



# The Contownian News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School January 2022 Volume 84 Number 6

## ***Making History One Note at a Time*** *By BriElla Harnett*

During the week of the fourteenth, it was announced at Conemaugh Township that four seniors are being sent to States. "It's a big deal for such a small school to send four students to States," said Aaron Kaufman. States is a music festival in which the top high school musicians across Pennsylvania participate in a concert at the Kalahari Resort in the Pocono Mountains.

In order for someone to advance to States, you must advance from County, then to District, then to Regional, and finally into State Band. However, in order to advance to each stage, you must audition and be placed in the top chairs. This year, four seniors are being sent to States: Aaron Kaufman, Evan Gardenhour, Samuel Worst, and Jack Stultz. This is Samuel's third time going to States, Aaron's second time, and Evan and Jack's first time.

Students can attempt to participate in these concerts/festivals in grades 10th through 12th. Although students may have multiple chances and experiences at participating in these festivals, it is still a great achievement. "We are all excited to perform at such a high level, and we definitely want to thank Ms. Kasun for recording all of our auditions," said Aaron Kaufman.



*Aaron Kaufman, one of the students able to participate in States.*

## ***Moving of the BP*** *By BriElla Harnett*

During the second week of February, the BP moved. The store/gas station was closed for three days before opening again. However, it is not 100% finished. The deli has still not been moved to the new store. Food from the deli can still be purchased, but only pre-made food is currently being sold.

At the new store, there are plenty of pump stations, all of which are functional. However, they are currently not selling propane. "The new store is very nice. There is a bigger and better selection and a new seating area," said Jack Stultz. Along with a seating area, a slot machine was added.

Exciting changes are being made around the community. When asked how she felt about the moving of the BP, Kaylee Kolonich said, "I'm happy that the BP moved. There is a lot more space at the new store which makes it more easily accessible. There are also more pumps so you're less likely to have to wait."





## Staff Editorials

### ***Black History Month in Our School***

*By Cameron Berloff*

There is currently one week left in February, and I have yet to have a single teacher mention Black History month. The only thing I've seen about it is the bulletin board near the cafeteria that has some information about successful black women. I'm glad someone put that up, but that's literally the only thing I've seen or heard about that has to do with black history month. Black History Month is something that can often be used by large corporations and businesses to show their support for the black community (even though they often are discriminating against those same people they "celebrate" in the month of February). But I personally think it has the potential to be so much more than that. It could be a great way for kids to learn about the treatment of black people in the past and present, and ways they can support and celebrate their successes. So why are we not talking about black history?

It's no secret that our school is predominantly white. This puts a lot of us at a disadvantage when learning about different cultures and types of people we will inevitably encounter in the real world. This type of education is extremely important, especially for elementary students. At such a young age, being exposed to new things and learning about the true history of our ancestors can really influence a child's character and values. Imagine if you never learned about the Holocaust. Not only would you feel pretty stupid for not knowing about it if someone ever told you what it was, but you would also have a new perspective of what people are capable of. How can we ever prevent that from happening again if we don't know about it? These are all lessons that will stick with a child for the rest of their lives.

I'm not completely sure of what teachers are doing for Black History Month at the elementary school, but I know that when I was little the most I

ever learned about was Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks. I just saw a TikTok the other day about Ruby Bridges. She was the first black girl to ever go to a white school. It talked all about the way she was treated at only six years old. Imagine going to a new school (which is already hard enough) and having to pack your own lunch because the school was worried someone would try to poison her. That's what Ruby was going through at the age of six. I was surprised even further to learn that she is only 67 years old right now. Not only is she only 67, but her teacher, Barbara Henry, is still alive at the age of 90. So the next time you tell yourself this kind of behavior is way in the past, remind yourself that the trauma the black people endured is not. I am honestly a bit embarrassed to admit that I've never even heard of Ruby Bridges before I saw that TikTok. I try my best to educate myself on social issues outside of school, but there are just some things that I never hear or see about. How much time could it really have taken for just one teacher to give a short lesson about Ruby and her story in my 7 years of education?

Of course, I think our school provides us all with a great education that will prepare us for college or whatever future we decide. However, I still believe that everyone at Conemaugh Township could benefit from being more educated about black history- and what better time to do that than Black History Month! We can never truly understand the struggle and hatred that black people endured and still face even today. But we can all certainly put more effort into educating ourselves and the younger generations about black history. Black History Month could be the perfect opportunity for our school to teach its students something new and different about black history every year Black History Month comes around.

*(Special thanks to Mrs. Wilson & Others for their efforts to educate students during Black History Month)*



## JUNIOR HIGH

### *Music Man*

*By Colbi Hunsberger*

As you all know, Conemaugh Township has an entertaining musical every year. As of this year the musical is the one and only Music Man. I am in the musical this year and the practices are pretty fun. Musicals are great.

The Music Man is featuring over 50 middle and high schoolers. As of grades 6-8, there are over 20 kids. It is also having kids ages 5-10 due to what the musical is. Now you are probably wondering who the Music Man is and that is Sam Worst. Some of the other main characters are Hayden Lingenfelter as Marcellus, Abigail McGinnis as Marian Paroo, Tanner Hunsberger as Alma, Emma Michell as Ethel, Sophia Stango as Eulalie Shinn and way more. If you would like to attend, it will occur in March. Purchase tickets online from the CTASD website!



### *Love*

*By Kortney Flowers*

Ah, yes, Valentine's Day. Lovely, is it not? Most will agree that it is very lovely, but some will not. Some do not enjoy it, but why? There are a plethora of reasons why, but the top one is either 'I'm single' or 'It just doesn't work for me.' Are you one of those people who can relate? Do you not have a significant other? Think about it. How did you spend Valentine's Day, and more importantly, why is it so limited to being in love with someone? It does not have to be. Love is not just romance in general. It is all kinds of affection. Let me explain.

### *Love cont...*

*By Kortney Flowers*

Of course you could have a lover, but are they all you have on this joyous occasion? Have you no friends? No family?

Valentine's Day is the day of the year to show someone that you care for them and that you appreciate them. Imagine your best friend. You care about them, right? That also goes for all of the single pringles out there. The friends you have - rather than the 'one' you may want - are already in your life. They are the ones that you got stuck with. Show them you care! You would not have to give them the world, but at least acknowledge them a little more, and do something special for them!

Celebrate Valentine's Day for what it is - a time to show affection and kindness!

### *Riddle of the Month*

*By Zachary Ruiz*

A man and his wife are out watering they're flowers

Before it rained

The man goes missing the next day

The man is also allergic to garlic

The cook says she was cooking garlic soup for the man

The gardener said he was helping the woman water the flowers

The wife says she was out watering the flowers

The police arrested all three why?

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## PHOTO JOURNALISM

### HIGH SCHOOL



*Abby, Sydney, Emilee, Abby, and Madison all dressed up for the basketball game.*



*Mr. Foster splashes around after raising the most money for Special Olympics.*



*The five starters after taking second during the WestPac game against Portage.*



*Tia giving Emma a pregame hug before the bocce ball match.*

# Contownian

News Magazine

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Volume 84 Number 6

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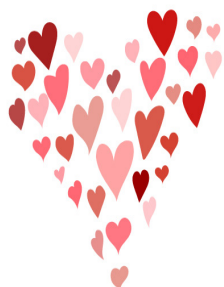
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## ***Black History Month***

*By Madison Thomas*

The month of February is dedicated to important people and events in African American culture. We honor the contributions and legacies African Americans have made through the United States and society overall. There are many ways you can get educated about this special month of February.

Watching, reading, and taking in as much information as you can, may help to make our society and country more educated and understanding of black history. Another great way to show that you care is by supporting black-owned businesses. Purchasing products from companies that are run by African Americans is an amazing way to show appreciation. Sharing the importance of black history is such a helpful way of raising awareness for the black community.

Overall, there are so many great ways to become more educated and to show support for Black History Month.

## ***2022 Super Bowl***

*By Lexi Defibaugh*

In the 2022 Super Bowl, fans watched the Los Angeles Rams and the Cincinnati Bengals fight and work their hardest for the 2022 Super Bowl title. The game was evenly matched. At the end of the first quarter, the Rams took the lead with a score of 7-3. At this point, Rams fans were ecstatic. Before the amazing halftime show, we were left with a score of 13-10.

The 2022 Super Bowl Halftime show was arguably one of the best halftime shows in years. In this halftime show, fans watched Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J Blige, and Kendrick Lamar perform a wonderful concert-like performance. Fans of all ages enjoyed watching this halftime show.

The teams picked up right where they left off after the show. The Cincinnati Bengals fought for a touchdown against the Rams. The score at the end of the 3rd quarter was 20-16 with the Bengals ahead. Fan predictions were either being lived out or crushed. The Los Angeles Rams could not let the Bengals win and ended with a score of 23-20. Rams fans were very pleased and celebrated their team's win.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

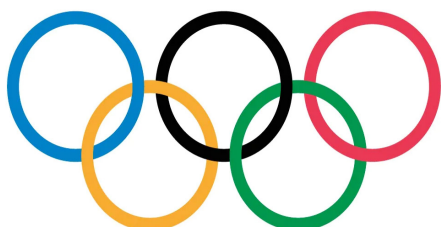
### ***2022 Winter Olympics***

*By Hunter Hartnett*

The 2022 Winter Olympics were held in Beijing China. They started on February 4th and came to a close on Sunday, February 20th. The games included a record 109 events with many competitors from 84 different countries. Talented athletes from different corners of the world came together with one goal in mind: the Gold.

Some of the most popular events included Ice Hockey, Snowboarding, Figure and Speed Skating, Skiing, Bobsledding, and many more. Team USA finished with 25 medals: 8 gold, 10 silver, and 7 bronze. America's gold medal individual winners as of now include: Lindsey Jacobellis for Women's Snowboard Cross, Chloe Kim for Women's Snowboarding Halfpipe, Nathan Chen for Men's Singles Figure Skating, Erin Jackson for Women's 500m Speed Skating, Kaillie Humphries for Women's Monobob sled, and Alexander Hall for Men's Freeski Slopestyle. The team's gold medals are awarded to the USA in mixed Team Snowboard Cross Finals and Mixed Team Aerials.

Whether it be gold, silver, or bronze, winning an Olympic medal and competing in the games, in general, is an amazing achievement. The Olympics are an international event that brings countries together in union as we watch our favorite athletes. It is nice to see the sportsmanship and togetherness displayed at these games occurring every four years.



## ***Why We Love Love Songs So Much***

*By Sasha Tarabrin*

Love is in the air (and on the radio) as Valentine's Day quickly approaches. While some of us roll our eyes at the overstuffed bouquets of red roses and ridiculously large teddy bears, others can't help but be a hopeless romantic throughout the entirety of February. A defining component in celebrating the most romantic month of the year is the love song.

Love songs have always been insanely popular, but there's a question to be asked: why? The answer, however scientific, is actually quite simple. According to multiple research studies, music stimulates the brain to release dopamine, which in turn, makes us happy. Additionally, the act of being or falling in love also releases dopamine. This means that when you're listening to music about love, the brain experiences a spike in mood-boosting neurotransmitters. So, even if you're one who is firm in your hatred of Valentine's Day, listening to a little bit of Taylor Swift might not be as bad of an idea as you think.

### ***5 Anti-Valentines Day Movies:***

Movies that serve as a reminder that being single isn't the absolute *worst* thing that could happen to you:

- 1.) *Gone Girl* (2014)
- 2.) *John Tucker Must Die* (2006)
- 3.) *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1966)
- 4.) *Blue Valentine* (2010)
- 5.) *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979)



### ***Senior Song Recs (Love Song Edition)***

**Riley Mallet:** Interstate Love Song - Stone Temple Pilots

**Tori Dombrosky:** Destroy Myself Just For You - Montell Fish

**Natalie Kimmel:** Love Grows (Where My Rosemary Goes) - Edison Lighthouse

**Sasha Tarabrin:** Lover, You Should've Come Over - Jeff Buckley

**Ruby Korenoski:** You're My Home - Billy Joel

**Jackson Byer:** Love Story - Taylor Swift

**Brielle Ciarimboli:** You Are In Love - Taylor Swift

**Ben Cotchen:** My Favorite Part - Mac Miller (feat. Ariana Grande)

**Ariel Garretson:** Wild Heart - The Vamps

**Hannah Dadura:** City of Stars - Ryan Gosling & Emma Stone (La La Land Soundtrack)

**Shelby Fetterman:** Say You Love Me - Fleetwood Mac

**Liv Boring:** Right Down The Line - Gerry Rafferty



## ***Galentine's Day***

*By Lexi Defibaugh*

Galentine's Day is a fun holiday for girls and friends. This holiday is very similar to the popular Valentine's Day but Galentine's Day is the fact that you don't celebrate with a boyfriend/ girlfriend or wife/husband. This holiday is only celebrated with your gal friends.

Galentine's Day dates can consist of a chocolate night, where you taste test different chocolates. You can have a movie night with different snacks and drinks. If you want to eat with your Galentine, you could go for dinner or a brunch. You could use this as a great opportunity for a photo shoot or a game night. You could go to different art classes like painting or pottery. You could get your nails done together and have a spa day. Or, you could just stay in and have a slumber party.

All of these Galentine's Day fun ideas could make your Galentine's Day with your friends so much better. This holiday does not have to be sad and lonely; you can always do these activities with your friends.

## ***National Food Shortage***

*By BriElla Harnett*

A national food shortage has struck the United States and has started to affect Conemaugh Township. Food is a scarce resource and has become even more scarce ever since the pandemic hit in 2019. It has been especially difficult to get certain products, including chicken and different proteins.

There have been many shortages, just not for food. Plastic utensils are hard to come by and food companies have been having driver shortages. Some companies have the food to bring to schools or grocery stores but do not have the drivers to deliver. Inflation has also caused prices to soar. A roll of aluminum used to be twenty-seven dollars and is now seventy-seven dollars. "Things are very expensive here, at grocery stores, pretty much everywhere. At times, it's challenging to obtain things we really need, especially here at the school," said Adam Thomas.

Although the national food shortage has just started to be talked about, it has always existed. When asked how she felt about the national food shortage, Sara O'Connell said, "It makes sense that there is a food shortage. There is still plenty of food; however, Americans tend to eat more than other countries, which results in a national food shortage."

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

### ***Middle/High School 6-12***

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:

March 4.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
March 11.....	Act 80 Noon Dismissal
March 14.....	Snow Make Up Day #2
March 18.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
March 24.....	End of Nine Weeks
March 25.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal

*\*Check calendar dates on ctasd.org\**



## HIGH SCHOOL

### *Valentine Carnations*

*By Olivia Boring*

Every year at Conemaugh Township High school we celebrate Valentine's Day. The holiday takes place on Monday, February 14th. The holiday is based on the celebration of romance and love, and over 145 million people send out cards each year. Gifts are a huge way of showing your love and affection. Popular gifts include: diamonds, cards, perfume, jewelry, chocolates, stuffed animals, and of course flowers.

The Serving Our Neighbors (SON) club sold carnations for Valentine's Day. "This is a great way to spread love around the school. I think everyone needs more love this year especially with the past two years we have had. The point of the carnation sale is to spread random acts of kindness throughout the school," says Mr. Sechrengost. Carnations sold for one dollar a piece on Wednesday through Monday. Carnations were delivered on Monday during the morning and at lunches.

Valentine's Day is a perfect opportunity to show someone you love and care about them. Sending out a carnation to some friends, teachers, or a special someone could make someone's day extra special.

### *Township Rowdies*

*By Emma Glover*

Conemaugh Township has an amazing rowdy section. They bring the energy up at every game they attend. Led by Austin Ricotta, the rowdy section is full of devoted people who know how to get a crowd excited.

Riley Maldet, a senior at Conemaugh Township, is responsible for picking the theme for each game. A few of the themes that have been chosen are red out, black out, white out, and pajama theme. Tanner Shirley, a junior basketball player, has said, "The rowdy section always brings good energy to our games and gives us the support we need to have a successful season."

If it's a bigger game of the season and there will be a good amount of people, they pick themes that are easy to dress for. If they choose a funky theme, they make sure to post days in advance of the game. Stay tuned and support our team with the rowdies.

February 2022

## *Alumni Of The Month...*

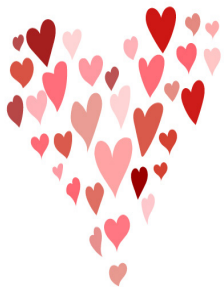
Violet (Violette) Eash graduated from Conemaugh Township with academic honors in 1961. After graduating from high school, she received a B.S. degree in psychology from PITT, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation because of her disability. She then stayed on at PITT to receive a Master's degree in Special Education and Rehabilitation. For five years, she was a Counselor at the Pennsylvania Rehabilitation Center in Johnstown. She left there to pursue a Ph.D. at Penn State in Counselor Education, and upon completion of that degree, entered the teaching profession in higher education. While finishing her degree, she taught a Counselor Education class at Penn State for 2 years, and was then offered a full time tenure track faculty position in the counseling program at Marshall University, located in Huntington, West Virginia. She was a professor there for 33 years, teaching mental health counseling, with a specialization in addictions. Since retirement, she teaches as a Professor Emerita at Marshall. Over that period of time, she was inducted in the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities, received an Outstanding West Virginian Award, and awards for teaching excellence from both Marshall University and the Penn State University Alumni Association. In addition to other community activities, she is currently board chairperson of Goodwill Industries of KYOWVA (KY, OH, and WV) headquartered in Huntington, WV.

Her favorite teacher while in high school was Mr. Curtis Greninger because, "he cared very much about each student, and even made algebra interesting." Because of her severe physical disability from childhood arthritis, she had homebound education, and did not attend school until ninth grade. Her fondest memory of Conemaugh Township is that with the boy scouts and riding the same bus. They helped her daily on and off the bus in all kinds of weather. Upon arrival at the school, students from a volunteer "team" comprised of 4 to 6 football players rotated turns, meeting her at the bus to carry her up the stairs in the morning, and then back down in the afternoon. The combined group of students – scouts and football players – performed this same routine until her graduation. If one of them was absent, they made sure to find a replacement before she arrived at school. One of the scouts even earned his Eagle Award for helping her the entire four years.



*Ms. Eash receiving one of many accolades.*

She has fond memories of Conemaugh Township!



# The Contownian News Magazine

## ***Track Co-Op with JCS and North Star***

*By Ben Cotchen*

As we near the beginning of March and the warm weather of Spring slowly eases its way into our classes, the start of the high school spring sports season is finally here. The CT track and field team always has lots of kids on the roster, however, the roster may be a little larger starting this spring.

The Conemaugh Township varsity track and field team will be co-oping with Johnstown Christian School and North Star, as one big track team. This means that athletes from JCS and North Star that wish to compete in track and field will be competing for CT from now on. This is the first of the varsity track co-ops, however junior high track and field athletes were previously cooped with North Star.

Senior track and field athlete Brielle Ciarimboli welcomes the opportunity to compete alongside JCS and North Star students. "I'm very excited about the co-op. I believe that this only makes our boys and girls track teams stronger. There are lots of great track and field athletes from those schools and having them on our team is a very nice addition. They will definitely be welcomed with open arms." The track and field team will have a whole new look this upcoming season, as the Indians will have a new head coach. CT welcomes Coach Anthony Dean-Neil, along with the Johnstown Christian and North Star athletes.



*Former Coach, Melissa Wilson, with Current Coach, Anthony Dean-Neil*

## ***Coach Jodon Retirement***

*By Ben Cotchen*

After 39 years as the head coach of the Conemaugh Township Junior High boys basketball team, Coach Dave Jodon has made it official that he is retiring from coaching. Jodon has left behind a legacy of success in the Junior High program, as he finishes with an astonishing 495 wins as head coach. In his 39 years of coaching, Jodon has only had 3 losing seasons. He has played a major part in developing hundreds of young basketball players from our school. Coach Jodon graduated from Conemaugh Township and played basketball for CT. He took over the Junior High program in 1983. Jodon coached for 39 years, 15 of which were with current CT Boys Varsity head coach, Chuck Lesko, under his wing as an assistant coach.

On February 12th, Coach Jodon coached his final home game, a 46-23 victory over Windber. The CT basketball community honored Jodon before the varsity game against Windber during a pregame ceremony. Many of Jodon's former players and CT alumni were in the crowd. Jodon was given a signed game ball from his Junior High players and a wooden plaque from the varsity players, all to congratulate Jodon on an outstanding career. Coach took his time to thank his former players for his success. "We've had some great athletes here at Conemaugh Township and it's just been a pleasure to be apart of their lives. Thank you," said Jodon. Former player for Jodon and current member of the CT boys varsity basketball team, Jackson Byer, believes that Jodon played an important role in his basketball success. "Coach Jodon means a lot to Conemaugh Township basketball. I've played basketball for many coaches throughout the years, and Coach Jodon is one of the best. His impact on our young players is incredible."



## SPORTS

### *Athletes...*

Abby Kniss is the daughter of Mel and Susie Kniss. She has been involved in softball for 11 years since the age of 6. Over the years, Kniss has lettered twice in softball and has been included in the Somerset County Honorable Mentions.



Kniss is involved in extracurriculars such as SON Club, NHS, Rotary Interact Club, Spanish Club, Bible Club, Buddies Club, and Tribe Time.

While she is not busy with extracurricular activities, Kniss likes to hunt, fish, kayak, and spend time with family. After high school, she plans to enter college as a junior through Penn Highland's Associate Program. Kniss is pursuing a major in biology with a minor in pre-veterinary studies.



*Abby Kniss and her friends having fun while bilding the bonfire.*

### *Rifle Season Wrapup*

*By Taylor Shaffer*

The Conemaugh Township Rifle team has officially ended its 2022 campaign. The top shooters on the team included Ruby Korenoski, Noah Lehman, Sierra Leporta, Gabi Klingenberg, and Lydia Boring.

When asked about her rifle experience over the last four years, senior Ruby Korenoski said, "Anyone whose been apart of this team can agree, there's just something in the air here, the camaraderie and friendly competition made each day on the line so much fun. The friends, memories, and accomplishments



*Owen Tomb walks with his parents on Senior Night.*

### *of the Month*

Owen Tomb, son of Adam and Elizabeth Tomb, actively participates in football, baseball, and golf here at Conemaugh Township Area High School. He has been a key player on the football team for the past four years. Owen has also dedicated four years to the baseball team and been on the golf team for one year. Due to his hard work and commitment, he has lettered in football the past 4 years and baseball for 3 years.

Aside from Owen's athletic accomplishments, he is also a member of the grill team and ski team and consistently makes the honor roll. When he is not participating in sports, he can be found hunting, fishing, trapping, doing 3D archery shoots, and hiking.



Owen's future plans are to attend Penn Highland Community College and take substation classes. He hopes to be accepted into FirstEnergy School to become a substation worker for Penelec.

I've made here are something I'll hold onto forever. I could go on and on about the impact this sport has had on my life, and the love I have for it, but instead, I'll keep it short and say; time flies when your having fun. I never thought the day would come, and now it's over. To my younger teammates, keep shooting. I can say with confidence that I'm leaving with some amazing shooters moving up."

The rifle team looks forward to the offseason and training hard in hopes for more success next season.