

Portage Area Hilltop

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Senior Stomp

By: Katie Nolan

Powder-puff football is a flag football game, and it is played by girls from the high school's junior and senior classes. It was finally that time of year again and the annual powder-puff game took place Friday, October 9th, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. at the Portage football stadium.

The junior class team coached by Coach Miller consisted of Abby Chobany, Nicole Coukart, Kayla Vocco, Emily Niper, Lauren McCabe, Taylor McCloskey, Allison Jones, Haley Pinos, Emily Krisiko, Emylee Simler, Emilee Flynn, Jordan Caurvina, Maddy Single, Emily Kunko, Hayley Denwood, Julianne Koenigsberg, Erin Sigado, Paige Burda, Kaitlin Oravec, Selena Conklin, and Alex Gates.

The senior class team was led by Coach Jim Fisher. The members were Cammi Baumgardner, Ally Lenz, Sumer Slebodnick, Julia Taylor, Sam Boreck, Kaylee Plummer, Hannah Shaffer, Katie Nolan, Allison Cewensky, Courtney Harbaugh, Sam Fedorko, Dani Schrift, Kacie Baker, Kaitlin Alley, Alex Bisaha, Shaileen Berkhimer, Jackie Birch, Alyssa Seaman, and Lexi Wozniak.

The referees for the game were Spencer Price, Brion Gates, and Brandon George.

It was an intense battle until the finish of the game, but the seniors came out on top, running a little bit faster, moving a little bit swifter, and blocking a little bit tougher throughout the contest. It was an entertaining game though, not only because of the flag football game but because of the "professional" boy cheerleaders from the junior and senior classes cheering on the girls. The ending score was 20-8 in favor of the senior ladies. The seniors will end their powder-puff career with a record of 2-0. The juniors will enter their senior powder-puff game with a record of 0-1.

This year's game was also the senior project of Ally Lenz and Cammi Baumgardner. The money raised during the game from t-shirt cost and admission went to the Portage Area Cheerleaders' Boosters. The seniors would like to wish the juniors the best of luck in their senior powder-puff game...and no hard feelings!



(Left to Right) Seniors **Steven Panick**, **Bennett Falvo**, and **Tanner Slifko** do a cheer mount to support their senior Powder-puff team

Band Jams with Blue Band

By: Sumer Slebodnick



The Portage Area marching band made their second appearance at Penn State's second annual unrivaled band jam on Saturday, September 26th. Portage, along with eleven other bands from Pennsylvania and Delaware, were able to show off their playing skills to the Blue Band. The schools that were involved in the band jam, along with Portage, were Everett High School, Hollidaysburg High School, Lower Dauphin High School, Middletown Area High School, Mifflinburg High School, Montoursville High School, Saucon Valley High School, Shikellamy High School, Saint Marys High School, Susquenita High School and Sussex Technical High School of Delaware.

The band jam took place in the Bryce Jordan Center at 1:15 p.m. The high school bands were seated on the floor and behind the Blue Band. The bands first took turns playing their choice of either a half time song or their school's respective fight song. Then the Blue Band played their half time show of *Louder, Faster, Higher*. After the band finished showing of their half time show, all of the high school bands and the Blue Band played a famous pep tune played by the Blue Band, *Hey Baby*, together.

After the band jam was over, the high school students got to watch the Penn State vs. San Diego State football game. Before the game started, five selected students from each high school band got the opportunity to hold the American flag on the field with the armed forces during the playing of the National Anthem. The students chosen from Portage were Alex Bisaha, Tyler Cadwallader, Michaela Pesta, Hannah Shaffer, and Sumer Slebodnick.

Mr. Rousell commented "I think this is a great experience for the students. It was a pleasure to be able to attend for the second year in a row."

History of Halloween

By: Hannah Shaffer

Halloween originates to the Celtic festival of Samhain. The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago and live in what now is Ireland, celebrated their new year on November 1st. This date ended the warm summer harvest season with the cold and dark period of the year associating with human death. They believed that on the night before the New Year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On that night it is believed that the ghosts come back to earth. They also believed that the presence of unworthy spirits help priests determine some parts of the future. For some, these predictions were an important source of comfort during the long, dark winter.

During the celebration of their New Year, people built large bonfires where the people burnt crops and used animals as sacrifice to Celtic gods, goddesses or immortals. Celts also wore costumes, mostly consisting of animals or animal skins to determine other's fortunes. When the celebration is over, they re-light their bonfires from the night before to protect them from a cold winter.

Halloween eventually made its way to the United States. Because of the belief systems in New England, Halloween was limited to everyone else. Halloween has mostly celebrated in the southern colonies as the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups as well as the American Indians meshed. A distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included Americans talking and dancing, singing, and sharing stories with their neighbors. It also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. Even though Halloween is not celebrated in all parts of the country, festivals were common starting in the 19th century and carry on through today.

By: Taylor McCloskey

A.L.I.C.E

On Monday, October 12th, Portage Area High School students and staff members participated in the training program A.L.I.C.E. The acronym A.L.I.C.E stands for: Alert (awareness of surroundings), Lockdown (seek shelter and create barricades if necessary), Inform (real time details to authorities who need information by any means possible), Counter (take action to protect yourself), and Evacuate (get out and find a safe location). This program had been arranged to make students and the staff familiar with different dangerous, threatening situations that can occur or have occurred in other schools, colleges and even day to day events. Before being dismissed for the day, the students of Portage Area Jr./Sr. High School ran through different scenarios to give them ideas on how to react to different dangers.

The 1st scenario was a trespasser on campus while students are in class. The 2nd scenario was for a chemical spill, fire or environmental threat. In the morning the students were briefed during the presentation prior to the scenarios being run on what is going to be going on that morning. Students would be allowed to give brief feedback at the end of the A.L.I.C.E. program, and the staff will be surveyed to further strategies.

The students that were unable or did not want to participate in the program were observers while the drills were taking place. The administration views this to be a significant part of sustaining a safe and positive school environment. This program helps our staff and our students make decisions in difficult times and will prepare the school for situations that could occur in the future that we hope we never have to deal with.

Andrew's Automotive Assessment

By: Andrew Koval

1986 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am

In 1986, the Pontiac Firebird was on the market for sale. This car came with three model options: Firebird, Firebird S/E, and Firebird Trans Am. First, however, due to the availability and cost of gasoline (two fuel crises had occurred by this time) meant the weight and the fuel consumption of the 3rd generation had to be considered in the design. Therefore, this car is not really what you'd picture as a gas guzzling 400 horsepower muscle car. The Firebird Trans Am package came with a performance suspension body graphics Trans Am kit (body graphics), and a 305 5.0L V8. Pontiac only made 26 Trans Am's with the 305 HO (High Output) engine that was fuel injected, which was something added to better the fuel economy. However, the fuel injection that Pontiac added didn't work, and as a result, caused the fuel to bubble.



To the naked eye or the novice car buyer, odds are you'd never tell the difference (body wise) to this vehicles and the difference in packages it came with. Performance wise, there is a significant difference when it comes to the engines that were in them. The 1986 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am came with 3 different engines: a 2.5L 4-cylinder engine, a 3.8L turbo V6, and a 5.0L 305 Engine. The 305 was the biggest, producing upwards to 190-210 horsepower. In layman's terms: the engine made the car go from 0-60 mph in 7.8 seconds. The Pontiac Firebird would continue in production until 2002, but presently, none will ever be produced again due to Pontiac shutting down in 2009.

Richardson's Reflections

By: Alexis Richardson

Mr. Fox

- Q: Why did you want to coach football?
 A: To shadow the best defensive coach, Mr. Slanoc
- Q: How do you feel about the drama club fall production?
 A: I feel confident. It's going to be an entertaining show, and it's a nice group of children (the cast)
- Q: What's your favorite sonnet by Shakespeare?
 A: 130
- Q: Why do you want to do a 4 year rotation in drama club?
 A: I would like to get on a cycle. I want the freshmen to get a different experience instead of doing the same thing over and over
- Q: What would you do if you had a million dollars?
 A: Buy a PS4

Mr. Kassick

- Q: How do you feel about the football team this year? Why?
 A: If we gel, continue to improve and work harder every week, we can be an extremely successful team. This team is talented enough to go back to Mansion Park, but it's ultimately up to them
- Q: Are you upset that you won't be coaching basketball this year?
 A: Not yet. Being a husband who is home with his wife is more important right now. I will miss games. But, you never know what the future holds.
- Q: Since you're a health/ exercise nut, what motivated you to stay in shape? Why?
 A: I didn't want to buy a new wardrobe... pants and dress clothes are expensive.
- Q: What's your least favorite movie?
 A: Off the top of my head, Vanilla Sky. I was confused when I saw it the first time, and I just don't have the patience to watch it again.

- Q: What do you think about the new schedule changes this year? Does it affect you?
 A: I'm only slightly effected (personally). Overall, the schedule changes look to be what's best for our school, and that's what is most important
- Q: If you went on vacation for 3 months, where would you go? Why?
 A: The Caribbean with my wife. Clear water, warm weather, beaches....what else would I need?

SPIRIT WEEK '15!! October 19th-23rd

MONDAY-



TUESDAY-



Day

WEDNESDAY-



THURSDAY-



FRIDAY- Spirit Day



Basket Bingo Brings Bucks to SADD

By: Elona Krcishta

On October 7th, 2015 Portage's SADD Club hosted their annual basket bingo night at the Portage Volunteer Fire Hall. Of course it was a time for playing bingo, but it was also for everyone involved to join in the fun. This is a great way for all of Portage and even beyond to come and enjoy some bingo fun! Portage Area SADD Club members were tremendous helpers in this occasion as well. Those students included: Kacie Baker, Evan Gruss, Braedon St. Clair, Ryan Myher, Aaron Akins, Albert Koenigsberg, Julianne Koenigsberg, Hayley Denwood, Abby Chobany, Corbyn Haney, Tanner Panick, Kayla Vocco, Alli Kissell, Emily Niper, Ian Bunting, and Kylee McCarty. An estimated 150 people showed up to support this event. Student SADD Club member Braedon St. Clair, who participated in the basket bingo said, "It was a great experience with a lot of people there."

These students received community service hours for their time helping out in the basket bingo. The basket bingo has become a staple event over the years that produces results every time.

SADD Club advisor Mr. Brian Randall gushed, "The volunteers were fantastic and represented SADD Club very well."

The SADD Club itself buys the actual baskets, which are all Longaberger brand, and all of the items in the baskets are donated from staff members of Portage Area. Basket bingo night benefits in that every \$1 donated goes directly to the SADD Club, helping pay for the speakers and other events that come about. Over the past few years, the club has brought in a magician, and have provided funding for the annual Curve game, other field trips, Red Ribbon Week, and prizes for wearing red ribbons, not to mention numerous motivational speakers. It also pays for attractions such as drunk goggles and After Prom promoting the message of the SADD Club, which is to steer children from not making destructive decisions with their respective lives.

Fire Prevention Week

By: Emily Niper

Fire Prevention Week was established to pay a tribute to The Great Chicago Fire. The tragic 1871 fire killed more than 250 people, and left over 100,000 homeless. The fire destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

The fire started on October 8th and continued to do most of the damage October 9th. A popular legend was believed that the fire was started after a cow kicked over a lamp, setting the first barn, then the whole city on fire. Chances are you have heard some version of this story yourself. People have been blaming the Great Chicago Fire on the cow and the owner, Mrs. O'Leary, for more than 130 years. However, recent research by Chicago historian Robert Cromie has helped to contradict this version of events.

Some people have said that the fiery meteorite may have fallen to earth on October 8th, starting several fires that day. Fires were started in Michigan, Wisconsin, and as well as in Chicago. The Great Chicago Fire was the best-known fire to start during this two-day stretch of fire; but, it wasn't the biggest. The largest goes to Peshtigo Fire, the most devastating forest fire in American history. The fire occurred on October 8th, 1871, as well. It spread through northeast Wisconsin. The blaze took down 16 towns, killing 1,152 people, and scorching 1.20 million acres before it ended. Historians say that the fire began when several railroad workers clearing land for the tracks unintentionally started a brush fire. Not long after, the flames, fast-moving, were wiping the area clean. Within an hour, the entire town of Peshtigo, Wisconsin suffered the worst damage.





Portage

Gossard's Grub

By: Max Gossard

Mac&Cheese Bites

- ¾ cup Flour
- Salt to taste
- Pepper to taste
- 1 box of Kraft mac & cheese
- 2 Egg
- 1 cup of Milk
- ¼ cup Butter
- Oil to fill a skillet ¼ way up
- 2 cups seasoned Bread-crum
- 6 cups water



1. bring 6 cups of water to a boil
2. cook macaroni for 9 minutes stirring occasionally.
3. Strain water and add butter and ¼ cup of milk and heat for a minute.
4. Add cheese mix from box and whisk till combined.
5. Line a casserole dish with wax paper and put mac & cheese in dish and spread evenly.
6. Cover dish and place in the freezer for at least 3 hours.
7. Take the mac & cheese out of freezer and out of the dish.
8. Cut the macaroni into bite sized squares place in a Zip-loc bag
9. Put into freezer for at least 12 hours.
10. Begin making a breading station. Put flour on a plate and add salt and pepper to taste mix well and set aside. Crack 2 eggs in a bowl, beat together and add the rest of your milk add mix. Set aside then place your 2 cups seasoned bread crumb on another plate.
11. Bread the mac & cheese. 1.flour 2.egg 3.seasoned breadcrumb 4.egg 5. seasoned breadcrumb.
12. Heat your vegetable oil to 350 degrees Fahrenheit
13. Place in oil for 3 min or until golden brown

Palate

Kassick's Kuisine

By: Mr. Kassick

Bean & Corn Salsa "Texas Caviar"

- 2 14.5 Oz. Cans
- Or 1 large 25 Oz. Can
- Petite Diced Tomatoes (Do Not Drain)

- 1 Can
- 1 Can
- 2-3
- 1/2
- Whole Kernel Sweet Corn
- Black Beans
- Shallots (chopped)
- Medium Onion (chopped)

1 Whole medium onion can be substituted for shallot

- 1/4 Green Pepper
- 1/4 Red Pepper
- Chopped
- Chopped

- 1-2 TBSP
- 1-2 Tsp
- 1-2 Tsp
- 1-2 Tsp
- Dried Cilantro (To Taste)
- Salt (To taste)
- Pepper (To Taste)
- Lime or Lemon Juice

1. Empty contents of cans into large bowl (draining only beans and corn)
2. Add 1/2 cilantro, Salt, Pepper and Mix
3. Chop Shallots and Onions then add to mixture
4. Chop Peppers (Red and Green) and Add to mixture
5. Add remaining spices to taste
6. Let sit 4 hours to soften and combine

Enjoy!

Have a recipe idea? Submit it to Mr. Kassick. It might be featured in the next edition of the Hilltop for all to enjoy!

Portage Shatters Shade



Portage bounced back from a disappointing loss in the game against Berlin (28-6) to beat Shade. The Mustangs (5-1) collected 228 rushing yards and 51 yards passing. Shade had 35 rushing yards on 30 carries. After Shade was forced to punt, Braedon St. Clair returned the kick 41 yards down the field for a touchdown. Jordan Beyer recovered a fumble and Cory Bobolsky ran 18 yards for another touchdown. The score was 14-0. Portage added 3 second quarter touchdowns. Chad Scoran made five extra points. Defensive tackle Elliott Vassas returned an interception 14 yards for a touchdown. Braedon St. Clair scored on a 3 yard run and Luke Dividock passed to Ben Herman for a 44 yard touchdown pass. Shade scored twice in the final quarter. Bailey Blackburn's 38 yard punt return set up his touchdown. A Portage fumble resulted in a Shade 17 yard scoring pass to Dylan Valine, leaving the final score 41-14.

By: Elliott Vassas

Portage Jacks Up the Jackets

Portage was unstoppable on Saturday afternoon as the Mustangs won 66-0 at Ferndale. The Mustangs had 586 rushing yards. 16 players received carries for Portage. Braedon St. Clair ran 42 yards for the first touchdown. Ferndale fumbled the next exchange and Cory Bobolsky scored from 17 yards out. Todd Niper got an interception early in the second quarter. Luke Dividock carried for 65 yards on a four play drive. The score at halftime was 39-0. Brett Michaels got an interception in the third quarter and Logan Shaffer had a 38 yard scoring run. Logan Shaffer added another 28 yard touchdown and a 65 yard run by Caleb Akins set the final at 66-0. Luke Dividock led all rushers with 137 yards on 14 carries, while Braedon St. Clair picked up 131 yards, and Cory Bobolsky ran for 119 yards. Cory Bobolsky left the second quarter with an injury, but he will be back against Conemaugh Township on October 16th. Mustang Defense held the Yellow Jackets to 2 first downs, and negative yardage for the game.

Current Football Standings after Week 6



 6-0 (at Meyersdale)

 5-1 (vs. Portage)

 5-1 (at C. Township)

 4-2 (vs. Windber)

 4-2 (vs. Berlin)

 2-4 (vs. Ferndale)

 2-4 (vs. North Star)

 2-4 (at Shade)

 1-5 (at C. Valley)

 0-6 (at Blacklick)