SALAMANCA PRESS
PROUDLY SERVING CENTRAL AND WESTERN CATTARAUGUS COUNTY SINCE 1867

December 16 - 22, 2021

$1.25

Salamanca schools urging safe COVID practices after remote learning period

By Kellen M. Quigley

Managing Editor

SALAMANCA - The Salamanca City Central School District was expected to begin virtual learning modeled through Wednesday due to COVID-19 after previously announcing remote instruction would last until 2022. Superintendent Robert Breidenstein announced via Facebook on Monday afternoon that school would reopen to person instruction on Thursday.

"We wish the COVID journey by promising to adhere to safety, wellness and continuity of instruction," he said. "With that said, I'm reminding my colleagues to close schools through Jan. 7."

Breidenstein said he revised the timelines of positive or quarantined individuals over the weekend. By Jan. 7, it was believed to be about 40 individuals impacted — an increase in cases greater than the members Tuesday.

"By today, the true number of impacted cases is closer to 65," he said Monday. "This number, while still concerning, paints a different picture, one worthy of review." See Schools, A3

Silver Bells holiday show Saturday is live in person

By Ginny Hensel

Contributing Writer

SALAMANCA — Can you hear them ring? Christmas comes early to the Ray Evans Centre Theater, Silver Bells style.

Join us and crew for the last performance of the Silver Bells Holiday Show on Saturday at the Theatre on Main Street for a four-silled hour of Christmas songs and dances plus a visit from Santa Claus himself.

Ryan Wheeler, technical director and producer, in coordination with Shawna Graham and the Board of Directors of the Cattaraugus County Living Arts Association, joined with a cast and crew of approximately 25 people, created on this annual tradition again this year.

Wheeler said the ages of cast and crew ranged from 16 to 40 years old, "so we have a nice mix."

Wheeler said the performance includes holiday songs and dances from "classic holiday songs in modern pop holiday," included in a A5

See Silver Bells, A5

Breakfast time visit with Santa, Christmas at the Rail Museum

Photo by Lenore Judar

Above: Two children visit with Santa at Myers Trainhouse last Saturday during Breakfast with Santa.

At right: A motifs train set sits around a tree at the Salamanca Rural Museum's Railroad Christmas event Saturday.

See Churches, A3

Three area Catholic churches joining as pilot parish family

By Kellen M. Quigley

Managing Editor

The members of Our Lady of Peace Parish in Salamanca, Holy Name of Mary Parish in Ellicottville and St. Philomena in Franklinville will be working a lot closer together in the new year.

On Dec. 1, the Diocese of Buffalo announced its plan to create a Families of Parishes program as part of its "Road to Renewal" effort, and the three churches in Salamanca, Ellicottville and Franklinville will be one of the pilot churches in January.

"The only concern we have would be the

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Salamanca fire department renovations to begin with restroom, locker room upgrades

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