Pleasant Valley High School Route 209 Brodheadsville PA 18322

Bear Facts

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Pleasant Valley raises high school profile

Pleasant Valley High School increased their national ranking from 9,945 to 6,873, a 30% increase from the 2024 to the 2025 school years

By: Giada Morales

Recently theHigh School has found out that it has gone up from ranking 9,945 in 2024 to 6,873 in 2025, a 30% increase in the rankings for the best high schools in the US.

This means Pleasant Valley High School progressed when it comes to enrollment, grades, and college acceptances.

The rankings for high schools are chosen by RTI International, a scientific research company, that updated their ratings within the month of August. Along with the rankings, they are also posted publicly to the U.S.News website.

LoMont Jones, managing editor for education in the U.S. News & World Report, believes that the data they use allows families to make the best decisions possible.

"Our 2025-2026 Best High Schools rankings, developed in collaboration with RTI International, provide families with comprehensive data beyond just test scores," explains Jones.

The rankings research is also done by RTI International, which takes AP test scores, participation, and performance along with graduation rates which show academic outcomes.

Pleasant Valley High School principal, Brian Boylan, believes that the continued success of the high school is ongoing, as teachers and staff are always striving to be better.

"It is both exciting and inspiring to see the progress our school makes over time. Each year, we raise the bar a little higher, and the results reflect the dedication and hard work of our entire staff," stated Mr. Boylan.

The excitement about the high school extends to the district as well. Pleasant Valley School District Superintendent, James Konrad, is incredibly proud of the work the high school has done to achieve this success..

"We are thrilled with the progress we have made within the high school with the amazing teachers and the effort put into improving academic achievements, and how they support the students. It is also exciting for the students to be a part of one of the top schools in the country," explains Dr. Konrad.

Moving up 30% nationally isn't the end goal. Mr. Boylan has much higher aspirations for PVHS, but he knows it's going to take a lot of hard work, but he knows that this accomplishment speaks to a larger commitment.

"Earning a national ranking in the top 40% is more

source: usnews.com

than just a number—it demonstrates the high-quality education, supportive environment, and commitment to excellence that define our school," Mr. Boylan stated. "Inside the classroom, we have placed a stronger emphasis on increasing student engagement by incorporating more interactive and student-centered learning opportunities."

This new ranking is a major accomplishment for the high school, and it really shows not only how the school has improved, but also how it continues to grow.

"What I am seeing is a milestone we have met within the path we are trying to accomplish. To be one of the best schools in the state if not the country. We went from 9,000 to around 6,000 in the rankings which is a huge difference towards our goal," explains Dr. Konrad

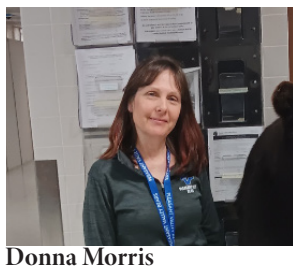
District

New Staff welcomed at PVHS for a new school year

A new school year brings many changes, including new members to the faculty and staff of Pleasant Valley High School.

By: Gerrit DeYoung

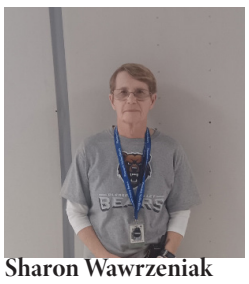
With every new school year comes change. This is true of schools across the country, and Pleasant Valley High School is no different. This year, the school added new members to the faculty and staff..



Donna Morris

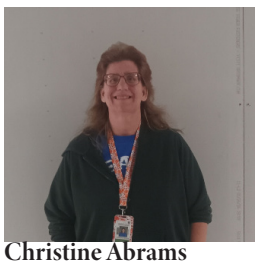
Donna Morris, Principal Secretary for PVHS, has been a member of PV nation for over 30 years, and she has found a new home in the main office.

"I came back several years later as a substitute teacher. When I heard that an opening for secretary became available over the summer, I thought that my organizational skills, my fondness for Pleasant Valley, and my desire to help our administration would be a perfect fit for me," explains Mrs. Morris.



Sharon Wawrzeniak

Sharon Wawrzeniak, one of the two new monitors at Pleasant Valley High School, says that she has been "a monitor for three years now," and that she relishes the opportunity to be close to home.



Christine Abrams

Christine Abrams, the other new monitor at PVHS, joined the PV family because she "always [liked] helping people, in this case children. So I figured that was a good option," says Mrs. Abrams.

Rodney Bronson, Chief of Police at Pleasant Valley High School, has a long history in law enforcement and is prepared to keep PVHS safe.

Rodney Bronson

"I was always looking for a chief of police job, and this was a really good opportunity for me. I live by a quote: 'My dream was like a team driving down the football field in the final two minutes, a little bit of luck, but they did prepare for situations like this.' I was lucky to get the job at PV but I also prepared for this situation," says Chief Bronson.

Zachary McMichael

Zachary McMichael, Assistant Principal at Pleasant Valley High School, believes that, as a member of the administration team, he can help support both teachers and students in new and exciting ways.

"I loved teaching, but I became an assistant principal because I wanted to help support teachers and students in a different way than I did as a teacher. I like being an assistant principal because my job is dynamic - every day is a little bit different," explains Dr. McMichael.

Kristen Fischer

The department with the most new faces this year is the science department, adding four new teachers–Julia Daly, Kristen Fischer, William Mattei, Robert Quinn, and Kelly Montalvo.

Kristen Fischer became a teacher because of her love and passion for learning.

"I am passionate about helping students reach their full potential and learn as much as they can. I believe in my students and their success," explains Ms. Fisher.

Julia Daly

Similarly, Julia Daly joined the science department because, like Ms. Fischer, she has a love for science.

"By being a teacher I hope to give students the same love for the sciences that my teachers did for me," says Mrs. Daly.

Mr. Mattei has a different influence that brought him into education–being inspired by his parents who are also teachers.

See New Staff, page 7

World

The father of heavy metal passes away at 76

John Michael "Ozzy" Osbourne passed away on July 22 from a heart attack at the age of 76 after a legendary career that spanned over 50 years.

By: Julian Dempster

Source: rollingstone.com

Lead Singer of renowned band Black Sabbath and the father of heavy metal, Ozzy Osbourne, passed away at the age of 76. It was from a heart attack only weeks after his farewell show. He was already struggling with Parkinson's compounded with a bad fall back in 2020.

John Micheal Osbourne started life in 1948 Birmingham, England and had a troubled journey to adulthood.

"Apart from being one of the most notoriously self-destructive men in the entertainment industry, the singer has had periods of extremely bad luck when it comes to almost all walks of life," explains Pauli Poisuo, writer for Grunge.com.

He experienced severe emotional distress and bullying at age 11, which led to him struggling with his mental health and attempting to harm himself on several occasions in his teens.

He went to prison after robbing a store and being unable to pay the fine. However what gave his life direction and inspired him to be a musician in the first place was The Beatles and the hit song She Loves You.

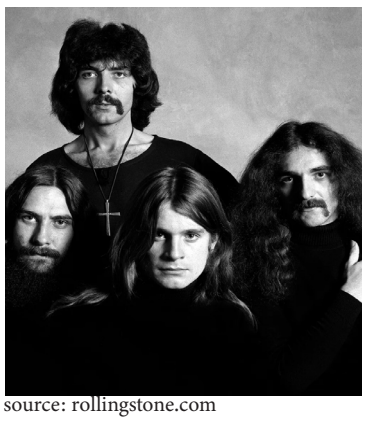
Black Sabbath was formed in 1968 through the combined work of Osbourne as lead singer, bassist Geezer Butler, drummer Bill Ward, and guitarist Tony Iommi. This legendary band was extremely influential on the heavy metal genre of music to the point that it could be said that they invented it.

Mainly characterized by the low ominous instrumental, the and the stand out vocals of Ozzy himself. Together they went on to make a total of 50 albums, 37 singles, and three extended plays over their 45 years playing.

Unfortunately despite his massive success, Ozzy has gone through a long history with substance abuse, most notably with alcohol throughout the 60s and 70s. He has been known to be under the influence of drugs while on stage, engaging in several acts of violence and getting arrested on occasion. He was eventually ousted from Black Sabbath due to all of these factors.

""As much as everyone wanted us to, we just couldn't do it. Nothing was happening and it would have meant the end of the band. We didn't want to fire him but we had to if we wanted to continue," explained Black Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi in a 2023 interview with loudwire.com.

Ozzy decided to continue his music career on his own throughout the 1980s starting with the albums Blizzard of Ozz and Diary of a Madman. These



source: rollingstone.com

two were massively popular and further spawned Bark at the moon, The Ultimate Sin, and No Rest for the Wicked.

Aedan Johnson, Junior at Pleasant Valley High School and fan of Osbourne's music, believes his legacy is one that stands the test of time.

"His solo music had this unique energy that no one else could really match. He had a voice that stood out, not because it was perfect, but because it was real. He made every song feel alive," explains Johnson.

He is survived by his six children, his grandchildren, and his wife, Sharon Osbourne, who he admits that without her help through his drug abuse, he wouldn't have survived for as long has he did.

source: nme.com

Nation

ICE raids Hyundai plant in Georgia, fueling controversy over immigration enforcement

The Immigrant and Customs Enforcement Agency, commonly known as ICE raided a battery plant in Ellabell, GA, an act that has caused friction between the United States and South Korea.

By: Dakari Fleming

On Sept. 4, 2025 an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid was conducted in Ellabell, GA. at a Hyundai battery plant. During the raid, 475 people were detained.

Among the 475 that were detained 300 were identified as Korean. The raid occurred because of allegations of "unlawful employment practices and serious federal crimes" according to the Department of Homeland Security.

"This was not an immigration operation where agents went into the premises, rounded up folks and put them on buses," said Steve Schrank, the special agent in charge of homeland security in Atlanta.

The week after the raid, the Koreans that were detained got deported back to South Korea. During the raid, Hyundai's CEO Jose Munoz was working in his office and only found out about the raid three days later.

In Seoul, the South Korean government contacted the US embassy to urge the US "to exercise extreme caution" when it comes to Korean citizens rights.

"I do not believe that South Korea would allow an isolated incident involving 300 people to upend decades of trade relationships that have been built between the two countries," stated Jason Robbins, social studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School.

The South Korean foreign ministry said in a statement "The economic activities of Korean investment companies and the rights and interests of Korean citizens must not be unfairly infringed upon during US law enforcement operations."

Throughout 2025, ICE has continued to raid workplaces in an attempt to make good on President Trump's promise to deport criminals that are here illegally. John Sandweg, former director of ICE, explains the agency is not focusing on crime, though.

"To date, in LA and DC, what we've seen them arrest are your run-of-the-mill economic migrants, not those gang members, not those convicted felons who pose a threat to the US," explains Sandweg.

ICE has been steeped in controversy this year due to the focus on detaining anyone here illegally. However, American citizens are being caught in the crossfire too.

"Americans have been dragged, tackled, beaten, tased and shot by immigration agents," explains Nicole Foy, writer for ProPublica.

The Hyundai Battery Plan in Ellabel, GA.
source: nyt.com

Local

The Pickle Me Poconos Festival returns for a "dill-lightfully" good time

East Stroudsburg hosted their annual Pickle Me Poconos Festival, bringing the community together for a fun afternoon of games, food, and music.

By: Dakari Fleming

The Pickle Me Poconos Festival, was held on Oct. 4 in East Stroudsburg, commemorating everything pickle related. The goal of the Poconos Chamber of Commerce, who hosts the event every year, is to help small businesses and to bring the community together.

"Our mission is to drive economic growth and strengthen Monroe County by supporting and promoting businesses of all sizes. We are committed to serving our members and the community by fostering meaningful connections, encouraging collaboration, and addressing key business challenges," states the Chamber in a press release on riverreporter.com

The festival's pickle mascot

With music and games, the annual festival had pickle based food that guests wouldn't normally think of from pickle oreos to jalapeno pickle lemonade. Pickle Me Poconos also had games such as pickle pong and ring toss. Guests could even take a picture with a pickle mascot that was walking around Crystal Street in East Stroudsburg.

Matthew Duncan, Senior at Pleasant Valley High School, attended this year's event, and had a great time.

"I loved the amount of variety there that pickle fest had and the amount of things to do there," stated Duncan.

There were advertising booths there for Great Wolf Lodge and East Stroudsburg University as well as a stage set up by Sherman Theater. Pickle themed merchandise was everywhere, balloons, plushies, and shirts there were a couple pickle rick shirts there.

Matthew also said "There was a lot of vendors at pickle fest, many tents and canopies with many people and businesses selling pickle related items and non pickle related items, there was a stage with live music too set up by the Sherman Theater which was cool."

People enjoying their time at the festival

What makes this festival interesting is that a portion of proceeds go to local charities.

"A portion of the proceeds from the festival will benefit the Eastburg Community Alliance and 1% for Nature, a non-profit that raises funds for local conservation projects," explains Valeria Quiñones, writer WNEP news.

Editorial

In Our Opinion

The beginning of the new school year has brought a number of changes due to the rennovations around the building, including the logistics of getting breakfast in the morning and getting to first period on time.

With all the changes to the building this year, including a much less accessible lunchroom, several students did not have the chance to get breakfast. In fact, at the beginning of the year, the student body at large was initially unaware that the school was even serving breakfast this year.

source: Ms. Negron

The majority of students are unable to get breakfast in the morning for a variety of reasons. Many students that want to get breakfast are unable to because their first class is too far to reach in time. They are spread between mostly in the far sides of the building.

In general, traveling to and from the cafeteria has some issues with congestion. With only one hallway and a small detour, making it to the old gym and back involves a lot of foot traffic and people being late to their classes.

The logistics of navigating the school renovation when planning a school year are not only complicated, but also they will continue to change as the construction moves to new places around the building. As a result, setting up a new and temporary cafeteria required specific requirements.

"We needed a space that was available that was big enough to hold students," explained Ariella Mease, Assistant Principal at Pleasant Valley High School.

With all the changes going on the building, the old gym was the only real option available.

Thankfully, PV has introduced breakfast to the Bear Cafe, which will hopefully allow for more students to eat, especially for AM MCTI students and people entering the building from various distances to the old gym.

Opinion

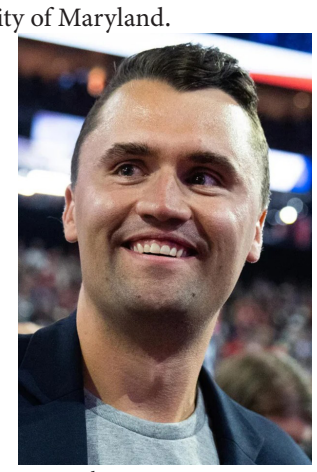
Charlie Kirk's death sparks debate

With political violence seemingly on the rise, it is important to remember the importance of respectful disagreement.

By: Gavin Tonkay

2025 has been a turbulent year on the political stage as it has seen a rise in political violence across the country. While Republicans and Democrats have been quick to blame each other, the fact is that these incidents have been perpetrated by people all over the political spectrum.

"What we're witnessing right now is not the product of a single group or ideology but perhaps evidence of growing widespread civil unrest," explains Michael Jensen, researcher at the University of Maryland.


source: cbsnews.com

Perhaps the most high profile attack occurred on Sept. 10, 2025, when conservative activist Charlie Kirk was at Utah State University kicking off his first stop of his Turning Point USA Tour. During a debate with liberal activist Hunter Kozak, a shot fired by Tyler Robinson from 200 yards hit Kirk in his neck.

"Charlie was shot at 12:23 p.m. on Wednesday. The first FBI agents arrived on scene in 16 minutes with chiefs of police, at 12:39, and secured the scene. The FBI immediately launched fixed-wing assets. We utilize these assets to transport personnel, specialty technicians, hostage rescue teams," explained Kash Patel, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Kirk was then urgently rushed to the hospital when he later passed away due to his injuries. News of his death spread world wide, gaining many different views and opinions. Some Republicans are blaming the Democrats for this incident and are demanding Kozak be given the death penalty, while Democrats are saying how if there would be more extreme gun laws this incident would not have happened.

Incidents like the one at Utah State are far from the only acts of political violence that have occurred just this year, but it has highlighted the issue to a degree that the others were unable to.

On April 13, Cody A. Balmer attacked Josh Shapiro, Governor of Pennsylvania, and his family by setting his house on fire. Balmer has recently pleaded guilty to arson and has been sentenced to 25 to 50 years in state prison, according to NBC News.

Chris Boyette, writer for CNN, explains that "[Balmer] targeted the Democratic governor in part because of what he believed were Shapiro's views on the war in Gaza."

See Kirk, page 7

Opinion

"Stop Killing Games" seeks support from fans

Gamers around the world petition developers for continued support for beloved titles, causing friction in the gaming community.

By: Max Sullivan

Many people of all ages love to play video games. From children to adults, it is a beloved entertainment all around the world. Unfortunately, some game companies tend to ruin that experience in many ways, one of which being shutting down online games even after you pay for them.

Luckily during this summer, a movement called Stop Killing Games rose up to defend the games that many people have loved that companies cut support on.

source: cbr.com

"'Stop Killing Games' is a consumer movement started to challenge the legality of publishers destroying video games they have sold to customers." stated by Ross Scott, creator of the movement.

Scott also adds on the website the reasoning for this movement.

"An increasing number of video games are sold effectively as goods - with no stated expiration date - but designed to be completely unplayable as soon as support from the publisher ends," explains Scott.

Many people are on his side about preserving video games. One example of which is Pleasant Valley High School senior Michael Tuin.

"I think that Stop Killing Games is a good petition because big game companies are making modern games online only meaning that after the servers shut off the games no longer work. Their mission is strong and shouldn't find it hard to gain support," says Tuin.

The issue at hand, though, is where the movement goes from here. Support can only go so far.

"Their next move is most likely going to be bringing the issue to court because without legal intervention, we can all say what we want but the game companies will only listen if forced," explains Tuin.

Which is true as their movement has gotten enough signatures to be successful in the European Union and will be going to court.

Of course, nothing will ever have support from everybody, and this movement is no different. Many people have disagreed with the movement for being too naive. Sergio Ferreira, a writer for Gameindustry.biz, disagrees with the movement.

"While I appreciate the intention behind it, the petition runs the risk of doing more damage than good, and fails to propose a clear and proportionate way forward in dealing with the subject at hand," stated Ferreira.

"For online-server games, the server is not simply a communications tool - it's often integral to the game's operation. This means developers cannot simply 'flip a switch' to make the game self-sufficient."

The Stop Killing Games movement has already had a successful outcome in the European Union having more than enough signatures to bring it to court.

"It's been unending overtime, because like hell I was going to miss the opportunity to actually turn this around," said Ross.

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.

SAME ARTISTS

“The Life of a Showgirl”
Released: Oct. 3, 2025

source: allure.com

NEW ERAS

“Play”
Released: Sept. 12, 2025

source: abcnews.com

District

Brodheadsville brought together by PV for another successful bonfire bash

After more than 40 years, Pleasant Valley's annual bonfire continues to grow as it aims to bring people from around the community together for a night of fun in the lead-up to the annual Bucket Game.

By: Giada Morales

The Bonfire is an annual event that the Pleasant Valley High School holds the night before the Bucket game. This tradition consists of a bonfire, food, and activities from students, families, and staff.

This year, the Bonfire was held on Thursday, Oct. 9. Due to the renovations at PVHS, this was also the first year the school held the Bonfire at the Pleasant Valley Middle School and it is due to the current construction around the High School.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for the Middle School to contribute to a major district-wide tradition. It sends a clear message to our students that they are an integral part of the overall school community. Ultimately, it brings the whole school district closer together," explains Tim McCutchan, principal of PVMS.

source: Kaylee Ellis-Murphy

For students, the event becomes a night both to celebrate the history of the Bucket Game and to see friends and family.

"We watch the fire, take pictures, and try to bring school spirit up as much as possible," says Jacob George, a member of the football team and Junior at PVHS.

While the night is one of celebration for many students and staff, the event itself has changed over the years, as Daisy Genovese, English teacher at PVHS, explains.

"The Bucket Game between Pocono Mountain East and Pleasant Valley has been a tradition for over 40 years. Historically, Pleasant Valley has always hosted a bonfire the night before this game. For the past three years, we've focused on expanding the bonfire into a community-wide Block Party event," says Mrs. Genovese.

Beyond the festivities, the Bonfire is a way to celebrate not just the district but also the district sports teams, particularly football.

"We host the bonfire primarily to kick off the Bucket Game festivities and to celebrate our school's athletic programs. It's a classic way to showcase school pride and get everyone energized," explains Mr. McCutchan.

source: Areli Ramirez

Over the years, the Bonfire has evolved to become bigger than it when it first began. Recently, there have been food trucks, games, and even a dunk tank where students could dunk their favorite faculty and staff members.

"For the 2025 Bonfire & Block Party, we added a tricky tray featuring gift baskets and gift certificates to local restaurants. These items were generously donated by various teams and clubs from across the Pleasant Valley community. There are so many people who help bring this event to life- our administrators, advisors and coaches, security, maintenance and custodial crews. We could not do it without them," stated Mrs. Genovese.

The goal every year is to build a sense of community and pride in Pleasant Valley, and the district is certainly succeeding in that goal.

"The bonfire lights the fire in my heart and symbolizes the rivalry between PV and East," says George.

source:Julie Burchfield

Nation

National Guard mobilized into cities across the country

The Trump Administration signed an executive order allowing for the National Guard to be sent into U.S. cities to clean up alleged crime.

By: Max Sullivan

On Aug. 25, President Donald Trump signed an executive order, allowing the United States government to be able to establish the National Guard into cities.

One part of the order says that the Secretary of Defense has the authority to send state National Guards into cities around the country.

"The Secretary of Defense shall, subject to the availability of appropriations and applicable law, immediately create and begin training, manning, hiring, and equipping a specialized unit within the District of Columbia National Guard, subject to activation under Title 32 of the United States Code, that is dedicated to ensuring public safety and order in the Nation's capital," explains the White House.

Another aspect to this order is that the purpose for this order is to take control of what they deem to be crime-ridden areas, all of which to date have been in states that did not vote for Trump in 2024.

"The Secretary of Defense shall immediately begin ensuring that each State's Army National Guard and Air National Guard are resourced, trained, organized, and available to assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement in quelling civil disturbances and ensuring the public safety and order whenever the circumstances necessitate, as appropriate under law."

Rebecca Kheel, writer for military.com, explains how the crime problem the Trump administration is citing may not be what it seems.

source:usatoday.com

"About 2,000 Guardsmen, more than half of whom were sent from out of town by Republican governors, are patrolling D.C. right now. Trump has cast the deployment as necessary to combat rampant crime, but local and federal statistics show violent crime in D.C. is at a 30-year low," states Kheel.

Pleasant Valley High School history teacher, Jason Robbins, provides historical context for this order,

"This type of event has happened before. Presidents do have the authority to deploy the National Guard, but this is usually done with the cooperation and request of local authorities, most notably a governor or mayor," explains Mr. Robbins.

Along those lines, the President of the United States does have legal authority under certain circumstances to deploy the National Guard as needed.

"The President has special powers under the Insurrection Act of 1807 to federalize and deploy the National Guard to suppress civil disorder or rebellion. This has been done several times throughout history including under Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson to quell disorder related to civil rights protests and integration as well as under Nixon due to a postal strike and under George H. W. Bush due to unrest in California because of the Rodney King riots," says Mr. Robbins.

It seems as though the United States is in a time where the Executive Branch is obtaining more power than it ever has had before, and how this impacts the country moving forward has yet to be determined.

"How this order will impact the United States is hard to say," says Mr. Robbins. "If the Executive Branch continues to increase its consolidation of power, as it has been doing for the better part of the last fifty years under both democrat and republican leadership, then we may see a shift in the system of separation of powers and checks and balances that the founders intended for our republic. Time will tell."

District

The creation of a PV men's volleyball team shows signs of life as support grows

The desire for a men's volleyball team at Pleasant Valley High School is one that does not seem to want to go away, as members of the community hope for its approval.

By: Gavin Tonkay

Throughout the years students have asked and begged numerous times for a men's volleyball team. Unfortunately, they have made no progress.

Senior, Hunter Spanburgh, has been trying to convince the school board to approve a men's volleyball team since his freshman year and the board have not budged.

"I have been trying to get a team together for years now, and I think that with the right funding and support, we could have had a really good team," explains Spanburgh.

Junior, Tyler Gregorakis, member of the varsity basketball and track and field team says,

"It's a shame we don't have a men's volleyball team. I feel like it would be a very enjoyable experience not only to play, but also to watch," says Gregorakis.

Pleasant Valley is one of the very few teams in the EPC to not have a men's volleyball team. To name a few local schools that have one are Pocono Mountain East, West, Parkland, and many more schools.

Cathleen Gesiskie, wife of board member John Gesiskie, hopes that after a long struggle to establish a men's team at PV, that there is finally enough support to create the team.

"Many people throughout the years have tried for a men's volleyball including myself and my husband but it seems as though we do not have enough support from the community and the board," says Mrs. Gesiskie.

Kirk, continued

source: abcnews.com

A few months later, on June 14, former Democratic speaker of the Minnesota house of representatives Melissa Hortman and her husband, Mark, were in their home when an armed intruder, Vance Boelter, broke in and shot and killed them both. Boelter also targeted Democratic senator John Hoffman and his wife Yvette Hoffman, but they fortunately survived. He pleaded not guilty and has not been prosecuted yet.

News of this incident spread like wildfire sparking conflicts in the political world separating both Republicans and Democrats on this issue well before Kirk's death.

Jason Robbins, Government teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, was able to provide context for the recent rise in political violence in the U.S.

"Unfortunately, it is hard to see the amount of political violence going down in today's political climate. We need to learn how to have different beliefs, but still function as a united country," says Mr. Robbins.

In the current political climate, it is easy for either side to cast blame as Americans are more divided than ever. However, it is important that each incident is different, and no one side is to blame.

"I hope that as a country, we can learn to have political differences without resorting to violence," explains Mr. Robbins.

New Staff, continued

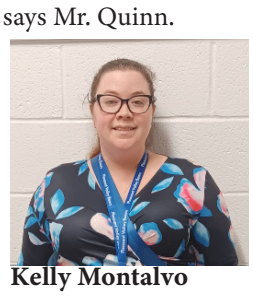
William Mattei

"Listening to their conversations when they were home always piqued my interests, and I eventually fell in love with it," says Mr. Mattei.

Robert Quinn

Mr. Quinn, on the other hand, arrived here in a more unconventional way.

"When I was a senior in high school, I was awarded the Governor's Teaching Scholarship that was an opportunity to pay off my college tuition if I promised to teach for 5 years in NJ upon graduation. I went into teaching with the plan to teach for 5 years. 34 years later, here I am," says Mr. Quinn.



Kelly Montalvo

Ms. Montalvo was originally working on earning a degree in Chemistry, but decided teaching was a path she was interested in while at East Stroudsburg University and is actually returning to PV after a decade away.

""I student taught here years ago and grew up in Stroudsburg. So it is close to home and a great community, so I decided to come back after working in New Jersey for the past 10 years," explains Ms. Montalvo.

Taylor Lindsey, the new social studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, has always wanted to be a teacher and

Taylor Lindsey

strongly believes in the community that PV is building.

"Pleasant Valley offers something that I have been missing in my educational career, and that is a sense of community," says Dr. Lindsey.

Colin Irwin

Colin Irwin, physical education teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, also believes in giving back to the community that he calls home.

"I became a teacher because I wanted to help give back. My teachers helped me a lot through my time at school, and I wanted to be able to do the same thing as they did," explains Mr. Irwin.

Tabatha Sivvos

Tabatha Sivvos, new to the special education department, started teaching in private and alternate behavioral schools, but first became a special education teacher because of her children.

"It helps me relate, not just with my coworkers, but it also helps me relate with the parents because I very much understand what they're going through," explains Ms. Sivvos.

With their inclusion into the school, the PV family grows stronger.

Fashion

Anna Wintour steps down as Editor-in-Chief of Vogue Magazine

After 37 years, famed fashion icon Anna Wintour is stepping away from the day-to-day business of Vogue and names her successor in the process.

By: Giada Morales

On June 26, 2025 well known editor-in-chief of Vogue, Anna Wintour, stepped down after 37 years of holding the job.

Anna Wintour is iconic in the fashion industry in many ways. These consist of her still working for Vogue after stepping down from a huge role she kept for 37 years, making some of the most well known Vogue covers, being in charge of the Met Gala, and A-list celebrities supposedly being terrified of her.

"The famed editor, 75, developed an air of intimidation with the 2003 publication of The Devil Wears Prada, written by Lauren Weisberger, a former Vogue assistant. It was believed to be inspired by Wintour," explains Nicki Gostin, writer for pagesix.com.

Anna Wintour was born on Nov. 3, 1949 in London, England. She first became editor-in-chief of Vogue in 1988, later becoming Condé Nast's global chief content officer in 2020, leading her to focus on Condé Nast and stepping down from her major position in Vogue.

Elianna Aye, Junior at Pleasant Valley High School, hopes that someone younger will take Wintor's place, bringing in a much needed fresh view to the company.

"I think Anna Wintour is okay but there is a lot of controversy when it comes to her. I hope someone younger takes her position because I feel like someone from a newer generation will make Vogue fresh and new," stated Aye.

Anna Wintour (left) and Chloe Malle (right)

source: abcnews.com

Likewise, Natalia Jozwiak, Freshman, believes change is certainly a possibility for the company, as new leadership typically brings new ideas even if Wintour will be hard to replace.

"I believe a new editor and chief could possibly change Vogue depending on who is taking Anna Wintour's spot," stated Jozwiak.

On Sept. 2, 2025 Anna Wintour officially picked Chole Malle as the new head of editorial content in America for Vogue. Anna Wintour is shined in good and bad light but will be remembered forever in the fashion industry.

"Chloe has proven often that she can find the balance between American Vogue's long, singular history and its future on the front lines of the new. I am so excited to continue working with her, as her mentor but also as her student, while she leads us and our audiences where we've never been before," says Wintour in an interview with the Guardian.

District

A Christmas Carol to scare the "dickens" out of PV

Pleasant Valley High School is putting on their version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol from Nov. 21 to Nov. 23.

By: Max Sullivan

On Nov. 21 to Nov. 23, Pleasant Valley High School is hosting another lovely play, this time based on the classic Christmas tale from Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol.

Pleasant Valley High School Senior, Robert Leuthardt III, who plays the role of Ebenezer Scrooge, joins the cast after a two year absence from the school stage.

"I've always been interested in acting and theatre, but this is the first time in years I've been able to squeeze a production into my schedule. Plus, I was interested in how the change in directors this year would affect the process and final product," explained Leudthardt. "It's a shorter production, so we have a lot of leeway when it comes to time. The production is coming together faster than any other I've been in. Very confident in this one."

Julian Dempster, Senior, plays Scrooge's longtime coworker and friend Jacob Marley, and finds that he is enjoying his final play at PVHS.

"I did all the others so I wanted to end off my Senior year with one," says Dempster. "I enjoy the higher amount in freedom with how we are able to portray our characters."

The new director, Rhonda. Sawyer comes from Pleasant Valley Middle School, and she believes that the classic Dickens story has a lot to teach audiences.

"I chose the one act version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol because it is a well known holiday story that teaches about compassion, kindness, and the true meaning of life. I hope to draw a large crowd who is excited to see our version of the classic tale," explains Mrs. Sawyer.

She also believes that directing high school students is inherently different than directing middle school students, but there are some advantages to that.

"Directing at the high school is quite different from directing at the Middle school. I truly enjoy directing at both locations. The high school offers a lot more versatility with set design, staging, and has more room for larger casts and crew. The majority of our high school performers and crew have come through the middle school and are aware of the stage terms, and directions so it is nice to work with seasoned performers," says Mrs. Sawyer.

Dickens published his story in 1843, and it was turned into a stage play shortly thereafter in 1844. Over the years, it has spawned numerous adaptations from live action movies and TV shows, to interpretations and ones including the Muppets. With PV's version coming soon, the stage is set for it to bring a lot of holiday cheer to audiences.

The cast having some fun during rehearsal

District

Rizzo looks to continue her career as leader for PV soccer

Sadie Rizzo, senior member of the Lady Bear soccer team, works to help her teammates grow and become the best version of themselves.

By: Gavin Tonkay

Sadie Rizzo, senior member of the girl's soccer team, has been playing soccer for 11 years and has been a part of the varsity team for four years. Throughout those four years she has achieved around 550 goals and counting.

While there are many aspects to the sport that she enjoys, one of the most enjoyable has been the relationships she has built over the years.

"The best part of playing soccer was genuinely all the friendships I've made being on a team that's like a family and also can't forget about the team dinners," explains Rizzo.

Sadie Rizzo

Dr. James Shoopack, who is the goalkeeper coach of the Lady Bears soccer team, has known Rizzo for six years as he coached her middle school and high school. He also describes her as the perfect teammate.

"She is like an 'older sister' to many of her teammates in that she has a wonderful teammate in that she has personality, great work ethic, no ego, and the drive to succeed at a personal level and to [improve] the play of her teammates," explains Dr. Shoopack.

His most memorable moment involving Rizzo was during a middle school soccer game where she and another player collided. She didn't hesitate to check up on the opposing player as soon as she could.

Rizzo's plans for the future are attending East Stroudsburg University and pursuing her passion for sports by studying sports medicine/physical therapy. She also has hopes of joining a club soccer team on the campus.

Nation

Major League Baseball set to begin another World Series

As another Major League Baseball season has come to an end, the top teams around the league look to win a the World Series in hopes of hoisting the 2025 Commissioner's Trophy.

By: Gerrit DeYoung

The MLB playoffs are right around the corner, 12 teams, one winner. The Padres, Cubs, Phillies, Brewers, Dodgers, Blue Jays, Tigers, Mariners, Yankees, Red Sox, Reds, and Guardians all fight for a chance at gold.

Edward Slatky, Math teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, is a big Phillies fan, and he believes they have a chance to win it all.

Mr. Slatky's thoughts about the regular season were up and down "the Phillies played the regular season like usual, some months they play very bad and some months they play great, the loss of Zach Wheeler will also hurt them badly."

With the addition of Jhoan Duran, Mr. Slatky sees the Phillies bullpen as dangerous for opposing teams.

"When it comes to the Duranchala, you better look away," said Mr. Slatky.

Lastly, Mr. Slatky says that the "Phillies can win the world series if they get there because they match up well with whoever they verse in the A.L."

James Roselli, Junior at Pleasant Valley High School, is a big Yankees fan and Yankees

source: foxsports.com

started the season very well, but dropped a lot of games during the summer.

He says that "the additions of Cody Bellinger, Max Fried, and also David Bednar could push them to the World Series and thinks they have what it takes to make a run for the title."

"They could make a run if we win the division, but it would be very hard if we were a wildcard especially with the teams we would have to face," explains Roselli.

With the Dodgers, Brewers, Mariners, and Blue Jays all advancing to the championship series, the World Series is anyone's to win, although most people would pick the Dodgers or Brewers which may be correct, but the playoffs have been a dogfight up until now.

The Los Angeles Dodgers will officially play the Toronto Blue Jays as game one of the World Series begins Friday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.

District

Haines leads PV football to the playoffs

Jaxson Haines, quarterback for the PV Bears, uses his calm and selfless leadership to inspire his team.

By: Gerrit DeYoung

Jaxson Haines, senior at Pleasant Valley High School, is the quarterback and team captain of the Pleasant Valley Bears football team, and he certainly fits the mold of a leader.

As a captain, Haines tries to "make sure the whole team stays together as a team and no arguing no matter what happened in the last game."

After going winless last season, Jaxson overcame adversity because everyone heard all the media and other teams saying how bad the Bears were going to be this year.

"We just focused on us and us only. We wanted to go out and prove them all wrong and show them PV isn't the same team as last year," explains Haines.

Jaxson spends a lot of time studying film to figure out how teams are going to play, who their best players are, and whatever he sees, he is sure to share those insights with the team.

"The most challenging part of being a QB is just the mental aspect of it. Yeah I have to get hit almost every play but having to react quickly is just the difficult part. That comes with an audible or a quick change by the defense. And all the weight is on my shoulders," explains Haines.

Blaec Saeger, Pleasant Valley High School football coach, believes that Haines' team-first approach is what makes him so successful as a leader.

"Jaxson is a very selfless, team oriented player. He worked very hard in the off-season to be the best player he can be and shows great leadership skills and toughness," explains Coach Saeger.

"He is the type of kid that I can always count on to do the right thing, on the field, in the classroom, in the locker-room and in the community," says Saeger.


Jaxson Haines

Nation

NFL season begins with new surprises

The 2025-2026 season of the National Football League is already a third over, and it has continued to surprise fans each week as new teams lead the standings and typical powerhouses seem to struggle.

By: Gavin Tonkay

The 2025-2026 National Football League season has officially begun. Since the start of the season, there have been some surprising results.

The first game of the season was played on Thursday, Sept. 4 between the Dallas Cowboys and the Philadelphia Eagles, with the Eagles winning 24 to 20. A few other games from week one are The Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers with a final score of 27-13, with the Packers coming out on top.

Another notable game from the first week is the Buffalo Bills beating the Baltimore Ravens 41 to 40. One game that had a surprising result from week one was the Kansas City Chiefs losing 27 to 21 to the Los Angeles Chargers.

Since those week one games, the NFL standings have left fans stunting. As of week 5, there are no undefeated teams left.

For the past few years the Kansas City Chiefs have been a force not to be reckoned with but with a record of four wins and three losses, fans have started to wonder if this might be the year the Chiefs finally fall, especially after losing their first two games.

"Football is a team effort, so putting the blame on one or two people might not necessarily be fair, nor accurate. Even so, after eight quarters of play, it's pretty clear that these Chiefs have to get their act together if this team wants to stand a chance," explains Ernesto Cova, writer for kckingdom.com.

Seven weeks into the season, the Jets are the only team who is yet to win a game, while the Saints, Titans, and Ravens all have one win.

Barbra Below, AP English 11 teacher at Pleasant Valley High School and enthusiastic Steelers fan, is a firm believer that this is the year for a new team to lift the Lombardi Trophy.

"I have been a Steelers fan for 41 years, since I was born. I became a Steelers fan because my dad was a Steelers fan. The Steelers are going to win a seventh Super Bowl this year."

Along those lines, the biggest surprise of the season so far has been the Daniel Jones lead Colts, who are the only team with a league leading six wins.

"Jones has been both efficient as a passer and able to generate chunk plays. The Colts rank first in points per game this season and are first in yards per play," explains Paul Bretl, writer for the Colts Wire.

Since the very first NFL game in 1920, the league has gained massive popularity and media attention becoming the number one watched sports program in the United States.

With a little over a third of the seventeen game season over and the yearly trade deadline looming, which teams are "buyers" and which are "sellers" has yet to be determined. What is certain is that this season, so far, has been one of constant surprises.

source: foxsports.com