



SASD Navigates COVID-19

By Zak Zanella
staff writer

As COVID-19 continues to assail the country, more questions are emerging about the immediate future of schools in general, and Shamokin Area School District schools especially. While there may not be a definitive answer about what the foreseeable future holds, the school has not been afraid to rise to the challenge by implementing new procedures to protect its students and staff. One certainty in this time of uncertainty is that flexibility is the key.

Working ever so dilligently with the school board, Mr. Venna, superintendent, Mr. Hockenbroch, principal, and Mr. Hynoski, dean of students, have navigated the new school year by making decisions that provide students with continuing education whether they are in the building or at home and joining online. Venna, Hockenbroch, and Hynoski have been very confident in how the school has responded to this pandemic.

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Corey Sosnoskie, Shamokin Area sophomore, participates in the BLM Awareness Rally in Shamokin on June 4, 2020. (Photo submitted by Jadyn Slovick, news editor)

Remembering MLK: Americans need to keep his dream alive

By Ashlea Oakum
managing editor

“...With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.”

This year, more than ever, Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream resonates deeply across our battered country. He worked tirelessly for equality for all races. To honor his efforts every year on the third Monday of January, the United States recognizes this dynamic American.

“Dr. King is often thought of as fighting for equality for African Americans, but he was fighting for much more.

MLK inspired America and the rest of the world more than people realize” stated Mrs. Shaffer, an ancient history teacher. “His platform sparked the Civil Rights movement which not only impacted African Amercians, but paved the way for equality (eventual equality) for women, the LGBTQ+ community, etc. I have always admired how he handled adversity,” Shaffer added.

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Making music during a pandemic

By Blake Harris
staff writer

As the pandemic continues to force students and schools to virtual formats, people may think the only change is location and that classes will go on as usual. When considering the performing arts, most people may not think about them in their everyday lives if they aren’t involved in it; however, while the world is in a pandemic, it’s important to know that Shamokin Area’s music department is coping the best it can with the unusual circumstances of having student musicians join online rather than in person.

Mrs. Stump, director of the Shamokin Area Chorus, explains. “Having virtual students, it’s hard to include everyone and to make sure your virtual students are getting the same experience as the students in person.” She sincerely hopes that masks can go away in the next year or two, mainly because they aren’t singing friendly, or music friendly for that matter.

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Local resident turns into local legend

By Miah Thompson
layout and design editor

Being a journalist is easily one of the most important jobs in the world, serving as a reminder of our freedom of speech. Journalists can



Anthony Procopio gets his news from a variety of sources.

work for massive corporations like CNN or Fox News, or local news stations like WNEP, or if you’re Anthony Procopio, of Ho Bott News, you can cover the news entirely independently, and become a local hero.

Ho Bott News had a humble beginning, starting when Procopio, who at the time was working for WKOK radio station in Sunbury. During that time he recorded a brawl at a Turkey Hill in November 2019. The video of the situation eventually was picked up by Fox News, which gave him a little bit of a following. However, the story that drew the most attention to Ho Bott was when he shot footage of Graffiti Highway in Centralia on April 8, 2020. After telling some construction workers that he was part of the press, he went live on Facebook, broadcasting the footage to thousands of viewers. This footage was later picked up by CNN and Forbes. Shortly after this, he left his job at WKOK to continue to provide timely and unfiltered news to the public.

Despite how prominent it is in his life, Ho Bott News isn’t the only thing Anthony does. He graduated from Shamokin in ‘07, and went to Penn State to pursue a degree in music technology. He also runs three music festivals a year, but due to Covid-19 restrictions, only two were able to be hosted this year, which he seemed very grateful to be able to do.

While Centralia was his biggest story so far, Procopio has seen several other notable situations in his time as Ho Bott, likes standoffs, drug raids, etc. He recalled the time that he covered the protests in Philadelphia during the uprising of the Black Lives matter movement. He mentioned that in his pursuit of footage of police cars being burned, he received several burns on his arms due to how focused he was on getting

footage. Upon his departure, a cinder block was chucked towards his head, and after barely avoiding it, he was told “Hey boy, if you ever come back here, we’ll kill you”.

Currently, Ho Bott has over 33,000 followers on Facebook. However, this success has not come without trouble. Facebook has almost banned his page on several occasions. If the site did try to shut down his page, Procopio has several other platforms to speak on, but his biggest by far is his Youtube channel, Ho Bott News, where he has over 1,000 subscribers.

When asked if he had any advice to up and coming journalists, he said, “Be honest with yourself, that’s it. And I mean, work hard, and be yourself. I mean, you only get so much time on the Earth, y’know, you never know what can happen. Because if

you work hard enough, you’ll never look back and wonder if you tried hard enough.” Procopio also took a moment to make a brief but heartfelt comment towards his fans. “Thank you for all of the support, you guys are amazing. I can’t believe that over 32,000 people. Thank you to everyone for the support.”



Anthony Procopio hams it up in his profile photo on Facebook.



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News	2	Feature	5	Hodgepodge	8	“...always be loyal and true!”
News	3	Opinion	6	132 Days		
Features	4	Sports	7	until school ends!		



The voting machines were ready (and appropriately socially distanced) were ready for voters at West End Fire Company on Pine St in Shamokin. One voter begins his registration process. (photo by Miah Thompson).

Monumental election draws crowds from all parties

By Jadyn Slovick
news editor

On November 7, the Associated Press (AP) projected Joseph Biden to be the next president of the United States, winning with 306 electoral votes in an election that had the highest voter percentage turnout since the beginning of the 20th century. Georgia's Senate runoff vote will be decided on January 5 and determine which party will have a hold on the Senate, with the Democrats having the majority of the House of Representatives with 222 vs. 209 votes.

Although there is conflict between Congress and the president-elect, they agreed that their first step of action would be dealing with COVID and helping the American people through this trying time. Since Nov. 3, Americans stared down the state of Nevada because they believed this state would be the deciding factor in the election with how the polls were looking. If Nevada stayed blue, Joe Biden would win the electoral vote with exactly 270 votes, while simultaneously winning the popular vote (unlike Hillary Clinton in the 2016 election, who only won the popular vote). If Nevada tipped red and Trump kept the other swing states that he was holding, he would win the electoral college and continue his presidency for another term.

It was a close race for days - with Texas staying blue for hours (due to major cities like Dallas) and Florida swinging back and forth from blue to red - and it was tough to predict the verdict. In the end, although Nevada did stay blue, Pennsylvania also swung due to the mail-in ballots from big cities as well as younger, generally first-time, voters around the states, and the Associated Press projected the president-elect: Joe Biden.

Younger voters were a huge deciding factor in this election, likely due to social media and having information easily accessible to make logical opinions on who they wanted their candidate to be. Especially after an intense year all around the world, and seeing what was happening in their own country, the election was hard to ignore, and many voters made their decisions with these thoughts in mind no matter who they voted for out of all the candidates. Many Democrats gave a lot of disdain to whom their candidate was, however, still heavily supported many of his policies, especially his environmental plans (especially with the climate change crisis) and higher taxes for those making over \$400,000 (and only the money made after the initial \$400k is taxed greater) to redistribute the wealth in America. These voters were also generally more in support of humanitarian movements like Black Lives Matter and abolishing ICE camps.



Pictures of people voting in a presidential election for the first time! Jadyn Slovick (senior), Josh Dombrowski (2020 graduate), Katelyn Zawalik (2020 graduate and former Signal Staff), Zoey Hockenbroch (2019 graduate).

However, Republicans tend to prefer Donald Trump because they want less government involved in their lives and older Americans would like to uphold the America they've always known. Trump supporters also liked his economic policies, mainly in the stock market. Many Americans, liberal and conservative alike, are especially concerned about gun rights. On his website, president-elect Biden has stated that he plans on banning the manufacture and sale of all assault weapons and high capacity magazines; however, this is not the only plan Biden has for the regulation of guns and assault weapons so far. Luckily, Americans will still have access to guns for things such as protection and hunting, but there will likely be more extensive background checks in the future.

For timely and unbiased news on liberal and conservative views visit <https://www.theflipside.io/>

A lot of conservatives were split this election between the Libertarian candidate Jo Jorgensen and Donald Trump for the election, especially in Pennsylvania. Jo Jorgensen appealed greatly to conservatives this time around and almost 2 million people voted for her, following the lead of Gary Johnson who received 4.6 million votes in the 2016 election. This poses the question, will the two party system be dismantled in upcoming elections?

Freshmen class advisers plan to make changes

By Paige Shoffler
news editor

Advisers Mrs. Jennifer Makowski, 9-12 grade teacher and Ms. Adrienne Miller, 7-8 grade teacher, are looking forward to a fun and successful year for the freshmen class.

While Mrs. Makowski served as a class adviser several years ago, this is Ms. Miller's first time being a class adviser.

The exciting fundraisers the class advisers have for this year are selling Shamokin Indian facemasks and T-shirts. In the spring, especially around Easter, they are planning to sell Easter candy as well. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the class advisers are only having class meetings during homeroom or at the end of the

school day. Meets are currently held once a week. They also have a plan to contact local businesses and community leaders to plan any volunteer work and community service that is needed.

Mrs. Makowski expressed the excitement and determination she and Ms. Miller are feeling about working with the freshmen class. "Ms. Miller and I are friends who simply enjoy working with our students. We want to make a difference and lead the class of 2024 in a positive direction. Ms. Miller and I are so excited for this opportunity!" Ms. Makowski said. The Class President is Cassidy Grimes, Vice President Jason Alderson, Secretary Ethan Price, and Treasurer Nina Wilk.

Want to earn cash? Look locally

By Hannah Hess
staff writer

In Pennsylvania, it can be hard to keep busy as a teenager these days, but there are many job opportunities in our area for teens to keep occupied! It is always great to get a good and stable job at a young age, or to even start small just to have a bit of cash to spend on your own without your parents' help. Getting a job can be a great learning experience, help build social skills, and make money in the process.

As many people may know, although seasonal, Knoebels is a great workplace for adolescents to find their first job. Knoebels provides flexible scheduling, scholarships, employee discounts, team member events, pay-check stuffers, to name a few of the 'perks'. Individuals must be 14 years old to apply for a job, and there is no need for previous work experience. Knoebels has a great staff of people of all ages, even though it's typically seen as a "first job" kind of experience. Even if you are on the shyer side, Knoebels will definitely break you out of your shell and you can meet great people to work with there. If you love going to Knoebels and experiencing what it has to offer, maybe this job is for you! For more information on how to get a job at Knoebels, make sure to check out their website!

Another job opportunity is Weis Markets, located at 339 W. Walnut St., Shamokin, where many Shamokin Area students work. Teens can start at 16 years old; no prior experience is necessary, and you would be scheduled based on your availability (and they're very flexible with your schedule if you're involved in extracurriculars). According to Ashlea Oakum, an employee at the local Weis, "The environment can get pretty chaotic and stressful, but most of the co-workers are very easy to get along with and you typically make friends there easily." The job also comes with perks! Not only do you start out at \$9 an hour, recently part-time employees received a bonus while full-time employees received an even larger bonus. If you apply now and reference someone you know that works there, you will both get a bonus if you work for 90+ days! Weis Markets has a second location in the Anthraplaza located between Coal Run and Ranshaw.

Bamse, a new area coffee shop, also hires teens. Bamse is a local favorite that allows dogs and their owners to enjoy beverages while relaxing, surrounded by books and good vibes. According to employee and "head of the kitchen" Amanda Sienkiewicz, Bamse offers a friendly environment for people and dogs of all ages. Bamse hires at 16 and requires no beforehand experience (the baristas will train you)! According to Indeed.com: "Bamse Coffee and Roaster is searching for an engaging, courteous barista who is passionate about food and beverage service and education.

The barista will greet customers, answer their questions, take orders and accept payments, and serve food and drinks. You will also maintain a clean and well-stocked workspace and dining area, update displays, and continuously expand your knowledge of food and beverage quality controls and presentation." Bamse is located 150 E Lincoln St. For more information contact or visit the coffee shop.

There are many other job opportunities in the region (Walmart, Boyers, Turkey Hill); teens just need to look around, ask, and be proactive. It's always hard looking for the perfect job, but remember, any work experience is a plus when you apply to college, the military, or other jobs/internships and want to start your career!

An update on the senior class

By Ari Noller
staff writer

Providing the senior class with memorable end-of-the-year activities and a joyful graduation ceremony are among the goals of the officers and advisers of the Class of 2021.

Senior class officers are Olivia Haupt, president; Megan Roman, vice president; Madison Bridy, secretary; and Sydney Rhoads, treasurer. The senior class advisers are Mrs. Rhoads and Mrs. Shaffer.

Because the senior class has done ample fundraising in the previous years so they have no upcoming fundraisers at this time.

Since COVID-19 has affected the entire school year -- from mask-wearing to canceled sports to online learning, and more -- the officers and the advisers want this year's senior year to be memorable.

A conversation with the mayor: Brown advances revitalization



Community and schools are among Mayor John Brown’s priorities during his administration. In photo at left, Brown participates in a city council meeting. In the top right photo, Brown presents a certificate to Shamokin Area 2020 grad Abigail Doss for swimming achievements; at left are, Patrick McDevitt, swim coach; Brown, Doss; and Jess Wolfgang, swim coach. In the bottom right photo, the mayor and his wife, Denise Brown, help with a holiday collection for the Salvation Army (Photos submitted by Denise Brown).

By Blake Harris
staff writer

Over the past four years the city of Shamokin has seen a boost in its economy. This is in large part thanks to Shamokin Mayor John Brown, whose term is sadly coming to a close. During his term Mayor Brown has supported the Shamokin Area School District, recognized all the potential good the city has, and started a revitalization that is sure to return Shamokin to all that it used to be.

“My dreams have only begun here in the city. I believe that there is so much more to be done. Four years is never enough to make major accomplishments,” Brown said. “We have renewed the spirit of the community and laid the foundation for the future. Because of what we have started, investment is returning to the city. It will take another five to ten years to fully realize what these first steps have started.”

Obviously the prospect of Shamokin becoming a thriving city again is exciting and very much anticipated, but it’s not just a grand business venture or publicity stunt. The revitalization was much needed

if Shamokin wanted an even longer future.

“The revitalization is the only hope that the city had to survive. Shamokin was once a booming city with people from all over the country coming here to visit. When the coal and garment industry died so began the death of the city. Seven years ago Shamokin couldn’t even pay its own bills. Our employees’ health care went unpaid. The economic downturn took over 50 years to get us to that point. Revitalization will also take time,” Brown explained.

This has all been turned around thanks to the Mayor’s steps toward a new city image. “Shamokin set goals with a first strategic plan for a 10 year goal. Most have been realized in four. A second plan is now in place for a total revitalization makeover of our business district. More will come; we must continue to believe and accentuate the positive. Visitors from all over the world have already started to return to this community. Outside investors have come here and started to build and develop the economy. Shamokin is becoming electric once again,” he noted. “Renewed interest

investment and development has started. The first of two hotels will begin construction in 2021. During the COVID crisis when businesses have had to shut down nationwide, Shamokin has had a flurry of new business openings. State and federal officials have recognized our efforts during the pandemic. A total rewrite of a code book that wasn’t updated in 20 years has been done and started on the zoning book from 1964.”

Above all, Mayor Brown has stressed the importance of rejuvenating the attitude of the community. “The most important thing has been changing the attitude of the people. We started with a city that didn’t believe that it would ever change here. We started with pointing out and recognizing the good of this community...Positive thinkers have become the majority and a renewed spirit has taken over. More and more the community has become involved in doing things,” he commented.

The community isn’t Brown’s only priority. He also values the young people and the schools in the area. “We have tried to support the school

in any way that we can. It should have been most apparent with the recognition of students for the way they represent this community...some of those very students will be the leaders of tomorrow and I hope that they will also see the good of the City as we do,” Brown said. His support of the school was evidenced over the early stages of the pandemic when Market Street was lined with the posters of graduating seniors.

Reflecting on his mayoral term, Brown explained, “Twenty of being a police officer had made my heart become a part of the community. Upon retiring I found myself with a desire for public service. I began on council and was not happy with the direction the city was headed. A run for Mayor was the only way my ideas could be started.”

With only this year of his term left, Brown hopes to continue working to improve the city and doing his share to return Shamokin to a place where there are more local businesses, more opportunities for jobs, more positives for the area!

SASD, continued from front

“The school is iron-clad. It’s as safe as safe could be,” says Hockenbroch, who feels that keeping school open is still the way forward.

“I think our school did, and has done, an outstanding job with the various protocols and procedures we put in place,” explains Mr. Venna. “I will say that goes from the top all the way to the bottom, everybody involved down the chain. Everybody has had a great impact and had their own little part to do.” “I agree wholeheartedly about the steps we did,” Mr. Hynoski adds.

Before Thanksgiving break, and in light of several students and staff testing positive for COVID-19, the school announced that students would stay home and join classes virtually every day, with the return day scheduled for December 7. Students returned to school on that date, but some still remained virtual.

Prior to that decision, students were given the option for ‘flexible’ scheduling, where students could choose whether to be educated through in-person or virtual learning. “We’ve always had the stance of giving people options; if they feel safer at home, they can do that. This allows for students to choose,” Hockenbroch

explains. Prior and after the Dec. 7 return, students were, and continue to be given the option to join virtually instead of coming into the building each day.

Hynoski agrees. “The number-one thing is flexibility. Right now, having that option to go to school or online is flexible. It all comes down to the decision of the superintendent.”

The Act 80 Days have also been a great incentive for everyone in the school giving students and teachers more free time in their schedule to get caught up on work. According to Venna, the Act 80 days will occur every Friday if the pandemic is ongoing. “If the pandemic continues, we want to continue with the Act 80 Days,” he says. “The idea was to figure out a way to give teachers time, and we came up with the early dismissals on Friday. It’s not ideal, but it has been working well.”

The effects of the pandemic definitely present all kinds of challenges when it comes to education. While online education may be the new norm in most of the world, some students may feel uncomfortable about the ongoing use of technology. Others are opting to use outside online school platforms such as K12 and Commonwealth Connections

Academy.

“A lot of students have attended outside cyber school. Some students just don’t feel comfortable, and we try to have important conversations with families and have meetings in the evenings,” Venna replied. Sadly, the financial impact those programs have on the district’s budget is overwhelming. According to the district’s website, as of the beginning of October, the “total projected ‘outside’ cyber school” cost is over \$2 million. The deficit will have serious consequences on the district and taxpayers alike.

As 2020 comes to a close, hopefully the tough times and challenges caused by COVID-19, will end soon, too. This year, the students aren’t the only ones learning something new. Everyone discovered that being flexible and patient, and continuing on, will help to make Shamokin Area a happy and healthy place to learn, work, and play.

Note:
As of January, flexible attendance will continue until the end of the academic school year.
For more information, go to <https://www.indians.k12.pa.us/Domain/4>

music, continued from front

Orchestra itself isn’t feeling the effects of the mask because string players are not required to blow into an instrument - like you have to in band. Mr. Hollenberg, director of the orchestra, said “Fortunately, I believe that I am the luckiest of all three teachers here. In orchestra and modern music, we don’t really have to worry about aerosols, breath control, or anything similar like the band or choir do. We have been able to carry on in rehearsal spaces as normal, relatively unhindered by the requirement of masks. Unfortunately, it has meant that, for at least the first half of the year, we have not been able to have the wind players join us in orchestra as we normally would. It’s particularly challenging and has come with some growing pains through the first marking period.”

Hopefully we’ll hear more of upcoming concerts in the future and how we plan to attend such events while still adhering to the safety regulations. There are definitely more possible rules and regulations coming to the music department, and maybe some rules could be lifted. But until COVID-19 leaves, the rehearsals and practices will remain the same with everyone working hard to perform.

A stroll down memory lane

By Audrey Cristan
staff writer

Cathie Cristan, a graduate of the Shamokin Area class of 1972, shared what life was like for her as a young person growing up in the Shamokin area. From a busy Independence Street that featured a movie theater, and department stores, to a different high school building, to quite the change in fashion, times certainly have changed.

Cristan, the grandmother of current senior Audrey Cristan, recalled when the Victoria Theatre was the ‘first building on Independence Street that you’d see.’ “The line would be all the way down the street because it was only twenty-five cents to get in,” she said. Next to the theatre was the two-floored JCPenney’s department store, that offered all types of merchandise and a catalog service. The Rite Aid store is located where “Penney’s” used to be. Unlike today, children back then would walk to the corner stores to buy their family cartons of cigarettes. Cigarette vending machines also were available.

Nowadays, laws have stopped both of those methods. Cristan then described another department store. “Continuing down Independence Street, there was Woolworth’s, where they had everything you needed there and even had a restaurant inside.” Rea & Derick, a drug store, used to be located where CVS Pharmacy is now. “They had all of the flavors of Coke in there,” Cathie said, and it was a hot spot for many people in the summertime.



Cathie Cristan, 1972 Shamokin Area graduate, and her granddaughter, Audrey Cristan, 2021 graduate-to-be, show their SA band pride in this recent selfie. (Photo by Audrey Cristan)

When asked what high school was like, she first answered that the high was originally located on East Arch Street, which is the current home to the Northumberland Regional Center, where students attend classes for Luzerne County Community College; the building also houses the Northumberland County Council for the Arts and Humanities. When it was a high school, students in tenth through twelfth grades attended.

Those students used the gym in the Annex building, which most recently housed Shamokin Area kindergarten and first graders. Back in Cristan’s time, students had to walk from their high school to the gym for physical education class. “We used to have to take showers in the winter time, and get our hair wet, and then go back to the school,” she explained.

Among her teachers was her ‘favorite.’ “Mr. Anderson was my favorite teacher for biology; We had four years of biology,” she said. Cristan, who was a student of Mr. Anderson’s for all four years, said that teachers were a lot more strict back then with the students, but the classes were worth it. “We even had a drivers ed class in school!” she added.

When it came to communicating around the halls, students would constantly write notes to one another, as they didn’t have cell phones like today’s generation. “There used to be a tunnel between the grades, and you’d pass notes and love letters.” She also brought up how she felt people were because there was more face-to-face social interaction, and she thought that people were

“more friendlier back then”. The fashion back then consisted of bell bottom pants and skirts, and friends used to borrow clothes off of each other all of the time, especially for school dances. “There was a dance almost every week. There’d be a dance and a football game; they had bands play at the dances and all,” she explained. Sporting events were on a whole different level, especially during the big Coal Bucket game. “Back then the football team was really good, yes, they’d fight over that bucket, and Shamokin would win the bucket from Mount Carmel,” she said. Every Thanksgiving, students and their families would spend the day together at the annual Coal Bucket game. Along with football comes the marching band. “The marching bands were HUGE! Mr. Cooper had about two hundred students, and their uniforms were very nice.” There was some competition too between the coal region’s best. “They used to fight too, the band and football teams would fight to be the best.”

Speaking of athletics, our basketball team was also really, really good - I guess you could say history repeats itself! They were so good that almost every away game they’d have fan buses to come along, full of supportive students, which were deemed as “a lot of fun.”

What were the weekends like during the 70s? “We went to dances and football games, Knoebels had roller skating on the weekends, and on Mondays they’d have dance night, and the line went from the carousel all the way down to the pool!” The Edgewood area of Coal Township used to have a big park and swimming pool where Our Lady of Lourdes is now, where everyone took swimming lessons, as it was a big thing back then. “I’d walk from my house in Springfield, meet some of my friends in town, and we’d walk to Edgewood park for our lessons,” Cristan said. A lot of people spent their time walking around and doing many things that the city of Shamokin had to offer. Cathie had a lot of fun back then, and hopefully, Shamokin can improve to its full potential once again!

Student-run TV program combines work and fun

Note: Staff writer Hannah Hess wrote this story last spring, but because of the quarantine and its effects on our spring and senior editions, *The Signal* was not able to publish the story until now.

By Hannah Hess
staff writer

Do you ever sit in your homeroom and wonder what all goes into the production of SATV? Every morning we are greeted with announcements, music, and a program that features news and sports stories, as well as the weather forecast. Thanks to our district’s long-standing and innovative technology department, as well as the contribution from many hardworking and creative students throughout the years, Shamokin Area students have the benefit of a daily informative and fun TV broadcast.

All SATV students go through training of all video production aspects before actually being in front of the camera, and must constantly prepare their announcements in a short time. All students must be quick on their feet and be able to think of things with little time because the students of SATV only meet for homeroom.

SATV 2019-20 President Nate Grimes, now a 2020 graduate and member for five years, said that the experience taught him not only how to be able to be comfortable speaking in front of people, it has also enabled him to obtain everybody’s ideas and put them toward a good cause.



Senior Sloan Derk, left, and junior Garrett Kitchen, right, look at the audition materials posted for the 2021 musical (Photo by Ashlea Oakum)

2021 Musical in the works

By Ashlea Oakum
managing editor

Although the events taking place this year have shaken up the music department pretty badly, the 2021 musical is still planned to happen. The process is running the same as usual, with only slight alterations. In previous years, a specific show was picked, and the auditions happened after the show was announced. This year, as of now, there isn’t an official decided show, but auditions will still happen normally.

“Audition pieces don’t always have to come from a certain show, and it’s usually a blind audition. The only thing that’s different this year is the time frame, but there’s not a huge loss of time. Also, not having a particular show picked shows who actually wants to audition, compared to when

people chose to do the musical or not solely because of the show we pick,” Mr. Styer said in an interview.

There is some uncertainty in how the show will be performed, whether it be in person, virtual, or in other ways, as well as when it will happen. “There’s just so many question marks,” Styer said, “we’re going to try to move forward with this, though, especially so that seniors don’t lose their opportunity for their last high school show.”

Auditions are set to happen in early January, with audition times for each person signed up to possibly be set. If audition times aren’t set, a set rehearsal will be held where everyone signed up will come in and get their auditions done within the time of the rehearsal. Students can sign up for the 2021 SAHS musical on the bulletin board outside of the music suite.

“Leadership is one of the biggest traits that I have picked up from being in SATV, and I feel that it has prepared me for college,” Grimes said. In the years of Grimes’ involvement in the program, he noted the growth of equipment from “just having two computers to brand new technology and a brand new wooden counter to store our equipment.”

Abby Jo Rodman, now a 2020 graduate and SATV’s 2019-20 secretary, feels that it helps with communication and being able to learn how to work with other people. Rosiland Kane, current senior and SATV’s 2019-20 vice president, loves the fact that everyone in SATV is so close and can always joke around and are always there for each other.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students over the years. Being a part of this creative atmosphere is rewarding and we have had a lot of fun,” added Mr. Ben S. Anderson, technology coordinator, when asked how he felt about SATV. Overall, SATV is a great AV program with lots of effort and hardwork put into each day.

Soon-to-be grad hits it big

By Miah Thompson
layout and design editor

Joshua Bashore, senior and famed local filmmaker, has been accepted into the prestigious New York University Tisch School of the Arts, one of the most competitive film schools in the world; its acceptance rate is under 20 percent.

This acceptance was a monumental event for Joshua. “When I found out I was accepted, I couldn’t breathe, and I couldn’t speak for a good 10 seconds. I let it all sink in,” Bashore said. He knew right away that he had found his home. “NYU has been my top choice right from the start! It’s the best film school in the country, how could it not be?”

Bashore has been making films and videos for a very large portion of his life; several of his newer films aired on SATV, where he helps to produce Shamokin Area’s daily announcements. Bashore also has his own YouTube channel. Additionally, he has helped assemble the winter performances of all three musical

ensembles, which include the band, orchestra, and chorus.

The senior is diligent about his work. “Knowing that I put so much work into a film, with writing, shooting, editing, composing, acting and then knowing people like it, it feels pretty good!” he said.

Bashore, while incredibly competent in filmmaking with awards such as ranking first place at the regional Computer Fair for film twice, the back-to-back winner of Transitions of PA video contest, and third place at the state-level Computer Fair, is also very proficient musically. He has participated in PMEA district orchestra and chorus, district band twice, region band and orchestra, and NMS county band an astonishing three times.

“I believe it’s important to pursue what you WANT to pursue... you never know what will happen, and it saddens me to know that there are people who just give up or don’t bother simply because they think it’s not possible, but it most definitely is,” he added.



Joshua Bashore checks a recently grabbed shot from his camera, addoned in his fittingly purple and white NYU Tisch hoodie. (Photo by Miah Thompson)

9th Period is every student’s favorite!

Note: Layout and design editor Miah Thompson wrote this story last spring, but because of the quarantine and its effects on our spring and senior editions, *The Signal* was not able to publish the story until now.

By Miah Thompson
layout and design editor

Students at Shamokin have a choice of several wonderful and in depth music programs to participate in during the school year! However, there is one group that’s (almost) teacher exclusive: 9th Period. Formed for the first annual talent show in 2015, 9th Period has been playing for talent shows ever since. Recently, they motivated the school during the Mini Thon Kick Off, playing “Dancing Queen” by ABBA and “Shut Up and Dance” by WALK THE MOON, fittingly.

The band consists of Mrs. Mary Anne Stump, chorus teacher, keyboard; Mr. Ty Crossley, middle school history teacher, bass; Mr. Luke Haupt, science teacher, and Mr. Justin Hollenberg, orchestra teacher, guitar; and Holly Fegley, a senior, drums. On vocals are Mrs. Cathy Pancher, middle school math teacher; Mrs. Shannon Anderson, middle school English teacher; and Ms. Adrienne Miller, middle school math teacher. Past members included Mr. Michael Keefer, who played drums, and Mr. Jerome Manley, who played lead guitar. Keefer now serves as Shamokin Area Elementary principal, and Manley, former Shamokin area history teacher who now serves as principal of student engagement at Bloomsburg Middle School.

Surprisingly, a majority of the members of the group haven’t been in any bands prior to this; the ones that have prior experience say positive things. Mr. Crossley, who has been playing bass guitar since seventh grade, has played in several bands throughout his life. He was even in a college screamo band. “We were called Overtaken. We were horrible.”

Many of the members talked about how laid back and easy going everyone is, with Hollenberg saying “... they’re just happy to play together.” Stump added, “Coming from formal music training, reading tab (tablature, or finger placement for guitar chords) was something I was familiar with, but this has stretched my musician-ship skills in a different direction.”

All of the members feel the reception of their group among the student population has been very enthusiastic and supportive. “They clap along and usually tell me in class how they enjoyed the songs that we sang,” Pancher stated. Crossley agreed the reception has been great but that he wishes they could get more teachers involved.

Freshman Dallas Schiccatano, said, “I thought it was fun to see that they’re not just teachers, that they’re people...not in the school role. I didn’t think they were into that kind of music.”

Members of 9th Period encourage young musicians to keep practicing and to perform if they can. Fegley encourages her classmates, “Always keep practicing, even when no one is watching or there to push you, many things come unexpectedly.”

“I am not nearly as good as I should be for how long I’ve been playing,” Mr. Haupt adds, “and it’s because I didn’t work at it enough.” Mr. Crossley advises student performers, “I would say to practice a lot and to not be afraid of getting in front of your peers. If you look like you are into it and having fun the audience will feed off your energy and will have fun no matter how you sound. The feeling of singing/playing in front of 500+ people is always worth it.”

Like music? Join band!

By Jadyen Slovick
news editor

Shamokin’s marching band has always been the “Pride of the Coal Region” with numerous wins from the competition band, spectacular concerts every year, and even fun trips to Virginia, Ohio, or Florida. There isn’t a reason to not join the band! It’s full of fun experiences and builds bonds that last a lifetime.

Corey Sosnoskie, a sophomore in her first year of band, said, “Music is something so important to my life, and the feeling of being included and playing instruments with friends is just something really magical.”

Mr. Styer is always open to accepting new students and helping them find joy in playing an instrument any time of the year. It’s never too late to find a new passion! If you are interested in joining band, visit Mr. Styer in his office, A-107, in the music suite.

MLK continued from front

“His actions influenced the ways that minorities in America can live and how all of society can change life for the better. “We can start by saying he, and the many unknown people fighting endlessly, have left the United States a more just society with better access to equal opportunities. Maybe most importantly, he has provided a great lesson in history that shows the power of the people, if they care enough,” history teacher Mr. Grybos said.

Shamokin Area history teachers include lessons about MLK in their curriculum. Mr. Crossley said, “I teach about MLK every year during my Civil Rights Movement unit. I usually focus on several aspects of his legacy, including his role in the Montgomery bus boycott, his usage of non-violent resistance, the famous “I Have A Dream” speech, and I also like to compare MLK’s ideas on gaining equality versus Malcolm X and groups like the Black Panthers.”

Although Martin Luther King Jr. fought for equality in the 1960s, many of his actions then can be related to today’s events and social issues. “In 2020, we have seen the news, social media, and political parties (and leaders) blow up issues like social and racial justice, anti-war sentiment, class issues, monuments, and even culture wars. This isn’t anything new,” Mr. Grybos said.

“The Black Lives Matter movement is an extension of what MLK was fighting for - rights and equality for black people. It’s a shame that even in 2021 people of different races and ethnicities are treated differently than others, however it is also inspiring to see so many people fighting for equality” civics teacher Ms. Schlacter stated.

However, there is a difference between protesting methods from King’s time compared to what can be seen today. Mrs. Shaffer added, “Dr. King fought with a nonviolent approach. I look at the riots/protests today; yes, there are many that are peaceful, but those are not the ones that get the attention.” Mr. Crossley agreed, “I think MLK showed the world the correct way to protest - non violently. When protesters use violence, the overall message is overshadowed by the violent acts and is therefore less effective.”

There are many ways we can bring more diversity of races, religions, and other beliefs into our everyday lives. “A way to get more diversity into schools is to talk about it like it’s a normal, everyday topic of discussion.

Too often we “tip toe” around subjects because they are too difficult to discuss or we don’t want to upset anyone, but how do we learn if we don’t challenge ourselves and our beliefs? We just need to TALK and that’ll help get diversity in schools and our communities,” Mrs. Shaffer said.

“I think we can get more diversity in our history classes by getting our hands on more perspectives than just what the textbook provides. Then we can decide for ourselves based on the evidence and also learn to “do history” on our own. When we do this, we can learn a more honest and inclusive history that the textbooks are slowly adapting to. You do not need feel-good history OR feel-based history, but you need honest history to see what actually happened, what caused it, and its impacts now and then,” stated Mr. Grybos.

“I think at the federal and state levels, there needs to be reform in education and mandates to teach black figures in history, like MLK. There are no standards for civics that require teachers to cover such material. If things are tackled at the federal and state levels, I think we would see greater diversity within the material covered in schools” Ms. Schlacter added.

Keystone Exams

By Zak Zanella
staff writer

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has given our school district a “Christmas present,” according to Mr. Weller, guidance counselor. Because of recent rulings, not all students will have to take the winter Keystone Exams this year.

Mr. Weller explained that if students passed any of the three Keystone subjects (Biology, Algebra, Literature), they can be excused from taking the exam, or they can take the exam if they want to on the scheduled dates. Students can pass a subject by having a grade of 70 or above.

If students did not pass any of the three, they must take the Keystone Exam scheduled for the springtime. Traditionally, winter Keystone Exams are for juniors who did not earn proficiency when they took the tests in the spring of their sophomore year.

Jan. 25 is the starting date for those who have to, or want to, take a Keystone Exam. All winter Keystone Exams must be finished by February. Procedures for testing before COVID involved . shutting the third floor (science and math floor) to everyone except test-takers and proctors. Each content area was given a week for testing and make-ups. The location for this year’s winter Keystone Exams will be announced.

State your opinion

“State your opinion” is one of The Signal’s regular features. Two staff members will state their opinions about topics that fall under the category of ‘hard’ news, which involves timely school, local, state, national, or global topics and ‘soft’ news, which involves fun and light-hearted topics. The Signal invites its readers to generate your opinions about one or both of the topics (they do not have to be as long as ours; a few lines are good!) and send them in for possible future publication.

Which is better: pancakes or waffles?

By Ashlea Oakum
managing editor

Pancakes or Waffles is a lesser known debate that can still ignite the passionate opinions of many people, especially around the breakfast table. Both are good, but theoretically, waffles are the winner. They share a similar purpose as breakfast foods, but waffles are more advanced in their “technology”.

For instance, waffles have the same functions of pancakes, like putting extra stuff in the batter, but they can do even more. Both foods may easily absorb whatever topping you put on them, but waffles have those little square divots that can act as pockets to hold even more of your preferred topping. Waffles are more structurally pleasing as well. Pancakes are on the boring side, as they all look exactly

the same unless you cook them into a specific shape with separate tools.. With waffles, you have to use a specific device with that special design to cook the batter and give the waffles their signature look.

As well as structure, waffles have a more diverse texture. Waffles are crispy and somewhat crunchy on the outside, with a soft and fluffy texture on the inside. Pancakes, on the other hand, have the same flat and mushy texture all throughout. Of course, texture preferences vary from person to person, but in terms of a variety of texture, waffles are the elite.

If you prefer pancakes over waffles, that’s perfectly fine. However, if you want a breakfast food that can do more, waffles are the better way to go.



Black Lives Matter

By Jadyn Slovick
news editor

George Floyd was murdered as he begged for air at the hands of a police officer all because a cashier suspected he bought cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill which turned out to be real. Breonna Taylor was fatally shot while she was sleeping because the police entered the wrong home, looking for a suspect who was already in custody. Elijah McClain died after being placed in a chokehold by police and being sedated by paramedics with twice the dose for his size, just because he “looked suspicious.” Aiyana Stanley-Jones was a 7-year-old girl accidentally shot by a SWAT team. Philando Castile was fatally shot during a traffic stop after telling police he had a gun he was licensed to carry but wasn’t grabbing it. Atatiana Jefferson was shot to death when police entered her home after her neighbor called and said her front door was open. Akai Gurley was shot when an officer had his gun drawn while patrolling, shooting him as he and his girlfriend entered the stairwell. Meagan Hockaday was shot and killed within 20 seconds of police entering her home because she was holding a knife. Stephon Clark was fatally shot by a police officer because he was holding a phone in his hand, which the officer believed was a gun; the officer fired 20 rounds.

Emantic Fitzgerald Bradford Jr. was shot three times in the back because police suspected him of a shooting at a local mall; he was not involved. Amadou Diallo was shot by four officers in plain clothes (out of uniform), and after a year, one of the officers would claim they mistook him for a rape suspect. Tamir Rice was a 12-year-old boy playing with a toy gun who was shot immediately after police arrived on scene. Eric Garner was put in a chokehold as he was arrested over suspicion of him selling cigarettes without tax stamps while he cried out that he couldn’t breathe. Freddie Carlos Gray Jr. was arrested and beaten so badly by the arresting officers during transport that he was brought to a trauma center where he died five days later. Jordan Edwards

was a 15-year-old boy who was shot in the head by officers trying to stop a car he was a passenger in; police claimed the car was “backing down the street towards the officers in an aggressive manner.” This claim was disproved by body-cam footage; the original call was about underage kids walking around and drinking.

Jonathan Ferrel had gotten into a car accident and went to a nearby home knocking for help; the resident called the police and Ferrel was allegedly charged at and shot by one officer, tased by another but was missed, and another officer then fired 12 rounds at Ferrel. Korryn Gaines died during a standoff with police over a traffic violation where police also ended up shooting her son in the process. Alton Sterling was shot as police officers were trying to restrain him; he allegedly reached for a loaded handgun in his pocket, however the owner of the store where the original incident occurred stated Sterling was not the individual “causing trouble” and the moment that the second officer arrived on scene, Sterling was threatened with his gun. Jamar Clark was shot at and died in the hospital after police tried arresting him when he went to ride with his girlfriend in an ambulance for a domestic dispute he wasn’t even involved in. Jeremy “Bam-Bam” McDole, a parapalegic man in a wheelchair, was fatally shot by police after a 911 call was made that he shot himself, however his family states that Jeremy was unarmed.

Layleen Polanco was a trans woman who died at Rikers Island because the staff failed to provide life-saving medical care 47 minutes after she experienced an epileptic seizure once they found her unresponsive. Tony McDade, a trans man, was shot by police officers who didn’t clarify they were officers, after being yelled at to stop moving (which he did) and being called a racial slur. Bettie Jones was accidentally murdered at nearly point-blank range the day after Christmas. Terence Crutcher was shot and tased because he wasn’t cooperating with police and they believed he had a weapon, even though he didn’t. Oscar Grant was kneed in the head and shot

Should Shamokin Area offer a Latin class?

By Terry Post
staff writer

Following the loss of the French class this year, many students have asked whether we will get a new language class in the future, and what that language might be. Currently, Spanish is the only foreign language offering in school. Latin, although not spoken often in the world, is a great choice and can lead to an easier time when learning other languages, help with pronunciations and learning new alphabetic symbols, and lead to better understanding in classes that focus on law, medicine, history and even mythology.

Knowing Latin has been proven to help with learning and understanding other languages such as French, Spanish, Catalan, Italian, Portuguese, etc. Being able to speak and understand other languages is a benefit to anyone’s resume and job search, not to mention it makes a trip abroad much more enjoyable and relaxing. Latin class would also cause students to learn new alphabetic symbols, as well as new pronunciations. Like all other languages, it will help students build on their memory and their ability to think on the spot. In fact, learning any foreign language helps

and usage of the English language!

Along with all the benefits that one would receive upon learning Latin, it can also be fun while learning it. There are many myths in Latin, and you can read the interesting ones as well as the historically important ones. Latin’s history is expansive, and learning the language can help you discover more and more about ancient Roman culture.

Careerwise, having knowledge of Latin can help with understanding legal and medical terminology. For example, terms such as habeas corpus, subpoena, veto, and quid pro quo, are all words still ‘alive’ and used today by lawyers, police officials, politicians, and business people. In science and medical fields, Latin terms such as biology, chemistry, psychology, dermatitis, pneumonia, and anemia, all have Latin root words and all are still in frequent use (and study) today.

Latin is a fun and interesting language to learn. With its cultural significance, its myths and legends, and its ties to many languages in the modern world, Latin is a class that should be taught here at Shamokin Area High School. Latin is a language that can bring only benefits to those who learn it.

in the back by an officer after he was involved in a fight, but was unarmed. Walter Lamar Scott was shot and killed as he tried to flee after being pulled over for a non-functioning brake light.

Are you angry yet? Does it make your heart hurt? Countless others have been assaulted or shot, just by police. It doesn’t matter if the victim was a criminal with a record; it isn’t right that police officers can be so above the law, playing the judge, jury, and executioner all in one encounter and deciding the fate of someone’s life. Violence against black people has been so ingrained into our justice system, especially after the war on drugs (you can look more into this by watching 13th on Netflix). People don’t even notice how awful it truly is because it’s hard to put yourself into perspective when you don’t have to experience or see something all the time, but it’s just not something that we, as a society, can continue to ignore.

George Floyd’s murder was just the tipping point for the 2020 protests; however, Black Lives Matter protests have been held since 2013, yet without much change in the system and little to no police reform. But this time, the protests proved to work. The officers involved in George Floyd’s murder got charged. Suddenly, now that the whole world has been stuck at home watching, we were finally forced to really look reality right in the eyes; to look at the racial injustice that black people and other people of color have to live with every single day. Finally, there was no way for people to stay ignorant and just ignore what has been going on for so long. Protests began happening in all 50 states - even in Shamokin.

A group of teenagers who wanted to help push for change in their hometown banded together and started an “awareness rally” on June 4, 2020. They were tired of letting racism take hold and they wanted to do something about it, something that people couldn’t ignore. These teenagers placed themselves at the intersection of Independence street and Market, by *Dunkin’* by the traffic light. There was a lot of support, as well as much distaste, but many people were educated by the experience and continue to “fight the good fight.”

BLM is an international human rights movement (different from the organization) that campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people. BLM regularly holds protests speaking out against police killings of black people, and broader issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system (Wikipedia), while also acknowledging the violence that happens to people of all races. The BLM movement does not mean that all lives don’t matter; people are just bringing awareness to the fact that their lives matter too.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Unfortunately, there is too much injustice in this world. But here we are, changing it one movement at a time. We need to stand up when people are being treated so poorly and out right disgustingly.

Want more sources to educate yourself further on the matter? <https://moreblminfo.carrrd.co/#education>

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

Managing Editor
Ashlea Oakum

News Editor
Jadyn Slovick

Layout and Design
Miah Thompson, editor
Jaden Kodak

Staff Writers
Audrey Cristan, Grace Donahue, Blake Harris, Hannah Hess, Abigail Kurtz, Ariana Nolter, Terry Post, Paige Shoffler, Shane Stewart, and Zak Zanella

The thoughts and opinions reflected on the opinion page are exclusive to the writers and do not reflect the entire *Signal* staff’s.

Splashing into Action

By Zak Zanella
staff writer

As COVID restrictions start to loosen up, clubs are starting to pick up right where they left off. This is very much the case for the Swim team, coached by Mr. Patrick McDevitt. The team, which plans to continue with usual practices and meets, welcomes new members any time.

“I absolutely want as many new people as possible,” says McDevitt. “No tryouts involved, just sign-up, anyone is welcome. All I ask is for 100 percent effort from everybody.” The effort will definitely be put in this year, because this could be the start of an exciting season filled with interesting twists and turns. Breaking new ground has its share of benefits, with much physical activity and the flexibility of its separated lane areas for athletes.

Some additional protocols will be put in place to ensure athlete and coach safety, such as enforcing masks to be required when not in the water. Plus, no fans or parents are allowed to be involved, which will make for a very interesting turn of events.

Returning swimmers are very enthusiastic about the return, as well as the opportunity to hone their skills. “Yes, I would love to come back,” says Megan Roman, senior.

“I have been doing the sport for all my four years; I’ve got to make the most of the year,” adds Madison Bridy, a senior, who has also competed on the team all her four years at the high school. Because she has participated in the sport since she was in kindergarten, she feels that it is only fitting that she would come back and complete her final year. “As a senior, and me being with the team for so long, I feel it’s my obligation to come back,” Bridy says.

As the pandemic continues, many wonder about how the team will be able to cooperate and get through struggles in the best way possible.

As experienced swimmers, Bridy and Roman believe that it is crucial to have a built chemistry between their teammates. “As soon as we get in the pool, it will be a great, big family, with old and new guys. It’s constant support all around,” says Roman.

“This will make us closer as a team; you have to learn to become one. We have to help each other through struggles,” Bridy adds.

Mr. McDevitt has no doubt that everyone will be able to get along and work together. “I think everyone will get along,” he says. “One thing we focus on is the fact that we’re all in this together, and we think of ourselves not as a team, but as a family.” The swim team is ecstatic about the opportunities this season will bring, and they cannot wait to start heading into the pool very soon.

CC Ends Successful 2020 Season

By Ashlea Oakum,
managing editor

The cross country team has ended a very successful 2020 season, despite many setbacks from COVID-19. The team reached many goals this year, and the season even brought the runners closer together as a team.

“We all pretty much hit our goal times this year. We were definitely



Coach Wanda Cook talks strategy with, from left, Nadia Pearson, Ari Nolter, Madysyn Nolter, Evelyn Murphy, Megan Roman and McKenzie Bogetti. (Photo submitted by Ari Nolter.)

Volleyball ends season with positives

By Ari Nolter
staff writer

The Indians’ volleyball team finished their season on October 29, after a loss to Berwick Area in a District IV semi-final match. The team finished the season with a record of 7-10 and will graduate two seniors, Megan Roman and Ari Nolter.

Coach Wanda Cook said, “I felt the season went very well. Although we ended just below .500, we had a lot of memorable moments; among them being our setter, Ari Nolter, reached 1,000 career assists, finishing the season with over 1,200. Having a seasoned setter makes a big difference in our team’s success.”

“In addition we have a strong outside hitter to monopolize on our setter’s ability,” Cook noted. That outside hitter is Ari’s sister Morgan

Nolter who will return to the team next season. Coach Cook also focused on the team’s younger players and their roles. “We had the opportunity to give varsity experience to freshman and sophmores, which only helps the program move forward. We have young aggressive players to fill our defensive spots.

Our weakness was having too many inexperienced players, even though they had athletic ability, they lacked the maturity of reading opponents,” she explained. This volleyball season was full of many unknowns due to COVID-19. Coach Cook talked about that impact. “We usually compete in three tournaments during the season, however they were cancelled due to COVID-19. Those tournaments and other cancellations limited

ments and other cancellations limited our ability to tweak our inefficiencies throughout the season.”

Senior opposite, Megan Roman, shared her thoughts about being on the team, “I wish I would have played all four years, but the two I did play were two of the best. I didn’t realize how much I would come to like the sport, but playing with all the girls I have in the past two years really made a difference. That is half the reason the sport is enjoyable, because of the people you play with.”

7-10
WINS LOSSES

Masks are new, but district title goals remain the same

By Ari Nolter
staff writer

Basketball season will have a very different look this year than any previous season. The PIAA has made it mandatory for all players to wear masks during contests. Both our girls and boys’ teams have had to adjust to this.

“It’s been a challenge,” said boys’ basketball head coach Chris Zimmerman, “however, the alternative would be not to play. I’m excited that our kids can play.”

Girls basketball head coach Jordan Rickert also spoke on the subject, “I give my team a lot of credit for being able to put on the mask and work through the adversity wearing it. You have to find that happy medium of making it a game like situation and getting used to it.”

Despite neither of the teams being able to have an offseason like they normally would, things are moving forward nevertheless. “I think every year teams play for the same reason- to win districts and to advance in

states. It will come down to how much the girls want it,” said Coach Rickert. Neither of these coaches are lowering any expectations for their teams. Coach Zimmerman said, “My expectations for the team are the same every year; we want to compete for a district title and a chance to win a few games in the state playoffs.”

Both coaches keyed in on players that will help them reach these high expectations. For the boys team, seniors: Brent Reed and Jackson Kelly; juniors: Colin Seedor, Aaron Frasch, Joe Tarr, Dominic Michaels, and Cayan Lee; sophomores: Cameron Annis and Jason Leiby; Freshmen: Hunter Wertz. All of them will play a role on the team.

For the girls’ team, “We have three seniors who are returning and really are the only ones on the team with varsity experience-- Ari Nolter, Grace Nazih, and Emma Kramer. Each brings a different dimension to the team...I think we have players that will step up to fill in the roles,” said Rickert.

the pandemic did not limit the amount of runners able to participate in the state meet. The team will be staying strong in the next year, with some returning and new runners in the line-up.

However, the end of this season marks the end of high school cross country careers for the two seniors,

Both the Indians and the Lady Indians graduated experienced seniors last year. “Last year had some very good players and it will be hard to fully replace them. However, this year I think we have more threats on the offensive end- meaning every kid on the court can score from any place. We need to do the little things right,” Coach Rickert commented. Coach Zimmerman also said something along the same lines, “We lost three experienced seniors. However, I think we are much more together as a team. We have a bunch of guys who can contribute in multiple ways. I think that gives us a chance to be a better team overall as the season goes on.”

Basketball season started December 11, with the girls playing Nativity BVM at home. The Boys kicked off their season on December 12, against Loyalsock, also at home.

Katlyn Brunson and Aubrey Shultz. “I am super sad that I won’t be able to run cross country in high school anymore, but I’m okay with it because I’m gonna run it in college!” Brunson stated. “I am very sad about it, Running as a Shamokin Indian meant a lot to me,” Shultz said.

BOOK REVIEWS

Stung

By Emma Zimmerman
staff writer

Written by Bethany Wiggins, *Stung* is the first novel in a two-book series. Set in a dystopian setting, the story begins with the main character, Fiona Tarsis, waking up in a world she doesn’t recognize. Everything is either broken or destroyed, and Fiona has a strange ten-pronged tattoo on her hand...a tattoo she must conceal at all costs.

Humanity has been divided into two groups: those who have the mark, and those who do not. Those with the mark have been turned into mindless, destructive beasts that prey on everything that moves. Those without the mark either live inside of the wall, protected and devoted to repopulating society, or outside of the wall fending for themselves and fighting off the beasts. Now Fiona has awoken with the mark, but the thing is... she’s normal.

Shatter Me

By Emma Zimmerman
staff writer

Written by Tahreh Mafi, *Shatter Me* is the first book in a thrilling trilogy. Set in a post-apocalyptic world, the story starts off with the main protagonist, 17-year old Juliette, locked in an insane asylum. She doesn’t deserve to be there; she hasn’t done anything wrong, it was an accident. But the Reestablishment, the story’s cruel government, thought her a monster so she was locked away and forgotten for 264 days. But now someone has taken an interest in her. Or more specifically, the one thing that’s odd about her. Juliette’s touch is lethal, and she now has to make a decision. Become a weapon, or be a warrior.

Contains suggestive content.

Splintered

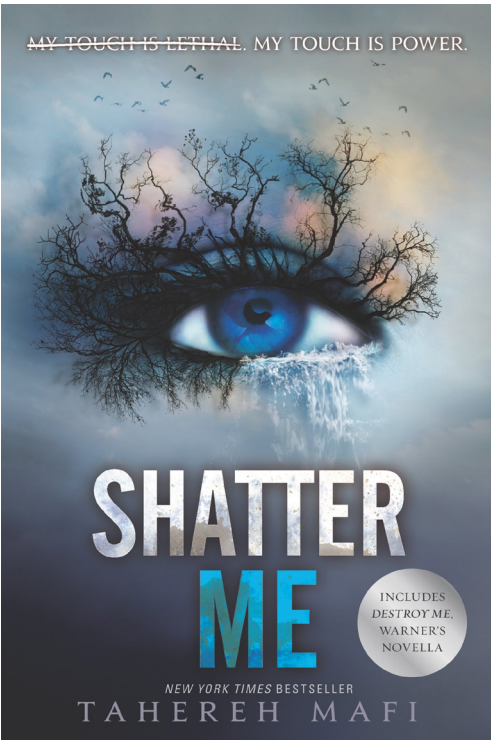
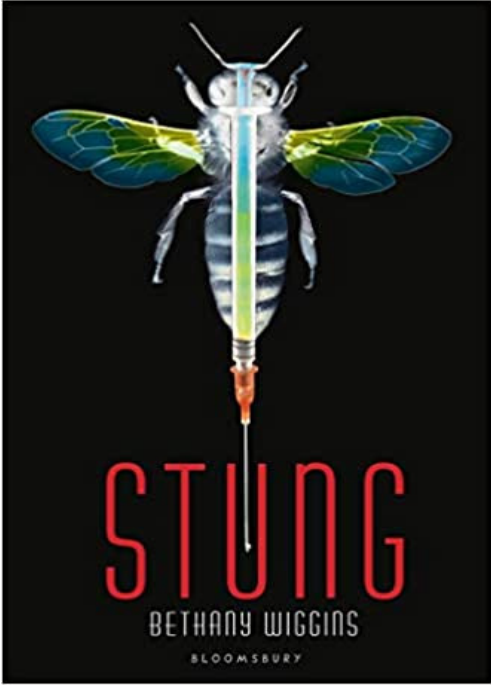
By Emma Zimmerman
staff writer

Do you like twisted tales that are spinoff stories based off of childhood classics such as “Cinderella” or “Beauty and the Beast” that dramitically change some aspects of the tale? What about the wonderful adventures of Alice in Wonderland? What if I told you about a series that combines those two into a dark and magical tale that will keep you up at night?

Written by A. G. Howard, “*Splintered*” is about a girl named Alyssa Gardener whose family is believed to be descended from the very Alice from *Alice in Wonderland*. Her mom is locked in an asylum and Alyssa can hear the voices of bugs, but she doesn’t believe a word of it...until she is led into Wonderland itself. With the help of Jeb, Alyssa’s best friend, and Morpheus, the humanized version of the story’s caterpillar, Alyssa must get past a series of tests to take her rightful place on the throne of the red kingdom.

Buck-A-Line

Love many, trust few, always paddle your own canoe - I.T.
Appreaciate the tiniest things in life and you’ll be happier for it - I.T.
If I don’t win the vote, I’m always class clown in your hearts. -Jaden Kodack
“A dream is only a dream until you decide to make it real - Harry Styles” - Hannah H.
“I drown out my sorrows by listening to One Direction” - Hannah H.
A.N. to S.R.- Have a great holiday!
A.N. to M.N.- good luck on your driving test!!
“It’s pronounced ash-lee, not ash-lee-uh” - Ashlea Oakum
“What if you viewed The Signal December 2020 edition...haha just kidding....unless?” - Ashlea Oakum
Remember to do your work, but also have fun!-Postman
Have a good day!-13
Have a Merry Christmas!
Always remember to keep calm!
Ashlea is lying -baby
Shout out to everyone still trying their best during these trying times! - jady
slovick
“Audrey, you will always be my doll” - Grammy



The “Buck-a-Line” section of The Signal is a feature where anyone can pay one dollar and submit a one-line sentiment. Submissions must be school appropriate and not insulting. The Signal reserves the right to edit or delete submissions. Email thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us with you message; drop off your \$1 payment at room C-216 (Mrs. Rhoads’s room).



A comic depicting the return of the terrors of everyday life returning after the holidays, illustrated by Ashlea Oakum and Jady Slovick.

VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

Super Smash Bros Ultimate

By Terry Post
staff writer

Super Smash Bros Ultimate, or SSBU is a kid friendly fighting game that takes popular characters from video games, anime, and cartoons and puts them into a brawling game. Some of the characters, like Mario, Luigi, and Princess Peach are from a specific game and were all added to represent that game. Others, such as Captain Falcon (who is also the only Smash character to originate from a racing game) are the only characters who represent their game.

In the beginning players start with a small amount of the large pool of selectable characters. In order to gain more, you must defeat them in a ‘one versus one’ combat. These 1 vs 1’s appear every 10 minutes inside of the game, and are retryable after the ten minute period is up if you lost. However, win or lose, this is definitely an enjoyable and fun game.

The game, in general, is very enjoyable. Lag spikes do occur if you play online, but so does every other game that you can play online. Every character has their own unique play style, some are easy to learn, but all are hard to master. What makes every character unique besides their playstyle is their abilities and their combos. A few good starter characters are Mario, Donkey Kong, and Kirby. I would recommend this game to both the casual and the competitive gamer, with a minimum amount of glitches and a moderately difficult system, it makes this game tremendously enjoyable.



Among Us takes America by storm

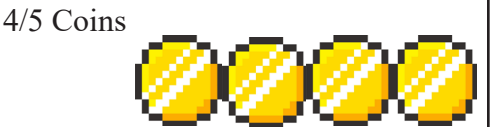
By Terry Post
staff writer

The video game *Among Us* has struck the population like a storm upon its release in the Play Store, although it had been an overlooked computer game two years prior. Everyone has their attention on this mobile and PC game. It’s a multiplayer game that can host up to ten people on one server. Some people complain, rage, but at the end of the day everyone has fun... for the most part!

It’s a strategic game that involves a lot of thinking - and a knack for lying - in order to successfully play it at a decent level. The game generally involves eight crewmates and two imposters (though one can change the number of imposters and crewmates if they would like), the latter of which must eliminate the former in order to win. Once you load into a game, you are randomly selected to be either a crewmate or an imposter. Crewmates must do tasks in order to raise a bar in the top left corner of the screen to its

maximum. Upon reaching its maximum, the game concludes with the crewmates being victorious. Another way the crewmates can win is by successfully finding out who the imposters are and then voting them off in a “discussion” phase.

If you are either eliminated by an imposter or voted off while you are a crewmate, you stay in the game as a ghost, capable of moving around and completing your tasks as though you were alive. As an imposter, you must eliminate the crewmates in order to win. You can sabotage the crewmates in an attempt to slow them down drastically while also increasing your chances of eliminating the innocent crewmates without being caught. Overall, the game is very enjoyable, and highly recommended to both the casual and competitive player.



Tweet leaks possible new content for Star Wars: Fallen Order game

By Paige Shoffler
staff writer

Star Wars: Fallen Order is well-beloved to Star Wars fans, and when The Escapist magazine alum, Shinobi602 posted on Twitter seemingly out of the blue, that the *Star Wars* game is getting DLC content in the future. The alum then deleted this Tweet, as either Shinobi602 leaked this

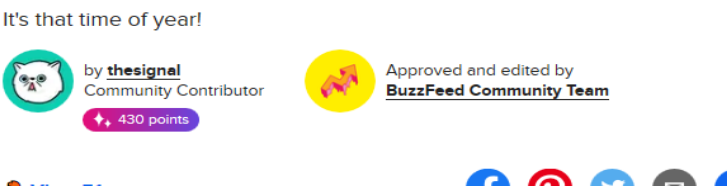
information, or this Tweet was a huge mistake. But there seems to be more information that confirms this Tweet.

The new *PS5* and *Xbox Series X* are not that far away, and *Star Wars: Fallen Order* might be one of the games that may be relaunched for those new consoles. The only way to know for certain is to wait and see.

Bored? Try these fun Winter related quizzes!

buzzfeed.com/thesignal

Everyone's Personality Matches A Starbucks Holiday Drink — Which One Are You?



Such as...

What Winter Activity Are You?
Which Hallmark Movie Trope Are You?
Everyone’s Personality Matches A Starbucks Holiday Drink - Which One Are You?