



The Contownian News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School March 2022 Volume 84 Number 7

Ukrainian Speaker

By Madison Thomas

Conemaugh Township Highschool was fortunate enough to have a Ukrainian speaker inform students about the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Oksana Moroz spoke to students and answered questions, on March 3rd, about her personal experience. Many of her family and friends are currently in Ukraine, so this topic hits very close to home.

Students loved the opportunity to become further informed about the war in Ukraine. Oksana was able to really connect with the students and explain the truth about the war. Abby Persio, a student at Conemaugh Township said, "This was a great way to learn more about world issues. I loved learning more about the war in Ukraine and hearing how Oksana is currently dealing with this situation." Having the opportunity to speak with Oksana was an eye opening experience. Many students did not understand the significance of this war. The speaker even touched on the topic of the war migrating to the United States. Hearing this definitely pushed students to stay more involved and educated on these issues.

Overall, Oksana Moroz did a great job teaching students about the Ukraine and Russian conflict. She provided amazing information and viewpoints on everything currently going on. Listening to her story inspired so many students at Conemaugh Township and motivated them to stay informed.

Senator for the Day

By BriElla Harnett

On March 10th, 2022, eight students from Conemaugh Township went to Penn State Fayette to participate in being a senator for the day. At this event, there were five committees that the students could choose to participate in: an education committee, finance/state government committee, judiciary committee, law and justice committee, and transportation committee.

Once a student chose a committee, they went to their committee meetings and debated bills. Each committee had two different bills they had to debate. The education committee's bills were about K-12 school day start and high school sports program elimination. The finance/state government committee's bills were about the digital product sales tax and drug testing for welfare benefits. The judiciary committee's bills were about protecting the second amendment and parental consent to join online social networks. The law and justice committee's bills were about rights to social media upon death and liquor store privatization. The transportation committee's bills were about voter identification and the ban of cell phones while driving. "This opportunity gives students an idea of what a lawmaker does on a day to day basis," said Mr. Mainhart.

Being a senator for a day may have been rewarding for the students who participated. "I thought it was a very great experience. It was nice to be around people who were different minded then the people I am normally around. It was nice to hear their different perspectives on topics that would not usually be discussed in normal classroom settings," said Chloe Bidelman.



Should St. Patrick's Day Get All the Hype?

By Sasha Tarabrin

When you think about the month of March, it is almost certain that St. Patrick's Day will eventually come to mind, if it's not the first thing. The entire month, to me at least, seems to be consumed by the color green, leprechauns, and pots of gold. The question is, should St. Paddy's Day receive as much hype as it currently does?

In short, yes it should. St. Patrick's Day is about much more than just partying and wearing green. It is culturally significant and rich in regards to Ireland's religious and social history. The holiday was created to mourn the death of St. Patrick, who was the patron saint of Ireland. It marks the commemoration of the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, which he brought to the Irish people. Today, it is celebrated all around the world. Typically, the day includes drinking, playing games, live music, traditional Irish dancing, and wearing a lot of green.

St. Patrick's Day should be celebrated and given all of the hype. The holiday, while insignificant to some, is very culturally and religiously important to others - especially those of Irish descent.



Staff Editorials



Women's History Month

By Callie Parker

Women's History Month is a time to reflect on the courage of women in past generations and to celebrate how their efforts and bravery afforded women the opportunities and freedoms they have today. Throughout the history of mankind, women have been viewed under men. In the word mankind what is the first part? MAN. In the word women what is the second part? MEN? Although best efforts have been made to help improve this problem, there still seems to be a bias toward men. That is why I think it is important to keep celebrating women, so we can eventually get rid of male bias altogether and be equals.

March is when we celebrate the women of the world. We use this time to acknowledge the accomplishments that women have made. This day marks a call to a gender equal world - free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination and one that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive while differences are valued and celebrated. I personally have never paid attention to this holiday, but I'm glad I have learned about it because as women we need to support each other in who we are and what we do. I am disheartened that there needs to be a month to celebrate women when I believe that women should always be recognized for their vast accomplishments. I feel we should take this time to celebrate women but also think about why there is a bias toward men.

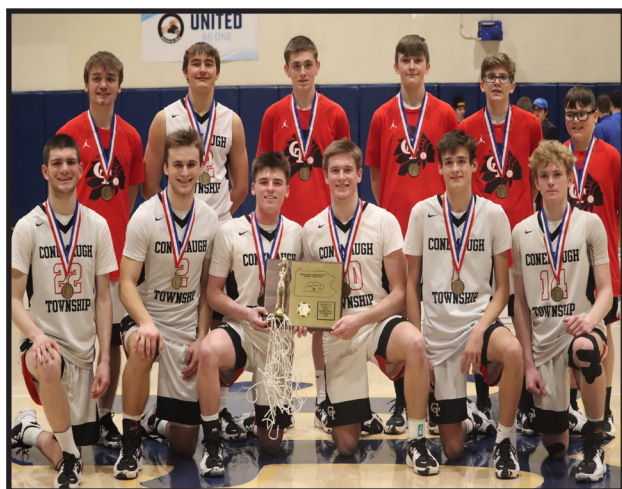
Although the whole month of March is titled "Women's History Month," March 8th is the official day to celebrate women all around the world. I believe that this holiday is really important because it shows that there is an effort being made to help encourage and support women.

PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL



Art club goes to Randyland in Pittsburg for an artistic adventure!



Boys basketball closes their season and achieve a District 5 title.



Hunter Hartnett, Ruby Korenoski, Ariel Garretson, and Taylor Shaffer enjoy the Mardi Gras lunch.



Abby McGinnis and Sam Worst get into character as they play their roles in the musical, "The Music Man."

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Women's History Month

By Madison Thomas

The month of March is dedicated to remembering the impact women have had in history. Becoming educated on some historical women is a great way to celebrate this month. Being aware of issues that many women still face today is also very important. There are a variety of ways to show your appreciation for women's history.

A simple post on social media is enough to spread the word about the significance of Women's History Month. Sharing articles, quotes, or videos can help to inspire others to become more involved as well. Another amazing way to spread the love is to support a women's nonprofit organization. Many nonprofits work to empower young women and to break the stigma around gender. Simple acts of appreciation are also encouraged. Whether it is writing a positive note to another woman, or listening in to a TED TALK for women, any bit of dedication is inspiring.

Overall, Women's History Month is a great chance to become further educated and to lift up fellow women. Doing simple acts to celebrate this month is so important and helps to spread positivity.

March Madness

By Cayden Robinson

March Madness is a series of basketball games during the month of March. The college teams face off against each other in a bracket and play each other until two teams are remaining. The event kicked off Sunday, March 13, and ends on Monday, April 4th. The event is so important that many people place bets on the teams through a bracket. This bracket is either broken by the first round or continuing strong after a few games. 1 out of 68 teams will be selected to win and choosing the bracket is near impossible. The event is a huge bragging right to the college basketball teams and a nationwide loved sport. Good luck to the teams in it and everyone who decides to start a bracket!

Saint Patrick's Day History

By Lacie Kamler

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th, the anniversary of the death of St. Patrick in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink, and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon.

Who is St. Patrick? St. Patrick lived in the fifth century as the patron saint of Ireland and its national apostle. He was born in Roman Britain when he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland as a slave at the age of 16. He later escaped, but he returned to Ireland and was credited with bringing Christianity to its people. In the centuries following Patrick's death, the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in Irish culture. The most well-known legend of St. Patrick explained the Holy Trinity using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock. When was St. Patrick's Day first celebrated? Since around the ninth or tenth century, the people of Ireland have been observing the Roman Catholic feast day of St. Patrick on March 17th. The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place, not in Ireland, but in America. Records show that a St. Patrick's Day parade was held on March 17, 1601, in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colonies Irish vicar, Richard Artur. More than a century later, homesick Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched in New York City on March 17, 1772, to honor the Irish patron saint. Enthusiasm for the St. Patrick's Day Parades in New York City, Boston, and other early American cities only grew from there. Over the next 35 years, Irish patriotism among American immigrants flourished, prompting the rise of so-called "Irish Aid" societies like the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick and the Hibernation Society. Each group would hold annual parades featuring bagpipes and drums.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



SOCIETY

HIGH SCHOOL

CT Musical “The Music Man”

By Sydney Thomas

The Conemaugh Township Music Department has been preparing for the annual musical held in the Conemaugh Township High School Auditorium every year. This year’s “The Music Man” performances were held March 17th-20th.

The Conemaugh Township students in grades 7th-12th have been working for countless hours and months to prepare for the upcoming shows. The stage crew has also been working very hard to build the sets for the scenes throughout the musical. The cast and crew have all been practicing every day after school including Saturdays. Conemaugh Township cast member and junior Katie Troxell quotes, “Musical is an experience that is a lot different than the other activities we have here. You work hard for months to perform for only four days.” There even have been some students who have younger siblings in the elementary school that are being a part of the musical and making appearances in some of the bigger scenes. This is a great way to introduce them to music and enjoy the time with their siblings. As the week before the shows approached, the cast and crew were running through the musical every day in their costumes and using their props. They also had the opportunity to work with a pit and have live music, which they were unable to have in the last two years, due to the pandemic.

The cast and crew have all been working hard and are eager to share their story with the community. This is a very exciting time for not only the students, but also for their families, teachers, and other community members that have been supporting the musical and themselves through it all. Conemaugh Township cast member and junior Callie Parker quotes, “Musical was a very good experience this year. Nothing will ever compare to the friendships that I made this musical season. I will be forever grateful to the cast and crew of “The Music Man.” Congratulations to the cast, crew, and directors for an amazing performance.



*Harold Hill, Sam Worst,
dances with the cast to
Seventy-Six Trombones.*

Alumni Of The Month...

Ted Risch graduated from Conemaugh Township in 1970. He participated in football, baseball, and track throughout his years at Township. Mr. Curtis was his favorite teacher because he always inspired his students to achieve their very best and shared his love for mathematics with his students. Ted’s favorite subjects were Algebra I, Algebra II, Trigonometry, and Calculus.

After graduation Ted began working at Sears in Johnstown and continued working there for the next 44.5 years. He also attended UPJ and graduated in 1974 with a BS in Elementary Education. In the fall of 1974, he began his career at North Star School District. He retired in 2018, after 44 years of serving the students in the district. In 1977 he married Judy Saylor, CTHS alumni class of 1971. They raised 3 children, Sarah, Thomas, and Timothy, who were all CTHS graduates. He became the director of Camp Parc in 1980. Ted and his wife received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Mount Aloysius for their service to Camp Parc.

Ted’s most cherished memory is Sunday Evening Spring Choir Conferences at Community Churches. “My wife and I have been blessed to raise our children in Conemaugh Township and continue the support and its programs.”



Ted Risch with his wife, three children,
and two grandchildren



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Boys Basketball D5 Championship

By Alex Gregory

The CT Indians boys basketball team has wrapped up their season with many accomplishments along the way. After ending with a 21-4 record, the boys averaged just over 64 points a game. The team also brought home a D5 championship in addition to all of their other accolades.

Senior Jackson Byer led the team this season, with 435 points scored. In a game against Salisbury Elk-Lick, Jackson scored his 1,000th career point. As a senior this season, he ended his basketball career with 1,226 points, averaging 14.1 throughout his career.

The boys team went into the D5 championship with steam after beating Northern Bedford 52-26. The great playing carried over into the championship game, where the team beat Windber 48-46. In the game, Byer led the way with 22, and Tanner Shirley added on 10 as well. Jon Updyke also added 8 rebounds to help the cause.

The team was also runner-ups in the West-Pac conference, after playing Portage at UPJ. After falling short to Greensburg Central Catholic in the first round of the PIAA state playoffs, the boys season has come to an end. The team has achieved back-to-back D5 playoff titles and is looking forward to what the next season will bring.



Jackson Byer dribbling down the court to make a basket.



Mr. Charles Lesko and Mr. Fred Mainhart analyzing the WesPac game against Windber.

Coach of the Year & More

By Ben Cotchen

The Conemaugh Township Boys Varsity Basketball program has always had a strong winning tradition. This season, the Indians continued their winning ways on the basketball court, as the team won the District V Class A championship. Aside from team success, a few individuals also won awards. Junior Tanner Shirley was named to the Somerset County first team. Senior Jackson Byer was named Somerset County player of the year. Lastly, Indian's head coach, Chuck Lesko, was named Somerset County Boys basketball coach of the year.

After a successful 2020-21 season that resulted in another District V championship for the Indians, Coach Lesko had his mind set on defending the title. However, going into the 2021-22 season, he knew it would be a little more difficult after losing key players from last season. Under the direction of Coach Lesko, the Indians finished the season with a 21-4 record and repeated as District 5 champions.

When asked about how he feels about winning Coach of the Year, Coach Lesko stated, "It's an award for the players, without their hard work and belief, none of this would have been possible." Lesko also credited his assistant coaches for the award, "Coach Mainhart is a big part of it," Lesko said. "Out of my 14 years, I think he has been there for 13 of them. Having Coach Jodon and the junior high staff, knowing the kids are going to come up and be fundamentally sound, is always a plus. I don't have to worry about it." Coach Lesko also added that his favorite moment of the season was, "Probably winning the District V title. Hanging banners never gets old."

SPORTS

Athletes...



Riley Maldet, daughter of Danielle Eppley and Kraig Maldet, is involved in many sports and activities within the Conemaugh Township community.

Riley is a 3 year letterman in volleyball and has had the opportunity to achieve Township's first D5 Championship title. She has also received honorable mention for the All-County Volleyball Teams and played in the Senior Spotlight game of Somerset and Cambria counties. Additionally, Riley participates in Track and Field.

Riley is involved in two important clubs. She is on the Grill Team and in the S.O.N. Club. Riley enjoys these clubs as they are a way for her to meet new people and experience different aspects of the school.

After high school, Riley plans to go to college. She hasn't decided on a school yet but plans to become a high school teacher or a Dental Hygienist.



Riley Maldet poses for a picture ahead of the Homecoming festivities.



Herman Zilch competes in a swim meet at Somerset High School.

...of the Month

Conemaugh Township senior Herman Zilch is the son of Melinda and Herman Zilch of Jerome. Herman is very successful athletically and academically. At school, Herman participates in soccer, swim, and track. He has lettered the past four years in soccer and swimming and the past 3 years in track. Herman has won swimming districts the past 3 years in a row in 100 fly and 100 back. This past year Herman has placed 6th in states for the 100 fly. Zilch is also a two time West Pac all star for soccer.

Outside of sports, Herman enjoys Ski Club, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. He also achieved academic accolades making the honor roll this past year.

Herman plans to continue his swimming career at Canisius College, a Division I school, and expand his education in the math field.





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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:

April 1.....	Act 80 Noon Dismissal/Report Cards Issued
April 8.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
April 13.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal
April 14.....	Snow Makeup Day #3
April 15-18.....	Easter Vacation
April 29.....	One-Hour Early Dismissal

Check calendar dates on ctasd.org



MathCounts

By Olivia Boring

MathCounts is for students in grades 6th through 8th grade who like to problem solve and compete. The Conemaugh Township MathCounts team completed virtually in the Johnstown Chapter MathCounts Competition Thursday, February 17th. Township went against 62 students from six different schools.

Conemaugh Township placed 1st overall. CT is represented by Brennan Lohr, Isaac Marsh, Stephen Hofecker, and Lilly Oaks competing in the team round. Individually, Brennan Lohr placed 1st and Isaac Marsh placed 2nd. Honorable mention to Stephen Hofecker for placing 6th overall. Brennan and Isaac will be advancing to the state MathCounts competition on March 19th.

Mr. Rising said, I am very excited for Brennan and Isaac as they advance to states and I am proud of the whole teams performance. The 6th and 7th graders scored quite impressively, so I look forward to leading a strong team next year as well! "

District Speech Wrap Up

By Emma Glover

District speech is coming to a close with the end of an outstanding season. The speech team has diligently working to make it far and qualify for regionals.

Seniors Connor Bacca and Alex Marsh managed to win the speech competition that made them qualify for the state competition. Unfortunately, they were not able to make the competition because of the Conemaugh Township musical. They did, however, work very hard and go into it easily. Senior, Alex Marsh, gives some insight on these events and he says, "It's a great activity that teaches you how to control the flow of your information, increasing your confidence as well as your dialogue on a day to day basis."

If you see Alex or Connor, make sure you congratulate them on a terrific season, to which they worked incredibly hard to achieve.

POP CULTURE

Nirvana's Streams Rise After "The Batman"

By Sasha Tarabrin

Two weeks ago, Matt Reeves' long awaited rendition of the classic Batman comics was released. Starring Robert Pattinson as an arcane Batman, the film was a gritty, dark take on the city of Gotham. When thinking about music that could embody the brooding Gotham that Matt Reeves has created, grunge rock of the 90s seems to fit perfectly.

Nirvana's "Something in the Way" (a deep cut from their debut album Nevermind) serves as the anthem of Pattinson's "emo Batman" - a character that Reeves says was heavily influenced by Kurt Cobain himself. The song is moody, cerebral, and fits into the scenes like it was made for the movie - not 20 years earlier. Since the release of the film, the song has seen a 1,200% rise in Spotify streams, debuting for the first time on the Hot 100 chart. This makes it the fifth Nirvana song to make its way to the charts nearly two decades after the album's release.

Tyler, The Creator, (Im)Patiently Waits in New Song

By Sasha Tarabrin

A new Tyler, The Creator song, dropped on March 25th as a part of Nigo's collaborative album, *I Know NIGO!*. In "Come On, Let's Go" Tyler vexingly raps about waiting on his girl while getting ready for a date. "You said you needed five, that was more than twelve ago" as he walks around a yellow sports car, annoyed and impatiently waiting for her to come out. The album is the first in nearly 20 years by artist Nigo. Many know him as the face behind street-wear brands like BAPE and Billionaire Boys Club but few from his music. *I Know NIGO!* features songs from Pusha T, A\$AP Rocky, Pharrell, Kid Cudi, and more. Check out the album available on all streaming platforms.



St. Patrick's Day Playlist

Celebrate the month of March, wear some green, and listen to a few tracks by some of Ireland's finest artists.

Dogwood Blossom - Fionn Regan

Drink Before the War - Sinead O'Connor

Rattlin' Bog - Carlyle Fraser

Linger - The Cranberries

Almost (Sweet Music) - Hozier

I'm Shipping up to Boston - Dropkick Murphys

Brown Eyed Girl - Van Morrison

When You Sleep - My Bloody Valentine

All I Want Is You - U2

Everything I Am Is Yours - Villagers

One Direction (Niall Horan) - Act My Age

Fairytale of New York - The Pogues



JUNIOR HIGH

Irish Cream Tiramisu

By Alonna Bracken

Ingredients:

4 eggs
100g golden caster sugar
500g tub mascarpone
100ml Irish cream liqueur
300ml strong coffee, made with 2 tbsp coffee granules and
300ml boiling water
175g sponge fingers
25g dark chocolate
2 tsp cocoa powder

STEP 1

Separate the egg whites and yolks into two large bowls. Whisk the whites until stiff. Add the sugar to the yolks and whisk again (no need to clean first) until thick and foamy – this will take about 5 mins. Whisk the mascarpone and cream liqueur into the egg yolks until you can't see any streaks of cheese. Carefully fold the whites into the mascarpone mixture with a large metal spoon to keep in as much air as possible.

STEP 2

Get your serving dish ready (ours was 20 x 15 cm). Pour the coffee into a shallow dish and dip in a few sponge fingers at a time, turning them for a few seconds until they are nicely soaked, but not soggy. Layer these into the dish until you have used half the biscuits, then evenly spread over half of the creamy mixture. Using the coarse side of the grater, grate over most of the chocolate, then repeat the sponge and cream layers (you should use up all the coffee). If you want a pretty finish, you can pipe on the final cream layer.

STEP 3

Cover and chill for a few hours or overnight. This can now be kept in the fridge for up to two days. To serve, dust with cocoa powder and grate over the remaining chocolate.



The History of Saint Patrick's Day

By Gracyn Bittner

Celebrated on March 17, Saint Patrick's Day is known as the holiday in March that celebrates Irish heritage and culture. However, not many people know the true reason Saint Patrick is celebrated to this day. Saint Patrick lived during the fifth century and became the patron Saint of Ireland. He was captured at his birthplace of Roman Britain. He was sent to Ireland as a slave when he was 16. Later, he escaped and fled. Saint Patrick came back to Ireland and brought Christianity with him.

After his death, people continued to remember his legacy. One of his teachings is the symbolism of the three-leaf clover. The shamrock explains the holy trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The first Saint Patrick's Day parade happened in America at a Spanish colony, now St. Augustine, Florida. It happened on March 17, 1600. Again in 1771, soldiers in the British army marched home to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Other parades started in Boston and New York City. During the 1800s, people started "Irish Aid" organizations made up of immigrants full of patriotism. The parades had bagpipes, drums, and decorated streets. In 1848, several Irish Aid organizations decided to work together to make one of the oldest and largest civilian organized parades, known as The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Over three million people line the streets and 150,000 participants play the bagpipes, sing, dance, and march. Also, in Chicago in 1962, scientists wanted to dye the river to find illegal sewage discharges and decided to dye it green on St. Patrick's Day and it became a tradition that still happens today.

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