



SADD Club
Connection



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Mid-Quarter Hilltop

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Homecoming Dazzle

By: Katie Nolan

It's that time of year again when a select few ladies get fancied up with their escorts and take part in the annual homecoming ceremony at the football game. This year's homecoming took place Friday, September 21st, 2015 during the Portage vs. Windber football game. The sophomore attendants were Logan Baumgardner escorted by Noah Kerch and Kourtney Gates escorted by Corbyn Haney. The junior attendants were Nicole Coukart escorted by Scott Petrunak and Madelyn Single escorted by David Noble. The senior attendants were Elona Krcishta escorted by Bennett Falvo, Alexis Wozniak escorted by David New, Alexandra Kissell escorted by Tyler Cadwallader, Kacie Baker escorted by Evan Gruss, and Allison Cerwensky escorted by Christopher Seabrooks. Little Miss Portage was Sydni Sossong.

As the ladies walked across the field and their biographical narratives were read, the band played *Beauty and the Beast*. After the 2014 homecoming queen, Brandi George, walked across the field, she crowned the 2015 homecoming queen, Allison Cerwensky.

Allison was asked if she had any special thanks or comments. She stated, "I would like to thank my classmates for voting for me." Allison was then asked what her favorite part about homecoming was and she stated, "When some random little boy came up to me and took a selfie with me."

Congratulations Allison and all other attendants! The ladies got to continue their homecoming night fun by attending the hustle at the Portage Area Elementary School gymnasium. At the hustle, Allison Cerwensky, our 2015 homecoming queen, celebrated her crowning of queen by participating in the queen dance with Christopher Seabrooks.

"I am looking forward to walking across the field one last time and having the honor of crowning the new queen next year," Cerwensky stated at the conclusion of the eventful night.



2014 Queen Brandi George Crowning Homecoming Queen Allison Cerwensky and her escort Chris Seabrooks



Glad to be SADD

By: Emily Niper

Portage Area SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club helps students realize how one negative aspect can change your life forever. Advisor Mr. Brian Randall stated, "SADD is great for our school and our students. I'm glad we have such strong student support (and participation)."

Being in SADD is beneficial because you can participate in many activities they sponsor and organize. This week the SADD club went to the Pirates game after school on Monday 28th to see the Buccos host the St. Louis Cardinals.

Their next activity they are holding is the basket bingo fundraiser which is their major fundraiser. The event is going to be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 6 o'clock. In order to get into SADD, you either have to donate \$20 or you have to sell a basket bingo ticket. The students that are in SADD can help work at the basket bingo, and if you are one of the first people to arrive, you will receive a free staff t-shirt. All money is due to Mr. Randall no later than October 1st, no exceptions. Mr. Randall and the SADD club officers suggest that anyone in 9th- 12th grade should participate in the program. It helps you interact through different activities. The club attempts to show how the effects of negative decisions and situations could affect you for the rest of your life. If you plan on going to after prom, you need to be a SADD member as well. There are many different activities held throughout the year, so you better act fast and get your money in!



Student Caleb Lutz and SADD advisor Mr. Brian Randall

Interacting with the Interact Club

By: Braedon St. Clair

Interact Club is a community service based group that averages around 10-25 students participating each year. Interact has been around for over a decade and Mr. Randall, the club advisor, is looking for new ways each year to get more students involved and interested.

Last year they visited the Chamber of Commerce along with doing a few cleanup activities around the town. When I asked Mr. Randall about his and the club's trip to the Chamber of Commerce, he gave a very positive response: "It was a great experience for the kids, and I think everyone had a good time along with learning a little something along the way."

This year he is looking for a new place to go with the club and also looking for more ways to get involved with the community. Interact is only \$5 to join, and every member is required to participate in the two community service activities. Interact is a great extracurricular activity to be a part of and to invest time. Not only is it only \$5 to join, it is a great way to get involved with your community and help to keep it a little cleaner. Also you get rewarded with a fun trip to somewhere you might never go any other time.

This year Mr. Randall is attempting to take the club to The World Affairs Institute (WAI) in Pittsburgh. WAI publishes World Affairs, a bimonthly print magazine established in 1837. The journal covers foreign policy and security issues. Its website provides essays from the print journal, as well as blogs and online features in addition to international news, opinion, and research that is aggregated from media, think tanks, and governments around the world. Interact is an all-around beneficial club that helps not only the community but the school too.

Volleyball

By: Sumer Slepodnick

This year's Lady Mustang volleyball team is led by head coach Mr. Johnson and assistant coach Lauren Cordwell, along with senior captains Kacie Baker and Allison Cewensky. Their record for the season so far stands at 2-7. The ladies are looking to improve their record as the season moves on and into the month of October. Both captains, along with the coaches are confident in their team and believe that they have the ability to gain some more wins in the upcoming weeks. There is still time to do so with 12 games in the season remaining.

Along with the regular season games, the team attended the annual Saint Francis Invitational on Saturday, September 12th.

Although they didn't place, head coach Mr. Johnson, and his assistant coach were both proud of the team's effort.

"There were some tough teams, but I think we played well against those teams" added captain Allison Cewensky.

Senior captain, Kacie Baker, also commented "We started out to a rough start this year, but we have a lot of talented girls on the team and everything is finally starting to click into place."

Cewensky also added, "We have worked hard all summer and are hoping to gain some more wins to finish off the season."

The Lady Mustangs would like to see the gymnasium full of fans wearing green and white at their next home games. The Lady Mustangs will host again on October 1st, 6th, 15th, 19th, and they will end the season on October 27th. Come out and support the volleyball program as they end the season.



Lady Mustang Volleyball Team members Alison Cewensky, Marisa Ference, and Kacie Baker

Pink Out Pride

By: Nathan Teno

Student council's annual Pink Out T-Shirt sale is here! The student council member officers and your homeroom representatives are now selling pink out shirts. The shirts will be on sale from Monday, September 28th to Friday October 9th. The shirts are being sold to raise money for breast cancer awareness. The whole month of October has grown to become well known as breast cancer awareness month. We all recognize the seriousness of the cancer, so any help to raise money and awareness to help out those who may be ill with breast cancer is greatly appreciated.

The prices of the shirts are on sale at \$8.00 for sizes S-XL and \$8.50 for all 2XL and 3XL shirts. One half of all proceeds raised will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. This foundation is a non-profit foundation based on helping people with breast cancer. All profits this foundation makes goes towards helping out in any way they can towards women with breast cancer. They fund research, create advertisements, go on missions in different countries, and anything else they can do to help in whatever way they can. Our school has done the pink out for a few years and every year it has been a success. Every year we have taken a photo of all students that have participated to show our support towards breast cancer awareness. Any questions about this fundraiser should be taken to Mrs. Gdula in the Home Economics room. Remember, get your money in by Friday, October 8th.



Richardson's Reflections

By: Alexis Richardson

Teacher interview - Mr. Johnson

Q: What's your least favorite kind of music? Why?

A: I like all kinds of music. I'd say if a song was content or explicit then I wouldn't like it

Q: Does the new schedule changes affect any of your classes? If so, how?

A: Yes. My lunch period but it's not that bad

Q: Why do you like to coach volleyball?

A: It's my favorite sport. I've played it my whole life, and I enjoy coaching it

Q: Who's your favorite Marvel or DC character? Why?

A: The Flash because he can time travel, and I think it's cool

Q: What makes you bored? Ok, how do you get out of boredom?

A: Having nothing to do. To get out of boredom, I try to do things I like. Watch football, go see a movie, or hangout with family and friends

Teacher interview - Mrs. Grata

Q: Are you nervous since this is your first year teaching at Portage?

A: Yes I was nervous on the first day, but it's kind of like riding a bike. The kids here are better (than my last employment)

Q: What's your favorite subject to teach? Why?

A: English. I like to teach English 10 and journalism. Anything about English, I love

Q: What's your favorite book to read?

A: *Desperation* by Stephen King

Q: Where did you teach before you came to Portage?

A: NHS. It was a private school for students needing emotional support

Q: What clubs were you in when you were in high school?

A: SADD, drama club, newspaper, forensics team, public speaking and I was also in sports such as soccer, softball and swimming

Free Yearbooks...Pick Me!

By: Taylor McCloskey

Want a yearbook? What about a discounted yearbook? And even better, you can get a free yearbook! With every item you sell, you can get \$5 off the total purchase price of your yearbook. In easy terms: if you can sell only 12 items, you can earn a FREE yearbook. It's as simple as that.

There is also the seller incentive program included with the sale. In that program, when a student sells 10 items, you receive (Item A) a free pumpkin roll. When you sell 15 items, you receive (Items A & B) which will then also include a Pepperoni Zap-a-Snack. Sell 20 items, and you receive A, B, and C which is the aforementioned plus the Auntie Anne's soft pretzels. Sell 25 items and you also receive Item D which is a \$25 restaurant.com gift card, which is online and you get to pick any restaurant on the website. Sell 30 items or more and you receive A, B, C, D, and E which is \$100 worth of your choice of FREE product. The seller incentive programs prizes are automatically given when you sold the amount of items on the list. You do not need to write the items from the seller incentive program on the form. But, for the A, B, C, D and \$100 Free Product choices, you can write on the back your choices in the chart on the back of the EARN A FREE YEARBOOK! Page. So do you want a free yearbook or at least a discounted one? Start selling NOW!

U.S to accept more Syrian Refugees

By: Andrew Koval

Secretary of State John Kerry announced Sunday that the United States is increasing the cap for migrants due to the ongoing issues in Syria.

Kerry said the current cap of 70,000 migrants annually will be increased to 85,000 next fiscal year and 100,000 in 2017.

"We're doing what we know we can manage immediately. What we feel what we can do by working within the system we have and within the challenges we have, budget-wise, but as soon as we have an opportunity to try to up that, we'll welcome -- because America has always welcomed -- bringing more people in in these kinds of circumstances," Kerry said.



All refugees will also be subjected to background checks as well, but in the interview Kerry also said, "ISIS and other terrorist groups have made it abundantly clear that they will use the refugee crisis to try to enter the United States, which is why we must have the certain protocols for situations like this."

Further, Kerry said, "This step that I am announcing today, I believe is in keeping with the best tradition of America as a land of second chances and a beacon of hope. And it will be accompanied by additional financial contributions to the humanitarian effort, not only from our government but from the American people. And that will become more specific in the next days."

Most of the pressure of the refugee crisis has landed on Europe. Europe is taking in more refugees than they can take care of. This announcement will hopefully alleviate the pressure on Europe and help give support to the Syrian refugees.

Info taken from: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/09/20/politics/syrian-refugees-john-kerry/index.html>

125 Years and Going

By: Max Gossard

As the year of 2015 starts to wrap up, so does the 125th year anniversary of the Portage Borough. Portage was originally founded for portaging boats between the bodies of water around the area, and had a significant supply of trees for lumberjacking and bringing jobs to the area. Over the years, the supply has dwindled and the movement to mining coal has brought more jobs to the area. But now in 2015 many of these resources have also been depleted and many people have left the area. But like anywhere, the town of Portage has adapted over time and has one of the most respected school districts in the area in all facets, especially academically, and it had already been noted as a Blue Ribbon School for the 14-15 school year.

Portage also takes care of a recreational park for the community as well as hosting events such as Winterfest, Summerfest, trick or treating and even an Easter egg hunt for children. The Portage borough holds several parades throughout the year to support and celebrate the borough along with people in the community, the school, and school clubs and teams. Portage area school district helps the borough (and surrounding areas) as much as possible by requiring that students provide free community service. They participate in activities dealing with Crichton-McCormick Park such as cleaning it or covering and uncovering the pool within the park. On Earth Day, students will set out and clean up the community. The Portage borough, along with its small connecting municipalities, and the township has a very unique community and they are proud of it; they help one another out when help is needed as they wish to be there for a long time. Here's to another 125 years.

Mustangs Misstep at Berlin

By: Elliott Vassas

Berlin Mountaineers (4-0) defeated the Portage Mustangs (3-1) Friday night in an intense game. Defense stole the show for nearly three quarters in the clash of the unbeaten Westpac squads. A pair of touchdown passes from quarterback Brentson Harding to Cole Booth in the fourth quarter helped the Mountaineers pull away for a 28-6 victory. Senior running back Braden Fochtman rushed for 174 yards on 33 carries and scored twice. Brentson Harding finished 4 for 10 passing for 114 yards and added nine carries for 51 yards. Berlin held the ball for most of the first quarter, limiting the Mustangs to score. On the Mountaineers second possession, they went 61 yards on 10 plays. The touchdown came on a 1 yard dash and the first of four Carter Raupach extra-point kicks for a 7-0 lead with seconds left in the first quarter. The Mustangs got on the board in the second quarter with a seven play drive that covered 60 yards. Quarterback Luke Dividock ran the final 10 yards for the score. The kick was blocked but Portage trailed 7-6 with 1:42 left before the half. The defenses continued to rule in the third quarter until the Mountaineers took over. The drive nearly stalled with Berlin going for it on the fourth down from their own 29 yard line. Braden Fochtman blasted into the end zone and Berlin led 14-6. After several exchanges the Mountaineers gained the ball. Cole Booth causes the pass for 84 yard score. The final touchdown came at 3:50 left in the game with a 5 yard pass. For Portage, there were several missed chances to score, leaving the final score 28-6.



Golf Season Comes to a Close

The 2015 golf season started back in August and has come to a close last week. The team is coached by Mr. Gorba and Mr. Jubina. To get an inside thought of how some team members would summarize the season, I spoke to juniors Emily Kunko and Maddy Single. To begin, I simply asked them if they believed the 2015 season was successful.

"Yes, definitely" said Emily Kunko. "This was the most matches we've won in a season since I joined the team my freshman year."

My next question was to Maddy Single. "How do you feel now that the season is over?" she replied with "I'm sad that it's over, but I'm really proud of the whole team."

You can bring both of these replies to a conclusion that the golf team as a whole improved over the years, and this particular season they showed their improvement. I had one last question for the both of them which was "Are you both looking forward to next season considering you will be seniors?" Their response was with a lot of enthusiasm.

"Yea! We are hoping to improve over the summer and will become leaders for the 'young ones.'" If they follow their words, maybe next season will be even more successful than this one.

**Earn \$5.00 of
your yearbook for
every item sold!**

Important Dates

- Fundraiser starts 9/22/15
- Fundraiser ends 10/07/15
- Pick up day is Thursday 10/07/15 at the cafeteria at 2 p.m.

For questions, please contact Mr. Kassick at 814-736-9636.

Money is due when you turn in the order form! Please pay for your entire order with one check made payable to "PAHS Yearbook." Bring order forms with your name, phone number and grade clearly printed and payment to Mr. Kassick in room 121 or the main office on the sale end date.

DO NOT order a yearbook if you participate in the fundraiser—an order form will be automatically placed for you!

Any leftover profit after earning a free yearbook goes back to the yearbook club for improvements to future yearbooks and other yearbook costs.

Painting Plows for PennDOT

By: Elona Krcishta

The Portage Art Club is involved with PennDOT to paint the plow! With winter just around the corner, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Cambria County maintenance office in District 9 is getting help from the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center, Greater Johnstown High School, Westmont Hilltop High School, Cambria Heights High School, Portage Area Sr. High School and Central Cambria High School in a creative way with a project to promote winter safety to which will be called “Paint The Plow.”

This idea comes from PennDOT’s Cambria County Maintenance Manager Jeff Mitchell who saw the idea on the Ohio Department of Transportation’s Facebook page and thought of it to be a great outcome for a program. “We are always looking for ways to make the public more aware of safety and to begin that awareness at a young age. For its inaugural year the county has opted to seek high schools and career-technical schools for participation.” Stated Mitchell. To which Portage Area is proudly included to show off our student’s amazing art skills. Once everything is running smoothly it plans to open up to even bigger audiences to be involved. Schools have been asked to paint the plows with a winter safety theme, weather style or even school mascots. The plow blades will run in the areas of the schools they are correlated to in their school district.

PennDOT has sent applications of interest to Cambria County high and career-technology schools and quickly received 5 applications back. The schools have already gotten their plow blade, which was the week of September 7th and are due back to the department the week of October 2nd to be picked up.

Once the blades have been collected they will be judged by a panel and a “fan favorite” contest which is taking place on the PennDOT Facebook page so students are recommended to vote for their own school on their Facebook page.



Kaitlyn Alley painting the plow

Current Football Standings after Week 4



	4-0 (vs. Windber)		2-2 (at Meyersdale)
	3-1 (vs. Blacklick)		1-3 (at Ferndale)
	3-1 (vs. Shade)		1-3 (at Portage)
	3-1 (vs. C. Valley)		1-3 (at Berlin)
	2-2 (at C. Township)		0-4 (vs. North Star)