event go on to <https://springstreetcdc.org/volunteer-opportunities>.

Native American Heritage Day: commemorating Native Americans' impact on U.S. culture

BY ADAM GENTILE
Editor-in-Chief

Believe it or not the day following Thanksgiving is a recognized civil holiday, and it's not Black Friday. In 2008 Congress passed the Native American Heritage Bill which recognizes the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day, a day that honors the contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

Native American contributions can be seen in all aspects of American life and history from the food Americans eat, to the games that we play, and even the setup of the American government has elements based on Native American Civilizations.

According to the National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), roughly 60% of the global food supply can be traced back to Native American agriculture. This includes foods like turkey, corn, pineapple, jerky, chewing gum, and many more.

In 1988 Congress passed a bill that formally recognized the role the confederation that was the Iroquois league played in inspiring founders like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington to adopt a confederacy-style government for the United States.

According to the Encyclopedia of Britannica, the Iroquois

League consisted of six nations spread throughout New York state and was formed between the years 1570-1600. The league was formed in response to British and French colonialism. The league was structured in a way that gave each tribe one vote on issues, members of different tribes will meet at common councils in order to discuss issues. Members of the league had standardized trade and negotiation practices with colonists.

Across Northern New Jersey several towns have their names derived from the Lenape tribe, the tribe that inhabited the area before colonizers came. An example of this would be the town of Whippany whose name is based on the Lenape word of Whippanong.

Along with the names of our towns we have also adopted Native American words into our standard language, for example, the origin of the word barbecue according to Oxford languages can be traced back to the Arawak word barbacoa which referred to a wooden box used to store meat and fish that were about to be dried.

Native American influences are so ingrained into American culture that American's may not even know that traditional American activity is derived from Native American culture.

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