

The Tyrian

Your Husky Link Through Screen and Ink

Goodbye to Class of 2026

Senior class reflects on their years and prepares for future plans

BY: JAILYN DIXON

High school is not only a place for learning but also for finding out who you want to be. Since the first day of kindergarten, graduation felt so far away, but now it's finally here, and the class of 2026 looks to their future.

"I wasn't expecting it to come so fast, but I am ready to move on with my future," explained graduate Winston Yetter, who plans to attend Pensacola Christian College. Like Yetter, many seniors are preparing to take the next step, whether that means college, work or other opportunities.

Students share the lessons learned during their time at MCHS. "Be friends with people worth your time and who care about you," reflected graduate Aniston Byler. Byler plans to attend Bloomsburg University and major in nutrition.

Graduate Carly Dickson added, "I have learned that no matter how hard or stressful life gets, you will always work through it." Dickson plans to attend the Geisinger School of Nursing.

This year's graduation honors go to Valedictorian Ava Baker, Salutatorian Reese Bennett, and 1st Honor Graduate Mackenzie Peachey.



Senior class president Addison Fultz plans to attend Kutztown University for elementary education while playing on the field hockey team. Baker will attend Gettysburg College, majoring in health sciences and playing on the softball team. Bennett plans to attend Cornell

University and major in aerospace engineering. Peachey will study mechanical engineering at Penn State Altoona while playing basketball.

The class of 2026 leaves behind the hallways of MCHS, as they step towards their futures.

Commencement to be held at Chapman Stadium for first time

BY: ANTONIA KUNDE

As summer nears, so does graduation for MCHS Seniors. It is Chapman Stadium's first official commencement. The event's program starts at 6:00, with graduates arriving by 5:15.

Senior class adviser Ms. Gilbert said, "Graduation has a lot of moving parts and usually requires many people working as a team to make sure the event goes smoothly."

Advisors Gilbert and Mr. Hoppel explained that graduation is a large responsibility

that includes guiding students through the process and ensuring they follow the dress code.

An event this important takes time. Mrs. Gilbert said, "We start talking about graduation for the following year during the summer, usually continuing planning and preparing for the event throughout the entire school year." Planning graduation on the new field comes with more challenges. School staff is working on finalizing

seating arrangements as well as parking to accommodate everyone.

The class advisers emphasized that the ceremony is meant to be meaningful not just for formalities. Graduation is a celebration of everything the class of 2026 has accomplished. It's important for students to appreciate not just their own accomplishments but also those of their fellow classmates. Graduation is more than just a ceremony. It marks

the end of one chapter while also being the beginning of many new journeys for our graduates and a new tradition for Chapman Stadium.

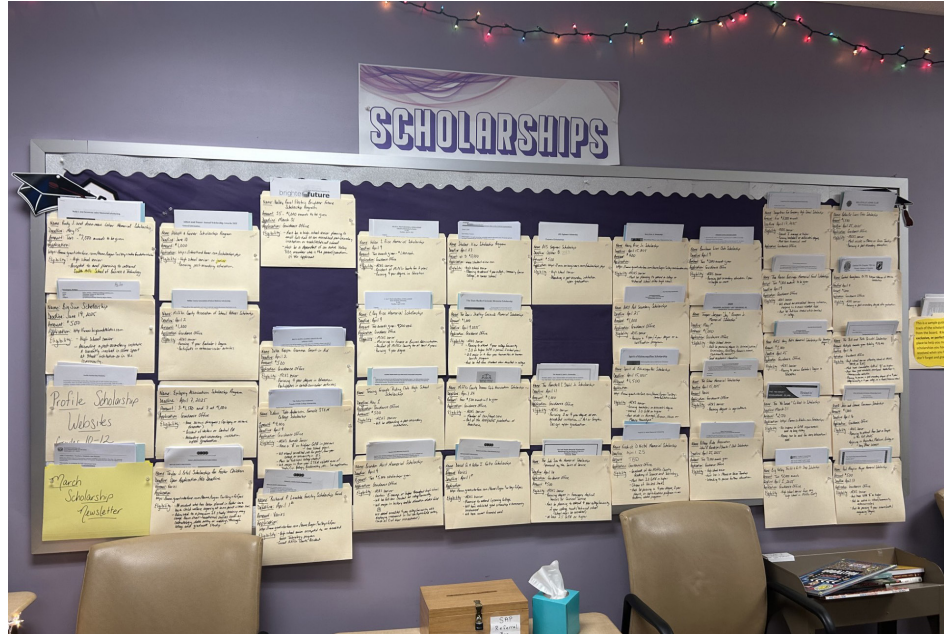


Scholarships help ease college cost for graduates

BY: ELLA LUTZ

Money can be a significant source of stress for seniors planning to further their education; these scholarships are meant to alleviate that stress and set up MCHS graduates for success. The Mifflin County community offers a number of local scholarships to seniors each year, attempting to support each student through the rest of their education and career. Students who are interested in these scholarship opportunities are encouraged to speak with their guidance counselors and or check the scholarship board in the guidance office regularly in order to see what opportunities are available. Mrs. Kennington, guidance counselor for last names H-P, is in charge of the scholarship opportunities for students. If you have additional questions, she is the person to see.

There are eligibility requirements that vary for each scholarship, some are only for academy students or athletes. Mrs. Kennington wants seniors to know that "when looking for a scholarship, I encourage students to look at the 'Eligibility Requirements' listed on the folder where the scholarship



Scholarship wall located in the Guidance Office towards the end of every year

applications are located."

Scholarships also provide unique opportunities to those who are interested since they are able to provide students with confidence and security. According to Mrs. Kennington, "Each scholarship is worth different amounts. Some years we have scholarships worth \$250, and we have scholarships worth

up to \$5,000. One scholarship we give every 4 years is worth \$40,000."

It is important to note that just because you apply for a scholarship, it does not guarantee that you will receive it. Although, 60 different students typically receive a scholarship but some years that number is higher.

March Mammal Madness returns for another year

BY: AADEN STEVENS

Every March, the Mifflin County High School competes in a school-wide tournament for the best March Mammal Madness bracket. Mrs. Cara Huerbin introduced the Arizona State University's competition to our students and staff. "I decided to start bringing March Mammal Madness to our school to showcase the amazing diversity of the living world and bring some excitement to my classroom (and the school) during the final push of winter and into spring. Since I teach wildlife science, it's a very good fit for my classroom," said Huerbin.

March Mammal Madness began in 2013, and each year for the past thirteen years, a new field of 64 animals take on the challenge. There

has never been a repeat winner, and for 2026, the humpback whale defeated the Nile crocodile to become the champion.

"Students that fill out a bracket are entered in the school competition and are able to track their score compared to everyone else's and see how their predictions rank among everyone else's. It adds a bit of a competitive edge to the game," explained Huerbin.

The 2026 March Mammal Madness victories went to senior Cora Hartzler for the student body and Mrs. Zoey Fellows leading the staff. To all the seniors that played thank you for participating over the years! Juniors or sophomores, do you have what it takes to win it all next year? We will find out next March!



Staff winner, Mrs. Zoey Fellows

Cupcake Wars brings mall-themed competition to life

BY: MAYA BURKE

The MCHS Cupcake Wars is always an exciting way for students to end the school year. For the first time, participants created displays following an overarching theme.

This year's theme was "The Mall," and groups of culinary and tech ed students collaborated to compete to create the best cupcake displays showcasing stores typically seen around a shopping mall. The groups displays consist of Crumbl Cookie, Build-a-Bear, Arcade, Cinnabon, Sephora, Dick's Sporting Goods, Barnes & Nobles, Food Court, Candy Store, Movie Store, Dunkin Donuts, Petco, Lego Store, and a Hawaiian Souvenir Shop," said culinary teacher Mrs. Mandy Wainwright.

Cupcake Wars is a process full of teamwork and communication. The culinary students create sketches and plan their cupcake designs. Their ideas are then shared with the

tech ed students who work in teams to design and build the showcase for the cupcakes.

"Tech Ed students are our saviors! They made our idea come to life," said Cinnabon cupcake designer Marquise Siennick.

All the students and staff at the high school had the chance to vote for the best cupcake display. In third place was the Dunkin Donuts cupcake display created by culinary students Leon Bell, Isabella Christie, Sayuri Clark, Payten Gipe, Zanna Hoover, and Adelaide Rohan and tech ed students Landon Bowen and Logan Glass. Second place was given to the Cinnabon cupcake display made by culinary students Loudon Brought, Evan Horning, Ciara Williams, and Marquise Siennick and tech ed students Tatum Miller and Carson Fisher. Finally, this year's cupcake wars winner was the Food Court cupcake display made by culinary students Arianna Cheeseman, Sofi Dasher-Ziegler, Ciara Kohler, Madalynn Mckee and tech ed



Cupcake Wars winning stand: Food Court including Auntie Anne's, Subway, Panda Express, and etc.

students Gladrielle Leonard, Kale Beaver, and Alex Erb. Congrats to all of this year's winners on amazing cupcakes, displays, and all of the hard work and dedication put into making your creations.

Hands-on learning grows in wood working course

BY: SHAY DUFFY

Mr. Aaron Specht recently took over the wood working courses at Mifflin County High School. Accepting the new responsibility of the wood working classes required Specht to give it careful consideration and not quickly react. He has multiple other hands-on classes, and he had to think about all factors. "How can this class benefit or hinder students in his other classes?" "What can we get from this?" "Will this interfere with anything I have going on in a negative way?" "Am I able to do this?" Mr. Specht ended up taking the class over, and it was not a mistake.

Mr. Specht says he really enjoys the new experience and enjoys the experience with the students. At first, he and the students had to adjust, especially since the school year had already started. In the end, it all worked out.

"I was thankful we had someone

to take over, but I didn't know anything about Mr. Specht or if I would like him," said Kyson Russler, a senior in product design and development. This is understandable because the bond between the student and teacher can affect the student's performance in class.

The students really enjoy the class. This course and all of the other classes Mr. Specht teaches are electives, meaning students choose the classes that fit their interests. This class, like many tech ed classes, grows with students and becomes more advanced with each level. By the time students reach this class, they work independently on projects. "I like the class, I like that I can just come up with an idea and create it," Russler said.

The class teaches many skills and techniques. "I learned all different kinds of woodworking techniques. I collected safety standards and learned how fast things can go bad," Russler explained. The wood working class is all about having creative ideas, bringing them to life,

making mistakes, and learning from them. "Making my table was a huge project for me. The work can be challenging and it makes you think, but it's a huge satisfaction when you complete a project," said Russler.

This year, the projects made by the product design and development students will be displayed during the Mifflin County Art Show. This amazing opportunity gives students courage and confidence in their creative skills and gives them motivation to do their best on their projects and to create more.

The success of these students inspires underclassment to try these classes for themselves. "I heard about this class from my friend, then I got my friend Bo to do it," said Russler. He encourages others to take product design and development next year. "Don't mess around," Russler advises, "take advantage of the resources you have. Woodshop is fun and gives great opportunities for students."

Raku firing returns to art classes for another year

BY: KENDALL CAVANAUGH

Raku returned to the high school this spring. On April 17, students fired their creations outside with their fellow ceramics' students and their instructor Mrs. Aimee Hubley.

Raku is a special kind of firing that produces a unique smokey finish to the clay. "Raku is a fast firing, 16th century Japanese pottery technique where glazed, red-hot ware is removed from the kiln and placed into containers with combustible materials," Mrs. Hubley explained.

This unique experience is held every year by Mrs. Hubley for students in her ceramics class. "I'm looking forward to more raku experiences; I'd like to research alternative techniques such as obvara and horsehair," Hubley said.

All ceramic students created different pieces for this event, and the results were amazing. Senior ceramics student Brooke King described the



Students at the Raku firing on April 17 holding their creations with their peers



different raku methods she used. "I made a glazed vase, horse hair vase, obvara vase, and a glazed mushroom."

Senior Kayla McTavish stated, "I had a fun day. I would do the Raku firing again and try new methods." King added, "I enjoyed Raku; it was fun to see how everyone's pieces turned out. I wish I could come back next year!" This year's Raku was a success.



Student artwork takes stage at annual art show

BY: KENDALL CAVANAUGH

The Art Show at Mifflin County High School is an annual event that showcases art students' hard work throughout the year. Mrs. Hubley, Mrs. Hartzler and Mrs. Sutton all work together to select the works and give a small description of the art.

"It is amazing to see all of our best work come together in one place. The best is when you see your students proudly showing off what they have accomplished in your class," Mrs. Sutton exclaimed.

This show gives students the opportunity to display their wonderful art for family, friends and the community. "I am most proud of my cosmic brownie because I really liked how real it turned out," said senior Brooke King.

Although all highschoolers have their art on display, seniors have an extra special place in the art



Artwork and art student preparing for the annual Art Show on May 21



show every year which is called the "Senior Showcase." "They select a spot in the commons and are guided on how to gather and display pieces they have created from 9th to 12th grade," stated Hubley.

"I am most excited to have a senior table to display the art from all three years," said senior Mary Kanagy.

The many art classes offered at

the high school provide an outlet of creativity for students to express their interests in art form.

"I have learned to be creative and let go of stress when I am in the art room," King said about her years of art classes.

This year's Art Show will be held on May 21 at Mifflin County High School!

Science Club brings home first place at Envirothon

BY: ELLA LUTZ

On April 22, MCHS students participated in the local Envirothon competition at the Port Royal Lions Club Park. Teams of five people work together to demonstrate their knowledge in five topics: wildlife, soil, aquatics, forestry, and a current issue (this year's topic was non-point source pollution).

Mr. Hartman and Mrs. Huerbin, the advisers for the MCHS Science Club, prepared this year's participants. Team one consisted of Carter Bratton, Oak Yeater, Kailee Henry, Mia Weaver, and Sidney Cramer while team two included Sam Donahey, Silas Donahey, Lily Eby, and Phoebe Kaiser.

Prior to the competition, the teams did extensive research. "We researched topics like soil, forestry, and global issues for the past week which meant a lot of Quizlet and learning to identify the littlest details," explained senior Eby.

During the Mifflin Juniata Envirothon,



team one placed second behind the Juniata County team, earning their invitation to the state competition. This team and their advisers will prepare an oral presentation to share with a panel of judges and to sit through a session with experts in environmental science

Mrs. Huerbin explained, "The state competition will be particularly challenging because students need to coordinate with each other on a very limited time frame in order to create their presentation film, submit it, and

also to answer questions on the fly about their topics."

The MCHS science club meets once a month, and they have big plans for next year in addition to the Envirothon. The club received a very generous grant from the state, so they can do environmental work at the local Lewistown Country Club to create a stable ecosystem while helping club members to learn to use testing equipment and explore new environmentally safe practices.

Fifth graders learn about ecology at annual Eco-Day

BY: ELLIE HARTZLER & WINSTON YETTER

Fifth-grade students from Lewistown Intermediate School, Indian Valley Elementary Center, and Sacred Heart of Jesus School joined the high school students and faculty for a day of ecological learning at the 6th annual Eco-Day at MCMS on May 8. Students learned about general ecology such as the importance of pollination and local wildlife.

High school tour guides led fifth-graders around the soccer field adjacent to the middle school where students from Mr. King's, Mr. Hartman's, and Mrs. Huerbin's science classes gave presentations on the importance of bees and their pollination process as well the importance of recycling plastic and other ecology-related topics. One of the most popular stations, a game called "Tik Tok," was led by high schoolers Collin Otero, Brady Rowe, Kade Thomas and Kaleb Grant. Not only do fifth-graders learn about ecology, high school students also learn how to manage their

stations and gain experience in teaching as well as guiding.

"We taught the children about how important it is to protect our local wildlife," junior station manager Carter Bratton said. The "Mammal Mania," Bratton's station, was beloved by the fifth-graders; it featured Pennsylvania's ingenious mammals and how to identify them.

Eco-Day was not only beneficial to the fifth-grade students but to the high school students that were running the event as well. "I like watching the kids grow. They start off a bit nervous and then grow in confidence and become experts," said Mr. King.

"The skills that our students are learning will help them for years to come," said adviser Mrs. Eckenroth.

Eco-day was a success thanks to the kind and accommodating faculty at the middle school, the volunteer high school students, and the grand architect, Mrs. ConnorMiller.



Chemistry Carnival sparks excitement for young students

BY: JAILYN DIXON

With projects such as slime, lava lamps, and elephant toothpaste, there was something for everyone at this year's Chemistry Carnival. Chemistry I students spent weeks preparing their projects to share with the third graders at Lewistown Elementary School and East Derry Elementary School. When they finished, presenters competed with their peers to earn the right to present their project at the carnival.

Participants must solve many challenges before they can share their work at the carnival. Sophomore Addison Yoder and her group created an elephant toothpaste volcano. Their challenge was "making sure everything goes right, the explosion works and has the right amount of catalyst to make it go up," Yoder explained.

"The hardest part was making our poster both exciting and helpful," added sophomore Ashland Mazur.



One of the difficulties they faced was ensuring that their projects were simplified enough for the younger students to understand. "We made it very colorful with small words and we relate the project to simple things children know of, like mirrors and Easter," described sophomore Autumn Lowenstein.

"[We] broke down the terms to third grade level so they could understand," added sophomore Dylan Bonson. Chemistry concepts were simplified

to seem more fun and intriguing to the younger students.

"We made the procedures and explanations rather simple and allowed them to make and interact with oobleck of their own so they can understand how it works directly," said senior Leon Bell.

Miss Brannon's classes traveled to East Derry on April 15th and Miss Lang's Classes traveled to Lewistown Elementary on April 30th for another successful year of the Chemistry Carnival!

Probability and Statistics Fair brings math to life

BY: HALLIE MARCELLO

The Probability and Statistics Fair held in the courtyard on Monday, May 4 offered students a chance to play games and win prizes. Mrs. Clancy-Burns' students who are currently enrolled in her probability and statistics class designed the activities intended to generate data that they will then use to present their skills gained throughout the course.

When participants arrived at the event, they received ten tickets from Mrs. Clancy-Burns. Each ticket allowed individuals to play a game and have the chance to win prizes like candy and stickers.

There were many games such as "Mario's Step to the Star," designed by Luke Foltz and Jamarcus Russell, in which students' risk all of their points in order to win. "We chose high risk and luck so it was different from the rest, and it's a fun and engaging game," said Foltz.



Seniors Luke Foltz and Jamarcus Russell at Stats Fair down in the courtyard

Sophia Fisher and Marianna Wilson presented a witch themed game, similar to the classic duck pond game. "We chose this topic for a chance to explain how probability and statistics can affect one another through several variables and outcomes," explained Wilson.

This year, Mrs. Clancy-Burns expressed a happy outcome of the fair.

Clancy-Burns stated, "I think the fair went very well. All of the projects seemed interesting to the students and they performed their projects well."

Overall, the Stats Fair illustrates the relationship of probability and statistics by showing real life examples and testing in a fun atmosphere.

Mifflin County TSA excels at state competition level

BY: WINSTON YETTER

At Seven Springs Resort located in Champion, PA, our Mifflin County TSA members placed in a host of events at states held from April 15 through 18.

"It's not until after regionals that I really start to get hyped up and excited and put the pressure on. At that point, the students are in the groove and know what they need to learn, and build on it to make an awesome project," explained Aaron Specht.

In board game design, Maya Morgan, Luke Foltz and Oak Yeater took 7th place with "The Witches Errand," a game in which the players are the witches' sidekick and must complete tasks to win. Developing projects for TSA can be both stressful and fulfilling. Senior Luke Foltz described his preparation as "building the game and crying myself to sleep a few times." He and his teammates' hard work blossomed into positive results. "I'm most proud of Board Game Design placing since we're the first ever [team] from Mifflin County in

board game design to place top three at regionals and top ten at states," said Luke Foltz.

Seniors, Emily Banks, Oak Yeater and Anna Krohn took 2nd place in Fashion Design and Technology. "We prepared a script to be read at our interview, the garment, and a documentation portfolio showing our design process and research," said Banks. "I am very proud of the improvement of my sewing technique and am beginning to master it."

Oak Yeater took 3rd in PA pin design with a design based on Groundhog Day. In music production, Marquise Siennick and Caleb Noerr took 5th with a recording of an original composition of a march for a full concert band honoring America's 250th anniversary. "This was my first year, so I didn't know exactly what to expect. I was just excited to write and record a piece of music," said senior Noerr.

Qualifying through regionals and transferring fashion to nationals is a goal that Mrs. ConnorMiller wants to



reach this year. However, the number of student participants has significantly dwindled due to many students graduating. This year was marked with success, but Mrs. ConnorMiller hopes to find more students interested in showcasing abilities in music, and video game design, not just tech ed. TSA has over 60 competitive categories for different careers.

Thespian Society welcomes new members at MCHS

BY: VAYLA SHAWVER

For many students, theater is more than just performing or working backstage. It's a place to express creativity, build confidence, and work as a team. The Thespian Society induction recognizes students who have shown dedication and passion for the theater program throughout the year.

The Thespian Society induction ceremony took place on May 14 and honored students for their dedication and participation in the school's drama program. The International Thespian Society is an honor society for theater students that recognizes hard work both onstage and behind the scenes. Students can qualify through acting, stage crew, lighting, costumes, sound, and production work.

To be inducted into the society, students must participate in at least two drama club productions. Drama club advisors, Mrs. Gina Moore and Ms.

Denise Lane, say that the requirement helps students gain experience and stay committed to the theater program throughout the year.

"I am excited to be inducted because I will finally get to be recognized as a part of a community that I love," said senior Jocelyn Heimbaugh. Theater has become meaningful to many members involved in the club.

During the ceremony, students are officially welcomed into the society in front of family, friends, and staff members. New inductees may receive certificates, pins, or candles as part of the ceremony traditions. Drama club advisors Moore and Lane explained, "Many of the students have taken emotional risks such as stepping on stage, trusting their peers, finding their voice and this honor validates that growth." It is important to recognize students for their effort and teamwork.

For many students, induction is an important accomplishment because it reflects the time and effort they have put into productions. "Being inducted reminds me of how long I've really been doing this for, and the fact that I have grown and gotten better at public speaking and being more outgoing, I now will be okay with giving a speech, and I wasn't before," said sophomore Maggie Fortuna.

The Thespian Society induction ceremony is more than just an event, it is a celebration of creativity, teamwork, and commitment. For students who love theater, being inducted is a memorable achievement and an exciting part of their high school experience.



Letters of Intent: MC seniors to collegiate athletes

BY: JENNA KNEPP

Ava Baker has signed her letter of intent to continue her academic and softball career at Gettysburg College where she will be majoring in health sciences.

Baker looked at multiple DII and DIII schools, going on a plethora of visits and showcases. "I did an overnight at Gettysburg, and I felt like I really bonded with the team," said Baker.

Baker continued, "It is also a high academic school."

Baker has been playing softball for ten years. "I have formed relationships with girls who are now some of my best friends. It has taught me discipline and responsibility," explained Baker.

To move into collegiate athletics, Baker has been playing softball all year round and balancing academics with her sport.

Baker would like to thank her parents, coaches and her pap who has never missed a campus visit, travel tournament or a game.

Congratulations to Ava Baker as she continues her academic and athletic career at Gettysburg College!



Reece Bell has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Lock Haven University where he will be majoring in sports management.

Bell has been participating in track and field for four years. "This sport has made me more accountable and responsible for doing the right things in order to succeed," said Bell.

For Bell, the college decision process was difficult. "I narrowed my decision down to two schools, and I chose the school with the stronger track and field program," explained Bell.

Bell continued, "Lock Haven was also a great option regarding my major and opportunities after college."

Bell would like to thank his family, teammates and coach Ciccolini for supporting and encouraging him to work his hardest.

"I would also like to thank coach Russell, coach Bresnock and all the staff at Lock Haven for recruiting me and helping me with my college decision," said Bell.

Congratulations to Reece Bell as he continues his track and field journey at the next level!



Lily Breon has signed her letter of intent to continue playing golf at Juniata College where she will be majoring in pre-veterinary medicine/biology.

Breon has been playing golf since she was very young and it has taught her valuable lessons.

"Golf has taught me how to be patient and how growth can come slowly or in the blink of an eye," explained Breon.

To prepare for golfing at a collegiate level, she has been working on her golfing skills but also preparing herself mentally.

For Breon, the college decision process was long. "I knew I wanted to go to a smaller school with independent study opportunities," said Breon. She found her perfect next step at Juniata.

"I would like to thank my grandmother, she put me into junior golf and took me from the little girl with Barbie clubs to competing in championship tournaments," acknowledged Breon.

Good luck to Lily Breon as she continues her academic and golf career at the next level!



Alleigh Caruso has signed her letter of intent to continue playing field hockey at Roberts Wesleyan University where she will be majoring in exercise science.

Caruso's college decision process was not too difficult. "I love the team atmosphere and how kind and understanding the coaches are," said Caruso.

She has been playing field hockey for 12 years and was a senior team captain of our field hockey team this season. "It has taught me to handle my disappointment better. I am able to analyze my mistakes and it has helped me grow," explained Caruso.

Caruso has been preparing for the move into collegiate athletics. "I play on a travel hockey team and go to a lot of tournaments," stated Caruso.

Throughout her athletic and academic career Caruso credits her mom, Shelby Caruso, for supporting her and always being there for her.

Congratulations and good luck to Alleigh Caruso as she continues her academic and athletic journey at the next level!



Reesee Christine has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Hagerstown Community College where he will be majoring in business.

Christine has been playing baseball for 13 years. "I learned perseverance and working hard to earn what I want," explained Christine.

Christine's college decision process consisted of a lot of research and visits.

To prepare for collegiate athletics, Christine has been putting on weight and working out.

Throughout his years playing baseball, Christine has also played travel ball for State College Wild and U.S. Elite to prepare for collegiate athletics, as well as town ball for Mifflin County Babe Ruth.

Christine would like to thank his parents, coaches and teammates for their constant support of him throughout his baseball career.

Congratulations and good luck to Reesee Christine as he continues his academic and baseball journey at the next level!



Letters of Intent

BY: JENNA KNEPP

Reesee Cubbison has signed his letter of intent to continue his athletic and academic career at the Duquesne University where he will be majoring in computer science.

Cubbison has been running for five years. "It has taught me a lot of mental discipline and to keep going and how hard work can pay off," said Cubbison.

To prepare for collegiate athletics, Cubbison has been preparing for higher mileage. Cubbison is also apart of the Juniata Valley Striders, a running and fitness organization in Mifflin/Juniata counties which hosts numerous running events each year.

The college decision process for Cubbison was not too difficult. "I talked to a lot of schools, and found coaches that I liked and went to visit them," explained Cubbison.

Cubbison would like to thank his coaches, parents, and teammates for their support of him throughout his running journey.

Congratulations and good luck to Reesee Cubbison as he continues his track and cross country career at the division I level!



Zaiden Dashem has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic journey at Lock Haven University where he will be majoring in physical therapy.

Dashem has been running for three years. "It has taught me the value of discipline and dedication," said Dashem.

The college decision for Dashem was quick and not difficult in the slightest. "I visited Lock Haven and spoke to coaches and I felt it was an easy decision," explained Dashem.

Dashem added, "It is a good fit for me both academically and athletically."

To prepare for moving into collegiate level athletics, Dashem has focused on refining his skills academically so he can succeed.

Congratulations and good luck to Zaiden Dashem as he continues his cross country/track and his academic career at Lock Haven this fall!



Trevan Diven has signed his letter of intent to continue running track and field at Lock Haven University, and his major is currently undecided.

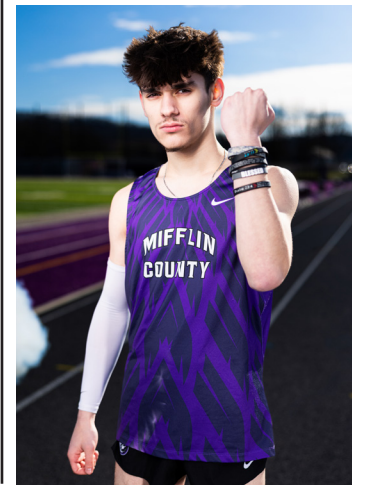
Diven has been an important member of the track team for three years.

For Diven, track has provided him with countless lessons. "It has taught me a lot about discipline and how powerful a tool visualization is," explained Diven.

After touring the campus and having conversations with coaches, Diven knew that Lock Haven was the right place for him. However, the college decision process was not easy. "It was confusing at first, but having a coach who ran in college really helped me," said Diven.

Diven would like to thank his mom for supporting him throughout his high school athletic career and coach Alex Monroe for helping him with the recruiting process. Diven credits Jesus for all of his successes.

Congratulations to Trevan Diven as he continues his academic and athletic career at Lock Haven!



Letters of Intent

BY: JENNA KNEPP

Nevin Farley has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and football journey at Susquehanna University where he will be majoring in finance.

Farley has been playing football for eight years. "Football has taught me countless lessons in discipline, effort, and mental toughness," explained Farley.

To prepare for collegiate athletics, Farley has been gaining strength in the weight room as well as speed and explosiveness on the track.

For Farley, the college decision process involved lots of visits. "I knew Susquehanna was the right place once I got to know the coaches and players on a personal level," said Farley.

Farley would like to thank his parents for their support of his goals and all of his coaches for fostering a love for football.

Congratulations and good luck to Nevin Farley as he continues his academic and athletic career at Susquehanna!

Addison Fultz has signed her letter of intent to continue her field hockey and academic career at Kutztown University where she will be majoring in elementary education.

For Fultz, the college decision process was easy. "I was very blessed and loved Kutztown so much that I didn't really look anywhere else. I love the people, campus, and the atmosphere," said Fultz.

She has been playing field hockey since second grade and was one of the senior team captains of the field hockey team this year.

To prepare for moving into collegiate athletics, Fultz has been working on sharpening her field hockey skills.

Fultz would like to thank her family for their support throughout her academic and athletic career and especially her grandfather, Neil Himes.

Good luck and congratulations to Addison Fultz as she continues her academic and field hockey journey at the next level!

Landon Haigh has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Washington and Jefferson College where he will be majoring in biology pre-med.

Haigh has been playing football for nine years. "It has taught me how to work through challenges and how to be mentally strong," said Haigh.

To prepare for collegiate athletics, Haigh has been working to recover through his injury and become stronger in the weight room.

For him the college decision process was complicated. "I committed to Washington and Jefferson because I felt comfortable on campus and the football team fit me," explained Haigh.

"I would like to thank my parents for taking me and paying for countless 7 v 7 tournaments, camps, and training sessions," acknowledged Haigh.

Congratulations and good luck to Landon Haigh as he continues his academic and football journey at the next level!

Chase Hartung has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic journey at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he will be majoring in finance.

"I have been playing baseball since I was little," said Hartung. Hartung also played for the PA Babe Ruth League throughout his younger years.

Hartung added, "It has taught me many valuable lessons that I will have forever."

To prepare for collegiate athletics, Hartung has been staying consistent at practice and working to get better everyday.

The college decision for Hartung went well. "I knew it was the right school when I visited and I liked everything," explained Hartung.

Hartung would like to thank his parents, family, coaches and teammates for their part in his athletic success.

Good luck and congratulations to Chase Hartung as he continues his baseball and academic career at the next level.

Gavin Herrington has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at West Liberty University where he will be majoring in exercise science.

Herrington has been playing football for 14 years. "Football taught me how to work with other people. It also taught me to be mentally and physically stronger while building important bonds," explained Herrington.

His college decision process was stressful. "I started by weighing out my offers from different schools thinking about which one would be best," said Herrington.

Herrington added, "West Liberty had great energy and seemed like a family, not just a team."

"First, I would like to give all glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," said Herrington. He would also like to thank his coaches, teammates and friends for pushing him to work his hardest and his family for their constant support.

Congratulations and good luck to Gavin Herrington as he continues his football career at West Liberty!

Easton Lepley has signed his letter of intent to continue his baseball career at Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he will be majoring in sports medicine.

Lepley has been playing baseball for 12 years. "It has made me more resilient and has taught me how to handle failure," said Lepley.

For Lepley, the college decision process was long and stressful. "I went to the school where I felt wanted by the coach and where I thought the education met my needs the best," explained Lepley.

To move into collegiate athletics he has been training everyday in the weight room as well as focusing on his rest and recovery.

Lepley would like to thank his parents for their sacrifices leading him to be successful in baseball.

Congratulations and good luck to Easton Lepley as he continues his academic and athletic career at Indiana University of Pennsylvania!

Connor Lynch has signed his letter of intent to continue his athletic career at Lock Haven University where he will be majoring in sports nutrition.

Lynch has been running for two years. "It has made me more confident and optimistic," said Lynch.

To prepare for moving into collegiate athletics Lynch has been working on becoming more self-sufficient and keeping up on schoolwork.

For Lynch, the college decision process included a lot of researching. "I asked for advice from friends, family, and coaches," explained Lynch.

Lynch added, "The atmosphere and teammates made me realize Lock Haven was the right school for me."

Lynch would like to thank his teammates, distance coaches, and coaches Monroe and Yearick for their support throughout his athletic journey.

Congratulations and good luck to Connor Lynch as he continues his track and cross-country career at the next level!

Kayla McTavish has signed her letter of intent to continue her cheerleading career at Thiel College where she will be majoring in biology.

McTavish has been cheerleading for 14 years. "Cheer has taught me discipline and hard-work. It has also taught me how to communicate better with people," explained McTavish.

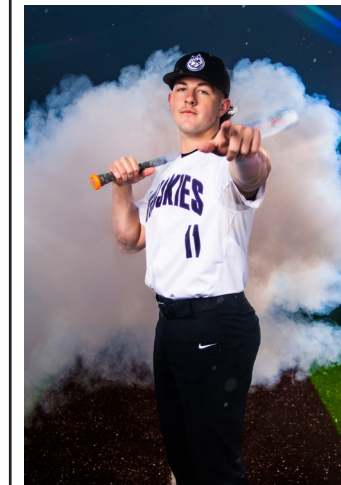
"I had so many options. After talking with the Thiel coach and attending clinics, I knew this was the right place for me," said McTavish.

McTavish added, "I am excited to cheer in a new atmosphere with supportive coaches and teammates."

To prepare for collegiate athletics McTavish has attending clinics available to prepare her for the next step.

McTavish would like to thank her mom for her support. "She has never failed to show up and support me regardless of the circumstances," acknowledged McTavish.

Congratulations and good luck to Kayla McTavish as she continues her cheerleading journey at the next level.



Letters of Intent

BY: JENNA KNEPP

Bailey Neff has signed her letter of intent to continue her academic and field hockey career at Susquehanna University where she will be majoring in psychology.

Neff has been playing field hockey for 12 years. "Playing field hockey has shaped me into a more disciplined and hardworking person," said Neff.

To prepare for collegiate athletics Neff plays on a club team and attends college showcases.

For Neff, her coaches helped to guide her through the college decision process. "I visited multiple different colleges so that I could compare them to each other," explained Neff.

Neff added, "I loved the team at Susquehanna and the school is perfect for me academically."

Neff would like to thank her mother for everything she has done for her and supporting Neff throughout her athletics.

Congratulations and good luck to Bailey Neff as she continues her athletic and academic journey at the next level!



Aiden Newlen has signed his letter of intent to continue his tennis and academic career at Alfred University where he will be majoring in finance.

Newlen has been playing tennis for two years. "It has made me stronger mentally," explained Newlen.

Newlen added, "It has also helped me appreciate the moments you can have with a team."

The college decision process for Newlen was long. "I knew Alfred was right for me when I went on my visit and it felt like home," said Newlen.

"I have been trying to lift each week to get stronger," said Peachey.

"I knew that it was the right school for me because of the things people said about it, their great basketball program, and the many academic opportunities available," said Peachey.

Peachey has leaned on many people to help her achieve her successes. "I would like to thank my family and friends for their support," acknowledged Peachey.

Congratulations and good luck to Mackenzie Peachey as she continues her academic and basketball career at the next level!



Mackenzie Peachey has signed her letter of intent to continue playing basketball at Penn State Altoona where she will be majoring in mechanical engineering.

Peachey has been playing basketball for 11 years and was senior captain of the girls basketball team this season.

"Basketball has shaped me into a leader, teaching me to work hard, and the importance of communication," explained Peachey.

"I have been trying to lift each week to get stronger," said Peachey.

"I knew that it was the right school for me because of the things people said about it, their great basketball program, and the many academic opportunities available," said Peachey.

Peachey has leaned on many people to help her achieve her successes. "I would like to thank my family and friends for their support," acknowledged Peachey.

Congratulations and good luck to Mackenzie Peachey as she continues her academic and basketball career at the next level!



Hart Oden has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Lock Haven University where he will be majoring in athletic training.

Oden has been running for seven years. "Running has given me something to look forward to everyday and has taught me to believe in myself," said Oden. Oden participates in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track for our district.

Oden knew that Lock Haven was for him. "I really enjoyed the campus and facilities," explained Oden.

To prepare for collegiate athletics Oden has been continuing to run and stay in shape during the off season.

Oden would like to thank his family and friends that he has made throughout his track and cross-country journey.

Congratulations and good luck to Hart Oden as he continues his running career at Lock Haven University!



Dekker Pietzsch has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Grove City College where he will be majoring in civil engineering.

Pietzsch has been playing football for five years. "Football has me strong mentally and physically and it has taught me so many important lessons," said Pietzsch.

To prepare for collegiate athletics Pietzsch has been working in the weight room and he also throws for our track and field team to keep him in shape during off-season.

The college decision process for him was easy, he immediately knew Grove City was a perfect fit for him.

"I would like to thank God, my family, and coach Bronson for helping me get where I am today, and for their support throughout my years playing football," acknowledged Pietzsch.

Congratulations and good luck to Dekker Pietzsch as he continues his football journey at the next level!



Letters of Intent

BY: JENNA KNEPP

Carter Smith has signed his letter of intent to continue academic and athletic career at Oklahoma State University where he will be majoring in sports marketing.

Smith has been a valuable member of the track and cross-country team at Mifflin County for the last four years. "Running has taught me discipline and all around shaped me into a better person," said Smith.

The college process for Smith, at first was quite difficult, but he found his perfect fit in Oklahoma. "I knew when I visited Oklahoma that it was where I wanted to be," explained Smith.

Smith is still focused on his current season of high school track and field as he advanced to the state finals which will be held on May 22 and 23 at Shippensburg. Over the years, there have been a lot of people in Smith's corner. "I would like to thank my family, teammates and coach Alex Monroe for their support throughout this journey," acknowledged Smith.

Congratulations and good luck to Carter Smith as he continues his running career at the division 1 level!



Evan Strohecker has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and athletic career at Susquehanna University where he will be majoring in environmental science.

Strohecker has been playing baseball for 13 years. "It has helped me through adversity and how to react to things that do not go your way," explained Strohecker. Strohecker has also participated in local ball teams such as the PA Babe Ruth League in his younger years.

To prepare for collegiate baseball, Strohecker has been training and mentally preparing himself for his career at the next level.

For Strohecker, Susquehanna was the perfect fit. "I had that feeling visiting the school that Susquehanna was where I wanted to go," said Strohecker.

Strohecker would like to thank his parents, friends and coaches for their support throughout his journey.

Congratulations and good luck to Evan Strohecker as he continues his baseball career at the next level!



Madden Weaver has signed his letter of intent to continue his academic and baseball career at Mercyhurst University where he will be majoring in sports business management.

Weaver has been playing baseball for 14 years. "It has helped me handle high pressure situations and knowing what I need to do to preserve and succeed," said Weaver.

Weaver's college decision process was long and took time. "I had my coach reach out and I went on two visits and really liked the school," explained Weaver.

To prepare for moving into collegiate baseball, Weaver is working to make sure he stays healthy and not do anything that could negatively affect him.

Throughout his academic and athletic career, Weaver credits his parents for their time and effort and his coaches for giving countless opportunities.

Congratulations and good luck to Madden Weaver as he continues his baseball career at the Division One level at Mercyhurst University.



Baseball opens season strong and sets eyes on title

BY: JAILYN DIXON

The Mifflin County baseball team wasted no time opening their season with a 2-1 victory over rival State College on March 25 at Capouillez Field. "It was much-needed. I feel that an opening day win over our rival can help build confidence for the remainder of the season," stated Coach Hoppel.

They added to their winning record with victories over Cedar Cliff, Mechanicsburg and Mount Union. Hoppel and his players have their sights set on a district championship. "Winning districts is very possible. This team works together and plays for each other and that's what a good team does," stated senior Jayden Smith.

Along with their success on the field, players credited the new turf facility for helping improve the team's development and consistency through the season. "It has been a very beneficial addition and has helped the team grow and get better at fielding," senior

Lincoln Ruble reflected. "It's made everything feel so much smoother and hasn't made the infielders worry about any bad hops," added junior Thad Gerwick.

Hoppel and many of his players agree that their biggest struggle this season is staying consistent with their offense. "We struggled early on with hitting the ball and some errors, but we're hot now and seeing the ball well," explained senior Joel Beamer. Hopes are high moving into district play.

The team lived up to these hopes as they became Mid-Penn Commonwealth champions and will make the trip to the District game at Mount Aloysius on May 20 versus Altoona.

The team is saying farewell to twelve seniors: Joel Beamer, Reese Christine, Parker Crossover, Chase Hartung, Chase Leister, Easton Lepley, Austin McKnight, Lincoln Ruble, Jayden Smith, Evan Strohecker, Madden Weaver, and manager Aaden Stevens.



Softball finishes season with growth and hard work

BY: LUKE BENDER & MAYA BURKE

The Mifflin County softball team ended their regular season with a record of 3 - 14. Although the girls record does not reflect a perfect run, the team is still very proud of their performance and teamwork this season as they moved into the District VI playoffs.

This spring, the softball team focused on rebuilding. "We are a much younger team this year, so a lot of our fielders are new and had to try new positions," said junior Mya Felmlee. For the 2027 season, the team will again prepare younger players to move up from junior varsity to varsity.

The team's strength came from the bat, and that improved as the season progressed. The girls not only had solid overall hitting and a strong outfield this year, but they also highlighted powerful unity and friendship throughout the season.

"My favorite part of being on the

team is the love that all the girls share for softball. It makes me feel welcomed and supported," said junior Macy Pietzsch.

The team has fought very hard to push themselves throughout the season, "Attitudes have definitely improved," said junior Malaina Maxwell

Advancing to districts was a joint decision between the players and the coaches. Ending the season with a win swayed the decision. "I think the coaches were in favor [of districts] after our last game because we played well," stated Felmlee.

The team had the reason for optimism going into district game. They have what it takes to win,

The girls have advanced to the District VI championship game which will be held on May 20 at Bald Eagle Area High School

This year our softball team bids farewell to five seniors, Ava Baker, Carly Dickson, Piper Specht, Jocelyn Sunderland, and Bailey Wyland.



Track has successful season, sends athletes to states

BY: LOLA HEIMBAUGH & LIZZIE MASSIE

Whether on the track, in the field, or watching from the stands, track has a unique way of connecting people and building relationships. At practice during long workouts, hard runs, and complicated exercises, students bond and build friendships.

One of the biggest challenges for track athletes revolves around performance. Coach Tamara Sechler stated, "As individuals, their biggest competition is always themselves." Senior Carter Smith agreed, "My biggest obstacle is my mindset." With this being said, athletes still find ways to focus and reshift their energies.

"Don't worry about the place you get, focus on your own goals and improvements instead," said senior Alleigh Caruso.

Even with the struggles that come with being a track athlete, this year has been very successful for our team. Four people individually made it

to states and one relay team qualified. Seniors, Carter Smith, Reese Cubbison, Reece Bell, along with junior Wyatt Kauffman, will be competing at states individually, and our 4x8 relay team of Smith, Kauffman, Cubbison, and Connor Lynch will be competing from May 22-23 at states.

Our track team also had many personal successes this year. Taylor Knepp broke the school 400m record with a time of 58.66, and Dekker Pietzsch broke the shot-put record with a 47 '8. We also had our Distance Medley Relay compete, win, and break the meet record at the 2026 Penn Relays, for the first time since 2018, with a time of 9:54.01.

This year, our track and field team is saying goodbye to 21 seniors, Reece Bell, Chase Bowen, Alleigh Caruso, Kendall Cavanaugh, Amilia Coffey, Reese Cubbison, Zaiden Dashem, Trevan Diven, Nevin Farley, Logan Glass, Brooke King,



Ava Kratzer, Layne Linn, Connor Lynch, Steven Lynch, Maya Morgan, Hart Oden, Caroline Palopoli, Dekker Pietzsch, Carter Smith, and Winston Yetter.

The track team has had a very successful season and is excited to see what the future holds for the graduating seniors, and the people competing at states.

Boys tennis builds momentum through strong bonds

BY: MARCELLA MCKEE

The Mifflin County boys tennis team showed determination and growth this season, finishing 7-8, improving from last year's 5-15 record.

This year's team formed strong bonds, and they credit their valuable friendships for pushing them to work so hard. "We all support each other day in and day out competitively," said senior Aiden Newlen.

"Being a part of this team means a lot to me because I like my friends," added sophomore Mason Kaniecki. Along with that friendship, many memories were made. Logan Breneman and Max Persing recalled the team bus breaking down on the way to an away match at Cedar Cliff as one of the most memorable moments of the season, giving teammates a chance to bond in an unexpected situation.

Coaches Jeffrey Mazurek and

Noah Fisher emphasized their pride in the team's growth, not only in wins, but also in attitude and effort. "We tell players to be patient, disciplined and allow the point to be developed," said Mazurek.

"It can take time to build confidence and consistency, which can hold strong through the middle of the season and get challenged near the end during weeks packed with matches and tournaments," added Fisher.

The team looks ahead to next season with hopes of building on its progress and adding more wins—including against longtime rival State College High.

The team is saying goodbye to seven seniors: Morgan Crader, Luke Foltz, Reese Hine, Aiden Newlen, Caleb Noerr, Max Persing and Maxwell Yoder. Best of luck to all of you.



Boys lacrosse shows improvement and looks forward

BY: LUKE BENDER

The boys lacrosse team ended their first season on Kish Bank Field in the new Chapman Stadium with a 4-14 record. Although the record doesn't reflect their growth, the team is still proud of playing their best season since the sport's inclusion in Mifflin County athletics. "Our biggest accomplishment is quadrupling our wins this season over last," said head coach Brett Rogers.

Over the past five years, the team has worked to develop during each season. "We have been better than every other year so far," said junior Alonso Torres.

Torres continues, "There is a much better skill gap from last year to this year."

"Often we are in a war of attrition as we are building a program and attracting students to this new sport in our area," explained Rogers.

Rogers added, "In several match-

es we were leading or very competitive throughout the first quarter, but keeping that pace throughout is difficult versus teams with 30-40 players." Given time, Mifflin County's program could grow into a force to be reckoned with.

The players' biggest strengths as a team are their chemistry and determination. The team's close bond on and off the field has led them to grow and succeed more than ever. "They are starting to work really well together by the end of the year," said Rogers.

"My favorite part about being on the team is how I get to enjoy the sport and play with all of my friends," said senior Easton Zook.

"With only four seniors this season, all being starters, they will be sorely missed next season. Their efforts are the examples for the next guys in line for those positions to step up for a seamless transition into next season," said Rogers.



The team says goodbye to seniors Dakota Gibbons, Kane Pecht, Trey Smith and Easton Zook. We wish them all the best.

Girls lacrosse faces challenging season with determination

BY: WINSTON YETTER

On April 28, the girls lacrosse team beat Central Dauphin East, breaking their losing streak with a clean 7 - 3 final score. Senior Isabella Snyder scored three goals, while sophomore Madison Keefer and seniors Joshlyn Tate, Linsey Wagner and Krista Whitesel each scored a goal. This game was a season milestone for the team who won their first game of the season. Not only was it a physical victory, but it was a greatly appreciated emotional victory.

This season has been a rough one for the lady huskies, winning one out of their last 15 games. Expectations of both athletes and coaches were high at the beginning of the year. Stepping into his first season as the head coach of the girls lacrosse team, Robert Nulton envisioned districts. Morale was good, but as the season continued, it lessened after consecutive losses.



The youth and inexperience of the team created challenges for the team, but offers hope for the future. "Veterans get frustrated with the newcomers because they don't know how to handle their position, which creates anger and more tension. Nulton will sometimes give a 30 minute speech to encourage our morale," explained goalie Sofia Heider.

Nulton pointed out that the lack of experience stems from the fact that there are no feeder programs for girls varsity lacrosse. "Most girls on other

teams are playing at a young age and have more experience, whereas we have no feeder programs for younger athletes so many of our girls are just learning how to play," said Nulton. This is the second year of league games against more competitive teams like Chambersburg, State College and Altoona.

Despite the difficult season, Nulton pushed for a positive outlook. "When you're not a winning team, find the other wins. Losing makes you appreciate the wins more," explained Nulton. Nulton looks to next year where growth is possible and spaces will need to be filled because of the senior losses.

The girls lacrosse team is saying goodbye to eleven seniors: Lia Barahona, Zoey Foltz, Ava Kelly, Lorynn Knepp, Emmah Miller, Adin Reese, Alexandra Rupert, Issabella Snyder, Joshlyn Tate, Linsey Wagner, and Krista Whitesel. We wish them the best in their futures.

Husky Club honors athletes with awards and scholarships

BY: MARCELLA MCKEE

The Husky Club All-Sport Recognition Night was held at 6 p.m. on May 19, 2026 in the Mifflin County High School Auditorium. This special evening open to the community celebrates and honors all fall, winter and spring athletes.

During the ceremony, coaches presented awards to varsity athletes in recognition of their hard work throughout the season. Each sport awards an athlete for the following rewards: Husky Senior Athlete, Husky Athlete, Husky Hustle, Husky Pride, Husky Leader, and Scholar Athlete. At this event, organizers gave senior athletes their senior blankets, and they awarded all letter winners their

letters and pins at the conclusion of the evening.

Several additional awards recognize outstanding athletes across Mifflin County sports. The Alex Ufema Award honors the top football player, and the Ron Sprecher Award recognizes the top boys and girls cross country runner. The Tish Maclay Award is given to the top field hockey player, while the Jenna Feathers and Weber/Rothrock Awards honor the top girls and boys basketball players. The Rod Tate Award is presented to the top wrestler, and the Jaynee Carolus and Riden/Hockenbrock Awards recognize the top softball and baseball players, respectively.

Coaches put careful thought into

selecting award participants, often focusing on positive traits in their athletes. When asked what he looks for, head baseball coach, Ray Hopple, stated, "Performance, leadership, and character." In Mifflin County, athletes are recognized for their hard work and dedication. Head soccer coach, Keith Yoder, added, "I believe it shows others on the team there is value and recognition in working hard and being dedicated."

The athletic director, Tish Maclay, encourages student athletes along with all coaches and families to attend this event. Our Husky Club advisor, Rebecca Stringfellow, motivates any senior athlete to apply for a scholarship. The club will be awarding 5 scholarships worth \$1000 each.

Love of Reading challenge encourages schoolwide reading

BY: QUINLEY RANCK

MCHS PBIS sponsored this year's Love of Reading Challenge, a contest initiated last year by Dr. Aimee Seitz-Geedey. "The program strives to foster a genuine love of reading by building off of the strong culture of independent reading in English courses and the collaboration between the English department and the MCHS library," explained Seitz-Geedey. This year, Mrs. Emily Eckenroth and Mrs. Kerry Clancy-Burns assisted with the organization.

"The Love of Reading Challenge is something fun we can all do as a school community. Students and staff were encouraged to participate," said Eckenroth.

Students and staff alike raced to read the most books in hopes of winning prizes. Awards were given to the top readers in each class and the top readers on the winning staff team.

The sophomore class had a strong showing with their top reader, Kayden Losey, finishing 28 books while Lexi Trutt represented the junior class with her submission of six books. Jaylin Fate submitted an impressive



Senior winner Jaylin Fate



Junior winner Lexi Trutt

53 books to make the seniors the top student readers. The winning staff team was captained by Mrs. Jennifer McCarter, and Sherry McKay helped bring home the prizes by reading 29 of her team's 62 books, just edging out Mrs. Brenna Goulstone's Grim Readers and their 61 submissions.

Each winning reader, as well as three students drawn at random, received \$20 gift cards for The Crooked

Bookshelf in downtown Lewistown, donated by owner Kelly Rivera. All participants received their choice of waterproof stickers for each book they read.

"Reading is an opportunity for all of us to connect with each other across shared interests and explore other experiences," said Seitz-Geedey.

Congratulations to this year's challenge winners!

Mifflin County Prom

2026



Mini-THON brings community together raising \$21,000 FTK

BY: RYLYNN PATKALITSKY

Mifflin County High School Mini-THON hosted their annual event for childhood cancer awareness on Saturday, May 9! This year, they organized a "Beat Cancer Block Party" in the student parking lot for the public to attend.

"It has been super exciting to plan the new idea for a 'Block Party' this year," said senior Mini-THON president Caroline Palopoli. The event is different from years prior with more community based activities and fun. However, rain called for a change of plans, and the event was held throughout the commons and the auxiliary gym.

The event consisted of a lip sync battle, food trucks, student bands, zumba with Geovy, and a special guest speaker. Oliver Auman, an eleven year-old cancer survivor, spoke about his journey with childhood cancer. "He was very well-spo-

ken and I am so proud of him for overcoming his battle. His speech made me realize how big of an impact Mini-THON has on our community and families in need," said senior organization member Kayla McTavish.

"The variety of food trucks were super nice. The ability to have different options to choose from was cool. Overall, the event was super fun and it is always nice to be able to make a difference in our community," said sophomore Marcella McKee.

Although the rain led to a change of plans and the event was held inside rather than outside, the organization still had a successful year fighting against childhood cancer. Mifflin County High School Mini-THON raised \$21,701.08 throughout the year to benefit the Four Diamonds organization. Keep your eyes open for gold out events next school year and for the announcement about next year's main event!



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Shoemaker, Torquato, and Maclay bid farewell to MCSD

BY: MAYA BURKE

Mifflin County High School is saying farewell to three beloved staff members: Mr. Matthew Shoemaker and Mr. Matthew Torquato, along with Athletic Director Natisha Maclay.

Shoemaker graduated from Shippensburg University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education. Shoemaker began his career teaching basic and applied math at Lewistown Area High School and Juniata Vo-Tech. He later taught at Lewistown Middle School, Indian Valley High School, and finally here at Mifflin County High School. Throughout his career, Mr. Shoemaker has been highly involved in school sports. He has coached junior high girls basketball, junior high boys basketball, junior varsity boys basketball, varsity boys basketball, junior varsity baseball, varsity baseball and golf, and he was the athletic director for a time here at MCHS.

Not only has Shoemaker been greatly involved in school sports, he has made a huge impact on his students in his classes. Throughout the years, his schedule has included math, applied math, algebra, basic computer skills, pre-calculus, trigonometry, probability and statistics. "Mr. Shoemaker always makes sure everyone understands the topic well and allows for his students to excel in everything he assigns," said senior Lincoln Ruble.

"For me, there is not one biggest highlight in my teaching career. I have just enjoyed all the relationships that I have formed with colleagues, administrators, staff, and many, many students," said Shoemaker.

Mr. Shoemaker offers this advice for future teachers, "I would advise new teachers to, first of all, be yourself. Don't let anyone convince you that you must conduct your classroom in a certain way that contradicts who you are. Good, well-disciplined classrooms take many different forms. Most importantly, though, to be an effective teacher, you must love your students. Treat them with respect

and truly care about them. Do your best to treat all students equally." Shoemaker has made a long-lasting impact on so many people throughout his career and will be missed by many.

Matthew Torquato attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. From there he completed his teaching certification program through Juniata College and Susquehanna University.

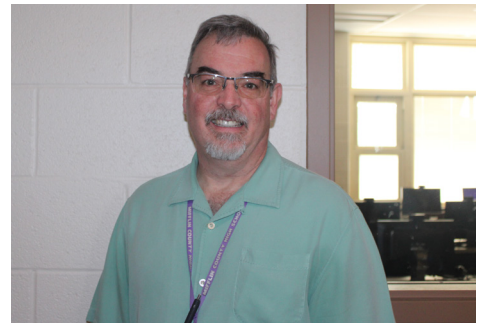
Torquato began his teaching career at Sacred Heart School; the following year he was hired by the Mifflin County School District to teach science at the Lewistown Middle School before spending eleven years at Strodes Mills Middle School with a great tight knit faculty and wonderful student body.

"Then our schools merged, and I met some people at the junior high that I had a lot in common with and have become great friends with. I bike, run, workout and backpack with Mr. Fox, Mr. King, and Mr. Martin." said Torquato.

Since 2006, Mr. Torquato has been the membership chairperson for AMCE, the Association of Mifflin County Education, as well as many clubs and school organizations. "Here at the high school, I've been involved with Eco Day for the last three years. Many years ago, I was one of the Mountain Bike Club advisors at the junior high, when that club existed," said Torquato.

Over the years, Mr. Torquato has taught many different science classes such as chemistry, physics, global environmental science, and many more. "He explains information in the best way possible for students," said junior Brady Rowe.

Torquato's favorite highlight of his career is having students share with him that they enjoyed his class or that they remembered something he did in class that made it fun. "This doesn't happen a lot; so, students, tell your teachers that you appreciated their effort or remember



something they taught you or did in class that made an impact on you," explained Torquato. Torquato has advice for younger teachers, "Hang in there, get through the first two or three years and it will get better. It's not an easy job, but it can be rewarding if you put in the time and maintain a positive attitude every day." Mr. Torquato will be missed and remembered by so many students, teachers, and friends.

For many students and peers, these teachers will be remembered as more than just educators -they've been mentors, role models, and lifelong inspirations.

Mifflin County School District has been home to many dedicated educators and leaders throughout the years, but few have had as great an impact as Natisha Maclay. Maclay attended Elizabethtown College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, History, and Sociology. She later attended Juniata College to receive her secondary teaching certification and went on to earn a master's degree in coaching and athletic administration from Concordia University.

Thank you to these three staff members for their impact on our district throughout the years.