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THE Contownian



VOLUME 87, NO. 7 CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA HIGH SCHOOL DAVIDSVILLE, PA

New Cat Café

By Emma King

A new destination for cat lovers and coffee drinkers has opened in downtown Johnstown: the Rusty Cat Café at 338 Walnut Street. This unique spot blends the comfort of a traditional café with an interactive space where visitors can relax, sip coffee, and spend time with adoptable cats. The owners worked with the Johnstown Animal Welfare Society to bring local rescue cats into a bright, playful environment where they can roam freely and interact with guests. Even before the official opening, the café has already helped find permanent homes for 10 cats, showing the strong community interest in animal welfare.

Inside the café, patrons can enjoy a warm drink while watching cats play, nap, or explore their surroundings. The space includes cozy areas for people and cats alike, including a pathway where felines can approach and engage with visitors. A TV showing birds and squirrels provides extra entertainment for curious cats, adding to the relaxed, whimsical atmosphere. Merchandise in the café highlights local art and stories connected to animal rescues, strengthening ties between the business and the Johnstown creative community.

Beyond coffee and companionship, Rusty Cat Café serves a larger mission of animal adoption and community support. By housing cats in a setting that feels more like a home than a shelter, the café increases their visibility and helps prospective adopters observe personalities in a calm, natural environment. The success of adoptions even before opening reflects both a local demand for rescue animals and the positive impact of alternative adoption models like cat cafés. For people looking to unwind or find a furry new friend, this welcoming space offers comfort, connection, and a chance to make a difference in the lives of local cats.



ICE Protests in Pittsburgh

By Savannah Stutzman

ICE protests have been occurring across the nation in recent months. These protests began when many U.S. citizens began to claim that ICE agents used unethical methods and unnecessary force. Many of these demonstrations included blocking federal buildings, walkouts, and marches. Most of these protests took place in very large, prominent cities such as Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. Now, these protests have even begun to happen closer to home, with students staging walk-outs in Pittsburgh.

One of the most recent notable protests took place on February 18, 2026. Taylor Allderdice High School had over 250 students walk out of their classes to protest the fact that ICE is in the process of being stationed throughout the city. That same day, a large protest was held in front of William S. Moorhead Federal Building in Downtown Pittsburgh where religious leaders in the community held a prayer vigil, and called for repentance regarding actions taken by federal agents. A few days before this, on February 14, over 100 locals in Springdale Borough held a demonstration after local residents were detained. This protest took a more violent turn when punches were thrown. Other marches have been held with slogans such as “abolish ICE” and “Pittsburgh Says: ICE Out!” The main reason that these demonstrations began to occur in Pittsburgh is because ICE is being stationed near schools and in communities. While this is being done to make residents feel safer, it is seemingly having the opposite effect on the majority of people. Because of these protests and demonstrations, many communities in the Pittsburgh area are concerned for the safety of their neighbors.

Overall, there has been a recent increase in the amount of people participating in these demonstrations in the Pittsburgh area. Due to the stationing of ICE agents, many communities and locals in the area feel they must take action. However, there are still those who feel the protests make them feel even more unsafe, and believe that there can be more civil ways to try and take a stance.

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Anna Hunsberger performing as Matilda!



Greyson Studer driving to the hoop.



Senior high superheroes saved the day at Reading Night!



Our middle school boys preparing for a dodgeball game.



Liam Richardson at Mr. Mainhart's money show.



Our student section dressed for business.



Alexa Gardenhour and Julian Thorne performing their impressive lifts.



Math class in the sixth grade.



Liv Ryan's award-winning art!



Kaden Valentine keeping his eye out for balls.

Reading Night at the Elementary School

By Lyla Mauzy

On Thursday, March 19 from 5-8 PM, Reading Night was held at the Conemaugh Township Elementary School for students and families in the district. During this free community event, clubs completed a variety of exciting activities with students in classrooms around the school. Visitors had the opportunity to explore different rooms, learn from presenters, complete crafts, hear stories, play games, and recognize the importance of reading.

High school clubs who participated in the event included the Rotary Interact group, the SADD club, the recently founded Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) club, and the CT Foundation with Mrs. Troxell. The High School Grill Team served food, and athletic groups such as the wrestling, boys' basketball, and football teams were featured as well. Speaking on behalf of the Rotary Interact club, Mrs. Grove stated, "Reading Night is a wonderful night for our CT elementary kids to develop a love of reading. This year's musical also inspired that love of reading and learning! I'm excited our Rotary Interact students can have an opportunity to share the joys of learning with our elementary students!"

Overall, the central goal of Reading Night is to communicate to younger students the importance of reading and education in an exciting and engaging manner. This event gives students a chance to connect with role models, discover groups and activities that interest them, and learn about the different clubs they may want to join in the future.

Alumni of the Month



Alexis Christofes Zimmerman, a former Conemaugh Township student, has fond memories of her high school years. After graduating in 2016, she attended Penn Highlands for her Associate's Degree in psychology before transferring to Saint Francis for her Bachelor's Degree in behavioral science. Since then, she has worked in a variety of different human service positions.

While reminiscing about her high school experience, Zimmerman noted that her favorite teacher was Mrs. Stankan. She stated, "Not only did she teach me academically, but she also taught me the importance of a compassionate heart, steady faith, and love for one another and the Lord." Additionally, some of Zimmerman's fondest memories during her time at Conemaugh Township were made while playing soccer with her friends.

Currently, Zimmerman resides in Hollsopple with her husband, Aaron, and their three children. She works for the R.E.A.C.H. program as the Lead Program Facilitator for their Safe Touches programming. Recently, in this past year, she became a Certified Nonprofit Professional for her position as R.E.A.C.H.'s Nonprofit Growth Collaborator. Her responsibilities include writing and managing grants, conducting outreach, and organizing fundraising efforts. Overall, Zimmerman is proud to be kept busy "chasing [her] little munchkins around" and helping keep other children in the CT community, and surrounding communities, safe through the work she does with R.E.A.C.H.

New School Board Member: Daniel Richardson

By Amelia Mitchell

This year, the Conemaugh Township School District school board has welcomed a new member, Daniel Richardson. Mr. Richardson is a proud father of three wonderful children. His oldest son, Cade, completed his service in the U.S. Air Force and has been working as a satellite operator and systems engineer. His youngest son, Liam, is a senior at Conemaugh Township. He has committed to IUP and plans to work towards his bachelor's in international business. His daughter, Nina, is a sophomore at Conemaugh Township and is planning her path after graduation. Mr. Richardson says that "[his children] are [his] reason for just about everything."

Mr. Richardson has been with Lockheed Martin Corporation for about 16 years. He works primarily as an internal subcontract program manager for several key Department of Defense and Commercial programs. He covers numerous aspects, including business development, validating and establishing international partners, and executing, negotiating, and managing international and domestic contracts. Mr. Richardson said, "I thoroughly enjoy experiencing the different cultures that I encounter across the globe, and

I sincerely appreciate the challenges of identifying a common path that leads all stakeholders to success!” Mr. Richardson attended Forest Hills for his high school career. After high school, he won a U.S. State Department and German Bundestag scholarship to attend school in Germany. He completed his Bachelor's Degree at the University of Pittsburgh with a dual degree in Business Management and Management Information Systems. During college, he joined a fraternity and later became an adjunct professor at that same college. For Mr. Richardson, being a member of the community, volunteering at the school and within the community, and having kids that currently attend Township has led him to develop a sincere and vested interest in the perpetual success of our community, school, and students. He is uniquely positioned to leverage perspective and experience to the board for current operational needs and future objective identification and achievement. He said, “I’m appreciative of the community and excited to make a significant and positive impact.

Overall, the Conemaugh Township Area School District is very honored to welcome Daniel Richardson to our school board this year. We are excited to see the things he achieves along with the rest of the school board members.

Conemaugh Township Musicals

By Madee Roman and Lyla Mauzy

The musical history of Conemaugh Township reflects its deep community values, dedication to education, and evolving cultural spirit. Our school has developed a strong musical program that excels in choral and instrumental performances thanks to dedicated music directors, like Ms. Lingenfelter, Mrs. Grove, and the many directors who came before them, who have given their students the amazing opportunity to learn instruments, read music, and perform publicly. From our traditional choir and band concerts to the spectacular musicals performed each year by students in the cast and crew, these music teachers have shaped our music department into what it is today. Our first-ever musical at Conemaugh Township, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, was performed in 1962. The success of that show began a tradition of stellar public performances at Conemaugh Township. Ms. Lingenfelter’s favorite shows of the 31 she has directed include *West Side Story* (2016), which she was most proud to direct, and *Pippin* (2018), which had an extraordinary group of cast and crew members. Many members of this year's cast and crew members, when asked what their favorite show to watch or participate in was, voted *Footloose* (2023) for the liveliness, energy, and enthusiasm with which it was performed. *Mamma Mia!* (2021) was a favorite among audience members for the energy and emotion

Conemaugh Township brought to the storyline. *Shrek the Musical* (2015) received similar praise for the way the cartoon came alive on stage with excellent acting and dialogue. Due to the Conemaugh Township Music Department’s unmatched standard of excellence and immense community support, many shows have had sellouts. Ever since *Newsies* hit the stage in 2019, every following show has sold out at least one night. Most notably, *Mamma Mia!* and *Newsies* were sold out every single night they were performed!

This year, from March 12-15, the Conemaugh Township Music Department’s production of Roald Dahl’s *Matilda: The Musical* was performed onstage. Since December, participants have worked tirelessly to make the show spectacular by memorizing songs, learning choreography, and building their characters. Members have showcased their work incredibly well and were thrilled to bring the performance to life. Both the cast and crew have received many new members this year, and each individual showed much promise for the many years of music to come. The two weeks of the show began with several rehearsals followed by a wonderful Saturday luncheon provided by CT Musical Parents for the directors, cast, and crew. The final dress rehearsal was held on March 11, the day prior to opening night, and was viewed by the many supportive parents of the cast and crew. The following day, opening day, the CT Musical’s cast and crew held an exciting performance for students at the elementary school, featuring a variety of songs such as “When I Grow Up” and “Revoltin’ Children.” The group’s performance was met with much enthusiasm from the elementary school students, and it served as an excellent opportunity for these young individuals to be introduced to our school’s theater program. After months of hard work and dedication, the four show nights of *Matilda: The Musical* were ready to begin, and each day of the performance became an unforgettable spectacle.

Overall, *Matilda: The Musical* proved to be an immense success and was spoken highly of within the community. This year’s production was able to feature many students across different grade levels, giving each an exciting opportunity to flourish onstage. Erin Fochtman, who plays the role of Amanda Thripp, stated, “The musical makes me feel like I’m a part of another family, and it makes everyone feel like they’re a part of something bigger together. Being in the musical not only means putting on a show; to me, it also means making new friends, creating and crafting a story, and being able to bow at the end of the show and appreciate the amount of hard work and love that went into it.”

Easter Break

By DJ Bambino

Students at Conemaugh Township should not be given a longer Easter Break, because it would potentially delay the end of the school year. Conemaugh Township's school year doesn't usually end until early June, while other schools such as North Star, dismiss in mid to late May. Pushing the end of the school year back any further may cause problems amongst the students and staff.

This year, students are dismissed early on April 2nd, and are off of school from April 3rd to April 6th for Easter Break. Students are dismissed from school on June 3rd as the last day of school. Easter Break is already four days long, which most students would agree is plenty of time off. If the school district decided to extend the length of Easter Break, it would, in return, extend the length of the school year. Moreover, the longer break can interfere with the flow of a teacher's curriculum. If a student learns something before the break, then takes many days off, they will most likely not retain that information as well as they can. Taking more days off would only give students more time to forget important information.

The extension of Easter Break would overall negatively affect the students of Conemaugh Township. Curriculum would be interrupted and the school year would be longer, both as a result of extending Easter Break. Students already receive a four day Easter Break, and this break is long enough.

High School Recess: Yay or Nay?

By Halen McKool

Recess is a staple of American elementary schools, but should there be recess in high school as well? Many arguments exist both for and against recess. There are more reasons against it, so there should not be recess in high school.

One of the main reasons recess is used in elementary schools is because of how important physical activity is, especially for children. This isn't as much of a problem in high school because older students are usually more physically active, with things like after-school sports and other extra activities available to them. In addition, high school students have more social freedom than younger

kids, so a dedicated time to socialize with peers isn't necessary. Elementary students tend to have more energy, so recess is important so that they aren't distracted in class. If there was a recess in high school, schedules would have to be changed. The school would not want to take time off of classes, so we would most likely lose time on things like lunch and enrichment periods, which are just as, if not more, important.

There are many downsides to having recess in high school, and it is simply unnecessary. If we had recess, we would have less time to do school work and it would provide little benefit.

Should We Be Allowed to Leave for Lunch?

By Rocco Hagan

Typically, schools have differing opinions on whether students should be allowed to leave school for lunch or not throughout the day. However, as students get older and are mature enough to drive, the question arises: should students be allowed to leave school for lunch? Older students should be allowed to leave the campus. This would build responsibility and prepare kids for the real world.

While safety is a valid concern, allowing students to leave school will develop everyday skills they will need for the future. Soon they will be expected to balance the real world with jobs, college schedules, and possibly kids someday. Giving the students these small freedoms as young adults not only prepares them for the future, but also makes them feel seen, and as if they can take on harder tasks making them feel mature. As schools establish this trust with the students and know they are dependable, the school environment will grow for the better.

In conclusion, students should be allowed to leave for lunch. Not only will this allow students the freedom of choice, it will also allow them to learn very vital skills for life as a whole. They will be able to provide for and transport themselves. This will lead them to grow up to be responsible, just as schools strive for their students to be.

In the Madness of March

By Jacob Bartis

March Madness is one of the most unpredictable events in sports. Every year promises shocking upsets, breakout stars, and brackets that fall apart in the first round. No matter how much research people do, the tournament always finds a way to surprise everyone. Here are ten predictions for this year's tournament:

1. A double-digit seed will reach the Sweet 16 - Every year a lower seeded team gets hot at the right time and knocks off a few favorites.
2. A number one seed will lose early - Top seeds look dominant, but one bad game in March can end their season fast.
3. There will be a buzzer beater - It wouldn't be March Madness without a last-second shot to win a game.
4. Defense will carry a team far - A team that plays strong defense can slow the game down and upset higher seeds.
5. One player will become the star of the tournament - Someone will step up and dominate a few games, becoming the face of the tournament.
6. A mid-major school will pull off a huge upset - Smaller schools often play fearless and shock big programs.
7. At least one game will go to overtime - With so many close matchups, an overtime thriller is almost guaranteed.
8. A Cinderella team will reach the Elite Eight - An unexpected team will make a deep run and become a fan favorite.
9. A powerhouse program will make the Final Four - Despite the chaos, at least one top program usually finds a way through.
10. Most brackets will be busted by the first weekend - Upsets happen so often that perfect brackets almost never last long.

March Madness is exciting because anything can happen. That unpredictability is what makes the tournament one of the best events in sports every year.

Starting Off Fresh

By Mya Kane

When springtime comes around, many people want to refresh their mindset or declutter their homes to reduce stress and fill their days with positivity. With this, spring can be a great time to start prioritizing self-care and help you jump back into your daily routines. Listed below are the best ways to make this spring start off fresh so that you can manage your time more efficiently and effectively.

1. Declutter spaces by clearing out unwanted or unused items.
2. Refresh your mindset by replacing negative thoughts with positive ones.
3. Set new goals with activities you would like to try.
4. Start a sustainable routine that helps prioritize your self-care.
5. Do activities outside, such as walking, gardening, or hiking.
6. Bring nature inside by picking fresh flowers to brighten up your living spaces.
7. Start healthy habits that improve your overall well-being.
8. Open windows to allow fresh air into your home.
9. Plan get-togethers with family and friends to boost your mood.
10. Get a good night's sleep to improve your attitude throughout the day.

Springtime is not only a time for you to improve your routines, but also a time where you can start new ones that help others. Sharing these tips with other individuals can make everyone's spring a refreshing, enjoyable, and memorable time, so start trying these different methods to improve your springtime routines.



Baseball Preview

By DJ Bambino

The Conemaugh Township varsity baseball team's season has just begun, and the team is looking to repeat the success of past teams. After finishing 16-5 last year, but falling short in the District V playoffs, the team is returning many key pieces that will play a huge role in this year's campaign.

The Indians' season began on March 24, 2026 as the team took on the River Valley Panthers. Returning eight of nine starters from last year's team, they will look to pick back up right where they left off. The team is led by Coach Tim Doyle, who was named as the Daily American Coach of the Year in his first year leading the Indians. Senior Colin Dinyar also received post-season recognition last season. He was named by the Daily American as the Somerset County MVP. Senior captain, Brennan Lohr, when asked about the upcoming season said, "We are returning many key players in important roles, and the senior leadership on this team is truly something special."

Overall, the Indians look promising as they prepare for this year's campaign. The team is led by strong senior leadership, as well as an experienced coaching staff. They'll look to compete for both the Heritage Championship and the District V Championship.

Boys Basketball Finishes Out the 2026 Season

By Peyton Lasure

The Conemaugh Township Indians completed their 2025-2026 basketball season on Saturday, March 7 after a loss in the first round of state playoffs. The boys ended their season with a record of 20-6, finishing third in the Heritage conference.

Throughout the season, each member of the team contributed to the team's victories. Colin Dinyar led the team in scoring, averaging 16.2 points per game, ending his career total just under 1,500 points. Erik McClemens led the team in rebounds averaging 9.8 rebounds per game. McClemens finished out his junior year with a season total of 256 rebounds, and a career total of 462 rebounds. Additionally, McClemens averaged 1.9 blocks per game, finishing the season with 50 total blocks. Stephen Stango

contributed an average of 3.6 steals per game, ending the season with 94 total steals and also averaged 3.3 points per game. Greyson Studer played a major role in the scoring efforts, shooting 40% behind the three-point line. The team faced a challenge late in the season when Brennan Lohr, a key contributor, had his senior year cut short due to injury, forcing the lineup to adjust during an important stretch.

This year's senior class surely helped the Conemaugh Township basketball program grow, and future rosters will look to build on this year's experience, while carrying forward the leadership this year's seniors provided. The Indians played together through every victory and every shortcoming. Throughout the season, the team's journey has shown the resilience that each of them had when faced by a challenge, and shows the brotherhood that grew between the team that will last beyond the final game.

Olympic Games Come to a Close

By Liam Richardson

On February 22, 2026, the last event of the Olympics took place. The 2026 Winter Olympics were held in Northeast Italy, and took place from February 4th to February 22nd. The United States came in second place overall, with a total of 12 gold medals.

On February 22nd, the last Olympic events took place. The United States took gold over Canada in men's ice hockey. Women's curling and the four-man bobsled were also held on this day. The United States came in second place in the Olympic Games, totaling 12 gold medals, 12 silver medals, and nine bronze medals. In first place was Norway, with 18 gold medals, 12 silver medals, and 11 bronze medals. Carrying Norway to their win was their star cross country skier, Johannes Hosflot Klaebo. Johannes brought home six gold medals for Norway, setting the new record for the most in the Olympics by a single athlete. Runner up was Julia Simon, a French biathlon world cup winner. She totaled three gold medals, and one silver medal for France.

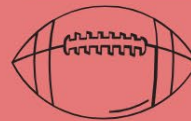
Overall, the 2026 Winter Olympic Games were still entertaining. The United States came in second, but most importantly, took first place over Canada in hockey. Norway was on fire this year, beating out all other countries by at least seven medals to secure the win.

ATHLETES OF THE



Aidan Burnworth is the son of Stacy and Britton Burnworth. He lives with both in Hollsopple, Pennsylvania. Aidan is very active throughout the school district, competing for the swim, football, and track and field team. During his time on the football team, he lettered sophomore, junior, and senior year and was also named a team captain for his senior year. He has also lettered his junior year in track and field. Swimming is Aidan's most successful sport. He has been swimming since first grade, and has continued to succeed in the sport throughout his high school years.

Aidan has lettered and been named a captain all four years on varsity. Recently he won the District VI title in both the 50 meter freestyle, and the 100 meter freestyle. He also finished 12th in the state in the 50 meter freestyle. Besides being a stellar athlete, Aidan is among the top of his class academically. He is a member of the Connumach Chapter of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions Club, Student Council, Random Acts of Kindness Club, and Grill Team. In Aidan's spare time he enjoys lifting weights, playing video games, and hanging out with his friends and family. Aidan plans to attend Saint Vincent College to study Business Economics and Political Science. He will continue to swim at the collegiate level as part of the Saint Vincent swim team. One quote that means a lot to Aidan is "Just keep swimming" from Dory in Finding Nemo.



Olivia Ryan is the daughter of James and Heidi Ryan, and she currently lives in Davidsville, Pennsylvania. Athletics have played a major role in her life and have helped shape who she is today. Olivia is a two-year member of our track and field team, competing in javelin, shotput, and discus. Additionally, Olivia was a three-year member of our volleyball team, and was a JV captain. She was a member of the 2023 Heritage Conference Championship team. Olivia was a two-year member and letterman of our rifle team, and also a team alternate at the state level.

Outside of sports, Olivia is a member of the National Honors Society, Student Council, and is the Vice President of the Students Against Destructive Decisions club. Olivia is also a member of the art club, and paints for the community. In her spare time, Olivia enjoys creating art and watching new movies. She also enjoys her job working at the Morning Grind. After graduating high school, Olivia plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to study civil engineering. While at school, she will apprentice at a tattoo shop to eventually become a tattoo artist. When asked for a quote, Olivia recited Alexander Pope's, "How happy is the blameless vestal's lot! The world forgetting, by the world forgot. Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign'd."



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Nancy Guthrie Missing

By Mary Matera

Nancy Guthrie, 84, is still unaccounted for as of February 26, 2026. According to reports, she was kidnapped early on February 1, 2026, from her house in Tucson, Arizona, in the Catalina Foothills neighborhood. Savannah Guthrie, her daughter and co-host of the *Today Show*, recently announced a \$1 million reward for information that helps her mother's case.

Although there have been many tips regarding Guthrie's disappearance, no suspects have been arrested. There was video footage from a doorbell camera of a masked, armed male at Guthrie's doorstep, said to be 5'9" to 5'10". Sheriff Chris Nanos began by first clearing all family members, including siblings and spouses. Several ransom demands for millions have been sent to media outlets, but have not been verified as real.

Authorities in Tucson are still determined to follow up on all possible leads related to Nancy Guthrie's disappearance. Savannah Guthrie's \$1 million reward highlights the family's urgency and desire for answers.

Eric Dane's Passing

By Renata Savingnone

Eric William Dane was a famous American actor that first gained a lot of popularity for his role on the medical drama *Grey's Anatomy* as Dr. Mark Sloan, and later during the years for his role of Cal Jacobs in the drama series *Euphoria*. In early April 2025, at 52 years old, Dane was diagnosed with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), which is a progressive, terminal neurodegenerative disease with no cure.

He shared the news of his diagnosis to *People* magazine on April 10, 2025, revealing the symptoms he was already feeling, such as weakness in his right hand. Dane decided to make the most out of his situation, becoming an advocate for ALS awareness with I AM ALS, a Support Organization. On February 19, 2026, at age 53, Dane passed away due to respiratory failure caused by the disease.

The loss of the actor to this degenerative disease is tremendously devastating, but he left behind a legacy in

the world of film and television. His legacy will not be erased, but will endure through the ages.

Michael Jackson Accused of Sexual Assault

By Mary Matera

The late pop star known as Michael Jackson was accused of being a "serial child predator" by some longtime friends of his. A lawsuit was filed against him on March 4th in California. This has not been his first accusation against him. In 2005, Jackson was found not guilty of all charges that he molested a 13-year-old.

This most recent lawsuit states that Edward, Dominic, and Aldo Casio, along with their sister Marie-Nicole Porte, called Jackson a "serial child predator." The plaintiffs stated that over the course of more than a decade, they were drugged, raped, and sexually assaulted. They were first introduced to Jackson through their father, who worked in a hotel that Jackson often stayed at. The plaintiff's attorney, Howard King, said, "Plaintiffs reject the Jackson Estate's morally bankrupt efforts to control and silence them." This statement was filed on Friday, March 5, 2026. The plaintiffs are declaring that the action done by Michael Jackson Estate, and affiliates who control and work on their behalf, are held accountable for his conduct and their own wrongdoing. Marty Singer, the defense attorney, brought awareness that Edward Cassio wrote a book in 2011 titled *My Friend Michael: An Ordinary Friendship with an Extraordinary Man*. The book constantly assures that Jackson never harmed any of them or anyone else in the ways they are accusing him of. It was also brought to attention that in 2010, an interview with Oprah Winfrey, Edward, Frank, and Marie-Nicole Cassio all agreed that Jackson never harmed them.

The Cascios spent decades defending and confirming Jackson's innocence, and how these accusations are coming more than 15 years after Jackson's death, which carries no risk of being sued for defamation. Although many of the accusations made against Jackson have been contradicted, more accusations continue to emerge. Sadly, Jackson's talents and successes continue to make him a target even after he has passed.

Christy Carlson Romano Tests Positive for Cancer

By Nina Richardson

Well-known and loved actress and podcaster, Christy Carlson Romano, reveals her recent, devastating news. Best known for the voice of Kim Possible on the Disney Channel, and Ren Stevens on *Even Stevens*, Romano's recent cancer screening test unfortunately came back positive.

On February 17, 2026, Romano shocked the world with an announcement video posted to social media. However, this wasn't the typical, exciting kind of announcement that the world usually hears from celebrities. In this video, Romano states that her and her husband, Brendan Rooney, decided to undergo cancer screening tests due to their family histories of cancer. After anxiously awaiting results, her husband's came back negative. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case for Romano. Her results came back positive, meaning that she "may have stageable cancer." According to Romano, she plans to take things "one day at a time" and get a PET scan for better details.

Even with this regretful news, Romano has stayed incredibly strong. She has promised to "keep fighting for answers" giving her many thanks to her supportive family. "It's time to have a strong sense of faith and know that it's in God's hands, most of it. I'm sure people think I'm overreacting, but I'm not, because cancer is pretty serious, and I have two little girls," says Romano. Currently, she is waiting to receive more information and decide where to go from there. As Romano undergoes this tough journey ahead, we can all give her all of our support and love, ensuring that she is not alone in this fight.



Artist of the Month



Tyler Burnworth lives in Davidsville with both of his parents, Stacy and Britton Burnworth. He is currently in art II and enjoys expressing himself through drawing and painting, which he considers his best artistic skills.

In his art classes, Burnworth has created portraits of his friends, showing his ability to capture people through his work. He is inspired by street art and artists like Picasso, appreciating their unique and creative styles. His artwork has been featured in the Mental Health Awareness Showcase and the Bottleworks Student Works Showcase.

Burnworth hopes to continue playing soccer and pursue something related to art in the future. He says, "I love art," and believes in staying determined, stating, "don't stop when you're tired, stop when you're finished."

Musician of the Month



The Conemaugh Township Music Department selected Greta Mock as musician of the month. Mock is a talented 11th grade student who has made a big impact through her dedication to music. Mock lives in Davidsville with both of her parents, Michelle and Michael Mock.

Mock plays the clarinet, piano, and trombone. Her musical accomplishments include participating in the District and Region Chorus as well as Region Band. Mock has been an active member of the marching band and has participated in several memorable shows. Her performances include *Dancing in the Streets*, *The Ultimate Quest*, *As Seen on TV*, and *in Every Key, Jazz Speaks*. These productions require teamwork, focus, and countless hours of rehearsal. In addition, she is also involved in the Johnstown Symphony Youth Orchestra and the JSYO Woodwind Quintet. Looking ahead, Mock plans to go to college for engineering. Her interest in engineering shows that she is not only a talented musician but also a hardworking student with big goals for the future.

Mock's time in CT's music department has been a huge part of her high school experience. Her dedication to playing multiple instruments, participating in honor ensembles, and performing in the marching band shows her commitment to music. Mock is an excellent example of what it means to work hard, stay involved, and strive for success.

Pittsburgh Museum Recognition

By Emma King

Pittsburgh's rich cultural scene isn't just loved locally, it's now recognized nationally. In the latest USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards, three museums in the Pittsburgh area captured top honors in their categories. These honors came from a combination of expert nominations, and public voting, showing that these institutions aren't just informative, but also deeply engaging for visitors from across the country.

Among the standouts is the Senator John Heinz History Center, which was named the #1 History Museum in America for the third year in a row. This sprawling museum brings western Pennsylvania's past to life through interactive exhibits spanning local industry, culture, and even special displays like Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. It's a must-visit destination for anyone curious about the stories that shaped both Pittsburgh and the nation. Also topping the national lists is the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh, which took the top spot for the best children's museum in the country. Known for its hands-on exhibits and playful learning environments, this museum has long been a favorite for families. Rounding out the trio is the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum, honored as the best small-town museum for its celebration of trolley history and transportation heritage.

Together, these museums illustrate why Pittsburgh is such a vibrant destination for learners of all ages. Whether you're exploring history, enjoying interactive play, or stepping back into the days of historic transit, visitors are sure to have a fantastic time at any of Pittsburgh's entertaining museums.



US - Iran Conflict

By Noah Nagy

On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched multiple missile strikes against Iran. The preemptive, large-scale missile strikes targeted Iranian military bases, suspected Iranian nuclear facilities, such as Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center, and high-ranking officials. According to the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency, the strikes have left over 1,100 civilians dead, with an additional 926 deaths still being verified. Although there has not been a formal declaration of war between any of the nations involved, the conflict could still rapidly escalate.

Ever since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which overthrew the pro-Western Iranian Shah and installed Ayatollah Khomeini as Supreme Leader, Iran has had tense relations with both Israel and the United States. Following the Khomeini family's rise to power, the country has been focused on developing nuclear technologies with support from other countries. Both Israel and the United States have claimed to perceive Iran's progress towards nuclear weapons as a matter of national security and have cited it as the reason to launch preemptive strikes on Iranian leadership and nuclear sites. In a White House press conference, President Trump called Iran's actions "intolerable threats," reflecting the president's view on Iran's recent activities. In order to thwart what he and many other top officials view as a matter of national security, the president authorized strikes that have killed over 1,000 people. Among these casualties are many high-ranking Iranian officials, including the former Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei. According to CNN, Iran has retaliated with over 500 ballistic missiles, furthering the escalation of the conflict.

The lives of millions of people are still hanging in the balance of the conflict, demonstrating how this engagement could reshape global politics for decades to come. As a result of the strikes, thousands have already been killed and reported missing, leaving innocent civilians on both sides suffering. Following an emergency meeting on March 6th, the United Nations began discussing the next steps world leaders must take to address the escalation.

Little Contownian

Earth Day

By Rebecca Purdy

Earth Day is a day to remember to protect our planet. Without awareness and conservation of our Earth, it would be very unsanitary and unsustainable. Earth Day is a reminder that our Earth is not just a huge trash can and you can't just leave your trash everywhere. Some people have things that say, "Go Green." This helps people become more aware of how much trash they use.

Earth Day is a great way to remind people not to litter. Littering pollutes the Earth and doesn't make it a sustainable place for life to thrive. Plastic, cans, and some other household objects that aren't biodegradable are bad because, if not disposed of correctly, they have a higher chance of polluting an animal's habitat. With dying and sick animals, it causes collapsed ecosystems. Each and every animal plays an important role in its ecosystem. Whether it is to control the amount of resources in a particular environment or to eliminate a certain predator from its environment, one mess up could cause the whole ecosystem to fail.

Another way to can show you want to make our Earth a great place, you can be aware of what you throw away. You can use recycling bins and you can even reuse things. If you recycle things, it leads to less trash and the reuse of resources we already had. This could one day be an infinite cycle. If you recycle your bottles or any other recyclable things, businesses can sterilize them and make them into another bottle and then sell it again. With this, hypothetically, we would never need to make another bottle again.

As a result, you can help the Earth in many ways, and if you start now, our future could be clean. Starting now leads to quicker results and a better environment for everyone.

Easter Traditions

By Kenli Tunstall

Easter has many traditions, and here are just a few. The first very common tradition is hunting for Easter eggs. These eggs could be real hard-boiled eggs or plastic ones full of candy. Easter egg hunts became most common in the early 19th and 20th centuries and were rooted in earlier German traditions. The second Easter tradition is coloring eggs. People will hard-boil eggs and then dip them in dye. Another tradition is the Easter bunny. The Easter Bunny will come Easter morning and leave gifts and candy. The last thing most people do on Easter is go to church. People do this because they want to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion when he arose from the dead.

Those were many of the Easter traditions people celebrate and do on this special day. There are some other traditions that other people in other places do, too. In Poland on Easter Monday, they have large-scale water fighting. In Greece, people on the island of Corfu throw clay pots from their balconies on Easter Saturday. Egg tapping is also widely practiced. In France, church bells, which are silent during Lent, "fly" back from Rome to drop chocolate eggs for children on Easter Sunday. In Bermuda, they fly colorful, homemade kites.

Easter is widely celebrated in many different regions of the world, and everywhere people celebrate it in their own ways and in their own cultures.



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