

BEAR FACTS



VOLUME 70 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025

NATION

Ceasefire in Gaza brings hope for lasting peace

The Gaza Ceasefire deal is progressing as many await for the final confirmation of the pause. There is a lot of talk on the hostages being released and the peace that will come after.

By: Victoria Johns



Source: NBC News

In an important development, a ceasefire has been reached between Hamas and Israel after approximately 15 months of war. This brought a temporary pause to the violence that has

been occurring between them both.

The ceasefire included a hostage and prisoner exchange by individuals that are being held by Hamas in Gaza. This was agreed on January 15,

2025 and the official date it had gone into effect was January 19, 2025.

The time period of those 4 days were ones of very intense negotiations and international pressures. The end result ended up consisting of a deal that is going to be carried out in three stages.

Stage one is said to consist of a complete ceasefire, the release of any hostages or prisoners, and allowing any displaced Palestinians to return to their homes. Stage two is where negotiations will begin 16 days after stage one starts and a permanent ceasefire will be put in place. Reconstruction of Gaza and the return of any bodies of dead hostages is what the final stage contains in

this arrangement.

Pleasant Valley High School World History teacher Mr. Brent Lewis had this message to share when asked about the Gaza ceasefire and the events leading up to it, "Why can't everyone just love each other?"

With his background in

teaching history he shared that a ceasefire could actually give the other country the opportunity to gather up their people, military and basic necessities. Although, individuals in both countries remain wary of the fact that there could be potential violations of the agreement that is to be put in place.



Source: Reuters.com

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley High School implements the new Check and Connect Program for its students

A new mentorship program called Check and Connect has begun at the high school, allowing teachers to volunteer as mentors for students in need.

By: Julian Dempster

There is new development in the building that can assist students in the middle school and high school that can help students. The Check and Connect Program is a learning program with the goal of giving certain students mentors to assist them in their learning journey.

This will be different from any tutoring programs

currently available since there won't be any extra teaching involved but trying to build a connection with students.

The program started at the University of Minnesota and was founded on the idea that "One caring adult can make a difference in a student's life." It has four major components, the Mentor (a person who builds strong relationships

with certain students), Check (monitoring performance levels), Connect (providing support to specially suit a student's needs), and Family Engagement (partnering with families working between home and school).

Pleasant Valley High School implements this program through their guidance office in order to reach as many students as possible.

"Our guidance department runs a Student Assistance Program, which identifies students that may be having struggles in the areas I mentioned above and need support. This program is just one of several responses to that need," explains Amber Chiafوليو, Assistant Principal.

Teachers are able to volunteer to be part of the program with it not having any major impact on the classroom. English teacher Danielle Brandes believes that the program actively helps teachers to

connect with various students that they may not necessarily teach.

"I personally feel that it gives me the chance to get to know students better, especially those who are younger to have someone to go to," says Mrs. Brandes.

This new development will hopefully be able to help students grow and learn with all necessary support.



Guidance Counselors: Carley Hartzell, Payton Storms, Kristen Stachina, and Cevrina Vasquez



Brian Morgan, PVHS Guidance Counselor



Danielle Brandes, Pleasant Valley High School English teacher and Check and Connect volunteer

NATION

TikTok disappears then returns during tumultuous weekend

The United States decision to ban the popular app has had a large impact on its users who began searching for alternatives, but after President Trump signed an order delaying the enforcement of the ban for 75 days, the future remains unclear.

By: Abigail Quizhpi

The United States Supreme Court's decision to uphold the ban on TikTok has sparked a range of reactions from users across the country, with some expressing frustration while others acknowledge the growing

concerns over data privacy and national security. than just an entertainment app, it played a significant role in their daily routines and social lives. Kayla Coar, a freshman at Pleasant Valley High School, shared her perspective on the ban.

ment but also for news, trends, and social connections.

Beyond entertainment, TikTok served as a major communication tool among friends, as users frequently shared videos, memes, and cultural trends through the app's messaging features. However, the uncertainty has users seeking other options, as NPR's Chloe Veltman and Chloe Weiner explained

"Many creators have been seeking out TikTok alternatives in the past few weeks, with some migrating to Instagram or YouTube," says Veltman and Weiner.

Shortly after the app was taken offline, however, it was restored due to an executive order signed by President Donald Trump.

"On his first day in office Monday, President Donald Trump issued an order telling the Justice Department not to enforce the TikTok law for at least 75 days," says Shira Ovide of the Wash-

ington Post.

As of now, the future of the app within the United States is unclear, but users still have access for the time being.

"I feel okay about it, but I do feel bad for the businesses that will suffer under the circumstances," explained Pleasant Valley junior, Rachel Costello



Source: BBC.com

concerns over data privacy and national security.

"A law that requires TikTok to find a new, non-Chinese owner or face a ban is scheduled to go into effect [Jan 19]," explains CNN's Clare Duffy.

For many, TikTok was more

"I was not surprised when I found out it was going to be banned for real this time; I actually thought it was just a hoax," Coar said.

This sentiment is shared by many users who relied on the platform not only for entertain-



Rachel Costello, junior

How Remote days came to be

Before COVID and before remote days, the Pleasant Valley district used to participate in normal snow days.

By: Max Sullivan

Recently, Pleasant Valley has had numerous remote days over the past couple of weeks due to very poor weather. This happens to beg the question, how are remote days decided?

There are many factors when it comes to deciding between a snow day, remote day, or two-hour delay. Superintendent Dr. Konrad explains more on this topic.

"First, I look at the weather and if there's an advisory or warning, there's a heightened level of concern regarding how the weather will impact students on the bus and when students and staff travel to and from school," states Konrad.

Of course the weather will not be the same for each area, so where does that leave the other schools in the district? Konrad also does have an answer for that.

"All schools in Pleasant Valley are impacted the same way when we decide to have a 2-hour delay, have a traditional snow day, or a remote instruction day," states Konrad.

Our principals do not have a say for whether it is a snow day, remote day, or two-hour delay. However, they still hold meetings and check into multiple classes to see if everything is running smoothly.

"During remote days we meet as principals and also check in on various classes throughout the day. I do not have any part in deciding whether a day will be remote or not," states Mr. Boylan.

DISTRICT

Alumni honored during annual Hall of Fame Ceremony

Pleasant Valley High School inducts five alumni into the school's Hall of Fame on Jan. 24 during the 2025 Hall of Fame Game.

By: Isabella London



The 2025 PV Hall of Fame inductees during the Hall of Fame Game.

The Hall of Fame Game will be hosted on Jan. 24 in order to commemorate this year's inductees for the Pleasant Valley Hall of Fame—Stephanie Wurst, Jake Sarwar, Patrick Kregeloh, Bradley Konawalik, and Aaron Fuhrman. The event will have current Pleasant Valley students playing a game, and during halftime the inductees will receive public recognition for their accomplishments.

In order to get inducted into the Hall of Fame you need to be a former Pleasant Valley student who excelled in athletics or academics, or you need to have contributed to the Pleasant Valley community in some way. A committee is in charge of picking who out of all the applications should be inducted.

James Korci-

ski, Pleasant Valley Athletics Director, is a coordinator of the event. He believes that it is great for our school and inspires our community to be better.

"I think it's important for our community to recognize students, former teachers, and community members...[It] gives us an opportunity to recognize their accomplishments, and it's a great opportunity for the community to come out and get involved in things," states Mr. Korcienski.

This year, 13 applications were submitted, but only five can be inducted into the Hall of Fame at a time. All inductees made incredible contributions to our school and community.

Stephanie Wurst was a 1991 graduate of Pleasant Valley, and she has broken many

basketball stats, including both being first female to have over 1000 points in basketball and having the highest number of three point shots in a game, season, and career. Unfortunately she passed away on Sept. 1, 2023, but she will be inducted posthumously.

Jake Sarwar graduated from Pleasant Valley in 2016 and contributed heavily to FBLA. All four years that he was in the club, he was an officer, serving the roles of secretary, vice president, and president.

Patrick Kregeloh graduated in 2010 from Pleasant Valley, and he excelled in his sports. He played baseball for four years and basketball for two, and he even won the District Championship his senior year.

"It's an honor. Also brings back memories of some of the great individuals I met along the way. I'm very fortunate I was able to be a part of something so special at Pleasant Valley," explains Kregeloh.

Bradley Konawalik graduated from Pleasant Valley in 1997, and he was involved in many sports and clubs. Not only did he play varsity soccer and baseball for three years, and varsity in basketball for two, but also he was in both National Honor Society and Art National Honor Society.

"So, it's amazing to

see what sports, this school, and each of our paths in life have done (so far) to affect others with our personalities, passions, and skill sets," says Konawalik, commenting on the significance of being inducted.

Aaron Fuhrman graduated in 2006 from Pleasant Valley and he excelled in baseball. He was lettered in varsity all four years of his high school career and was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 2006 Major League Baseball Draft.

Fuhrman provided some advice for current Pleasant Valley students about the importance of being involved in the community.

"Being involved in your community isn't just about what you can take—it's about what you can contribute. And trust me, those contributions will make a difference, both in your life and in the lives of those around you."

Source: howtogeek.com



DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley seniors prepare for end of the year bash

PV's Senior Prom is set for May 10 as students spend their time preparing for an evening of dinner and dancing.

By: Sarah Larregui



Source: Thepalacecenter.com

Set the scene! The most anticipated time of year for the Pleasant Valley High School seniors is sneaking upon us as Senior Prom is quickly arriving on May 10.

Pleasant Valley class advisor for Class of 2025, Julie Valenzuela, along with members of the Pleasant Valley community are organizing the yearly prom.

"Our motto is the more hands and great mind, the better for all of us," Valenzuela exclaims.

Senior Prom will be located at The Palace in Allentown on Saturday, May 10. Many community volunteers are encouraged to help with the event.

This is Valenzuela's first year ever-holding prom. Her great leadership is shown throughout having monthly meetings at the local ShopRite on the fifth of every month.

"This is my first year help-

ing the senior class! It is a lot of fun!" Valenzuela states.

The senior class is also responsible for the planning of this significant event. The help from the officers is what creates the whole process of prom.

The feelings of prom can be overwhelming at times, especially with everything seniors have to do to prepare.

"I feel excited, but a little stressed. The weight of buying my dress alongside incorporating our theme has me slightly uneasy," explains Denise Luna, senior at Pleasant Valley High School.

Even with the stress of preparing for the dance, prom is a good way for seniors to celebrate the end of their high school lives.

"Prom is a good way of saying goodbye, in an emotional way because you can spend time with friends" Carolaine Aguilar.

Pleasant Valley High School FBLA sweeps regionals

The Pleasant Valley High School FBLA team has once again been presented with numerous awards, and many participants are eligible for Hershey.

By: Dakari Fleming

Pleasant Valley High School's FBLA club went to the regional leadership conference, and out of that about 40 placed in the top six out of at least 500 participants. Those 40 that are eligible go on to the state leadership conference which is in Hershey.

For the regional conference, Palmerton, East Stroudsburg, Pocono Mountain schools, Lehigh, and Weatherly were in attendance with Pleasant Valley to compete in events to place in the top six.

"The regional leadership conference was an awesome event we got to see how well people performed on their test and it was really awesome to see how PV stayed competitive with the other schools in the region but ultimately it was really great seeing how every cheered each other on and we look forward to seeing the same thing again at states," informed Clark Po, Pleasant Valley senior and

current FBLA member.

Only competitors that place in the top six of the event that they choose to participate in are eligible to go to the state conference.

"Being 6 of the best for your event is hard and to get there it takes a lot of studying, preparation, and trial and error. Some events are more extensive than others but as a whole, it's challenging," stated Chelsea Henry, Pleasant Valley junior.



Chelsea Henry

NATION

Kendrick Lamar makes statement during record breaking halftime show

The 2025 Super Bowl Halftime Show was filled with symbolism as rapper Kendrick Lamar pushed boundaries during his performance, much to the delight of his fans.

By: Amelia Stenger

Whether you liked it or not, Kendrick Lamar had the internet ablaze following his 2025 Super Bowl LIX Halftime performance.

Kendrick Lamar, the only rapper to be awarded a Pulitzer Prize, opened the stage with Samuel L. Jackson, portraying himself as Uncle Sam. He welcomes the audience to "The Great American Game," which Lamar used as the design for his whole performance.

Lamar went through a list of tracks, including hits like "Humble," "DNA," "Euphoria," and "All the Stars." The background dancers were dressed in red, white, and blue clothing resembling the American flag.

"Lamar's superpower has long been his unique ability to navigate this exact tension between message and reach: to tell stories of American pain and oppression without coming off as preachy; to challenge audiences lyrically and musically while widening his listenership. And on Sunday, this balancing act was on full display," explained Andrew Chow of Time Magazine.

In the middle of performing the song "Luther," singer SZA came out singing, her vocals echoing throughout the stadium, making her stage time a hot topic on social media.

During his halftime performance, Lamar constantly

teased his hit song "Not Like Us,"

"I want to perform their favorite song but you know they love to sue," performed Lamar

This is in response to the lawsuit made by Canadian-rapper Drake, who is currently suing his own record label UMG for defamation and harassment. The rapper believes that his label pushed the song "Not Like

his performance, some were hesitant as it was later revealed that Lil Wayne was considered to perform, as the Super Bowl was happening in his hometown of New Orleans.

Kendrick fans who are familiar with his style of music and usual antics had nothing but kudos to send to the rapper.

"I thought it was solid," said Brent Lewis, a History teacher at



Source: RollingStone.com

Us" on Spotify with fake bots to essentially ruin his reputation.

During the show, background dances enticed Lamar to sing in five-time Grammy Award winning song by asking "You really about to do it?"

"They tried to rid the game but you can't fake influence," rapped Lamar as he transitioned to the hit, which became an iconic moment during his performance.

While most were ecstatic for

Pleasant Valley High School.

Some fans felt like his genre was too underground, most people wouldn't be able to appreciate his music as this was the first halftime performance that headlined singular rap artist.

His halftime show is now officially the most watched halftime show performance, breaking a previous record made by Michael Jackson all the way back in 1993.

DISTRICT

Pleasant Valley rocks the school with Spring musical

Pleasant Valley High School performed Schoolhouse Rock for their yearly musical, introducing the famous songs for a new generation.

By: Averie Acevedo

Pleasant Valley High School's drama club performed Schoolhouse Rock on March 21, 22, and 23 in the new auditorium. The cast, crew, and advisors all put a lot of effort into the show, making it a big hit.

The advisors for the drama club include Daniel and Marcie Mulligan and Craig and Donna Morris.

As a production, Schoolhouse Rock is one that combines catchy music with the ability to help people learn.

Mr. Morris responded, "We fell in love with the music, and we love what these songs do to help us learn things in school. So, we knew it was time to perform it one more time," explains Mr. Morris.

Putting together a musical is not easy. All members alike must work together to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

"We absolutely need communication," expressed cast member and Pleasant Valley junior Alayna Boland.

Drama club fosters a positive environment that helps members come out of their shell and get a taste of the acting world.

"[It] brings out another side of me where I can be myself on stage," stated senior Sarah Larregui.

Not only do school musicals provide students a chance to shine on stage, but Schoolhouse Rock in particular gives the community a rare opportunity to join in on the fun.

"I think it's a good place for the community to come see what we do," said Boland. "This show has a lot of audience participation."



The cast of Schoolhouse Rock

WORLD

South Korean president immediately arrested, faces trial after enacting martial law

President Yoon Sak Yeol of South Korea was arrested on Dec. 4 after enacting martial law on Dec. 3. He faces charges of insurrection at his trial to be held at a future date.

By: Ariana Brito

South Korea President Yoon Sak Yeol declared emergency martial law on Dec. 3. This was the first time in 40 years that a South Korean president has used this power.

Darice Draudt, of the "Carnegie Endowment for International Peace" explains that "[Yoon] issued a proclamation imposing immediate and sweeping



Source: npr.org

restrictions on political parties, public demonstrations, and labor organizing, the decree even placed all media under military control."

In the NPR news article, the author Chandelis Duster of NPR explains that South Korea has seen a number of political turbulence leading to the decision.

"Korea has seen numerous political clashes in which martial law was decreed including a pivotal episode in 1930 that left scores dead and Nation in shock," states Duster.

President Yoon was seeking to stay in power in the face of protest. Martial Law was declared because in times of war or emergencies such as civil

unrest and natural disasters. This avoids things being taken, arrests, warrants, even restrictions on speech.

South Korea was last declared Martial law in 1948, so this happening is new for everyone, trying to protect the country from any outside forces.

Political challenges were not an issue for Yoon Sak Yeol decisions.

George Fair, World Studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, explains why South Korea was under Martial Law.

"The President who was arrested needed control, and others believed it was a power move to get control," explains

Mr. Fair. "Some supported the South Korea Martial Law act, and a vast majority wanted him impeached.":

President Yoon was impeached on Dec. 4, and he has since been released from jail.

He is facing a future insurrection trial.



Source: pbsnews.com

DISTRICT

FBLA and NHS find new leadership

New advisors for FBLA and NHS at Pleasant Valley High School were announced, allowing the clubs to continue to grow.

By: Max Sullivan

Pleasant Valley High School is filled with plenty of after school clubs like Drama Club, Math Club, and even Graphic Novel Society. But two clubs specifically stood out who had gotten new advisors this year: FBLA and NHS.

FBLA has two new advisors this year—Susanne Rasely-Philipps and Amanda Giunta—who both took on the roles because students were excited to participate in the club. When asked about why they became the new advisors, Phillips says, "FBLA requires a faculty



Susanne Rasely-Phillips

member to be an advisor for the chapter to run. Mrs. Giunta was willing to be the key advisor to the group, but she needed a faculty member to support her work. I agreed for her and for the students who are invested in FBLA," explains Ms. Rasely-Philipps.

Ms. Rasely-Philipps has advised multiple clubs and classes before, and she has been an educator in Pleasant Valley for six years.

NHS has also gained two new advisors for this year: Ariella Mease and Amber Chiafulio, Assistant Principals at Pleasant Valley High School. They took on the roles in order to ensure that it continues running.

"I have been an advisor for clubs and activities when I was a teacher in my last district and am happy to help allow this club to continue by volunteering to lead," adds Mrs. Chiafulio.

Both of them joined Pleasant Valley as Assistant Principals this year, with Mrs. Chiafulio previously teaching Biology in the Bethlehem Area School District.



Amber Chiafulio



Ariella Mease

WORLD

Planets align to start 2025

A planetary parade graced the night skies, providing a cosmic experience for Earth.

By: Areli Ramirez

In Jan. 2025, there was a planet alignment that was visible for the entire month of January. Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune perfectly aligned in the night sky. Spectators can find Venus and Saturn in the southwest, while Jupiter shines brightly high overhead and Mars rises in the east.

A planetary alignment, also known as a parade of planets, is when several planets in our solar system appear to line up in the sky from our perspective here on Earth. This occurs specifically because of the specific orbital speeds and paths of the planets around the sun.

"This occurs when the planets' positions in their elliptical orbit around the sun line make them seem like they are close in the sky," stated John Conafay, CEO of Integrate Space.

The best time to watch the planet align would be after the sunset. Not all planets are visible to the naked eye. Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn will be bright enough to see without any equipment in the evening sky all month. Some other planets like Uranus will require binoculars and Neptune will require a telescope.

"These multi planet viewing opportunities aren't super rare, but they don't happen every year, so it's worth checking it out," NASA stated.

A Pleasant Valley Student, Emily Heckman remarked on how spontaneous this space event was, "I thought it was very cool to see and experience. It was a little difficult to see the planets, but I was able to see Mars."



Source: Independent.co.uk

EDITORIAL POLICY OF BEAR FACTS

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

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

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

EDITORIAL BOARD:

ARELI RAMIREZ
SIENNA PEARCE

PHOTOGRAPHER:

ARIANNA BRITO
JUSTIN DELGADO
ABIGAIL DOMINICK
KYARA GOMEZ
GIADA MORALES
SARAH LARREGUI
SOPHIA LOPEZ
ARELI RAMIREZ
ALEXIS SPRAGUE
AMELIA STENGER
SARAH STENLAKE

ADVISOR:

ALEXANDER MOUNTAIN

STAFF REPORTERS

AVERIE ACEVEDO
ARIANA BRITO
LOGAN CZURA
JUSTIN DELGADO
JULIAN DEMPSTER
ABIGAIL DOMINICK
KHLOE DOONER
DAKARI FLEMING
NOLAN GERRITY
KYARA GOMEZ
OWEN GORDON
VICTORIA JOHNS
JAMIE JONES
SARAH LARREGUI
ISABELLA LONDON
SOPHIA LOPEZ
FRANK MEGNA
GIADA MORALES

SIENNA PEARCE
KHLOE PHILHOWER
ARELI RAMIREZ
SERENITY RAYMOND
MAYA ROPCHOCK
ALEXIS SPRAGUE
SARAH STENLAKE
AMELIA STENGER
MAX SULLIVAN
GAVIN TONKAY
ABIGAIL QUIZHPI

In Our Opinion

While PVE and PVI have many field trips throughout the year, there is a drought at PVHS. The solution to this problem

In the elementary and intermediate school every year, the kids would be going on extravagant field trips to wonderful places. In elementary school, they would go to places like Quiet Valley, the Butterfly Sanctuary, and it would get kicked up a notch in the intermediate school when the students got to go to the DaVinci Science center.

However, when the students move up to the middle school there becomes a drought of

field trips that occur. In high school, the only field trips that are allowed are the ones that are made by the clubs like how FBLA goes to Anaheim California for students to test.

The lack of field trips for the students needs to change. To combat this problem the solution is to allow the seniors to go to Dorney Park for a class field trip.

There are some questions that may be brought up from

this like, how much would each ticket cost? Or how would this benefit the students on the field trip?

To answer the pricing of the tickets it would be 50 dollars for every student. The reasoning for the ticket prices breaks down into two factors, bus price and ticket prices.

According to Mr. Boylan, the price for one bus would be around \$2,730. This would then be multiplied by five for the number of buses to get to \$13,650 for the buses.

Luckily, the ticketing is less expensive than the transportation with a ticket going for \$38 per person. When crunching the numbers the trip would cost 50 dollars for each student.

Tickets for Dorney Park give many privileges like being able



Source: aaa.com

to ride on any one of the roller coasters. Dorney Park has around 60 attractions for students to see, but they would have to go after school to avoid complications with their classes.

The field trips also give inspiration to other student as something to look forward to. As Anayah Accelian, the senior class president, puts it, "It would be a funny way for the seniors to have one last moment together, and outside of school"

Another senior, Skye Grave De Peralta, says, "It would be great to get out of the school for once."

Likewise, Isaiah Garmony ,

a senior at Pleasant Valley High School, says, "It creates bonds and friendships that would last into the summer."

Fortunately, it wouldn't just affect the seniors of the, but it would also help out the underclassmen.

Chelsea Buleje, a freshman, says, "It shows me what my senior year will look like in the future."

A senior field trip wouldn't just be beneficial to the seniors because it would reduce the price of the prom tickets. It would also give the students something to look forward to when they became seniors.

HERSHEY

Source: prnewswire.com

OPINION

School funding a cause for concern nationally

Concerns over school funding rage across the country.

By: Maya Ropchock

Across the country, schools tend to spend funds on flashy essentials instead of beneficial classroom supplies. As schools continue to spend money on decorations around the buildings, upgrading students' safety and learning seem to be forgotten about.

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation explains, "Public schools for students in kindergarten through 12th grade [...] are financed through a combination of local, state, and federal dollars in proportions that vary across and within states."

Instead of our schools spending money on flashy interior decorations, they should prioritize upgrading the buildings with safer equipment and comfortable classrooms for students to learn in, which is an idea that many districts strive to achieve but aren't always capable of doing.

"I think the school should spend more money on upgrading appliances to better the building so everyone can feel more comfortable and safe," suggested Hailey Roschbach, a senior at Pleasant Valley High School.

In general, the difference between wealthy and poor districts can have big implications for the funding of any given school and, in turn, how those schools spend money. Wealthier districts tend to have newer materials and equipment. Poorer schools, however, tend to have to get by with what they already have.

"Most of the nation's superintendents and principals will tell you that whether they can afford a year-round art teacher or

new textbooks depends at least in part on the property wealth around them," researched NPR's Tramene Maye.

Schools all around the world need to stay focused on educating students and how better to serve them within the building. It is important to have a comfortable environment to motivate students to learn.

"Today, our school funding system is infinitely more complex, but still based on that one, powerful idea — that education is a public good, and paying for it could be considered a public obligation," explains Maye.



NATION

Coachella 2025 lineup announced to mixed reviews

This year's famous music festival will be a first for many artists, but fans have mixed feelings about the event.

By: Sarah Stenlake



Source: coachella.com

Often regarded as the biggest music festival in the United States, Coachella 2025 is a much-anticipated event for popular music listeners taking place in April in two parts. The first is from the 11th to the 13th, and the second is from the 18th to the 20th.

Headliners include Lady Gaga, Green Day, Post Malone, and Travis Scott.

This will be Lady Gaga's second time headlining the festival, her first time being in 2017, replacing Beyoncé after she had become pregnant. On this night, she made history as the first female headliner, performing global hits such as "Poker

Face," "Bad Romance," and "Born This Way."

This is not Post Malone's first Coachella performance either, as he was last on the lineup in 2018. Recently making his debut as a country music artist, Coachella is not his only large performance as of lately.

According to Ema Sasic of Desert Sun, "Most recently, he performed at the Empire Polo Club during his Stagecoach 2024 set, jam-packed with special guests."

Rapper Travis Scott was set to headline in 2020, however Coachella this year was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He was a featured

performer in 2017. However, Scott's return became subject to controversy due to his "Astroworld" tragedy in 2021.

"Momentum for his return to Indio then slowed after the infamous disaster at his 2021 Astroworld Festival that left 10 people dead," explains Kathryn Milewski of Live 365.

This spring will be Green Day's Coachella debut, although front man Billie Joe Armstrong has performed as a special guest of The Replacements in 2014.



Coachella 2024

Source: marca.com

Other anticipated performers include Missy Elliot, Megan Thee Stallion, Zedd, FKA Twigs, and Charli XCX.

Despite these notable performers, the reception of this event lineup has been mixed, as Emily Heckman, junior at Pleasant Valley High School, suggests.

"This year's Coachella is garbage," says Heckman.

Others are excited for Gaga's likely return to pop music, as well as Scott's return to headlining, after the cancelation of his previous set.



Source: rollingstone.com

TRUMP'S 100 DAYS OF PRESIDENCY

Withdrawing the United States From the World Health Organization

The United States intends to withdraw from the World Health Organization.

Expanding Access To In Vitro Fertilization

A report on protecting IVF access and reducing costs must be delivered within 90 days of the order.

70+
**EXECUTIVE
ORDERS SIGNED**

Application Of Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act To Tiktok:

Instructs the attorney general to not enforce the TikTok ban for 75 days. The ban was previously enacted by Congress in 2024 and upheld by the Supreme Court.

Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Gov:

It is the policy of the United States to recognize two sexes, male and female.

Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports:

Blocks federal funds that allow transgender women to compete in female sports. Removed the US from professional organizations that allow transgender athletes.

Ending Radical Indoctrination In K-12 Schooling:

Instructs Cabinet leaders to create a plan within 90 days to stop federal funds from supporting discriminatory practices and gender ideology in K-12 schools.

Executive Orders: Official documents through which the President of the United States manages the Federal Government.



NATION

Las Vegas Cybertruck catastrophe raises safety concerns

The shocking cybertruck explosion has raised concerns on these futuristic cars. Many people believe it was not a coincidence because it exploded near a Trump Hotel.

By: Khole Dooner

An explosion outside the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas has raised concerns about veteran mental health after authorities identified the driver as a highly decorated Army soldier. The incident, which took place when a Tesla Cybertruck packed with fireworks detonated is being investigated as an isolated act, according to the FBI.

Jerme Schwartz, the FBI acting special agent in charge, states in the interview with NBC "We believe this is an isolated incident." Law enforcement officials confirmed that the driver, whose name has not yet been released, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound just before the explosion.

According to an AP News report, "The highly decorated Army soldier inside a Tesla Cyber truck packed with fireworks that exploded outside Trumps International Hotel in Las Vegas."

While the motive behind

the incident remained under investigation, some believe it highlights the struggles many veterans face after returning to civilian life. The transition can be especially difficult for those suffering from PTSD, a condition affecting many combat veterans.

Brent Lewis, Pleasant Valley High School social studies teacher, a Navy Veteran shared his perspective, saying, "I don't know much about the investigation at this point, but it seems like this person showed classic

signs of PTSD. Veterans need more support and the government needs to recognize this and fund it."

This tragic event serves as a reminder of the importance of mental health resources for veterans. Experts continue to push for more government funding and support systems to assist those struggling with PTSD.



Source: PBS News

CEO murder shocks the business world

The murder of the CEO of UnitedHealthcare was unexpected and took the country by storm. It was on national news, and many were helping with the manhunt.

By: Sophia Lopez

At the age of 50 the CEO of UnitedHealthcare, Brian Thompson, was killed in Midtown Manhattan, New York City on December 4, 2024. The accused murderer was identified as Luigi Mangione.

Mangione had allegedly planned his attack against Thompson months prior to the assassination. Mangione was eventually arrested on Dec. 9 and carried the murder weapon used to act out that crime.

"As alleged, Luigi Mangione traveled to New York to stalk and shoot Thompson in broad daylight in front of a Manhattan hotel," stated the Office of Public Affairs U.S. Department of Justice.

To the surprise of many people, many Americans sympathize with Mangione. More specifically, they sympathize with him because of his looks and because of how highly educated he is.

Jeremy Goff, social studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School explains people see the actions of Mangione.

"I think it's split. I think most people, the majority of people don't agree with his actions even if you have anger issues towards the system, violence is generally not the way you should go about achieving these results in the civil society. However, from what I understand there's some people that support him almost to the point where they turned him into a hero," stated Mr. Goff.

Officials state that Mangione wasn't even associated with UnitedHealthcare. There has been no record found that he was a client with the company.

The federal charges consist of one of using a firearm to commit murder, which carries a maximum potential sentence of death; two stalking counts and a firearms offense. The Pennsylvania charges consist of carrying a firearm without a license, forgery, falsely identifying himself to the authorities and possessing "instruments of crime".

His indictment date was agreed on by both sides to be on Jan. 18, but was then postponed until Feb. 17. Luigi Mangione has pleaded not guilty to the charges presented to him.

"The suspect accused of killing United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson has pleaded not guilty to murder and terrorism charges in New York state" stated BBC.



Source: abcnews.com

Bourbon Street reels after vehicle drives into crowd

10 people were killed on Jan. 1 after a driver drove into a crowd and continued to open fire at police.

By: Isabella London

On January 1, 2025 a person drove a vehicle into a crowd of people on Bourbon Street, New Orleans. This attack killed at least 10 people and injured dozens of others.

However, the attack did not end there. According to the FBI National Press Office, the person who drove the vehicle proceeded to exit and fire upon law enforcement.

"Law enforcement returned fire, and the subject was pronounced deceased at the scene. Two law enforcement officers were injured and transported to a local hospital," the FBI stated.

The culprit was identified as Shamsud-Din Jabbar, a 42-year-old U.S. citizen from Texas. The vehicle was a Ford pickup truck, which the man did not own and was rented out from elsewhere.

An ISIS flag was located on the vehicle, meaning that this event was most likely a terrorist attack. Anthony Chupa, teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, has expressed the significance of this attack and how it differs from others in the past.

"This attack was on a much larger scale with more people suffering. Smaller attacks happen all the time, but it's not as big," he stated.

Attacks involving vehicles and crowds have happened in the past, and it is only perceived that they will continue to happen in the future. The Internet Crime Complaint Center has made a public service announcement related to this attack.

"Targets have included pedestrians, law enforcement or military members, and crowded public venues, including festivals and commercial centers, which generally are accessible from roadways," they stated.

It is not conclusive whether the attacker had direct contact with the ISIS group, or if the attack was related to other events like the Cybertruck incident. However, the severity of the attack is still huge.



Source: NPR.org

Comedian comes out of retirement to film "Sonic 3"

Jim Carrey came out of his 2022 retirement to film the third installment in the Sonic the Hedgehog franchise.

By: Gavin Tonkay

Jim Carrey, age 63, has just announced his un-retirement during the premier of Sonic 2. He said he is only un-retiring for the "Sonic 3" movie.

"I came back to this universe because, first of all, I get to play a genius, which is a bit of a stretch. And I just, I bought a lot of stuff, and I need the money, frankly," joked Carrey.

He is notable for his roles in comedy movies such as "Dumb and Dumber," "The Mask," and "Bruce Almighty," and the Sonic movies.

He won countless rewards throughout his career such as the Golden Globe, Teens choice awards, and MTV movie and TV awards.

Mrs. Tonkay, a Jim Carrey fan, has a strong sense of nostalgia when she watches his movies.

"My most memorable movie

is The Grinch because it reminds me of being a child again."

She also said that she supports him un-retiring because she enjoys the movies he's in and always gets a good laugh out of his movies.

Although, she did say how she was going to miss seeing him in new movies because he is one of her favorite actors of all time.



Source: foxnews.com

NATION

Grammy Glory, the Highlights and Surprises of an exciting night

There were many unforgettable moments from music's biggest nights. It was an epic night for many wins and show stopping performances.

By: Giada Morales

On Sunday, Feb. 2 the 67TH Grammy Awards were held in Los Angeles at the Crypto.com Arena, focusing on honoring the resilience of firefighters and relief efforts for the LA wildfires. The event allows musical artists from different genres to come together to accept awards for certain categories.

For these awards, an academy called the Recording Academy votes for musical artists in these certain categories and decides who wins. These categories consist of record of the year, album of the year, best new artist, and many more.

To many, this show was important with the new issues between certain artists and many new pop stars emerging throughout the year. Some things people were most interested in was Kendrick Lamar and if he was going to perform "Not Like Us" or not, new artists

like Chappel Roan, and old artists like Sabrina Carpenter getting the attention they deserve.

During the show, there were also noticeable performances like were Chappel Roan, Sabrina Carpenter, Billie Eilish, and Charlie XCX.

The award show is not without controversy, however, as many people believe the Grammys are rigged because people other artists deserve awards that were given to more popular artists. One such instance is Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter" winning best new album over Billie Eilish's "Hit Me Hard Not Soft."

"I feel like it is rigged. I wanted Billie Eilish to win and I do not think Beyoncé deserved the award," stated Pleasant Valley High School freshman, Serenity Cueveas.

A solution to the image of the Grammys being rigged is to allow fans to vote, which seems

to be gaining popularity.

Samantha Miller, Pleasant Valley High School sophomore, echoes this idea, especially because it will make the whole process more fair.

"I think the people should be allowed to vote. Allowing the academy to vote seems unfair to some artists since no one really knows what goes behind the scenes when voting," explains Miller.

Similarly, Andrew Espitia, Pleasant Valley junior,

questions the legitimacy of Beyoncé's win.

"They seemed extremely unfair. I didn't even hear Beyoncé's album on the radio. It was overall unfair and other artists deserved that award," Espitia stated

While the show still holds value for recognizing musical talent, more recognition should be given to a wider variety of artists rather than big name stars who usually win.



Source: teenvogue.com

NATION

Golden Globes returns to form as Emilia Perez wins big

Fashion and humor shines as Nikki Glaser leads the star-studded 82nd Golden Globe Awards to high praise a year after fans were left disappointed.

By: Sarah Stenlake



Source: hollywoodreporter.com

On Jan. 5, the 82nd Golden Globe Awards took place. The much anticipated event in film and television was hosted by comedian Nikki Glaser.

Her performance as a host was met with positive responses, in contrast to last year's host, comedian Jo Koy, who seemed to bomb his monologue.

"Nikki Glaser cleared the incredibly low bar set last January by Jo Koy as this year's host," remarks Katie Rayford of Slate.com.

As for the fashion, Golden Globe night held a seemingly hit-or-miss theme on the red carpet. Some feel the guests generally did not disappoint, others felt the outfits did not in fact meet their expectations. Most notably, Zendaya, Anya Taylor Joy, and a handful of others were lauded for their looks.

As for the award recipients, this night's winners were met with some criticism. Most notably, the movie "Emilia Perez" sweeps the nominations and wins. Some felt this movie was undeserving of such a status.

"Far more bewildering is 'Emilia Perez' winning for Best Picture - Musical or Comedy. I've had a hard time believing the film ever had a shot. But apparently it does," shares Keith Glarington from keithandthemovies.com.

Sienna Pearce, junior of Pleasant Valley High School, has voiced her discontent with a nominee's loss in particular, Timothée Chalamet,

"Timmy was snubbed." She expressed.



The cast of Emilia Perez accepting their award.

Source: pbs.com

NATION

Oscar buzz at a new low

The Academy Awards had some memorable moments but were received with mixed reviews overall

By: Owen Gordon

The 97th Academy Awards, known commonly as the Oscars, are one of the most prestigious award ceremonies for actors around the world. It is known for elevating an actor's career to new heights, bringing with it recognition to their talents for just being nominated.

For a long time, the Oscars garnered high respect and viewership for their awards with them hitting a record high viewership in 1998 with 57.25 million viewers. The Oscars acquired an average of 40 million viewers each year in the 2000's and the 2010's, but there has been a huge decrease afterwards.

In 2021, they saw an all-time low for viewers with it reaching 10.4 million viewers which can be credited with the COVID-19 pandemic, but the show still hasn't recovered fully from the dip in viewership. The viewership of the Oscars in 2025 shows some increase with it being 19.7 million viewers.

Even though some people say that this year's Oscars were amazing, most people nowadays don't have enough time to watch the Oscars.

Katelyn Calhoun, a senior at Pleasant Valley High School, suggested the reason for the lack of interest is the timing of the event.

"It started too late at night," explained Calhoun.

While the Oscars started at 7 PM and went to 11 PM, the timing of the event is hardly the

only issue it faces in regards to remaining relevant. In the age of streaming television, access has become a major issue for people.

Another major problem is the cultural shift of younger generations away from what is deemed to be "unimportant." A product of the COVID-19 mindset, people seem to care less for award shows as of recently because they have more important things to do.

"I live life and don't have time for ridiculous award shows that do nothing for the American people," says Juan Olmo, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

While the Oscars was once a well respected institution, it may never reach the respect that it once had. To do this, the Academy needs to find a way to cut through the noise, otherwise they risk losing the prestige they once had.



Source: reuters.com

STATE

PA preps for the Keystone testing

Every school in the state of Pennsylvania is required to take the Keystone standardized tests as a pathway to graduation.

By: Khloey Philhower

Keystones are an essential part of high schoolers lives every year. They are something every student must take in order to graduate.

Insight from Assistant Principal and Keystone School Assessment Coordinator, Amber Chiafulio is provided.

Chiafulio states "Keystone proficiency is the primary way to achieve a graduation pathway once the course grades and credits needed have been met in order to award a diploma."

Schools seem to stress the importance of the Keystone testing since President Obama signed every Student Succeeds Act in 2015. This act makes sure that each state has criteria that they meet to help its students.

During all this testing, it's important to also think of the stress it may put on students. This is supported by Maricatherine Garr who is a Science teacher and Department Head at Pleasant Valley. Garr gives out Biology Keystones every year to the 9th graders at Pleasant Valley.

Garr states, "The bigger issue is it can lead to too much teaching to the test, and not enough teaching and understanding of the actual science."

She explains that many students will just retain the information until one test or quiz and they later on realize that their graduation may be in jeopardy and they have to redo the exam.

In Pleasant Valley if you don't pass your Keystone test for a specific subject the school will put you in a helping class, ex. Foundations in Biology. This is class will help you to pass that keystone so you can continue on your path to graduation

After speaking with Garr more stated, "Some students are going to struggle with the bio test not because of biology, but because they struggle to read or because they are learning English".

She explains that students' test grades might not look great but they actually do know a lot of biology, many factors go into test taking and learning and it all depends on the particular student.

NATION

“Robot Umps” make their way to the Big League as the 2025 season begins

After testing the technology in the minors, MLB is set to debut the Automated Ball-Strike System in the 162 game season, allowing teams to challenge calls made by an umpire up to three times per game.

By: Nolan Garrity

Major League Baseball has announced their plans to integrate robot umpires during spring training at 13 stadiums hosting 19 teams. If the testing goes as good as they hope, there is a possibility for the system to have a permanent role in the game by 2026 after having been able to use the technology since 2019.

Having robot umpires in the MLB directly ties into the Automated Ball-Strike System, known colloquially as “ABS”.

ABS uses fast processing cameras and complex ways to determine whether a pitch is

a ball or a strike, which is similar to what professional tennis matches use.

Rob Manfred, the MLB Commissioner, explains the obstacles facing the use of ABS in the majors.

“An agreement for big league use would have to be reached with the Major League Baseball Umpires Association, whose collective bargaining agreement expires [Dec. 1, 2024],” explains Manfred.

Both the league and the MLBUA came to an agreement before the end of the calendar year, allowing for the use



A look at how the ABS system works

Source: mlb.com

of ABS to pass its most difficult hurdle. Now, things get interesting.

Manfred had stated “there will be two parts of this test. It's what the clubs think about it and also what the players think about it. We're going to have to sort through both of those.”

With that being said, there are some mixed feelings about these brand new robot umps.

Former All-Star catcher for the New York Yankees, Jose Trevino questions Manfred's understanding of the game.

“I don't think Manfred has any idea what's going on

whenever he talks about that kind of stuff. He's obviously never put the gear on, so he doesn't know,” explains Trevino.

Anthony Hale, a junior at Pleasant Valley High School, does believe that while it will have an overall impact, not everyone is going to like the change.

“I think that it's a really good idea but not everyone is going to be happy. People are going to complain no matter what. All in all it will definitely be interesting to see how much the robot umpires will impact the game of baseball,” says Hale.



The new ABS radar system

Source: AP News

NATION

Drama and speed rev up at Daytona 500

William Byron won his second consecutive Daytona 500 on Feb. 16 as penalties and damage pile up around the track, proving that the race is more than just 500 miles.

By: Frank Megna

The Daytona 500 took place Sunday, Feb. 16. It is one of the biggest races in NASCAR, if not the biggest race of the year. All the diehard NASCAR fans go to this event.

The Daytona 500 has been going on since 1982. The “500” in the name represents the 500 miles that drivers have to travel to win the race, which is 200 laps around the two-and-a-half-mile speedway.

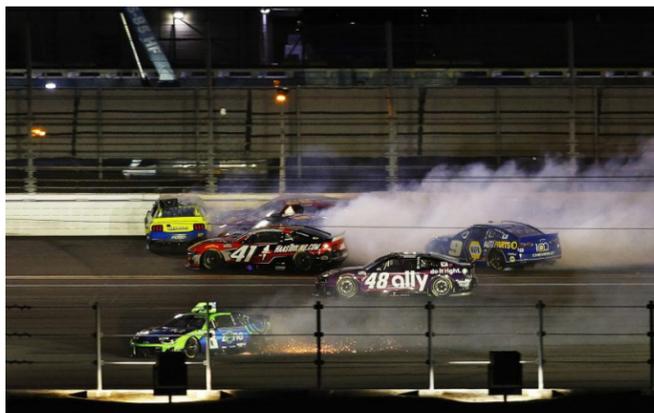
Kevin Strouse, student at Pleasant Valley High School, provides what it would mean to be at the Daytona 500.

“It would be so cool,” says Strouse.

One of the bigger stories this year was that of 65-year-old Mike Wallace, who was trying to qualify for this year's race but was denied by NASCAR.

“Wallace has not raced on any intermediate or larger tracks since 2015, leading to his rejection for Daytona consideration. It would also have been Wallace's first time racing in NASCAR's Next Gen car, which was introduced in 2022,” explained Field Level Media via ESPN.

This year, the Daytona 500 ended in dramatic style with William Byron winning his second consecutive Daytona International Speedway classic.



Source: NASCAR.com

The race featured a number of weather stoppages and sensational wrecks during competition but ended in overtime fashion, showing off the strategic prowess of Byron as well as his amazing driving talent.

The drama started with Chase Briscoe taking the pole for Joe Gibbs Racing, but Byron soon proved the superiority of the Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet by passing Briscoe at the start of the event.

The turning point was when there were five laps remaining when a collision between Cole Custer and Christopher Bell created a multi-car mess, sending Ryan Preece airborne and leading to a red flag and eventual overtime restart.

“This year's Daytona 500 had 35 of the 41 cars in the race involved in an accident

based on the NASCAR race report and information from Racing Insights. That's the most number of cars in a crash in the Daytona 500 since 37 were involved in incidents in the 2019 race,” explained Dustin Long of NBC Sports.

In the final two-lap shootout, Byron, who restarted ninth, navigated through a backstretch pileup by Denny Hamlin, Austin Cindric, and multiple other cars to allow him to emerge unscathed and assume command., Byron held firm until the checkered flag, claiming his 14th NASCAR Cup Series win.

This win is particularly notable for Hendrick Motorsports, their 10th Daytona 500 win and breaking the tie with Petty Enterprises as the most successful teams in event history. Tyler Reddick finished sec-

ond, followed by seven-time series champion Jimmie Johnson in third, Chase Briscoe in fourth, and John Hunter Nemechek in fifth.

Despite enduring a near-four-hour rain delay, the 2025 Daytona 500 was a show for both drivers and spectators alike, solidifying William Byron as a top figure in NASCAR's top event.



Source: NASCAR.com

Oakland no more: A's look ahead with move to Las Vegas

MLB Athletics set to play in Sacramento during the 2025 season in preparation for their move to Vegas.

By: Jamie Jones

The Oakland Athletics plan to move their team to Las Vegas, Nevada for the 2026 season.

Edward Slatky, a Math teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, talks about how he feels about the relocation of the Oakland A's.

“To me, it's sad. The fans are passionate in Oakland, but ownership didn't want to spend the money on renovations or, more importantly, a competitive team,” explains Mr. Slatky

Recently, there were ongoing issues with the A's organization in Oakland that are the product of poor ownership. Ideally, the move will help fix these problems.

“It will definitely generate some energy. Again, the fans, while passionate, were not coming out to see the team as ownership did not put a successful team on the field. The ballpark was in need of renovations, but never got them. In 2025, in Sacramento, they will be playing in a smaller, more intimate setting, so I think that will help the energy and engagement,” stated Mr. Slatky.

The Oakland Athletics announced their final season in Oakland, revealing that despite efforts.

Team owner, John Fisher, expressed gratitude to the City of West Sacramento and the Kings for providing a temporary home at Sutter Health Park until their new ballpark in Las Vegas is ready.

“We explored several locations for a temporary home, including the Oakland Coliseum. Even with the long-standing relationship and good intentions on all sides in the negotiations with Oakland, the conditions to achieve an agreement seemed out of reach,” explained Fisher.

The A's ownership does not want fans to think that they are turning their backs on Oakland, however. Their time as the Oakland A's is still a valuable one.

“We understand the disappointment this news brings to our fans, as this season marks our final one in Oakland. Throughout this season, we will honor and celebrate our time in Oakland, and will share additional details soon,” Fisher said via press release.

DISTRICT

Eagles soar to victory into Super Bowl LIX

The Philadelphia Eagles handed the Kansas City Chiefs a decisive defeat, winning 40-22 to give the franchise their second Super Bowl championship.

By: Sienna Pearce

Jerseys were washed. Bets were placed. Buffalo chicken dip was cooking in the oven. It was finally time. On Feb. 9 2025, millions of viewers world-wide tuned in to witness the annual NFL Super Bowl in New Orleans. But many weren't expecting the absolute carnage that occurred during the game.

In a shocking turn of events, the Philadelphia Eagles absolutely destroyed the Kansas City Chiefs with a final score of 40-22. While the Chiefs gave it their best shot, they were no match for the Eagles' top notch offense and defense.

"Complete and utter dominance. On the biggest stage, with the Chiefs dominating the headlines in their attempt to win a third consecutive title, the Eagles comprehensively man-handled them in New Orleans," stated Bill Barnwell, a reporter for ESPN.

Many were mystified as to



Source: USA Today



Source: The Morning Call

the way the Chiefs played. The two-time consecutive Super Bowl winner Patrick Mahomes, ended up throwing two interceptions, a new high for him.

"Mahomes threw an interception that was returned for a 38-yard touchdown by rookie cornerback Cooper DeJean, on his 22nd birthday no less. With under two minutes to play in the first half, Mahomes threw his second pick, this time to Eagles linebacker Zack Baun, deep in Chiefs territory," stated CBS News.

To add fuel to the fire, the Chiefs ended up stopping the newly awarded AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year-Saquon Barkley, allowing him to only run 52 yards. However, the Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts was awarded the Super Bowl MVP, a high honor. He finished

17 of 22 for 221 yards, with two touchdowns and an interception. Additionally, he rushed for 72 yards and another score.

"I feel very satisfied with the Eagles win and it's bringing me back to 2017," stated junior Emily Heckman.



Source: foxsports.com

NATION

Major League Baseball set to begin another marathon season

Major League Baseball begins their 162 game season on March 18 with a two game series in Japan as teams begin trek to the World Series.

By: Logan Czura

The Dodgers and Cubs get an early start beginning March 17 and March 18 with a two game series in Tokyo, Japan while the rest of the league waits for their seasons to open on March 27.

According to Peter Brody, a writer for the Pinstripe Alley, "baseball is a game of streaks and anything can happen in this game"

like the Dodgers, Phillies, Yankees, Mets, and even the Red Sox because they acquired a few good players this offseason that could lead to them having a winning season and also making it into the playoffs.

There are also teams that aren't expected to do much but can surprise a lot of people. Teams like the Rangers and even the Athletics because

the Pitcher List.

Even a team like the Angels could be better after getting their superstar Mike Trout back from injury, and he's also moving full time to right field. Trout's has been a center fielder his whole career but chose to move to right field this season to do what's best for his team.

With this all being said, we really have no idea what's going to happen this upcoming major league baseball season.

We can always predict what we think may happen, but it's just predictions.

Overall the Major League season is a 162 game season and anything is possible so we just have to sit back and see what two teams end up in the World Series in October and also we will see what team ultimately ends up winning it all and becoming World Series Champions.

"Every year there's optimism for every team. Everybody starts off with the same record," explains Edward Slatky, Math teacher at Pleasant Valley High School. "Every team has hope."

they showed in the second half of last season that they are improving in a big way.

"The A's wouldn't be considered a 'legitimate' team in the broader context of 'competitive.'" But, as it would turn out, they can hang offensively with a number of teams that were considered to be so at the season's outset," explains Randy Holt of



Source: mlb.com

Entering the 2025 Major league baseball season we really don't know what's going to happen because every team made new acquisitions this past offseason, so every team looks different and isn't the same team that they were in 2024.

There are some teams that are expected to have a big year

DISTRICT

Custodio sets the tone for PV Wrestling

Victor Custodio entered his last season as a member of the Pleasant Valley High School boys wrestling team.

By: Alexis Sprague

Victor Custodio, a senior at Pleasant Valley High School, is currently on the boys' varsity wrestling team weighing in at 127.

Custodio has been a wrestler for two years now. He is also planning on furthering his wrestling journey after high school. His favorite wrestling moves to do on others in the fireman's carry.

"My favorite memory would be winning my wrestle off to earn a spot on varsity," says Custodio.

His record for the year is currently 10-2. Custodio respects the coaching staff of the wrestling team and thinks they have done great things for the program.

Aldin Vukel, also on the Varsity boys wrestling team at Pleasant Valley High School, had some nice things to say about Victor. They have now been wrestling together for two years and have created a great bond.

According to Vukel, Custodio is always pushing to be his best. When he is out on the mat he knows what he needs to do to get the win for the team.

Good memories Vukel and Aldin share are their bus rides home together and getting fourth place at one of their tournaments.

"Victor is seriously the hardest worker I know," Aldin stated.



Victor Custodio mid-match

STATE

Philadelphia 76ers finding new home

The Philadelphia basketball team has backed out of their new arena plan and instead decided to proceed with a new company for their new arena.

By: Kyara Gomez



Source: The Philadelphia Inquirer

After years of controversy, The Philadelphia 76ers have decided to abandon their new arena plan based in Center City.

Early January of the new year a representative from the team confirmed with news reporters, the Sixers have decided to back out of their original plan. Later it was revealed they would relocate with a new deal with Comcast Spectator.

The original proposal for a new stadium had sparked major controversy amongst locals and fans. Mid December of 2024, Official Philly City approved the 1.3B arena, a plan which created major protests and outburst of those opposed to the deal. The plan that enraged many was to create a giant new stadium and tear away local businesses to create

space for this upcoming project.

People argued it would bring economic disaster to the intersection of Market and Filbert streets at 10th and 11th streets. On the edge of Chinatown. Which had local businesses and residents concerned for the public funds within the city.

"They don't understand the Full scale of impact... Chinatown getting pennies out of the deal" a protester says to Philadelphia 10.

Nonetheless after the news broke out over the confirmed cancellation locals and fans had mixed feelings.

"I didn't think they would have given up after so long, it seems pointless," states Nick Bruckman, Junior at Pleasant Valley High-school.

Others like protesters were ecstatic they would leave their community alone.

As for the 76ers, their new plan includes staying down in South Philly where they will build another "home" for the 76ers and Flyers in the South Philadelphia Sports Complex.

NATION

Women's Pro Baseball League sets date for inaugural season

The Women's Pro Baseball League is ready to begin in 2026 as women's sports surges in popularity with the rise of Caitlin Clark, Angel Reese, and the WNBA.

By: Abigail Dominick



Source: wpbl.com

A new year means new announcements, especially in the sports world. Recently, the Women's Pro Baseball League (WPBL) announced their future debut for the summer of 2026.

This will be the first pro women baseball league in America since the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League ended in 1954. They expect to have six professional teams participating in the league by the start of the very first season along with a complete advisory board.

"This is definitely a great time for women's sports and pro sports as men and others have finally figured out how



Justine Siegal throwing batting practice in 2011
source: NBC News

great women are as athletes," explains Justine Siegal, co-founder of the WPBL.

The WPBL took advantage of the recent explosion in popularity of college and professional women's sports. They give credit to players like Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese who helped draw attention to not only the WNBA, but to female sports as a whole.

The WNBA wasn't the only league that saw expansion this year, as professional women's hockey saw record-breaking attendance as well.

"The WNBA had its most watched regular season in 24 years thanks largely to its star rookie class led by Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese. The inaugural season of the Professional Women's Hockey League brought in record crowds," stated an article from AP News.

The creation of a new professional sports league is no walk in the park. The league is currently struggling to find possible professional prospects as women's baseball is simply not as popular as other sports

especially at the high school and college level.

"No state offers girls baseball as a high school sport, according to representatives at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). The NCAA and the NAIA have softball for women but not hardball," reported David K. Li of NBC News.

More recognition for women's sports is so much more than just another professional league. It is about encouraging and empowering women and girls all over the nation.

"I think it's great that women athletes are getting a stage to show what they can do," stated senior varsity softball player, Brianca Pridham.



DISTRICT

Lannigan's leadership lauded by Lady Bears

Annalisa Lannigan has grown into her own as she begins her senior campaign for Pleasant Valley High School's girls basketball team.

By: Justin Delgado

Senior Annalisa Lannigan has earned her moment in the spotlight. Lannigan has been playing basketball for 10 years now. She plays shooting guard for the Lady Bears.

Although Lannigan says her season is off to a "rough start," she still loves the game.

Lannigan's pregame ritual is essential to her game.

"Before every game I form shoot and I have to make 3 shots all the way around the rim. During warm ups before the game I must end on a made shot," says Lannigan.

Her favorite accomplishment in basketball is earning the Grizzly Award as a junior. Although Lannigan said that she does have plans to play basketball in college, "I will never say never."

Lilly Hower, sophomore player for the Lady Bears, was asked what type of player is Lannigan.

"She is very motivating and hardworking. She always looks to better herself and all of us so that we meet our game goals and keep striving for our season goals," says Hower.

Hower and Lannigan have been playing together for 2 years. Hower also states that Lannigan gives effort day in

and day out, never giving up on herself nor her team.

Hower states Lannigan presents qualities of leadership time and time again.

"She is hardworking, determined, and always willing to help her teammates improve. She always cheers everyone on and has a good attitude even in rough games," explains Hower.



Annalisa Lannigan mid-game

DISTRICT

PV Cheer conquers the competition

The Pleasant Valley cheer team overcame many obstacles during the 2024-2025 season in order to come in second at districts, punching their ticket to the state competition.

By: Serenity Raymond

The Pleasant Valley cheer team exceeded expectations and earned their spot at the State Competition. Against many setbacks and obstacles, the team pushed through with their hard work and discipline.

hard and dedicated their time to reach this level.

The road was anything but smooth for the Pleasant Valley cheer team. From the very beginning, they encountered a series of obstacles that left

into it kind of defeated since we missed EPC's."

Despite these setbacks, the team refused to give up and continued to practice Monday through Friday to perfect their routine.

"I could name a lot of things that have gone wrong this season," says sophomore Madison Cerrone, "but with the family-like structure we built, we can accomplish anything we set our minds to." Instead of letting these challenges break their spirits, they continued to work hard.

Their efforts paid off when they found out they were advancing to states. Emotions ranged from shock to excitement.

"My reaction to making it to states was I felt amazing," says senior Daelynn Beinert, "It all seemed so unrealistic that we would even place in districts. It felt like a great way to end my senior year!"

Not only were they excited to cheer together for states, they were also eager to see other teams' routines.

"I'm mostly excited about seeing all the other teams compete and also enjoying states with my team one last time," said Sprague.

Our Pleasant Valley cheer team showed remarkable dedication, talent, and teamwork. This accomplishment not only reflects the hard work they put in this season, but also serves as an inspiration for our school community.

As they prepared to go to states, the team shared their excitement and commitment to helping future cheerleaders.

"Be committed," said Sprague. "Be committed to the

team by keeping up with your grades and practices because making it to states is lots of work."

For the Pleasant Valley cheerleaders, cheerleading isn't just about stunts and routines; it's about building confidence, spirit, and a family-like structure. This commitment and dedication carried them straight to states on Jan. 29 where they placed 16th.

"Cheering is a lot of pressure and stress but you have to push yourself to strive for the top. The top is reachable whether you believe it or not," explains Beinert.



PV Cheer performing at Regionals

With every cheer, jump, and stunt they proved that they were ready to represent their school on the big stage. As cheerleading grows into a more competitive sport, teams from all across the region come together and compete at the state competition, and the Pleasant Valley team worked

them in moments of doubt.

"We didn't have a coach for a while and had to find a new one. Usually EPC's were our first competition, but because of the coach problem we couldn't attend." Said Alexis Sprague, one of the senior captains. We got a new coach three weeks before districts. I went



PV Cheer receiving their silver medals