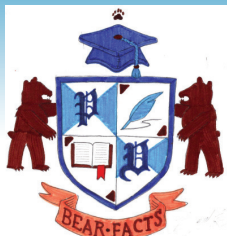


# BEAR



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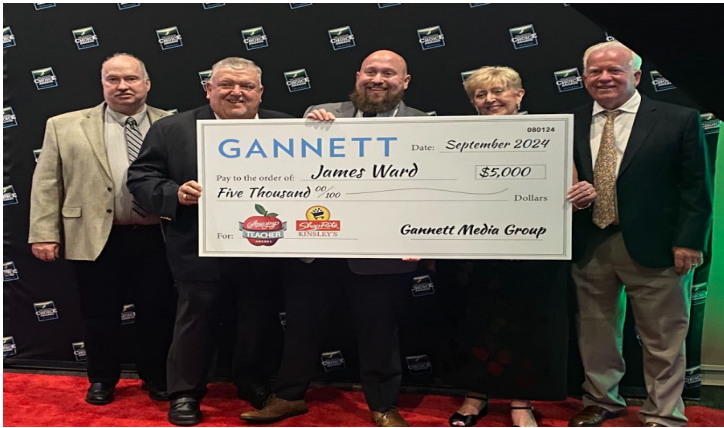
VOLUME 70 ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2024

DISTRICT

## Our very own amazing teacher, Mr. Ward

*Mr. Ward, social studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School has been awarded the “Amazing Teacher Award”. Kinsley ShopRite sponsors this award and presents it to the most deserving teacher.*



**Mr. Ward receiving the \$5,000 check during the Amazing Teacher Award Ceremony on Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024.**

**By: Giada Morales**

On Sep. 18, one Pleasant Valley High School's own teachers, James Ward, won the “Amazing Teacher Award” This award is sponsored by ShopRite and given to the teacher with the most votes throughout most of the districts in Monroe County.

The Amazing Teacher Award is an award that is sponsored

by Kinsley ShopRite on route 209. This award is given to the teacher who is recognized as an excellent teacher to students, staff, and families.

Mr. Ward has been working at Pleasant Valley High School for 18 years, and while many believe he is deserving of the award, he thinks otherwise.

"Honestly, I feel like a lot of teachers were more deserving. I think we have really incredible teachers and staff here

that maybe don't get as much credit as they should," states Mr. Ward.

Mr. Ward talked about how the award has impacted his teaching career and said that the award has not impacted it in any major way.

Mr. Ward also gave his opinion about why he thinks he was nominated for the award.

“I think I try to take as much time as possible to get to know my students and try to do right by them,” Mr. Ward stated.

Mr. Ward spoke about being nominated before too and said he had never been nominated before. Mr. Ward also talked about the voting process behind this award which closed in September

“I don't know exactly how and I should definitely know more about this” stated Mr. Ward

School principal, Brian Boylan, has known Mr. Ward for almost three years and was able to give his input on Mr. Ward winning the award

“I think it is absolutely great and he deserves the recognition. He is an excellent teacher and his students love him. He is a role model to his students and they enjoy being in his class,” stated Mr. Boylan.

Mr. Boylan also talked about how they celebrated Mr. Ward's win saying they celebrated on Sep. 18 by giving him a big check and many of his colleagues have been congratulating him on the win! Mr. Boylan was able to give his input on how it feels to have one of his teachers win this award.

“I am excited. Mr. Ward is the first teacher at the high school so far to win. He is the second in the district. I will not be surprised when more teachers win. Our high school is full of terrific teachers and I know they will follow once the nominations start coming in. We just need our student body to continue with the teacher nominations,” Mr. Boylan said.

One of Mr. Ward's colleagues, Lauren Staub, who

has known Mr. Ward since 2010 also gave her opinion about Mr. Ward winning the award.

“I think he deserves this award! He might not think he does but he does! He is one of the best historical storytellers out there,” Mrs. Staub said.

While Mr. Ward won the award at the high school, John DeVivo, Pleasant Valley Intermediate band teacher, won this award before back in the winter of 2024.

DISTRICT

## School supplies given to the whole district

*For the 2024-2025 school year the district has given all inclusive free school supplies to all the students in the district. Helping students, teachers, and families feel prepared for this new school year.*

**By: Areli Ramirez**

The Pleasant Valley School District has provided all students from the district with free all-inclusive school supplies for the 2024-2025 school year. Esser grants helped accelerate this project, Esser grants are federal money many schools received because of Covid.

The Pleasant Valley school district is considered C.E.P, community eligible perversion district. The district is considered a low income level of the community, which means the school is eligible for additional resources.

The district decided to give all students free supplies for many reasons that benefit the overall district and community. The supplies are very costly for parents and teachers, and many parents have more than one student in the district. It helps relieve the financial

burden for many families and helps them feel prepared for the upcoming school year. Projects like these benefit parents, staff members, and overall support the kids.

These types of grants were used before in the district to help purchase instruments for the students. The district wants to put additional grant funding back in supporting the families and staff.

“As an educator, and as a parent I want to make sure money wound up supporting the greatest need which is students' success and resources,” stated Dr. Konrad.

The District helps support learning in the schools, working together with the teachers on what supplies each of them need for specific classes or grade levels, and finally buying supplies in bulk. The district wants to make the most of the

finances of the school.

“We want to make sure that all students have what they need for the school year and they're ready to learn,” stated Dr. Konrad, Superintendent of the Pleasant Valley district.

This is the first year the district was also able to provide \$750 additional for all the teachers in the district. The materials the teachers requested were purchased and they also were provided with additional funds, so that they are able to buy materials unique for their classrooms or resources.

Teachers will continue to get the usual 100-150 dollars for purchasing supplies but the extra funds help make sure that the teachers are prepared and equipped to start the year.

When the district receives these types of grants it's not going to go to staffing and salaries, it goes straight to supplies,

materials, resources for our school, staff, and students.

“When we get money from grants for our school, we continue to figure out ways to support students, teachers, curriculums, equipment and resources to help educate kids,” stated Dr. Konrad Superintendent of the Pleasant Valley district.

Many teachers appreciated this project and were able to benefit from the extra school supplies teachers were able to order. Especially in science as it requires many resources and supplies to be able to do many things like labs and modeling activities. Many teachers spend some of their own money to buy supplies, but this year the additional funds helped.

“This helped every classroom be able to afford items that are surprisingly expensive, like giant post it notes and supplies for scientific modeling

which we run through and are expensive,” stated Mrs. Garr, Head of Science department.



**Abigail Dominick, senior at Pleasant Valley High School, wearing the blue bag given to students at the start of the 2024-2025 school year.**



DISTRICT

## New faces arrive at PVHS

*There has been a lot of new staff entering the high school this year. Get to know some new members join the PV team.*

**By: Sienna Pearce**

With the transition of the new year, many students have noticed the new faces around the building. In order to fill some empty spaces, new staff has been hired to fill the void.

One new addition to the roster is Mrs. Madric, who works with the Technology Secretary. Previously, she held a position at Penn Ridge High School. Now, she aims to help our technology department run smoothly.

“My goal for this year is to learn where all of the classrooms are located in the high school. Lots of exciting places to find,” stated Madric.

Another addition to Pleasant Valley’s staff list is Mrs. Hartzell, who has stepped into the role of a new guidance counselor. During the 2023-2024 school year, she worked as a counselor for PVE. Her responsibilities include scheduling, college and career planning, dual enrollment, Liaison between the high school and Northampton Community College, and much more.

“Even though I’ve been doing this for quite some time, I am learning from my colleagues

as we each bring different experiences to the table” stated Hartzell.

Lisa Undari, the Administrative Director to our Athletic Director, previously held a position at the Stony Brook University Hospital in the Anesthesia Billing Department for 17 years. Her role here is full of countless responsibilities including licensing coaching, transportation for away games, ensuring scoring is correct, and that rosters are up to date.

“The Athletic Department is ground zero for all organizations to get and keep sports running here at our school” stated Undari.



DISTRICT

## Pleasant Valley High School band performs at Kalahari Resorts

*The Pleasant Valley band had the privilege to represent the school at the PA Administrators Convention. They were one out of four bands to be chosen to perform.*

**By: Abigail Dominick**



source: James DeVivo  
On Oct. 7 the Pleasant Valley Band will be performing at Kalahari Resorts for multiple administrators and superintendents from all across Pennsylvania. James DeVivo, the Pleasant Valley Band teacher and director, submitted a video of their performance and victoriously they were selected to perform at the PA Administrators Convention being held at Kalahari. This experience is not only an honor for the band, but will be an amazing opportunity for the band to represent Pleasant Valley outside of school.

“We are one of only four other high school bands that were selected to perform this year,”

stated DeVivo.

Many of the band members are excitedly awaiting this unique opportunity. Mackenna Ertle, senior clarinet player, has been playing since 4th grade and a part of the marching band for four years. She, along with her fellow band members, have worked extremely hard to become proficient in their musical abilities.

“We have practiced after school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays on music drills. These practices have allowed us to become better as a band and be able to have opportunities like this,” reported Ertle.

The band will be performing an array of music for the audience including many of their pep songs commonly heard at the football games. This includes “The Imperial March”, “Take on Me”, “Sweet Caroline”, and “7 Nation Army.” DeVivo and Ertle both expressed their excitement for this upcoming event as it is a display of all of their hard work and strong efforts.

“I’m excited to have an opportunity to show our skill and represent the school in an environment other than football games,” stated Ertle.



source: James DeVivo

DISTRICT

## Pleasant Valley High School welcomes new assistant principals

*Amber Chiafulio and Ariella Mease join PVHS as new members of the administration.*

**By: Dakari Fleming**

This year we have two new assistant principals from Bethlehem. Amber Chiafulio and Ariella Mease both have a background in teaching. Mease worked in Phillipsburg New Jersey for the past six years and Chiafulio worked at Bethlehem as a high school biology teacher.

“I think the most important thing to realize when you’re dealing with the student is they’re all coming from a different life experience and it’s important to try and learn about the student and talk to them as much as you can because while students have to have consequences when they make poor choices, it’s more important to form a relationship with that student,” said Chiafulio the as-

sistant principal.

As assistant principals they handle processes in the building such as student discipline, answering emails and calls from parents. Mease felt comfortable in the interview, felt like this is a place she could be herself at and stated that the place gave a home vibe.

“I felt that the interview went well,” stated Mease the assistant principal.

Mease likes to keep students following the rules, while Chiafulio likes to collect data, work with teachers and likes to make sure that policies work and are effective.



**Ariella Mease**



**Amber Chiafulio**



DISTRICT

## GAPP program continues to succeed

*GAPP stands for German American Partnership program. This program has been done at Pleasant Valley for years and is a constant success for students.*

**By: Dakari Fleming**



source: Rebekah McLeod

From Germany to America, they’ve come a long way. This year because of GAPP you’ve had the pleasure of having German exchange students in the building. In 2013, the German exchange program was first introduced to PV.

Their goal was to enable American and German students a first hand experience of the other’s way of living. From school life to tourism they’ve seen a good bit of what it’s like to live in America.

“At first I was scared of people being mean but when I saw how friendly the people were my fear went away,” said Leni Diehl, a German exchange student.

First introduced in 2013, the German exchange program has happened every other year except when covid struck when

it was delayed by one year. The program is headed by the US state department and the German state department.

While they live with a host family here, they also go to classes with host students, participate in regular school days, and accompany them to any after school activities that they’re a part of. From the end of June, and through the first week of July, the host students will be going to Germany for two weeks and doing the same thing that the exchange students did here.

“I feel excited because not many people get to go to Germany,” stated Rebecca, a host student for GAPP.



NATION

Trump’s many failed assassination attempts

Former President Donald Trump has recently been through many attempts of death on his life. The attempts have failed each time and Trump is still thriving with the election near.



source: CNN

**By: Areli Ramirez** During one of Donald Trump's rally in Butler, PA on July 13th 2024, shots were fired aiming for an attempted assassination of the former president and now candidate for the next presidential election of 2024. The gunman and one another were found dead and 2 more injured, including Donald Trump as a bullet pierced his right ear. The shooter was identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks, a 20-year-old from Bethel Park, Pa, who was killed by the se-

NATION

cret service. The shooter fired from the roof of a warehouse he fired eight shots. He worked alone and used his father's gun which was legally bought and registered. Many investigations are still ongoing and a lot of information is being found, "On July 24, Mr. Wray told Congress that Mr. Crooks typed the words "How far away was Oswald from Kennedy" into an online search, apparently researching the assassination of President John F. Kennedy." Stated the New York Times.

Two were injured including, David Dutch, 57, of New Kensington, Pennsylvania and James Copenhaver, 74, of Moon Township, Pennsylvania, both are in stable condition. The other casualty was a man named Corey Comperatore, 50, a married father of two daughters from Sarver, Pa. He worked at a plastic manufacturing company and was a volunteer firefighter, "Cory Comperatore, a former fire chief from the area who used his body to shield his family," stated AP news.

Many wonder if an act like this will affect the overall election, but because of the constant 24 hours' news and media change many believe it won't be that influential.

"As of now, I believe the overall impact of the event on the election will be minimal," stated Mr. Robbins

Later that day Trump made a public announcement on his social media revealing he was safe and had no other large injuries. President Biden also remarked after the event that America is no place for this type of violence.

Biden delivered the Oval Office address: In a prime-time national address, the president said "We must not go down the road of political violence in America and call for unity," stated AP news.

There was also another assassination attempt on September 15th, shots were fired but Trump was rushed to safety and the former president is in fine condition.



Trump and Harris fighting for the presidency

2024 is once again a presidential election. Get to know Harris and Trump and what policies they stand for, as election day nears.

**By: Sienna Pearce** On Tuesday, Nov. 5, the citizens of America will be lining the blocks waiting to cast their votes for their new president. They must make the decision between the republican party candidate Donald Trump, and the democratic party candidate Kamala Harris. This begs the question- what exactly are their differences? For example, according to Tom Geoghegan's BBC article, each candidate has elaborated on the stance they have on the topic of abortion. Harris campaigns for abortion rights, while Trump's supreme court overturned Roe vs. Wade.

Concerning the issue of gun safety, the two nominees both have different methods to go about keeping the country safe. Harris and her vice presidential candidate Tim Walz, both gun owners, both advocate for tighter gun laws to prevent shooting

violence. Trump, however, advocates for the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms.

They both have different values when it comes to foreign



source: NBC News

policies. For instance, Harris has claimed that she would support Ukraine for "as long as it takes." In contrast, Trump

desires to remove this country from other conflicts happening around the globe.

Also, on the topic of stopping illegal immigration, Harris



and Trump also have opposing viewpoints when it comes to this issue. For starters, Harris helped raise billions of dollars of

private money to make regional investments in an effort to put a hold on illegal immigrants. In contrast, Trump vowed to seal the border, complete the construction of a wall, and increase enforcement.

Involving crime, Harris has promised to diminish crime. Similarly, Trump has vowed to demolish drug cartels, crush gang violence, and rebuild cities that are "overrun with crime."

Finally, Harris and Trump both have different tactics involving taxes. On one hand, Harris raises taxes on big businesses and Americans making \$400,000. On the other hand, Trump recently proposed a tax cut with trillions.

American citizens are listening intently to each nominee's perspectives and impatiently waiting for the poles to open to support their candidate.

President Biden drops out of the 2024 election

Biden decided to drop out of the 2024 election and instead give his full support to kamala Harris as the 2024 presidential candidate for the democrats.

**By: Logan Czura** President of the United States, Joe Biden, announced he is dropping out of the 2024 Presidential election on Sunday, Jul. 21, 2024. People think he did this due to the concerns of his age and that something was wrong at the June 27 Presidential debate.

James Ward, Social Studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, believes that people don't necessarily understand the Presidential election process.

"Most Americans don't understand the primary election system it's hosted by each political party. With Joe Biden announcing he's dropping out, he now joins this very short list of U.S. Presidents," explain Mr. Ward.

President Biden decided to drop out after a terrible debate with former President Donald Trump. After the June debate, news stations said that Biden should drop out because of his age and concerns of his health.

In an interview with The Guardian, Biden states that "he still believed he could win in November, but events had 'moved quickly' after weeks of pressure and growing unease inside his party."

Since dropping out, Biden has endorsed his Vice President, Kamala Harris, for President.

"I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump," stated Biden in an article for The Hill.



source: The New York Times

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DISTRICT

# Fall play “Get Smart” will amaze the audience

*The Pleasant Valley High school Fall play “Get Smart” will be shown at the end of November. It will be a very fun and interesting make sure to buy your tickets.*

**By: Sarah Larregui**  
Pleasant Valley Drama Club is performing “Get Smart” on Nov. 22, 23, 24. “Get Smart” is about a spy named Maxwell Smart, played by Owen Gordon, and his partner Agent 99, played by Jeneria Williams are assigned a case to prevent world domination by the KAOS chief.  
While “Get Smart” is primarily a comedy, there are many challenges to bringing the show to the stage.  
“There are a lot of lines and a lot of expectations to try and get the right mannerisms,” states Gordon.  
Jeneria Williams, [Agent 99] loves bringing her character to life by using her creative acting abilities.  
“I like that [Agent 99] is very feminine, but she is also the leader of the operation,” observes Williams.  
Daniel Mulligan, director of Pleasant Valley Drama Club, believes that the audience will be surprised thoroughly through

this production.  
“We are going to use digital projections with this show. We have not done that in a while, and hopefully it will give a fresh look to our production,” Mulligan exclaims.  
The decision to choose this play was challenging for both Mulligan and his wife Marcie Mulligan. But after many re-watches of the infamous show and movie they eventually landed on the rightful decision of “Get Smart.”  
“Mrs. Mulligan and I read through a dozen or more scripts this summer and watched several videos of schools performing those plays. When we came across the script for ‘Get Smart,’ we thought this would be the perfect play for this group of students.  
“This play allows us as directors to develop comic timing with the students, something we really enjoy doing.” Mulligan commented.  
“Get Smart”, is based on a TV show that was aired from 1965-1969, and it ran for five

seasons. It was originally a TV series before adapting it into a stage production.



“Get Smart” rehearsal in action.



Owen Gordon and Jeneria Williams

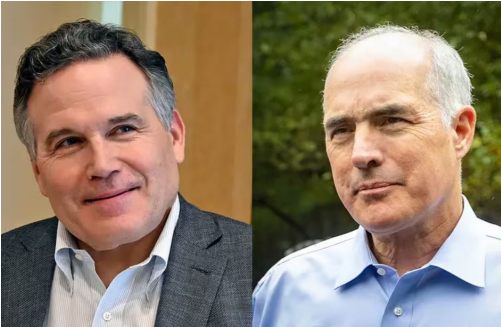


The cast of “Get Smart” at rehearsal for opening night.

NATION

# Casey and McCormick running for Senate

*As election day nears the Senate race is becoming very competitive between Casey and McCormick supporters.*



source: The Philadelphia Inquirer

**By: Areli Ramirez**  
Voters, ballots, advertising, the time has come again for the 2024 Pennsylvania U.S. Senate race. The 2024 Pennsylvania U.S. Senate race is concurrent with the 2024 Presidential Election, which means there will be a larger turnout for the election that could decide the balance of power in the Senate.  
The main two candidates are U.S. Senator Bob Casey, who is a democrat and former hedge fund CEO Dave McCormick, who is a republican and lost the 2022 Republican U.S. Senate nomination to Mehmet Oz.  
Bob Casey is campaigning strongly, having a main focus on preventing and reporting sexual assaults on college campuses and helping disabled family members to save money through a tax-advantaged savings account.  
“Casey is committed to raising wages and creating and retaining jobs across Pennsylvania,” stated abc27.com.  
Dave McCormick was the runner-up in the 2022 Repub-

lican Senate primary and now is running for the U.S. Senate in 2024. McCormick. He is the former CEO of Bridgewater Associates and a member of the Treasury Department under President George W. Bush  
There was some criticism around his earlier campaign in 2022 after living in Connecticut as the CEO of Bridgewater Associates and returning to Pennsylvania right before the 2022 election.  
There are also third party candidates for example John Thomas, Libertarian Party, Leila Hazou, Green Party, and Marty Selker, Constitution Party.  
This upcoming senate election is very important this year.  
“The senate is effectively currently at a 50/50 split with the Democrats controlling it with the Vice Presidents tie-breaking vote. Whichever party wins control of the senate will have strong influence on what politics the president is able to get put into law,” stated Jason Robbins, Government and Politics teacher.

DISTRICT

# Chris Herren, recovered addict, speaks at Pleasant Valley High School

*Chris Herren was a former basketball player and currently a motivational speaker. He goes to many schools and speaks on his testimony.*

**By: Kyara Gomez**  
PVHS got the privilege to have guest speaker Chris Herren come and share his story with students.  
Chris Herren, former NBA basketball player, motivational speaker, author, and advocate for substance abuse awareness was brought to PVHS.  
Born on September 27, 1976, in Fall River, Massachusetts, Herren was an outstanding basketball player at Durfee High School. He then went on to play for several teams across the country. Boston College and Fresno State University. Soon after he was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in 1999 and also played for the Boston Celtics.  
Throughout his career Herren became addicted to multiple substances ending his professional basketball career

entirely.  
Today, Chris Herren is a well-known speaker, sharing his story of struggle and how he redeemed himself with millions across the country. He speaks with teens, adults, elderly and promotes awareness for those who are struggling. Herren speaks at schools, conferences, prisons and so many more events inspiring more than millions of people each time.  
Alongside sharing his story, Chris Herren has also founded a non-profit organization “The Herren Project” that seeks to help individuals who are struggling with addiction like he once did.  
PVHS had the opportunity to hear his journey with a school assembly late September. It was important and an honor to have Herren at the school to educate

not only students but the staff as well.  
Brian Boylan, principal of Pleasant Valley High School, stated, “The whole purpose of his speech is to let students know that they are not alone. Addiction can happen to anyone. The more educated we are of this, the better we will be to overcome this. It was a very emotional story but it also ensured the students that you are never alone and life gets better.”  
Within the crowd of students, Chris Herren's words really impacted the student body of Pleasant Valley High School.  
Mr. Boylan stated, “The assembly was very powerful and we have heard a lot of positive feedback from students about this topic”.  
Student at Pleasant valley, Emily Heckman stated, “His story made me and multiple others tear up. That assembly stayed with me.”  
With his inspiring story and courage, Chris Herren has made a lasting contribution to the students of Pleasant Valley High School.



source: Elizabeth Negrón



## ‘Destructive Debby’ strikes

*The infamous hurricane Debby barreled through the coast of Florida leaving a wake of destruction in its path.*

**By: Abigail Dominick**



source: The Boston Globe

Recently hurricane Debby wreaked havoc on Florida’s Big Bend region also including the majority of the east coast. The storm caused widespread flooding and damaging winds to northern states as far as New York. Numerous tornadoes also followed its path causing major damage. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Disaster Assistance crews have rushed to the affected areas to help aid in repair and rebuilding operations.

Jul. 26 Debby was first observed by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) as a tropical wave. As the storm gained strength on Aug. 2 Debby was classified as a tropical depression and then later that day considered a tropical storm located in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Finally on Aug. 4 Debby was officially clas-

sified as a category 1 hurricane.

Debby caused an estimated \$12.3 billion in damages. Not only did the storm affect Florida, but also the entire east coast before dissipating Canada’s Maritime providence on Aug. 10. Although not as extreme, these effects impacted people from all over the east coast. Maricatherine Garr, a science teacher at Pleasant Valley High School felt as the rain negatively influenced her a big portion of her summer.

“Mostly, it makes it tougher for me to do the outdoor activities that I enjoy, which is more of a social mental health centered consequence. Between rain and the high humidity/heat days, I feel like a lot of summer was ‘lost’ to poor weather. Same with many weekends the past few years. We’re stuck inside. I’ve been lucky and haven’t had property damage but I know others have suffered economic losses that way,” stated Garr.



NATION

## Chiles robbed at Olympics

*During the 2024 Olympics, USA gymnast Jordan Chiles had her metal taken away from her, causing widespread debate.*

**By: Kyara Gomez**

Jordan Chiles, stripped away from her medal, causes controversy nationwide.

Jordan Chiles is a known gymnast for Team USA, who faced controversy at the recent 2024 Olympics held in France. After competing in the women’s vault, Chiles placed with an initial score of 14.666 which awarded her with her bronze medal.

However after a review, judges brought her score down to 14.566. The decision was decided based on “scoring discrepancies”. This dropped Chiles from third to fifth place overall. Taking away her bronze medal and rewarding it to gymnast Ana Barbosu from Team Romania.

The decision outraged fans,



source: Variety

coaches, and fellow athletes, which started the allegations towards the judging and scoring. Many believed the controversy surrounding Chile’s incident was mostly about biased judging.

“It was unfair, She shouldn’t have to go through that. I wonder how she felt at the moment” stated Alina Thomas, Junior at Pleasant Valley High School.

Jordan Chiles was visibly upset and her and her coaches questioned the judges decision referring to inconsistencies in scoring. During an interview Chiles told reporters she was disappointed and felt frustrated.

“I felt like I was robbed,” stated Gymnast Jordan Chiles.

Chiles went on social media thanking fans for all their support and stated her hope for making things right. Other gymnasts also expressed their support for Chiles like Simone Biles, Sunisa Lee and Jade Carey.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) then reinstated Chiles’ original score, awarding her back the bronze medal.

NATION

## 2024 Olympic Games is the talk of the town

*The 2024 Olympics is taking the world by storm after the new additions of sports were added to the Olympic roster.*

**By: Julian Dempster**

With the 2024 Summer Olympics coming to an end, the time has come to overlook the several highlights and new additions to the competition.

A new sport added was called kayak cross, a new variation of canoe slalom, the new Olympic sport where four kayakers race to the finish while dodging various obstacles. Canoe slalom was first seen in the Munich games in 1972 which was limited only to men’s canoeing singles and doubles, men’s kayak singles, and women’s kayak singles up until 2016.

The 2024 Paris Olympics are the first chance for a gold medal for both men and women. Noémie Fox of Australia won gold in women’s Kayak Cross and Finn Butcher of New Zealand won in men’s.

Breakdancing initially made its debut in the Youth Olympic Games in 2018 at Buenos Aires. The basic guidelines for the competition go as follows; the master of ceremonies brings the dancer to the stage and when the music starts the contestant is given 30-50 seconds to present their style and show up their opponent.



source: Newsweek

The judging system assesses the mind, body, and soul, other-



source: The LA Times

wise known as trivium. Body covers the physical movement and techniques used during the dance.

Philip Kim won gold in Breaking for Canada in men’s and Ami Yuasa won gold for Japan in women’s Breaking. A notable highlight from the event being Rachel “Raygun” Gunn who made news after earning Australia zero points in the breaking competition.

Another returning sport to the games is 3x3 Basketball, a variation of the classic game played entirely on a half court and rules reformatted for a higher energy experience. 3x3 Basketball purpose in 2007 first being introduced in the Youth Olympic Games of Singapore in 2010.

It became a part of the Olympic basketball program in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Germany won women’s 3x3 basketball with Spain coming in second and the Netherlands won in the men’s competition with France in second.

Another notable highlight is Yusuf Dikec of Türkiye who has gotten a lot of attention on the internet after winning silver in the 10m air pistol mixed shooting event using no more equipment than standard pair of earplugs and a regular

pair of glasses. Most other contestants use special anti glare glasses and large bulky earmuffs so his casual look in comparison to winning his first Olympic medal has gotten him a lot of attention from the web and the public at large.

Our own athletic director James Korcienski knows the power that sporting events have on the community. He said, “ People come out to our football games to enjoy some sporting events and camaraderie and seeing neighbors and friends here win or lose, it’s all about our community. ”

This collective pride can affect a small community like PV or something as large as an entire nation and bring everyone together regardless of background or viewpoints in support.



DISTRICT

## New chargers “charge” their way in the new school year

*Recently, the new addition of blue chargers were apparent in the high school to help enure students’ chromebooks remained charged.*

**By: Logan Czura**

At the beginning of the school year, Pleasant Valley High School students were greeted by large blue boxes that were placed around the school. However, students quickly found out that they are the new Chromebook charging stations that are to be use when Chromebooks loose battery power or aren’t being used.

There are a few spots where they are located. These locations include the cafeteria, locker room hallway and Gress hallway.

According to Mr. Jason Van Voorhis the decision was made to get these charging sta-

tions because of the need for having fully charged Chromebooks.

“With the reliance on 1:1 technology and the need for having a fully charged Chromebook, it was decided that the best way to support our students was to purchase these charging stations,” stated Mr. Van Voorhis.

Another reason is for students who may not be able to take their Chromebooks home to be charged. These Chromebook stations aren’t up and running as of yet, though.

“They should be ready to be used by the end of [Octo-

ber], if not sooner,” stated Mr. Van Voorhis





DISTRICT

# Cerrone takes the field for one last season

*As the football season comes to a close, it is important to recognize the highlights of Pleasant Valley's very own Brady Cerrone.*

**By: Abigail Dominick**

As the fall sports season comes to a close, so do those Friday night lights. With the fall football season ending shortly, players and students alike will be longing for Friday night football. One of those players in particular is senior captain, Brady Cerrone.

Cerrone has been playing football for nine years. He spent his senior season playing center and defensive tackle. His love for the sport started in the early years of Cubs football and has continued throughout his high school career. Throughout his career he has built strong relationships with his coaches and teammates.

"Brady is a great leader. He always keeps the energy high in practice, knows when to have fun and when to be serious. I'm glad Brady got voted captain for my junior season," stated junior football player, Ajani Wheeler.

As the season comes closer to ending, the end of high school football for Cerrone is becoming a reality. Cerrone predicts a positive future for the Pleasant Valley football team after he graduates. He claims their young age will be a posi-

tive asset in the future. Although high school football may not last forever, the memories he made will last a lifetime.

"I will miss the fun of playing football and the memories we made," stated Cerrone.



Brady Cerrone

DISTRICT

# Rath gains recognition

*Distinguished Pleasant Valley lacrosse player Rylee Rath was awarded performance in*

**By: Sienna Pearce**

This past June, Pleasant Valley's very own Rylee Rath was granted the title of the 2023-24 Pocono Record Athlete of the Year.

"I was pretty excited and happy when I got the news," stated Rath.

But this success didn't come to her in one fell swoop, she had to work for it. For starters, Rath's experience playing lacrosse is quite extensive. Currently, she has 11 years of experience under her belt.

"I had to be really committed to getting better and giving it a lot of time to get there," stated Rath.

Now a junior, Rath has had time to discover balancing her school work with her sports schedule was no easy feat. However, this balancing act paid off because Rath's hard work did not go unnoticed.

"I was at a friend's house when my parents texted me a screenshot of the website after the voting had closed and I won," stated Rath.

Ultimately, this award was well deserved. There is no doubt that it will impact Rath's career for the better.

"I think it will really help me to add this to my accolades in the future with lacrosse," stated

Rath.

Many seem to share the same perspective on Rath's successes.

"Rylee winning the Pocono Record Award is like Micheal Jordan winning a championship. It's something everyone knew would happen, it was just a matter of time.

"We knew she was going to be great when she ended her freshman season with over 100+ goals. Rylee Rath is someone to keep your eye on," stated Hunter Spanburgh, Rath's friend.



Rylee Rath

# Pleasant Valley celebrates Bucket Game with bonfire bash

*The bonfire was once again celebrated in good spirits with the upcoming Bucket game. Many new additions were introduced and were very successful and happily accepted by the public.*

**By: Kyara Gomez**



source: Daniel Baker

The annual "Bucket Game" took place on Oct. 11, 2024 at rival school, Pocono Mountain East High School.

The Bucket Game is one of the most highly anticipated rivalry football games of the season. This iconic matchup between schools has become a major tradition for communities dating back to the 1960s. Where the two schools competed for the first Old Oaken Bucket trophy.

Since then, the rivalry has grown between teams, making both PVHS and PMEHS desire for bragging rights and possession of the bucket.

"It is a tradition of over 60 years and by far our most important game of the year," stated Pleasant Valley head football coach, Blaec Saeger.

However, the Bucket game is more than just a football game.

"This game means a lot to me. It's unfortunate this is my last year playing in the bucket game but I'm excited to be able to bring back the bucket back to PV one last time," Captain Mike Lafiura stated.

"This game means a lot to me because all of the family members I have that played in the game, and I wish they could have the opportunity back," says London Smith, junior football player.

This tradition represents a symbol of school spirit and community unity. Students, parents, staff, and locals eagerly anticipate the future matchup.

Pleasant Valley leads up to the game with a school wide pep rally, which consists of performances from the band and cheer squad, a special appearance from the mascot, and several of the football players.

The excitement builds up one last time at the annual Bonfire hosted by PVHS. The bonfire is held the night before the big game, where the community gathers with a roaring bonfire, which symbolizes the school's team spirit. The Class of 2025 PVHS was able to bring a new

better and to get everyone to participate.

"A great reason to get the community involved, So why not," stated Principal Boylan.

Pleasant Valley and Pocono Mountain East players, coaches, and alumni take pride in this rivalry, knowing the winner takes home the giant trophy. This long lasting tradition continues to inspire numerous students, athletes, and locals. The players favorite part of the game is running into the field and looking up at the stand decked out in PV spirit with a number of people cheering them on.

Pleasant Valley has had the Old Oaken Bucket for 4 years now in a row, after Oct. 11 Pocono Mountain East won back the Old Oaken Bucket from Pleasant Valley.

Although falling short, the tradition remains significant for Pleasant Valley High School. The passion and pride between both teams represents a shared experience that entertains the rivalry. As the bears look to take



source: Daniel Baker

twist to this year's annual Bonfire.

Food trucks, rock climbing, music, and a dunk tank were all new additions to this year's event. Multiple in school clubs also provided activities like face painting, a pie to the face, and beanbag toss for all to enjoy.

These new additions were included to make the Bonfire even

back the bucket in the following year, the anticipation, and excitement will build more once again. Reminding students, alumni, and locals that this tradition is a celebration of unity.



source: Daniel Baker