



DEL AWARE

Delaware Valley High School - Milford, Pa.

Opinion 4 Community News 10 Lifestyle 14 Arts & Literature 16 Entertainment 18 Science & Technology 20 Sports 22

OCR terminates 11-year agreement, school board makes changes in two gender identity-related policies

By EMMA SIMMONS
Editor-in-Chief

Since January of 2025, the school board has been debating disengaging from the Office of Civil Rights case No. 03141056 resolution agreement, which implemented specific gender expression and gender identity protections for students and employees. However, as of Feb. 25, 2026, the OCR has released the school district from that agreement, prompting changes to two specific policies.

"The board did not vote to release ourselves from the OCR agreement," Christine Agron, school board vice president, said. "We were released by the Department of Education, and we were following directions from a federal agency."

The OCR agreement originated from a lawsuit against the district by a transgender student who attended the high school from 2011 to 2015.

President Donald Trump, upon taking office in 2025, released an executive order reinterpreting Title IX — a civil rights law prohibiting sex-based discrimination in federally funded programs — which raised questions about retaining the same transgender rights-related policies under the new administration.

Board members Jack Fisher and Carl Will were the original proponents of pulling out of the OCR

agreement since the topic of policy change arose amid the new administration.

"Our responsibility as a school board is to protect all students, and when we make policies, we can not elevate a certain group over another," Will said.

"The board did not vote to release ourselves from the OCR agreement. We were released by the Department of Education, and we were following directions from a federal agency."

- Christine Agron

or not the policies dealing with the original OCR agreement were in conflict with the new interpretation of Title IX.

Please see OCR, Page 3

Well-rounded excellence earns seniors Scholastic Superstar titles

By LILY STOVEKEN
Opinion Editor

The Times-Tribune recognized seniors Dominick Agron and Jackson Hancock as Scholastic Superstars for the 2026-2027 school year.

Scholastic Superstars is a program designed to award and recognize high school seniors of Northeast Pennsylvania who exhibit excellence throughout their high school career — not just in academics, but in their overall presence in the community. This means that they must not only show dedication to school itself, but also the activities it offers and beyond.

"I was elated to learn that the Times-Tribune was recognizing my



hard work throughout high school," Agron said.

While exhibiting an extremely successful academic career, Agron has also participated in a wide variety of activities. He takes part in Scholastic Bowl, Model UN, Rifle Club, National Honor Society and others.

"I hope that I can serve as a role model for students looking to improve their community," Agron said.

He plans to attend Cornell University and major in government,

after which he hopes to attend law school.

Hancock, also exhibiting an excellent academic record, has participated in Model UN, Mock Trial, Scholastic Bowl and other activities as well as being an outspoken environmental advocate and a passionate writer, particularly in the realm of creative writing. He is also the president of the National Honor Society.

"I felt greatly honored," Hancock said.

He felt that his being chosen as a Superstar reflected his extracurricular commitments and his well-roundedness academically. Hancock plans to attend Amherst College with a double major in architecture and English with a focus in creative writing. After college, he hopes to pursue a career in landscape architecture.

The awards ceremony for all selected Superstars will be held in early May.

School News

AP research students explore countless topics

By LILY STOVEKEN

Opinion Editor

As the year comes to a close, AP Research students are finishing up their yearlong projects, rounding off data collection, research papers and presentations. Each of the seniors has embarked on a unique journey over the course of the year. While the College Board requires each student to conduct a research project, as well as write an in-depth paper and create a presentation on said project, the topic of the research is left entirely up to the students themselves.

The journey to completing these research projects began long before the current school year. To participate in AP Research, students first had to take AP Seminar during their junior year, a course designed to prepare individuals for completing their own projects.

“AP Seminar taught me research, writing and critical thinking skills that have been invaluable in many more academic and personal areas than I ever would have imagined when signing up for [the] class

two years ago,” senior Dominick Agron said.

During the summer, students explored their potential interests and the already existing research around those interests to narrow down their focus. A large majority of the school year was then spent preparing applications to the Institutional Review Board. Now, with deadlines drawing near, they are putting the final touches on their research papers.

Senior research projects:

- Dominick Agron is exploring the relationship between different key signatures and emotional response in both musically trained and non-musically trained students.
- Johnny Llewellyn is observing the differences between quiz results for AI-generated and teacher-composed notes.
- Ava Troup is exploring the differences in short-term memory retention of students in different lighting conditions.
- Elizabeth Bailey is learning about font readability and its influence on digital

information retention.

- Ella Smith is researching the impacts of urbanization on water quality of the Delaware River.
- Connor Giblin is exploring the efficiency of a photovoltaic system in Milford.
- Lily Stoveken is researching the evolution of readability in a specific genre of novels throughout the 20th century.
- Brielle Spears is observing the presence of MRSA on DV's wrestling mats.
- Julianna Hopper is examining organic vs. inorganic bacteria in yogurt.
- Sophia Chen is researching the texture property and spread ratio differences in batches of various alternatively-sweetened sugar cookies.
- Angelica Barcia is observing the impact of UV-B light on the seedling growth of French Breakfast Radishes.
- Finnegan Lewis is exploring the efficiency of 3D-printed wind turbines.

Athletic Hall of Fame to go digital

New kiosk will provide an interactive experience for visitors.

By MIKE IUZZOLINO

Sports Editor

The athletic Hall of Fame plaques that are currently displayed in the vestibule near the high school gymnasium will soon be digitized into an interactive digital kiosk.

The plan is for there to be a 72-inch screen in place of where the plaques are now, along with an interactive kiosk in the middle that will have all of the current inductees' information.

Business teacher Mr. Jeff Luhrs' Business and Marketing CTE students along with art teacher Mrs. Krystine Thompson's Digital Media & Design students are spearheading a large portion of the back-end design work.

“We're hoping that the Digital Media students are going to be able to access the website and then we'll be going in and creating content for the actual board itself,” Mrs. Thompson said. “We'll input photos, ads and the Hall of Fame information itself, and we're going to work with the Business and Marketing CTE kids to do it together.”

Assistant to the Superintendent for Federal Programs Dr. Jayson Pope originally pitched the



An early prototype of a potential home screen for the kiosk shows various display options.

idea to both Mr. Luhrs and Mrs. Thompson. He saw it as a way to increase community engagement in celebrating the members of the Hall of Fame while also making sure that it was student-driven.

“Part of the reason why we're able to do this is because it's student involvement for Delaware Valley,” Mr. Luhrs said. “So the students get to be involved

with this project, and we're thrilled to be a part of it.”

The kiosk is expected to have a hard launch during Homecoming weekend this fall. The goal is to have a way to honor the 2026 inductees as well as to display digitized versions of our existing Hall of Fame plaques.

Once they get all of the information live, they would like to broaden the kiosk to include more than just our Hall of Fame members.

“Eventually we hope it will grow to have more of our activities, such as journalism and yearbook content,” Mrs. Thompson said. “That way community members and the kids in the school can be interactive with it, because it's meant to be an interactive board, and we hope that people really use it that way to search through and look at all the great things we're doing here.”

Right now many of the logistics revolving around the board are still being finalized, but those involved say they are excited to see the finished product.

School News

OCR: Policy changes establish adjusted procedure

From Page 1

On Feb. 25, superintendent Dr. Brian Blaum received a letter from the OCR stating that the district was hereby released from the agreement and if they did not— in 30 calendar days from the date of the letter— revise the policies, the OCR would open a directed investigation of “the District’s failure to comply with Title IX” and leave the district vulnerable to losing millions of dollars of federal funding.

“We are always going to err on the side of following the guideline given to us by the federal government and the Department of Education,” Mr. Chris Lordi, Director of Human Resources for the district, said.

On March 19, the school board voted unanimously to change policy 103 and 104, which

both deal with discrimination. The changes in those policies essentially removed the clauses that protected gender identity and gender expression — two types of discrimination that are no longer prohibited under the current interpretation of Title IX.

“Technically speaking [the change in policy] is more just changing the procedure of who’s allowed where and affording different opportunities for those affected,” Dr. Blaum said.

As a result of the policy changes, three new gender-neutral bathrooms have been opened on the high school campus.

Junior Elijah

Robles, a student directly affected by the policy changes, noted that he wished the school board had spoken to transgender and/or queer students to

understand the true gravity of the situation.

“It feels a lot more humiliating walking in and feeling like people might know you’re being treated differently,” he said. “It is not good to remove policies that were put in place due to necessity to combat discrimination.”

Moving forward, members of the board urge the community to continue to trust the administrators and staff in their carrying out of protocol within the district.

“We are here to support our students,” Dr. Blaum said. “Our goal is to be as open and up front with them as possible, and if there’s something we can do better that follows our rules we will do our best to accommodate that.”

“We are always going to err on the side of following the guideline given to us by the federal government and the Department of Education.”

- Mr. Chris Lordi

Contributing writers: Reilly Newton and Kimberly Smyser

Del.Aware wins big at Bigler

BY ASHANTIA DICETTE
Opinion Co-Editor

Journalism 2 and 3 students learned about the future of media at the 25th annual Tom Bigler Journalism and Media Conference on April 10, gaining knowledge on how tools such as artificial intelligence and social media are reshaping the industry.

The conference, held at Wilkes University, featured seminars led by a variety of journalists, broadcasters and media experts. Topics ranged from breaking into the field to adapting to rapid technological changes, with a strong focus on using AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for reporters’ and creativity.

Speaker Julie Sidoni of WVIA said that AI can assist with brainstorming, organizing information and speeding up research but should never replace original reporting or critical thinking. She encouraged journalists to verify

AI-generated content and maintain their own ethical standards.

The conference also had an awards ceremony recognizing student achievement in journalism. Among the winners were Ava Troup, second place for sports photo, Emma Simmons, first place for sports story, Kimberly Smyser, first place for opinion story, Kaitlin Gelardi, first place for news photo, Reilly Newton, first place for news story and Mike Iuzzolino, second place for news story.

The Del.Aware newspaper also won the Excellence in Journalism overall award and second place for layout and design.

Throughout the day, students attended workshops and asked questions to professionals. The event was both informative and inspiring, providing a clear understanding of the use of modern media while also highlighting the importance of storytelling and adaptability in a constantly evolving field.

End of Year Checklist

Are you ready for...

- May 13: Athletic Signing Day**
- May 15: Prom**
- May 27: Scholarship Night**
- May 28: Senior BBQ**
- June 1: Spirit Games**
- June 5: Graduation**

Compiled by Reilly Newton

Opinion

Stop it, get some help

BY ASHANTIA DICETTE
Opinion Co-Editor

There are people — real, living, breathing people — who wake up, open their phones and immediately clock in for their full-time job of hating women. No pay, no benefits, just unresolved insecurities and familial issues.

Welcome to the manosphere: a digital ecosystem where the takes are atrocious, and everyone thinks they've cracked the code of women despite not being one. And let me just say: it's weird how they wake up and immediately start their little chant: women bad, women shallow, women goldiggers, women evil. They're basically Frankenstein, but instead of a monster, they've built a sad philosophy out of whatever pathetic scraps they could find.

Tragically, much of this stems from somewhere real — bad parenting, zero emotional intelligence, being told to “man up” instead of being taught how to actually process feelings. And as a result, we've got some men fully convinced that dating is some kind of stock market and that women owe them something.

Let's also talk about the leadership of this manosphere cult. Half of them are scammers, half of them are under investigation and the rest are just too loud and wrong — pick a lane. Imagine taking advice from someone who treats empathy as a weakness and relationships as power struggle. That isn't just misguided, it's harmful

as it isolates insecure men instead of helping them grow.

And before anyone gets too comfortable, this isn't just a men's issue. There are women out there doing the same thing, building personalities around hating men, swearing off relationships and acting as if bitterness is women's empowerment. No queen, this is not slay, it's nay. Go to therapy.

Deep down, this isn't about truth or logic. It's about rejection, about insecurity, about not getting what you want and deciding that warrants blaming half the population rather than realizing that you have some real issues. That's toddler behavior. Grow up.

At some point, you have to ask yourself: what is this doing for you? Is it making you happier? More fulfilled, more attractive? Or are you just diving deeper and deeper into an echo chamber where everyone thinks they've got it figured out, but deep inside, they're miserable.

You do this because hate is loud, it's easy. It gives you something to blame. But it's also making you insufferable. Love is harder. It requires effort and self-awareness by admitting that you might not be perfect.

Right now, in this country, in this community, in this school, in your own homes, too many people are choosing the easier option: be bitter, be loud, be rude and call it the truth. To that, all I have to say is love is stronger than hate.

So next time you feel like hating on anything, maybe you've got to try a little tenderness.

OUR OPINION

It's time to stop believing blindly

Our country has never been more polarized.

Politics has transformed; ideology has become identity. “Agree to disagree” is unheard of. Political differences tear apart friends and family. The tension between Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, has reached a breaking point.

Because of this, the topic of politics has become almost taboo — something we don't talk about for fear that every interaction will result in a massive argument. This is especially prevalent in schools, where political conversations are discouraged for the sake of keeping order. And as a result, students get their political information from sources that are dubious at best and indoctrinating at worst.

It's common knowledge that parents' political orientation is one of the biggest influences. Some parents ingrain their political beliefs into their children from day one; in many instances, children get no chance to explore the spectrum of beliefs before they're forced to choose a direction.

It's not just family, either: in today's digital age, students get a large amount of their information from social media. The internet has a tendency to distort information with 30-second clips that oversimplify complex issues and promote stereotypes, which leads to students having a skewed perception of

what may actually be happening.

The point is that this ignorance creates its own host of problems. It's difficult to have maturity and tolerance for other opinions when all you're hearing is one side of the story. It's impossible to have civil conversations when both sides have been raised to believe that the other is wrong no matter what. That's the real reason we avoid politics: not only is it a tenuous topic, but we're not educated enough to have mature conversations about it.

The solution is simple: we need to address political education. Yes, the workings of the American government are integrated into the actual social studies curriculum, but it's clearly not enough.

It's time to take matters into our own hands. As high school students, we're on the cusp of truly entering society; some of us can even vote already, and decisions need to be made by well-informed, rational people.

If you know someone who is intensely opinionated, take what they say with a grain of salt. If you watch the news, switch channels from time to time — see what both sides are saying. If you're online and see a clip about a politician or political issue, fact-check it with a legitimate source.

It's your job to arm yourself with knowledge in our current political scheme.

KAITLIN GELARDI
School News Editor

LILY STOVEKEN
Opinion Editor

ALYSSA ZIMMER
Community News Editor

LILIAN SEIBERT
Lifestyle Editor

DEL.AWARE

EMMA SIMMONS
Editor-in-Chief

KIMBERLY SMYSER
Managing Editor

MRS. LESLIE LORDI
Adviser

JAIDA PALACIOS
Arts & Literature Editor

ELLA BECKER
Entertainment Editor

REILLY NEWTON
Science & Technology Editor

MIKE IUZZOLINO
Sports Editor

Letter Guidelines

The Del.Aware is an administrative reviewed publication of the journalism class of Delaware Valley High School. The Del.Aware will print acceptable letters written by current students which may be edited or condensed for reasons of libel, good taste, grammar and punctuation.
Mail: Letters to the Opinions Editor, Del. Aware, 252 Route 6 & 209, Milford, PA 18337
Email: del.awarenewspaper21@gmail.com

Opinion

Should teachers be allowed to cheat if we can't?

By JOEIMARIE COHEN

Arts & Literature Co-Editor

At every mention of the use of artificial intelligence in school, the focus is primarily on students who use it to cheat or avoid original thinking. What is rarely discussed and overlooked is how often AI is already shaping the work teachers assign to us in everyday classroom settings and how normalized it has become.

Schools have implemented systems meant to control how students use artificial intelligence, including our school's red, yellow, green light policy. As most of us know, red means AI use is prohibited, yellow allows more limited or guided use and green allows it to be used completely in certain situations depending on the assignment and teacher approval.

This structure is meant to protect learning and make expectations for the student clear, while students are expected to follow these rules and justify their work when artificial intelligence is used. Because

of this, it highlights a lack of consistency in how AI is treated depending on who is using it and under what expectations.

While students continue to be closely monitored, AI tools are becoming normalized in how teachers are creating their materials. Tasks like making worksheets can be done with the single action of typing commands into a chatbot.

The point that is most frustrating is that AI use is not always clearly addressed or consistently reviewed in the materials that are created. At times, it is even acknowledged that AI has been used in some form, even when it is not fully clear how much oversight was involved. That alone would not be an issue if the worksheets made clear sense and aligned with what is being taught, but this is not always the case.

From a student perspective, it shows up in the work we receive. I have been given worksheets that feel like they were generated quickly and barely checked afterward. Sometimes the questions on the

paper are not even cohesive with the lesson that is currently being taught, which makes everything feel disconnected and unbelievably pointless at times and harder to engage with.

This is not about whether artificial intelligence should or should not be used in education, but about consistency in how it is applied across different parts of the classroom experience and expectations. If students are expected to follow strict rules and be fully transparent about AI use, then there should also be transparency in how it is used to create the work we are given.

Otherwise, the system feels uneven where responsibility is placed mostly on students while the tools themselves are already implanted in teaching. As AI continues to grow in schools, the expectations should be the same on both sides of the classroom environment.

Covering up or expressing yourself?

By ELLA BECKER

Entertainment Editor

The topic of makeup has been discussed and up for debate for decades, with many arguing that makeup is oppressive, not empowering.

Almost every woman has heard that women shouldn't have to wear makeup every day in order to fit into beauty standards — which is true. Putting makeup on everyday can feel more like a hassle rather than a treat, and can bring out insecurities. Some have even gone as far as wearing makeup at young ages, just to fit in more.

On the other hand, many argue that wearing makeup makes them more comfortable and confident in their skin. So, which one is it?

The truth is, there's no right answer. However, would you ever tell an artist you don't like the design of their sculpture? No, you probably wouldn't, because it's not for you to say.

The fact that what women decide to put in their face in the morning is up for debate

is more oppressive than actually wearing makeup. Do I think everyone should embrace their natural beauty? Absolutely. However, I know that doing my makeup is my favorite part of the day and makes me more confident, so why would I stop doing something that brings me joy? Besides, no one's getting hurt.

What's more oppressive, wearing makeup or loudly voicing negative thoughts and opinions on something that doesn't concern you?

Many people argue that wearing makeup is like living a lie, but come on, are any of us truly the person we say we are? Exactly. So, if you find yourself with the opportunity to become more comfortable with yourself, do it. Nothing is more empowering than a confident young man or woman.

Makeup should not be the only way for someone to feel confident. It is important to understand your natural beauty before just coping by covering up.

Remember, everyone is beautiful in their own way, regardless of if they wear makeup or not.

Red light, green light

By KIMBERLY SMYER

Managing Editor

Stop. Slow down. Why the rush? You have your whole life to live, why are you moving as if it's a race to finish? Take a minute to breathe — relax.

We are constantly pushing, growing, persevering, but we are hardly ever stopping and taking a moment to live in the now.

If we don't ever take a moment to look around, we will miss what is right in front of us: the small laughs, jokes, spontaneous meet-ups and quiet moments — instances that will truly make a difference in your life that you will want to look back on in 15 years.

Yes, it's important to have goals, dreams, aspirations and something to work toward; however, it's arguably more important to be present, to live,

to feel.

We often get into a routine where everything becomes second nature, allowing us to rush to get checklist items done.

Efficiency is important but not when it takes over — not when the only thing that is on your mind is the next task you have to complete.

We are allowed to be bored. We are allowed to take a break.

If you don't, you will only ever be able to look back, wish you hadn't taken these moments for granted and be able to change nothing about anything because, as we all know, what's done is done.

Of course, you should establish plans for yourself and your future, but don't forget who you are along the way.

You can not live your life as a to-do list, as life is meant to be enjoyed.



School News

BLOWING THE COMPETITION OUT OF THE WATER

FBLA

Overview: FBLA members traveled to Hershey for the State Leadership Conference on April 13-15. 44 students from the high school attended with 12 qualifying for Nationals in San Antonio, Texas, in June. The chapter as a whole placed second for William H. Selden Outstanding Chapter.

- **Standouts:** Veronika Martin was elected PA FBLA state Vice President at Large #1. Other standouts included Grace Holderith, Emma Simmons, Kimberly Smyser, Bella Faust, Elizabeth Bailey, Ava Troup, Joseph Benavides, Skarlet DePutron and Lexi Tsiattalos.

- **Placements:** Troup placed second for the William Seldon Scholarship, Simmons and Smyser placed first in Visual Design, Faust and Tsiattalos placed third in Introductions to Social Media Strategy, Bailey and Holderith placed first in Event Planning and Benavides, Deputron and Vidhi Patel placed fourth in their Local Chapter Annual Business Report.

Compiled by Mike Iuzzolino



OOTM

Overview: The four Odyssey of the Mind teams traveled to States on March 28. The teams that traveled include members Anderson Dunlap, Kay Dunlap, Savanna Bilach, Sawyer Levisky, Saranda Kurtolli, Mitchell Kellstrom, Jake Bischoff, Jocelyn Alveari, Ella Dong, Decklan Handley, Nova Weyant, Lily Nagy, Christopher Miller, Mackenzie DiMarsico, Angie Barcia, Connor Giblin, Grant Nielsen, Brooke Nielsen, Clare Barcia, Beau Tannenbaum, Bailey Ryan, Jacob Natter, Delanie Stumpf, Arianna Demmo, Holly Foord, Emma May and Kaitlyn Albaugh.

- **Standouts:** Across the district, there are 10 teams who qualified and are heading to Worlds, which is a school record. The structure team was able to create a solution that held 1,085 pounds at States.
- **Placements:** The vehicle, technical and structure teams took first place, becoming PA state champions. The performance team placed fifth with the highest long-term score in the state.

Compiled by Faith Bailey



FCCLA

Overview: Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) members attended the state competition held at Kalahari Resorts on March 23-25, where they demonstrated their leadership, critical thinking, goal setting and communication skills.

- **Standouts:** Jonathan Yarrish is a State Officer. Delaware Valley received a Gold for Outstanding Chapter. Students who received gold: Olivia Sheridan, Gigi Veras, Madison Warfsman, Emma Wentworth, Yarrish, Faith Cendroski, Nina Green, Melissa Padula, Bella Dillon, Gianna Perone and Joni Prinzing.
- **Placements:** Students who qualified for Nationals at Washington, DC were Sheridan, Veras, Warfsman, Wentworth, Yarrish, Cendroski, Green, Padula, Dillon, Perone, Prinzing, Sara Acosta Rios, Layla McCormick, Grace Piurowski, Llaría Sarte, Avah Galimi, Jenli Walker, Delanie Stumpf, Alexalyn Perez, Ava Perone and Emily Murphy.

Compiled by Kaitlin Gelardi



HOSA

Overview: Students in Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA) competed at Hershey Lodge in Hershey on March 11-13. HOSA does not have a regional competition, and instead students compete at the State Leadership Conference. In order to compete at the International Leadership Conference, students must place in the top three at States. Students in HOSA work all year-round and there are a variety of different topic styles that students can participate in. This includes written and skills assessments, presentations, and research.

- **Standouts:** The students worked diligently to learn about their topics they competed in.
- **Placements:** No students placed in the top 3 however, two students placed in the top 10. Junior Chelsey Vivar competed in World Health and Disparities placed 7th, while Junior Marilyn Marty competed in Physical Therapy and placed 8th.

Compiled by Alyssa Zimmer



Reading OLYMPICS

Overview: Reading Olympics competed April 9 at Pleasant Valley Middle School with two teams: Delaware Valley Court and the Delaware Valley Reading Gods. Reading Olympics is an academic competition in which teams of up to 13 students read 25 assigned books and then answer questions based on those titles. During competition, teams are designated as Team A or Team B and alternate answering questions. If one team cannot answer correctly, the opposing team has an opportunity to steal the point. Each team competes in three rounds of 30 questions. At the end of the event, officials total the points and announce the results immediately.

- **Standouts:** The Reading Gods were led by senior Cara Johnson who read all 25 books.
- **Placements:** The Reading Gods took first place, while the Court came in sixth place.

Compiled by Chloe Simonson



School News

Alum Loan Pham advises ELD students to believe in themselves

By ELLA BECKER
Entertainment Editor

Guest speaker and former member of the ELD program Loan Pham spoke to ELD students on April 1, encouraging them to not be hard on themselves.

Pham moved to the United States from Vietnam when she was eight years old. Pham enjoyed her time at DV, and she said everyone was so nice to her. After high school, she attended Sussex County Community College for two years, where she received her liberal arts degree. Pham was always hard on herself and didn't believe she could go to college.

"When I graduated DV, I told one of my friends that I didn't think I could go to college," Pham said. "I didn't think that I was smart enough."

Despite Pham's disbelief in herself, she became the first person in her family to attend university.

After attending community college, she then went to Rutgers University and studied biology. Following her time at Rutgers, Pham went to Temple University for four years to get a degree in pharmacy, which she is currently looking for a job in the field.

"I was really shy, and I was afraid of making mistakes. Now, I feel like people don't remember your mistakes, only you do."

- Loan Pham

Despite all of her accomplishments, Pham wishes she had been a little different in high school. She told ELD students to not be afraid of making mistakes.

"I was really shy, and I was afraid of making mistakes," Pham said. "Now, I feel like people don't remember your mistakes, only you do."

Pham recalls being hard on herself in high school, constantly wanting good grades and putting herself down.

"I was always hard on myself because I wanted good grades," Pham said. "I would get stressed out and it would put me in bad moods."

By the time she was going to university, Pham felt prepared enough to not have to take an English class in college. She believed that the ELD program had appropriately prepared her.

The ELD program holds a special place in her heart.

"The ELD program was my favorite class," Pham recalls. "It felt more like home."

PUZZLE FUN

Be the first to return the correct answers to C13 to win a prize!

KXECUIKOC DTQXOWDKXGV
LVZFRFRFNNLNMALQXITI
XIEKQQRUTEAMOTLFQWUS
CMDRJBYBZGWYBEJOEPTU
MVGGOHABMDYSOAIPHGA
JIPMUSEGMENNPUDADOPL
MPKYRYVAEAKQLATNITNA
CNTDNRWEDDKISNPOTOTZ
RCAKAJYNILMZDELEOBZG
FKOVLRSBAIICDSYYRLEI
UULTICTZONHNNZRZICLN
PSFSSBYITEFHEKREADYO
LKLZMQXRCKHPUEGDL SIT
WIADGCTYYLAWEBIJVWUQ
PHRIWTUZJOEOIWPTPZKA

JOURNALISM LAYOUT MEDIA
HEADLINE EDITORIAL DEADLINE
NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PHOTO
VISUAL

Compiled by JoeiMarieCohen

Inquiring Photographer

"WHAT IS KEEPING YOU MOTIVATED UNTIL THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?"

COMPILED BY JAIDA PALACIOS



"Summer break"
Mia Pauley
Class of 2029



"My AP test"
Matt Doro
Class of 2027



"Going to England at the end of the year"
Addie Yadanza
Class of 2026



"My best friend Shaun Cannalley because of his kindness."
Sam Robinson
Class of 2028



"All of the people that work here keep me motivated. I love the school year more than the summer."
Kevin Kearns
Staff



"Looking forward to all of the year end events: graduation, awards and banquets."
Dr. Chris Ross
Staff

School News

Students, staff continue to power sustainability

BY VANESSA DISPOTO
School News Co-Editor

In the T-wing, fish swim beneath leafy greens in a student-built aquaponics system, a quiet reminder that sustainability at the high school is more than a poster on the wall or an assembly in the gym. It is becoming part of everyday life.

Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs Ms. Jessica Hubal said many initiatives are already in place, but the goal is long-term cultural change. Through National Honor Society (NHS) service, students are required to complete at least two hours of community service focused on the environment.

Ms. Hubal explained that this shift encourages students to get more out of their service hours.

"This will help encourage students to see service as active commitment not just volunteer hours," Ms. Hubal said.

Recycling also continues to be a visible priority.

With accessible bins in every classroom and hallway, the school has added new posters to remind students what is and is not able to be recycled. Students also participate in the NexTrex Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge, where the school has saved tons of plastic out of landfills and waterways.

Hands-on programs throughout the school also further support sustainability. The Culinary CTE

Program composts food waste from their classes. The Chief Science Officers also held a STEM week from March 16 to 20, which had sustainability elements embedded throughout it.

Ms. Hubal believes that most of the high school students are aware of the initiatives taking place.

"Certain clubs and classes are heavily involved

in one or many initiatives," Ms. Hubal said. "For example, next year's Freshman Seminar class will now have a Sustainability/Community Engagement unit embedded in the course."

Despite this, Ms. Hubal acknowledges that many challenges still remain.

"I think our biggest challenge is getting buy-in from all staff and students."

- Ms. Jessica Hubal

"I think our biggest challenge is getting buy-in from all staff and students," Ms. Hubal said.

"Also, some of

the sustainability initiatives are costly, so finding funding outside our school budget is something we are consistently looking [for]."

With new curricula units and growing student involvement, sustainability is steadily taking root.

Berrios, Langelotti win first place in promposal contest



First



Second



Third

The Del.Aware's annual promposal contest was judged on April 21 by six staff members. Senior Noah Berrios and junior Olivia Langelotti won first place, seniors Connor Giblin and Riley McHenry came in second place and senior Mike Iuzzolino and junior Josie Lordi landed in third place. Berrios and Langelotti won two free Prom tickets. Giblin and McHenry won two \$15 Dunkin' gift cards. Iuzzolino and Lordi won a \$20 gift card to the school store.

Compiled by Faith Bailey

One donation saves lives

BY JOSIE LORDI
Sports Co-Editor

Delaware Valley hosted its semiannual blood drive on April 22, giving students who are 16 and older a chance to donate blood and save three lives each. Forty eight pints were collected from the blood drive, 32 of which were from first time donors.

"I donated because there are a lot of lives that could be helped," first-time donor senior Emma Jacobs said. "It feels good knowing that I could help someone."

The blood drive was organized and run with the help of the healthcare CTE students. They made sure that every donor was taken care of after donating.

"The y

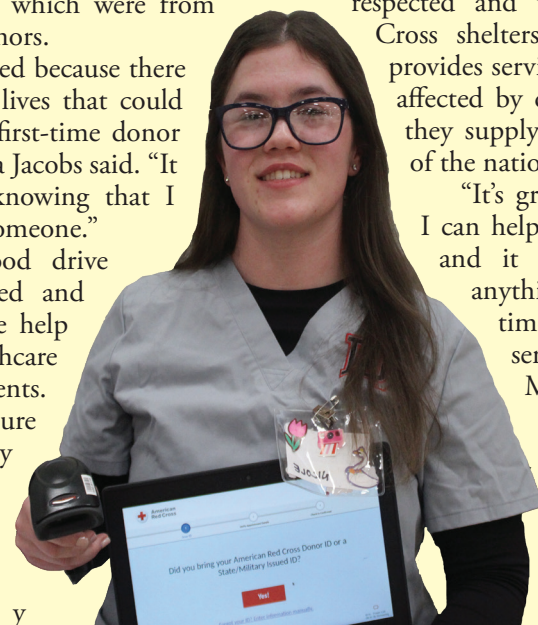
go around to the lunches to help educate those who are interested in donating," healthcare CTE teacher Jodi Kresse said.

According to their website, the American Red Cross Association is devoted to encouraging an environment where everyone who is involved in their mission feels respected and valued. Red

Cross shelters, feeds and provides service to people affected by disasters and they supply about 40% of the nation's blood.

"It's great knowing I can help out people, and it doesn't cost anything," third-time donor senior Cody Mueller said.

"I think everyone should donate if they are able."



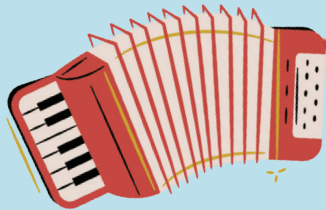
DV DRAMA PRESENTS...

Twelfth Night

THE MUSICAL

**ADDISON DEL MAURO****ROLE: VIOLA**

"I'M REALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE LOVING AND FUN ENVIRONMENT THAT I WALK INTO AT DV DRAMA."

**LOGAN WOODWARD****ROLE: ORSINO**

"I LIKE PLAYING THE CHARACTER BECAUSE I GET TO SING A COOL SONG."



THE ROMANTIC COMEDY "TWELFTH NIGHT" WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE BY DV DRAMA MEMBERS ON APRIL 17-19. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY WRITTEN AS A PLAY BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, THE PERFORMANCE WAS BASED ON THE MUSICAL ADAPTATION COMPOSED BY SHAINA TAUB.

FOLLOWING A SHIPWRECK, THE PROTAGONIST VIOLA, PLAYED BY SENIOR ADDISON DEL MAURO, DISGUISES HERSELF AS A MAN NAMED CESARIO TO SERVE DUKE ORSINO, PLAYED BY JUNIOR LOGAN WOODWARD.

THIS SEQUENCE OF EVENTS LEADS HER TO DEVELOP FEELINGS FOR THE DUKE, YET SHE FACES ONE MAJOR ISSUE: COUNTESS OLIVIA, PLAYED BY SENIOR EMMA JACOBS, HAS SIMULTANEOUSLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE SUPPOSED CESARIO.

IN THIS COMPLEX, YET COMEDIC MUSICAL, KEY THEMES SUCH AS MISTAKEN IDENTITY, THE MADNESS OF LOVE AND FLUID GENDER ROLES ARE EXPLORED THROUGH THE BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT THE CHARACTERS ENDURE.



Community News

The magic of Milford: where to take photos around town

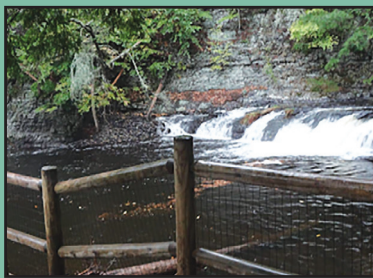
By AVA TROUP
Lifestyle Co-Editor

From stunning waterfalls to breathtaking castles, Milford has many hidden gems to take beautiful pictures.



Ava Troup/Del.Aware

Apple Valley Village has a quaint pond and a swinging bench to take the perfect candid pictures.



Contributed Photo

The Raymondskill trail is home to the largest waterfall in Pennsylvania.



Contributed Photo

Milford Knob overlooks the town of Milford and is the perfect spot for group pictures.



Ava Troup/Del.Aware

Grey Towers offers a variety of places to take pictures, from in front of the tower to the flower beds.

Location change spurs farmers market controversy

By EMMA SIMMONS
Editor-in-Chief

Held in the Pike County Administration Building parking lot since 2023, the Milford Farmers Market has been known as both a popular weekend event and a method of exposure for small businesses across the tri-state area. However, on Jan. 20, a letter was sent to the market organizers stating that the weekly event could no longer occur in that same parking lot — a choice made by the Pike County Commissioners.

Although met with pushback from community members, commissioners chairman Mike M. Osterberg and vice chairman Ronald R. Schmalzle chose to not continue the lease.

“Government should be careful not to favor short-term pop-up commerce over long-term community investment,” commissioners Osterberg and Schmalzle stated.

Contrarily, the third commissioner,

Christa L. Caceres, was not in favor of discontinuing the agreement.

“Personally, I believe that the market attracts a built-in crowd that actually helps brick-and-mortar businesses,” she said.

Although commissioners Osterberg and Schmalzle made it clear their choice was primarily to protect the brick-and-mortar businesses in Pike County, some felt differently about the effect the market has on permanent small businesses.

“I don’t believe we are [taking away from small businesses] because it is clear that the market itself brings more people to town,” a representative from

Highland Kitchens and Garden, one of the original market vendors, said.

Fortunately, the market organizers have found a new location at 501 W. Harford St., in the Key Food parking lot. The market will open for the 2026 season on May 10, recurring every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. until October.



Emma Simmons/Del.Aware

The Milford Farmers Market can host over 20 vendors on a given week, providing the community with unique products.

Action Bikes and Outdoor Shop serves community

By JAIDA PALACIOS
Arts & Literature Editor

The Action Bikes and Outdoor shop unites riders of all ages with bikes, repairs and community-focused events.

TC Crawford took over Action Bikes and Outdoor shop in 2012, when he relocated from New Jersey to Milford, bringing more than 20 years of experience in the bicycle and outdoor industry.

Inside, customers can find a wide selection of outdoor equipment, including, bikes, kayaks, rafts, tubes and paddleboards. E-bikes have become a fast-growing category amongst riders. The shop also offers gear such as helmets, life jackets, clothing and car racks and hitches. This makes it an easy all-in-one destination for outdoor activities.

The store is easy to navigate, with clearly displayed signs and sections throughout.

The shop also provides full-service repair and maintenance for both traditional and e-bikes, along with custom-built bikes, pre-owned bikes and rental options. Prices vary depending on the service or item. Rentals typically range from \$40 to \$140, depending on how many hours the bike is rented and a basic tune repair starting at \$90.

Twice a year, the shop hosts large

community rides that attract around 80 riders. One ride features Halloween costumes, while the holiday ride brings people together during the winter. These events are about connecting the community through fun, celebratory active events.

Customer satisfaction is a priority at the shop. No employee has worked there for less than five years, creating a knowledgeable and familiar environment for customers.

At the shop it’s not just about selling bikes and outdoor equipment, it’s about the overall experience of building a stronger community together.

At the shop it’s not just about selling bikes and outdoor equipment, it’s about the overall experience of building a stronger community together.

for group pictures. ride brings people together during the winter. These events are about connecting the community through fun, celebratory active events.

Customer satisfaction is a priority at the shop. No employee has worked there for less than five years, creating a knowledgeable and familiar environment for customers.

At the shop it’s not just about selling bikes and outdoor equipment, it’s about the overall experience of building a stronger community together.

Community News

Mix it up with MIX N MAC

By MIKE IUZZOLINO
Sports Editor

I am not usually one to leave a review after I visit a restaurant. At least that was the case until I tried a meal at MIX N MAC in Middletown.

When a friend of mine recommended a restaurant that only serves mac and cheese with assorted toppings, I was skeptical about how much I would enjoy it. That skepticism disappeared after my first bite.

I ordered the "BIG MIC," which included ground beef, pickles, caramelized onions, their special sauce and cheddar cheese. The flavor was outstanding, and the toppings enhanced the richness of the mac and cheese itself.

At \$10, the portion size was generous. There was just enough food so that I could enjoy it, but not enough to where I felt stuffed.

At MIX N MAC, the options are essentially unlimited. The menu features a variety of preset combinations, and their online ordering provides a wide selection of toppings that are able to be added to your customized bowl. It also includes diet-friendly options, such as gluten-free noodles.



Mike Iuzzolino/Del.Aware

The "BIG MIC" menu item includes many ingredients that you would find in a Big Mac from McDonald's.

MIX N MAC is one of the best restaurants I have ever eaten at, and one I would recommend taking the short drive to Middletown to enjoy this comfort food.

Fun hikes near you

By LUCAS PETERSHEIM
Sports Co-Editor

With spring activities coming back in style, it's time to grab your backpacks, fill your water bottles and hit the trails.

The tri-state area provides a variety of great spots that everyone can enjoy without a far drive. Whether you're looking for a quick workout or a daylong adventure with beautiful views, there is a hike for you.

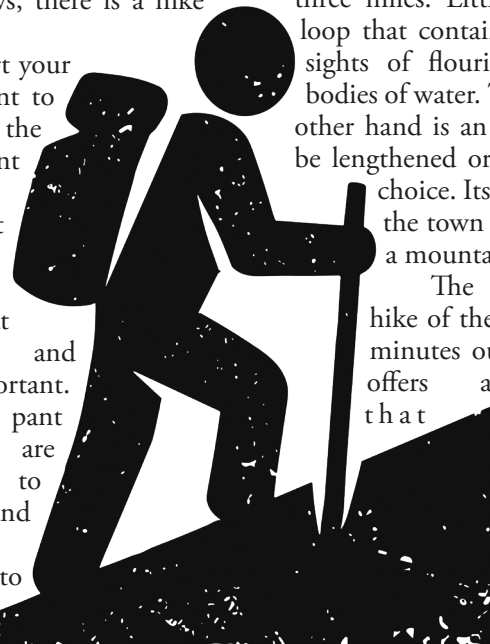
Before you start your hike, it is important to make sure you have the proper equipment and clothing.

When it comes to clothing, wearing a closed-toe shoe that provides stability and traction is important. For clothing long pant legs and sleeves are recommended to fight off ticks and poisonous plants.

The next step is to find out where

you want to hike. If you are interested in a short outing, Raymondskill Falls is home to Pennsylvania's largest waterfall standing at 150 ft tall. It is a half mile hike that goes in an uphill loop around the waterfall and gives the chance to see multiple different viewing points. If you are looking for more of a mid-distance hike, the Little Falls Trail in Greenville and the Milford Knob both provide amazing views in just under three miles. Little Falls Trail is a scenic loop that contains rocky terrain and has sights of flourishing creeks and other bodies of water. The Milford Knob on the other hand is an adjustable hike that can be lengthened or shortened at the hiker's choice. Its main view is overlooking the town of Milford on the side of a mountain.

The final and most popular hike of the area is Hackers Falls 10 minutes outside of Milford, which offers a spectacular waterfall that feeds into a swimming hole. Now that you are aware of all of these amazing hikes, there is no reason not to grab a friend and take a hike.



Local theater brings powerful story to life

By LILIAN SEIBERT
Lifestyle Editor

With its powerful themes, its meaningful story and the lesson it tells, the classic musical "Fiddler on the Roof" will be performed at the Milford Theater starting May 1 and running through May 10.

Set in 1905, "Fiddler on the Roof" tells the story of Tevye, a Jewish milkman living in the town of Anatevka with his family and friends alongside him. The story explores the challenge of protecting the Jewish tradition while the times are changing and as his daughters seek love. Each aspect of the story is portrayed in multiple songs and dance numbers.

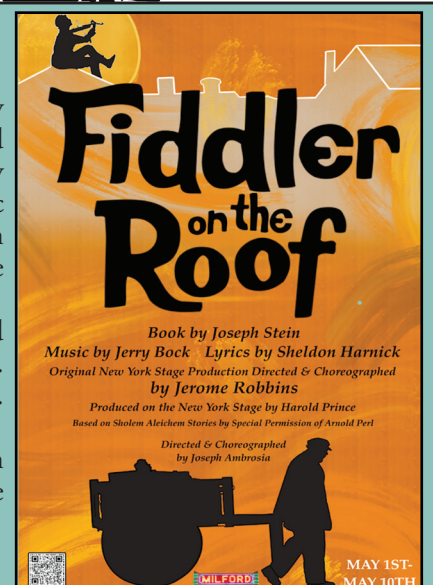
The Milford Theater shows roughly three to four productions a year. It is a local theater that brings families, friends and locals together. This musical includes DV alum such as Alexander Miller, who is portraying the same role as he did in high school, and David Torres as well as current DV high school students including sophomore William Kent, juniors Paul Cimino, Alyssa Donatone, Lilian Seibert and Logan Woodward, along with senior Christina Devine.

The production team is a group of people with a passion for theater and the story they are telling. Director and choreographer Joseph Ambrosia is thrilled to be directing this production and is proud to be telling the story.

Not only is this musical a widely known story, but also the Milford Theater brings a new view to the story through the choreography, set, music and costumes. The collaboration between different aged actors brings the story to life.

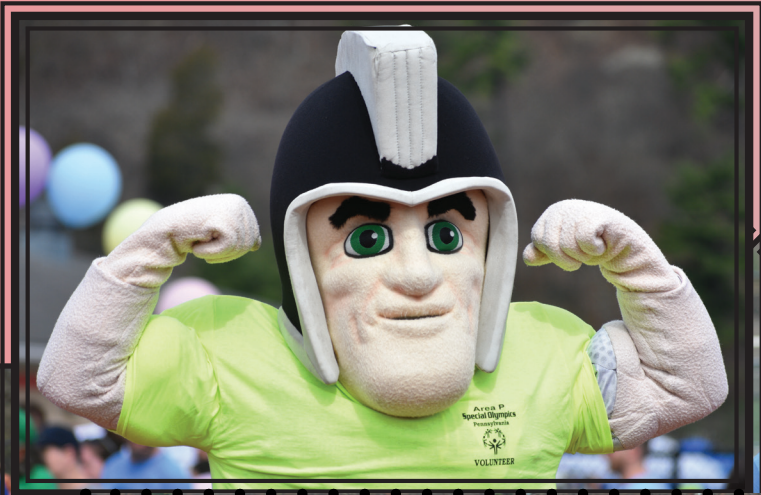
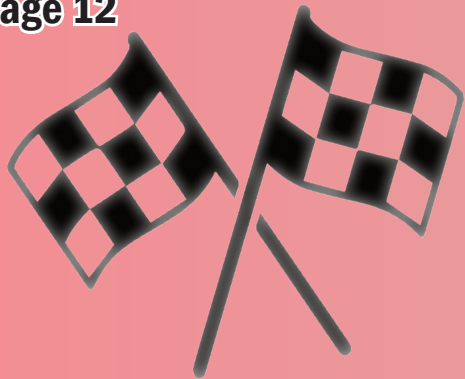
Come on down to the Milford Theater and support the cast and crew. To buy tickets, visit themilfordtheater.com.

Become familiar with the American classic story and continue to keep the "Tradition" alive.

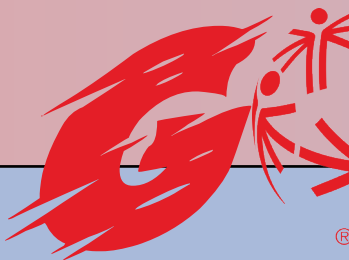


Contributed Photo

Ticket prices vary depending on seating.



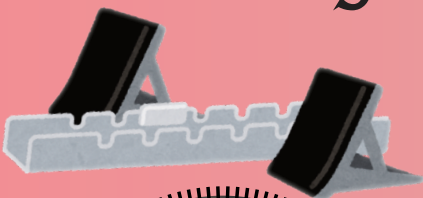
ON YOUR GET



By JOSIE LORDI
Sports Co-Editor

Delaware Valley hosted their 17th annual event on April 15, with over 500 athletes from Delaware Valley, Wallenpaupack, Wayne and two adult community organizations. "We love for our students to have a day where they feel a part of something bigger," said the supervisor of secondary special education. Each student athlete got to participate in their families and peers came to watch and cheer. "It needs to be about the kids," Mrs. T works."

"What is your favorite part of Special Olympics?"



Jonathan Yarrish - Class of 2026
"Seeing everyone compete"



Greg Plotkin - Class of 2027
"All the people having fun in their events"



Mrs. Ashley Turs - Staff
"The kids, it's all about the kids"



Eliza Padgett - Class of 2028
"Everything, I love the positivity and the unity"



Christopher DeGraw - Class of 2028
"The running and throwing"

2 MARK, SET.



Annual Special Olympics
athletes competing from
the Highlands, Western
Pennsylvania.

“I want to participate and compete
for a day,” Mrs. Ashley Turs,
said.

“I will compete in three events of their choice and
as they competed throughout the day.
Mrs. Turs said. “We are living proof that inclusion



Special Olympics



Lifestyle

Fashion Aware: Brandy Melville

By KEIRA LEMAY

Community News Co-Editor

Brandy Melville, a staple of the 2010s has once again risen in popularity among teen girls. The brand, which prioritizes natural fabrics like cotton and linen, appeals to young girls for their affordable yet quality basics.

After opening their first store in 2009, the brand grew rapidly, which was largely driven through exposure from social media. The brand categorized itself as a staple for teen girls. However, the store faced backlash with their one-size-fits-all sizes, typically equating to a size small. Nonetheless, they have grown in popularity even through controversy.

Brandy Melville has faced controversy for many issues surrounding their brand in recent years. After a 2024 documentary

exposed unethical business practices and a toxic culture, the brand was harshly criticized. They also continue to face backlash for their lack of size inclusivity, selling exclusively one-size-fits-all clothing.

The brand does not use traditional advertisements and instead relies on social media, influencers and word-of-mouth to build an exclusive and



desirable brand. Brandy Melville also does not have sales and promotions, either in store or online. They are also known for their exclusivity, with certain pieces or lines available only in their few brick-and-mortar stores.

Most of their clothing is made of cotton, which makes them stand out as it is oftentimes difficult to shop for cotton in the age of polyester pieces. The brand is popular for its lounge pieces but also sells jeans, outerwear, dresses and more. Their clothing ranges from \$16 to \$25 for tops and \$18 to \$50 for bottoms and sweatshirts. These affordable prices, along with the quality of the clothing, make Brandy a favorite brand among many teens.

The future is bright

By AVA TROUP

Lifestyle Co-Editor

The end of the school year is nearing and for many that means one thing: summer is almost here. Students celebrate the start of summer but often don't think about what it means. The end of another school year is also the end of an era.

While this hits close to home for me as a senior, I believe that it applies to everyone. Students have 180 days of attending the same classes, seeing the same teachers and creating a routine that is almost comforting. All in the span of one day, that routine disappears and the next school year will bring new teachers, different classes and unfamiliar faces.

Turning a new page in life can be scary and intimidating for people, but even through the fear, a new opportunity appears. While endings are exactly what they sound like — the end — they also act as the start of something new.

Think about when you graduate, for example. Yes, your time at this school is over, but you will be moving on to the next chapter of your life, regardless of what path you choose.

If we keep everything the same all the time, are we truly ever living? This is a question I have often asked myself, and I think we should all take a moment to reflect on that. When everything stays the same, we feel safe and comfortable, but at what point does that comfort become a wall we are too afraid to break through? When does the end of a great experience become something to fear rather than the start of something new?

While embracing the end of moments can be hard, remember that these endings will just lead us to a future filled to the brim with new and exciting memories. So, the next time you are facing an ending in your life — big or small — don't forget that it is not a time to fear the future but to embrace what is ahead with confidence, curiosity and hope for a new future filled with unforgettable memories.



Allergy season survival guide

By KAITLIN GELARDI

School News Editor

It's that time of year again. Birds are chirping, flowers are blooming and the outdoors is finally getting greener and brighter after a depressive, stark winter season. Yet with this charming change comes an unwelcome side effect: seasonal allergies. If you're like me and happen to be allergic to almost everything, this tends to dampen the whimsical nature of spring. Don't let it. Follow this survival guide to pull through -and maybe even enjoy- the season while lessening the effects of season allergies.

#1: Keep windows closed

While it may seem refreshing to open windows during a breeze, doing so can actually trigger seasonal allergies to flare. During high pollen

seasons such as spring, keeping windows shut can prevent allergens including tree and grass pollen from contaminating your living space.

#2: Use air purifiers

Keeping an air purifier in your room can be handy. These devices use high-efficiency particulate air filters (HEPA) to trap microscopic airborne allergens like pollen and mold spores. By removing these particles, bothersome symptoms such as sneezing, congestion and watery eyes may be reduced. I personally use the LEVOIT Compact True HEPA Air Purifier, which can be found at BJ's Wholesale Club. Although it is a little pricey -about \$70- I believe it has reduced my symptoms significantly and has been a worthwhile investment, as I leave it running every day. One thing to keep in mind, however, is to

regularly clean and dust the purifier.

#3: Shower after being outdoors

Although it may seem tedious, showering after being outdoors can help prevent allergens from transferring to bedding or furniture. This reduces continued exposure and may lessen allergy symptoms. Showers can also be used as a method to relieve congestion through warm water and steam.

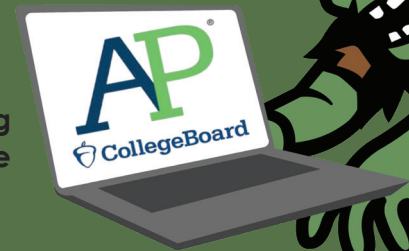
#4: Monitor pollen counts

Checking local weather reports or allergy apps for daily pollen forecasts can help you take proactive measures, such as limiting outdoor time or taking medication before symptoms peak. Tracking this data can also help you identify what allergens trigger you, such as tree or weed pollen, which can then lead to attempts to reduce exposure.



THE NIGHT BEFORE AP EXAMS

As AP test season nears, studying and preparing can feel as daunting as surviving a zombie apocalypse. Check out these tips to help survive what feels like the most stressful two weeks of the school year!



TEST DAY DO'S AND DONT'S:

DO:

Get a good night's sleep. Try to aim for at least eight hours and avoid screens before bed.

Eat a protein-rich breakfast, such as egg-based dishes or oatmeal.

Ensure that you have everything you need, such as a calculator, pencils or scratch paper.

Be confident in your abilities and give the test your best effort.

DON'T:

Don't stay up late. Don't skip breakfast. Don't cram! By this point, last-second cramming will only cause unnecessary pressure, and information will hardly be retained.

Don't stress. Stress can cause reduced academic performances and can lead to burnout.



"WHAT IS SOMETHING EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW BEFORE TAKING AN AP TEST?"



"Get enough sleep"
Townes Markwalter
Class of 2026



"Don't cram"
Riley Hunt
Class of 2026



"Plan before you start writing"
Vanessa Knapp
Class of 2027



"Time management"
Finnegan Lewis
Class of 2026

EXAM SCHEDULE

MONDAY 5/4	TUESDAY 5/5	WEDNESDAY 5/6	THURSDAY 5/7	FRIDAY 5/8
A.M. - BIOLOGY P.M. - EUROPEAN HISTORY - MICRO-ECONOMICS	A.M.: - CHEMISTRY P.M.: - HUMAN GEOGRAPHY - U.S. GOV.	A.M. - LITERATURE AND COMP. P.M. - COMPARATIVE GOV. - PHYSICS 1	A.M. - WORLD HISTORY P.M. - STATISTICS	A.M. - U.S. HISTORY P.M. - MACRO-ECONOMICS
MONDAY 5/11	TUESDAY 5/12	WEDNESDAY 5/13	THURSDAY 5/14	FRIDAY 5/15
A.M. - CALC AB - CALC BC P.M. - MUSIC THEORY - SEMINAR	A.M. FRENCH P.M. PSYCHOLOGY	A.M. - LANGUAGE AND COMP. - GERMAN P.M. - PHYSICS C (MECH.) - SPANISH	A.M. - ART HISTORY - SPANISH P.M. - COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES - PHYSICS C (ELEC. AND MAGNETISM)	A.M. - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE P.M. - COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Source: College Board

STUDYING SURVIVAL GUIDE:

1. Start studying now, not the day before!
2. Take breaks in between your study sessions so you don't tire yourself out.
3. Use the internet as a tool to find reputable study resources.
4. Pay attention during class review time.
5. Avoid drinking a bunch of caffeinated energy drinks before your exam.
6. Don't only use the internet for answers; put in the work yourself.

Arts & Literature

Spotlight Artist: Amaya McKiernan

By FAITH BAILEY
School News Co-Editor

In addition to balancing school work, senior Amaya McKiernan enjoys spending time improving her art abilities, with painting being her favorite medium.

"I like painting 100%," she said. "You can always correct your mistakes."

For Amaya, no matter how much she is against her painting in the beginning, as she adds layers and details, it always becomes something to be proud of.

Amaya has always valued art, but her middle school art teacher pushed her to discover her capabilities.

"She helped me open my eyes to what I could do," Amaya said.

When Amaya was a freshman, she started taking

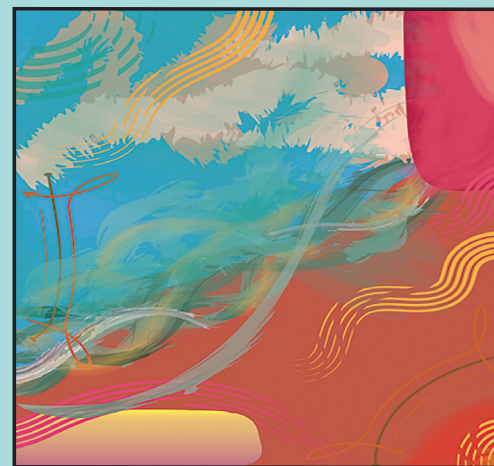
different classes that allowed her to realize art is her passion.

She has taken Drawing 1 and 2, Painting 1 and 2, Ceramics 1 and 2, Foundations of Art, General Art, Computer Art 1 and 2 and Jewelry Design. She also was part of the Art Club in her sophomore year.

Amaya views art teacher Dr. Irene Lantz as an inspiration through her carefree way of allowing ideas to flow into her brain, instead of worrying about coming up with them on her own. She credits Dr. Lantz with positively impacting her high school experience.

Amaya plans to become a flight attendant in the future, while maintaining art as a hobby.

"I feel like art just gives a way to express your emotions without using words," she said. "I have learned to let my art evolve into its own opinion."



Contributed Photo

Amaya's non-objective art piece was inspired by colors and textures from a variety of photographs.

Spotlight Writer: Jackson Hancock

By EMMA SIMMONS
Editor-in-Chief

Known by his classmates as an academic force and leader of many clubs, senior Jackson Hancock's prodigious talent for creative writing often goes unnoticed among his other accolades.

For Jackson, writing is a way of continuing childhood imagination into adulthood.

"I see so often how people lose the sense of wonder they had as children as they grow up," he said. "Creative writing is my way to combat that loss."

In high school, Jackson has taken both the AP Language and Composition and AP Literature and Composition courses, and he credits the former for elevating his writing the most.

Outside of school, Jackson enjoys writing novels or short stories with satirical undertones.

"If my work as a creative writer ever amounts to anything, I hope it causes people

to think deeply about the topics which inspire me to write," he said. "That's the whole point of satire, and I do believe it's the writer's duty to remind our readers of what it means to be human."

Jackson has also found success in writing competitively, including being a semifinalist and scholarship winner in the Bennington College Young Writers Competition, as well as earning first, second and third placements in the Q. David Bowers Young Numismatist

Literary Competition across the past four years.

In the fall, he will be attending Amherst College to double major in architectural studies and English with an emphasis on creative writing.

Jackson encourages others who may doubt themselves to continue trying to explore the world of creative writing.

"You should never consider yourself a 'bad' writer just because of a bad grade on an essay," he said. "No one should ever give up on writing."

Spotlight Musician: Grace Stevens

By LILIAN SEIBERT
Lifestyle Editor

The moment that music starts to play, senior Grace Stevens is right at home. Whether that is in concert band, jazz band, marching band or the pit band, music has become a defining part of her life.

Grace first picked up the flute, early in her life in third grade. Since then, she has not once put it down. Although her main instrument is the flute, she also plays the piccolo, trumpet and piano.

Becoming serious about music came easy to Grace when she began to expand her experiences.

"I became involved in a lot of things like marching band and pit bands outside of just concert band," Grace said.

Outside of just

playing in the bands, Grace was the drum major of the marching band her senior year as well as mentoring younger flutists.

Music isn't just performing to Grace as it has brought her a new community of friends, courage and exciting opportunities.

"It has definitely shaped my life in a positive way," Grace said. "It's taught me time management and allowed me to become involved in activities I never would've thought of."

Although she is graduating this year, Grace plans to continue playing music at Lehigh University alongside her neuroscience and cognitive science major.



ART SHOW 2026

THIS YEAR'S ART SHOW
FEATURED 19
ARTISTICALLY TALENTED
SENIORS. FROM APRIL
17-19, THEIR WORK WAS
SHOWCASED IN THE 11/12
LOBBY.

MEMBERS OF THE
COMMUNITY WERE ABLE
TO COME TO THE SCHOOL
TO VIEW THEIR ARTWORK.

ELLA DONG

COLLEGE:
PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY

MAJOR:
AERO-
SPACE
ENGI-
NEERING



AMAYA MCKIERNAN

COLLEGE:
UNDECIDED

MAJOR:
UNDECIDED



JASON HELFERTY

COLLEGE:
EAST STROUDS-
BURG UNI-
VERSITY

MAJOR:
COM-
PUTER
SCI-
ENCE



EMMA JACOBS

COLLEGE:
MISERICOR-
DIA UNIVER-
SITY

MAJOR:
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
& PRIMARY
EDUCATION



GRACE MYERS

COLLEGE:
TEXAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

MAJOR:
ME-
CHAN-
ICAL
ENGI-
NEERING



ISABELLA SEIDEL

COLLEGE:
OHIO STATE UNI-
VERSITY

MAJOR:
ZOOLO-
GY



GIANNA RODRIGUEZ

COLLEGE:
SUNY NEW PALTZ

MAJOR:
GRAPHIC
DESIGN



JAMIE FAMOSO

COLLEGE:
UNDECIDED

MAJOR:
UNDE-
CIDED



MACKENZIE MAGIE

COLLEGE:
EAST
STROUDS-
BURG UNI-
VERSITY

MAJOR:
MARINE
BIOLOGY



BAILEY RYAN

COLLEGE:
UNDECIDED

MAJOR:
SONOGRA-
PHY



KATE YABLONSKI

COLLEGE:
SUNY NEW PALTZ

MAJOR:
ART EDU-
CATION



BELLA WILKINS

COLLEGE:
SUSSEX COUN-
TY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

MAJOR:
ILLUSTRATION



MEGAN FREY

COLLEGE:
SUSSEX COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

MAJOR:
LIBERAL
ARTS



RUBY BAILOR

COLLEGE:
KUTZTOWN
UNIVERSITY

MAJOR:
SECOND-
ARY
HISTORY
EDUCATION



VIDHI PATEL

COLLEGE:
RUTGERS UNIVER-
SITY

MAJOR:
BIOLOGY



ZAYRA MURILLO REYES

COLLEGE:
ORANGE COUNTY
COM-
MUNITY
COLLEGE

MAJOR:
NURSING



ANGELA OLSEN

COLLEGE:
JOHN JAY
COLLEGE
OF
CRIMI-
NAL
JUSTICE

MAJOR:
CRIMINOLOGY



YEKATHERINA POLETAYEVA

COLLEGE:
SCHOOL OF
VISUAL ARTS

MAJOR:
ILLUSTRATION



MAYA ZHIVKOVICH

COLLEGE:
CARNEGIE MELLON
UNIVERSITY

MAJOR:
FINE
ARTS



Entertainment

Is modern entertainment quietly killing the old industry?

BY CHLOE SIMONSON
Science & Technology Co-Editor

Some people may claim that the entertainment industry is dying, but it is probably more accurate to say that it's being replaced.

The old version of entertainment, like cable TV, concerts, movie theaters, radios and buying records, is losing traction because people now want everything faster, cheaper and shorter. Apps such as TikTok and Youtube have trained their audiences to expect entertainment in seconds. At the same time, streaming platforms have made on-demand content the normal way to watch and listen.

Nielsen's The Gauge reported that streaming made up 47.5% of all TV viewing in December of 2025, the highest share ever recorded.

Spotify now reports 751 million users worldwide.

In music, the Recording Industry Association of America says streaming made up 82% of U.S. recorded music revenue in 2025. Meanwhile, traditional pay TV has been shrinking for years, with major providers dropping from about 91.5 million subscribers in 2018 to 71.3 million in 2023. That shift hurts theaters, cable companies and musicians who earn less per stream than through past sales.

So, while entertainment isn't disappearing, the older system that used to control how entertainment was sold is. People still watch, listen and obsess over content everyday. It's just not in the same way they used to.

Whether that is a good thing or not is up to the consumer.



Compiled by Reilly Newton

Timothée Chalamet sparks controversy over ballet, opera

BY JAIDA PALACIOS
Arts & Literature Editor

Timothée Chalamet endured a wave of online criticism after stating in an interview with Matthew McConaughey that he didn't want to work in ballet or opera because "no one cares about this anymore."

The remarks created a culture shock online for many fans who adore him. The new statement portrayed him as dismissive to the ballet and opera community, sparking controversy over his own artistic credibility.

What makes this statement more controversial is Chalamet's own artistic background. He graduated from LaGuardia High School of Music & Art where he performed in many school productions himself and participated in school talent shows. The school has produced many notable actors, musicians, dancers and performers who credit the school on its classical and technical foundations.

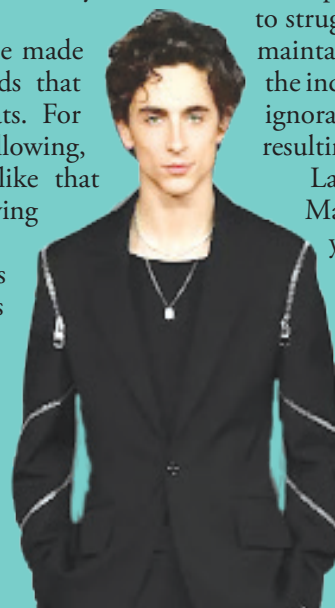
Chalamet has also demonstrated his musical and theatrical talents in his films, SNL skits and digital

footprint. The connection between his performances and his mentality led fans to question whether or not his comments were intended comedically or taken out of context.

Before his latest press tour, he made a speech during the SAG Awards that he wants to be one of the greats. For someone who has such a large following, making an ignorant statement like that clearly doesn't match what he is trying to accomplish.

Additionally Chalamet's aesthetic was built upon by his multiple appearances in indie films, which correlates with the fine arts due to the common struggles they face with funding and support from wider demographics.

Still for many in the arts community, the controversy reflects a deeper frustration.



The perception that traditional art forms are being sidelined by mainstream driven entertainment. Ballet and opera houses across the United States continue to struggle with funding and attendance, even as they maintain devoted fan bases. Essentially, he is kicking the industry when they are already down, normalizing ignorant comments to a vulnerable community, resulting in zero benefits for both parties.

LaGuardia's high school principal Deepak Marwah stated on his instagram post, "We know your heart, and we know you know better." The quote intensified the ongoing debate because Chalamet quickly pivoted from building up the fine arts community to tearing it down.

Regardless of Chalamet's real intent, the comment clearly demonstrates how the arts can spark passionate defense. Even a brief comment, whether interpreted as dismissive or not, can promote a wider conversation about how society views and supports art to this day.

Entertainment

In 'Project Hail Mary,' Grace Rocky save cinema

By MR. BRYAN POL
Contributing Writer

Andy Weir's "Project Hail Mary" is a novel that is best enjoyed across multiple platforms, from its gripping text about the pursuit of survival to the supremely engaging audiobook, voiced by Ray Porter, and now, the big screen spectacle, starring Ryan Gosling as Dr. Ryland Grace, a biology expert-turned-science teacher whose aim is to save his world — if not the galaxy — from a light-devouring parasite called Astrophage.

In the novel, readers are limited to what Grace thinks and perceives, whereby he combats trial and error to solve an interstellar problem that not only plagues him, but also an Eridian engineer counterpart he befriends named Rocky, a "labrador-sized," arachnid-like creature whose means

of communication is echolocation. Since film is a visual medium, directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller use that concept to great advantage, demonstrating what Rocky, voiced by James Ortiz, "sees" in ways the book cannot capture. These choices encapsulate some of the movie's more gorgeous moments and visuals, fine-tuned by cinematographer Greig Frasier.

While Grace is the story's protagonist, Rocky is the true star, and the interplay between them is the crux of the film. Though audiences will enjoy Sandra Hüller's performance (she plays Eva Stratt, the commander of the world-saving "project"), moviegoers will crave the natural camaraderie that Grace and Rocky exude, especially the sacrifices that define their friendship.

A mission to save Earth... or more?

By KIMBERLY SMYSER
Managing Editor

What stood out to me the most in the movie, "Project Hail Mary," is not just the high-stakes mission in itself, but the unexpected friendship between Grace and Rocky.

While Andy Weir is known for blending humor with science, this relationship feels like his most meaningful achievement throughout it all. It challenges the assumption that connection depends on similarity; instead, it proves that empathy and trust can transcend species.

While the space and survival aspect may draw audiences in, it's the quieter, more intimate moments in the film that truly make the difference.

Grace and Rocky learning to

understand one another are the key components that left a lasting impression.

In a story filled with many quandaries, friendship becomes the most powerful solution.

Rocky's presence transforms the narrative from a solitary survival story into something more collaborative and hopeful for Rocky's and even Grace's adventure to save their planets.

Their bond is not just heartwarming — it is essential. Without it, Grace's mission might fail, and not because of a lack of intelligence, but because of a lack of connection.

Ultimately, both the novel and its film adaptation suggest that saving the world is not just about knowledge or heroism. Sometimes, it is about finding someone willing to face the unknown with you and choosing to trust them anyway.

'The Super Mario Galaxy Movie' receives support from fans, critique from critics

By ALYSSA ZIMMER
Community News Editor

"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" has left fans excited, but the movie has mixed reviews from critics, saying that it is both visually appealing and has a thin plot.

Many fans who have reviewed it on Rotten Tomatoes said that the movie made them feel nostalgic, the characters were funny and there were lots of fun Easter eggs hidden in the movie.

While those critics acknowledge that the movie is, "stunning, vibrant and feels magical," many report the movie ultimately lacks a steady plot. Some critics have even said, "Animation needs a story, and this one's storytelling needs serious work." While another critic claimed, "The plot is thin, bordering on non-existent."

"The Super Mario Galaxy Movie" revolves around

Mario, Luigi, Peach and Toad as they go on a cosmic adventure to rescue Princess Rosalina, who was captured by Bowser Jr., who wants to use her to fuel a universe-destroying cannon to impress his father, Bowser.

Along the way, they meet some new friends and experience many galactic challenges in their journey to save Princess Rosalina.

Princess Rosalina's Lumas were my favorite characters. Lumas are star-shaped creatures that Rosalina protects. I liked their playful personalities and how cute they were when they spoke to each other in the movie.

I was pleasantly surprised at how the movie turned out. I enjoyed the creative nods to the various video games that showed up in the movie from the Nintendo franchise. Even though I have never played many of the Mario games, I enjoyed how colorful and funny the characters were, the addition of some new

video game characters I hadn't heard of before and how they brought back the old voice actors from the previous movie.

Some well known actors/actresses such as Jack Black, Chris Pratt, Charlie Day, Anya Taylor-Joy and Keegan-Michael Key came back to voice the characters from the last movie.

Many new characters popped up in the movie as well. Bowser Jr. who was voiced by Benny Safdie, Rosalina who was voiced by Brie Larson, Yoshi who was voiced by Donald Glover and Fox McCloud who was voiced by Glen Powell.

Overall, I really enjoyed "The Super Mario Galaxy Movie." It was entertaining and very engaging. The vibrant colors popped on the movie screen and helped to articulate the story. While I can agree the movie had a limited plot, it didn't bother me because it was a funny movie that left me laughing the whole time.

Science & Technology

What's in your food?: Dr. Pepper

BY ELLA BECKER
Entertainment Editor

An all time favorite soda — Dr. Pepper is one of the oldest soft drinks in America and has climbed its way to be one of the nation's favorite drinks, however, what is Dr. Pepper made of?

Dr. Pepper is made up of carbonated water, high fructose corn syrup, caffeine, caramel color, phosphoric acid, sodium benzoate and natural and artificial flavors. Not just any flavors, Dr. Pepper is composed of 23 different flavors, helping to achieve that unique Dr. Pepper taste.

Those 23 flavors include amaretto, almond, blackberry, black licorice, caramel, carrot, cherry, clove, cola, ginger, juniper, lemon, molasses, nutmeg, orange, pepper, plum, prune, raspberry, root beer, rum, tomato and vanilla. The reason there are so many flavors in Dr. Pepper is to maintain the secret blend. These flavors come together to create a fruity and spicy taste.

A single 12 ounce can contains about 39-40 grams

of sugar, which is exceeding the daily recommended intake of sugar. This causes an increase in blood sugar, tooth decay and leads to a higher risk of obesity and other bodily diseases.



Phosphoric acid adds tartness but can interfere with calcium absorption, which can lead to lower bone density.

Caffeine leads to an increase in energy but can lead to jitteriness, anxiety and can disrupt sleep schedules. Dr. Pepper contains about 42 milligrams of caffeine per 12 ounces.

Sodium Benzoate is a preservative used to prevent mold and bacteria growth. It has been labeled as being generally safe, however there is debate regarding its long-term effects.

Carbonated water has very little health effects, but some may experience bloating and gut pain.

There was a long-standing rumor that Dr. Pepper contained prune juice, however that is just a myth.

Dr. Pepper Zero contains no sugar, but it uses aspartame as its sweetener. Some argue that aspartame is worse for you than sugar due to the fact that it can also create digestive issues, affect the gut microbiome and it creates a craving for sweetness.

Drinking an abundance of Dr. Pepper can have some serious negative effects on your liver, due to the sugar being converted into fat that gets stored in liver cells. As Dr. Pepper is wildly favored, be sure to stay mindful as to what you're fueling your body with.

Conspiracy: Is Jeffrey Epstein still alive? 'Palm Beach Pete' video sparks questions

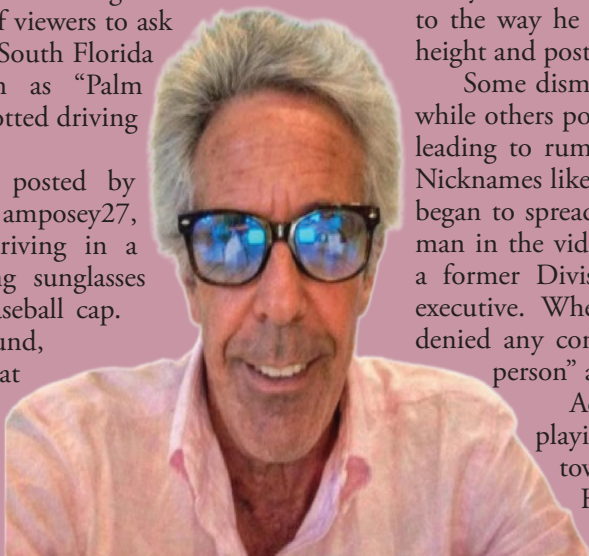
Online viewers question whether a Florida man could be more than just a lookalike.

BY JOEIMARIE COHEN
Arts & Literature Co-Editor

A viral video circulating online has led a number of viewers to ask exactly that after a South Florida man, now known as "Palm Beach Pete" was spotted driving along Interstate 95.

A short clip, posted by TikTok user amposey27, shows the man driving in a convertible, wearing sunglasses and a backward baseball cap.

In the background, a voice claims that Epstein is alive. Since posting, the video has gained millions of views, leaving



many wondering whether it's just a coincidence or something more.

Comment sections quickly filled with speculation. Many users debated everything from his mannerisms to the way he smiles, and some even compared his height and posture to Epstein's.

Some dismissed the clip as only internet humor, while others pointed out similarities in facial features leading to rumination on the man's actual identity. Nicknames like "Epstein's twin" and "Effrey Jepstein" began to spread. But who is "Palm Beach Pete?" The man in the video has been identified as Peter Simel, a former Division I tennis player and real estate executive. When confronted with the rumors, he denied any connection, calling Epstein "a very bad person" and insisting he is dead.

According to Simel, he was simply playing some tennis and going into town when the video was captured.

He described the entire situation as frustrating and strange, stating that he

never expected a casual drive to go viral for this reason.

Still, questions linger. The man has mentioned attending a party where Epstein was present, describing the encounter as "creepy." While he described this as coincidental, this detail has only invited further theory. People continue to post photos of the two side-by-side and videos online, debating whether facial features, expressions or even gestures suggest a deeper connection.

Is this a case of mistaken identity given spotlight by social media, or is there more behind this resemblance? As videos continue to spread, the curiosity shows no signs of subsiding.

Ultimately, there is no evidence supporting the idea that Epstein is alive. His death in 2019 was ruled a suicide, and no credible sources link him to the man in the video, yet as the clip continues to spread, one thing is clear. Even in social media, the smallest coincidence can become a widespread question that sparks online debates.

Science & Technology

Earth Day is more than just a day

By CHLOE SIMONSON

Science & Technology Co-Editor

Earth Day is a significant reminder that taking care of the planet doesn't always have to involve huge, dramatic changes. Most of the time, change starts with small choices that people make every day. Taking steps to cut back on waste include recycling correctly, using less plastic and paying attention to how much water and electricity we use may seem minor, but they add up over time.

Earth Day is observed each year on April 22 and is meant to encourage people to think about the environment and how their actions affect it. It is also a chance to focus on real issues such as pollution, deforestation, littering and climate change. These are major problems, and ignoring them does not make them disappear. Earth Day pushes people, schools, businesses and communities to do something useful

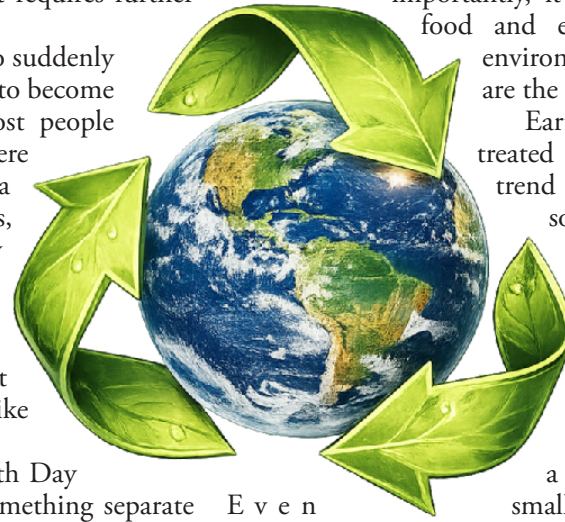
instead of just talking about doing better. While awareness is part of the solution, it requires further investment and effort.

That does not mean you have to suddenly live off the grid, and you don't have to become perfect overnight. Realistically, most people are just trying to do a little better where they can. Picking up trash, planting a tree, donating to conservation efforts, reusing items instead of constantly throwing things away and being more mindful about consumption are all realistic ways to help. Even teaching younger kids to respect nature and not treat the outdoors like their universal trash can matters.

Another important part of Earth Day is perspective. The planet is not something separate from daily life. You might not care now but it's

the air you breathe, the water you drink, and most importantly, it's the land we use for food and expansion. When the environment is neglected, so are the people.

Earth Day should not be treated like a one-day a year trend where people post something nice and move on. It should be a reminder that the environment needs attention year-round. Nobody has to be perfect, but doing nothing isn't a great option either. small efforts, repeated still count for something.



Climate crisis may be unavoidable

By LUCAS PETERSHEIM

Sports Co-Editor

Most people are aware of the continuous climate change happening on our planet and the inevitable overheating of it. As research progresses, scientists have found ways to cool the Earth moving forward but its methods may be costly.

Students and professors at The University of California, Santa Barbara, have proposed the idea of cloud seeding in order to cool down the Earth. Cloud seeding is a tactic in which different gases and mixtures are dropped into clouds in order to increase precipitation and snow. In theory, this would change the weather but it may be too drastic.

The Sierra Club explained, "Earth's climate is incredibly complex; manipulating those tightly interwoven systems would have all kinds of unintended consequences."

The unknown effects of cloud seeding

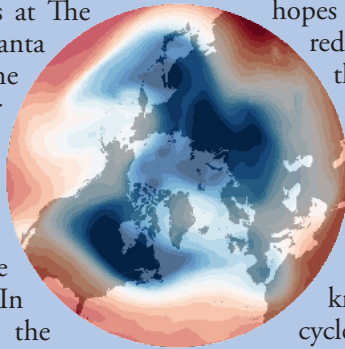
could seriously harm the climate as much as pollution, which makes scientists hesitant to move forward with this proposal.

Another proposed idea to reduce climate change is the injection of aerosols in the atmosphere.

This is a method where scientists release Aerosol into the air in gas form, in hopes that it will enter clouds and reduce the light and radiation that comes through the atmosphere.

The issue with this technique is the significant reduction in air quality and the impact on human health. This method is also known to change weather cycles.

With substantial research being done on these methods, it seems that there is no way that the heating of the Earth can be slowed down without damaging the environment. This makes it even more important to take care of the environment and conserve what is left.



Why spring makes you sneeze

By VANESSA DISPOTO

School News Co-Editor

As spring arrives, blooming flowers and warmer weather also bring something less pleasant: seasonal allergies. These allergies are triggered by pollen, a fine powder released by trees, grasses and weeds as part of their reproductive cycle. For many people, the immune system mistakes harmless pollen for a dangerous invader.

When pollen enters the body through the nose or eyes, the immune system releases chemicals such as histamine to fight the pollen off. This reaction causes common symptoms such as sneezing, itchy eyes or a runny nose. While these reactions may not be fun to deal with, they are actually a sign that the body is doing an effective job at trying to protect itself.

Weather plays a role in how severe allergies can become. Warm, windy days spread pollen easily, increasing everybody's exposure to it. On the other hand, rain can temporarily clear pollen from the atmosphere, offering short-term relief. Climate change may also be making the allergy season longer and more intense by increasing pollen production.

Antihistamines are a widely-known group of medications used by people dealing with these symptoms. The way that antihistamines work is by blocking the histamine that is released when pollen enters your body.

Understanding the science behind allergies can help people better prepare for and manage this yearly spring challenge.



Sports

Boys track gets stung by Hornets

By **KIMBERLY SMYSER**
Managing Editor

The boys track team fell short to Honesdale High School on April 21 with a final score of 69-81, making their record 1-4.

Head coach Nick Quaglia noted that the team was shorthanded due to a large number of beginners and injuries throughout the team this season; however, he is hopeful that as they continue to heal, the team will improve.

"We have a very young and inexperienced team," coach Quaglia said.

"We knew the dual meet season would be a battle, but we are competing each week."

The 3200-meter relay composed of senior Gideon Yost, senior Philip Fitzpatrick, freshman Evan Jacobs and freshman Jack Curchoe with a time of 9:29.0 and the 1600-meter relay with runners junior Daivik Downer, Llewellyn, junior Jacob Wolak and senior Connor Giblin with a 3:42.5 placed first.

On the track, senior Colin McGarvey with a 16.6 in the 110-meter hurdles, Yost with a 5:00.9 in the 1600-meter, Giblin with a 53.4 in the 400-meter



Senior Philip Fitzpatrick

dash, McGarvey with a 43.7 in the 300-meter hurdles, Llewellyn with a 2:18.8 in the 800-meter run, Yost with a 11:19.0 in the 3200-meter run. In the field, sophomore Cole Belcher placed first in javelin throwing 144-3.

"We knew it would be a competitive meet," coach Quaglia said. "We fell a little short, but I thought we competed."

Girls track loses close meet to Trojans

By **KEIRA LEMAY**
Community News Co-Editor

The girls track team faced the North Pocono Trojans on April 9, with a final loss of 80-70. This was their third meet of the season and brought the team's record to 2-1.

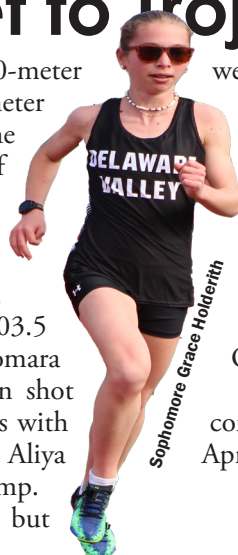
"We knew it was going to be a competitive meet," head coach Nick Quaglia said. "North Pocono has a talented group of athletes."

Sophomore Grace Holderith had an outstanding performance, winning three individual events, according to coach

Quaglia. Holderith won the 1600-meter run with a time of 5:25, the 800-meter run with a time of 2:29.1 and the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:46.0.

Other event winners include senior Emma Simmons with a 15.6 in the 100-meter hurdles, freshman Tessa Marotta with a 1:03.5 in the 400-meter dash, junior Xiomara Rosario with 31 feet, 6 inches in shot put, sophomore Makayley Hughes with a 76-2 in javelin and freshman Aliya Bates with a 31-11 in the triple jump.

"We may have lost the meet, but



Sophomore Grace Holderith

we will keep our heads high and continue to persevere," Rosario said.

Regardless of the loss, the team has kept their spirits high.

"We fell a little short, but we will get back to work and look to improve," coach Quaglia said.

The Warriors face their next competitors at Scranton Prep on April 27.

Spotlight Athletes Boys Track



Connor Giblin, SENIOR

"He has been a leader for us throughout the season. He is a senior who provides a great example for his teammates."
- Head coach Nick Quaglia

Girls Track



Tessa Marotta, FRESHMAN

"Tessa has emerged as one of the top 400-meter runners in the league. We are excited to see her continue to improve throughout the season."
- Head coach Nick Quaglia

Unified Track



Abigail Arnold, FRESHMAN

"Abigail has been able to stand out in all of her events. She was one of the few who placed in the 800-meter run."
- Coach Hailey Vogel

Unified track ties at home meet

By **ASHANTIA DICETTE**
Opinion Co-Editor

DV hosted a unified track and field meet April 22 against Valley View and Abington Heights. The Warriors tied with Valley View with a final score of 223.08, beating Abington Heights' score of 117.00.

For the track events, first place in the 100-meter dash was awarded to transition student Michael McKeeby, sophomore Alyiah Andrews, junior Gregory Plotkin



Transition student Michael McKeeby

and senior Colin Stanley. First place in the 400-meter dash was awarded to senior Angela Olsen and junior Logan Lewis. First place in the 800-meter run was awarded to freshman Abigail Arnold and senior Finnegan Lewis.

First place in long jump was awarded to sophomore Camryn Brohm and junior Keira LeMay. First place in

mini javelin was awarded to junior Jasmyn Ruzzano, freshman Chloe Ruiz, freshman Ashlyn Rodriguez-Hernandez and freshman Addison Pousley. First place in the shot put was awarded to Andrews, senior Brielle Spears, junior Zoey Schaal, sophomore Chuck Adorno and senior CJ Koger.

"The kids that we have, it's nice to see them be allowed to be themselves and to be kids," coach Hailey Vogel said. "This is a very special group of kids that we have, so the bonds that they are forming is fun to see."

Sports

Cougars come back to defeat Warriors 8-6

By **MIKE IUZZOLINO**
Sports Editor

The baseball team fell to Valley View 8-6 on April 20, surrendering four runs in the top of the seventh inning.

The game was tied 4-4 from the third inning until the sixth inning, when senior Drew Wallace drove in two runners with a bases-loaded single.

"That was certainly a big hit by [Wallace] to take the lead," head coach Mike Murray said. "Other than that, we still left a lot of men on base which we can't do moving forward."

The Warriors had ample opportunities to bat in runs, leaving runners on base in the fourth and sixth innings.

After a strong sixth inning, the Warriors gave up four runs in the top of the seventh, erasing their two-run lead. Now down two going into the final frame, they were unable to gain enough momentum to secure a comeback.

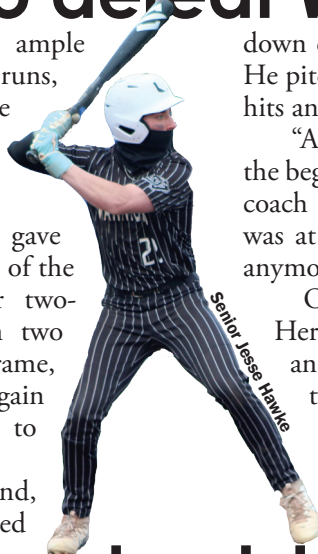
On the mound, junior Will Fells calmed

down despite troubles early in the game. He pitched six total innings, allowing five hits and striking out six.

"After he got hit around a little bit in the beginning, [Fells] really settled down," coach Murray said. "Unfortunately, he was at his pitch limit, so he couldn't go anymore."

Offensively, junior Londyn Hernandez led the team with three hits, and senior Jesse Hawke contributed two doubles and two RBIs.

The team looks to rebound tomorrow against Stroudsburg High School.



Senior Jesse Hawke

Softball looks to improve on back half of season

By **LUCAS PETERSHEIM**
Sports Co-Editor

The softball team fell to a record of 1-4 with a 12-2 loss against the North Pocono Trojans on April 14. The Warriors plan to build off their early stretch of games and come together as a single unit opposed to individuals.

"We're very young right now, so learning to have confidence in ourselves and each other will help us be successful," head coach Ashton Clark said.

The offensive attack was



Junior Emily Sullivan

led by sophomore Fiona Weimer and junior Lulu Stahlman with each of them getting two hits a piece. Junior Emily Sullivan also contributed a hit and a run. On the mound, Stahlman pitched two innings giving up three runs and sophomore Hayleigh Butler pitched four innings and gave up 11 runs.

With the playoff push on the way, coach Clark looks to clean up their offensive consistency with hopes of

competing within the league and making a run in the district playoffs.

"We need to work on stringing hits together and working together as a team," coach Clark said.

Coach Clark was happy with the team's effort on both sides of the ball and the determination they showed throughout the game.

"I think we are being aggressive in the batter's box and swinging at good pitches," coach Clark said. "We're also playing well in the field."

The Warriors play the Scranton Prep Cavaliers home today at 4:30 p.m.

Tennis flattens Scranton 4-1

By **LILY STOVEKEN**
Opinion Editor

The boys tennis team played a home match against Scranton last week on April 14, defeating the Knights in a 4-1 victory.

Juniors Nat Carso and Eli Wilson both won their singles matches. Carso won 6-4, 4-6 and 6-4, while Wilson won 6-5, 5-7 and 6-2. Senior Jaxson Hazard lost his singles match 2-6 and 2-6.

Juniors Ben Kruler and Kai Desantis won their doubles match 3-6, 6-1 and 6-1. Sophomore J.R. Wills and freshman Jacob Bishoft also won their doubles match 6-1 and 6-2.

Head coach Kevin Quinn feels that the team has been putting up a competitive



Lily Stoveken/Del.Aware

Senior Jaxson Hazard serves in his singles match against Scranton.

and admirable fight throughout the season despite difficulties.

"As a team we have felt growing pains throughout the season," coach Quinn said. "We have been competitive in every match but coming up just short. We hope to be playing our best tennis in the final weeks of the season."

Coach Quinn also highlighted Carso for his strong mental performance and positive impact on the team.

The team will travel next week on April 28 to face off against the North Pocono Trojans.

Spotlight Athletes

Baseball



Liam Onofry, SENIOR

"He's playing his usual great defense, and he is batting great, leading the league in home runs."

- Head coach Mike Murray

Softball



Fiona Weimer, SOPHOMORE

"She's currently batting .583 and she has been catching for us. Fiona has really been on the ball lately."

- Head coach Ashton Clark

Tennis



Nat Carso, JUNIOR

"Nat understands the mental toughness involved in singles tennis. He embodies this and sets the tone for our team."

- Head coach Kevin Quinn

Sports

Warriors edge out Minisink in overtime

By JOSIE LORDI
Sports Co-Editor

The boys lacrosse team improved its record to 6-4 after a hard-fought 12-11 win against the Minisink Valley Warriors on April 15.

"We did not play up to our expectations," head coach Daniel Gonzalez said. "We came out flat despite having a strong game against Wyoming Seminary last week."

The game was close throughout, with DV's defense standing strong and giving

Minisink a hard time on offense. Offensively, DV struggled to limit turnovers but were still able to pull off the win.

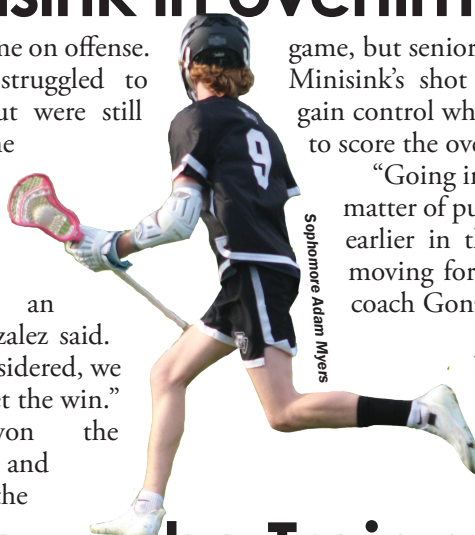
"We had more turnovers than we did points which is always an issue," coach Gonzalez said. "But all things considered, we were still able to get the win."

Minisink won the overtime faceoff, and had a shot to win the

game, but senior goalie Riley Smith saved Minisink's shot allowing the offense to gain control which led junior Bear Leslie to score the overtime goal.

"Going into overtime, it was just a matter of putting whatever happened earlier in the game behind us and moving forward to secure the win," coach Gonzalez said.

The Warriors are back in action on April 27 at Dallas Area High School with hopes of continuing their push for the playoffs.



Sophomore Adam Myers

Girls lacrosse takes down the Trojans

By AVA TROUP
Lifestyle Co-Editor

With a final score of 11-5, the Warriors won its home game against North Pocono on April 17. In the game, seven players were able to score, ensuring the team's victory.

Senior goalie Jaida Palacios had an impressive 15 saves and junior attacker Brooke Palmeri had four goals. Junior Rhyanne Rettinger also supported the team by leading with groundballs, offensive set ups and key plays.

The team has been working hard, with a record of 5-6, even with the influx of young players on the team.

"Overall, we have a young team: we're growing and learning together and building the program for future years," said senior captain Taylor Spears. "In the last game, we were able to work through our mistakes and work together to

win against

North Pocono."

The next game will take place at home on April 27 against Crestwood, where the team will attempt to secure another victory against a talented team.

Head coach Bernadine Salak has high aspirations for the rest of the season, as the team continues to hone in on their skills.

"My hopes are that we continue to buy into our concepts of team play and balanced scoring. We want to work together as a team to make it difficult for teams to focus on just one player," coach Salak said.



Junior Mackenzie Heath

Warriors crushed by Comets

By EMMA SIMMONS
Editor-in-Chief

The boys volleyball team lost to Crestwood in four sets on April 22, bringing their regular season record to 5-6.

The Warriors came out strong against the Comets, winning the first set 25-17. They lost the next three sets, leading Crestwood to come out on top.

Head coach Adam Holdredge noted outside hitters senior Chase Peereboom and junior Harrison Bixby for keeping the Warriors competitive against the Comets. Peereboom had 11 kills, while Bixby added 13 kills. He also recognized

sophomore Christian Sell for playing well in contributing 29 assists.

The team plans to work on fixing errors specifically with their passing, which Bixby noted contributed to their loss. He hopes that playing against more difficult teams will improve the team's chemistry as the season comes to a close.

"We started off rough, but we are coming together," Bixby said. "[Starting out with a tougher schedule] is going to help us become better throughout the season."

The team is currently ranked ninth



Junior Anthony Paredes Nieves

in the District 2 power rankings. Last year, they lost to Abington Heights in the District 2 finals. Their goal is to make a run against perennial contenders like Holy Redeemer and Hazleton Area to gain a district title.

"Our team has vastly improved in the past few weeks," coach Holdredge said. "We hope to continue to improve."

Spotlight Athletes Boys Lacrosse



Mike Iuzzolino, SENIOR

"He has been the balance that this team needs over the last couple of games."

- Head coach Daniel Gonzalez

Girls Lacrosse



Brooke Palmeri, JUNIOR

"Brooke is emerging as a true scoring threat and is key to our balanced offense."

- Head coach Bernadine Salak

Volleyball



Max Parker, JUNIOR

"He consistently works hard in practice and has emerged as a leader."

- Head coach Adam Holdredge