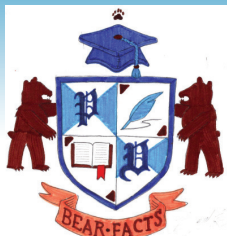


# BEAR



# FACTS

VOLUME 68 ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2024

DISTRICT

## New faces, new smiles welcomed this year

*With an increase in the student body, many new teachers and staff members are seen in the building this year.*

**By: Abbey Dominick**

This year, Pleasant Valley welcomed many new faces into the district. Due to many retirements and an increase of students, more staff members were needed. This includes teachers Michael Weiss, Aleisa Kinsey, Arianna Weaver, and counselors Payton (Gregory) Storms and Erin Steiner.

The English department welcomed Michael Weiss this year to teach English 9, 10, and 11. Mr. Weiss was freshly out of college when he applied for the teaching position here at Pleasant Valley High School, making this his first year teaching. Weiss chose PV for their dedication to the students and close proximity to home. He gives credit to his fellow co-workers for their endless support during his first year of teaching.

"My colleagues in the English department have been a joy to work with. They have been such a great support for me in my first year teaching and I don't know how I'd do it without them," stated Mr. Weiss.

Arianna Weaver was also

welcomed into the math department as a first year teacher. Ms. Weaver currently teaches Algebra 1A, Algebra 1, and Foundations of Algebra. She completed her student teaching program here at Pleasant Valley High School with Dan Muir as her mentor. She was also a graduate of PV which was a major deciding factor when deciding to apply for a teaching position here.

"I chose to take a position with Pleasant Valley because I have always had such fond memories while here. I am a Pleasant Valley graduate and was fortunate enough to come back for my student teaching. When considering where I wanted to apply, PV was one of the first on my list [...] I bleed blue and am so excited I am able to begin my teaching journey in a place I call home. Once a Bear, always a Bear," stated Ms. Weaver.

The final hire made to the teaching staff was Aleisa Kinsey. Ms. Kinsey has been teaching for 19 years but most previously worked as a cyber teacher for Pleasant Valley. She currently

teaches the business classes. As she adjusts to teaching at the high school level, she enjoys being able to have real conversations with her students who understand her sarcasm, but the overuse of cell phones adds difficulty to her day.

"Students who are addicted to their cell phones and don't want to do their work. That's the most challenging part I think," claimed Ms. Kinsey.

Erin Steiner was welcomed into Pleasant Valley High School as a school counselor for last names Hem-Pink. She previously worked as an elementary teacher and mental health educator for a combined total of 16 years. Most recently, she worked as a mobile mental health counselor for grades K-12. Ms. Steiner is taking each day as a learning experience as she adjusts to the high school counseling criteria. She enjoys working with the students and gives thanks to her fellow staff members for being so supportive.

"There are definitely no two days that are the same! However, that is what I like about

the job. It never gets boring! My goal every day is to be a voice for the students," stated Ms. Steiner.

Another addition to the guidance department was Mrs. Payton (Gregory) Storms. Mrs. Storms is currently the counselor for last names Pintabone-Z along with being the coordinator for NCAA, AP, Scholarships, and Instant Decision Day. This will be her first time working as a full time high school guidance counselor. In the past she worked as a resident director at Villanova and oversaw a building of over 500 first year students. Mrs. Storms appreciates being able to work with a wide range of students along with helping them succeed.

"Watching these students working really hard to achieve their goals. It's an honor and I feel really blessed to be able to walk alongside those students, advocate for them, help them get the support and resources that they need. So, it's been one of my favorite parts," claimed Mrs. Storms.



Aleisa Kinsey



Michael Weiss



Erin Steiner and Payton (Gregory) Storms



Arianna Weaver

DISTRICT

## Disney's 'The Jungle Book' goes from page to stage

*On the 17th, 18th, and 19th of November the community came down to the high school to see the play 'The Jungle Book'. 'The Jungle Book' is beloved and is a nostalgic tale for many.*

**By: Dakari Fleming**

Lights, camera, action! The 17th, 18th and 19th of November were the dates of this year's play, The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling, made in 1894, got a film adaptation in 1967.

The Jungle Book is about a human boy named Mowgli growing up in a jungle with wolves. When he is a teen he is taught how to survive by a panther and a bear. He is hunted by a tiger and in the end he goes back to his village to live with people.

This year's fall play was produced by Mr. Mulligan, Mrs. Mulligan and Mrs. Morris. The Jungle Book was chosen because Mr. Mulligan was looking for different plays to give different students different experiences through all four years of high school.

With 25 people in this year's play and tech week going well, hopes were high for this year. "Tech week went well and the students are raring to go" stated Mr.

Mulligan "Fantastic everything came together beautifully. The costumes and the set are fun to look at, and the actors have taken their roles and the animal characteristics seriously, so their portrayal is highly entertaining."

The high school has done plays since 1962. Two years ago they did Twelve Angry Jurors, last year they did Treasure Island, and this year they chose The Jungle Book.



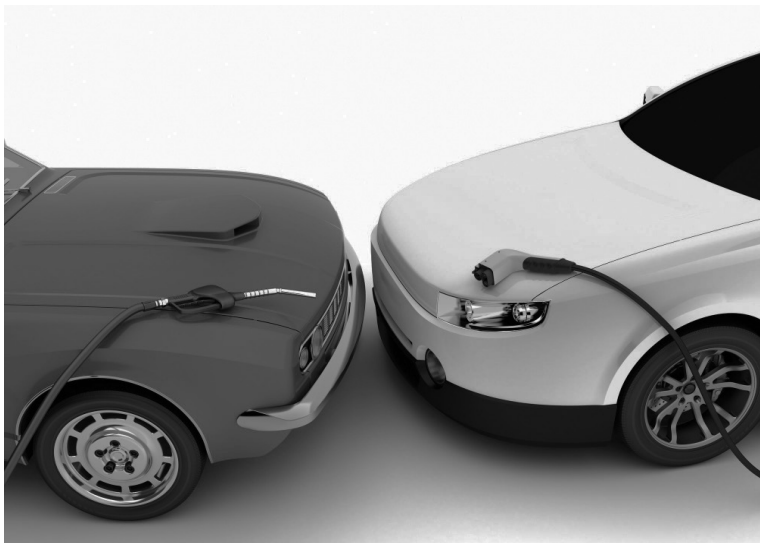
With the amazing performance by the theater actors, we were given an amazing act of the movie and book 'The Jungle Book.'



COMMENTARY

## Gas Cars Have to go, Electric Cars are Here to Stay

*Europe has started the chain of multiple states and countries to join the Advanced Clean Cars II plan. This plan is set to help the environment by encouraging to sell more electric cars than gas.*



**By: Faith Santa**

Seven states in the U.S. have joined Europe in accepting the Advanced Clean Cars II plan and will be fully in effect in 2035.

They are California, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington.

The Advanced Clean Cars II plan is regulations to take any state's zero-emission vehicle numbers and increase them until they reach 100% zero-emission vehicles in the states.

This means that the sale and production of new vehicles will be banned in the states that choose to accept this plan.

Although states are set to ban gas cars, this will not include Formula 1 cars. This is simply because with our current technology, it is not possible for Formula one cars to go completely electric.

Formula 1 and Ross Brawn, F1's Managing Director of Motorsports, announced that they are working on creating

100% sustainable E 10 fuel.

"We're working on an E fuel where the carbon circle is completely neutral so the carbon utilized to produce that fuel is the same quantity as the carbon emitted from the internal combustion engine," stated Brawn.

This basically means that the engines will not admit any carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Typically, vehicles emit carbon emissions that go up and harm the atmosphere. But, today's gas vehicles emit less pollution into the air than they used too.

Although electric vehicles do not emit pollutants into the atmosphere, they do consume a substantial amount of CO2 during the manufacturing and charging processes.

According to Jon Militmore, author of numerous Catalyst articles, "German study found that every Tesla battery requires between 23,000 pounds and 32,000 pounds of carbon emissions."

In order to learn the economics side of this Drew Dymond, economics teacher, was interviewed.

The ACC II plan will shift sales away from the oil industry and toward the use of more electricity, which might include additional natural gas, hydropower, solar, and nuclear power to charge electric vehicles. Jobs will be at risk.

"If workers and businesses remain flexible, the new law can be handled without too much upheaval in the economy. If the opposite is true, workers and businesses in the oil industry will struggle as demand for their products decreases," stated Dymond.

A survey was distributed to the entire student body. 82.8 percent of students had no idea what the ACC II plan was, yet 26.9 percent thought Pennsylvania should go ahead with it, 38.7 percent felt it shouldn't, and 34.4 percent had no idea. But, the majority of students prefer gas cars to electric cars.

NATION

## Israel v.s Hamas War effects felt worldwide

*With many perspectives, some people have said they have been affected in a type of way due to this war. Many others said, they feel like they haven't been affected much by the war. There's also much propaganda by social media, which has changed perspectives as well.*

**By: Duke Willhardt**

From Hamas's perspective, Israel has violated their civil liberties and taken away their human rights as well as committing numerous war crimes. Israel has blocked internet services in Gaza, as well, making it increasingly hard for civilians to navigate to safety. With no place for civilians to go, they are subsequently caught in the crossfire.

From Israel's perspective, Hamas is a terrorist group devoted to the destabilization of their government. For years before the attack on October 7th, Hamas had fired several missiles into Israel in an attempt to cause panic and collateral damage.

With no way to validate many of these claims from either side the International Authority has come to a standstill.

With troves of misinformation flooding the internet from each side, and most of western media pushing the Israeli perspective, the global community is torn. Social media companies like Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok have been flooded with images and videos claiming to depict atrocities of the war. However, many videos and images being posted to social media by Hamas, and Israel's official accounts have been debunked as footage from previous conflicts in years past. As of the present there is almost no way to verify the majority posts from civilians and local third party organizations.

For example, a recent post from Israel's Official Twitter account depicting two supposedly missing children being held hostage in Gaza, was proven to be a fake.

Students at Pleasant Valley High School have also been affected by the war. When asked in an anonymous poll, only 50% of students feel they have a decent understanding of the war. However, 60% of students said they have seen propaganda from the war. While some brush it off as nothing, others claim it is causing them strife in their daily lives.

"It's been slightly pressuring [...] Whenever I ask for it not to be discussed, for example in a club, I just get laughed at and made into an unlikeable person. At this point I wonder if anyone truly knows or understands what this is all about," stated one student.

Others' responses show how it has affected peers.

"I haven't been affected much, considering I don't know very much about it. However,

a few of my friends who are of Israeli or Palestinian descent have been."

Teachers have also noticed the effect the conflict has had on students. Mr. Goff, one of the high school social studies teachers, shared with us that they have noticed a change in their students with roots in the conflict who are actively discussing the issue. They also expressed concern regarding the future of the war stating,

"Hopefully, the two sides can reach a peaceful and lasting long-term solution. This is key to making sure the region does not escalate into a broader war with more deadly results."

This war has affected many people in all corners of the world, and with no end in sight it is due to affect many more.

DISTRICT

## Increase in security means increase in safety

*The district has hired more security for our safety. The security guards roam the hallways making sure all students are in their classrooms throughout the day.*

**By: Logan Czura**

We have seen an increase of security this school year due to students roaming the hallways and doing stuff they aren't supposed to do.

According to Assistant Chief of Police, Brian Silliman, we have this increase of security to create a safe environment for all of our students and staff.

"There is also more of a team approach so that's why we see a lot more security in the school and hallways now because they can make sure we're safe and that our building is safe".

For our bathrooms we now have color coded bathrooms so students won't be in the same bathroom with friends and so students won't be roaming the halls during the school day and missing class.

Assistant Chief of Police Silliman said that he does believe the color coded bathrooms have worked out and benefited our high school because it reduces the amount of time a student misses any classroom instruction, and it also helps the school security with confronting students who are walking in the hallways during class instruction.



Some of the new hires of our security team walking around the halls. Making sure all doors are closed correctly and all students are in their classrooms.

DISTRICT

## Leo Club dances for a cure, sponsors Mini-thon

*Leo club advisors, Ms. Altemose and Mrs. Rasley-Phillips, help run Mini-Thon which helps raise money for the kids. Many children with cancer benefit from Minithons everywhere.*

**By: Kyara Gomez**

A club that's on a mission to help support finding a cure to cancer is here at Pleasant Valley High School. Leo Club is a service here at PV that is connected to the Lions Club. Leo club creates an enjoyable setting for both student members and advisors. This school year's advisors are both Ms. Altemose and Ms. Rasley-Phillips. This is Altemose's first year as an advisor as well as Phillips. Before them, it was advised by Mrs.

Beth Gesualdi.

The Lions Club is a local organization that helps improve health and wellbeing. Their mission is to strengthen communities and support those in need through services and grants that impact lives. This is where Leo Club came from.

Here at PV Leo Club students dedicate their time to planning and fundraising for raising money to find a cure for pediatric cancer. Both Advisors and students enjoy seeing

how passionate members of the club are towards bringing awareness for childhood cancer. An average meeting for students and advisors are weekly meetings that are mostly student run. Member and chair Christopher Lanier always creates an agenda and discusses each item with all participating members. Members are actively involved in fundraisers and figure new ways to raise money for Minithon.

Minithon for PV is a run

-down version of Penn State's 24 hour Thon. Here at PV we partake in a 12 Hour marathon that will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2024, starting at 7 pm and go until Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 7 am. Mini Thons main focus is to stand up to childhood cancer for the entire 12-hour event. Altemose explained that different activities are planned for students to participate in. Students also learn a line dance and that is something that is done each hour.



EDITORIAL

# The hold that books and movies have on us

*Many individuals have chosen movies over books due to it being easier than sitting down and reading a book. Some other individuals have a hard time with their imagination. So with a movie right in front of them, it's easier to understand.*

By: Kaylee Ocasio

There are two types of people in this world, readers and watchers. Some people like the idea of sitting down and turning through pages, while others enjoy a movie night with snacks and blankets.

Readers prefer the books more than movies, due to the books being more into detail, more into depth and gives more of an imagination to the reader. It also gives the reader more vocabulary, literary devices, and can improve reading skills.

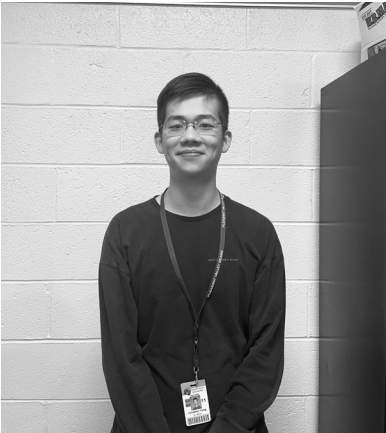
Meanwhile movies are usually about two hours in length. Directors have to try and find actors that look like the characters described in the books. Directors also have to choose what scenes will be in the movie. Not all events in a book can be put into a movie, which makes viewers upset. Meanwhile in a book, you have plenty of room to put as many "scenes", description, and time into it.

Rachel Costello, sophomore, stated "The books that are being read and then translated into the movie aren't accurate due to their directors deciding to cut certain important parts or replace them with something that is not accurate. The books are

canonically written while the movies aren't as canonical as the books themselves such as the Harry Potter series, certain parts of those movies aren't accurate to that of the books."

Costello is giving important information on how books can be different and hold more information than when it is turned into a movie. Other students do choose movies over books for various reasons for themselves.

With other circumstances for books and movies, a lot of Marvel and DC fans do prefer the comics over the movies. While some do also prefer the movies than the comics.



Jonathan Yang, junior  
"I would rather watch a movie so I can do my homework at the same time."



Sophomore: Rachel Costello

"The books that are being read and then translated into the movie aren't accurate due to their directors deciding to cut certain important parts or replace them with something that is not accurate. The books are canonically written while the movies aren't as canonical as the books themselves such as the Harry Potter series, certain parts of those movies aren't accurate to that of the books.."

FEATURE

# Distasio leaving the nest

*With long years working for our district, teachers are leaving with memories and with students and staff missing them.*

By: Julian Dempster

Mr. Distasio, a biology and ecological science teacher, is retiring after a 33-year long tenure in the PV district. He described his time as fun and rewarding but frustrating at times. He felt that it was getting really difficult, especially during the pandemic.

He said, "Education has changed - for better or worse - and I felt it was time to move on to the next step". He plans to go into substitute teaching, or get a part-time job, but mainly just be out in the woods or on a lake. He says he will miss certain staff members, with them sharing a number of common experiences.

As Ms. Garr stated having known him when she was a student and working with him for the past 11 years, she and the rest of her department knew the inevitably of his retirement. It will not be the same after he is gone.

Mr. Cook is said to be in

line to replace him but no one will be able to replace his personality. The entire department along with the surrounding community will miss him tremendously, and while he was here, he made a massive impact of the people around him.

Ms. Miller will also be resigning soon from PV to continue her teaching career elsewhere. She said she was looking forward to new opportunities within her other passions such as animal rescue/training.

Working in the PV district for almost 20 years as a learning support teacher and attending for even longer, she described PV as a family where she said, "collaboration among staff was encouraged, valued, and put into practice". Leaving PV was a difficult decision for her.

Just as Mr. Distasio, she said, "I will miss seeing these individuals each day but I'm grateful for the lifelong friendships that will continue beyond

the walls of PV."



NEWS

# 10 years of war from Ukraine and Russia

*With the continuing of the war between Ukraine and Russia, it has only escalated.*

By: Chris Weber

The war in Ukraine has been going on ever since February 20, 2014 when anti-government were killed Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

According to Gabriel Gatehouse from BBC news, "The massacre triggered the collapse of Ukraine's pro-Russian government."

The war escalated on February 24, 2022 when Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, declared that he is going to use military force against Ukraine. Putin has ordered the country to increase the size of their military by 170,000 soldiers.

Putin has started a war with Ukraine because, in his words, he feels "that Ukraine is a threat to him and his Russians".

According to AP News Minister Sergei needed a force of 1.5 million troops "to guarantee the fulfillment of tasks to ensure Russia's security".

Ukraine has had Conflict for thousands of years, the current land that is Ukraine as a national state, they were contested over the years by many countries.

Mrs. Susanne Rasley-Philips, teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, suggests that ending this conflict is by being exposed to the public eye.

"It isn't a conflict between two countries, it's a conflict that the world is watching and that will impact on how long the war lasts."

It's important to keep the entire situation in context. While it is a war between two governments, regular people are suffering.

"War is difficult for both sides. We want someone to be right and someone to be wrong, but in reality war is a struggle for everyone that participates in it," stated Mrs. Philips.

## EDITORIAL POLICY OF BEAR FACTS

THE BEAR FACTS IS THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT PLEASANT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL. ITS PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO INFORM, INTERPRET AND ENTERTAIN THROUGH ACCURATE AND FACTUAL REPORTS. IT WILL STRIVE TO BE ACCURATE, FAIR, IMPARTIAL AND RESPONSIBLE IN ITS COVERAGE OF ISSUES THAT AFFECT THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. THE BEAR FACTS WILL NOT PUBLISH ANY ATTACK MATERIAL THAT IS OBSCENE, LIBELOUS INVASIVE OF OTHERS' PRIVACY OR THAT ENCOURAGES PHYSICAL DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. IT WILL NOT PUBLISH ANY MATERIAL REGARDING INDIVIDUALS' RELIGION, GENDER, AGE, MENTAL OR PHYSICAL ABILITY, ETHNICITY, RACE, CULTURE OR LIFESTYLE CHOICES.

THE BEAR FACTS ACCEPTS ADVERTISING AS A FUNDRAISER AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY ADVERTISING NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHOOL POLICY.

ALL EDITORIALS ARE WRITTEN BY A MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD. LETTERS TO THE EDITORS ARE WELCOME, BUT MUST BE SIGNED AND HAVE THE WRITER'S HOMEROOM. ANONYMOUS LETTERS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED. ALL LETTERS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE BEAR FACTS.

## EDITORIAL BOARD:

KAYLEE OCASIO  
ARELI RAMIREZ

PHOTOGRAPHER:  
KAYLEE OCASIO

ADVISOR:  
ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN

## STAFF REPORTERS

DAKARI FLEMING    CIARA LISBOA  
LEXI MURPHY    SIENNA PEARCE  
ARELI RAMIREZ    JULIAN DEMPSTER  
ABIGAIL DOMINICK    KYARA GOMEZ  
DYLAN HECKMAN    LANA KRAUSE  
KATELYN HONADEL  
TRISTAN LOMAX    CARLEY REHRIG  
FAITH SANTA    WILLIAM WARNKEN  
CHRIS WEBER





Senior class wins the 2023 PowderPuff Flag football!!



Ms. Stachina was chosen to be slimed at the Slime the Teacher event.



The December chorus concert



Mr. Mountain was chosen to be slimed at the Slime the Teacher event.



The 2023 band concert and Mr. Devivo performing in their 2023 winter concert



Mr. Walters was elected for the November support staff of the month



Mrs. Garr was elected for November teacher of the month



Mrs. Ferrara was elected for December teacher of the month



Ms. Martini was elected for December support staff of the month

Congratulations to Angela Hetrick for placing 3rd in the Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest! Below is her artwork. We are PV proud of you!

Congratulations to Phoebe Stone for Honorable Mention in the Julianna V. Bolt Art Contest ! Below is her artwork. We are PV proud of you!





NATION

# Battle between Republican and Democrat election

*Current President Joe Biden is a candidate for the next presidential election. Going against Donald Trump and two other candidates running for presidents this fall in November. With other opinions from news stations and individuals about the 2024 elections, the presidential election will be a surprise, due to it being too early to determine.*

**By: Dylan Heckman**

Joe Biden is currently trailing former president Trump slightly in national polls less than one year out from the next presidential election.

The two main candidates for the upcoming election are Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden. Other candidates include independents Cornel West and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Green Party nominee Jill Stein. As of now, Trump has been consistently above Biden in polls, but not by much. The other three candidates aren't making much of a dent in the polls as of now, but this could change.

It is very rare for the incumbent to be trailing one year out from the next election, according to CNN.

"Over the past 80 years, incumbents have, on average, led their eventual challengers by a little more than 10 points about a year out from the election. This includes nearly every incumbent for whom we have polled since Franklin Roosevelt in 1943."

In addition to that, Trump leads in five of the six most important battleground states. The former president leads his successor

in Nevada, Georgia, Arizona, Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Biden does, however, lead Trump in Wisconsin. In the 2020 election, Biden won all six of these battleground states. These states will be essential to claiming the White House in 2024.

President Biden's approval rating is currently at 37%; if he ends up being the candidate for the Democratic Party and Trump for Republican, most Democrats will still likely vote for him.

Chris Anderson of Fox News states, "I think as soon as Trump's name is opposite Biden's, everything is different than if you're evaluating Biden on his own."

Even though many Democrats don't approve of Biden's performance as president so far, they still prefer him over Trump. If there were to be a different candidate nominated for either party or both, this will not apply. It is also true that when Trump was President, his approval rating was similar to Biden's

Mr. Jason Robbins, an American Government teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, knows the ins and outs of the electoral process and he does not believe that any of the independent candidates have a

chance to win the election.

"I do not believe any of the third party candidates have a realistic chance of winning the election. There are too many obstacles standing in their way. It is difficult for them to raise enough money to be competitive and their financial 'war chest' is significantly lower than that of their competition.

This makes it difficult to get their message out and to have the type of name recognition needed to win a nation-wide election. The winner-take-all Electoral College system also poses a problem for them. Even if they gain support in states across the country it is very unlikely that they will gain enough support in any one state to win any electoral votes."

No independent candidate has become president since George Washington in 1789. Despite this, independent candidates have impacted elections heavily in the past. Kennedy, West, and Stein will definitely make at least a small impact on this presidential race. Although, President Biden's lead among democratic polls seems insurmountable at a substantial 55 points, and it seems he will represent the Democratic Party next November.

DISTRICT

# Pleasant Valley honors veterans

*Each school within the Pleasant Valley School District took time out of the day to honor those who served in the armed forces in unique ways ranging from food to interesting facts.*

**By: Carely Rehrig**

On November 10th, 2023, the Pleasant Valley School District celebrated Veterans Day to recognize those who fought for our country. Every school from elementary to the high school had its own unique way in honoring these veterans.

Pleasant Valley Elementary held their annual breakfast and parade the morning of November 10th. The Veterans had breakfast and enjoyed a slideshow of pictures they had submitted a couple weeks prior. The kindergarteners then serenaded them by singing the song "Brave". After this, all the students and their family members who participated in Veterans Day at PVE walked in the parade that was led by PVE Principal Roger Pomposello, who was dressed as Uncle Sam, the William Allen ROTC, and Mr. Gene Kutzler, who played bagpipes. PVE students lined the walls and waved flags as the parade commenced. Then the students proceeded to the gym where the William Allen ROTC led everyone in the pledge and music was performed by the first and second graders.

Next, Pleasant Valley Intermediate celebrated this special day by having a "Brunch for the Brave" and an assembly for all veterans and students. They also collected donations to the Valor house which is a home for retired veterans. The Middle School honored the veterans by having breakfast and having a school wide assembly that included performances by the band and chorus. There were also guest speakers as well as a special slideshow. "They worked together

to create a wonderful celebration." says PVI principal, Sabrina Albright.

Lastly, the high school recognized the Vets by making announcements on facts about Veterans Day and showing a slideshow on our TVs throughout the halls.

"We are PV Proud!"



uvatoday.com

DISTRICT

# NHS makes a hit with fun activities

*The National Honor Society has brought many fundraisers and fun activities to our district. Their advisors, Mrs. Brinker and Ms. Philipps, and their president, Molly Sobers, help to make memories for the students*

**By: Sienna Pearce**

Echoes of singing and dancing, excited shouts of students, and laughter. These are the sounds coming from the National Honor Society's winter events. These events include the talent show fundraiser and the slime the teacher fundraiser.

The talent show fundraiser commenced on Friday, December 15th. Gavin Krock and Onias Richardson were the hosts of the evening, introducing acts such as singing, dancing, and a pie eating contest by the football team's offensive line. The show concluded with a performance by Bathtub Dancing. The winner was Samantha Lowell who sang "My Petersburg" from Anastasia: The New Broadway Musical. This event was also complex to plan out.

"The talent show is a massive undertaking mostly because of the need for performers. The advertisement of the event is key, though," stated Mrs. Brinker, NHS Advisor.

The "slime the teacher" commenced on Thursday, December 21st. The top two teachers got slimed were Ms. Stachina and Mr.

Mountain. Accompanying this, the band played as leaders chosen from each club participated in a game of musical chairs and select students from each grade level participated in a balloon game. There was also a difficult planning process behind this event.

"It is quite a lengthy process. We need administrative approval, approval from the facilities manager, and volunteers to go in the running to be slimed. Then we have to set the jars up and advertise the event. Behind the scenes, we need to make sure we have all of the supplies like the ponchos, tarps, shower caps, the baby pool and then the slime and the buckets to mix it," stated Mrs. Brinker.

Both of these events are taking place to raise money for Toys for Tots. This corporation is run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve. They distribute toys to children whose families cannot afford to buy gifts for Christmas. NHS raised \$4,000 for the organization.

"My favorite part of these events is getting everyone together and making memories that will create traditions for the school. These events are fun and easy ways to

make money for donations and create more school spirit!" stated Molly Sobers, President of National Honor Society.



**Principal Boylan being slimed at the Slime the Teacher event.**

DISTRICT

# Aavidum is spreading positive awareness

*Aavidum helps students and staff feel safer in this school. The club does various activities all encouraging a positive outlook on life.*

**By: Alexis Murphy**

Aavidum is spreading awareness about mental health and suicide prevention. They're continuing to put positive messages around the school.

"My goal is to make sure that not only the students in the club feel safe and supported but the entire PV High School" stated Lauren Staub, the club advisor.

The club does various group activities including chalk art about mental health, making friendship bracelets, and decorating the tree by guidance. This month they will decorate the tree for Christmas and decorate their holiday door.

The co-leaders, Ayla Castelleneta and Kara Miller, both work hard to help provide a safe space for students. They enjoy the environment that the members create within the club and the friends they have made that they share it with.

"Aavidum is a safe space for me and everyone in the club is genuinely so nice, I love it" commented Castelleneta.

Aavidum is always looking for new ideas and new members. If you're interested in joining, they meet in room E11 every Tuesday from 2:30 to 3:30.



## Various Holidays and Traditions

*Many different holidays and traditions are celebrated in Pleasant Valley High School. A fan favorite will always be spending time with family.*

**By: Lana Krause**

With all of the holidays coming up, the Bear Facts team decided on making a Holiday survey, asking the student body questions about what holidays they celebrate and how they celebrate them. We asked a total of six questions that were based on both Thanksgiving and other holidays, with 67 people responding.

92.3% of the respondents do celebrate Thanksgiving, leaving 7.7% of respondents that do not celebrate it. We also asked the student body if they do celebrate Thanksgiving, what their favorite side dishes are. The most popular side dishes are mac and cheese and mashed potatoes with 20 votes each.

92.3% of the student body does celebrate Christmas, and 80% celebrates New Year's Eve. Only 3% of the student body surveyed celebrate Hanukkah, 9% celebrate a holiday other than Christmas, New Years, and Hanukkah, while 3 % do not celebrate at all.

Of the people who celebrate

holidays, the most common ways students celebrate are spending quality time with family and friends, catching up on sleep, and eating traditional food.

What are the family holiday traditions?

While we asked about what holidays they celebrate, we also asked what their favorite traditions are. The most popular holiday traditions are eating food, playing games, and watching different holiday movies. Some students go watch Christmas light shows, while others go hunting after Thanksgiving, and riding four wheelers as well.

As you can see, the student body has quite a few holiday traditions. The most common factor amongst the students is the idea of being able to relax while not worrying about school. They even expressed happiness at getting to see family members they don't see as often.

## Mrs. Carter was a skillful and hardworking First Lady

*Mrs. Rosalynn Carter was a very passionate advisor for mental health awareness. She worked hard to bring awareness to these important issues that weren't getting as much attention.*

**By: Kyara Gomez**

Rosalynn Smith Carter, wife of the 76th Governor of Georgia and the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter has died recently on November 19th, 2023 at the age of 96 in her own home.

The late Mrs. Carter was an incredible woman who was known for many significant contributions to society. Not only was she a loving wife and mother, she was known for her work in mental health. Striving to raise awareness and reduce the shame surrounding the idea of mental illnesses Mrs.Carter worked hard for 45+ years. Mrs. Carter's efforts were active in advancing mental health policies and ensuring that many individuals receive the care and support they need.

A foundation Mrs.Carter founded is the Carter Center. The Carter Center is a non-profit organization founded by Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter. It focuses on promoting peace, democracy, and human rights around the world. The center also works on multiple health

initiatives, including mental health. This foundation strives to improve access to mental health care, reduce stigma, and advocate for policies to support mental health and well-being of people all around the world. The Carter Center's dedication to making a positive impact on global issues is truly one of Mrs.Carter's remarkable doings.

Opinions on Mrs. Rosalynn Carter varied. Some people thought she was a dedicated First Lady with the courage to address important issues like mental health and women's rights. While others may have had different perspectives, some which were based on political beliefs or personal experiences. We interviewed Mrs. Lauren Staub who said Mrs. Carter was "a hero".

Mrs. Staub described Mrs. Carter as a champion for mental health awareness. Staub also adds that "[Carter's] voice represented all of those that suffered from anxiety, depression etc. It was vital for these people to have an advocate.

She's a pioneer who influenced and inspired people to stand up for decades after."

No matter how you feel about the late Mrs. Roselyn Carter, her death brought sadness to all. Many powerful women and important people in today's history gathered together at Mrs. Carter's funeral on November 28, 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia. Former President Jimmy Carter had a guest appearance after uncertainty of whether or not he would show up. Mrs.Carter was said to have died in the comfort of her own home and was said to have passed away peacefully.

Mrs.Rosalynn Carter will go unforgotten as her dedication and compassion will always inspire many.



## Local elections bring change to PV school board

*The 2023 Pennsylvania elections have brought new faces to the school board in hopes of improving school safety and fostering district-wide growth.*

**By: Joseph Winder**

The Pennsylvania Local Elections were held November 7, 2023, with many new candidates taking office.

Among the positions voted for was a seat on the Pleasant Valley School Board. Norman A. Burger, Republican, and Donna Yoziak, Democrat, were in the lead running for their respective parties. By an over thousand vote lead, Mr. Burger was voted into the School Board.

Mr. Burger has lived in the Polk Township area his entire life and was a graduate of Polk High School, the school that would become Pleasant Valley in the 1950s. After graduating high school, he earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics, a masters in computer science, and served for over 20 years in the Air Force. Since 2019, he has served with the school board under many different responsibilities.

When asked about how his election will affect the school, the new board member told me "I plan to be a voice of reason - focusing on the facts to arrive at sound solutions for our school district.

I believe my background and experience will benefit our students, staff, administration, board and taxpayer community. My objective is to work with our board and administrators to provide a safe learning environment with a range of quality education opportunities suitable to students' talents and interests that are also taxpayer affordable."

Mr. Burger listed the key points he plans to focus on such as to improve graduation rates, encourage initiatives that improve communication, and to make Pleasant Valley "a sound, safe, and effective learning environment."

A large part of transforming Pleasant Valley is the recent renovation program that he supports, which will improve security, improve hallway flow, add more space to the cafeteria, and more.

Another election held that affected the school was

the Directors at Large position. Directors at Large support the school board and help vote on the policies, but don't have the same duties as the Board.

Five candidates were elected into the Directors at Large; those candidates include Robert Clark (3,442 votes), Susan Krege (3,397 votes), John Gesiske (3,536 votes), Ryan Keefe (3,644 votes), and Matthew Walters (3,537 votes).

Robert Clark, a former Pleasant Valley student himself, has been one of the school board members who pushed for the improvement of school lunch and the renovation of our school.

"I plan to support policies that focus on improving Pleasant Valley and fostering growth while keeping students in the forefront when making those decisions".

With his recent reelection he plans to use his position to support the students of the school, Mr. Clark plans to work hard to make PV the best it can be.

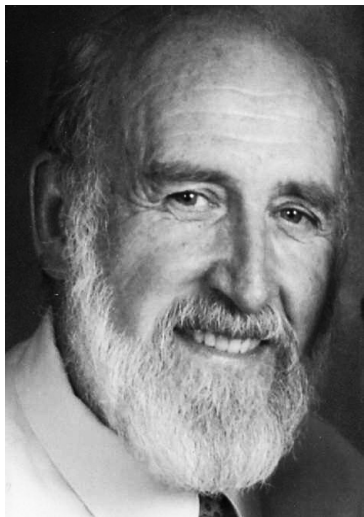
Susan Kresge is another new Director at Large, was also asked how she plans to improve our school district.

"My focus will be on moving the district forward, to educate all students to meet their highest potential, to adopt a fiscally sound budget, work as a team by collaboration and being respectful, update our aging facilities with a focus on the high school and to keep our community informed of the district's progress and challenges," stated Ms. Kresge.

Other elections outside of the school include Monroe County elections including District Attorney of Monroe County, won by Democrat candidate Mike Mancuso with 17,681 votes against Republican candidate Alexander Marek with 11,750 votes, the County Sheriff of Monroe County, won by Democrat candidate Nick Cirranelo won 15,775 votes against Republican candidate and former sheriff Ken Morris with 13,665 votes. Mayor of Monroe County was not included in the 2023 local elections, current Mayor Micheal Moreno was elected into the seat in 2022 and will remain in office until 2026.



Robert Clark



Norman Burger



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## Senior Volleyball Athlete is a Leader, without being Captain

*Lexi Womack has amazing sportmanship towards her Volleyball team. Making her a leader without being a team captain and having supportive teammates made it an amazing season this year as a senior.*

**By: Katelyn Honadel**

Can you be a leader on a team without being a captain? Senior volleyball player, Lexi Womack, proves you do not need to be a captain to be a leader and a key part of a team.

Varsity volleyball coach, Mr. John Gesiskie, says “Lexi is what is called an all around player, meaning she can step into almost any role: hitter, passer, sever or defender,”. After seeing her stats from this season, it was evident that Lexi was truly a player who could find success playing any position.

Lexi ended her 2023 volleyball season with 247 spike kills, 261 digs, 35 aces, a serving percentage at 98.5%, 14 blocks, and 16 assists. She explains, “My sister was a coach; when I was younger, she taught me everything I knew. Having her guide me played a crucial part in helping me become more advanced than players around me,”.

Not only was Lexi one of the statistical leaders of the team, but she was also a leader

and role model off of the court. Hannah Acob, senior captain, explains, “She gave a space for the girls to open up and a lot of the girls went to her to talk about things. It was nice to have another senior who could help me support the girls,”.

Lexi was a player who highlighted the passion for the game of volleyball and brought a spark to the team that did not go unnoticed. When asked what stood out to him as a coach, Coach G. expressed, “Lexi's attitude to go out and play hard but at the same time demonstrate the fun in playing a sport to your best capabilities.”

Her impact on the girls volleyball team goes much deeper than just the stats. Those who she played with will remember her and the amazing memories she added to their season. Hannah explains, “It had to have happened this year, every time I would get a kill or something, Lexi was always the person I would turn to high five first. I will always remember these moments as a cute celebration we had,”.

Lexi’s volleyball career at Pleasant Valley has come to an end, but she will always carry her experiences from this sport with her.

“Playing with the same group of people, this year was definitely my favorite season because we all just clicked,” stated Lexi. However, this is not where her volleyball career ends. Lexi plans to continue to play volleyball at the collegiate level, and she will be able to accomplish much more in her upcoming journey.



DISTRICT

## Bears win Conference game, bringing home memories

*After 23 long years, the Bears bring home the championship of winning the Conference game. Everyone is now excited to see what the future brings us, and the underclassmen going into football are hoping to continue bringing in wins.*

**By: Tristan Lomax**

As the cheering and laughter fades away, the Pleasant Valley Bears conclude the 2023 football season. On November 3rd, the Bears ravaged the Governor Mifflin Mustangs. With a concluding score of 28 -19, this game marked the end of an era for the beloved seniors, and a new chapter for underclassmen.

Quarterback Valentino Byers-Robinson said, “It was a bittersweet moment knowing that this was my last ever high school football game with all of my best friends.”

The end of the season is a momentous moment for most seniors. It marks the conclusion of their high school career and the path they took to get to this point.

PV fullback Alex Ecker described his emotions as the final seconds ticked off the clock. Ecker said, “Honestly I was upset. I’ve formed bonds with these people for 13 years and I have to leave it all behind. It’s nice that we were able to end the season with a big win.”

It has been 23 years since the Bears won the conference, and the seniors want to make sure that next year’s team is ready for the challenge of repeating this year’s

success.

“To all underclassmen, I want them to know that high school football goes by in the blink of an eye. Don’t take it for granted because you’ll never know when it will be your last,” stated Byers-Robinson.

Everyone is eager to see what next year’s players will bring to the table. The advice and leadership from both captains is sure to help lead the team to repeated future success.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

## Alex Ecker star player and leader

*Alexander Ecker is an exceptional player on the Pleasant Valley football team. Many appreciate his passion for the game.*

**By: Ciara Lisboa**

With over 1200 rushing yards in one season, Alexander Ecker excelled this year in football, leading the team to multiple wins. He has been published in the Pocono record twice for nominated athlete of the week. This was a big year for Ecker.

“Without my team none of this would’ve been possible. I love my team and they helped me become successful this season. I couldn’t have done it without them,” said by senior football captain, Alex Ecker.

Alex Ecker had 15 touchdowns his senior year and was placed 3rd overall in all EPC players for this year’s football season.

“As a captain, Alex was the one that showed the most heart and passion for the game of football and he loved winning and the game of football was everything to him,” said by fellow captain, Valley Byers-Robinson

Ecker was a dangerous threat to the other football teams. He plays as the middle linebacker and fullback. Achieving over 1,200 yards this season as fullback, he was a force to be reckoned with.

Following his fellow captains, Valley Byers-Robinson, Blake Walters, and Connor Smith, his importance to the team was crucial as was every member on this strong team. As Ecker led the team, everyone worked together to bring home multiple wins, as well as the old oaken bucket and a championship win this year.

