



Regional MathCounts

By Kennedy Lehman

On Saturday, February 22th, the Regional MathCounts took place at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. The 10 students that participated from Conemaugh Township were Kelson Kramer, Devin Lohr, Landon Oakes, Loie Oliszewski, Tagir Valeev, Elle Mowery, Evelyn Mock, Elijah Marsh, Levi Kiser, and Dominic Conzatti. The Conemaugh Township MathCounts leader was Mr. Rising.

What all happens at MathCounts? The competition is divided into four rounds. The sprint, target, team, and count down rounds. The sprint round consists of students having 30 questions to answer in the time span of 40 minutes. They can not use a calculator. The target round is when students answer questions, with the help of calculators, in 24 minutes. The team round takes the top four students of the team up to answer 10 questions in the time span of 20 minutes. The countdown round is when the top ten students face off one on one. After all of this takes place, each student is given a ranking.

We had some students from Conemaugh Township who excelled in the competition. At the event, Loie Oliszewski placed 11th overall, Landon Oakes placed 13th overall, and Kelson Kramer placed 3rd overall. Kramer will be advancing on to the states round of the competition. The MathCounts' states event occurred on March 22nd. It took place at Sheraton Hotel in Harrisburg, PA. The results of that will be posted in our next newsletter. Great job Kelson!



Rent-a-Senior

By Elanor Luscher

The school has begun the yearly competition for seniors to be “rented out” by the other students. Each year some seniors sign up to be rented by creating a little box for students to put their name and a certain amount of money in. Whichever student puts in the most amount of money wins the senior for the day to help them with homework, classwork, or anything in general throughout the day. They can follow you around and help you out carrying your stuff or just be a person to talk to for the day.

This year, the seniors who were available to rent were Dillon Defibaugh, Ellie Hunsberger, Katie Wiley, Julia Thomas, Kieran Kane, Sam Shaffer, Heath Moser, Kendall Kramer, Briar Berkey, and Jonathan Bihun. The requirements to join include being in Rotary Interact Club and being a senior. Any students in grades 6th through 12th were able to try and win a senior. All you must do is bring money to your lunch period, go to the table with the boxes of each senior, and put it in an envelope with your name and money in whichever senior’s box you want. Whoever puts in the most amount per each senior wins that senior for a day. Regular rules remain regarding respectfulness, but they are able to assist you assignments otherwise. Berkey explained that “each box made is unique to each individual senior that they must create to be put out. It can help influence students to donate more money.”

Berkey additionally said, “Rotary is a very good club and it is helpful. I recommend the club for the younger students to sign up for in the future.” The whole fundraiser helps support the rotary club, so they ask that you attempt to participate. It’s worth it in the end when you get an older helper to help you out throughout the day!

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Contownian News Magazine

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6th graders have a visitor!



Grayson has a need for speed!



Jaylynne Moyer singing as the musical lead, Gabriella Montez!

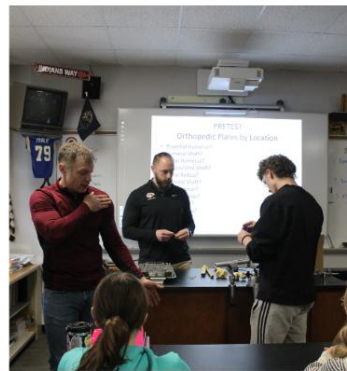


Mya Nemeth and Arabella Seibert are Little Contownian all-stars.



The dynamic duo: Charlotte Worst and Dan Turley!

Pi day celebrations.



Jackson gets hands-on in his learning from experts in the medical field.



Luke Weber pitching up a storm!



Vayda Korenoski racing for the finish!



Ellie Dull smiling for the camera!

Regional Band

By Connor Hawkins

Regional Band is a yearly festival in which participants must audition. Participants are additionally required to have made it to District Band that year. It is a festival designed for more advanced high school musicians and requires lot of expertise.

Every section has a specific number of “chairs” available each year and whatever placement a person gets determines his or her part. For example, if a student gets second place in clarinet, they get first chair for the Clarinet II part. It should be noted that each regional band event encompasses many districts and this makes it much harder since every instrument is going to have much more competition than before.

Alumni of the Month



Alex Stahl has been selected as March’s Alumni of the Month. Alex graduated from Conemaugh Township in 2015, and has spent his whole life involved with the CT community. He was a well-rounded and involved student and covers various volunteer roles within the district today.

During his years roaming the halls of our school, Mr. Stahl was a busy student-athlete, competing in football, track and field, and basketball. He spoke about the memory of defeating Township’s major rival Windber in football on the Ramblers’ turf his senior year. He and his team were able to drain the life out of the Windber crowd, who had been celebrating the school’s 100th anniversary of football. Aside from sports, Alex was also a member of several clubs and organizations, including the grill team, which he said was his favorite, along with SON club and FCA. Alex said his favorite teachers were Mr. Kusher and Mr. Adams because both demanded excellence in their classes, which he says helped him prepare for college and life. He also shared a love of history and medieval warfare with Mr. Kusher and a love of sports with Mr. Adams. One thing that Alex says he’ll never forget about CT is the conversations that he had with his friends at the lunch table.

Since graduating, Mr. Stahl attended Saint Francis University, from which he graduated in 2020 with a degree in Physician’s Assistant Science. Today, Alex works as an orthopedics and sports medicine Physician’s Assistant for Conemaugh Health System at Western PA Orthopedics. He returned to Davidsville after college where he currently lives with his wife, Heather, and his dog, Murphy. He is an assistant coach for our own Indian varsity football team and also comes back to the classroom once per year to give a presentation to Mr. Adams’ Anatomy class. In addition to his volunteer work, he enjoys hunting, skiing, and golfing. Congratulations Alex on being selected this month, and thank you for still being such a big part of our Township community!

Additionally, at the beginning of this festival, students must audition for PMEA All-State Band, which is arguably one of the most prestigious and hardest achievements that a high school musician can receive. Only two students from Conemaugh Township, Evan Massimo-Grimes and Daniel Turley, made it to states this year. The last time Township had students representing the school was three years ago, truly proving how selective this process is.

11th grader Alonna Bracken commented about Regional Band saying, “It makes me a bit sentimental that I practiced so much to the point where I was able to make it to regionals two years in a row.” This year, Township had five representatives: Daniel Turley, Alonna Bracken, and Greta Mock on Clarinet, Elijah Sodano on Trumpet, and Evan Grimes on Tuba. All five of these students had to spend almost all of their free time during school days practicing to make it to regional band.

The festival itself was held at Altoona and took place over March 6th and 7th under the direction of band director Russell McCutcheon. They played a total of six songs. Some highlights were “O Magnum Mysterium,” “Slava!,” “Forward/Still,” and “Tuttarana.” Regional Band is every hardworking musician’s dream and those who make it will proceed to enjoy the fruits of their labor. The CT Music Department has very hardworking students and it shows.

M3 Challenge

By Connor Hawkins

The M3 Challenge is a yearly competition where groups of kids from many different schools compete against each other. To win the competition, the students need to create a very thorough paper solving a complex open ended and hypothetical math-based problem with around half a day's worth of time.

For Township, there were four representatives: Briar Berkey, Evan Massimo-Grimes, Isaac Marsh, and Brennan Lohr. The competition took place on March 2nd. Every question had three total parts, each of which require extreme research. The final paper they submit must be formatted similarly to a research paper with graphs and data, additionally with all of their sources being properly cited.

Furthermore, Mr. Rising, Township's coach, said, "They came in at 7 A.M. Sunday morning with no prior knowledge of the problem, and fueled by coffee and some good music, they produced a 19-page paper backing their mathematical model for this year's prompt with research and computation in roughly 14 hours. Kudos to these students for taking the day to work together and compete. Out of all of the years Mr. Kramer and I have done this, this group has been the most focused, calm, and cohesive group we've had the pleasure of working with."

In conclusion, the M3 Challenge is a challenge in which teams are given a small amount of time to research about their project. Berkey, Massimo-Grimes, Marsh, and Lohr are extremely proud of their work and this was a great way to show off their expertise.

Heritage Academic Competitions

By Addison Lasure

This March, Conemaugh Township sent teams to compete in several academic competitions within the Heritage Conference. Conemaugh Township took part in the math, science, speech, and current events competitions.

On Wednesday, March 12th, Northern Cambria hosted the speech competition and Homer-Center hosted the current events competition. Competing for the speech team was Hayden Zilch, Karly Brenchak, Emily Purdy, and Colbi Hunsberger. The speech team came 9th at the competition.

Representing Conemaugh Township for the current events competition was Jacob Bartis, Emmy Allison, Gracyn Bittner, and Jaeden Holsopple. The current events team came in 5th at the competition. On Thursday, March 13th, Cambria Heights held the science competition. The team consisted of Lilly Oakes, Ellie Hunsberger, Jema Calasara, Addison Lasure, and Danika Black. The team came in 6th at the competition. On Friday, March 14th, Marion Center hosted the math competition. Representing Conemaugh Township was Brennan Lohr, Johnny Bihun, Greta Mock, Anna Hunsberger, and Isaac March. The team came in 2nd at the competition. "We came in a very close second. It was a really cool opportunity and we ended up getting a perfect score on the trigonometry section which was cool. Overall, it was really fun," says Anna Hunsberger, a sophomore member of the math team.

Each team was successful in making sure Conemaugh Township was well-represented. The Heritage Academic Competition is a really great way to show off what you know and represent your school.

Science Bowl

By Maya Denault

On Thursday, March 13th, the school sent five students out to compete in the Heritage Conference Science Competition. The students who attended this event from Conemaugh Township were Lilly Oakes, Danika Black, Addison Lasure, Jema Calasara, and Ellie Hunsberger.

This year, the competition was hosted by Cambria Heights School District. The conference aims to challenge students by testing their scientific knowledge and problem-solving skills. The three main events include team trivia, a written test, and a hands-on activity (such as building a bridge out of paper). Team trivia includes all of the team members to participate in answering the questions. The written test covers biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental/general science, with designated students taking subject-specific tests. The final event was a tower-building activity that required the teams to construct a bridge with specifications, emphasizing teamwork and engineering skills.

Ellie Hunsburger stated, "I am grateful to be involved in the science bowl, especially because my future career is science-based. Ms. Pasierb has put work into helping us prepare in the homeroom so I'm excited to see how we do."

Is Easter Break Too Long or Too Short?

By Laikyn Reynolds

Easter break is a four-day long span where students are off to celebrate the Easter holiday. On average however, Easter break is around a week long, starting the week before Good Friday and ending on the Monday after Easter Monday. Many find the four-day-long break long enough, but many others disagree.

For Conemaugh Township, Easter break falls near the end of April as the 4th quarter of the school year is beginning. Around this time, many are involved with sports, preparing for upcoming finals, worrying about college, and beginning feel burnt out and that they need longer than a four-day break. Having a longer Easter break may help benefit mental health and make students feel less overwhelmed with school, giving them a chance to breathe and catch up on school work. There are some negative effects that can come with this, such as having to go longer into June. Overall though, I believe that it can have a positive impact on the mental health of students and allow them to take a step back and relax from the stress of the school year.

Although Easter break is near the end of the school year and close to summer, I still think it is important to have a longer break, even if it is just two more days as it will allow students to destress before finals and allow them to catch up on everything before the final stretch of the year where things can get very chaotic and lives become very busy.

April Fools' Day: Yay or Nay?

By Lindsay Knieriem

April Fools' Day we all know as a silly day to play pranks on your friends or try to trick someone with a harmless joke. Whether people "celebrate" or "participate" in April Fools' Day varies wildly amongst people of different generations, ages, and even genders. April Fools' Day is on April 1st every year. No one really knows how or why it came to be, but the silly holiday has been brought about traditionally year after year and found to be quite an entertaining day.

I believe that while celebrating April Fools' Day can be fun, there can also be downsides to it. The comedic humor

and fun pranks with friends can be a perfect way to bring in the new spring season, as some people believe this is the point of April Fools' Day. On the contrary, some pranks or jokes made during this day can potentially cause danger or truly hurt someone or their feelings.

Celebrating April Fools' Day is something that's always fun to joke and poke around a bit with, but taking it so seriously and compromising people's feelings or safety is where I cut the line. A silly day of jokes should remain at just that, and everyone should be able to enjoy the fun and pranks without the worry of someone doing something truly "foolish."

American Healthcare

By Elanor Luscher

My personal opinion on the United States healthcare system is that it should be significantly cheaper.

While it is understandable that medicine costs and doctor appointments have to be paid more based on supplies and salaries, I believe the government should work towards helping U.S. citizens pay for that. Many hospital bills are so expensive now that most can't afford it and will be in debt for years. Even a simple ambulance to the hospital will cost an American thousands. However, other countries' healthcare systems are completely free. I also believe that some workers need more extensive training before actually working on a patient as there have been many stories of doctors not listening to their patients' wishes.

These are the main two components I think should be changed. It would significantly change our healthcare system if the government would just focus the tax money they gain towards our healthcare programs to directly provide financial support to those who need it, especially those with terminal illnesses or those who were badly injured. They need to focus their money on that rather than gaining more debt to the country, but that is a priority to pay that off first as well.

Earth Day

By Braylin Petree

Earth Day is celebrated every year on April 22nd to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage actions to protect our planet. Sustainability, conservation, and share the responsibility to take care of our natural resources are very important for future generations.

The first Earth Day occurred on April 22nd, 1970, in the United States. It was originally sparked by growing worries over pollution. Senator Gaylord Nelson came up with the idea to raise awareness, and it brought millions of people together. This led to major legislation, such as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. By 1990, Earth Day became a worldwide event, fueling ongoing efforts to protect the environment, tackle climate change, preserve biodiversity, and cut down on pollution.

In conclusion, Earth Day reminds us of our responsibility to protect the environment and create a sustainable future. It encourages global action to address issues like climate change and pollution, and inspires individuals and communities to make a positive impact.

Best Harmless April Fools' Day Pranks

By Regan Maldet

April Fools' Day is the one day a year when you get a free pass to mess with people and not get in trouble. If you are looking to pull off some pranks without making enemies for life, this is the only day to pull pranks on them without any hard feelings. Here is a list of harmless pranks that are sure to get a laugh, without crossing the line:

1. Replace the cream filling in Oreos with toothpaste
2. Put a piece of clear tape over the bottom of a computer mouse
3. Fill a room with balloons
4. Put googly eyes on everything in the fridge
5. Fake a broken screen on someone's phone or TV

These pranks are designed to be lighthearted and fun, ensuring everyone can have a good laugh without any long-lasting repercussions. Remembering that the goal is not to abuse this day but make it fun. April Fools' Day is a fun day to pull harmless pranks and have fun.

Autism Awareness Month

By Taylor Jarvis

Autism Awareness Month occurs every April to increase understanding and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. Autism is a developmental condition that affects how people communicate, interact, and experience the world. People with autism may have unique strengths and challenges, such as difficulty with social situations or sensitivity to sounds and lights. This month encourages people to learn more about autism and show acceptance.

Raising awareness is important because misunderstandings about autism can lead to unfair treatment or isolation. By learning about autism and listening to autistic individuals, people can become more understanding and inclusive. Schools and communities often hold events like fundraisers and educational talks to spread information and promote acceptance.

Autism Awareness Month also focuses on acceptance, not just awareness. The goal is to create a more supportive world by improving access to education, healthcare, and jobs for autistic individuals. Society can help people with autism thrive and feel that they are valued.

History and Celebration of Easter

By Izzy Slezak

Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, which occurs on or after the spring equinox. For Christians, Easter is highly significant as it is connected to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The timing of Easter is based on the lunar calendar. It is held on the first full moon after the spring equinox. This method was determined by the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD to ensure that Easter would be celebrated. Easter is celebrated to commemorate Jesus Christ rising from the dead. It is a time of joy and renewal.

To conclude, Easter, celebrated widely by Christians, is a day to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead. It is a time of rejoicing and a celebration of new beginnings.

Varsity Baseball Preview

By Averie Seibert

The Conemaugh Township Varsity Baseball season is right around the corner and the team is looking forward to the season ahead of them. The team experienced great success last year, and they hope to continue on that legacy. The boys will return six of their starters from last season, which will only add to their chances.

Last season came with much success for the Indians. The boys went on to win the District V title alongside their coach of 33 years, Sam Zambanini, who retired from the position after the season ended. Therefore, a new head coach will make his debut with the team this upcoming season, Tim Doyle. Coach Doyle has served many years with Conemaugh Township as the head coach of our junior high team, so he will be a perfect fit for our boys' team. He will coach alongside Jeff Pryor, Steve Parker, Matthew Phillippi, Dillon Boyer, and returning veteran assistant coach Barry Thomas.

When asked about his thoughts on the upcoming season and his coaching position, Coach Doyle said, "I believe our season will go extremely well. We have a perfect combination of young talent and senior leadership. Our players have been working extremely hard in the offseason, and I believe this will give them a large advantage over our opponents at each position on the field. I am honored to be the person chosen to take over for a legendary coach. Because of his efforts, we have an incredible program here at Conemaugh Township. We will continue building on that foundation and do our best to take our future teams to the next level."

Varsity Baseball Schedule 2025

vs Homer Center - 3/18	vs Northern Cambria - 4/29
@ River Valley - 3/19	@ Northern Cambria - 5/1
vs Purchase Line - 3/25	@ United - 5/5
@ Conemaugh Valley - 4/2	vs United - 5/6
vs Conemaugh Valley - 4/3	@ West Shamokin - 5/8
@ Portage - 4/7	vs North Star - 5/15
vs Portage - 4/8	
Gene Shultz Tournament: 4/11-13	
@ Penns Manor - 4/14	
vs Marion Center - 4/16	
vs Cambria Heights - 4/23	
@ Cambria Heights - 4/25	
@ Windber - 4/28	



Aidan Burnworth Brings Success as Solo Member of Swim Team

By Lilly Oakes

This year, we only have one representative from Conemaugh Township on our swim team. Aidan Burnworth is a junior, and has advanced into the states round for swim over this past month. Aidan Burnworth has been a part of the swim team for a number of seasons. He took lessons until he was seven, then started to swim as a part of a team. Last year, he had two other teammates who competed with him. This year he is solo, yet still managed to set records.

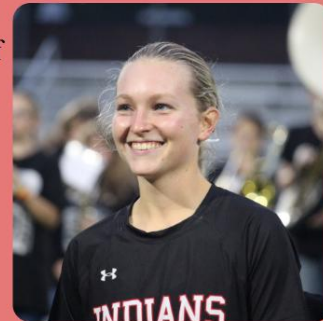
Burnworth had a great regular season and was able to advance to districts. Going into his meet for districts, he was seated second in both of his events: the 100 yard and 50-yard freestyle. "Bringing home gold after each day felt really good," he stated. "After having Flu A and just recovering from it, I was very nervous as to how I would perform, but luckily I still did well." Burnworth also mentioned how he felt pressure to win in the 50-yard freestyle, since he won it last season. Winning these events led him to qualify for states, which were held on March 12th and 13th.

Before going into states, Burnworth was seated 12th in the 50-yard freestyle, but was "very confident in [his] abilities to move up." He said that his "times were decent at districts, [but] my swims themselves didn't feel good, so I'm pretty confident I will be able to drop some time as long as I stay healthy." While Burnworth didn't receive the results he wanted for this year, he will enjoy this core memory for the rest of his life and looks forward to next season.

ATHLETES OF THE



Ellie Hunsberger is an active senior student at our school. She is the daughter of Nick and Elizabeth Hunsberger of Davidsville. She is a part of a number of clubs and activities at school and is admired by much of the teaching staff here at Township. Ellie is a part of three different sport teams. She is a three-year letterman on the soccer team. She was selected for second team midfield Somerset County. During her varsity career, she was a part of a District V championship team, as well as a District V runner-up team. She is also a three-year letterman for track and field. She and her past teams have won their conference title two times. The final sport that she competes in is cross country. She has lettered in cross country for two years. She was also a two-time state qualifier. She, like track, was a part of a District V championship team, as well as a part of a District V runner up team for cross country. Outside of sports, Ellie is a member of Rotary and student council. She also likes to spend time with her family. After high school, she plans to attend West Virginia University. Her favorite quote is “Your character is more important than how good you are at any sport. Your athleticism is temporary, but your character, the type of person you are, lasts forever. Be humble, be compassionate.”



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Cameron Dunn is the son of Dan and Molly Dunn. He currently lives with both of them in Hollsopple. Cameron will be a senior member of our track and field team this upcoming spring season. He has run track for three years. So far, he has definitely created a name for himself. He is a two-time All Conference award winner and also a two-time state qualifier. Cameron is also a 4x1 District and State champion, as well as a 100 meter conference champion. Cameron was a senior member of our varsity football team this past fall. He has played football for nine years and is a four-year letterman. In his free time, Cameron enjoys hanging out with friends, playing video games, and going to the gym. He is also affiliated with our Fellowship of Christian Athletes program. After graduation, Cameron plans to attend Ursuline University to continue his academic career while also running for their track and field team. He plans to major in Pre-law. A quote that Cameron lives by is, “You may have many ideas about what you want to do, but it is the Lord’s plan that is important.”



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Luke Combs Opens Up About His OCD

By Kaydence Forish

Mental health and disabilities are extremely important and are now issues that are taken more seriously in today's world. People, even those you wouldn't expect, often silently struggle, bearing the weight of the struggles alone for fear of judgement. With tons of research on mental health and disabilities, people are becoming more open to talk about their struggles and how it affects them behind closed doors.

The famous country singer, Luke Combs, who is known for his hits: "Beautiful Crazy" and "Ain't No Love in Oklahoma," has come forward about an issue that he personally struggles with. Luke Combs opens up about his struggle with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). He states that his OCD takes on an extreme form and affects him daily. Combs says, "It's thoughts, essentially, that you don't want to have. And then they cause you stress. And then you're stressed out, and then the stress causes you to have more of the thoughts, and then you don't understand why you're having them, and you're trying to get rid of them, but trying to get rid of them makes you have more of them." According to the Mayo Clinic, "These obsessions lead you to do repetitive behaviors, also called compulsions. These obsessions and compulsions get in the way of daily activities and cause a lot of distress."

It is extremely important to get the help that you may need. Celebrities coming forward really shows fans that they are still humans and have their own struggles, too. They can also inspire others to be open to help and talk about their struggles as well.

Gabby Petito Documentary

By Marly Teeter

Just recently, the case of Gabby Petito was released as the documentary, *American Murder: Gabby Petito*, finished and was put on Netflix. The three-part series used text messages, social media videos, and interviews with family members to tie together the long road Gabby Petito and Brian Laundrie went through with domestic violence.

Gabby Petito was a 21-year-old who had just started her own YouTube channel and wanted to show all the different parts of her journey with her boyfriend Brian through

Grand Teton National Park. They had lived in a small van and were going to camp around and log their trip. The documentary did a great job telling the entire back story of how the case began, and ended. It highlighted the very beginning of the case when the police became skeptical of their relationship, and kept an eye on what they were doing for the rest of Gabby's life. Her family members quickly became worried about her and she was even contacting her old boyfriend because she didn't feel extremely safe in their relationship at that point. Brian's family, ultimately, was very vague and didn't reveal anything to the police, staying on their son's side of the story. The whole case is unsettling, and it makes viewers wonder just how far loved ones would go to hide their family members' secrets.

The documentary did a great job showing all of the timelines and where exactly Gabby and Brian were last seen. There was lots of police camera footage that showed how sick Brian's family was being towards Gabby and her family. Catch this story on Netflix and see how it all really unfolded.

Captain America: Brave New World

By Marly Teeter

The Marvel Universe finally introduced a new era with *Captain America: Brave New World*. Sam Wilson will take on the role of Captain America and follow Chris Evans' legacy. This new edition explores Sam's challenges and the significance of a Black Captain America in today's society.

Anthony Mackie, playing Sam Wilson, will also be joined by Sebastian Stan as Bucky Barnes. This movie offers a fresh new cast and MCU fans have been quite satisfied. It is expected to have some legacy and justice, and lots of battles that will keep watchers on their toes. The movie grossed an estimated \$15 million this past weekend and was one of the least funded new movies in over a decade. This also happened because it was Oscar weekend, but past weekends have had revenues up to at least \$50 million, even over the pandemic. Some have said that this year's "drought" is due to a lack of new production and performance.

This new addition to the MCU world keeps an honor to its legacy all while paving the way for the future. Although there are mixed reviews about it, this is also a defining chapter to the world that most fans wouldn't want to miss.

Dog-Man: The Musical

By Izzy Gunby

Dog-Man: The Musical is a new adaptation of Dav Pilkey's famous book series known for the half-man, half-dog police officer. The musical's first production premiered in early 2018, but the cast is now touring around North America.

The story is about Dog-Man, played by Micheal Doliner, and his sidekick Lil Petey, played by Maya Jacobson. Throughout the musical, the cast includes interactive elements that give the audience a chance to participate by incorporating fun dance routines and songs the audience can sing along with. These moments give children a chance to feel like they are part of the story.

Dog-Man: The Musical is a must-see performance that captures the fun elements from the book series, with its entertaining story and interactive experiences. Overall, the musical is a fun experience for families and children of all ages.

Plankton: The Movie

By Izzy Gunby

Plankton: The Movie is a comical musical based on the television series *SpongeBob Squarepants*. The movie is directed by Dave Needham.

Plankton: The Movie is a new addition to the SpongeBob movie franchise. The movie follows Plankton's new plan to steal the Krabby Patty formula, leading him to find an artifact that lets him control the ocean, but this new power comes with unexpected problems Plankton will have to deal with. The movie explores Plankton's past, including his rivalry with Mr. Krabs. Before the movie's release the whole film was leaked in August 2024.

The movie was released March 7th, 2025, and so far has good reviews. After the movie's three-day weekend, it grossed \$810,000 and is a successful addition to the SpongeBob franchise.

Artist of the Month



Izzy Gunby is a sophomore artist who hails from the town of Davidsville where she lives with her family. She is currently immersed in her Art II class studies and loves sculpting clay into something beautiful.

A significant achievement for Izzy was having the ability to submit some of her artwork to the following: a Highlands's art contest and both Bottle Works and MHA showcases. An artist that inspires her would be Norman Rockwell. Izzy shows that possessing an eagerness to learn and grow is a key characteristic of a promising artist.

Though she is an amazing artist, Izzy's future plans will take a shift into a different field. In the future she wishes to pursue a degree in science and later on take a medical college admission test (MCAT) in order to get into medical school. A quote that Izzy lives by and follows throughout her days comes from musician Lana Del Rey: "We have nothing to lose, nothing we desire anymore - except to make our lives into a work of art."

Musician of the Month



Julia Thomas has been selected for musician of the month for March! Julia is a senior and can be recognized within her roles involving the musical and the band. Julia resides near Thomas Mills with both of her parents, Debra and Jason Thomas.

Julia has contributed to our school band by playing trombone and is involved with color guard for the marching band. Julia is also recognized for her many accomplishments such as: Heritage Conference All Conference marching band (2024-25), County Chorus, PMEA District Chorus (2023-25), PMEA Region Chorus (2023-24), and her roles in the musicals. Julia has participated in the following marching band shows: Good for the Soul, Marching Down Bourbon Street, The Heist, Dancin' in the Street, The Ultimate Quest, and As Seen on TV. She was also involved in the following musicals: *Guys and Dolls*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Music Man*, *Footloose*, *Mary Poppins*, and this year's musical, *High School Musical*. Julia plans to attend Pennsylvania Western University California Campus for an undergraduate degree in communication sciences and disorders to pursue a career in speech language pathology. Julia's favorite quote comes from musician Bono: "Music can change the world because it can change people."

Julia has definitely earned her spot as musician of the month with all of her accomplishments and involvement in the band and musicals. Be sure to congratulate Julia in her latest performance in our school's musical, *High School Musical!*

Avian Flu Contamination

By Elanor Luscher

Avian Flu, otherwise known as the bird flu, is a virus that primarily affects birds. However, it has been affecting many different people or animals due to the fact that birds, specifically chickens, are a wide source of food.

As most are aware, since the end of 2024-2025, there has been a spike in egg prices. So far, there has been an estimated 157% increase in egg prices. Of course, for years now the prices have fluctuated many times and have increased throughout the years, but recently it has hit the biggest spike and hit an all-time high. The spike in price is not affecting just one category of people. Eggs are used daily around the country, and if the price continues to steadily rise, some small businesses will struggle. The bird flu at this point is mainly affecting the Southeast states, many of which are farming states. Currently it is just beginning to hit PA. Not only has the bird flu been affecting egg prices, but certain cat foods are also being recalled due to the bird flu risks for the chicken-flavored food.

As of now, it is recommended that anyone within the affected states avoid touching or going near any dead birds to reduce the risk of the virus spreading. Both animals and humans have the ability to contract this disease, so be on the lookout for any symptoms such as fever, low appetite, and difficulty breathing. If these specific symptoms start to show, those who are experiencing those symptoms should seek medical help to get tested to hopefully prevent the disease from spreading any further. Likewise, pet owners should seek veterinary care for their pets experiencing these symptoms. Keep a close eye on household cats because they are at a higher risk than most animals due to their diet consisting of chicken and birds in addition to their natural instinct to hunt.

In conclusion, Avian Flu has been affecting consumers, businesses, and household or outdoor pets. Most grocery stores have been forced to apply a limit to how many cartons of eggs each household can purchase. Avian Flu poses a significant medical threat to both humans and household pets. The best recommendations are to keep an eye on pets and to avoid handling any dead birds.

New Tomb Found in Egypt

By Csenge Szabo

The last royal tomb was found over a century ago when archeologists discovered Tutankhamun's burial chamber. This new tomb belongs to Thutmose II, who is believed to have reigned around 1480 B.C. Archeologists stated that this was the last missing royal tomb of the Eighteenth Dynasty.

The excavation was a project that involved both Egyptian and British researchers in 2022, when the entrance and main corridor was first discovered. They initially believed the tomb belonged to a royal consort because of its relatively close location near the burial places of royal wives including Thutmose II's wife, Hatshepsut. When they arrived in the burial chamber, they found it decorated, which is the sign of a pharaoh. The field director of the mission, Piers Litherland stated on BBC News, "Part of the ceiling was still intact: a blue-painted ceiling with yellow stars on it. And blue-painted ceilings with yellow stars are only found in kings' tombs." It was confirmed to be Thutmose II's tomb when they found alabaster, a white rock mineral used for easy carving, and pottery and jars with his name and Hatshepsut's name inscribed on them.

Archeologists stated that this discovery solved the mystery of where the tombs of the early Eighteenth dynasty kings are located. Many people helped with this discovery, and it was said that this was an emotional experience for all of them.



Little Contownian



Earth Day

By Mya Glover

Earth Day, which is on April 22nd each year, is a day to raise awareness and promote action for environmental protection. The goal of the day is to encourage individuals and communities to take responsibility for the planet. Billions of people participate in activities to raise awareness and advocate for environmental protection. Plenty of simple inside and outside activities can help you to celebrate and spread awareness on Earth Day!

If you can't go outside on Earth Day, there are many activities you can do to still show awareness to the Earth while indoors. First, you can create a compost bin inside your home. This activity can divert food scraps and yard waste from landfills, reducing the amount of waste that ends up in them. Another inside activity you can do on Earth Day is to paint t-shirts or just paint a canvas. This can promote sustainability and celebrate the planet. One last thing you can do indoors is to plant seeds inside your house. This provides a fun, hands-on way to connect with nature, while also promoting sustainable practices.

If you are able to go outside on Earth Day, here are some fun outdoor activities! One option you can do is participate in or host a trash clean up around your neighborhood. Another thing you can do is plant a tree, which is consistently ranked as a top climate change solution. One fun and stylish activity for Earth Day is to make a flower crown out of materials that you would find in a forest. These crowns can be made by fallen branches, leaves, flowers, and anything else that catches your eye!

Even though many people forget about Earth Day, it is very important to people because it helps them remember to keep our Earth clean and healthy. If you even just go for a walk in the woods, that would show your appreciation and support toward our Earth.

Junior High Track and Field

By Louis Del Signore

Winter sports have officially ended, so let's take a look at the junior high track and field season. The boys track team looks very promising at short distance and long distance. The girls should be good at just about everything.

The boys should be good competitors at short distance due to runners like Owen Zoldey and Cameron Fisher running events like the 100, 200, and 400 meter dash. Long distance, on the other hand, will be decent with 7th grader Louis Del Signore as the lead runner. So overall, the junior high boys track team should be decent and looking to improve their young team.

The girls track team should be strong this year considering they're filled to the teeth with 8th grader leadership. For short distance, 8th grader Jayla Feathers competes in the 100, 200, and 400 meter dash. As for long distance, they have 8th grader Molly Hunsberger who runs the one mile, two mile, and the 800 meter dash. The team expects the girls to win a lot of medals, break some records, and be great this season!

In short, expect the junior high boys and girls track and field teams to bring some solid competition this spring season. Don't forget to come out and support the junior high track and field teams this season!





Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

- April 2.....Report Cards Issued
- April 4.....Act 80 Early Dismissal
12:00 Middle/High School
12:30 Elementary
- April 16.....1 Hour Early Dismissal
- April 18-21.....Easter Vacation

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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STUDENT FEATURES

SPORTS UPDATES

Spring Word Search



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