

The Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School / High School March 2019 Volume 81 Number 7

A Celebrity Visit

On Monday, March 4th, the students participating in Conemaugh Township's spring musical, *Newsies*, received a special visit. Ben Fankhauser, an actor who has appeared in several Broadway shows, was brought in to do a workshop with the members of the musical.

Ben Fankhauser has performed in several Broadway productions. He began performing in 2008 on a national tour of *Spring Awakening*. In 2011, he was cast as Davey (played by Zane Troxell in Conemaugh Township's production) in Paper Mill Playhouse's production of the new musical, *Newsies*. He performed there for four weeks before finding out that the musical was moving to Broadway. Ben performed as Davey on Broadway for two-and-a-half years before moving on. After *Newsies*, he performed in the US Tour of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, an Off-Broadway production of *The Mad Ones*, and a production in New York of *Bar Mitzvah Boy*, but "Davey" remains his most well-known role.

At Conemaugh Township, the students performed two numbers for Ben and he gave advice and critiques to improve the numbers. He taught several acting techniques and principles to the students, as well as helped them develop their stage presence and put more character into their performance. After the performance, parents were invited to come and observe a question and answer session with the students. For two hours students could ask Ben questions about his life, his performances, the life of being on Broadway, and similar topics. Afterwards, students were able to take pictures and get autographs from Fankhauser.

"Bringing Ben to our school provided so many students with a once in a lifetime opportunity that we will not forget," said Lexi Mankamy, a junior who is in the musical.

Conemaugh Township's production of *Newsies* will be performed on March 28th, 29th, and 30th, at 7 PM. Tickets are available online or at the door for \$10.

Regional Band

From March 6th through 8th, Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School sent three students to participate in the PMEA Region III Band festival. Students practiced the music for two days and auditioned for the PMEA All-State Band festival before performing on Friday.

The students who attended were Audrey Hoffman on Clarinet, Kadiya Lingenfelter on Trombone, and Elizabeth Yocum on Euphonium. Of those students, Audrey Hoffman advanced to All-State Band. "Regional Band was an incredible learning experience that offered a lot of opportunities and helped to accel my musical growth," said Audrey Hoffman, a senior at Conemaugh Township.

The concert was held at 7 PM on Friday, March 8th, at Altoona High School. The All-State Concert Band will perform at 10:00 am on Saturday, April 6, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh.



Pictured above is Conemaugh Township Area Middle/ Senior High School's cast of Newsies with Broadway actor Ben Fankhauser

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Soccer in the U.S.

Soccer is one of the fastest growing sports in the United States, but still is unrivaled to the popularity of the big four in American sports: football, basketball, baseball, and hockey. However, the sport is becoming more and more popular across the country. How far can it grow? Can it become as popular as football, or will it always be America's second "football"?

The sport of soccer has been on the rise in popularity in the United States since the 1960s and 1970s. Its popularity gained a significant boost in the 90s, when the United States hosted the FIFA World Cup in 1994, and also in 1999 when it hosted the FIFA Women's World Cup. The United States' own professional soccer league came to fruition in 1996, called Major League Soccer. The league began with 10 teams and has now grown to have 24 teams, and 3 more expansion clubs to be added in the coming years. The league has shown a huge amount of growth, and in 2018, MLS Cup Final (the league's championship game) 2.07 million people watched the game on television making the most ever watched. The game is not just growing here in America, but through Americans in soccer's largest market: Europe. American Christian Pulisic plays for German club Borussia Dortmund, who lead Germany's top soccer league. The huge English soccer club, Chelsea, paid Dortmund \$73.1 million for the player, making him the most expensive American ever in the sport. Other young Americans are also finding their way into the Europe's top leagues: Tim Weah in France; Weston McKennie, Tyler Adams, and Josh Sargent in Germany; and DeAndre Yedlin in England. Although these players may not be household names, they are paving the way for the growth of the sport in the United States. Even a decade ago, these talents would likely not have found the same success that they are now, which really shows the growth of the game in the United States. The women's game has also been important as the United States women's national team has won 3 Women's World Cup's—more than any other nation.

Although the growth of soccer has been huge over the last 10 years, it still has to match the other top leagues. In 2017, the United States Men's National

team lost 2-1 to Trinidad & Tobago, and failed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup—the largest event in soccer. This defeat was the first time the United States had missed a World Cup since 1986. It sent the team into a terrible year, in search of a new coach, and really no direction for its future. It caused Americans to once again put the sport to a side, and a lot of progress from the previous twenty years had been lost. Soccer will continue to be overlooked in America until at least 2022, when the next World Cup is held. Over that time the United States Soccer Federation must work to bring the game forward. Naturally, soccer is forgotten in America due to its nature. All other major sports require the use of hands, while in soccer, the use of hands is reserved for only the goalkeeper. This makes it difficult for many to fully understand the sport.

Soccer has always been overlooked in the United States, but to the over 4 million registered players in the country, soccer is at the same level as the other sports. It may take some time until soccer reaches the level of football, baseball, basketball, and hockey, but I think that it will eventually become one of the most popular sports in this country. If the United States women's national team are successful in this year's Women's World Cup, and the Men's National team qualify for the 2022 World Cup, soccer will become a major sport in the United States.



HIGH SCHOOL

March Memories



Kadiya Lingenfelter assists Ian Harrington in the crawfish eating contest at the Mardis Gras lunch.

Chloe Shaulis is welcomed by her team mates before a basketball game.



Jack Stringent and Jordan Miller sing and dance at the Sadie Hawkins dance.



Cory Myers gets a pass from a team mate and brings the ball to the hoop.



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The Contownian does not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, and policies of the Conemaugh Township Area High School and its administration.

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HIGH SCHOOL

Basketball Madness

March Madness a time where friendships are lost in violent and hilarious ways. The odds of you actually filling out a perfect bracket is 1 and every 9.2 quintillion, actually lower than your chances at winning the lottery! That is just mind boggling! According to Wallethub, it is estimated that hourly, corporations will lose \$1.9 billion as a result of workers whose productivity has been diverted by March Madness.

This year there will be a total of 64 teams competing to determine the NCAA champion. It is single elimination, so if you lose once you are done for the entire tournament. Every team needs to bring their A game to win it all! There are many exiting events that take place during the tournament, such as crazy upsets. In the 2018 March Madness tournament, number sixteen seed UMBC, upset number one seed, Virginia. This was the first time in NCAA history that a number one team was upset by a number sixteen seed. There has never been a bottom seed team to win the tournament. Will this be the year?

March Madness is a very exiting sports event that some people enjoy more than the super bowl. Many people put their college basketball knowledge and money to the test. Devin Foster, a senior says, "I honestly love watching it, it is great competitive basketball. You don't have to worry about not being entertained, because every game is exciting and close." The crazy experience is often filled with many surprises, and upsets throughout the tournament. The tournament goes from 64, round 32, sweet 16, final four, and then the championship. The championship is where the two best teams face off for the college basketball national championship. The championship will be played in Minneapolis this year. Last year Villanova took home the gold. Who's going to be returning with hardware this year?

Easter Fun

Easter is a very important holiday to most American families. This holiday is about more than a bunny who brings candy. Easter Sunday celebrates Christ's resurrection from the dead in the Christian faith and the end of lent.

The date of Easter changes every year because many people follow two separate calendars for religious holidays. Easter Sunday and related celebrations, such as Ash Wednesday and Palm

Sunday, are considered "moveable feasts". Regardless if you are following the Gregorian or the Julian calendar, Easter is always held on a Sunday between March 22nd and May 8th. Many people attend church on Easter Sunday.

Easter is not only a holiday for religious people. Various traditions are associated with Easter. Children go to sleep on the night before expecting to wake up to baskets that are left by the Easter bunny. The Easter bunny fills their baskets with candy and small toys for them to find in the morning.

Another common Easter tradition is egg hunts. Adults will buy small plastic eggs to fill with candy. Then the eggs are hidden for the children to find. This tradition is rooted in German folklore. The egg is a symbol of rebirth; therefore, it is used to represent the resurrection of Jesus.

Easter is an excuse to spend time with family and eat a lot of food. This holiday is a long standing tradition that millions enjoy. Make sure that you get out there this Easter to spend some time with your family and have fun. Have a happy Easter!



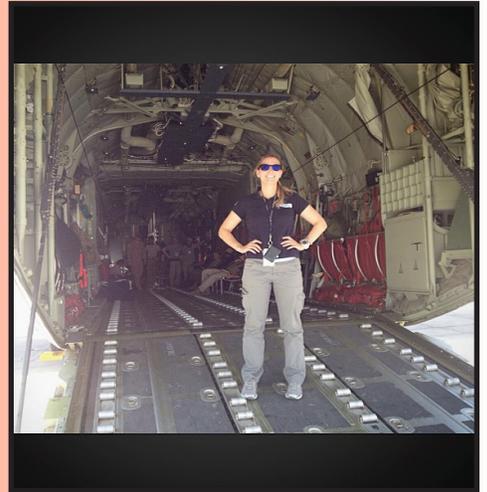
Alumni of the Month

Ashlee Knapp was a member of the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/ High School graduating class of 2005. Her post-high school life began with her enrollment into the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland. She graduated from the Swanson School of Engineering with her Bachelors of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering.

She interned with Concurrent Technologies Corporation for four years. At Concurrent Technologies Corporation, Knapp worked on a variety of military conflicts ranging from military installation risk assessments. She processed improvement in hospitals all over the United States from Boston, Massachusetts to San Antonio, Texas. This position allowed her to acquire the necessary experience for her second job.

During this time Ashlee says she, “developed a keen interest in international friends and experiences.”

As of January 2016, Knapp joined the CANAAdvisors, a virtual government contracting non-profit company. Her life currently consists of balancing work, life, and international traveling. Following her passions, currently Knapp is living and working abroad in Lisbon, Portugal. Her residency will change in the next three months as she travels to Valencia, Spain.



Ashlee getting ready to jump.



Ashlee Knapp

She cites Mrs. Haddle and Mrs. Artman as her favorites, for reasons that went beyond the lessons taught in the Chemistry and American Government classrooms respectively. She recalls, “both teachers had high expectations for me because they knew that I could reach them.”

Ashlee loved group activities throughout high school and recalls that her fondest high-school was the last show of “Les Miserables.” For Knapp and many of her cast members, this was their sixth musical. As she listened to the director talk of their journey she looked around at the younger students whom she mentored, the students she left her mark upon.

“It was bittersweet in that something so amazing was ending, but new changes were beginning. When the time came for our last song of the show to ring through the auditorium, we sang with heavy hearts and conviction,” she reminisced.

Hoops for Heart

Each year, Conemaugh Township Middle/High School takes part in various fundraisers that benefit not only the community, but also others outside of the community. One of the fundraisers that Conemaugh Township is always involved with is the Hoops For Heart charity. This organization benefits many children across the United States and at the same time allows students to enjoy themselves playing basketball against their friends.

The Hoops For Heart tournament will be held on Monday, March eighteenth inside the gymnasium at Conemaugh Township Middle/High School. Donations will be accepted in the beginning of March. All proceeds will go to those who are experiencing cardiac problems. Any student from grades ten through twelve can participate in the tournament. The teams may consist of three to five players, and the games will be played in a three vs. three style.

This program is ran through the American Heart Association, and it provides a fun way for students to raise money for children across America who have heart problems. The way the fundraiser works is that students are given the opportunity to raise money from sponsors around them and then take part in an all-day basketball tournament at the school against other teams that have also donated.

Many students are excited to take part in the Hoops for Heart fundraiser. Senior Katie College stated, “I’m excited for the Hoops For Heart tournament this year because I love playing basketball, and I get to help others at the same time.”

Varsity Boys' Basketball

The Conemaugh Township Middle/High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team had their first playoff game on Friday, February 22 where they beat the visiting Windber Ramblers by a score of 71-58.

Logan Walerysiak said, "We have been fighting all year now; I think we deserve this win more than anyone else."

The leading scorer of the night was Jordan Poznanski with 29 points, while Tyler Poznanski chipped in 12 points. Evan Brenneman crashed the glass and grabbed 12 rebounds.

With the win, The Tribe moved onto the District V AA championship game against rival team North Star.

The team was unable to pull out a win - drawing a close to a very successful season - with a score of 66-56.

During the season, the team claimed the WestPAC title and claimed the team's first career championship in the Ron Davidson Tip Off Tournament.

Jordan Poznanski led the team this year in points with 631 and Evan Brenneman led the team with 169 rebounds.

Jordan said, "Going into the year I was very excited to see what this team had, and I am very happy with the outcomes of the season. I could not be happier on what we have accomplished."

Varsity Rifle

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Rifle team finished their season with the state meet on Saturday, February 16.

In their respected events, the team placed second and third against numerous schools during states. Olivia Marisa led the team throughout the year not giving up the spot as top shooter once. Logan Marisa trailed right behind his sister in every match. The team also clinched the WestPAC title.

The Indians ended the season with only three losses on the year, and with a strong core of kids returning next year. They are looking to make another run at a state title.

Senior Olivia Marisa said, "It was a great year! I couldn't be more proud of our team!"

Senior Alex Zackucia said, "I am going to miss this team."

HIGH SCHOOL

Athletes...

Dalton Meyers is the son of Kimberly and Donald Meyers. Dalton participates in soccer and track and field. He is a two year letterman for soccer, and a four year letterman for track and field. Dalton was awarded 2017 track and field M.V.P..

Academically, Dalton is on the honor roll and Sutton scholarship. Dalton participates in the S.A.D.D. club, S.O.N. club, musical, scholastic quiz, grill team, and Spanish club.



Dalton Meyers

Outside of school, Dalton is a Hooversville community center volunteer and a member of the Society of creative Anachronism.

Dalton's future plans consist of majoring in political science with a minor in marketing at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

The Lady Indians' season came to an end on Thursday night when they lost to North Star on the road in the first round of the district playoffs 54-36. They were led by Alyssa Nail's 10 points and Abby Hoffman's seven rebounds and eight points.

The team had a very successful run this year with a record of 11-11 to finish and a great run in the playoffs.

Seniors Olivia Roman, Abby Hoffman, and Ryanna McCann will be missed after this year.

Senior Olivia Roman states, "I had a blast playing with my girls this year. I am so fortunate to have had such a great career in an amazing sport."

Swimming

Herman Zilch represented our school for swimming in the District V and PA state competitions.

He placed first in the 100-meter backstroke and first in the 100-meter butterfly at districts. After districts, he competed in the PA state competition and placed 22nd in the 100-meter backstroke; 19th in the 100-meter butterfly.

As only a freshman, Herman's feats are very impressive and he hopes he can improve for the next season.

SPORTS

Varsity Baseball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Baseball team began spring practices this week. The team is returning 10 varsity letterman from last season. Seniors: Shaun Berzonski, Devin Foster, Ryan Heinlien, Bailey Kist, Ethan Leasure, and Jordan Poznanski; Junior: Connor Adams; Sophomores: Colten Lewis, Tyler Poznanski, and Connor Szapka.

The team will look to defend their back to back District V AA Championships by opening up their season against rival Windber on March 26.

The Indians' are coached by longtime Head Coach Sam Zambanini and is assisted Barry Thomas.

The Indians' Scrimmaged Southern Fulton for their first test of the year. The team came out strong posting up 11 runs in the first two innings.

Freshman Owen Tomb knocked in 3 RBI's for the team.

Senior Bailey Kist said, "This team has a lot of potential and I can't wait to see where we end up this year."

Varsity Girls' Track and Field

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls' Varsity Track Team started their practices this week. They are working to improve from last season when they finished 5th in WestPac among teams and 10th in districts.

Senior Olivia Roman stated, "We are hoping for a better outcome this season."

The team is coached by Melissa Wilson.

The team will head to the Somerset Quad Meet on April 3rd for their first official meet of the season. The team will be competing against multiple schools at this meet.

Varsity Boys' Track and Field

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Boys' Varsity Track Team is making a start to their season.

They will compete in the Somerset Quad Meet for their first official meet of the season. The Indians will go up against multiple schools from throughout the area.

Senior Logan Walerysiak said, "I can not wait until this season gets started. We have all worked so hard so far and we are going to do great this year."

...of the Month

Mary Kate College is the daughter of Maureen College and Rick College of Soap Hollow.

In school, Mary Kate participated in varsity basketball and is a three year letterman in softball. She is a very decorated softball player; gaining honorable recognition her freshman year along with first county team her sophomore and junior year. Outside of school, Mary Kate also participates on the Laurel Highlands Chill softball team.

Mary Kate is also a member of SON Club.

Her future plans are to attend a four-year university at a college of her choice. She hopes to potentially play softball in her future as well.



Katie College

Varsity Softball

The Conemaugh Township Varsity Softball Team are starting their season this month. Last season Girls' Softball team won the District V Championship. They have high hopes for this season as well.

The upcoming 2019 returning letterman are Seniors: Abby Hoffman, Emily Hoffman, Josie Blank, Katie College, Carlie Dillon, Amy Daugherty, Ryanna McCann and Taya Kimmel. Returning junior lettermen are Hannah Persio and Kylee Greg. Sophomores are Sarah Favreau.

The team's first scrimmage was on March 14th against Claysburg-Kimmel High School.

The C.T. Varsity Softball team had another scrimmage on the 15th of March at home vs. Northern Bedford County High School.

The teams first match of the season is on the 26th of March against Windber High School. This is going to be a tough matchup for both teams. Last season, Windber's overall record was 16-4 and their conference record was 10-2.

Junior Brianna Kinsey said, "We are excited to get this game on the way; we can't wait to beat Windber."

One Last Look...

Welcome Mrs. Salem

Mrs. Lee Salem graduated from Westmont Hilltop in 2000. In high school, Mrs. Salem's favorite subject was English. She took part in the drama club and in S.A.D.D. Following high school Mrs. Salem attended UPJ for her undergraduate studies, where she majored in English education. She also attended IUP for her Master's Degree, where she earned a masters in Literature. When asked why she wanted to become a teacher. "I had really great teachers in high school. I admired all of my teachers."

Mrs. Salem's official position at Conemaugh Township Middle School is English Language Arts Teacher. She previously worked at Bishop McCort for 10 years as a high school teacher. Mrs. Salem said, "I student taught in 2005, and I really wanted to come back." She said what she most enjoys about working here is that the students are really smart, interesting, and creative. Mrs. Salem's first impressions of our Township community is that it is a very close-knit community that is very welcoming.

Some positive attributes she feels it takes to successfully perform a job is you have to be creative, interesting, fair, and funny. Mrs. Salem lives in Johnstown with her three sons and her husband Ken. Her three sons are (from youngest to oldest) Luke, Jake, and Gabe. Some of Mrs. Salem's favorite hobbies are reading and going to the soccer and football fields. While Mrs. Salem works at Township, she hopes to learn more about what it means to be an Indian.



Connumach Yearbook Orders Instructions Mailed

Yearbook order post cards were mailed to all MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADES 6 through 8, and HIGH SCHOOL, GRADES 9 through 12, students' homes in February. MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS, GRADES 6 through 8 - may TEXT HJ19683 to 70934 to receive your school's Direct Link to Buy a Yearbook. Your SCHOOL CODE is 19683. HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, GRADES 9 through 12 - may TEXT HJ13159 to 70934 to receive your school's Direct Link to Buy a Yearbook. Your SCHOOL CODE is 13159. BOTH MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS may also purchase a yearbook through yearbookordercenter.com with your school code. If you did not receive a yearbook order card or have any questions you may contact the Publications Office at 479-4014. However, you will receive a more rapid reply by addressing any questions to the Herff-Jones Yearbook Ordering Department at 1-(866)-287-3096. No money will be accepted at the school. This is the only chance you will receive to order a yearbook.

Connumach Yearbook Ads and Patrons Now on Sale

Yearbook senior ads, business ads, and patron orders are now available. Forms will be sent to all senior students' homes and are also available from all Journalism I and II students or by contacting the Publications Office at 479-4014. The deadline for submitting ad and patron forms is May 15. No extensions will be possible.

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