

BEAR FACTS

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NATION

Jimmy Carter, 39th POTUS dies

Former President Jimmy Carter dies at the age of 100, leaving behind an indelible legacy on the world.

By: Trinity Tanzillo



39th President Jimmy Carter passed away on Dec. 29.

On Dec. 29, Jimmy Carter passed away at the age of 100. He was the 39th president of the US and the oldest living president.

As the nation mourns, Carter has been paid respect to by our people. Mementos have been created by people to show their respect for the passing president.

The focus of Carter's death began to shift as people wondered what things he had been through and overcame. Carter had been battling skin cancer a long time before his passing.

The UCLA Health Department spoke on the issue. They state, "After receiving the 2015 diagnosis of metastatic melanoma — the deadliest and most aggressive form of skin cancer — President Carter was treated with the immunotherapy drug pembrolizumab (Keytruda), a groundbreaking shift

in the treatment of melanoma and other malignant cancers."

CNN spoke on the death of Carter stating, "Carter's official state funeral in Washington, DC, will be held on January 9, the White House confirmed Monday. President Joe Biden has declared January 9 as a national day of mourning and will deliver a eulogy at Carter's funeral service."

A Pleasant Valley High School American history teacher, Lauren Staub, speaks about the accomplishments Carter had before his passing.

"He won a Nobel Peace prize in 2002 for his work in human rights," explains Mrs. Staub. "Carter is known as a great humanitarian."

Since 1984, Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn Carter volunteered for Habitat for Humanity. Together, they began the Carter Work Project, an annual event that aims to

quickly renovate housing units for those in need.

"The Carters and their example have rallied thousands of volunteers, supporters and celebrities to take part in our mission, helping Habitat for Humanity become internationally recognized for our work to build decent and affordable housing," explains the Habitat for Humanity website.

During his time work-

ing with the charity, Habitat for Humanity has gained 108,000 volunteers, spread to 14 different countries, and built 4,447 homes.

"They've touched the lives of thousands of Habitat homeowners and volunteers and inspired millions across the globe," explains Habitat for Humanity.



Source: WJLA.com

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley participates in National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Pleasant Valley students have recently had the opportunity to gain working skills they will need later in life by operating the Bear Cafe, as well as other opportunities.

By: Sophia Lopez



Pleasant Valley High School helps prepare their students with disabilities for the real world by providing them with real work experiences. This is part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, which was celebrated in October and is a dedication to people with disabilities who are

on the job hunt or are currently employed.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month was established in 1945. The purpose of this month was to signify support for employment of all people with disabilities.

Kerry Freeman, Special Education Transition Coordinator for Pleasant Valley High

School, highlights the importance this time of year has on the school.

"Our school proudly contributes to National Disability Employment Awareness Month by providing valuable work experience for our students in partnership with our Special Education Department. Through a range of unpaid work experiences, we support our students' transition plans, equipping them with skills and confidence to succeed in their future careers," states Mrs. Freeman.

At the high school, students operate the Bear Cafe, where people are provided with the opportunity to buy snacks. The students there gain work experience to achieve more skills in the work field.

Mrs. Freeman explained the type of work experience students gain at the Bear

Cafe.

"On campus, students gain hands-on experience in roles such as assisting in the Bear Café, PVE and PVI cafeterias, PVE/ PVI classroom assistant, helping with fruit preparation in the PVHS cafeteria, and supporting the PVHS maintenance team. These roles allow students to develop practical skills, interact with staff, and build a sense of responsibility and teamwork," says Mrs. Freeman.

Within the high school, Colonial Intermediate Unit 20, an educational institution in Northampton County, offers a program that helps students with disabilities prepare for what's to come in the future. This program offers them an opportunity to showcase what abilities they have.

Albert Miller, Life Skills Teacher for Pleasant Valley High

School, explains the program that is offered at Kalahari Resorts & Convention Center.

"With our Transition Coordinator, Mrs. Kerry Freeman, students are able to go out into the workforce and showcase their abilities," states Mr. Miller. "Also, the IU20 offers a program at Kalahari, project SEARCH, where students are able to showcase their skills and become productive citizens in society giving them a positive feeling of inclusion."

"We have had students in the past attend the Kalahari program and been hired at the establishment," Stated Mr. Miller.

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley honors veterans through schoolwide celebrations

All the schools in the Pleasant Valley School District had their own different and unique celebrations for recognizing their veterans on Veterans Day .

By: Khloe Dooner



Veterans Day at Pleasant Valley Elementary School

Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the sacrifices made by men and women who have served in the military for freedom. This year, schools across Pleasant Valley School District honored these brave individuals in meaningful ways. At the high school, the focus was on tributes both physical and verbal, as students will read inspirational quotes, each one carefully selected for the

day. The school has sent out a Google Form for students and staff to share photos and information about their family members who have served, and this information will be displayed on the TVs throughout the building. At the end of the day, a moment of silence will be taken to honor all veterans. The celebration is to show the importance of Veterans Day and recognize those who

fought for the freedoms we enjoy today. Brian Boylan, Pleasant Valley High School Principal, expressed his hopes for Veterans Day. “I hope the students gain an understanding of what Veterans Day means to the country and that it's full of amazing veterans who have given us the freedom and opportunities we enjoy today,” says Mr. Boylan. The middle school will continue its cherished tradition of honoring the veterans with a special assembly. This year's events took place on November 11, invites were sent out to veterans across the community as well as family members of students to come and join in on the celebration. Prior to the assembly, the PTO hosted a breakfast for the veterans. Students had the opportunity to participate by reading poems, singing songs, and watching videos that highlight the bravery of our nation's heroes. New to the celebration this year was the Pleasant Valley

Alma Mater, which added a personal touch to the musical tribute. “This assembly promises to be meaningful, fostering gratitude and respect for our veterans,” explains Josephine Dyett-Fields, Assistant Principal at Pleasant Valley Middle School.

See Veterans pg 5



Highlighting this year’s Homecoming

Homecoming 2024 was quite a hoot, many students had a great time dancing and spending time with friends.

By: Arianna Brito

The Pleasant Valley High School Homecoming dance was on Oct. 19, 2024. It included many activities that were decorated by students, parents, and Suzanne Hunsicker, math teacher at Pleasant Valley High School. Mira Guinta, student council president at Pleasant Valley High School, describes how homecoming is important for students. “It’s a time for everyone in the school to get together and have a fun night, as opposed to prom which is generally just upperclassmen,” explains Guinta. Huge tractors and floats were decorated as well. Dominic Balzano and Mira Guinta were elected Homecoming King and Queen respectively. It was definitely a memorable

night for everyone. “Homecoming was attended by around 650 students,” explained Brian Boylan, Principal of Pleasant Valley High School. To get into the dance, the school used student ID’s to make sure each attendee was from within the district. Safety precautions also included checking purses and metal detectors at the doors. In order to invite a student from out of district, students had to fill out a form. The dance included not only snacks and drinks, but also music and a large dance floor. It had photo booths and fairy lights around the whole area, including picture decals. “Homecoming was planned by the student council, which is open to everyone in the

whole school. Myself and the other officers used ideas from students in all grades to make sure that everyone’s ideas would play out,” states Guinta.



Anayah Accilien and Sarah McGraw



Source: Elizabeth Negron



Source: Brian Boylen

Rachel’s Challenge returns to Pleasant Valley

Rachel’s Challenge makes a come back to the P.V. High School bringing to light how bullying effects others and on gun saftey while informing the students about the Columbine High School massacre.

By: Abigail Dominck

On Nov. 20, 2024, the annual Rachel’s Challenge awareness assembly took place at Pleasant Valley High School. Students of all grades gathered in the new and old auditorium to hear about Rachel Joy Scott’s story. Scott was the first victim of the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. Rachel’s Challenge was created in her legacy to not only spread awareness about violence in schools, but also promote Scott’s “chain reaction mentality”. Scott believed that a small act of kindness performed by one person has the ability to change the life of another forming a ripple effect. “Compassion is the greatest form of love humans have to offer. I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go,” Scott stated in an essay she wrote just six weeks before her death. Numerous stories of Scott living by her “chain reaction mentality” were shared by the speaker at the assembly. The students and teacher were then asked to remember Scott’s way of thinking in their day to day lives and implement acts of kindness. Students and teachers were touched by Scott’s emotional and motivational message. Rachel’s Challenge holds a powerful message that will not be forgotten soon. “We all live different lives. Some of us have money, health, or parents. Others have nothing” stated senior Jose Propest who attended the meeting.



NATION

Hurricane Season not coming to a halt anytime soon

Hurricane Milton is now the most recent Hurricane to hit the U.S.A. After numerous Hurricanes formed during Hurricane Season, it doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon.

By: Isabella London

Hurricane Milton made landfall near Siesta Key, Fla. on Oct. 9 at around 8:30 p.m. as a Category 3 storm, and even after it passed into the Atlantic Ocean 10 million residents remained threatened by coastal conditions for the following days. The storm caused many tornadoes, heavy rainfall, and power outages and even took at least 16 lives.

Milton formed on Oct. 5 in the Gulf of Mexico as a tropical depression, but very quickly it progressed into a tropical storm. Then it experienced rapid intensification, where in just two days it developed into a Category 5 hurricane, having a wind speed of 180 mph.

Haley Thiem, journalist for Climate.gov, describes how the

Gulf of Mexico is getting warmer. It increased about one to three degrees Celsius since 2012 for that time period, which served as perfect fuel for the storm.

Maricatherine Garr, Science teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, provided insight on how the Gulf of Mexico is increasing temperatures caused the hurricane.

"The bigger the temperature difference [between the ocean and atmosphere] the stronger the hurricane because it causes higher evaporation rates, and more water going into the atmosphere means more needs to come down," explains Ms. Garr.

It is not just Milton, though. Recently, the United States has been bombarded with hur-



Source: BBC.com

storm changed quickly as it approached the Florida coast.

"By Sunday afternoon, just 24-hours after becoming a named storm, Milton had rapidly intensified into a Category 1 hurricane [...] From 1:00 p.m. CDT on Sunday to 1:00 p.m. CDT on Monday (a 24-hour period), Milton increased an additional 95 mph, more than doubling the requirement for rapid intensification," states Thiem.

Luckily, Milton had calmed down to a Category 3 hurricane by the time it made landfall, but it still had a huge environmental impact. Over 30 tornadoes had been reported and a record-breaking 125 tornado warnings were issued in a single day.

Also, more than 12 inches of rainfall had been dumped across central Florida, and the majority of lakes and rivers had experienced flooding.

A major cause of this hurricane was the fact that the

ricanes. Climate change making the oceans warmer has really put more into the sky that is causing even more intense hurricanes than ever before.

Amy O'Kruk, CNN data and graphics editor, explains the severity of this issue on the United States coasts.

"Milton was the fifth hurricane to make landfall in the United States this year, joining Category 1 Beryl, Category 1 Debby, Category 2 Francine and Category 4 Helene. More hurricanes have made landfall in the United States this year than from 2021 to 2023 combined," states O'Kruk.

Only a few months before, Milton Hurricane Debby had struck, and that was already bad enough since it caused a mass amount of rain and damage to the east coast. However, hurricanes like Milton keep getting stronger and more frequent.



Source: New York Times

STATE

The Philly Portal is said to undergo many changes in the near future

The beloved Portal sculpture has recently been moved to Philadelphia's Love Park, connecting people from around the world.

By: Areli Ramirez

Many people have seen the crowd in Love Park around the Philly Portal. The portal move from New York to Philadelphia has brought much commotion and liveliness to both the city and park.

The portal is a sculpture piece of art that was designed by the artist, Benediktas Gylys. His idea was to create some type of virtual link between countries.

"It became too difficult for me to live on a planet of constant separation, constant hatred. I felt a deep need to create something different, something new that would talk to the human heart instead of just rationally talking to the human brain," stated Gylys to the NBC.

The portal was originally located on 23rd Street and Fifth Avenue in New York City and debuted on May 8, 2024. There has been some inappropriate behavior that led to the change in location, including hateful messages and nudity.

Because of the inappropriate behavior, more security and barriers were added to the area. The portal's livestream changes

views about every 3 minutes and the live stream operates 24/7.

The director of Portals Organization and CEO of Sansar, Joe Callahan, says a social virtual reality platform plans to keep the experience family friendly.

"The reaction from New Yorkers that we've seen has been overwhelmingly positive so far, with people from all over coming to see the portal. While we understand there have been instances of inappropriate behavior at the portal, these incidents represent only a tiny fraction of the overall interactions," stated Callahan.

After less than three weeks in Philadelphia's Love Park, the portal is being moved once



Source: PHL17.com

NATION

Actress Shelly Duvall loses her battle with Diabetes at the age of 75

Famous for her roles in "The Shining," "Popeye," and "Annie Hall," Shelly Duvall passed away on July 11, 2024.

By: Amelia Stenger

Shelley Alexis Duvall, one of the most prominent actors of the 1970's, has passed away in her home in Blanco, Texas at the age of 75, on July 11, 2024. Known for her iconic appearances in films combined with unique facial features and fresh acting, Duvall's legacy in acting will always be remembered for decades to come.

Shelley Duvall was a phenomenal actor throughout her extensive career. She never planned for this occupation though, the only experience she had acting previously was for a sixth-grade talent show.

It was one fateful day that she was spotted by three workers from the pre-production of a movie called "Brewster McCloud" that led her to her first movie appearance. Down the line, she then made history with multiple classic movie appearances.

Her most memorable ones being "The Shining, Popeye (1980), Annie Hall (1977), McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971) Nashville (1975)." These performances have paved the way for her to leave a mark on movie history.

She's remembered as a cheerful, charismatic actor who

captivated the crowd each time. Ms. Hyde, an english teacher here at PVHS believed that "Her characters showed lots of emotion, she was always able to put on a good performance."

Her career took a decline in the 2000's, she stopped accepting roles and slowly disappeared from the public and acting. Her last major appearance was an interview on Dr Phil, although the public had mixed opinions.



Source: CNN.com

DISTRICT

Colleges visit Pleasant Valley High School to meet with seniors.

During the Fall of 2024, numerous college and university representatives came to Pleasant Valley to speak with seniors about the application process, potential future plans, and why the students would be a great fit for each school.

By: Daniel Diller

One key decision during senior year is if a person wants further education after high school, and college visits are a great way to help students in that process. In 2024, 13 schools visited Pleasant Valley High School to educate students on why they're the right choice. Regarding visiting colleges, PVHS senior Sarah Larregui believes in the importance of actually visiting a college instead of just applying to it blindly.

"I want to explore the scenery in person. I feel like you absorb more when you are in the presence of the college," states Larregui. While visiting college campuses can be helpful, some schools do visit Pleasant Valley as a way to make the process easier. Students get to meet with school representatives to talk about their interests and what might attract them to the school itself.

Lily Decker, senior, stated that she wanted to go to the Muhlenberg College visit because she is interested in Muhlenberg for their pre-medical program. "It's a good opportunity for me to get it done during the school day due to my busy schedule," explains Decker. When Nolan Garrity, senior, was asked if he was going to any college visits, he stated that he was interested in the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, King's College, and Marywood University visits. He stated he wanted to go to those visits "to prepare for my future," says Garrity. Distance, price, the community, size of campus, sports, and food were all key factors for

seniors when they are deciding where they want to go after graduation. Planning is not always easy because not everyone knows what he or she's going to do or be when they graduate. Regardless of what postsecondary school seniors want to attend, college visits at Pleasant Valley High School are a good opportunity to let students learn more about the schools and potentially choose their future without leaving the building.



Source: Marywood University



Source: Marywood University



Source: University of Pittsburgh

DISTRICT

PV Cheerleading hosts bingo fundraiser event

The Pleasant Valley cheerleaders bring community together by hosting their Toy Bingo event on Nov. 10, helping to raise money for uniforms and equipment.

By: Jamie Jones

The Pleasant Valley High School cheerleading team hosted a Toy Bingo on Sunday, Nov. 10. The event was held in order to help raise money for new uniforms and other equipment. Nina Campbell, PV Cheer Treasurer and mother of cheer, and Co-captain Mia Maldonado explain that while the annual event is intended to raise money for the district cheerleaders, it is also a way to build a sense of community. "[Toy Bingo] is a fundraiser hosted by the PV Cheerleaders to help raise funds for additional cheer gear, team bonding

events, and equipment for the middle school, JV, and varsity cheer program all while bringing the Youth and community together for an exciting afternoon," states Ms. Campbell. Even though the cheer team is raising money for new equipment, they are giving back to the community that helped them to raise the money, with fun gifts. "We have received so much love and support from the local community and cheer families that we have a lot of prizes to give away. Over 33 right now and donations keep coming in. People can win things

such as, Gift cards like Target, Restaurants, and Dicks Sport-



Moira Byrnes and Kaylee Ellis-Murphy

ing Goods, along with a 50" TV, cameras and so much more," explains Ms. Campbell. During the event, the Pleasant Valley High School cafeteria was filled with laughter and joy as kids from all ages were having fun playing bingo. By the end of the event, the cheerleaders raised \$4,033. "The money from this event will go towards the cheer team's expenses such as our banquet and traveling for competitions," explains Maldonado.



Source: Pleasant Valley cheerleading

DISTRICT

Leo Club leads the second annual Powder Puff Game

Pleasant Valley High School's Leo Club held the second annual Powder Puff Game on Oct. 30.

By: Justin Delgado

On Oct. 30, 2024, Pleasant Valley High School held their second annual Powder Puff Game. Amanda Altemose, English teacher and Leo Club advisor at Pleasant Valley High School, held the event.

This was Ms. Altemose's first year running the event. The funds for this event went to Toys for Tots, as well as for the Leo Club's Mini-thon event. Last year, fall athletes were unable to participate. However, this school year was different, as the game was scheduled after the fall season ended. That being the case, all fall female athletes were able to play. The only exception is for



2024 Powder Puff Champs: Brady's Bunch

teams that qualified for championships. The winners of the games were awarded with medals, and the runner-ups were awarded with certificates for their efforts. This year the seniors won the game in exciting fashion with a 21-14 win against the juniors in the championship game. Head coach of the senior team, Brady Cerrone, was proud of his team and the preparation they put into succeeding. "My team worked tirelessly, we had a lot of practice and preparation for this game," stated Cerrone.



Devon Bush and Alexis Sprague

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In Our Opinion

A new grading system has been brought to the Pleasant Valley School District. It has been met with an unenthusiastic response from the student body.

A new school year calls for new classes, new memories, and, of course, new policies. Recently, the Pleasant Valley School District has implemented a “one-size-fits-all” approach to the grading system. Before this change, teachers could choose their own grading system. The one exception to this consisted of the grading system being consistent for each course. If multiple teachers taught the same course, they would all be required to use the same grading system. Last year, the district asked teachers to only use a weighted grading system instead of the point system some teachers elected to use. This change, although new, was nothing compared to the grading changes the high school experienced this year.

This year, students’ grades are an accumulation of 70% assessment grades, 20% class-work grades, and 10% home-work grades. No exceptions. The efforts the district made to make things consistent and uniform are greatly appreciated, but they simply do not work. High pressure testing has little benefits for not only students, but teachers as well. An article from the Intercultural Development Research Association (IDRA) discusses the dangerous consequences of high-stakes testing. “High-stakes testing punishes students, and often teachers, for things they cannot control. It drives students and teachers away from learning, and at times from school. It narrows, distorts, weakens and impoverishes the

curriculum while fostering forms of instruction that fail to engage students or support high-quality learning,” reported the IDRA. It doesn’t require insight from professionals to understand that high pressure testing does not work. A poll taken by the editorial board reveals that 76.7% of the participants have had their GPA negatively affected from the new grading system and 86.7% of participants would like the grading system to return to teacher’s choice. Most importantly, 76.7% of poll takers reported more school related stress due to the heavily weighted assessment they are required to take. The constant uphill battle to keep a high GPA does not reward good work ethic and is instead making students feel hopeless.

“Before, if you weren’t the best at tests or quizzes, assignments and homework were a great way to bring your grade up. Now, with these [class work and homework grades] weighing so low, it feels useless as it only brings our grade up slightly,” stated Amelia Stenger, senior at Pleasant Valley High School. The harmful consequences of having a uniform grading system outweighs the benefits. Students are suffering from unnecessary stress, with the constant feeling that they are playing a game of “catch-up” with their GPA. The grading system should return to teacher’s choice for the benefit of both students and teachers. Learning is more than a test score. “My overall opinion is that it does more harm than good.

This is due to how one assessment can drop the grade average a student gets immediately. It does not matter if we try our best anymore when our grades drop by one bad test score. This can cause more stress on students, which does not benefit work ethic at all either,” stated Trinity Tanzillo, sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School.



DISTRICT

Veterans, continued

At the intermediate school, students also had the chance to engage in meaningful activities. A highlight of the day was the Brunch with the Brave event, where veterans who are family members of students enjoyed a meal with their cherished loved ones. Following this, the entire school gathered for an assembly featuring student songs, and a special guest speaker, veteran Malcolm Heffley, who is also a grandparent of one of the staff members. “We hope the activities help our students realize how many heroes we have in our local community,” states Pleasant Valley Intermediate School Principal, Sabrina Albright. The elementary school kicked off its day of tribute with a breakfast for the veterans, followed by a parade through the hallways. Veterans and their families participated in the parade, and students cheered them on as they marched. In the gym, an assembly took place featuring songs performed by kindergarten through second-grade students, as well as the performance of “You’re a Grand Old Flag” by the entire school. The ROTC color guard led the pledge of allegiance, and each grade level has completed activities to show their appreciation for the veterans, including American flags decorated with artwork that was displayed during the parade. The Wall of Honor showcased many family projects. Pleasant Valley Elementary School Assistant Principal, Sarah Adams, expressed the importance of these events for the elementary students. “We hope that our students learn to honor and show gratitude for those who have or are protecting our nation,” shared Ms. Adams. Dr. James Konrad, Pleasant Valley Superintendent,

is committed to making sure that the district honors veterans on Veterans Day and expressed deep gratitude for the sacrifices of veterans, acknowledging their service for American freedom. “I am so grateful to the men and women that have served our country to protect our freedom. Our staff, students, and community appreciate their sacrifices and we honor these brave individuals,” expresses Dr. Konrad. From assemblies to inspirational quotes, this Veterans Day made the day become an educational and respectful day to honor those who have served the United States of America. As students across the district engage in these activities, they are not only learning about the past, but also they are developing a deeper understanding of the sacrifices that continue to shape both the future of this country and generations to come.



Veterans Day at Pleasant Valley Middle School

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley students become Senators for a Day

Monroe County students participated in the Senator for a Day program held at Northampton Community College.

By: Victoria Johns

Students were able to have the experience of only a small fraction of what it is like to be a Senator. Bills were discussed, amendments were proposed, and students’ inner-leaders were shown. They had taken a school bus to Northampton Community College, where this event was held and hosted. The hall was filled with young and bright individuals from schools all over Monroe County. After eating the provided breakfast, students were given an introduction and their schedule, then assigned to meet with their groups. The different options were Communications & Technology, Health & Human services, Education, Law & Justice, and Transportation. Respect is key when having discussions on any particular topic, and students were able to execute this with proficiency. In being a part of this group of bright individuals, opinions were shared calmly and collectively,

while being able to come to a consensus on the distinct bills at hand. In being a Senator for a Day, there were different committees that individuals were placed in. They had the opportunity to shine light on legislative issues while maintaining respect for others’ opinions. Two Social Studies teachers in the building, Jason Robbins and Drew Dymond were able to share their insight on this event and the importance it holds. When asked about the significance of this educational occasion, both Social Studies teachers were able to share their thoughts on that: “Any time that we can get out of the classroom and apply what we learn to real world situations it is something that benefits students,” stated Robbins. He says that they “gain a better understanding of the legislative process,” explains Mr. Dymond. This is true in the sense that there were lobbyists and

individuals working for the senate available all around to keep the momentum in the students’ discussions going. Students were given a program schedule days beforehand, in order to conduct any research on given bills, or to just get an idea for what to discuss. Mr. Dymond comments, “I am always impressed with the background knowledge the students bring to the table on the bills being debated.” Student Keegan Martin was able to contribute his thoughts on this experience, “It was very educational and helped me learn about the legislative process in our state and federal government,” discloses Keegan.



Source: senatorbrown40.com

Your Top Stories 2024

1



**Student
Loan
Forgivness**

**Biden-Harris
Admininstation**

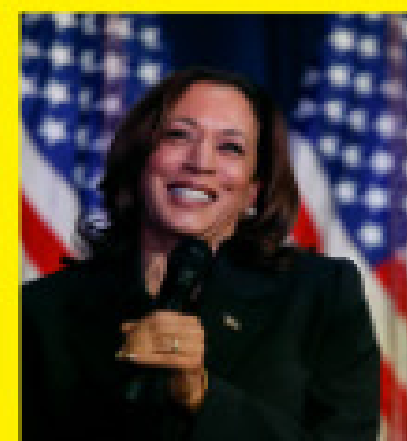
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**Controversial
TikTok Ban**

Joe Biden

7



**Harris runs for
President**

**Kamala Harris,
Joe Biden**

10



**Liam Payne
passes away**

Liam Payne

2



**Willy Wonka
Exp. Fail**

**Glasgow,
Scotland**

5



**Drake v.
Kendrick**

**Drake,
Kendrick
Lamar**

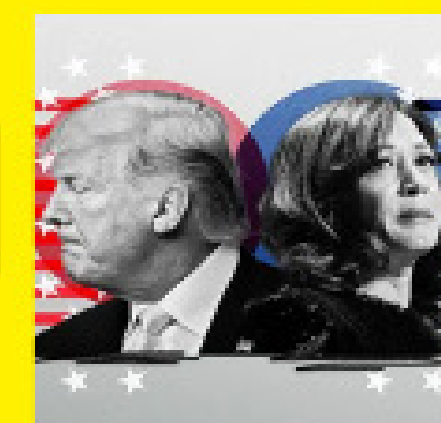
8



**Jack Blues
Bieber is born**

**Justin Bieber,
Hailey Bieber**

11



**Presidential
Campaign**

**Donald Trump,
Kamala Harris**

3



**Cowboy Carter
Released**

Beyoncé

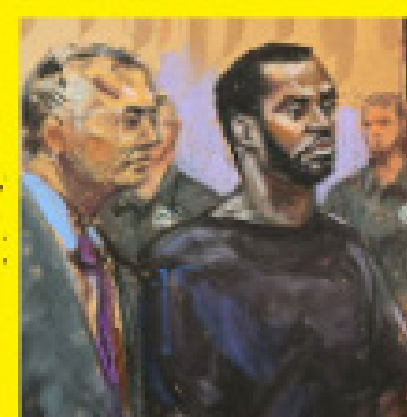
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**J.T Arrested on
DWI charges**

**Justin
Timberlake**

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**Diddy
Arrested**

**Sean
"Diddy"
Combs**

12



**UnitedHealthCare
CEO shot dead**

Luigi Mangione

STATE

Pennsylvania experiences rare solar storm

The Aurora Borealis, typically only seen from northern latitudes, was seen from Pennsylvania over the course of a two day span in October.

By: Kyara Gomez

Residents in Pennsylvania and the eastern part of the United States were given the chance to a rare viewing of the Northern Lights, or also known as the Aurora Borealis. This natural phenomenon, typically only seen in polar regions, made an unexpected appearance on Oct. 10 and 11, 2024.

The viewing of the Northern Lights caught the attention of casual observers. Which had them all asking questions.

“I was actually really confused when the sky looked purple. I had no idea seeing them here was even possible,” Peyton Foder, PA resident and junior at Pleasant Valley High School, stated.

The visibility of the Northern

Lights in areas like Pennsylvania was particularly important since it’s so rare to see. A strong storm with clear skies allowed the visibility to be just right for the auroras to be seen much farther south than usual.

For many, this sight of the auroras was not just about witnessing a beautiful light show but also about creating wonders and appreciation for our planet.

Nick Bruckman, junior at Pleasant Valley High School states, “I have a bunch of photos of it taking up my camera roll, I wish I could see it again!”

The rarity of the occurrence created much excitement and curiosity among casual viewers creating communities to

engage with the night sky. Many ran out to capture the sky throughout the evening.

The Northern Lights occur when charged particles from the sun collide with the Earth's atmosphere. Increased solar flares allow these particles to make their way toward Earth and interact with atmospheric gases, creating colorful displays of greens and purples in the night sky.

When auroras like this occur it can disrupt satellite communications and power grids. However, in this recent viewing, the impact was little to none. Allowing people to enjoy the lights without major disturbances.



Source: fox43.com

When will the Russo-Ukrainian War End?

Russia gains a new alliance in the war as Ukraine gains an alliance for weapon supply.

By: Frank Megna

The Russo-Ukrainian war has been going on since Feb. 20, 2014. The war started 11 years ago. Most recently, Russia has been pushing Ukraines lines back and forth throughout the years.

Brent Lewis, history teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, provides context on the Ukraine War.

“It all started when Barack Obama was President. Russia took over a piece of land in Ukrainian Crimea, which sparked the war,” says Mr. Lewis

The piece of land that Russia took over was called Crimea is an island attached to Ukraine,

which contains large amounts of natural gas and oil. Recently, Russia has been stepping up their game.

They have pushed forward more than ever. North Korea has sent over 3,000 or so troops to Russia in their new alliance.

Kelly Ng, reporter at BBC News, provides information on how many troops North Korea sent to the Ukraine War.

“According to the spy agency, 1,500 troops have already arrived in Russia - with anonymous sources telling South Korean media the final figure could be closer to 12,000.” says Ng

Hyung-Jin Kim and Kin Tong-

Hyung both reporters for the Associated Press giving information surrounding North Korea’s alliance with President Donald Trump.

On their alliance with North Korea, Russian President, Vladimir Putin said “We have never doubted that the North Korean leadership takes our agreements seriously. What and how we will do within the framework of this article (of the agreement) is our business,”

The war has gotten better for Ukraine, as Germany is now Ukraine’s second largest weapons supplier after the U.S. This means that Ukraine will receive more advanced weapons.

Pushing the lines farther than ever. Recent reports say that President Donald Trump was privately talking to Vladimir Putin about the war. Putin denies ever talking to Trump, but a spokesperson said that the reports were “pure fiction.”

Trump’s team told the BBC that they would not comment on the president’s private calls. A possible end to the war is in sight, but if that will truly be the case is a toss up.



Source: ABC News

WORLD

Gaza War leads citizens to grasp onto the resources they have left

The citizens of Gaza are going through a continuous struggle as their resources are becoming limited.

By: Trinity Tanzillo



Source: afcs.org

Many people may find that living a year without electricity is absolutely impossible, but this is exactly what Palestinian citizens have been going through since October 2023. The families located in the Gaza strip of Israel have no access to needed resources and have to wake up early to not waste daylight.

A citizen located in Deir al Balah, in central Gaza, was interviewed by The New York Times and has spoken up about the underlying issues of the blackout on her family. Mariam Abu Amra states in her interview that, “‘I never knew how much all the people and the families here, including myself, relied on electricity,” voicing that she has to change her life to accommodate these conditions. “I have to wake up early now so I don’t miss a single minute of daylight.”

Citizens will cook over fires and wash their clothes by hand due to the lack of electricity in the Gaza strip, which has made many restless as they have to keep their families safe and healthy.

The time period of the war is still ongoing, which is why Paletinians have experienced a blackout for this long.

Anthony Chupa, a social studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, explains the impact of the war on both sides and Gaza’s land is being target-

ed. He summarizes how everyone is affected due to how people are living in or close to the conflict, which impacts many resources for these people.

“Gaza is a main target of war due to its proximity to Israel, territorial claims, and historic symbolism. This creates difficulty for everyone because war impacts all inhabitants of an area,” explains Mr. Chupa. “People might not be directly involved in the fight, but may face challenges related to resources, food, and/or basic necessities availability.”

The Congressional Research Service, located within the library of Congress, addresses the conflict by discussing what losses have been suffered. Many of these losses are what citizens have spoken up about, like resource issues and destruction of their homes.

“In the conflict to date, more than 41,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, according to the Hamas-controlled health ministry there. Additionally, about 90% of Gaza’s some 2.1 million residents have been displaced, with most facing unsanitary, overcrowded conditions alongside acute shortages of food, water, medical care, and other essential supplies and services,” states the Congressional Research Service.



Source: The New York Times

WORLD

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to atomic bomb survivors

Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization, receives prize for promoting anti-nuclear activism.

By: Stela Dias



Source: BBC.com

“Nihon Hidankyo Receives 2024 Nobel Peace Prize for Anti-Nuclear Activism” The 2024 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Nihon Hidankyo (the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations), recognizing their tireless activism against nuclear weapons. This organization was founded by survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, known as Hibakusha, Nihon Hidankyo has dedicated decades to advocating for nuclear disarmament and raising awareness about the devastating human impact of nuclear warfare.

The nuclear arms race began in the 1940s during

World War II. Seeking to gain a technological advantage over the Nazis in Germany and subsequently the Soviet Union, the US, Great Britain, and Canada initiated the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, to research and develop the world’s first atomic fission bomb.

Famously led by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, the Manhattan Project proved successful, detonating the world’s first atomic bomb on July 16, 1945 at a site in southern New Mexico. On August 6 and 9 of 1945, the United States detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The A-bombs killed between 150,000 and 250,000 people, many of which were civilians. According to the US government, the bombs were dropped as a means to hasten the surrender of the Japanese and the end of the war.

Bringing the war to a close saved many American lives, and stopped the USSR from conquering Japan. The detonation of the bombs accomplished their task, as the Japanese government surrendered on September 2, 1945. Unfortunately, those Japanese citizens that survived the bombings endured both mental and physical suffering, many of them for generations to come. This prestigious award highlights the organization’s significant contributions to global peace efforts. The Hibakusha, through their harrowing personal testimonies and relentless campaigning, have played a crucial role in educating the world about the horrors of nuclear weapons. Their stories serve as powerful reminders of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear conflict and the urgent

need for disarmament. Mr. Goff, a prominent advocate for nuclear disarmament, remarked, “The recognition of Nihon Hidankyo by the Nobel Committee is a powerful testament to the enduring impact of Hibakusha’s message. Their courage in sharing their stories has been instrumental in the global movement towards a nuclear-free world.” Nihon Hidankyo’s dedication to this cause has not only honored the memories of those who perished in the bombings but has also inspired generations to work towards a future free from the threat of nuclear weapons. The 2024 Nobel Peace Prize stands as a testament to their unwavering commitment to peace and a nuclear-free world.

NATION

P. Diddy arrested

Disturbing items were found in Sean “Diddy” Combs’ residence, leading to his arrest.

By: Alexis Sprague



Source: CBS News

Sean Combs also known as P. Diddy had his mansion raided in the LA California area. On March 25, 2024, a search warrant was used for his home and discovered many odd items.

During the investigation, authorities discovered firearms and ammunition, along with illicit substances and some disturbing items that may have been used to exploit women. Sean “Diddy” Combs was arrested Monday, Sept. 16, and charged with what the Justice Department called a years-long scheme to sexually abuse and exploit women, allegedly using his business empire to commit the crimes.

The indictment says that Combs hit and abused women for over a decade and presided over an empire of sexual crimes. He is accused of inducing female victims and male sex workers into drugged-up sometimes days-long sexual performances called “Freak Offs” in the indictment. He is also accused of an attack on his former girlfriend, the R&B

singer Cassie, that was captured on video.

All of these crimes are starting to resurface and be put into action and not be covered up anymore. Other musicians have even started to come forward about what Combs has done to them.

Kelsey Tompkins, physical education teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, thinks that this information was kept a secret for so long because of the people involved.

“The things that were really happening at these parties were kept away for so long because of money and reputation,” states Ms. Tompkins.

Combs would have these parties at his house with many different famous people which started back in 1998. Kelsey Tompkins also talks about how all these other artists and people that are involved will be affected.

“All of the people that attended his parties, fans, and people he supposedly sexually assaulted will be affected,” says Ms. Tompkins.

WORLD

Planet Earth temporarily welcomes a nearby asteroid into orbit

Earth has pulled asteroid 2024 PT5 into its orbit named for two months, giving itself two moons.

By: Maya Ropchock

On Sep. 29, 2024, astronomers attending the Complutense University of Madrid discovered an asteroid known as 2024 PT5.

According to Robert Lea, a science journalist, asteroids normally orbit around the sun, but when they get too close to the Earth, gravity pulls it in temporarily causing it to orbit around our planet as another moon.

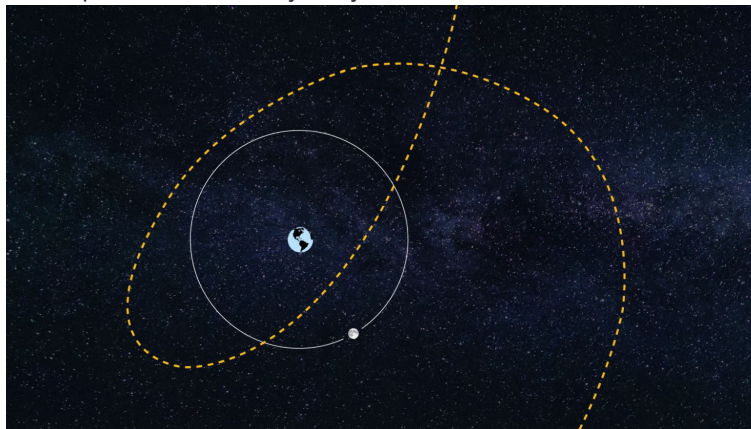
“It will stick around until Nov. 25, 2024, before it heads back to its home in an asteroid belt trailing our planet and orbiting the sun,” states Lea. “Once 2024 PT5 has fulfilled its role as a mini-moon, it will return to a sun-centered orbit, remaining part of the Arjuna asteroid belt.”

People wondered why they

could not see this mini-moon, but 2024 PT5 was as small as a school bus, making it impossible to capture with a normal telescope.

Talitha Graham, Science teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, believes that 2024 PT5 did have a slight impact on the Earth.

“The effect that it will have on the tides and night sky should be interesting,” stated Ms. Graham. “I’m glad that 2024 PT5 was a mini-moon instead of destroying the Earth as we know it today.”



The trajectory of 2024 PT5, via USAToday.com

NATION

Baseball legend and all-time hits leader passes away.

17-time all star and 3-time World Series champion, Pete Rose, died on Sept. 30, 2024 at 83 years old.

By: Gavin Tonkay



Source: ABC News

Pete Rose, known for his amazing baseball career, died on Sept. 30, 2024. He was a dominant player for the Cincinnati Reds and primarily played Outfield. He was nicknamed “The Big Red Machine” for his amazingly strong and accurate arm.

Edward Slatky, an algebra teacher at the Pleasant Valley High School, stated how amazing of a player he was and the legacy he left behind. He also talks about Pete Rose’s alleged cheating allegations and gives his opinion about it.

Mr. Slatky states, “As a player, he was one of the best ever. His style of play and hustle on the field won over many fans.”

For those who do not know why he was suspended, he was caught gambling on a major league baseball team while being an active player in the MLB which broke rule 21 of the leagues rule book.

“I think at the time the suspension was justified, and while I understand why he is still banned, I think it is time to let him into the hall of fame,” explains Mr. Slatky.

Not only did he leave an impact on the entire MLB, but former baseball player, Doug Rader, told ESPN’s David Schoenfield just how important Rose was to both the game.

“Just playing against that guy inspires me,” explains Rader.

NATION

Victoria Secret Fashion Show returns after a six year hiatus

The long wait finally ended as the Victoria Secret Fashion Show made its return on Oct. 15 after being cancelled in 2019, proving that it is still as influential as ever.

By: Giada Morales

On Tuesday, Oct. 15 the Victoria Secret Runway Show returned after 6 years. The Victoria Secret Show is a runway show that presents all of the new clothes from the Victoria Secret franchise. Over time, the show became a staple to people’s lives due to their beliefs in fashion and just valuing the art of the show.

This fashion show in particular was very important because it was the first show in years. It was such a big event that retired models like Kate Moss, Adriana Lima, and Tyra Banks made an appearance throughout the show. Alongside them, they also had super models such as Gigi and Bella Hadid walk the runway.

The show also had musical artists like Tyla, Lisa from Black Pink, and the music legend Cher who all sang while the models walked. There was no official theme to this show but the colors consisted of pink, black, blue, and red.

The Victoria Secret Runway show was first originally canceled in 2019.

According to Kimberly

Bond, who works for Harper’s Bazaar magazine, “The annual catwalk spectacle was previously cancelled in 2019 after a decline in sales and poor television ratings, with figures falling from five million in 2018 to just over three million in 2019.”



Source: The Fashion Spot

While the Victoria secret show is almost the same as the old shows that made fans fall in love, there are a few new changes.

The chief of design and creative officer, Janie Schaffer, said on the company’s Instagram that she wants the show to grow beyond what it has been in the past. “Just know it’s going to be everything you always loved about the show, but even

better,” Schaffer stated. One of the most major and exciting changes that has been made and will continue for now on is all the items seen on the models will immediately be able to purchased. Some students in our

school gave their opinion on the show and how they felt about the new changes.

Sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School, Mikayla Slamiak, was one of many people who watched the show and had some opinions on it.

“I thought the show was very interesting and the new representation throughout it definitely added a more involved feeling into it,” Slamiak

said. Ava Bond, junior, also tuned into the show and thought that its return was a positive one.

“The models returning was exciting, and Adriana Lima looked great,” Bond stated.

On the other hand, Bond does suggest that people should question whether or not the show should continue and if the newer features attached were necessary.

“The show felt tacky and unnecessary to bring back. The new spin to the show took away the old purpose of the show,” explains Bond. “Many models didn’t have wings, they made the singers seem like models, and it seemed very rushed.”

On the other hand, Mykaila Colandino thinks the Victoria Secret show should continue because they are an iconic event in fashion and also keeps it alive. “I think it was similar to some past shows but also different, it was a great balance,” Colandino said.

DISTRICT

Top games of 2024 make waves throughout Pleasant Valley

Students at Pleasant Valley High School have made their opinion known as to what they beleive are the best video games from 2024.

By: Julian Dempster

This year has been a gold mine for new games with the releases from Sony, Nintendo and other developers have made many games during the season. Students of Pleasant Valley High School were surveyed to see what their favorite games were of 2024.



Source: Playstation.com

Though Astro Bot won the Games awards in LA but the top favorite of the year in the high school at least is Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 with a 40% majority. Call of Duty is a series of first person shooter games first made in 2003 by Activision. Students like it for its multiplayer and the campaign but they didn't enjoy how repetitive the game could be and the lag.

Astro Bot itself is a 3D platform developed by Sony which is derivative of the Super Mario series by Nintendo. People enjoy its fun and simple

gameplay and pleasant visuals along with it being a tribute to all of Sony’s works with numerous references ranging from Sly Cooper to God of War.

The second most popular game chosen was EA Sports: College Football 25, a sports simulation game in a long series, with 31% popularity. The students who voted for it were of the sporty type and also enjoyed its multiplayer function but the bugs that aren’t being addressed dampens their experience along with the repetitive nature. Freshman John McDermott even said. “yes, even to people who don’t know college football, it’s a fun way to learn about teams and players.”



Source: IGN.com

The official second place of the game awards in Balatro, a rogue-like, deckbuilding twist on the classic game of poker, developed by indie studio Lo-

calThunk. People enjoy it for the unpredictability, easy to understand gameplay, and addictiveness as they continue to press their luck.



Source: Playstation.com

In third place there is Elden Ring: Shadow of Erdtree, DLC for Elden Ring, which was initially released in 2022. Elden Ring is a single player action adventure roleplaying game developed by FromSoftware. Students enjoyed the game for its interesting storyline, pristine graphics. Sophomore Akemi Yogui says that their least favorite game of the ones they have chosen is “Elden Ring because the story is too long and it gets kind of boring if you don't know what you're doing sometimes.” how it could be confusing and boring at times and because of that the gameplay takes a backseat as a result.

Shadow of the Erdtree

has struck some controversy in the official awards since it is not a new release and shouldn’t be counted for the awards, this has also brought how remakes and and remasters of old games should be considered since the jury is against making a separate category for DLC and remakes. Regardless of the controversy, Black Myth Wukong won third place.

Black Myth Wukong is an action role playing game heavily influenced from the Chinese folktale Journey to the West, the character of Sun Wukong, and Chinese mythology as a whole. People enjoy the game for its beautifully crafted world, compelling story with strong characters, and challenging yet rewarding combat.



Source: IGN.com

The Singer Family C&E Scholarship returns

PVHS brings back one of its more popular scholarships, offering \$7,500 in financial aid.

By: Sienna Pearce

With the start of the new school year, many have noticed their favorite opportunities making a comeback. One of these in particular is the return of Pleasant Valley’s Singer Family C&E Foundation Scholarship.

The particular scholarship has been going for about 20 years. Four Pleasant Valley students have been awarded this scholarship. This scholarship provided \$7,500 in financial aid every 4 years to these students.

“That is a total of \$30,000 per student for a total of \$90,000,” stated Kristine Porter, a reporter for Times News.

Requirements for the scholarship include students that show compassion, perseverance, the willingness to work with others, and integrity. However, the foundation does not take into account certain qualities regarding the intelligence of students.

“The foundation does not take into consideration class rank, achievements, test scores, or financial need,” stated Porter.

Brian Morgan, PVHS School Counselor, is recognized as Singer Family C & E Scholarship Foundation Chairperson for the Pleasant Valley High School. He details the various benefits that this scholarship could potentially provide.

“Any money that can be attained by a student for use at a college, trade school, technical school, or community college is always beneficial. The Singer Scholarship can only be used at an accredited four-year college or university,” stated Morgan.

Additionally, the process in order to select the finalists, and eventually the winners of this scholarship, remains fair and unbiased.

“Essays are rated by the other schools and the top 6 students are chosen to receive an interview in front of the School's Foundation Committee. From 6 finalists, the committee selects the top three that will earn the scholarship. At times, schools have been awarded for winners based on the Foundations Chairperson,” stated Morgan.

Specifically, this scholarship does not rely on small details for their applicants. This way, it gives everyone a fair shot.

“All students are equal when writing their essay. We have had students that write a paragraph and are finished. We also have had students type out a mini-novel in the one hour they are provided. Both ways have won in the past!” stated Morgan.

DISTRICT

Zach Prator leads on both court and field

Pleasant Valley High School’s very own Zach Prator has grown into the leader of both the boys soccer and basketball teams during his senior year.

By: Owen Gordon

Zach Prator the captain of the Pleasant Valley Boys Soccer and Basketball teams, serves as the soccer team’s goalkeep-er and the basketball team’s center or power forward.

He started his career at the young age of five years old with the West End Soccer Team. When he was at West End, he found a teammate that would be with him for his whole soc-er career, Dominic Balzano.

He chose to be a soccer player instead of a football or hockey player because his brother was also a soccer player, and he wanted to follow in his brother’s footsteps with his soccer career. Zach’s pres-ence on the field is powerful.

“If Zach was not on the team, I think we would struggle in the goal and having a leader that speaks when he needs to and leads when he needs to,” says Coach Blagogee.

Balzano went so far as to say that Prator has become a focal point for the team and would be worse without him.

“When we have moments where we crumble as a team, Zach is that person we revolve around to build up morale,” says Balzano.

Prator is a strong leader on the field with the practices for him consist of passing prac-

tices and a full possession game. However, he differs from the rest of the players because he will show up as early as possible, and, because he is a goalkeeper, he will practice his goalie skills with a trainer or he will practice with other goal-keepers.

Prator is also involved with the school’s basketball team to the same applause he has with his soccer team. He is also looked at as a leader for the basketball team.

He carries the leader-ship with soccer to basketball to help the team elevate itself to greater heights. Prator’s teammate, Sebastian Sacci, emphasizes how Prator leads the team in both good and bad moments.

“His personality helps us a lot as we have to fight through hard moments but also he always keeps it real with us. He doesn’t over-talk about anything and simply says things how they are,” explains Sacci.

His basketball coach, Bobby Hahn, has the same opinion about him.

“[Prator] is very reliable and committed all the time. He rarely misses practice or work-outs,” states Coach Hahn.

Zach’s ability to be the heart of the team has elevated the

two teams to new heights. His hard work for the soccer team has greatly paid off because he made twelve games with no goals scored against him helping the team go 16-5-1 and making it to the divisional round in the EPCs. His team-work skills take the teams newer heights than they once were.

When younger athletes ask advice from Prator, he knows he made it in his athletic career because he has enough skill that people want pointers from him.

“If you work hard, you will get results as long as you stay committed,” explains Prator



Zach Prator at the free throw line

NATION

Teams seek Super Bowl glory in the 2025 NFL Playoff

Expectations around the NFL are high as teams solidified their positions going into Wild Card Weekend.

By: Sienna Pearce



Source: Bleacher Report

It’s that time of year again! As the NFL playoffs steadily approach, many fans are anx-iously awaiting to see how their favorite team performs.

Playoffs officially begin on Jan. 11th and continue all the way until Feb. 5th for the world famous Super Bowl. But since the regular season recently came to a close, the list of teams in the playoffs is final-ized.

“The Chiefs have clinched the top seed in the American Football Conference (AFC), which is why they rested most of their starters on Sunday in a 38-0 loss to the Broncos,”

stated CBS Sports.

Because of this victory, the Chiefs claimed their AFC West champion title. Other division champions include the Bills as the AFC East champion, the Ravens as the AFC North champi-ons, and the Texans as the AFC South champions.

Along with these positions, the Wild Card spots are also given out. The Chargers and the Steelers claimed the first 2 Wild Card spots.

“After the Steelers lost on Saturday night, the Chargers knew they would clinch the five seed with a win over the Raiders, and that’s exactly what

they got on Sunday,” stated CBS Sports.

The final Wild Card Spot was awarded to the Broncos after their victory against the Kansas City Chiefs. This officially elimi-nated the Cincinnati Bengals and squashed their playoff hopes.

“Unfortunately I don’t think the Eagles will make it far in the playoffs,” stated Emily Heck-man, junior at Pleasant Valley High School.



Source: NFL.com

DISTRICT

Victoria Johns swims laps around the competition

With a decade of experience, Victoria Johns proudly represents Pleasant Valley as the sole member of the swim team.

By: Dakari Fleming

Competitors, cheering, and a first place medal are all com-mon occurrences in Victoria John’s life. She has been swim-ming for ten years,

With swim meets happening normally twice a month, except during spring, every weekday from 6 to 8:30 PM, it’s two and a half hours of nonstop training.

With normal meets having 2 teams, championships having 5 to 6 meets last four hours at most. Always having parents there supporting the teams and the competitors themselves can get really loud.

“At my first high school swim meet they announced my name and my first place rank, it made me feel like all my hard work fi-nally paid off,” informed Johns.

Just like other competi-tions, competitors get to show off the hours of dedication they put into learning, practic-ing, and training to get where they are. Sometimes, it is an

unforgettable experience, like a competitor’s first win or their most impressive feat. It can feel like just another meet or like a national event.



Victoria Johns mid-race

“The meet down in the University of Maryland. The whole atmosphere was electric, like the Olympics. It was an awesome experience,” stated Harold Johns, Victoria’s dad.

NATION

Tom Brady buys Las Vegas Raiders

The former NFL star was officially approved to buy a minority ownership of the Raiders.

By: Nolan Garrity

Tom Brady, former quarter-back for the New England Patri-ots and the Tampa Bay Buc-caneers has bought a minority stake in the Las Vegas Raiders

The seven-time super bowl champion has been making many moves in the NFL world after his retirement. On top of becoming a new announcer and NFL game analyst for Fox Sports, he has become a partial owner of the Las Vegas Raiders.

The owner of the Raiders, Mark Davis, was selling part of the team. Frank Megna, a Pleasant Valley High School se-nior, doesn’t believe that Brady has the money to actually own a team.

“He really doesn’t have that type of money; he only made 500 million in the NFL. I’m intrigued how he is going to ac-complish that,” states Megna.

With the Raiders getting a \$3.5 billion evaluation from Brady and his partner and co-investor Tom Wagner, they will have to pay \$244 Million for the stake in the team, as well as \$24 Million “flip tax” on top of the \$220 million equity of the team. Other owners across the league stated they should have paid at least 10%, which would have been roughly \$525 million.

Anthony Hale, a junior at Pleasant Valley High School, believes that this was a good long-term strategic move on Brady’s part.

“I think it is a good invest-



Source: NPR

With Brady becoming a minority owner, he has to follow certain rules, now known as the “Brady Rules,” that come along with the deal. He’s not allowed to be in another team’s facility, to watch practices, to attend broadcast production meetings, to criticize teams or referees, and he must follow the league’s gambling and tampering poli-cies.

Brady also had expressed how eager he was to help shape the franchise and use his expertise of being in the NFL to their advantage.

“I honestly think he is mak-ing very smart decisions taking advantage of his name and his overall brand,” explains Kevin LaRue, Pleasant Valley High School senior.

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley Girls Wrestling celebrates inaugural season

Pleasant Valley High School officially has their first girls wrestling team, expanding the sport to include everyone.

By: Sarah Larregui

Pleasant Valley High School wrestling has officially created a girls wrestling team for the 2024-2025 school year after a decade. This new team provides female athletes with a chance to show off their athletic abilities.

“We were behind the times and we wanted to get in with our girls being able to compete against other girls,” explains James Korcienski, Athletics Director at Pleasant Valley High School.

The process of gaining the approval to get a girls wrestling team wasn’t very difficult due to Korcienski being on board throughout the whole decision

making process. Meanwhile, getting through the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, known as the PIAA, was a constant battle to get the approval for girls wrestling to become an official sport.

“Last year was the first official year that PIAA had girls wrestling. Now it is the fastest growing sport in the State of PA,” states James Weiss, wrestling coach at PVHS.

Lily Decker, senior member of the wrestling team, believes that the preparation is no different than it was before when the teams were merged.

“The mental aspect of it, people think they’re going to

get hurt. You have to get over the fear of fighting someone,” states Decker.

The girls wrestling team started earlier with the boys wrestling team later changed into the varsity teams.

“Because it is a growing sport, we wanted to get on board and wanted our girls to have that opportunity to be a part of it,” explains Korcienski.

The first official wrestling match was on Dec. 4 against East-South. It included matches for both the girls and boys teams.



The 2024-2025 PV Girls Wrestling Team

DISTRICT

Schyler Herman remembered by Pleasant Valley

The memory of Schyler Herman was honored by both Pleasant Valley and Dieruff on Jan. 3

By: Elizabeth Engle

The Pleasant Valley Lady Bears Basketball hosted Schyler Night on Jan. 3, 2025 when Pleasant Valley played Dieruff High School. The event honors former student, Schyler Herman, who passed away due to Leukemia seven years ago.

“In the game of life, Schyler played with the heart of a champion. Her courage, determination, and love for sports inspired us all,” explains Morgan McCollan, assistant coach of the Pleasant Valley girls varsity team. “Though cancer has taken her from the field, her spirit will forever be part of our team, every team at our school, and in our hearts.”

Before the varsity game, the team had worn a pink shirt with puzzle pieces on the front to represent Schyler. Likewise, the other team had also represented Schyler by wearing a dark pink shirt.

“It’s incredible to witness how many lives Schyler has impacted, and not just in Pleasant Valley but in the other school districts as well. Watching Dieruff join us in pink was truly a joyful moment,” says Payton Shilady, Pleasant Valley freshman. “It really shows the power of the community and the support. Seeing schools unite for a

cause is heartwarming. When I stood there along with Dieruff, it was both an ecstatic and sorrowful moment, and you really knew why you were playing and for who during that game.”

Before the varsity game had started, they had said that they dedicated that night for Schyler Herman. Even though both the JV and varsity teams had lost to Dieruff, it was still a night of remembrance for Schyler.

“Schyler Night is super important to spread awareness about not only Schyler’s story, but pediatric Leukemia as well,” explains Alexia Polazzo, senior at Pleasant Valley.



The Pleasant Valley Girls Basketball team wearing pink to honor Schyler Herman

DISTRICT

Boys soccer team poised for a bright future despite tournament loss

The Pleasant Valley Boys soccer team silenced doubters as they overcame losing many senior players a year ago, proving that their future is a bright one with appearances in both the EPC and District tournaments.

By: Gerrit DeYoung

To begin the season, people underrated the Pleasant Valley High School soccer team. After a 12-7 record last year and about 10 seniors leaving, people thought they would not be as good.

Through all the adversity, the Pleasant Valley Bears stayed strong and pushed themselves to a 16-4-2 record with losses against Northampton, Freedom, and Parkland. This record left them in 5th place in the Eastern Penn Conference, which qualified them for the 25th annual EPC tournament.

In the EPC tournament, the Bears had a tough opponent in Northampton and lost to them in the regular season. This game was a tight defensive battle with Zach Prator, goalkeeper for Pleasant Valley, having 10 saves on the night.

This was all until in the second half when Adam Sopanski cleared the ball to James Morton who ended up scoring the only goal in a 1 to 0 victory for the Bears to advance them to the next round.

James Korcienski, the Athletic Director of Pleasant Valley and EPC Chairman, praised the performance, especially from Prator.

“Prator did an awesome job holding the one to nothing

that he did it, and I was not surprised that James Morton scored. He has played for me since freshman year and he always scores those types of goals, so I’m proud of them both,” explained Coach Blago-

gee praised his team’s effort, noting that there was a lot to learn from the game.

“The loss to Parkland sucks, but we noticed that we were lazy at times. We worked on positioning and effort. Players

they still qualified for the district tournament. In the district tournament, Pleasant Valley played Northampton for the third time this season.

This time it was different. Northampton won the first one, but Pleasant Valley won the second one.

Northampton’s offense came out firing, scoring three goals. Pleasant Valley ended up losing three to nothing to end their season.

Although Pleasant Valley lost, they have a bright future with only three seniors leaving and longer time for the coaches to find their players’ max potential.

“The seniors leaving, I wish them the best. For us to start preparing for next season, and for me to get the max potential out of all my players, I will start working on what they struggle with as soon as the season comes to an end.”



lead until the end of the game,” stated Korcienski.

After the game winning goal, Pleasant Valley’s Head Coach, Isaac Blagogee, elaborated of his team’s close victory.

“The pass was spectacular. The pass was spectacular; it is something we practice all the time. I was not surprised

that he did it, and I was not surprised that James Morton scored. He has played for me since freshman year and he always scores those types of goals, so I’m proud of them both,” explained Coach Blago-

need to think of its defense first, then we attack when the opponent least expects it. We put pressure on the opponent to make a good pass, and we do not give them any breathing room,” explained Coach Blagogee.

Although Pleasant Valley did not win the EPC tournament,