



The **Contownian** News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School May 2022 Volume 84 Number 9

Student of The Year

By BriElla Harnett

At the end of April, Kaylee Frederick won the Student of the Year competition hosted by The Challenge Program. Students must attend a school partnered by The Challenge Program and answer a few essay questions to enter. The Student of the Year is then named at an annual Crystal Owl Gala, along with two finalists and seven semi-finalists.

Kaylee Frederick applied in January and attended the Crystal Owl Gala in April. In order to attend the event, she had to fill out a few essay questions. These questions involved her answering why she should be Student of the Year and how The Challenge Program has helped her. She was one of three finalists out of 400 applications across Pennsylvania.

In 2022, there were almost four-hundred applications for Student of the Year. "It was really,

really cool to win. I honestly did not think it was going to be me, so when they called my name I was shocked," said Kaylee Frederick.



***Kaylee with family and teachers
ready to celebrate!***

Flag Retirement

By Shelby Fetterman

In 7th grade, a substitute teacher at Conemaugh Township High School brought to Abigail Sarver, Brooke Szala, and Alayiah Reynolds' attention that



***Brooke and Alayiah making
Township proud with Bob Yoder!***

the flags in the classrooms looked worn. "So, we took a look around and said these flags are beat up, that one looks yellow, and some had rips in them and were hanging on by a thread. . .we knew we needed to do something about this," said Brooke Szala.

Then, COVID hit, putting a stall on their plans. Then, two months ago, Abigail Sarver, Brooke Szala and Alayiah Reynolds were finally able to start working on their project, but this time with the help of a local VFW that donated \$3000. These girls were able to replace around 50 flags in classrooms, the cafeteria, gym, and auditorium. "I went to the VFW myself and interviewed with George Schilling. He later passed away, and I wanted to keep doing this for him because he was very excited to do it," said Alayiah Reynolds. Szala and Reynolds said this project is in memory of George, and he will also be honored in other ways.

Conemaugh Township high school and those who are serving, and who have served, are very appreciative of the new flags. A big thanks to Abigail Sarver, Brooke Szala, and Alayiah Reynolds for taking on this project!



Staff Editorials



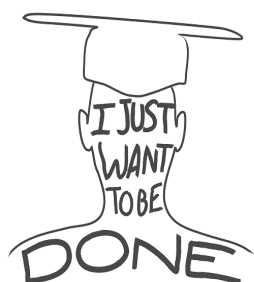
What Can Schools Do To Reduce Senioritis?

By Casadie Miller

As the school year is coming to an end, seniors tend to look forward to upcoming powderpuff, senior skip day, and most importantly, graduation. With these thoughts jumping through every senior's mind, academics tend to get out on the back burner. As motivation begins to decline academic performance follows very close behind leaving poor academic standing and even risk of walking at graduation. So the question is, what can schools do to reduce senioritis?

Towards the end of the school year teachers begin to pile on school work that has to be completed before finals. This causes seniors to decrease their motivation to have more entertaining events to worry about such as concerts, powder puff, and much more. As a result of this, I believe that seniors final and last school assignments should be due earlier than the underclassmen. Although many may disagree with this statement, I believe that this will enhance the seniors' academics standing. By making finals sooner, seniors will complete all of their assignments and finals before the excitement and distracting culminating senior events come to a close.

Although, this may take away time for more learning in the classroom, I believe that it will leave more room for seniors to leave their high school with an academic standing that accurately reflects their work



Should Driver's Education be required in schools again?

By Jack Ankeny

There is a strong debate in US education about whether schools should offer drivers education. I personally feel that if mandatory within schools, our students would be better drivers and our roads would be safer. Going through an actual drivers education program and class can be first expensive, but also a nerve wracking experience. Through the school, it becomes a lot easier and cheaper. If students are with someone they know and trust, they will be a lot more willing to practice and actually learn how to drive well.

Going through a drivers education class you average maybe 3 driving lessons and an online class that doesn't take very long. If done through the school, you take an actual class, and it is worth a grade. This alone will make the majority of students want to learn and do well just in itself. Another main reason this would be beneficial is that not everyone even goes through a drivers education class due to either the price or the inconvenience of it. Over fifty percent of new drivers on the road just practice with their parents, then go to the DMV and take their short driving test. This class better prepares new drivers and gives them more confidence when they are actually on the roads.

Clearly, incorporating a required drivers education class back into our school would be both beneficial to the students, but also others on the roads.

PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL



Brielle Ciarimboli dances the night away at prom “Hollywood” style!



Sophia Stango and Casadie Miller both sing a solo at the spring choir concert.



Maggie McCutchen lights a symbolizing candle at the National Honor Society inductee ceremony.



Ethan Black pushing the last few feet to take the gold.

Contownian

News Magazine

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Summer Activities

By Rachel Davis

It is that season again for summertime fun! If you get bored and do not know what to do during this year's summer break, then I have some great activities for you this season. Have the best summer ever and spend time doing some of these activities with your friends or just by yourself if you want to relax!

1. Go swimming!
2. Find new stores to thrift shop and find some vintage clothes.
3. Make up a scavenger hunt for you and some friends.
4. Have a campfire and cook s'mores.
5. Go to see a drive-in movie.
6. Watch the sunset or sunrise, whichever you prefer.
7. Go on a road trip.
8. Have a bike ride around your town.
9. Have sleepovers with a bunch of friends.
10. Go for a hike on a bunch of different trails.

Use some of these activities and spend your summer having fun instead of sitting inside bored. Hopefully, you have a great fun filled summer - See you next school year!



Memorial Day

By Madison Thomas

May 30, 2022, is Memorial Day. This special day is dedicated to the U.S. military personnel who have lost their lives in service. There are so many ways to show appreciation during this holiday.

Attending a Memorial Day event is an amazing way to celebrate. There is a parade ceremony hosted in local communities each year. Parades are a great way to commemorate those who have laid down their lives for our country. A more simple way to celebrate could be to spend time with family and friends. Enjoying the company of the people you love is always a great way to spread happiness.

Memorial Day is a fantastic holiday. There are a plethora of ways to celebrate and commemorate our veterans. Taking part in this holiday helps to spread awareness towards those who have passed away during their service to our country.

Study Tactics

By Hunter Hartnett

As the end of the school year ends, finals begin. Whether you are in college or high school, you must have good study tactics to do well.

For high school students, be sure to save your worksheets throughout the year in a separate binder to look over at the end of the year. Most people try to cram the night before the test, but if you space out your studying time, you will end up retaining more information. To have information stick with you, you could pretend to be teaching a class.

Many psychologists say that it's better to study to "learn" information rather than "memorize" the information. This allows for someone to actually understand and remember the information, and not just memorize it for a day. All-in-all, having good study tactics is beneficial for getting good grades on tests and assignments. To study, you can do it for 15 minutes every night rather than cramming information, that way you learn the information rather than memorize it.

HIGH SCHOOL

Gold Award Music Class With the Life Skills

By Sydney Thomas

Conemaugh Township Junior, Emma Mitchell, started an Adapted Music Class at Conemaugh Township High School for students in the life skills classes. This is a way for all life skills students at Conemaugh Township to deserve to have a music education that will help and benefit them. The class is catered to the students and each activity is adaptable for the variety of skills in the class. Music helps so many people in so many different ways, and this class has helped everybody involved. The students are becoming more confident and learning new things. The leaders are building better relationships with the students. These types of relationships will last for years and years to come. The class is held every Tuesday during second period. Overall, Emma Mitchell has spent about 80 hours developing and teaching the Adapted Music class. There is a mini concert held at the end of each marking period.

This class is building relationships, knowledge, and confidence within the school community. Conemaugh Township Junior Emma Mitchell stated, "Relationships between leaders and students have grown beyond anything I could have ever imagined. The musical knowledge that the students have gained is amazing to see." Most importantly, the confidence gained by each student is very rewarding to see. They participate more, give better input, and are not afraid to try new things.

This is a great opportunity for our life skills students to have in high school. Hopefully this is something that continues to stay throughout the years.

Katie and Jeremiah singing and having fun during the concert.



Alumni Of The Month...

Nicole Dull, formerly known as Nicole Samone, graduated from Conemaugh Township Area High School in 1991. During her high school career she participated in the musical and was the drum major for the school's marching band. "I can remember going to band competitions, meeting students from other schools, and staying overnight in hotels when we competed in ACC's or went to Bush Gardens and New York City," stated Nicole. Her favorite teachers were Mrs. Gardenhour, Mr. Andolonia, and Miss Pepoy. All three of them encouraged her to refine in leadership skills and treated her, and all students, with a high degree of respect.

After graduation, Nicole obtained an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from Mount Aloysius College, followed by a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown in 1995. After working as a substitute teacher for a year and a half, she enrolled in Gannon University graduate program to secure a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, as well as her certification in Administration. In 2007, Mrs. Dull transitioned to an administrative role in our District and became the Elementary's Principal. She returned to Gannon University in 2019 to start coursework for her Superintendent's Letter of Eligibility, which she finished in 2020. In January of 2020, upon Mr. Kakabar's retirement, Nicole will transition into the role of the CT District Superintendent.

Nicole resides in Hollsopple and is married to Eric Dull. They have three children: Zachary, 25; Adelyn, 16 a junior at CT; Ellyana, 10, who is in 4th grade. When Nicole is not working, she enjoys antiques, traveling to Walt Disney World, and biking with her family.





Softball Wrap-Up

By Ben Cotchen

The varsity softball team's season came to a conclusion on Wednesday, May 18, after a 15-3 loss to the Meyersdale Red Raiders. The team finished the season with a 6-10 record. This year's team was led by seniors Olivia Weyandt, who totaled 29 hits and had a 0.569 batting average and Abby Kniss, who contributed 18 hits with a 0.360 batting average. Junior Sierra Laporta finished second on the team in hits with 19 hits and a 0.404 batting average. On the pitching side, Sierra Laporta threw 46 strikeouts and Olivia Weyandt totaled 23 strikeouts this season.

Though the team fell short of their goal to reach the District V playoffs, the team still considers this a solid season. When asked about the season, senior Natalie Kimmel said, "Obviously we did not have the winning season we had hoped for, but I still enjoyed this season. As a team, we had our ups and downs and some fun times too. We wish we could have gone further, but we [the seniors] were glad to spend our last softball season with Coach Hazlett, Coach Kimmel, and Miss Risch, as it was their final season of coaching as well."



Meghan Leasure swings at a pitch.



Track WestPac Championships

By Alex Gregory

On Wednesday, May 11, 2022, The Conemaugh Township girls varsity track and field team won the WestPac championship. With a new head coach this season, Anthony Dean-Niel, the team ended off the season with an 11-0 record.

In the WestPac Championship meet, the girls scored 140 points to beat out the Portage Mustangs and Berlin Brothersvalley, who scored 115 and 83 points respectively. Senior Mary Hostetter, Freshman Izzy Slezak, Junior Kaylee Frederick all took first place in their corresponding events during the meet. The 400 meter relay team consisting of Izzy Slezak, Asia Zwick, and Ellie Spiegle took first place in the meet as well.

When asked about the season, Senior Brielle Ciarimboli said, "I'm really proud of the team, especially the younger girls and those from JCS and North Star. We were all able to really gel together as a team. It's just so exciting to win WestPac, especially since it's the first time in over 20 years."

With the team still young, the future looks very bright for the girls track and field team. The team is looking forward to competing in the district 5 championship, where hopes are bright for one more first place trophy. There are many great things in store for this team in the future, with three underclassmen taking first in their events.

The boys track and field team also competed in the WestPac Championship, but eventually fell short in the meet. They ended runner ups in the WestPac playoffs, and are looking forward to continuing their season in the district 5 championship.

*****Girls came in 3rd place and boys 6th in D5*****

SPORTS

Athletes...

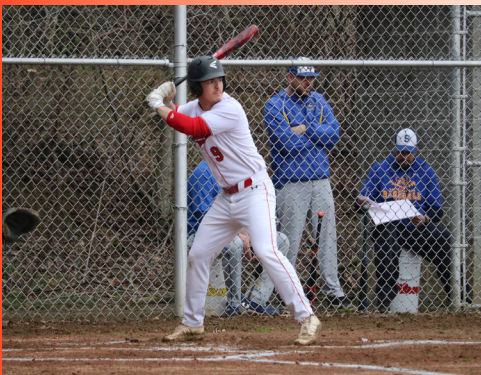


Brady Kist is the son of Brian and Jennifer Kist. Brady is a member of the varsity football team, baseball team, and golf team. He excels on the field and in the classroom as well, as he is a recent inductee of the National Honor Society.

Brady has participated in the varsity football team for four years and is a three time letter winner. He was a key contributor to the team his senior year, averaging over 37 total yards per game as a running back, and averaging over three tackles per game on the defensive end. When asked about his experience on the football team, he said, "The best part about being on the football team was being able to compete with my friends to try and achieve a district title. Also, I really enjoyed being able to make good memories that will last a lifetime."

Brady is also a part of the varsity baseball team, where he has also played for four years and lettered three times. Brady's favorite memory of varsity baseball was being a part of the District 5 championship team his freshman year. Brady is also a prior participant in the CT golf team and the CT wrestling team, where he was a letter winner once in each sport.

In school, Brady is an honor roll student and participates in the Ski Club, FCA, and is a member of the Grill Team. He also writes for CT Journalism. After graduating, Brady intends to attend UPJ to major in environmental studies.



Brady getting ready to take a swing at the ball.



Natalie and Aaron posing for a picture during homecoming practice.

...of the Month

Natalie Kimmel is the daughter of Joe and Tara Kimmel of Hooversville. Natalie has been a member of the varsity volleyball and varsity softball team for 4 years each. Natalie is 4 year letter winner and District V champion in softball, and a 1 year letter winner and District V champion in volleyball. Natalie also is a statistician on the boys varsity basketball team, where she is a 2 year letter winner.

In school, Natalie is a very active student. She is a member of student council, the Rotary Interact Club, National Honor Society, S.A.D.D. club, (Students Against Destructive Decisions) S.O.N. club, (Serving Our Neighbors) and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She also serves as the Editor in Chief for the school's newspaper and yearbook and is the 2022 Class President.

In her free time, Natalie enjoys going to Dunkin Donuts and Applebees with her friends, listening to music, and shopping for shoes.

After graduating, Natalie plans on attending Slippery Rock University with an undecided major.





YEARBOOK ORDERING

YEARBOOK ORDERING IS NOW CLOSED! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE AND SUPPORT!



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

Middle/High School 6-12

Principal.....	James Foster.....	479-4014
Guidance Counselors.....	Kelly Birkhimer & Kara Duplin.....	479-7886
School Nurse.....	Cassey DeBiase.....	479-2324
Athletic Director.....	Jarod Feathers.....	479-4014



School Calendar

The following dates are subject to change:

June 1.....	Baccalaureate
June 2.....	Commencement/Last Day for Students
August 24th 2022.....	First Day of School

Check calendar dates on ctasd.org



Vaca Ideas

By Lexi Defibaugh

Summer is back and better than ever!!! This summer is finally here and back to “normal”. Most summer vacations will not require masks and quarantine. Here are some ideas for your summer vacations:

1. Beach trip with family or friends
2. Going camping
3. Road trips while listening to summer tunes with friends
4. Amusement parks
5. National parks
6. Disney World
7. Disneyland
8. Going to see landmarks

Travel overseas to go visit another country:

1. Greece
2. Bora Bora
3. Bahamas
4. Paris
5. London
6. Cruises

These places could be super fun to go to with your friends and family. Depending on the prices, this year it might be more difficult for overseas travel, but there are still plenty of places to go locally and national. Hopefully these ideas help and you all can go out and enjoy summer vaca!





CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE
CLASS OF
2022

Best Wishes,
The Contownian Staff

Meet the Senior Editors:



Natalie Kimmel

Position: Editor in Chief

Plans To Attend: Slippery Rock University

Major: Undecided

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Chef

Extracurricular Activities: She is a four year letterman in both volleyball and softball. She also takes part in SADD, SON Club, FCA, and Rotary Interact. She is also in NHS, Student Council, and is the class president.

Awards and Achievements: Natalie is a District V champion in volleyball and softball. She is also on the highest honor roll.



Laci Fetterman

Position: Society Editor

Plans To Attend: Coastal Carolina

Major: Biochemistry

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Something to do with animals

Extracurricular Activities: Laci is a four year letter winner in softball and is a three year letter winner in track. She was also took part in SADD, Rotary Interact, and NHS.

Awards and Achievements: Laci was on the honor roll.



Casadie Miller

Position: Photojournalism

Plans To Attend: Mount Aloysius College

Major: Early Level Education

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Teacher or Physical Therapist

Extracurricular Activities: Casadie was a four year letter winner in cheerleading and participated in volleyball. She was also part of FCA, NHS, Rotary Interact, SADD, Ski Club, chorus, Grill Team, Girls Ensemble, and Musical.

Awards and Achievements: Casadie had had the opportunity to participate in county and district chorus. She also was on the honor roll.



Sara O'Connell

Position: News Editor

Plans To Attend: Penn State University

Major: English and minor in creative writing

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Teacher

Extracurricular Activities: Sara was involved in SADD, Rotary Interact, Tribe Time, Language Exploration Club, French Club, SON Club, Crochet Club, Sign Language Club, and Art Club.

Awards and Achievements: Sara was on the honor roll.

**Jackson Byer**

Position: Sports Editor

Plans To Attend: Juniata College

Major: Business

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Aerospace Engineer

Extracurricular Activities: Jackson is a four year letter winner in football and basketball, 3 year letter winner in baseball, two year letter winner in track, and is a one year letter winner in golf. He takes part in computer club, Rotary Interact, Grill Team, and SON club.

Awards and Achievements: He has achieved all conference and all county in baseball, football, basketball and golf. In football, Jackson was also one of the Ken Lantzy Finest 40. Jackson also hit 1,000 points scored.

**Sasha Tarabrin**

Position: Pop Culture Editor

Plans To Attend: UPJ

Major: Journalism

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Forensic Coroner

Extracurricular Activities: Sasha was involved in Student Council, SON Club, and SADD Club.

**Chloe Bidelman**

Position: Little Contownian

Plans To Attend: UPJ

Major: Speech Pathology

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Pediatrician, director, or screen writer

Extracurricular Activities: Chloe was a three year letter winner in volleyball. She was also part of NHS, Student Council, Rotary Interact, SADD, SON Club, and Mindfulness Club.

Awards and Achievements: In volleyball, Chloe was earned all county and all district, summerset county volleyball coaches association MVP, and was a varsity captain. During her volleyball carrer, she also hit 1,000 digs.

**Brielle Ciarimboli**

Position: Feature Editor

Plans To Attend: UPJ

Major: Psychology

Grew Up Wanting To Be: Dental Hygienist

Extracurricular Activities: Brielle was a four year letter winner in soccer and three year letter winner in track. She was also invoved in Rotary Interact, SADD, NHS, Grill Team, and SON Club.

Awards and Achievements: Brielle was awarded Somerset County Junior MVP and Defensive MVP or the year in soccer. She was also a District V Qualifier for track. Brielle was on the honor roll and was awarded the REB Commuter Scholarship and has a full four year ride to UPJ.