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New Business Owners Shine

By Layla Joseph
Asst. News Editor

Two Slippery Rock residents launched Steele Mill, downtown's newest attraction, in March, opening their doors as a gathering place for community members and students alike to indulge in unique flavors with the drinks they serve and the food they prepare.

The owners, Annessa and Jeff Steele, live in Slippery Rock Borough. Annessa was originally from Butler and is an education professor at The Rock. Her husband Jeff is a fourth-generation Slippery Rock resident.

Most of the staff are Slippery Rock University students, including their daughter, Alexandra, who is a senior at SRU.

When the building on the corner of Main Street

and Franklin Street went up for sale in 2021, the couple said the opportunity to buy the property drove their desire to start the business.

"It kind of all just fell together," Jeff said.

Annessa said that the two fell in love with the building and the front windows that came with it. The pair said when refurbishing the building's interior, they drew inspiration from distilleries they have visited while traveling in the Midwest.

According to Jeff, they tried to repurpose materials that came with the building, including the wood paneling behind the bar and the metal material covering the back wall.

The couple preserved the original wood floor of the building that served as the post office in the 1920s.

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Swatting hoaxes increase

Safety director discusses SRU's awareness and survival training

Rock football closes spring with annual Green and White game

By Layla Joseph
Asst. News Editor

Matt Glover
News Editor

Swatting, or more specifically, school-shooting hoaxes, have grown in frequency and affected students across the country. On March 29th schools across the Commonwealth were disrupted by lock-downs, evacuations and a growing police presence to investigate threats from external sources. Pennsylvania schools were not the only ones affected by computer-generated calls on March 29, according to AP. Schools in Utah received false threats the same day, just one day after nearly 30 schools in Massachusetts received similar calls and two days after six people were killed in a Nashville school shooting. The 911 calls that came in across Pennsylvania involved threats of active shooters or bomb threats, according to the Pennsylvania Pressroom. Altoona, Erie, Meadville, Hollidaysburg, New Castle, Bellfont and multiple other schools were subject to these false threats. Slippery Rock High School did not receive calls. Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic, two high schools in Pittsburgh, were also victims of the swatting, causing their students to go into lockdown. Due to their proximity, the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon followed the high schools' lead and went into



Emergency E-phones are placed around campus to help ensure students' safety.

lockdown. Although the threats were fake, the waste of resources and potentially dangerous situation for students was genuine: Police officers cleared some schools one room at a time, expecting to find a shooter.

Matt Moore, 22, is a senior politics and philosophy major at the University of Pittsburgh. Just two weeks after the prior lockdown for false threats of an active shooter one mile away from campus at Central Catholic, Moore concluded a study session on campus at Pitt and began walking home on April 11 when he said he heard an endless round of emergency sirens not too far away.

WPXI said the first of three swatting calls were made at 11:10 p.m.

As he got home, people in Moore's circle at Pitt also became concerned. Moore said he received conflicting information in group chats among classmates and student organizations.

He said some students were reporting Hillman Library was being evacuated. In contrast, others said they heard gunshots

from Lawrence Hall, and another person said they heard gunshots farther away from campus.

Moore said he received a video of students who were facedown in the library and police officers rushing into the building with weapons telling students to evacuate. He said that for nearly an hour he, like many of his peers, thought this was a real threat.

An additional video circulating showed students jumping over construction areas surrounding the library to evacuate.

"Every day in this country, especially as a young person, we have to read headlines about an institution of education being under siege by guns," he said.

As of April 19, there have been 165 mass shootings – a shooting with four or more victims – this year alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

SEE SHOOTING PAGE A-2

By Tyler Howe
Sports Editor

When you go anywhere in Western Pennsylvania, football is always being talked about. It doesn't matter what season it is. Everyone is always counting down to the next time players step on the field.

There is once every spring when college football teams get to see the field. Granted it's against each other, but that's when the hype for the next season starts to build. The pain of last season starts to fade, and the hope for the next begins to grow.

The hurt from last season has continued to fade for Slippery Rock.

Last season was what many around the program considered to be a down year. The Rock suffered two regular season losses, with the first coming on the road at Indiana (Pa.).



GRAPHIC BY EDDIE CLANCY

That game caused a whole lot of disdain in itself. It's never fun losing to a rival, but when you close it out them two years in a row, it makes that pain a whole lot worse.

The Slippery Rock-IUP rivalry feels a lot like that of the Pittsburgh Steelers-Baltimore Ravens rivalry. The hate is there, it's undeniable. But the respect is also there.

Respect is something that The Rock football team and Lutz have earned. Back to the point of last year being a down year, any team would kill for the year that Slippery Rock had.

The Rock made their way to the second round of the NCAA playoffs where they fell to fellow PSAC member, Shepherd. The ending wasn't what anyone around the program had envisioned, but to be fair, the whole season didn't go the way they thought it would.

The Rock wasn't a lock to make the playoffs after they dropped their final game of the season at home against Kutztown—but they were selected to go. They made the trip to Massachusetts to face Assumption. They walked out with a 17-14 win.

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