



The Contownian News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School November Volume 86 Number 5

Pennsylvania's School Hour Bill

By Alison Matera

Recently, Pennsylvania passed a new law about school hours. The legislation was passed unanimously, allowing all schools in PA access to four-day school weeks. The bill is now headed to the governor's desk for his approval.

This bill gives Pennsylvania school districts greater flexibility to have shorter school weeks or longer days, as long as students meet an annual minimum of instructional time. The law allows for schools to complete the school year in either a minimum of 180 days or 900 hours at the elementary level and 990 at the secondary level. Supporters said, "Pennsylvania has been one of fewer than 20 states with both minimum day and minimum hour requirements. They argued it has held schools to rigid schedules that do not allow for flexibility in addressing student needs."

The bill will give schools the ability to make changes to better accommodate weather conditions, community events, and professional development. It will also let schools track students who learn remotely through hours of instruction

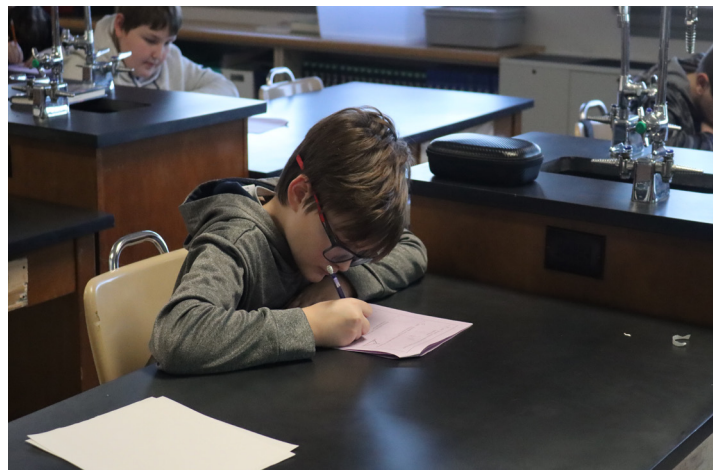
Math Counts

By Matalyn Mauzy

Math Counts is an academic club for students in sixth through eighth grades. Students will compete by solving intense math problems. Math Counts is an admirable program to be a part of. The program helps create problem solvers and critical thinkers. Some students will even earn scholarships for their math achievements.

Conemaugh Township Math Counts held their competition January 17th at the high school after school. The regionals will be at University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown (UPJ) this year on February 10th. If students do well at the regional competition, they will have the opportunity to go to the state competition. Mr. Rising said his expectations for these kids is for them to do the very best they can. When discussing in the interview, Mr. Rising explained how well the students do and in past years students have gone to states. "We have a younger group of students this year and I am very excited to see how this goes as these bright kids get older." Mr. Rising loves doing this club to be able to help and see kids have a good time doing math. He stated, "I like teaching problem solvers. It is nice when it's not so clean cut and you need to actually think about what is going on."

This club is a fun way to learn important life skills. These students are young, but engaged in joining an impactful club to help them with skills they will always need. Wish the Math Counts team good luck on their next competition in the weeks to come!





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PHOTO JOURNALISM

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



Leah Kordell running down the court!



Mea Rouser at rifle senior night.



Mrs. Feathers and Mrs. Durica being goofy!



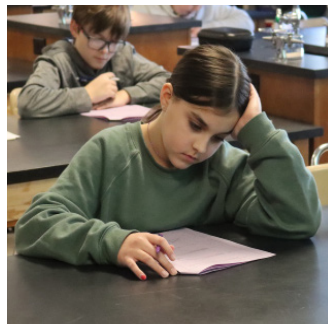
Swim team's senior night!



Jema Calasara and Emmy Allison in their biology lab.



Greyson Studer preparing to make the shot!



Rebecca Purdy competing at math counts.



Mercedes Mull at bocce ball!



Rydell Walylko going for the take down.

Noah Lehman shooting at a rifle match.



Mr. Mainhart on Stall Day!

SOCIETY

DonorsChoose Stall Day

By Aubrey Johns

The DonorsChoose Stall Day was held on January 12th during our Act 80 Day. On this day students brought in change to keep a teacher from starting class. The rules were simple: the teacher was required to count all the change they were given before they were allowed to teach, hand out an assignment, or start a test. How this affected the class differed from teacher to teacher. Some teachers simply postpone the assignment or test, while others excuse it completely.

This year's Stall Day was to benefit the video production class. All earnings will be used to purchase a new camera, camera lens, and a gimbal which will help with more stable filming. Stall Day has not occurred for many years, but it has always been successful. Mrs. Feathers deposited the earnings into the program DonorsChoose to help them accomplish their goal.

The video production program has been using DonorsChoose for a couple of months and it had been doing well.

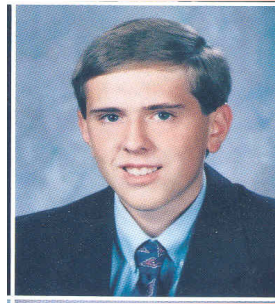
Unfortunately, it had seemed like they hit a lull. They needed something to give it a boost. Mrs. Feathers, the video



production teacher, is also the SADD advisor. SADD has used stall day in the past to help fundraise for post-prom. When Mr. Foster approved Stall Day, Mrs. Feathers jumped on the opportunity to help the program. Mrs. Feathers says, "I really appreciate everyone that is helping with this fundraiser: the teachers that are willing to give up their academic time, the kids and their families for donating the money, and the administration for going along with all the ideas that we come up with." The total earnings were \$925.38. Our Alumni of the Month, Mr. Mainhart, raised \$405 just from his classes, because "Big time students come out in big time classes."

January 2024

Alumni of the Month...



Frederick Mainhart graduated from Conemaugh Township in 1994. During his time as a student, Fred played both soccer and basketball, starting in seventh grade, all the way up until graduation. Fred majored in marketing at Edinboro University from 1994-1998. After, he attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania

to receive a two-year degree in Social Studies education. Fred began his teaching career at James M. Bennett School District near Ocean City, Maryland, working for two years from 2003-2005. He moved to Pennsylvania to return to Davidsville to teach at Conemaugh Township. He began in 2006 and has been loving the district ever since. Alongside teaching the freshmen and seniors, Fred has remained a constant factor in our varsity sports. He coached the boys varsity basketball team for many years alongside Mr. Byer and Mr. Lesko, leading them to multiple Westpac and District titles throughout his years. He currently coaches our boys varsity soccer team and has been very successful these past seasons, just recently leading them to a conference and District title in 2023.

Fred lives in the heart of our district, Davidsville, with his wife Samantha, and youngest son Keelan. Keelan is nine-years-old and seems to already be following in his father's footsteps as a soccer player. Fred married Sam in 2006. His eldest son, Declan, a 2023 graduate and star varsity goalkeeper, recently started to attend Penn Highlands Community College.

During his time at Township, Fred had an amazing time. Fred's fondest memory from high school was being able to play his two favorite sports, soccer and basketball, as well as all the friends he made along the way. Fred found inspiration along the way from his favorite teacher, Mr. Cable. Mr. Cable was his world cultures teacher, who not only was his basketball coach, but a light in his school life with his bubbling personality and great humor. When asked about his time in our district, Fred replied, "I've enjoyed the ability to teach all the students I've had, work with all the staff I've worked with, and look forward to all the relationships and memories I make every day. Township truly is a special place."





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Swimming Through The Season

By Lilly Okes

The CT swim team is small but mighty. With only three members on the team, they are working hard to get far this season.

The Conemaugh Township Swim Team consists of two seniors, Katelyn Turley and Colton Lehman, and one sophomore, Aidan Burnworth. All three



swimmers have qualified for district six championships, which will be held toward the end of February. Aidan Burnworth qualified for a number of events, including the 50, 100, and 200 freestyle, 100 breaststroke, 200 individual medley, IM, 100 backstroke, and 100 fly. Colton qualified in 100 and 200 freestyle, and the 100 backstroke. Katelyn pushed to qualify in the 500. Katelyn Turley said that their

“Season’s going good,” and that their next meet is on January 27th, at Somerset.



As we can see, although the Conemaugh Township Swim Team is small, they are breaking records, and a making a big name for our school. As their season comes to an end, the team, fans, and rest of the school will be cheering on Katelyn, Aidan, and Colton, as they head to districts.

Girls All County Soccer Awards

By Jenna Brenneman

On Sunday, January 21st nine players from the girls’ varsity soccer team were invited to the Somerset County Awards ceremony for the 2023-2024 season. The team had much success this year, finishing their season with a record of 19 wins and just two losses, making it to the first round of state playoffs. They were District 5A Champions and Heritage Conference Champions.



The awards for the ceremony included All-County: Honorable Mention, Second Team, First Team, and MVPs. Haylee Thomas and Andie Hunsberger received Honorable Mention. Liv Mauzy made Second Team All-County Midfield, and Jordyn Snyder was Second Team All-County Goalie. Briar

Berkey received First Team All-County Midfield while Jenna Brenneman received First Team All-County



Defense. Izzy Slezak was awarded All-County MVP Forward, and Katie Wiley All-County MVP Defense. Finally, Ashlyn Fetterman was All-County Junior MVP of the year. The girls’ head coach, Scott Thomas, received Somerset County Coach of the Year. Overall, the girls had a very successful season, and their fans are excited to see what next season will bring.

SPORTS

Athletes...

Aubrey is the daughter of Bethanie and Timothy Johns of Hollsopple. She has been a member of the Conemaugh Township cheerleading squad for a total of eight years. Aubrey does both fall and winter cheer. She is a four-year letterman, and claimed the title of senior captain



throughout both of this year's cheer seasons. This year, Aubrey and her fellow captains led



her cheer squad to third place at the IUP cheerleading championship tournament. This was Conemaugh Township's first time ever competing in a competition like this.

Outside of school, she likes to keep the book for the girls' softball team. In her down time, Aubrey enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family,

traveling, and coloring.

After graduation, Aubrey plans on attending a four year university and eventually plans of obtaining a masters degree. She will major in early childhood education, but her choice of university is still undecided. Her favorite quote is "Your team is not just people you play with. Those people become your family."

GO CT!

... of the Month

Noah Lehman is the son of Michelle and Nathan Lehman of Boswell. Noah participates in high school rifle as well as travel for four years. He won gold at the National Shooting Sports 4-H



competition in Long Island, Nebraska. He was also invited to shoot at the Olympic training center in Colorado Springs.

Noah is a four-year letter winner in rifle and is involved in NHS and Rotary

Interact Club at school. In his spare time Noah enjoys camping, hunting with his dog, and going to Black Iron Gym.

When asked what got him started in rifle, he said, "Annie Tomb was my babysitter, and I remember her talking to me about it and it sparked my interest. So, my



fresman year I signed up and have really enjoyed it ever since. His favorite rifle memory was from junior year. He said, "I was standing too close to a propane heater talking to my coach and my shooting jacket caught on fire." Noah's future plans are to major in Nursing and become a Nurse Anesthetist. His favorite quote is "Better every day."



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Groundhog Day

By Matalyn Mauzy

A unique holiday called Groundhog Day is on February 2nd 2024. This day is important because we predict when winter may end. A groundhog will appear from its burrow and supposedly will be able to determine what our winter climate looks like for the remainder of the season. If the groundhog sees his shadow, this means there will be six more weeks. If he is not able to see his shadow this will mean spring will come early.

The groundhog we know and watch on television is named Phil. Last year groundhog Phil saw his shadow; meaning we would have a longer winter, though many are hoping for a different outcome this year. The accuracy rate of Phil being right each year is 39 percent. On Groundhog Day, the town of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania will host a party and stream the event on TV. This day can get very packed in Punxsutawney, this includes around 30,000 people that attend this event almost every year.

Groundhog Day is a big deal for a small town especially if you are hoping for a short winter. This may be able to give people hope when spring may be near. This is a unique, but fun day to watch or even attend.

Iowa School Shooting

By Alison Matera

On Thursday, January 4th, a 17-year-old at Perry High School in Iowa shot a sixth grader and injured four other students and a school administrator before taking his own life. At around 7:37 a.m., police responded to an active shooter. The shooter was armed with a pump action shotgun and a small caliber handgun.

The shooter was identified as Dylan Butler. Authorities have also not released a motive, and an investigation is ongoing. Butler made a number of social media posts around the time of the shooting. Responding officers found victims who had been shot and the shooter dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "This is an extremely painful and difficult time for our entire school community, and in our grief, we will take time to remember," Iowa Officer Wicks said. Yellow crime

scene tape still lined the campus Perry High School shares with the town's middle school on Friday, and flowers and stuffed toys had cropped up in mini memorials.

Tragedies such as shootings are terrifying and scary. Our own school has taken measures to ensure the safety of its students. Some of those include night locks and a more secure entrance into the school building, among other physical safety measures. Safe2Say is an anonymous way to share information with the school. This can show warning signs or threats made by students and it encourages students to say something before it is too late. Another way our school has decided to ensure the safety of our students is by having extensive employee training with first responders. This training went over different scenarios and helped the staff come up with a better plan in case something happens. Another big measure was an addition of a second resource officer in the district. These safety measures all work together to keep our schools safe.

Israel and Palestine's War Creates

Headline

By Asia Zwick

The Israel and Palestine War has created not only conflict between the two countries, but also has affected many innocent lives and people.

It has been around 100 days since the October 7th attack on Israel by Hamas. Over 100 people are still being held hostage in Gaza. *CBS Philadelphia* interviewed Devorah Selber, who held a picture of her 33-year-old cousin close to her heart. She claims, "They are not fighters. They are not people who will be fighting," Selber said. "They are just civilians, who just wake up to another day and found themselves in a massacre." Aviva Siegal, an Israeli hostage freed from Hamas captivity, told the Knesset, which is the Israeli House of Representatives, on Tuesday that she witnessed female hostages being harmed during her time in Gaza. Siegel, 62, was kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Azza and released after 51 days in captivity. She participated in the lobby's first Knesset hearing on Tuesday. Loved ones of hostages are coming out and saying food and water are needed and that they will continue to fight until their loved ones are all home, free of violence.

In conclusion, the war between Israel and Palestine has grown to not only be a cry for help, but a wakeup call to the world. Supporting organizations like "Bring Them Home" and spreading awareness for people in need are very important in recognizing what is happening and freeing these hostages.

How to Keep Your New Years

Resolutions

By Alexa Gardenhour

New Years is a festival celebrated worldwide to bring on the new year. People usually gather on New Years Eve and Day with their friends and family to celebrate together. Along with the new year come different commitments that people make to make the upcoming year better than the previous year. One thing people make a part of their new calendar for the year is a resolution. Resolutions are promises and goals that you set to start doing something better, or stop doing something bad in the new year.

Almost everyone has different resolutions and goals they set for themselves each year. Resolutions are sometimes easy to follow and keep, but sometimes they are hard to keep up with. There are many things that you can do to keep your New Year's resolutions. Some ways are to be specific and picky about your resolutions, don't take on too much, make a pros and cons list, track your progress, and stay positive. Keeping your goals and not giving up is definitely a hard thing to do. Being positive is probably one of the best approach you can take if you want to stay on top of your goals.

Resolutions are something that almost everyone takes part in when the New Year comes. Although coming up with resolutions may be easy, maintaining them is definitely challenging. Resolutions can help you to become a better person, or do something better than you were before!

Best Valentine's Day Gifts

By Alexa Gardenhour

Valentine's Day is a day that occurs on February 14th each year. Many people enjoy Valentine's Day, while many look on this day unfavorably. It is a day where people celebrate their romantic love, friendship, or admiration for each other. Usually, gifts are given to show love for that special person. Some of the best Valentine's Day gifts are:

1. Bouquets of Flowers
2. Boxes of Chocolates
3. Lego flowers
4. Jewelry
5. Cards filled with meaningful messages
6. Teddy bears

Show your special someone how much you love them with a gift.



Best Valentine Activities Locally

By Braylin Petree

Celebrate love this Valentine's Day with unforgettable activities. Whether you're looking for fun experiences or heartfelt moments, explore this list of the best Valentine's activities:

1. Go out to dinner
2. Go on outdoor adventures
3. Make candies at home
4. Have a movie night
5. Look through old memories
6. Make your own fancy dinner at home
7. Stargaze
8. Paint or draw something for a special someone
9. Spend time with your loved ones
10. Bake Valentine themed desserts

Remember, the best activities are the ones that bring you together with your loved ones and bring you joy. Investing time and thought into an activity can bring you together and make your bond stronger.



Car Care & Safe Driving in the Winter

By Kendra Huber

Bringing in the new year also means bringing in the winter and colder months. Taking care of your car is not only ideal for the car, but can also be essential for your safety.

There are multiple car care strategies to follow this winter. One of the most important car care tips to follow this winter is changing to winter tires and maintaining a good tire pressure. You should always keep your washer fluid full. Keeping your gas tank at least half full is also mandatory for this winter season. You never know what could approach when leaving your house. Packing a winter safety kit is something most people should have on hand. While driving in the winter, it is necessary for individuals to slow down and increase following distance. Always use extra caution on ramps and bridges due to the fact that they ice before the roads. Most importantly, you must stay buckled at all times. Using a seat belt could save your life.

To conclude, there are many ways to prevent winter accidents. Following these guidelines can help with keep you safe throughout this winter season.

Mean Girls Are Coming to Theaters

By Marly Teeter

If you were a big fan of the original 2004 film *Mean Girls*, then you should know there is a new version coming to theaters. 20 years later, Samantha Jayne and Arturo Perez Jr. are making this 2000's cult classic movie more modern.

While the original film included well known *Mean Girls* actresses, Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams, the 2024 edition Cady will be played by Angourie Rice and Regina by Renee Rapp. Another popular actor starring in this movie is Christopher Briney as Aaron Samuels. He's most recently famous for his role as Conrad Fisher from *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. The new edition of the movie has the same plot as the original. Cady Heron moves to an American public school and is taken under the wing of the most popular girls in the school, "The Plastics". The group completely changes Cady's personality and she starts to like Regina's ex-boyfriend, Aaron Samuels. This completely changes the girls' relationship and spirals out of control until the end of the movie. Changes have been made since the 2004 movie, to include more modern touches and different actors and actresses.

If you are impatiently waiting to see this new edition of *Mean Girls*, it will be playing at Richland Cinemas and Westwood Plaza Theatre during the week of January 21, popular times being 6 and 9 P.M. Hopefully it lives up to the impact of the 2004 original *Mean Girls*!



2024 Netflix Drops

By Luke Haight

Netflix is the most popular streaming service in the world. They have a reported 247.15 million global paid subscriptions as of September 30, 2023. Netflix releases many new shows and movies each month, so here is an upcoming list for what's premiering in February:

- [The Tourist \(Season 1\)](#) - Former HBO Max Original series heads to Netflix. Starring Jamie Dornan, the thriller is about a victim of a car crash who wakes up in the hospital with amnesia.
- [Orion and the Dark](#)- from writer Charlie Kauffman, this new animated feature film is about a young boy that is afraid of almost everything but overcomes that with the help of fear itself.
- [Rael: The Last Prophet](#)- French documentary Series
- [One Day \(Limited Series\)](#)- British romance drama series set over the course of several decades and based on the David Nicholls novel
- [Lover Stalker Killer](#)- Crime documentary
- [Love is Blind](#)- reality dating series
- [Players](#)- Romantic comedy starring Gina Rodriguez and Tom Ellis
- [Avatar: The Last Airbender](#)- The live action adaptation of the beloved Nickelodeon series
- [Mea Culpa](#)- Tyler Perry directed thriller starring Kelly Rowland
- [Code 8: Part II](#)- Sequel to the sci-fi feature starring Stephen and Robbie Amell

Top 10 Valentine's Day Songs

By Kaydence Forish

It is almost the time of year to express your love to the people around you and tell them how much you love and appreciate them. Maybe it's even time to tell that special person you like them or have a romantic date with the special person. A date isn't fulfilled without romantic music playing in the background. Here are the top ten Valentine's Day songs according to the website "Seventeen":

1. "Golden Hour" by JVKE
2. "Valentine" by Suki Waterhouse
3. "Here With Me" by d4vd

POP CULTURE

4. “Lift Me Up” by Rihanna
5. “Late Night Talking” by Harry Styles
6. “Until I Found You” by Stephen Sanchez
7. “Golden Hour” by Kacey Musgraves
8. “Can’t Help Falling in Love” covered by Haley Reinhart
9. “A Thousand Years” by Christina Perri
10. “A Moment Like This” by Kelly Clarkson

Make time for your love this Valentine’s Day. Set the mood for the most perfect romantic date with these top 10 lovely songs for Valentine’s Day.

Dolly Parton’s Experience in Dollywood

By Luke Haight

Coming in May of 2024, the brand-new Dolly Parton experience is coming to Dollywood. So, who is Dolly Parton? She is an American singer-songwriter and actress. She is known for her decades-long career in country music.

After achieving success as a songwriter for others, Parton made her album debut in 1967 with *Hello, I’m Dolly*, which led to success during the remainder of the 1960s. She went on to release many more successful albums, and even opened her own record label, Dolly Records. So, what is the Dolly Parton Experience going to include? The Dolly Parton Experience is a brand-new attraction coming to Dollywood that is a must visit for any fans of the beloved southern country icon. The Dolly Parton Experience will feature a number of exhibits located across multiple buildings, interactive elements to make guests feel part of the action, and more.

Witness Dolly’s evolution from her time in Locust Ridge all the way to some of the most prestigious stages in the world, all while learning fun facts about her life, inspirations, and signature style. The Dolly Parton Experience will be three times the size of the popular former Chasing Rainbows Museum, offering guests even more Dolly than ever.



Musician of the Month

Jonathan Fochman lives in Davidsville with both of his parents Paula and Ken Fochman. His instrument of choice is the alto saxophone. The alto saxophone is a versatile instrument and difficult to master, but is one of the most important instruments because it is the lead voice in a lot of music from pop, jazz, funk, and classical music. Furthermore, Jonathan has many accomplishments to show off including attending PMEA County, District, and Regional events. Additionally, Jonathan has attended a slew of marching band shows including: *Out of This World*, *Good for the Soul*, *Marching Down Bourbon Street*, *The Heist*, *Dancing in the Street*, and *The Ultimate Quest*. Finally, Jonathan’s future plans are to attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania for four years in a degree of music education. Also, his favorite quote is, “Success consists of going from failure to failure without loss of enthusiasm.”-Winston Churchill.



Artist of the Month

Ryleigh Letosky, a senior at Conemaugh Township, is the daughter of Jason and Janel Letosky. She lives with both of her parents in Holsopple, PA. Ryleigh is a student in the Art II class.

Ryleigh paints with acrylic. Other than acrylic, a proud accomplishment Ryleigh has is a picture she drew of her mom out of sharpie. Ryleigh is open to any type of artwork and sees it as a part of her daily life. She gets her inspiration from old ones she’s done in the past. She was also inspired to pursue her passion in art by her grandfather.

Ryleigh plans to get straight into work after graduating high school. She wants to encourage everyone to pursue their creativity. She states, “Anyone can do art and anything can be art.” She has never been afraid to go beyond what others do with their creativity. Conemaugh Township wishes her the best of luck for her future plans after high school.





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House Bill 1507: Should Township Make Changes?

By Kendra Huber

On March 10th of 1949, an act was passed known as the Public School Code of 1949 which includes amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating to the public school system. After all this time, changes involving a minimum number of days or hours at school are coming.

All public schools are to be open each school year for at least one hundred eighty days of instruction. Grades 9-12 now have to have at least 990 hours per school year in Pennsylvania, which could lessen the number of school days required. Personally, I believe that the amount of school we go to is reasonable, but if it started an hour or two later students may have a greater attention span. On average, highschool students get about 6.5-7.5 hours of sleep per night. But, teenagers should get 8-10 hours of sleep per 24 hours. When students get into not getting enough sleep habits, it can lead to chronic sleep deprivation. I feel the possibility of pushing school back by even an hour can positively affect students at Conemaugh Township. During the winter months, students often go to sleep hoping for a two-hour delay. Yet, if students get the extra hours of sleep, it could help them be more prepared and awake for school.

To conclude, I do think it would be beneficial to Conemaugh Township to look into shorter days. Although some may be against less hours of learning, I think it could help the students in the long run.

Should We Celebrate Valentine's Day?

By Braylin Petree

I believe we should celebrate Valentine's Day with a day off from school. Valentine's Day is one of those holidays that many people don't celebrate. As it stands, we don't get out of school, receive no holiday pay, and high school typically has no special activities.

Staff Editorials

Valentine's Day is only a celebration if you have someone to celebrate it with. It was nice in elementary school because we had parties, got candy, made crafts, but now when you get older, you have to wait to celebrate it until you get into a relationship. You can also cringe and celebrate with your friends for Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day has a deeper meaning than just hanging out with a special someone; in fact, the Christian church may have decided to place St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia, which is celebrated at the end of February.

I think we should celebrate Valentine's Day because it is a national holiday. With that official holiday title, students deserve to get a day off of school.

Should Public Schools Decorate for Religious Holidays?

By Gracie McCall

Most public schools around our area decorate for religious holidays, but should they really be decorating for them? I believe that schools should decorate for holidays because it is a fun way to connect with your peers and it also allows the school to teach students about different cultural traditions around the world. If some students are not allowed to be celebrating the holiday, they could get exempt from some of the activities.

In some ways teachers will have to be careful of what they teach about each holiday for religious reasons. In the article, "The December Dilemma: Teaching About Religious Holidays," it states, "Celebrating religious holidays in the form of religious worship or other practices is unconstitutional. Teaching about a holiday will be constitutional if it furthers a genuine secular program of education, is presented objectively, and does not have the effect of advancing or inhibiting religion."

Most students do celebrate each holiday, but they may do it in different ways. Schools should still decorate for holidays because some students may not have the best homelife and school is a safe place for them to be. This gives students an opportunity to learn about different traditions that people may have around the world. It also adds a bright and fun touch to look forward to during the school year.

JUNIOR HIGH

The Ball Drop

By Owen Zoldey

The ball drop happens once a year in Times Square of New York City. Here are some interesting facts about this event! It is when a massive ball lowers down a pole, and when it reaches the bottom, it's the New Year. This is how many Americans celebrate the coming of the New Year. Over one million people flood the streets to see the ball drop each year! Some people even arrive early that morning to get the closest spot to the ball drop. Did you know that the first ball drop was in 1907? That means it has been going on for 117 years! The ball is covered with exactly 32,256 LED lights and 2,688 crystal triangles. All of these features on the ball make it weigh 11,875 pounds. That's about the average size of an African Elephant! Once the clock hits 12:00, around 3,000 pounds of confetti cover the streets! If you didn't know, that's about the average size of a hippo! After the ball drop is over, clean up begins in Times Square. Hundreds of workers spend over six hours picking up the confetti and trash left in the streets. In the end, the ball drop will always be a great tradition, whether in person or on TV, as it is a fun way to ring in the New Year.

6th Grade Girls Basketball Update

By Ava Boyle

The 6th grade girls basketball team played at East Hills on January 23, 2024. The girls unfortunately lost the game 39-16. However, the girls played their hardest and made some great moves!

Gemma Studer scored two points in foul shots and at least one two-pointer. Willow Lease made one basket and one foul shot. Arabella Seibert made two three-pointers and three foul shots. Britain-Leigh Hall was aggressive on defense and snatched some rebounds from the other team. Rebecca Purdy, Kyla Rowe, Evelyn Mock, and Abigail Lewis were all amazing defenders and were blocking like nobody's business. This defense resulted in the team getting some great rebounds! Mya Glover was one of the players with multiple rebounds.

Overall, the girls' defense and offense were pretty good. Great attempt to these girls, and good luck to them as they finish off their season!

Valentine's Day Gift Ideas

By Alayleiah Coleman

What are you hoping to receive this Valentine's Day? Don't know what to get for your partner? Here are some ideas!

1. Candy (conversation hearts, heart marshmallows, gummy hearts, Fun Dip, Starburst, heart lollipops)
2. Chocolate (chocolate-covered strawberries, Oreos, or pretzels, Hershey Kisses, truffles, chocolate roses)
3. Flowers (roses are the most popular for this)
4. Jewelry (rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings)
5. Handwritten note (the classic)

Hopefully these are some good choices for you or your partner for this upcoming Valentine's Day!



Steelers NFL Playoffs

By James Polonia

The NFL playoffs have started with several Wild Card games. Many teams are playing for the right to be crowned as the 2023-2024 Super Bowl Champion. Specifically, the Steelers played the Bills but lost 17-31. However, the Steelers ended the season with a record 10-7. Mason Rudolph started as quarterback for the Steelers the last 3 games, even though he hasn't played since 2021. He led his team to a 3 game win streak and the playoffs. Unfortunately, the Steelers won't have their star player, TJ Watt, due to a leg injury. On the other side, Josh Allen led the Bills to a regular season record of 11-6 and the number 2 seed in the AFC. The Bills won't have Gabe Davis or Taylor Rapp due to injuries and Rasul Douglas and Tyrel Dodson are questionable to play. Good luck to all the teams!





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News Magazine

Academic Calendar

February 2 Act 80 Early Dismissal
12:00 Middle/High School
12:25 Elementary

February 19.....Act 80-No school for Students

Upcoming Events

February 7.....Public Open House @ GJTCT

February 14.....Valentine’s Day

February 22.....PMEA Region 3 Band @ Bald Eagle

February 22-24 at 6.....FASFA Completion Night



YEARBOOK ORDERING

Don't forget: ORDER A YEARBOOK!!
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Use the following codes:
MS CODE:19683
HS CODE:13159

Telephone Numbers

Administrative Office

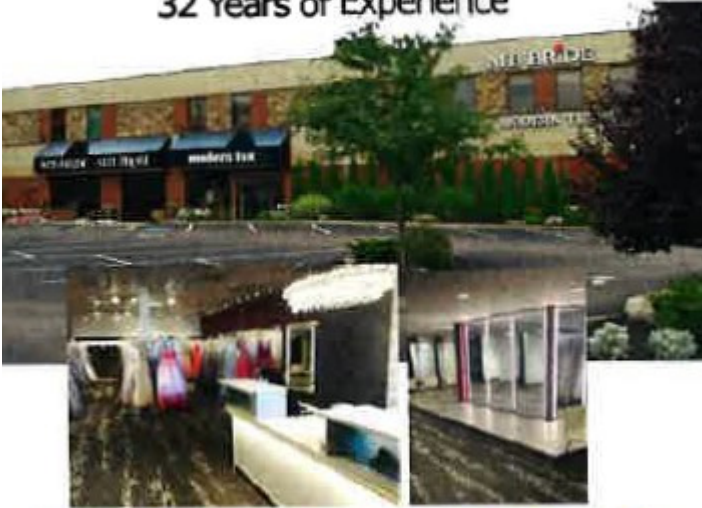
Superintendent.....Nicole Dull.....479-7575
Business Manager.....Brandon Studer.....479-7431
Food Service Director.....Adam Thomas.....479-2328
Director of Curriculum.....Stacy Dabbs.....479-7575

Middle/High School 6-12

Principal.....James Foster.....479-4014
Vice Principal/Athletic Director...Jarod Feathers.....479-4014
HS Guidance Counselor.....Kara Duplin.....479-7886
MS Guidance Counselor.....Kellie Hankinson.....479-7886
School Nurse.....Cassey DeBiase.....479-2324



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Conemaugh Township Middle School/ High School
Volume 86 Number 4

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We are thankful to serve the Conemaugh Twp Community, and wish Blessing to all of the Students in the 2023/2024 School year.