

The Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School April 2019 Volume 81 Number 8

Annual Stampede Held

On Saturday, April 6, Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School held their fifth annual Township Stampede 5k road race. The event began at 9:00 a.m.

The stampede began at the track above the high school. Registration was from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. before the race began. All proceeds went to the CT Stampede Fund, which supports the high school's track and field program. Registration was \$10 for students and \$20 for adults, but registering on the day of the race cost \$25.

First place finishers among males were Michael Hanik (overall), Braden Sarver (ages 10 & under), Dylan Giffin (11-14), Bryce Maldet (15-17), Matthew Plummer (18-29), Casey Muir (30-39), Pat Berzonski (40-49), Michael Lappi (50-59), and Denny Cruse (60 & over).

First place finishers among females were Sara Pfiel (overall), Rourie Stankan (ages 10 & under), Kendra Huber (11-14), Jacie Coyle (15-17), Olivia Felton (18-29), Erin Sotosky (30-39), Jennifer Gardner (40-49), and Dorothy Zimmerman (50-59).

"The Stampede is a wonderful event and provides a great opportunity to interact with people in the community," said Bryce Maldet, a junior at Conemaugh Township, who participated in the event.



Students and community members begin their race on the Conemaugh Township High School track.

TSA Takes State Titles

Over the past weekend, nine Conemaugh Township High School TSA members represented our school at the 2019 State Conference. These students competed against approximately 1,600 other competitors from all across the state. Our team consisted of Tucker Figard, Camryn Slezak, Gavin Miske, Isabella Dadura, Hannah Dadura, Hunter Hartnett, Keturah Dombrosky, Laikyn Hillegass, and Ruby Korenoski. On April 11, 2019 through April 14, 2019, the Conemaugh Township TSA members were competing at Seven Spring Mountain Resort in Champion, Pennsylvania.

The two advisors of Township TSA are Matthew Plummer, the technology and engineering teacher and Genevive Tesari, the physical education, health, and sports medicine teacher.

Tucker, Camryn, and Gavin placed 3rd in the state for Animatronics. Isabella, Hannah, Hunter, Keturah, Laikyn, and Ruby placed 4th in the state for On Demand Video Challenge, and Board Game Design. Camryn Slezak also placed 10th in Photographic Technology.

"TSA really shaped me into the person I am today by teaching me leadership roles and working with different groups," states Isabella Dadura, a sophomore at Conemaugh Township High School.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Homework Angst

It is a well-known fact that homework can be an effective teaching tool and help to give students more experience as well as to extend their learning from the classroom. But often times, the assignment of homework for students can be excessive and even unnecessary.

While it is true that homework is proven to increase a child's learning, lots of productive learning can be done inside of the classroom. Many students are involved in numerous after-school activities. This involvement along with the inevitable fatigue from the long school day can make completing excessive homework seem impossible. Students are then forced to stay up into the late hours of the night just to complete all of their assigned work. Sometimes the homework is not even beneficial to understanding a concept, but instead just unnecessary busy work.

If homework was reduced to only the essential material that is needed to understand the lesson being taught, students would not resent its presence as they do now. If the lesson is taught thoroughly in class and students are given time in school to complete their work, there is really no need for homework at all. With a significant reduction of homework, schools may find that in turn, students may be actually enthusiastic toward learning.

In conclusion, the amount of homework given to students is excessive and many times unnecessary. Students already have many other commitments and tasks to complete so coming home late to a backpack full of homework is tiring and daunting. This problem can be easily solved by reducing the amount of homework students are given each night and incorporating time in class to go over key material instead. By doing so, students would appear more excited to learn in school knowing that they will not be forced to complete loads of homework later that night.

Rules Changing in the NBA

Recently the NBA (National Basketball Association) changed its rules for when players can enter the draft. Until this month, the rule stated that you had to be at least 19 to enter the draft. They made that rule in 2005, to stop players from entering the draft right out of high school. They mostly changed their rules because of fans and scouts complaining about Duke standout freshman, Zion Williamson.

I think this was great decision made by the board of the NBA. I always thought that some players were good enough to come out of high school and not go to college. I never knew why they changed the rule in 2005 because since then players participated in the "one-and-done" rule, which is when players only go to college for one year and enter the draft. I really started to think this because of the player from Duke University, Zion Williams. Critics and scouts thought so too. As a senior in high school, Zion was 6'8 ft. and 280 lbs. He was definitely the size but people thought he should go to college because of the competition he played in high school. After he played as a freshman in college and won National Player of the year, he showed that he could have played in the NBA.

I think another reason why they changed the rule was because of the amount of players going to college for one year. Most of the time it's not even worth going to that college for that year. University of Kentucky is known for the "one-and-done" rule. Coach, John Calipari, told his players to make the most money they possibly can out of basketball, so he always tries to convince them to enter the draft after freshman year if they were guaranteed first round picks.

People who are against this new rule and the one-and-done setup are older people who think education is everything, because in the 70s, 80s, and 90s mostly all college players usually stayed to graduate. That's one of the reason Christian Laettner from Duke University holds so many basketball records because he played until senior year. I think education is important; however, sometimes players are so gifted they do not need to stay for 4 years.

There is no harm of going to the NBA right out of high school or the "one-and-done" setup because a lot of these players are getting so good so fast that they have the abilities to enter the draft early. Players like Kobe Bryant and LeBron James came right out of high school and have amazing careers, so I think the NBA should give more chances to these special players.

PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL

April Action



Kenzie Delosh preps for the Semi-Formal Dance by fixing a decoration for their "Under the Sea" theme.

Emilee Roman running the last stretch of the Township Stampede.



Ian Zelm breaks it down at the Junior High Semi-Formal dance.

Connor Adams hits the ball and prepares to run to first base.



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HIGH SCHOOL

Spring Is In The Air

On March 20th a new part of the year sprung. The smell of spring spreads throughout the campus of Conemaugh Township. Summer ideas and prom plans are both in preparation. Spring is in the air and so many new opportunities are opened. Spring also marks the time of year for many beautiful flowers, weather, and happiness. If rain gets you down this spring, just remember April showers bring May flowers.

Spring also marks the wonderful holiday of Easter. Easter always falls on the first Sunday, following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Easter is a holiday remembering the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It is described in the New Testament as having occurred after the third day following his burial. Easter is a wonderful time to spend time with your family, hunt for some chocolate, and sit back and have a great time. Around Conemaugh Township, spring sports begin their seasons. Track, softball, and baseball practices fill the time of many students after school. All three of these sports teams are outstanding and are all championship caliber. One day after school enjoy wonderful spring weather and support these three outstanding teams as they go for their goals of winning West Pac and D-5. A Conemaugh township freshman, Harley Maldet says, "My favorite part of spring is gardening. I plant flowers every spring and love seeing them bloom!"

Spring can also be a time for everyone to start fresh. Blooming flowers inspire new beginnings. Students have renewed zeal after their fun filled Easter breaks and hope to finish out the year strong. After all, summer is on the way!!



Vegas Nights

Prom is a magical time for so many kids in high school. It is a time where people can dress their best and enjoy a night of fun. Prom is not like any other dance. A meal is provided for those who attend, and it is much more formal than most dances. This is a night that will be filled with memories that last a life-time.

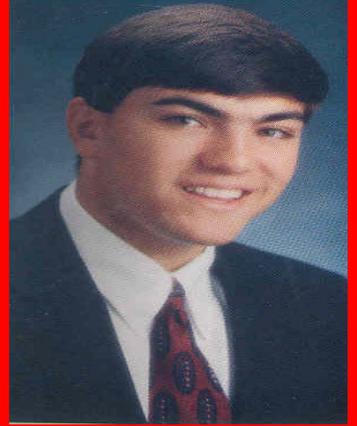
A huge part of prom is the proposals, called a "promposal". This is when someone asks someone to prom in a creative way. Promposals are great because the reactions are the most genuine. Students come up with all types of ways to propose, and this just adds to the excitement and fun of prom.

Another important part of Prom is the attire. Unlike many of the school dances, prom is formal, and this lets the students dress up in fancy clothes. Girls get expensive dresses, and get their hair and nails done, while the boys get tuxedos, making sure that they look sharp. Students are dismissed from school on that Friday, so they are sure they look their best. Flowers are also a big part of prom, as the boys get flowers for their dates, often in big bouquets. With these fancy clothes, Promgoers take pictures with their date and their friends, so that they can look back and remember this night. The students will go to picturesque settings, so that the pictures will look great. This is another thing that adds to the experience of prom.

Prom itself is held at Laurel View in Davidsville, dinner is served to those who attend, and then they head to the dance itself. Another aspect to prom, after the dance itself, is Post-Prom at the High School. Students come to the school and stay all night to play fun games such as bubble soccer, GaGa ball, and so much more. Post-Prom is also a way for students to have a safe way to enjoy their prom night. This is just another thing that makes prom special for all those who attend. All of these things add up to make prom a blast and time to make so many memories with all of your friends. Prom is a night that many kids look forward to their entire life, and all of the things that prom includes make it a night to remember for all who attend.

Alumni of the Month

Rick Matsko graduated at Conemaugh Township Area High School in 1995. He attended Shippensburg University where he played baseball and got drafted by the Cleveland Indians in 1998. Rick played in the minor leagues for a few years as a right-handed pitcher. Then he went back to college after that experience at Temple University and graduated in 2004 with a degree in Sports Management. He currently works for the Arizona Diamondbacks as an amateur scout.



His favorite teacher was Mr. Cable. Not only did Rick have him as a teacher, but also as a coach. He taught Rick a lot of life lessons that have stuck with him throughout the years and made him the person he is today. "I also have to mention Sam Zambanini who was my baseball



Rick Matsko

coach at Conemaugh Township," he said. Baseball has obviously been a big part of his life and Sam was instrumental in helping him reach the levels he was fortunate enough to achieve.

Mr. Matsko's fondest memory of Conemaugh Township stays with him today. It is the relationships and friendships he continues to have with his classmates and teachers. "One of those great traditions is the annual alumni basketball game on Thanksgiving morning where we regularly get over 30 former players. It is things like those traditions that make Conemaugh Township a special place," Rick stated. He currently lives in Carpenters Park, Pennsylvania.

Prom Preparations

There are several occasions throughout the school year that most students look forward to immensely. One of the most anticipated events during the school year is the annual Prom. This year, the halls are already buzzing with talk of Prom from many excited students.

Conemaugh Township Area High School's prom will be held on Friday, May tenth. It will be held at Laurel View Village from 6:00-10:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided for attendees at the start of the dance at six o'clock.

Any student who is in eleventh or twelfth grade may attend the Prom as well as any other underclassmen who are asked by an eligible upperclassman. The dance will be entitled "Vegas Nights" and is organized by the junior class officers.

The Junior Class Secretary, Jordan Miller stated, "This year's prom is going to be very exciting. 'Vegas Nights' is going to be full of surprises and a night to make many memories with friends. We are very excited to be able to plan a wonderful night for everyone and we cannot wait for prom to come."

Athletes...

Carlie Dillon is the daughter of Chuck and Michelle Dillon of Davidsville.

Carlie is a three year softball letterman and has received many awards for her efforts in the sport. She is a three time All-Conference WestPAC member, a Somerset County Honorable Mention in her 9th grade year, a Second Team member for her 10th, and a First Team member for her 11th grade year.



Carlie Dillon

Academically, Carlie has made the Honor Roll for four years. She is a member of the NHS, SON Club, Student Council, and Buddies Club.

After high school, Carlie will attend LaRoche College to earn a Bachelors Degree in Biology and play for their softball team. She will then attend Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine to become a pediatric dentist.

Varsity Softball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls' Varsity Softball Team took to the field on Tuesday, April 2 to face off against the Blacklick Valley Vikings. The Indians were able to mercy rule the Vikings in the 5th, winning by a score of 14 to 4.

The team's next game was against Rockwood at home on Thursday, April 4.

The team played a home game against Rockwood on Thursday, April 4. The team mercy ruled the Rockets in the sixth by a score of 10 to 0.

The team's next game was against Portage at home on Tuesday, April 9. The game was close in the fourth with the Indians only leading 3 to 2. Then, in the 4th inning, the team was able to get four runs and never looked back, winning by a score of 7 to 2.

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls' Varsity Softball team faced off against the Fermdale Yellow Jackets at Fermdale and defeated the Yellow Jackets in the three nnings, scoring 21 runs in the first inning alone. The final score was 22 to 0.

The team's next game was on Tuesday, April 16 against the North Star Cougars at home. The game was never close, and the Lady Indians were able to mercy rule the Lady Cougars in 3 innings by a score of 18 to 0.

Senior Carlie Dillon stated, "I love the way our team has been playing the past couple of weeks."

The team's next game was against Blacklick Valley at their place on Thursday, April 18. The team was able to mercy rule the Vikings in the 5th by a score of 17 to 0.

The team's next game was a fierce rivalry game against Windber on Tuesday, April 23. The game was close all the way through, but the team was able to get a clutch run in the seventh to defeat the Ramblers 2 to 1.

After this close finish, the team faced off against Conemaugh Valley on Wednesday, April 24. The game was tied 5 to 5 at the end of the seventh, which sent the game into extra innings. In the eighth, the team was able to get 5 runs and hang on for the win by a score of

Varsity Baseball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Baseball Team opened up their regular season against rival Windber. Senior Devin Foster controlled the game by throwing 17 strikeouts and contributing two hits. Owen Tomb had three RBI's to lead the Indians' to a 10 to 0 win over the Ramblers.

Next up for the Indians were the Blue Jays of Conemaugh Valley. Senior Bailey Kist had three late RBI's to push the Indians' past the Blue Jays.

Senior Bailey Kist said, "It was a hard battle, but it was great to come out of it with a win."

The Indians were led by a strong pitching performance from Devin Foster against Blacklick Valley, notching 17 strikeouts. The team continued to hit the ball well totaling 6 hits in the 7 to 0 shutout victory.

The team would then host the Rockets of Rockwood in another home game. Connor Szapka picked up the win on the mound with Jackson Byer picking up the save, with a final score of 7 to 4.

The Indians' then traveled to the ninth annual Gene Schultz Memorial tournament where they would beat the Hill Toppers 9-8 in a close game. They would then advance to the championship game where they played host, Bishop McCort. The Indians bats would not wake up. only totaling one hit in the 14-0 lost. Jordan Poznanski and Jackson Byer were named to the all-tournament team.

The Indians' would bounce back against WestPAC north rival Portage with a 2-1 win off of a Connor Adams walk-off single.

SPORTS

Connor Adams said, "It was the perfect way to end the game." The Indians traveled to Ferndale to pick up a 12 to 6 victory.

The Indians would then square off against rival North Star. The Indians would start off slow but come out with the 10 to 2 victory.

The boys would then travel to Blacklick Valley. The Indians put the Vikings out of WestPAC North contention and they would. It took the Indians 7 innings to wake up and tie the game at 4. They would win it 9 to 4 in extra Innings.

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Varsity Track and Field Team traveled to Somerset for a quad meet. They faced off against Somerset, Richland, and Bedford. The team did not win, but there were many individual winners as well as district qualifiers.

"Being the smallest school there really didn't help us because of our numbers, but I am really happy with our individual achievements and the great effort everyone gave," said senior Tessa Showalter when asked how she felt about the quad meet.

The team then traveled to Windber for an important WestPac showdown. Unfortunately, the girls came up short, losing 67 to 74. Morgan sleek qualified for districts for javelin. Jenny Durica and Mikala Faith qualified in the high jump.

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls Varsity Track Team hosted Berlin for the first home meet of the season. The girls suffered another close loss which puts their overall record of 0 to 2.

There were individual winners during the meet. Olivia Roman came up with a first place in the one mile and the two mile. Jenna Pavlosky won the long jump with a leap of 14'5". Mikala Faith won the shot put and high jump. Brielle Ciarimboli won the 400 meter dash.

The girls then hosted a tri-meet against Rockwood and Blacklick Valley. The girls grabbed a win against each school, improving their record to 2 to 2.

Boys' Varsity Track and Field

The Boys' Varsity Track team also participated in the Somerset Quad Meet. They came up short in winning the overall meet but had many individual first places.

The boys then traveled to Windber for their first WestPAC match-

up. The boys won 77 to 71 to start 1 to 0 in WestPAC matchups.

The boys hosted their first home meet against Berlin on Monday, April 8th. The boys won the meet with a matchup score of 82 to 67, bringing their record to 2 to 0.

Cory Myers stated, "I'm really proud of how our boys are performing, I hope we can keep this up to win WestPAC."

The team then hosted a tri-meet against Rockwood and Blacklick Valley. The team picked up a win against both teams, improving their record to 4 to 0.

The team next traveled to Windber for the Appalachian Invitational track meet on Saturday, April 13th. The boys did not win the meet but placed in multiple events. The 4 by 800 team took a first place, Ethan Williams won the mile, the 4 by 100 team placed fifth, Logan Walerysiak placed second in high jump and third in triple jump, and Luke Formica placed sixth in triple jump.

"I love the way our team is heading. I look forward to what we can accomplish in WestPACs and districts," stated Junior track member Evan Brenneman.

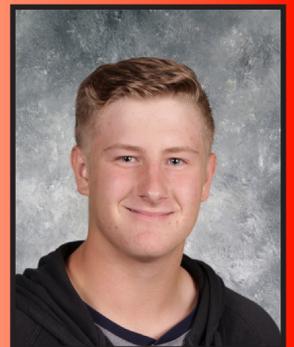
...of the Month

Devin Foster is the son of Karen and Jim Foster of Hollsopple.

Devin participates in baseball and basketball where he is a four year letterman in each. For baseball, he was a two-time West-Pac All-Star and a three-time Somerset County All First Team. Devin is a major part of the success of the boys basketball team and is determined to control the mound in this baseball season.

Devin has made the academic Honor Roll along with being a member of the school's SADD and SON Club. In his free time, he loves to hunt, fish, and spend time with friends and family.

After school, Devin plans to further his educational and athletic career at California University of PA. He will look to get his bachelor's degree in Sports Management and play baseball for the school's team with an athletic scholarship.



Devin Foster

One Last Look...

NHS Inductees Announced

National Honor Society is a national organization for high school students to recognize students academically. Selection for NHS is based on four criteria: academic achievement, leadership, character, and service. Membership requires some form of service to the student's school, community, or other organizations. These projects contribute to a monthly service hour requirement for the organization. NHS was founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The National Honor Society administrator at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School is Ms. Lingenfelter. Student officers are president Tessa Showalter, vice president Jack Hostetler, secretary Taya Kimmel, and treasurer Olivia Roman.

The induction ceremony will take place on Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 p.m. This year's list of inductees include: from grade 10: Gillian Berloff, Hannah Brehm, Kadiya Lingenfelter, Madison Showalter, Morgan Showalter, and Myah Teeter; from grade 11: Brogan Berkey, Devin Ciarimboli, Ryan Eash, Alyssa Forish, Kylee Greig, Stephanie Grimme, Jacquelyn Honkus, Grace Hostetler, Ryan Kaltreider, Hannah Lamkin, Lexi Mankamyler, Stephen Parker, Morgan Sleek, Jack Stringent, Kate Weakland, and Daniel Yoder; from grade 12: Mikala Faith, Tucker Figard, Courtney Grimme, and Emily Hoffman.

"It was one of my goals this year to be accepted into National Honor Society, and I am so excited to be inducted," said Lexi Mankamyler, a junior who will be inducted at the ceremony on April 30th.



Connumach Yearbook Orders

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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Administrative Office

Superintendent.....	Thomas Kakabar.....	479-7575
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Food Service Director....	Adam Thomas.....	479-2328
Director of Curriculum....	Stacy Dabbs.....	479-7575

Junior/Senior High School 7-12

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Guidance Counselors.....	Kelly Birkhimer and Kara Borsa.....	479-7886
School Nurse.....	Cassey DeBiase.....	479-2324
Athletic Director.....	Jarod Feathers.....	479-4014