

Portage Area Hilltop

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November 25, 2015

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Issue Number: 6

Hockey and Education

By: Sumer Slebodnick

On Thursday, November 12th, selected seniors attended the second annual Hockey and Education Day at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena in Johnstown with Mrs. Gribbin. The seniors were selected depending on their plans to follow high school. The students had the opportunity to walk around and talk to a number of representatives from local businesses and their personal careers along with a number of college representatives. While talking to those representatives, the students had the opportunity to ask any questions that they had regarding the respective career or college representative that they were talking to.

After the career fair, the seniors stayed to watch the Johnstown Tomahawks take on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Knights. The elementary school, grades one through six, joined the seniors in watching the hockey game. The sixth grade chorus members had the unique opportunity to go out on the ice before the game to sing the National Anthem. The National Anthem was directed by the elementary chorus teacher, Mr. Gossard.

After the National Anthem, the game began. Both teams were scoreless until late in the first period when the Knights made the first goal. Seconds later they made their second goal which gave the Knights a 2-0 lead before the first intermission. During the second period, the Knights made their third goal. The Tomahawks made their first goal in the third period. A few seconds later, The Knights made their fourth goal. The third period led to many fights between the two teams which eventually led a total of six ejections between both teams. Unfortunately for the home team Tomahawks, the final score of the game was 4-1. However, everyone enjoyed the day.



Uptown Painting Party

By: Taylor McCloskey

On Sunday November 22nd, the junior class of Portage Area hosted a painting party. What is a painting party? It is a two to three hour event, depending on the complexity of the painting, where guests (customers) create your very own 16x20 masterpiece with the help of one of many talented artists. You can listen to music, make a fantastic memory, and try something new and different.

The paintings were made with acrylic paint. Children and teens were welcomed to attend, but all parties but must be accompanied by an adult. There were a total of 8 talented artists: Ashley Bennet, Devyn Byers, Kathy Glover, Tia Livengood, Anna Martin, Billie Jo Miller, Robin Sodmont, and Crystal Swope.

Kathy Glover is the owner and operator of the Uptown Painting Party. The idea from the Uptown Painting Party stemmed from all of the art classes she attended in the Pittsburgh area. Her family owns the Glades Court Mall and she thought the painting party would be a wonderful addition to the uptown part of Somerset area and to her family's buildings.

"So my crafty side took flight and we started events once a month until we could bring the right mix of people together to really launch this venture. I'm always looking for new ideas. If you have any questions, want to submit ideas, or just want to call to say "hey!," feel free to contact me." Glover gushed with excitement

The Corporate offices are in Pittsburgh located at 834 Ridge Avenue and can also be found in Somerset, PA at 101 W. Main Street.



Peril in Paris

By: Nathan Teno

On Friday November 13th, the ISIS terrorism group made an impact on many people's lives. During a soccer match in Paris, France a bomb went off outside of the stadium shaking everyone inside. 127 people died during the attacks on Paris. The French government retaliated by increasing frequency on bombing attacks on ISIS headquarters. The raid, including 10 fighter jets, was launched simultaneously from the UAE (United Arab Emirates) and Jordan. According to a Defense Minister from France, twenty bombs were dropped. French police have also launched an international hunt for a Belgian-born male that they believe helped organize the assaults with two of his brothers. One of the brothers died in the attacks, while the second one is under arrest in Belgium. Russia, the Unites States, and other militaries have joined together with France in attempts to thwart ISIS and their terroristic ideas.

Also, a group of hackers called Anonymous are helping tremendously by figuring out locations of compounds owned by ISIS and by trying to intercept messages of future attacks. Anonymous have booted over 6,000 Islamic twitter accounts that were associated with ISIS off of the social media site. With everyone rallying together after the most recent of ISIS' attacks, the terrorist group will surely be stopped for a while if not completely decimated. Pray for Paris is a new phrase used worldwide showing support for anyone who has lost a loved one or has seen these attacks.



Lady Mustangs Travel to Altoona

By: Katie Nolan

The Altoona Mirror hosts two lettermen media days for winter sports every year. This year's lettermen media days were held on Thursday, November 12th and Sunday, November 15th. Our boys' varsity basketball team went to media day on Thursday.

The boys' team, coached by Mr. Travis Kargo, had five players letter last season. To letter in a sport in high school, players must meet a specified level of participation or performance on a varsity team. For high school basketball, you are considered a letterman if you play in half of the games in your season. The following boys attended this year's Altoona Mirror lettermen media day: seniors Luke Dividock and Evan Gruss; juniors Jake Swank, Braedon St. Clair, and Ryan Myher. Luke is participating in his 3rd year as a letterman. Evan, Jake, and Braedon are participating in their 2nd year as a lettermen, and Ryan is participating in his 1st year as a letterman.

The Lady Mustangs basketball team went to media day on Sunday. The Lady Mustangs, coached by Lance Hudak, had seven players letter last season. The following girls attended this year's Altoona Mirror lettermen media day: seniors Katie Nolan, Kacie Baker, and Lexi Wozniak; juniors Lauren McCabe, Abby Chobany, and Jordan Caurvina; freshman Kasey Chobany. Katie, Kacie, and Lexi are participating in their 3rd year as a lettermen; Abby is participating in her 2nd year as a letterman, and Lauren, Jordan, and Kasey are participating in their 1st year as a lettermen. The participants in the Altoona Mirror lettermen media day got a team photo that will be published in the Altoona Mirror and an individual picture in case it is needed for an achievement or article during their respective seasons.



Salon Profesional Academy Visits

By: Elona Krcihsta

On November 17th, 2015 the Salon Profesional Academy, which is located at 415 D Orchard Avenue in Altoona, PA 16601, came to Portage Area High School to visit for students to receive more information about their school. Admissions Representative Taylor Rake was available from 9 a.m. with plenty of information about the school which now has been updated with new equipment and a new location.



Miss Rake gave the students who had scheduled an appointment with her a folder filled with basic information about the Salon Profesional Academy. Becoming a cosmetologist requires 1250 hours of education time. This school gives the students the amount of information and time to pass their respective state board test. They assure everyone passes and they do not accept failures from their pupils. Their schedule is 5 days a week from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. filled with schooling about cosmetology. Miss Rake is a fellow graduate from the Salon Profesional Academy and even proposed a "Mrs. S" \$4,000 Memorial Scholarship.

Mrs. S is a lady who ran and owned this academy to seek out her information to other peers. She wanted to share her knowledge and infectious sense of passion that drove her every day. In doing so, she wanted to enable other students in the process. The purpose of this scholarship is to honor her memory by enabling others who are as passionate and driven as she was to be given the opportunity to achieve their dream of a cosmetology education and career.

On a personal note, I thought the meeting went very well and Miss Rake had gone over everything there was to know and answered anyone's questions that needed to be answered. Miss Rake was a good representative of the Salon Profesional Academy, and it was great meeting her and learning more about this cosmetology school and how it works. For further information or details about the school, they had scheduled an open house on the 19th of November 2015, or call (814) 944-4494 for more details.

Winter Sports

By: Emily Niper

As fall comes to a close, the Varsity Golf, Volleyball, Cross Country and Football, co-op Varsity Soccer and Jr. High Football teams have ended their season. The Varsity Football team finished their season with a record of 9-3 that included the first ever playoff victory over Bellwood-Antis, 67-23.

Meanwhile, the Rifle, Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball, Boys and Girls Jr. High Basketball and the Portage Wrestling teams officially started their seasons on Monday November 16th.

Last year the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams both made it to the district playoffs and PIAA State Tournaments. The boys finished their season with a 20-7 record. Graduate Michael Bryja scored his 1,000 points just before the season finished. Their season ended in the second round against Monessen. That was the furthest the boys have ever made it.

The girls' basketball team finished an unbelievable season, 24-5. They also won their first ever PIAA playoff game, and made it to the state final four, eventually losing to state runner-up by Old Forge at Cumberland Valley High School. The upsetting loss was the result of the 45-42 double overtime loss. Both teams hope to improve upon last year in their upcoming season after losing only one starter each, respectively.

Rifle starts off their season against Salisbury-Elk Lick on Friday December 11th. Last year rifle finished their season with an 11-3 record. Senior sharpshooter Alli Kissell has signed a national letter of intent to attend Ohio State on a rifle scholarship.

The wrestling team tried their hardest ending the season 2-12 record. They plan to improve their season this upcoming year. The boys are putting hard work in already for what they hope to be better this year. We wish everyone the best of luck with their upcoming seasons.

Andrew's Automotive Assessment



By: Andrew Koval

2015 Cadillac-CTS-V

The 2015 Cadillac CTS-V is possibly the greatest balance between luxury and power. The new CTS-V comes with a supercharged 6.2 liter 650 Horsepower engine that is the same exact engine GM (General Motors) puts in the new Chevrolet Corvette Z06. With that much power, the CTS-V can go from 0-60mph in 3.5 seconds and has the ability to reach a top speed of 200mph on the racetrack. The CTS-V houses an 8-speed automatic transmission that shifts lightning fast and smooth as silk. Owners also have the option to shift the transmission into manual mode and use the paddle shifters on the steering wheel. But let's not forget the car is a Cadillac and is focused on luxury as well as power.

The CTS-V comes with Bose Premium audio and 4G LTE WI-FI connectivity. The seating comes with 2 options: firstly, it comes with standard 20-way heated and ventilated performance-oriented seats, trimmed in semi-aniline leather and V-signature suede microfiber inserts; or drivers can choose Recaro Racing 16-way power seats that put you in the driver's seat of both comfort and performance.

Not only does it come with luxury and power, but it also comes with safety features such as a unique Curb View Camera that can help you protect the front splitter from damage while parking. Automatic Parking Assist also guides with parallel and perpendicular parking scenarios.

Finally, what's the point of a sporty luxury powerful car if it doesn't look cool? The CTS-V has a lightweight carbon fiber hood that provides better aerodynamics, and because of the vents that it has in the hood, it draws in more air to the engine which provides more power and better fuel economy while also coming equipped with a lot of carbon fiber applications to make it more lightweight, aerodynamic, and stronger, while also featuring a finely tuned quad exhaust. This Cadillac certainly gets rid of the old stereotype that it's just an old man's car.

Richardson's Reflections

By: Alexis Richardson

Mr. Miller

Q: How does it feel to help students out with their senior projects?

A: It feels good to be involved in aiding students with a project that reflects what would be expected of them (skill wise) later in life

Q: What's your blood type?

A: AB+

Q: What makes you bored? How do you combat boredom?

A: Having nothing to do. Do anything like read a book. We must make all of our time useful

Q: What's your middle name?

A: Charles

Q: Do you like to shop? If not, what else would you do?

A: No I hate to shop. I'd rather go for a hike in the woods

Mr. Josh Burkett

Q: Do you think Trump will win the election? Why or why not?

A: I do not think he'll win because he's too controversial

Q: Have you ever been in a car accident?

A: No

Q: Do you trust anyone with your life?

A: Absolutely. Family and friends

Q: What question do you hate to answer?

A: Do we need our textbook today?

Q: What cheers you up?

A: My kids

100 Mile Mustang Door Mat Sale

By: Braedon St. Clair

The 100 Mile Club is selling Mustang Door Mats at the cost of \$20 each. These door mats are a great idea for a cheap Christmas or birthday present. Anyone you know can use a door mat! These are a double win because not only is it a great gift, but your family can also represent the Portage Mustangs now wherever they live. So, if you see Emily Kunko or Hayley Denwood in the hall, don't be afraid to ask them for an order form or for more details because both juniors are doing the 100 mile club as their senior project. This fundraiser regarding the 100 Mile Club is really going to help out with everyone's contributions. The 100 mile club helps to promote school wide fitness by rewarding members of the school who complete 100 miles on the cardio equipment during the school year.

Participating students and staff can record the distance of exercise in the fitness center by filling out a slip and putting it in the '100 Mile Mailbox' sitting on the counter in the facility. When I asked the two about how they got the idea of selling doormats, Hayley replied, "Well, we were just thinking of things no one had ever sold before and something that would attract a lot of buyers, and we came up with doormats."



Hannah's Helpful Thanksgiving Tips

By: Hannah Shaffer

Thanksgiving is approaching along with all of its great festivities including days off school, shopping, and eating until your belt snaps! With some of the great things comes some downsides...FAMILY GET TOGETHERS! As exciting as listening to your family repeat hunting and fishing stories or listening to how great your young siblings are in sports may sound, sometimes you need get away, cover yourself with leaves, and hope the garbage truck takes you away! Here are some helpful tips to get you through turkey weekend.

- Eat as much turkey as possible, this way right after dinner you can fall asleep to avoid the stories
- Tell your grandma you are way too old for the kid's table!
- Avoid conversations about college, relationships, and grades...TOUCHY SUBJECTS!
- Just don't stop eating, so you don't have to speak
- Volunteer to say grace! Just get it over with so your parents aren't on your back later
- NO EYE CONTACT!
- If you need to ask to pass the salt, do you really need it?
- To avoid cleanup, excuse yourself to the restroom
- No matter how bad the food tastes, tell your host it is the best food you have ever had (it pays off at Christmas...I'll tell you about that later)
- Don't talk about the burnt buns!
- Don't draw attention to yourself...NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS!
- Use manners!
- Reader's submission: Eat by yourself in the corner-it will just help in the long-run
- Don't fight over who is going to pull the wishbone...just take it
- Be prepared for Christmas Dinner!

If for some reason the garbage man doesn't show up that day, these tips will almost certainly get you through it. (Results may vary)

Star Wars Chance of a Lifetime

By: Courtland Cor-

On December 18th of this year, many people will be going to see the highly anticipated new Star Wars Episode VII movie. Tickets went on sale only a few weeks ago, and they are quickly running out at many locations, so many fans' dreams of seeing the premiere may be a bust if they don't act soon.

Fortunately, there is a chance (though a very, very, slight one) that you could receive a trip to be one of the first people to see the movie with the entire cast at the premiere in the United States. You also can bring along 3 friends if you win, and you all get to walk the red carpet and head to the film's after party. To gain an entry, all fans are asked to do is donate as little as \$10 through Omaze to support Star Wars: Force for Change, an initiative launched by Disney and Lucasfilm to help find solutions to some of the world's biggest problems. The money raised from the event will benefit 1 of 15 different causes selected by the cast and crew. Also, the amount you donate corresponds to how many entries you get in the contest, and each donation comes with a "Star Wars" treat ranging from Millennium Falcon artwork to newly designed "The Force Awakens" T-shirts. A limited amount of people who donate \$500 will get a Han Solo and Princess Leia poster. One person who donates \$10,000 will receive a replica Kylo Ren Helmet, and another who gives \$20,000 will receive a life-sized Stormtrooper suit. The contest ends on December 4th at 11:59 PST, and if you would like to donate visit www.omaze.com.



Portage Palate

Gossard's Grub Reader Submitted

By: Max Gossard

Oreo Bomb Cake

Ingredients:

2 packs of Oreos
2 tubs of Cool Whip
Hershey's Chocolate
syrup
Milk

Directions:

Get an 8x10 pan
Dunk Oreos in milk and place in a single layer at the bottom
Follow with a layer of Cool Whip
Make a second layer of dunked Oreos
Then top with Cool Whip
Crush Oreos and sprinkle on top
Drizzle with Chocolate Syrup
Enjoy!



Pull Apart Party Loaf

Submitted By: Mrs. Fox

1 (16 to 18 oz.) round loaf Italian or sourdough bread
¼ cup butter, melted
1 tsp. dry ranch dressing mix
½ cup (about 5 slices) cooked chopped thick-cut bacon
¼ cup jarred jalapeno peppers, chopped
10 (3/4-oz.) slices deli American cheese, chopped
2 tsp. chopped fresh parsley, if desired

Heat oven to 350°F. Place two (24 inch) pieces aluminum foil, crossing one over the other, on flat surface. Cut bread, using serrated knife, in grid pattern, spacing about 1-inch between rows. Do not cut through bottom crust. Set aside.

Combine melted butter and ranch dressing in medium bowl. Add all remaining ingredients except parsley; mix well.

Place loaf in center of aluminum foil pieces. Spoon cheese mixture into cut areas of bread. Wrap foil loosely around bread. Place onto ungreased baking sheet.

Bake 30 minutes. Pull back foil; continue baking 5 – 10 minutes or until loaf is golden brown and cheese is melted. Sprinkle with parsley, if desired.

Serve immediately. Pull out individual bread pieces, using tongs or 2 forks and reaching down into loaf to include filling and bread.