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# THE Contownian



VOLUME 87, NO. 5 CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA HIGH SCHOOL DAVIDSVILLE, PA

## *Mrs. Chrissy Troxell's Retirement*

*By Savannah Stutzman*

Mrs. Chrissy Troxell, former member of the Conemaugh Township School Board, decided recently that after sixteen years of helping build up the school, it was finally an appropriate time to take more time for herself and her family.

When she first ran to be a member of the school board, her job as a retail pharmacist was only part time. Now, she works full time, and often works night shifts. She expressed that it has become more difficult to find a balance between work, her family, and the school board meetings. After a long period of internal debate on what she should do about this, she decided that she was no longer giving as much as she could to the school. Mrs. Troxell is, however, still involved in the Conemaugh Township Community Foundation. This organization helps with many school affairs, and she is more than willing to help out with projects that the School Board is doing, if ever possible. Initially, she ran for a position in the School Board because at the time her children were attending Conemaugh Township Area Elementary, and she felt there was very little elementary school representation. During her years of being a part of the school board, she made many great accomplishments. She and the other members of the board have made many advancements to both the elementary and high school buildings themselves, the education system, our extracurriculars, the school's technology, and many other things. She adamantly believes that the work they did was a crucial part of building up the school. She states, "One of the things that you need to be good at to run for the board is listening." Mrs. Troxell also claims that Conemaugh Township has always focused on its students, and because of that, she feels that her time on the Board was highly successful.

Overall, Mrs. Troxell was a very valued member of the Conemaugh Township School Board, and her sixteen years of contributions will not be forgotten. Mrs. Chrissy Troxell strived to give more students representation and build up school programs, providing students with more opportunities.

## *Cell Phone Ban Legislation*

*By Kennedy Lehman*

Schools in America are going through one of the largest and fastest growing policy shifts in education history related to the use of one of the most popular forms of technology: cell phones. Cell phones are now viewed to be a drag on academic performance and students' well-being. Over 30 states have banned phones being at school. They want to ban phones for post-pandemic academic recovery and an acute mental health crisis. This would involve government action into reshaping daily experience for students.

There are pros and cons to banning cell phone use in school. The students would be more focused on their studies as there would be less distractions and disruptive behavior. in class Many students would be more engaged in the lesson. It could also reduce the risk of mental health struggles. Many studies show that social media has led students to be more depressed. Care.com states, "School hours could provide a large chunk of the day that they get a break from screens, which might have a positive impact on mental health." Grades and learning would be improved. On the other hand, some students have not been using their phones inappropriately. This legislation would also be challenging to implement across the board. *The Economist* states, "There are still tablets and laptops — intended as aids to classroom instruction but offering many of the same temptations to distraction." This legislation also reduces the student's chance to contact a parent or guardian in any situation. Individuals on both sides of this legislation present valid points that only further the controversy surrounding this topic.

Some states don't have enough money to carry out the law. However, they have enough money for lockable phone pouches and other storage solutions. By banning phones there is a sense of respect and self-regulation according to many teachers. Only time will tell what influences this legislation has in schools locally and at the national level.

# Contownian News Magazine

## News

Page 1 - Mrs. Chrissy Troxell Retirement

Page 1 - Cell Phone Ban Legislation

Page 12 - Venezuelan President Taken into Custody by U.S.

Page 12 - Woman Shot by Ice Agent

## Society

Page 4 - CT Alumni in College Bands

Page 4 - Alumni of the Month: Erica Gindlesperger

Page 5 - Math Counts

Page 5 - New School Board Member: Mrs. Marissa Bazyk

## Editorial

Page 6 - Saving Holiday Money

Page 6 - Snow Days vs. FIDs

Page 6 - Out Early Fridays

## Features

Page 7 - National Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Page 7 - Top Ten Books of 2025

Page 7 - Combating the Third Quarter Slump

## Sports

Page 8 - Swim Senior Night

Page 8 - CT Bocce Shines

Page 8 - Wrestling Comes Out on Top

Page 9 - Athletes of the Month - Carson Brotz and Cassidy Johns

## Pop Culture

Page 10 - The Murder of Rob and Michele Reiner

Page 10 - Season 28 *The Voice* Recap

Page 10 - Tommy Lee's Daughter Found Dead

Page 11 - New Season of The Masked Singer

## Little Contownian

Page 13 - The King of Latin Rap

Page 13 - Random Acts of Kindness Day

# Contownian News Magazine

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Advisor: Diane Feathers





Roy Oswalt working hard at Vo-Tech.



Colin Dinyar going for a dunk.



Rydell Walylko working hard on the mat.



Mr. Lesko's coffee has been delivered!



Arabella Seibert getting into game mode!



Devin Deitz preparing for his match.



Isaac Marsh taking lead at the National Honors Society meeting.



6<sup>th</sup> grade working hard on their projects in the hallway.



Leah Kordell on a breakaway!



Lots of laughs at the bocce ball meet.

## ***CT Alumni in College Bands***

*By Amelia Mitchell*

A lot of students who were in band, while in high school at Conemaugh Township, continued playing when they went to college. They joined marching bands, concert bands, and other music groups, leading them to achieve great things. Being part of a band in high school gave them the experience and confidence to succeed, and it is exciting to see how their hard work paid off in college.

We have had many students that have gone through the music department, before going to college to succeed in their fields. There are so many other students that have gone on to accomplish great things, but these are just a few of them: Julia Thomas, Landon Weeks, Hayden Lingenfelter and Adelyn Dull. Julia Thomas graduated in the class of 2025. She said, "I'm super glad I had the opportunity to join the marching band at Cal U. It is definitely a different experience from high school marching band. It is the next level, so naturally, you are expected to get better to achieve the level expected of a collegiate marching band. It's also a larger commitment. You have to be very smart with your time because the college marching band has longer practices. A college marching band requires a lot more personal accountability; it is almost entirely student-run, so there aren't really adults forcing you to practice or get better. You have to take accountability for yourself and want to be there and get better. My time at Cal U marching band so far has been an extremely positive experience. I've met a lot of really great people and it inspires me to work hard and perform better. Although it's different from High School Marching Band, I would not be where I am without those high school experiences that set me up for success. Mrs. Grove holds

### **Alumni of the Month**



Erica Gindlesperger, a former Conemaugh Township student, graduated from high school in 1997 and has many fond memories from her experience attending. Following her student career, Gindlesperger attended Duquesne University for nursing. Later on, she continued to further her education at Mount Aloysius College.

Looking back on her high school years, Gindlesperger noted that her fondest memories were all of the lively and irreplaceable nights she spent with her friends. Some of her favorite moments included cheering for her team at sporting events as well as enjoying the fun-filled environment at school dances. Gindlesperger was involved in both soccer and track throughout her student career, and she collectively accumulated three varsity letters. Additionally, she stood out as an exceptional student by being on the honor roll, participating as an active member of the Student Council, and serving as the class treasurer. She also mentioned her favorite teacher, Mr. Bridgewater, whom she credits for her love for science. According to Gindlesperger, "He made the class fun and exciting. It was always clear that he cared about his students and their education."

Erica Gindlesperger currently resides in Davidsville, Pennsylvania, with her husband, Eric Schimkey. The couple has two children: Addison Gindlesperger, a Conemaugh Township alumna and student at Saint Francis University, and Max Gindlesperger.

her students to a high standard and expects hard work and a desire to learn. I'm grateful for the skills I gained from being a leader in the marching band as well. Those experiences definitely helped to prepare me for my college marching band experience. I'm grateful to the Conemaugh Township marching band and excited for what's to come for me with the Cal U marching band." Landon Weeks graduated in the class of 2024. He said, "High school band was a great learning experience, and it is what taught me to appreciate music. College is really fun and it's a great opportunity to work with a bunch of amazing musicians." Hayden Lingenfelter also graduated in the class of 2024. He said, "I loved being in the Conemaugh Township band from 7th grade up until my senior year. It was an amazing experience of being able to make music with my friends and perform at the weekly football games and competitions. Even though the band was small, we were still able to accomplish so much and were able to make much tighter and more professional bonds with each other. Being in Pitt, Dan has changed my perspective on marching bands and the level of dedication each player commits to it. One of the most shocking aspects of the band is that there are around 270 members in the band this year. The trombone section alone is almost as large as CT's marching band. Another one of the best parts about being a college man is that we get to do different shows each week and play really fun and challenging music and drill. I am extremely thankful for the Township music department for the skills that they have taught me and for giving me such an amazing experience in high school. I look forward to what the Pitt band does in the future!"



Adelyn Dull graduated in the class of 2023. She said, “Marching in high school gave me the basics I needed, but college has taken it to a whole new level. The foundation I built in high school let me grow, learn new styles, and really change myself as a marcher in college. Saint Francis University’s marching band has such a distinct style and feel that makes me excited to step on a field and share my love of music with others.”

Overall, Conemaugh Township’s Music Department has impacted so many lives. Even after you leave the building of Conemaugh Township, the experience you endure here will always affect you. The experiences that many students have had here have helped them in many ways shape their future.

### ***District VI Chorus Concert***

*By Lyla Mauzy*

From January 7th to the 9th, several incredibly talented chorus members represented our school at the PMEA District VI Chorus Festival in Richland, Pennsylvania. At this exciting annual event, six of our skilled high school singers had the opportunity to showcase their hard work and exceptional musical talent.

Individuals who participated included Adah Konieczny, Anna Hunsberger, Emily Purdy, Greta Mock, Daniel Turley, and Christopher Yoder. On Wednesday, January 7th, they each auditioned for Regional Chorus individually for a panel of judges, with each vocal section - including soprano, alto, tenor, and base - performing a designated part of a piece selected by the leaders of the festival. Out of those who auditioned, upperclassmen Anna Hunsberger, Greta Mock, and Daniel Turley were chosen to move on to Regional Chorus. Hunsberger and Mock are advancing on Alto 1, and Turley will be advancing on Bass 1. A concert was then held on Friday January 9th to bring the week to a close, and featured all who took part in the festival. Mrs. Lingenfelter, the choir director at the Conemaugh Township High School, was incredibly proud of the group, stating, “They all performed a wonderful concert Friday night.”

Overall, our vocalists performed exceptionally well at the District Chorus Festival, and each dedicated a large amount of their time beforehand practicing and perfecting their respective songs. The next festival featuring these talented singers will occur at the Forest Hills High School from February 18th to the 20th.

### ***New School Board Member: Mrs. Marissa Bazyk***

*By Amelia Mitchell*

This year, Conemaugh Township has welcomed a new member to the board. Mrs. Marissa Bazyk attended Conemaugh Township through most of first grade before transferring to Greater Johnstown School District. After high school, she attended the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Accounting. Several years later, while working full-time at Conemaugh Health System, she attended evening classes through Saint Francis University where she earned her Master’s Degree in Business Administration. She currently resides in Davidsville with her husband, Bryan.

Mrs. Bazyk has spent the past twenty-five years in healthcare finance. She is currently the Vice President at Revenue Recovery, a software company that provides contract management tools for healthcare providers. When a hospital or doctor makes a deal with an insurance company, her and her team check their payments to make sure they’re getting paid the right amount. Mrs. Bazyk said, “I really enjoy my job and working with clients all over the country in different medical fields. Helping hospitals and doctors make more money is rewarding because it also helps the communities they serve.” Mrs. Bazyk is the oldest of three children. Several generations from her family have graduated from Conemaugh Township High School, as her great-grandparents purchased land in Hollsopple over 100 years ago. Mrs. Bazyk has nineteen nieces and nephews who she says, “keep her very young!”

Mrs. Bazyk considered running for School Director several years ago because she believed it was one of the most meaningful ways to serve our community. The decision to run in 2025 was clear when her niece started kindergarten at CTASD. She is motivated to be part of the work that will shape her niece’s education – and the education of all our students – over the next four years. She says, “I am excited to apply the skills and experience I have learned in the complex world of healthcare to a different industry – education. I look forward to learning through observation.” Mrs. Bazyk said her favorite quote to live by is, “Be a lifelong learner. It is never too late to learn something new!”

Mrs. Marissa Bazyk’s background, dedication to learning, and deep roots in the Conemaugh Township community make her an excellent choice for the school board. Her work experience from healthcare has given her strong leadership and problem solving skills. But most importantly, her commitment is to shaping a positive future for the students enrolled now and those to come.

## ***Saving Holiday Money***

*By Vayda Korenoski*

Purchases over the winter months in the midst of all of the holidays are a must. Nowadays, you can buy anything from anywhere. With the quick access to internet shopping, negative spending habits can fall upon you. However, there are healthy ways to buy the things you need without falling into debt.

When trying to create healthy spending habits, one thing you should do is create a budget for yourself. Budgeting not only reminds you of what you need to get, but also holds you accountable for the things you can't afford to get. It's a good way to keep track of how much you can spend on necessary things, and then you can see how much extra cash you have for the fun things. You can also start a savings account. Each time you get paid from work, you take a small portion of your paycheck and transfer it to a savings account. This can be to save up for something fun or simply just to have in case you're ever in a bind. Also, something that people don't realize is that over the Christmas season, sometimes it's easy to fall into your emotions, which can lead to wasteful purchases. Something fun you can do as a challenge is to take one day out of the week and make it a point to not spend money on anything that day. You can also try to get a side job to make some money such as signing up for a resale app to sell some old clothes and make some extra money.

Overall, spending money can become a serious problem for a lot of people. It's important to watch how much you spend and also how much people charge you for items. Budgeting can give you some guidance on how to spend money in a healthy and moderate way.

## ***Snow Days vs. FIDs***

*By McKenzie Miller*

The idea of FID vs. snow days are a frequent topic during the winter months. Flexible Instruction Days, or FIDs, are better than snow days because while it may seem annoying and unfair at times that you have to do assignments, even when you do not have school, it is a great way to not fall behind in school.

Snow days are more beneficial for young kids rather than teens because more kids tend to actually take advantage of

snow days by playing in the snow, building a snowman, or having a snowball fight. FIDs are more practical for teens because they usually don't participate in those activities like they used to when they were little. Additionally, FIDs do not add any days of school onto the calendar year to have to make up, keeping the last day of school up to date.

While snow days are a great way to relax and have a break, I feel that it is more beneficial to have a FID. Many students are already prepared in case of a FID, so it is a great way to take advantage of being able to complete your work, on your own time stamp during the day, to prevent having to make up more days of school.

## ***Early Out Fridays***

*By Mya Kane*

When it comes to getting out early on Fridays, almost every student in school will be in favor. However, this topic has two different opinions regarding the school's administrators and the students. The school's administrators will tell you that we need to do a full day of work on Fridays so that we can finish work that needs to be completed. On the other hand, the students will say to get out early, so that they can have a short break from school. While these two opinions are valid, they both depend on the own person's thoughts and viewpoints.

As a student, we should get out early on Fridays. It allows students to have more free time for after school activities and offers them more time to rest. When students have an extended weekend it can show improvement with mental health and attendance at school. It can also enhance their performance in school, such as on tests, quizzes, and homework. Getting out early on Fridays can also give teachers time to plan their lessons and get papers graded that need to be corrected. Along with it benefiting teachers and students, it can also benefit the school as a whole. The expenses of the school's utilities can be lowered, since there will not be people there to use them.

Getting out of school early has both benefits and drawbacks, depending on what view you have on the concept. It is a topic that is brought up a lot throughout the school days and should be considered. Altogether, getting out of school early can have multiple benefits for everyone in the school and, therefore, should be done.



## ***National Human Trafficking Prevention Month***

*By Jacob Bartis*

Every January, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month is recognized to bring attention to an issue that often goes unnoticed. Human trafficking is not something that only happens in far away places or in movies. It happens in real communities and affects real people of all ages. This month is meant to educate people, raise awareness, and remind everyone that trafficking is a serious problem that can be prevented when people know what to look for and speak up.

Human trafficking involves forcing or manipulating people into labor or exploitation, and many victims are targeted because they are vulnerable. Awareness is one of the strongest tools in prevention. When people understand the warning signs, like sudden changes in behavior, lack of control over personal belongings, or someone being closely monitored by another person, they are more likely to notice when something is wrong. Schools, organizations, and communities use this month to share information and resources so people can better protect themselves and others.

In the end, National Human Trafficking Prevention Month is about taking responsibility and looking out for one another. Even small actions like learning the signs or sharing information can make a difference. Bringing awareness to this issue helps give victims a voice and reminds them that they are not alone. By staying informed and paying attention, people can help stop trafficking and make their communities safer.

### ***Top Ten Books of 2025***

*By Halen McKool*

2025 was a great year for movies and TV shows, but it also had lots of great books. It can be refreshing to take a break from screens by sitting down and getting lost in a book. Whether it's a page turning thriller or an interesting work of non-fiction, books can be a great form of entertainment. Let's take a look at the top books from 2025:

1. *The Ministry of Time* by Kaliane Bradley
2. *James* by Percival Everett

3. *Martyr!* by Kaveh Akbar
4. *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
5. *North Woods* by Daniel Mason
6. *All the Colors of the Dark* by Chris Whitaker
7. *Knife* by Salman Rushdie
8. *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks
9. *The Bee Sting* by Paul Murray
10. *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros

These books really highlight the spirit of 2025, but that doesn't mean you can't read them now. Pick one from this list or find your own to read. Books are a great way to pass time, learn, and even grow as an individual.

### ***Combating the Third Quarter Slump***

*By Mya Kane*

When the third quarter of school comes around students have to face one of the most challenging times of the school year and the dreaded third quarter slump. This time can be challenging for most students because they don't get many days off of school and have many tests for which they have to study and prepare. This can also be depressing for many people because they feel like they have nothing to look forward to, and the school days can seem endless.

There are numerous ways to combat the third quarter slump that can make your school days more productive and fun. Some of the ways include making schedules of what you are going to do for the day, finding quiet spaces to study for tests and quizzes, getting lots of sleep before big events, and breaking down large tasks into smaller assignments. When you create routines like these, it can help you to maintain a good work ethic not only in your academic life, but also outside of school.

Using these methods during the third quarter slump will not only help you but also the people around you because they can use them to improve their work ethic, too. So, during the third quarter slump, do not sit around and lose all motivation, get up and work on improving how productive you are throughout the school day.



## ***Swim Senior Night***

*By DJ Bambino*

On January 12, 2026 Conemaugh Township swimmers Aidan Burnworth and Damirr Thomas competed in a swim meet against the Bellefonte Raiders. The meet was held at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Sports Complex and began at 7:00 P.M. This meet was Aidan and his fellow teammates' Senior Night.

Aidan swept the competition winning both the men's 50 freestyle, and the men's 100 freestyle. These two wins for Aidan on his Senior Night add to his decorated senior season. Fellow Conemaugh Township swimmer Damirr Thomas also competed in the men's 50 freestyle as well as the men's 100 breaststroke. When asked about his success this season, Aidan said, "My teammates are pushing me hard in practice and in the weight room, which has allowed me to perform at my highest level. I also have a great coaching staff that guides me and supports me each and every day." After this season, Aidan plans to attend Saint Vincent College where he will major in Economics and Political Science. He will also compete in swimming at the collegiate level for Saint Vincent on their men's team.

Aidan and Damirr have both worked hard to compete all year long. With the postseason approaching quickly, both Aidan and Damirr will look to make a deep push and hopefully bring home some hardware.

## ***CT Bocce Shines***

*By Peyton Lasure*

Bocce ball is a team game where each player tosses a large ball to get it as close as possible to a smaller target on a court, scoring points for each of their balls closer than the opponent's best ball. Conemaugh Township has an interscholastic unified bocce ball team, an inclusive sport that pairs students in the life skills class with the students in general learning classes. There is a great bond that grows between the players on the team while they are having fun and competing for their school.

Early in January, the team won their first match against Bedford. The team consists of Conemaugh Township students, Sarabeth Sullivan, Brayden LaBreck, Ella Mankamy, Addie Miller, Emily Purdy, Danika Black, and Greta Mock. Brayden LaBreck stated, "Matches can

be very difficult, and they can take a long time. Your rolls can either be flat or bumpy, so you never know what you are going to get. Bocce ball really tests your patience, but the love for the sport makes it worth it. The most important part about bocce ball is the teammates you get paired with, and the friendships you make while playing."

The bocce ball team's season is off to a great start. Each member is contributing their individual skills as they compete for the team victory. The team members are working hard and playing with great enthusiasm and teamwork. Be sure to come out and support them as they continue the rest of their season.

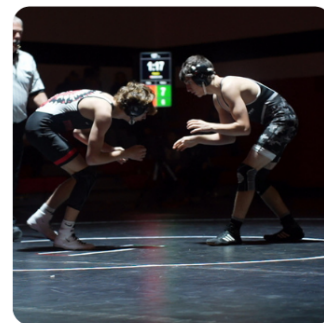
## ***Wrestling Comes Out on Top***

*By Jayla Feathers*

On January 13, 2026 the Conemaugh Township wrestling team wrestled against their District V rival, Somerset. The team had to fight hard to pull away with the win, but they finished with a score of 35-30.

Noah Stultz dominated his match by pinning his guy in under a minute, which really helped contribute to the win. Carter Christ won his match by a technical fall in the first period. Landon Ray Romesburg, Nathan Dail, Julian Thorne, and Landon Huffman all added six points to the score, winning by forfeit. "Wrestling is not just about strength, but also your heart, will, and mental state towards it," said senior Julian Thorne.

This win was very big for the team, due to the fact that Somerset has a very strong team as well. The team can't wait to keep improving as the season goes on. After this win, the team's record sits at 4-3, with hopes to add more successes in the final push of their season.





# ATHLETES OF THE



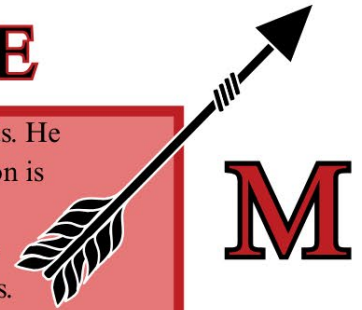
Carson Brotz is the son of William Brotz and Amy Reynolds. He currently lives with both in Davidsville, Pennsylvania. Carson is involved in many extracurricular activities including golf, basketball, and track. Throughout his career at Conemaugh Township, Carson has received many great accomplishments. Carson was a senior member of our golf team this past season. He lettered one year and won the District V championship in 2025. Carson is also a member of our basketball team. He has played for nine years and has lettered two years of his varsity career so far. He

was a member of the 2023-2024 season team, who won both the District V and Heritage Conference Championships. Additionally, Carson is a six-year member of our track and field team. Outside of athletics, Carson is a member of the Students Against Destructive Decisions club. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, fishing, skiing, and hanging out with his friends and loved ones. After graduating high school, Carson plans on attending the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown and majoring in civil engineering. When asked for a quote, Carson recited Adam Sandler's, "My name is Adam Sandler. I'm not particularly talented. I'm not particularly good looking, and yet I'm a multi-millionaire."



Cassidy Johns is the daughter of Tim and Bethanie Johns. She lives with her dad, Tim, in Hollsopple, Pennsylvania. Cassidy has been a part of the school's cheer team throughout her entire high school career, where she has most recently been named a Senior Captain of the football cheer squad. Cassidy has participated in football cheer for eleven years and basketball cheer for five years. She has lettered all four years of her varsity career on the cheer squad. Cassidy has also played softball for six years and has so far lettered for two of those years. Besides sports, Cassidy has found her passion for cosmetology through the Greater

Johnstown Career and Technology Center (GJCTC). While participating in the GJCTC cosmetology program, she has found great success. Cassidy was named the GJCTC Cosmetology Student of the Month in January of 2024, and October of 2025. She also competed in the 2023 Skills USA competition in the Under 500 Hours section. Outside of school, Cassidy enjoys spending time with family and friends, baking, cooking, and extending her passion for softball by umpiring for the United Valley youth softball league. After graduating from the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center with her cosmetology license, Cassidy plans to work in a salon as a hairstylist in the Johnstown area. Cassidy lives by a quote said by Theodore Roosevelt, "Believe you can, and you're halfway there."



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## ***The Murder of Rob and Michele Reiner***

*By Renata Savignone*

Rob Reiner was a very famous American filmmaker and actor, most known for his work on movies like *When Harry Met Sally*, *The Wolf of Wall Street*, *Flipped* and *Being Charlie*, the latter being about the struggles that Nick Reiner, Rob's son, had with drug addiction, mental health issues, homelessness and his relationship with his father.

Rob and his wife Michele Singer Reiner were murdered in their home in California, allegedly by their son Nick. Their bodies were initially found on December 14th, by their daughter Romy Reiner, who then had her friend call paramedics and the police. Nick now faces first-degree murder charges for the alleged stabbing of both of his parents to death on the early morning of Sunday, December 14. His arraignment was scheduled for January 7, 2026, after appearing in a Los Angeles courtroom and not entering a plea.

The loss of Rob and Michele is immensely heartbreaking, and now their two other children mourn the loss of their parents, asking for privacy from the media, to carry the sadness of not just losing their parental figures, but also their best friends.

## ***Season 28 The Voice Recap***

*By Emily Purdy*

Season 28 of *The Voice* officially ended on December 16, 2025 after a two-night live finale that began the night before. The six finalists performed two pieces each on the first night for fans to vote on. The results were posted on day two along with other special performances.

The six artists that competed were: Aiden Ross and DEK of Hearts for Team Niall, Ralph Edwards for Team Snoop, Aubrey Nicole for Team Reba, and Max Chambers and Jazz McKenzie for Team Michael Bublé. Snoop, Reba, and Michael performed alongside the finalists in duets, while Niall Horan, who was on vocal rest, had a replacement singer.

The final results were: McKenzie in 6th place, Chambers in 5th place, Nicole in 4th place, DEK of Hearts in 3rd place, Edwards in 2nd place, and Aiden Ross as the Victor.

Ross is a 20 year old college student and singer from Texas. His victory marked Niall Horan's third consecutive victory on the show (a rare achievement). Aiden was given a \$100,000 prize and a recording contract, allowing him to expand his career.

Overall, the season had many ups and downs and allowed its viewers to get close to the contestants. Season 29 will introduce many more talented artists to the spotlight. It will begin on February 23rd at 9 pm ET on NBC.

## ***Tommy Lee's Daughter Found Dead***

*By BellaJune Chesnutwood*

Victoria Jones was found dead on January 1, 2026. Medical dispatch was sent at 2:52 a.m. to Fairmont hotel. A guest found Victoria on the ground believing that she just passed out. The guest informed the hotel staff, and the staff then called 911 for the medical emergency. Victoria was at first thought to have been in cardiac arrest, so the paramedics started CPR, which later turned into a code three overdose.

Tommy Lee Jones has tried to get his daughter help before. On August 7, 2023, Jones petitioned that his daughter would be placed under a temporary conservatorship. On August 21 the temporary conservatorship was granted before being terminated on December 13, 2023. According to Fox News, after his daughter's death, Tommy broke his silence to make a statement to Fox Media News Digital.

Tommy Lee Jones said "We appreciate all of the kind words, thoughts, and prayers. Please respect our privacy during this difficult time. Thank you." The statement was signed by "The Family of Victoria Kafka Jones." Victoria Jones's death has affected all of her friends and family. If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction, you can reach out to the National Substance Abuse Hotline at (866)-210-1303. If you are struggling with a crisis, you can call 988. Just know that you are not alone.





## New Season of the Masked Singer

By Sarah Swank

The popular TV show *The Masked Singer* has returned with a new season, bringing excitement and mystery to audiences. Known for its unique concept, the show features celebrities who perform musical numbers while wearing elaborate costumes that completely hide their identities. Each episode keeps the audience engaged as they try to figure out who is behind each mask.

Nick Cannon returns as the show's host, and the panel of judges includes Robin Thicke, Jenny McCarthy Wahlberg, Ken Jeong, and Rita Ora. This season features 18 new masked contestants who will perform while hidden in a costume. The goal for each competitor is to sing well, and stay in the competition long enough to win the golden mask trophy. Fans have already seen the creative costume characters. These include Eggplant, Galaxy Girl, Owl, Snow, Cone, Queen Corgi, and Cat Witch. The new season premiered on FOX on January 7, 2026. This season contains dramatic themes inspired by pop culture, and unpredictable plot twists, including double eliminations.

Season 14 of *The Masked Singer* emphasizes familiar elements that the audience love. With the shows strong judges and performances, this season can promise plenty of fun and standout moments. *The Masked Singer* promises a balance in entertainment, creativity, and suspense, leaving viewers awaiting each new episode.



## Artist of the Month



Rydell Walylko is the January 2026 artist of the month. Rydell is a Junior at Conemaugh Township and is the son of Jenny and Ray Walylko. He lives with both of his parents in Boswell. Rydell has developed a strong artistic voice created in storytelling. His art journey has been shaped by dedication and passion for art.

Rydell's art style is found in realism, landscapes and naturescapes, as well as sculpting. He enjoys capturing realistic details while creating scenes that feel ground in nature. Rydell is in Art 3, and has many achievements, including painting windows and murals. These accomplishments have helped Rydell grow in creativity. Rydell's main inspirations come from film and practical effects. His inspiration for these has helped him create art that feels alive. Rydell plans to attend college, pursuing either an art or medical-related field. Rydell stated, "If you think the price for success is a lot, wait till you get the bill for regret." This quote shows how determined Rydell is to working hard and taking risks to become a better artist.

Rydell has shown his dedication and creativity through his art career. Rydell continues to grow as an artists and storyteller, through his work. With goals for his future and a strong work ethic, Rydell's determination will help him be successful for years to come.

## Musician of the Month



Conemaugh Township's Musician of the Month for January is Senior Alexa Gardenhour. Alexa is the daughter of Jennifer and Christopher Gardenhour of Davidsville. As a trumpet player in Township Band, Alexa has qualified for District and Regional Band, as well as District and Regional Choir during her

sophomore year of high school. Alexa has also performed in six of our musicals, demonstrating her diverse talents as a singer, actor, and dancer.

As for Alexa's future, she plans to attend Saint Francis University. She will be enrolled in the five year accelerated Physician Assistant Program to earn her Bachelor of Science and Master of Physician Assistant degrees.

A favorite quote of Alexa's is, "The mindset and motivation you carry shapes the life you create." Congratulations, Alexa! Best of luck in your future endeavors. You make Conemaugh Township proud!

## ***Venezuelan President Taken into Custody***

*By Savannah Stutzman*

On January 3, 2026, the Venezuelan president was taken into custody by the United States. This act has sparked a lot of controversy within the nation and throughout the world. Many political figures are questioning if this act was the right, moral, or legal way to go about this situation.

For starters, the now former Venezuelan President, Nicolas Maduro, is being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were captured by U.S. forces and are being convicted of federal drug trafficking, also known as narco-terrorism, and possession of machine guns and destructive devices. According to CBS News, U.S. President Donald Trump claims the United States has taken charge of Venezuela, however the Secretary of State has released that the United States is not directly governing the country. In fact, on Monday, January 5th, Delcy Rodriguez, who was formerly Venezuela's Vice President, was sworn in as interim president. For months now, U.S. spies have been keeping an eye on the Venezuelan President's every move. A small team was assigned to know every detail of his life, there was even inside help. A team strategized for months, even going as far as to make an exact replica of Maduro's safe house. They took into account a lot of possibilities of how their raid could go. However, all this was done without Congress's knowledge or approval. More than 150 aircrafts and fighter jets were used to bomb Caracas, Venezuela. The nation seems divided on how they feel about these events. On one hand many have celebrated the capture of a dictator, while others believe that the way the plan was executed violates national law and view it as an unnecessary violence. Venezuelan Allies such as Russia and China claim there was no reason for the United States to use such unprecedented force against Maduro, and they two countries are trying to work towards his release. Even allies of the United States are concerned that Maduro's capture goes against international law.

Overall, not much legal action has been taken regarding the fact that Trump had been working in secret in months to plan a raid on another country's president. U.S. citizens haven't decided if they should be cheering, or worrying about what this act could cause to happen in the future. President Donald Trump has received a lot of praise and backlash for the way he handled the situation.

## ***Woman Shot by Ice Agent***

*By Noah Nagy*

On Wednesday, January 7th, 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good was shot by an ICE agent. The incident has sparked anger across the political spectrum, with some arguing that the agent acted in self-defense, while others describe the shooting as a ruthless and unjustified killing. But since the event is so recent, many details remain unclear, and the investigation is still ongoing.

Renee Nicole Good's car allegedly hit an ICE agent during the incident, prompting the officer to fire three shots. Since then, video footage of the incident has been released and is now the largest part of the public discussion concerning the shooting. Critics continue saying that the use of deadly force was excessive, despite federal officials claiming the agent acted in self-defense. Shortly after the shots were fired, Good was declared dead, and the agent responsible was put on administrative leave while federal investigators investigated the shooting's circumstances.

Following the shooting, protests have taken place in Minneapolis and the surrounding areas. Demonstrators and federal agents have clashed outside government buildings, and some of these encounters have resulted in arrests and injuries. If the unrest persists, President Trump has hinted that he may invoke the Insurrection Act. The ACLU of Minnesota filed a class-action lawsuit, alleging that ICE and Customs and Border Protection violated Americans' constitutional rights. Teresa Nelson, the ACLU of Minnesota's legal director, stated, "It is authoritarian to threaten to use the military against Minnesotans, protesters, and immigrants." The shooting has heightened discussions about the use of deadly force by federal agents and the need to create a balance between public safety and law enforcement. Ultimately, the shooting has highlighted the divide between both sides of American politics.



# Little Contownian

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## *The King of Latin Rap*

*By Gemma Studer*

While some people watch the Super Bowl for the game or for the commercials, but I will be watching it for the halftime show this year. This year's Super Bowl will be performed by none other than "The King of Latin Rap," Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio or Bad Bunny as he's known on stage. Bad Bunny is an American citizen born in Puerto Rico, the oldest of three brothers.

Bad Bunny started becoming famous at the age of 21 and now, 10 years later, at the age of 31, he is still a sensational artist. Bad Bunny's first language is Spanish, but he then learned how to speak English so he would be able to speak in interviews as his fame grew. He is well-known for his unique music and his high-profile performances along with his creative artist name. He called himself Bad Bunny because when he was younger, he was forced to wear a grumpy looking bunny costume for school.

Most of Bad Bunny's songs have a good vibe creating a carefree party atmosphere. Lots of his music favors the unworried, free, and easy feeling, including his most listened to song, "Dákiti." Some will also call Bad Bunny's music experimental because of his creative way of blending genres of music like reggaeton and Latin rap. He also likes to mix in some hip hop, bomba, and salsa, which helps him stand out from other artists and other music to make him unique.

Be on the lookout for songs like "Titi Me Pregunto," "MONACO," "Like It Like That," and of course, "Dákiti" in his Superbowl performance. We can also expect a salsa and Latin inspired dance style. We could also be on the look out for artists Bad Bunny has collaborated with. including Cardi B, Dua Lipa, Becky G, Drake, or Jennifer Lopez.

The Super Bowl and Bad Bunny's halftime show will air on Sunday, February 4, 2026!

## *Random Acts of Kindness Day*

*By Alison Naugle*

Every year on February 17th, Random Acts of Kindness day spreads in popularity. All over the world on this day, many people share thoughtful and loving messages about someone or something. Doing this good deed could bring a positive mindset and the feeling of happiness. This day is a way for people to come together and collectively make a difference in the world by just doing tiny, meaningful acts. There are many ways of making this day full of gratitude but some ways to show this include:

- Complimenting a stranger
- Holding the door open for someone
- Shoveling a neighbor's driveway
- Sending a hand-written thank you note
- Saying "hi" to a random person in the hallway
- Donating to charities
- Volunteering
- Allowing someone to go ahead of you
- Thanking service workers
- Simply paying attention in class

Focusing on these small daily things or community efforts can bring a smile to someone's face. Even after taking the time to say something positive to someone else, you could say a kind self-talk to yourself. "In a world where you can be anything, be kind."





## Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

February 6.....Act 80 Early Dismissal  
12:00 Middle/High School  
12:30 Elementary

February 16.....Act 80 Day - No School  
for Students



### 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

### Yearbook

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Mrs. Diane Feathers.....[diane.feathers@ctasd.org](mailto:diane.feathers@ctasd.org)  
479-4014 Extension 3822

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