



A KILLER OPPORTUNITY
PAGE 2 FOR MORE

QUARANTINE KING AND QUEEN



Photo by Natalie Keller

While the ceremonies were anything but ordinary during times of COVID, NL Homecoming royalty was still crowned this year — Julia Wanamaker and Joey Abidelli.

They have your back

The Aavidum Club has become a nationwide student movement, finding a local home here at Northern Lehigh

BY NIA NICHOLSON
STAFF WRITER

A yellow handprint may seem insignificant, but that simple image is the logo of a cardinally meaningful organization. Aavidum, previously run at Northern Lehigh High School by Ms. Patricia Jones, is a small club centered around the wellbeing of our peers.

Locally, Aavidum groups began to pop up in high schools and colleges from 2008-2010. Originating in Lancaster County, Aavidum has turned into a nationwide movement with a very important mission: to shatter the stigma around mental health and create a healthy community where everyone is appreciated and heard.

Northern Lehigh's Aavidum club has now been taken over by Ms. Nicole Nightlinger, who will be the adviser. Ms. Nightlinger, the former emotional support teacher at Northern Lehigh Middle School and current district special education consultant, holds enough of a background to help guide students to bringing more awareness to the NLS, but most importantly to your fellow peers. While Ms. Nightlinger is the adviser, there is a whole group of experienced staff there

to help the organization this year.

Mr. David Hauser, vice-principal of Northern Lehigh High School, formed the Aavidum club in his old position at Lehigh High School. Ms. Kim Bayer, an NLHS math teacher, along with Ms. Krystle Tiedeman, the librarian, plans to lend a helping hand with the budding ideas for this school year as well.

In past years, Aavidum regularly held morning greetings in the lobby. Members of the club also volunteered in the Special Olympics, buddying up with Northern Lehigh's Special Olympians to guide them to small victories in the tournament, but even bigger victories in learning social skills and friendship.

Aavidum members also held several campaigns to promote a positive environment within the school, whether through optimistic sticky-notes or the simple reminder that it is OK to not be OK at times.

The club is still rather small, however, intentions to team up with other school organizations loom on the horizon. The coronavirus pandemic has limited the extent to which the club can function, as the integral morning



"Butterflies cannot see the beauty of their wings, but others can." NL's Aavidum Club is here to help students see those wings.

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Debates both a debacle and democratic

Insults, interruptions, and an insect take center stage at first rancorous event

BY LILY GROOVER
STAFF WRITER

The nation on Tuesday, Sept. 29, witnessed what was the most immature moment in our history. That night, more than 73 million people watched two grown men bicker and argue like kindergartners over the greatest issues our country is experiencing.

During the entire 90 minutes, President Trump came out as aggressive, frequently not letting former VP Joe Biden finish his statements. The moderator, Chris Wallace, veteran journalist and



television newscaster for Fox News, more times than not interrupted Trump's insults and disruptions. However, those warnings went unheeded.

Biden, on the other hand, came to the podium wanting a professional debate. Quickly, he discovered that it was not going to happen. He even went as far as saying, "Will you shut up, man?" Wallace had to repeatedly raise his voice over

both candidates, reiterating the rules both campaigns agreed to. Biden replying, "It's hard to get any word in with this clown."

Insult upon insult was thrown. The most offensive took place when President Trump attacked Biden's son, who overcame drug addiction. Biden originally wanted to highlight Trump's previous statements about military members, allegedly calling them "losers" and "suckers."

He started talking about his son,

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SCORE!



Girls soccer are kickin' on! Page 12.

Creating a clear vision for ‘Blind’

A ‘killer’ opportunity slid into Mr. Kern’s DM’s and the rest was fright-fest history

BY OWEN LEVAN-UHLER
STAFF WRITER

When people go to watch a movie, one of the first things they will see is the poster outside the theater or queued on a streaming service. Posters give potential viewers first impressions, setting the movie’s tone.

A horror movie titled *Blind* was released in the United Kingdom this summer, but Mr. Kern did not just see the poster for the movie: he *made* it.

Mr. Andrew Kern, technology education teacher at NLHS, earned his bachelor’s degree in communication design from Kutztown University in 2004, and worked around the Lehigh Valley until 2011, upon receiving his teaching certificate. Still, he kept his feet in the graphic design field working on freelance projects, designing posters for various Northern Lehigh Theater Troupe productions from 2012 to 2015, while working on his own projects.

Mr. Kern has been developing his own fan-posters for years, some of which can be seen in his classroom. In addition to these fun projects, “I find that if I set a goal for myself like, ‘I want to make a poster for this movie I love,’ it helps me to focus on learning new tips and tricks.”

When quarantine began in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Kern created an Instagram account to share some of his posters and designs that were sitting on hard-drives. One of these fan-posters was for the 1996 horror flick *Scream*.

“I was surprised when it started getting shared and reposted by a lot of horror fans and accounts. It apparently got the attention of Marcel Walz, an independent horror director based out of Los Angeles. He sent me a direct message through Instagram and asked if I’d be interested in designing a poster for his upcoming film *Blind*,” he said.

After Walz sent a trailer for the movie and Mr. Kern searched the film on IMDB, he shared his enthusiasm about working on the film’s poster, but also explained that he was no longer a professional graphic designer. Despite this, Walz had full confidence in him: “It

doesn’t matter if you’re [making the poster] professionally or not... you’re great at what you’re doing.”

While Mr. Kern is incredibly talented in his field, that does not mean there were no challenges he had to work around. “I hadn’t seen the movie, I hadn’t read the script. All I had to go on was the trailer and a handful of beautifully photographed production stills that the director had provided. The biggest challenge was creating an image that was going to represent the entirety of this film, without fully understanding the film myself.”

With this aside, the pandemic lockdown provided Mr. Kern with plenty of time to make the poster. In a few days, he created a product that Walz was “beyond thrilled with.”

In August, when the UK’s horror film festival *Frightfest* was taking place, *Blind* and its poster received a sizable amount of media attention.

“A lot of popular horror media outlets – including DreadCentral.com, Bloody-Disgusting.com, and SyfyWire.com – covered the *Blind* screening and used a slightly modified rendition of my design in their articles. Seeing my design for *Blind* getting media attention was surreal and awesome.”

Mr. Kern is now back to teaching like the rest of Northern Lehigh’s teachers, but he is extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to make *Blind*’s poster. “As my career drifted away from full-time graphic design and toward teaching, I felt that opportunities to create posters for directors and their upcoming projects had passed me by. I was extremely honored that Marcel Walz discovered my Instagram and trusted me to create the image that would represent his film.”

Though Mr. Kern remains hopeful that he might be provided similar opportunities in the future, he is content with the experience he was provided with. “It



Mr. Kern created this poster for the movie ‘Blind,’ debuting across the pond.

can be discouraging if you think that every big opportunity will always lead to more big opportunities. I try to take one project at a time, do my absolute best with the current work I’m doing, and leave the door open for whatever might

come next.”

Blind is coming to the U.S. on digital and DVD formats in Nov. 2020. Check out more of Mr. Kern’s incredible posters on Instagram: @kern.creative.design. 🐾

Look to the yellow handprint

Aavidum, from page 1

greetings are no longer possible. However, the creativity of staff and students will prevail as new ideas for greetings and campaigns are being presented. Ms. Nightlinger aims to “bring awareness to mental health,” as well as building a positive school rapport.

The Aavidum club is always accepting new members, as the main goal is to simply spread a positive message and awareness everywhere. Especially in times like these, where mental health crises are on the rise in the midst of unprecedented

times, Aavidum stands strong. There will always be a support system backing students and, “help for everyone, no matter where the kids may be” (in regards to virtual students).

This school year will be beneficial for Aavidum, as the message echoes throughout the hallways (and laptops) of students. Ms. Nightlinger shared that Principal Mr. Robert Vlasaty and Mr. Hauser “both want to see us bombard everyone with information and really get the Aavidum name out there.” Be sure to look out for Aavidum this year, and remember: we’ve got your back. 🐾

U.S. left in more than tears after Ginsburg death

Beloved Supreme Court Justice leaves many desperate for a woman's return that won't happen

BY BRITTNEY DIEHL
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

“So often in life, things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great, good fortune,” said the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Joan Bader Ginsburg who died Sept. 18, from complications due to metastatic pancreas cancer. Ginsburg’s death seemed to sum up one of her famous lines; however, it seems that there is no “good fortune” that has yet to come. The United States of America was already in shambles and it seems the damage the country has now suffered is only the cruel beginning.

Born in 1933, and a low-income, as well as Jewish Brooklyn native, Ginsburg lived an altruistic life, devoted to bettering the lives of others rather than for personal gain. She completed her high school career at James Madison High School to later become first in her class of Cornell University’s graduating class of 1954. That same year, Ginsburg married Martin D. Ginsburg. Due to his draft into the military, also in 1954, and the birth of their daughter Jane, the beginning of their marriage was particularly struggling.

Despite these struggles, as one would expect, the Ginsburgs persevered. After two years, Martin Ginsburg was discharged and the family returned to Harvard, where Ruth was enrolled. Even in a hostile and male-dominated environment when attending this particular college, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was able to successfully leap over the obstacles presented to her and even went above and beyond by becoming the first female member of the *Harvard Law Review*.



Once Martin Ginsburg graduated from law school, he earned a position at a New York law firm. To join her husband, Ruth Ginsburg transferred to Columbia Law School and still graduated first in her class in 1959. Despite her outstanding

academic record, she still faced gender discrimination when seeking employment. Nonetheless, after clerking for U.S. District Judge Edmund L. Palmieri, she taught at Rutgers University Law School, as well as Columbia where she became

the first tenured female professor.

During the 1970s, Ginsburg also served as director on the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia before later being appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Supreme Court. When contributing to the American people through this lasting institution, she constantly and consistently fought for gender equality — as well as equality in general — and civil rights.

The most attention Ginsburg ever received was from the opinion she presented in the case of *Bush v. Gore*, which determined who won the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

The lasting legacy left behind by the — to put it simply — *virtuoso* of a Supreme Court justice seems almost insignificant to the mess that has preceded her. Her death, already greatly saddening, has irrevocably warped the nation’s future — and not for the benefit of everyone. The most current tragedies are the foreshocks to the most monumental earthquakes.

One thing is clear — Ginsburg’s death is simply an inciting incident to a cataclysm of recessive future events. Her death created a major step backward when small steps have been the only progress that has been made so far. Despite this, during her life, Ruth Bader Ginsburg tried her hardest to change the world — and she did — yet there is still a gaping hole that needs to be filled. However, we, as a society, must decide who is worthy of fulfilling such a critical, crucial chasm. 🐾

First debate caused an interruptive uproar before cancelling sequel

Debates, from page 1

Beau Biden, who tragically passed away due to brain cancer, and telling the audience how brave and patriotic of a man he was. Trump interrupted his monologue and asked which son Biden was talking about. Not letting him answer, he went into a tangent, boastfully saying that Biden’s other son, Hunter, was dishonorably thrown out of the military for cocaine usage. He also said that Hunter did not have a job until Biden became vice president and then started mysteriously making numerous amounts of money in places like China and Moscow. Both accusations Trump made were false.

Experts say Biden seemed strongest when he ignored Trump’s insults and turned toward the camera to address the audience at home. He talked about the coronavirus, a vaccine, a healthcare act, voting, the economy, Trump’s tax allegations, equality issues, and why voters should vote for him over our current president. President Trump, however,

faced most of his answers to Biden and the moderator as if defending himself and his word instead of addressing the American people.

What aggravated spectators the most was Trump’s refusal to boldly denounce white supremacy. Chris Wallace asked whether he was “willing to condemn white supremacists and militia groups and to say that they need to stand down and not add to the violence,” the president’s initial response was “Sure, I’m willing to do that.” Many of his supporters say this answered the question. However, Wallace then asked him to “do it,” prodding him to name specific groups and their actions; Mr. Trump did not, meandering around the question instead of answering it directly.

His now well-known statement, “Proud Boys, stand back and stand by,” gives people of the Democratic Party another reason to claim Donald Trump is racist. Saying “stand by” to a white supremacist group urges people to believe he is not condemning them for their ac-

tions, just telling them to almost ‘wait for further instructions.’

Unlike the first debate, the vice presidential debate, held on Oct. 7, was much more professional. The public could tell both candidates have a political background. The way they spoke and the knowledge they had definitely correlated to the experience with addressing political issues. Moderator Susan Page, Washington bureau chief of *USA Today*, asked for a “respectful exchange” and, for the most part, got what she asked. However, both candidates, Vice President Michael Pence and opponent Kamala Harris were seen deflecting questions and not answering directly. Page, instead of asking follow-up questions, decided to move onto the next topic then urging for answers. The most apparent avoidance was when both candidates were asked what they would do about Biden’s age and the president’s illness if the next elected leader were incapacitated. Neither Pence nor Harris described an absolute plan that would take place if that were to happen.

Surprising viewers the most was the zero-tolerance Harris had when it came to the vice president interrupting her answers. After the first couple of times it happened, she smiled, folded her hands, turned toward him and said, “Mr. Vice President, I’m speaking. I’m speaking.” That simple sentence effectively quieted him down and allowed her to finish the answer.

However, the media’s favorite and most discussed part of the vice presidential debate happened unexpectedly. Midway through, a fly landed on Pence’s head, unbeknownst to him. The media had an uproar.

Jokes and memes were made, and that particular news story covered everything necessary the candidates said that night. The candidates had a lot to say when it came to their answers, but constant jokes overran the importance of those.

The second presidential debate was canceled due to President Trump’s positive coronavirus test and a refusal to hold a virtual debate. 🐾

Civil discourse is alive and well on Debate team

BY CAMRYN TORRES
STAFF WRITER

Having genuine conversations these days has become a lost cause, let alone hearing opinions from another side. One such place exists within our halls, however.

The Northern Lehigh High School Debate Team is a club for those who enjoy public speaking, research, writing, and competition. The team competes as part of the Lehigh Valley Interscholastic Debate Association. Team members prepare to face other schools and show commitment.

The adviser of the debate team is Mrs. Krystle Tiedeman, a lovely teacher who is prepared to help her students through thick and thin. Mrs. Tiedeman wants to help students grow and give them proper opportunities to practice tackling real-world confrontations.

"While we always hope to win, the greater goal is to gain knowledge, skill, and experience," she said. Some of the other goals of *debate* are to teach students teamwork, strategy, and how to properly argue with others in case you get tired of your siblings hogging the gaming console. (Not really, but you get the point).

For those interested in the debate team, there is no set qualification for joining.

"I prefer my debate team members to

be breathing. That truly is the only qualification," Mrs. Tiedeman said.

In *debate*, Northern Lehigh usually has three teams: A team, B team, and C team. There can actually be up to J, if needed. Each team consists of a first speaker, second speaker, questioner, and rebuttalist. Teams are scored on the content of their speech or questions, the professionalism of their presentation, and their sportsmanship by the judges.

This year, *debate* will be held virtually, and we will only debate one topic instead of two. It will most likely be a regular season with no semi-finals. Mrs. Tiedeman said, "I believe we will succeed in offering all participating districts an opportunity to remain actively involved in the process of debate. Our hope is for our current members to keep their skills active through this less-demanding year, and for new members to more easily learn the basics without the pressure of in-person competition. This will be the best opportunity to join and gain experience.

"Normally the debate team fundraises in order to support the transportation needs and other necessities for the group. "We held a fundraiser last year selling vouchers for Sal's Pizza in order to cover a portion of the cost for team jackets. Unfortunately, the fundraiser was still in progress when we closed due to the pandemic, so it wasn't quite as successful as we had hoped.



Debate Team from last year: (left to right) Camryn Torres, Cydney Krause, Nate Walters, Gabe Diaz, Emily Hewitt, Kayleen Martinez-Torres, Daniel Gonzalez, Owen Levan-Uhler, Brittney Diehl.

"We plan to hold another fundraiser this year for jackets and professional binders so our team will be ready to re-enter the in-person debates in style when physical distancing precautions are no longer necessary."

Recently, I asked Mrs. Tiedeman her

opinion on the recent presidential debates and how important it is to still have respectful conversations in the world in order to demonstrate different opinions. "When I watched the Presidential Debate, I was incredibly disappointed," she

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Diversity with the Dems: The Final Frontier



BY ALEX FEIFEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The United States has always been a country built on the idea of immigration. People from all across the world travel to be a part of this unique society. A majority of U.S. citizens are immigrants, but in the past, our country has shunned people who weren't their idea of the "perfect race."

We have had a morally wrong track record of racism, homophobia, and misogyny. Now we are taking major steps to become totally inclusive for all races, sexualities, genders, religions, etc. Many laws have been fought for and passed to hopefully ensure equality for all. The 2020 Democratic ticket was extremely refreshing at its start because it had more diversity than ever before.

The first openly LGBTQIA+ candidate, Pete Buttigieg (Mayor of South Bend Indiana), was fairly popular when the primaries first began. Before Buttigieg, one of the first openly gay politicians to be elected into public office was Harvey Milk, serving 11 months on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors before his assassination in 1978.

Four years before Milk, a woman named Kathy Kozachenko was elected

and went on to serve two years on Michigan's Ann Arbor City Council. Currently, there are nine "open" LGBTQIA+ members of the U.S. Congress.

While Buttigieg didn't make it to the election, he still conquered many obstacles in our patriarchy and took a huge step in the direction of sexuality acceptance and equality in the U.S.

There were five women on the Democratic ticket when the first main debates began. Two, including Kamala Harris and Marianne Williamson, withdrew before the Iowa caucuses but remained on ballots. Tulsi Gabbard, Elizabeth Warren, and Amy Klobuchar withdrew during primaries.

Women have fought very hard for their rights in politics. After the Women's Suffrage Movement, Congress passed the 19th amendment in 1920, which gave primarily white women the right to vote. Black women could not vote until 1965. In 2016, the U.S. had its first woman, Hillary Clinton, representing the Democratic Party for the President. To this day, women still fight for equal pay and gender equality for everyday citizens and politicians.

There were seven major POC (People

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MONUMENTAL MOMENTS IN HISTORY

October observes the birthday of the U.S. Navy

BY CALLUM BRYCE ZIMMERMAN
SLATE HISTORIAN

Navies are created from the spirit of independence and under the threat of war. They become mature by defending their country. This is the way it was with the first American Navy, which was established on Oct. 13, 1775, by the Continental Congress.

To understand the significance of establishing an official American Navy, we need to review the situation in which it was made and understand the political struggle behind it. Americans first took up arms in the spring of 1775, not to cut off their relationship with King George III, but to defend their rights within the British Empire. By autumn of 1775, the British North American colonies from Maine to Georgia were in open rebellion.

Royal governments had been thrust out of many colonial capitals and revolutionary governments established. The Continental Congress had assumed some of the responsibilities of a central government for the colonies, created a Continental Army, issued paper money to support the troops, and formed a committee to negotiate with foreign countries.

In Oct. 1775, the British held superiority at sea, from which they threatened to stop the colonies' trade and wreak destruction on seaside settlements. The American Colonies depended on the sea for their livelihood. All along the coast, harbors and shipbuilding docks provided work to many and income to thousands more. In response, a few of the states had commissioned small fleets of their own for defense of local waters.

Some in Congress worried about pushing the armed struggle too far, hoping that reconciliation with the mother country was still possible. Yet, a small group of men in Congress had been advocating a Continental Navy from the beginning of armed hostilities. They argued that a fleet would defend the sea-coast towns, protect vital trade, retaliate against British raiders, and make it possible to seek out neutral nations of the world the arms and stores that would make resistance possible.

Still, the establishment of a navy seemed too bold of a move for some of the timid men in Congress. Some southerners felt a fleet would not protect their interests. Others feared that a navy suggested sovereignty and independence, while others thought a navy a hasty and foolish challenge to the mightiest fleet the world had seen.

On Oct. 3, Rhode Island's delegates presented before Congress a bold resolution for the building and equipping of an American fleet, as soon as possible. When the motion came to the floor for debate, Samuel Chase, of Maryland, attacked it, saying it was "the maddest idea in the world to think of building an American Fleet."

Even pro-navy members found the



proposal too vague. Then on Oct. 5, Congress received intelligence of two English brigs, unarmed and without protection, heavy with munitions, leaving England bound for Quebec. Congress immediately appointed a committee to consider how to take advantage of this opportunity.

Its members were all New Englanders and all ardent supporters of a navy. They recommended that Congress let lie on the table until Oct. 13, when another fortuitous event occurred in favor of the naval movement.

A letter from General Washington was read in Congress in which he report-

ed that he had taken under his command, at Continental expense, three schooners to cruise off Massachusetts to intercept enemy supply ships. The Commander in Chief had preempted members of Congress reluctant to take the first step of fitting out warships under Continental authority.

The committee's proposal was finally adopted. The Continental Navy grew into an important force. Over the course of the War for Independence, the Continental Navy sent to sea more than 50 armed vessels of various types. The navy's squadrons and cruisers seized enemy supplies and carried correspondence and

diplomats to Europe, returning with needed munitions.

They took nearly 200 British vessels as prizes, some off the British Isles themselves, contributing to the demoralization of the enemy and forcing the British to divert warships to protect convoys and trade routes. In addition, the navy provoked diplomatic crises that helped bring France into the war against Great Britain.

The Continental Navy began the proud tradition carried on today by our United States Navy, and whose birthday we celebrate each year in October. 🐾

Our View

Less chaos, more connections transcend curriculum

Searching for the silver lining in all the COVID madness with schools turned upside-down has led us to a conclusion we hope sticks around long after the pandemic.

The learning experience has relaxed — hallway traffic is smoother, students are not rushing to classrooms, extra locker trips are all but gone, and, due to the hybrid scheduling, only half the smiling faces (that we can discern through masks) are present on a given day.

While this may seem like a downside, it has enabled a gentler vibe to the school day with less monotony amongst students and teachers, and

more solid connections formed in classrooms. The world has been shaken from its orbit since last March, and if we are truly to open up schools, not only must it be safe, but also for the right reasons. A return to normal is anything but imminent so if we take the time to breathe (safe air, of course), is that really a negative thing?

Students, especially at the high school level, always complain about an overwhelming feeling, which could be in the shape of graduation and the question marks that lay ahead. But this forced new vibe is possibly what the anxiety doctors

ordered — for adults as well.

A teacher's workload has certainly not lessened; in fact, with the addition of lesson recordings, screencasts, upped communication with all-virtual learners, and anything else that needs training, teachers have felt it as well.

The Wednesday "halftime" has been a lifesaver though. Catching up on grades, assignments, projects, planning, and prepping would be nearly impossible without that mid-week breather.

Granted, there are some who would benefit from four- or five-day weeks, but even they cannot argue

the benefits of a little more sleep and a lot more space to breathe. In a hurried world, we have come to feel like a more chilled learning community than Grand Central Station at rush hour.

After all, are the connections made between school community members and the students far greater to life-structuring than any cumulative exam and standardized test? Maybe we should discuss the validity of grades next? Perhaps another time.

Until then, breathe. (Safe air, of course). 🐾

Peeves that people seem to keep petting

BY AVERY DIAZ
SLATE COLUMNIST

Anger is a strong emotion. Once a situation calls for it, it consumes you. Rises within you. If not controlled, anger can ravage relationships and surroundings. But that's a bit extreme.

Sometimes, anger falls short and mere annoyance takes its place. In some cases, annoyance is understandable. In others, not so much. Why do we dwell on the small, insignificant aggravations? Everybody has pet peeves, ranging from arbitrary complaints, such as loud chewing, to exasperated indications of personality.

As a people-pleaser, taking an extra second to bring ease to others is satisfying. Of course, this manifests as a pet peeve and allows for contradictory frustration when others don't extend the same courtesy.

Take the number of grown adults who neglect to clean up after themselves or their children, for example. It's aggravating, but also downright sad. I'm certain that, at some point, everyone has witnessed an act of careless mess-making that compelled an uninvolved person to intervene and act as a personal maid.

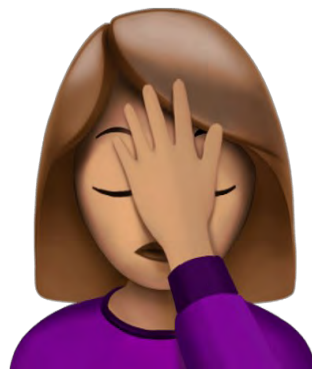
Some have made pressing eye contact as a stranger proceeded to drop greasy napkins onto the ground, a short distance

away from a convenient trash can.

Others have watched the visible conflict of a shopper who, ultimately, decided not to purchase the item they were holding. Thus, the item was left on a shelf, either nowhere or too-near where it belonged, leaving a borderline minimum-wage high-schooler with a path of destruction in the form of ill-placed frozen sausages or too-large sweaters.

Maybe they've even followed the gaze of a horrified waiter/ress in a restaurant to find a table similar in appearance to a murder scene? Perhaps those greasy napkins from earlier would be of good use to wipe up the inconceivable amount of French fries and ketchup left behind on every possible surface. Some employees may be paid to wipe down tables, but it's a restaurant, not a deep-cleaning janitorial service. Why create extra work for others when it only takes a few seconds to do some cleaning yourself?

Continuing off annoyances relating to actions imposing unnecessary difficulty on others, note that the world is full of valuable information in all forms. However, the world is not nearly as full of



people who listen to it.

The amount of people who don't read the packaging or directions on products, only to complain and ask 50 million questions when they don't know how something works, is extremely irritating. Even worse, some people flock to the internet with a "shocking revelation" once the product is figured out. Despite what the dramatics may suggest, noticing how much toothpaste you're supposed to use or that there's a fill line on a packet of oatmeal is not tantamount to discovering a cure for cancer. If only that were as easy as looking at the side of a box.

What about the people that seem to believe that signs and rules do not apply to them? Handwashing is not a suggestion. Something tells me that the man parked in the "expectant mothers" parking spot's ultrasound results are inconclusive. I'm sure you get the point... For the sanity of others, society's comprehension and listening skills could use some work.

Are pet peeves often particular to individuals and not always as logically-founded to others? Yes. But if everyone took the time to respect others' frustra-

tions and reflect on them, the world would be a better place.

In this case, ease can be brought to others by taking a few seconds to consider the impact actions, or lack thereof, have on the people around you that are, ultimately, burdened by society's widespread apathy. You never know what someone else may be going through, so why add the stress of responsibility for other people's inattentiveness to their lives?

No one wants to be the brunt of others' laziness. The reason people continue to create these problems, just because they aren't the ones dealing with the effects, is beyond me.

Even if it's as simple as walking an extra two feet to the proper spot on a shelf, looking for answers before asking stupid questions, or respecting the expectations put into place for public function, the smallest things can make a difference. If you can't do big things for society, the little things for others are often all it takes to be a better person.

And as for the people who still make things difficult for others and are unwilling to change for the better, in the words of a wise regional manager of a well-known paper company: "Why are you the way that you are?" 🐾



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Who I am is not a choice, Mrs. Barrett

The anti-discriminatory era that seems to consume our nation is on its way to a close, especially considering the people who are currently leading America the not-so-beautiful

BY BRITTNEY DIEHL
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

At her Senate confirmation hearing on Oct. 13, Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett utilized a term that was put upon a high shelf, never to be reached again. “Sexual preference,” a term meant to invalidate members of the LGBTQIA+ community, was used by Barrett to refer to an individual’s *sexual orientation* — a more politically and socially correct term.

was illegal in Indiana, according to a *New York Times* article.

Some may believe the use of “sexual preference” was nothing in the scheme of things — it is a phrase and words may hurt mentally, however, physically, their damage is nonexistent. Even though, the significance of such a use was the invalidation that is seated firmly behind the term. It means that whomever someone loves is their *choice*, when it is the exact opposite.

Barrett knew what she was saying; she

themselves into their efforts to be treated equally to those not a part of the community. Prejudice has run rampant for years and the seemingly minuscule victories made in the past five years are being ripped from our cold, and almost dead, hands.

Years upon years have passed and one small step has been taken forward only to have a mountain pushed in front of weary souls. This huge step backward can only be held accountable by the people — or rather, man — in office, current

attacks against these people simply asking for equality, yet here we still stand — strong.

The future of American LGBTQIA+ lives is being jeopardized and every single voice must be heard. This is a battle cry — not only from those being attacked but also the supporters who are rallying as well. An internal war against people has started, whether citizens would like to see it or not. There is absolutely no way that everyone will just sit back and watch their freedoms be taken away. Life,



Aside from this, Barrett also refused to disclose whether or not she agreed with the monumental Supreme Court ruling in 2015 that made same-sex marriage a constitutional right. To add to the already seemingly heaping pile, Barrett said she had “never discriminated on the basis of sexual preference,” when the exact opposite had taken place.

The Supreme Court nominee was on the board of an Indiana private school that stopped students’ entry when they were the children of unmarried couples. This occurred when same-sex marriage

had every intention of making such a hard dig in that Tuesday hearing. And, even if she truly did not know what she was saying, the mistake she made should also be held in the same negative regard. How could our country’s government allow for someone to be a nominee for an institution as legendary as the Supreme Court be so, for lack of a more eloquent word, *uneducated*?

Sexuality is not a choice — it is not a preference. Plain and simple. People of the LGBTQIA+ community had to grit out blood, sweat, tears, and a piece of

President Donald J. Trump.

Many take the stance that President Trump is for LGBTQIA+ community members, yet holding up a rainbow pride flag once does not make someone a true ally.

Due to the Trump Administration, countless anti-LGBTQIA+ bills and notions have been held and almost passed. Whether it is a trans person’s rights, the right for same-sex couples to adopt, and now, the right to marry, the current administration is stealing the community’s human rights. There have been numerous

liberty, and the pursuit of happiness — where is it?

Despite the anger that is generated from this attack upon those of the LGBTQIA+ community, what is done is done — what Amy Coney Barrett said cannot be taken back. However, this *can* be remedied, it just leaves the question of whether or not our country — and its current administration — is willing to live up to the mistake and, ultimately, fix it. Normal lives are all *we* are asking, begging, and on our bare knees for. 🐾

Two generations of teachers tackle the PSSA's

BY MADDY MACK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

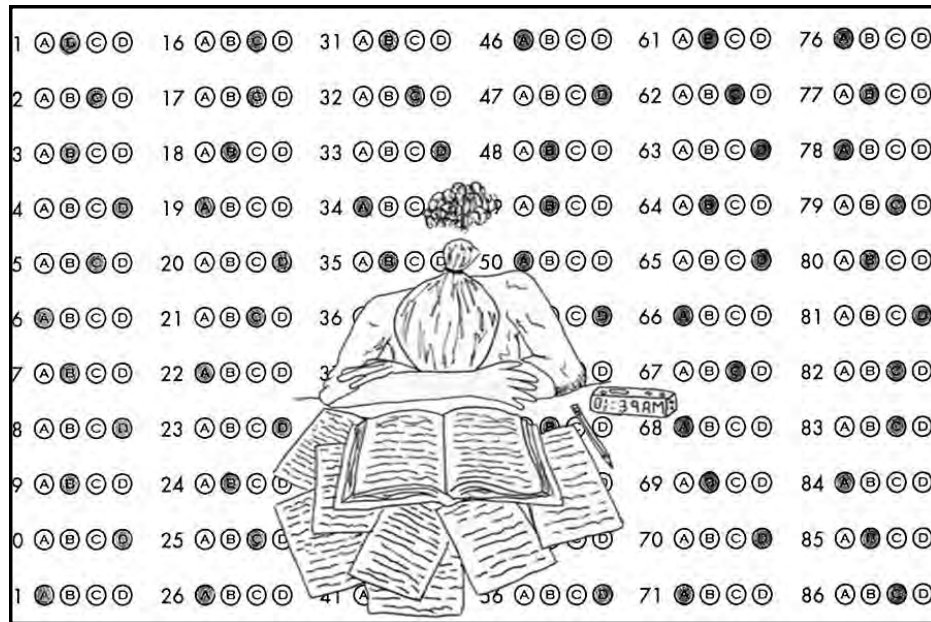
Since 1992, Pennsylvania students from third to eighth grade have had to sit at their school desks for hours, with no disturbances, filling in letter bubbles on a test booklet. Understandably, a majority of students dislike these tests. The disdain for them turns into despise for school itself.

Mr. Ralph Williams, a teacher from 1972 until 2011, spent half of his career teaching before the PSSA's came around. During that time, he taught at Roosevelt Elementary School in Slatington, Walnutport Elementary School, Peters Elementary School, and Slatington Elementary School.

While he taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, Mr. Williams only administered the PSSA's in fifth grade. As for the students, Williams says that before the tests came about, students enjoyed coming to school.

It was more fun when they didn't have to worry about the standardized testing.

What many people do not realize is that it is even more stressful on the teach-



ers than it is on the students. Since no one knows what is going to be on the test each year, teachers constantly need to be sure they taught anything that could potentially be tested.

The original goal of the PSSA's was to see where students, as a grade, could improve. Williams thinks they still have the same goal, but that doesn't mean students should be taking the same test re-

peatedly. "I think they should be analyzed and changed to better suit the needs of a changing educational system because the education system is always changing," he said. "They should be looked at on a regular basis to see if they are still meeting the needs of our educational system."

While Mr. Williams only gave the tests for half of his career, Mrs. Jessica Mack, a teacher since 2000 at Blue

Mountain Elementary East, has been around the tests her entire career, consisting of teaching grades K-5. Mack has administered the PSSA's since 2011, and has seen firsthand the impact these tests have on the students.

When she taught K-2, Mack says she was able to do crafts and other fun activities with her students, but that becomes very hard to do in fourth and fifth grade because time cannot be taken away from academics. Not only does this hinder the creative mind, it also means students are not getting as well-rounded of an education.

Mack says that many subjects, including social studies/ history and specialty areas like art and gym, are pushed to the side because they are not tested. In some schools, technology is considered a *special* subject, and could have experienced a decrease in time allowance per week. In our world today, technology is playing a very crucial role in school and virtual learning during the pandemic.

Without the technology courses, some students may not know how to operate their devices or certain learning

See PSSA's, page 9

Student debates maintain integrity with differing opinions

Debate team, from page 4

said. "Such behavior wouldn't be tolerated in a debate for students. I am proud to have a team that respects civil arguments and factually supports positions on controversial issues. Respecting the time limits of the debate not only demonstrates an awareness of the rules but an understanding that the time of others is just as valuable as your own.

"While I have witnessed debate team members become emotional while presenting their speech or responding to questions, I am proud of how they demonstrate restraint in order to convey their message rather than feelings. In this way, the judge and the audience are able to hear both sides and form their own

opinions. Due to the nature of *debate*, all participants must be equally prepared to argue the affirmative and negative, regardless of opinion. This forces students to explore perspectives other than their own and it often leads to a much broader understanding of the topic, making it easier to discuss otherwise heated issues calmly and seek a resolution rather than fuel divides."

The team is composed of mature students who are able to prioritize their responsibilities as a team member. From personal experience, *debate* was a bit frightening at first. Not because of the people, but because I was afraid of public speaking. My teammates made me feel comfortable. I ended up learning a lot about different skills and how to re-

search.

After asking a few people from the team last year their opinions of debate, there were many positive reviews. The co-president of the 2019-2020 school year and the president of debate for the 2020-2021, Owen Levan-Uhler stated, "I feel that *debate* is a fun organization that also helps to develop certain skills like speaking and writing. Debate can help you build confidence in your abilities. Meeting people from different schools is also a benefit."

Daniel Gonzalez, the other co-president of the 2019-2020 school year had said, "It definitely provides a unique experience."

"If you have the desire to join the team and the interest in improving your

skills, you are welcome to join. I've had students go from having terrible fears of public speaking to earning 8/8 points. It's all in the effort you put in," said Mrs. Tiedeman.

Overall, the Northern Lehigh Debate Team is for hard workers that love a good challenge. Students may undergo some hardships but will have an enjoyable time doing so.

There is no need to feel pressured if you are willing to work with others and try to the best of your ability. The Debate Team looks forward to having new members join.

For more information, contact ktiedeman@nlsd.org. 🐾

Democratic ticket showed progress with much diversity

Diversity, from page 4

of Color) candidates, though a few dropped out before primaries. During the primaries, these candidates included: Harris, a South Asian and African American Senator from California; Andrew Yang, an Asian American businessman from New York; Deval Patrick, an African American civil rights lawyer and Governor of Massachusetts; and Gabbard, an Asian Pacific Islander from American Samoa and member of the Hawaii House of Representatives.

Racial diversity has never been easy. Until 1870, Blacks were denied suffrage

and citizenship. In some states, free Black men were able to vote but they only made up 15% of the nation's Black population. After the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Black Americans were allowed to vote. Fast-forward to today, our former president and the first Black American (or any person of color) to hold presidential office, Barack Obama, served two terms from 2008-2016.

Asian Americans have been hit hard as well. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 attempted to exclude all Chinese immigrants from becoming citizens or from voting. While these laws were quickly evaded, the act wasn't repealed

until 1943. As for Asian Pacific Islanders, American Samoa still lacks full voting rights, even though they are considered American citizens. We still have work to do in order to abolish the racist undertones and teachings in our country in hopes of becoming a more racially diverse government.

Unfortunately, the time for diversity in the Oval Office is not now, since the Democratic candidate is Joe Biden, former vice president under the Obama administration. While many may disagree with this decision, he has taken many steps to incorporate diversity in his cabinet, announcing Harris as his running

mate. If Biden wins the upcoming election, Harris will be the first African American and first South Asian American woman to become the VP.

This election has been a great stepping stone for a future first female president, first Asian American president, first Lantinx president, first Native American president, etc.

Opportunity for all is something many Americans fight for every day. Hopefully one day we won't talk about a possible "first" woman president, it will just be the "next." 🐾

Battling our own worst mental enemy

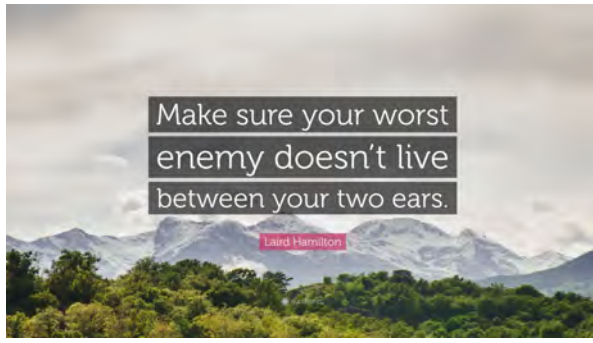
BY BREANNA HOPPE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the trepidation transpires, one thing becomes transparent. The mind is one's worst enemy. The mind and its thought process are a never-ending cycle. The brain is incredibly beautiful, yet can be entirely detrimental.

In a split second, our minds can entirely change course, causing a growing terror. Anxiety is a looming cloud filled with rain, silently strengthening and waiting to annihilate. Are humans ever truly secure in their own mind-space or is there an eternal longing for something more? Does the overwhelming discontent ever lessen?

For some, there never seems to be a calm before the storm. Personally, there's never a sense of tranquility. From one thing to another, my mind is constantly flooded with uncertainty and unanswered questions. Oftentimes, these are trivial thoughts racing around a never-ending track. What is it about mental power that makes its strength seem insurmountable?

It's like an inescapable prison, and the



relentless and formidable thoughts are incarcerated, with little to no escape. Exploring the depths of the mind and its process is nearly impossible. Our thoughts are an infinite stream, constantly running through the brain.

In the worst of situations, the mind continues to influence negative and draining thoughts, advocating us to *over-feel*. Overthinking and overanalyzing leads to feeling every single emotion. The brain does not have a switch on it, which can be detrimental and wonderfully powerful.

Regardless of the horrible things our mind allows us to think and feel, there's beauty in countless things as well. Without the capabilities of the brain, we

would never be able to truly experience what life withholds. If humans never over-thought and rarely ever experienced trepidation and stress, there would be little to no meaning in all of life's beautiful moments.

Not only is the mind our worst enemy, but it can also serve a role as our greatest enemy. The strength of our mind is something that only we have the ability to control. Although certain situations can inflict overwhelming thoughts and a series of overthinking, it is only we who have the ability to ease the mind.

Detaching is crucial in the steps it takes to truly put the mind at ease. As difficult as detachment may be, holding a firm grip on a situation and the thoughts it has caused will lead to despair and devastation. As humans, we must train the brain to feel only what we want it to feel.

When people feel as though they are well and content, are they? Perfection is an impossible thing to successfully achieve and there always seems to be a

void regardless of all the good in life. Humans constantly strive for perfection and when it's not achieved immediately, the brain drives our minds to a dark and dreary place of dismay.

Coping with anxiety is no simple task. It's similar to a nightmare, yet you never awake from it. From one thing to another, anxiety follows like a looming shadow in the night. Allow yourself to feel, but avoid getting tangled in the psychological yarn of anxious thoughts.

Normalize slowing down. Life is not meant to travel at light speed, its moments are meant to be savored. The mind is an enigma, but it is able to be conquered. Make the mind your greatest enemy.

Allow it to control your daily actions without truly overpowering you. Focus on finding the calm before the storm and when you discover this, hold on to it until the winds come howling through once again. The cycle of the mind will never take a rest but only we have the power to dominate it or allow it to conquer us. 🐾

Instagram without the ❤️ leaves more loving results

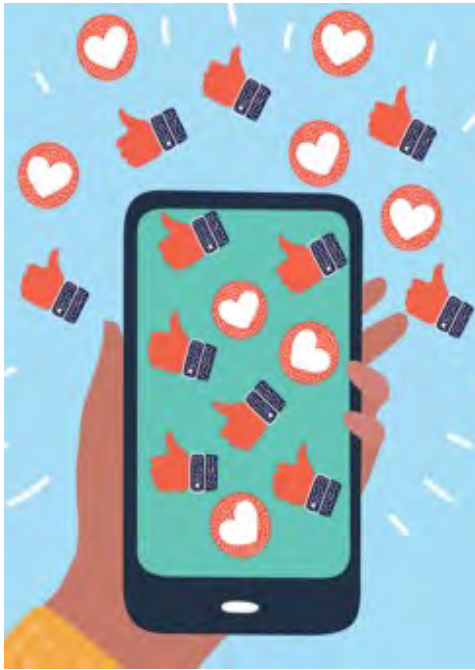
BY BREANNA HOPPE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The simple click of a button can often provide a strong sense of security. Glamorized photos and several "likes" shy away from the devastating truth behind social media.

A simple number can entirely change a person's willingness to post online.

For many people, posting had been enjoyable and a way to publicly present their everyday lives. Over time, a stigma has developed regarding the importance of receiving a certain number of likes and comments. There are many times where, if a certain number is not reached, people will simply delete a post to lessen anxiety.

Social media alone is enough to entirely diminish a person's self esteem. The



Visual Supply Company, also known as VSCO, has provided its users with a major sense of comfort. This app does not provide users with the ability to like or comment on posts, but there's the ability to republish and *favorite* images.

Although republishing and favoriting sounds quite similar in a sense, there's a major difference. VSCO does not allow other users to see the number of republishes and favorites another user receives. The privacy on this app is much more comforting compared to the publicity on apps such as Instagram and Facebook.

If all social media platforms were to shift to a like- and comment-free environment, how often would someone still post? The better question is, would posting be more comfortable?

The true purpose behind social media is a place for people to embrace them-

selves. Instead, posting seems to have become a task. Posting a photo because of its meaning is what should happen, yet some people post just for reactions from others.

Regardless of a specific number of likes, publicly embracing yourself and life's best moments should be the most important part of having social media. In time, pride will not be taken in having 350 likes to show for versus 35.

The truth behind likes is that entirely ridding social media of them would be the most beneficial to everyone from a psychological standpoint.

Life comes down to enjoying the best moments and comfortably living our own lives without relying on a number for satisfaction. 🐾

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PSSA's from different perspectives

PSSA's, from page 8

tools correctly, which creates obstacles in learning the curriculum. Even though Mr. Williams retired in 2011, he was there when computers were introduced. He can even recall teaching the students how to turn the computers on. "Our educational system today is geared a lot more toward technology than years ago, and it is a good thing because the world today revolves around technology," he said.

Last year, the PSSA's were abruptly cancelled because of school closures due to the global shutdown. "It shows that even if the tests are cancelled, learning still happens and

school still goes on. If they can be taken away that quickly, then it shows that they shouldn't be as important as people make them out to be," Mrs. Mack said. The tests cause many students unnecessary anxiety and stress, even though they do not really matter, as some may preach.

The original idea of the tests was to see how much and how well students were learning. Today, as Mr. Williams and Mrs. Mack can agree, there is so much more tied into learning than before.

Hopefully, society can see the negative effects these tests can have on students and how they can make school enjoyable again. 🐾

BULLDOGS CELEBRATE SENIOR NIGHT



DeSean Smith and family.



Josh Schaffer and family.



Jason Hunter and family.



Mike Repsher and family.



Evan Zambo and family.



Joey Abidelli and family.



Chase and Brett Misera, with Mom Misera.

Photos courtesy of Mr. Bryan Geist

Final Buzzer: Hockey season shut out

BY ALEXIS TRAUGHER
SPORTS WRITER

Your heart catches every other beat, breath held with every ticking second. You snatch onto the closest seat, hard, making your knuckles turn white. Everyone in the arena yearns for the familiar and welcoming horn, signaling their team's victory.

With just a minute left in the game, and the home team ahead by only one goal, it seems like the longest minute in history. Finally, the sound washes over everyone and they all scream with a sense of joy. Little did they know that was the last normal hockey game of the season.

As of March 2020, the sports scene had been completely shut down. Starting in July, the NHL had devised a multi-staged plan to bring hockey back. Within this plan there are four phases. Phase one consists of the final plan on how to move forward. This phase includes the restriction for medical staff and players. Following that stage, training at home facilities and training in general can occur. During stage three, small group prac-



tices can begin. Within these practices, only five to eight players are allowed together at once -- a goalie is normally always present. Every player that is going to participate in the smaller practices and playoffs, has to be tested for COVID-19. Following the results, as long as it is negative, playing may begin.

After stage four, games may continue, but only under strict limitations and rules.

These strict limitations and rules are as follows. Every player and staff member has to wear a mask. During games, only health care professionals have to wear masks, but prior to the game, players have to wear them. Each division has to stay within a specific hub city and the premises that surrounds it. Every member with each team has to stay in that area, hotel, and arena.

Media must be addressed, meaning

players and coaches have to do press conferences even if they are modified, and an announcer has to be either present or watching the game virtually to commentate the game. If a player is injured or ill, the league does not have to announce what the issue is, they only have to place the player "unfit to play."

Practices can only consist of five to eight players until the final phase, when

See NHL, page 13

BULLDOGS CELEBRATE SENIOR NIGHT



Maggie Reitz and family.



Brianna Kuhns and family.



Ashley Torrens and family.



Trent Herman and family.

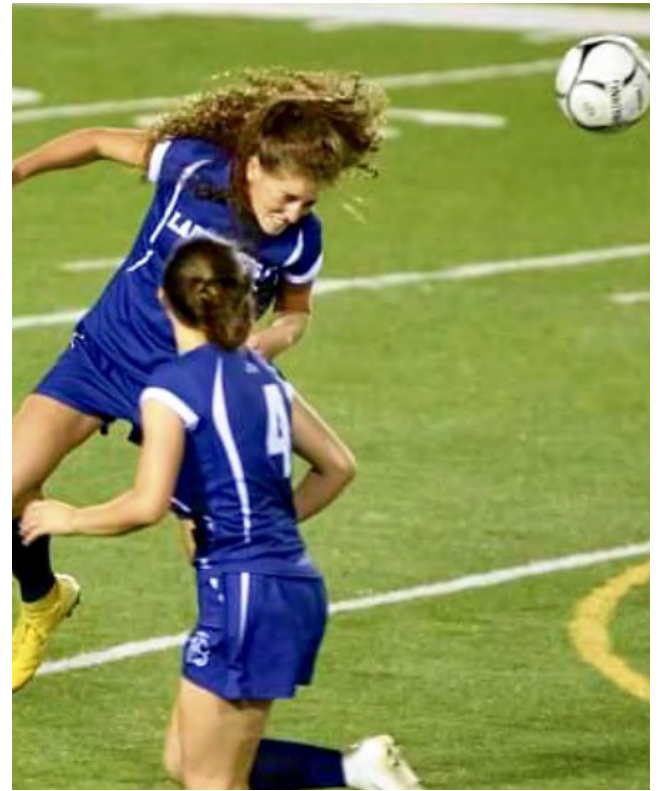


Claudia Cozzi and family.



Dale and Evan German and family.

Kickin' the furthest in school history (so far)



Photos courtesy of Mr. Rob Kirk
As of press time, the girls soccer were planning to dominate a District playoff game. (We wish them all the best, retroactively).



Fall sports are most of the way through their toughest season of all. Girls soccer (4-3-2) had its senior night on Oct. 13, were victorious, and are on their way to Districts! They have nine seniors graduating. Boys soccer had a tough season again this year but won their last game against Palmerton! They have 10 seniors graduating. Field hockey won during senior night and is currently 1-9. They have three more games in the season and have three seniors graduating. This season has been the toughest on the athletes with all the COVID-19 worries and limitations. Thankfully, everyone got to have a season and no one was cut short like in spring. — Kendall Heiney

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How much veracity truly lives in historical facts?



BY GIANA ROSARIO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout our years in school, we learn many things about the past. Some of those things we are educated on aren't true.

People try to change history so when we learn about it, it doesn't seem as bad. We are told things and believe they are correct without having all the pieces. Even the people who are teaching us may not know the truth.

One common example is that Christopher Columbus was the first person to discover the earth was round, but Historyonthenet.com contradicted this. In the article, it explains he was not the first person to discover this. In fact, around 2000 years before, the Greeks had already proven this philosophy. Plus, there were already people living here.

It is not our fault that we believe these things, but we must educate ourselves. It can be hard to understand right and wrong since we are taught from a young age to believe it. We are all familiar with Rosa Parks and her brave protest, but I recently learned she was not the first candidate considered to carry it out.

As the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) said, nine months before a 15-year-old by the name of Claudette Colvin did the same

thing. People believed Ms. Parks was a better example for this protest. That's why she was posed as

the person who started the rebellion.

Another famous misconception of Columbus was of him "founding America." In fact, he never went to North America. It was already populated by Native Americans. Considering this, I am not sure why history books say otherwise.

Disney is one of the most well-known companies in the world. From their amusement parks to their classic movies we watched growing up, everyone knows about them. They have made hundreds of characters but the most famous and loved is the original Mickey Mouse. According to Pennsylvania State University, Walt Disney was not the person who drew the sketches for this character, though it was his idea.

A simple Google search will debunk and expand upon many common things we blindly believed. Whether it is significant or not, we must go further than a textbook for the truth on a given subject. Even though we are left out on major details about the past, history is important. We need the past to avoid similar mistakes in the future. This year 2020 will definitely make its way into history books.

This global pandemic has caused people to lose their homes, jobs, and even sadly their family members due to the virus. Documenting this pandemic will benefit our future. Learning about tragedies such as the Great Depression or past wars prevents them from occurring again. 🐾

Hockey season frozen, then thawed

NHL, from page 11

practices can have high intensity and the whole team. Finally, neither families nor friends, as well as other audience members, may attend games.

Let's dig deeper. A hub city is the location where the western and eastern conferences can stay and play. The two hub cities are in Edmonton, Canada (western) — Rogers Stadium — and in Toronto, Canada (eastern) — Scotiabank Arena. Within these locations, there is a hotel and an arena. The players can only stay in their assigned rooms and go to the arena. Masks are required for everyone that is walking around publicly. These locations are often referred to as the "bubble" by NHL officials and journalists. The "bubbles" are held to only players and staff. The only ways they can leave is to opt out of the playoffs or to get disqualified.

Let's discuss the media. The NHL requires that there are two players interviewed in a conference and one coach separately. The players and coaches have to sit and either answer or completely ignore the questions until they are

done. Normally, there are about six to eight questions per interview. If a player or coach leaves in the middle of a conference, they can be fined up to \$25,000. This happened to the Columbus Blue Jackets coach, John Tortorella, during the 2020 playoffs.

No one is allowed to attend games unless they are scratched players -- players that are either a healthy scratch, not needed, injured, or ill. Within the arena, the seats are covered by a tarp, or elastic material. In between benches and in the upper deck boxes, commentators announce the game play for play, and health care professionals are moving around locker rooms and benches assisting players.

Obviously, everyone in the hockey community does not know how the future seasons will play out. Will there be spectators? Will there still be hub cities? The answers are still unclear. All we know is that the NHL and NHLPA are aiming for the 2020-21 season to begin around Jan. 1, as of Oct. 6, 2020. COVID-19 did not stop hockey from coming back even as strange as it was. 🐾

Bulldogs Representin' on the Board



Aidán Williams and Paige Craddock are serving as this year's student representatives for the Northern Lehigh School Board. The two attend each (virtual) board meeting and report on Bulldog news and events.

NL Homecoming 2020

Photo insert: Kristen Guelcher, Natalie Keller, Julia Wanamaker (Homecoming Queen), and Emily Hunsicker. (Group shot): Natalie Keller, Grant Olewine, Ashley Torrens, Evan Zambo, Alexia Markos, Caleb Hanke, Julia Wanamaker, Brendan Smay, Emily Hunsicker, Ryan Hammond, Chuck Wilk, Joey Abidelli (Homecoming King) and Breanna Hoppes.



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Through My Lens

By Brooke Bower



Falling from senior year, blooming into life

Being a senior can be scary. After high school, we have a whole new chapter of our lives ahead of us, whether it's going to college or right into the work field. We remember being kids just thinking these days would never come and we thought it would take forever to get to this moment. Now it's here.

We are stuck reminiscing on our old memories in elementary school — running around on the playground, having playdates with our friends. We want to hold on to these thoughts and never let go of them as we become young adults. We don't want to forget the people who stayed by our sides or even the people we lost. They all turned us into who we are. Just as a leaf falling and blooming a new one, it's a new beginning. Graduation will be the last time we see some of the people that we grew up with. We will only have pictures on social media. All of us are in this small town, but after our caps are thrown in the air, we



may not all be here anymore. Some of us will be in different states pursuing our dreams. Just as a tree never stops growing, we're going to keep changing as people. We can all think this door in our lives is coming to a close, but really it's opening a whole new world that we might not be ready for. 🐾

GOT BLOOD?



NLHS Student Council members Brittney Diehl, Kamryn Fink, and Aidan Williams recently helped Keystone-Miller Blood Center with taking donations from the community.



Golden Hearts help during health crisis



After a rough summer, to keep herself from going madly insane, Northern Lehigh High School library assistant Mrs. Lisa Martinez crocheted hundreds of ear savers and donated them to nursing homes, handed them out to the employees at Dunkin Donuts, Giant, a gas station in Friedens, and to friends and family.

"My Nana taught me to crochet when I was 8 years old," Mrs. Martinez said. "For me it's a very relaxing hobby. There are many patterns I try, and wish I could share them with my Nana and mother-in-law. When I try these new patterns, I end up with something that I give away."

"My family thinks that's crazy and I should charge for my talents. However, I've found that until you double your supply price and tack on for your time, most folks are no longer interested in your handmade item and much rather spend their money on a named brand

item that is overpriced and won't last as long as mine."

Mrs. Martinez is part of a group of ladies called the Golden Hearts, which crochets lap throws, shawls, chemo caps, hat/scarf sets, and loveys. They are donated to nursing homes, shelters, police/ambulance organizations, hospitals, and shut-ins.

Northern Lehigh aide Mrs. Elizabeth Trantham helped teach the crochet class that started at NL," Mrs. Martinez said. "She and I enjoyed teaching non-crocheters to crochet. One of the ladies actually wrote out her own graph pattern to make a blanket for her daughter."

"Also, back in 2014, I taught crochet here in the library when John Hrizuk started the community classes. I had 12 ladies once that would come to learn to crochet. We then moved our class to the Lutheran Church on 2nd street. However, that has ended."



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STRANGE TIMES AT NL

BY CHASE JONES

