

Bear_{ly}



Facts

April Fools!

April 2026

District Renovations on hold as workers go on strike

The renovations at Pleasant Valley High School have stopped because workers have put down their equipment in light of ever-changing and unrealistic expectations.

By: Jayda Bacchus

Construction workers at Pleasant Valley High School came to an unexpected stop the morning of March 17 after members of the construction crew announced they were going on strike, citing what they described as “extremely unrealistic expectations.”

The strike temporarily pauses progress on the high school’s ongoing renovation project, including updates to

the science wing and nearby walkways. Equipment remained parked and silent as workers gathered near the job site

According to the workers, one of the main frustrations has been the constant question they hear from students and staff about the constant changes to the plans.

“The plans began as a simple update to the building. Then, a sauna and an in-door

trampoline park were added to the blueprints in late December,” explains John Smith John, foreman of the PVHS construction. “There’s only so much we can do, and the expectations have started to get out of control.”

Workers also mention interruptions caused by pep rallies, fire drills, and the marching band practicing near the site.

“We support school spirit, but it is hard to pour concrete when a drumline is performing 10 feet away,” said Henry Jones Jr, member of the construction crew.

In addition, the crew said schedule changes have been frequent, sometimes requiring them to stop working suddenly for school events or adjust plans to avoid picture day, assemblies, or testing schedules.

School officials confirmed that discussions are



An empty PVHS hallway under construction

underway between the construction company and workers. The district stated briefly that it values the crew’s work and hopes to reach a solution quickly so the project can continue without further delays.

Students reacted with mixed feelings about this. Some admitted the quieter hallways were a nice change, while others said they were surprised to see the equipment sitting so still

outside. “I didn’t realize how much they deal with everyday. I guess building a school while school is happening is kind of chaotic” said Olivia Smith John. As negotiations continue, both sides appear optimistic about reaching an agreement. Until then, the PV renovations remain on pause.



The PVHS cafeteria mid-renovation

District District to replace teachers with A.I.

Pleasant Valley announced that starting with the 26-27 school year, teachers will begin to be replaced with generative A.I., allowing the district to cut costs and remain ahead of the technological curve.

By: Sarah Jhingoerie



A.I. being tested in a PVHS classroom.

As of the year 2026-2027, the district has announced that it will be using artificial intelligence to replace the faculty across the district. As teachers will begin to be laid off, many are already making plans to switch districts or find other careers entirely.

The change in technology at school was caused by the brand new Open AI programs including new learning and educational programming. These new AI’s will be integrated into

the Google Classrooms as of next school year.

“I am so proud of the partnership between Google and PV and that we are one of the first districts in the country to tap into AI’s potential,” stated Dr. James Konrad, Pleasant Valley Superintendent.

By implementing AI across the district, it will now be a new feature in Google Classroom, and will be able to give lessons and interactive slide-shows to teach students. All students, however, are still required to attend the brick-and-mortar building for attendance reasons.

“We are so excited to be a part of the future,” Dr. Konrad stated. “It truly is an honor to play a role in the march of progress.”

Students have had mixed opinions on the subject. While the new learning path could open doors for many, it does close some for others.

“I hate AI,” expressed Madison Zorn, freshmen at Pleasant Valley High School. “I

am moving to South Dakota to avoid the AI teachers. Who else wants to join me?”

In addition, some teachers and staff get their thoughts on the matter of protests from students. Including one of the new teachers getting hired, Mr. Chad G. Petrie of the technology department.

“I am definitely not a robot. After all, there is no reason and no way that a human mind can keep up with an artificial intelligence machine by 2035,” explained Chad GiPetrie, science teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, quoting futurist and techno-philosopher Gray Scott.

Some students have already brought arguments against the use of AI, including how it’s been proven to waste water due to how much cooling centers are using water to prevent fires from breaking out.

Despite all these concerns, the district has been clear and confident in their decision.

District PV cancels field day

The annual field day held at Pleasant Valley Middle School has been canceled due to safety and legal concerns.

By: Gerritt DeYoung

Field Day has been a staple in Pleasant Valley schools for the longest time. With Field Day having some of the best events like kickball, soccer, dodgeball and tug of war, the Pleasant Valley School District has decided to cancel the long-time tradition.

Usually held at the middle school, Superintendent Dr. James Konrad has canceled Field Day for all Pleasant Valley schools, citing legal and safety concerns.

“Children running outside is a liability, and I am taking steps to reduce potential lawsuits,” explains Dr. Konrad.

Sadly, students are going to be really upset about this, and no one understands the real reason for this. A school that is supposed to be all for the kids cancelling everyone’s favorite event just to prevent lawsuits.

Logan Czura, senior, who was going to be a helper for Field Day but couldn’t get the opportunity to because of this cancellation

“It’s very disappointing for us seniors who have not had the chance to participate in Field Day like myself, and also for the kids who look forward to this event every year,” says Czura.

Due to this cancellation, seniors miss out on another opportunity to have fun with the lower classman. 8th graders and under miss their favorite event of the year, and parents are angry.

“Kids will also have to go straight into PSSAs instead of having a break before them. How is this acceptable,” questioned Barbra Smith John, mother of two Pleasant Valley High School seniors.



PVMS main entrance

District

Pleasant Valley sends seniors to compete in the international curling league

Sienna Pearce and Areli Ramirez, seniors at Pleasant Valley High School, have earned spots in the upcoming Rock League, an international sports league dedicated to competitive curling. They join other curlers from around the country to help the sport continue to grow after its popularity skyrocketed during the 2026 Winter Olympics.

By: Harrison Sullivan

Pleasant Valley High School is excited to announce that two student representatives will compete in the upcoming professional curling league, known as the Rock League. Areli Ramirez and Sienna Pearce, both seniors, have been signed to one of the six teams of ten-Frontier Curling Club.



Source: rockleague.com

In a move to keep the popularity of curling growing after the 2026 Winter Olympics, the Rock League was created to bring the world's best curlers together. The problem, however, is getting fans to see the league

compete.

"No sport can survive in the 2020s without eyeballs, though. Initially, the Rock League will be available on The Rock Channel, a FAST (free, ad-supported television) all-curling channel already up and running," explains Jay Busbee of Yahoo Sports.

This announcement comes after months of practice by both Ramirez and Pearce to qualify for the ceremony, including hours of daily practice at Pleasant Valley High School's newly constructed ice rink. The rink was constructed in the winter of 2025 as part of the school renovations.

The pair have expressed for many years the need for a school curling team and believe this to finally be the step that's needed for this to occur.

"I just hope that we can be the start of something amazing, that we can inspire people all across the country to say 'I want to do curling when I grow up, that would be everything to me,'"



Ramirez take her shot during a team practice.

said Pearce in a pre warm-up interview.

As Ramirez and Pearce are currently for the league to begin on April 6, there is one particular fan who is the most excited to see them play this year, that being Ramirez's sister, Alison

Ramirez Melesio, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School and aspiring future curler herself.

"I feel so proud to see my big sister competing in the Rock League. She put in so much hard work and dedication, and it inspired me to pursue a career in curling. She is my biggest inspiration," says Ramirez Melesio.

However, it has been a rough road to where we are now, in team tryouts, Ramirez landed a takeout, removing her opponent's stone from the target, known as the "button," winning the match. After the victory, she attempted to do a backflip while on the ice which would lead to a sprained ankle only weeks before



Pearce warming up before an exhibition match.

the league is set to begin.

"An injury like that is not to be taken lightly, this is the kind of stuff that ruins careers, especially in curling," says Pleasant Valley High School gym teacher Mrs. Tompkins.

Ramirez looks to overcome her injury and help Frontier Curling bring home the league inaugural championship.



Source: rockleague.com

District

Something fishy occurs in

JCM

Room CCJ, commonly known as the JCM Fishbowl, is being transformed into a small aquarium as part of the new renovations.

By: Gavin Tonkay

During the renovations, the school board thought it would be a good idea to turn CCJ, affectionately referred to as the JCM "fishbowl," into an actual fish bowl.

They first started by adding tons of sand and then proceeded to add various decorations, such as coral and seaweed. They then ordered various types of fish off of the web, but, unfortunately, some of the fish they bought had mutations such as having three eyes instead of two.

Throughout the school year, there have been various incidents where students have fallen into the fishbowl after con-



the new JCM "fishbowl"

struction work moved the entrance from lower to upper JCM. Unfortunately, Alexander Mountain, English teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, was one of those people

"Bwap, bwap, bwap, bwap," explains Mr. Mountain, who continues to be stuck in the CCJ.

With this incident aside, the fishbowl has brought many positive things such as massive media attention and a colorful, vibrant feel to the school.

"The fishbowl at Pleasant Valley High School is the coolest and dope thing our team has ever seen," writes Arthur Curry, reporter for the Atlantis Gazette.

However, many parents around the school are upset with the increase of taxes because of the water expenses. But, the board refuses to remove it.

"It is outrageous that my taxes increased because of a stupid fish tank in that stupid highschool," states Marlon Fisch, parent of freshman Nemo Fisch.

The Pleasant Valley School Board plans to keep the fishbowl as long as they can, as it adds to the school environment and creates educational experience for students in the building.

Nation

Stranger Things: The Movie announced by Netflix

After the massive success of the fifth and final season of Stranger Things, series creators Matt and Ross Duffer have decided to release an upcoming film as a way to continue the story that fans have come to love.

By: Emma Wing



Character poster for season five of Stranger Things

Netflix has officially announced that a Stranger Things movie is in development, marking a new chapter for one of the platform's most successful franchises.

The upcoming film is expected to bring the story of Hawkins to the big screen with a larger scope and cinematic scale. Blending science, fiction, horror and 1980s nostalgia.

Jake Miller, sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School is excited about the news, as the show held a special place in his childhood.

"I grew up watching stranger things, so the idea of seeing Hawkins and the Upside Down on the big screen is really exciting," explains Miller.

The series follows a

group of friends as they face supernatural threats connected to an alternate dimension known as the "Upside Down." Over multiple seasons, the show built a massive fan base and became a defining part of modern pop culture.

The Strangers Things movie will continue exploring the consequence of the Upside Down and its lasting effects on the town of Hawkins. Specific plot details have not been released.

Ava Thompson, junior, shares Miller's excitement. She believes that moving the show from television to the silver screen can only elevate the characters and the world.

"The show already feels cinematic, so I think a movie will take it to the next level. I'm especially excited to see more action and how the characters have changed," explains Thompson.

Creators Matt and Ross Duffer are set and ready to begin the process this will hold. They are ensuring the movie stays true to the tone and themes of the original series.

The Duffer Brothers emphasized that the film will feel like a natural extension of the show rather than a simple retelling.

"This is a story we've wanted to tell on a bigger scale," shares Matt Duffer.

The transition from television to film allows for expanded visuals, longer runtime and higher production value. Fans can expect intense action sequences, emotional character moments and a deeper exploration of the supernatural elements that made the series so popular.



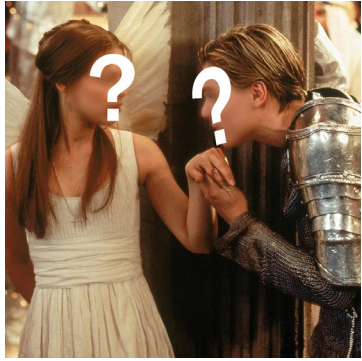
The newly released poster for Stranger Things: The Movie

District

PV Freshmen are “dying” to play Romeo and Juliet

Freshmen English classes at Pleasant Valley High School are putting on their version of Shakespeare’s famous play as a sendoff for seniors.

By: Noelle Wolff



After reading Romeo and Juliet, the freshman class is excited to announce that the district has approved their performance of Shakespeare’s famous tragedy.

Auditions dates are not set for the freshman only production, but student anticipation is high.

With each class having a different role in the production, it will be an end of the year treat for everyone to enjoy.

The Spring musical, Into the Woods, left theatrical spirits high, so many are excited to hear the news of another play being performed.

“The performances always have a touch of PV,” states Caden Brooks, senior at Pleasant Valley high school. “You can always tell they are from hard-work and talent.”

Costumes will be helmed by Jacqueline Brinker’s freshman English class in D-18. With decorations and props, Alexander Mountain’s first and fifth period classes in G-1 are enthusiastic to bring the play to life with detailed backdrops and accurate varieties of props.

“When speaking about their swords, we want to make sure it doesn’t look like cheap plastic,” states Melissa Smith-John, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

Amanda Altemose’s class in G-4 has taken on the responsibility of the stage and technical crews. Her students are thrilled to light up the stage with their Shakespearean enthusiasm.

“We love to see our fellow students come together to make a masterpiece,” states Hunter Pierce, senior at Pleasant Valley High School.

Many of the staff members have been thrilled about the event, praising the freshman teachers for putting the event together.

Local

Travis and Taylor tie the knot in Monroe County

Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift hear excited fans at Blue Ridge Winery, the location of their upcoming wedding.

By: Quinn Johnson

Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce are expected to tie the knot this year in a very local area. The famous couple will be getting married at the local Blue Ridge Winery on June 13, 2026.

The Grammy-winning artist opted for a romantic, low-

Augustine, manager of Blue Ridge Winery.

After touring and traveling for a while, Taylor had missed her hometown of West Reading. To be closer to home, she and Travis had agreed to book a venue at Blue Ridge Winery in Say-

Alayna Boland, junior at Pleasant Valley High School and Swift superfan.

It is speculated that there will be a floral theme, soft lighting, and acoustic music. Guests and those who know have been asked to keep details private, but some things have gotten out of the bag.

The guest list is large, but not as big as someone would think. The couple decided on their close friends, including the Kansas City Chiefs team.

“It’s great to see Travis finally getting married. The whole team is excited for him,” notes Patrick Mahomes, quarterback for the Kansas City Chiefs.

While fans online eagerly await more details surrounding the wedding, no official confirmation has been given about some other details.



key ceremony tucked away in rural Pennsylvania, far away from Hollywood. Sources say that the venue was also chosen for its scenery and serenity.

“We’re honored to have America’s most famous couple choose to share their love story at our venue,” states Betty James-

lorsburg, PA. It is also very likely that there will be a lot of fans in the area, so the security and privacy has been upped.

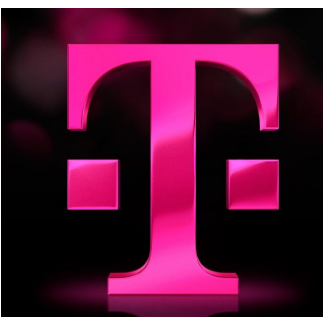
“I’m ecstatic. The fact that Taylor will be getting married outside of Harry Styles’ concert venue when he goes on tour is a dream come true,” says

Nation

Verizon attacked by T-Mobile

Text messages reveal that the Verizon outage in January was caused by the rival company.

By: Alina Thomas



Source: tmobile.com

On Jan. 14, 2026, Verizon had a major outage. There was an uproar for many people on a random Wednesday, when suddenly their phones stopped working.

People all around the United States were left shocked and confused due to their phones not functioning like normal. Many of those people were outraged and demanded compensation for the hours they lost from their phones.

“This is ridiculous. I use my phone everyday and now it won’t work,” says Poland Rakterssyat, a customer at Verizon.

Verizon has come up with many excuses as to why the outage occurred, but the truth was finally revealed when a text thread that included T-Mobile employees recently was leaked on

TikTok. The text thread claimed that T-Mobile purposefully hacked Verizon’s network to hurt their credibility.

“Verizon’s been out here capping about ‘technical issues’ while our boss was literally bragging about spawn camping their network,” read a message from Thomas MoBill, who was discovered to be an engineer at the cellular company.

After the revelation, the TikToker looked quite flustered, face red and fumbling over her words, until the video ended.

At first, many people laughed it off. But then, T-Mobile came out with an official apology, claiming they were just trying to assert their dominance.

It was the biggest scandal people had heard in a while. They could not believe what they were hearing. People decided it was wrong to blame Verizon any longer and decided to push off blame onto T-Mobile.

“They need to pay for all the trouble they put us through with the outage they caused. It was so traumatic,” states Sophia Terezieve, senior at Pleasant Valley High School.

Nation

Fans patiently wait for Avengers: Doomsday

After it was announced Eleven from the series “Stranger Things” will be featured in the upcoming Marvel movie, many are excited.

By: Noelle Wolff



The official Doomsday poster.

After the finale of Stranger Things, many are curious to where the character Eleven has ended up. A leaked poster was released for the new Marvel movie releasing in December, showing the beloved character in the franchise.

The Duffer Brothers stated the agreement with Marvel to add a cross character was for her benefit, since they wanted to give her a chance to start again.

“After being on her own we wanted to give her a community who can help her and fight alongside her” states Mark Duffer.

For the role she will be appearing in, they stated how when she went to her small town with waterfalls, she ends up in New Asgard, where she runs into Thor on his way to prepare for battle.

In order to gain his respect and prove she can be trusted, Eleven has to lift his hammer. She succeeds, allowing herself to

explain where she came from for the price of Eggos.

Many fans created theories about where she is and how she meets Thor, but it was confirmed by Marvel in an announcement video. In the video, it showed her speaking to him, and a short clip of the hammer lifting.

Shortly after the video was released, multiple fan posters were made, only for an official poster to be leaked days after. It features Eleven in a new outfit, leaving her swimsuit and days of Hawkins behind.

The directors of “Avengers: Doomsday,” Joe and Anthony Russo, talked about the importance of having a new character with experience to bring a new part to the puzzle for the team, especially after so much loss has occurred in Endgame.

A lot of fans are criticizing, saying Eleven should be left alone in her own storyline. Millie Bobby Brown Bongovi, however, disagrees, and says her character should have more of an ending than what she got.

“I’ve grown up playing Eleven, and it is only right she finds the family and community she didn’t receive in Hawkins, and finds there’s more to life than stupid boys,” states Bongovi.

Even though there is still some backlash about the return of the character, many fans are satisfied with seeing their favorite character come back onto the

movie screen.

Everyone involved is welcoming her character with open arms.

A senior at Pleasant Valley, Olivia Smith John, spoke about her thoughts on the new



Leaked character design for Eleven

cast.

“I think it’s delightful the Marvel universe is bringing in a new fandom to gain traction for the upcoming movie. It will make the fans happy and the box office will thank them” states Olivia Smith John.

On the contrary her twin sister, Christy Smith John had the opposite opinion.

“There should be no cross-overs. This isn’t the Disney channel” states Christy Smith John.

Fans will be in theaters on Dec. 18 to watch the film with open minds and swelling hearts.

District

Science department has “gouda” time on professional development trip

The Pleasant Valley High School Science Department traveled to the United Kingdom to take part in the annual Cooper’s Hill Cheese-Rolling event, allowing them to test the affect of speed on downward momentum.

By: Robert Leuthardt III

This spring, the science department teachers will return to the United Kingdom to participate in the Cooper’s Hill Cheese-Rolling, for the second year in a row.

On May 25 of last year, the entirety of the science department went on an all-expenses-paid trip to Gloucester, England to take part in the famed cheese rolling event. Despite its seemingly silly name, the annual Cooper’s Hill Cheese Rolling has a high rate of injury with an average of 20 people injured per event.

The sport involves chasing a rolling wheel of cheese down a 1:2 incline hill, often resulting in tumbling down the steep landscape. The cheese can reach a top speed of 70 mph, leaving nothing

but de brie in its path. Catching the cheese renders you the winner of the event and the proud recipient of the extravagant prize, the cheese itself.

The department’s justi-

fication for this expensive “educational trip” was few and far between, with every teacher citing different reasons for this trip being a necessity. Robert Quinn, Physics teacher, and Julia Daly, Biology teacher, point out the inherent educational value of the

you understanding physics with, like, slopes and stuff. There’s a lot you can learn from observing or participating in it, I think,” says Mr. Quinn.

“You can probably use it as a lesson on the environment. England’s hills are probably different from ours and probably affects cheese differently. That’s probably my hypotheswiss,” adds Ms. Daly.

Last year’s competition was fierce, but the winner was none other than Debra Grose, who fought valiantly against the citizens of Gloucester and has the battle scars to show it.

“When I landed at the bottom of Cooper’s Hill, I was feeling bleu because both of my legs were bent backwards, but then I realized I was holding the

cheese and I felt grate,” noted Ms. Grose said

She was interviewed from her hospital bed in May 2025 and shared the wheel amongst her first period class.

“I thought [Ms. Grose] would clean the cheese, but she said I should be grateful to taste such exotic grass,” says Isaac Mitchel, senior at Pleasant Valley High School.

The school board has since approved to spend the extra cheddar to allow the science teachers to go back to England for the 2026 cheese rolling, but have to wait until their sprained wrists have fully healed so they can sign off on the trip.



The PVHS Science Department running after the famous cheese wheel

“It’s a game that relies on

trip itself.

Nation

Valve releases steam as Microsoft acquires new hardware.

Microsoft purchased the rights to Valve’s Steam Machine gaming console in hopes of bringing fans back to the Xbox after a disapointing few years. The acquisition is set to go through in June.

By: Julian Dempster

Microsoft has recently offered to buy the rights to the Steam Machine, Valve’s newest gaming console. The deal is reportedly set to take effect starting sometime in June.

With the wide success of the previous Steam Deck, Frank X. Shaw, an executive of Microsoft, believes the Steam Machine is the next logical step for Microsoft.

“This project can act as a way to bridge the gap between the PC and console market. With Microsoft at the forefront, they’ll have the resources to become a great voice in the console war,” says Shaw.

Although the price Microsoft offered Valve remains unclear, Gabe Newell, founder of Valve and Steam, is in agreement with Shaw about the potential of the partnership.

“We didn’t make the Steam Machine with the intent to sell it to anybody,” explained Newell. “However, when Microsoft came to us, the offer was too good to ignore.”

The general public, however, are not as excited about the decision, seeing it as an easy way for Microsoft to take advantage of the good will that Valve created.

Microsoft has fallen out of favor in the gaming community and tech field. The poor implementation of Windows 11 and the AI assistant Copilot. PlayStation and Nintendo have exclusive games and new consoles coming out, and PC has the infinite capacity of customization and user freedom. The Xbox simply doesn’t have anything to offer in this day and age.

“It feels so disingenuous,” says John Sevinson, junior at Pleasant Valley High School. “Microsoft has been struggling in the game market for a while, and now they just want to come in and buy the good will given to their competition.”

The original Steam Machine was released in 2015, with the second generation released in early 2026. The Xbox, however, was introduced in 2001 and has a

long career of big-name franchises, although few have produced the way Microsoft would like in recent years.

It’s possible that Microsoft plans to incorporate the Steam Machine into their next generation of consoles. Until the purchase goes through, however, Microsoft’s plans remain a mystery that only time will be able to solve.



The new Microsoft logo after acquiring Steam

Fashion

Sixties hair “grooves” into style

With older styles resurfacing, hair has changed to resemble 60s fashion, attitude, and iconic look.

By: Giada Morales

Throughout the years major trends from throughout different decades have passed down to Generation-X. The most recent of which is 60s hair.

To start with, the beehive is back. This consists of leaving most of the bottom half of your hair done while making the top half of the hair into a round shape that resembles a beehive. This can also be done with your hair fully up or added to styles such as ponytails and braids.

Charlotte Evans, senior at Pleasant Valley High School, was able to give her take on the new trending style.

“I love the beehive! It goes with every hairstyle I do, and I’ve become so obsessed with it, even adding it to my weekly hair stylings,” states Evans.

The beehive is more than a forgotten trend. It’s a portal to an era that has slipped, perhaps too quietly, from pop culture memory.

“I believe if more people start to do this hairstyle, we will be brought back to simpler times,” Evans said.

As for the men, an iconic hairstyle that is making a comeback is the voluminous pompadour. This hairstyle was popu-

larized by Elvis and is making a shocking comeback in the recent months amongst teens.

John Kenny, sophomore, is also excited about the renewed men’s style, especially since it invokes the King of Rock and Roll.

These hairstyles are a major significant part of the 60s. These hairstyles coming back allows Generation-X to be closer to their grandparents or great grandparents who may have also dressed this way in their teen years.

“I think the beehive is a great style too! It reminds me of the 2000’s too since it was worn a lot throughout the show Jersey Shore,” stated Kenny.



The beehive as worn by Adele

Editorial Policy of Bear Facts

The Bear Facts is the official student newspaper at Pleasant Valley High School. Its primary purpose is to inform, interpret and entertain through accurate and factual reports. It will strive to be accurate, fair, impartial and responsible in its coverage of issues that affect the school community. The Bear Facts will not publish any attack material that is obscene, libelous invasive of others’ privacy or that encourages physical disruption of school activities. It will not publish any material regarding individuals’ religion, gender, age, mental or physical ability, ethnicity, race, culture or lifestyle choices.

The Bear Facts accepts advertising as a fundraiser and reserves the right to reject any advertising not in accordance with school policy.

All editorials are written by a member of the Editorial Board. Letters to the editors are welcome, but must be signed and have the writer’s homeroom. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters become the property of the Bear Facts.

Editorial Board:

Julian Dempster

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jacob George
Sarah Jhingoerie
Quinn Johnson
Harrison Sullivan
Emma Wing
Noelle Wolff
Madison Zorn

ADVISOR:

Alexander Mountain

Staff Reporters

Jayda Bacchus
Gerritt DeYoung
Julian Dempster
Daniel Fedik
Aubriana Finocchio
Dakari Fleming
Grayson Hampton
Daniel Huang
Sarah Jhingoerie
Quinn Johnson
Robert Leuthardt III
Samuel Smale
Kobri Spradlin
Harrison Sullivan
Max Sullivan
Gavin Tonkay
Alina Thomas
Emma Weber
Emma Wing
Noelle Wolff
Madison Zorn

Nation

Dakotas combine, changing the United States map before the midterm elections.

In a move that will shift the U.S. landscape for the foreseeable future, North and South Dakota have combined to become one state, reverting back to their 1888 status when they were known as the Dakota Territory.

By: Madison Zorn

Starting on Nov 2, 2026 North and South Dakota will join into one state. Getting rid of the North and South and becoming the new state of Dakota.

Dakota was the original state, it was split in 1889 because of political issues. It became North and South Dakota on Nov 2, 1889 when President Benjamin Harrison signed The Proclamation For Admission

concerned that their move would take said power away.

Northern Dakota didn't want Southern Dakota to be a part of their state in fear that they would cause the state to vote Republican, while Southern Dakota didn't want Northern Dakota to be a part of their state in fear that they would cause the state to vote Democrat. This caused the separation of Dakota to become

President Trump's view on this issue is one held by many, going so far as to share his indifference.

"Why are we even talking about this? Why does it even matter to people in Pennsylvania," questioned Danielle Fink, sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School.

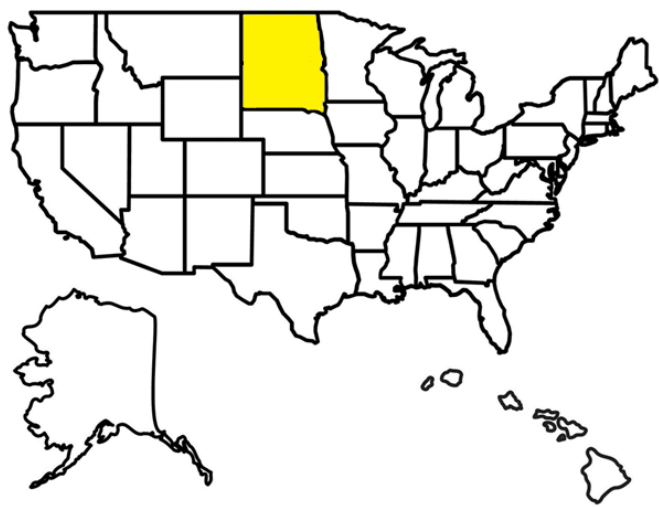
The political issues are old and over between the Dakotas so the states see no reason to remain separated.

Both states on average have voted Republican in previous presidential elections, which would erase the fear of a difference of interest causing an unpopular vote.

North Dakota's governor election was scheduled for Nov 7, 2028 and North Dakota's was scheduled for Nov 3, 2026. Elections for governor of Dakota will be held on Nov 5, 2026.

The candidates running are Governor Kelly Armstrong of North Dakota, Governor Larry Rhoden of South Dakota and Michelle Strinden who ran in North Dakota's last election. The popular candidate seems to be Kelly Armstrong as of now.

"I for one I am glad we're becoming one state again. This childish conflict has drawn out too long, I think it is time to return to our roots," Kelly Armstrong tells reporter John Schwartz.



A new outline of the United States, highlighted a newly unified Dakota.

The conflict in the state began when the capital of Dakota was moved from Yankton to Bismarck. Dakotans in the Southern part of the state claimed that the land was stolen while Dakotans in the Northern part of the state claimed it was moved because Bismarck was where the growing land was located.

Until this small conflict Yanktonites were the political power of the state. They became

North and South Dakota in 1889.

On November 2, 2026 The Proclamation For Admission will be overturned. A new one will be signed by Donald Trump for North and South Dakota to return to Dakota.

"I remain unamused and indifferent about this change," says President Donald Trump to Judge Amy Smith. "If it's what they want, who am I to stop them?"

Nation

United States accidentally invades Iceland

After months of threatening to take over Greenland, the United States officially sent troops in to take control of Iceland, a different country.

By: Daniel Huang

In what officials are currently calling, "the biggest geographical mishap in American history," U.S. forces hastily stormed parts of Iceland earlier on Feb. 27 after a Pentagon briefing reportedly confused Greenland with Iceland. The operation, code-named 'Operation White Ice,' started at day break, as ships, jets, and countless armored units entered the territory of Reykjavik, Iceland's capital city.

The entire command wholeheartedly believed the target was Greenland, which is a territory the U.S. has publicly coveted. Eyewitnesses at the scene of the full-scale invasion were utterly confused as American troops landed on the shores of Reykjavik, only to be met with both bemused and surprised locals, including a confused colony of puffins.

"I'm helping Europe, I am helping NATO, and until the last few days when I told them about

Iceland, they loved me. I don't know that they'd be there for us, they're not there for us in Iceland that I can tell you," says President Trump.

The White House has yet to release an official statement on how exactly this error occurred, but insiders suggest that the military strategists interpreted Trump's mistaken comments as a sign of Icelandic disloyalty, leading them to believe a preemptive invasion was absolutely necessary to 'secure' the Nordic region.

Coming to President Trump's defense, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt denied the mix-up claiming his remarks referred to Greenland as a "piece of ice."

"The mainstream media is once again willfully distorting President Trump's words to manufacture a false narrative. The President was being incredibly clear—he was describing Greenland exactly for what it is,"

said Leavitt in White House press conference.

Diplomatic efforts are working in overtime to resolve the situation, with officials emphasizing commitment of peace through strength.

"The repercussions of this could be felt for decades, and we won't feel the impact of it for awhile," explains Wolf Stansson, Social Studies teacher at Pleasant Valley High School. "Unfortunately, the impact of this won't be felt for a while."



Local

Mouse goes missing

Stuart Little went missing on Feb. 10 after going out for his usually bike ride only to not return. His family remains hopeful for his return.

By: Harrison Sullivan

Local residents of Kunkletown, Pennsylvania have been in a frantic distress since Stuart Little, the adopted murine child of the Little family, was reported missing on Feb. 10, 2026. Stuart was last seen at close to 11:30 a.m. preparing for a bicycle ride through the town, which he usually did on Tuesday mornings, taking the same route each time and arriving home at 1 p.m. to eat lunch.

Born in Gramercy Park, New York, Stuart moved to Kunkletown with his adoptive family in 2020 to get away from the city. Missing posters have been placed across the city and hope is higher than ever for a safe return for Stuart in the coming weeks.

"When mice like these go missing, it's always the cats, that's the way it's been since the dawn of time. Especially when you have a mouse like Stuart coexisting with people in the way he did, he becomes vulnerable to attacks such as these," says Dalton Marsh, Biology teacher at Pleasant Valley High School.

Even with zoological information in mind, students have gotten swept up in the story, spreading false information.

"Now, I'm no conspiracy theorist, but I do believe that something strange is going on here, I mean think about it, Stuart Little just so happens to go missing the same day the moon occulted mars? No way, Stuart Little was definitely taken by aliens," says Arina Nazarova, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

While this is certainly a farfetched theory, the fact remains that the disappearance of Little has hit the community hard.

"Stuart Little was my biggest inspiration growing up, he was a small mouse who learned to co-exist in a world where he didn't belong and never change himself for others, he's my hero," says Saniya Reed, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

Amina Lynch, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School, echoes Reed's sentiment, but she also is frustrated with the search.

"Wherever this Stuart Little guy may be, I think that they should just give him a break and let him relax," says Luart Stittle, newly enrolled sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School.



The missing poster put out by the Little family.

District

School uniforms return to PV

Pleasant Valley is bringing back school uniforms starting in the 2026-2027 school year to help with a surge of dress code violations.

By: Dakari Fleming

Due to many dress code violations the district is planning on reinstating the previously abolished school uniforms. With board approval, the dress code is set to be reinstated at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

"Students may only wear blue polos and khakis every day while in school," said James Konrad, Pleasant Valley Superintendent.

Since 2021, there have been more students in violation of the current dress code, so Dr. Konrad has decided to reinstate school uniforms for the upcoming school year.

"This school year has seen an increase in dress code violations compared to previous years so Dr. Konrad has proposed the idea of reinstating school uniforms to reduce the amount of infractions," stated Tabatha Smith John, member of the Pleasant Valley High School Board.

There are some students "I'm

not wearing polo shirts or khakis, I don't care if it gets me in trouble. I'm going to be a senior next year, and this is going to ruin that experience," says Aaron Hemmitt, junior.

Others, however, don't really see the problem, like Samantha Miller, junior, who thinks the policy will actually help relieve some stress from her day.

"Honestly, with everything going on in the day, not having to think about what I'm going to wear to school every day is one less thing to worry about," explains Miller.

Regardless, the new uniforms are here to stay at least for the upcoming school year. No word has been given about whether or not they will be continued beyond that.

Nation

Nancy Drew to enter public domain; horror adaptation immediately announced

With the Nancy Drew books entering public domain in 2026, producers have immediately announced the release of a new Nancy Drew horror movie starring Jack Black set to release on Oct. 23, 2027.

By: Aubriana Finocchio



Official Nancy Drew movie poster.

Nancy Drew's mystery series is now getting a movie adaptation in the horror genre. The book that will be specifically get-

ting the adaptation has been selected to be *The Secret of The Old Clock*, which is a book about the famous sleuth Nancy Drew finding clues in an old clock throughout the story trying to help the other characters find out where their grandfather had put his will.

This upcoming movie will be releasing in mid October of 2027, and features Jack Black being casted for the role of the main character Nancy Drew.

"It will be an honor to take up such a prestigious role for this upcoming movie," states Black.

Jack Black is a very well-known talented actor and comedian, which states the producers of Netflix,

"Jack Black is the perfect cast for the detective sleuth Nancy

Drew in this production, because he is a really fun guy to work with, and he has the perfect balance including both brains and brawn to be able to take on such a role," explains Netflix co-CEO Ted Sarandos.

This movie will take the original story from the secret of the old clock, but instead give it a sick twist by making Vecna crossover into the Nancy Drew universe and make a collaboration with the movie producers BlumHouse and Netflix.

In recent interviews with one of the producers Jason Blum from BlumHouse productions, he has made some pretty interesting descriptions to go off of in terms of how this movie is gonna go down.

"The goal is to make

this movie both as terrifying and goofy as possible for our audience. However, the comedic effect will complement horror movie elements really well," states Blum.

The actor that will be playing as Vecna for this collaboration will be none other than Jamie Campell Bower himself. He is a famous actor that is well known for playing as the main antagonist and villain of the Netflix original series *Stranger Things*.

"Turning Nancy Drew into a horror movie is a weird choice, but I am excited to see how they tie in *Stranger Things*," says Vivianni Perez, junior at Pleasant Valley High School. "Netflix certainly knows how to bring all of their shows together."

District

Pleasant Valley announces T-Mobile sponsorship

Starting the 2026-2027 school year, Pleasant Valley students will have the benefit of T-Mobile's service as the district has announced an official sponsorship from the communications company.

By: Samuel Smale

Pleasant Valley School District announced that they will be sponsored by T-Mobile starting with the 2026-2027 school year. The announcement came on Tuesday, March 3 during a school assembly held in the New Auditorium.

"We are excited to partner with a well-known and influential company such as T-Mobile," says Brian Boylan, principal of Pleasant Valley High School.

This partnership will directly impact all Pleasant Valley sports programs in several ways. First, all teams will be called the "5G Bears" instead of the "PV Bears." Similarly, the district colors will be changed from royal blue to hot pink.

Changes like this always come with some logistical problems, many of which come from the students themselves.

"Does this mean the school will finally have reliable, ultra fast

wifi," shouted John Quinnson, sophomore, during the assembly.

While this resulted in laughter from the student body, Principal Boylan was quick to confirm the new wifi will be part of the sponsorship. He also added a new assignment mechanic for the upcoming school year.

"Starting next school year, all assignments will be turned in through mobile apps," explained Principal Boylan. "Utilizing T-Mobile's infrastructure will allow both students and faculty to work more efficiently."

Other details of this partnership include a new hall pass system that uses the 5G network to determine how fast you walk in the halls. Parents were all a little skeptical about this partnership but once they thought about better technology for their kids' education they changed their mind.

"It feels odd knowing that the school community we've been a part of for so long is changing in such a dramatic way," says Olivia Granger, mother of Gina Granger, junior. "It seems the changes are meant to make the students safer, and how can you argue with that?"

With changes like this, a variety of reactions are expected, but Pleasant Valley is dedicated to keeping the school at the forefront of educational technology.



The new Pleasant Valley football jerseys, sporting the T-Mobile sponsorship logo

District

Pleasant Valley High School senior to publish her first book

Senior Oliva Smith John will be releasing her first novel on July 4, 2026. It is a historical look at the United States military, and she promises to provide previously untold stories of their involvement in world events.

By: Grayson Hampton



Olivia Smith John, senior

Pleasant Valley High School senior, Oliva Smith John, will be publishing a nonfiction book about the history of the United States military from 1775 all the way to 2026. The book is titled "Today, We Celebrate: The Untold History of the United States Military."

The book goes into detail about every war the country has fought in, the evolution of military uniforms, weapons, and strategies. Smith John wrote and published on her own, not wanting anyone to have a say in her finished product.

"It was important to me that readers get the full picture of how our military has changed over the years," says Smith John. "I didn't want anyone to have a say in what I said or how I said it."

She thought it would be a good idea for people to know

about the United States armed forces, especially after the recent mishap in which President Trump sent troops to Greenland only to find upon arrival that they were actually in Iceland.

Pleasant Valley High School senior, Noah Anderson, is excited to get an unfiltered view that the book will provide.

"I really can't wait for this book. I love history so much, and think it's a good idea to inform people about the military in a way that hasn't been done before," states Anderson.

While books about the military have been written before, Smith John hopes to highlight battles that have been forgotten to history.

"No previous book about the military has discussed the Independence Day Battle of 1996 where Captain Steven Hiller, aided by engineer David Levinson, stopped an invasion that resulted in the White House being destroyed," explains Smith John. "They were heroes and deserve to be remembered as such."

"Today, We Celebrate: The Untold History of the United States Military" is set to release on July 4, 2026 in honor of the 250th birthday of the United States.

District

Backpacks set clear expectations for students

In a move to prevent cellphones from being even more of a distraction during classes, Pleasant Valley High School has made clear backpacks part of the school uniform.

By: Max Sullivan

The distracting nature of phones has been a problem with students and schools for years, and the issue has recently gotten worse. As a result, Pleasant Valley High School decided to implement clear backpacks for the 2026-2027 school year.

Although many students disobey the cellphone rule, Brian Boylan, Principal at Pleasant Valley School District, decided to do something about it.

"This new policy acts as a deterrent for students who want to bring their cellphones into the school building," explains Principal Boylan.

Many students have been upset with this decision, calling it an invasion of privacy and having less durable plastic backpacks.

"This is such a stupid rule," says sophomore Iye Fone. "Why should we have to wear something cheap and flimsy over a phone? And what if there is an emergency?"

Other students, such as freshman Andy Rhodes, expressed his frustration about the invasion of privacy.

"I understand the need to keep cellphones out of the classroom and even for safety purposes, but some things in a student's backpack are personal," says Rhodes. "What am I going to do with my teddy bear?"

Meanwhile, some other students like the idea of clear backpacks, and are completely fine with the rule being implemented.

"People make this rule sound worse than it actually is," says Samantha Sung, junior. "With this new rule, I can actually see what is in my backpack, and I do not have to worry about not being able to find the things I need."

Even though it seems to be widely hated by students, no plans have been made to remove the rule so far, with even the school being open to discussing more about open stuff to catch students sneaking phones into class

Local

Phantoms rebrand ahead of relocating to the Poconos

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms will be moving to Stroudsburg at the beginning of the 2027-2026 season. Local businesses hope for more foot traffic to the area.

By: Daniel Fedik



The new team logo

The Lehigh Valley Phantoms, AHL affiliate for the Philadelphia Flyers, are moving to Stroudsburg at the start of the 2027-2028 season. They will be located by Cinemark and the Texas Roadhouse with a new stadium and a new logo to show for it.

The move was approved by team ownership and the city of Stroudsburg. Give the profitability of the Poconos area, the Phantoms saw it as the perfect place for the team.

"We thought it was a great area to help develop our players. We're far enough away from Philadelphia that we aren't encroaching on their market, but close enough that our players can make it down there if the Flyers do call them up to the NHL," explains team owners Rob and Jim

Brooks in a joint statement.

Ownership and fans alike share in the excitement about the move, as Dwayne Johnson, freshman at Pleasant Valley High School, suggests.

"My friends and I love this idea and we will be watching every weekend," says Johnson.

Local business owners are also preparing for the change. A manager at the neighboring Texas Roadhouse noted they are already planning a special "Phantoms Power Play" menu to cater to the post game crowds. Meanwhile Cinemark is considering cross-promotional "Puck Popcorn" tickets for double profit.

The players of the Phantoms don't mind the move but they will definitely miss their old stadium. The team, which has called PPL Center in Allentown their home since 2014, will be

rebranded as the Pocono Phantoms.

"The Lehigh Valley has been my home for awhile now, but teams and players move all the time," says Phantoms defender Oliver Bonk. "It's part of the job that you just have to get used to as a professional athlete."

The news is devastating to Allentown, who have been home to the team since 2014. The fans in the Lehigh Valley have begun a petition to keep the phantoms where they are currently located.

With the new stadium beginning construction in July of 2026, the Poconos hope to draw more sports fans and other businesses to the area.



The official rendering of the upcoming new stadium

District

Pleasant Valley ski club dances down the slopes in massive district rebrand

In a 15-5 vote, the PVHS ski club decided to forego their traditional roots and focus more heavily on dancing, shifting away from simply skiing and snowboarding to train for the formerly prominent and always graceful Olympic sport of ski ballet.

By: Giada Morales

The Pleasant Valley High School Ski Club has decided to go in a new direction and focus more on ski ballet. The decision was made on Thursday, Feb. 26 after a difficult and, at times, heated, club debate that resulted in a 15-5 member vote.

Ski Club is an after school activity that is centered around skiing at Blue Mountain. Recently the team has had a change of heart and wants to redirect their agenda after watching videos of the event online during practice

on ski history day.

"I believed ski ballet would be too complicated for us to learn with only basic ski skills. It is also a forgotten sport and wouldn't gain much attention," stated Cassie Williams, sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School.

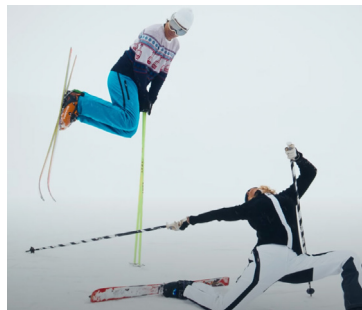
Ski Ballet, formally known as acroski, is a 90 second routine with complicated but elegant routines on skis to impress the judges. This sport was more popular in the 70s-90s and even featured in the Olympics.

"The grace of figure skating, the thrill of alpine skiing, and the fashion of the 1980s," explains the Olympic website.

The Ski Club team was able to give insight on their opinions about the switch.

"I am so excited for this new transition. I hope everyone sees this sport and sees the true beauty within the activity," stated Evan Roman, junior at Pleasant Valley High School.

Understandably, replacing ski



Source: yahoo.com

club with skill ballet was a tough decision that comes with a mix of emotions for everyone involved.

"I love the ski club and it is sad to see it go but ski ballet is beautifully elegant and allows a new taste to skiing," said Amelia Jones, freshman.

Overall, this new change to come is exciting and unexpected. The ski club has a lot of hope for their future. They plan to not only bring this forgotten sport back, but also to make Pleasant Valley proud.



Source: olympicdesign.com

District

Tug of war to begin with high school track and field

Pleasant Valley High School will be holding tryouts on April 23 for the new tug of war program associated with the track team.

By: Kobi Spradlin

Track and field is now introducing tug of war into their sports program in association with the Tug of War International Federation, known as TWIF. Tryouts are happening on April 23, and the team is already almost filled.

Anctuous Kneis, sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School, was the first to sign up. Tug of war plays an important role in his school career

"Playing tug of war in field day is the only reason I didn't drop out of school, and now I can play it every practice," says Kneis.

Tug of war can help kids learn important leadership skills and strengthen the mind and body. While a typical day at tug of war practice usually looks pretty mundane, athletes learn different ways to hold the rope and certain calls that the person in the

back of the rope, known as the anchor, is in charge of using to communicate to the team.

It's the anchor's duty to analyze what the team is doing and how to move so that they can work as a team.

There has not yet been an official match, as the tug of war competitions don't begin until Wednesday, May 6 depending on weather. The rain date would be Saturday, May 9.

Coach Pullu, a foreign tug of war instructor who was the coach for Pocono Mountain East but is now a current PV track and field senior pulling assistant, believes that tug of war enhances the mind and the body.

"Learning to follow what the anchor says while strained is a very important skill and can increase your ability to multi-task."



Source: theworldgames.org

District

Pickleball tournament serves excitement to PV

An announced pickleball tournament set for the end of the school year has teachers and students eagerly awaiting the event.

By: Emma Weber

As the school year comes to a close, the administration has announced an exciting way to wrap things up: a school-wide pickleball tournament. The tournament is to be planned for one of the final weeks of school, before seniors begin graduation practices and end-of-year activities.

According to the announcement, the tournament will be open to both students and teachers and will take place in the gymnasium, with the possibility of moving outdoors if more space is needed and if weather permits. Students interested in participating can sign up by stopping by the gym to pick up sign-up forms. Teams of four will compete in matches throughout the week, leading up to a final match on Friday, May 22 that will be played in front of the entire school.

Pickleball is a fast-paced sport that combines parts of both tennis and ping pong, and it has recently grown in popularity, making it a fun end-of-year event. Rules and equipment will be explained and provided before the tournament begins, so no prior experience is required.

"It's a cool way to end

the year," said Chase Borger, freshman. "It's way better than just sitting in class all day."

Teachers have also shown interest, with several reportedly already forming teams, including Jamie Hyde, English teacher at Pleasant Valley High School, who is excited to show off what she can do.

"Students have no idea what they're about to experience," says Ms. Hyde. "Hear that? There's a storm coming, and it's called 'Hurricane Hyde.'"

More information, including official schedules and deadlines, will be released soon. Until then, students are encouraged to start practicing and get ready for a competitive and memorable end to the school year.



The PV Pickleball Trophy for the winning team