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THE **Contownian**



VOLUME 87, NO. 6 CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA HIGH SCHOOL DAVIDSVILLE, PA

Lancaster County Senior Cyclists

By Csenge Szabo

In November of 2024, four Lancaster County seniors ended their four-year, 3,000-mile trek in Key West, Florida. The participants were Dan Steinbacher, 74; Ed Gower, 68; Gary Musser, 74; and Bib Redcay, 70; all who agreed that they are content with their decision to finally end their yearslong journey.

The inspiration to go on this journey was sparked from an article in *Adventure Cyclist Magazine* that talked about a group taking on the East Coast Greenway Trail, which connects 14 states stretching from Calais, Maine, to Key West, Florida. The group took on the trail one week at a time over the course of nine years. Musser, Gower, and Steinbacher were retired by the time they started planning the Trail. Redcay worked full-time as a social worker in the substance abuse treatment field when he later joined the group in 2022. According to Gower, "I said to Dan, I don't think we got seven years, let's do two weeks a year and finish this thing up in four years." The chief planner of the group, Gower, figured out all of the information about hotels and restaurants beforehand, along with each year's route in advance. The group would get into riding shape in Lancaster Cycling Club's annual Covered Bridge Classic, which has routes between 25 and 100 miles long over the course of one day. Redcay stated "There's an aspect that you can't train your body to ride 10 consecutive days, so you're really getting acclimated those first three or four days to the endurance."

These men are the perfect examples that it is never too late to pursue your hobbies and start a new commitment no matter how old you are. If there is a will, there is a way!

100,000 Eggs Stolen from PA Business

By Elanor Luscher

Recently, in Greencastle, Pennsylvania, thieves have stolen 100,000 eggs from a distribution trailer from Pete and Gerry's Organics. Their local business was a facility in which they poached and sold the eggs from. Somehow, the thieves managed to steal such a large amount that, with the soaring price of eggs now, was worth about \$40,000.

Normally, it would still be a big deal, but not as much as it is now. Currently, due to the bird flu and the Tariffs Trump has placed, egg prices are gradually soaring to much higher prices than they were previously. Considering we are amongst this crisis, this incredible amount that was stolen has grown with urgency. The company, now increasing its security protocols, made reports to the police in hopes that the thieves will be caught soon and that this will not happen again. Another question remaining is whether the business will go bankrupt due to this great loss or if they will be able to manage nonetheless. So far, the business owners have been going around the community and asking for any tips or help in hopes to find out who could have possibly stolen them and if there are any still left to take back.

In conclusion, the heist of the eggs has remained a great mystery to all and still leaves the company unsure if they will ever end up figuring out who it was. As we are among this egg crisis where the prices will skyrocket, it is more imperative than ever before that the police solve this case, otherwise their business, and possibly others, may have a lot of issues when it comes to egg sales.

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Contownian News Magazine

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Eli Marsh practicing for Math Counts.



Emmy Allison dissecting in Anatomy.



Our junior high cheerleaders ready to cheer on to victory!



Our lovely journalism students showing off their Valentine's styles!



Abigail Hershberger practicing for a squeaky clean future.

Our girls basketball team before winning the first round of playoffs!



Julie Sodano showing off her musical talent with the clarinet.



Jordyn Snyder and Charlie hard at work!



Celebrating Colin's 1000 points!



Damirr Thomas cheesing for the camera!

Art Club

By Amelia Mitchell

This year, the Conemaugh Township High School Art Club is going to many places to teach our community how great art is. In December, our CT Art Club went to St. David's Learning place to make Christmas themed crafts. They will be going again in April to go do an Easter themed craft with the kids.

The students that will be going to teach the art lesson are in grades 9-12 in Art Club. The art teacher, Mrs. Spengler, says, "This is a great experience for the students and the kids at St. David's and for our students. This is an amazing opportunity for them to learn because they have to research the lesson and plan the crafts for this age group of children. We love going to St. David's because it's a rewarding experience for everyone."

Alumni of the Month



Lori Denault (Greene) was a Conemaugh Township graduate of the class of 1997. She has lived in Hollsopple all of her life and continues living there with her husband, Benoit Denault, and her five children. Lori quotes "Work hard and you will find your passion" and "Head in the direction you want to go and then you can figure it out."

She was involved in many activities during her time at Conemaugh Township. Her activities included SADD Club President, National Honors Society President, Contownian and Connumach Society Editor, Volleyball Captain, Renaissance Fair, Science Club, Band and Choir, and Rotary. Her favorite activities during her high school years were volleyball and journalism. Lori's favorite teachers were Mrs. Litsinger and Mr. Kendig. She said that her favorite high school memories were volleyball tournaments and hanging out in the AV room (the journalism room).

After graduating, she continued her education at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, and Robert Morris for her master's in engineering management. Lori's profession is Director of Mechanical Design and Analysis/ Program Manager, Project Manager, and Engineering Management. She is currently employed by CTC (Concurrent Technology Corporation).

Lori is very grateful for her experience while in Conemaugh Township and believes it truly helped her succeed in the future with the accelerated classes they offered. She says, "You don't have to have your life or career figured out in high school."



Overall, the Conemaugh Township High School Art Club students love to bring their love of art to a younger generation. They look forward to future trips to volunteer their time in the community.

CT Welcomes Señora Kissel

By Amelia Mitchell

This year, the Conemaugh Township High School has gained a new teacher, Señora Dana Kissel. She has started in the second semester of this school year. Señora Kissel has many years of teaching experience and is very excited to teach at Conemaugh Township.

Señora Kissel attended Duquesne University and has been teaching for 17 years now. She first taught at Bishop Canevin High School in Pittsburgh. She came to us from Berlin High School. Additionally, she has been married for 15 years to her husband, Jeremy, and has two kids named Lindsey and Dustin. Dustin and Lindsey go to Berlin and are involved in sports. They both play basketball, along with Dustin also playing baseball. Señora Kissel said that she became a Spanish teacher because her 12th grade Spanish teacher was amazing and looked like she had fun everyday at work. Señora Kissel said her favorite thing about teaching is "Getting to know the kids and having a positive impact on their lives."

Conemaugh Township is blessed to have gained a fantastic new addition to the faculty. Señora Kissel brings years of experience and a fantastic attitude to our district. We can't wait to see all the amazing and exciting things she does in the classroom!

Life Skills Talent Show

By Connor Hawkins

The Life Skills Program is an inspirational program that is used to help kids with special needs or disabilities. This program helps the students learn necessary life skills and also tries to do special things for the individuals involved. A great example of this is their talent show.

The talent show was hosted at Westmont Hilltop High School and took place on January 30th. The talent show was not just limited to Township. The neighboring schools like Richland, Westmont, Johnstown, and Windber were just some of the other schools that were there. It was open to the public to enjoy this wonderful experience.

The kids could sing, dance, play an instrument, use sign language, or lip-sync to songs. Township had seven representatives there. Elly Dull sang "Let it Go" from *Frozen* while Jeremiah Elliot, Julia Thomas, Mike Zyra, and Davey Micik sang "A Whole New World." Additionally, Sarabeth Sullivan had her artwork on display at the show. As a group, Township played "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

Julia Thomas said about the show, "I love going every year. It's truly beautiful to see all the students come out of their shells and they shine up on stage, sharing their talents with the community." Overall, the life skills program is a wonderful program that helps students with learning disabilities and provides great opportunities to see the students come out of their shells.

District VI Chorus

By Addison Lasure

On February 7th, 2025, Berlin Brothersvalley School District held the District VI Chorus Festival. From the eight sections of District VI, 22 students were selected from each to participate. On Wednesday the 5th, two days before the festival, the selected members of District Chorus got the opportunity to audition for Regionals, in which the top 12 auditions from each section will move on.

Representing Conemaugh Township at the District VI Chorus Festival was Heath Moser, Caven Miller, Evan Massimo-Grimes, Jaylyne Moyer, Julia Thomas, Chris Yoder, Anna Hunsberger, Greta Mock, Addison Lasure, and Emily Purdy. Students from all over the district were chosen to represent their schools through successful auditions that took place in

November of 2024. The members of District Chorus performed their concert on Friday the 7th, after the festival took place, with seven different songs of various genres and languages. The members of District Chorus have been preparing for auditions and the festival since November. This year, Evan Massimo-Grimes will be representing Conemaugh Township at Regionals!

District Chorus was such a great experience for all who were able to participate. It is such a fun opportunity to meet with other vocalists from all over the district who are dedicated and put in the work to help put on a great concert.

District Band

By Connor Hawkins

District Band is a yearly festival in which participants must audition for. It's a festival designed for more advanced high school musicians and is not easy to make. Every section has a specific number of "chairs" available every year and whatever placement a person gets determines their part. For example, if a student gets 2nd place in clarinet, they get first chair for the Clarinet 2 part.

Additionally, at the beginning of this festival, students must audition for Regional Band which is a much more selective group. According to participant Daniel Turley, "I was super scared that we weren't going to be able to actually go to Districts due to the snow. But the weather was nice enough that we were able to participate in the festival."

This year, Township had five representatives: Daniel Turley and Alonna Bracken on Clarinet 1, Greta Mock on Clarinet 3, Elijah Sodano on Trumpet 2, and Evan Massimo-Grimes on Tuba. All five of these people had to spend over 10 hours practicing, yet their hard work paid off. The entire group will be representing Conemaugh Township at Regional Band!

The festival itself was held at Bellwood-Antis High School and took place over January 23rd and 24th. They played a total of six songs. Some highlights from the festival included "Salute to PMEA," "Rocketship!," "JS Jig," and "Sheltering Sky."

To summarize, District Band is every hardworking musician's dream and those who make it will proceed to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Conemaugh Township always has a great representation of the school at these festivals.

Are FI Days the Right Call?

By Averie Seibert

As with most opinions, many students and teachers have varying viewpoints on our new FI Days. Some members of our school believe that FI Days are beneficial because we don't have to add days on to the end of our year, but on the other hand, many others in the school think that we should use snow days as a "day off" and not have to do any work.

Personally, I agree with the idea of using the FI Days that we are given. While I do enjoy a traditional snow day every once in a while, I would much rather do the work that is given to me quickly and be able to both enjoy the rest of that day and enjoy the days off in the summer that instead would be used as school days. Also, the work that is given for these days is very easy and not very time consuming in my opinion. This adds to my opinion on these days because I get to stay home, do half the amount of work I would otherwise do in school, have time for my other school work, all while still counting as a full day of school.

In conclusion, FI Days are the right call for our school. I believe that they are a quick and easy way for our school to keep students safe by keeping us off of the snowy roads while also making the day count and be educationally beneficial. I believe that we should continue to use these days in our future school years.

Is the TikTok Ban Good or Bad for Us?

By Taylor Jarvis

Banning TikTok in the U.S. would have seriously negative consequences, affecting not only entertainment but also businesses, free speech, and the economy. The app has become a major platform for small businesses, creators, and influencers who rely on it for income and exposure. Many smaller brands use TikTok to reach new audiences without spending thousands on advertising. If the app were to be banned, these businesses would lose a crucial tool for growth, hurting entrepreneurship and growth in the digital marketplace.

Not only is the ban crucial for businesses, a TikTok ban raises concerns about free speech. Millions of Americans use the platform to express themselves, share opinions,

and engage in discussions on politics, culture, and social issues. This will limit millions of voices around the U.S. Many people, including myself, go on TikTok when they are feeling stressed or down for a lift up or motivation. Many single moms and dads rely on TikTok for their income. It brought them back to their feet. Many people have also made friends on the app.

Finally, banning TikTok could damage U.S. relations with younger generations and the tech industry. Many young Americans view the ban as an attack on their freedom, which could lead to political backlash and decreased trust in governmental decisions. Instead of banning TikTok, a better approach would be increasing data privacy regulations for all social media platforms, ensuring user security without limiting access to one of the most influential digital spaces of our time.

Should Students Have Jobs During High School?

By Grayson Kusher

When posed with the question of whether or not students should have jobs during the school year, I would completely agree with the side of students having jobs. Not only does it earn them money, but it also teaches them many lessons about life after school that they would never learn without having a job.

I think that students having a job during the school year is possibly even more beneficial than participating in some other school extracurricular activities like sports or clubs. This is because when you apply to a job and the employer sees multiple years of work experience, no matter what job it is, they will be more likely to hire you than they would be if you did multiple years of sports. In addition, having another thing that is in your schedule will help you learn to manage your time better than if you just had a bunch of free time that is being wasted on not being productive.

Overall, I feel that every student should have a job during the school year, not only for the benefit of making money, but also for the discipline and values that it instills in you. If you are not allowed to work for family or schedule reasons, make sure you find other activities or volunteer opportunities that are productive to occupy your time.

Ways to Stay Motivated and Avoid the Third Quarter Slump

By Regan Mallet

Staying motivated during the second semester can be challenging. Setting goals for yourself is a vital first step for keeping yourself on track, physically and mentally. It is important to maintain a positive attitude throughout the semester. Here are some tips that can help you stay motivated:

1. Take breaks
2. Give yourself enough time to do things
3. Do self-care
4. Keep your spirits up
5. Study with friends

In conclusion, surrounding yourself with positive people can help you to claim the motivation you need to power through the quarter. Don't hesitate to ask for help if you need it. If you focus on these self-motivation techniques, you're sure to find success this quarter.

Activities for the Approaching Warmer Weather

By Braylin Petree

The possibilities of outdoor activities when the weather gets warmer are endless. When the weather is warm, make sure you make the most of your time with fun activities. Below is a list of activities to partake in locally:

1. Go hiking
2. Have a picnic
3. Go fishing
4. Explore nature
5. Ride a bike
6. Go swimming
7. Watch a movie at the drive-ins
8. Hangout with friends

As the warmer weather approaches, there are so many outdoor activities that you can do! If you want to get outside and have fun in the warm weather, you should follow this list of activities!

Women's History Month

By Taylor Jarvis

Women's History Month is celebrated every March to recognize the contributions of women throughout history and highlight their achievements in various fields. It serves as a time to reflect on the struggles women have faced for equal rights and to honor those who have broken barriers in politics, science, literature, and many other areas. The month is also an opportunity to educate people about the ongoing fight for gender equality and to inspire future generations to continue advocating for women's rights.

The origins of Women's History Month date back to 1978 when a school in Sonoma, California, organized a week-long celebration of women's contributions to history. The idea gained attention across the nation. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. Over the next few years, more states and organizations adopted the celebration, and in 1987, Congress officially designated March as Women's History Month. Since then, each year has had a specific theme, focusing on different aspects of women's achievements and struggles.

Throughout history, women have played important roles in shaping society, even though their contributions were often overlooked. From leaders like Susan B. Anthony and Sojourner Truth fighting for women's rights to scientists like Marie Curie making scientific discoveries, women have made lasting impacts across all areas of life. Today, Women's History Month continues to highlight these stories, reminding the world of the importance of recognizing and uplifting women's voices in history and society.



Wrestling Takes Down United

By Lilly Oakes

The Indians wrestling team faced tough competition on February 6th, 2025, versus United, who had a record of 14-1 going into the match. However, the Indians did not let the Lions' impressive record scare them and ended the night victorious.

The Conemaugh Township varsity wrestling team faced the United Lions, who have won two different titles in the past two seasons. Before this match, the Indians have not beaten the Lions since the 2021 season. The boys' drive and motivation led them to be able to end their three-season losing streak against United, and were able to mark the second loss on United's record. Freshman Landon Huffman was losing 5-0 after the first period of his match. With just one second left in his third period, he managed to pin his opponent, and win his match. Sophomore Daniel Vanfossen, after moving up a weight class, had a huge disadvantage, but was still able to get his opponent to their back and pin them. Other teammates that won their matches were Carter Christ, Noah Stultz, Connor Turnbull, and Dylan Hovanec.

The varsity wrestling team managed to defeat the United Lions on February 6th, after not being able to win against them in three seasons. This win was only the second loss for United, making the win feel even more rewarding for the Indians. The Indians look to end the season on a high note, and hopefully manage to send a number of individuals to advance farther.

Girls Basketball Shines Bright at Conemaugh Valley

By Ava Byer

The Conemaugh Township girls basketball team had a game against Conemaugh Valley on February 3rd. The Lady Indians were able to beat the Blue Jays on the road, with a score of 68-40, improving their record to 10-10 overall.

The girls varsity basketball team has a two-game winning streak and is hoping to keep it going. The team was led by Ava Byer with 19 points and 6 rebounds, which secured her 500th career rebound. Katie Wiley tallied 16 points, while Kat McCann added 12 points and 7 rebounds.

Danika Black also grabbed 7 rebounds, while she and Ashlyn Fetterman added 6 points each. It was a great team win with everyone contributing. Senior Katie Wiley said about the season, "This team is so amazing and has been impressing me every single game. We have been improving tremendously throughout the season and we are peaking at the right time. I am so excited to see what this team can accomplish." The team is excited to see how the end of season will go and is looking forward to playoffs.

Overall, the girls team is having a great season and is hoping to continue that. They finished out the regular season campaign at 12-10, earning a spot in district playoffs. They are working hard everyday at practice and are continuing to improve. The girls traveled to Tussey Mountain on Tuesday, February 18th, to take on the Lady Titans in round one of District V playoffs. Results will be posted on our Facebook page, Conemaugh Township Athletics.

Boys Basketball Versus United

By Lilly Oakes

On January 31st, 2025, the Indians boys basketball team traveled to United to wrap up their inter-conference regular season play. The boys ended their conference season with a win, looking forward to playoffs.

The boys basketball team went to United to wrap up their season, after having a good season leading up to the game. The team was led by Ethan Matera with 15 points, followed by Colin Dinyar and Stephen Stango with 14 points each. Colin Dinyar led the team in rebounds with 8, followed by Ethan Matera with 7 and Erik McClemens with 6. The quarterly scores were 26-5 in the first, 41-20 at the half, 58-35 in the third quarter, and 66-52 ending the game, with the Indians up for the entirety of the game.

The Conemaugh Township boys basketball team had another successful evening on January 31st, after beating United once again. The boys look forward to playoffs, and hopefully claiming the title of 5-peat District champions.

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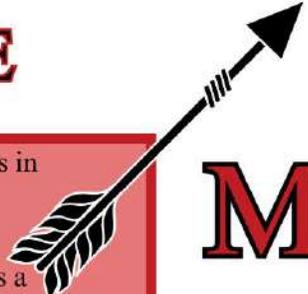


Ava Byer is the daughter of Melanie and Brian Byer. She lives in Hollsopple with both of them. Ava is a senior on our Lady Indians basketball team this season. She has been playing basketball for 11 years and she is a four-year letterman. She is a 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 All-Somerset County Selection, 2023 Berlin holiday tournament all-tournament team, 2023 Chestnut Ridge all-tournament team, 2024 Boswell Area Service Club Tournament all-tournament team and MVP. This season, she surpassed 500 career rebounds as well. Ava is also a two-year letterman for our track and field team and our bocce ball team. Ava was a senior member of the Lady Indians volleyball team this last fall, where she created a big name for herself. She has played volleyball for six years, and she is a four-year letterman. Ava won 2022, 2023, and 2024 All-Somerset County selection, 2023 and 2024 All-District V team, and 2023 All-Heritage Conference selection. Ava's skills go farther than just on the court however. She is involved in many clubs in our school. These include Student Council, National Honors Society, SADD, Rotary Interact, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Ava is also Student Council and National Honors Society President. In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out with friends and family and going camping. Ava's is planning to attend Edinboro University to continue her academic and volleyball career. She is planning to attain her Speech Language Pathology degree while she is in attendance. When asked for a quote, Ava said, "You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



Dillon Defibaugh is the son of Trisha and Jeremy Defibaugh of Johnstown. He is a senior this year, and a part of many organizations here at school. From sports to clubs, Dillon has left a mark on his teachers, friends, and the community as a whole. Dillon is a member of the varsity track team. He has been running track since seventh grade and is a three-time letterman. He has been a district as well as state qualifier, and got Heritage Conference All-Conference recognition. As for soccer, he has been playing since he was in kindergarten. In his varsity time, he was a three-time letterman, a two-time fantastic 15 team player, and a

part of a District V championship team. Outside of sports, Dillon is a part of clubs in and out of school. In school, he is a part of FCA, Rotary, Grill Team, and SADD. Outside of school, he participates in an indoor soccer team at Turfside. In his free time, he enjoys "Hang[ing] out in Sam's basement," and "Lifting in Mike's gym." After high school, Dillon has committed to Ursuline College, as their first ever male athlete. He is going to major in sports management, and run track while he is there. His favorite quote is "Obsession's gonna beat talent every time."



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Christopher Nolan: The Odyssey

By Izzy Gunby

Christopher Nolan is a very popular filmmaker known for his complex and creative storytelling. He is known for his work on films, such as *Interstellar*, *The Dark Knight*, and *Inception*. On December 23rd, 2024, Nolan announced his adaptation of the epic poem *The Odyssey*. The story is based on the King of Ithaca trying to find his way home for 10 years after the Trojan War.

The film is set to be released in July of 2026 and is expected to be a major hit. Nolan has assembled an amazing set of actors to star in the film, such as Robert Pattinson, Zendaya, Tom Hardy, Anne Hathaway, Matt Damon and many more. The movie is planned to be shot in many locations, including several European and North African countries.

Many have extremely high expectations for the upcoming film, considering all of the other amazing films Nolan has produced. *The Odyssey* is said to be recorded with the best new equipment and be a major hit with his fans.

Kendrick Lamar Grammys

By Kaydence Forish

Kendrick Lamar, as I'm sure a lot of you know of, was nominated for seven Grammys this year. began his rap career when he was a teenager, releasing his first mixtape under the name "K-Dot." His career launched in 2012 after releasing *good kid, m.A.A.d. city*.

You may know Kendrick Lamar from his biggest hit, "Not Like Us." The diss track targeted towards Drake during their feud hit number one on the charts and earned him five out of the seven Grammys he was nominated for. Lamar even performed "Not Like Us" and many other hit songs of his with singer, SZA, for the halftime show at Superbowl LIX. That halftime show is the most viewed halftime show in history with 133.5 million viewers. Lamar won "Best Music Video," "Best Rap Song," "Best Rap Performance," "Song of the Year," and "Record of the Year" all with the song "Not Like Us." This makes a total of 22 Grammys for the artist out of 57 nominations throughout his career.

A major congratulations to Kendrick Lamar for the

success of his hit song "Not Like Us" and getting the recognition that he deserves. Be sure to check out the halftime show as it was performed amazingly and had many hidden messages.

Album of the Year

By Marly Teeter

Last Sunday, the 2025 Grammys took place. There are many awards that are exceedingly desired by popular artists, but the most elusive award presented that night is Album of the Year. Beyonce, once again, took the crown with her album *Cowboy Carter*.

Other nominees that were included in the running were Billie Eilish's *Hit Me Hard And Soft*, *Brat* from Charlie XCX, *Short n' Sweet* by Sabrina Carpenter, and *The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess* from Chappell Roan. All of these albums made an impact on music's culture in 2024. After winning this year, Beyonce is the most awarded and nominated artist in Grammy history, with 35 trophies total. She is also one of the four black women that have won the Album of the Year award at the Grammys. Other than the accomplishments, there was a lot of controversy with her winning. A lot of people on social media were saying that her album really should not have been the top contender, and mostly all agreed that Billie Eilish should have really won.

Although some people didn't think that Beyonce was completely worthy of it, she still worked just as hard as other artists to win Album of the Year. All in all, it really isn't all about the award you win, but how you felt about your creation.

Chappell Roan Best New Artist and Grammy Speech

By Akira Irizarry

Chappell Roan has emerged as one of the most exciting new artists in the music industry, captivating audiences with her unique sound and compelling storytelling. With a blend of pop and indie influences, Roan's music resonates with listeners on multiple levels, addressing themes of love, identity, and self-acceptance. Her recent nomination for a Grammy Award as "Best New Artist" marks a significant milestone in her career, showcasing her talent and the impact she has made in a relatively

short time. This recognition not only highlights her artistic achievements but also underscores the importance of fresh voices in an ever-evolving musical landscape.

During her acceptance speech at the Grammy Awards, Chappell Roan delivered a heartfelt message that resonated deeply with both fans and fellow artists. She expressed gratitude for the support she has received from her community and emphasized the importance of authenticity in her work. Roan's speech reflected her journey as an artist, sharing personal anecdotes about overcoming challenges and staying true to her vision despite the pressures of the industry. By openly discussing her experiences, she inspired many aspiring musicians to embrace their individuality and pursue their passions fearlessly.

Roan's presence at the Grammy Awards signifies a broader trend within the music industry, where new artists are increasingly recognized for their contributions and creativity. As she continues to rise in prominence, Chappell Roan represents a generation of musicians who are redefining what it means to be successful in the modern era. Her Grammy nomination and impactful speech serve as a reminder that music is not just about commercial success; it is also about connection, expression, and the power of storytelling. As she embarks on this exciting chapter of her career, Roan is poised to leave a lasting mark on the music world, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.



Artist of the Month



Sophia Altimore is a junior in Art III with Mrs. Spengler. Sophia has also been in Art Club for three years, as well as having her artwork showcased in the Somerset Laurel Arts Show. Sophia lives with her parents, Darren and Joanna Altimore, in Davidsville.

Sophia's art style is acrylic painting. Her favorite art projects she has done are color block painting, perspective painting, and her sculpture person. Mrs. Spengler says, "Sophia has been an active member of the Art Club since she was in middle school. Her abilities continue to grow and get better with every project she creates. I am very proud of her!"

Sophia is inspired by Norman Rockwell, who is also known for his acrylic painting style. A quote Sophia lives by is "The 'Earth' without 'Art' is just 'eh.'" After she graduates, she plans on attending a four-year college somewhere coastal, where she can continue to work on her art.



Musician of the Month



This month's spotlight shines on a rising star in our local music scene: Caven Miller. As a dedicated musician and student, Caven still finds the time and passion to pursue drama and singing, while still finding the time to achieve academic success. Residing in Hollsopple PA with his parents Bill and Patty Miller, Caven

finds inspiration and support in his community.

Caven is currently a 12th grade student who has already achieved notable accomplishments, including making it to the District Choir twice! Though Caven does not play a physical instrument, people would say that his voice is his instrument. His commitment to both individual practice and ensemble performance demonstrates a well-rounded musical approach.

Caven's dedication to music reflects a broader commitment to excellence. This is reinforced in his favorite quote: "Practice like you've never won, perform like you've never lost." This sentiment captivates the drive and passion that fuels his musical journey. We look forward to witnessing Caven's continued growth and contributions to our vibrant musical community.

Tragedy in the Skies of DC

By Eleanor Luscher

In Washington DC, a midair collision occurred between an American Airlines jet carrying passengers and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter, culminating in wreckage scattered throughout the Potomac River. No additional injuries were reported besides those who were aboard the aircrafts. Of all 60 passengers and four crew members in the plane and the three aboard the helicopter, unfortunately no survivors were reported. The plane had been travelling from Wichita, Kansas towards runway 33 at Reagan Airport. This has been the deadliest aircraft crash in 20 years.

On February 4th, crews began the recovery effort, collecting the parts of the plane and recovering all of those who were killed. This tragedy has caused immense concern in many as people begin to question what went wrong. Reports mention that the plane was at the correct path and altitude but the helicopter was the one to have been too close for the area it was flying in considering the plane was preparing to land. Also, it raised suspicions as the helicopter, which was on a military training flight, was headed in the direct path of the plane without turning away. For efforts to discover the source of the crash, they are looking into tower communications and interviewing anyone involved who was involved in the flights on the ground. They are also collecting as much data as possible including black box recordings of conversations from the pilots or the flight towers.

All in all, there were 67 total deaths as not a single person survived the crash. The nation awaits anxiously for answers in this tragic event, specifically hoping to find out how it could have occurred and what measures can be taken in the future to prevent another such tragedy. Hopefully, these answers can bring measures of peace to the grieving families and a concerned nation.



Photo courtesy of The Guardian

Gaza Strip Rebuild

By Csenge Szabo

President Donald Trump announced that he wants to “take over” and “own” Gaza while resettling its population in the process. According to BBC News, “Trump suggested that under his plan, Gaza would be handed over to the U.S. by Israel and its residents encouraged to move elsewhere with no right of return.”

Many peace proposals and transfers of power between presidents have come and gone, but the conflicts between Hamas and Gaza still remain. This drives Trump's idea to come up with a new plan that might be more involved and effective. Trump believes that if Gaza is going to be rebuilt, it makes little sense for hundreds of thousands of citizens to be in the area, sheltering in the rubble during the process. This will be a huge task as the statistics show that the removal of all the debris may take up to 21 years. There are 50,773,496 tons of debris that need to be removed along with water and power lines that have to be installed and repaired. Schools, hospitals, and shops need to be rebuilt. Trump pressured Jordan and Egypt to accept Gaza's 2.2 million residents, threatening to withhold aid if they don't comply. Both nations strongly disagree with Trump's promise that it could restabilize the region.

Although there is no legal U.S. claim to territory, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the “revolutionary vision” for Gaza. The proposal has received immense condemnation from many, including close U.S. allies and the United Nations. It is still a work in progress, but Trump so far remains adamant on following through with his plan.

Little Contownian

Super Bowl LIX

By James Polonia II

The 2024-25 NFL season came to an end with Super Bowl LIX. The Super Bowl was a thrilling game that featured many amazing plays, and two tough teams, but there's one team that was above all the others. The Philadelphia Eagles are the Super Bowl LIX winners. Both the Eagles and the Chiefs played hard, but the Eagles played much better than their opponents.

The Philadelphia Eagles played an amazing game against the Chiefs on February 9, 2025. To end the first half, the Eagles were winning 24-0. Only in the fourth quarter did the Chiefs finally get on the scoreboard. The final score was 40-22 as the Eagles won Super Bowl LIX. The Super Bowl MVP was Jalen Hurts passing for 293 yards, scoring three touchdowns, only tallying one interception, and gaining 72 rushing yards. There were also other play makers in this game. DeVonta Smith had four receptions for 69 yards, Josh Sweat had 2.5 sacks, and Cooper DeJean had an interception for a touchdown. This couldn't have been a better birthday present for Saquon Barkley and Cooper DeJean. Saquon Barkley turned 28 on the day of the Super Bowl win, and Cooper DeJean turned 22.

The Kansas City Chiefs didn't play their best game on February 9th. Patrick Mahomes passed for 257 yards, threw 3 touchdowns, and had 2 interceptions. Their top receiver was rookie Xavier Worthy with 157 receiving yards and 8 receptions. On the defensive side, Drue Tranquill had one sack and one tackle for a loss. Bryan Cook had one interception.

Overall, the Philadelphia Eagles outplayed the Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX. Just two years ago the Eagles lost to the Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII, but this year was their revenge story. Congratulations to all the Eagles players, coaches, and staff on their win. Good luck to this team next year and to all the other NFL teams.

St. Patrick's Day

By Mya Nemeth

St. Patrick's Day is a holiday celebrated on March 17th every year. This holiday is celebrated to honor Saint Patrick, who was the patron saint of Ireland. He is believed to have died on March 17, 461. March 17th is now a day to celebrate Irish culture. This holiday is known for luck, the color green, shamrocks, and leprechauns!

Leprechauns are often depicted as small bearded men wearing green coats and hats. They are the most iconic figures in Irish folklore. They are known for being mischievous and tricksters. People say they can be found at the end of the rainbow with the pot of gold.

Leprechauns love gold, so if you ever want to catch one, you can lure them with it! If you ever find one, he is said to grant you three wishes in exchange for his release.

Four-leaf clovers are also associated with St. Patrick's Day. They are symbols for good luck. If you find one, it will give you luck for exactly one day. Each leaf is said to represent something special: hope, faith, love, and luck. They are very hard to find because of how rare they are. Four leaf clovers add a touch of magic and excitement to the celebration of St. Patrick's Day!





Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

March 17.....Act 80 Day

March 26.....End of 9 Weeks

Telephone Numbers

Administrative Numbers

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

Middle/High School

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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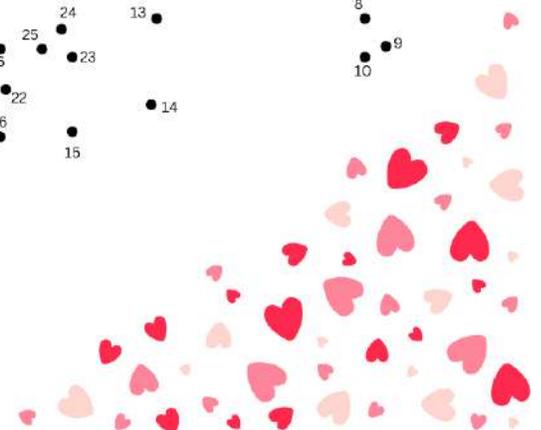
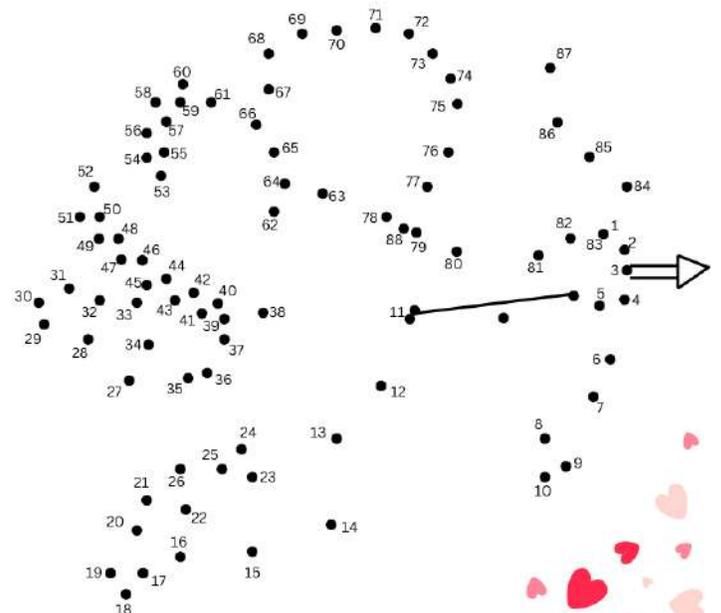
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