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Saegertown Jr. Sr. High School

18079 Mook Road, Saegertown, PA



Volume X Issue 2

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In the office: The Baker Years begin with a retirement

By Hannah Draa and Jackie Galford

STAFF WRITER AND FEATURES EDITOR

"I think each school in this district has its own culture and personality. Things we do here differ," said Saegertown's new leader Mr. Tom Baker, who was most recently assistant principal at our sister school Cambridge Springs.

After initially being named assistant principal at SHS, Baker interviewed for the principal's position that became available with the departure of Mr. Doug Wilson for Iroquois in early October.

Mr. Baker is not only Saegertown's new principal, but he also lives in Saegertown. He met his wife Shelly, who is a building aide at Cambridge Springs Elementary School, at Edinboro in 1999 and they married in 2003. They have two boys: Weston (7) and Lincoln (5). Weston is in the second grade at Saegertown Elementary, and Lincoln will be in kindergarten next year.

According to Mr. Baker, his goal



JACOB PERRETT/SHS

Principal Tom Baker folds a retired American flag in the office at Saegertown High School. On Oct. 26, Baker retired from the military after 21 years of service.

is to stay at Saegertown at least until both of his sons have graduated.

Before starting his career at Cambridge and Saegertown, Mr. Baker served in the military.

The day after his high school graduation, he left for the Army. Mr. Baker served active duty from 1994 through 1997, then he joined the PA National Guard.

In 2002 he was deployed to Germany, and in 2005 he was deployed

said. He credits his enlistment in the Army with helping him find his path in life.

His advice to Saegertown students is simple: "Get outside of the box. See what's available outside the realms of Saegertown."

Office secretary Mrs. Debbie Chaney said, "I think he's a great guy. Mr. Baker has a large concern for the kids and focuses on the important things. He's fun to work with and he knows his stuff. Just by being himself, he is a great asset to this school." Overall, there has been very positive

feedback relating to Mr. Baker as our new principal from both the students and staff. English teacher Mr. Greg Molnar, who temporarily filled the assistant principal position and worked closely with Mr. Baker, said, "He's easygoing, and he doesn't get as worked up. I believe he allows the individual teacher to have their talents come forth. For now, I think he's just getting the idea of everyone."

School Performance Profile improves; juniors celebrate Keystone Scores

By Rachel Barner

STAFF WRITER

It was a sunny day in September when the juniors boarded two buses and made their way to Lost Lanes in Cambridge Springs where they enjoyed chicken wings, fries, pizza and several games of bowling. The occasion? Keystone literature and biology scores.

Mrs. Stacey Hetrick and Mrs. Nicole Keller, sophomore English and biology teachers, were in charge of this field trip, with permission from former Principal Doug Wilson. "I'm extremely excited. I've been waiting years," said Hetrick.

See **Keystone**, Page 5

"Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." - From the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution

Standardized tests are here to stay

Teachers often approve of standardized tests and say how merry and jolly they are for the students, but the students usually moan and groan about how unnecessary the tests are for education. The truth of it is, you can kick and scream all you want, but standardized tests are here to stay. How else would we gauge our progress?

"Every child is supposed to demonstrate growth. That's what the tests are for," says Mrs. Stacey Hetrick, sophomore English teacher and 10-year member of reading and writing committees for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The tests are measurements of achievements for students' educational development throughout the year. According to an analysis of 100 years of testing research completed in 2011 by testing scholar Richard P. Phelps, 93 percent of studies have found that student testing has a "positive effect" on student achievement.

"We're preparing for a marathon. That marathon is literacy tasks. Standardized tests like the keystones and PSSAs (Pennsylvania System of School Assessments) just happen to be a measure for that marathon," said Mrs. Hetrick.

But what if the students aren't runners? For instance, let's imagine superb weight lifters are forced to run a marathon. For years they have weight-trained, but they don't incorporate cardio, so their time isn't as good as another person who sole practices for a race.

Is it fair to judge these athletes



Cutter'b Pritchard

on one aspect of their performance? Why should everyone be measured by the same standard when we don't all have the same set of skills?.

"Fish aren't good at climbing trees," said senior Brian Peters, who does not support the tests in their current state. Peters suggests that, "the tests need to be more personal to the student's interests and experiences."

The Vo-Tech (Crawford County Career and Technical Center) tests on departments so that the students can be measured on their career fields rather than every little detail that they don't need to know

"As commercial art students, we are tested on commercial art. Nothing more. We don't need information about science or diesel engineering because we are training to be artists," said Peters.

So perhaps it isn't realistic for standardized tests to measure a student's growth in areas that the student is not interested in, experienced in, or necessarily needs for their future.

Furthermore, the students who fail the standardized tests are placed into classes, called Keystone classes, to help them pass the tests the next time around.

Also, excessive testing may teach children to be good at taking tests, but it doesn't necessarily mold them for successful adult lives.

For example, as explained by Ji-ang Xueqin, Deputy Principal of Peking University High School, "Chinese schools are very good at preparing their students for standardized tests. For that reason, they fail to prepare them for higher education and the knowledge economy." Chinese educators accept that this system has only produced "competent mediocrity."

Still, there has to be a way to categorize the advanced students versus the basic.

"You gotta separate the pack somehow," said Mr. Bill Hetrick, an English teacher and supporter of the tests. "Standardized tests are great predictors to separate kids. The tests give the kids data." The teachers then use that data to see where they need to teach more effectively in the upcoming year. Hetrick further shared that he considers teaching the standards that are covered by the test as part of his job.

Whether you're a teacher, a student, a parent, or even an administrator, the tests are here forever and always. Maybe Mrs. Hetrick put it best: "If we don't know what we don't know, then how do we get better?"

Ten-Ten: If you gotta go...

"Ten minutes? But I need to go now!"

Yes, we've all heard the complaints. This year, our administration implemented a new rule: ten-ten. The rule dictates that students must wait ten minutes at the start of class to use the hall pass and are prohibited from using it ten minutes before the class ends.

Supposedly, in the very schools where ten-ten was born, theft rates dropped and test scores rose. During a national conference this summer, former Principal Doug Wilson heard of the idea from a past "Principal of the Year" whose school benefited greatly from it. The theory behind it supposes that the beginning of class should be dedicated to preview and preparation, while the end is for wrapping up and summarization.

"Other schools have seen great results. Crime rates dropped and students were present for the important parts of class," said Wilson.

I do not think our school fits into the same category as these schools. The variables here may not line up in such a way that this rule will be effective.

"The rule just doesn't suit classes like art," said Mrs. Dani Shartle, art teacher, "In some classes, the middle of the period is the most important."

Clearly, not all of our teachers instruct in the same manner that ten-ten presumes. To try to alter these teaching patterns is to restrict effective methods that have been years in the making. Some teachers have even suggested a less extreme rule that allows students to leave within the first two or three minutes, with ten minutes afterward that will remain pass-free.

"I think it's completely irrational. I just hate missing instructional time to go to the bathroom, so it definitely interrupts my learning process," said senior Kaylee Luchansky.

In fact, eliminating the chance to leave the room in the beginning and end of class creates an even less convenient situation.

Now, students must interrupt the middle of a class, the bulk of instruc-

tional time, instead of simply managing

any personal issues at a less crucial point.

School is a place to learn. This rule impairs the efficiency of the learning process by causing unnecessary interruptions and distractions for potential hall-pass users.

If a student feels the urge to relieve him or herself, that student should have the right to do so in a way that does not create discomfort. In addition, approximately fifty percent of Saegertown students are female, and their needs must be taken into account.

Failure to comply with proper restroom hygiene can result in health risks, not to mention humiliation. Yes, we've all heard the saying "As long as it's an emergency," but emergencies are not always clearly detectable. Many students feel pressured to keep quiet about health concerns in order to avoid embarrassing themselves or irritating a teacher. Students should be never forced to take such risks.

Don't we all walk into this school with the promise that our comfort, safety, and education are guaranteed? Sitting for an extended amount of time with some bodily need or missing precious instructional time does not accomplish this. Thus, the administration should reconsider ten-ten.

According to current principal Tom Baker, the policy is under review. If it is deemed successful, it will continue. If not, it may be abandoned.



Caitlin Bieganski

Write Us
Letters must be typed and 300 words or less. Sign your letter and drop it off in room 215



Campus Club welcomes all

By Sarah Shaw
STAFF WRITER

Campus Club, the student-led Bible study, has been offered to Saegertown High school students for many years, but most people aren't familiar with the other activities of the local club, which is part of a college-level organization affiliated with an international ministry called Campus Crusade for Christ.

Saegertown's Campus Club was started by Mr. Mike Nageotte, a former Saegertown teacher. "It was all started before I came. I took over when he left, and I've been here for 19 years," said Mrs. Heather Papinchak, the current adviser.

"So far this year, we've had a bake sale which went to the Atkinson family to help them out and for Operation Christmas Child," Papinchak said.

The club also participates in See You at the Pole, a worldwide student initiated movement that began in 1990. Every fourth Wednesday in September every year, students get together to pray for their school and community at their school's flagpole.

"One of the local churches had a meeting with us and tried to get more people. It goes way beyond here, it's worldwide," said Papinchak.

Senior Kasey Newhard, who has been in Campus Club for several years, said, "Grades 7-12 can attend. There are no limitations, anyone who can come is welcome." The meetings take place Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. in Mrs. Papinchak's room. "We meet every week and pray. If something happens in the school we pray about it," said Papinchak.

Newhard to travel to Ukraine in January

By Caitlin Bieganski
OPINION EDITOR

'Tis the season for giving, and one Saegertown senior is going to bring this concept to a whole other level. Kasey Newhard is traveling to Odessa, Ukraine from January 18 to 26 so she can assist refugees

Through a substantial amount of fundraising and hard work, Newhard is raising about \$3,200 to take the trip, which is being offered by the Living Waters Church in Meadville.

"I am super excited," said Newhard. "We're passing out clothing to the refugees and just generally trying to cheer them up. A lot of them have alcohol problems now, and they're trying to get their lives back on track."

Since Russia's annexation of Crimea two years ago, political

uprisings between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian separatists have made life there too dangerous to remain, and thousands have fled to various Ukrainian cities. "They were uprooted in the middle of summer. They literally have nothing," said Newhard.

The Living Waters Church held a clothing drive that brought in an abundance of clothing and blankets, as well as much needed medical supplies. While Newhard and her companions will be flying to Ukraine, their supplies will be shipped to

Odessa on barges, and from there



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior Kasey Newhard's church is shipping supplies to Ukraine.

they will begin the distribution process.

Newhard will be traveling with several other people, including her pastor Ray Martinez and two other teenage girls. To cover the costs, she has been selling candy bars, candles, and t-shirts. She also hosted a fundraiser at Hoss's. To help her out, ask her about these fundraisers or donate to her cause. More information can be found on Kasey's Facebook page.

STEM classes up and running

By Becca Siple
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Former principal Doug Wilson proposed to the school last year that Saegertown would be getting more STEM. He was right. There are now ten classes up and running.

In seventh and eighth, Mr. Jeff Patrick and Mrs. Gwen DeVogel teach a STEM rotation course. "I love it. It gives just enough time to introduce the kids to what is offered at a higher level," said Patrick. The eighth graders have an Engineering class taught by Mrs. Brenda Dillaman and Mrs. Lori Walls. "We are using what we have to design and build things while creating instruc-

tions for other students to follow," said Dillaman.

A ninth grade STEM class formerly taught by Mr. Phill Young is a science-based course. "I think it's awesome," said Young. Freshman Mikayla Balog added, "I like it because we get to do a bunch of different projects." Mrs. Nicole Keller is teaching Bio STEM. "It's fun. We get to do labs and look under microscopes and see cool things," said sophomore Stevie Siple. In Food and Drugs, taught by Mrs. Kelly Peters and Mrs. Kathy Woods, students prepare dishes and learn about nutrition. "I like food and learning about the body because I am interested in the medical field," said se-

nior Makenna Robinson. Exercise Science with Mr. Chris Greco and Mr. Pat Bradshaw allows the students to make a workout program and learn how to maintain good cardio. A History of Technology class with Mr. Adam Horne and Mr. Timothy Houck encourages students to research and recreate inventions. "Right now we are working on designing and creating past inventions with what we have because we need money, which we don't have," said Mr. Houck. And finally, in Mechanical Engineering class and Biomedical Engineering, taught by Mr. Patrick, Mrs. Melissa Statman, and Mr. Chris Greco, the students make things like mousetrap cars and prosthetics.

Mr. Schmucker steps in for Mr. Young

By Kaitlyn Walsh and Ben Haylett
STAFF WRITER AND BROADCAST

Mr. Andrew Schmucker has returned to Saegertown after a four year hiatus.

Schmucker ("rhymes with looker") has stepped in to take the vacancy left in the science department by Mr. Phil Young who is now the assistant principal.

Schmucker was last here in 2011; teaching physics, forensics, earth, and space sciences. "I like the staff, and the students are great," he said.

He enjoys outdoor sports, reading, and building in his spare time. He has a wife and four kids who are excited to see him back at Saegertown.

gertown.

His first day was Nov. 18, and he will be here through the end of the year.

He has had long-term substitute assignments at Iroquois and Warren in the past.

Schmucker said he is looking forward to educating students at Saegertown, "Teaching would be no fun without students."



Schmucker

Edwards takes over for Atwell

By Austin Brown
NEWS EDITOR

This year we received the shocking news that Mr. Ron Atwell had retired ... after 50 years in public education.

Who could possibly replace Mr. Atwell? The answer is Mr. Brandon Edwards from Corry, Pa. Edwards was informed about the job opening from a retired high school teacher he used to have.

Previously a substitute teacher, Edwards describes himself as out-going and kind-hearted. "Teaching is something I enjoy doing. Even when I was younger, I was always helping people out during wrestling," he said.

Edwards teaches both eighth grade rotation and Wood 1-3. He is at Saegertown in the morning and

travels to Cambridge Springs for the afternoon.

In his classes, students are currently making gumball machines and will later construct desk clocks.

So far, students seem to like his style. Eighth grader Emily Barr said, "I like the hands-on work."

And classmate Matt Posego added, "I like the different kind of work we get to do in his classes."

When he is not in school, Edwards enjoys being outdoors. "Camping, fishing, hunting. Stuff like that," he said.



Edwards

Key Club continues to help community

By Ellie Lybarger
STAFF WRITER

Key Club has been busy this Fall raising money for Share the Warmth, a program that purchases winter jackets for Saegertown Elementary students. Hat and Pajama days (which are now only Hat Days) every other Thursday have been a major success. Each student must pay \$1 to participate, and the last one raised \$140. On Nov. 13, the club hosted a neon light dance in the cafeteria that raised over \$300. Katie Loyd said, "I had a lot of fun at the dance and the black light was definitely an interesting twist." One hundred percent of the money Key Club receives will be used to buy coats for the children in need in our very own community. The coats will be wrapped and donated as Christmas

gifts in early December to the Saegertown Elementary School. Ninth grade class representative, Mikayla Balog, says she enjoys doing these types of events "because it benefits people in need and it gives back to the community."

In addition to Share the Warmth, Key Club also participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF. On Thursday October 30, members Shannon Hatton, Stephen Boylan, Ashley Smith, Emily Loccisano, Sarah Shaw, and Kaity Gage went trick-or-treating in Saegertown. Instead of asking for candy, they collected donations to send to Unicef to help fight neonatal tetanus, raising over \$117. Dressed as a Day of the Dead character, Key Club Historian Shannon Hatton said, "It was pretty fun because we got to go trick-or-treating for a good cause."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Neon Nights Dance, held in the cafeteria on Nov. 13, raised money for Share the Warmth.

New ESL teacher at Saegertown High

By Rachel Barner
STAFF WRITER

Though many new faces have joined the Saegertown staff, only one has joined the PENNCREST staff as an ESL teacher to work at the three schools: Mr. Justin Hayes. An ESL teaches students whose first language isn't English how to read, write, understand and speak English fluently by enhancing grammar, vocab, and communication skills. ESL is an abbreviation for English as a second language.

Hayes came from Erie School District, where he worked since 2007. He heard about the job opening at PENNCREST from his friends in the district and decided to send in his resume. Deemed the perfect fit, he joined the PENNCREST staff.

"It's an opportunity, getting a chance to do something different professionally," Hayes said. He's met multiple different students and faculty members and enjoys being able to work with them.

"I appreciate how respectful all of the students are about the school and learning," Hayes said about the school. He lives in the PENN-

CREST area, and he likes it that he doesn't have a far drive.

Hayes enjoys working at the three schools. His favorite part of his job is getting a chance to go into different classes and learning new information. The flexibility is really nice."

Before Hayes joined the facility, Mrs. Cynthia Spirit was the ESL teacher. Spirit was employed through the IU5, which is an educational service agency created to meet the needs of learners through safe, innovative environments. Hayes is employed through PENNCREST. Spirit left the school, and Hayes took over the position.

Hayes isn't just an ESL teacher; he has a cool side to him when he isn't working. Hayes graduated in 1999 from Central High School in Erie where he attended the Electrical Maintenance shop. Today, he sometimes does electrical work as a side job, usually in the summer.

Hayes enjoys playing basketball, golf, and softball and enjoys watching baseball and football. He listens to Sports Talk and NPR Radio. He also enjoys binge-watching Netflix because he no longer has cable. His favorite show to watch is "Orange is

the New Black" and he is on season four of "House."

Another hobby Hayes has is cooking. His favorite tool to cook with is silver waffle maker. Cinnamon rolls, tater tots, pizza, and eggs are some of his favorite foods to cook in it.

Hayes isn't married... yet. In June, he is getting married to his beautiful fiancée, Addriene at Sparrow Pond in Waterford. She is a receptionist and a photographer. Hayes has two dogs and a cat.

Hayes did notice a change between PENNCREST and Erie School District. "Diversity at East was amazing; there were 350 students from eighteen other countries, and nineteen different languages," Hayes said. "All is different there. The culture at Saegertown is all the same compared to twenty different countries and languages."

Hayes hopes to stay at PENNCREST for the long haul. "It's been fantastic," he said.



Hayes

Lucky teacher O'Shea welcomes a son

By Kaity Gage
MARKETING DIRECTOR

Saegertown High School is full of teachers with beautiful families, and one lucky teacher has just added to hers.

Learning support teacher Mrs. Casey O'Shea welcomed her first son Macon (Mac) Robert O'Shea at 11 p.m. on June 8 at Meadville Medical Center.

The name Macon is O'Shea's grandmother-in-law's maiden name. "We really wanted a unique name and felt this was perfect. We call him Mac for short," said O'Shea

Macon, now five months old, led to quite a few changes for the O'Shea household. "At first, it seemed like a huge

adjustment because being a new parent can be somewhat intimidating," said O'Shea. "But now we have gotten into the swing of things, and I really can't remember life before Mac."

Mac spends his days rolling around, screaming, singing, laughing, and smiling. He enjoys going for walks in his stroller and reading with his mom and dad.

Mac plays with his 10 year old St. Bernard, Beowulf by pulling his hair, and Beowulf occasionally returns the affection by sniffing Mac.

As the time goes on, O'Shea is loving her time as a mother, "My favorite part is when he looks at me and smiles or laughs."



Contributed Photo

Macon O'Shea relaxes at home.

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MRS. DANI SHARTLE



"My favorite food is the turkey followed by pie."

"I'm thankful for my friends, family and of course my lovely students."

MRS. SONDRAL HUNTER



"My favorite food is pecan pie."

"I'm thankful for my family and coworkers."

MR. TOM BAKER

"My favorite food is turkey with gravy."



"I'm thankful for my family, friends and fun. The three F's."

HAPPY TURKEY DAY!

Thanksgiving Food

TOP TURKEY PRODUCING STATE:

Wisconsin is the top turkey producer in the United States



Massachusetts is where the first Thanksgiving was celebrated.



EAT. PIE. LOVE.

- Pumpkin- 66%
- Pecan- 16%
- Apple- 6.6%
- Chocolate- 2.7%
- Peach- 2.2%
- Lemon- 2.2%
- Sweet- 2.1%
- Potato
- Coconut- 0.83%
- Cherry- 0.75%
- Strawberry- 0.51%
- Chess- 0.13%
- Key Lime- 0.064%

DID YOU KNOW...

The average household spends \$56.18 on Thanksgiving dinner each year

More than 45 million turkeys are slaughtered for Thanksgiving each year.

Created by Kaitlyn Walsh, Staff Writer

Students



PETER MATTOCKS



"My favorite food is the stuffing in the turkey."

"I'm thankful for my friends and family."

EMILY HEIMBROOK

"My favorite food is the pickles."

"I'm thankful for food and my pug, Miley."



EMILY FORD

"My favorite food is the mashed potatoes."

"I'm thankful for a happy, healthy life."



Created by:
SARAH SHAW &
MICHALA MEDVED, *STAFF WRITERS*

Someone may be listening: School cameras now recording audio

By Garrett Johnston
EDITOR IN CHIEF

New this year: (some of) the cameras in the building can hear every word you utter. In the past the surveillance cameras in the hallways have not recorded audio because it would violate the Pennsylvania wiretapping law. A recent update to this law changed the rules for school districts, and as a result, PENNCREST made a district-level decision to enable the audio on the cameras which were installed by Whitetail Electronics. According to Principal Tom Baker, the change happened because the audio can help with the discipline of students who break school rules.

None of the teachers knew that this change had happened, but once

they were informed, they thought it was a good change. "You can see who actually instigated a fight if it needs to be reviewed," said science teacher Mr. Chris Greco. They feel that it will help keep students from breaking the rules in the hallways when no teachers are watching. "I feel safer," said Nurse Shannon Brancato.

The students disagree with the new addition. "We should be able to say stuff privately without people hearing," said sophomore Stevie Siple. He is not alone in his thoughts, though, other students believe the school should not be able to use the audio. "They are taking away my freedom," said sophomore Wesley Fleischer.

At this point, some cameras are



Some cameras in the building have the capability to record audio. Did you know that?

audio-enabled while others are not. And the audio will only be reviewed if there is a problem. Principal Tom Baker said, "The technology is there, but we have not had to use it yet."

Ray of Light Breaks through Budget Impasse

By Austin Brown
NEWS EDITOR

After a five month game of tug of war between Gov. Tom Wolf and Republicans, Pennsylvanians now have a glimmer of hope for a potential budget.

In an e-mail sent to supporters Gov. Wolf said, "While we're still working out the details, I am hopeful we're nearing the end of this stalemate, and will soon be able to show Pennsylvanians that education is once again our top priority."

One of the major potential changes is a drastic sales tax increase. Republican Dave Reed, the House majority leader said, "There's a lot of details that will still have to be finalized, but certainly, the moving the sales tax from 6 to 7-and-a-quarter (percent) has been part of the discussion."

This proposed 1.25 percentage point boost in the sales tax, would bring the rate to 7.25 percent in Crawford and other counties except Allegheny, where it would be 8.25 percent, and in Philadelphia, where it would be 9.25 percent. And It would give Pennsylvania the second-highest sales tax in the nation.

Wolf and some leaders say that it is a "dollar for dollar" tradeoff as the plans are to reduce property taxes. Sen. John Eichelberger, R-Altoona, analyzed the proposed tax increase in an interview earlier this month. Eichelberger explained how Wolf calls it a \$2 billion prop-

erty tax reduction, but it's really \$1.4 billion with the gambling tax money subtracted. Yet, Jennifer Kocher spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman, R-Centre County, backs the plan saying, "We will continue to talk with our constituents about their concerns while working to provide the property tax reductions and education funding so many indicate that they want."

PENNCREST Superintendent Michael Healey supports the plan. "It is truly needed in order to keep and obtain a comfortable level of education. In larger schools it becomes a huge deal due to lack of teachers. In elementary school classes youth not used to class system, so they need smaller classes. Twenty per cent for high schoolers not as big of deal," Healey said.

Though many have their own opinions on the matter one thing is certain, Wolf has put himself into a position where he must increase education spending because he was elected, in part, on the battleground of public school funding.

Healey said, "I commend him for promotion of education, but he must be careful now he can get a budget that he can sign. He has a big responsibility to have a bipartisan deal that he can sign, one that proves thoughts he had earlier. He should have two choices, establish a bipartisan agreement which benefits more of Wolf's initiatives than Republicans, or sign his own deal."

For more information about Saegertown's SPP, visit paschoolperformance.org.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

before the test, he would have tried much harder. "I'm trying to find a song!" Samantha Ravenscroft said after she put twenty dollars in the Juke Box.

After the bowling was all said and done, Hetrick and Keller gave awards to the juniors. Darren Henry won the award for taking over Hetrick's bowling game, Jude Mattocks won the award of the best dance moves, Nick Palmer won the highest Keystone Literature score award, Megan Urquhart won the best bowling technique, Kalib Kiser won the greatest through-the-legs shot, Alaina Budzbanowski won with the greatest split, and Samantha Ravenscroft won the Juke Box Queen.

building level academic score was 78.9, up from 72.9 in 2013-14.

Michael Sutliff was looking forward to the field trip. Sutliff and many other afternoon students missed classes at the Crawford County Career and Technical Center to attend the trip. At the bowling alley, Hetrick said, "I'm having a blast. It's turning out the way I wanted it to." Junior Jesse Stewart said if he would have known that there was an incentive like this

they read and write." Hetrick wants to have a field trip every year to celebrate the students' hard work on the keystones.

"I knew the students could do it. They just needed to believe in themselves," Keller said about the Keystone scores. Keller also wants this to become a traditional reward.

These stellar scores propelled the increase in Saegertown's SPP (School Performance Profile), which relies heavily on test results. The

Keystone Continued from page 1

CRAWFORD COUNTY			
School	2014-15 SPP	2013-14 SPP	Difference
Cochranton	81.8	87.2	(-5.4)
Titusville	79.6	73.8	(+5.8)
Saegertown	78.9	72.9	(+6)
Union City	78.2	73.4	(+4.8)
Jamestown	75.2	79.1	(-3.9)
Cambridge	72.2	84.7	(-12.5)
Conneaut Area	68.1	60.4	(+7.7)
Meadville	67.9	70.9	(-3)
Lakeview	65.7	78.4	(-12.7)
Corry	64	80.8	(-16.8)
Maplewood	59.1	71.1	(-12)

SPP scores were recently released by the PA Department of Education. Visit paschoolperformance.org for more information.

Keller and Hetrick had set a goal for how many students had to pass for the trip to happen, and they met the mark. In fact, the literature pass percentage went from 50.5 percent last year to 81.2 percent this year, while the biology passing percentage went from 56 percent to 71 percent with a whopping 34 percent advanced. When asked about the scores, Hetrick said, "Can't say I was surprised. I was extremely gratified at the students for showing how well

Continuing the trapping tradition

By Cy Van Cise
STAFF WRITER

About 500 years ago Europeans began trapping and trading fur in North America. And people in Crawford County have been trapping animals such as raccoon, opossum, skunk, muskrat, mink, fox, coyote, fisher, weasel, bobcat and beaver for hundreds of years.

In recent years, as economies have crashed in fur-buying countries and animal rights organizations have increased anti-fur campaigns, fewer people than ever are trapping.

According to trappingtoday.com, a raccoon is only worth about \$6.88 and a larger K9 such as a coyote brings in about \$12.20. Despite these new low prices and naysayers, some Saegertown students are still enthusiastic about the sport.

"We need to carry on the tradition," said Saegertown beaver trapper Chandler Hazlet, senior. "It's always been a big part of my life and I'm not stopping."

Saegertown senior Dustin Crum trapped briefly but quit due to low prices. "There's no money in it anymore," he said. Saegertown freshman Charley Johnson who traps raccoon, muskrat, beaver and fox continues to trap for a very different reason. "I trap to control the animal population," he said.

According to the website Living-WithWildlife, if the raccoon population is not kept in check, they will more frequently get into garbage, gardens, homes and other domestic areas, and they can also be infected with the fatal canine distemper. Johnson, who has suffered two broken thumbs from trapping, has no



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

plans of to stop. Whether it be to keep the tradition of trapping alive or to control the animal population, Saegertown students follow in the footsteps of their ancestors and continue to travel around the countryside harvesting pelts.

Bowlers prepare to strike

By Payton Brooks
STAFF WRITER

The Saegertown bowling team ended last season with a bang, and they are starting this year the same way.

The team was ranked first last year going into the championship match against Cranberry after going undefeated during the season. The two tied, but Saegertown ended up losing 4-3 in the sudden-death round bowled by junior Ricky Kanline.

Kanline is determined to do better in the 2015-2016 season. "I think we are going to be undefeated this year," said Kanline. He started practicing at three years old after seeing his parents and grandparents do it. Similarly, freshman Kylee Higby started the same way.

"My brother did it, and my parents were in a league," said Higby. She started bowling at seven years old and bowled her best score of 260 at age fourteen.

Higby said that bowling is different than other sports because "it's

kind of a one person sport. It's not really a 'team'."

Eighth grader Nick Archacki has been on the team for the past four years and has an extensive list of accomplishments. The biggest achievement was last year when he went to Las Vegas to participate in the Teen Masters bowling tournament. It includes the top youth bowlers in the world, and he placed 55 out of 160.

He has been on the bowling team from its start. "I feel like it's great because it started small and is getting bigger and bigger," Archacki said.

During the match, the team score comes from the top four individual scores. The best team score from last year was a 903 out of a possible 1,200.

There are five bowlers participating this year, including Kanline, Higby, sophomore Michael Costello, freshman Austin Bedow, and eighth grader Nick Archacki. The first match is on Dec. 8 at Seneca Lanes.

Players who perform on the ice

By Nick Bradley
WEBSITE EDITOR

Hockey: a difficult sport that only a few are cut out for. Saegertown High School has three hockey players who play for the Meadville Bulldogs: sophomore Dillon Steiner and juniors Chase Leech and Luke Triola.

The team has already faced an issue. "We have been trying to find team chemistry," said Leech. Their current record is 6-3, with one loss in OT. Both Triola and Steiner said Cathedral Prep is the most difficult team that they have played this year. Leech disagreed. "The hardest team is Indiana, because they have a Pens Elite Player." A Pens Elite Player is a player who is in triple 'A' who gets sponsored by Dick's Sporting Goods.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chase Leech maneuvers around the defense.

While the Bulldogs may have to play against difficult teams, the boys still have high hopes for this season. To win the league is the goal for Triola. "The practices are very competitive. We do situation drills, and we have very small scrimmages," he said. The team will be in action again at home (Meadville Rec Complex) on Monday, Nov. 23 against Peters Township, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Golf team brings home State Trophy

By Cutter'b Pitchard
STAFF WRITER

The young and talented Saegertown golf team pulled off a remarkable fifth place finish in states this year. The team was led by sophomore Ryan Peters who had the lowest average for the team.

The Panthers top five, which included Ryan Peters, Ricky Kanline, Jake Sada, Will Phelan, and Michael Costello, traveled to Heritage Hills on Oct. 29 for the state competition.

Earlier in the season, the team was 6-0 in dual matches, and captured its fourth consecutive Region 4 title. Moving into the playoffs, they clinched a regional win by storming the top spots for a District 10 title at the Meadville Country Club.

Then they captured the first regional golf title for the school by competing in Dubois with a four-stroke lead over the Ridgway Elkers. Thus, the first state championship golf berth for the school was earned.

The competition tee'd off on Oct. 29. The skies gave a brooding sense of being partly cloudy with winds of 35 mph.

Sophomore Ryan Peters said, "We practice



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The golf team celebrates with the fifth place trophy after states.

everyday during the season rain or shine." But the vigorous training didn't prepare them for the unfamiliar course that was not only narrow, but also blew the balls every which way.

Sophomore Michael Costello cut the tension with his first drive at hole 4b, and after an arduous sequence of tees chips and putts, the Panthers tied for fifth in the state with Forest City after 360 strokes.

The loss at the state championship put a stop to the young and talented team's season.

Coach Brian Hanley said, "I knew we would be a pretty good team... we thought we had a chance to win districts, but felt we were the underdog the rest of the way."

Unfortunately, the team will be without its spirited senior Brendon "Skippy" Courtney for next year; however, they will get a return from their top five golfers for the next season.

"The loss at states will not stop the team's momentum. We will come back aiming higher than fifth in the state," said Kanline.

Congratulations Brad Amy on your 15th place finish at States

Junior high wrestlers looking to dominate

By Hunter Trzeciak and Scout Van Cise

STAFF WRITERS

The outstanding wrestling program has dominated year after year here at Saegertown High School and the junior high program is no exception.

As a new season begins, new goals and expectations are set. As of the first practice held on Nov. 16, the new head coach Sean Byham set goals for the team, and they have been working hard to prepare for the new season.

“I have some great expectations for our boys. We have some talented wrestlers who have the ability to accomplish great thing,” he said.

Eighth grader Kenny Kiser who commanded last season, placing sixth at States, is already feeling the pressure. “Since I placed last year, Coach expects me to win,” Kiser said.

When asked what he does to motivate his boys before a match, Byham said, “I get them focused on remembering all that they have done to get where they are and make them remember their confidence.”

The wrestlers also have to balance the sport with their academics. Eighth grader Max Ravenscroft said, “It’s hard to balance everything, especially when you’re getting home late from matches. You have to keep up and get as much done in school as you can.”

The team attends matches and tournaments all around Northwestern Pa.

When asked about his favorite tournament, was to eighth grader Alex Kightlinger claimed, “Flo Nationals” held in Indiana, Pa., where he placed eighth last year. “I like that tournament because it is post-season. It doesn’t count toward your season record, but it is a chance to prove yourself. It’s also a place to see college scouts.”

Although it is a new year, the team still has two long time standing rivals.

Coach Byham said, “Reynolds and Fort LeBoeuf are our toughest competition.” Seventh grader Jaden Reagle said, “ I’m most looking forward to compete against Fort LeBoeuf.”

Their first match will be December 8 at home against Youngsville.

Voices showcased at Junior High District Chorus

By Autin Brown

NEWS EDITOR

After weeks of anticipation and preparation, seven members of Saegertown’s junior high chorus participated in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Junior District Chorus at Eisenhower Jr. Sr. High School in Russell, Pa. on Nov. 6-7.

Chorus teacher Mrs. Susan James said, “I send in an application for each kid that turns that one in. We are given a quota of four kids, but this year three extra students were accepted because they needed to try to fill choir so it is balanced.

The singers selected included freshmen Madison Morgan, Stephanie Polach, Dustin Steiger, and Ben Shelenberger as well as eighth graders Aaron Brown, Oliver Smith, and Sam Shelenberger. The favorite part of the concert



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saegertown students attended Junior High District Chorus at Eisenhower on Nov. 6-7.

for the Shelenberger brothers and Aaron Brown was unanimously the first song of the concert, “Ob-wisana (Goin` to Ghana)” because of the interactive hand movements performed during the song. Singers were also humbled to get to learn from the experienced guest conductor Ken Myers. Brown said, “Get-

ting to learn from such an experienced conductor as Mr. Myers is an experience I will never forget.” Of the students’ performance, Mrs. James said, “They were really good. The boys section was especially fantastic. I was very proud to take the kids that I took. They represented Saegertown very well.”

WHAT ARE WE THANKFUL FOR?

“John Cena.”
- Kenny Kiser

“Family, friends, and the things God gives me, and pets and food on the table.”
- Ella Nicholson

“My phone, my family, dog.”
- Katie Berger

“My family and just spending time at my grandma’s house. It’s always fun there eating turkey.”
-Alexi Lewis

“My friends, my family and giraffes.”
- Maddie Mond

“Life science is progressing. It is giving people a better chance of living to be 100.”
- Darian Kaye

“Chicken wings.”
- Kaylee Mulligan

“My family and friends. And I love going to Gannon to my grandmother’s house for Thanksgiving dinner.”
-Lucas Burdick

“Video games and money.”
- Aaron Brown

Third grader publishes Jr. Press

By Bailey Kozalla and Kaity Gage

STAFF WRITER AND MARKETING DIRECTOR

Think back to the third grade. Were you reading your favorite book from the library? Were you drawing a picture in art class? Or were you playing an intense game of kickball at recess?

Saegertown Elementary student Eden Dorta differs from ordinary third graders. She uses her free time to collect information and write news stories. In fact, she recently published her own “Jr. Panther Press.”

“It was fun finding all the information in the school,” said Dorta. Her primary source for the writing material comes from the morning announcements.

Dorta’s interest in writing began during the 2014 - 2015 school year. She began by writing autobiographies until she was ready to write for an audience. Her newspaper focuses on, “... writing things about what is going on in the school.”

Dorta’s third grade teacher, Mrs. Tina Johnston, didn’t know of the newspaper until it was finished. Naturally, she was thrilled. “She is a very good little writer. I didn’t need to help her in any way, shape, or form,” said Johnston.

Dorta plans to continue writing her Jr. Press. “If any more information comes up, I would probably like to write about it,” she said.

Some of the sections in her last publication include information about the new principal Mr. Caro,



BAILEY KOZALLA/SHS

Eden Dorta plans to write for The Panther Press when she is in high school. She also plans to continue her elementary publishing career.

the new policy that allows third graders to buy their own snacks in the cafeteria, which teacher is which Disney princess, and a game involving guessing what costumes the teachers will choose for Halloween.

In the future, Dorta would like to make more copies of her Jr. Panther Press to give to her friends so they can then find out what is happening in Saegertown Elementary School.

Dorta hopes to further her writing career by one day becoming a writer for The Panther Press.

Saegertown Marching Band will be holding a Community Night Fundraiser at Hoss’s in Meadville on Saturday, Nov. 28. To participate, see Mr. Patrick Baldwin for a “Cash Cow Card.” You can also help the band by purchasing Pennsylvania Sandwich Company cards for \$5. Each card entitles you to a 1/2 sub and a can of soda. Pennsylvania Sandwich Company is located at 342 North Street in Meadville.

Jacob Speaks: Wit, wisdom, and more

By Jacob Perrett

BROADCAST

After years of writing comedy sketch and making advice videos for my channel on YouTube, I feel as though I have the necessary wisdom that Saegertown High Schoolers need. Some may refer to this as the Tepe Talk 2.0, but for the first time ever Jacob Speaks comes to print.

What do you have to do to have a work ethic that takes you to the top of the ladder, baby?

Dear work seeking wonderer, Of all my years being in the work force (one and a half to be exact), I have learned that a hard working attitude won’t get you too far. What you

really need aside from the determination is some caffeine because most of the time the long days are the biggest obstacle for a full time student and part time worker. But before you take this advice, keep in mind that you’re taking advice from a guy who still makes minimum wage.

If someone says something really ignorant to you, how do you respond?

Dear conflicted questioner, I think it’s safe to say that I’m quite the passive person. Most of the time when faced with a comment that could turn physical, I find comfort in resorting to the fetal position.

How many friends do you have on Myspace?

Dear mindful media researcher,

What’s a Myspace? Oh wait, this is an advice column.

How do I ask a boy out?

Dear baffled boyfriend analyst,

Your first instinct may be to

hope and pray that the said boy will eventually ask you out on the date, but if all else fails, I would recommend you use a super smooth pick-up line. Try something like, “Are you a photograph? Because I can totally picture us together!” Works every time.



“Spectre” provides closure for Bond fans

By Ben Haylett

BROADCAST

“Spectre” takes everyone’s favorite ladies’ man with a license to kill on an entertaining joyride that finally ties up loose ends that were left over from the previous three movies. When Daniel Craig took the reins as James Bond, he ushered in a new era of Bond films that rewrote the classics.

“Casino Royale,” “Quantum of Solace,” and “Skyfall” gave us a prequel that showed us where Bond came from, where “Spectre” on the other hand, harkens back to the campiness and charm that made the old Bond movies so great.

Don’t get me wrong, the previous entries were an interesting take on the character of Bond and are genuinely entertaining, but it is really nice to get back to basics.

Throughout the last three movies, subtle hints have been dropped about the existence of Spectre, a top secret evil organization, but until now these hints seemed out of place and felt like plot holes left in the overall story.

While “Spectre” does answer all the questions posed in the earlier movies, it feels like the answers are being shoved down your throat, and the exposition throughout the film is clunky at best.

If you had come to see “Spectre” without seeing any of the past three



telegraph.co.uk

movies, you would be completely lost.

Daniel Craig comes back to reprise his role with all the charm and charisma that accompanies James Bond. Ralph Fiennes does a great job taking over the role of M from Judi Dench.

However, the personal relationship between Bond and M is gone, and Fiennes and Craig have more of an employer-employee relationship, and Dench is dearly missed.

Christoph Waltz plays the part of the stereotypical Bond villain with flying colors, and is truly frightening. Waltz has perfectly mastered the silent rage that accompanies a great antagonist.

Overall, “Spectre” is a welcome addition to the Bond franchise that I would recommend to fans of the newer and old movies alike.

But if you do see it, definitely watch the other Daniel Craig Bond movies and get yourself caught up.

Wrestlers head back to the mat

By Cassidy Trace STAFF WRITER

Can our Saegertown wrestling team have another successful season? Last year the team was 19-5, qualifying for states and taking the fifth place title.

According to Coach Pat Bradshaw, "Anybody who shows up gets a workout." For this season, the team members have their own personal goals.

Coach Jimmy Mulligan, who has been the head coach for nine years said, "We train all summer." It takes

time and hard work to be a wrestler. Sophomore Cody Mulligan said, "I wrestle all year along. I never stop training."

The junior high team is now welcoming a new coach Sean Byham, an alumnus of the program who graduated in 2011.

Official practices began on November 16, and the team will have its first scrimmage of the season tomorrow at General McLane High School.

Lady Panthers to rely on senior leaders

By Paige Coon STAFF WRITER

It's time to lace up the shoes and hit the court because it's basketball season. The girls basketball team is back, and they are ready for action.

Senior Maile Chang said, "I'm looking forward to playing with the team and just having fun." Last year the girls were 7-5, and at the end of the season, they only lost one senior, Jess Tomiczek.

"I think we will do pretty good. We only lost one senior last year, so we have some players coming back," said sophomore Haley Hess.

Considering the fact that the team only has twelve players this year it may be rough at first, but they are hopeful that they will finish strong and dominate the court.

They are preparing under the direction of veteran coach Steve Scott to improve their skills and running to gain speed before the season starts.

The Lady Panther's season officially kicks off on Dec. 7 at home against Northwestern. Varsity games begin at 7 p.m.

Vath is changing the game

By Cassidy Trace STAFF WRITER

"Age, gender, or size doesn't matter when it comes to wrestling. Anybody can do it," said assistant wrestling coach Pat Bradshaw.

It is quite uncommon when you hear about girls wrestling at the high school level. Wrestling is usually a male-dominated sport, but Vath is determined to break the stereotype.

Vath, who will be wrestling at

106 or 113 pounds, has always been a big fan of wrestling. She has grown up watching her brother, Tyler Vath, who graduated last spring after placing second at states.

Now she is moving from the stands down to the mat. "I think it'll help me understand it better," said Vath.

Head coach Jimmy Mulligan approached Vath's parents about the idea of her wrestling. "I could see her competing in college," said Mulligan.



Lexie Vath

gan. Vath does the same workouts as her male teammates, lifting in the morning and practicing after school. She will compete for a spot on the team like everyone else.

"We are going to take it slow with Lexie, she's a tough girl and a real hard worker," said Mulligan. Vath is showing that wrestling is not just a sport for boys.

Boys ready to take it to the hoop

By Zack Posego WEBSITE EDITOR

The season for the 2015-16 boys' varsity basketball team began with their first official practice on November 16.

The first official game for the team is Dec. 4 against Calvary Baptist Christian Academy; however, they have a scrimmage at home with Corry tomorrow that that they

hope to win in order to set the tone for the rest of the season.

Head coach Mr. Greg Molnar returns this year for his eighth season coaching the Panthers. And while several key players graduated last year, seniors Bradley Amy, Garrett Johnston, Peter Mattocks, and Lucas Smith are stepping up as leaders for the team this season.

Other team members include juniors Dane Rhoades, Austin Brown, Grant Phelan, Cutter'b Pritchard, Alan McGill, Kole Schlosser, Nick

Bradley, and Sam Michaels; sophomores Steve Siple, Jarrett DeJohn, Dakota Dick, Jake Steiger, Mike Chess, Owen Chess, and Tony Weed; and freshmen Eli Draa and Will Phelan.

The team has also set up a Twitter page this year to capture every game throughout the season. Follow @shsboysball on Twitter to stay up date on the Panthers and receive live updates on game performance.

For all the latest sports news and updates follow us @PantherPressSHS

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Mr. Healey takes the helm at PENNCREST

By Ben Courson BROADCAST TEAM

"I love making students laugh. I see my job as an adventure, for no day is the same. It hasn't been for 30 years," said Mr. Michael Healey, new superintendent of PENNCREST School District.

For the past 13 years, he has been superintendent of Tunkhannock School District in the eastern part of the state.

During a recent press conference and interview, Mr. Healey shared that location is one thing that drew him to PENNCREST.

With his fascination of wrestling, he shared that he once had the privilege of walking John Cena to the floor for a signing followed by eating burgers and fries with him.

Throughout his career in education, Mr. Healey has worked many places. He has been a soccer coach, an athletic director, and even a principal at a one-room schoolhouse with 27 students in Ira, Vermont.

Mr. Healey's office is decorated with a lot of memorabilia that includes: "the world's largest baseball



Ben Courson and Austin Brown visited Superintendent Michael Healey in his office.

bat" (according to him), a marble shaped like an egg, and a collection of professional wrestling cards.

where the nearest McDonald's was. Never again will I eat a bear that was buried in the ground," he said.

His plan is to take the first ninety days at PENNCREST to get to know everybody. In fact, Mr. Healey shared that every Friday, he travels to the different schools in the district so he can meet more students and staff and see what is important to them.

His goal is a shared vision. "I want to create a collective vision, and a vision is not compiled and made by one person," he said.

Former science teacher Mr. Phil Young has taken the recently open assistant principal position. Former assistant principal Mrs. Laurie Kantz left this past summer, leaving a hole that was filled by Mr. Thomas Baker until he became principal after Mr. Douglas Wilson resigned.

"I applied for the position because I felt I could have a significant impact on Saegertown High School in a positive way," said Young. He was approved as the new assistant on Thursday Nov. 12 at the PENNCREST board meeting.

He has taught at Saegertown for almost twelve years as a science and recently a STEM teacher and believes that this will help him be the best that he can. Young said, "All the experience I've had in this building has allowed me to understand the jobs of my colleagues."

His goals are to be able to support the teachers with student behavior so they can focus on instruction, and to help reform policies that will allow for a more positive atmosphere.

"I think he will do a great job," said senior Katie Loyd. Sophomore Olivia Hoffman said, "He's

Mr. Phil Young takes office

By Payton Brooks STAFF WRITER

an adequate disciplinarian. He knows how to run a classroom."

Freshmen Mikayla Balog and Sheena Byham, who began their years with Young as their teacher, wish he was still in that position.

"I'd rather have him be our science and STEM teacher," said Balog. However, they both wished him luck.

The staff also had very positive opinions and advice to offer their former co-worker. "I think he was the best choice they could've made because I think he will make a very fair and efficient vice principal. He knows our students and teachers, and I think he has respect of the students and teachers," said Mrs. Kathy Woods.

English teacher Mr. Greg Molnar, said of Young, "He is a much better administrator than I could ever hope to be. He should take the same passion he has as a teacher and put it into being an administrator."

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Young

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