

# February newsletter



## Saint Jude's Valentines Cards

In the month of February, our Rotary Interact members try to make sure that everyone knows they are loved. One way they make this difference is by sending cards to the patients of Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Each Rotary Interact member will make five cards, which makes over 150 cards we get to send out. This is an easy way to put a big smile on someone's face and show them they are loved when they may need it. If you would also like to send a card, they can be found on Saint Jude's website. All you have to do is write your own message and truly make a difference in someone's day.

"It is very rewarding to know that we are giving the children love and support that is needed. Even though we may not personally know them, we still keep them in our hearts and hope that our message can mean something to them! Everyone deserves to feel loved, and Valentine's Day is a perfect opportunity to express our love to others!" – Junior, Lilly Oakes



<https://www.stjude.org/get-involved/send-virtual-cards-online-to-childrens-hospital-patients/valentines-day.html>



## Chem With Friends

Ms. Pasierb's third period chemistry class has partnered up with some of Mrs. Kopp's life skills students for the second year in a row to conduct some fun experiments during "Chem with Friends." During this time, the life skills students learn useful science vocabulary and also how to perform cool experiments. The classes meet twice a month and have made bath bombs, foaming pumpkins, and participated in so many other fun activities.

"It is very important for everyone to have experience with science. The "Chem with Friends" class allows us to have controlled experiments with the students, giving us a way to explain tough scientific terms through visuals."

– Junior Chemistry II Student, Emily Purdy

# Some Of Our Amazing Students

## A National Finalist With a Heart for Art

One of our very talented seniors, Olivia Ryan, was selected at the beginning of January to be a finalist in a national art competition, presented by Purina Pro Plan. Olivia's work will be displayed nationally at the AKC Meet the Breeds event held at the Javits Convention Center in Manhattan, New York City, on February 7th through the 8th. This is an incredible accomplishment, and we are very proud of our talented artist and her amazing work. Coinciding with the art competition, Olivia is also working on two new pieces inspired by Roy Lichtenstein, a comic book and pop art style, and another perspective art painting.

"Art class, for me, is a good thing because if I don't take it, then I'm not motivated to continue doing art. It's one of my downtimes, when I can just relax and do something I love. It also pushes you outside of your comfort zone and makes you push yourself because of the competition in class."



## A Square of Love

Anna Hostetler is a seventh-grade student at Conemaugh Township who recently took up the art of square dancing in the last year. She competes with her 4-H club, "Steak and Chops," which recently took first in Harrisburg. Currently, Anna is learning a dance called "Put on Your Boogie Shoes," which consists of heel taps, grapevines, jazz box, and kick and slides.

"I really enjoy competing, the dances can be tricky and hard to learn sometimes, but the hardest part is probably going up and actually dancing in front of a crowd." – Anna Hostetler.

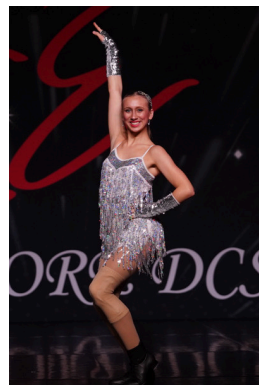
## Dancing With Your Heart

Alexa Gardenhour, Gracie McCall, and Maya Denault are all of our seniors who are recreational dancers throughout the school year. Alexa and Maya are also competitive dancers on top of dancing for leisure. Gracie and Maya dance at Legacy Performing Arts, while Alexa dances at Sharon's Dance Studio. The dancers perform forms of ballet, jazz, and hip hop, with Maya also participating in contemporary and modern, and Alexa in tap, lyrical, contemporary, and pointe. All three of the girls have danced for 15 years.

"Dance has definitely helped our self-confidence and personal growth over the years. It's been a great and humbling experience for the past 15 years, and we are so grateful for the friends that we have made who have become like family."

– Alexa, Gracie, and Maya.

Alexa Gardenhour, performing at Encore DCS



Maya Denault and Gracie McCall, as Mike and Sully for a duet



# What's Happening in the Tribe?

## All Heart, All Talent

The Conemaugh Township Life Skills classroom spent the beginning of January preparing to venture out to Westmont Hilltop High School to perform in a talent show alongside other schools. The event will be held on February 5th, starting at 11:30 a.m, filling the auditorium with tons of talent and amazing students. Our Life Skills class will play handbells to the song "Count On Me" by Bruno Mars. The students who will perform are the following: Irelyn Bell, Alex Baty, Aiden Walters, Elly Dull, Jude Lehman, Jasmine David, Justin Armstrong, Zane Bier, Brayden Labreck, Sarabeth Sullivan, Hayden Fye, and Johnny Nerone. Sarabeth Sullivan will also present an art piece that she has been working very hard on.



## Brewed With Heart

Cafe 118 works very hard every Friday to make and deliver drinks to teachers. The students learn how to communicate in a group, handle money, and be accountable. These skills help open up future job opportunities and teach the students how to function in those workplaces. The students also have many opportunities for fun, as the money they raise can take them to the movies, their talent show, and many other fun adventures. The students said that their favorite part of what they do is delivering the drinks throughout the day and seeing the smiles on teachers' faces.

## Good Rolls, Great Hearts

Bocce is a game where two teams compete against each other for points. It begins with a coin toss, deciding which team gets to throw the pallino (a smaller ball) and get the first roll with the larger balls. Each team gets four rolls to try to get closest to the pallino.

The Conemaugh Township team has been competing in matches since December and is currently 1-2. The team consists of Brayden Labreck, Sarabeth Sullivan, Greta Mock, Emily Purdy, Danika Black, Ella Mankamyer, and Addison Miller. The team has two more matches in their season: home on February 4th against North Star at 3:30 and away on February 5th at Somerset at 4:00.

# Creativity in CT

## PMEA District VI Choir Results

On January 9th, the District VI Choir had its performance. This involved six of our students: Anna Hunsberger, Adah Koneiczny, Greta Mock, Emily Purdy, Dan Turley, and Chris Yoder.

On the 7th, the students auditioned for the Region III choir, and the results were announced the following day, with three of our students being selected to advance.

All of the students had a fantastic performance and represented Township well.

## PMEA District VI Band Festival

The District VI Band will perform on February 5–6, with auditions on the fourth. This will be held at Cambria Heights High School and will feature the following songs: “Star Spangled Banner,” “Salute to PMEA,” “Halcyon Hearts,” “Lyric Suite,” “Ellacombe Variations,” “Irish Tune/Shepherd’s Hey,” “Lord Tullamore,” and “Hands Across the Sea.”

These CT students were selected for the performance: Daniel Turley, Alonna Bracken, and Greta Mock, all performing on the clarinet.

## PMEA Region III Choir

The following students were selected to advance to the Region choir after their auditions preceding the District choir festival: Anna Hunsberger and Greta Mock for Alto 1, and Dan Turley for Bass 1.

The students will be performing at Forest Hills on February 18th–20th. The songs that they will be learning for the festival are: “Breathe,” “Man Up,” “Fire,” “Measure Me, Sky,” “Sonder,” “They Are Mother,” “To Sit and Dream,” and “World O World.”

## PMEA District VI Modern Rock

Senior Daniel Turley was selected to play the piano for both the Modern Rock and Jazz ensemble portions. In the end, he chose to perform for the Modern Rock band and had a lot of fun in his experience. This festival was at Johnstown High School, where the Modern Rock band performed the songs “Sledgehammer,” “Rock With You,” “Them Changes,” “The Impression That I Get,” “I’m Still Standing,” and “Don’t You Worry ‘Bout a Thing.” “Modern Rock band is always my favorite festival. Sometimes classical stuff gets tiring, but being able to just play music that is less technical and more about having fun, well, it’s more fun.” – Daniel Turley

## PMEA District VI Vocal Evolutions

Addison Lasure had the opportunity to perform in the Vocal Evolutions section of the Jazz festival, performing a solo in “This is Me” from The Greatest Showman. Other songs performed include “Landslide,” “Walking in Memphis,” “I’ll Be There,” and “Carry On My Wayward Son.” The festival was held at Johnstown High School and had rehearsals on Thursday and Friday leading up to the concert. “I’m so grateful for the opportunity to participate in Vocal Evolutions. All of the people were so wonderful, and I truly believe the festival helped me to grow and improve as a vocalist. I can’t wait to audition again next year!” – Addison Lasure



# What's Happening in the Tribe?

## Tribe Time, Valentine Style

Tribe time is a program held at Davidsville Community Church every Monday from 4:00–6:00 PM. This is an organization where students from the high school have the opportunity to mentor kids from the elementary school, allowing the young students to have help with homework while also creating bonds. The students also participate in games and crafts and are fed dinner provided by new volunteers each week. These volunteers usually consist of retired/active teachers or members of Rotary Interact, churches, and many other organizations. While the time seems to be about fun and food, its true importance is the impact made on the children's lives. Though it may seem small, the impact this has is much larger than what meets the eye. Having high school students around them, the students feel seen and have an elder sibling bond that they may not usually have, making the experience even more memorable.

"The goal of Tribe Time is to shower the kids with love and show them how precious they are, not only in the eyes of God, but also by all of us." –Mrs. Spengler.



## Rent a Senior ❤️

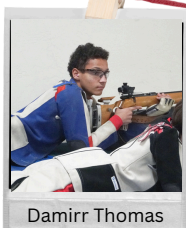
Every year, the Conemaugh Township Rotary holds an auction called "Rent-A-Senior". This involves each senior Rotary member setting up a box to be used during every lunch period for student bids. Students from grades 6–12 write their name on a piece of paper along with the amount they want to bid on their senior. This bidding will last for two weeks in February, and in April, the office will announce the winner of the silent auction for each student. The winner for each senior will then assist their highest bidder in any way possible. The money raised in the auction will go to Rotary to fund more projects for our community.

## Helping Hands & Hidden Treasures

The Conemaugh Township Rotary will be going to St. Francis Sharing and Caring this month to volunteer their time. The students will be sorting, tagging, and displaying clothing while also working alongside the other volunteers. This is an annual project that the club takes part in, and the participants always look forward to this time to give back to the area. Activities like this show a connection in the community and how important it is to have that. Sometimes all people need is a little help from the people around them. That's what makes a local thrift shop feel special.

"Volunteering at St. Francis Sharing and Caring with Rotary is a great opportunity to connect with the wonderful people who volunteer there and give time to a great cause. It puts into perspective how much work is put into our community." – Anna Hunsberger

# CT Sports Leveling Up



Damirr Thomas



Carson Brotz



Micah Lehman



Josh Baker



Maya Denault



Stephen Stango

## Slam Dunk of Love

### Right on Cupids Target

The Conemaugh Township rifle team is currently wrapping up its season. They will have their senior night on February 5th, an away match on the 13th, and states on the weekend of February 20th.

"This year has been a year of training and lots of progress for all of our younger and newer shooters, as well as us shooters who have been around for a while. We only have a few matches left in February: our senior night, our final away match, and states." –Senior, Maya Denault

The girls' basketball team will conclude its regular season on February 9th. They are currently 5-12 and have fought very hard to try to reach the playoffs. The girls fought very hard this season and are hoping to end their season on a high note with a few more wins.

"After a big year of adjustments, like this season, my advice to the future team is to always keep pushing and put in your full effort always!! But most of all, make sure to have fun!" –Senior, Kat McCann

The boys' team will finish their regular season on February 10th. Their current record is 13-3, and they will advance to the playoffs.

"I'm feeling pretty good about the season so far. We've had our ups and downs, but we are bringing things together, and I'm very proud of the progress we've made. The chemistry the team has is the best team chemistry I've ever felt with any sports team, and we can feel its effects on and off the court. My advice to future players is: all it takes is motivation. If you truly want to be there, you will get so much better, and it will show."

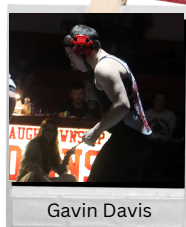
–Senior Brennan Lohr

### Love the Grind

The Conemaugh Township wrestling team is currently 4-3 for their regular season, 3-0 within Heritage, and 5-7 including their regular duals and dual tournaments. The team will advance to the playoffs.

"My advice to future players is: What you do in your free time is just as important as what you do on the mat. You need to eat right, strengthen your body, and sleep right."

–Senior, Julian Thorne



Gavin Davis



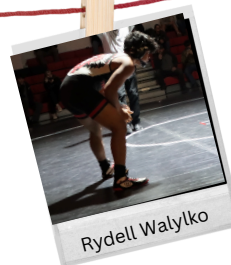
Leah Kordell



Noah Stultz



Katrina McCann



Rydell Walyko



Quinn Moser



# FALL VARSITY SPORTS ACCOLADES

## VOLLEYBALL

ALL-STATE - **SARAH SWANK**  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ALL-STARS - **MADEE ROMAN & SARAH SWANK**  
SOMERSET COUNTY 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM - **MADEE ROMAN & SARAH SWANK**  
SOMERSET COUNTY 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM - **LAIKYN REYNOLDS**  
SOMERSET COUNTY HONORABLE MENTION - **DANIKA BLACK & CORA OSWALT**  
ALL DISTRICT 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM - **MADEE ROMAN & SARAH SWANK**  
500 DIGS - **MADEE ROMAN & SARAH SWANK**  
500 KILLS - **MADEE ROMAN, LAIKYN REYNOLDS, & SARAH SWANK**  
500 SETTER ASSISTS - **AVERIE SEIBERT & MARY MATERA**  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS  
DISTRICT 5A RUNNER-UP

## BOYS SOCCER

ALL-STATE MIDFIELD - **ROCCO HAGAN**  
2025 DAILY AMERICAN MALE PLAYER OF THE YEAR - **ROCCO HAGAN**  
SCHOOL RECORD FOR GOALS IN A SINGLE SEASON - **ROCCO HAGAN (46)**  
DAILY AMERICAN FANTASTIC FIFTEEN - **ROCCO HAGAN, GENTRY SOTOSKY, & JOSEY SOTOSKY**  
SANTA FUND - **GRAYSON KUSHER & CHRIS YODER**  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS  
DISTRICT 5A RUNNER-UP

## GOLF

DISTRICT V INDIVIDUAL MEN'S CHAMPION - **BEN STEINBECK**  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE ALL CONFERENCE - **HAYDEN MILLER**  
TWO TIME STATE QUALIFIER - **BEN STEINBECK**  
DISTRICT V TEAM CHAMPIONS  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE TEAM CHAMPIONS

## CROSS COUNTRY

DISTRICT 5A CHAMPION - **HUDSON LEASE**

## GIRLS SOCCER

DAILY AMERICAN SUPER 16 ALL-STARS - **MAYCE KORDELL & JAYLA FEATHERS**  
HERITAGE ALL-CONFERENCE - **ANDIE HUNSBERGER & MAYCE KORDELL**  
SANTA FUND - **ADDIE MILLER & ANDIE HUNSBERGER**  
SOMERSET COUNTY 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM - **ANDIE HUNSBERGER, MAYCE KORDELL, & GINA HAGAN**  
SOMERSET COUNTY 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM - **MOLLY HUNSBERGER & VAYDA KORENOSKI**  
SOMERSET COUNTY HONORABLE MENTION - **JENNABEL PURSLEY**

## FOOTBALL

2025 ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM - **DJ BAMBINO & BRENNAN LOHR**  
2025 ALL RENDA OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR - **BRENNAN LOHR (RB)**  
2025 ALL RENDA 2<sup>ND</sup> TEAM - **DJ BAMBINO (WR), CAYDEN DAIL (DL), & GREYSON STUDER (QB)**  
2025 ALL RENDA HONORABLE MENTION - **JOSH BAKER (DL), COHEN STAHL (P), & GABE VALENTINE (OL)**  
DAILY AMERICAN ALL-23 TEAM - **DJ BAMBINO, BRENNAN LOHR, & GABE VALENTINE**  
ALL- TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT 1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM - **DJ BAMBINO & BRENNAN LOHR**  
ALL- TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT HONORABLE MENTION - **JOSH BAKER (OL), JACOB BARTIS (OL), AIDAN BURNWORTH (DL), CAYDEN DAIL, LANDON HUFFMAN (OL), LIAM RICHARDSON (LB), GENTRY SOTOSKY (K), COHEN STAHL (LB), GREYSON STUDER, GABE VALENTINE, & KADEN VALENTINE (DB)**  
HERITAGE CONFERENCE FABULOUS 50 - **DJ BAMBINO, CAYDEN DAIL, BRENNAN LOHR, COHEN STAHL, & GREYSON STUDER**  
2025 SOUTHERN ALLEGHENY FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION - **BRENNAN LOHR (OFFENSE) & LIAM RICHARDSON (DEFENSE)**  
1,000 YARDS RUSHING - **BRENNAN LOHR (1,313)**  
1,000 YARDS PASSING - **GREYSON STUDER (1,119)**  
500 YARDS RECEIVING - **DJ BAMBINO (574)**  
DISTRICT 5A RUNNER-UP

# Our Valentine of the Month

## Middle School Students of the Month



"Marley Neeld is super sweet. She is always ready with a big smile and a compliment. She is a true pleasure to have in class."

"Hazel Desantis is a bright and friendly student. She is polite and works hard to understand classroom concepts. She is a delight!"



"Jasmine David is a very hard worker and is exceptionally friendly! She works hard in the classroom and really does try her best!"

## Senior High Students of the Month

"Amelia Mitchell is a passionate and considerate student who goes out of her way to look out for others. She is respectful and kind."



"Loie Oliszewski is a top tier student and kind, respectful, and helpful to her peers. Loie is a stellar example of our CT spirit."



"Addison Lasure is a loving and compassionate individual who excels academically. She loves to smile and her positivity is contagious."



"Andie Hunsberger is everyone's friend at CT. She is always positive and sweet to both teachers and peers. Andie is easy to talk to, trust, and love!"





# Teaching From the Heart : Mrs. Salem

Mrs. Lee Salem has been a valued member of the Conemaugh Township family since 2018, bringing dedication, warmth, and a deep love of literature into the classroom. She currently teaches 7th grade English Language Arts, Honors English 11, and serves as the district's ESL teacher. Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, on a military base, she grew up as a proud "military brat." With her father serving in the U.S. Marines, her childhood was filled with frequent moves and new experiences. Although her parents are originally from Buffalo, New York, she spent her early years living in South Carolina, Hawaii, North Carolina, and eventually Pennsylvania. Growing up with two brothers and one sister, her childhood was rich with family time, including fishing trips, camping adventures, and countless backyard baseball games.

A lifelong passion for English and education led her to pursue higher education at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in English Education in 2005. She later completed her Master's degree in Literature at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2008 and also earned secondary certification in English as a Second Language Instruction. Before joining the Conemaugh Township staff, she spent ten years teaching English at Bishop McCort from 2005 to 2015, working with 10th and 11th grade students. She also broadened her teaching experience by spending a year in the International Department at Saint Francis University, where she taught English to foreign exchange students. In 2018, she was hired at Conemaugh Township alongside a group of dedicated educators and quickly became an integral part of the school community.

Life outside the classroom is just as full and meaningful. She is married to her husband, Ken Salem, and the couple has been together for 17 years. They are the proud parents of three sons: Gabe (16), Jake (14), and Luke (10), whose busy schedules keep her cheering from ball fields, sitting in natatorium stands, and waiting patiently in concert halls and auditoriums. In her quieter moments, she is an avid reader who is rarely without her Kindle. Recently, she has also begun a sourdough baking journey, spending her time feeding her starter and baking fresh bread for her family.

Most importantly, she has been integral in making Conemaugh Township the beloved place it is through her passionate lessons both in literature and life. She speaks highly of the dedication, love, and loyalty shown by the teachers and staff, and finds daily joy in working with Township students. "Our students make working here a wonderful and rewarding experience," she shares. "I'm genuinely happy to see our students every day." Her passion for teaching, commitment to her students, and appreciation for the Township community make her an invaluable member of the CT family.



"Mrs. Salem is a great teacher who keeps things interesting in her classroom. She has so much empathy for her students and is always there to listen to anything. Thank you, Mrs. Salem, for always making English fun, even when we have to write papers or talk about the Puritans!"  
-Emily Purdy



"Mrs. Salem is an exceptional teacher and an even better friend who forms meaningful connections with her students. She brings deep content knowledge, humor, and intelligence together in a way that makes learning both engaging and impactful. She is a true reflection of the best of our Township spirit." -Mrs. Sanderson

"Mrs. Salem is such a great teacher and person. She cares so much for every one of her students and coworkers. She is so much fun and has so many interesting stories from her life over the years. When teaching, Mrs. Salem always adds a fun activity to her lessons which helps the topics stick in our brains. She also really knows how to help you write a research paper!!  
THANK YOU SO MUCH, MRS. SALEM."

-Maya Denault





## UPCOMING EVENTS

2-6 | ACT 80 DAY

2-16 | NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS





# Who's in Charge?



## Jr. Editor

### Emily Purdy

Emily Louise Purdy is from Davidsville, PA. She participates in soccer, golf, hockey, bocce ball, basketball, track, softball, and is a cheer captain. She also has been a part of four musicals. Emily has participated in District Choir for one year and is a part of numerous clubs including Girl Scouts, Rotary, NHS, Student Council, and SADD. Her interests include singing, reading, writing, traveling, ice skating, and volunteering. Emily is also an active member at Camp Parc and is an Adapted Music teacher.

## Sr. Editor

### Maya Denault

Maya Lynn Denault is from Hollsopple, PA. She is the captain of the rifle team, a dedicated dancer both recreationally and competitively, and has also participated in many musical productions. Maya has lettered twice in rifle, competed at Nationals twice for dance, and is actively involved in leadership and service as the runner / editor of two newsletters, a member of the National Honor Society, and Vice President of Rotary. Her interests include photography, volunteering, crafting, reading, gardening, and, of course, dancing.

## Jr. Editor

### Hannah James

Hannah Grace James is from Jerome, PA, where she actively contributes to her community through involvement in organizations such as Rotary Interact, Spanish Club, and Tribe Time. Beyond her community contributions, Hannah has a passion for playing piano and singing. She also likes to spend time with her friends during her free time. Additionally, Hannah is eager to explore new experiences, always striving to learn and grow both personally and academically.