



The Contownian News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School September 2022 Volume 85 Number 1

The Challenge Program

By Hannah Swank

The Challenge Program is a non-profit organization located in Johnstown, PA. The Challenge Program works to motivate students to develop positive characteristics to help them succeed outside of high school and in the workforce. The founder of the Challenge Program Inc. is Daniel T. Perkins. Perkins graduated from University of Pittsburgh in 1974 and continued to Pepperdine University for his Master's Degree.

The Challenge Program provides financial assistance of \$200, cash or check, for any student in categories such as STEM, attendance, community service, academic improvement, and academic excellence. Every year five seniors, five juniors, and five sophomores are rewarded with one or multiple scholarships at every school involved in the program. Students who are affiliated with The Challenge Program do not need to sign up, instead they have to work hard in their academics to receive a reward. Every year, The Challenge Program holds a competition for The Student of the Year. Conemaugh Township had a student representative last year, Kaylee Frederick, who won the prestigious award. The top 3 finalists will earn a \$1,000 cash reward. In order to qualify for The Student of the Year competition, visit The Challenge Programs website.



Queen Elizabeth

By Ethan Phillippi

Tragedy struck the great nation of England and the rest of the world when it was announced that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away on September 8, 2022. At 96 years old, Queen Elizabeth II was the longest-ruling British monarch having held the title for more than 70 years. Holding the rule of the queen for so long, Elizabeth II had become a global influencer worldwide. Some of her notable accomplishments include the decolonization of several countries, serving as an important figurehead for national identity, and being the first British Monarch to address the United States Congress.

The death of her majesty was a shock for the whole world. Although there were minor signs the queen's health was declining, nobody thought her life was nearing its end. In recent months, the queen had been appearing at fewer and fewer events due to what was said to be weakness and fatigue. The queen passed away at the Balmoral Castle in Scotland. Currently, there is no listed cause of death for Queen Elizabeth II.

As a result of the queen's death, her son, Charles III, has been named king. The 73-year-old monarch has promised to try and live up to his mother and serve his domain as well as possible. The next in line of succession would be his son Prince William, the Prince of Wales. There has always been some tension between the royal family in recent years, but after Queen Elizabeth's death, there has been a show of unity between the family.



Student Loan Forgiveness

By Cameron Berloff

Recently, on August 24, 2022, President Biden announced that he would be following through on his plans of student loan forgiveness. This leaves many people wondering if this is a good or bad investment that will be paid for with American tax dollars. Students that are Pell Grant recipients and receive up to \$20,000, and students that are not Pell Grant recipients can receive up to \$10,000. This money is only eligible for students who have a parents income of less than \$125,000 or, for two parents, \$250,000. The Biden administration is also cutting monthly payments in half for undergraduate loans. They are also adding a rule to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program that borrowers who have worked at a nonprofit, in the military, or in federal, state, tribal, or local government get credit toward their loan forgiveness. The final part to Biden's 3-part plan is protecting future students from paying unreasonable amounts of money for college. In fact, since 1980, the total cost of both four-year public and four-year private college has nearly tripled. This relief plan will, hopefully, prevent this number from growing.

While many people are very happy to take this relief money and embrace this new plan for future college and university students, there are also many people who believe that American tax dollars should not be used to pay for someone else's education. There has already begun to be a push for private schools rather than public schools by many conservative politicians. They want to pay less taxes, and be paying for things that will benefit them. I personally find this to be a rather selfish line of thinking. Education is a crucial part of any society. There are very few other options to pick from if you do not choose to go to college. If you expect to have a doctor to diagnose you with an illness, a teacher to teach your children, or an engineer to design the bridges you drive across everyday then you have to accept the fact that we as a society must invest in the education of our children. The rich are in the minority in this country, so if only the wealthy people can

Staff Editorials

afford an education, who is going to take on all of these jobs that require years of expensive schooling?

The Biden Administration did a favor to all of the struggling college students in our country. This will not only help a lot of past college graduates pay off their student debt that has been looming over their heads for years, but it will also provide a plan for future college students to be able to keep the price of college down. More students will be able to pursue their dream careers without the worry of unpayable debt. This certainly is not a complete fix or solution to this ongoing problem, but it is a start.

Saving Cinema

By Andrew Roles

We live in a world of wonder, and exciting new worlds being crafted every year. We have technology bringing us closer and closer to fantasy. It is a truly remarkable time to be alive as a fan of film. We have gotten so much, but yet we still lack in quality films due to political agendas and persuasion through the media.

What can we do to create better films and film quality? Don't even acknowledge these films. The industry will notice the burning red holes in their pockets. When they lose enough money they will realize that the majority is not invested in what they are providing. Film should be an experience, a series of emotions you feel with groups of people who laugh, cry, and cheer with you. It should be something special not a political battleground. Cinema should be about the story, and the characters within it and that's all it should be. Leave the campaigning to the professionals.



PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL



Kaylee Frederick is escorted by her mom for senior night.



Ronan Cullen is escorted by his parents on senior night.



Tanner Shirley goes to throw a touchdown pass.



Callie Parker is escorted by her parents on senior night.



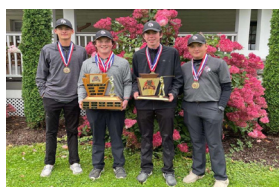
Lexi Defibaugh is escorted by her parents on senior night.



This year's 2022 Homecoming Court.



Alison Matera reaches her 1000 assists!



The golf team achieves their third straight West Pac title.

Contownian

News Magazine

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HIGH SCHOOL

9/11 Tribute

By David Stanley

21 years ago, on September 11, 2001, perhaps the most devastating act of terrorism in American history took place. On this date, four coordinated terrorist attacks against the United States occurred. The unspeakable actions were carried out by Islamic extremist network al-Qaeda. As a result of their crimes, nearly 3,000 innocent lives were taken that day, thousands more were injured.

Of the four attacks, one in particular impacted Pennsylvania greatly, United Airlines Flight 93. The passengers aboard Flight 93, realized the predicament that they were unfortunately involved in. Many believe that this plane was intended to hit the White House or Capitol building in Washington D.C. Out of bravery and determination to live, the passengers on Flight 93 decided to fight for their lives. All 44 passengers took a heroic struggle to overtake the plane. Sadly, they did not succeed in their efforts to take control of the plane, and the plane crashed in rural Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, all of the passengers passed away during the crash. However, many more lives in Washington D.C. were spared, due to the valiant efforts of the Flight 93 passengers.

The terrorists' main goal of these attacks, was to disunify and separate the United States. So, did they really succeed? Many believe that this day brought our nation closer together. This incident was shocking and horrifying for Americans. These events resulted in thousands of victims, including their families, living life forever impacted by tragedy or complete loss.

The Perfect 2022 Bucket List

By Hannah Gregorich

It is finally the beginning of the fall season and you want to find fun, trendy things to do. As the cold weather comes in and the pumpkin spice lattes start brewing, this fall bucket list will help you create THE Pinterest/Instagram fall aesthetic.

Some inspirational ideas for this fall are:

- Apple picking
- Football games
- Hayrides
- Haunted houses
- Halloween parties
- Trick or treating
- PSL* reviews
- Friendsgiving
- Carve pumpkins
- Buy halloween socks/pajamas
- Take forever to look around in Spirit Halloween
- Order a trendy fall sweatshirt from Etsy
- Spend all your money in TJMaxx on cute halloween/ fall decorations, blankets, dog toys, soaps, lotions, and clothes
- Make a homemade pumpkin pie
- Watch Hocus Pocus, THEN watch Hocus Pocus 2 (on Disney+ September 30)
- Binge all of the Halloweentown movies

In no time, you will be able to do everything you can do in order to become a cozy, pumpkin-loving, aesthetically pleasing person this autumn. To spice it up even more, start watching Hallmark movies and stare at your Christmas decorations in hopes of putting them up in a couple of months.

*Before beginning this fall bucket list, learn what PSL means. (You are going to want to know... Hint: Pumpkin Spice Latte)



HIGH SCHOOL

New Faces at the High School

By Emma Glover

Conemaugh Township has gained some new faces throughout the school. This year, we have 4 new/newly placed teachers in the high school. Mrs. Conn, Mrs. Kopp, Mrs. Mowery, and Miss Fetterman are some of our new staff members this year. Additionally, Ms. Yoder is continuing her second year as our Americorp worker.

Mrs. Conn previously taught at our Conemaugh Township Elementary School for 12 years. She is a new face in the sixth grade hallway where she teaches science and social studies. When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, Mrs. Conn stated, "I love getting to know the kids and getting them excited about what I'm teaching." She was promoted to the "big school" and is hoping to find a place to stay.

Mrs. Kopp is the new Life Skills teacher this year. She previously taught middle school learning support for 3 years. She also was a graduate from Conemaugh Township in 2010 and then attended IUP where she earned her Masters in Math Education. When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, she stated, "I love that I learn something new every day! Our school has helped me to learn and grow as a teacher. I love making a difference."

Miss Fetterman is another new face in the sixth grade wing. She teaches 6th grade math and spelling and is also the junior high soccer coach. She graduated from Conemaugh Township in 2017 and attended University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg (UPG) in 2021. Her answer when being asked what her favorite part of teaching was, "One of my favorite parts of teaching is watching students grow throughout the year. I also love that I am able to be a coach."

Mrs. Mowery is the last new face added to the sixth grade wing. She is a special education teacher. She graduated from Richland and attended Edinboro University where she got her degree in Art Education. She also attended IUP to earn her Masters in Special Education. Before joining us here at Township, she taught at Westmont Junior/Senior High School as a support teacher for three years. After asking Mrs. Mowery what her favorite part of teaching is she said, "Learning from my students."

Welcome to CTM/HS!

Alumni Of The Month...

Kimberly Showalter, formerly known as Kimberly Yoder, graduated in the class of 1990 from Conemaugh Township Senior/Middle High School. After graduating, she went to Eastern Mennonite College and got a bachelor of science degree in Biology in 1994. Mrs. Showalter then went back to school to get her master's degree in 2002 at James Madison University.

After earning her degree, she married Glen Showalter in 1996. They had three children: Tessa, Morgan, and Madison Showalter. The three children attended and graduated from Conemaugh Township. Kim still lives in Hollsopple, and manages St. Francis Sharing and Caring Thrift Shop.

Kim has overcome various obstacles and adversity in life but has never lost her faith. She is a remarkable pillar in our community and invested in Conemaugh Township. Her fondest memory from high school was her senior prom. Mr. DeBiase was her favorite teacher and she shared, "He taught one of my favorite subjects and always cared about his students."



Kim Showalter and her family.



Kim's Senior Picture



Lady Indians Soccer Team Kicks into Fall

By Alex Gregory

The Conemaugh Township Lady Indians Soccer Team is looking to have a great season this year. With five seniors, the team has great leadership and huge potential to go on a run in the playoffs. Captains Abby Persio, Madison Thomas, and Kaylee Frederick are hoping to rally the girls to begin a turn-around in the team's record.

The girls varsity soccer team is under new coaching this year, with coach Scott Thomas taking over the role. The girls are quickly building their chemistry and beginning to win tough, close games. The team currently holds a 6-5 record, but maintains a 3-1 record at home. The team has eight more tough games scheduled for the regular season, and is hoping to start a streak that carries over into the playoffs.

The team is led in goals by sophomore Izzy Slezak. Izzy has been having great success with the help of Sophomore Ashlyn Fetterman, who averages just under one and a half assists a game. Sophomore Jordyn Snyder holds down the goalie position and has a shutout against Berlin Brothersvalley.

When asked about how she feels the season is going, Senior captain Madison Thomas said, "I feel like there are many more wins still left on the table for us to bring home. The team is in high spirits, and we still have time to make some noise in the district and conference."



Izzy Slezak looks to make a move around a defender during a home match against Windber

Fall Sports Senior Night

By Alex Gregory

On Friday, September 16th, 2022, Conemaugh Township Area School District hosted its annual Fall Sports Senior Night. Before the night's football game, the senior cheerleaders, golfers, and football players were recognized for their dedication and time they have given to their respective sports. The senior band members were also acknowledged during the halftime show.

The golf team this year celebrated five golfers in total. The golfers acknowledged were Tanner Shirley, Alex Gregory, Jack Ankeny, Evan Thomas, and Logan Pitera. The team currently has an undefeated record and is looking forward to playing in the West-Pac and District 5 AA Championships in the upcoming weeks.

The football team acknowledged twelve seniors which included Tanner Shirley, Ethan Black, Nathanael Snoeberger, Ryan Krassnoski, Christian Ruiz, Andrew Roles, Thor O'Ship, Dominic Sheffield, Michael Shonko, Brady Naugle, Tyler Weber and Ryan Thomas. The team currently holds a 5-0 record.

There were seven lady cheerleaders recognized for their hard work and dedication. Rylee Maldet, Sierra Shane, Lexi Defibaugh, Maria Thurlow, Bruck Ohler, Michelle Langdeau and Jenna Weaver all show immense passion and support when cheering on the football team every Friday night.

Finally, six members of the marching band were recognized. Seniors Addy Dull, Jensen Korber, Katie Troxell, Emma Mitchell, Callie Parker, and Cameron Berloff all walked down mid-field with their parents and guardians to be congratulated for all their hard work these past few years.

In total, 30 Conemaugh Township and Shade students were recognized. Senior night, along with the Indian football team bringing home a 35-7 win over Meyersdale, made for a very memorable evening.

**** The CT Volleyball Team is currently 8-1 and is led by seniors Hannah Swank and Hannah Sodano.****

Athletes...

Kaylee Frederick of Johnstown is the daughter of Georgetta Frederick. Kaylee is a part of the girl's varsity soccer and track and field team. She also co-ops with JCS for their cross-country team. Kaylee has been playing soccer for 14 years with 2 varsity letters. Kaylee spends most of her time running. She has 6 years in track and field and 1 year in cross country. Outside of school she works out and does Crossfit in her spare time. Kaylee is also an ultra-marathon runner, completing any race from 1 mile to 100 miles.

Kaylee is currently sitting at the top of her class. She also takes the title of Secretary of the Class of 2022. Kaylee was the first person ever from Conemaugh Township to be named Student of The Year in the whole state of Pennsylvania in 2022. She also received the Academic Excellence Award in her sophomore and junior year. With her busy schedule, Kaylee still manages to help serve the community as she is in Rotary (Secretary), SON Club, and National Honor Society. For fun, Kaylee enjoys playing her trumpet in the jazz band. Kaylee is also involved with the Spanish Club (Secretary) and the Scholastic Quiz Team.

Kaylee wants to further her academics, dual majoring in biology and secondary education to be a high school biology teacher. A quote from Kaylee is, "Somewhere behind the athlete you've become, the hours of practice, and the coaches who have pushed you is a little girl who fell in love with the same passions and never looks back - play for her!"



Kaylee Frederick smiles for a picture with her mother, Georgetta, during senior night

The 1,000th Milestone

By Alex Gregory

Junior volleyball player, Alison Matera achieved a great milestone on the court. On September 22nd, in a game against the Rockwood Rockets, Matera dished out her 1,000th career assist. The Indians would go on to win the game in three straight sets.

When asked about how she feels about accomplishing this feat, Matera said, "It means a lot to me to have accomplished this in my junior year and I'm very thankful for my coaches, friends, and family for all supporting me."

...of the Month

Michael Shonko has been an exceptional athlete here at Conemaugh Township. He is the son of Jill Shonko and Dan Artice. Michael lives with his aunt, Amber Shonko, and his uncle Chad Salty in Davidsville. Michael participates in football and basketball and has been playing football for 7 years and basketball for 5. He is the football team's defensive anchor as he has over 100 career tackles. In basketball, he has a big impact in the paint with his rebounding. He also is a three year letterman in both sports.

Outside of school, Michael is a volunteer fireman who likes to play video games in his spare time. Academically, he has made the honor roll several times and has always had outstanding attendance.

Michael's future plan is to attend a two year college program in the police academy. His favorite quote is "Live your life to the fullest" as he believes we should take advantage of every opportunity given.



Michael Shonko warms-up prior to a football game against Claysburg-Kimmel

Cafe Dodie

By Haylee Thomas

Have you ever been driving through Davidsville and wondering what that yellow door next to the Tomahawk and the Mock Barber Shop and Salon is, well it is Cafe Dodie. Cafe Dodie is a new coffee shop that recently opened on May 28, 2022 on Main Street in Davidsville.

Cafe Dodie is owned by Troy and Lydia Bugosh. Growing up, both Troy and Lydia were passionate about coffee, no matter it was the technical side of coffee or the creative side of coffee. For Troy and Lydia, opening a coffee shop was a dream, a dream that came true this year. Cafe Dodie came to our small town because of the loving community and they wanted to bring coffee where there was no coffee shops. Lydia also said that they looked at many places but every other place they looked at did not feel right. Troy and Lydia hope to move into our community soon with their growing family.

Cafe Dodie is very well known for their signature latte, The Dodie, and the Blustery Day. Cafe Dodie has many creative and unique drinks to offer, but not only do they sell drinks they also sell macaroons, cups, coffee grounds, and pre brewed coffee pouches. When asked about why they chose the name Cafe Dodie, Lydia said that when Ashor, their son, started to talk he babbled the word, “dodie,” and it was so cute and even themselves started to say it too. Lydia did not want to name the cafe after a random babble word. So she looked it up and in Hebrew it means “well are love” and that’s where everything started. The theme for inside the shop ties back to the name’s meaning, “well loved”. Inside the shop, it gives a sense of home, inspiration, and love.

If you are passing through Davidsville stop by Cafe Dodie and experience the love that Troy and Lydia put into this wonderful one stop coffee shop. You can also follow them on Facebook or Instagram @cafedodie.



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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:

October 10.....	Teacher In-Service
October 21.....	Act 80 Early Dismissal
	12:00 Middle/High School
	12:35 Elementary School
October 28.....	End of Nine Weeks

Check calendar dates on ctasd.org

POP CULTURE

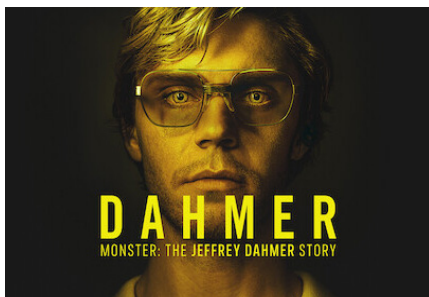
The Newest True Crime Series - Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story

By Carson Harbart

If you've ever been binge watching and scrolling through the crime category on Netflix, sometimes the series or movies look very fake. However, the new true crime series *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*, will make you take a double look at the crime category. With this show just debuting on September 21, 2022, millions of viewers already have positive and negative feedback.

This true crime on one of the most famous serial killers in history is about as real as it gets. With the mind-boggling information this story holds, all viewers are taking it differently. The realism has viewers saying that they can't even make it past the first episode, and others saying how intrigued they are and can't finish it fast enough. Although, there is one problem speculating over this show, and that is the families of Dahmer's victims.

Since Dahmer's last killings were around 30 years ago, the victim's families have had time to think about their loved ones and find closure in their deaths. As these killings were very difficult for the families, no one would ever want to relive them. The victim's families have been very vocal the past few days about how this show has retraumatized them. A key component of this series is that it not only shows Dahmer's point of view, but also the victims'. It shows the pain and battle of what they had to go through. This has large impacts on the families, reminding them of the struggle so many innocent people had to go through. The worst part is, no one was there to help the victims, and families continue to live and think about what they could've done to prevent the numerous killings. Before the series, the families could only imagine. Now, in front of the world, they have almost an exact replica of the torture their loved ones went through all by themselves.



Artist of the Month

By Mercedes Mull

Trinity Holsopple is the artist of the month for September. She is a senior in Art III and is a member of the school's art club and rotary club. She works with different styles of art and uses different mediums in her creations. She hopes to continue to draw and paint throughout her life, and she doesn't think she will ever stop.

With her art, she uses paint (acrylic) and paper/pencil. She usually creates cartoon and kawaii style art, but sometimes she ventures into realistic artwork.

Most of her inspiration is attributed to pinterest, her siblings (Schylar, Maciah, and Jaeden), movies, and books.



Original art by Trinity

When Trinity graduates, she plans on going to Penn Highlands for 2 years for their horticulture program. She then plans to also enroll in Baltimore Massachusetts Community College.

Musician of the Month

By Andrew Roles

Callie Parker is our musician of the month. She is a Senior. Her parents are Rebecca and Steve Parker, and she plays the clarinet. She has participated in: Good for the Soul, Marching Down Bourbon Street, The Heist, and Dancing in the Street. She is also the woodwind section leader for the school band.

One of her favorite memories was "... the feeling I had when I won my first drill down, but it was my last one. My favorite memory from musicals was during Mamma Mia and everyone complimented me on how well



I was dancing. This helped with my confidence and made me love music even more."

To end things on a high note, no pun intended a quote from the senior herself, "Music is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. It will always be something that I will be proud of and something that I will cherish forever."

