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# THE SIGNAL

December 2019: ed. II

...special print edition!

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## “Mini-thon” will ‘dance’ into Shamokin Area

By Sydney Rhoads  
Staff Writer

Shamokin Area students are encouraged to dust off their dancing sneakers and participate in the district’s first-ever Mini-Thon to raise funds for childhood cancer research and assistance. The Shamokin Area Mini-Thon will be held Friday, April 24 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Shamokin Area Middle/High School gymnasium.

The Mini-Thon is a multi-hour event where participants will raise money for pediatric cancer research. This event is filled with fun activities, lots of dancing, and special guests. This year’s goal is to raise \$15,000. The money will be donated to Penn State Hershey Hospital. The amount will increase for each yearly event.

**dance, pg 3**



Purple Elves busy at work filling supply boxes are, from left, Nina Wilk and Kennedy Petrovich, both eighth grade; and Gabby Marrone, eleventh grade.

## Purple Elves Add “PEP” To Holidays

By Paige Shoffler  
Staff Writer

While most elves sit on shelves, the Purple Elves are hard at work making presents for students in need throughout November and December.

The Interact Club and the Builders Club are heading the Purple Elf Project, PEP for short, which is a way for Shamokin Area students in need to receive presents. According to Mrs. Christin Hughes, adviser, student workers are going to start wrapping the gift boxes and distribute them in time for the holidays and all year round as necessary.

**elf, page 3**

By Kathryn Slotterback  
Staff Writer

## School Board Election: New Year, New Board

Two new members have been elected to the Shamokin Area School Board to fill five of the spots open to election. Local voters chose Rosalie Smoogen and Bernie Sosnoskie won two of the open seats as a result of the Nov. 5 election.

The two newly claimed seats previously belonged to board members Steven Cook and Bob Getchy. Cook did not earn nominations from either party in the May election and Getchy did not run for re-election.

Smoogen and Sosnoskie will join three returning members, Charles Shuey, Jeffrey Kashner and Melissa Hovenstine, who won their seats back for the next four years. The board meeting to welcome the new members and prepare for new year took place Dec. 4 in the Northumberland County Career and Technology Center.

# FEATURES

## Various winter holidays around the world: celebrations differ, but joy and love prevail

By Ashlea Oakum and Jadyn Slovick  
Staff Writers

The current weeks of the holiday seasonal celebration vary not only among Americans, but among our neighbors around the world. Depending on the culture or religion, the traditions and holiday time may vary, but one message remains the same: these times are about happiness and celebrating each other. Whatever you celebrate, this time of year is all about joy and giving!

Christianity celebrates the birth of Christ, the saviour and founder of this religion. Christians celebrate Christmas in a variety of ways.

The story of Jesus's birth, called The Nativity, is often retold by children portraying Mary, Joseph, the Baby Jesus, shepherds, angels, and the Three Kings in church and school plays. Church services often include a choral service, and some Christians start Christmas Day with a midnight service called Midnight Mass. They also celebrate by giving and receiving gifts, as it reminds them of the gift of Jesus beginning his earthly life.

Muslims celebrate Eid, a three-day holiday that occurs twice throughout the year, instead of a holiday similar to Christmas. Eid al-Fitr is earlier in the year, and Eid al-Adha is celebrated later. There is never a set date for these holidays, as the dates are based off of the lunar calendar. Different Muslim countries celebrate Eid in different ways, but common ways to celebrate include preparing sweet dishes for feasting and giving gifts to children and those in need.

Rather than Christmas, Hindus celebrate a 5-day festival called Diwali. Diwali is held corresponding to the Gregorian calendar, which can be from late October to early November. Hindus use the holiday to invite the presence of their gods and goddesses so that they can worship them. Small earthenware lamps filled with oil are lit up and placed in rows in front of homes and temples, and set adrift on rivers and streams. The fourth day is the most important day of the celebration, as it includes gift exchanging, family visits, feasting, fireworks displays, and gambling.

Buddhists do actually celebrate Christmas, but they do it in a non-Christian sense of mind. Their version is called Bodhi Day, in which they decorate ficus trees or Bodhi trees to celebrate the Lord Buddha's enlightenment and achievement of nirvana. Western Buddhists tend to use actual Christmas trees instead of ficus or Bodhi trees, which is perfectly fine within the community, since Buddhism is known for accepting other religions. Buddhists use their trees to celebrate their holiday throughout the entirety of December, which is similar to how Christians celebrate their Christmas.

People of the Jewish faith celebrate Hanukkah. Hanukkah, also known as the "Festival of Lights," celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem as well as the victory of the Maccabees against the Seleucid Empire, who attempted to outlaw Judaism. The holiday celebrates the eight days in which a small amount of sacred oil kept the Temple's menorah lit up after Seleucid forces were expelled. Throughout the eight days, Jews will light one candle on their menorah and use that candle to light another candle each night, until the last one is lit on the last day. Other festivities include playing a game of dreidel, eating fried foods like latkes and loukoumades, and gift-exchanging among loved ones.

Whether you and your family share established religious traditions, or perhaps have created some new and unique ones along the way, the best part is to acknowledge those we love, help those in need, and appreciate what we have. As we say in the Coal Region, Ho, but! Merry Christmas!



Joshua Dombrowski, a senior, and Mr. Kevin Styer, HS band director decorating the band's very own Christmas tree.

**To see more festive photos, check out pages 4 and 10!**



# FROM THE FRONT

## Elf Continued from Page 1

"It'll help students in need," Hughes stated. Donors to date are: Luzerne nursing forum (Northumberland campus), Woodbine Geisinger (Dermatology), Ty Heath, Kelly Kelly, Marisa Yoder, Miss Yoder's room, Regan Price, Edward Bailey, Christina Venios, Shamokin-Coal Township Public Library librarian Victoria Ryan, Area Services, and Marty Sinopoli ministries.

Other Purple Elf Project helpers are Miss Sierra Erdman, Miss Courtney Becker, Mrs. Traci Beck, Junior High Builders club, and the high school Interact club.

People still interested in helping out may place donations of all kinds of shoe boxes, hygiene products, hats and gloves, small toys, art supplies, school supplies, make-up, snacks, and socks in Hughes' room, which is located on the second floor, across from the AV room. Distribution date is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 17, according to Hughes.



## Scenes from the Annual Downtown Christmas Event

## Dance Continued from Page 1

Junior Sydney Rhoads, the student chairperson, and Mrs. Christin Hughes and Miss Sierra Erdman, advisers, are partnering with Four Diamonds, the organization that helps students grades K-12 organize mini-thons for their school and community. "The mini-thons are modeled after Penn State's Thon that has more than 90,000 student volunteers. These events have helped thousands of families. Funds raised help to pay 100% of healthcare bills for some patients and provide over 80 researchers with support" (fourdiamonds.org).

"Shamokin Area is holding the mini-thon to bond our community and to raise money for a good cause," Rhoads explained. "Everyone has been affected by cancer either through a family member, friend, or a loved one; it may not be pediatric cancer but cancer affects everyone and it doesn't matter the age."

Rhoads learned about mini-thon and the Four Diamonds organization when she was the Shamokin Area representative to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Conference (HOBY) last spring. "We discussed how to bond our school and community as well as different ways to 'give back'. During one of our workshops I learned about mini-thon, how to organize it, who to contact, and the actions that needed to be taken. I jotted down ideas in my notebook and hoped to find ways to bring my 'scribbles' to life."

After meeting with Hughes and Erdman, and later the Builder's Club, mini-thon plans started to take root. School administrators provided their approval and Four Diamonds assigned Gail Feretta as the liaison with Shamokin Area. "It's a great feeling to work on something and finally bring it to life," Rhoads added.

**To keep updated about Shamokin Area Mini-Thon, check social media at Twitter @sasdmini; Instagram @sasdmini\_thon; and email: Thon@indians.k12.pa.us.**

# NEWS

## “Headlines don’t sell papes, Newsies sell papes”

By Angelina Schaeffer and Katelyn Zawalick  
Staff Writers

Students have been cast for this year’s musical production of “Newsies.”

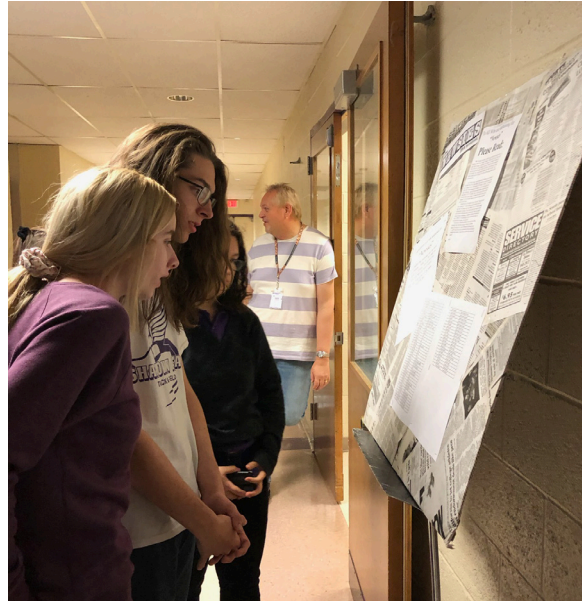
Auditions, which included a musical excerpt from songs in the official production, either “Watch What Happens” for girls or “Santa Fe Prologue” for boys, were held in November with the cast list released before the Thanksgiving holiday.

The audition process also included a monologue. After the musical and monologue parts, auditionees then participated in a dance audition. The dance audition took place in groups in the auditorium. As students completed their auditions and began to leave, emotions ranged from careful optimism to dejection.

However, the hard work isn’t over yet. For the next few months the cast and crew will be putting their blood, sweat, and tears into their rehearsals to create the phenomenal performance set to take place on April 3 and 4.

Disney’s “Newsies” is a musical that takes place during 1899. The story follows a group of newsboys, led by Jack Kelly, as they fight against Joseph Pulitzer and rising prices of their papers. Joseph Pulitzer raised the price, which is outside of the price the newsboys can afford. The “Newsies” organize a strike, which is reported throughout the city by reporter Katherine Plumber. Friendships and relationships are tested as the Newsies fight for fair treatment, which slowly gains traction throughout the city.

Shamokin Area’s cast include: Nate Grimes as Jack Kelly; Katelyn Zawalick as Crutchie; Cory Mrowka as Davey Jacobs; Ben Elio as Les Jacobs’ Rosalind Kane as Katherine Plumber; Joshua Bashore as Joseph Pulitzer; Samantha Stancavage as Medda Larkin; Cheyenne Wolf as Jacobi and Newsies ensemble; Zak Zanella as Mayor and Newsies ensemble; Joshua Dombrowski as Teddy Roosevelt and Newsies ensemble; Brenden Rogers as Albert; Alexis Zawalick as Buttons; Owen Amato as Elmer, Bill; Ashlea Oakum as Finch; Shen Yeager as Henry; Caden Hynoski as Ike; Jadyn Slovick as JoJo; Michael Artman as Mike, Stage Manager; Dalton Hoover as Mush; Raven DePeal as Race; Mark Kiracofe as Romeo; Kloe Baney as Specs; Logan Bowling as Tommy Boy; Blake Harris as Spot Conlon, Newsies ensemble; Nicholas Velez as guard, police officer; Jacob Erdman as Darcy, Newsies ensemble; Garrett Kitchen as Wiesel; Matt Masser as Oscar Delancy; Sloan Derk as Morris Delancy; Jeremiah Thompson as Seitz; Caycee Kalinoski as Bunsen; Destiny Smith as Hannah; Robert Harvey as Nunzio and newsies ensemble; Gabriel Grow, Newsies ensemble; Aron Jones, Newsies ensemble; Sheyenne Moore as Snyder; Megan Wywadis as a Nun and Newsies ensemble; Hannah Bashore, as a Nun and Newsies ensemble; Riley-Kate Elio, as a Nun, Newsies ensemble; Angelina Schaeffer, as a Nun, Newsies ensemble; Brandie Yoncuski, as a Nun and Newsies ensemble;



Interested students check the cast list released last month by Mr. Kevin Styer, director, of the spring musical Newsies. From left are Sydney Rhoads, Sloan Derk, and Ashlea Oakum, all juniors. (Staff photo)



Staff photos from the 2019 combined Winter Cookie Concert



# FEATURES

## SAHS League of Artists paints community with festive cheer

By Emma Dailey

Art Editor, Layout and Design Editor, Photography Editor

The Shamokin Area League of Artists received a call at the beginning of December from local law firm *Garrigan & Targonski* requesting their windows be painted with the whimsical scenes of winter. The club has not painted windows in nearly a decade, so the phone call astounded Art Teacher and L.o.A. Club Adviser Mr. Shawn McGugan.

League of Artists President, senior Emma Dailey, met with an employee of the law firm to discuss possible scenes the club could paint as well as other logistics to ensure the windows match the visions of the clients perfectly.

It was a bitterly cold Thursday morning when the club began to paint, but local restaurant *Sweet Tooth Cafe* graciously opened its doors to allow members to heat up intermittently while they worked. It was not long after the club began to paint that other businesses requested their windows painted too-the aforementioned *Sweet Tooth Cafe* as well *Woody's Pizza* were graced with beautiful winter scenes of snowmen and snow-covered coniferous trees.

Club members then celebrated with a hot, delicious meal at *Sweet Tooth Cafe*, with orders ranging from shrimp to cheesesteaks to chicken and waffles.

Emma Dailey, serving her third and final term of presidency, hopes that the club will make community window painting a tradition for years to come.



Shamokin Area High School League of Artists members present included, left to right, freshman Sydney Startzel, freshman Anastasia Reidinger, freshman Corey Sosnoskie, senior Cheyanne Wolf, senior and vice president Caycee Kalinoski, senior art major and secretary Kyra Sanders, senior art major Alyssa Snyder, and senior art major and president Emma Dailey.



Club adviser Mr. Shawn McGugan and senior Alyssa Snyder painting windows



By Bryce Anderson  
Staff Writer

## Key Club sells brownies for some barks



Key Club sold over 30 delicious brownies in November to raise funds for the SPCA, according to Mrs. Omenyele Ahohouendo, club adviser.

"This year's winter brownie sale went very smoothly, we were able to get a bunch of donations and we are thankful for everyone who pitched in," said Cherie Martin, a senior and president of the Key Club.

The marshmallow and chocolate treats were distributed conveniently right before Thanksgiving break. President Martin, Secretary Destiny Zimmerman, and Aurora Skeans made the brownies.

# NEWS

## Tech Ed 'elves' craft ornaments and cutting boards

By: Nicholas Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

Students in the Tech. Ed. Club had a Santa's workshop of their own this month creating handcrafted Christmas ornaments and cutting boards they sold as a holiday fundraiser. Proceeds will go toward replacing aging equipment and purchasing materials for students to use in the Technology Education classrooms, according Mr. Anthony Leshner, teacher and club adviser.

"We received orders for over 300 ornaments," stated Leshner. "This has been very successful. In fact, the money raised will go toward covering the cost of the new table saw we recently received."



Ornaments handcrafted by members of the Tech. Ed Club.



Tech Ed. Club members and club adviser Mr. Anthony Leshner proudly display their handiwork

The club took orders for engraved 2-inch by 3-inch circular pieces of traditional birch that was finished with a satin polyurethane finish to ensure they last. The traditional designs included a nativity, a present, snowman, cardinal, dove, angel, snowflake, and Christmas tree. The whimsical designs included the Grinch, another style of Christmas tree, a snow globe, a gingerbread man, Santa, a gingerbread house, a red truck, and Santa's sleigh.

Offerings also included customized ornaments that featured family or individual names; a snowman ornament, and cutting boards. The snowman ornament is about 8-inches tall and is made from three pieces of birch strung together with

twine. The cutting boards, a favorite project of the manufacturing class students, are constructed from a high-grade maple and are approximately 11"x17"x1". Styles include unengraved, engraved with a set design, or completely customized.

Tech. Ed. Club president is Matthew Schiccitano, senior; vice president is Collin Bozza, junior; secretary is Michael Roman, freshman; and treasurer is Seth Hart, junior.

By: Emma Zimmerman  
Staff Writer

## National Honor Society welcomes and inducts 27 new student members

The Laudari Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 27 new members during a ceremony on Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Shamokin Area Middle-High School auditorium.

NHS advisers, Mrs. Megan McDevitt and Mr. Patrick McDevitt, conducted the ceremony with Mr. Chris Venna, superintendent; Mr. Todd Hockenbroch, high school principal; and Mr. Henry Hynoski, dean of students present to congratulate the new members.

Advisers then gave the general history and explained the candle of knowledge, which is a singular candle surrounded by four others. Four NHS members of the senior class proceeded to light one of the four unlit ones, and gave a speech about the four pillars the candles represented. Students were called up by class in alphabetical order to shake hands and be officially inducted.. Light refreshments were served after the ceremony.

The National Honor Society is a prestigious organization that recognizes high school students for their academic and charitable services. The establishment is centered around the themes of character, service, scholarship, and leadership. It is estimated that about one million students participate in NHS activities nationwide. Members must maintain at least a 95% average and complete eight hours of in-school service, and eight hours of community service every year.

*see page 10 for photo*



# EDITORIALS

## All-time video game favorites

By Nick Zimmerman  
Staff Writer



Everyone's choice of video games differ based on their interests, ages, and skills. For example, if someone \wants to play a game that involves competition in series, *Call of Duty*, *Madden NFL*, or *Mortal Kombat*, are good choices. My favorite video game is *WWE 2k20* because it has impressive gameplay, a unique story mode, and unique characters.

*WWE 2k20* has it all. There are interesting game modes like Showcase Mode, MyCareer, and 2k Towers. It also has many characters from actual wrestling rosters, such as John Cena, Undertaker, Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan, Triple H, Ric Flair, and Shawn Michaels. Gamers can even create their own character in the game if they wanted to.

Senior and *The Signal* staff writer Raven McCaffery said that her favorite video game series is *Call of Duty*. "It's my favorite game because it helps people release their rage." She said when she is playing zombie mode, and she gets hit in the face by a zombie, she instantly begins to release her rage.

***The Signal* wants to know your favorite video game and a reason why. Email your responses with your name or (school appropriate) user name at [thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us](mailto:thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us).**

## What is *The Signal* staff thankful for?

By Jadyn Slovick  
Staff writer

This holiday season, the Shamokin Area news staff has a lot to be thankful for. We are proud of our second edition of *The Signal*! Last month, the school newspaper debuted online; this month -- and thanks to Mrs. Sue Feese -- we are able to have an actual physical copy of our paper. With all of our different strengths and talents, we were able to come up with something great - something we all put hard work into to put together. With this little blurb, we're happy to share what we appreciate what this year has given us.



**Jadyn S.** -All of the opportunities that have presented themselves, as well as my loving and supportive family and wonderful friends.

**Ashlea O.** - My friends who have helped me out and assisted me in times where I felt like I had no one to go to.

**Katie Z.** - My guard girls who have helped me become the person I am and my dog, Daphne.

**Angelina S.** - My family and all of the people who give me a hand while I'm down.

**Kathryn S.** - My family supporting me with my decisions, educationally, and my cats.

**Megan R.** - My friends, family, my dog, and all the things I'm able to have and do.

**Kait D.** - My friends and family and everything I am able to do.

**Gianna S.** -The ability to learn, and to love.

**Caycee K.** - My mom and all my friends who support me.

**Emma D.** - My parents and close friends whom support and inspire me through my artistic career and future college major.

**Bryce A.** - That education is free and how we can use it to help ourselves or others.

**Joe M.** - My group of brothers who show each other love, support, and loyalty.

**Emma Z.** - My family, who are always there for me.

**Raven M.** - My dog, Koda.

**Nicholas Z.** - Achieving my voice acting dream in late September of 2019.

**Hannah H.** - My family, friends, and food.

**Trynity D.** - Everyone in my family supporting me in my goals.

**Grace D.** - My pets, family, and food.

**Olivia H.** - All of the people that I have in my life.

**Farrah K.** - My family and friends.

**Dade W.** - My family and friends, and many other of my closest friends.

**Paige S.** - My friends, family, pets, and music.

**Collin D.** - My large family and I wouldn't trade them for anything.

**Sydney R.** - My family, George, and my dog Coco.

**Jeremiah T.** - Memes.

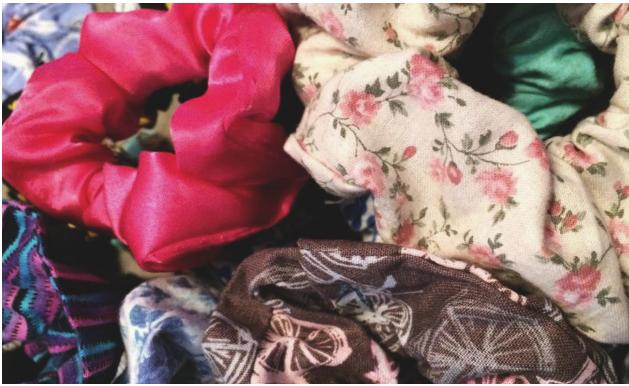
# FEATURES

## VSCO world-wide trend supports worthy causes

By Trynity Delvecchio, Grace Donahue, and Hannah Hess  
Staff Writers

To today's teenagers, hydroflasks, scrunchies, and oversized T-shirts mean only one thing: VSCO girl! "Sksksk." "And I oop!" These unique phrases are part of the VSCO girls culture that is taking social media and high school life in general by storm.

What are VSCO girls? The term "VSCO girl" firstly originated on the social media platform known as *TikTok*. As soon as people saw famous creators on the platform become "VSCO" the trend has expanded exponentially and is now a world-wide phenomenon.



The popular trend includes many items, that are easy to spot, such as, oversized T-shirts, scrunchies, and hydroflasks, a popular insulated water bottle. Other ways to spot a VSCO girl, is by listening for "Sksksk", or, "And I oop!" which are common phrases amongst the community. VSCO girls use "Sksksk", and "And I oop!" as a way to express excitement, or shock.

The term "VSCO girl" originated from the app *VSCO*, which is an editing app which is used to create a certain aesthetic using the many filters on the app. Some VSCO girls strongly believe that society should start taking better care of the planet, but some

people in the community are only a part of it for the fashion. Some also believe people should save the turtles, by using metal straws/reusable straws, and start using other products safe for the environment and ocean.

"It's great; they're saving the turtles," stated Hannah Hess, freshman, who added that her favorite item of this trend are the scrunchies. She thinks the trend will last a little over a year.

Jeremiah Thompson, junior, states, "I like a lot of the ideas, and values they have." He also said, "They have really good environmentalist ideas, and that's something I can get behind." He said it's meant to have a positive impact, however, some people do it only for style.

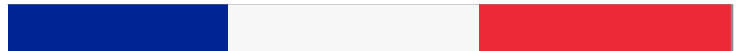
Hannah Bashore, freshman, said they are iconic, the hydroflasks, and scrunchies, and they way they act make them unique. Her favorite item is also scrunchies. In fact, Bashore makes them herself.

Paige Shoffler, junior, said it's a way of dressing up, and thinks that the trend will last for about a year.

Maddie Donahue, senior, said that the trend can be annoying, because of the way some followers act. Her favorite item is scrunchies, because they are fashionable. When asked if she thinks the trend has a positive or negative impact on society, she stated, "Both, because some take the trend seriously with the whole 'save the turtles' thing, and actually do stuff to help. Other just put people in bad moods, because of the way they act."

## Class experiences French culture at SU

By Bryce Anderson and Grace Donahue  
Staff Writers



Twenty-four students in Mrs. Omonyale Ahohuendo's French 1-3 classes created artwork, sang, and danced during a Nov. 18 visit to Susquehanna University.

"The trip was wonderful," stated Mrs. Ahohuendo; however, she's not sure if all of the students appreciated their exposure to these cultural aspects of French-speaking countries.

While there, students made flags from miscellaneous letters of French-speaking countries and answered questions about art gallery paintings on display. All of the conversations and activities were presented and discussed in French, which presented difficulty for some of the high school students.

Some of the daring participants performed karaoke in French and took part in aerobic dancing, which also was instructed in French. Most of the students thought the trip was "wonderful" and "interesting overall."



# SPORTS



Shot of players competing in the freshman v. sophomore division. See more photos on page 9.

## SAHS 2019 Powder Puff games raise over \$700 for Health Fair prizes

By Olivia Haupt  
Staff Writer

Seniors and sophomores dominated this year's annual powder puff game, but the real prize was the over \$730 that for the Wellness Club and Health Fair. The Wellness Club is planning to purchase four new bikes, soccer balls, basketballs, and much more equipment with the funds. Students in grades K-12 will have the opportunity to win these prizes at the Health Fair. "We had the most participants with 100 students, which was the highest number since the program started 10 years ago," stated Mrs. Boyer, who organizes the Powder Puff event and is in charge of the Wellness Club and Health Fair.

During the freshman vs. sophomore game, sophomore quarterback Mady Waugh ran the ball right into the freshmen endzone. The freshmen couldn't hold back sophomore running back Sadie Komara, who blew right into the endzone scoring the second and final touchdown of the game. The game ended with a 12-0 score, leading the sophomores to victory.

The seniors overpowered the juniors by pulling off a 24-6 win. Quarterback Rhiannon Kogut ran the ball twice into the juniors endzone, giving the seniors a 12-0 lead. Kait Dunn, running back, received a hand off from Kogut, and the juniors just couldn't stop Dunn as she scored the third touchdown of the game. Wide receiver Emma Tomcavage received a 20-yard pass from Kogut, which put the seniors in a 24-0 lead. Matt Weller allowed the juniors to bring in more players so they could have a chance at a comeback. This move allowed junior wide receiver Aubrey Shultz to breeze past all the seniors and score the only touchdown for the juniors, ending the game with a 24-6 score.

## Boys basketball kicks off to a winning start

By Joe Masser  
Sports Editor

While Shamokin Area boy's basketball team experienced a few "stepping stone" seasons in the last few years, this year the team is hoping to exceed expectations. So far, they are on the right path with a perfect 3-0 start as of Dec. 12.

Shamokin handled Shenandoah on opening night 54-44. The boys went on to beat Mahanoy Area 62-59 in overtime during the Tip-Off Tournament. Shamokin went on to beat Selinsgrove 45-32 after a sloppy first half from the Indians.

Returning seniors are Matt Schiccatano, Joe Masser, and Mason Filarski. Junior Brent Reed looks to help the Indians knock down some shots and handle the basketball. Sophomores Aaron Frasch, Colin Seedor, Joe Tarr, and Dom Michaels will all contribute. Led by head coach Chris Zimmerman, Shamokin has appeared in four district championship games in the last six years.

The three returning seniors eye to bring back a district title that hasn't been won since 2014. As always the Indians schedule is a demanding one and features teams like Allentown Central Catholic, Mount Carmel, Loyalsock, Pottsville, and the defending District 4 AAAA champions the Danville Ironmen.





# PHOTO GALLERY



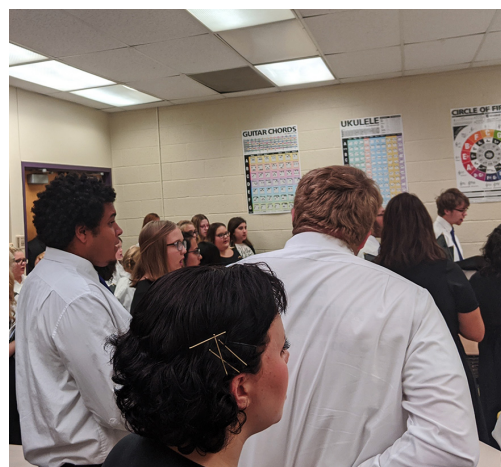
Juniors. left to right, Jaden Kodack, Gavin Degreen, and Joshua Bashore pretend to decorate Mr. Stephen Major's already decorated tree to be featured in the school paper.



The SAHS Orchestra performing their November combined concert with the Chorus.



2019 National Honor Society Inductees; story on page 5



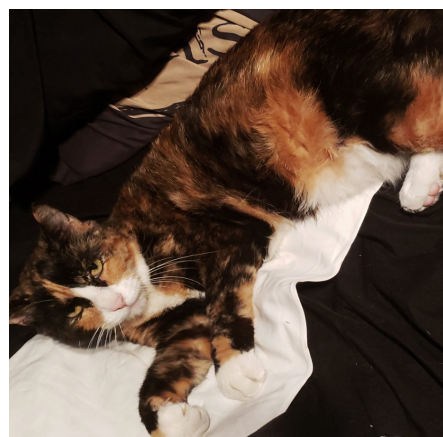
Members of the SAHS Chorus warming up before their concert



Junior Mark Kiracoffe, freshman Rylie Sanders, and freshman Hannah Bashore -all French class students-celebrating



Senior Joshua Dombrowski decorating the band's tree. See page 2 for story and related picture



Staff Writer Kathryn Slotterback's cat, whom she is thankful for, as referenced on the page 7 article 'What is The Signal staff thankful for?'

Involved in a school sport or extracurricular? Have photos from a school event? Want to share and showcase you and your friends making memories at SAHS? Email appropriate photos and captions to [thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us](mailto:thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us) to be possibly featured in our next edition!



# SPORTS

## Diving into this swim season

By: Megan Roman  
Staff Writer



Shamokin Area's swim team doesn't plan to ride the wave of last year's success; instead, it's planning to not only work harder, but also teach and encourage its new members.

"I want to see us build and improve from the success from last year and continue to improve and develop the old swimmers and develop a good new core of swimmers," stated Mr. Patrick McDevitt, coach.

With this season approaching fast it is expected to have a lot of new talent and participation. Returning this year are veterans Abby Doss, Gabby Doss, Gabby Greager, Megan Roman, Madison Bridy, Danielle Hinkle, Sloan Derk, Aaron Shicora, Theresa Steff, Seth Hart, Rileigh Nowroski, Logan Williams, Gavin Balchunas, and Mark Kiracofe. Swimmers will continue to participate in the infamous 5 a.m. practices every Friday and on Act 80 days.

The first meet for both swimming and diving was on Dec. 10 at Central Columbia Area High School.

Shamokin Stingrays youth swim program also started its season. They practice every Monday through Thursday 6-8pm and have their meets on Saturdays. The head coach for the team is Emily Bridy; the assistance coaches are Megan Roman, Madison Bridy, and Anthony Feudale. The first meet for them will be January 11 at Mahanoy Area. The first event will start at 9 a.m.



## Varsity Club is raising money to go retro

By Dade Wilk  
Staff Writer



Varsity Club, a club for student athletes, is planning on raising money to get "old school" varsity jackets for students that have a total of five letters. Varsity Club rewards students for their athletic achievements in sports.

Every year a student who plays a sport earns a letter, thus leading to bigger and better rewards. After four years, student athletes can join the Varsity Club, with a \$20 admission fee, and receive their Varsity letter. They will be given a shirt if they already have a letter.

Hunter Bates, member of Varsity Club, explained that the main goal of Varsity Club is to "promote athletes and show their athletic achievements." Bates said that the reason he joined Varsity Club was that he was "involved in multiple sports and would enjoy to be recognized for my achievements." He also noted that he looks up to the adviser, Mr. Andrew Derr.

Shamokin Area High School athletes are encouraged to join this club and be recognized for their achievements and participation in the sport(s) they play. Student athletes interested in joining Varsity Club should speak to a member or Mr. Andrew Derr in room A-244.

## Sports Photo Showcase



# FEATURES

## Competition Band forms foundation in new level

By Katelyn Zawalick  
Staff Writer

The competition band finished in 15th place at the Atlantic Coast Championships in Hershey this year, with the color guard finishing in a strong 13th, the percussion 11th, and woodwinds in 10th.

In 2018, the band was promoted from A class, which is focused more on education and development, to open class, which is focused more on skill and execution. Changing classes has had an impact on the entire ensemble. "It was definitely more intensive," remarked Angelina Schaeffer, senior and first clarinet. "Everything was faster and showier and bigger, but it was more competitive. It finally feels like we are in a place that we have real competition."

The band has so much to be proud of this year, as Jadyn Slovic, junior and first alto saxophone, said, "We achieved a lot for it being our first year. We definitely have more competition than last year. Even though it didn't go as expected this year, I feel like next year we are going to blow them away."

The competition band, using what they learned this year, plan to improve and excel even more next year. Ashlea Oakum, a junior in the band's color guard, added, "I'm very happy that we got there, because I wanted to get there since my first year. I feel like it was a huge accomplishment for us as a whole. I think being there this year really laid everything down about how we are going to do next year and in the following years."



The band practices their competition show 'The Duality of Man' for their first year in open class.

### Save the dates!

#### Upcoming musical performances and shows:

**January 24, 6:30 PM - Guitar Club Show**

**April 3 and 4 - High school musical: Newsies**

**May 4 - HS Chorus Concert**

**May 6 - HS Band Concert**

**May 20 - HS Orchestra Concert**

**May 29 - POPS Concert/Art Gallery**

## French Food Fun

By Hannah Hess  
Staff Writer



The French I class made crepes to finish off a lesson about the French food culture. Students brought in toppings like whipped cream, strawberries, chocolate syrup, ect. They used these ingredients to top off the delicious pastry.

Madame Ahohuendo, who teaches the course, explained that a crepe is a popular dessert in France. She made the crepes along with a fellow French 1 student and freshman Anastasia Reidinger.

"I feel really good because it is a taste of something that is not usually cooked In the U.S. and is a part of the French culture," Ahohuendo said when asked about how she felt about the experience. The students also enjoyed this activity and would love to do it again soon if they could. Overall this was a fun learning experience.



# FEATURES

## Shop Smart During the Holiday Season

By Ashlea Oakum  
Staff Writer

Holiday shopping can be considered one of the most stressful times of the season. With more ways to do it than ever, everyone these days is looking for the easiest way to shop and save on their purchases. One method to have a better overall shopping experience is to shop smarter. The following tips and tricks in this article can hopefully help you shop smart on this chaotic holiday. .

Set and follow a budget. Before you even make a shopping list, figure out your budget. Once you have your budget, try your best to only use cash. Keeping the exact amount of money planned with you without any possibilities to spend more keeps you within your budget and prevents overspending.

Prioritize your shopping list. When planning out your big shopping list, sort out your items by store and order of importance. This simple organization method will keep you focused on what you actually need, as well as preventing you from getting lost or getting things that you (and your wallet) don't need.

Think of backup items. If there is an item that you simply cannot purchase, find a backup item that will be sufficient enough to replace the item you couldn't get.

Shop with a friend. Shopping in a stressful environment with one of your favorite people can not only be fun, but it could also be very helpful. While you are shopping in the electronics section, your friend can go to the clothing section and help you find what you need. This little buddy system can help speed up your shopping time and get out of the stores quicker.

Visit the stores often. Go to the retailers you plan to visit a few days beforehand. More than likely, the prices of the items you want will be the same, if not lower, than the prices they'll be sold at during Black Friday and other sale days. As well as viewing prices, this gives you an opportunity to grab the "hot" items before all the shopping chaos planned later on that week.

Take advantage of ordering online to pick-up. While the Coal Township Walmart does not yet provide this service, the Selinsgrove one does. Best Buy is another store that offers this service. Everybody usually ends up at Walmart, but if you can avoid the crazy shoppers, this option might be safer and turn out to be much more beneficial to your health (and your sanity).

## Shamokin's Got Talent Celebrates Sixth Year of Entertainment

By Collin Duganitz  
Staff writer

The 2019 Shamokin's Got Talent will take place on December 20, at the end of the Act 80 day schedule. This is the sixth year for the show.

There were nine total days of auditions starting on November 4. The judges have not been decided yet. 13 acts have been selected out of 23 auditions. The Talent Show finalists include -- in no particular order: Raven DePeal and Katelyn Zawalick; Gavin DeGreen; Rosalind Kane; Jadyn Slovick and Rileigh Nowrowski; Josh and Hannah Bashore; Zak Zanella; Colorguard; 9th Period; Sydney Startzel and Alexis Zawalick; Jeremiah Thompson and Josh Bashore; Guitar Club; Sam Stancavage, Holly Fegley, Gavin DeGreen, and Rosalind Kane; and Erika Bellinger.

## THE



## SIGNAL

*The Signal is an entirely student-run publication dedicated to informing the school and surrounding community in a truthful and ethical manner.*

Executive Editor - Mrs. Patricia Rhoads

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Photography Editor - Raven McCaffery

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Layout and Design - Emma Dailey, Caycee Kalinoski, Bryce Anderson  
Staff Writers:

Farrah Krum, Gianna Sinopoli, Trynity Delvecchio, Grace Donahue, Collin Duganitz, Kaitlyn Dunn, Olivia Haupt, Hannah Hess, Ashlea Oakum, Sydney Rhoads, Megan Roman, Angelina Schaeffer, Paige Shoffler, Jeremiah Thompson, Dade Wilk, Katelyn Zawalick, Emma Zimmerman, Nicholas Zimmerman

# FEATURES

## Photography class blends old and new technologies

By Raven McCaffery

Staff writer/photographer

As the old saying goes, “A picture is worth a thousand words.” Shamokin Area photography teacher Mrs. Susan Feese is making sure that her students learn not only how to capture those important images and moments on film, but also how to develop those pictures through a hands-on process that allows them to see the photo emerge right before their eyes.

In October, students in Feese’s full-year photography classes went outside to take pictures on the nature trail and of the football stadium. Feese said October is a good time to start taking pictures of the great scenery as leaves start to change colors, but the weather is still comfortable. “I also do hands-on projects to help my classes understand the composition techniques they have been learning about throughout the year,” Feese said.

“My photography class is a blend of old and new technology which are both fun and exciting for the students to learn,” Feese added.

With personal and commercial printers readily available, developing film may seem like a lost or unknown skill for many. Feese begs to differ. “I like to develop film because I get to demonstrate and show the students how to develop film on our own. It is always a treat to see the image start to appear on the print paper as you are agitating the developer tray under the red light in the darkroom,” she explained.

In addition to learning how to develop their own film, students also will participate in special projects. Feese explained that she is planning a project for the winter season for Christmas time. She said that she will be showing the students how to take “bokeh effect” photos using self-made shapes like snowflakes and stars.



Mrs. Susan Feese examining film during her photography class.

## STEAM promotes healthy, educational lifestyle

By Nicholas Zimmerman

Staff Writer



The Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics (STEAM) Program is an after-school activity for students who are having trouble with classwork, homework, trying to turn a bad grade to a passing grade, or just for fun. The program is offered to students from grades 7-12 and runs from Monday through Thursday starting right after school until 5:20 p.m..

A typical STEAM day begins with a snack and drink, followed by a 30-minute homework time, enrichment/activity, and finishes off with a physical/phys-ed activity.

This worthwhile program gives students support, while encouraging them in cooperation, and team-building activities. It gives them an opportunity to receive experience with a variety of projects, such as cement pumpkins. Each physical activity, such as dodgeball, encourages students to stay active. It also gives the opportunity to hang out with your friends after school. Mrs. Sue Feese and Miss Christi Cryder serve as the faculty in charge for the past seven years.

Mrs. Feese said that her favorite project was when the students made cement Halloween pumpkins. She chose this to be her favorite because “it shows a creativity side of the students.” Miss Cryder said that the Straw Rockets were her favorite project because she likes the competition to see which straw rocket goes farther.

New activities include a theater month where students will be performing on stage; the activity is sponsored by the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble.

To join STEAM, pick up an application at the high school office.



# FEATURES

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## BUCK-A-LINE ONE DOLLAR. ONE LINE.

Thank you, Sig Staff! - *Mrs. Rhoads*  
Merry Christmas!!!! - *Bashore Productions*  
Happy Holidays! - *SAHS League of Artists*  
Take a gamble that love exists, and do a loving act - *Miah Thompson*  
“You miss 100% of the shots you dont take. - Wayne Gretsky” - *Michael Scott*  
You rock, Mrs. Stump! - *Caycee Kalinoski*  
You had a great cheer season, Maggie! - *Emma Zimmerman*  
Keep on Chooglin’ - *Emma Dailey*  
Excellent. - *Nathan Grimes*  
Thank you Mr. Styer for the great comp season! - *Angelina Schaeffer*  
Have a rockin’ Christmas! - *SAHS Guitar Club*  
Thank you Mrs. Stump for helping with musical auditions! - *Angelina Schaeffer*  
Thank you Mr. Hollenberg for the great concert! - *SAHS Orchestra*  
Merry Christmas! - *Junior Class Officers*

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We want to hear from you! Submit your own school appropriate 75-character message (including name) to room C216 with \$1 to see your writing featured in the next edition of *The Signal*.

## Lady Indians set goal for district title

By Kait Dunn  
Staff Writer



Shamokin Area girls basketball opened their season December 6 in a game against Nativity at home in the annual Tip -off tournament. Five seniors are returning to this year's roster:

Sophie Rossnock, Kait Dunn, Emma Tomcavage, Emily Slanina and Chloe Yoder; Rossnock, Dunn, and Yoder are returning starters.

The girls are looking to make it far into the post season and make a run at a district title and make a state playoff game. With a bigger roster this year, the Lady Indians are expecting some solid minutes coming off the bench from the underclassmen. The team has some skilled players returning and look to take advantage of that during the season.

Coach Jordan Rickert expects a lot out of the team this season and always tells the girls “listen to learn and learn to listen.”

The Lady Indians lost their season opener 51-40 against Nativity, but they bounced back the next day with a 49-19 win over Line Mountain. The team also played Shikellamy, but fell short to the Lady Braves 35-30.

# PHOTO GALLERY



Junior Sydney Rhoads crowns young princesses at the Downtown Christmas event



Senior and L.O.A. President Emma Dailey stands next to a portion of the completed painted windows downtown



Junior Joshua Bashore and senior Caycee Kalinoski hide out in the garbage at the Annual Christmas Tharptown Lighting



French class students watching a presentation about French culture at SU.

## STUDENT ARTWORK Presented by SAHS League of Artists



**'Jar Woman'**  
By Emma Dailey,  
Senior



**'Yancy'**  
By Sydney Startzel,  
Freshman

