



# The Contownian News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School April 2022 Volume 84 Number 8

## **Senior Career Seminar**

*By BriElla Harnett*

During the week of April 4, 2022, seniors at Conemaugh Township Area High School presented their senior career seminar projects. This year the project consisted of seniors researching the career they wished to pursue and job shadowing a person in that career. Seniors are required to job shadow for a minimum of eight hours and must interview the person they shadow and another person in the career/field. Seniors must also give a ten-minute presentation on the career they job-shadowed along with the research. If the senior no longer wants to pursue the career they job shadowed, the senior must research another career and explain why they want to pursue it.

The seniors started their projects at the end of last year in their English 11 class. "The project has a lot of valuable learning experiences if the student takes the initiative and goes about the project the way that it is designed. However, if it is done at the last minute or does not have a lot of work put into it, students are not going to get a lot out of the project," said Mrs. Forgas.

The senior career seminar projects are a big part of senior year and for most, a valuable learning experience. "I thought the senior career seminar project was a good learning experience. I got a lot of helpful information not only about the career, but also about college," said Senior, Laci Fetterman.

## **Conemaugh Township TSA experiences Nationals**

*By Casadie Miller*

On April 20th, 2022, six students from Conemaugh Township went to Seven Spring to participate in the Technology Student Association (TSA) at the state level. At this event, students compete in different categories such as On Demand Video, Board Game Design, and Forensic Science. While heading to this event, these six students were very eager to bring home the state championship for On Demand Video.

On the starting morning of the competition, Evan Thomas, Mya Dericott, Noah Getson, Mercedes Mall, Emilee Roman, and Haylee Thomas had a task in which they had thirty-six hours to complete. "We had thirty-six hours to make a three minute movie trailer in order to compete against the other contestants," shared Mya Dericott. Within the thirty-six hour span, these six students put in the work to be ranked first place in On Demand Video allowing them to move to the national level. Conemaugh Township technology teacher, Mr. Marteeny stated, "I am happy and proud that the students have been given this opportunity to potentially become national champions. They have put in hard work and will have to continue in order to compete with fellow national contestants."



On June 25th, 2022, these six students will be on their way to Dallas, Texas, to compete in a four day competition in hopes to bring home the gold. Contestant Evan Thomas explained, "We were super surprised and grateful that we have been given this opportunity." Despite the hopes to bring home the gold, Mr. Marteeny will continue to tell them, "Win or lose, this is a learning experience, and they will make memories that will last a lifetime."



## **NFL Draft**

*By Jackson Byer*

As the spring season approaches, there are a few different events that people choose to focus their attention on. Whether it be spring sports, the Easter holiday, or longer periods of daylight, there is a lot to look forward to this season. Much like these exciting events, there is another one that sparks a lot of interest— the 2022 NFL Draft.

The 2022 NFL Draft begins on April 28th and ends on April 30th. Football fans all across the United States tune in to listen to which athletes will be drafted to their favorite teams. The order in which each of the teams select who they believe will be a great addition to their squad goes in reverse order of how each team finished in the previous season. For example, teams who had the most unfortunate season will select first, and those with the best record select last. In total, there are seven rounds in the NFL Draft, and in order to be eligible for the draft, players must be out of high school for at least three years and have also used up their college eligibility before the start of the next college football season. It may seem like a complicated process, but even those who do not know much about football can enjoy the atmosphere and anticipation of the 2022 NFL Draft.

All-in-all, the NFL Draft is one of the most anticipated events that occurs around this time of year. For those looking to create their Fantasy Football lineups, or even those who are just curious to see what new players will be entering the world of professional football, the NFL Draft is a must watch in the year of 2022.

## **Staff Editorials**

### **MLB Rule Change**

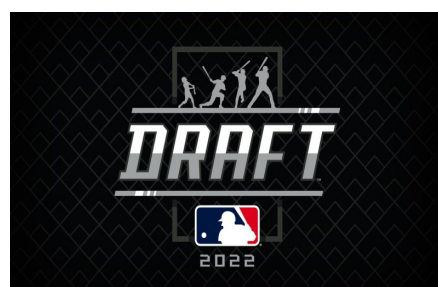
*By Tanner Shirley*

After an agonizingly long 99-day stalemate between the MLB and MLBPA, baseball has made a return to the professional level. The two organizations have requested for the addition of a new collective bargaining agreement (CBA). With the approval of the new CBA, many of the rules in the MLB have been modified and rewritten.

Some new rulings will occur during the 2022 season, while several others will be implemented in the 2023 season. The new rule for the 2022 season is that the National League will adopt a designated hitter. This means that a nonfielding player will be allowed to be in the batting order. As for 2023: pitch clocks will be used, there will be a ban on defensive shifts, an automatic ball/strike zone will be implemented, and there will be larger bases.

There are also new rules regarding the MLB Draft and the postseason. In the draft, a draft lottery will be implemented to discourage teams losing on purpose to get higher picks, and draft picks will be induced. As for the postseason, 12 teams will now be granted the opportunity to compete for the World Series Title. Also, there will be no man on second at the start of extra innings.

All-in-all, the new rulings implemented in the MLB are meant to bring a new aspect to the game. These rules will hopefully create a more entertaining element for both the fans and players. No matter what sport you enjoy watching most, the MLB is definitely something to keep an eye on this year.





## THE LITTLE CONTOWNIAN

### JUNIOR HIGH

#### *PSSA Standardized Testing*

*By Landyn Robinson*

The PSSA is the Pennsylvania of School Assessment. In 1998, Pennsylvania began standardized testing for its students in grades 3 and 8 in English Language Arts, Math, and Science (in 8th grade). The test is spread out to be taken in a week for one topic. Students are in classrooms for hours just to finish the test. Some may agree that it is boring or irrelevant, but, others have a liking for it. Personally, I have never really liked the test. I didn't realize I would end up doing them until eighth grade and I am only in sixth grade! The standard testing for PSSA I think is very stressful. I would rather be home playing and not sitting in a classroom taking a test. Yes, the test shows what I learned this year and shows if I am worthy to pass the grade. The PSSA helps to show if I am ready for the next step to success and education. However, I say stop this madness. I think students all need a break from testing.

#### *April*

*By Anthony Walters*

Easter is a great part of the month of April. Easter is a fun holiday to spend with your family and friends during the long school break. April is a fun time to do things with your friends or go play in the rain...you know what they say "April showers bring May flowers." It is also the start of AYSO soccer, which can be very exciting for students of all ages. Some other fun sports and activities could be riding bikes, baseball, softball, track, going on walks, and so much more. April is in the season of Spring, so instead of playing inside or on video games get outside, enjoy nice weather, and for the most part just have fun.

#### *April Fools*

*By Elanor Luscher and Emily Purdy*

There are many April fools tricks you can do, so here are some fun ideas. This year you can trick a friend with these pranks created by middle school students. The first prank is the bubble wrap surprise prank. Put a sheet of bubble wrap underneath a rug and make sure the rug looks flat. Once it is normal looking, avoid the rug until someone steps on it. Then, wait to see their reaction! The second prank is the Mentos prank. First, wrap the fishing line around a Mentos mint. Then put it in the cap of a soda bottle. When you have done that, carefully twist the cap onto the bottle and place it in an area

where someone will find it easily. Make sure the fishing line is not visible. Once it is found, wait to see what will happen. The third prank is the instant water bottle freeze prank. First, you need to get an unopened water bottle and place it in a bowl with ice and salt. Leave the bottle in the bowl for a couple of minutes without being touched. Lastly, carefully take it out and scare your friends by slamming it onto the counter. If you did the prank right, it would automatically freeze. The fourth prank is the fake bug prank. Take black pieces of paper and cut out bugs or gross insects. If your friends or family hate bugs, then tape this onto the inside of a lamp. When you turn on the lamp, it will have creepy-looking bugs on the inside! Have fun this April Fools Day and remember to be playful and safe!

#### *Sugar Cookie Recipe*

*By Alonna Bracken*

Ingredients:

- 2¾ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1½ cups white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



Directions:

Step 1: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). In a small bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, and baking powder. Set aside.

Step 2: In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the dry ingredients. Roll rounded teaspoonfuls of dough into balls, and place onto ungreased cookie sheets.

Step 3: Bake 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or until golden. Let stand on a cookie sheet for two minutes before removing to cool on wire racks.

Good  
Luck With  
PSSA's!





*Jackson Byer shows off his talent to win the title of Mr. CT.*



*Brady Kist up to bat against Conemaugh Valley*



*Abby Kniss fights to keep Ferndale off third*



*Maddison Rensko and Connor Baca participates in Autism Awareness*



*Asia Zwick sprints to the finish to fight for a win against Blacklick and Myersdale*



*Maddee Roman gets ready to receive the ball*

# Contownian

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## ***World Health Day***

*By Lexi Defibaugh*

World Health Day is celebrated every year on the anniversary of the founding day of the World Health Organization. It is a day to focus on and raise awareness around health issues that affect people all over the globe. This year World Health Day will be celebrated on April 7, 2022.

World Health Day will focus global attention on urgent actions needed to keep humans and the planet healthy and foster a movement to create societies focused on well-being. The theme for this year's World Health Day is "our planet, our health." Amid the ongoing pandemic and pollution growing on the planet, diseases like cancer, asthma, and heart diseases are increasing rapidly. The first World Health Day was celebrated and observed in 1950, after April 7th was set aside as a designated date to celebrate the creation of the World Health Organization in 1948 in the First Health Assembly. The day thereby marks the anniversary of the World Health Organization after it was established in 1948.

World Health Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about the ongoing health issues that concern people across the world. The day is also used as an opportunity to spread awareness about the overall health and well-being of people. World Health Day is celebrated to promote awareness of people's general health and well-being.



## ***"Along For the Ride"***

*By Madison Thomas*

"Along for the Ride" is a book written by Sarah Dessen. This story is being transformed into a film and is going on Netflix in April 2022. "Along for the Ride" narrates the story of Auden, a girl preparing for college, taking part in a carefree life with her new friend, Eli. This story is very relatable to many kids who are preparing to take the next step in life. "Along for the Ride" is an adventure-packed story that will be a good family-friendly film.

Belmont Cameli will be playing the role of Eli in this new movie. Belmont is known for starring in the movie, "Most Guys Are Losers." The character Heidi will be played by Kate Bosworth. She is a well-known actress, who starred in twelve movies and eleven television shows. "Along for the Ride" has a well-rounded cast and great storyline. Many people are excited to see this book played out in a film.

Overall, this book will make for an adventure-filled movie. The actors and actresses will hopefully play their roles to a tee. Many people are preparing for a night on Netflix watching "Along for the Ride."

## ***Earth Day Ideas***

*By Hunter Hartnett*

The first Earth Day was in April 1970. In spring 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day as a way to force environmental issues onto the national agenda. Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it worked! In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A great way to celebrate Earth Day is to give back to the planet you live on. Planting trees around your house, school, or place of work will improve the air quality all around. Walking the streets and picking up trash to recycle will make your town much more beautiful and bright. You could make a bird feeder or birdhouse. Use a milk carton, a large water or soda bottle, or even a pine cone will do.

Earth Day is very important for keeping the environment clean and safe. Make every day Earth Day and do something to better the environment.



## ***Remembering Grunge Icons***

*By Sasha Tarabrin*

On April 5th of 1994 and 2002, we lost two of the most prominent figures in grunge music history: *Nirvana's* Kurt Cobain, and *Alice in Chains'* Layne Staley. With their introspective lyrics and brooding production, they were a part of the first wave of the grunge movement. Millions of fans found solace in their work - which brought light to heavy topics such as substance abuse, mental illness, growing up among toxic masculinity, and an abhorrence of fame.

Cobain and Staley sang about the things that many go through but few actually want to talk about. They used their music to relate to the misfits, the punks, and the losers. In this, they gained a following of misunderstood kids who had finally found voices for their thoughts. With Kurt Cobain pushing against strict societal norms, and Layne Staley divulging into the dark depths of drug addiction, the two bands created a striking foundation for the future of grunge music as we know it today.

Unfortunately, both gave into their illnesses, (with Cobain's suicide and Staley's fatal overdose) but their music gave new hope to those who were suffering alongside of them. It transcended among social groups and created advocacy for equality and human rights, bringing newfound tolerance and breaking stigmas relating to things like mental health and substance abuse. Cobain and Staley's influence forever changed the ideals of grunge music - and that's something the music world is thankful for.



*Kurt Cobain*

*Layne Staley*



### ***Rainy Day Playlist***

You know what they say, "April showers bring May flowers." Here are some moody songs to listen to on a rainy day.

**PPP - *Beach House***

**Funeral - *Phoebe Bridgers***

**Black Star - *Radiohead***

**Quiet, The Winter Harbor - *Mazzy Star***

**Back to the Old House - *The Smiths***

**Song to the Siren (Take 7) - *Tim Buckley***

**Down The Line - *Beach Fossils***

**Didn't Wanna Have to Do It (Ver. 1) - *Cass Elliot***

**In My Room - *Frank Ocean***

**Luna - *The Smashing Pumpkins***

**When The Sun Hits - *Slowdive***

**Don't Trip - *Zacari***

**New Flesh - *Current Joys***



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Food Service Director.....Adam Thomas.....479-2328  
Director of Curriculum.....Stacy Dabbs.....479-7575

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Principal.....James Foster.....479-4014  
Guidance Counselors.....Kelly Birkhimer & Kara Duplin.....479-7886  
School Nurse.....Cassey DeBiase.....479-2324  
Athletic Director.....Jarod Feathers.....479-4014



## School Calendar

The following dates are subject to change:

May 6 .....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
May 13.....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
May 20.....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
May 26.....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
May 27.....Snow Makeup Day #1  
May 30.....Memorial Day Vacation

\*Check calendar dates on [ctasd.org](http://ctasd.org)\*



## NEWS/ FEATURES WRAP UP

### Mr. CT Returns

By Sydney Thomas

The Conemaugh Township Rotary Interact Club is in charge of and runs Mr. CT. Mr. CT is a scholarship opportunity for all Conemaugh Township Senior boys who are looking to earn some money for college. This will be the second year for Mr. CT taking place.

Sign-ups for Mr. CT has been taking place in the main high school office since the week of March 28. Only the first ten senior boys to sign up are accepted to participate. Conemaugh Township Senior Ethan Hoffman quotes, "I thought this was a good opportunity to take advantage of. I was also influenced and told to do it by Natalie Kimmel." There is a whole week of events that takes place to decide the winner of Mr. CT. The events take place the week of April 25 and end April 29 during all lunches. The whole week's events consist of Monday: Introduction about yourself, Tuesday: Talent or Skit with your mentor, Wednesday: Questions and Formal Wear, Thursday: Minute to Win it Games, and Friday: Winner announcements.

This is a great opportunity for any senior boy who is interested in earning scholarship money. This is also a great way to get the school of all grades involved for some fun. Hopefully this will encourage more underclassman boys to get involved when they approach their senior year.



*Ethan Hoffman shows off this dance moves to win over students votes*

*Students had a special visit from Taylor Swift (Aaron Kaufman) during the Mr. CT competition*





## SOCIETY

### HIGH SCHOOL

#### *Autism Acceptance Week*

*By Sydney Thomas*

Autism Acceptance Spirit Week will be held at Conemaugh Township High school from April 19th-22nd (Tuesday-Friday). All students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to participate. Teachers and other school staff members can participate too.

During Autism Acceptance Spirit Week each day is a new dress up day to help support the cause. Neurodiversity Tuesday: Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways. There is not one “right” way of thinking, learning, and acting. To celebrate the beauty in the diverse spectrum of the human mind - wear rainbow and tie-dyed clothes to school. What’s Your Passion Wednesday: One characteristic of autism is to show incredibly focused passion for topics of interest. What are you passionate about? Dress to show something you love. Sensory Friendly Thursday: One characteristic of autism is having a variety of sensory sensitivities. Dress up today in your most comfortable clothes. Autism Acceptance Friday: Love and acceptance go a long way. Many people show support by wearing blue, the puzzle piece, or infinity sign as a symbol for autism. Show your acceptance and wear your autism gear. Senior Meghan Leasure quotes, “I loved being able to show my support by participating throughout the week.”

As the week goes by each homeroom teacher in each grade has a variety of activities to do for each day. After each activity is completed by each student every day, their homeroom teacher is to take it to Ms. Kalfas’s room to be placed into a drawing to win prizes throughout the week. Conemaugh Township Spanish Teacher Mrs. O'Donnell quotes, “Autism Awareness week really brought the culture of the school together to unify the mission of abolishing stereotypes.” Overall this is a time to express the importance of accepting others in the world who may be different from others.

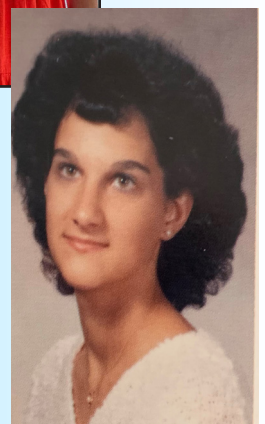


#### *Alumni Of The Month...*

Gina Poznanski, a former Conemaugh Township student, graduated in 1991 with big goals. After graduation, Gina attended Lee Hospital School of Radiology. Then, she moved to Albany, New York, and attended Albany Medical center for Special Procedures specializing in MRI. After completion, she relocated to Richmond, Virginia, and pursued her career in MRI. In 1998, Gina’s high school sweetheart, Steve Poznanski, and her moved back to the school district to start a family. Gina is a happy mother to her three children Jordan, Tyler, and Mya. She has been employed at UPMC Somerset since 1998 in the MRI Department.

Gina’s favorite teacher was Miss Marya Pepoy. “She was always great to the students and always kind and caring,” she exclaimed. Her favorite memories would be from being voted for most school spirit. Gina also loved going to high school sports.

Overall, high school was one of the liveliest points in Gina’s life. She enjoyed every ounce of it and wishes she could do it all over again!





## ***Track Meet***

*By Taylor Shaffer*

The Conemaugh Township varsity track team hosted both the Meyersdale and Blacklick Valley High School track teams on April 20. The Indians had an outstanding performance defeating both of their opponents in both the girls and boys divisions.

The girls track team won the 4x8, which was Lydia and Unity Hostetter from JCS, Ellie Hunsburger and Katie Wiley. Mary Hostetter got first place in the 100 meter dash and the 200 meter dash, and Izzy Slezak placed 3rd in the 100 meter dash and 2nd in the 200 meter dash. The girls also won the 4x1 and 4x4 which was Mary Hostetter, Ellie Hunsberger, Izzy Slezak and Asia Zwick for the 4x1 and Izzy Slezak, Ellie Hunsburger, Unity and Briar Berkey for the 4x4. Kaylee Frederick placed first in the 1600 meter dash and the 3200 meter dash.

The boys track team won the 4x1 and 4x4 which consisted of Jackson Byer, D'mitrius Johnson, Emilio Ruiz, and Ethan Black for the 4x1 and Emilio Ruiz, Ethan Black, Kyler Mauzi, and Dominic for the 4x4. Ethan black placed first in the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash. Trenton Brenneman also placed first in the 800 meter dash and the 1800 meter dash.



***Ethan Black dominates the track meet again.***



***Tyler Weber winding up to strikeout the Conemaugh Valley batter.***

## ***Baseball vs Conemaugh Valley***

*By Alex Gregory*

The Conemaugh Township Indians baseball team beat the Conemaugh Valley Blue Jays on Apr 13, 2022. With a final score of 9-2, the team improved their season record to 3-1-1. With a total of four home runs in eight hits, 50% of all of the Indians' hits were hit out of the park.

Senior Brady Kist led the way for the Indians, going two for four in the game, with both of those hits being homeruns. He also had 4 RBIs in the game. Junior Tanner Shirley added two hits as well with one homerun. Tanner Shirley added, "It's always fun to get out and to be able to play. With many of our games being postponed due to weather, any opportunity to be able to get out on the field makes for a good day." Senior Owen Tomb added a homerun as well in the outing.

Seniors Brady Kist and Jackson Byer shared the mound in the game, only letting up two runs. Kist struck out ten batters and Byer struck out four. When asked about his dominant game, Brady Kist said, "It was a great game and we had awesome weather. It was fun to be able to come out and have a team win over Conemaugh Valley. This game had put us on a winning streak for the season. We're always looking for a good team effort win."

Currently, Tyler Weber is leading the team in batting average with a .562 average so far. On the pitching mound, Jackson Byer is leading the team on the season with a 2.10 ERA in three appearances. The team is looking to make advancements in the win category over the next few games.



## Athletes...



Meghan Leasure is the daughter of Shawn Leasure and Darcy Sechler of Hollsopple. Meghan has been a member of the girls varsity soccer team, girls varsity basketball team, and varsity softball team for four years. In soccer, Meghan was a 2018 and 2019 WestPAC champion, as well as a District V champion in 2019. She is a two year letter winner and was named to the Santa Fund All Star Classic team her senior year. In basketball, she was also a two year letter winner and was named a team captain her junior and senior year. In softball, Meghan is a two year letter winner, as well as a team captain her senior year.

In school, Meghan is active in clubs. She is a member of the SON club, SADD club, and computer club. During her time in the VoTech Sports Medicine program, she was certified in CPR and in Stop The Bleed.

In her spare time, Meghan enjoys going on drives, listening to music, fishing, lifting weights, and hanging out with her friends. After graduation, Meghan plans to attend West Liberty University to study Sports Medicine and pursue a career in athletic training.



*Meghan Leasure*



*Ben Cotchen*

## ...of the Month

Ben Cotchen of Davidsville is the son of Mike and Barb Cotchen. Ben shows great determination and leadership in the classroom, on the soccer field, and on the track.

Ben has held a leadership role for the soccer team throughout his high school career. He is a three time letter winner in soccer and was named co-captain of the team for his senior year. He was also named to the Somerset County Honorable Mention team for his accomplishments during the 2021 soccer season. As a team captain, Ben says, "Being a captain for the soccer team was more than just having a band on my arm. It is a representation of the trust your teammates have in you to lead them. I wanted to be a good leader because having strong leadership can help lead the team to success, which I think we had a fair amount of on the field this season." Ben is also a one year letter winner for the track and field team, where he competed as a hurdler and in high jump.

Outside of sports, Ben participates in the Rotary Interact club, S.A.D.D. club, and is the vice president of the Computer Club. He is also a volunteer AYSO coach, where he coaches a U-8 team. Ben also helps volunteer at Camp PARC, where he serves as a junior counselor. In his free time, Ben likes to hang out with his friends, play video games, and watch/play sports.

After school, Ben plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, with an undecided major.

