

The Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School February 2017 Volume 79 Number 6

Custer Accepts Position

Jennifer Custer is a new teacher at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. She was hired to replace Joan Williamson who retired in January. Currently, she is filling in for Mrs. Santa who is on a leave for the second half of the school year.

Jennifer graduated from Richland Area High School in 2006 and then continued her education at Shippensburg University where she majored in Social Studies Education and minored in Political Science.

Before coming to Conemaugh Township, Mrs. Custer worked at Lenape Technical School in Kittanning, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Custer feels her positive attitude, passion for the subjects she teaches, and good humor are some of her best attributes to perform her job successfully.

So far at Township, Mrs. Custer has found there is a warm atmosphere and everybody is very easy to get along with. She hopes to better challenge her students here in her new position.

Mrs. Custer stated, "My students are absolutely my favorite part of my job."

When Mrs. Custer is not at school teaching, she enjoys reading, going outside, and eating snacks.

Mrs. Custer currently lives in Westmont with her husband, Mitchell Custer.

Johnston Prepares for Future

Ms. Carley Johnston is a student teacher at Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. She works under Mrs. Loni Stankan, senior English teacher.



Ms. Johnston looks over her lesson plan for Senior English class.

Ms. Johnston attended Dover Area High School in York, Pennsylvania. Her favorite subjects were English and Accounting. She also played tennis at her high school. She currently attends the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, where she is in her third year of schooling and lives on campus.

Ms. Johnston was not sure where to student teach, so her supervisor suggested Conemaugh Township with Mrs. Stankan.

"Conemaugh Township is a very community-based place where everyone is involved with the school, as well as the community," said Ms. Johnston. "The small community is what I like most about working here."

Ms. Johnston considers her greatest strengths in the teaching field to be her friendliness and experience with children. This is most likely because of her experience of working at camps for children over the summer.

In addition to working with young people, she also enjoys crocheting in her free time.

Ms. Johnston's future plans are to become an English teacher in New York.



Mrs. Custer takes attendance in one of her classes.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Many Thoughts on Valentine's Day

Why does everyone love Valentine's Day? It has become easy and fun to eviscerate the pink-hazed holiday without holding back. Some say, "It's too commercialized and crass. It's putting dollar signs on the experience of love and relationships on one hand and depressed single people on the other." I have never had a strong hatred for this holiday, and I've finally got the chance to figure out why. Being single does not affect my opinion of Valentine's Day. It is generally a great holiday rather than the terrible holiday equivalent of a chalky "candy" heart.

Let us take a look at any happy couple. What could be less romantic than a prescribed, predictable, overpriced holiday built around compulsive buying and dating? Not having one! Relationships require a lot of maintenance and work, and having a set time for a big blowout expression of affection allows both parties to put their hearts into crafting an experience the other person will never forget. This holiday gives you as much value as you put into it - and that is the good part. Figuring out the depth of your significant other lets you surprise him with gifts, experiences, or shows of affection. It not only makes for a great day, but also for a great relationship.

For unorganized people like me, having a day or days when you and your affection are channeled toward the one you care about makes the process of expressing your emotions much easier. This makes the gift or experience much more meaningful. Of course, this is all assuming you do not ruin it as a partner, giving a heart-shaped box full of toothpaste-filled chocolates!

For the happy single, who is corporate America to say you need to find someone or that commercialized love is what matters in life? Ignore these statements, and do your own thing this holiday.

Valentine's Day not only makes couples try hard to impress each other with their affection, but also brings together those who hate it! A 2006 collaborative University of Oklahoma and University of Texas study revealed two people sharing negative attitudes about a third party bonds them stronger than sharing positive attitudes. Ignoring the depressing implications of such a mutual hatred for this holiday bonds millions of singles together. It's almost as though there are two holidays: Valentine's Day and I Hate Valentine's Day.

This mutual disdain builds solidarity for all kinds of

singles; people who are looking for love but have not found it yet, people looking to forget love, and people who just want the holiday to be over. This holiday, organize your own party or take advantage of usually crowded locales that are deserted for Valentine's Day. If you are feeling feisty, have a mutual bonfire where you throw in symbols of the holiday or painful memories, and watch them disappear in a magnificent conflagration. Say, "I hate Valentine's Day!" Yet, regardless of how you celebrate it, do so in style. Also, be certain you are with those whom you love. Make sure you are together or having fun.

This holiday isn't about the haves or the have-nots. It's about love. Whether it's romantic love, friendship, or bonding together through anger, we all can celebrate.

A Not So Super Message

The Super Bowl is a famous sports event millions view every year. With this many people watching, ads are seen just as much as the main event. Likewise, every year there some companies that pay to broadcast their ad to try and persuade people politically to buy their brand name or product. This year, many Americans were annoyed by this, especially because the election was already over by this time.

Product companies need to realize people watch this football game to have a fun time with their family members and friends, support a common team from their state, or just simply get away from the seriousness of the political world for at least one night. People watching do not want to have someone else's political view shoved down their throats or have it start an argument at a party and ruin everyone's night. This year, everyone watching the Super Bowl did so clearly to escape from the reality of everything they had previously been drawn into politically and consumed with for many of the preceding months. If their ads did contain messages of political intent, clearly, they turned off those watching and basically wasted millions of their revenue dollars.

In my opinion, Super Bowl ads are something most viewers wait for the entire year and are looked at as creative and entertaining by the public. For this reason I feel they should not be allowed to have political views in their broadcasts. This can easily ruin a group of people's night who just want to get away from the real world and enjoy one of the largest sporting events in the world.

PHOTO JOURNALISM

HIGH SCHOOL

Fantastic February

Maggie Zambanini looks to make a pass.



Haley Curry arranges Carnations for Valentine's Day.



Lauren Sprock makes a tight focus on her next shot.



Annie Tomb, Camryn Slezak, and Olivia Roman laugh together at the Sadie Hawkins Dance.

February 2017

The Contownian

News Magazine

Conemaugh Township Area Middle School / High School

Volume 79 Number 6

February 2017

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.....Alexis Buncich
Junior Editor-in-Chief.....Natalie Kauffman
Senior News Editor.....Gabriel Slezak
Junior News Editor.....Erin Berzonski
Senior Features Editor.....Cheyanne Weaver
Junior Features Editor.....Kiara DiFalco
Senior Sports Editor.....Ryan Cotchen
Junior Sports Editor.....Mackenzie Shirley
Senior Society Editor.....Laura Bivens
Junior Society Editor.....Maggie Telenko
Senior Photography Editor.....Caitlin Stahl
Junior Photography Editor.....Kassidy Wilson
Senior Advertising Manager.....Sarah Alesantrino
Junior Advertising Manager.....Sara Petree
Senior Business Manager.....Emily Waterhouse
Junior Business Manager.....Kaylee Davis

News Staff

Kaylee Davis.....Jacob Grosik.....Paige King
Jacob Grosik.....Hope Safko.....Emily Waterhouse
Jamie Waters.....Alexandria Wiley.....Dylan Witkosky

Feature Staff

Jordyn Alwine.....Caleb Maurer.....Sara Petree
Hunter Shaffer.....Madison Walker.....Kara Wozniak
John Yoder

Society Staff

Sarah Alesantrino.....Serena DiLoreto.....Kate Layton
Emily Phillippi.....Trent Simko.....Mickey Stringent
Trenton Troxell.....Cassy Weakland

Sports Staff

Cameron Banjak-Corle.....Kody Brotz.....Marcus Christofes
John Hostetler.....Derek Nemeth.....Brandon Stahl
Tyler Stumpf.....Nathaniel Thomas

Photography Staff

Sarah Alesantrino.....Jordyn Alwine.....Alexis Buncich
Kaylee Davis.....Kiara DiFalco.....Paige King
Hunter Shaffer.....Tyler Stumpf.....Jamie Waters
Alexandria Wiley

Advisor:

Michael J. Andolina

HIGH SCHOOL

Somebody to Love

Valentine's Day is a popular favorite among most teens and young adults. It is a time when lovers buy each other sweet gifts or fancy dinners, but what happens if you have no lover to spend the day with? Well, do not fret - the holiday is not spoiled! It is always possible to have a fun-filled Valentine's Day without a valentine to share it with.

First things first. Recheck your list of potential valentines. If Santa Claus can check his list twice - so can you! A valentine never has to be a lover or a significant other. Valentine's Day is a day of love, so find someone you love! Is it a close friend, or anyone else you just cannot picture your life without? Great! Find that person, and show him you love him! Make him a card, go on a shopping trip, or simply go out for lunch. Your Valentine's Day festivities do not have to be romantic - contrary to popular belief. They can just be thoughtful ways to show your appreciation.

Valentine's day with a non-romantic valentine is fun, but... not everyone has even that much to give thanks for on this day. So here are some fun ways to spend the day for the student far from home or the perpetual third wheel.

Treat yourself! Yes, first and foremost if your Valentine is yourself, then pamper yourself the way you would anyone else. Take a long bath, eat something unhealthy and delicious, and binge watch your favorite shows.

Spend a night on the town! There is no need to spend the day all alone. Go out and about, find something to do, and maybe you will even find a valentine while you are out! Of course, ice cream and your favorite movie will always be there for you, too.

Whether you are single with a big heart, away from home and those you love, or constantly the lonely third wheel, there is always a good way to spend this holiday!

Mardi Gras Celebrated in Many Ways

Mardi Gras is the time of year when you get to be who you really are inside. Mardi Gras, also called "Fat Tuesday," is a holiday celebrated on the day before Ash Wednesday. This year, Mardi Gras is on February 28. Mardi Gras is a celebration of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the fasting season of Lent. During Lent, people often give up something in honor of the preparation for Easter. The most common thing to give up is fatty and favorite foods. Mardi Gras is celebrated for the purpose of "pigging out" before

having to give up those fatty foods.

New Orleans is one of the most well known places to celebrate Mardi Gras. In New Orleans huge parades are held with different krewes, or parade organizers, each representing a different theme. There is a lot of music, food, and excitement!

One of the most well known traditions for Mardi Gras is bead throwing. The krewes in the parades in New Orleans throw beads and other trinkets to people lining the streets. The most common colors are purple, green, and gold. Another common tradition is King Cake. King cake is a ring of twisted cinnamon roll dough topped with icing and colorful sugar.

The Mardi Gras lunch represents one of the last time before the period of Lent starts for most Christians. Lent is a period of time that lasts forty days, during which Christians give up something of importance. The reasoning represents the time when Jesus fasted before he sacrificed his life for all Christian people's sins.

Laura Bivens, a Conemaugh Township senior stated, "King Cake is my favorite part of Mardi Gras."

At Conemaugh Township, Mardi Gras is celebrated in various ways. At the Mardi Gras lunch the Grill Team members wear tons of beads and a mask while asking and daring people to do things for beads. This is a very exciting lunch. The students also compete between each other to see who can get the most beads.

"It is always great to see the funny dares some students will do for beads!" exclaimed Brandon Stahl.

When the lunch period is almost over, there is a Crawfish Eating contest between the students. Whoever wins the competition gets a cash prize or a gift card. Many students look forward to this lunch and also the exhilarating and daring experiences they get to experience for beads.

Mardi Gras is a really fun event to be at any where in the world, but especially in New Orleans. In our own home town, everyone in the Conemaugh Township Area is getting ready to celebrate this festivity. At our school, this is done by attending the ever popular Mardi Gras lunch. There, beads, masks, and party decorations abound. Any student who does not know the true meaning of this day is sure to understand its meaning after experiencing it at Township.

SOCIETY

HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni of the Month



Deanna Gindlesperger

Deanna Maurer, formerly Deanna Gindlesperger, was a member of the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School graduating "Class of 2006."

After graduating, Deanna attended Saint Francis University in Loretto, PA, where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Science in 2010. As part of her Master's Degree program, she was able to study in various places, such as areas of Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Hawaii. Deanna obtained a Master's Degree in Physician Assistant Science in 2011. Since graduating, she has worked in the field of psychiatry and is currently working at the Alternative Community Resource Program, ACRP, in Johnstown.

In March of 2012, Deanna married Jacob Maurer. They currently live in Hollsopple, PA and have three children together - Beau, 4; Bristol, 2 1/2, and Abe, 1.

Looking back on her years in high school, Deanna said her fondest memories would be the fun and laughter she shared with her friends. When asked who her favorite teacher was in high school, she replied that she could not pick just one.

"I feel each teacher helped in some way to provide an education that led me to where I am today."



Deanna Maurer with her husband, Jacob, and their children.

A Home Made Holiday



February 2017

Every year the Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School has a special lunch celebrating Mardi Gras. This year Mari Gras is on February 28, 2017.

Mardi Gras is a well-known day to people in the United States. Mardi Gras is also called "Shrove Tuesday" or "Fat Tuesday" in English. It refers to events of the Carnival celebrations.

At this lunch, the Grill Team members go from table to table to try to get Township students to do dares. If the dares are completed the student gets colorful beads to wear throughout the day. There is also a Crawfish Eating contest. The cafeteria is full of laughter by the end of the lunch period.

Grill Team member Mickey Stringent stated, "The Mardi Gras lunch is my favorite because it is so much fun. It is awesome to see all of the dares performed."

HIGH SCHOOL

Varsity Wrestling

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/ High School Varsity Wrestling Team traveled to the Thomas Chevrolet Tournament on January 27 and 28. The team placed twenty-seventh out of twenty-eight teams with an overall score of 18 points.

On February 1 the boys took on the Forest Hills Rangers for Senior Night. The wrestlers fought hard but lost by a score of 9-72.

On February 2 the Tribe took on the United Lions and won its first match by a score of 30-28.

The wrestlers then went to Westmont on February 6 where they lost by a score of 18-51.

Junior wrestler Gage Lewis stated, "It's been a pretty down year team-wise, but all of our wrestlers are pretty decent this year individually."

Township faced off next against the Titans of Tussey Mountain on February 8. The boys dropped to their opponents losing 22-42.

The regular wrestling season came to an end with the team recording a record of 1-9-1.

The District 5 AA Tournament will be held on February 18. Township will send five wrestlers. These wrestlers are seniors Colton Stahl, Brandon Stahl, and Nathaniel Thomas; junior Gage Lewis and sophomore Shaun Berzonski.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Girls' Varsity Basketball Team played Conemaugh Valley at home on January 12. The girls were defeated in the fourth quarter with a final score of 40-43.

The girls had another loss to Portage on January 18. Although they played hard, the final score was 38-54.

The girls finally broke this streak by scoring a win on their journey to North Star. They played hard for this victory with a score of 40-36.

The girls had another win at Blacklick Valley on January 24. The game was close, but the Lady Indians did not give up and ended with a score of 50-40.

The last game of January was against Ferndale at home. There, the girls destroyed the Yellow Jackets with a final score of 68-16.

The girls next traveled to play rival Windber on February 3. The game was close with the girls taking a hard loss from the Ramblers. The final score was 47-60.

The girls then took a loss from Berlin on February 4. The final score of the game was 30-51.

The girls next sought revenge on the Ramblers on February 6. They played hard but again ended up with a defeat to their rival. The final score was 41-61.

The girls then traveled to Conemaugh Valley on February 7 to compete against the Blue Jays. The girls played a very close game but unfortunately lost 43-47.

Next, the Lady Indians played Meyersdale on February 10. They lost to the Red Raiders with a final score of 33-59.

The Lady Indians went on to pull off a win against the Shade Panthers on February 13. The final score was 58-41.

The girls then traveled to Portage on February 14 to play the Mustangs. There they lost a hard game with a final score of 27-62.

The last game of the season was against Shanksville on February 15. The girls played hard but unfortunately lost in the fourth quarter. The final score was 39-44.

The Lady Indians record at the end of the season was 9-12.

Athletes...

Tyler Curry is the son of Eric and Kristy Curry of Davidsville.

Tyler is a returning letterman in football and basketball for Conemaugh Township. He is a four-year letterman in boys Varsity football and a three-year letterman for the boys Varsity football team. Tyler has 45 total tackles this year, 25 of which are solo tackles. Tyler averaged 5 tackles per game. He also had 10 carries in the 2016-17 football season.

Tyler is a member of the Honor Roll, the Science and Spanish Clubs, and Remembering Adam.

In the fall of 2018, Tyler wishes to pursue a career in Forensic and Investigative Science as well as a Chemistry dual major at West Virginia University.



Tyler Curry

SPORTS

Varsity Rifle

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Rifle Team defeated Chestnut Ridge with a 1399 to 1388 victory on January 20. This was its ninth straight win without a loss. The top five shooters were Lauren Sprock with 283, Seth Strayer with 280, Olivia Marisa with 280, Logan Marisa with 274, and Kaitlyn Garrety with 271.

On January 24, Conemaugh Township took on the Forest Hills Rifle Team. Township defeated the Rangers 1370 to 1300 improving its record from 8-0 to 9-0. Its top shooter was Seth Strayer who shot a 280.

The Rifle Team improved its record to 11-0 after defeating the Meyersdale Rifle Team on February 3. The final score was 1381 to 1317. The top three shooters were Annie Tomb with 284, Seth Strayer with 282, and Olivia Marisa with 275.

Varsity Boys' Basketball

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School Boys' Varsity Basketball Team traveled to Windber to face off against the rival Ramblers on February 2. The Tribe fell behind early 7-5 at the end of the first quarter.

The Indians had a better second quarter behind strong offense from Ryan Cotchen, as they pulled ahead 18-14 going into the half.

The third quarter went just as well for Conemaugh Township with strong team defense as it pulled ahead even farther 30-25.

Strong rebounding from Tyler Curry helped close out the victory. The final score read 47-37 in favor of the Indians.

On February 6 the Tribe traveled to Conemaugh Valley to battle the Blue Jays. The Indians came out strong going up 10-8 at the end of the first quarter.

A strong second quarter from Ryan Cotchen helped the Indians increase their lead to 24-19 going into the half.

In the third quarter, Jordan Poznanski added the majority of his 41 points, as the Tribe pulled ahead even farther going up 53-39.

The Indians closed out the game with strong team defense ending the game with a final score of 69-54 in their favor.

February 2017

...of the Month

Maggie Zambanini is the daughter of Sheri and Anthony Zambanini of Jerome.

Maggie has won three Varsity letters, the "Scholastic Award," the WestPAC Championship in 2015, the District 5 Championship in 2015, membership to the "Sweet 16" in 2015, and the title of "Honorable Mention Defensive Player" for Somerset County in her sophomore and junior years.

Maggie is a member of the SON, Spanish, Drama, and Science Clubs. She also is a member of the SADD/TATU, NHS, and FCA Organizations, Student Council, Grill Team, Musical, and District Choir. Also, she is on the Honor Roll.

In the future, Maggie plans to attend Penn State University to obtain a degree in Biomedical/Veterinary Sciences.



Maggie Zambanini

On February 8, the Indians traveled to Portage to battle the Mustangs. The Indians came out firing, taking a 16-6 lead over Portage.

The second quarter held a Portage comeback that sent them into the half up at 26-26.

The third quarter showed Portage continuing playing strong, going up 39-37.

The Tribe came out swinging again in the fourth quarter behind strong offense from Jordan Poznanski as it stole the game with a final score of 54-46.

The Indians then traveled to Blacklick Valley on February 15 to face off against the Vikings. The Tribe came out of the gate strong taking a 16-12 lead.

The lead was maintained in the second quarter because of a strong showing on the boards from Jake Grosik. The score at the half was 27-26.

Ethan Leasure came out of the half strong helping the Indians increase their lead to 38-36.

A strong team defensive performance in the fourth quarter led to a 42-40 Indian victory.

The boys finished their regular season with a record of 12-10.

One Last Look...

Sadie Hawkins Dance Held

The Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School SADD organization hosted its first Sadie Hawkins Dance. The dance was held on Thursday, February 23 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. It took place in the gym at the High School.

Apparel worn to the dance was to be casual/church type clothing. Girls wore dresses that were not overly fancy and guys wore nice shirts and dress pants.

The cost of the tickets was \$5.00 and were sold at all lunches during the school day the week before.

Emily Phillippi, a junior at CT, stated, "I was very excited for the Sadie Hawkins Dance. It was a very different experience having to ask the guy, but it was fun."



Jamie Waters and Sarah Alesantrino enjoy a night at the Conemaugh Township Sadie Hawkins Dance.

Connumach Yearbook Orders Instructions Mailed

Yearbook order post cards were mailed to all MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADES 6 through 8, and HIGH SCHOOL, GRADES 9 through 12, students' homes at the end of February. No other mailing will be made. If you did not receive a yearbook order card or have any questions you may contact the Publications Office at 479-4014. 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.

Time Change Noted

Daylight Savings Time will begin on Sunday, March 12, 2017 at 2:00AM. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

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

Middle / High School 6-12

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

School Calendar

The following dates are subject to change

March 11.....SAT Test Date
 March 21.....School Board Meeting - 7:00PM
 March 21.....End of Third Nine Weeks
 March 29.....Report Cards Issued