



Giana Jones, Samantha Maldonado, and Jaidyn Jones took full advantage of the Homecoming Dance photo booth.

Photo courtesy of Lehigh Valley Entertainment



Olivia and Seth Schaeffer represented their school involvement, as many others did as well, at this year's annual Homecoming Bonfire.

Photo by Sam Mack

Hope heads south

Slatington community members mobilize help for hurricane relief

By Madilynn Husack
Slate Writer

On September 26th, Hurricane Helene struck the Northwestern coast of Florida. It was one of the most devastating hurricanes to hit the United States since Hurricane Katrina. Its path of destruction terrorized Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, having a death toll of around 230 people, as of now.

Damage was widespread, but for the unprepared inhabitants of North Carolina, it was devastating. Stories were coming out about parents tying their children to trees because the water was so harsh and houses were being swept away.

There were even calls to local authorities about bodies floating down front yards. Hearing these stories, many were moved and wanted to help, but none took the initiative like Ed Yesik. With the help of his community, he was able to collect four trailer loads of supplies to take down to Tennessee.

There were five drop-off sites, one of which was Rentschler's, where people could donate supplies. The suppliers would take anything people were willing to give, cleaning supplies, medical aid, water, chainsaws, hay bales, dog food, and most importantly, pickles. Some of



Photo courtesy of the Husack family

Local truck driver, George Husack, and grandfather to sophomore Madilynn Husack, was instrumental in organizing the hurricane aide.

See HURRICANE, page 2

WHODUNIT 'KILLS' ON NL STAGE

Behind the 'Clue' curtain

By Lacey Groover
Editor in Chief

NL Little Theatre decided their fall play to be Clue, a production featuring six risqué characters under the aliases of Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Professor Plum, and Miss Scarlet, who arrive at a dinner party under mysterious circumstances. Wadsworth, a charming butler, welcomes the guests while a chain of murders and accusations starts.

As the show progresses, the characters' identities are revealed and the reasons for the murders are explained.

The director, Miss Kayla Driscoll, deliberately decided to do the full version of the show and feels as though the high school version doesn't give the story justice. Miss Driscoll stated, "It is critically important to me that students have access to resources and productions that not only

See CLUE, page 4

INSIDE



Powder Puffin' 2024 — The ladies take the field. Page 10,11.



What's Your Hurry? — New cameras hope to catch unlawful passers. Page 6.



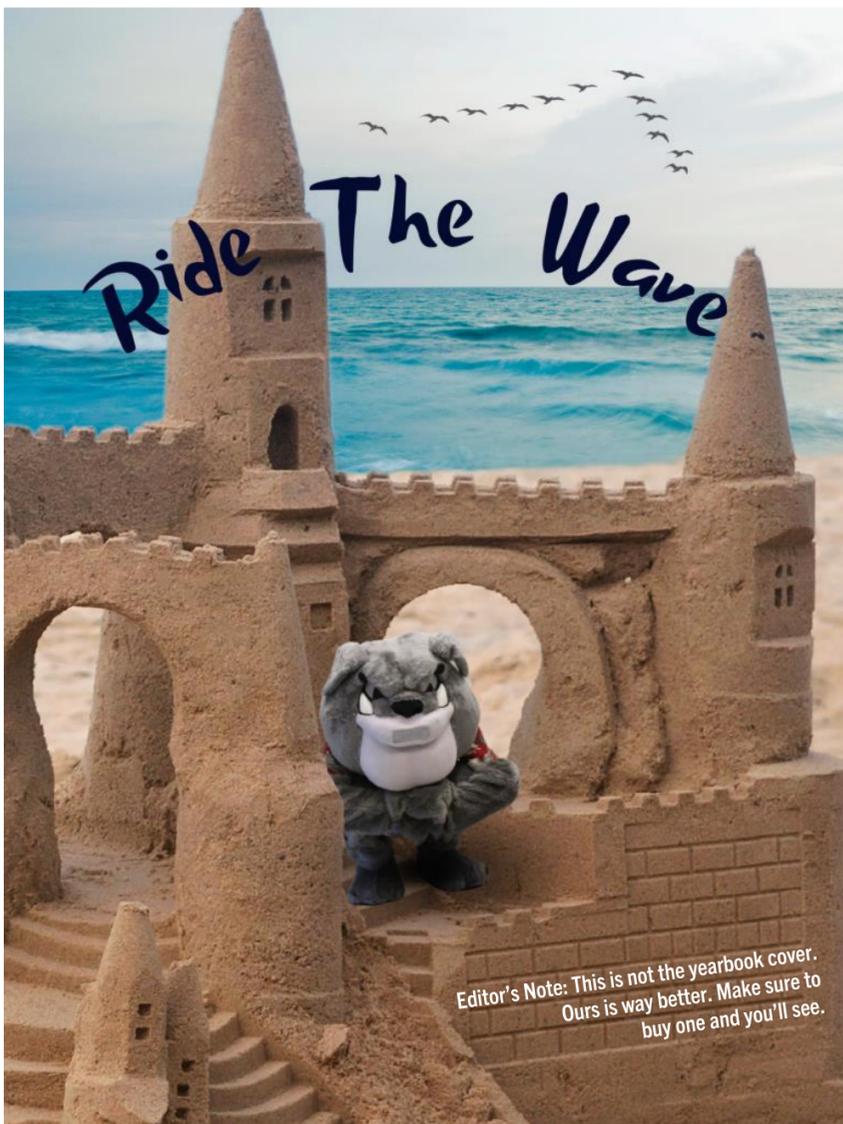
Who's Running Earth? — Mylz Miller analyzes the throne. Pages 7.



New Feature! — A Northern Lehigh Bulldog Crossword Pawzle. Page 7.

'Why would I spend \$80 on a yearbook?'

A lot of hard work goes into your legacy of memories. It's worth it. We promise.



By Sam Mack
Slate Writer,
Yearbook Editor

Memories have a core purpose. People live in the moment and create memories by exploring their interests and talking to new people.

Capturing these memories; however, can be a complicated subject. Not only is it harder to remember certain events as time goes on, but it becomes more of a blur. Cherishing memories is something that everyone can relate to.

In years to come, high school is going to become less important. Friends come and friends go, but your time together never will. One way of keeping these memories to look back on is by purchasing a yearbook. Northern Lehigh High School has been creating a 'Reflections' yearbook since the 1940s. 'Reflections' as our name is a perfect example of how one will be reflecting on their past when looking at the yearbook in the future.

This year, our "Reflections" yearbook theme is "Ride the Wave." Our theme was chosen based on the context the phrase provides. "Ride the Wave" is a representation of a "go with the flow mindset." The Yearbook team, as well as myself, chose this because we thought it would prove the theory that everything happens for a reason and of its own free will.

By buying this year's 2025 "Reflections" yearbook, memories can be kept forever. Many people may wonder why they should buy a yearbook when the cost is particularly high, but it is worth the cost. Yearbooks hold everything from the cafeteria food to senior quotes to Halloween dress-up day. The cost of a high-quality yearbook that has photos from your high school years is worth it.

The yearbook staff works incredibly hard to create something the entire

school is proud of.

Our time is devoted to editing, photographing, marketing, and communicating our sales and advertisements. One of the positives of having a small school is that the entire school is very close, so why not have memories of everyone to be able to share for the rest of your lifetime? Have photos to show your kids? Your grandkids? Nieces? Nephews? And anyone who will care to listen.

Memories last forever and money is spent in the present. Take the extra splurge to buy your yearbook because you will truly thank yourself in the future. Seniors, we highly encourage you to buy your yearbook before it is too late. The cost is worth the memories that will indeed last you a lifetime. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and my staff. 🌟



School partiZzZZipation propels with Pajama Day



Photos by Addison Smith and Abby DeCastro
(Left) Anna Douglas, Leah Hopkins, Aliya Fischer and (above) Nicole Singh, Lola Millroy, and Jameelah Gonzalez took advantage of a comfortable Pajama Day.

Slatington locals rise above the storm for Helene victims



Photos courtesy of the Husack family
Left to right: George Husack, Brandon Danner, Lucas Sterner, Ellen Watkin, Ed Yesik, Sheriff Cliffordton Workley.

Hurricane, from page 1

the bigger donations came from A-Treat, a beverage company; Dave Jandel, who donated twenty cases of A-Treat soda; Copechan Fish & Game, who donated sixteen chainsaws; and a local farmer(s) who donated eighty small bales and six big bales of hay.

Supplies were gathered for about a week and with the help of Ed Yesik, Brandon Danner, Lucas Sterner, and George Husack, the supplies were transported the 1,200 miles to an armory in Mountain City, Tennessee. The city bordered Boone, North Carolina, one that saw major cities damaged from the hurricane. Before the hurricane hit, it took fifteen minutes to get to Boone from

Mountain City, but with the roads being blocked or destroyed, it now takes two hours.

Luckily, one of the truck drivers, George Husack, was my grandfather and I was able to interview him. We discussed, for about an hour, about the experience of Yesik asking him to be one of the four drivers and what it felt like to be a part of something bigger than himself.

He said, "It makes you feel wonderful when you can donate and help others." While waiting to unload, people started to realize the life-saving supplies they had and would honk, wave, and cheer to show their appreciation. He found the whole experience rewarding and an honor to be a part of.

When asked if Husack felt obligated to go, he said he did. When Yesik asked him, there was no doubt he wanted to go. Driving down and seeing the devastation made George realize how badly the storm had hit. Tennessee, and other places close were hit but not as severely as some parts of North Carolina. He kept thinking about the little children, too young to understand the situation, who lost their favorite stuffed animal or blanket forever. Husack said, "They lost their best little friend." Husack regretted not bringing down any teddy bears to give to the children who may have lost theirs.

We were not the only ones to donate to the people down there. When talking to some of the volunteers, who were

working over sixteen hour shifts, they said many private donations were being made. Along with private donations there were five members of the National Guard, The Salvation Army, The Red Cross, and the United States Army all trying to lend a hand to the people in need.

Seemingly, when it comes to helping people, many are not afraid to lend a helping hand. In a small town like Slatington, it is great to see local businesses and members of the community stepping up to do selfless things. A massive thank you to all who helped make something like this happen. It makes me proud to be a part of such an amazing community. 🌟

The harmful cycle of self-hate

How social media fuels teen insecurity and distorted beauty standards

By Lacey Groover
Editor in Chief

For centuries, women have been held to unrealistic body standards and told what their bodies should look like. From paintings of women with dramatic curves in corsets to shiny magazine pages with thin, scantily clad figures in them, the idea of beauty has been reduced to a commercialized version of femininity and what it means to be beautiful.

In our time, social media has exasperated the normalization of insecurity. As a teenage girl with all of the typical social media on my phone: Snapchat, TikTok, Instagram, etc., I've found it

increasingly difficult to find benefit in spending time on any of them, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. Many of them, especially TikTok, desperately encourage users to believe natural parts of their appearances are, in fact, conventionally unattractive and require changing. The terms commonly used to describe these insecurities are usually subjective like wide ribcage, broad shoulders, and short torso, so anyone, under their judgment, can connect to them.

Many of the videos discussing insecurity tend to begin a rally of people in the comment sections, hopping on the bandwagon of oversharing their deepest darkest feelings, making comment sections cesspools of self-hatred. Indulging

in these conversations of self-pity online tends to increase people's negative feelings. These videos create a rally of young, insecure people gathering together for the pure reason of self-detriment.

Although posting about insecurity can create good conversation and important talking points online, the way it is being approached by most is harmful. When discussing insecurity, most tend to use humor and belittle themselves to try to make light of the situation and their true feelings.

However, when saying these things, it is difficult for your brain to tell the difference between genuinely insulting yourself and using humor to cope. People naturally start to believe the state-

ments they are making. These statements are easy for others to reply to and give people the attitude that hating yourself is trendy.

Teens now not only have to learn how to work around a world that is constantly trying to bring them down, but they must convince themselves otherwise of the damaging outlooks deeply established in their minds.

The best thing to do is to try to rebuild the way you think about yourself and the reasoning behind why you feel that way. The majority of the time, negative thoughts come from irrational logic, stemming from baseless ideas taught at a young age. 🐾

History class digs up (and creates) World War I trenches



Photos by Morgan Smith

Students in U.S. History II Honors were tasked with making replica World War I trenches out of recyclable and sustainable materials. They had to use their knowledge of trench warfare to create a model that included dugouts, No Man's Land, barbed wire, and a medical station. Hands-on history lessons encourage students to think more critically about the concepts they learn in class and provide opportunities for problem solving and teamwork.



A.F. Boyer Hdw. & Guns



Est. 1868
610-767-3162

Slatington Pa.

Full-Service Hardware & Gun Store

5th-Generation Family-Owned Business
156 Years Serving Our Community

- Cut Keys • Sharpen chainsaws, knives, lawn mower blades & more
- Repair window screens • Custom cut glass & plexiglass
- Huge selection of Electrical, Plumbing, nuts & bolts
- Fishing licenses/Launch permits, fishing supplies & live bait

"Lehigh Valley's Largest Firearms Dealer"

610-767-3162 / 130 MAIN ST. / SLATINGTON, PA 18080
AFBOYER.COM / AFBOYER1868@GMAIL.COM

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 8am-5:30pm Wed: 8am-Noon Fri: 8am-8pm Sat: 8am-5pm Sun: CLOSED
Watch for updates on our Facebook page

NORTHERN LEHIGH

Team Sales

824 Williams Ave.
Walnutport, PA 18088

Ron and Hali Kuntz

610-390-7001
kuntz824@ptd.net

Supporting the NL Community
For Over 38 Years!

GO BULLDOGS!



Yup, there's a podcast for that

By **Kyra Grabowski**
Staff Writer

Do you ever sit down and wonder if there are any good podcasts out there to listen to, or are you just bored of the ones you're listening to? Sure, there are all sorts of podcasts like comedy, sports, history, true crime, and many more. But, what are YOU listening to?

Everyone has their preferences, but the genres of true crime, comedy, entertainment, and storytelling podcasts are the most popular among teenagers. The podcasts you listen to don't shape who you are as a person, but they can shape someone's interests and can also provide some advice and information at times.

There are also mental health benefits to listening to podcasts, like reducing stress and diverting the mind from daily worries. Some teenagers admire podcast hosts because they share personal stories or struggles, making the listeners feel less alone in their situations.

Meditation podcasts give guided sessions to promote calmness and mindfulness to their listeners. Research shows that regularly listening to these kinds of podcasts can help someone better cope with things like anxiety and depression.

Podcasts also can improve listening skills, social awareness, and focus, which will always have a benefit in the

long run. Studies show that regular podcast listeners develop better attention skills, and they have a better time breaking apart complex ideas that are spoken aloud. Podcasts can also help with multitasking.

For instance, you can listen to a podcast even when you're out running errands, so you can focus on both the task and the podcast. Shorter podcasts that range from 15-20 minutes are always good to fit a student's schedule and can be used for educational purposes. There are many history, science, and other learning types of podcasts.

It's a good way to learn the material from hearing it, especially when you may not have direct access to someone to speak to you about the topic. Fiction podcasts have more benefits than you might think. The theme of fiction can inspire creativity and imagination in general.

They require the listeners to visualize the story and material. This process can spark creativity in teenagers because they are invited to actively imagine besides just reading or watching the material. It can also help to prevent information from going into one ear and out the other. It is proven that engaging in creative storytelling can help with problem-solving skills and give a more open mind.

Podcasts have so many other benefits whether it's making someone smile, teaching someone a lesson, or filling



Art by Alondra Gonzalez

people in on current events. Podcasts are more than just background noise, they are a way to connect with new ideas, develop skills, and find a community

of people with similar interests as you. Podcasts have a wide range of genres and there is truly something for everyone. 🌟

Curtain closes on Clue



Clue, from page 1

challenge them but allow them the opportunity to become educated in various forms of production and performance. Though based on a family board game, Clue obviously contains some mature themes and content—murder, violence, paranoia, etc. We've spent time on education to understand the subtext—the Red Scare, paranoia, blurred lines of morality—and the students spend time learning about very real themes that propel this very fun story forward."

As a member of the theatre program, I find it fascinating and indescribably exciting to watch the show develop into what it becomes.

Although remembering lines and knowing when to come out onto stage is important to the show, they tend to be the most simplistic parts.

For these moments, the script specifies how the scenes should be done, but the indefinite things like ad-libbing and interactions with others on stage are the best to personalize.

Everyone in the theatre is unique and has their own spin on their character, giving variety in the small mannerisms and reactions of the cast. When things like gunshots and doorbell rings happen, everyone can react organically which makes the show feel

genuine. Other elements in the show require meticulous planning, but must have the illusion of being organic: slaps, falls, drink spills, screams, dragging bodies, running for your dear life, etc. When working and performing with other cast members, you must completely trust each other. Knowing this, we often do drills that enforce our trust in each other and help develop our comfort with physical movement and contact with one another.

I love working with my cast mates on the small things of the show we have control over. Giving the actors a chance to choose what they can do provides the show with more personality specific to the cast.

Last year, we had thirteen seniors graduate from our program, which practically cut our cast in half.

Although having a small cast can make it difficult to find a show that we can execute, the new members of the program have stepped up to fulfill their responsibilities despite the little experience they have, and the progress everyone has made is tremendous.

I appreciate the time, understanding, and patience of the creative team towards the cast and crew that goes towards producing this phenomenal show. See you on stage. 🌟

More Than Just Your Average Convenience Store

ICE PROPANE
LIVE BAIT ATM
GAS / DIESEL

PLUS GRAB-N-GO
BREAKFAST AND
LUNCH SAMMYS
...and much more!

Country Store Vibe and Service with a Smile

Like and Follow us on Facebook

Follow Us!
@THESLATENEWS

Transferring hate into positive action

How one teen raised \$2M for abortion access amid adversity

By **Aubrey Reinhard**
Staff Writer

For many teenagers, it seems impossible to make a big impact on the world around them. This is especially true due to the amount of negativity surrounding young people. All the hate, both online and in real life, takes a toll on people's beliefs and confidence they have in themselves. Fortunately, amongst the negativity in society, there is also positivity.

Back in the summer of 2022, when Roe V. Wade was overturned, 19-year-old Olivia Julianna had something to say about it. Olivia began getting into politics at the age of seventeen and has always believed abortion access is an issue that would drive people to go vote. Since then, she has gained a social media following and began working at an activist collective called Gen-Z for Change.

After the overturn of Roe V. Wade, Olivia made a tweet about the government regulating women's bodies, and everyone seemed to have something to say about it. People online started shaming her for her opinion, and they even went on to say spiteful, fatphobic things about her body.

Despite the amount of peo-

ple negatively commenting on her body and her opinion, Olivia turned their negativity into something positive. For every hateful comment she received, she donated a dollar to abortion access causes. Not only did she put her own money towards the cause, but she also encouraged others to do so as well. Meanwhile, Matt Gaetz, a former Republican Representative from Florida, noticed Olivia's contributions.

Gaetz then continued to target her on social platforms by making comments about her physical appearance as well as her beliefs about abortion, but this only fueled Olivia's dedication. As a result, despite never holding a fundraiser before, she led one that donated over \$2 million to women's abortion access in less than a week.

It's amazing to think of how big an impact one person can have on an entire community in such a short period of time. Olivia's experience proves that if a cause matters to people enough, they will persevere through challenges to make their mark on the world.

Anyone and everyone has the ability to make a change in the world around them if they are dedicated enough. 🌱



Art by Lacey Groover

Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects.—the Dalai Lama



Go, Dawg

Mr. Michael Strohl has left our Dawg Pound for different pastures in Schnecksville, becoming the principal of the Academic Center at LCTI. He will still oversee NL students as part of his new position. Strohl is a graduate of NLHS, and was a former Slatington Elementary School teacher before becoming assistant secondary principal of NLSLSD.

Photo by Morgan Smith

ANIMAL CRACKERS

LUXURY DOG BOARDING & DAYCARE

- Licensed & insured
- Small, personalized playgroups
- Home based, family setting
- Fear Free Certified
- No kennels

The pool is OPEN!

WALNUTPORT, PA

WWW.ANIMALCRACKERSPETSITTING.NET

EDITORIAL

If the bus stops, you stop. Full stop.

New camera system focuses on negligent drivers too careless to respect road rules

Every day across our communities, school buses carry the most important cargo: us. These bright yellow vehicles, universally recognized as symbols of safety, are designed to transport students to and from school without incident. Yet, shockingly, an increasing number of drivers blatantly disregard the most fundamental rule of road safety—stopping when a school bus halts.

This dangerous behavior is not just reckless, it is potentially lethal. Each time a driver ignores the flashing red lights and extended stop sign of a school bus, they gamble with the lives of young children who are crossing the street or stepping off the bus. It is a gamble that no one should ever take.

You're in *that* much of a hurry? You're *that* special to circumvent the rules and morals of society and flaunt disregard for the lives of little ones? With all due disrespect, we think not.

At a Northern Lehigh School Board meeting, Nov. 11, Superintendent Dr. Matthew Link said the district has implemented a camera program called BusPatrol on NL buses this year. I

In an approximately two-month period since the installation, BusPatrol has issued 39 notifications, meaning the cameras trigger a response for NLSD Police Chief David Jones for review. According to Dr. Link, of those 39, a surprising 32 were clear infractions where a citation was issued.

"Drivers did not follow the school stop sign law, when the stop arm was out and the eight-way red flashers were on," Link said at the board meeting. "They still drove by the bus."

Drivers are fined \$300, but there are no points added to someone's driving record, and no increased fines occur for multiple offenses. There should be points and increases. Imagine that other



The district's new BusPatrol camera system will hold more drivers accountable — those who disregard the rules of the road and the safety of community children.

consequence that *could* have happened because someone just couldn't wait their turn.

Communities must treat this issue with the seriousness it deserves. Drivers need to be reminded of their legal and moral obligation to slow down and freeze when a school bus stops. Law enforcement, too, should heighten their vigilance and issue more citations for these

violations.

As a community, we should champion safer streets and make protecting our children a collective priority. Let us renew our commitment to stopping when the school bus stops—every time, no excuses. Because one moment of negligence can lead to a lifetime of regret.

"Please be aware of our school buses. It's our students, it's your

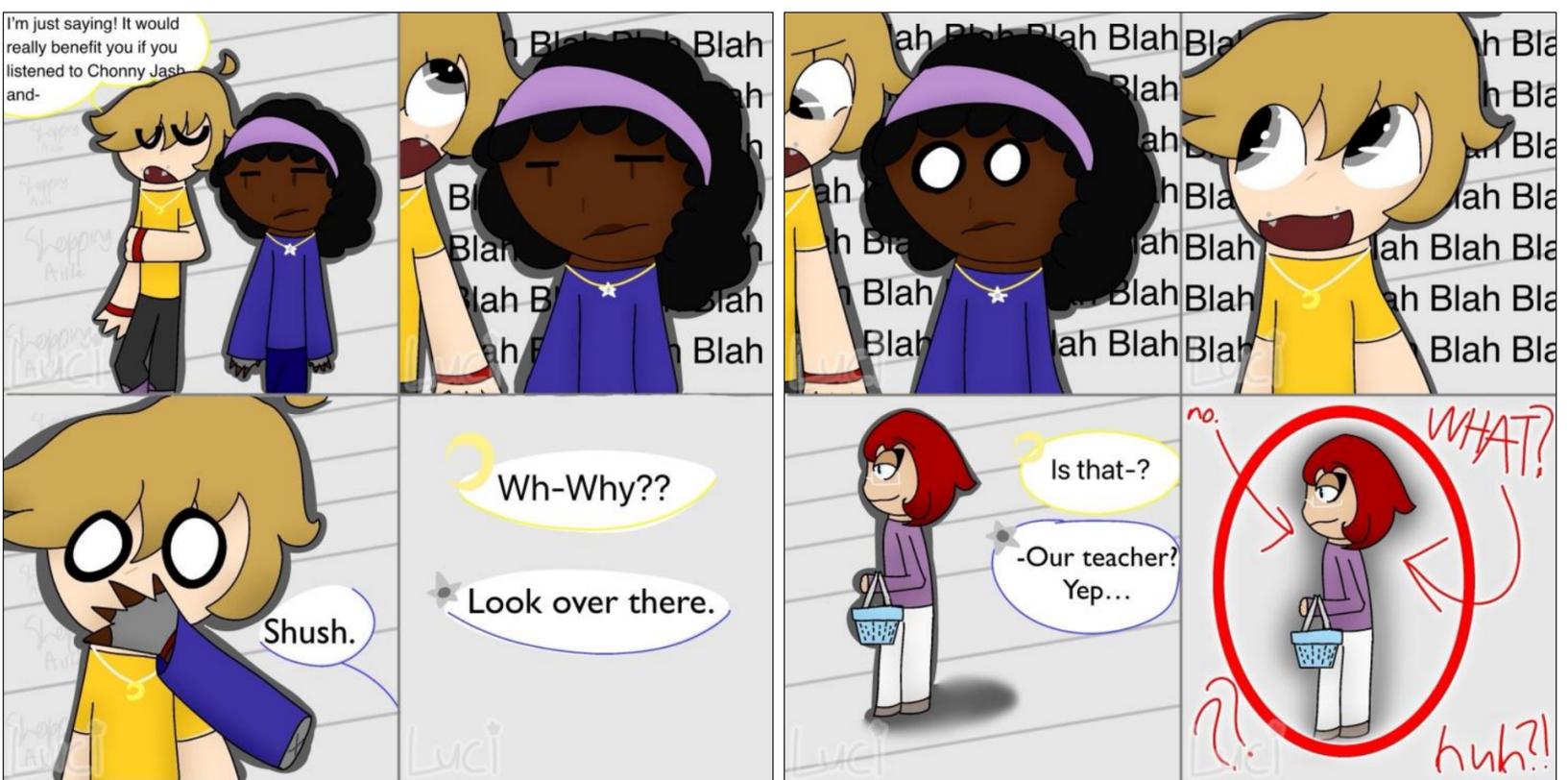
children. It's our bus drivers, our bus aides," Link continued. "You need to be aware that if that school bus is stopping or slowing down, you, as a driver, need to slow down as well."

If the safety of the community's children is not a priority of yours, maybe check your conscience, and then take an alternate route. 🐾

W
E
I
V
R
O
U

Teachers in the Wild

By Luci Nitz



Northern Lehigh High School
 1 Bulldog Lane
 Slatington, PA 18080
 theslatenews@nlsd.org



The Slate is the journalistic voice of Northern Lehigh High School. Support for a free press is provided by NL administration: Dr. Matthew Link (superintendent), Dr. Tania Stoker (assistant superintendent), Dr. Lori Bali (principal) and Mr. Michael Strohl (assistant principal).

Lacey Groover
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

Sarah Garcia
 COPY EDITOR

Andi Szwest
 SPORTS EDITOR

MANAGING ADVISER
 Mr. Christopher Barnes

ISSUE TWO STAFF WRITERS, ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Alondra Gonzalez, Aubrey Reinhard, Sam Mack, Mylz Miller, Madilynn Husack, Morgan Smith, Sarah Guth, Kyra Grabowski, Preston Miller, Luci Nitz, Kristiana Callaby

 @theslatenews

 theslatenews@nlsd.org

Who actually runs our world?

By Mylz Miller
Slate Columnist

This is a question I've asked myself long before I could fully comprehend the answer. You would assume the politicians we elect into office allow for most decisions that rule over our lives, but the truth is much more complex than that.

Our world is run through capitalism and the stock market. Capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership of how items are produced, distributed, and profited. When these companies go public, they look for investors to raise "capital" or profit for their expansion. Buying a stock from a company gives ownership to a certain percentage or share.

Given the type of ownership, shareholders are granted the right to vote on certain decisions affecting the company. When a company grows or becomes more profitable, the price of the stock increases, and the shareholder can then sell their shares to other investors for more than they paid.

How does a company keep track of who owns what? Simple, by hiring a global asset manager. Global asset managers are entrusted with managing businesses' various assets like real estate, commodities, and—most importantly—stocks and bonds. In layman's terms, their job is to help companies grow their equity.

Global asset managers have become exponential to how many companies operate, and usually, there's not much variety to who these companies are choosing. A large contender is BlackRock, a company I'm sure many people haven't heard of.

To become a global asset manager or even the largest one in the world, you must have some savvy business expertise, much like Larry Fink. In Fink's early years, he spent his time pursuing a career in politics and went to UCLA where he gained a Bachelor's in political science.

While in college, he focused his attention on banking and wealth and joined a fraternity known as Kappa Beta Phi, a secret society made up of high-ranking, plutocratic, financial executives. For a little more insight into this fraternity, during their initiation dinner in 2012, new members were required to dress in leotards, gold sequined skirts, and wigs while doing a variety of "comedic" skits and songs.

Most of the jokes consisted of crude humor, homophobia, sexism, jabs at the middle class, and an overall lack of truth and reality. Eventually, Fink worked in a mortgage bond department called First Boston and became the highest-paid employee grossing about 100 billion

dollars; however, a couple of his risky investments led to the loss of 10 million dollars and he was fired from First Boston. But not before he used his resources at Kappa Beta Phi to create BlackRock.

BlackRock is the largest global asset manager in the world managing over 10.65 trillion dollars from a plethora of different corporations. While it's not their money, they can control what they may not completely own. Shareholders are granted the right to vote on certain decisions as well as global asset managers, and they're usually not voting for the interest of the people, but for themselves.

new independent directors to the company's board.

BlackRock doesn't care about our environment. They only care about money and power. An annual general meeting, or AMG, is a yearly gathering of a company's interested shareholders. At an AMG, the directors of a company present an annual report containing information for shareholders about the company's performance and strategy. BlackRock voted for 4.1% of shareholders' proposals linked to environmental and social issues, a new low according to Pennsylvania's Future.

BlackRock had the opportunity to vote for 493 environmental and social-

"We work with both administrations and are having conversations with both candidates." It's clear he wanted to be head of the Department of Treasury for a long time.

During the Obama administration, he was on the shortlist to replace Timothy Geithner as Secretary of the Treasury. When that didn't transpire, Fink used Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign to boost his credibility by building a "shadow government" of prior secretaries in the U.S. Department of Treasury and close companions of Clinton to become her Secretary of the Treasury if elected.

This, however, didn't halt him from becoming a member of Donald Trump's Private Sector Advisory Committee, until that panel disbanded due to the Charlottesville white nationalist rally and Trump's rightfully critiqued remarks on Twitter. Fink doesn't only want to control America's money, but the world's money.

BlackRock has so much influence in politics that its infrastructure ties are global. For instance, in Mexico, after leader Enrique Peña Nieto took power, the private capital infrastructure grew due to a 590 billion-dollar deal in public-private partnerships that allowed BlackRock to take control and profit from most state-run monopolies by turning to private investors.

The dominion of BlackRock over Mexico was so strong that contractors would continually miss deadlines on privately owned facilities until BlackRock bought those projects. This happened with a private prison in Coahuila, a state in Mexico, and the effects of the delay led to even more overcrowding in the Mexican prison system and the loss of millions in tax-payer money.

Nieto even signed an executive order to allow BlackRock to obtain what is considered sacred land that Indigenous people had been having a legal dispute over. To put in perspective how widespread this company is, they have an over six-hundred-person "global team" that manages over three hundred investments with operations in over one hundred countries.

It's scary to think how much power is held by such a small minority. It's oligarchic and frustrating to think about how little power individuals have; however, opening yourself up to the complexities of society is pivotal to changing those very systems putting people in unconscious places of subtle discomfort.

There is a shadow bearing in the background of all economic, political, and environmental issues that affect all of us personally, the question is not how we will we rid ourselves of it, but can we? And will they allow us? 🐾



In 2021, ExxonMobil was under fire from investors and climate-change activists for Exxon's financial performance and "foot-dragging climate."

Activist investment company Engine No. 1 used a hedge fund to rid the board of four dissident directors to spark a change within the climate battle and stray from fossil fuels. When investors started casting their votes, BlackRock and two other large asset managers, Vanguard and State Street, voted for three of the four board directors to stay with no comment for their votes.

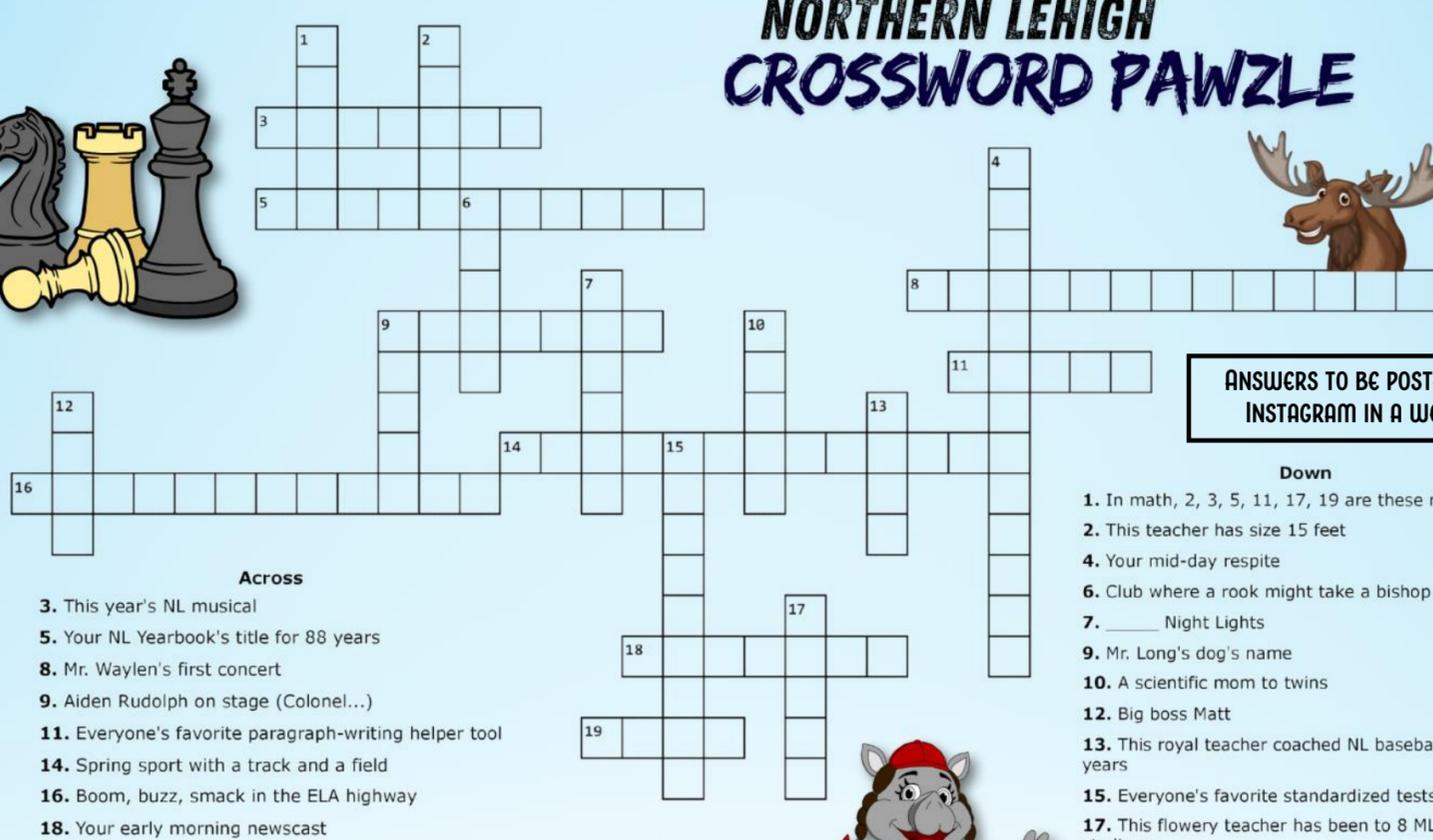
Luckily, Engine No. 1's hedge fund was backed by major institutional investors, and it successfully elected three

related proposals but said most were "lacking economical merit," as reported by Reuters. A statement by Fink in a letter personally to his clients in 2022 states, "We focus on sustainability not because we're environmentalists, but because we are capitalists and fiduciaries to our clients" as mentioned earlier, the numbers state otherwise.

BlackRock is also in our political offices, even though recent politics may not matter much to Fink because he is "tired of hearing this is the biggest election in your lifetime."

With the election, Fink stated, "The reality is, it doesn't matter." According to the Financial Times, he also stated,

NORTHERN LEHIGH CROSSWORD PAWZLE





Across

3. This year's NL musical
5. Your NL Yearbook's title for 88 years
8. Mr. Waylen's first concert
9. Aiden Rudolph on stage (Colonel...)
11. Everyone's favorite paragraph-writing helper tool
14. Spring sport with a track and a field
16. Boom, buzz, smack in the ELA highway
18. Your early morning newscast
19. FeFe, a few times, at Iron Pigs games (Mrs. ____)



ANSWERS TO BE POSTED ON INSTAGRAM IN A WEEK!

Down

1. In math, 2, 3, 5, 11, 17, 19 are these numbers
2. This teacher has size 15 feet
4. Your mid-day respite
6. Club where a rook might take a bishop
7. ____ Night Lights
9. Mr. Long's dog's name
10. A scientific mom to twins
12. Big boss Matt
13. This royal teacher coached NL baseball for 16 years
15. Everyone's favorite standardized tests
17. This flowery teacher has been to 8 MLB stadiums



Senior Dress-Up Haunts the Halls



Officer Nicosia and Kyndra Dougherty



Nae Silverio and Christopher Taveras



Mrs. T.



Ms. Scheckler



Mrs. C. Wilder



Marlee Rorrer and Kaylee Young



Dekota Barthold



Savanna Tomcics



Mr. Prive



Skylar Horack and Grace Bauer



Brody Rothrock



Photo by Lifetouch
Natalie Moffitt heads down-field in a recent game this season.

Fall sports / band seniors reflect on final season

By Andi Szwest
Sports Editor

Field Hockey

What is your favorite memory from field hockey?

Angela Hale: "My favorite memory is getting to watch everyone having a good time either warming up or at practices."

What advice do you want to pass on to the team?

Angela Hale: "My advice would be to never give up no matter how mad you get because it will be worth it in the end."

Madison Thomas: "My advice to the team is never to give up and keep your heads held high. Never let your head drop down when you guys start to get tired. Keep going until the last few minutes, and give it your all."

What has playing field hockey taught you?

Angela Hale: "It has taught me that communication and understanding it is so important in life."



Do you have any future plans playing field hockey?

Addison Cieri: "I will be continuing my field hockey career into college. I am committed to play at Arcadia University and plan to play through my first 4 years of school."

Cross Country

What is your favorite memory from cross country?

Dekota Barthold: "My favorite memory from cross country was running the district meet my sophomore year at Desales."

What advice do you want to pass on to the team?

Dekota Barthold: "I advise teammates on both soccer and cross country to enjoy every day of the sport because soon they will be graduating."

What has running cross country taught you?

Reece Johnson: "Cross country has taught me how important your mental health needs to be to run. You're running 3.1 miles nonstop and it hurts to breathe and it takes a lot to tell yourself to keep running. You got this."

Girls Soccer

What is your favorite memory from soccer?

Dekota Barthold: "My favorite memory from soccer is assisting Katelynn Barthold on her 100th goal."

What advice do you want to pass on to the team?

Kalei Fister: "Go out there every game and play like it's your last because one day it will be."

Katelynn Barthold: "I would like to pass on my advice to the soccer team: Be confident in yourself. Be confident in your ability to take a shot on the net and dribble past a defender. Another tip I want to give is to pass the ball sooner, focus on a good first touch, and take advantage of any opportunities for a quick give-and-go. I also want to wish the best of luck to the team next year!"

What has playing soccer taught you?

Dekota Barthold: "Playing this sport has taught me patience and that communication is key to succeeding."

Do you have any future plans playing soccer?

Dekota Barthold: "As of now, I am committed to playing soccer at the University of Delaware Valley and I also plan to run track and field there."

Mikayla Gordon: "I plan to play soccer in college. I am furthering my soccer career at Pennsylvania College of Technology. I want to thank my team and coaches at Northern Lehigh for giving me a great high school soccer experience."

Boys Soccer

What is your favorite memory from soccer?

cer?

Logan Berfield: "My favorite memory from playing NL soccer is being able to bond with people you didn't think you would."

What advice do you want to pass on to the team?

Logan Berfield: "Even though we might not have the numbers or be the best, that's one thing that gives us the edge to be a bulldog."

Matt McCarty: "I want the boys to remember to have each other's backs no matter what kind of hardships they face in the coming years."

What has playing soccer taught you?

Logan Berfield: "Playing soccer has taught me that if you want something bad enough you have to put in the time and dedication."

Do you have any future plans playing soccer?

Logan Berfield: "I will be playing in college and hopefully extending my career after that."

Marching Band

What advice do you want to pass on to the band?

Reece Johnson: "I would like to say

See Sports Wrap-Up, page 13



SPORTS

POWDERPUFF TOURNNEY



Rylie Scholl.



Photos by Lifetouch and Morgan Smith
Alexa O'Connell.



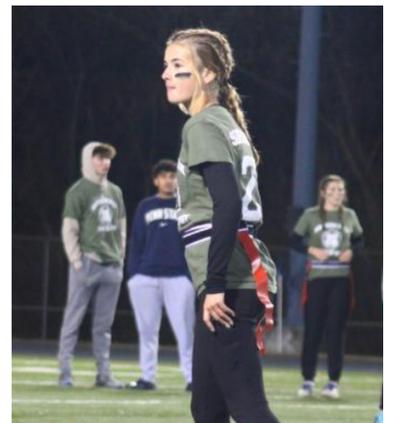
Mikayla Gordon



Caleb Oswald and Keith Lectora



Skyelar Horack and Nae Silverio



Emily Gad



Dawson Newhard



Tegan Simms



Jaylene Ramos



Karina Wisocky

SPORTS

GOES TO SENIORS



Hayden Lilly and Carly Schmick



Photos by Lifetouch and Morgan Smith
Katelynn Barthold



Ayden Oswald



Marissa Maehrer



Katya Pesesko



Jolcris Monegro



Dekota Barthold



Tegan Simms



Emily Gad



Photos by Lifetouch and Morgan Smith
Landon Moll, Reese Lipsky, Isaac Raber



Brody Sterner

The worlds of cheerleading for football and basketball

By Morgan Smith
Staff Writer

For some teenage girls, cheerleading is the American dream. When someone says “cheerleading,” what image comes to mind? You might think about school spirit or Friday night football games, but, do you ever think about a basketball game or a wrestling match?

Do basketball and wrestling even have cheerleaders? Well they do, and cheering for those teams is completely different than cheering for a football team.

Quarter Cheers:

Both football and basketball have four quarters in each game. After the first and second quarters end, cheerleaders perform a “quarter cheer” that usually consists of stunts, jumps, and tumbling. For football games, we typically take our time to make sure pom-poms, water bottles, megaphones, etc are moved out of the way before we start the cheer to prevent injuries. Then, we make sure everyone is set, ready, and in their formation. Taking our time ensures that everything looks good for the crowd. For basketball games, once the first two quarters end, the basketball players move off of the court. From there, we only have a few minutes to get on the court, get ready, perform the cheer, and get off before the players get back on for the third and fourth quarters. This means we perform shorter cheers which typically get rushed.

Starting Lineup:

In football, the announcer normally announces the starting lineup 10-15 minutes before the game starts. At this point, people are still getting seated, and



tend to miss the starting lineup. After the starting lineup, the cheerleaders grab their flags and a homemade banner, forming a tunnel for the boys to run through, the national anthem is played, and the game begins. In basketball, only five people play on the court at a time, making the starting lineup much shorter, so the cheerleaders make a pyramid when each player is announced. When they announce the first player, the cheerleaders get up into a stunt, and as more players are announced, they do different types of stunts and level changes. Once the last player comes out, every cheerleader comes down from their stunts, turns to face the flag, and stands

for the national anthem.

Half-time:

In football, either school’s band takes the field for a halftime performance. Regardless of who it is, the cheerleaders sit and watch the band perform to show their support and to cheer on the band. Basketball has no band performance at halftime, so the cheerleaders do a “callback cheer.” A callback cheer is when the cheerleaders yell something for the crowd to repeat. For example, the cheerleaders yell, “Give me a B,” and the fans yell, “B!” The cheer repeats until it spells out “B-U-L-L-D-O-G-S!” After the cheer, the cheer-

leaders throw spirit sticks filled with candy, towels, shirts, cups, and water bottles to the people who yell the loudest.

These are just a few examples showing cheering for a football game is very different from a basketball game.

Many other small details make a difference, like how basketball is inside and cheerleaders sound louder than normal, or when cheering for basketball, cheerleaders sitting down must be used to only using arms for cheers, making sure they don’t accidentally hit the person next to them.

Overall, the two are very different. Which would you rather watch? 🐾

SUCCESS

on your terms

At Lehigh Carbon Community College you can choose from more than 90 degree and certificate programs in:

Business • Computer Science and Arts
Healthcare Sciences • Math and Science
Education • Humanities and Social Services
Legal Studies and Social Sciences • Technology



LCCC has been the first choice for higher education for decades. Because whether you start here, finish here or transfer from here, you can literally go anywhere. It’s the perfect fit for every type of student because it’s college on your terms. It’s affordable. It’s flexible. Plus it’s right in your backyard. LCCC really is your opportunity to succeed!

Register today!

lccc.edu | 610-799-1575



Seniors recount season highlights, leave behind wisdom

Sports, from page 9

good luck to my fellow band members and to tell them that I'm going to miss everyone."

What has being in marching band taught you?

Marlee Rorrer: "My time in marching band changed my whole high school experience for the better. Band is like one big family. If it has taught me anything it's the importance of community and connection."

Reece Johnson: "Participating in band helped me realize how much I love band."

Do you have any future plans to participate in marching band?

Reece Johnson: "I plan on going to college for music education so I can be a band director."

Marlee Rorrer: "My future plan for marching band is to join Kutztown's colorguard."



What advice do you want to pass on to the team?

Cyrus Kinchen: "I'd pass on the words of always stay humble and stay consistent in the weight room."

What has playing football taught you?

Cyrus Kinchen: "Football taught me so much. It taught me to become better, more disciplined, a better person overall and I wouldn't have want it changed."

Do you have any future plans playing football?

Cyrus Kinchen: "I plan on playing in college for football." 🐾

Football

What is your favorite memory from football?

Cyrus Kinchen: "My favorite memory is all the time with our offensive line coach Newhard and Coach Long [as well as] all of our talks with food, after practice stuff, and messing around whenever we could, but we still got things done regardless."

Eli Grady: "I would say my favorite memory from football was playing against Lehigh this year. It was our first game of the season, and we came back after losing by 14 points. It was fun to start the season with a nail-biter and push hard with my teammates."




ADAM HOLENCIK EXTERIOR

Danielsville 🏠 484-240-5966

Serving the Lehigh Valley and beyond

ROOFING, SIDING, GUTTER, REPAIRS & DECKS




DEFTTOC

COMPUTER REPAIR DIGITAL SIGNAGE

DOOR ACCESS SYSTEM

SECURITY CAMERA SALES / INSTALLATION

VOIP PHONES SYSTEMS & INSTALLATION

AUDIO & SOUND EQUIPMENT SALES & INSTALLATION

COMPUTER NETWORKING



cmuniz@defttoc.com
610-776-1260

Jersey Girls (and guys): The real ‘influencers’



Ms. Cappuccino, Mrs. Wilder, and Mrs. Shonk.



Mr. McCarty, Reese Lipsky, Seth Schaeffer, and Dr. Bali.

Last month, football players asked teachers who influenced them to wear their jerseys for a day.

Photos by Sam Mack and Morgan Smith



Isaac Raber and Mr. Sander.



Mr. Gerould, Kayden Novicky, Colin Karetzky, Mr. Cunningham.



Mr. Prive and Cyrus Kinchen.



Ryan Zambo and Mrs. Frew.



Mrs. Lilly and Austin Malik.



Mrs. Balliet and Anna Trelease.



Mrs. Chruscial and Darius Adens



Mason Rothrock and Mrs. Kunkel

We Support Student Journalism.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY A FAMILY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

DESIGNED BY DORKS

Daniel & Sarah Krasenics
DesignedByDorks@gmail.com
www.DesignedByDorks.com

- ★ Small-batch cold process soap
- ★ CNC Carving / Machining
- ★ Laser Engraving - Wood, Plastic, Metal
- ★ Craft Show Vending
- ★ Crochet
- ★ Resin Art and Jewelry
- ★ Bulk Sales
- ★ Custom Orders
- ★ General Garden Witchery

How *Yondr* packs are affecting schools and students

By Sarah Guth
Contributing Writer

We all are guilty of using technology during school. Schools have tried to make policies for no phones in classrooms for many years, but those policies never seemed to work.

That was until now with Yondr packs, pouches that can hold any kind of small technology.

In recent times though, when using them to prevent students from using their phones during classes there have been multiple problems with the Yondr packs. There have been multiple news articles about the dangers these pouches cause with the recent school shooting happening all across the country.

Teachers all across the U.S. who have expressed their worries about using these phone pouches. Some teachers that have experienced situations with the students.

One of the major problems is the recent school shootings throughout the country.

Multiple students claim that having their phones taken away during these life-threatening events is dangerous because they cannot contact their families about the situation, share their location, or even call for help.

Multiple schools across the U.S. are now starting to regret buying and using these products and are starting to complain about spending 20 to 40 dollars per student on Yondr packs instead of using the money to help the students well-being and improve the students environment around the school.

Multiple schools throughout the country are against the idea of these phone prisons because of this some students from these schools are even refusing to enter their schools and protesting about being required to use them. With all of this considered I honestly don't



like or even support the idea of these phone pouches due to the danger they could put the students and even the teachers in.

Even if phones are addicting that shouldn't mean that the schools should lock phones up and possibly put the student in danger. 🐾

A hook in the hand...



Photos by Abby DeCastro

Members of the Crochet Club include high school and middle school students. Advisers Mrs. Trantham and Mrs. Martinez share tools of the craft. (far right) Brandi Kunkle, sophomore.



RENTSCHLER

EST. 1973

SLATINGTON



CHEVROLET



DODGE



SERVING THE AREA SINCE 1973!

We are a proud member of the Northern Lehigh Community – supporting local organizations like NL youth sports, NLHS Athletics, the Lions Club and many small groups and charities. Next time you're shopping for a vehicle, please keep us in mind so we can continue to support these great organizations!



SALES

- HUNDREDS OF NEW VEHICLES AVAILABLE
- GAS, DIESEL, HYBRID & FULL ELECTRIC OPTIONS
- QUALITY PREOWNED



SERVICE

- FACTORY-TRAINED & CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS FOR GM AND CHRYSLER-JEEP-DODGE-RAM VEHICLES
- LOANER VEHICLES AVAILABLE



PARTS

- EXPERT HELP AND QUALITY FACTORY PARTS
- GUARANTEED LOWEST TIRE PRICES
- FREE LOCAL DELIVERY



COLLISION

- I-CAR GOLD CERTIFIED
- PARTNERED WITH VARIOUS INSURANCE COMPANIES
- DEALERSHIP BACKED LIFETIME WARRANTY ON WORK

WWW.RENTSCHLERCHEVY.NET

WWW.RENTSCHLERCARS.COM



Want to Revisit Photos from this Year?
HIT UP OUR INSTAGRAM! @theslatenews

Your bans don't belong on our bodies

By Lacey Groover



The possibility of women's access to abortion being taken away feels as restricting as being bound, cuffed, and physically silenced.

Understanding the roots, impact and recovery of addiction

By Kristiana Callaby
Contributing Writer

NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse) and NIMH (National Institution of Mental Health) have dated the problem of addiction all the way back to the 1960s-1970s, which even then was just when cases began to climax; the exact date is unknown.

The very first drug that became addictive was morphine, developed by a German pharmacist known as F.W.A Serturmer. It was extracted from crude opium, which was what made it so addictive in the first place.

Opium itself is a drug, extracted from a poppy plant and labeled as a 'highly addictive non-synthetic narcotic', with 12% of it being made up of morphine which can be chemically processed to curate heroine and other opioids.

What *causes* drug addiction anyway? We've discovered that the brain will reward good behaviors from us, such as eating, spending time with loved ones, or exercising according to NIH (Biology of Addiction).

This type of wiring can be turned against you once you're addicted to a substance, whether it be drugs or alcohol, it can trigger this part of your brain with such an amount of dopamine and serotonin being sent to your head. But once that high leaves, it can trigger anxious or stressed behavior due to the sudden loss of those happy chemicals, leading to things like withdrawal.

Alcohol is similar to drugs, where when someone consumes any variation of ethanol it can boost your happiness and push out any negative emotions and feelings. This is how people going through harsh situations or facing any traumas of sorts have a tendency to get addicted, as even with the risks, they continuously drink to get rid of those thoughts.

Withdrawals are also incredibly similar, as when an alcoholic stops drinking, that dopamine and serotonin drops lower than what they've been used to from intoxication, then causing withdrawals.

It can lead to disturbances in sleep, pain, a feeling of sickness, dysphoria, irritation, anxiety, and emotional pain/distress. These withdrawals and also the lack of sobriety itself is what keeps addicts coming back for their addiction.

It's genuinely horrible what people will go through just to achieve that moment of 'peace' they get from drugs, alcohol, and other forms of addiction.

A few months ago, I remember seeing a documentary of a man who would take hand sanitizer and use it as a replica for alcohol and get drunk off of it, and already he'd been hospitalized more than once for it.

Addiction isn't just for alcohol and drugs, but nearly anything. From food all the way to certain behaviors people do, and it's all for that relief of what they're going through, and sometimes the 'pleasure' received, no matter if it's killing them or not.

I'll be keeping the specifics down to drugs and alcohol when I list the general health problems concerning the two. Starting off with ethanol, constant intoxication can lead to serious accidents such as car crashes, serious falls, drowning, and accidental burns to the person.

This doesn't count *just* for the user, as it can lead to violence against others and themselves such as homicide, domestic violence, sexual violence, and suicide. Alcohol poisoning is another factor that may contribute to an alcoholic's death. All information here is thanks to CDCP (Center for Disease Control and Prevention).

Drug abusers typically have at least one health disease, such as lung/heart disease, stroke, cancer, and even mental health conditions.

Many tests can show the extreme damage done to a person's body through drug usage. Different forms of drugs can cause different health problems, as tobacco can cause all sorts of cancers, meth severe dental problems, and opioids lead straight to overdose and death. Other drugs such as inhalants can destroy nerve cells in your brain or peripheral nervous system.

When a pregnant individual gets addicted to anything at all, it can severely affect her unborn child and even lead to the baby forming an addiction itself. Infants may go into withdrawal once born, having a disorder known as neonatal abstinence syndrome.

It can cause difficulties in feeding, sleeping, and even cause seizures,

alongside very messed up development later in life due to whatever substance they were affected by.

Addictions can cause harm even to people who don't partake in it. Car crashes or other accidents, second-hand smoking, or increased risk of contagious diseases, and this is only the majorly severe problems.

While addiction is a very devastating and fatal thing, not all hope is lost for any addict no matter the severity or duration of their addiction. Out of 30.5 million people facing an addiction, 22 million reported being in recovery. Though, relapse is still always a possibility, it's to be viewed as a sign for if the user is still in need of treatment, needs improved treatment, or an entirely new approach to sobriety. Some are fortunate to not experience relapse, though a good handful do sadly face it in their journey.

It is *never* too late for you or someone you may know struggling, no matter how hopeless or inability to get better it may be, if you have the right mindset healing is always an option.

No soul should experience or see their loved one suffer and die to addiction, not in a million years. If your loved one, or even a person you aren't exactly close with is facing drug or alcohol abuse, try to get them help.

STR Behavioral Health of the Lehigh Valley is available to help: 844-931-2755 🌱