



Luigi Mangione Arrested in Altoona

By Kennedy Lehman

On Monday December 9th, 2024, Luigi Mangione was arrested for the murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson in Midtown Manhattan. Brian Thompson was murdered on December 4th, 2024. Mangione was arrested in a McDonald's in Altoona, PA. A customer noticed Mangione and called 911 before informing an employee. When the cops arrived at the spot, they told him to remove his mask and when he did, they immediately recognized him. Jude Hatch, who lives about 10 minutes from the McDonald's where he was arrested, stated, "I think it's kind of outlandish, like, here of all places. Like, why here?" Hatch also stated, "He went across the state, and then came to stop in central Pennsylvania. Why? I don't know why he would do that." Luigi Mangione traveled hundreds of miles from New York City to Altoona, PA before he was caught.

The Justice Department brought federal murder charges on Mangione on December 19th, 2024. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland stated, "As alleged, Mangione planned his attack for months and stalked his victim for days before murdering him — methodically planning when, where, and how to carry out his crime. I am grateful to our state and local law enforcement partners for their tireless efforts to locate and apprehend the defendant and to ensure that he answers for his alleged crime."

Brian Thompson was killed in the streets of Midtown Manhattan. Mangione allegedly killed him because he was the chief executive officer of the health insurance company. Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch states, "NYPD detectives worked relentlessly to identify and widely distribute images of the suspect who allegedly carried out this premeditated, preplanned, targeted murder, and they are committed to assisting prosecutors in seeing this important case through to its rightful conclusion." Prosecutors allege that Mangione tracked the victim and traveled out of his home state to go and kill him. He went to New York on November 24th, 2024, a week before the murder, and stayed in the Upper West Side Hotel. He was right around the corner where Thompson was giving a speech. They believe that he placed himself between two vehicles on West 54th Street and

killed Thompson with his 9mm pistol firearm sound silencer. Mangione had a notebook in his possession when he was arrested and in it said he expressed hostility towards the health insurance industry. Mangione has pleaded not guilty to 11 murder and terror charges.

Vo-Tech Co-op

By Elanor Luscher

The third quarter for CT has finally arrived and our district is now halfway through the school year. Students are gearing up for midterms and the rest of the year, and our vo-tech students are also getting ready for the next big step in their education. Many of our vo-tech students at this point will soon be attending jobs that will all them to utilize their newly acquired skills.

Vo-tech participates in cooperation with other businesses to give students the education and experience in actual fields. In the future, they will be able to use that experience to get a job. Not only that, but it aids in students' ability to graduate once they get this experience. The jobs these students are attending will begin once they are finished with any tasks they are currently working on at vo-tech. Once all of the requirements for each student is met, including their time and testing requirements at vo-tech, they will be sent on a job during vo-tech hours, but will still return to their school at the normal time. Student Mason Ott says, "I'm pretty excited and I plan on doing a machining job but I'm not sure where I'll be put on the company's list." He still has a list of requirements he is told to complete and he still has testing afterwards to work on as well.

Many students are very excited to begin hands-on assignments in real businesses to be able to put the skills they fine-tuned at vo-tech to use. This tradition at vo-tech is an exciting and beneficial part of each student's educational experience. Best wishes to them as they put their knowledge to use in the field!

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Contownian News Magazine

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Leah Kordell taking it down the court.



Jeremiah Elliott showing off his bocce skills.



Middle school winter concert!



Our varsity cheerleaders cheering the way to victory!



Stephen Stango making his way to get the ball and score a point!



Katie Wiley getting ready to shoot her shot.



Tyler Burnworth and Rocco Hagan supporting our basketball team!



Our junior high cheerleaders leading the crowd!



Aidan Burnworth showing off his medals!



Devin Lohr with his eyes on the prize.

CT Musical

By Addison Lasure

It's that time of year when the music departments begin to prepare for their yearly musical. This March, the CT music department will be presenting Disney's *High School Musical*. The shows will take place in the auditorium of the Conemaugh Township High School at 7 o'clock in the evening on Thursday, March 20th, Friday the 21st, and Saturday the 22nd. Additionally, there will be another show at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on Sunday, March 23rd.

High School Musical is a story of the captain of the basketball team and the brainy new girl being brought together by music and having to defy the status quo to be all that they can be. The show will star Jaylyne Moyer as Gabriella Montez, Heath

Alumni of the Month



Vivian (Yoder) Lehman is a Conemaugh Township graduate of the class of 1964. She grew up near North Fork on a farm with her parents, Ester Yoder and David Yoder, along with her siblings Adrian, Celine, and Carle. She later got married to Allan Lehman and had two sons named Jason and Nathan. She also has four grandchildren named Noah, Micah, Colton, and Kennedy. Both of her sons, along with her grandchildren, live near Boswell, PA where she resides.

Her favorite subject was consumer science, and Betty Cord, the consumer science teacher, was her favorite teacher. In school, she belonged to a Future Teachers of America club. After she graduated, she went to Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia to get her bachelor's degree in consumer science. After graduation, she started teaching consumer science at North Star for eight and a half years before she joined CT in 1982. Her favorite subject to teach was home ec. She is well-known for the Valentine cookies she would make with her students. Most of her students asked if they could have the recipe so they could make the cookies for their families. One year on Valentine's Day, she was able to go to the school and teach the students in our lifeskills classes to make her special, well-known cookies. Vivian said, "I am honored to have the privilege to teach both boys and girls how to cook, a life skill that they will use throughout their life." She retired after her grandson, Noah, was born in 2007. In 2024, she had the honor and privilege to give both Colton and Noah their high school diplomas. Vivian said, "I enjoyed my teaching experience at CT! CT grew into an accredited place that I am proud to call my alma mater." Her advice to students today is to choose a profession you love so you can enjoy going to work and contributing to society.

Heath Moser as Troy Bolton, Charlotte Worst as Sharpay Evans, Daniel Turley as Ryan Evans, Julia Thomas as Taylor McKessie, Caven Miller as Chad Danforth, Elijah Sodano as Zeke Baylor, Alexa Gardenhour as Martha Cox, and Anna Hunsberger as Kelsi Nielson. The cast of *High School Musical* has been practicing hard since December to bring the best possible show to the stage come March. The musical is directed by Mari Grace Lingenfelter and Sharon Wissinger with production support from Catherine Grove, Jenny Custer, Sharon Wissinger, and DJ Wyandt.

The cast has been and will continue to work very hard to bring this musical to the stage and the story to life. Tickets will be sold from the middle of February through early March. The cast and crew of *High School Musical* would appreciate your support, so don't forget to purchase your tickets to the show!

Bocce Ball Senior Night

On Monday, January 13th, our Life Skills Bocce Ball team had a senior night match at home against North Star. All seniors on both teams were recognized and received a special gift and balloons. Our senior competitors were Jeremiah Elliott, Michael Zyra, Davey Micik, Julia Thomas, and Ava Byer. It was a special memory for each one of them to experience.



Student Council at Whoville

By Addison Lasure

On December 20th, Senior High Student Council visited the elementary school to help the students kick off their Christmas break by having a Whoville-themed celebration. Many members of the Student Council had been looking forward to celebrating the beginning of their long-awaited break with quality time with the younger students.

This event for the elementary school students was planned by the Parent Teacher Association of Conemaugh Township and helped run by volunteer student council members, elementary teachers, and parent volunteers. The program consists of many different stations and activities with our volunteers helping at each. "I love being able to go down and see the joy on the younger kids' faces. I know when we were younger we would look up to the older kids giving their time to hang out with us, wishing we could be like them. Being able to be a role model and set an example for the kids feels really amazing," says Danika Black, a sophomore member of the Student Council. Going down to visit the elementary school is something all members of service clubs look forward to, especially when you get to hang out and have fun with the kids.

Whoville at the elementary school is an event that the kids at the elementary school and many at the high school have been looking forward to and it was such a fun way to end school before Christmas break started. Everyone who participated had an absolute blast!

Turley at Modern Band

By Amelia Mitchell

The Conemaugh Township Music Department had many students audition for modern band this year, but only one student made it in. This student is Daniel Turley in 11th grade. Out of all the students in the district, only 10-15 kids can make it in total.

All of the students who tried out auditioned on November 27th. The festival will be held on January 16th and 17th at Forest Hills High School. Up against lofty competition, Turley was the only person who played piano that made it in. He auditioned with the songs "Faithfully" by Journey

and "It's Your Thing" by the Isley Brothers and was awarded 1st chair. Turley has been playing the piano for 10 years. He said, "I'm excited to experience modern bands for the first time this year."

In short, Daniel Turley will be representing Conemaugh Township in the 2025 modern band. Turley has worked relentlessly to get into this festival and we are all so proud of him for this accomplishment. Congratulations!

Semester Classes

By Connor Hawkins

Semester classes are offered courses that only take place during one semester of the school year. As opposed to a traditional classes, semester classes are only worth .5 credits and most of them are electives. According to Mrs. Duplin, "The semester classes are an excellent way for students to take a class that they might be interested in and it wouldn't take much room from their schedules."

Additionally, some of the teachers who teach electives will often teach one in the first semester and teach a different one in the second semester. For example, Mr. Byer teaches trigonometry in the first semester and then switches over to teaching statistics in the second semester.

Oftentimes, many semester classes require a student to take them in a specific order. For example, Mrs. Lingenfelter teaches Introduction to Music and the two following classes that come next are Music Theory I and II, which are taught by Mrs. Lingenfelter.

Another fact is that most science classes have an additional lab period that takes up one semester. Chemistry I and II, Honors Biology I and II, and Physics all have lab periods.

In short, semester classes are a useful way to get a taste of a subject that someone might be interested in. It is something that students should try to take advantage of as it could possibly change their career path for the better.

Leap Year: Why Do We Have It?

By Lilly Oakes

Every four years, February gets to be a day closer to looking like the rest of the months. Leap years occur every four years to make up for the slightly extra time it takes the earth to orbit the sun. The extra day keeps our calendar aligned, and our seasons intact.

Leap years may seem useless and irrelevant, but they do us all good in the long run. Without having leap years, our seasons would change their placement on the calendar regularly. Keeping the extra day helps to have summer in “summer months” and “White Christmas” in December. These leap years ended up lining up with election years. The last leap year was this previous year on Thursday, February 29th, 2024. The next closest one will be on Tuesday, February 29th, 2028. The earth takes exactly 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds to orbit the sun. If you realize, this does not mean that it perfectly works out adding an extra day every four years. It makes the calendar 44 minutes too long. This being said, we do have to skip leap years, but at a far more spread-out rate. Some younger generations today may live to see it in 2100, but most of today’s population will probably not.

Clearly we can see that leap years are beneficial and necessary to keeping our calendar aligned with our earth’s orbit. Without having them, we would have a winter break in what we now call summer break. Our seasons would change faster than we could imagine, and we wouldn’t be able to say happy birthday to those born on that unique day.

Christmas Break: Rested Up or Rusty?

By Kaydence Forish

If there’s anything I look forward to during the holidays, it’s the break. This school year we got lucky with a 16 day break, with an additional snow day added onto it making a total of 17 days off. I really didn’t have many set plans for the break and kind of went with the flow.

Over the break, I was thrilled to see many of my friends and family members for the holidays. During the time I spent alone, I found myself getting lots of rest but also being very productive. I allowed myself to sleep in and go to bed whenever I wanted, but still made time to get stuff done. I set new goals for myself for the new year, cleaned my house, came up with new routines to follow, and even got back into reading after being in a

reading slump for a couple of months. I’m still currently going strong with my goals, not so much my routines, but I’m working on it!

Although break is over, it is never too late to find the time to allow yourself to rest and have some alone time, while also being productive. I hope I could be your motivation to allow yourself to do things that benefit you, give you a clear headspace at the end of the day, and give you a reason to look forward to each day.

Valentines Or Galentines?

By Akira Irizarry

Valentine’s Day is supposed to be the celebration of love, meanwhile Galentine’s is the celebration of woman’s friendship. Though Galentines means you are celebrating with friends, some people may also be sad while celebrating it because they don’t have a significant other to celebrate with. Valentines can also mean heartbreak because there is a realization of the fact that the person you are with is someone you might not want to spend that special day with. This can lead to break-ups and the holiday being spent alone. Both holidays have their ups and downs.

Valentine’s Day is the traditional celebration of love, whether it’s with family, friends, or with our partners. It celebrates the fact that you have something special with the people you love and care for. The holiday was founded on February 14th of 496 AD, and Valentine’s Day was originally called Lupercalia, which marked the beginning of springtime. It was soon renamed this in honor of the martyrdom of St. Valentine. But originally, he did not intend for it to be known as the day for love, as it is known to be this day.

Galentine’s Day, however, circles around the bound of female companionship, when all the single, but sometimes in a relationship, females get together and have a party of their own. The holiday started in 2010 due to a popular show at the time called Parks and Recreation. The event does not take place the same day of Valentine’s Day due to the fact that not all the ladies in the friend group may be single, so the event takes place the day before. The day was soon made official, so all of the ladies may leave their husbands, boyfriends, Tinder dates, or single-ship home for a night and have fun with friends.

What is Groundhog Day and How Did it Come About?

By Braylin Petree

Groundhog Day is a popular tradition observed every year on February 2nd. The day revolves around a groundhog emerging from its burrow to predict the weather for the upcoming weeks. According to the legend, if the groundhog sees its shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog does not see its shadow, spring will arrive early. This celebration has become a cultural event, symbolizing both the changing seasons and the unusual intersection of tradition and weather forecasting.

The Groundhog Day celebration was created by a newspaper editor in Punxsutawney named Clymer Freas, who was apart of a groundhog hunting club called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Together, the group designated Punxsutawney Phil as the nation's official groundhog meteorologist. Today, the celebration is led by a group called the Inner Circle, who wear top hats and speak in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. Every year, they trek to Gobbler's Knob to get Phil's weather prediction.

Each year, tens of thousands of spectators attend Groundhog Day events in Punxsutawney. Maybe you should go and see Phil this year!

The Best Local Valentine's Activities

By Izzy Slezak

Locally, Valentine's Day offers a variety of romantic activities that will cater to different preferences. Johnstown, PA has many different options for couples who want to spend the holiday together. Here's a list of some fun activities for you and your special someone:

1. Dinner- Asiago's, The Boulevard Grill, Chili's, Kabuki, Applebee's, and El Jalisco
2. Incline Plane
3. Bowling Date
4. Painting Date
5. Visit a Museum

Consider visiting Johnstown next year on Valentine's Day to enjoy time with your person. Johnstown has plenty of options to fit your needs! Whether you prefer the scenic view from the Inclined Plane, a cozy dinner at a local restaurant, or a fun activity like painting, there is something for every couple.

Celebrations and History of Black History Month

By Regan Maldet

Black History Month is a month to celebrate the achievements of African Americans and their culture. It started in 1926 as "Negro History Week" by Carter G. Woodson. This is celebrated in the United States and Canada in February and it highlights important events in Black history.

Each year, Black History Month focuses on a specific theme that reflects the ongoing journey for equality and justice. Celebrations include educational programs in schools, cultural events at museums, and community service projects that honor many civil rights leaders. These activities help raise awareness of the importance that black individuals have played in shaping society.

In conclusion, Black History Month is an important time to reflect on the achievements and struggles of African Americans. It promotes understanding and encourages everyone to learn about the past while working towards a more inclusive future. This month reminds us that the fight for equality continues, and we all play a part in it.

Best Valentine's Day Gifts

By Taylor Jarvis

Valentine's Day is a special day celebrated on February 14th every year. It is a time to show love and care for the important people in your life, such as your partner, family, or friends. People often exchange gifts, cards, flowers, or chocolates to express their feelings. Here is a list below of gift ideas to give to those you love:

1. Chocolate Covered Strawberries
2. Chocolate
3. Jewelry
4. Perfume/Cologne
5. Stuffed Animals
6. Candles
7. Lego Flowers

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love and connection with those who matter most. Whether that is through small gestures or heartfelt words, it's a reminder to appreciate and cherish the special people in your life. Love and kindness make this day meaningful for everyone.

Girls Basketball Wins It All in Winter Break Tourney

By Ava Byer

The Conemaugh Township varsity girls basketball team played in the 58th Boswell Area Service Club Tournament over Christmas break. They won the tournament by defeating North Star on the first day, followed by United in the championship the next day.

In the first game against North Star, the team was led by Ashlyn Fetterman with 12 points. Danika Black added 8 points and grabbed 6 rebounds in the Indians' win with a final score of 42-24. After this win, they played against United, who beat Somerset with a score of 45-40 on the first day. The Lady Indians beat United in the championship game with a close score of 36-32. They were led by Ava Byer with 11 points and Mayce Kordell with 9 points. Ashlyn Fetterman had 4 steals and Katie Wiley added 6 rebounds with 5 points. Seniors Ava Byer and Ashlyn Fetterman were both selected for the All-Tournament Team. Ava Byer was additionally selected as the tournament MVP. The Lady Indians' head coach, Lisa Byer, said about the win, "This feels amazing. These girls deserve it. They work hard, and I am proud of them." The team plays United twice more in the regular season, so it will be interesting to see how those matchups turn out.

The Conemaugh Township girls varsity basketball team has been working very hard this season and are excited to see the things that they can accomplish. The team is continuing to work hard every day at practice and are hoping for a successful final stretch of games.

Familiar Sight in Steelers' Wildcard Loss

By Liam Richardson

The Pittsburgh Steelers ended their 2024 NFL season with a 28-14 loss to the Baltimore Ravens in the AFC Wild Card Round. The Steelers saw the Ravens dominate early, leading 21-0 by halftime. Despite a small rally that brought the score to 28-14 in the third quarter, the Steelers were never able to come back from the deficit. This defeat marked Pittsburgh's sixth consecutive postseason loss, extending their playoff victory drought since 2016.

The Steelers' season began promisingly with a 10-3 start, including a notable 3-0 opening where the defense held each opponent to 10 or fewer points. However, the latter part of the season was challenging, as Pittsburgh lost its regular-season

games, finishing with a 10-7 record, and giving up their lead in the AFC North. The late-season slump carried into the playoffs, resulting in the early-exit loss against Baltimore, which came unsurprisingly to fans of the beloved team.

In the aftermath of the season, Head Coach Mike Tomlin acknowledged accusations from the media about only constructing a mediocre team to keep his streak of never having a losing season alive, without focusing on the more important goal: winning a Superbowl. Tomlin remains under contract through 2027, following a three-year extension signed before the season. Quarterback Russell Wilson, who joined the Steelers on a one-year deal and led the team to a 6-1 record upon his return from injury, expressed his desire to continue with the Steelers farther down the road. As the Steelers look ahead, they face key decisions regarding their roster and strategy to break the cycle of early playoff exits and return to the championship team they once were.

Boys Basketball Shines Bright in Lopsided Victory

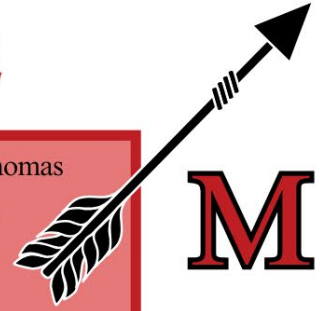
By Lilly Oakes

On Tuesday January 14th, 2025, the Conemaugh Township boys varsity basketball team traveled to Penns Manor to compete against the Comets. The boys were victorious once again and were able to improve their record to 10-3.

On January 14th, the boys basketball team faced the hour drive to Penns Manor, yet managed to make the most of it. After just one quarter, the boys had a nice lead, with the score reading 23-12. They stayed pushing along and ended the half with the score of 42-19. The boys did not stop there. In the third quarter, ending in a running clock, junior Colin Dinyar had his first in-game dunk to leave the Indians up 64-27. After obtaining a large lead, the junior varsity roster went in and did not disappoint. They managed to put up another 12 points in the fourth quarter and held the comets to only 1. The game ended with a score of 76-28. Stephen Stango led the Indians, putting up 17 points, followed by Ethan Matera with 16. Brennan Lohr had 15 and went five for nine from beyond the arc.

After another successful night, the boys improved their record and hope to continue doing so throughout the rest of the season. With a 5-peat district championship in mind, the boys look to close out their regular season on a high as they head to the playoffs come late February.

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Kieran Kane is the son of Travis and Samantha Kane. He lives in Thomas Mills with his parents, both of his sisters, and his brother. Kieran is a senior member of the boys basketball team this season. Kieran has played basketball for the past seven years and is a varsity letterman. He won “Most Improved JV Player” of the 2022-2023 season. During Kieran’s time on varsity so far, he and his team have captured two District V Championships, and they hope to repeat this season. Kieran’s skills go beyond the basketball court, however. Kieran is a part of our Rotary Interact Club and National Honors Society. He has been a part of

Rotary for one year and a member of NHS for two. Kieran has been awarded the “Challenge Program Award” for the STEM category twice. After graduation, Kieran plans to attend college and study to become a physician’s assistant. In his free time, Kieran enjoys playing video games, hunting, playing basketball, and lifting. Kieran’s favorite quote is, “The moment you give up is the moment you let someone else win,” from Kobe Bryant.



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Ashlyn Fetterman is the daughter of Scott and Erin Fetterman of Hollsopple. She is a senior this year, and is part of many sports, clubs, and organizations in school, as well as throughout the community. Ashlyn is a part of a number of sports teams, and has made many accomplishments in each of them. She has been playing soccer for 13 years. In high school alone, she was selected for the WestPac All-Conference team both of her freshman and sophomore years. In her junior and senior years, she was selected for the Heritage All-Conference team. In her 2023 junior season, she and her team were the District V champions, as well as the Heritage Conference champions. They were also

successful in keeping that alive in her 2024 senior season, being the Heritage champions once again. During all four years of high school, she was the All-County Somerset County MVP. She also lettered all four years. This past season, she reached a milestone of 100 goals, and also broke the school record with 89 assists.

Additionally, Ashlyn participates in basketball and track. She has been playing basketball for 10 years. In 2023, she, along with her team were WestPac runners up. So far this year they were the 2024 Boswell Area Service Club Tournament Champions, which Ashlyn made the All-Tournament Team for. She is also a four year letterman in basketball. Ashlyn has also been a member of the track team for six years. In 2022 and 2023, she, alongside her team, were the WestPac champions. In 2024, they were the Heritage Conference champions. She is, thus far, a three year letterman. Aside from her lengthy list of athletic accomplishments, she is also a member of many clubs. Ashlyn is the senior class president and vice president of National Honor Society. She is the treasurer of our school's SADD club. She is also a part of Rotary Interact, student council, Spanish club, grill team, and is the Editor-In-Chief for her journalism class. When she has free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family and going shopping. After high school, she plans to attend Saint Francis University to major in business. Ashlyn’s favorite quote is “Failure is not the opposite of success, it’s part of success.”



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Squid Games Season 2

By Akira Irizarry

Squid Game season two returns to the brutal world of high-stakes competition, picking up the narrative threads left dangling after Gi-hun's shocking victory and subsequent vow to dismantle the organization. While the core concept of desperate individuals competing in deadly children's games remains, the second season promises a deeper exploration of the game's shadowy architects and the global network that supports them. The familiar themes of economic disparity and social commentary are amplified, as the new season delves into the motivations of both the players and the VIPs who orchestrate their suffering. The introduction of new characters, alongside the return of some familiar faces, promises to further complicate the moral dilemmas at the heart of the series.

The new games themselves are shrouded in secrecy, but hints suggest an even more sinister and psychologically challenging set of trials. The creators have promised to push the boundaries of creativity and suspense, crafting games that not only test the players' physical limits, but also exploit their emotional vulnerabilities. The stakes are higher than ever, with the potential consequences extending beyond individual survival to impact the lives of those connected to the players. This season also explores the psychological toll of the games on both the participants and the masked workers who facilitate the brutal competition, blurring the lines between victim and perpetrator.

Ultimately, Squid Game season two aims to be more than just a thrilling spectacle. It promises a deeper dive into the human condition, exploring the complexities of desperation, resilience, and the corrupting influence of power. The exploration of the global network behind the games raises the stakes considerably, suggesting a conspiracy that reaches far beyond the confines of the isolated island. The season is poised to leave viewers questioning the nature of humanity and the lengths to which individuals will go for survival, and perhaps even redemption.



Selena Gomez's Engagement

By Izzy Gunby

On December 11th, 2024, Selena Gomez announced her engagement to Benny Blanco on Instagram. In her post, she showed a close-up picture of her Marquise diamond, which is rumored to cost over \$225,000, and a video of them celebrating their engagement by laughing and hugging. Gomez and Blanco were dating for a year and a half before their engagement.

Gomez and Blanco have been friends for a long time. In August 2023, Gomez released the Blanco produced single, "Single soon." In December 2023, Gomez confirmed their relationship by liking a fan post about Blanco and commenting "He is my absolute everything in my heart." Gomez and Blanco made their first appearance as a couple on the red carpet at the January 2024 Emmys. Many fans soon recognized her song, "Marquise Diamond," and were obsessed over the thought that went through Blanco's proposal.

Gomez has always been a huge name in the industry and the announcement of her engagement has made her even more popular. Fans couldn't be happier for this new step in both of their lives.

Severance Season 2

By Kaydence Forish

Severance is a thriller show about a team leader named Mark who leads a team of office workers who have had their memories of work and their personal life surgically divided. Severance can be watched on Apple TV and Amazon Prime. When a strange coworker appears outside of work, the truth behind their jobs becomes their new journey.

Season one of Severance was first released in 2022, with a total of nine episodes. This show is described as "unsettling" and gets "under your skin" according to viewers, making it so unique and intense. The cinematography behind the show is also talked about by viewers quite a bit, such as the camera angles making things feel 3D. If you have been watching this show, or are interested in doing so, you're in luck because season two is arriving January 17th!

Binge watch the new season of Severance this weekend, or maybe start the show as a whole. The new season features 10 episodes. Stay inside, stay warm, and cozy up with a new show to relax and occupy your time!

Wrestling on Netflix

By Marly Teeter

After the new year started, WWE came back and started their new debut every Monday night on Netflix. It's been on air and cable since 1993, and is finally starting a new chapter. Many popular names, like The Undertaker, Rhea Ripley, and other popular women wrestlers, were in the first edition. Additionally, John Cena will be making a comeback, but for his farewell tour.

The first night had lots of familiar wrestlers talking about their journeys, like John Cena saying how this will be his last year in the ring. He expressed how he "couldn't think of a better place to start the farewell tour than Los Angeles." After a few other regards, he concluded with how he was going to win the Royal Rumble, which presumably was exciting for the crowd. Another reigning wrestler that came out was The Rock, who described how tough it was watching wrestling as a kid, but now you can find it practically worldwide, especially now being on Netflix. He also said how it was the biggest arena gate WWE has ever seen, and he'll be watching closely for the next year. WWE has a good reputation ahead of them if they continue this journey on a new streaming channel.

In closing, this was a good idea for Netflix to get more people subscribed and back to watching WWE the way it started. This new chapter will definitely create a new scene for the WrestleMania world and bring people the same joy they got from watching it before.



Artist of the Month



Ellie Hunsberger is a student currently taking art here at Conemaugh Township. She lives with both her parents, Nick and Elizabeth Hunsberger, in the town of Davidsville, Pennsylvania.

Ellie is currently a senior taking Art II. Her favorite medium of art to work with is clay because it gives her the ability to freely express her creativity, while also having fun doing so. She is inspired a lot by the works created by Edvard Munch. You might know him from his famous painting called, *The Scream*. His art style tends to have a lot of darker tones and flowy shapes incorporated into them.

Her future plans after high school are to go to West Virginia University where she will be able to start her adult life exploring a new area. A quote that she often tends to stick to in life is, "kindness is loaning someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weaknesses."



Musician of the Month



The musician of the month for January is Lily Mohrbacker. Lily lives with her mother, Ara Mort, in Hollsopple, Pennsylvania. She is a senior this year at Conemaugh Township High School. She doesn't play any instruments, but she is in chorus and participates in the musical.

One of Lily's greatest accomplishments within her high school years is being the Senior Photo Editor for her journalism class. She looks over all of the photography that will not only be used for the school publications, but will also be put into the yearbook. She is also very proud of her work musically. She has been in multiple musicals, appearing in *Music Man*, *Footloose*, *Mary Poppins*, and *High School Musical*.

Her future plans are to go to Penn Highlands Community College for two years. After that, she plans to attend UPJ for another two years. A quote that she lives by is from Oscar Wilde. It is, "It takes great courage to see the world in all it's talented glory, and still love it." We wish good luck to Lily as she makes her way out of high school and into a new phase of her life as a college student as well as an adult. We will miss you here at Conemaugh Township!

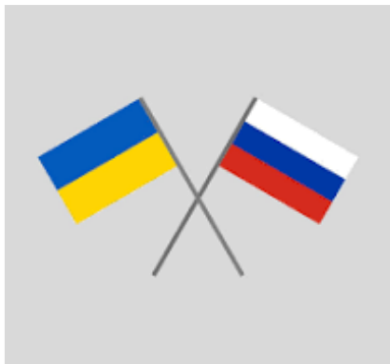
Updates on Russia Ukraine War

By Csenge Szabo

There was a major escalation in the ongoing war that originally started in 2014 between Russia and Ukraine on February 24th, 2022. Ever since then, there have been repetitive attacks from Russia's side, but not without retaliations from Ukraine.

On December 19th, 2024, Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that he was ready to compromise over Ukraine and end the war in talks with U.S. President Donald Trump, but had no conditions for talking with Ukrainian authorities. Putin even stated that he was ready to negotiate with anyone, including President Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Donald Trump vowed to swiftly end the conflict, but has not yet given any details to how he might achieve that. Putin dismissed any notion that suggested Russia was in a weak position. He stated that Russia had gotten much stronger since he ordered troops into Ukraine in 2022. Putin stated he has always been ready for negotiations and compromises, saying "Soon, those Ukrainians who want to right will run out, in my opinion, soon there will be no one left who wants to fight. We are ready, but the other side needs to be ready for both negotiations and compromises." According to Reuters, "Putin dismissed the idea of agreeing to a temporary truce with Kyiv, saying only a long-lasting peace deal with Ukraine would suffice."

In conclusion, Putin is willing to negotiate with Donald Trump and potentially move forward to finally achieving peace after years of bloodshed and warfare. Hopefully everyone follows through with their course of action and puts the safety of civilians over politics, pride, and the want to be right.



Canada's Prime Minister Resignation

By Elanor Luscher

After much pressure being put on him, Justin Trudeau decided to resign as Prime Minister of Canada after nine years. He took office in November 2015 and has been one of the longest-serving ministers of Canada. Since he initially took office, he has been popular and made great decisions, until Covid-19 hit. He began losing popularity and facing the pressure to resign when prices rose for homes and groceries years after Covid-19. Due to the economy being thrown off, Trudeau agreed and finally decided to resign on Monday, January 7th.

Trudeau had been a very loved minister up until the economy began to fail. After doing so, Trump threatened a tax of 25% on Canadian goods, who was previously warned of the damage it would do to Canada's economy. Voters began an uproar as Trudeau failed to address this issue enough and started lacking at his position. The only way the problem would've been solved was if the security was increased on their shared border with the U.S. However, it was only announced that new security measures will be implemented to address the threat. Trump continued with his idea that Canada should become "the 51st State" and then wrote, "If Canada merged with the U.S., there would be no Tariffs, taxes would go way down, and they would be **TOTALLY SECURE** from the threat of the Russian and Chinese Ships that are constantly surrounding them." Now, Liberals have the duty to choose the new leaders before the election on October 20th.

In conclusion, the previous minister had been a great leader and made many changes to solve problems, but ultimately, gave up his position and decided to no longer go through with the next election. Hopefully, the next leader will make just as many monumental changes and be just as liked as Trudeau initially was.

Little Contownian

Slytherins - Are They Really Evil?

By Elle Mowery

Slytherin. Just the word has a negative connotation to it. All the main antagonists in Harry Potter are from the Slytherin house. Slytherins are ambitious and cunning. So does this make all Slytherins evil? Let's look at some examples of why Slytherins may not be as bad as they seem.

First, there was Severus Snape. Sure, Snape wasn't always great, and the way he treated Harry for being James's son was horrible. However, Snape was never truly evil. He loved Lily even after her death. He never liked Harry, but he gave everything to protect Lily's son. The bravery he showed near the end of his life was truly commendable. He had left Harry the sword, hid his loyalties from Voldemort, and even killed Dumbledore ultimately to save Draco Malfoy's soul. This proves that Slytherins can be brave and aren't just immature and cruel.

Next is Horace Slughorn. While we can all agree that he was somewhat lazy, he was useful in the Battle of Hogwarts. He helped set defensive charms against the Death Eaters, fought alongside Harry Potter and allies, and really showed all that Slytherins can be.

Again, Slytherins are ambitious and cunning. The common stereotype is that those traits take over a person's morality, character, and personality, however, it is very wrong for people to say those traits make a person evil. Ambition can just mean being success driven and goal oriented. And being cunning isn't always bad either. Unlike Gryffindors, who just rush themselves into everything, a cunning Slytherin might figure out a better, smarter plan.

While Slytherin has had their fair share of dark witches and wizards, this certainly doesn't mean all Slytherins are dark people. Some Slytherins might be brave and even kind. So to answer the big question, no, not all Slytherins are truly as evil as they are made out to be.

Valentine's Day

By Amiyah Cortese and Alison Naugle

Valentine's Day is a day everyone knows and loves. It's a day where people are able to express their love and connection with one another. It doesn't necessarily have to be a boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse. It could just be close friends and family too! People celebrate Valentine's Day in various ways.

Valentine's Day was created February 14th, 496 AD. The creator of Valentine's Day was named Pope Gelasius. The day is also known as Saint Valentine's Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine.

Spending quality time with people you admire or with people you have a strong friendship with is important on this day. People may go out to dinner for a romantic date with their loved ones. Many people like to give special gifts to people such as roses, chocolate, teddy bears, or a love note. Exchanging homemade cards or store-bought "valentines" is a good way to show how much you love that person.

There are many ways to celebrate Valentine's Day if you are single as well. If your friends are free, see if they want to hang out or go to dinner with you. If not, you could take yourself out to restore alone time and mental health. Date nights alone might sound a little crazy, but try it! You could end up liking it even more than going out with someone else!





Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

February 7.....Act 80 Day

February 17.....No School for Students

February 17.....Teacher Act 80 Day

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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