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Toys for Tots

By Emma King

Toys for Tots is a charitable program that is ran by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and supported by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Its' mission is simple but powerful. It collects new, unwrapped toys during the holiday season and distributes them to children in need, delivering not just gifts, but a message of hope. Established in 1947, the program has grown into a national effort that relies on local volunteers and community partners to make a real impact.

In Pennsylvania, the Toys for Tots campaign has a strong local presence. Including places in Southern Cambria and Somerset counties. According to the Johnstown, PA chapter, thousands of toys are distributed each year to children in these communities. The campaign is coordinated by Marines and volunteers who work with local social service groups, churches, and businesses. In recent years, the Johnstown campaign alone has supported over 1,800 children and distributed more than 5,000 toys.

If you'd like to donate in or around Davidville, PA, you can contribute to the Southern Cambria/Somerset County Toys for Tots Drive. The local chapter accepts new, unwrapped toys, and you can also make monetary donations. Drop-off boxes are hosted at local businesses, churches, and community groups during the collection season, which is typically October through December. For the 2025 campaign, you can contact the local coordinator via email at johnstown.pa@toysfortots.org. Toy pickup and distribution in Johnstown occurs at the Johnstown Galleria Mall on the first floor, next to Aunt Annie's, in the middle of the month of December.

Christmas Tree Moved from Central Park

By Noah Nagy

For the past nine years, the beloved Johnstown Christmas tree lighting ceremony has been held in the city's Central Park. This year, however, organizers have decided to display the 36-foot-tall tree in Peoples Natural Gas Park. The announcement has surprised many residents of Johnstown and the surrounding area, as part of what made the ceremony so memorable is the charm of Central Park.

With Christmas coming soon, organizers explained that the move is due to the ongoing renovation of Central Park, which makes it difficult to safely host large crowds. The 36-foot tree, first lit on November 21st, will still feature its colorful lights synchronized to popular holiday music, continuing the cheerful atmosphere attendees have come to expect. Parade organizer Jennifer Fisher explained the excitement surrounding the new setup, saying, "They can look forward to the music, lights and the helium balloons all leading up to the tree-lighting... It will have a wonderful holiday feel. Johnstown has such a community atmosphere, so this is a celebration of tradition and togetherness." While some residents will miss the familiar setting of Central Park, the new location offers families plenty of opportunities to enjoy the event together and continue the tradition in a new way.

Despite the change in location, the Johnstown Christmas tree lighting ceremony continues to bring the community together. With the 36-foot tree, the Hometown Christmas Parade, and the festive Christmas Village, visitors of all ages can enjoy the spirit of Christmas. Although the move to Peoples Natural Gas Park may feel different, the event promises to be just as fun as always.

Contownian News Magazine

News

Page 1 - Toys for Tots

Page 1 - Christmas Tree Moved from Central Park

Page 12 - Secretary of Defense Risked Exposing
Military Information

Page 12 - Epstein Files Being Released

Society

Page 4 - Music Makes Us Stronger Concert Outcome

Page 4 - Alumni of the Month: Danyel Lohr

Page 4 - Conemaugh Township Christmas Dance

Page 5 - SADD Club's Santa Shop Fun

Page 5 - Rotary's Wishes of Christmas

Editorial

Page 6 - Christmas Season Hype: Too Much?

Page 6 - New Year's Resolutions

Page 6 - Holiday Meal Staples

Features

Page 7 - Top Five Tallest Christmas Trees

Page 7 - Local Winter Sports Spots

Page 7 - Top 10 Best Holiday Movies

Sports

Page 8 - Santa Fund Representation

Page 8 - Boys Basketball Brings Home the Gold

Page 8 - Swim Team Early Successes

Page 9 - Athletes of the Month - Katrina McCann and
Ethan Matera

Pop Culture

Page 10 - Ariana Grande Attacked

Page 10 - Grammy's: Snubs and Surprises

Page 10 - Medical Professional Charged in Death of
Actor Matthew Perry

Page 11 - Sabrina Carpenter Calls Out the White
House

Little Contownian

Page 13 - Christmas Fun

Page 13 - New Year, New You

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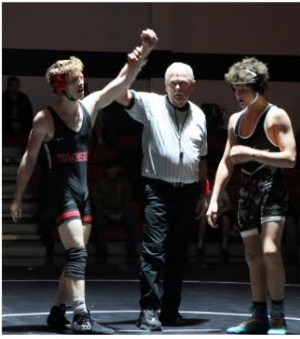
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Jacob Furda takes the win.



Colton Shippey tries for three!



Gina Hagan and Mayce Kordell are all smiles at the Christmas Dance!

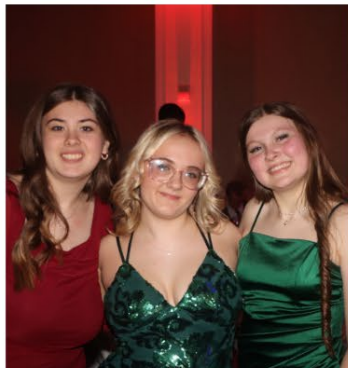


Maya Denault is on the mark at her rifle match.

Avery DelSignore beautifully performing a solo at the chorus concert.



Our lovely ladies pose for the camera at the Christmas Dance!



Addie Piper dancing the night away!



Abbey Shropshire entertains with her clarinet.



DJ Bambino is confident in a mock interview.



Cameron Fisher with a layup.

Music Makes Us Stronger Concert Outcome

By Lyla Mauzy

On November 26, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., the Conemaugh Township Music Department held an alumni music performance in the high school gymnasium. Current and former students involved in the senior high band, choir, marching band, and color guard were given the exciting opportunity to perform in a special reunion concert which helped raise money for an incredibly important cause.

The Music Makes Us Stronger program was founded by Mrs. Suzette Gardenhour, a former band director at Conemaugh Township who has been open about her battle with breast cancer. Mrs. Gardenhour was diagnosed in 2016, and the unwavering support she received from the music department encouraged her to keep fighting. According to Mrs. Gardenhour, "They are the legacy that makes us stronger. They are why that exists and how we continue to help the community and students." Her inspiring journey prompted her to establish this wonderful program which continues to give back to the community through the power of music. Prior to the concert, several rehearsals were held for each branch of the music department, which gave current members the ability to meet the 115 alumni from previous years. After each section's performance, a basket raffle coupled with a live auction took place, where audience members were encouraged to bid on a wide variety of goods.

Overall, the concert raised upwards of \$13,000 to help support community members and families dealing with cancer. Because of this sensational occasion, former band and choir directors were given the opportunity to conduct once more, alumni had the ability to see their legacy being carried out, and all who participated could contribute to a wonderful cause.

Alumni of the Month



Danyel Lohr, a former Conemaugh Township student, has many fond memories from her high school experience. Following her graduation, she attended college at UPJ where she initially majored in nursing. After exiting the program early, she went on to explore other careers that interested her.

While reminiscing about her time spent at the Conemaugh Township, Lohr noted that she had several cherished memories. Some of her favorite moments included her cheering career throughout high school where she won many competitions with her squad. She also showed great appreciation for her teachers, as they spent countless hours planning and running student council activities, building leadership and organizational skills, and providing her with valuable advice for the future. According to Lohr, she "loved all of her teachers because they were supportive in so many ways."

Currently, Danyel Lohr lives in Jerome, Pennsylvania. Although Lohr's initial desire was to pursue a career in veterinary medicine, she found a new passion in the field of dentistry. She now works as a dental assistant at Dr. Chaney's office, and loves her job.

Conemaugh Township Christmas Dance

By Grace Mitchell

Conemaugh Township offers many activities for students and the community to enjoy throughout the year. One of these events is the Conemaugh Township Christmas Dance. This annual tradition is run by the sophomore class officers of Conemaugh Township. Students may participate in bringing a peer from their school, or they can invite a student from a different school. This dance is open to students who are in grades 10-12.

This year's dance was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown Johnstown on December 6th from 6 to 9 p.m. The theme for the evening was "Classical Christmas." Attendees were asked to dress in their winter formal attire as a way to express themselves and celebrate the season. Many students help plan and prepare for the dance. The organizing team this year included sophomore class president Izzy Bihun, vice president Lyla Mauzy, secretary Amelia Mitchell, and treasurer Ella Brotz. Senior Madison Roman states, "[The Christmas Dance is] a fun way to spend time with my friends and make the most of my senior year."

Conemaugh Township Area High School continues to take part in countless activities for the community as well as for the students. As the school continues the tradition of the annual Christmas Dance, students and their invited guests carry on the traditions and customs established by former students and faculty, creating a fun and memorable night for everyone involved.

SADD Club's Santa Shop Fun

By Lyla Mauzy

Each year in December, the Conemaugh Township Elementary School opens a Santa Shop that gives elementary students from grades K-5 the exciting opportunity to shop for friends and family. With the help of dedicated parent volunteers and senior high SADD club members, the Santa Shop this year was an immense success.

From December 3rd to 4th in the elementary school library, students were able to choose from a wide selection of gifts in order to find the perfect Christmas presents for their friends and family members. The Elementary Committee of the Conemaugh Township High School SADD club volunteered to help with the event, making this their fourth year participating in this wonderful tradition. Members of the dedicated group helped out with wrapping gifts. They also partnered up with younger students to assist them while they shopped. The volunteers then spread Christmas cheer by reading stories to several classrooms around the elementary school. Because younger students do not get many opportunities to shop independently, the Santa Shop event provides a safe environment that allows them to do so. Independent shopping provides a real-world experience for the children, and it enriches both their social and money management skills.

Overall, the elementary school students were thrilled to participate in this festive opportunity to prepare for the upcoming holiday season, and they enjoyed sharing it with high schoolers they can look up to. Senior SADD president Emmy Allison said that "The Santa Shop is a great way for us to help out the parents and PTA at the elementary school. It's an amazing opportunity for us to interact with the kids and make sure that they get everything they need for the holiday season." Elementary school teachers, faculty, and PTA members who volunteered were all incredibly appreciative of the SADD club's help.

Rotary's Wishes of Christmas

By Brinley Franchic

It's officially the holiday season, which is the perfect time to give back to others. Conemaugh Township School District is known for giving back to others, especially those in need. One way that the Conemaugh Township Rotary Interact does this by participating in the "Wishes of Christmas."

"Wishes of Christmas" are letters that people send to the Conemaugh Township Rotary asking for donations of money, or even toys, for a family in need to help spread the holiday cheer. The Conemaugh Township Rotary accepted 12 letters this holiday season. On December 10, Mrs. Grove, Emmy Allison, and a few other Rotary Interact students drove to Indiana, PA after school to deliver some of the gifts for Rotary's "Wishes of Christmas." The family received a \$250 Walmart gift card, \$500 in food cards, and \$350 for their utilities. Students of the club bought the little kids a couple of toys for Christmas. The family was so incredibly grateful to receive this gift, and the students were thrilled to give back this holiday season. On December 18, Rotary Interact students Mya Denault, Jaeden Hollsopple, and Emmy Alison announced one of the "Wishes of Christmas" winners on Froggy 95 and 96. Rotary Interact does this to make others' holiday season a bit more enjoyable.

The Conemaugh Township Rotary's "Wishes of Christmas" program amplifies the spirit of the holiday season. By fulfilling donations and supporting families in need, the Rotary Interact club and its students are making a difference in the community. Their efforts in delivering gifts and announcing winners highlights the importance of giving back and spreading holiday cheer this season.



Christmas Season Hype: Too Much?

By Colbi Hunsberger

As we all know, Christmas is coming up, and with it comes the long Christmas break. Over Christmas break, many like to spend time with family and celebrate the holidays, while others like to spend time alone and rest. I love to make food, play games, and open presents with my loved ones. However, I know for many adults it can be stressful and costly. The real question is if Christmas break is a good time for us to rest and relax, or is it a waste of time?

Growing up, Christmas break was my favorite time of the year especially since I got out of school early. As I get older, I am making more friends and meeting new people which makes Christmas a whole lot harder because of all the people you have to think about buying gifts for. Christmas break is a great time for us to get all of our gifts together and spend time with all the people we love. Not only do you have time to spend with everyone else, but Christmas break also gives you time to yourself to relax with no worries or stress. This is what most people think when they hear Christmas break, but there's also the other side of it.

When you're a kid, you don't really need to worry about anyone else but yourself, especially on Christmas. What we don't think about is the people who make Christmas happen for us such as our parents or grandparents. Though the holidays are very fun, they are also very expensive. Gifts, food, electrical bills, and the expenses that come with traveling add up quickly. Usually, the people that pay for these things are our adults, and from what I have seen, it doesn't seem relaxing. All this extra time you get on break sometimes goes to waste too. I have noticed that when I have a lot of time, I tend to lay in my bed and scroll on my phone all day. All of these things make me wonder if this extra time is useful and relaxing or just a waste.

Overall, I love Christmas break and all the things you can do with the time, but I know there are many people who disagree. It is supposed to be a fun and happy time where you have nothing to worry about. How you view Christmas all depends on how you live and who you are. I personally think all the time you get over break is useful and relaxing, so I would not trade it for anything.

New Year's Resolutions: Yay or Nay

By Isabella Gunby

New Year's resolutions are often criticized because of people not following through with them. Resolutions are meant to help people set goals and think about how they can improve themselves. Even if a person does not complete a resolution perfectly, making the effort to change is still important.

The start of a new year feels like a fresh beginning for many people. This makes it a good time to reflect on past mistakes and plan for the future. Whether the resolution is to be more organized, improve grades, or develop better habits, having a goal gives people motivation and something they can dedicate themselves to. Even small improvements can still lead to bigger positive changes over time.

Instead of judging New Year's resolutions, people should recognize the effort behind them. Setting goals shows responsibility and a willingness to grow. Not every resolution will succeed, but trying to improve is better than not trying at all. For these reasons, New Year's resolutions are a clear yay, not a nay.

Holiday Meal Staples

By Emma King

The holiday season brings a delicious mix of traditions, and the best dishes are the ones that make the table feel warm and welcoming. Classic main courses like roasted turkey, glazed ham, and tender prime rib set the tone, while sides such as creamy mashed potatoes, stuffing, and sweet potato casserole bring comfort to every plate. Even simple appetizers like cheese boards, deviled eggs, or warm dips help everyone settle in and start enjoying the celebration.

No holiday celebration feels complete without something sweet and a cozy drink to go with it. Seasonal drinks, whether it's rich hot chocolate, warm apple cider, or classic eggnog, add that extra touch of holiday warmth. Desserts like pumpkin pie, apple pie, and warm cookies bring a comforting finish to the meal, filling the table with familiar scents and flavors. Together, these treats turn an ordinary meal into memorable moments to share with the people you love.

Top Five Tallest Christmas Trees

By Halen McKool

Every holiday season, cities and towns around the world put up Christmas decorations. There are many ways to decorate, but nothing quite says Christmas like a towering tree. From massive pine trees hauled into cities to huge artificial trees, these decorations are a landmark of holiday celebration. Here are the top five tallest public Christmas trees:

1. Lisbon Christmas Tree - Lisbon, Portugal (249ft)
2. Colombo Christmas Tree – Colombo, Sri Lanka (236ft)
3. Northgate Shopping Center Tree - Seattle, USA (212ft)
4. Zilker Holiday Tree - Austin, USA (155ft)
5. Citadel Outlets Christmas Tree - Commerce, USA (115ft)

These towering decorations show just how far people will go to celebrate the holidays. With twinkling lights and Santa decorations, nothing can perfect these displays quite like a tree. Whether they are natural or engineered, these massive spectacles are truly impressive.

Local Winter Sports Spots

By Jacob Bartis

As winter gets closer around Johnstown, many people start looking for somewhere to ski or snowboard, and two local resorts are already preparing for the new season. Hidden Valley Resort plans to open on December 20, 2025, and they usually run hours on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. During the week, they often open from 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursdays, and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. from Monday through Wednesday once night skiing begins. It is a close and dependable option for anyone who wants a laid-back, family-friendly place to enjoy the snow without a long drive and the busiest crowds.

Seven Springs Mountain Resort is another top choice snow skiers and snowboarders in the Johnstown area, and it opened up for its skiing season on December 6th. Seven Springs is known for having a full resort atmosphere, and it posts a full schedule now that the season has officially started. People go not just for skiing or snowboarding, but also for the complete winter experience with food, music, and different events happening

throughout the season. Here you can stay and make a weekend out of your visit.

With both resorts sitting within easy driving distance, the winter months give everyone around here something fun to look forward to. Whether you want a quick night ski after school or work at Hidden Valley or a full weekend trip at Seven Springs, the season brings a chance to get outside and enjoy the cold instead of hiding from it. Check the opening dates and times ahead of time to help you plan and make the most of the snow, and enjoy these special locations that the whole area a little more excitement as the holidays and winter break gets closer.

Top 10 Best Holiday Movies

By Lexie Feathers

Over the holidays, many families get together and do holiday-related activities. Some families bake cookies while others watch movies. There are so many holiday movies to choose from, whether they are classics or new releases. Listed below are some of the best holiday movies:

1. *Elf*
2. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*
3. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*
4. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
5. *The Santa Clause*
6. *Home Alone*
7. *White Christmas*
8. *Scrooged*
9. *The Polar Express*
10. *The Nightmare Before Christmas*

Generally speaking, there are many great holiday-related movies to watch together as a family. The new generations still love and watch all of the old movies, which keeps them well-known and loved today.



Santa Fund Representation

By Peyton Lasure

On Thursday, November 20, the 15th annual Santa Fund all-star soccer game was held at the Johnstown Trojans stadium. This event is held in an attempt to raise money to buy Christmas presents for underprivileged kids. Two seniors from each school district in Somerset and Cambria County were nominated by their coaches to represent their school. Conemaugh Township representatives included Andie Hunsberger, Addie Miller, Chris Yoder, and Grayson Kusher. They all participated on the South team.

To start off the night, the girls played in a very competitive game. The North found the back of the net early in the game causing the score to be 1-0 going into the half. Neither team backed down going into the second half. South came out firing, scoring two goals, while the north also had a goal. Each player fought until the last second, but the game finished in a 2-2 tie leading to a shootout. The North team ultimately came out on top winning the shootout 4-3. Township representative Andie Hunsberger stated, "It was a very fun experience playing against people with such good footwork and just great overall players. We all share a great bond over our love of soccer." The boys game followed soon after. The South team came out strong scoring their first goal less than two minutes into the game. Both teams added an additional goal making the halftime score 2-1. The South came into the second half with the same intensity as the first half and tallied two more goals securing their 4-1 victory over the North.

Overall, this event's main purpose is not only to spotlight exceptional high school athletes, but to raise money for those who are less fortunate. The event brings local communities and organizations together for a charitable cause that reflects the giving spirit of Christmas.

Boys Basketball Brings Home the Gold

By DJ Bambino

On Friday December 5, 2025 the boys varsity basketball team traveled to Central Cambria to compete in the Ron Davidson Roundball Classic. The boys continued their season's success by capturing the championship and going undefeated in the tournament.

The team tipped off the tournament facing the Central Cambria Red Devils on Friday. Colin Dinyar sprung the team with 16 points and 11 rebounds. Erik McClemens also contributed 11

points and 22 rebounds. The team would go on to win this game 52-29 punching their ticket to the championship game. The boys played the Penn Cambria Panthers the next day. Once again, an explosive offensive performance from Colin Dinyar carried the Indians past the Panthers. He went off for 23 total points and five rebounds. The young guard Greyson Studer also netted 16 points and nine rebounds. The team found themselves the win again with a final score of 63-52. However, their success didn't end there. Colin Dinyar was named Tournament MVP. Greyson Studer and Stephen Stango both received All-Tournament Team honors. Senior basketball player Jacob Bartis said, "I think our team chemistry was really clicking over the weekend. Shots were falling and we defended well." The tournament left the boys with a record of 3-0 on the season, as they look forward to improving that record moving forward.

Swim Team Early Successes

By Peyton Lasure

Senior Aidan Burnworth and freshman Damirr Thomas are both members of the Conemaugh Township swim team. On Wednesday December 3, Aidan and Damirr competed in their first meet of the season. Both swimmers were very successful and represented both themselves and their school positively, each qualifying for a spot in districts.

Aidan Burnworth has been swimming for ten years. He competes in the 50-meter freestyle, the 100-meter freestyle, and the 100-meter breaststroke. He has so far this season qualified for districts in the 50 and 100-meter freestyle. Aidan's goals at the beginning of the season were to win District VI again, and to make the finals at the state meet. Damirr Thomas has been swimming for five years and competes in varying events. He has so far this season qualified for districts in the 100-meter butterfly, and has additionally swum a personal best in the 100-meter breaststroke. Damirr's goal at the beginning of the season was to make it to districts and to improve his times.

Overall, both Aidan and Damirr's swim season had a great start and they have a very promising season to come. Outside of the regular season they will both be competing in districts, hoping to excel to a higher level of competition.

ATHLETES OF THE



Katrina McCann is the daughter of Chuck and Jeanette McCann. She currently lives with both in Hooversville. Katrina is involved in many extracurricular activities including basketball and track and field. She has had many successes throughout her career at Conemaugh Township, and has received many accolades along the way. Katrina is a senior member and team captain of our girls' basketball team. She has been playing for 10 years and has so far earned three letters. Additionally, Katrina is a four-year member of the track and field team and has so far earned three letters. She has found many successes throughout her career and has received many titles. Katrina is a three-year Heritage Conference champion in javelin and also holds a Heritage Conference title in discus. She is a two-time District V champion in javelin. Katrina is also a two-time state qualifier for javelin in 2024 and 2025. Outside of sports, Katrina is a National Honors Society and Students Against Destructive Decisions club member. She is the Editor-in-Chief of the Conemaugh Township Contownian, Spanish club treasurer, and is a high honor roll student. In Katrina's free time, she enjoys shopping, driving around, getting Dunkin', lifting, and hanging out with friends and family. After graduating high school, Katrina plans on majoring in psychology at an undecided school. She would also like to continue track during her college career. When asked for a quote, Katrina recited George Eliot's, "It's never too late to be what you might have been."



Ethan Matera is the son of Monica and Nate Matera. He lives with both in Johnstown. Ethan is a standout student-athlete excelling in both the classroom and on the basketball court. He has played basketball for nine years. In his time on the varsity team, he has won two District V titles with the team, and has lettered all three years so far. Ethan has also been named a basketball team captain for both his junior and senior years. Off the court, Ethan is an exceptional student. He is an active member of the Conemaugh Township Chapter of the National Honor Society. Ethan is also the treasurer of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club. In Ethan's spare time he enjoys spending time with family, hanging out with friends and playing video games. Ethan's future plans are to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to pursue a degree in engineering. Ethan's favorite quote is from Martin Luther King Jr. reading "No one really knows why they're alive until they know what they'd die for."



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Ariana Grande Attacked at Wicked: For Good Premier

By Nina Richardson

World famous artist and actress, Ariana Grande, who stars as the lead role in the popular movie series, *Wicked*, suffered an attack at the *Wicked: For Good* premier. While she has yet to make a public comment about the incident, the man received fair consequences, and Grande remains safe and unharmed.

On November 13th 2025, the *Wicked: For Good* premier took place in Singapore. Co-star, Cynthia Erivo, and Ariana Grande were walking the red carpet when an Australian man jumped over the blockade and grabbed Grande. Erivo witnessed this, and immediately jumped to defend her by pulling the man off of Grande. Security then quickly intervened, and removed the man from the area. The man was identified as Johnson Wen. Wen was sentenced to nine days in jail in addition to being deported to Australia and banned from re-entering Singapore. Fortunately, Grande was not physically harmed. However, it mentally struck her, as she has previously dealt with similar incidents, triggering Grande's PTSD. Nevertheless, she has learned ways to manage this, and she has many loved ones and friends, especially Erivo, to help her through it.

Overall, the *Wicked: For Good* premier took a turn that no one was anticipating. Luckily, all remain physically unharmed, and consequences were dealt out to further prevent and protect Ariana Grande, and the rest of the *Wicked* cast from any future altercations. Despite the event, Grande and Erivo stay positive, focusing their excitement on the new movie and events to come!

Grammy's: Snubs and Surprises

By Mary Matera

The snubs and surprises of the Grammy's will definitely be shocking to the public. Many fans are eager to see if their favorite artist will win a Grammy. Tune in to see the Grammy's live on February 1, 2026.

Many people are surprised and hurt when they found out who the snubs are. They include The Weeknd, Lorde, Alex Warren, Megan Moroney, Post Malone, and Charli XCX. Many of these artists just released amazing work and still

have no nominations. When it was discovered that The Weeknd had no nominations, fans and critics called it the biggest snub of the year. People think it is just like last year when Billie Eilish did not win any of her nominations, despite the love she got for her album, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*. Although Charli XCX was not nominated, she won three Grammy's during the Premiere Ceremony. Now for the Surprises which shocked everyone. The surprises include Leon Thomas, Turnstile, KATSEYE, Tyler the Creator, and Justin Bieber. Leon Thomas and Turnstile's nomination are both surprising and even considered a highlight for the 2026 nominations. Tyler the Creator was extremely unexpected and just adds to his list of Grammy Nominations. Both "Golden" from K-pop Demon Hunters and "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked* were nominated in the Song of the Year and Pop Duo category.

Overall, many, if not all, of the snubs and surprises shocked fans and critics alike. Every year the Grammy's spark many reactions and is a major discussion topic among many fans. This is a music phenomenon that brings people from all over the world together.

Medical Professional Charged in the Death of Actor Matthew Perry

By Sarah Swank

A licensed San Diego physician, Salvador Plasencia was found to be responsible in Matthew Perry overdose death. Plasencia is a physician who pleaded guilty in July 2025 to four counts of illegally distributing ketamine to Perry. Plasencia ran an urgent-care clinic in Calabasas. He has been sentenced to a maximum of ten years in federal prison for each count.

The former doctor sobbed when he addressed the court before his sentencing. "I should have protected him," Plasencia said. He also claimed that he failed Perry and his family. "I have to accept responsibility," he said. Judge Sherilyn Peace Garnett sentenced him to 30 months in federal prison for each count. He has to have two years of supervised release, and he was fined \$5,600. The judge highlighted that Plasencia did not give the fatal dose of ketamine, but agreed his actions led to Perry's death in October 2023. According to released police findings, he distributed 20 vials of ketamine, ketamine lozenges and syringes to Perry and the actor's lin-in assistant, Kenneth

Kenneth Iwamasa. According to Iwamasa's plea agreement, Perry asked Iwamasa to help him get ketamine in September 2023 and provided his assistant with "money, or promised to reimburse him, and directed him to find sources from whom to acquire the drugs." The sentencing aims to serve as a warning to medical professionals that abusing a position of trust to supply controlled substances illegally can have serious consequences.

Matthew Perry's tragic death and the conviction of Dr. Salvador Plasencia is a powerful reminder of responsibility carried by medical professionals. As the case closes, it leaves behind a call for stricter oversight, stronger standards, and a renewed commitment to protecting those who are vulnerable. Perry's story serves as a reminder of why care matters.

Sabrina Carpenter Calls Out the White House

By Renata Savignone

Sabrina Carpenter is a very popular American singer and actress, who's currently one of the most influential figures in the music industry, given her large fanbase all over the world. She's known for her upbeat pop songs, characteristic style, fun lyrics and empowering messages that establish her as a major voice in contemporary pop.

Recently, the White House social media team made a post, which consisted of a video of ICE agents arresting people and carrying out immigration raids, with Carpenter's song 'Juno' in the background. This received lots of negative media attention, including the artist's, who then called the video "evil and disgusting." The singer then added: "Do not ever involve me or my music to benefit your inhumane agenda."

The video was later taken down due to the backlash of the public and the artist, but the damage was already done. People were clearly unhappy with the publication, citing lack of professionalism and that government communication should be solely institutional, not sensationalist.

Artist of the Month



Ellie Luscher is involved with all things art. She loves to draw, paint and be very creative. Ellie spends most of her time in the art room and it is her main hobby. She has done art every single year so far in high school, even when it is not required. Ellie is currently in Art III and is working on one of her favorite projects she has done. It is called the perspective art

house painting.

Ellie likes to spend most of her time focusing on art and how to become a better artist. When she graduates, she does want to do some type of art in college. Ellie's favorite memories in the Art Club consist of going down to St. David's to teach the little preschoolers lessons on how to paint, draw and color, as well as the end of the year trip to the Pittsburgh Art Museum where they get to explore and shop around.

Ellie recommends giving art a try, noting, "As much as it can be frustrating, it is very relaxing and Mrs. Spengler is a very good teacher. Whether you think you can do art or can't, I promise you can."

Musician of the Month



Conemaugh Township Music Department has selected Christopher Yoder as musician of the month. Chris has showed pure commitment and dedication to his music career. Chris has been a part of Conemaugh Township's Music Department for nine years, and has been working to further expand his musical talent everyday.

Christopher Yoder, a senior from Davidsville, has truly made his mark through his dedication to musical arts. Over the past four years in choir, he has developed not only his vocal skills, but also his confidence and stage presence. His 6 years in the musical highlights commitment that shows his love for performing arts. Along with his theatrical talents, Chris plays the trumpet. His involvement in the music department shows how passionate and hardworking he is as he finishes his senior year. Looking back on everything he's been a part of, Chris says "I have been so blessed to have had an amazing experience within CT's music department with amazing people and amazing opportunities."

Christopher's musical talent has been a huge part of his high school experience. From choir and musicals to playing trumpet, he's grown and made great memories. As he moves on it is clear that music will have always be a big part of his life.

Secretary of Defense Risked Exposing Military Information

By Savannah Stutzman

Recently, a report was released by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense that found the Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, used a messaging app called Signal to share details about upcoming American airstrikes. This act has led to numerous issues, and many American citizens are left with questions and concerns.

According to *Defense News*, Hegseth released a number of details including the number of aircrafts, timing specifics such as strike times, and operational information. The information he released was derived from a classified document that he claimed he had “declassified previously.” Moreover, it was found that other government officials and a journalist were involved in these text threads. The report by the Inspector General included that the device used by Hegseth was a “personal device that has a non-approved commercial messaging app, which could have severely endangered U.S. troops and mission objectives.” Lawmakers are trying to hold Hegseth accountable and force him into resignation for “betraying his country.” This entire incident has raised concern about government officials’ use of personal devices and commercial apps. The Department of Defense is suggesting reforms need to be made, especially with more training and the implementation of stricter communication protocols.

Overall, the entire situation brings to light a bigger issue. It brings up the question of what steps need to be taken to improve government security protocols, especially for our high-ranking senior government officials. Many expect to see drastic changes to security measures.

Epstein Files Being Released

By Noah Nagy

The secretive world of Jeffrey Epstein is finally coming to light for the public. This week, a federal judge in Florida ordered the release of sealed grand jury materials from Epstein's 2005 and 2007 investigations following the passage of the Epstein Files Transparency Act. Representative Robert Garcia, a member of the House Oversight Committee, called the release “a disturbing look into Epstein’s world.” Garcia noted, “It’s important for the public to see what really happened and understand the scope of his crimes.”

Federal prosecutors said they will remove personal information about victims before releasing the materials, making sure the victims’ privacy is protected while still letting people see the full picture. Newly released photos and videos of Epstein's private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands offer a glimpse into his private life. The images show bedrooms, a room with masks on the walls, a dental chair, and personal items scattered throughout the property. Lawmakers said the media gives a “disturbing look” into Epstein’s world, and that public access to these materials is crucial for transparency and accountability.

Despite the long-awaited release, the story remains a difficult one for many. Epstein’s secretive plea deal allowed him to avoid federal charges for years, despite serious allegations of sexual abuse and trafficking. He died by suicide in 2019 while awaiting trial, and Ghislaine Maxwell, the former British socialite and associate to Epstein, is now serving a 20-year prison sentence for her role in his crimes. While some of the materials have surfaced in civil lawsuits over the years, this public release allows the community to finally see more of the scope of Epstein’s operations and the investigations that followed, shedding new light on a story that has captivated and horrified the nation for years.

Little Contownian

New Year, New You

By: Gemma Studer

The new year is right around the corner, and you know what they say: “New year, new me.” A great way to start the new year is to make goals for yourself. It is pretty common for people to make goals for the new year but it is also common not to follow through with the goals after a few weeks. Here are some tips and ways to make sure you stick to your goals and have a great year of accomplishments.

First, you have to choose a goal that you actually care about doing. Some common goals include: drink more water, exercise more, and get better grades. You can choose anything that is going to be best for you to get you closer to being the kind of person you want to be. You can choose literally anything, like finding a new hobby or lowering your time watching unproductive content.

Personally, a goal I would like to try myself is to wake up earlier. In my perfect self, I would like to wake up early enough to make an aesthetic coffee drink, get ready in a calm and relaxed way, and check my to-do list before heading out the door to school. I don't like to feel rushed to start the day.

Secondly, in order to be successful, you should set small goals for success. For example, if you normally wake up at 7 a.m., you can first set a goal to wake up at 6:50 a.m. If you wake up at that time for a week then reward yourself with a little treat. You can continue to wake up earlier and earlier. After you accomplish each new goal, then upgrade your treat!

Lastly, after a few months, check in with your goal and see if it is benefiting you and your life. If not then plan to make a new goal focused on your self-improvement. Either way, you need to be honest with yourself and find a goal that will make you happy. Most importantly, pick something that you enjoy! Be the one who masters the new year, new me!

Christmas Fun

By: Alison Naugle

Christmas originated in honor of Jesus' birthday. He was born on December 25th, and then became known as Christmas. Since then, it has evolved and became a tradition for many people to hang up stockings and give gifts to friends and family to show their appreciation. People also attend church on Christmas day to recognize Jesus' birthday. As the fun-filled holiday of Christmas approaches, people like to prepare and participate in fun activities.

Leading up to Christmas, the month of December is filled with joy and care. People celebrate and cherish this holiday in many ways, but here are 10 of the most common Christmas-themed activities:

- Making gingerbread houses
- Baking cookies
- Sledding in the snow
- Decorating your house
- Caroling
- Throwing or going to parties
- Viewing Christmas lights
- Watching holiday movies or shows
- Listening to Christmas music
- Writing Christmas cards to others

Those are different and creative ways people enjoy the Christmas spirit. All of the events listed above are common because these traditions come year after year. Even simple things like baking cookies, watching movies with family, and writing Christmas cards can bring so much joy this season. Happy holidays!





Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

January 1-2.....	Winter Vacation Bonfire Dance 6:30-8
January 16.....	Act 80 Early Dismissal 12:00 Middle/High School 12:30 Elementary
January 19.....	M. L. King Vacation
January 20.....	End of Nine Weeks
January 27.....	Report Cards Issued

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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