

# The Contownian

## News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School October 2022 Volume 85 Number 2

### ***School Rankings Impressive at CT***

*By Sophia Stango*

According to the school rankings of Pennsylvania, Conemaugh Township is first in Somerset County. The eighth Intermediate Unit includes Bedford, Blair, Somerset, and Cambria County. Out of 35 schools in these counties, Conemaugh Township is second.

At Conemaugh Township High School, there are various academic opportunities such as Honors classes and AP classes. In the near future, Conemaugh Township is looking to offer more AP courses to give students better opportunities. Principal, Jim Foster, is looking to better his students here at CT. To better students, Mr. Foster compares other district numbers and statistics to Township. He stated, "I'm happy with where we are and the things we can control." However, he is always looking to improve Township by finding opportunities to better the students' learning environment. He continued, "It doesn't matter what it is, I'm a competitive person, and I want Conemaugh Township to be the best." He wants students to be prepared for the future and have a solid foundation built by their time at Conemaugh Township.

To add, reading and math teacher Alyssa Lyons stated, "Our student body and faculty here at Township is so much more than a ranking. However, it's always rewarding to see both student and teacher efforts recognized."

### ***Tribute to 1972 Football Team***

*By Haylee Thomas*

George Erisman was a junior of the 1972 Conemaugh Township Mountain Conference Champion football team 50 years ago. The Conemaugh Township Indian football team had a record of 9 - 0.

Erisman played as a lineman, and although he was a sub, George states, "It takes more than 11 players to win a football game. When asked what was the key to winning and success, George said, "We didn't play for the crowd or the fans, we played because we didn't want to let our teammates down." He also mentioned that the respect for their upperclassmen also had a part in their success. They keep the team in line and lead the team to success.

Erisman said that his favorite game was "hands down" the Windber game. His enthusiasm for the memories of the game is evident, "Both teams were 6 - 0 walking into the game. Conemaugh Township scored on the first two plays and the crowd went wild. Conemaugh Township won 28 - 0. Windber was so confident that they were going to win the game, they planned a victory dance in advance, but we had a different plan."

Erisman also has a little Indian following in his footsteps on the football field. Like Erisman, his grandson, Aidan Burnworth, is a lineman on the varsity football team. The boosters recently held a recognition game for the 1972 football team where the current football team ate a pregame dinner with the players from the 1972 team.

*Please see "1972" page 9*



## ***Why Do Volleyball Players Not Get to Trick or Treat?***

*By Brianna Shetler*

Every year in Conemaugh Township, Trick or Treating is held on the Thursday before Halloween. Unfortunately, so is the first round of play-offs for our varsity volleyball team. This means that every year our local volleyball team does not get to participate in one of the best times of the year like everyone else. This is personally upsetting because Halloween is my favorite holiday and not getting to participate in trick or treating is very disappointing.

Not being able to run around our neighborhoods dressed up in silly costumes with friends should be a crime. I personally only have three more years until I am an adult, and I want to soak up every possible moment of my childhood that I can. Many girls on the volleyball team are also upset about this. When the playoff schedule is created, holidays should be taken into consideration when determining sports schedules.

The solution to this is to not schedule a game on a holiday, and move it to a different day. This would be preferred by many athletes and their families. The change needs to happen. This unfortunate event has happened for the past two years. To change, someone needs to get in contact with whoever makes the playoff schedule and request a change.

Letting the volleyball team trick or treat would be greatly appreciated by the whole team and thus allow us to have some fun together during the fall season.

## ***Staff Editorials***

### ***Should Halloween Be On a Weekend?***

*By Alex Gregory*

For many children around the United States, Halloween means dressing up and going house to house looking for the best treats they can find. Unfortunately, many nights are ended early because of kids having school the next morning. This raises the question: Should trick or treat be on a weekend?

I believe that regardless of what day of the week that October 31st falls on, Trick or Treat should be on the weekend. Having Trick or Treat on a Friday or Saturday night makes the night easier for everybody involved. Children would not have to worry about waking up the next morning at 7:00, without being able to enjoy any of their hard earned candy. If Trick or Treat falls on a Friday night, children would be able to wake up the next morning and search through their baskets for their favorite candy.

Having Trick or Treat on a weekend also makes it easier for parents to be involved. Almost all parents or guardians are going to have work early in the morning on a weekday, which means an early night for them as well. Parents and children are both more likely to enjoy their time if it were on a Friday or Saturday night.

Overall, having Trick or Treat on a weekend just makes sense. It makes the night more enjoyable for everybody who is involved. I believe that towns should reconsider the night that they are having trick or treating and should move it to the weekend nights.





**LITTLE CONTOWNIAN COMING IN NOVEMBER!**



## PHOTO JOURNALISM

### HIGH SCHOOL



*Cameron Berloff smiles big at her band competition.*



*Hannah Swank and Hannah Sodano enjoy their senior night.*



*Our senior class with their 2022 Bonfire*



*Emilee Roman completes a pass to her teammate.*



*Colton Lehman contributes to the Rotary fall clean up.*



*The new Homecoming Queen & King: Katie Troxell and Jack Ankney*

# Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School / High School

Volume 85 Number 2

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## HIGH SCHOOL

### **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

*By Rachel Davis*

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is celebrated the entire month of October. This month is dedicated to people with Breast Cancer or people who have recovered from it. It is an annual campaign where people can donate money to the American Cancer Society, National Breast Cancer Foundation, and the Susan G. Komen Foundation, or someone who is in need of it to help fight off breast cancer.

The color that is a symbol for this month is pink. People wear pink ribbons, clothing, and jewelry. This is to honor survivors, remember those who lost the battle, and to show support of the progress doctors are making to defeat breast cancer. There is even a national Pink Week from October 4-6 and Pink Day is on October 21, so remember to wear all of the pink you have to show your support to those who have or had Breast Cancer.

Breast Cancer is a disease that continues to harm about 13% of women in the US. To help, you can donate to any number of organizations or get involved with other initiatives. Remember to wear pink during this month to show your support. If you know someone within your community in need of help, please reach out and support them.



### **October Fun!**

*By Lexi Defibaugh*

This October there are so many things opened up and full of excitement. For example, haunted houses, corn mazes, and pumpkin patches are all fun events. These are some fun things to do with your friends and family in your free time. Here are some locations to visit this October:

- Houston's Haunted Hollow
- Weakland Farms
- The Haunted Acres
- Scary Harry's Haunted Trails
- Jim Hite Farms & Corn Mazes
- Chad's Corn Maze
- Rolling Hill Farm

These places are all super fun and exciting to do with the people you love. These locations are open all of October and you should definitely visit and experience all this season has!

### **Homecoming**

*By Rachel Davis*

Homecoming week is always a really exciting time here at Conemaugh Township. There are so many fun activities to participate in including spirit week, the bonfire dance, the homecoming parade, and football game.

This year's homecoming spirit week was exciting to say the least. Tuesday's theme was country vs country club. On Wednesday, our students dressed as senior citizens. Thursday's theme was biker vs surfer. Friday, of course, was an extreme red and black day. On Thursday night, our homecoming court performed skits as famous couples at the bonfire dance. Katie Troxell and Nathaniel Denualt won as Jack and Rose from the *Titanic*. The homecoming parade and game was held on Friday October 14th. Congratulations to our Homecoming King and Queen, Katie Troxell and Jack Ankeny.

This week was full of celebration and fun. Spirit week, the bonfire dance, the parade, and game are traditions always appreciated at CT.



## Last Minute Costume Ideas

By Lexi Defibaugh

Are you running behind on getting your costume for Halloween this October? Well, do not worry. Here is a list of some last minute costume ideas for this Halloween:

- Clown (painting your face with a spooky clown look)
- Dress as a decade (60s, 70s, 80s, 90s)
- Cowboy
- Any type of cartoon character (getting a one-sie of the character or being creative your-self)
- Animal
- Ghost
- Disney Princess
- Zombie
- Vampire
- Athlete
- Dead Person

These costume ideas are all very inexpensive and you could probably find part of these costumes in your closets. Hopefully these ideas will help you with your Halloween costumes this year. Happy Halloween!

## 1972

*continued from page 1*

During halftime, the team and George Erisman got to walk with current players down the field. Erisman said, "When you haven't been on that field in 50 years it feels great to be back on the field with your grandson." Erisman said that it was a priceless experience that he will never forget!



1972 CT football team & family

## YEARBOOK ORDERING

Don't forget: ORDER A YEARBOOK!!!

Visit: [YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM](http://YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM)

Use the following codes:

MS CODE: 19683

HS CODE: 13159

## Telephone Numbers

### Administrative Office

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 Counselor.....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:

November 4.....Report Cards Issued  
November 9.....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
November 10.....Parent Conference Day  
No School for Students  
November 11.....Veterans Day Vacation  
November 23.....One-Hour Early Dismissal  
November 24-25.....Thanksgiving Vacation  
November 28.....Deer Season Vacation

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



## POP CULTURE

### *What to watch this Halloween*

By Jaylynne Moyer

With Halloween just around the corner, here are some of the best fall movies to watch:

- 1.) Hocus Pocus (1993)
- 2.) The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
- 3.) Halloween Town (1998)
- 4.) The Adams Family (1991)
- 5.) The Witches (1990)
- 6.) Beetle Juice (1988)
- 7.) Mr. Boogedy (1986)
- 8.) The Conjuring (2013)
- 9.) Corpse Bride (2005)
- 10.) Practical Magic (1998)

My personal favorite is Hocus Pocus. In 2020 alone, the first week it was on Freeform for the 25th anniversary, it averaged 8.2 million views. It is definitely a must watch for Halloween!

### *Musician of the Month*

Emma Mitchell is involved in countless activities both in and out of school. She has participated in the marching band and has lettered 4 times within her 6 years of playing. She has served as the Assistant & Commanding Officer of the Marching Band. Her extracurricular activities consist of Buddies Club, Speech Team, Language Exploration Club, MathWorks, Math Modeling Challenge Team, and so many more wonderful extracurriculars.

Emma has won the Challenge Program Community Service Award for two years. Lastly, she made it to the National Level within the Speech Team.



Emma plans to attend a four-year university with a major in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her quote is, "Whenever I feel down, I just think of all the people I could do something for. I am constantly motivated by the opportunity of service in my life. There is no better feeling than knowing you did something good."

### *Artist of the Month*

Katelyn Turley is one of the fellow artists who reside here at Conemaugh Township. She lives with both of her parents Steve & Anglea Turley in her hometown. Katelyn's art preference is pencil drawing. Her style is black and white because of the complexity you can convey with those two simple colors. She is an accomplished and recognized Art 3 student in 11th grade.

Katelyn plans on going to college at BYU. Katelyn is still currently undecided on her career path. To conclude, her favorite quote is, "Do not fear mistakes - there are none," from Miles Davis.



### *Hocus Pocus 2*

By Aubrey Johns

On September 30th, 2022, *Hocus Pocus 2* will be released to Disney +. The original *Hocus Pocus* movie was released in 1993, so you can imagine the surprise to hear that there was going to be a second movie.

The second movie will have the returning cast of Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy to play the Sanderson sisters. Though the second movie has the same basic story line, there are some major differences. In the original *Hocus Pocus*, the sisters were awakened by a little girl and her brother to help stop the Sanderson sisters. In the second movie the Sanderson sisters are awakened by three young women. The young women knew of the sisters from what had happened many years before, but were wrongly given the black candle.

While excited about there being a second movie, many critics worry about how the quality in comparison. This is a common concern with fans; however, the Sanderson sisters won't disappoint! "Oh, Boooooo!"





## HIGH SCHOOL

*Pink Out**By Abby Persio*

October is breast cancer awareness month. With pink being the color to represent this, there are multiple pinkout fundraisers happening to show support. With the Stango family currently battling a rare form of cancer, the community has taken matters into their own hands and have had multiple school fundraisers to support members of our community tribe.

Junior Sophia Stango commented that the community has been supporting her family, "Everyone has been super supportive of our family, and it has been great. We are super thankful for all of the love and everything." Some of the fundraisers happening outside of school include selling bracelets, which say "Faith Over Fear" and are available for \$5. There are also shirts available online which have pink ribbons on them. Additionally, there has been multiple pink out shirt sales at the school, which are still available to buy if you want to show your support. Lastly, some of the Stango's personal friends have started their own T-shirt fundraiser, which say "Her Fight Is Our Fight."

Overall, everyone in our community has been very supportive towards the Stango family and has been showing them a lot of love. If you want to show your support to the Stango family,



you can show it through purchasing one of these fundraising items or just wear your pink for the month!

*Amy Stango and family at the pink out game.*

*Alumni Of The Month...*

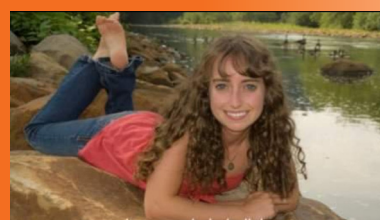
Ashley Kopp, a former Conemaugh Township student, graduated in 2010 with big goals. After graduation, Ashley attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania for 4 years and earned her bachelor degree in Early Childhood Special Education. She was a substitute teacher at various schools through the Learning Lamp for a few months after graduation. Ashley was hired by Rockwood Elementary School in December 2014 as an elementary autistic, emotional, and learning support teacher. She taught there for 5 years. In July 2019, her dream came true and she was hired at Conemaugh Township as a middle school learning support teacher. Finally, she earned her master's degree from IUP in 2020 in Mathematics Education. This year, Ashley embarked on a new adventure as the middle/high school life skills teacher, and she truly loves it. She is also co-advisor of the Speech Team, advisor of the Buddies Club and Crochet Club, and coach of the Bocce Ball team.

Ashley Kopp married her husband, Adam, in 2018. They have a home in Davidsville with their cat, Charlie; dogs, Callie and Mia; bearded dragon, Jethro; turtle, Elvis; and tortoise, Toni. Ashley says, they have "quite the zoo" at home. In her high school years, Ashley had so many amazing teachers and found it difficult to pick a favorite. She stated, "The teacher who had the most impact on me was Mr. Adams. I learned how to study in his class and he made me a better student because of his high expectations." Ashley's favorite memory was being crowned homecoming princess. She said, "I was super quiet in school and never expected people to vote for me. It meant everything to me when they called my name as part of the homecoming court!"



*Mrs. Kopp and her husband*

Overall, high school for Ashley was one of her favorite experiences, and she is extremely proud to be a Conemaugh Township alumni!



*Mrs. Kopp's senior picture*



## ***Sodano Tallies 500th Career Kill***

*By Alex Gregory*

On October 6th, 2022, Hannah Sodano of the Conemaugh Township Girls Volleyball team, came upon a great achievement. At an away game against the Conemaugh Valley Blue Jays, Hannah recorded her 500th career kill. This season alone, she has recorded over 100 kills through just over 50 sets. This is the team's second great milestone this year, as Alison Matera gathered her 1,000th assist just a few weeks ago.

When asked about how it feels to have accomplished such a great feat, Hannah said, "500 kills is a great accomplishment, but it was not done alone. Lots of thanks go out to my coaches, teammates, and family."

The team would go on to win this game against Conemaugh Valley in three sets.

## ***Volleyball Claims WestPac Crown***

*By Jon Updyke*

On Tuesday, October 25th, the Conemaugh Township girls defeated the Shade Panthers in the last WestPac championship in four sets. The Indians were led by senior captain Hannah Swank with 16 kills and 12 digs. Sophomore Bri Shelter tallied 11 kills and 9 digs, senior Hannah Sodano produced 8 kills and 3 digs, junior setter Alison Matera dished out 36 total assists while Kendra Huber shut things down at the net with 3 blocks. This is the team's first ever WestPac win.

In 1991, the girls varsity volleyball team won the Appalachian conference championship, which was the equivalent of winning the WestPac. At the time, WestPac conference was not yet formed. These two teams are the only two teams in school history to win these conference championships. The Lady Indians will play the Meyersdale Red Raiders on Thursday October 27th for the first round of D5 Playoffs.\*



*\*Lady Indians won the first game of playoffs.*

## ***Boys Jr. High Soccer Undefeated Season***

*By Alex Gregory*

The Conemaugh Township Junior High boys soccer team had an amazing 2022 season. The boys ended their season with an impressive record of 17-0. The junior high team has achieved two undefeated seasons prior to this one in 2009 and 2020.

This year, the team set multiple records on the path to the undefeated season. The boys team scored 154 total goals this season, which is a new junior high boys team record. Rocco Hagan also scored 54 individual goals, which is also a new school and team record. The team accomplished all of this under a new head coach this season.

Coach Brad Griesheimer took over the head coach position of the junior high team this year, and holds very high regards for the boys and all of the hard work that they put into this season. Griesheimer has been coaching for 35 years, mainly within the age group of five to twelve years old, but has also coached for girls varsity, boys varsity, and two years of college soccer. This is his third time holding a coaching position within the Conemaugh Township soccer programs.

When asked about how coaching this team was, Griesheimer said, "This team is very special and very easy to coach. They have worked hard and set a couple records along the way. The parents have been great and very supportive. I try to encourage the players and get out of the way to let them play."

In the boys final game, they were victorious over a tough Windber team. They ended up winning 5-0 in the outing with Nathan Dail and Cooper Price combining for the shutout. Rocco Hagan scored two goals and chipped in two assists. Dominic Walters, Gentry Sotosky, and Josey Sotosky all added one goal. Grayson Kusher also assisted two of those goals.

The team accomplished amazing things this season, and everybody is excited to see what is next for the junior high team. Coach Brad said it best, "I'm really proud of these young men. I am truly blessed to be a coach and part of this team. Well done guys! Indian Pride!"





## SPORTS



*Hannah Sodano celebrating a set victory over North Star.*

### *Athletes...*

Jack Ankeny is the son of Jason and Gretchen Ankeny. He lives in the town of Davidsville and is a senior at Conemaugh Township Area High School. Jack is not only the captain, but also a three-year letterman and member of the golf team, in which he recently had the opportunity to represent the school at the State Championship meet at Penn State. Ankeny recently has also been recognized as the Male Spotlight Athlete of the Week for the Tribune Democrat. Jack has received many awards such as winning WestPac Individual Champion the past three years, the WestPac Team Championship in 2021 and 2022, and the District 5 Championship in 2020.

Jack is in multiple clubs such as the Grill Team, and the National Honor Society. Ankeny is also the Senior News Editor for the Contownian

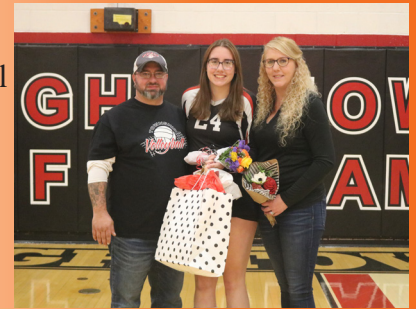
and a Yearbook Editor for the Connumach. Outside of school, Jack loves fishing, painting, customizing shoes, and hiking. He also serves as a caddy at Sunnehanna Country Club.

After high school, Jack would like to continue his athletic career in golf at the collegiate level. Finally, some wise words from Jack include, "Do you want to build bunk beds?" Also, "If you ain't first, you're last."



### *...of the Month*

Hannah Sodano is the daughter of Doug and Lori Sodano of Johnstown and is a senior at Conemaugh Township Area High School. Hannah is not only captain of the varsity volleyball team but has also been a letterman on varsity team for two years. Throughout the course of her volleyball career, she has received honorable mention and was a member of the first volleyball team in CT history to win the D5 Championship in 2020. She also recently was a integral piece in capturing the 2022 WestPac title for volleyball. This year will likely be Hannah's third-year lettering on varsity.



In school, Hannah is a part of Student Council and is the senior Editor in Chief of The Contownian and Connumach. She oversees this year's yearbook design and layout. When asked for a quote about school she stated, "Take school seriously. Don't wait until your senior year."

In her free time, Hannah likes to hang out with her family and friends and watch a good movie. After graduating Hannah plans to attend a four-year university to dual major in chemistry and secondary education.



*Jack Ankeny watching as his ball soars towards the green.*