

# The Contownian

## News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School January 2022 Volume 84 Number 5

### ***Martin Luther King Day***

*By BriElla Harnett*

During the month of January, many celebrations occur. One of those celebrations is honoring the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr. day took place on January 17, 2022. On this day, people usually celebrate by having marches and parades. At these marches and parades, speeches are usually given by civil rights leaders and politicians.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death in 1968. He is well-known not only for his nonviolent protesting but also for his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Even in the years after his death, Martin Luther King Jr. remained the most widely known African American of his era.

This federal holiday is a day full of honor. When asked how she felt about Martin Luther King Jr. day, Laci Fetterman said, "I think that it is a wonderful celebration. Not only because we are celebrating Martin Luther King Jr., but because we are also celebrating our nation's growth."

### ***New Covid Guidelines***

*By BriElla Harnett*

On January 4, 2022, the school administrators were informed by the Department of Education that Conemaugh Township Area School District must follow the new CDC coronavirus guidelines as of January 5, 2022. "The coronavirus guidelines are forever changing," stated Mr. Kakabar. This was not the first change to the coronavirus guidelines this year.

The new CDC guidelines were first released to the public on December 27, 2021. The guidelines state that the isolation period has been shortened. If a student/teacher contracts the coronavirus and is asymptomatic, they only need to be quarantined for five days. However, after those five days, they are required to wear a mask for five days. If a student/teacher contracts the coronavirus and is symptomatic, they may return once symptoms are gone or severely reduced. They are still required to wear a mask for five days once they return. A student/teacher may refuse to wear a mask. If this happens, they must stay in quarantine for a total of ten days.

It has been a year since the coronavirus has become a pandemic. The CDC has issued many guidelines throughout the year, including ones recently released. "I like these guidelines. It helps to make everything seem normal again," stated Callie Parker.





## Staff Editorials

### Winter Activities

By Abby Persio

There are so many winter activities that let you have fun all season long. Whether it is playing out in the cold snow or chilling inside watching a movie in your pjs, your winter season can be filled with excitement. Ice skating and hiking are also fun activities. However, my personal favorite winter activities would have to be snowboarding and playing in the snow.

I love snowboarding and go every winter season. Hitting the mountain is a great way to destress myself from the stressful school week. Snowboarding is a great way to spend time with my whole family. We like to take trips to different resorts and all get to spend time together doing what we love. Snowboarding is great for your mental health because as research shows spending time in nature is a great mood booster. As much as I love snowboarding, I also love playing in the snow. There is so much to do, so you never get bored. My personal favorite snow activities include sledding, tubing, and snowball fights. There's nothing better than playing in the snow on a cancelled school day with your friends and family. Playing in the snow provides you with an unrestricted amount of space and endless opportunities to stimulate your play. Breathing in the fresh crisp air also strengthens your immune system and allows you to be overall more creative.

There are an endless amount of activities to partake in to have fun all winter long. Even if it is as simple as a movie night in your favorite pajamas or as wild as hitting every bump going down your favorite sled riding hill, this season can be very enjoyable if you make the best out of it.



### My Health Matters More Than Your Class

By Sara O'Connell

After a speech given by one of my peers, I felt compelled to write about mental health. This tends to be a touchy topic among all age groups, and that should not be the case. Mental health cases have peaked over recent years because of how much work and pressure students receive from their studies. This is why schools should implement mental health days.

Schools should not require an excuse or any type of medical note when it comes to mental health. As people, we cannot control our emotions all of the time; sometimes we just need a break, and that should not be considered "unexcused." We cannot do our work to the "best of our ability" when feeling down or exhausted; nor can we control when we miss school for an appointment or a therapy session. We live in an area where therapy is limited, which means there are limited times available. Additionally, there are students who don't benefit from traditional therapy. Why should these students be forced to go somewhere, get an excuse, and turn it in when the session does not even help them? In recent years, the amount of schoolwork has increased astronomically. The amount of stress and anxiety caused by schoolwork is unnecessary. Why should we put classwork ahead of our health?

Reflecting on these points, I hope you consider these issues. Students should not have to feel the need to complete classwork instead of relaxing for the sake of their sanity. Work is not more important than health, and it never will be.





# HIGH SCHOOL



**Jackson Byer scores his 1,000th point for his basketball career.**



**Emilee Roman squares up for her attempt at a foul shot.**



**Michael Zyra looking to earn points for the CT Bocce Team.**

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## HIGH SCHOOL

### ***Martin Luther King Jr. Day***

*By Lacie Kamler*

What is Martin Luther King Jr. Day? How do we celebrate it? Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a holiday in the United States honoring the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister and civil rights leader who advocated for nonviolent resistance against racial segregation. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is usually celebrated with marches, parades, and speeches by civil rights leaders and politicians. Individuals and organizations also undertake volunteer efforts in support of what is often called the MLK Day of Service.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a holiday that takes place every third Monday in January. This holiday honors the achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. He first came to national prominence during a bus boycott by African Americans in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1955. Martin Luther King Jr. founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 and led the March on Washington in 1963. The most influential of African American civil rights leaders during the 1960s, he was instrumental in the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, facilities, and employment, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1964. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968. Martin Luther King Jr. Day will be celebrated on Monday, January 17, 2022.

Almost immediately after King's death, there were calls for a national holiday in his honor. Beginning in 1970, many states and cities made his birthday, January 15, a holiday. Although legislation for a federal holiday was introduced in Congress as early as 1968, there was sufficient opposition, on racial and political grounds, to block its passage. In 1983 legislation making the third Monday in January a federal holiday finally was passed, and the first observance nationwide was in 1986. The day is usually celebrated with marches and parades and with speeches by civil rights and political leaders.

**January 2022**

## FEATURES

### ***Lord of the Rings Prequel***

*By Hunter Hartnett*

Amazon has done an amazing job in the past few years of making sure that those of us who love fantasy and sci-fi have a place to go to get our fix through the form of some great television shows. The service is gearing up for the release of the "Lord of the Rings" prequel later this year.

Amazon isn't going to remake the "Lord of the Rings" series that was last seen as several Peter Jackson-directed movies. This series, like the film saga, will be set in Tolkien's Middle-earth. The company says the original storylines will come from a time preceding "The Fellowship of the Ring."

### ***New Year's Resolutions***

*By Madison Thomas*

New Year's resolutions can look different for everyone. Getting in shape for that perfect summer body is definitely the most popular resolution. For others, however, their resolutions are much simpler. Whether it's a random act of kindness or going to the gym, each and every resolution counts.

Anything as simple as giving a compliment a day can make a difference and be your New Year's resolution. The excitement of getting fit over the winter to have your ideal body is always a good option. Getting in shape teaches people consistency, motivation, and work ethic. However, this resolution is not for everyone, but letting the people in your life know that you love them is a fantastic way to start off the New Year and is a great resolution for all!

Overall, New Year's Resolutions can be a fun and exciting way to start off each year. Having goals and motivating yourself is the best way to gain success in 2022.





## HIGH SCHOOL

### District Band

*By Emma Glover*

Conemaugh Township's band members have been working very hard for the upcoming District Band. This is a musical competition for students who have a passion for learning and playing music. These students are very excited to represent our school in this annual music season.

District Band will be held in Hollidaysburg and will be held from January 27th - Friday the 28th. There will be an online audition that Wednesday. These students usually stay the night for the competition; however, due to Covid 19, the students will not be able to make this tradition happen. Students will also have the opportunity to practice and work under a college professor with experience in music. Two students were interviewed on how they feel about the upcoming competition: Sam Worst (a senior) and Adelyn Dull (a junior). Sam Worst said, "My favorite part about District Band is all of the festivals that are held there. I believe that the harder we work, the higher our rank will be." Sam has been a musically inclined student since the beginning of his high school career and showed pure excitement for this upcoming event. Adelyn Dull excitedly shared, "I think that this is a great learning experience for students who want to learn more about music and also increase their musical skills."

Hopefully the students participating in this event enjoy themselves and give their all while competing. Good luck!



Sam Worst participates in District Band.

### Alumni Of The Month...

Brian Byer, a Conemaugh Township three sport athlete, and member of the Conemaugh Township Area Middle/High School graduating class of 1993, is January's Alumni of the Month. After Brian graduated from Conemaugh Township Area Middle/High School, he went to the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown. While there, he majored in accounting and graduated in 1997. Brian then went on to get his first job as an accountant. He currently works as a staff accountant for Wheeler Fleet Solutions.

Brian currently lives in Jerome, Pennsylvania, with his beautiful wife Melanie Byer, and his two children, Ava and Jackson, who attend Conemaugh Township Middle/High School. He loves his family, coaching, and the outdoors.

Brian's favorite teacher was Mr. Michaels, who was also the boys' baseball coach. Mr. Michaels was influential in instilling his love and passion for baseball which Brian still carries today. Brian shared, "Mr. Michaels just knew how to teach and how to give you brief life lessons that were and are influential today."

Brian has a very fond memory of high school and that was making school memories and relationships with his friends and classmates that he will cherish forever. He concluded by stating, "I love the Conemaugh Township community and am proud to have my kids going to this wonderful school. CT is home."



Brian Byer and his family after a boys basketball game.



## ***Girls Basketball vs Windber***

*By Taylor Shaffer*

The Conemaugh Township girls' varsity team will play Windber Area High School on January 12th at Windber. The girls have an overall record of 2-5 and hope to improve with their upcoming games against Ferndale on January 6, Conemaugh Valley on January 10, and then Windber.

The girls have been preparing all season for the upcoming conference battle against Windber. Emma Glover, a returning junior, was asked how she felt about the upcoming game. "I'm confident in the game coming up. Windber is always a tough game for us. We have a really good group of girls and have been working really hard. If we work together and play our best we will accomplish this goal."

Conemaugh Township vs. Windber basketball games always create a very competitive atmosphere. The game starts at 7:00 and the gymnasium will be filled by 6:45.

***\*\*Update: Windber beat the Lady Indians 48-41***



***Emilee Roman looks to make a move towards the basket against a Portage defender.***



## ***Boys Basketball Update***

*By Ben Cotchen*

The Conemaugh Township boys varsity basketball team has had a stellar start to the 2021-22 season. The team currently has a record of 12-1, which puts them at first place in the District V Class AA rankings.

This season, the Indians have been led by the trio consisting of senior Jackson Byer, junior Tanner Shirley, and sophomore John Updyke. The team also receives important contributions from juniors Ethan Black, Alex Gregory, and Michael Shonko. After an early season loss to Penn Cambria, the Indians have caught fire and have not lost a game since, including big wins against conference opponent and last year's state runner up, the Berlin Mountaineers. Also, the Indians recently pulled off a big win against rival Windber.

When asked about this season, senior Jackson Byer said, "We have had a very strong start to the season, but it is crucial to keep the momentum going. The season is only halfway done and we need to keep playing well and working together if we are going to achieve the goals we have set out."

The Indians hope to continue their success moving forward. The team hopes to obtain the top seed in WestPAC North and contend for the conference title. As the push for playoffs begin, the Indians also will work to keep their current spot as the first seed in the District V playoffs, where they hope to achieve their goal of defending the District V title.

Junior Tanner Shirley says, "Once we move into playoffs, it's important to stay focused. I think having the playoff experience from last season will help us as we battle for the District V championship."



## SPORTS

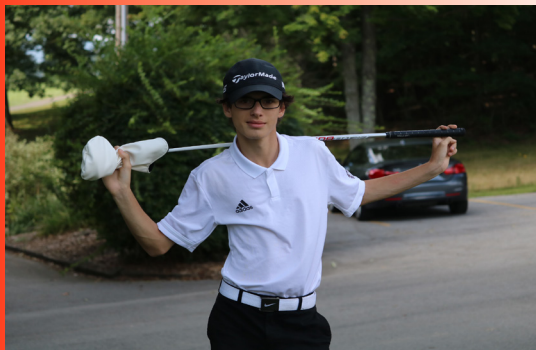
### *Athletes...*

Austin Ricotta is the son of Rocky and Kari Ricotta. Austin lives in Davidsville and is involved in many school related activities. Austin's main focus is golf, the sport he has loved since he was just six years old. He has lettered all four years of his highschool career and has helped lead the team to a District 5 team championship and WestPac team championship during the 2020-2021 season.

For his senior season, Austin helped the Indians' golf team claim another WestPac championship and a runner-up placement at the district tournament. Austin's favorite memories from his CT golf career are winning districts and making countless memories with his friends.

When he is not on the golf course, Austin enjoys video games, skiing, hunting and fishing, and hanging out with friends. Austin has no shortage of school spirit and is always supporting Conemaugh Townships athletic teams. He also participates in the Ski Club and Grill team.

When asked about his favorite high school memory, Austin said, "My favorite memory has to be the four years I spent on the golf team. The lessons I've learned from my coaches have not only taught me how to be a better golfer but also a better person."



*Austin Ricotta poses for the camera just before he starts his round at Oakbrook Country Club.*



*Ruby Korenoski hones in on the target while competing in a match against Portage.*

### *of the Month*

Ruby Korenoski is the daughter of Julie and Aaron Korenoski of Tire Hill. She has excelled both academically and athletically throughout her entire high school experience at Conemaugh Township. Her main focus in high school has been her leading role on the rifle team.



Ruby is a three-year letterman as well as a three-year captain in rifle. Ruby's career achievements in rifle include being a three-year letterman, three-time WestPac Champion, Highest Average Standing Scores Award recipient, Highest Average Prone Scores Award recipient, Highest Average Overall Scores Award recipient, and a first place state championship award.

Academically, Ruby is involved in TSA and the Rotary Interact Club. In TSA, Ruby has won first place in both community service and on-demand video.

However, most of her time is devoted to her year-round travel experience in the Jerome Sportsman Jr. Rifle Team (JSJRT). While competing for the JSJRT team, Ruby has won first place at the 4H Shooting Sports National Championship and second place at the 2021 Junior Olympics Qualifier match.

After high school, Ruby's future plans are to attend college and join a Collegiate Marksmans team. She would also like to pursue a career as a history teacher.



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Business Manager.....	Regina Rembold.....	479-7431
Food Service Director.....	Adam Thomas.....	479-2328
Director of Curriculum.....	Stacy Dabbs.....	479-7575

### Middle/High School 6-12

Principal.....	James Foster.....	479-4014
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:

February 4.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
February 11.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
February 18.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
February 21.....	Act 80 Day (No School)

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



## Speech Team

By Abby Persio

Speech team is an after school activity where you present a prepared speech to judges and compete with other students. You can write your own speech, do a commentary speech (where you research for 30 minute and write a 5 minute speech), pick a pre-written speech and act it out, or debate with a partner.

Jensen Korber, a member of the CT speech team, was asked why he chose to participate in the speech team and he responded, "I find it a fun experience and it is helping me with public speaking." Advisor Mrs. Custer said, "We had two home meets: one December 17th and one January 12th." At the meet on January 12th Caiden Mauzy got 1st in Humorous, Connor Bacca got 2nd in Commentary, and Evan Thomas got 3rd in Commentary. At the December 17th meet Tanner Hunsberger got 3rd in Prose, Maddie Rensko got 2nd in Informative, and Caiden Mauzy took 1st place in Humorous.

There is another meet on January 26th. District speech is on February 25th. Then Regionals is on April 12th-13th.

## District 6 Vocal Jazz Festival

By Abby Persio

The District 6 Vocal Jazz Festival took place on January 20th and 21st at Northern Bedford. Sophia Stango, Tanner Hunsberger, Jonathan Fochtman, Abby McGinnis, and Hayden Lingenfelter participated. Sophia is Soprano, Tanner and Abby are Alto, and Hayden and Jonathan are Bass.

The students who participated in District 6 Vocal Jazz sang *Route 66*, *I wish You Love*, and *Blue Skies*. Participant, Tanner Hunsberger, was asked how she felt about the festival and she responded, "We got to meet lots of new people with the same interests. All 16 of us had the opportunity to compose a song together and then sing it at our concert. I was very excited for this opportunity to get to do something that I love and get to be with some of my favorite people while doing it."

Overall, this festival was a great experience for all of the students who made it. Great job to all of our CT students who had this great opportunity for their singing careers.



## POP CULTURE

### *The Music of Euphoria*

By Sasha Tarabrin

HBO's *Euphoria* is officially back for its second season. The show, which centers around the lives of several California highschool students, has been long awaited since the tumultuous ending of its first season. The series is set apart from other teenage television shows due to its striking visual aesthetic, use of color, glamorous makeup and costume design, and most importantly - music. The score, composed by musician Labrinth, is heavenly and possesses the exact emotions that the show exudes. This season, more people have been tuned in than ever before, and that is shown through the rise in popularity of some older tracks that the show has used.

*Euphoria*'s music supervisor, Jen Malone, is responsible for all of the perfectly placed needle drops throughout the seasons. Some of the popular tracks of season two include, Steely Dan's "Dirty Work", INXS' "Mystify", and Gerry Rafferty's "Right Down the Line". It is safe to say that *Euphoria*'s score and soundtrack makes the show as pervasive as it currently is. Despite being, "just another teen show," it is exposing the younger generation to a slew of artists and expanding their musical knowledge. Be sure to check out *Euphoria* every Sunday at 9 P.M on HBO!



### *Best New Albums of January 2022*

The Weeknd - *Dawn FM* (January 7th)

Gunna - *Drip Season 4* (January 7th)

Earl Sweatshirt - *SICK!* (January 14th)

Cordae - *From a Bird's Eye View* (January 14th)

The Lumineers - *Brightside* (January 14th)

### *Senior Song Recommendations*

Ben Cotchen: "My Life" - Billy Joel

Riley Mallet: "Pimpin' Pennsylvania" - Afroman

Sasha Tarabrin: "It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over" - Lenny Kravitz

Ariel Garretson: "Saturday Sun" - Vance Joy

Taylor Shaffer: "Pursuit of Happiness" - Kid Cudi

Jackson Byer: "Bright Lights Bigger City" - CeeLo Green

Hunter Hartnett: "Off My Mind" - Joe P

Brielle Ciarimboli: "Haunted" - Laura Les

Natalie Kimmel: "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy" - Rod Stewart

Ruby Korenoski: "Life in the City" - The Lumineers

Emilio Ruiz: "Redbone" - Childish Gambino



JUNIOR HIGH

*Ski Club Takes on Hidden Valley*  
By Madison Roman

On Sunday, January 23rd the Conemaugh Township Ski Club took their first trip of the season to Hidden Valley Ski Resort. They were transported by bus, which was free of charge for the club thanks to the many fundraisers done by the school this year. Led by Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Stankan, Mr. Hazlett, and Mrs. Miller, 35 students from grades 6-12 went and enjoyed the slopes. The group went snowboarding and skiing from 1pm-7pm on the Twilight Slope. Not only did they enjoy the fun, but they were able to make use of these long, cold winter months and have a fun alternative to playing video games while waiting for the weather to warm up. The next trip is on February 6. Make sure to contact Mrs. Lyons if you are interested!

*Athlete of the Month*  
By Madison Roman

The athlete of the month for January is Katrina McCann. Kat plays on the Conemaugh Township Junior High basketball team. She always is uplifting to the team and enjoys playing with her friends. She never gives up and keeps going until the final buzzer rings. She also loves playing softball with her friends outside of school whenever she isn't on the court.



Katrina McCann setting up the ball during the North Star game.

*Martin Luther King Jr*  
By Aidan Dougherty

Martin Luther King Jr. was an influential African American leader and speaker. He fought for the rights of African Americans by giving powerful speeches to crowds of many. He is famous for his “I Have a Dream” speech. This speech was very controversial and many people either liked it or hated it. The reason behind this was because of the time period it was spoken in. He preached about equal rights and everybody getting treated the same no matter their skin color. The speech was very successful because it brought attention to the problem that never got talked about.

Winter Word Search

S J L Y R C G B Z S  
K A F Q E S O I C N  
C N W K T M K L S O  
O U A O N S I E D W  
S A K W I V V Y O F  
T R W X W O Q W B L  
Y Y K O L C O A T A  
D R S G N F I R E K  
I V M R D S D D C E  
T E K N A L B E B L

Blanket Coat Fire Gloves  
January Ski Snow Snowflake  
Socks Winter Cold

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Elanor Luscher, Ember Seymour, Micheala Gindlesperger, Rylan Hillegass, Dylan Tercek, Jason Vandiford

**Society**  
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