

BEAR



FACTS

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DISTRICT

Schyler Herman always shines bright for us

Schyler Herman sadly passed away October 31st of 2018. The Pleasant Valley School District still honors her and still dedicates time and funds in her name with the Schyler Strong Foundation.

By: Sienna Pearce and Abigail Dominick

On Monday January 8th, the girls' basketball team commemorated Schyler Herman in their game against Stroudsburg. To honor Herman, the team wore orange warm ups, orange face paint, and orange glitter in their hair. Additionally, the PVYA youth girls' basketball team played during halftime.

"Schyler night means playing not only for our team, but for those who are battling Leukemia," stated Annalisa Lanigan, girls varsity basketball player.

Herman was a student at PV and a freshman goalkeeper on the girls' varsity soccer team. At the age of 14, Herman was diagnosed with pre-B acute lymphoblastic leukemia after contacting another player in a soccer game and forming a deep hematoma.

Herman began to raise money to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. At the age of 15, Herman unfortunately lost her fight against Leukemia and passed away on October 31st, 2018.

"Schyler nights mean a lot to us here at Pleasant Valley, especially us girls, We have a lot of people who played with her and we want to honor her memory by playing hard," stated assistant varsity coach Kelly Williams.

The Schyler Strong Foundation was created after her passing and is dedicated to keeping Herman's spirit alive. This foundation also raises funds to monetarily support research and families of children with cancer.

"We realize that every time we step on the court we are not only doing it for ourselves, but we are doing it for our team and for the

memory of Schyler," stated Coach Williams.



Mrs. Mortan

Girls basketball game celebrates Schyler night while going against Stroudsburg.

DISTRICT

PV Hall of Fame gets more Fame

The Pleasant Valley hall of fame was introduced in 2003-2004; this year teachers and students were added to the hall of fame to be recognized.

By: Abby Dominick and Katelyn Honadel

On Jan. 26 the girls and boys basketball teams played in a double header against Pocono Mountain East, in between the games the annual Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame Induction took place. Five members were inducted into the Hall of Fame. This included Kim Economy, Eddie Fernandes, Mariclaire Hosking, Ken Piontkowski, Ryan Sassano.

The Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame was founded in 2003-2004 and now has a total of 118 members. Up to five members are inducted every year in Jan. after being nominated by a member in the community and meeting strict criteria. The inductees are then voted on by a committee of community members, staff members, board members, past Hall of Fame inductees, and administrators.

"The Hall of Fame night is a distinguished celebration of achievements. Any time we can remember, recognize and honor people who bring pride and recognition to our

community and school district, it is important." stated past inductee Jon Gesiskie.

This year's inductees were honored in between the girls and boys varsity basketball games. During the ceremony each inductee is recognized for the reason of their induction and their past accomplishments that made them a good candidate for the Hall of Fame. The person who nominated the inductee is also welcomed to speak about the inductee and why they nominated them. Each inductee is also awarded with a Hall of Fame plaque.

Inductee Ken Piontkowski was inducted into the Hall of Fame due to his success as a basketball coach at PV and 33 years of teaching. Piontkowski coaches basketball at Pocono Mountain West and missed the ceremony due to a basketball game. PV later honored Piontkowski on Jan. 30 during a home boys' basketball game against West.

"I'm proud of the program we built at PV from 1995-2014. We won many

basketball games, were consistently in district play-offs, won a league title and a district title, and were widely respected as a team that "played the right way". The entire time I coached at PV, I also did my best to be a dedicated teacher and not to cut corners because I was coaching. It was nice to be officially recognized by PV for my efforts," stated Piontkowski.



credit: Danielle Brandes



Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame Inductees

NATION

2023 successful movies and television shows worldwide

In 2023, there were many successful movies and tv shows that had made it around the world for viewers to watch. From movies like Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, Barbie and then tv shows like Outer Banks, many made it to the top of the charts and made millions to billions worth of dollars.

By: Dylan Heckman

2023 was another successful year for television as well as a promising year for movies. People around the world finally returned to theaters and got to experience some great movies on the big screen. A Google form was sent out to the student body who voted on their favorite movie and show of last year.

Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse came in first place for movies at 30.8% with Barbie (19.8%), and The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes (16.5%), coming in second and third respectively. Other movies that received several votes were Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3, Super Mario Bros. Movie, Oppenheimer, Fast X, and Five Nights at Freddy's.

As for 2023 shows, Outer Banks season 3 came out on top with 27.5% of the votes. Coming in second and third place respectively are The Last of Us (18.7%), and the live-action One Piece (14.3%). Loki season 2, Ahsoka, The Witcher season 3, and What If season 2 were the other shows receiving multiple votes.

Now that we have the opinions of the students, let's see

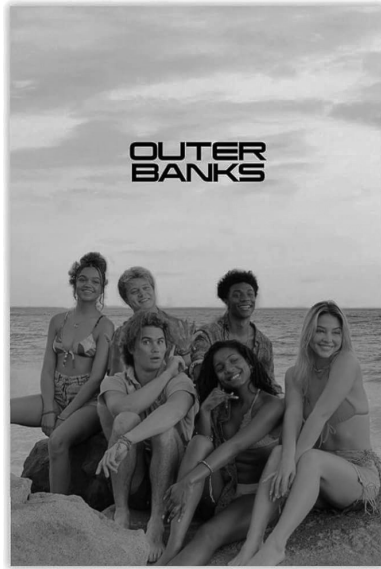
what the experts say are the best movies and shows of last year.

According to Rotten Tomatoes, the historical epic Oppenheimer takes the gold medal when it comes to 2023 movies at 93% on the Tomatometer and 91% for the Audience Score. The silver and bronze go to Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One and Killers of the Flower Moon respectively. Concluding the top 5 is Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, and Barbie.

RogerEbert.com ranked the best shows of last year and here are the top five. The number one spot goes to the satirical comedy-drama Succession. The second and third spots are reserved for Reservation Dogs and The Last of Us. At four is the Netflix show Beef followed by FX's The Bear.

Audiences worldwide got to experience a plethora of great movies and shows in 2023. There have been worries recently about whether or not movie theaters would be able to stay afloat in a world more centered toward streaming as well as last year's actor and writer strikes. Despite this, many movies excelled in theaters last year

and this can lead to sequels and other successful movies in years to come. On top of that, 2023 was a great year for TV shows. Streaming services are growing in popularity by the day and show no sign of slowing down. The future for TV shows is super bright and the movie industry is showing hope for the future.



amazon.com



ebay.com



ebay.com

DISTRICT

"Sister Act" brings on the Act

The spring musical "Sister Act" involves a woman who witnessed a crime scene, and then gets put in protective custody while also helping the choir in the convent.

By: Alexis Murphy

The musical cast is preparing for the spring production of Sister Act.

Dan Mulligan, musical director, is currently working with a cast of students to prepare for the spring musical. Students have been working endlessly to make sure they know their lines and do their best in the production.

"We have quite a few really good singers and a larger cast than we have had in the past few years, so I am looking forward to hearing how great all these songs will sound," said Mulligan.

Sister Act is set in the 1970s and is about a disco singer being placed in protective custody after witnessing a murder. While in protective custody, her lifestyle is deeply affected by the family she finds at the convent she was placed at. She also helps the struggling choir while at the convent.

For some of the students like Aiden Sawyer, senior and Madeline Zipp, senior this is their last production for the high school. So while some students are very happy, it's also bittersweet to leave the family that they've made through the art they make. But nonetheless students are very excited to see everyone's hard work and skill pay off.

Zipp stated, "Everyone is so talented I love hearing how it comes together."

For anyone interested in going to support the cast and their amazing performance, the musical is going to be March 22, 23, and the 24. It will be \$10 for adults and \$7 for students. So don't forget to come out and support your fellow bears.

DISTRICT

2024 Pre-Prom Announcements for Seniors

There are various differences between last year's prom and this year's prom. The class of 2024 had many fundraisers and have saved a lot of money for prom improvements.

By: Faith Santa

As prom approaches, seniors are curious to find out more details about the event.

In case students didn't already know, the set date for prom is Saturday, May 11. The event will not be held at Kalarahi, like it has previously, and will now be at Penn's Peak in Jim Thorpe, PA.

Senior class officers, certain faculty members, and the prom committee are in charge of the event. Mrs. Genovese, the senior class advisor of 2024, is the main point of contact regarding anything about prom.

This year's senior class has been working hard at fundraising over the last two years. Since August of 2022, \$8,600 have been raised through fundraisers and donations for the senior class account. But for now there is no set price for prom tickets yet.

"We have not crunched the numbers yet, but we would like to keep tickets at under \$75. Ideally, we would love them to be \$60 to \$65, but it all depends on our finances," stated Genovese

There will be a theme this year for prom but it hasn't been decided yet. It is currently a work in progress and the committee has some great ideas to choose from.

Any students who attended prom last with a senior will notice a change on how the food

is served this year. Staff will be serving the food family style.

Dinner will be delivered directly to tables in family-style platters. Guests then serve themselves from the dishes that are passed around the table eliminating the need to stand in line and wait to be served. This will also free up space on the floor.

Ticket sales will start roughly around April 1st to April 15. Prom Court nominations will also be in April after ticket sales are closed. More information will be brought out in the near future.

Krysta Fink is a marketing and special events manager at Penn's Peak. They have hosted many proms here at Penn's Peak over the years. The venue includes the facility, tables, chairs, staffing and everything related to catering the event.

"PV students will be able to take pictures on our deck where you can see a panoramic view of the Appalachian Mountains. The event room has hosted thousands of big names in the music industry such as Willie Nelson, Brad Paisley, Daughtry, Nick Carter and so many more!" stated Fink.



Penns Peak.com



NEWS

Flyers player kicked to the curb

Flyers player Carter Hart removed from team after sexual assault scandal

By. Sienna Pearce

As January came to a close, fans of the Philadelphia Flyers were alerted of some alarming news. The goaltender Carter Hart had announced he would be taking an indefinite leave of absence. Many were wondering what prompted Hart to take such an unforeseen absence, as the Flyers have maintained a good record that season.

News came out that Hart, as well as Michael McLeod and Cal Foote of the New Jersey Devils and Calgary Flames forward Dillon Dube, were charged with sexual assault in connection with an alleged assault. All of these players were members of the 2018 U-20 Team Canada team.

"The NHL has been very clear that teams should refer all investigation-related

questions to them. In the meantime, members of the organization, including Flyers players, will not be commenting further," the Flyers stated in response to CBS News.

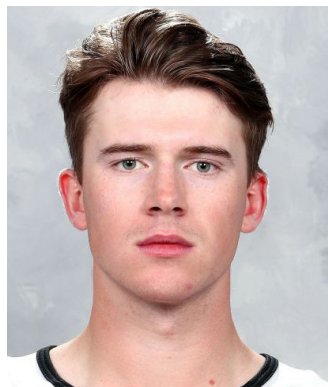
These claims originated when London police launched their investigation in 2022. Hockey Canada had settled a lawsuit with a woman who claimed she was sexually assaulted by eight members of that gold medal-winning team after a Hockey Canada Foundation fundraising gala. As a result, the woman acquired \$3.55 million in damages and dropped the lawsuit after settling with Hockey Canada. The Flyers General Manager Danny Briere remained neutral about the topic.

"We are aware of this morning's press reports on a very serious matter. We will respond appropriately when

the outcomes of the investigations are made public," Briere stated last week.

The NHL's investigation won't release the results until the legal case is resolved.

"At this stage, the most responsible and prudent thing for us to do is await the conclusion of the judicial proceedings, at which point we will respond as appropriate at the time," stated Commissioner Gary Bettman.



hockeydb.com

Joe Biden Addresses Various Important Topics

Joe Biden had a speech at the State of the Union Address. He referred to many subjects while he spoke.

By. Faith Santa

On Friday March 8, Joe Biden spoke at the State of the Union Address confronting certain topics that the nation considers important.

While addressing certain topics, there were references to Donald Trump that Biden effortlessly hinted at. He referred to Trump as "my predecessor" at least 13 times throughout the whole speech and wanted his audience to know what would happen if Trump was elected President for a second time.

"When it first started it was a written address to give an update to the country on the stage of the union and it evolved for political reasons and serves as a political motivation. This year the motivation was to show the country that Joe Biden is still mentally competent," stated Drew Dymond, Pleasant Valley High School Social Studies teacher.

Biden also interacted with

many of the Republican representatives present at the event, who voiced their displeasure with points in Biden's speech. In turn, Biden attempted to turn their arguments around on them.

He addressed the Democrats and the public's biggest concern, his age, by poking fun at how old he is and presenting his speech in an energetic and fiery manner.

"When you get to be my age, certain things become clearer than ever," Biden stated in his speech.

Biden also talked about concerns with the U.S. border, the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, and other issues he hopes to highlight during his upcoming re-election campaign.

FEATURE

Trump's campaign threatened

Many wonder if Donald Trump's current controversies will put a damper on his career.

By. Duke Willhardt

A big topic with the recent candidates for the 2024 election is if Donald Trump's criminal charges will affect his campaign for President.

As of December 2023 Trump has a total of 91 felony charges stacked against him regarding the mishandling of the January 6 riots, attempting to overturn the 2020 election, falsifying business records, and mishandling classified records after leaving office.

According to the New York Times, "legally, Mr. Trump would remain eligible to be president even if he were imprisoned. The Constitution says nothing to the contrary. In practice, the election of an incarcerated president would create a legal crisis that would almost certainly need to be resolved by the courts."

Additionally, the Supreme Court is currently hearing a

case on whether presidential immunity is a product of the presidency. This hearing would relate to and affect the felony charges against Trump.



apnews.com

Building plans brought to light

The anticipated Capital improvement Project aims to bring life back into the high school.

By. Julian Dempster

The Capital Improvement Project is a renovation project coming to the high school which will update the electrical, mechanical, and plumbing systems of the building because of how outdated they are. Though there will be similar renovations going on in the other buildings, the capital improvement project is just the plan for the high school.

The speaker said the exterior is planned to be upgraded by renewing the path to the front of the school to the back of the school due to the pavement's cracks and potholes along with the stadium lights' cables being too damaged to be worked on.

Some segments of the building are not up to modern safety standards such as stair handrails and restrooms, the lockers are also known for jamming due to their small size, and the ceiling grids are rusting in old parts.

There will be demolition of

the old auditorium to make way for a STEAM room and the interior hallways to handle the high amounts of congestion. There will also be the addition of separate team rooms in the gym, expanding the front entrance, restructuring the cafeteria, and a room for e-sports.

Mr. Ayre says "Dr. Konrad and our facilities operations and our assistant superintendent looked at some of those needs and brought them back to life." Since he and Mr. Boylan

have been here, they have now been a part of the process.

The project is to be done by KCBA Architects and the design phase is projected to be finished at the end of school and the bidding will start in October. The construction is planned to begin January of next year and be completed around 2027.



Pleasant Valley High School - PROPOSED MAIN ENTRANCE
Proposed Additions & Renovations

January 11th, 2023

kcba architects

pvbears.org

DISTRICT

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On February 9, Pleasant Valley High School celebrated our second quarter honor roll students. There were almost 500 students in attendance along with the PV Bear. Congratulations



On February 23rd, the Leo Club hosted a family movie night in which they showed Shrek. Proceeds went towards Mini-THON and we raised over \$500.



New members were inducted into the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Math Society. Congratulations!



Mrs. Bertsch got nominated for the February support staff of the month!



Mr. Robbins, history teacher, got nominated for the February teacher of the month!

Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Band Director, Mr. John DeVivo, won Kinsely's ShopRite Amazing Teacher Contest.



Students were able to take part in the distracted driving simulation that was brought to PVHS.

On February 8, Pleasant Valley High School Varsity Chess Team competed at the EPC Invitational at Parkland High School. Peter Milanese (grade 11) finished in 9th place and earned a gold medal. Ethan Manges (grade 12) finished in 15th place and earned a silver medal. Other significant placements were John Onubogu (grade 12) in 24th place and Josephine Jurasits (grade 10) in 31st place.



NATION

President Joe Biden visits Allentown and Lehigh Val-

President Joe Biden visits Allentown and Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania to boost his 2024 election coming up in November.

By:Kyara Gomez

President Joe Biden visited the Allentown area early Friday morning, January 12th. President Biden visited the state twice throughout the entire month as he looked forward to the 2024 election. His first visit was in Valley Forge where he had a public argument about former President Donald Trump. During his broadcast he argued Trump was a threat to democracy.

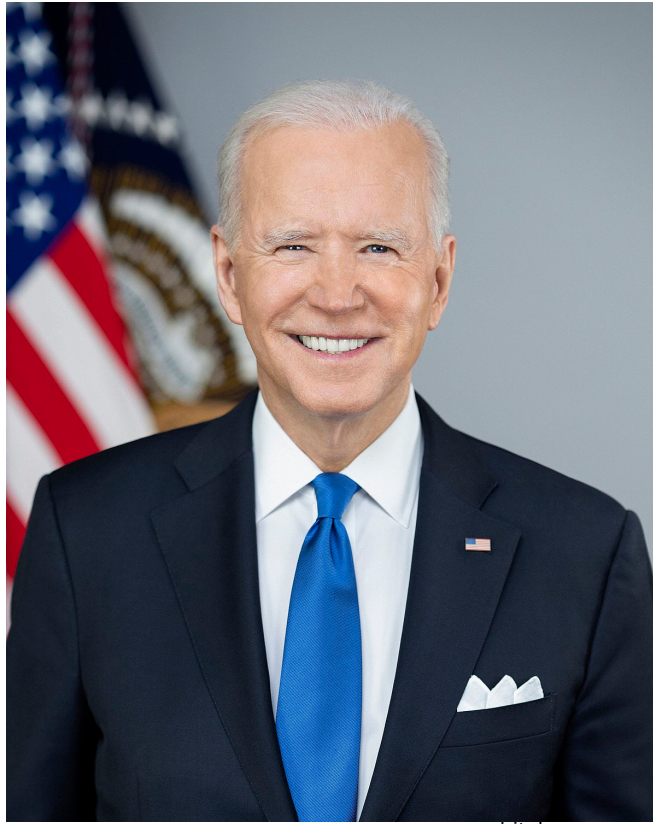
"The choice is clear. Donald Trump's campaign is about him, not America, not you. Donald Trump's campaign is obsessed with the past, not the future. He's willing to sacrifice our democracy to put himself in power. Our campaign is different," stated Biden.

The state of Pennsylvania was a crucial key for Biden's win in the 2020 election. Therefore, it is believed that Biden has focused more on Pennsylvania for the 2024 election this year.

His second visit was in the Lehigh Valley region to deliver an economic message to small business applications. This made it his first visit to the Lehigh Valley in over two years. His visit mainly focused on the states covering small business across the state and country. He went to a couple small businesses around the Allentown area and provided information and tips to the owners.

In this case Biden's visit affected the flow of the people, since the security measures are up to an extreme. School schedules were cut and early dismissals were in effect in the Allentown area. Traffic became a problem too. Overall, his visit was also resourceful.

"A Presidential visit can bring attention and resources to the state, potentially boosting local economies and providing opportunities for community engagement," stated Joseph Agolino.



whitehouse.gov

NATION

Toby Keith, Passed at 62

Toby Keith was a popular country singer who tragically passed away at the age of 62. He sadly passed away due to stomach cancer.

By: Faith Santa

Toby Keith, a popular country singer, age 62, has passed away after his long battle with stomach cancer.

Toby Keith Covell was born on July 8, 1961 in Oklahoma and was raised on a farm outside of Oklahoma City. His career started out by performing in bars during the night.

He was in a band called Easy Money when he met Tricia Lucus, his current wife of 40 years. He adopted Lucus's daughter, Shelley Covell Rowland, and had two more children: a daughter called Krystal and a son named Stelen.

His career launched when he scored a record deal in the '90s and later record his number 1 hit single in 1993 called "Should've Been a Cowboy." This song landed him on the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the same debut album was platinum.

He made a big impact on the music industry. He was honored by the ACM Awards with the prestigious Merle Haggard Spirit Award in 2021, won the coveted entertainer of the year award five times, and was inducted into both the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2015.

"Throughout his career, Keith played for U.S. presidents including George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump. In 2021 he was also awarded the National Medal of the Arts by Trump," stated People magazine.

Keith was diagnosed with

stomach cancer in the fall of 2021. He was fighting cancer for 2 years and he had shared in 2022 that he was getting treatment. Recently when he had made a performance in September of 2023, people thought he was getting better but with no real update.

He not only had a big impact on his fans, he had a tremendous impact on his family. His son, Stelen Covell, spoke about his passing and had a lot of heartwarming things to say about his father.

"You are the strongest man I have ever known. A fighter. A true titan of your industry. My guiding star. My coach. My hero. An embodiment of the American Spirit.," said Covell.



rollingstone.com

2024 Class Sign Ups

There are many classes that students have to choose from. There are also many graduation requirement classes, so make sure you are taking all the correct classes to graduate with no problem.

By: Joseph Winder With Pleasant Valley being midway through the school year, it's that time of the year for freshman, sophomores, and juniors to pick out their classes for the next school year.

Class sign ups will begin in late February; students will be able to sign up for classes digitally through PowerSchool. Their choices of class will be reviewed by their assigned counselor towards the end of the year.

Each student is required to pass a full year English class every year, three science classes

(biology, chemistry, students' choice), four social study classes (American studies, world studies, American government, Economics), and three full year math classes of their choice to graduate. If any student is concerned about these requirements. They are strongly encouraged to schedule a meeting with their guidance counselor.

They can find their counselor and schedule a meeting through the PVHS website by going to the website and filling out a Google form. Students can also learn more about these re-

quirements from the Program of Studies on the high school website.

Some classes that are in demand include food and baking courses, extra physical education classes (exclusive to juniors and seniors), and AP classes. Sign up quickly if you're interested in these classes as spots usually fill up quickly.

Students are encouraged to keep an eye on the TVs and the school website for more information in the future.

DISTRICT

Awareness on unsafe driving

Seniors got to experience a car simulation about distracted and impaired driving.

By: Kaylee Ocasio

Lehigh Valley trauma prevention coordinator William McQuicken, visits all school districts that are near a Lehigh Valley hospital about impaired and distracted driving.

All English classes got sent down to Gress Hall to try out the virtual driving simulation that provided a steering wheel, gas and brake pedal. There were three helpers assisting students to go through the simulation and informing them on what they would expect if they were distracted or impaired.

Sereee Gaddist, senior, got to try out the driving simulator in her English class. "I felt like I got the idea of what they were effectively trying to do with the distractions, and how distractions can lead to horrible accidents," stated Gaddist.

Other seniors and juniors agreed that it was easy to crash and get distracted by pedestrians crossing the road and cars not stopping.

McQuicken stated that they see more people coming into the hospital from being hit by a drunk driver or being the drunk driver than anything else. They also get people who are distracted while driving and then get hurt and/or hurt others.

to hurt because of their actions.

"We want to educate kids and people about the dangers of being impaired and distracted. Looking away for a few seconds can cause people's lives and yours too," stated McQuicken.

The dangers of distracted driving and impaired driving can cause deaths and consequences. Young adults are more likely to drink and drive, as well as be distracted by phones or the technology in their car.



NATION

Gypsy Rose Makes a Return

Gypsy Rose Blanchard was recently released from prison on December 28th 2023. She quickly gained fame on many platforms including Tiktok and Instagram.

By: Lana Krause

The story of Gypsy Rose Blanchard has captured the public's attention. This tragic tale involves a complex series of events.

Gypsy Rose was born in Louisiana, 1991 and grew up in a small town in Missouri. From an early age, she faced numerous health issues that were falsified, including a range of physical and developmental challenges created by her mother.

As Gypsy grew older, she began to question her mother's actions and the true extent of her medical conditions. In 2015, with the help of a boyfriend she found online, Gypsy orchestrated a plan to escape her mother's control. This plan ultimately led to the tragic death of Claudine "Dee Dee" Blanchard, Gypsy's mother.

Susanna Wozniak, sophomore, states, "I do not think she deserved what she had gone through."

In an act of desperation, Gypsy and her boyfriend, Nicholas Godejohn, conspired to murder Dee Dee. Godejohn and Gypsy carried out the plan, and the pair were apprehended soon after. The case gained widespread media attention due to its shocking nature and the complex psychological elements at play.

During the trial, Gypsy's defense team argued that she had been a victim of Munchausen syndrome by proxy, leading to her involvement in the murder. Munchausen by proxy is when a

caretaker makes up symptoms to make a child look sick for sympathy.

"In FDIA, a caregiver usually a parent fabricates or exaggerates medical conditions in a dependent, often for personal gratification or attention," states Dr. Patricia J. Osborne, a psychologist at Stony Brook Medicine.

Gypsy Rose Blanchard was sentenced to prison for her role in the murder, while her mother's actions were heavily scrutinized. The case shed light on the complex issues surrounding the mental health of parents and the effect it has on the children.



people.com

DISTRICT

Class of 2024 Senior Traditions

There are many traditions that PV seniors carry out. After 4 years the class of 2024 is very excited to participate in these fun activities meant for them.

By: Tristan Lomax

As senior year is approaching a close for the class of 2024, many are excited for the upcoming traditions that take place for the graduating class. Senior year is an exciting time full of friendships, new beginnings, and cherished traditions. From the excitement of prom to the bittersweet farewells of graduation, these traditions mark milestones in the lives of the graduating class.

This year, seniors have the opportunity to participate in a Senior Tailgate Breakfast, Luncheon, Senior Superlative Award Day, and so much more. Senior class president Madeline Worden was able to share some insight on the upcoming festivities.

"There is a new tradition we are adding this school year. This year we are having a senior lantern send off. This is something I came up with being inspired by the Senior Sunrise and I think it will be a great addition to our graduating class," stated Worden.

The senior class hosted its prom fashion show held on February 18. The show was sponsored by Tuxedos by Sarno and Bridals by Sandra. Both businesses offer a variety of

tuxedos and dresses some of which were showcased at the show.

"The fashion show was organized to showcase the latest formal wear from local businesses. [The fashion show] also proved to be a very nice fundraiser for the class as we raised over \$350," stated Mrs. Genovese.

Students have the opportunity to utilize coupons that were provided by both businesses to get a discount on formal wear for the upcoming prom. This year's prom theme will be Tangled in Our Memories.

Mrs. Genovese states, "More information will become avail-

able soon."

On May 5th, the class of 2024 will be hosting PVHS Decision Day in the New Auditorium. Seniors and their families will be invited to announce their college, military, or future career choices.

As the festivities approach and the year comes to an end, more information will be provided.

"Senior year coming to a close is bittersweet," states Worden.



via pvbears2024

Many Grand Republican Candidates and Nominations for the 2024 Election

Donald Trump and Nikki Hailey are both very impressive candidates who both are determined to win this 2024 presidential election.

By: Duke Willhardt

Since the start of the 2024 Republican Primaries on January 15, Donald Trump has had landslide victory after victory. So far, Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada have concluded their Republican primaries, and Trump has taken the win in each state. As of Sunday January 18, there are only two Republican Candidates left - Nikki Hailey and former President Donald Trump. Candidate Nikki Hailey has stated that she will not be dropping out of the race anytime soon and plans to hold on to the very end.

"I didn't get here because of luck," stated Hailey to the New York Times.

Hailey is facing criticism from many as they believe either Trump is the better candidate, and she has no chance of taking the lead.

Pleasant Valley High School social studies teacher, Lauren Staub, has shared her thoughts

on Hailey's continuation of her campaign.

"I think she needs to stay in the race to prove she is relevant on the political stage, whether she wins this term or the 2028 Presidential race," stated Mrs. Staub.



history.com



pbs.org

Pleasant Valley's 7th Annual Mini-Thon

The Leo Club announced the theme for Mini-THON during the kickoff assembly, stirring up excitement for this year's Mini-THON.

By: Joseph Winder Get your beach balls and sunscreen ready because this year's Mini-THON theme is Beach Party! April 13th will begin the seventh annual Mini-THON for Pleasant Valley, a 12-hour event filled with dancing and games to encourage students to get involved and passionate about the charity work Four Diamonds is accomplishing.

Four Diamonds is a charity organization that promotes and participates in helping children with cancer and their parents by raising money to help them afford treatment. Four Diamonds was founded in 1972 by the parents of Christopher Millard, their child they had lost to cancer 3 years prior. In 1977 Four Diamonds partnered with the Penn State tradition of THON, a 46-hour dance. Since then High Schools like ours have taken the tradition and shortened it to 12 hours, helping raise money for the cause.

Last year PVHS raised \$13,361.60 for the charity and this year it aims to beat that sum.

Events take place throughout the night such as games like giant Jenga and much dancing including a midnight rave. Snacks, dinner, and

breakfast will be provided by the school throughout the 12 hours.

Here is what Pleasant Valley teacher Ms Altermose has to say to students who haven't attended a Mini-THON and are thinking of attending 2024's Mini-THON: "If you haven't attended Mini-THON, you should register, and find out how much fun it is. Many students enjoy hanging out with friends for the entire time and can decide what activities they want to play throughout the night. Also, it is exciting to see how much money is raised as a school during the final reveal before everyone goes home".

Want to know how to sign up for the Mini-THON? Here's how!

First get a permission slip from the cafeteria (or outside of G5 and J238) and get your parents/guardians to sign it. Bring back the permission slip with \$25 dollars for the registration fee. Next, complete a registration form (you can get a form by filling one out when the Leo Club passes them out in the cafeteria in the near future or by going to Ms Altermose in G4 and filling it out there). After that sign up for the Donor Drive app and raise \$25 for the charity and you'll be set for Mini-THON.

NATION

NBA All Star Weekend: East All Stars took the win

There are many different events taken place during this night. Many skill sets are featured through the night.

By: Dylan Heckman

The NBA's annual All Star Weekend took place in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, February 16th to Sunday, February 18th.

The NBA Skills Competition was the first event to take place on All-Star Saturday Night, and it had the same format as the previous two seasons. This is a competition featuring three teams of three showing off their skills in time challenges. The teams that competed in this event were Team Pacers, Team Number One Picks, and Team All-Stars. Team Pacers won this event in front of their home crowd by beating the All-Stars in a tie-breaking half court contest.

The exciting Starry Three Point Contest occurred after the Skills Challenge. This is a competition between some of the best shooters to ever step on the court. This contest came down to the wire as Karl-Anthony Towns, Trae Young, and Damian Lillard reached the final round. Lillard took home the trophy after he hit the final money ball to take the lead. He is the first back-to-back Three Point Contest Champion since Jason Kapono in the 2007 and 2008 contests.

A new addition to All-Star Weekend this year was a one on one three-point contest between Stephen Curry and the record holder for the most points in a single WNBA Three Point Contest, Sabrina Ionescu. This competition was only one round in length and Sabrina shot first. She started off the competition blisteringly hot but cooled off later in the round, ending with an impressive 26 points. Stephen Curry then took the court for his turn. He started off decently but then caught fire at the middle rack. This fire only brightened in the fourth and fifth rack as he took home the championship belt ending with 29 points. Once again, the best shooter to ever step on the court proved that nobody comes close when it comes to shooting ability.

The final event of Saturday night was the Dunk Contest. This competition features four incredible dunkers battling it out for the coveted Dunk Contest Trophy. Each dunker completes two dunks in the first rounds and the two players with the highest average score between these two rounds advance to the finals. The two dunkers who advanced were Jaylen Brown and Mac McClung, the reigning champion. Despite Brown's high



scores, McClung's electricity was unmatched. He took home the trophy for the second consecutive year.

To cap off an exciting weekend, the NBA's All-Star Game ensued on Sunday, February 18th. The greatest players in the world today took the court to put on a great show after a dreadfully long intro. This contest went back to its old format of East Vs West.

The starters for the Eastern Conference were Giannis Antetokounmpo, Jayson Tatum, Tyrese Haliburton, Damian Lillard, and Bam Adebayo filling in for the injured Joel Embiid. Coming off the bench for the squad was Paolo Banchero, Jaylen Brunson, Jaylen Brown, Scottie Barnes, Trae Young, Tyrese Maxey, and Donovan Mitchell.

The Western Conference starters consisted of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Luka Doncic,

LeBron James, Nikola Jokic, and Kevin Durant. The bench for the West All-Stars composed of Stephen Curry, Kawhi Leonard, Paul George, Devin Booker, Anthony Davis, Karl-Anthony Towns, and Anthony Edwards.

This game was filled with offensive juggernauts and nobody played defense. Despite Towns's incredible performance of 50 points, the East All-Stars took the win with a score of 211 to 186! This is obviously the most points ever scored between two NBA teams.

Damian Lillard of the Milwaukee Bucks received the MVP of this game after scoring 39 points and hitting 11 three pointers.

Tragedy Strikes at Kansas City Chiefs Victory Parade.

1 person died and 20 were injured after this tragic event that took place on February 14.

By: Abigail Dominick

A shooting took place in Kansas City, Missouri during a parade on February 14 that was celebrating the Chiefs Super Bowl LVIII win. One person was killed and more than 20 were injured by the gunmen.

Two men were arrested with second-degree murder, two counts of armed criminal action, and unlawful use of a weapon after firing at each other due to a verbal dispute. Two juveniles were also charged with crimes connected to the shooting and are being held in the Jackson County Juvenile Detention Center. These charges include resisting arrest and a gun-related charge. More charges are expected as the investigation continues.

"We just wanted to say our hearts go out to all of the victims, their families, Chiefs Kingdom and really all of Kansas City that was there on a day to try to celebrate the community," stated Jason Kelce on his podcast with his brother Travis Kelce, a player for the Kansas City Chiefs.

NATION

Chiefs win the 2024 Superbowl and bring home fourth trophy in five years.

The Chiefs miraculously pull through with their second Superbowl win in a row, beating the San Francisco 49ers.

By: Logan Czura

To begin this season, we had no idea who would even make the playoffs and then the Super Bowl, but we saw a lot of surprising teams that made the playoffs this season. No one expected the Detroit Lions to even make the playoffs and definitely not come one win from a super bowl trip. Likewise, with the Green Bay Packers, no one expected Jordan Love to play as well as he did because he still is young. With that in mind, fans had mixed feelings going into the NFC and AFC Championship games last week based on the results of a school-wide survey.

Mostly everyone wanted the Lions to win because it would have been cool to see them actually playing a super bowl and the city of Detroit deserves it.

"I'm happy for their fans and they deserve it after all the losing they've had to go through," stated Brandon VanderSchans, a student at Pleasant Valley High School.

For all the years that the city suffered through it must have felt good for them to finally see their team win again, even though they fell short of making the super bowl. About 54 percent picked the Ravens to go and win the super bowl, and just 9 percent picked the Chiefs to make and win the super bowl and they made it

there for the fourth time in five years, with the team never missing the AFC Championship game.

"I think it's a great accomplishment. Myself, not liking Mahomes and hoping he loses but he is a very good player," stated Gerrit DeYoung, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

On the night of the Super Bowl, the Kansas City Chiefs are the super bowl champions once again with a final score of 25-22. Patrick Mahomes threw for 333 yards on a completion rate of 34-46 for 2 touchdowns and 1 interception and the biggest touchdown of this game was to win the game a 5-yard touchdown pass to Mecole Hardman who actually started this season with the Jets but got traded back to the Chiefs in the middle of the season.

Mahomes now has 3 super bowl rings, and he still is young. He is getting close to being in the conversation of greatest player of all time, competing with Tom Brady, who has seven championships. We will see next year if they can go to the super bowl and be the first team in NFL history to win a Super Bowl three years in a row.

