

# Hilltop: Colossal Edition

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## Band Jam Helps Hounds Find Homes

By: Sumer Slebodnick

Two seniors, Kaylee Plummer and Alex Bisaha, have been working hard over the past few months to get ready for their senior project, The Band Jam. The Band Jam took place on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the high school auditorium. The audience had the opportunity to experience a show of five local bands performing a few songs each for a small admission price of \$3 per student and \$4 per adult. There was also a bake sale, 50/50 drawing, and chances were sold to win two gift baskets. All proceeds were given to a local organization, Habitat for Hounds. Habitat for Hounds is a non-profit organization that works to assist mistreated dogs providing proper housings and bedding, new housing, and food on an as-need basis, while also providing assistance to abandoned and other needy dogs.



Local Band—Mind Gorilla



Second Performing act, The Suspects, with Mr. Gorba performing on guitar (far right).

“I was really nervous to talk in front of so many people and thought something would go wrong, but once it started, I felt good and was having a good time...and luckily everything went smoothly” commented senior Kaylee Plummer about the overall performance.

The five bands that performed were G-Street, The Suspects, Mind Gorilla, Dark Side Murphy, and Old School. All of these bands are

from the Portage area and volunteered their time to assist with the show and for the audience’s entertainment. Each band was given about thirty minutes for their respective performances. However, Kaylee and Alex weren’t the only ones working hard to perfect the show.

Mind Gorilla band member, Nick Thrower, commented, “We practiced for three hours before the show (just) to make sure everything was perfect”.

Some of the bands that performed had some very familiar faces. The Suspects included our own Mr. Gorba on guitar. Also, Mind Gorilla included two students that graduated last year, Nick Thrower and Tyler Thomas. Nick Thrower was also a member of Dark Side Murphy and Old School. Another person people may have found familiar in Old School was former superintendent, Mr. Bernazolli.

Both Kaylee and Alex would like to thank everyone that came out and helped make their senior project the success that they hoped it would be.

By: Taylor McCloskey

# History of Easter

Easter is a festival and is also known as a holiday in the Christian faith that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is preceded by Lent, which is a forty day period of fasting, prayer and penance. Some people give up something for the Lenten season and some do not. Easter is also linked to the Jewish Passover. The customs vary across the Christian world. There are Saturday church services and there are also sunrise services on Sunday. Because of this idea of resurrection, Easter joins springtime as being considered as bringing new life or a rebirth.



The custom of people decorating Easter eggs is a symbol of the empty tomb of Christ. Years ago, people used onion peels, tree bark, flower petals, and different juices for the egg dye. However, as we all know from when we were young, the Easter Bunny is who really brings candy and has an egg hunt for the children in the household. Other customs include people that will make bread, cakes, dinners, picnics and all sorts of other family or religious customs for the Easter holiday.

One other custom is Easter candy. Americans spend about \$1.9 billion on Easter candy annually. It is the second biggest candy holiday; the first is obviously Halloween. Of all the candy, roughly seventy percent of Easter candy purchased is chocolate. Sixteen billion jelly beans are roughly made exclusively for Easter. Symbols for the Easter holiday vary from the crosses and bells, to Easter lilies, eggs, and of course rabbits. When biting into a chocolate bunny, it was found that 76% of Americans prefer to eat the ears first, five percent of Americans choose to eat the feet first, and there's always those odd characters that eat the tail first...roughly four percent of Americans (surveyed). Temptation can be too much for kids around Easter, whether its chocolate or their other candy, and forty-three percent of the kids say they eat their first chocolate egg before Easter Sunday, but the average time for children to eat their first Easter egg is when they get their Easter basket, for most that is usually around eleven a.m. on Easter Sunday morning.

Whether you celebrate Easter because of the candy, the bunny, or the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is celebrated across the world from North America to South America, the whole way over to Europe and around the world.

*Facts credited to dosomething.org & wikipedia.com*

## Annual Portage Bunny Dash 5k

By: Andrew Koval

It's that time of the year again for friends and family to gather together at the Portage Football Stadium to run the Annual Bunny Dash 5K Race, Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>. A 5K is 3.1 total miles in length. This year, all the race proceeds will once again be going toward the Chriton McCormick Park for improvements and assistance where needed. Early registration for the race is \$10 per runner for 18 years of age and under and \$15 for 19 years of age and up. Unfortunately, the deadline for the early registration ended March 23<sup>rd</sup>. However, walk-up registration will be taken the morning of the race as well. If running is not your preference, walkers are welcome to join the race as well. So, if you plan on running be prepared physically for the race.



The Bunny Dash started originally as a senior project, but it eventually became too big for only a senior project. Therefore, because of the amount of work involved, it has been handed down to teachers such as Mr. Burkett and Mr. Slanoc. In talking with Mr. Slanoc, he informed me of reasons why they still continue to organize this race.

"Every year we always donate everything to the park," Slanoc commented. "Last year we put up new nets and paint around it (the park). A couple years before that, we put sand down for the volleyball court." As for its origins, he stated, "The Bunny Dash was something created to get the community more involved."

It is good to see that even though this 5k race was a senior project, it still continues and brings the community together through the help of Portage Areas teaching staff and many great volunteers. So come down and enjoy the day, March 26<sup>th</sup> for the 5th Annual Portage Bunny Dash. The race starts at 9:00AM, but registration begins at 8:00, so come early to get your number and your free shirt if you registered early. Participants who sign up on race day may receive a free t-shirt as well. Make the most of the beautiful day that it will be, and have a Hoppy Easter.

By: Alexis Richardson

## Richardson's Reflections - Mrs. Mary Louise Elchin

Q: If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

A: Fly because you'd be able to feel the wind and the nice breeze

Q: If I granted you one wish to change the world, what would it be?

A: To have peace among everyone...no fighting

Q: What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

A: To be honest, to treat others like you'd want to be treated

Q: What kind of student were you?

A: Friendly student, wanted to be friends with people

Q: Are you still friends with anyone from school?

A: Yes. I have a few from BC

Q: What's your least favorite word or phrase? Why?

A: "I can't." Don't say can't. You can if you try

Q: Do you feel any different from your surgery?

A: Yes. It seemed to slow me down

Q: What are you proudest of?

A: My kids, my grandkids, my job and the people I work with

Q: What do you do in your free time?

A: Garden, walk, be with my grandkids

Q: Best compliment you have received?

A: That I get along with people well and that I have a good personality

## Vassas's View - Super Tuesday Part 2

By: Elliott Vassas

As many people may have expected, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton dominated one of the most important events so far in the 2016 presidential race. The second Super Tuesday took place on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> in five primaries. These primaries included Ohio, Missouri, North Carolina, Florida, and Illinois. The outcome was expected to make a huge impact on who remains in the presidential race. There were 358 Republican delegates up for grabs and there was a total of 691 Democratic delegates at stake. In particular, there were two states that were extremely important.

Florida had 99 delegates and Ohio had 66 delegates, and these were the winner-take-all states. In this situation, the winner-take-all states award all the delegates to the winner. To compare the results, Hillary Clinton won four of five states on the Democratic side. She had victories in Florida, Ohio, Illinois, and North Carolina. The race in Missouri was too close to determine a winner between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. The results thus far, including this primary, show Hillary Clinton has won fifteen states compared to Bernie Sanders who has won nine.

On the Republican side, Donald Trump had victories in Florida, Illinois, and North Carolina. Florida was quite a shock to some people because Marco Rubio was expecting to win his home state, but Trump took the victory in dominant fashion. After the win by Trump in Florida, Marco Rubio declared he was suspending his campaign. The race in Missouri was also too close to call between Trump and Rubio. They had a tie of 41 percent. John Kasich was hoping to win his home state of Ohio and he succeeded. He walked away with a victory of 43 percent in his home state. However, that makes a total of only one state that Kasich has won. Senator Ted Cruz has not won any states so far in the presidential race. It is not surprising to some people that according to the poll averages, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton hold a solid lead in several states. This may be what many people were expecting and will continue to hope for, but there are many more events taking place in the near future that could flip any of these results around. Stay tuned as the race continues heating up. Current delegate estimates can be found at <http://www.cnn.com/election>.



By: Katie Nolan

# Softball Season Up to Bat



Spring: that time of year that is almost the closing of another school year. Winter sports have come to an end, and now it is time for the spring sports: softball, baseball, junior high volleyball, and track. The varsity softball team is back at it coming off of a season last year that produced a 10-10 record. The varsity softball team graduated four seniors last year: CC Crum, Paisley Zatek, Savannah Layo, and Abby Christner. But, they picked up six freshmen for this season. The members of the varsity softball team this year are seniors Katie Nolan, Alli Kissell, Courtney Harbaugh, and Alex Bisaha. The juniors include Emily Kunko and Sylena Conklin. The sophomores include Kylee McCarty, Bella Crum, Jenna Moratti, Haley Kenney, and Breanne Gillette; the freshmen include Taylor Glass, Hailey Krisko, Olivia Kissell, Bella Strosnider, Sierra Crum, and Jenna Teno.

The varsity softball team is coached by Bryan Jubina, head coach, and Bernie Gorba, assistant coach. The Lady Mustangs will open their season at their home field on Tuesday, March 29th at 4:00 against the Conemaugh Valley Lady Blue Jays. The team is a younger team this year but the upcoming freshmen will be a great addition to the team. Two of which will become the Lady Mustang's pitchers, Olivia (Kissell) and Bella (Strosnider). The ladies said they are looking forward to a great season and have a lot of confidence in their two new pitchers.

When asked about season predictions, senior Alli Kissell shared "We are going to have a good season, but it'll definitely be a building year due to the youth of the team."

In addition, senior Courtney Harbaugh stated, "We lost a lot of valuable players last year but hope to fill all the positions to the fullest and be successful."

A new addition to the Portage Area spring sports is the newly formed junior high softball team. The junior high softball team will consist of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and their field will be located down by the varsity baseball field. The new junior high field is the old legion ball field. The coaches for the junior high team are Elaine Plouse, head coach, Brian Randall, assistant coach, and Becky Benton, volunteer assistant. The members of the junior high softball team are 7th graders Justice Giordano, Lindsey Sease, Rileigh Munyon, Alyssa Noel, Rachael Chobany, and Emily Ference. The 8th grade members are Chloe Sossong, Kara Dividock, Emily McCoy, Emma Kissell, Emily Canavan, Lakin Phillips, Joie Washko, Lexi Panick, Hannah Burkett, Rhianna Benton, and Kyleigh Alexander.

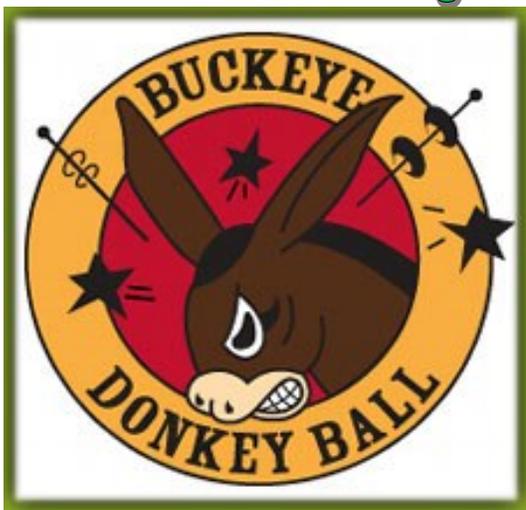
The junior high team will host the Greater Johnstown Trojans on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4:15 at their home field. A few members from the junior high team shared a few words about their upcoming season.

Kara Dividock stated, "Our team has great chemistry, and we are all friends; therefore, we will be successful."

While Emma Kissell shared some more sparkling words stating, "We are in a competition to have a better record than the boy's junior high baseball team...and we will."

While assistant coach Brian Randall commented, "They will be a competitive team because they are great athletes and (we coaches) will have the ability to move the girls around to multiple positions."

# Seniors Looking for Sweep with Donkey Basketball



**Date:** Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> **Free donkey rides at halftime for children 12 and under!!**

**Place:** Len Chappell High School Gymnasium

**Ticket Pricing:** \$6.00 pre-sale  
\$8.00 at the gate  
**\*\*Children 6 and Under FREE\*\***

**Sponsored By The Portage Area Varsity Cheerleading Squad**

## Track Team Looking For the Finish Line

By: Braedon St. Clair

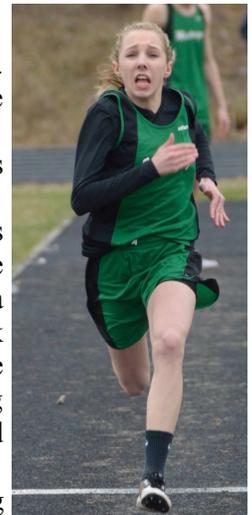
Everyone has a favorite season and mostly because their favorite sport is in that season. Well, now that its spring sports season track, baseball, softball, and junior high volleyball are in the limelight. Track enthusiast Caleb Lutz spoke his expectations for this year's track season.

"I'm very excited for track because it's my favorite sport to play and be a part of. I think this season will be great for me and the team."

The track team just recently was taken over by a new head coach after Mr. Gary Gouse's retirement from the position after leading the Mustang track team for over 30 years.. Mr. Lance Hudak is now in the head coach saddle and plans to turn the program around. Track hasn't had a winning season in some time, but it has produced state qualifiers over the years. But Mr. Hudak plans to change those team results. He wants the track program to be a sport taken seriously by the whole school and town, and he doesn't want it just to be a sport you join because you have nothing else to do. He feels there is a lot of potential within the track team to make a tremendous turnaround for the entire program.

The first meet is home on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016. I, (personally) am on the track team and looking forward to turning this program around with everyone, and I don't think it will be hard because of last year's success. Ryan Myher made it all the way to states where he placed 9<sup>th</sup>. Along with him, many members made it to the district meet.

I spoke to Courtland Corrente, also a member of the track team, and he agreed with the rest of us: "We will have a successful year because of everyone's hard work in the offseason and the talent and ability the members of the team have this year."



Kasey Chobany sprints toward the long jump pit during last year's track season.

## SADD Car - Seeing Is Believing

By: Braedon St. Clair

As the year moves on and prom is just around the corner, the SADD club wants everyone to know the dangers of drinking and driving and distracted driving (texting) and realize how destructive these decisions can be. To simulate the idea of these distractions, the SADD Club recently purchased a go-cart type of vehicle to show students what it is like when you drink and drive. In addition to buying the buggy, they also purchased drunk goggles, sleep deprived goggles, and blackout drunk goggles. Also the SADD club bought a Mario Kart Wii game for students to play while wearing one pair of the goggles.

SADD advisor Mr. Brian Randall commented, "We hope this makes the students realize the hazards of drinking and driving. By doing something as irrational as this, you are taking the chance of taking your life or someone else's life."

In 2013, 10,076 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, accounting for nearly one-third of all the traffic-related deaths in the United States. Of the 1,149 traffic deaths among children ages 0-14 years in 2012, 200 involved an alcohol-impaired driver. Of the 200 child passengers ages 14 and younger who died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes in 2013, over half were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver. In 2012, over 1.3 million drivers were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics...that's one percent of the 121 million self-reported episodes of alcohol-impaired driving among U.S. adults each year.

Drugs other than alcohol are involved in about 18% of motor vehicle driver deaths. However, these other drugs are often used in combination with alcohol. If these statistics don't make you realize how stupid and irresponsible it is to drink and drive, then just think if it was one of your family members in an accident with alcohol or drugs involved. Not only should you never drink and drive, but you should also never get in a car with someone who has been drinking. Even the littlest bit of alcohol impairs your judgment and reaction times, leading you to be less smart and less safe.



# 2016 National Honor Society

By: Sebastian Hochrein

On Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March at 7:00 the ceremony for the National Honor Society (NHS) was held in the school auditorium. The award ceremony started with the pledge of allegiance recited by Allison Cerwensky followed by the National Anthem sung by Lakin Phillips. After a welcome and introduction by Evan Gruss and Alexandra Kissell, respectively, comments from Mr. Cecere and Mr. Zelanko followed as the ceremony kicked off.

NHS is an elite organization of students that have incredible academic standing and have done a great service to their respective school and community. It exists to promote leadership in communities, promote enthusiasm inducted student's future endeavors in life, and to help develop character to ensure members are successful for the rest of their lives. They can boast a great advantage when applying to colleges, and they also get to stand out at graduation due to their gold tassels in contrast to the rest of the graduating class.

The current NHS Members included seniors Kaitlyn Alley, Cammi Baumgardner, Allison Cerwensky, Luke Dividock, Samantha Fedorko, Evan Gruss, Courtney Harbaugh, Ben Herman, Alexandra Kissel, Dzvinka Kozhukh, Jonathan Lamar, Katie Nolan, Michaela Pesta, Brady Ratosky, Danielle Schrif, Alyssa Seaman, Hannah Shaffer, Sumer Slebodnick, Alexis Wozniak, and Jenna Yetsko.

The National Honor Society was honored to induct Jordan Beyer, Ian Bunting, Paige Burda, Jordan Caurvina, Abigail Chobany, Courtland Corrente, Nicole Coukart, Hayley Denwood, Alison Jones, Juilianne Koenigsburg, Emily Krisko, Emily Kunko, Caleb Lutz, Lauren McCabe, Chad Scoran, Erin Sigado, Madelyn Single, and Jacob Swank. Congratulations to all our new members, and make Portage proud.



## Andrew's Automotive Assessment

By: Andrew Koval

### 1968 Dodge Dart



1968 was a rare year for Dodge. The Dodge Dart from that same year helped in making this year special. Just about every vehicle they made that year had a powerful engine inside of it. For example, the 440 Dodge Dart had a 7.2Liter 440 cubic inch engine inside of it. The engine was referred to as a 440 six pack because it had 3 two-barrel carburetors. This engine produced up to 430 horsepower and 490 lbs. of torque. This engine made the car go from 0-60 in 5 seconds flat. At this time, there were actually only 68 Dodge Darts produced with the 440 six pack engine.

The other limited edition model was the 1968 Dodge Dart with the 426 Elephant engine put inside of it, which produced 500 horsepower and 550 lbs. of torque. These, on the other hand, were strictly made for drag racing and underwent weight reductions from the factory; because of this, the side window mechanisms were removed. Only 80 of these were made strictly for drag racing purposes. The cars were shipped only with primer, base wheels, and fiberglass body components. These vehicles were not legal for public roads, but they definitely performed on the track with minimal modifications. This would make this one of the fastest factory built cars in muscle car history.

The Dart was not only a cool muscle car, but was made for family as well. There were 4 door options as well as smaller engine options, but many (at the time) did not prefer that version. Enthusiasts wanted the big, mean, and powerful car with the ridiculous amount of horsepower, so they could be the envy of not only their neighbors, but also the envy of their buddies at the race track. In fact, many of these Darts were bought and converted to drag racing vehicles. They were very useful in drag racing for its aerodynamic and lightweight body design. Most people thought they couldn't afford the 440 or the 426 at the time, which cost around \$15,000-\$20,000, so they bought the regular base model for \$5,000...and those with enough mechanical know-how switched out the 6 cylinder engines they came with and put the giant 440 or 426 in them for a cheaper price all together.

By: Hannah Shaffer

## Hannah's Helpful Hints - Hoppy Easter

Finally! It's time for Easter break again this year, so use your very short break wisely. On to our subject matter...

I don't know about you, but the minute I found out I was too old to participate in Easter egg hunts, I was crushed. I was in third grade at my church, ready to go with my basket in my hand...that's when my dad told me I wasn't allowed to participate. So I had to stand around and watch my younger siblings gather eggs and dump out their mounds of candy and money. It was a very dramatic time in my childhood; growing up stinks! In my opinion, you are never too old to participate, at least that's what my grandma tells me as she sets up a hunt for me, my siblings, and cousin. As you may know, children can become very serious at gathering eggs. You have to step up your game when it comes to competing with children. Teenagers who love to eat candy as much as we do love free candy, so why must we be deprived! So here are some tips that you could use to beat out the kids and get their candy.

1. Toddlers are the easiest, as they go to pick up an egg more fall out of their basket. As they drop them pick them up as fast as you can! (Make sure the parents aren't looking, they might not appreciate what you are doing haha)
2. Point children in the opposite direction of where the eggs are. I mean they look up to you, so they trust you...Teach them not to trust anybody.
3. If you have a younger sister, cousins, nieces, nephews, etc. act like you are helping them instead of just gathering for yourself.
4. Tell the children to just hand over the candy or else you will trap the Easter Bunny in a box trap...at least that's what my dad told me he was going to do. Thanks, dad.
5. If the hunt is outside, put as many sticks and other easy tripped-over items among the eggs.
6. A lot of eggs sometimes contain cash; tell kids you will trade for tons of candy. They don't know the value of a dollar anyway.
7. Lastly, just as a personal preference: don't put jelly beans in eggs. Yuck and it is the cheap way out!

I hope you have a great Easter and the Easter Bunny brings lots of candy! But if you bring the candy to school, just make sure it's eaten before 7:35 a.m.

By: Courtland Corrente

## Ebooks - The Way of the Future

Physical books are slowly fizzling out, and eventually paper books will no longer be around in mass and will be something of the past. Almost all books will be on some type of device, whether it be a kindle, smartphone, computer, or tablet. Fortunately, this is not a bad thing and the high school library is becoming more advanced because of it.

The Portage high school library has a program called *Overdrive* that can be found on the school website, or you can access it by downloading it on some type of smart device. *Overdrive* is a program that is loaded with E-Books available for checkout for free, and it works very similar to checking out a normal paper book from the library. Similar to the regular library experience, there is a due date and the books may not be available because someone already has it "checked out." The book is automatically returned, and Mr. Shuck likes this feature because according to him, "Many students treat due dates as a suggestion."

Whether you want to admit it or not, this is very, very true, and you probably know someone that has had a book from the library months after it was supposed to be returned. This results in some students waiting forever in order to get the book they want. *Overdrive* fixes this problem with the automatic return feature. Along with this, the program also has an automatic check out feature. For example, if a student really wants a book from the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series, but someone already has it checked out on *Overdrive*, he can be put on a waiting list for the book. This means that as soon as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* is returned, the student will automatically get the book as long as he is next in line. When checking out a book, you have 3 weeks until it is returned. Popular books have more than 1 copy (license) available at a time.

This is only one positive feature out of many that comes with *Overdrive* and E-Books and after speaking with Mr. Shuck. I have been told a few more positive aspects that make him favor E-Books over paper books:

- 1) Everyone has 24 hour access to E-Books.
- 2) Every copy is perfect, not damaged, no marks etc.
- 3) E-Books cannot be damaged
- 4) Readers can adjust text size
- 5) Readers don't have to tell (show) other people what they are reading...no covers
- 6) You can't lose an E-Book (unless you lose your device, which is a rarity nowadays)

Right now, the Portage Area High School has been including E-Books in its collection for 3 years. In total, 716 digital books have been checked out and there are 13 checked out presently. There have been a total of 126 different students that have used *Overdrive* (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade). The numbers are definitely growing, and now is the time to try out *Overdrive* and E-Books. If you have any more questions, please see Mr. Shuck in the library.



# Serving it Up

By: Max Gossard



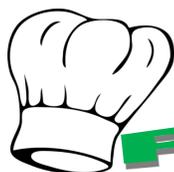
As spring sports start to kick off, the junior high volleyball team is hard at work with 4 games under their belt so far. "We start pretty early" said Coach Johnson. Their first practice was February 20<sup>th</sup>, officially 2 weeks before the rest of the spring sports. In front of them is a 17 game season, with the first game happening on March 11<sup>th</sup> with a victory against Shade on the road with a final match score of 2-1. They followed up with another victory (2-0) against Conemaugh Valley that happened on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Mustangs unfortunately saw their winning streak end against Windber at home with a final score of 0-2 on March 17<sup>th</sup>, but bounced back at Ferndale on Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Coach Johnson also reported that the girls are really stepping up and becoming leaders. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls are Mackenzie Werfel, and Caitlyn Papcun. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade girls are Kaylee Koval, Isabella Nagy, and Alexis Miller.

Coach Johnson, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year coach here at Portage Area, has high expectations for the girls this year. With the 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls just starting volley ball, the ultimate goal for them is to learn the game and end the season better than how they started, ready for next season. For the other girls, he wants them to continue to get better and hopes to see them on the varsity level, contributing to the team. Coach Johnson's most important goal is just to get all the girls to learn the sport and work together. With all of that, there will ultimately be success.

With last year's winning record of 10-8, they have big shoes to fill and are on the right track with this season's current winning record of 3-1. With 13 games to go, they defiantly have the chance to exceed last year's results.



By: Max Gossard

## Portage Palate Gossard's Grub

### BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich



#### **Dry rub ingredients (large recipe):**

½ cup salt  
½ cup black pepper  
½ cup dark brown sugar  
½ cup paprika  
2 table spoons cayenne pepper

#### **Ingredients:**

A 7-12 lbs pork shoulder picnic  
1-2 cups of water (if needed)  
Two 16 oz bottles of your favorite BBQ sauce (I prefer Bullseye Original)  
One package of your favorite buns  
any toppings you wish

#### **Directions:**

1. In a medium sized bowl, combine all the dry rub ingredients and see that all ingredients are mixed evenly and thoroughly
2. With paper towels, pat dry the pork shoulder picnic so it is not dripping wet
3. Generously rub the dry rub on & into the pork shoulder until it is completely covered. Also, be sure it is in small crevices you can fit the rub into.
4. Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
5. Place the rubbed pork into a roaster skin side up! Let sit while oven is pre-heating.
6. Cover the roaster and cook in oven for 3-5 hours.
7. If pork starts to smoke or the fat begins to smoke, add the 1-2 cups of water to the roaster. Pork will be ready when you can easily remove the bone with your hand.
8. Scrape off the skin and the rest of the layer of fat with either a butter knife or fork (you may discard this).
9. With 2 forks, begin pulling the pork apart until it is a shredded texture and place into a another roaster to keep warm.
10. Add the 2 bottles of BBQ sauce and stir into the pork (you may add less, or you may add extra if you wish).
11. Spoon onto a bun and top if you wish.
12. Refrigerate leftovers

**Enjoy!!!**

\*\*\*If you wish to add a smoky flavor to the pork, you may smoke the pork before you cook it in the oven by lighting a charcoal grill and placing the pork shoulder on the opposite side of the light with a tray underneath it with the skin side up. Burn hickory or apple wood chips. Smoke for 3 hours at most then continue with recipe as step 5\*\*\*