



Conemaugh Township Euro Trip

By Noah Nagy

On June 10, 2026, over 40 Conemaugh Township students and chaperones departed for a 10-day trip to France, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria, following a two-year fundraising campaign organized by EF Tours and Conemaugh Township staff. The group was led by Mr. Rising and chaperoned by Mr. Phillippi, Mrs. Custer, Mrs. Mowery, and Mr. Byer, each of whom oversaw a designated group of students. EF Tours' mission for the trip was to open the world through education, allowing students' opportunity to see the world while learning at the same time.

Spanning over 750 miles and five countries, the trip transported students from bustling streets in Paris, to tranquil Swiss lakes and to the historical cultures of Bavaria and Austria. The 10-day tour took students out of their comfort zone, moving beyond traditional learning methods to gain a deeper understanding by seeing a foreign culture, way of life, and environment. Not only did the trip enable students to learn about Europe, but it also allowed them to experience it. Isaac Levadnuk, a student on the Euro Trip, stated, "The Europe trip gave me a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see landmarks and cultures that I would've never been able to see."

The travelers returned to the Pittsburgh Airport on June 20, 2026, bringing their experiences and mementos with them. Although the trip has concluded, the memories and customs the travelers experienced will never be forgotten and will certainly influence the decisions and lives of everyone involved. EF Tours and the Conemaugh Township staff who organized this trip accomplished their mission; they opened the world to students through the lens of education.

Never Forget

By Noah Nagy

On September 11, 2001, the United States of America was attacked by terrorists who hijacked four airliners, one of which crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania following intervention from the crew and passengers of the plane. Nearly twenty-five years after the attack, Gordon Felt, the brother of Edward Felt, a passenger on Flight 93, presented to the Conemaugh Township students. Mr. Felt came in on September 8, three days before the 25th anniversary of September 11, to talk about the heroic actions of the seven crew members and thirty-three passengers of Flight 93.

Gordon Felt knew what this sacrifice meant for this country, and he decided to found the Families of Flight 93 Foundation in 2002. The goal of the foundation was to establish a permanent memorial at the crash site to honor the victims of the attack, among whom was Mr. Felt's brother, forty-one-year-old Edward Porter Felt. The grief Felt experienced from the passing of his brother seemed insurmountable. It made him angry, but instead of letting it ruin him, he channeled his grief and indignation into the project. In 2020, the Flight 93 memorial and its surrounding buildings were completed, prompting the dissolution of the organization.

Although Families of Flight 93 has disbanded, Felt's main mission of education has not been achieved. In an interview on September 8, he demonstrated the disconnect between the current generation and 9/11, stating, "Your generation is about as disconnected from 9/11 as mine to Pearl Harbor." Felt's statement demonstrates something that most do not realize: thirty percent of Americans were not alive during the tragedy and has no firsthand experience of it. By educating the youth of America about that fateful day, Gordon Felt is keeping what was first said after the attack alive: "Never Forget."

Contownian News Magazine

News

Page 1 - Conemaugh Township Euro Club

Page 1 - Never Forget

Page 12 - Johnstown's Central Park is Revitalized

Page 12 - Catastrophic Floods in Nepal

Society

Page 4 - Student Clubs and Organizations

Page 4 - Alumni of the Month: Kristie Byer

Page 4 - 2026-2027 Marching Band Season

Page 5 - 2026 Euro Club Trip Summary

Page 5 - Behind the Scenes of Homecoming

Editorial

Page 6 - Summer vs. Winter Break

Page 6 - Best Pumpkin Spice Latte

Page 6 - When is the Best Time to Start School?

Features

Page 7 - Best Trick or Treat Candy

Page 7 - The History of Halloween

Page 7 - Suicide Awareness Month Resources

Sports

Page 8 - Football Tames the Wolves

Page 8 - Boys Soccer Takes the Victory

Page 8 - Lady Indians Triumph

Page 8 - Volleyball Repeats

Page 9 - Athletes of the Month - Rocco Hagan and
Vayda Korenoski

Pop Culture

Page 10 - Dolly Parton's Passing

Page 10 - Daisy Chain Music Festival

Page 10 - *Dancing with the Stars* Season 35

Page 11 - Tupac Shakur's Murder Trial

Little Contownian

Page 13 - Coming Soon

Page 13 - Coming Soon

Contownian News Magazine

Editors

Editor-in-Chief.....	Lilly Oakes
Junior Editor-in-Chief.....	Coming Soon!
Senior News Editor.....	Rocco Hagan
Junior News Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Features Editor.....	Vayda Korenoski
Junior Features Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Sports Editor.....	Averie Seibert
Junior Sports Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Society Editor.....	Anna Hunsberger
Junior Society Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Pop Culture Editor.....	Isabella Gunby
Junior Pop Culture Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Little Contownian Editor.....	Lilly Oakes
Junior Little Contownian Editor.....	Brinley Franchic
Senior Photography Editor.....	Addison Lasure
Junior Photography Editor.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Facebook Athletics.....	Addison Lasure and Rocco Hagan
Junior Facebook Athletics.....	Emma King
Senior Business Manager.....	Elanor Luscher
Junior Business Manager.....	Coming Soon!
Senior Newsletter Editor.....	Emily Purdy
Junior Newsletter Editor.....	Coming Soon!

Writing Staff

News Staff

Daniel Vanfossen, Reed Conn, Emma King, Kennedy Lehman,
Savannah Stutzman, & Noah Nagy

Features Staff

Mya Kane, Mayce Kordell, & Lexie Feathers

Society Staff

Brinley Franchic, Lyla Mauzy, Amelia Mitchell, Ella Brotz, &
Grace Mitchell

Sports Staff

Lena Dull, Gentry Sotosky, Jayla Feathers & Peyton Lasure

Pop Culture Staff

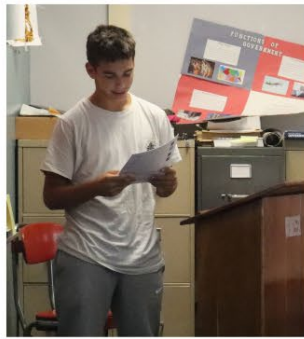
Mary Matera

The images in the Contownian News Magazine are captured by
the Contownian Newspaper Staff along with photographers from
the Barksdale Group Photography Company.

Advisor: Diane Feathers



Our flag runners getting ready for the game.



LandonRay Romesburg presenting his current event.



The class of 2027 builds the bonfire!



Our 2026 Homecoming Court!



Mrs. Kimmel dressing up for spirit week.

Mayce Kordell and Colton Shippey performing their homecoming skits.



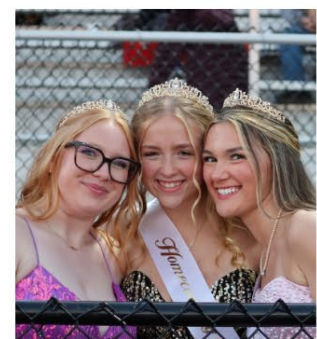
Anna Hunsberger and Rocco Hagan, our 2026 Homecoming Queen and King!



Leah Kordell and Gina Hagan at the bonfire dance!



Wesley Mock playing the clarinet at the pep rally.



Our princesses are all smiles!

Student Clubs and Organizations

By Lyla Mauzy

Throughout the 2026-2027 school year at the Conemaugh Township Middle and High School, many groups take part in activities that support other students, organizations, and the community overall. Clubs such as Rotary Interact, SADD, and Spanish Club offer many opportunities to become community-oriented and involved with school events.

One of the most notable associations in Conemaugh Township is the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) club. Early in December, the group will be managing the annual Santa Shop event at the elementary school library. Countless families look forward to this seasonal event, as it allows students to shop for Christmas gifts and create lasting memories with their loved ones. Additionally, the SADD club will be assisting with the annual Volleyball Marathon. Proceeds obtained from this fundraiser will benefit a designated recipient, and the event often includes faculty and student games (such as the “Save it or Shave it” contest, concessions, and raffles). Later on in the school year, the SADD club will help at the elementary school to prepare for and manage Reading Night, an exciting themed event that encourages reading and education for younger students.

Another significant group that is well-known locally is the Conemaugh Township Rotary Interact club. This dedicated organization is focused on giving back to the community through student volunteer work and has many upcoming projects it is set to complete. Some of the most popular activities include road clean-ups, decorating Laurel View Village for Christmas, assisting with blood drives, and managing the SHOFCO soccer event. Kennedy Lehman, a member of Rotary Interact at Conemaugh Township for the past two years,

is excited to return to the club. Lehman stated, “I think Rotary Interact is a great way to help the community and meet new people. I am excited for what this year has to bring.”

Spanish Club, a popular group among students taking Spanish I through IV, is still in the process of planning their events for the year. Currently, the organization is working on purchasing t-shirts for all members and is planning to visit elementary school students for educational Spanish lessons and activities. Spanish Club is also preparing for a field trip later on in the year, and members in Spanish IV are excited to have lessons with Mrs. Kopp’s Life Skills students.

Overall, each club offered at the Conemaugh Township Middle and High School gives students the opportunity to make connections, learn the importance of volunteer work, and become an active member of society. Many of these diligent groups are continuing to seek involvement in other community outreach events.

2026-2027 Marching Band Season

By Lyla Mauzy

One of the most important groups, when it comes to demonstrating school spirit and bringing excitement to athletic events, is the Conemaugh Township Class and Taste Marching Band. This devoted group has been

Alumni of the Month



Kristie Byer, a Conemaugh Township alumna, graduated in 2005 and has countless memories from her high school experience that she has treasured over the years. Following her high school career, Byer attended Slippery Rock University and earned a bachelor’s degree in finance, as well as a minor in information systems.

At 17, as a junior in high school (2004) she enlisted as a flight operations specialist for the PA Army National Guard. Byer was deployed to Baghdad and Tallil in 2009 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and exited the military as a sergeant in December 2010. Later on, she moved to Virginia Beach to work as a team leader for a mortgage company, then relocated to Johnstown in December, 2018 where she began a career in government contracting.

Reflecting on her experience at Conemaugh Township, Byer noted that Miss Gall was her favorite teacher. She stated, “Miss Gall was a brand-new teacher my senior year, and she was always so bubbly and happy. She made learning fun, and was a mentor and friend to me.” Miss Gall provided her with support and encouragement in high school, which had a lasting impact on her character throughout life. Some of Byer’s most cherished CT memories involved soccer, track, dances, football games, lunch, prom, building the bonfire, and senior skip day.

Currently, Kristie Byer resides in Jerome with her husband, Mr. Andy Byer (one of the math teachers at Conemaugh Township), whom she married in 2012. The couple has two children, Lexi and Brody, who both attend the Conemaugh Township Middle and High School.

practicing tirelessly throughout the summer vacation to develop a spectacular, high-quality performance that will tour at various competitions around our state.

The Marching Band's show this year is "Echoes In Time," which features a retro-themed medley of songs from the '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s. This dazzling performance moves through the decades of the late 20th century, and illustrates how the art of music changes over time. The show includes "Happy Together" and "Yesterday" from the 1960s, "Stayin' Alive" from 1970s, "Celebration" and "Funkytown" from the 1980s, and "Smells Like Teen Spirit" from the 1990s. Our CT color guard accompanies each song with elaborate routines involving disco balls, flags, and rifles. According to Aubrey Shaffer, a talented marching band and color guard member, "Marching band is a good way to learn how to multitask, have discipline, and get better at time management." The Class and Taste Marching Band also offers many leadership opportunities for members: Greta Mock currently serves as the Commanding Officer, and Adah Konieczny is the Assistant Commanding Officer.

Overall, the 2026-2027 school year looks incredibly promising for the Class and Taste Marching Band. The band has performed at various events for our school this month, including multiple senior nights, soccer military night, volleyball's Teal Out game, and Homecoming. The first competition for this group was on September 26 at 2:00 p.m. and was hosted at our high school. The marching band will be participating in many more competitions around the state this fall.

Charlotte Kohl

By Amelia Mitchell

Recently, Conemaugh Township Area School District welcomed a special new member to its tribe: Charlotte Kohl. Charlotte is an exchange student from Gronsdorf, Germany. Charlotte arrived here on August 12th. The Worst family is hosting her this year and they are very thrilled for her arrival.

Charlotte is very involved back home in Germany. She enjoys Taekwondo, which she has been doing for approximately 10 years. At the moment, she has her blue belt and is working towards her red belt. She also enjoys skiing and volunteering at her local church. Back at home, her mom is a medical doctor that is providing research and insulin pumps for people with type 1 diabetes. Her father works for business start-ups and helps find investors. Her sister, Olga, is currently 25 and is working on her master's degree in European law. Additionally, Charlotte took a

five-week exchange trip to Argentina during the summer of 2025. Charlotte has many things she's looking forward to doing while she is here. She said, "I'm excited to experience all the typical American things like homecoming and prom, but I'm most excited to travel and experience Christmas."

Conemaugh Township is so excited and honored to welcome Charlotte to the tribe. Charlotte is very involved at home, and we hope to see her stay active in activities here as well. We are so excited to see the things she accomplishes and hope she has an amazing experience while she is with us.

Behind the Scenes of Homecoming

By Amelia Mitchell

Every year, the Conemaugh Township Area School District celebrates the homecoming festivities. The community always enjoys it, but may not notice the people and the work that goes into it every year. There are countless clubs and people that help to make our homecoming magical.

Vayda Korenoski, Mrs. Lyons, Ms. Debartto, and the entire student council all had important jobs that helped make homecoming run smoothly. They worked together to plan spirit week, build the bonfire, order t-shirts, and plan student activities. They also announced the homecoming court, created buttons, painted the windows, decorated the community and campus, wrote court bios, and ran the bonfire. In addition, they organized the dance and prepared the sashes and crowns for the homecoming court. President of student council, Vayda Korenoski, said "I'm so thrilled that all of our hard work turned into an amazing homecoming night!" Homecoming is not an event that is put together overnight. There are many people that put countless hours into designing and planning homecoming to make sure that it continues to bring school spirit year after year.



Summer vs. Winter Break

By Noah Nagy

Picture yourself on a scenic lake, greenery flowering in every direction, and the soft glow of the sun warming your skin. Now picture that same lake, frozen over, the greenery dead, and a harsh wind beating against your skin. That is the night-and-day difference between summer and winter, a glowing environment versus a dead wasteland.

The differences between summer and winter break are vast; each has pros and cons, but there is a clear superior. Summer break offers a lifestyle and experience that winter break simply cannot. To begin with, the length of the two is a nearly 10-week difference, and for students, there is a certain amount of dread during the winter break. 10-14 days is not enough time to acclimate to no school. During summer break, you have time to relax without worrying about school, but winter break is just the right amount of time to get out of the school routine, and as soon as you adapt, you have to go back. On top of that back-to-school dread, the winter environment is brutal; high-speed winds berate anything in their path, while short, dark days bring on seasonal depression.

During summer break, you can be active outside; you don't need layers upon layers of clothing and you don't have to worry about school. It is clear that summer break allows for more opportunities and enjoyment than the lifelessness of winter. Whether having fun with friends or experiencing the world, summer break gives a better prospect for life.

Best Pumpkin Spice Latte

By Peyton Lasure

The pumpkin spice latte is famous for serving as the ultimate symbol for the arrival of the autumn season. With fall coming around the corner, people want to know where to get the best drink. Many people believe that Starbucks is the best option and others think Dunkin' is superior.

Starbucks remains the most popular and consistent nationwide choice for a classic pumpkin spice latte. In this latte, the flavor tastes more complex, balanced, and closer to real pumpkin pie. It uses real pumpkin puree in its sauce and it features a stronger, bolder espresso flavor that

cuts through the sweetness. One drawback in Starbucks's latte is that it is generally more expensive than Dunkin's.

On the other hand, Dunkin's pumpkin spice latte is still a good option. The flavor of this latte is very sweet, milky, and heavy on the cinnamon and fall spices. They use a flavored syrup swirl made from sugar and dairy with no real pumpkin. The price at Dunkin' usually costs a bit less and offers a larger size for the price. One drawback of this latte is that it can taste watery or overly bland and milky, especially if you order it iced.

Overall, wherever you choose to buy your pumpkin spice latte, you are ensured to enjoy the blend of cinnamon, nutmeg, clove, and espresso that triggers sensory memories of autumn, Thanksgiving, and cooler weather.

When is the Best Time to Start School?

By Mya Kane

When the summer ends and the school year comes around, students, teachers, and staff members wish that summer vacation could last just a little longer. Most people want this because of the long days ahead of them in the heat and in the classroom. One debate that people often bring up when this time of year rolls around is whether or not school should start later in the year.

At Conemaugh Township, the school year ends in late May or early June and begins in late August. Although this is considered a long summer vacation, most people in the school district would benefit if the school year started after Labor Day. The benefits people would have from the school year starting later is that students, teachers, and faculty members could have more time to relax in the air conditioning rather than going to school and trying to focus in the extreme heat. This causes students to lose concentration, do poorly on tests and quizzes, and find it difficult to perform tasks. Another benefit is that sports teams could have more time to practice and prepare for games before the school year starts. When students have more time to prepare for sports before the school year starts, the more likely coaches are to cut back the practice times for students during the school year. When practices are cut shorter, it gives students time to get school work assignments done, helping them do better in school overall.

Best Trick or Treat Candy

By Mayce Kordell

Fall is here and it's time for people to start thinking about what kind of Halloween costume they're going to wear. Halloween is on Saturday, October 31. Many people wait all year for this season because there are many fun factors that go into preparing for Halloween. Not only do kids wait all year for them for the Halloween costumes, but most young people also enjoy Halloween because of how much candy they get. Here are 10 of the most popular candies for Halloween:

1. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups
2. M&M's
3. Hershey's Chocolate Bar
4. Snickers
5. Skittles
6. Nerds
7. Sour Patch Kids
8. Twix
9. Kit Kat
10. Airheads

Now you have 10 great candies that not only kids love but adults love, too. So many kids around the world love Halloween and always look forward to all the candy they get on that night. So, now that you know 10 great candies to get kids on Halloween to make their night will be even better.

The History of Halloween

By Lexie Feathers

Everyone knows the holiday Halloween. Today, many people are excited to dress up, get candy, and party with friends. Do you know where Halloween originated from or why it's celebrated? This article dives deep into the history and backstory of Halloween.

Halloween is celebrated every year on October 31st. Have you ever wondered why? October 31st is the evening before the Christian holy day of All Saints Day on November 1st. The name "Halloween" is a shortened form of All Hallows' Eve, meaning the sacred evening before All Saints' Day. That's how the name evolved. The October 31st date also comes from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which marked the end of the harvest and the start of the dark winter. Many people believed the boundary between living and dead opened on this night. Due to this, they wore disguises and set bonfires to hide

from roaming spirits and ghosts. This is where the idea of wearing costumes evolved from.

Generally speaking, this holiday is very popular around the country. However, most people are not educated on the origin of this holiday. This year when you celebrate Halloween, remember where these traditions evolved.

Suicide Awareness Month Resources

By Mya Kane

Mental health, suicide, and self-harm are all very real problems people face in life. It can be difficult to bring up in a conversation. There are many resources that you can look toward to receive the help you need when having these thoughts, along with various people who can guide you through tough times. September is global Suicide Prevention Month, and Conemaugh Township Senior High School dedicated September 8, 2026 to bringing awareness about suicide prevention throughout the school and community. Conemaugh Township Senior High School focuses on many different ways to prevent suicide, thoughts of self-harm, and other conflicts people may face, through various resources people can use for information and aid they need. One of the substantial resources is the 988 Lifeline. The 988 Suicide Prevention Hotline is both a phone number and website that you can contact to talk to someone about the struggles you may be experiencing to receive help on an issue. In addition to the 988 Lifeline, there are in-person resources that students and other faculty members can turn to in the school, such as the guidance office, REACH, the school nurse, and teachers. These are just a few of the many great resources throughout the school that are available to help you. There are also numerous ways that you can help others, show your support, and get involved in raising awareness. Some examples include sharing the link to the 988 Lifeline website at 988lifeline.org, participating in the You'll Never Walk Alone 5K Run/Walk for Suicide Prevention and Awareness at UPJ on October 4, 2026, and listening to the Help Happens Here message during the afternoon announcements at the end of the school day throughout September. No matter what you are going through in life, whether it is good or bad, there is always someone that can help and support you. Sharing these resources and participating in support groups is a great way to be helpful in school, and throughout your community. You do not need to go through life alone because there is always someone willing to help.

Football At Blacklick

By Carson Cauffield

The CT Indians football team traveled to Blacklick Valley to play against the United Valley Lions on September 18, 2026. The team started off strong playing lock down defense. Unfortunately, they were caught off guard with a fake punt to lead the Lions downfield to start the scoring first to take the lead 6-0. Fortunately, Dail got a finger on the extra point to stop them from adding on.

As Cauffield, Valentine, and Murray were back for the Indians to return, they were held up short from a big return to setback the Indians for a big drive to score. Greyson Studer led the team downfield to take it himself to the pylon to give the Indians the touchdown. Gentry Sotosky added the extra point to give the Indians the lead 6-7. After a turnover on downs, Colton Shippey makes a grab from Studer to take the Indians to the endzone.

After another great drive on defense, the Indians forced the Lions to punt, giving the Indians another chance to score. Bryce Conn makes a crazy play by mossaing a defender in the endzone to add another 6 to the Indians lead. The Indians played yet again another impeccable defensive play with Braden Sarver picking off the Lions attempted screen play giving the Indians momentum. Bryce Conn put the nail in the coffin to secure the win over United Valley with the final score being 6-28. The Indians turned their record to 3-1, and they held their next game at home against Portage for homecoming.

Boys Soccer Takes the Victory

By Gentry Sotosky

The Conemaugh Township boys' varsity soccer team held their home opener game on Thursday September 3rd, against West Shamokin. The Indians played very strong capturing a 9-1 victory, even though the game was cut short 24 minutes early due to a major storm.

Rocco Hagan led the team with four goals and three assists, followed by Josey Sotosky with two goals and one assist. Tyler Burnworth added two goals, and Daniel Van Fossen added one goal. The Indians controlled the game by possessing the ball most of the game, not giving the Wolves many chances to score. The team played with confidence and determination to make up for the tie against Cambria Heights

on the prior Tuesday.

Overall, the team played an amazing game, beating West Shamokin 9-1, only allowing one goal. Their next game was held on September 8th, home against the Bluejays of Johnstown Christian School.

Lady Indians Triumph

By Jayla Feathers

On Thursday September 10th, the Lady Indians hosted Rockwood Rockets. The team was looking to keep improving their record, and was able to put six goals past Rockwood. leaving the final score of the game 6-0.

Only a minute into the game, the Indians won themselves a corner kick. Mayce Kordell took the kick and Leah Kordell was able to crash the net and score the first goal of the night. Mayce Kordell was able to secure herself a hat trick. Gina Hagan also scored a goal and recorded an assist. Willow Lease added a goal as well. Colbi Hunsberger earned herself another shutout, not allowing any goals to be scored.

The Lady Indians improved their record to 3-0. They are focussed on continuing to improve and to keep winning games. They held their next game at Somerset on Monday September 13.

Volleyball Repeats

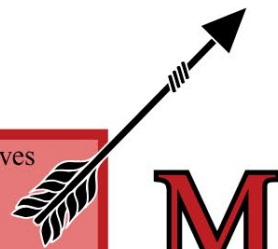
By Lena Dull

The Conemaugh Township Volleyball team traveled to Conemaugh Valley on Tuesday, September 15th. They were the clear victors by a 3-0 margin over the Blue Jays. The Indians managed to repeat what they were able to do last year in this matchup.

It was another big night for Sarah Swank, who had 19 kills, nine digs, two solo blocks, and two aces. Averie Seibert was another key player, getting 22 assists, three digs, and three aces. Cora Oswalt and Quinn Moser also contributed the high-level stats to the team with 7, and 6 kills, respectively.

The victory improved Conemaugh Township's record to 6-1. This season is already looking positive for the team, and where this season might take them. The girls next matchup was at the Penn Trafford tournament on September 19th.

ATHLETES OF THE



Rocco Hagan is the son of Tom and Kristy Hagan. He currently lives with both in Davidsville, Pennsylvania. Rocco started organized soccer at the age of four, but still played before that. Rocco is a four-year member and letterman of the boys' varsity soccer team, and was nominated as captain three of those years. In 2025, he was selected as an all-state midfielder. Additionally, he is a two-time all-county first team midfielder and a three-time Heritage conference first team midfielder. In 2023, he and his team also earned a District V title. During Rocco's junior season, he broke the single season goal scoring record at 46 goals. Already this season, Rocco broke the school record for most goals scored. Outside of soccer, Rocco is a member of Student Council, Students Against Destructive Decisions club, Art Club, Grill Team, video production, is a journalism editor, and is the president and founder of the hacky sack club. Academically, Rocco is a member of the National Honors Society, and is an honor roll student. He was also a member of the Heritage conference science team, and the Physics Olympics team. Rocco additionally planned an alumni soccer game to raise funds for the boys' varsity soccer team. After graduating high school, Rocco plans to continue playing soccer in college and study either education or architecture. He wants to travel the world, start a family one day, and coach a soccer team. When asked for a quote, Rocco stated, "I love soccer and Conemaugh Township. I'm glad to be a part of both, and proud to play for and represent CT!"



M

O

N



Vayda Korenoski is the daughter of Julie and Aaron Korenoski. She currently lives with her mom in Davidsville, Pennsylvania. Vayda has been playing soccer since second grade, and was a three-year member and letterman of the varsity team. She is unable to play her senior year because of a tear in her ACL and MCL. During her career on the soccer team, Vayda and her team won the District V championship her freshman year. Individually, Vayda was selected for the all-county second team her junior year. Additionally, Vayda is a two-year member and letterman of our track and field team. In her sophomore year, she was a member of the 4x100 meter relay that won

districts and qualified for states. In her junior year, she, again, qualified and placed at districts in the 4x100 meter relay and the 100-meter dash. Outside of sports, Vayda is a member of the National Honors Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions club, Editor in Chief of Video Production, Senior Features Editor in journalism, President of Student Council, and a member of the yearbook staff. In her free time, Vayda likes to read, hunt, fish, hang out with friends, and sing and play the guitar with her sister Ruby. After graduating high school, Vayda plans on attending a four-year university to become a teacher. When asked for a quote, she stated, "Life can be hard and throw challenges at you." It is not about your issues, it's how you choose to handle and overcome them. You can let them break you, or make you who you are." Additionally, Vayda would like to thank her friends, family, teachers, and teammates for always lifting her up.



T

H

Dolly Parton's Passing

By Emma King

Dolly Parton, one of American pop culture's most beloved figures, has died at the age of 80. She passed away on August 25, 2026, in Nashville after a brief battle with cancer. Her death marks the end of a career that lasted nearly six decades, and made her a worldwide icon.

Parton rose from poverty in rural Tennessee to become one of the most successful country musicians of all time. She wrote famous songs such as "Jolene," "9 to 5," and "I Will Always Love You," while also becoming an actress, businesswoman, and creator of Dollywood. Her unique style, humor, and personality made her recognizable to people of all ages.

Beyond entertainment, Parton was also known for her generosity. Through her Imagination Library, she helped provide more than 300 million free books to children around the world by 2025. She also inspired generations of musicians and entertainers through her talent, kindness, and dedication to helping others.

Dolly Parton leaves behind a legacy that goes far beyond her music. Her songs, movies, philanthropy, and unmistakable personality made her an important part of American pop culture. Although she is no longer here, her influence will continue to inspire people for generations.

Daisy Chain Music Festival

By Evelyn Mock

The Daisy Chain Fields Music Festival took place on August 29th of this year. It drew about 45,000 attendees to Great Park in Irvine, California. It made its debut as a sold out festival drawing in 20 million dollars for charity. These charities include Planned Parenthood, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and the Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

The festival was founded and coordinated by Olivia Rodrigo. Olivia Rodrigo took inspiration from Sarah McLachlan's Lilith Fair. McLachlan even attended and performed in the festival's headliners. McLachlan later tweeted that the Daisy Chains festival was "pure magic." The charities that benefited all focused on women's health and rights. The festival had an all-women's lineup, and

spotlighted special guest Stevie Nicks.

The founder, Olivia Rodrigo's, thoughts were only positive. She stated that the event was the "greatest moment of my career." During the festival, and her performance, she went on to continue saying how this was the best day of her life and that she is looking forward to doing it all again next year.

As the exact dates for next year's festival have not been officially announced, it is thought that the festival will be on Saturday, August 28, 2027. It is suspected that the Daisy Chain Music Festival will be held at the same venue next year, in Irvine, CA, and many dates have been thrown out as possible venue dates.

Dancing with the Stars

By Zolina Bittner

Highly beloved reality show, *Dancing with the Stars'* thirty-fifth season is underway, and fans could not be more excited. The Disney+ show announced its judges and hosts on the September 1st episode of *Good Morning America*, highlighting the return of iconic cast members. Carrie Ann Inaba, Derek Hough, and Bruno Tonioli are all making an anticipated return as members of the judging panel. Julianne Hough along with Alfonso Ribeiro are returning to co-host the popular show. The new season premiered on Tuesday, September 16th and continued into Wednesday, September 17th in a two day *Dancing with the Stars* extravaganza. Season 35 will be available to stream on both Disney+ as well as ABC.

Following the announcement of the judges and hosts, the full celebrity cast list was announced on September 2nd. The cast will include Sierra Miller, a *Summer House* sensation, Maura Higgins, a *Love Island* participant, Jackson Olson, a Savannah Bananas second baseman- and many more beloved celebrities in the online world. During the *DWTS Good Morning America* segment, excited judge, Derek Hough, told the internet, "You can expect what you know and love about *Dancing with the Stars*, but also an energized show. We have so much momentum- the cast is going to be incredible." The raving pre-release review already left by one of the show's judges is a sure sign of the thirty-fifth's season's success.

Dancing with the Stars has been a sensation since its

release in 2005, and continues to carry this legacy into the present day with perfectly chosen public figures and an energy of excitement that refuses to die down.

Tupac Shakur's Murder Trial

By Gina Hagan

Tupac Shakur was an iconic American rapper, actor, and activist. Shakur's was a very influential artist and one of the best-selling artists of all time. On September 7, 1996 he was struck by four rounds of bullets from a 40-caliber glock 22 pistol. Tupac was recorded to be dead from his injuries about 6 days later.

The murder of Tupac has been an unresolved case until now. Many people in the gang known as the South Side Compton Crisps lead by Duane "Keffe D" Davis alongside his members, Terrence "T-Brown" Brown, Orlando Anderson, and DeAndrae "Dre" Smith all have been named with having ties to his death. According to the Wikipedia website on Tupac's biography, this gang was found in a Cadillac driving past Tupac's car when the murder had occurred. The members in the car had been suspected for the murder for years, but never were charged for anything and always denied being involved in the case. Just recently they closed Tupac's murder trial after finding the murderer, Davis, guilty of plotting the 1996 near the Las Vegas strip, he was the only one out of the gang members that were ruled guilty of murder.

Tupac's murder case is finally closed after 30 years. The only person sentenced to any kind of punishment was Davis. Fans may never know if there were more people involved in the planned murder of Tupac.



Artist of the Month



Ellie Luscher, a senior at Conemaugh Township, was chosen for Artist of the Month. Luscher lives with her mom, Andi, here in Davidsville, while her dad, Dave, lives in Maryland. Luscher takes Art III. She tends to do a lot of different styles with her art, but she prefers 3D sculpting and pottery.

Luscher has many accomplishments like getting into art competitions, as well as showcases, and getting letters of recommendations into scholarship art camp. Most of her inspiration comes from hyper realistic art styles or nature landscapes, as she used to watch Bob Ross as a kid. Luscher's plans after high school include going to a local college for core classes, then continuing her education at Douglas Education Center for their cosmetology program. One of her favorite quotes is, "No matter if you believe you've reached your limit or can push past, pursue art any chance you can. I believe it is a fundamental key part of every young person's life."

Luscher has so much talent and works so hard for all of her accomplishments. She really is a great role model for those thinking about pursuing art in their future.

Musician of the Month



Greta Mock is the daughter of Michelle and Michael Mock of Davidsville, PA. She is a senior, and very active in the Conemaugh Township Music Department, having expertise in playing the clarinet, trombone, and piano, while also being very exceptional in the choir scene.

Mock has participated in many county band and choir festivals, while also being a part of the District and Region band festivals for the past two years, District choir for two years, and Region choir for one year. She is part of the marching band's leadership and has been a part of five shows starting with "Dancing in the Streets" leading up to "Echoes in Time," the most recent show. She has also been a part of five musicals: *Music Man*, *Footloose*, *Mary Poppins*, *High School Musical*, and *Matilda*. Mock is a member of the Johnstown Symphony Youth Orchestra, where she plays clarinet. She also is a major part in the woodwind and brass ensembles, while taking charge in concert band.

Mock's future plans are to attend a college for industrial engineering. She hopes to continue creating music any chance she gets, bringing her light and musical intelligence to everyone she can.

Johnstown's Central Park is Revitalized

By Zolina Bittner

On September 19, 2026, Johnstown's very own Central Park had its grand reopening to the public after almost a year of construction. The park was first built in 1872, and its importance to the people of Johnstown can be seen through the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in its resurrection.

The new park's construction began in early September of 2025, and the finished product has been highly anticipated. New features of the state-of-the-art gathering area include landscaping, a new gazebo, picnic tables, and a fountain. Brand new concrete walkways have also been added to give the city's residents a place to stroll. WTAJ interviewed Amy Bradley, President and CEO of the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce, who excitedly described her hopes for the new park. "It's going to be a beautiful place," Bradley raved. "Lots of benches, picnic tables- It's going to be really easy for people to use the park to hold events." Bradley also spoke of how there will be free Wi-Fi and areas accessible for utility cord connections. Many of the novel park's special details are sure to bring community gatherings and plenty of events for the people of Johnstown to enjoy.

Though it is beautiful, the brand new gathering area isn't just a spot to experience greenery in the city, but a pillar of Johnstown's ever-advancing success. The new area is a beacon of light within the community, bringing Johnstown's residents together and giving them something new to experience that is available to everyone. Central Park is, and will continue to be, a product of teamwork and pride in Johnstown's community for years to come.

Catastrophic Floods in Nepal

By Molly Hunsberger

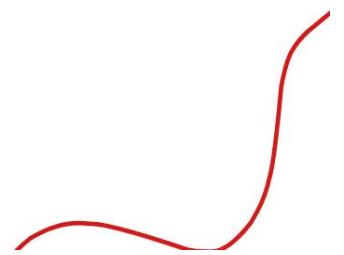
On Wednesday, August 26 at around 8:37 a.m. local time, a massive glacier collapsed near the Langtang Lirung Peak of the Himalayan Mountain Range. This event triggered a powerful debris flow and flash floods, affecting multiple areas near the Nepal-China border. The notable locations that received the most destruction were Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Dhading, Gorkha, and Tanahun districts. This catastrophic event caused widespread destruction and clearing of homes, bridges, and roads.

At first, reporters suggested that the floods were caused by an earthquake, but with further research, they now believe that a large mass of ice and rock collapsed from a glacier. This caused a surge of water downstream through the Bhote Koshi River and into communities in Nepal. Over 84,270 people have been affected by this event, 1,300 of those individuals lost their lives, and thousands have still not been accounted for.

The aftermath of the floods has raised concern in many of the communities in Nepal. Malnutrition along with limited clean water, healthcare, shelter, food, and hygiene products have caused anxiety among many of the families. Lila Pieters Yahia, a UN Resident Coordinator in Nepal stated, "Working under the Government's leadership, this appeal will get cash, shelter, healthcare, clean water, and protection to the hardest-to-reach communities..." This further hints that though they are struggling currently, those affected are starting to receive more support and aid. Organizations from all over the world are reaching out to help those suffering from the effects of the floods.

Small nations like Nepal are paying the highest price for global climate neglect. Families are seeking relief in this tragic time as they mourn family, friends, and a safe place to live. As we move forward with our lives keep in mind that the "Nepal floods remind us of one brutal truth—life can change in a second. Live it, feel it, before life decides otherwise."

Little Contownian





Academic Calendar/ Upcoming Events

October 2.....	Drone Day Presentations
October 12.....	Teacher In-service
October 16.....	Octoberfest Outdoor Grill
October 21.....	Act 80 Early Dismissal 12:00 Middle/High School 12:30 Elementary
October 26-30.....	Red Ribbon Week



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

Don't forget: ORDER A YEARBOOK!!

Visit: YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM

Use the following codes:

MS CODE:19683

HS CODE:13159

**Would like to see your business in our
newspaper or yearbook?**

Contact

Mrs. Diane Feathers.....diane.feathers@ctasd.org
479-4014 Extension 3822

THE CONTOWNIAN NETWORK



**WATCH ON
YOUTUBE!**



SCAN ME!

DAILY NEWS

WEEKLY NEWS

STUDENT FEATURES

SPORTS UPDATES



**CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP
AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION**

Empower the Future...

YOUR PARTNER IN
CREATING TOMORROW'S
LEADERS



Mission Statement

"To foster growth in the arts, academics,
athletics and activities within the school
district."



☒ Contact us here!

Donate to us here! ☒



PA's Largest Family Owned Formalwear Store

Homecoming Winter Formal Prom

34 Years of Award Winning Experience



MB PROM[®]
& SPECIAL OCCASION

Call or text: 724.836.6626
mbprom.com