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THE SIGNAL

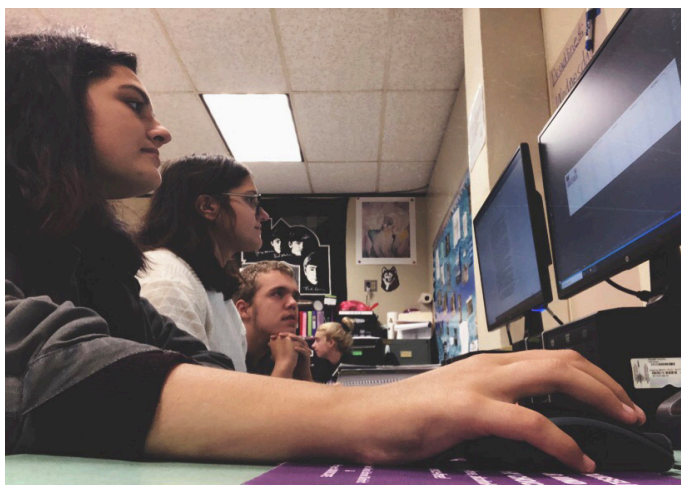
November 2019: Vol. I, ed. I

...online edition!

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Layout and Design Editors Emma Dailey, Caycee Kalinoski, and Bryce Anderson creating what you're reading now!

Music budget cuts not as dire as first thought

By Katelyn Zawalick, Jeremiah Thompson

A school budget making cuts to programs has always been a topic that stirs much controversy within a community. During the 2019-2020 school year, one cut that has stirred up quite a bit of drama is the chunk of money that was cut from the music program. But it might not be nearly as devastating as people think it is.

Orchestra director Mr. Justin Hollenberg and chorus director Mrs. Mary Ann Stump had fairly similar responses, both stating that while the cuts have moderately affected the ability to purchase new materials, instruments, and general classroom supplies, everything has remained relatively consistent compared to last year. Band director Mr. Kevin Styer was not available for comment at this time.

School newspaper *The Signal* reborn

By Mrs. Patricia Rhoads
Executive editor

Celebrities re-invent themselves. Contractors “flip” houses to improve them and to give them a new look. This year, the Shamokin Area Middle/High School newspaper has gotten a make-over, including a new name and expanded staff.

The Signal is the name of Shamokin Area’s student news publication, which will appear online and periodically in print. Over a decade “Indian Times” graced the flag of the school newspaper;

reborn, page 3



Trunk or Treat Fun

Hundreds of families line the high school parking lot for some sweet treats. More photos on page 5.

FBLA students compete at Penn State Trivia Bowl

By Caycee Kalinoski
Layout and Design Editor

For the first time ever, eight Shamokin Area High School students attended the Nittany Lion Novice V Trivia Bowl at Penn State Main Campus on October 12. Invited by Penn State University and sponsored by the Future Business Leaders of America, Mrs Suchanick chaperoned the group to State College. Split into teams of four, the group competed in rapid fire trivia rounds competing for the most points. Team A consisted of Emma Dailey, Joshua Bashore, Margaret Bowers, and Ian Paul. Team B Danielle Hinkle, Nathan Grimes, Rileigh Nowroski, and Jaden Kodack. Shamokin Area did not advance to the final round, however Mrs Suchanick complimented the students for “Having the best manners and sportsmanship.”



Trivia Bowl participants from left Ian Paul, Nathan Grimes, Danielle Hinkle, Joshua Bashore, Emma Dailey, Margaret Bowers, Rileigh Nowroski, Jaden Kodack.

Need some guidance?

By Nicholas Zimmerman

Have questions about applying to college? Are you interested in taking the SATs? Do you want to add or drop a course? If you need answers to these questions, or, if you are in need of words of wisdom, guidance counselor Mr. Matt Weller is the person you want to see.



Weller, who shares guidance counselor duties with Mrs. Desirae McCabe, helps students in seventh through twelfth grades with academic and social-emotional issues. He has been a guidance counselor for over 20 years and has been working in Shamokin for 20 years.

His endless duties include helping students with scheduling, the college application process, financial aid process, academic counseling, emotional counseling, and coordinating cyber school.

Weller, along with McCabe, coordinates PSSA testing and Keystone Exam. “When I first began coordinating the tests, I hated it, but as the years goes on, I really enjoyed it.”

Outside of Shamokin Area he is an adjunct instructor at Luzerne County Community College where he teaches an assortment of psychology courses. “I really understand that I’m very good at the community college. I really enjoy teaching the students there.”

FBLA: back in business

By Farrah Krum

In its second year, the Future Business Leaders of America, is back in action providing students opportunities to showcase their interests and talents in the areas of business law, accounting, and entrepreneurship.

FBLA members participate in business-oriented competitions and other activities that can lead to scholarships and grants for college. Interested students may attend FBLA meetings Friday morning during homeroom. Meetings are held in club adviser Mrs. Laura Suchanick’s room A-209.

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

News Editor - Kathryn Slotterback

Sports Editor - Joseph Masser

Features Editor - Jadyn Slovick

Photography Editor - Raven McCaffery

Art Editor - Emma Dailey

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

Reborn

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however, with a revamping of the Mass Media course and re-visioning of the publication itself, staff voted in September for the name change. The moniker's symbol aptly is a signal tower emitting radio waves. The idea combines the old and the new focusing on getting the 'signal' – or news – out to the public. Native Americans – the nod to Shamokin Indians -- communicated using a variety of signals; and in modern times, our information is transmitted via towers and technology.

Editorial staff includes: Kathryn Slotterback, senior, news editor; Jadyn Slovic, junior, features editor; Joseph Masser, senior, sports editor; Raven McCaffery, senior, photography editor and staff writer; and Emma Dailey, senior, art/layout/design editor and staff writer. Staff writers are Bryce Anderson, senior, also layout and design; Trynity Delvecchio, freshman; Grace Donahue, freshman; Collin Duganitz, junior; Kaitlyn Dunn, senior; Olivia Haupt, junior; Hannah Hess, freshman; Caycee Kalinoski, senior, also layout and design; Farrah Krum, senior; Ashlea Oakum, junior; Sydney Rhoads, junior; Megan Roman, junior; Angelina Schaeffer, senior; Paige Shoffler, junior; Jeremiah Thompson, junior; Dade Wilk, junior; Katelyn Zawalick, senior; Emma Zimmerman, junior; and Nicholas Zimmerman, senior.

"This is an exciting time for the entire school district. Our mission is to inform our readers about school issues, events, and people, to celebrate our successes, and to discuss in print how local, state, national, and global issues affect us," stated Mrs. Patricia Rhoads, teacher/executive editor. "I'm blessed with an editorial crew of 24 students who are enthusiastic and diligent about tackling this endeavor."

Publication dates, both online and print, will be determined over the next few weeks, but the staff plans to publish twice per month online and in print during the Christmas holiday season and at the end of the school year in time for graduation.

Curriculum Coordinator Mrs. Mary Teresa Komara, High School Principal Mr. Todd Hockenbroch and Superintendent Mr. Chris Venna, acquired funding to purchase an updated publishing program. Mr. S. Ben Anderson, technology coordinator, provided computer equipment and Mr. Ryan Shevitski, of the school's IT department, installed the equipment and program.

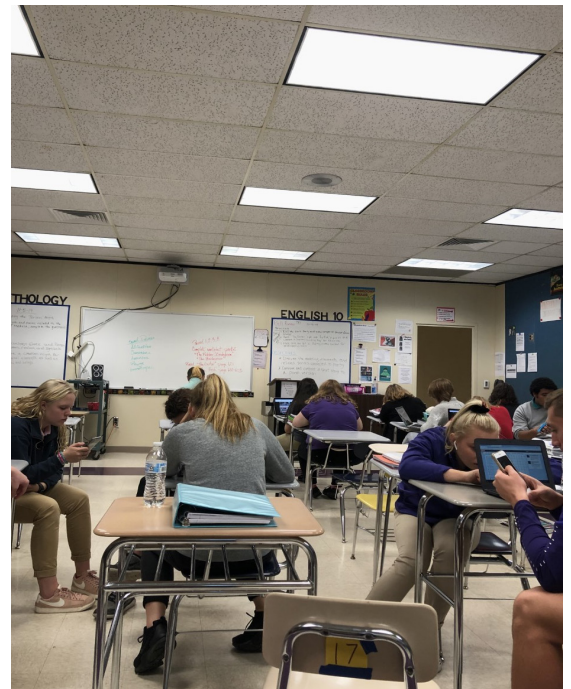
"We are very grateful for their support, which will help us achieve our goal of returning to the days where a school newspaper was an integral part of school life," Rhoads noted.

The Signal staff invites all students and staff in the Shamokin Area School District to contact us with story requests and ideas. Please email: thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us.

Budget

Continued From Page 1

Hollenberg had this to say about how it is affecting the orchestra, "The largest portion of my budget is for things like ordering new music and general classroom and rehearsal supplies. Fortunately, this is the only portion of the orchestra budget that was reduced, and I have still been able to do this in spite of the reductions. Other things like my budgeted amount for PMEA participation, transportation for field trips and performances, and for instrument repair have all remained consistent since last year – I just won't be replacing any instruments anytime soon." The only thing of any slight concern brought to the conversation was the steadily rising cost of PMEA festivals, which even then, seemed like it was relatively planned out and under control. "I'm watching to see how much the festivals cost this year. When we first started, the price was roughly \$120. Last year the price was \$160," Stump stated.



The Signal pressroom hard at work.

SAB Newsletter

Bullying is a big epidemic across many schools nationwide. As the world and people continue to progress and change, so do the methods of bullying and the ways of coping.

Bullying can be done in person, across social media platforms, performing actions behind other people's backs, and through many other methods. Bullying isn't always just name calling, most of the time there is a lot more to it. Bullying can include blackmailing, rumors, spreading secrets, talking about people negatively when they aren't around, and so much more. On the "Stop Bullying" website, a statistic from the 2017 "School Crime Supplement" said that nationwide, about 20% of students ages 12-18 have experienced bullying. The site also said that in other bullying surveys, approximately 30% of young people have stated that they have experienced bullying. Every case of bullying is different from one another, but there are many ways to get help and to cope with being bullied.

The first thing someone should do if they or someone they know is being bullied is to speak up. They should talk to an adult, a superior, or even a trusted friend. Sometimes children can be afraid to go to an adult about being bullied because they could be considered "childish" or a "tattle-tale". However, it can be a lot easier to reach out to someone they know on a more equal level, not a superior. Talking to a close, trusted friend is a great way for someone to not only tell somebody about what is going on, but also to relieve some of the despair of those hurtful actions. If a child chooses to go to a trusted friend instead of a superior, it is still very important that someone who can take higher action is involved, especially if anyone could be in danger. After the person being bullied talks to a trusted friend, the two of them should work out a plan to inform someone of higher power so the bullying can be stopped entirely. Even if the bullying gets dealt with, the hurtful actions taken against someone can still be a hard burden to bare, and sometimes the bullying may not go away completely right away.

There are many techniques to help ease the hardships of being bullied. One of the easiest ways to feel better is to cry. A lot of people don't like to cry in front of others, which is perfectly normal. Crying alone, or with other people, is a great way to drain emotions and just get feelings out of one's system. Talking to others is also a great way people can get the weights of different burdens off of their chests. Some people prefer to cope and deal with their emotions on their own. Taking a personal day is a great way to unwind from the stresses of everything that can go on in one's daily life. Taking time to be alone can be a very relaxing, excellent way to let go of other people's senseless actions. Listening to music, playing video games, writing a story, or just doing something that someone enjoys can lift so much negative energy off of someone's chest and in a sense, let them know that it's still okay to have fun.

Many people find different ways to express themselves through art and music. Drawing or learning how to play an instrument are easy, fun ways to move on and grow with all of the things people can do to negatively affect someone's life. Former President Jimmy Carter said "Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries". A lot of people also prefer to go out and socialize to deal with how cruel people can be. Joining sports or clubs is a fantastic way to not only cope with bullying, but also to make some new friends. Branching out of one's comfort zone can sometimes be a little scary or challenging, but it can reap many benefits.

Having a dedication to something makes people feel productive and lets them know that they are never, ever alone. There are always people out there who want to help and there is always someone who cares, even in the darkest of times. Sometimes one of the simplest ways to ignore bullying is to not be alone. Hanging out with friends and family or even just talking to someone on the phone can be a wonderful reminder that there are people who take time out of their day to hang out with people they care about. Not for any obligation, just because everyone enjoys the presence of the people close to them. Just remember, there is always, always help out there and everyone copes differently. There isn't just one way of coping, and all the different ways of coping are okay, as long as they are safe and make everyone feel better.



NHS invites new inductees

By Angelina Schaeffer

The Laudari Chapter of the National Honor Society will hold an induction ceremony for new members on Nov. 12 at 7:40 p.m. in the Shamokin Area Middle/High School Auditorium. Twenty-seven students who meet the requirements will be inducted. The serious induction ceremony begins with a candle lighting. The new inductees are then presented, at which time they recite the National Honor Society pledge. Following the ceremony, refreshments will be provided in the lobby. Anyone is welcome to attend the induction ceremony. Mr. Patrick McDevitt and Mrs. Megan McDevitt advise the schoolwide organization that exists to represent and encourage high moral, educational, and community standing. In addition to maintaining academic excellence, honor society students perform community and school services and raise funds for charitable causes.

One such event was participating in the school's first "Trunk or Treat" on Oct. 29. NHS members with vehicles were eligible to sign up for the event. NHS students also peer tutor in Mrs. Cooper's classroom, C110, during the first period.

The National Honor Society holds formal meetings in the balcony and informal meetings in Mrs. McDevitt's classroom, C324.

Trunk or Treat Fun

By Paige Shoffler

For the first time ever, Shamokin Area hosted a very successful Trunk or Treat event, where youngsters visited decorated vehicles for candy and other fun treats. The Building Essential Skills Together (B.E.S.T) Club sponsored the activity, which was held Oct. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the teachers' parking lot.

"It was a fun time," said Ms. Angela Rock, Interact Club adviser.

When asked what she liked best about the event, Miss Sierra Erdman, special education teacher and Trunk or Treat participant, noted, "The involvement and excitement of everyone getting together for the community and having fun."

And there was plenty of fun to experience. About a half hour before the event 'opened,' participants lined the campus sidewalk in front of the high school building in an orderly fashion. When given the 'ok,' children and their parents, guardians, and friends filed past each trunk, where they received candy and treats. Some stops included games or even a chance to 'walk the plank' at the pirate ship area!

"It was a huge success, and people hope to do it again next year," stated Mrs. Traci Beck, and eleventh and twelfth grade Life Skills teacher.

Mrs. Courtney Becker, a middle school Life Skills teacher, added, "It was a positive experience for our school and community."

Trunk or Treat participants included: Administration, Bainbridge Family, Fetterman Family, Class of 2021, Art Club, French Club, Fishing Club, Health Occupations (3 sites), Band, Anderson Family, National Junior Honor Society, National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Interact Club, Mimi Roman, Nutrition Inc., Serenity Gardens, High School AS, Elementary AS (two sites), Fourth Grade, Elementary Administration, Elementary Student Council, Kidsworld OT, Food Prep, B.E.S.T/Ms. Erdman, Builders Club, Truancy Team, Football Cheerleaders, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Girls Basketball, Cross Country, Purple Perk, High School Physical Education, SATV, and Palmer's.



Trunk or Treat offered fun for givers and receivers. Class of 2021 officers: from left Gianna Sinopoli, Olivia Haupt, Madison Bridy, Megan Roman; in photo at right senior Logan Williams and nurse Tammy Martin.



Doom Cacodemon
By Ethan Kauffman



The Lion
By Emma Dailey



Markiplier
By Sydney Startzel



Last Midnight
By Caycee Kalinoski

Do you want to showcase your artistic talent here? Submit artwork and your full name to thesignal@indians.k12.pa.us to be featured!

What is S.A.B.? *Students Against Bullying?*

By Emma Zimmerman

Bringing awareness about the effects of bullying and working to stop it in the Shamokin Area School District are the main goals of the Students Against Bullying Club, which kicked off its year by publishing a feature article about the forms of bullying and ways to cope.

Published and circulated earlier this month, the SAB newsletter story, written by sophomore Claudia Seidel, is titled "The Forms of Bullying and How to Cope with Being Bullied". The Signal received permission from Seidel and club adviser Mr. James Dressler, to reprint the story.

SAB, which meets once a week to every other week, is open to students in 7-12 grades. Its purpose is to "...bring awareness to the students about the effects of bullying, hoping that it stops with a change of attitude" according to Dressler. Some of the club's activities include painting murals and presenting informative skits.

Recently, the club has been preparing an anti-bullying presentation to present at the elementary school for the sixth graders.

Talking safety with the Superintendent

By Kathryn Slotterback
News Editor

All students walking through metal detectors and the implementation of clear or mesh backpacks for students are among the new changes that affect everyday life at Shamokin Area Middle/High School. The school board enacted the changes out of safety concerns and to provide an ideal learning environment.

Superintendent Chris Venna stated that the new year started off "very well. There were minimal issues to start. There were very successful back-to-school programs. We're very pleased."

Venna also confirmed that the new security measures are going well, that they are "running efficiently and no longer backed up." He added that the security measures were put into practice because "security is taken very seriously. We're implementing everything to ensure safety."

To the disappointment of many, carrying backpacks to class isn't something we'll likely see in the future. When asked about this possibility, Venna replied that "We haven't given any thought to it. We go over security every year, but we don't anticipate it."

More changes may be administered in the future as the district is "always looking for" new ways to improve safety.



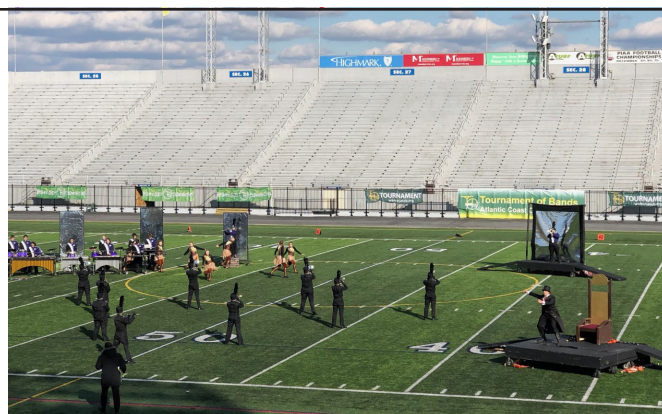
Class of 2022 welcomes new officers

By Hannah Hess

Members of the Class of 2022 elected Kate Amato as president of their class. Other officers include Dallas Scicchitano, vice president; Carter Smink, secretary; and Dominic Diehl, treasurer.

The class and its advisers, Mrs. Laura Suchanick and Mr. Jon Grybos, are selling "Purple Palace" T-shirts in late October through January. "I am enthusiastic for upcoming fundraisers," Suchanick said.

Suchanick teaches business classes to high school students, and her room is located in A209. Any tenth graders who need any advice or more information can report to her room. Grybos, located in C120, teaches history classes. Students may also check with him for updates about class activities and fundraisers.



SAHS Marching Band at Atlantic Coast Championship hosted at Hershey Stadium.



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SAHS Indians face-off against the MCA Red Tonadoes at the annual Coal Bucket Rivalry.

Photo Credits: Cody Dombrowski

Coal Shovel stays with the Tribe

By Kaitlyn Dunn

For the second year in a row, Shamokin Area Girls' Soccer Team retained the coveted Coal Shovel during its Oct. 13 game against Mount Carmel Area under the lights of Bernie Romanoski field. The team defended their home field and retained the Coal Shovel with a 3-0 victory. For the Shamokin Area girls soccer team there is no bigger night than the annual Coal Shovel game against their rival, Mount Carmel. The Coal Shovel game has been a tradition for 18 years, starting in 2002. The Indians put together a solid first half with Sadie Komara scoring her first goal off an assist from Kaitlyn Dunn. Komara also added another goal by finding the bottom left corner of the net. With around two and a half minutes left in the first half, the third goal came off the left foot of Emma Kramer with an assist coming from Komara. The Indians kept the Tornadoes off the board by solid play from their back four and keeping control of the midfield. Coach Todd Nye said, "It was a big win. They won the Coal Shovel with a shutout, qualified for district playoffs, and it was senior night." While this game was a success, the girls ended their season on October 22nd against Midd-West in a district playoff game. The team fell short with a score of 4-2.

2019 Coal Bucket: more than a game

By Joey Masser
Sports Editor

Success in sports is often measured in wins and losses. In the heart of the Coal Region there is a game that means much more: the "Coal Bucket." Sadly, in a heart-breaking but valiant match, Shamokin area lost to Mount Carmel Area 22-28.

"I never realized how intense and how much it means to each community," Shamokin Coach Henry Hynoski said.

Mount Carmel got off to a hot start forcing Shamokin to a 3 and out, and capped off a long drive with a 7-yard run from Shane Weidner, MCA running back. Everyone thought it was going to be another typical Coal Bucket game where Mount Carmel dominates in the trenches, but Shamokin bounced back on the following drive with a long 51-yard touchdown run from Max Madden, running back.

Mount Carmel had another Weidner rushing touchdown in the second quarter to boost their lead to 8. After quarterback Nate Grimes connected with wide receiver Joe Masser for a gain of 16 down to MCA's nine yard line. Shamokin had a chance to tie the game before halftime but Mount Carmel's pressure was too much to handle.

Mount Carmel came out strong in the second half with a long completion to Weidner and eventually Weidner extended the score to 21-6. Shamokin wasn't going away as Max Madden had another long touchdown run to bring Shamokin back into the game. Mount Carmel just kept on answering after another rushing touchdown. Shamokin pulled out a trick play as receiver Matt Schiccatano connected with Masser for a 56-yard touchdown. Offensively, the Indians have struggled to run the ball but against MCA they punched it right down their throat rushing for 271-yards but fell short of capturing their first Coal Bucket win in 23 years after quarterback Grimes threw an interception on the final play of the game.

Perhaps, the Indians' football faithful have suffered of late but the programs arrow is pointing up.

"This game changed Shamokin football forever; it was an incredible display of passion, toughness, and resilience. We will continue to rise to greatness," Coach Hynoski added. This year's Shamokin team could have been the team to beat MCA but the Tornadoes extended their streak to a consecutive 24 wins in the annual Coal Bucket game. Overall, the Indians reached the first round of playoffs, but lost to the number one seed Montoursville Warriors 42-0

Countdown To The Superbowl:

81 Days