

THE SIGNAL

SHAMOKIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Winter Edition 2023: ed XIV



The vaping epidemic: EXPOSED!

By *The Signal* staff

Because of the high volume of nicotine products confiscated from students, and because other code of conduct violations, the district plans to install facial recognition cameras to better identify the culprits and diminish the use of illegal substances and bad behavior.

According to Principal Todd Hockenbroch, facial recognition cameras can identify human faces in images or in videos by measuring facial features and applying that data to other collected images.

While not all students vape (i.e. to draw in and exhale the vapor from an e-cigarette or similar device for marijuana...Definition from dictionary.com), it is still a major problem in the district. Since the 2022-2023 school year started August 22, over 50 vapes were turned in to the office this year; sadly, that number continues to grow. Last year, the district turned over 200 vapes to the local police, Hockenbroch explained. (*VAPING, page 4*)

Shamokin is amped to host its first ever 2023 District 8 Modern Band Festival

By Ethan Kauffman, *managing editor*

Three seniors and one junior qualify for the 2023 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's (PMEA) District 8 Modern Band Festival. The event is set to be held in Shamokin on January 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shamokin Area Middle/High School auditorium. Hosting the festival is an honor for the district, since it will be the second district-level Modern Band Festival to ever be held in Pennsylvania, and the first one to ever be held in Shamokin!

Qualifying for the festival are Jacob Erdman, junior, vocals; Ethan Kauffman, senior, bass guitar; Aiden Krebs, senior, guitar; and Samantha Stancavage, senior, vocals. Hannah Bashore, senior, and Alaina Glowatski, junior, were also selected to be vocal alternates.

(*MODERN BAND, page 3*)

SGT moved to April 5!

By Leia Kiracofe, *staff writer*

"Shamokin's Got Talent" is switching seasons this school year. The traditional winter holiday favorite show had to be postponed from its Dec. 21 date to Wednesday, April 5. Because many participants suffered illnesses last month, organizers had no choice but to move the show.

While students and staff have to wait a few months for the show, it will still be the harbinger to another holiday; in this case, the show date is the Wednesday before Easter break. Similar to the past years, that day will be an Act 80 Day schedule. Classes will be cut a few minutes shorter, with the talent show occurring in the afternoon for the remainder of the day. The show will be live streamed for anyone who happens to miss school on this day.

(*SGT, page 19*)

CHECK THESE OUT!

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New school nurse helps student body

By Aden Kane *staff writer*

Whether she's dispensing ibuprofen, Band-Aids™, or good advice, Shamokin Area Middle/High School's new school nurse is doing what she loves to do...helping people.

"The thing that helps me go everyday is when I significantly help one person every day," says Jenifer Kepner, who started at the beginning of the school year. Kepner replaces nurse Keesha Kripplebauer from last school year.

Kepner started at Kutztown University for her bachelor's degree in registered nursing. Although she had thoughts on being a teacher she chose to go with being a nurse, "It's helping people that's what I love to do."

Since she started at Shamokin she said the most illnesses she has treated are common colds especially during allergy season. She's hoping to help every student with their health. In fact, the school nurse's job is more involved than people think. As a certified school nurse, Kepner is responsible for physical and dental exams, conducts vision and hearing screenings, takes heights, weights, and body mass index and conducts scoliosis screenings. She also updates and maintains student health records, administers medications, and first aid and works together with parents and school staff regarding student health issues.

"I enjoy learning the names of the students who come into my office," added Kepner.

In her free time Kepner enjoys horseback riding and reading books from authors like Beverly Lewis, Lauraine Snelling and Frank Peretti. At home, Nurse Kepner loves to garden and grows peppers and tomatoes.



Zakem Clinton (freshman) getting his height checked from nurse Kepner.

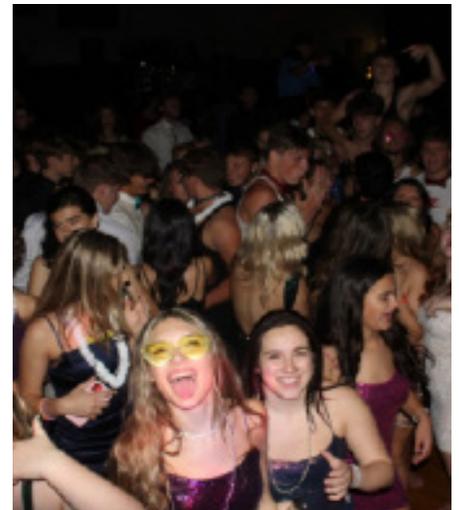
Homecoming 2022

Royalty



2022 Homecoming royalty include, from left, Blake Lahr, senior; who escorted senior Alyvia Charriez, princess; senior Chloe Kalman, queen, who was escorted by Carter Kramer, senior.

Celebrating and dancing



Lyla Barrett and Rylee Pensyl, center, surrounded by other students on the dance floor.

(Photos by Lyla Barrett, *staff writer and photographer*)

2023 District 8 Modern Band

...Continued from front page

The 2023 festival could be a leap in the induction of more Modern Band music programs at schools in the future.

“Modern Band is a new branch of PMEA, just to keep things consistent across Chorus, Orchestra and Band we wanted to add a Modern Band version of it. Some of the districts have guitars but it’s a lot of different versions of the same thing.” said Mr. Nelson Rodriguez, orchestra and modern band director. “I want to see more Modern Band programs at other schools. I want to see them start popping up because they can help with a lot of things. Not just help creating music department sections but it also helps to find singers for the Chorus, more Orchestra members, stuff like that.”

Rodriguez has been working in tandem with members of the PMEA in preparation to host the 2023 District 8 Modern Band Festival, which was open to students from all schools within the nine north-central Pennsylvania counties grouped under the PMEA District 8. These include Bradford, Snyder, Lycoming, Columbia, Union, Montour, Northumberland, Sullivan and Tioga counties. Students within the PMEA District 8 wishing to be a part of the festival were required to send in video auditions to Mr. Rodriguez by November 18.

Students participating in the festival include students from Benton, Cowanesque Valley, Lewisburg, Loyalsock, Mifflinburg, North Penn-Liberty, Selinsgrove, Shamokin, and Wyalusing high schools. These students all met Sunday, December 18 via Zoom with Dr. Bryan Powell, the Assistant Professor of Music Technology and Education at Montclair State University in New Jersey. In this meeting, accepted students will have a chance to meet one another and discuss the setlist of songs to be performed at the festival, which will be determined and solely chosen by the accepted students with Powell to help guide them in the right direction.

Powell also served as the clinician for November’s All-Nationals Modern Band Festival in Washington D.C., which included Shamokin’s very own Samantha Stancavage, senior, and will go on to serve as clinician for the District 8 Modern Band Festival as well as the National Association for Music Education’s (NAfME)

All-Eastern Modern Band Festival which will be held on April 15 in Rochester, NY.



Shamokin students selected to perform in the District 8 Modern Band Festival (From Left to Right) are Alaina Glowatski, junior, vocal alternate; Hannah Bashore, senior, vocal alternate; Samantha Stancavage, senior, vocals; Jacob Erdman, junior, vocals; Aiden Krebs, senior, guitar; Ethan Kauffman, senior, bass guitar. (Photo by Mr. Rodriguez, SAHS Orchestra and Modern Band director)

Marching Band...

Left, before coal bucket game; right, Halloween parade



VAPING

...Continued from front page

Where and how is vaping happening?

Walking into a bathroom and seeing five people crammed into one stall is an obvious sign of vaping or other behaviors that are illegal for minors. Students have admitted that boys' and girls' bathrooms both have incidents of students vaping. In fact, the third floor girls' bathroom was signaled out as a frequent vaping site by many students who were asked about this issue. Also, most staff are unaware of this going on because they use restrooms that are separate from students.

In addition to this, some students have become masters at hiding their vapes and sneaking them into the school without any further questioning. Some students hide their vapes in their sleeves or the collar of their shirts and blow out the smoke in their shirts to go unnoticed from a teacher's prying eyes. Since many of the cartridges, or 'tanks', are small, it is easy for students to hide the devices. Some students are just bold. For example, last year, a student vaped in a class, while another student was caught in class 'holding' a vape for another student. Because many vapes look like flash drives in size and appearance, they also may go unnoticed by faculty and staff.

What can be done to stop vaping in school?

"Stricter security checks upon entering the school and stricter penalties," security guard, Mr. Grant suggested. "There's nothing we can do after you leave the school."

Upon being asked how often he catches kids vaping in school stated confidently, "Twice a day." Mr. Grant and other security personnel aren't the only ones to discover students who vape. "Yes, kids bring them in all the time" states Mr. Luke Haupt, math teacher after being asked if he believes there is a vaping problem in our school district. Haupt, who often helps to check students and book bags as they enter the school in the mornings, knows that students try to sneak vapes into school. "They're easy to get into the school and it's not easy to notice when a student has one if it's not in their bookbag," he added.

What are the health risks?

As vaping in school becomes a more noticeable issue, it's safe to assume that kids don't understand the health risks that come along with vaping. There are many reasons as to why vaping is so harmful, especially for teens.

Vapes contain approximately 2,000 chemicals, including nicotine, which is an extremely addictive substance. Nicotine leads to other risks such as stunting the development of the adolescent's brain. The young brain is constantly growing and developing; in fact, it doesn't fully mature until the age of 25, but vaping hinders that and can make the brain develop at a slower rate than what is considered normal. The chemicals found in vapes also harm the parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control which can make it hard to do simple tasks or even to contribute to school work (Center for Disease and Control and Prevention). The brain isn't the only thing that is harmed when smoking nicotine; nicotine can also lead to pneumonia, lung cancer, and throat cancer.

EVALI, the e-cigarette-vaping-lung-injury condition mostly related to vaping, has been the cause of thousands of hospitalizations and numerous deaths. According to the CDC, EVALI cases peaked in 2019, with thousands of hospitalizations and numerous deaths. As of February 2020, the CDC reported 2,807 hospitalizations and 68 deaths. To date, there are 249 cases with five deaths.

Vaping doesn't only negatively impact your body's physical health, it also affects your mental health. When someone becomes addicted to nicotine, their body and brain are now dependent on having nicotine in their bloodstream; without it they can experience symptoms of nicotine withdrawal, which include symptoms such as irritability, restlessness, feelings of depression or anxiety, problems concentrating, and craving nicotine. Many teens who start vaping as a way to relieve stress unknowingly create the cycle of nicotine addiction which causes more stress and perpetuates the cycle.

In addition to nicotine, e-cigarettes contain numerous toxic and carcinogenic (cancer-causing) chemicals, ultrafine particles that can be inhaled into the lungs, volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead, according to the National Library of Medicine.

Is there a law?

While there is no law against vaping, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase or use tobacco products, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, PA Act 112, vapes fall under that category.

The Shamokin Area School District has a specific policy and consequences concerning tobacco products. (See sidebar)

The novelty of vaping, the unique designs of the vapes and related paraphernalia, and the appealing flavors, are all reasons why young people are turning toward this somewhat newer, but very dangerous, habit. It's no wonder there's such a high volume of students bringing their vapes to school. As a community, we can be proactive and take the extra steps to prevent vaping in our schools. Teens should not succumb to peer pressure and their environments and expose themselves to vaping. Addiction has been a problem in the community for many years, but that doesn't mean it needs to be a problem in our school as well.

- Given police over 200 tobacco products in the last years.
- New policy: \$300 fine for any tobacco products
- Combined \$16,200 fine as of right now.
- Combined 600+ total hours of community service.
- Sensors for vapes to be added to bathrooms.
- 160 new possible cameras with facial recognition
- First Offense: Three (3) days out of school suspension and charges filed with magistrate
- Second Offense: Five (5) days out of school suspension and charges filed with the magistrate
- Third Offense: Ten (10) days out of school suspension, charges filed with magistrate, and referral to superintendent for an administrative hearing
- Subsequent Offenses: An immediate referral to the Board of School Directors to determine if the student shall remain in school. Out of school suspension also be levied by the building administrator, with the number of days such suspension at the discretion of the administrator, up to a maximum of ten (10) school days.

Challenge accepted!

Outdoor recreation class works on team development

By Joseph DeWitt, *staff writer*

The challenge begins as the Shamokin Area Outdoor Recreation class starts on the provocation of the ropes courses.

Throughout the school year, outdoor recreation students will tackle the daring adventure of the high and low ropes course located west of Kemp Memorial Stadium.

Taking the class just for fun or for a physical education credit, students work hard to learn new skills and techniques. Teachers Mr. Jim Dressler and Mrs. Connie Boyer provide guidance as students attempt to finish the obstacles of the ropes course and in other outdoor recreational activities, including mountain biking and kayaking. Students also learn how to use a compass and other skills that will be helpful on any outdoor adventure.

This is a class mainly developed on team work. The whole point of this class is to learn how to conquer obstacles and challenges together as a team. These obstacles are of much fun but can sometimes not be conquered alone.



Students Brian Jovel-Martinez, senior and Kane Rabka, sophomore work together to climb the ropes course. (Photo by Joseph DeWitt, *staff writer*)

Students travel across the pond for “Scots, Bards, and Brits” trip

By Lillian Yost, *staff writer*

Despite a pandemic and a delay of two years, 15 Shamokin Area students and four adults traveled to England and Scotland in July as part of the “Scots, Bards, and Brits” trip.

“Well, originally the trip was planned for 2020, but two years of COVID delays meant we could finally go in 2022,” stated Mr. Keller, trip organizer. “While there was concern about the Omicron variant, especially in the winter of 2021-22, we just stuck to it and refused to panic by canceling yet again, believing the variant would hopefully fade away. While it never faded away, it did prove less concerning and travel restrictions throughout the world were eased and even eliminated, meaning the trip would be on.”



Students and staff of Shamokin Area UK trip walking across the York City Wall

The group departed July 12 from the Newark Liberty Intl. Airport in New Jersey on a 7-hour overnight flight. Once arriving in London, everyone was buzzing with excitement. Being in a big city in a new country was something some students had never experienced before. “My advice for future student travelers is to research the places you want to go, take it all in, and enjoy every second of it,” says Nina Wilk, a junior, who went on the trip.

The group visited a few cities in England, including Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. They spent two nights in London, and one night in Stratford-upon-Avon, and another night in York. From England, the group traveled to Edinburgh in Scotland and spent another two nights there.

The trip included many tourist attractions, such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Westminster Abbey, as well as a visit to the British Museum in London. The travelers visited Oxford and got to go punting in the River Thames. Punting in England means boating in a flat-bottomed boat (a punt), where the punter pushes a pole against the bottom of the river to move the boat.

Students and chaperones even got to venture off on their own and go shopping in squares filled with high-end stores.

“I am so happy I went on the trip! I loved London; it was very pretty and the shopping experience was amazing,” says senior Liv Reese.



ENHANCED PROTECTION GIVES NEW HOPE TO STUDENTS

Moderna™, and *Pfizer-BioNTech* produce Bivalent vaccines

By Zak Zanella, news editor

While the COVID-19 virus may continue to affect students and teachers across the district, there is new hope on the horizon. *Moderna™*, and *Pfizer-BioNTech*, two of the world's biggest pharmaceutical companies, have been granted authorization by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to produce an updated version of their COVID-19 booster shots, known as the Bivalent vaccine. Both of these individual vaccines have been authorized for use as a single booster dose (*Moderna's* vaccine will be for kids who are six years old to 11 years old, while *Pfizer-BioNTech's* vaccine will be for kids who are five years old to 11 years old). They will become critical next steps in providing individuals with increased protection against severe disease and death from this ever-changing pandemic.

Recently, on October 12, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., signed off on a decision memo, allowing to further expand the usage of the two vaccines for these younger age groups. They're being said to include amounts of Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protection to the current vaccine composition, helping to supply increased protection over the Omicron variant.

Additionally, the new vaccines contain mRNA, or messenger RNA components, which are essential components that help the human body function properly. It works by sending a vital response to the body's immune system to teach it how to make a specific protein to prevent it from catching certain contagious diseases. When someone receives this updated vaccine, antibodies will be able to easily form inside the immune system, all the while allowing white blood cells, or T cells, to attack the disease. *Moderna™* previously introduced a preventive vaccine authorized for individuals who are 18 years old and older, marketed under the name *Spikevax*. "With Bivalent boosters available for most age groups, families have access to updated tools as they head into the winter months and holiday gatherings," says Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer of *Moderna™*.



Stéphane Bancel, Chief Executive Officer of *Moderna™*.

Pfizer's Chief Executive Officer, Albert Bourla, has stated that additional protection was well anticipated, and that millions of doses will be able to be administered to assist families in staying up-to-date with their vaccinations. "We aim to provide school-aged children with additional protection against the Omicron BA.4 and B.5 subvariants, which continue to account for more than 80% of cases in the U.S.," he declared. "This milestone is important to be able to provide access to variant-adapted vaccines to a broader population," adds Dr. Uğur Şahin, co-founder of *BioNTech SE*.

Ever since these two shots hit shelves, the CDC has taken the opportunity to continuously update the emergency use introductions, in consultation with the FDA, and they currently recommend that every child's parent stays up to date by receiving this updated vaccine if it's been two months since their last COVID-19 dose, whether it be their original primary dosage or their first booster shot. All COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to be offered free of charge to all people living in the United States, regardless of their immigration or health insurance status. But, if symptoms begin to develop overtime upon your vaccination, patients should seek immediate medical attention from a doctor.

SPRING MUSICAL BRINGS LONDON TO SHAMOKIN

By Hannah Hess, *features editor*

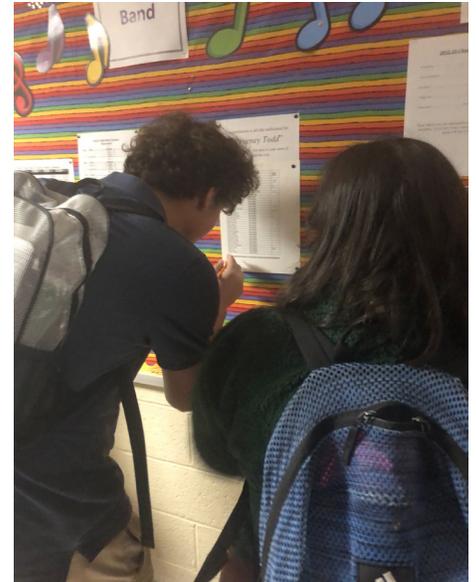
The cast of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” will be bringing “the worst pies in London” to Shamokin Area on March 31 and April 1. Headlining the show will be Jacob Erdman, junior, as Sweeney Todd and Samantha Stancavage, senior, as Mrs. Lovett.

The cast also includes: Ethan Kauffman, Anthony Hope; Alaina Glowatski, Johanna; Owen Amato, Judge Turpin; Caden Hynoski, Beadle Bamford; Eric Zalar, Adolfo Pirelli; Bennet Elio, Tobias Ragg; Hannah Bashore, Beggar Woman; Molly Rossnock, Jonas Fogg; Sandy Lin, Bird Seller. Ensemble members are Aaron Tinnin, Abigail Long, Abby Lowry, Alaina Combs, Arianna Jovel-Martinez, Autumn Peifer, Brandie Yoncuski, Brielle Hornberger, Brooke Kerstetter, Carlee Allison, Elliott Bennet, Emma Boyer, Gabriel Grow, Hannah Hess, Jayden Duganitz, Jess Hadfield, Kenedy Snyder, Makayla Eyster, Makiya Zaleskie, Nadia Williams, Nevaehla Rodriguez, Raven Dudra, Ronin Elio, and Rylee Bickert.

Auditions were held in November with interested students having to choose and memorize a monologue and a portion from “My Friends,” “Not While I’m Around,” and “Johanna” for the men, and “Green Finch and Linnet Bird,” “By the Sea,” and “The Worst Pies in London,” for the females.

Sweeney Todd is a musical drama following the deranged Sweeney Todd, a renegade barber seeking revenge on the corrupt vermin and high society of London who took his life away from him. He is followed by his contemporary, Mrs. Lovett, the owner of a pie shop underneath Sweeney Todd’s old establishment who is acclaimed to make “the worst pies in London.”

The cast is working hard almost everyday with rehearsals Mondays and Wednesdays 6 to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. This year’s musical includes lots of drama, singing, and of course acting! The cast and crew are hoping to bring Broadway to Shamokin and pack the auditorium!



Students check cast list after auditions

Annual powderpuff game kicks off another year with cheating scandal

By Jayden Dugnaitz, *staff writer*

Was it cheating or did the seniors earn the call that gave them a last-minute chance to tie the juniors in the annual Powder Puff Football Game?

The Powder Puff Football game, held Nov. 8 in Kemp Memorial Stadium, featured two matches: freshmen versus sophomores and juniors versus seniors. Members of the boys’ football team from the respective grades served as coaches and Mr. Matt Weller, guidance counselor, was the referee.

The freshman team, wearing pink, battled the sophomores who repped light blue. In a match filled with laughter, yelling, fights, and hugs, the first half concluded with a 0-0 score. The second half was uneventful until the final minutes of the game when sophomore Kamryn Kramer scored the winning touchdown. The 21 freshmen players were led by coaches Mason Smith, Carter Murphy, Andrew Leffler, and Chase Anderson. The sophomore team, which consisted of 19 girls, was led by coaches Chase Pensyl, and Ty Kurtz.

The second competition pitted juniors against seniors. Both teams were experienced, having faced off against each other before. The game was a rough one, with no score in the first half. Luckily, a few minutes into the second half, junior Kennedy Petrovich scored a touchdown which would be the junior’s only score of the night. As the game came to an end—with the juniors still up with the score of 7-0 and doubles zeros on the clock – referee Matt Weller decided to take pity on seniors and let them end with the ball. The game went into overtime, and senior Madison Lippay scored the seniors’ only touchdown of the night, ending the game with a tie between the two grades with a final score of 7-7.

The juniors, which had a roster of 15 girls, wore dark blue shirts and were coached by Hunter Wertz. The 21-member senior team, which wore black shirts with pink lettering, was coached by Colton Lynch, Ryder Zulkowski, Brett Nye, and Corey Adams. In the end, was the ref’s call an illegal one? Many are suspicious that this is the second year in a row for the unusual last-play decision.



DeWitt enhances Crocs™ one Jibbitz™ at a time

By Nevaeh Grant, *managing editor*

Senior Joey DeWitt has ‘charmed’ his way into a part-time job this summer.

The young entrepreneur operates Kool Kidz Charms selling Jibbitz™ charms for Crocs™ footwear. The trinkets are small additions to the clog-like shoes and can be anything from a flower to symbols from pop culture, such as Harry Potter™ brooms, wings, and glasses and Anime figures.

DeWitt was inspired by his mother, who sells snap jewelry. Wanting to have a business of his own, he decided to sell Jibbitz™ and set up booths at summer events, including the Remembrance Event at the Mother Cabrini baseball field, a Harry Potter™ festival in Wilkes Barre, Northumberland County Career and Arts Center events, and a few tractor shows. Recently, Dewitt’s Kool Kidz Charms participated in the Tharptown Christmas activities.

Dewitt says his customers are people of all ages, even people in their mid-twenties, who buy the adornments, which have been a Crocs™ necessity for almost 20 years.

According to online sources, stay-at-home mom, Sheri Schmelzer, created Jibbitz™ in 2005. When Duke Hanson, the owner of Crocs™ noticed the homemade clay charms on Schmelzer’s daughter’s Crocs™, he was impressed and interested. A \$10 million dollar business deal, and millions of dollars and years later, Jibbitz™ have become a pop culture sensation.

As for DeWitt, the profits from his sales will help with his future.

“I want to go to college for cybersecurity in the future. I plan on continuing this business and hopefully adding on to it making it bigger.” DeWitt. One day, he hopes to be able to make freeze dried treats and sell them, too. “It makes me happy when I see kids find a product that they have been looking for everywhere and I so happen to have it.”

College Fair

(Photos by Zak Zanella, *news editor*)



Mikaela Hanko, Junior, Allison Carranza, Junior, and Noel Cruz, junior pose with Lily Nardozi, the admissions counselor for Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, PA.

Emma Taylor, junior, and Elijah Tinnin, junior pose with Jessica Rogers, a registered nurse at Geisinger’s School of Nursing in Lewistown.

Desiree McCabe, guidance counselor, is seen posing with Justin Magistro, an admissions representative for Universal Technical Institute.

National Junior Honor Society inducts 17

By Tyler Kerstetter, *staff writer*

The Shamokin Area Middle/High School's annual National Junior Honor Society induction inducted 17 students during a Nov. 9 ceremony in the auditorium.

Every year eighth and ninth graders that have proven themselves to be exceptional individuals in their school, community, and family are welcomed into the society.

National Junior Honor Society inductees are expected to participate in frequent but exciting service opportunities. Some of these service opportunities include helping at the annual Oasis 5K, the elementary school's "Read Across America" week, and interacting with students from the Northumberland County's Career and Technology Center's "Tiny-Tech" program for numerous things.

"One thing we would like to do is develop a tutoring program," said Mrs. Alonso, eighth grade English teacher and National Junior Honor Society adviser. "It's something that's in the works."

On top of all these fun activities, the experience lays the foundation for being inducted into the National Honor Society, the more prestigious group for students in tenth through twelfth grades.

"It's always going to help when you're building up all the things that you're part of to go to college," remarked Alonso. "It's a National Junior Honor Society thing, it's not just a Shamokin thing."

Mrs. Alonso has been an adviser for many years; past advisers included Mrs. Rossnock and Mrs. Kehler.

"I've been doing it for like ten years," said Alonso. "And it's been way before then."

However, all this fun comes with some responsibilities. National Junior Honor Society inductees are expected to obtain notable scores on the Pennsylvania State School Assessments (PSSA's), have a 93 percent average, and have no disciplinary problems.

"The students who are not just doing well in school with grades, but are also involved in the community," said Alonso. "They have to be involved in at least three activities in or outside of school."

The most important advice nevertheless, is to be extremely involved and have great scores on tests and assignments.

"My advice would be...do well in your classes," stated Alonso. "You need to study, turn in your work, and do well in all of your classes."



(Photo by Lyla Barrett, *staff writer*) Seventeen students of Shamokin Area Middle/High School were inducted into the National Junior Honors Society on November 9 at 6 p.m.

Over 200 students retaking the 'winter wave' of Keystone Exam

by Carter Maurer, *staff writer*

As of recent times, schools have been adopting the use of computers and technology for their classrooms. Because of this, Shamokin Area School District has decided that students will take their Keystone Exams virtually.

"For the first time in over 10 years, the Keystone Exams will be administered online instead of the pencil and paper version," says Matthew Weller, guidance counselor.

The 'Winter Wave' of Keystone Exams were held Dec. 5-16 for students who did not pass their spring Keystone Exams from last year. According to Mr. Weller, over 25% passed the Algebra Keystone, 50% passed the Literature Keystone, and 40% passed the Biology Keystone.

"We have a little more retaking the Keystones this winter. We did not have the best spring results," says Mr. Weller.

Keystones will also only be taken online in the future; however, students with an IEP will have the pencil and paper option.

This year's spring Keystone Exams will be held May 15-26.



(Photo by Lillian Yost, *staff writer*) Twenty-Seven students of Shamokin Area High School were inducted into the National Honor Society on November 9, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Vítejte ve Spojenýchstátech!

Czech student experiences school and life in Shamokin Area



By Lyla Barrett, *staff writer*

Twelve hours of air travel and a distance of 3,481 miles (5,601 kilometers) away from home would make anyone a little homesick; however, homesickness is not a problem for Petra Chalupová, Shamokin Area's foreign exchange student for the 2022-2023 school year.

This brave exchange student has traveled from Czech Republic to Shamokin, Pennsylvania. Yet, Petra isn't scared of this experience since she is looking at it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. This 17-year-old girl is stronger than most. Petra has left her home, family, and friends just to get the American high school experience.

"I like the school system here, It's more fun and not as uptight as it was back in Czechoslovakia," Petra stated.

Dances and other school festivities are new to Petra. She finds prom and homecoming exciting since her high school back home doesn't have dances or celebrations like we do. Looking at American colleges/universities is a new and interesting concept since the Czech Republic doesn't have a large following. Cheerleading is new for Petra and she found that she loves it.



Senior, Petra Chalupová, foreign exchange student cheering on the sidelines of a Shamokin Area football game (*photo by Lyla Barrett, staff writer*)

While there are many positives, Petra has found some negatives. "Everything is so expensive," she said. "For example, back home we get a meal that would be about five dollars but here one meal is near 20 dollars."

She also is confused as to why Americans wear shoes around the house since a child "wouldn't dare to keep their shoes on" back home. The food here is extremely unhealthy and when she got here Petra couldn't eat large servings without becoming sick. However, Petra is happy with the new experience of America, but she does miss her twin sister, mom, and friends back in the Czech Republic.

At the end of her placement, Petra will graduate with a high school diploma from Shamokin Area High School, but since this is only a one year exchange program, the diploma will not go with her education back home. When she returns she will have to go back to studying tourism which she is considering pursuing a career in. During her two years of studies she's planning on figuring out if she wants to return and live in the United States.

It's never too late to "Be Real"

By Hannah Hess, *features editor*

Shouts through the hallways of school or the aisles of a grocery store "BeReal, BeReal, BeReal!" can almost always be heard at any given time. What is BeReal? According to the BeReal website, "Your friends for real. Every day at a different time, everyone is notified simultaneously to capture and share a photo in two minutes." You never know when the notification will erupt. Is it a distraction to students, or is it the newest best thing?

"I BeReal all the time. I never try to be late because that's embarrassing. If it goes off in class I must sneak a pic," Grace Donahue, senior enthusiastically recalled when asked about her favorite app.

Madison Wyland, eighth grader expressed "I would say it's cool and it's a nice app. I don't use it all the time but it's fun to take pictures with friends."

Since the app goes off periodically it can be a disturbance for students or staff. "It's an interesting concept. It can be a distraction during class which is negative but could be a positive thing," Mr. Mcgugan, art teacher. "I do not like BeReal. I think it's annoying and people that randomly take a picture of anything is weird." stated an angry anonymous ninth grader. BeReal can be a fun app to capture fun moments but only if it is used appropriately. As a consensus, not everyone likes the app.

**BE
REAL.**

The History Club makes history with new e-magazine

By Lyla Barrett, staff writer

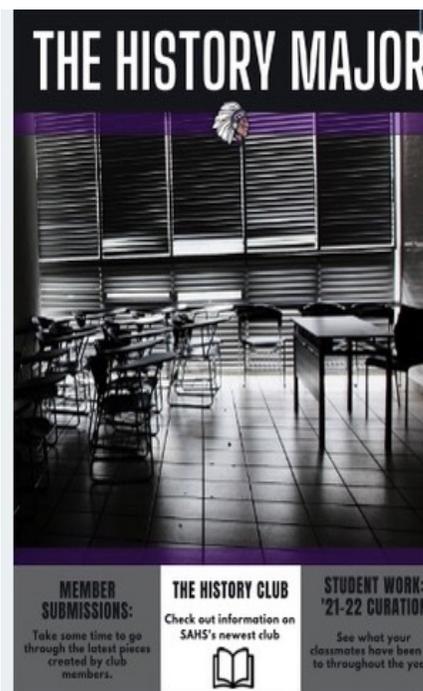
The history of the world may be considered boring to some, but the History Club is the furthest thing from boring. In fact, the club is now publishing *The History Major*, which is Shamokin Area High School teacher Mr. Jon Grybos’s newest project.

The History Major, started in the 2021-2022 school year, is a newsletter run by the History Club. Deemed a “Tri-Annual E-Magazine”, *The History Major* tells its readers about pop culture and interesting things happening in our country, county, and our community overall! The impressive digital publication includes History Club activities, events, stories, and other student work.

The members of the club meet on one Thursday of each month and plan out all of their upcoming events. “The History Club’s mission is to foster an engaging and beneficial social group for students interested in history and social studies. Our club will not only stimulate the study of history beyond the classroom, but also allow the students to participate in various history related opportunities throughout the school year”, Mr. Grybos stated. The activities in the club are more than just writing *The History Major*; they hold movies, debates, and have trivia nights. The club also features guest speakers and conducts college visits. The staff of *The History Major* are very excited with all the upcoming events within the new school year. The events will include creating new magazine issues, voting on history student of the year, creating a club history day contest, improving and maintaining the club’s social media, planning a club trip, organizing the *2nd Annual Craig Kerstetter Trivia Night*, organizing club debate and movie nights, planning community service, and holding mock elections. All of these events will prepare students for the future and potential real world situations.

History Club officers include Anthony Feudale, senior, president; Micaela Hinds, junior, vice president; Gabriel Grow, sophomore, historian; Owen Amato, junior, secretary; Nina Wilk, junior, treasurer; and Vance Shiko, senior, fact-checker.

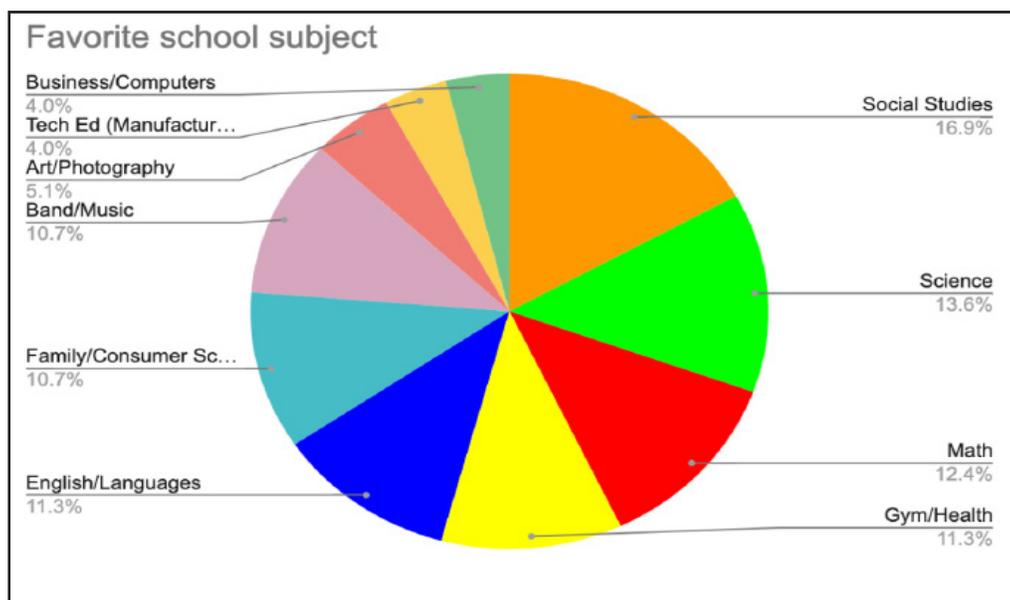
Readers can access *The History Major* through Shamokin Area High School’s website under the History Club tab or through the link <https://sites.google.com/view/thehistoryclub/home>.



Petrovich wins gift card as part of student/staff survey

By Sophie Sienkiewicz, staff writer

Kennedy Petrovich, junior, was the winner of a \$5 Purple Perk gift card from Mrs. Suchanick as part of a survey activity in Mrs. Suchanick’s third period computer programming class. A total of 178 students and staff participated in the survey, which was to help the students create a database with their own charts and information from questions they developed. The survey contained basic questions such as “What is your favorite school subject?”, the favorite being social studies with 16.9%. Other fun questions were, “What’s your favorite movie?”, *Step Brothers* being number one with 33.3%, *Hocus Pocus* at two with 23.8%, and a surprising tie for third between *Saw* and *Halloween*.



School dress code debate

By Autumn Kehler, *staff writer*

More and more public schools have been requiring students to wear a specific dress code. However, at Shamokin Area High School, this year has been special. Since the air conditioning and ventilation systems are being worked on, students have been permitted to wear whatever they want to school to maintain comfort throughout the day. This has provided them with an opportunity to be more comfortable and express themselves within the realm of a few guidelines. In spite of that, students are no longer allowed to dress comfortably, and must be in school dress code. Students should be allowed to wear whatever they want to school, but within guidelines.

The dress code has been hotly debated at school board meetings and throughout students and staff members for years. Some people that believe the dress code is beneficial say that it is more affordable for some students. Others think that it emphasizes a more serious learning environment throughout the school. However, that is not true for all students.

Schools should do what is best for their students, but also what their students want, or things that will be able to make them learn better. “I love the relaxed dress code because I get to express myself in a way that’s besides my personality,” Kenadie Rowe, sophomore, passionately explained. By having the dress code, students feel as if they cannot be themselves. Everyone dressing the same way really limits them to being creative or wearing things that make them feel good about themselves.

Students will learn better if they are in a comfortable state. They are more focused on their studies when they aren’t thinking about being in uncomfortable clothing. In fact, the dress code causes more issues; some students will bend minor dress code rules and get into a lot of trouble for it. So, if students are going to wear what they want anyway, it would make sense to just do away with it entirely. In return, it would make less work for teachers and administrators since they wouldn’t have to deal with dress code write-ups all the time. It will be interesting to see what the school board decides to do for the remainder of the school year.

Thou shalt not walk...

By Lyla Barrett, *staff writer*

Terror struck spectators in Kemp Memorial Stadium early this year! “Everyone must be seated!” “There shall be no walking, running, or gossiping around the stadium.”

In September, the district enacted a new rule that prevents walking around the stadium during games; however, fans are permitted to move about to visit the food stands or use the restrooms. A brouhaha involving students and fans precipitated the new rule which angered the fans, students in particular.

Others’ mistakes should not affect all, but sadly – and usually – everyone gets blamed for the action of one. It is unfair to the students and other spectators! We need to eliminate this new rule since this is a serious problem that can become worse. ‘Football Fridays’ used to be fun. Elementary kids for decades played with the foam footballs in front of the bathrooms while middle schoolers have fun and often pointless conversations on ‘the hill’. High school students log laps from bleacher to bleacher to escape their families. This new rule punishes students since they will now miss out on their experiences with the stadium ‘rights of passage’ and freedom to move around! It is unfair since generations prior got to experience these things.

The older generation will be negatively affected, too. After putting in a long workweek, they are tired by the time the Friday night lights start shining. They just want to enjoy seeing their children play on the field, support their alma mater, and be entertained by watching the game. Complaining, crying, shouting, and nagging young people now stuck in the stand will drive these spectators away.

This is in no way a beneficial rule since children and adults will become trapped together. Violence is inevitable anywhere but forcing everyone to sit in the bleachers is more dangerous. No one can escape each other and it will now become much easier to fight with somebody. The district needs to revisit, and hopefully abolish, this rule. Don’t let one incident revoke an important part of our Football Friday traditions!

THE SIGNAL

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

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

Teens don't have time to sleep on this!

By Ethan Kauffman, *managing editor*

10 hours a night eases your plights.

Scientifically, teenagers are required to have around 8-10 hours of sleep per night [1]. Scientifically, teenagers also go to sleep later than what they ideally should due to a change in hormonal releases in the brain involving the chemical melatonin [2], resulting in the average bedtime to clock in around 11 p.m.. to 1 a.m.. in a given night [3]. High schools across the United States have an average start time of around 8:00 a.m. [4].

See the problems here?

People say teenagers are “lazy” and “unmotivated,” when in actuality they’re just sleep deprived!

Teenagers have overloaded schedules, what with college prep, schoolwork, extracurricular activities, jobs, and all the hormonal changes occurring in their bodies. It’s only natural for teens to be up late and sleep as much as they can when they can.

Chalk it up to overworking, not enough time in a day, whatever you’d prefer but the fact of the matter is that teens need rest. They aren’t getting it and that can be very dangerous to their health and safety. There are correlations between sleep deprivation and mental disorders, as a lack of sleep can cause depression and anxiety in teens or even worsen such disorders. Depression can cause a lack of motivation which will, in turn, cause lower grade performance and thus heighten anxiety which in turn can cause more depression and so on and so on... It’s a vicious cycle isn't it?

Furthermore, a lack of sleep cannot only affect the safety and wellbeing of the teenagers, but also the safety of everyone else. For example, studies show that 1 in 10 car crashes are due to drowsy driving, and teenagers account for around 50 percent of them [5].

So what can schools do to at least manage some of these problems? Could the solution really be as simple as starting school a little later in the day? The answer to that is a little skewed, as that in and of itself is its own topic. Perhaps the true solution relies on the parents, or, heck, even some protest from the group that it’s solely effecting. Write to your school, bring it up in PTA meetings, sign petitions, or even speak either directly to your local school board member or at a school board meeting. However one may go about, be sure to have a strong backing and a group of like-minded individuals for support. After all, change can never be achieved if there’s only one voice to shout for it.

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Recreational marijuana needs to lose its stigma and be legalized

By Tyler Kerstetter, *sports editor*

As the use of recreational marijuana is legalized in more and more nearby states, the question arises: Should Pennsylvania legalize recreational marijuana?

As revealed by Pennsylvania state law, possessing any amount of marijuana is still a criminal offense, and carries a \$500 fine and 30 days in jail.

When someone thinks of a criminal, usually murderers, robbers, or assaulters come to mind, not a man in jail for owning a small amount of substance that’s deemed legal in 19 other states. It’s almost incomprehensible, but 13,000 people were arrested in 2021 for simple possession alone. Of these 13,000 people arrested, every one of them is going to have a hard time finding an employer that accepts criminal records.

Pennsylvania’s legislators are doing little to fathom the ever-growing industry of cannabis. Almost every neighboring state to Pennsylvania has legalized it.

What are they waiting for? It might be that marijuana usage is often seen to go hand-in-hand with crime. That couldn’t be further from the truth. It’s just like alcohol. Of course alcohol can be dangerous, but only when misused. For some it’s used as a past-time with friends, and others it’s a hobby.

With new laws presented, marijuana would become much safer. Marijuana dispensaries would need to be licensed. Furthermore, that would be the only legal way people could get marijuana. Still, smoking in heavily populated places would be illegal; however some places can still allow it. It would be similar to places that allow cigarettes or tobacco to be used on the premises.

In the end, it’s simply outrageous that Pennsylvania hasn’t fully legalized marijuana yet. It would only help the state become more of a free region that William Penn originally wanted it to be.

College is worth it

By Emily Stanton, *staff writer*

The number of students and young adults that don't get a college education after graduation has significantly increased over the last few years. About 32.9% of students do not earn a degree after high school. Some people say that a college degree does not always guarantee a job after graduation, but there are many reasons as to why a college education is so important.

One reason as to why college is so important is because, on average, you will earn more at a job than you would without a degree. High paying jobs typically require a degree for the specific skill that is required for the job, such as psychology, engineering, environmental science, etc. Without advanced education or a specified certification after high school, you will not be able to be employed at jobs that will pay as well. Workers who have earned a bachelor's degree on average earned around \$1,334-\$525 more per week than workers with a postsecondary education, says Southern New Hampshire University.

Another reason it's beneficial to go to college is because of your higher chance of employment. Employers for most jobs typically require at least a bachelor's degree; without it you will most likely be turned away from jobs because you haven't been through the proper training or have the official requirements.

Lastly, getting a college education prepares you for your future career and everyday life. Going to college will show you what exactly your career and day to day life will be like, how much work it is, how you cope with certain things that will be directly related to your field. All in all, college is a very important part of your life and it's more than worth it to get that level of education. Without it, you'll have trouble finding a job, making good money and knowing and planning for your future.

Becoming is honest and inspiring *Coraline* accentuates amazing art and animation.

By Aden Kane, *staff writer*

Becoming is written by Michelle Obama, the former first lady of the United States of America and is a New York Times best seller. When I started reading the novel I simply couldn't put it down. I was really interested in Michelle's whole life and the road she took to becoming the First Lady of the United States (FLOTUS). As a black person, this book really hit home for me because Michelle talks about the racial struggles and injustices she endured from being a teenager in Chicago to becoming the First Lady.

Becoming shows Michelle Obama through a different lens and she lets us in on things that aren't usually spoken about, such as her past experiences as a child, life in the White House and her thoughts on crucial moments throughout those eight years.

Christian rapper's album had mixed reviews

By Joe Dewitt, *staff writer*

The album *Perception*, released by Christian rapper NF in 2017, became a big hit at first, selling over 55,000 copies. Sadly, there were quite a few people who hated it, calling it "bland," "uninspired," and even "boring." However, along with his haters came his fans. When the artist NF lost his mother at a young age to drugs, he decided to turn his life to music and this album is how he coped with his depression. This artist can be seen as a major inspiration for young generations going through a lot. In addition to the story of his life, he also wrote a few songs about his love life and how some of his relationships ended and his feelings.



By Emily Stanton, *staff writer*

Coraline, released 2009, is a stop motion movie and is easily one of my favorite movies. The plot features a little girl, Coraline, who moves into a new house and discovers a door that leads to a world much like her own, but only better until she discovers a darker side to her situation. The art and detail in *Coraline*'s design is impeccable especially considering everything about the characters is made of clay. The detailed structure, the outfits, etc. are all clay and were made very delicately. The character's personalities were clearly life-like.

As a kid watching the movie I remember being terrified of The Other Mother, as her design, especially later, is truly frightening. Her personality is equally scary. She was manipulative and angry and kept me on edge because it was unclear as to what she was going to do next.

The backgrounds and sets for the movie were gorgeous and intricate. My personal favorite setting was the garden in the "other world" when The Other Father created a garden in the image of *Coraline*. The detail in these sets is praiseworthy to say the least.

Not only are the character designs and the sets inspirational, but the time that it took to create this movie is commendable; every time a character moves someone had to physically move the dolls and take a picture. One. Frame. At. A. Time. The hour and fifty- five minute movie took four years to make!

The storyline is another form of imagination and artistic ability. It's detailed and from start to finish leaves you with cliff- hangers, answers, and exciting emotions. The only critique that I have is with how scary it was as a child. The character designs, the way the story progressed, their personalities all clashing into each other was frightening; however, now I adore and admire how they made a children's movie seem so scary for millions of people.

Tough loss ends overall positive season

By Autumn Kehler, *staff writer*

The Shamokin Area Volleyball Team fell to North Pocono in the first round of districts on October 27. Despite the loss, the Indians had a very promising and uplifting season. They finished off the year with a record of 9-8-1, which is significantly better than last year's performance.

Unfortunately, the team is losing five seniors this year: Chloe Kalman, Molly Rossnock, Erika Bellinger, Trynity Delvecchio, and Kylie Wells. Kalman and Rossnock were both starters for the Indians.

"I am going to miss my team more than playing the sport because there will always be sand and community leagues, but never a team quite like this one," Rossnock said. She



The Varsity Girls Volleyball team took second in a tournament at North Schuylkill

highlighted that her team made the sport all the more fun and it could never be the same.

"It's sad moving on and going to college and leaving my girls, but I'm so excited to watch the team next season," Kalman explains to her

teammates, "you girls are so talented and I can't wait to see how far you excel." Kalman had a very close relationship with her teammates and described how hard it will be for her to move on.

Shamokin Area's football season comes to an end

By Naveah Grant, *managing editor*

The Shamokin Area football team gave a good run, but early season injuries and challenges by several power-house teams resulted in a record of five wins and five losses in the regular season and one loss in the Nov. 4 playoff game against Jersey Shore.

"I saw a lot of positive things to take away from the games that will help our team moving forward into future years," Coach Henry Hynoski said. "We will be back to work with our offseason program within the next coming weeks."

Opponent	Shamokin Indians	Score
Lewisburg	Win	13-9
Southern Columbia Area	Loss	0-43
Mifflinburg	Loss	21-35
Selinsgrove	Loss	7-10
Central Mountain	Win	47-28
Shikellamy	Win	57-27
Jersey Shore	Loss	0-62
Central Columbia	Win	14-0
Greater Nanticoke	Win	46-14
Mount Carmel Area	Loss	0-41
Jersey Shore (playoff)	Loss	6-63

Team sets 'rebuilding' as its goal

By Tyler Kerstetter, *staff writer*

The only way the Indians' boys soccer team can go is up. After finishing the season with a pretty dull record, the boys are ready to work on next year's team.

"Obviously it was a poor season reflecting on the record," Jayden McKeen, team captain and graduating senior, remarked. "But I think we have a good group of younger players that are eager to get better and do better."

The team debuted Jace Shipe and Ayden Quade to the starting midfield, both never playing on the varsity team, and moved many more players into spots they've never played before. Most players would call all these factors something that makes a "building year."

"On the bright side, this group is very coachable," Jon Grybos, head coach of the team, said. "There is a lot of potential."

"In short, losing is sad, but they're new and we will get better," Grybos concluded.

NASCAR thunders in a new era

By Zack Zanella, *news editor*

If you think that the football season is crazy, wait until you discover the unpredictability of this year's NASCAR Cup Series season. It was jam-packed with surprises, mishaps, and unimaginable events. The main highlight of this season was, of course, a brand-new next generation concept car, and with that came numerous significant changes, from a revamped setup process to new racing tires from Goodyear.

Constructed from the ground up, these tires measured 18 inches in diameter, three inches bigger than the previous design. Throughout this year, the Next Gen car definitely faced its fair share of positives and negatives. On the positive side, this season certainly added up to become one of the most historic seasons in the sport's history. Unlike previous seasons, where drivers won multiple races and made the point standings lopsided, an impressive total of 19 different drivers have found victory lane, tying 2001 as the season with the most winners in the modern era. This kept the point standings battle interesting and competitive, with more unknowns intact. diameter, three inches bigger than the previous design.

Many drivers found unimaginable success that wasn't achievable previously. Some noteworthy drivers include Chase Elliott, the 2020 NASCAR Cup Series champion, and driver of the No. 9 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports. He received the most trips to victory lane this season, with a total of five, which lead to securing his first ever regular season championship. Another driver to mention is Ross Chastain, a watermelon farmer from Alva, Florida, who had his breakout season in only his fourth full-time Cup season in his debut with Trackhouse Racing, driving the No. 1 Chevrolet. Ross doubled nearly all of his career highs, and even ended up collecting his first two Cup Series victories, at the Circuit of the Americas road course in Austin, Texas, and at the spring race at Talladega Superspeedway. Not to mention, he went down in history by setting the quickest lap ever at Martinsville Speedway, where he held his car in the wall, using a "video-game move" to get ahead of Denny Hamlin and earn his spot into the championship four battle.. When the playoffs commenced in September, 16 drivers competed, and it all came down to the final race at Phoenix Raceway to determine the champion, with Elliott, Joey Logano, Chastain and Christopher Bell racing for the title. In the end, Joey Logano became a two-time NASCAR Cup Series champion. But, with all that success, there came multiple downfalls. Early on in the season, the complicated schedule of opening events, stretching throughout the west coast from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, resulted in many teams scrambling to keep in demand with the supply of their available race cars.

Not to mention, the Next Gen car was still very much a work in progress, and its safety was criticized heavily throughout the playoff season after the lack of its durability caused multiple top-talent drivers, such as Kurt Busch and Alex Bowman, to suffer serious concussion-like injuries inside the car. Alex Bowman backed into the inside wall coming out of Turn 4 during the playoff race at Texas Motor Speedway in October and later radioed to his team that he was "Done." (NASCAR, page X)



A bunch of NASCAR's Next Gen cars zoom past fans in the frontstretch during the spring race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Georgia.

Cross country team exceeds expectations

By Tyler Kerstetter, *staff writer*

The Indians sent two runners to the Hershey PIAA class AA State Championships and placed fifth overall to wrap up its cross country season on Nov. 4. With only a singular runner competing last year, this year's season was quite the step up. The team's captain Owen Amato couldn't be more proud.

"We had a really good season overall," Amato said. "We have some really good younger runners stepping up and I would say that is most beneficial to the team. We definitely have the potential to grow more as a team."

With the Indians finishing the season with a 12-6 record, it has been quite an exciting season. With wins over teams like Milton, Mount Carmel, Jersey Shore, and Central Columbia, the team has truly stepped up from last year. The team placed 5th this year at the PIAA District 4 Championships, opposed to placing last the year before.

"Both girls and boys teams set multiple PR's (personal records) throughout the season and ran extremely well," Darv Bressi, head coach of the team said. "We had multiple medalists at the invitationals throughout the year".

Coach Bressi is excited for the upcoming cross country season next year, and hopes to send even more

NASCAR

...Continued from page 16

"I can't drive for the rest of the day. That's the hardest I've ever crashed anything in my entire life," Bowman said, feeling the effects of the impact. This caused Bowman, who won the spring race at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, to miss the next three races in the playoffs and lose an opportunity to race for the championship.

Busch, the 2004 NASCAR Cup Series champion, suffered concussion-like symptoms during his qualifying lap for the race at Pocono Raceway in July. "I 1,000% knew that it was a different kind of hit. That's been the scary part and the tough part," described Kurt, when discussing his devastating hit. This has majorly impacted the sport, because Kurt has since announced he would be retiring from full-time Cup racing, and would not return next season. This became a rally cry for many NASCAR drivers to challenge the leadership of the sport and advocate for the safety of the car.

Regardless of everything that's transpired over the course of 36 races this year, this was an action-packed year. Fans can only hope for the same excitement factor that NASCAR produced this year, and be proactive in making new advancements to make the Next Gen car better.



Left to right Mitchell Knowles, Korbin Kramer, Kennedy Petrovich, Matthew Wagner, Lincoln Waugh, Hayden Karlovich, and Kamryn Kramer pose for a golf team picture.

Golf team had a tee-rific season!

By Jayden Duganitz, *staff writer*

The Shamokin Area Varsity Golf Team ended the year with a record of 4-6, and with junior Kennedy Petrovich making it all the way to the PIAA Golf State Championships.

Petrovich ranked 13th in the state competition in October; this was the second year in a row that she qualified. Prior to that, she and Hayden Karlovich, sophomore, qualified for districts.

The Shamokin area golf team, led by head coach Ed Smink, and volunteer Larry Wagner, have done exceptionally well this season. There are only seven students on the team: seniors Korbin Kramer and Mitchell Knowles, juniors Matthew Wagner, Petrovich; and sophomores, Karlovich, Lincoln Waugh, and Kamryn Kramer.

Starting off the season on August 17, the team took victory over Sugar Valley with a score of 187-245, with Karlovich leading the way with a 44.

The team then traveled to an invitational held by Selinsgrove on August 19 where over 100 participants from 20 schools played 18 holes. The team placed an overall 12th place while Petrovich placed second among the girls with a 91. The team fell to Selinsgrove on August 22, with a score of 152 Selinsgrove and 203 Shamokin. The team came back with two consecutive wins, one at Williamsport on August 25, with a score of 192-204, and the other at Shikellamy on August 31, with the score of 183-207.

In early September, Petrovich won the Ladies Club Championship at Indian Hills Club championship. On September 10, Petrovich, Karlovich, and Knowles competed at the PHAC Golf Invitational at Bucknell University. Petrovich earned second place with a score of 81, Karlovich with 88 and Knowles with 103.

The team went on to lose the next match to Central Mountain, but came back with a win against Lewisburg, with a score 186-195 on Sept. 15.

With the results at individual districts that landed her in third place, Petrovich qualified for the PIAA state golf championships, which were held on October 17-18.

Support Shamokin Area's Winter Sports!

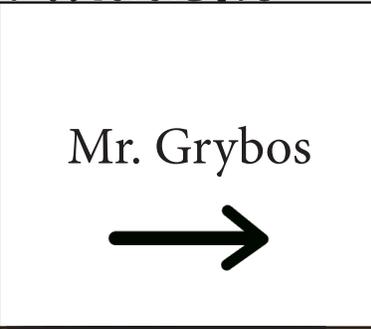
- JH and Varsity Boys Basketball
- JH and Varsity Girls Basketball
- JH and Varsity Wrestling
- Swimming/Diving



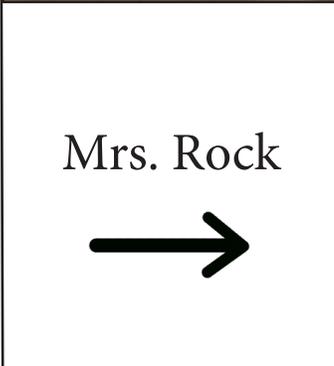
DOOR DECOR WINNERS



Mrs. Feese



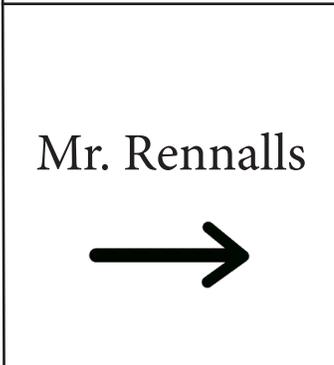
Mr. Grybos



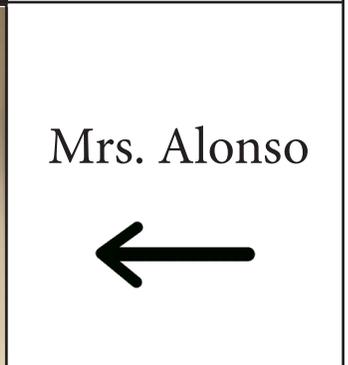
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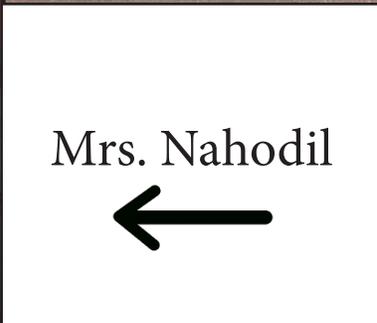
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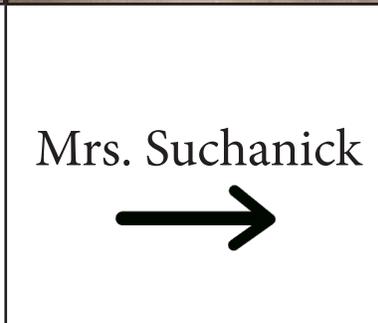
Mr. Rennalls



Mrs. Alonso



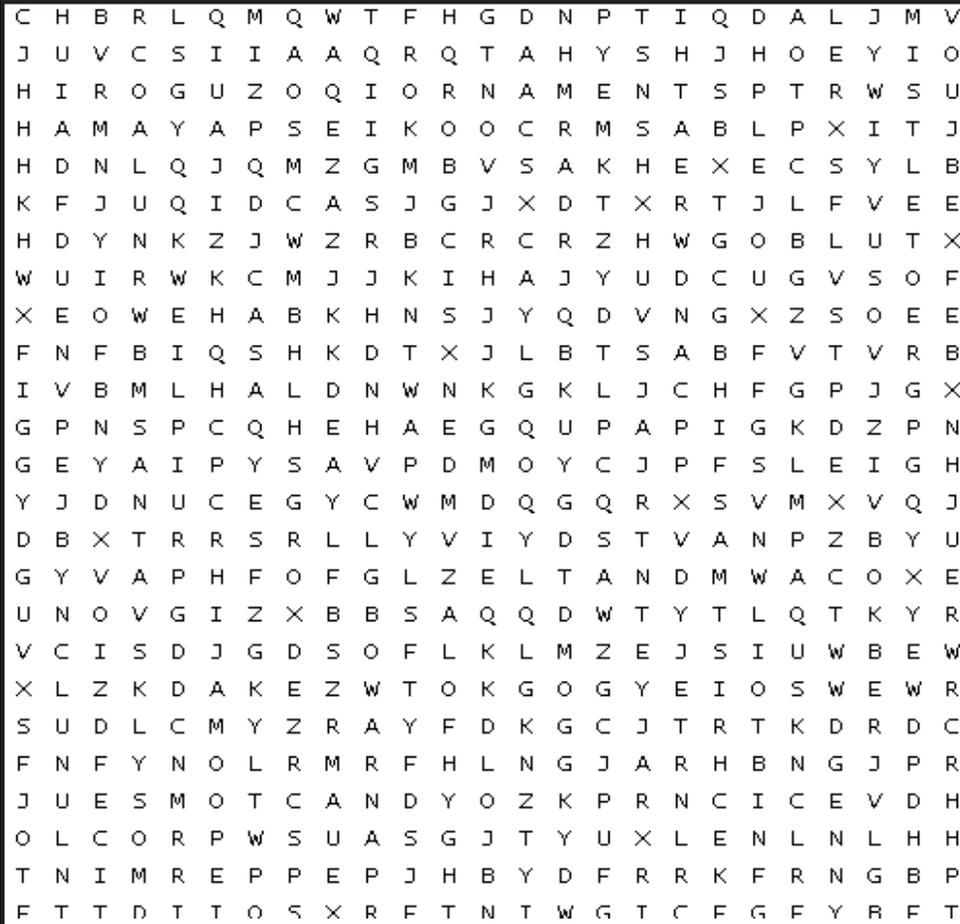
Mrs. Nahodil



Mrs. Suchanick



HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH



- bells**
- candy**
- chimney**
- Christmas**
- cookies**
- eggnog**
- Hanukkah**
- Krampus**
- ornaments**
- peppermint**
- reindeer**
- Santa**
- stocking**
- winter**



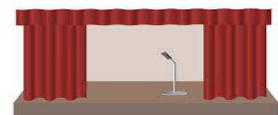
Artwork by Samara Sinopoli, junior

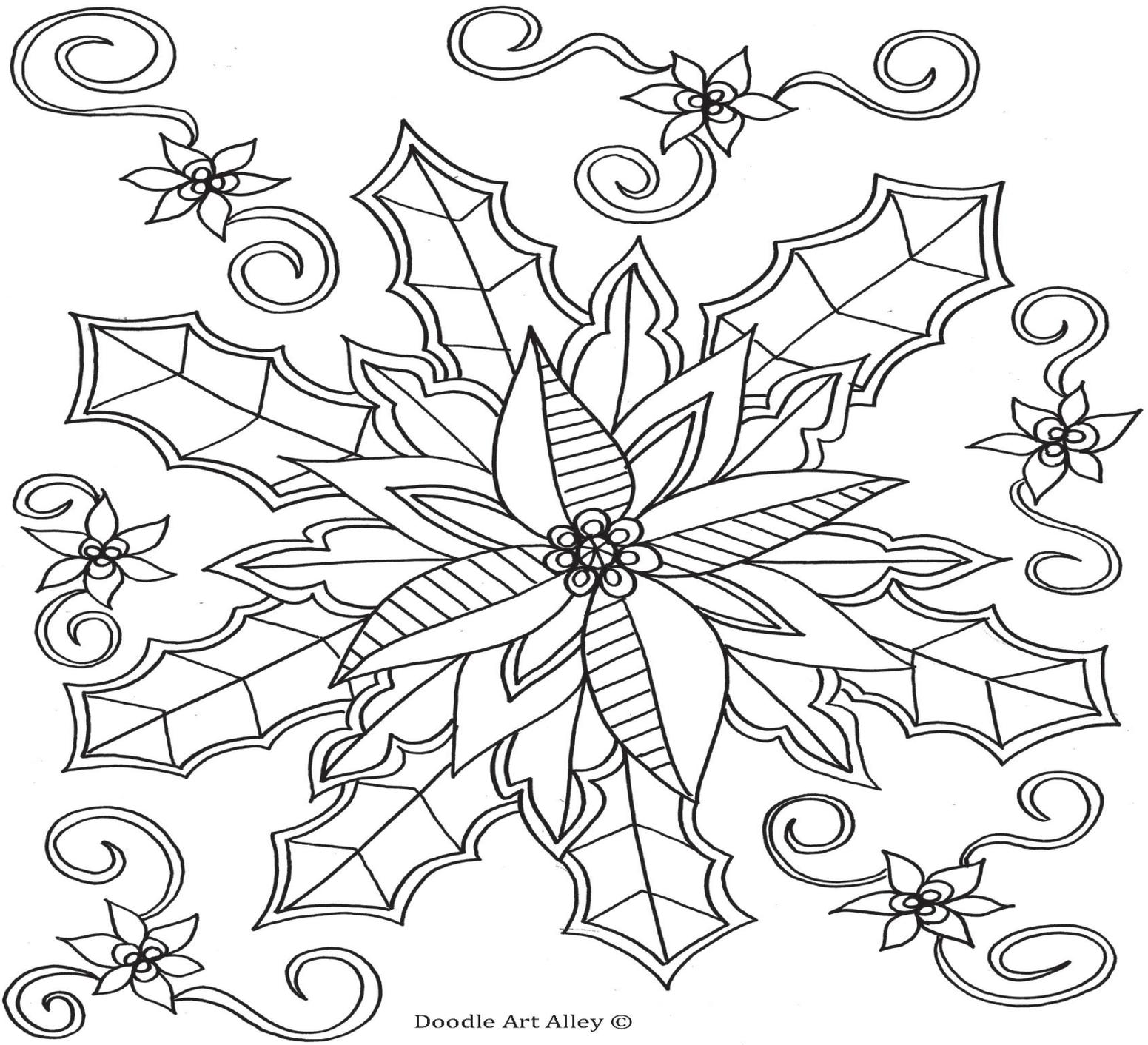


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Students performing in this year's talent show include: Alyvia Charriez, senior; Hannah Bashore, senior; Jacob Erdman, junior; Alaina Glowatski, junior; Austin Morris, junior; Lilly Flynn sophomore; Brielle Hornberger, eighth grade; Brandi Yoncuski, junior; Zak Zanella, senior; Kendra Jones, seventh grade; Madison Roman, seventh grade; Samantha Stancavage, senior; Aidan Krebs, senior; Owen Amato, junior; Hannah Bashore, senior; and Sydney Startzel, senior.





Doodle Art Alley ©



Second annual Graphic Technology Coloring Book
Mr. Lesher's 3rd period Graphic Technology students assemble the winter coloring books that were designed, printed, stapled and delivered to Kingergarden/2nd Grade students in the Shamokin Area Elementary School before the winter break.

WE NEED YOU!