

The Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School / High School January 2016 Volume 78 Number 5

Borso Assigned Position

Kara Borso, the daughter of Larry and Leanne Borso, was hired by the Conemaugh Township Area School District as the new Middle School Guidance Counselor. She began working here in January.

Kara attended Westmont High School. There, she was active as a cheerleader. Also, she played on the softball Team. In addition, she was a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Destructive Decisions organization, and Key Club.

Ms. Borso then went on to attend the Pennsylvania State University for four years and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Later, she returned to school and earned a master's degree in School Counseling.

Ms. Borso was previously employed at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown for six years as an academic counselor.

Outside of school an activity she enjoys is skiing. She has been skiing since she was in third grade.

Kara's stated her thoughts of Township as, "The people and employees at Township have been very welcoming and supportive for the short time I have been here."

Presently, Ms. Borso resides in Westmont.

New Student Teacher Comes to Township

This semester Mrs. Williamson is working with a new student teacher. Her name is Lynda Kruike. She is a twenty-one year old who collects old coins and is very interested in teaching children about history and social studies.



Ms. Lynda Kruike

Ms. Kruike attended Glendale Junior/Senior High School in Flinton, PA. While in high school she was a member of the basketball team, S.A.D.D. organization, and envirothon, a competition dealing with the environment.

Lynda is attending the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. She is majoring in Secondary Education Social Studies. She has already majored in History there.

When Ms. Kruike was asked if she liked it at Township, she responded, "I am super excited to be here. I am so thankful for the amazing opportunity to work with this special staff."

By being a teacher, Lynda hopes to help children understand history better. She wishes to be able to influence students the way her teachers impressed her. When she finishes student teaching at Township, she hopes she will have developed the confidence to be a full time teacher.

Presently, Ms. Kruike lives in Richland.



Ms. Kara Borso

Cold Weather Driving Cautions

Winter time is filled with many joyful things, from holidays like Christmas and New Year's Eve, to fun, season based activities like skiing and sled riding. However, there is one obvious downfall to cold weather: bad weather and slippery roads. Should young drivers be taught to be more cautious while driving in the winter?

Personally, I believe this is a question with an obvious answer. Of course they should drive more cautiously in the winter time. New drivers will encounter conditions they have never experienced or have not driven in for nine months. Sure, in the spring, summer, and fall, there are times when the roads get slippery and slick when it rains or leaves fall onto them, but nothing really compares to roads during whiteout conditions or when snow or black ice covered. Furthermore, the bitter cold air itself can cause dangerous driving situations even without any precipitation.

For these reasons, if you are running late somewhere in the winter time, you should never rush to get to your destination, especially if it is snowing or you feel the roads could be icy. It is very easy to lose control of your vehicle due to icy roads and when there are whiteout conditions, you may only be able to see a few feet in front of you.

There are a few things you can do that can greatly reduce the chances of your losing control of your car or having your engine stall out due to cold weather. Always start your car five to ten minutes before you leave, allowing it to defrost and warming up your engine. Make sure your tires are inflated according to your owner's manual. Whenever there are poor road conditions, limit going out to only when necessary and never drive fatigued. Finally, always keep your gas tank filled over a quarter of a tank to prevent fuel line freeze up.

Winter weather poses many risks to drivers attempting to travel. I believe you should be very cautious when driving in winter weather, and never take your eyes off of the road. Follow these steps to ensure you arrive at your destination.

Snow Day School

In the Northern states, school snow days are a necessary evil that accompany bad weather days. When the elements outside simply do not agree with the safety of children, schools close down for the day. I, as well as millions of other of students, have experienced these types of days many times in my life.

Sure, snow days offer a great feeling to students knowing they can sleep in. However, this is a day that will have to be made up in the future. As a result, a topic of debate has arisen as to whether or not online schooling should be used in place of just making the missed

EDITORIAL

day up later.

I think this is a hard topic to decide. Schools must always achieve the required 180 school days, regardless of how they reach this goal. I believe online schooling simply would not work for the entire populace of a school. There are students who do not do homework as it is, let alone do it for an entire day on their own. Not to mention if the weather outside is already bad enough to close down a building, there is always the chance that some students will not have access to the internet or in severe cases, electricity.

I feel we should leave the system how it is. Making up a few extra days in the summer or on designated snow days is a system that has worked for many generations. Online schooling will just be more taxing on everyone involved, and cannot be expected to work flawlessly on the middle to high school level. For these reasons, I do not see a need to change the system.

In conclusion, the way snow days are handled will always be up for debate. I believe if something is not broken, there is no reason to fix it.

Keeping Resolutions

Do New Year's resolutions give a good incentive to achieve goals? When I consider this question, I immediately laugh and disagree.

At the beginning of a new year, many people say they will do things to better themselves, but in the long run, they never really do. Some people do hold up their resolutions to a point, but most do not or quickly give up.

I have not made any New Year's resolutions yet because I do not feel the need for them. This is how I feel other people should see it, especially if they say they are going to fool themselves by making a resolution and then not keep it. I feel it is better not to make one if they are not really going to accomplish it. It really does not make sense.

I can see why those who make New Year's resolutions think it is a good idea, but the desire and drive already has to be within them. People who actually want to better their lives are going to do it on their own terms every day. They know they have flaws in their lives and continually work to fix them, not just because of a New Year's resolution.

In my opinion, New Year's resolutions are terribly thought out and rarely ever get carried through. I think you should just be your best every day. You do not need a resolution when you can work to better yourself everyday.

PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL

Winter Fever

Clayton Blough works forward in the Windber game.



Olivia Roman pushes forward in hopes of scoring.



Shaun Berzonski works on his opponent at the match against Shade.



Calista Thomas dribbles down court at the Rockwood Game.



Ryan Cotchen goes to block a Windber shot.

The Contownian is published online monthly by the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Journalism Class. For advertising information call (814) 479-4014, Extension 3518 or write to 300 West Campus Avenue, Davidsville, PA 15928.

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

Editors

Senior Editor-in-Chief.....	Josh McKool
Junior Editor-in-Chief.....	Alexis Buncich
Senior News Editor.....	Molly Massimo
Junior News Editor.....	Gabriel Slezak
Senior Features Editor.....	Alyssa Blank
Junior Features Editor.....	Cheyenne Weaver
Senior Sports Editor.....	Coltin Miller
Junior Sports Editor.....	Ryan Cotchen
Senior Society Editor.....	Alexis Christofes
Junior Society Editor.....	Laura Bivens
Senior Photography Editor.....	Abigail Cover
Junior Photography Editor.....	Caitlin Stahl
Senior Advertising Manager.....	Alanna Kozielec
Junior Advertising Manager.....	Sarah Alesantrino
Senior Business Manager.....	Alanna Kozielec
Junior Business Manager.....	Emily Waterhouse

News Staff

Samantha Bellak.....	Nathan Formica.....	Emily Fultz
Jacob Grosik.....	Dallas Palmatier	
Noah Swintosky.....	Emily Waterhouse	

Feature Staff

Keith Baldwin.....	Alexis Hogue.....	Cara Lichtenfels
Noah Livella.....	Caleb Maurer.....	Colton Stahl

Society Staff

Sarah Alesantrino.....	Erin Carr.....	December Cordetsky
Alanna Kozielec.....	Trent Simko	
Sean Thomas.....	Trenton Troxell	

Sports Staff

Christopher Alesantrino....	Cameron McMillan....	Derek Nemeth
Olivia Shaulis.....	Brandon Stahl.....	Nathaniel Thomas

Photography Staff

Sarah Alesantrino.....	Alexis Buncich.....	Erin Carr
Alexis Christofes.....	December Cordetsky.....	Emily Fultz
Alexis Hogue.....	Cameron McMillan	

Advisor:

Michael J. Andolina

Savoring the Snow

Snow can be a wonderful and amazing thing that goes along with the winter season. Yet, what can people do to occupy their time in the snow? With all of the new fresh snow coming to the area, there are many things people who live in this area can do.

Most people think sled riding is mostly just for kids, but it can be a great activity for people of all ages, so break out those old sleds, find a hill, and have the time of your life. Another great activity for all ages is building a classic snowman. No matter how old you are, everyone enjoys getting together to build a unique snowman. Just remember though, after all of the fun in the fresh snow, shoveling driveways and walkways will soon follow.

There are many things people can do in the snow. Whether it be sled riding, building a snowman, or even shoveling, winter activities bring people together.

Technology Trouble

In this day and age, technology is involved in many aspects of any student's life. Technology can in many ways be a great way to spend time or connect with friends, as well as family. However, does technology hinder some students' abilities to learn? There are some studies that show it does.

Technology can at times distract students when they are learning. Some recent studies have shown the overuse of cellphones has indeed distracted students, putting them behind in their studies. It very often can cause them to become preoccupied, and for this reason users should do something about this. Cell phones should be limited in their use in order to save the academic lives of students.

In conclusion, technology can be great. It can give students access to information not normally accessible, but it can also cause damage to a student's educational life. Limiting the time students use their cell phones is one way to begin helping to straighten out the problem of technological distractions.

New Year, New You

Welcome to 2016, a fresh start to some, another boring old year for others. Here come New Year resolutions and more internet texts. For this reason, some good

ideas for this New Year include gym memberships, new goals, and fresh ideas. Nothing beats feeling great about yourself and setting at least one goal for the new year. This is why many people around the world are making New Year's resolutions.

A student from Conemaugh Township, Sarah Alesantrino, said "I can't wait to achieve my New Year's Resolution by 2017, to have three more dogs!"

This year will always be remembered with lots of laughs, tears, joys, and heartbreaks. Hopefully your new year will be absolutely phenomenal. Happy 2016, and have a safe and happy New Year.

Winter Reading

This winter season you may find yourself trapped in your home due to all of the snow falling. However, do not let this ruin your day. There are plenty of things you can do inside of your home on a snowy day. One of these things is reading a good book. Many people enjoy reading so, if you like to read this may be your alternative to a boring snowy day.

Some new books of 2016 that you may want to check out are the new Star Wars series, All the Night We Cannot See, See Me, After the Crash, and Furiously Happy.

If you would like to purchase any book you can go to Barnesandnoble.com to see the latest you might want to read.

Even though there are many things to do this winter season, reading is the relaxing solution to staying warm and healthy this snowy winter season.



Student Interests

Elizabeth Wilkey

Elizabeth Wilkey is a senior at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. She lives in Thomas Mills with both of her parents, Robert and Christine Wilkey.

Liz participated in Tang Soo Do Korean Martial Arts at Joe Goss Karate. Her Cho Dan Rank is "Black Belt." She has been involved in martial arts for about eight years.

Liz was also able to teach students of younger ranks. She learned and reciprocated forms and martial art materials, including self-defense and weaponry.



Elizabeth Wilkey

Liz stated, "Out of the group that tested in the same day and class as I, I was ranked third."

Liz's future plan is to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown to study in Nursing.

Trenton Troxell

Trenton Troxell is the son of Christine, "Chrissy," and Bob Troxell. He lives with his parents in Soap Hollow.

Trenton has been involved in art outside of school for as long as he can remember. As a result, he took first place in the Somerset County Peace Poster Contest. Following this, he took third place in the All Area Peace Poster Contest. In third grade, Trenton was also an "Honorable Mention" for the Somerset County Art Display.

He enjoys painting and drawing pictures for his friends and family, as well as his own personal entertainment.

When asked about his interests, Trenton stated, "Art is something I can enjoy and do for the rest of my life."

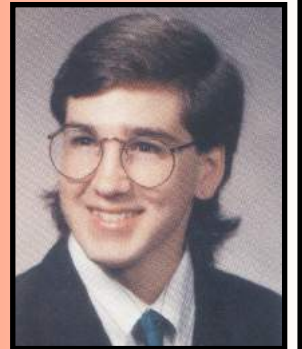


Trenton Troxell

Trenton's future plan is to attend the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently undecided as to what studies he would like to pursue.

Alumni of the Month

Kenneth Kusher graduated from Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School in 1991. While he was a student at Township, Ken actively participated in English activities and the school's plays and musicals directed by his favorite teacher throughout his high school years, Mr. Andolina. Kenneth said that being around Mr. Andolina and working with him has inspired him very much in his own life and had an impact on his line of work today.



Kenneth Kusher

After graduation, he went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where he earned a degree in English Education. After completing college, Mr. Kusher held a few different jobs. He worked as a substitute teacher, extracurricular advisor, and was a member of a therapeutic support staff for autistic children. In 2001, he realized his true passion was teaching. As a result, he now teaches English at Conemaugh Township.

Mr. Kusher's fondest memories of Conemaugh Township are all based in the arts areas: band competitions, art projects, closing night of the school's plays and musicals, and reading literature in his English classes. He stated he feels blessed to have been a part of Township his entire life and as a result, having such rich and varied memories to draw from.



Kenneth with his son Grayson and wife Barbra.

HIGH SCHOOL

Varsity Boys' Basketball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Boys' Basketball Team played a game on January 11 against the undefeated Shanksville-Stonycreek Boys' Basketball Team. It was a tough loss for the Indians as they lost with a score of 31-68. The Indians record then stood at 4-5.

The Squad was looking to bounce back on January 13 against the visiting Portage Area Boys' Basketball Team. It was a close one throughout the entire game with Portage making runs and the Indians returning with their own scoring to create a balanced effort. However, Portage pulled away at the end winning by a score of 63-58.

Jordan Poznanski was named "Player of the Game" for his 22 points.

The team then traveled to the North Star School District to take on the cougars and competed for a non-conference win against the cougars on January 15. It was a close game through the first quarter, but the Indians began to pull away from the cougars and finished the game with a score of 52-35.

Again, Jordan Poznanski was named "Player of the Game" for his 14 point performance.

On January 19 the Conemaugh Township boys' played an away conference game at hosting Blacklick Valley. The Indians had a quick start extending the lead and then keeping it the entire game. The Indians came away with a victory with a score of 64-33.



Senior Chris Alesantrino looks past a Windber defender in a tight game.

Ryan Cotchen was named "Player of the Game" with 12 points, 7 rebounds, and 4 assists performance.

The Indians will take on Meyersdale next in a double header with the girls' varsity basketball team.

The Indians will take on Meyersdale next in a double header with the girls' varsity basketball team.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls' Basketball Team hosted the Lady Mustangs of Portage on Thursday night, January 14. The Lady Indians put up a fight in the first half, ending it with a score of 25-33, Mustangs. Unfortunately, the Indians could not pull through in the second half, and the Lady Mustangs won 71-54. Leading Scorers for the Indians were Abbey Roberts with 15 points and Erin Berzonski with 10.

The Lady Indians then travelled to North Star to play the Lady Cougars but fell short 33-63. The lead scorers for the Indians were Abbey Roberts and Mikala Faith with 7 points each.

The Indians next beat the Lady Vikings of Blacklick Valley 54-40 when they travelled there on January 20. The Indians had a slow start in the first half, but they picked it up in the second half to gain the win. Leading scorers for the Lady Indians were Abbey Roberts with 13 points and Mikala Faith with 12.

The Lady Indians will host the Red Raiders of Meyersdale on Thursday, January 21, followed by the boys' team afterward in a doubleheader.

Athletes...

Alanna Kozielec is the daughter of Joseph Kozielec of Hollsopple and Melanie Letosky of Richland.

Alanna is a two year letterman in Soccer, three year in Softball, and four year in Rifle and a statistician for the boys' basketball team.

Alanna is a member of the Conservation, Science, and Ski Clubs. She serves as the president of the latter. She also belongs to the Serving Our Neighbors, Random Acts of Kindness, and Students against Destructive Decisions organizations. In addition, Alanna is the Advertising and Business Manager for the Conemaugh/Connumach/Contownian and participates in County Band.



Alanna Kozielec

Outside of school Alanna enjoys hunting, fishing, and volunteering at her church and Camp PARC.

After graduating, Alanna plans on enlisting in the Air Force Academy to become an Air Traffic Controller or Special Investigations Officer.

Rifle

As the winter sports season gets into full swing, the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Rifle Team is off to an impressive 3-0 start.

The varsity's most recent opponent was Forest Hills. Township beat this team 1,373-1,319. The top five shooters for the Indians were both Seth Strayer and Kaitlyn Garrety with 279, Annie Tomb with 274, Lauren Sprock at 274, and Amber Thomas with 267, her personal best.

The junior varsity rifle team won as well against the Rangers with a score of 269-263. The top scorer for the J V was Cody Figard with a score of 94, which is also a personal best.

The team's next match is Thursday, January 14, as the Indians take on Chestnut Ridge.

"We lost a lot of talent after graduation. Because of this we needed the freshmen to step up this year. They have more than filled that gap and have shown very much promise for the team and this year's advancement." said Junior Captain Seth Strayer.

...of the Month

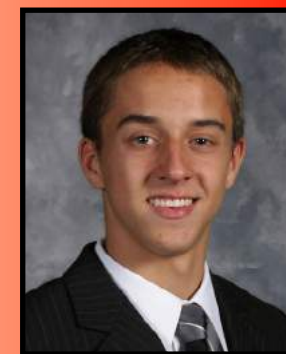
Michael Roman is the Son of Dave and Renae Roman of Davidsville.

Michael is a senior at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. He is a two year golf letter-winner and four year baseball and basketball player. Michael was also named as a member of the WestPAC All-County Baseball Team. In Golf, he was a District 5 and WestPAC champion.

As a student, Michael is a member of the Student Council, Principal's Cabinet, National Honor Society, Serving Our Neighbors organization, and Spanish Club. He was Class President for three years, Vice President for one year, and a National Honor Society officer.

Outside of school, Mike likes to spend time volunteering at Camp PARC and playing sports.

His future plan is to attend West Virginia University majoring in Forensic and Investigative Sciences.



Michael Roman

Varsity Wrestling

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Wrestling Team faced the Berlin Brothersvalley High School team at Berlin on December 30.

Township had 6 Wrestlers participating in the Berlin match. These included Bailey Kist at 106 lbs., Aaron Griffith at 126 lbs., Gage Lewis at 132 lbs., Shaun Berzonski at 138 lbs., Sean Thomas at 145 lbs., and Brandon Stahl at 152 lbs.

The first match of the night started at 126 lbs. Aaron Griffiths was first up for Conemaugh Township against Berlin's 126 lbs. Shawn Yanosky. Aaron Griffiths wrestled his match and beat his foe by a major decision.

Gage Lewis was Conemaugh Township's next representative in the next match at 132 lbs. against Berlin's 132 lbs. player. Lewis wrestled a hard match until the end but came up short.

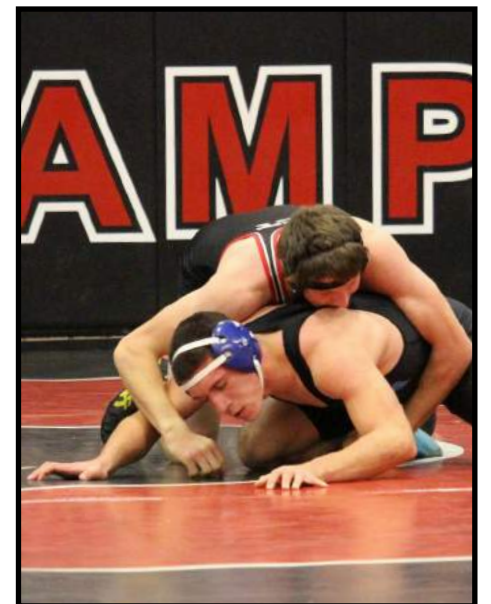
Freshman Shaun Berzonski was the 138 lbs. Competitor. Unfortunately, he was pinned in the first period.

Sean Thomas was the 145 lbs. match wrestler. Sean beat Berlin's 145 lbs. grappler in the third period by technical rules.

Junior Brandon Stahl wrestled the 152 lbs. match. He brought Township a victory in his weight class by pinning Nick Brown.

Bailey Kist was the 106 lbs. participant. He too won his match.

"Wrestling is a crazy sport. It is so different from other sports because it takes not only a great deal of physical strength but a lot of mental strength, as well. Wrestling requires a love for the sport unlike no other because you need to have the will to work hard and keep moving forward, no matter how hard everything gets." stated Shaun Berzonski.



Brandon Stahl attempts to pin his opponent in WestPAC action.

A Special Thank You

January is School Board Appreciation Month. In this light, we would like to recognize the Conemaugh Township Area School District Board of Directors for everything they do: Mr. Gregory M. Christofes, Dr. Rocco M. Mantini, Mrs. Susan Saylor-Stahl, Mrs. Lori R. Sotosky, Mr. Earl E. Sleek, II, Mr. David S. Strayer, Mrs. Michelle Stumpf, Mr. Alan W. Tresnicky, and Mrs. Christine R. Troxell.

Connumach Yearbook Order Forms to be Mailed

Yearbook order forms have been mailed to all students' homes the beginning of February. Senior High and Middle School yearbooks may be ordered by visiting Herff Jones yearbookorder-center.com or by calling 1-866-287-3096. Yearbooks may only be purchased in this manner. NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE SCHOOL. Yearbook questions may be addressed to the Publications Office at 479-4014 or Herff-Jones Yearbook Ordering Department at 1-866-287-3096.

Telephone Numbers

Administrative Office

Superintendent.....Thomas Kakabar.....479-7575
Business Manager.....Regina Rembold.....479-7431
Food Service Director....Adam Thomas.....479-2328
Director of Curriculum....Stacy Dabbs.....479-7575

Junior/Senior High School 7-12

Principal.....James Foster.....479-4014
Guidance Counselors..... Kelly Birkhimer and Kara Borso.....479-7886
School Nurse.....Cassey DeBiase.....479-2324
Athletic Director.....Lance McGough.....479-4014

School Calendar

The following dates are subject to change

February 6.....ACT Test Date
February 16.....School Board Meeting - 7:00PM

One Last Look...

February Marks RAK Month

The Random Acts of Kindness, or RAK, Club became an official school club last school year when it was formed by Abby Gearhart, a math teacher at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School.

Ms. Gearhart started this club because she wanted to restore people's faith in the goodness of others while selflessly doing performing kind deeds.

"I want to shed light on the simplicity, necessity, and genuine fun there is in kindness. Somewhere along the line we have lost our focus on good and began only focusing on negativity. Presently, our culture bombards us with negativity, when in reality there is so much good in our lives. We are incredibly blessed. We just have to put on the right pair of glasses and see with our hearts. Remember, you can't have a positive without a negative, happy without sad, good without bad, and light without darkness. One helps to appreciate the other, but they must both exist. We have to make a conscious decision of what to focus on. We have to literally condition and train ourselves to do so. My hopes are that the RAK Club can bring awareness to this and bring others spontaneous joy right when they need it. Also, we can learn to see the good and be the good." stated Ms. Gearhart in reference to her hopes for the RAK Club and what she wants the club to achieve.

The Random Acts of Kindness Club currently has upwards of 100 members. The club focuses on just what the name implies - random acts of kindness. The club's main goal is to spread positive energy and thoughts throughout the school and community by performing random acts of kindness. These acts are also meant to be anonymous. The club does not seek to get attention or receive any credit for anything that goes on within the school.

"I am so glad there is a club where I can do kind things for people and not get credit for it. So often we see people only doing kind things for people for publicity or for the recognition, but in RAK it is meant to be completely anonymous," stated December Cordetsky, a member of the RAK Club.

For their seasonal act of kindness, the RAK Club made Christmas themed treats for the students, faculty, and administration at the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. The treats were made by the students and Mrs. Gearhart. The Christmas themed treat packages were delivered on the 22 of December, the day before break started. This act of kindness was inspired by the spirit of the season and the ideology of the giving season.

Throughout the year the RAK Club plans to have surprise acts as their name implies.