



The Wildcat Crier



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All in for Team Lukes

by Trevor Ulichnie

Logan’s elementary gym teacher Mrs. Lukes was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer before the beginning of the school year. Without knowing what to expect for the future, East Allegheny staff members pondered on how to help out Mrs. Lukes and her family during this extremely difficult time.

Mrs. Badali, one of the high school gym teachers, helped form Team Lukes to fundraise for her. Between the high school and elementary school, students and staff have raised \$5,000. They accomplished this by hosting dress down days, selling candy grams, and making Team Lukes wristbands for students.

The National Honor Society also held a school wide Penny War which raised nearly \$700. The winners of the Penny War, the junior class, earned themselves a free jean dress down day. Students from other grades may also dress down if they donate \$1. Two-thirds of the proceeds from the NHS fundraiser will go to Mrs. Lukes and one-third will go to Children’s Hospital.

The local indoor soccer tournament, Basher Boards, was held at the high school gym, and the EA boys’ soccer team got to fundraise as well. While trying to think of a team name in a group chat, the boys decided to dedicate the tournament to Mrs. Lukes. The team’s logo was designed by the Hallick brothers and unanimously agreed upon. The boys went undefeated in the tournament by defeating Derry, McKeesport, West Mifflin, and Serra Catholic in the finals.

Teammate Michael McAnalley said “she was definitely our motivation to win.”

Martell Stewart agreed with McAnalley’s statement. “Yes, we were doing it for her,” he said, “win or lose. We were playing for Mrs. Lukes.”



This year, the boy’s local indoor tournament had a greater goal than just medals and glory. Photo courtesy of Martell Stewart.



Team Lukes raised over \$1,000 during their annual Basher Bowl with help of local students. The girls’ soccer team joined from the stands to cheer them on every step of the way!

Photo courtesy of Martell Stewart.

After the tournament was over, they sold Team Lukes team shirts and raised over \$1,000!

Martell Stewart had Mrs. Lukes in eighth grade said “she was really nice [and] always [helped] out with the kids.”

Mrs. Lukes certainly had a positive impact on her students’ lives. Fundraising was a way for students to give back to her. The students of East Allegheny wish her all the best in her recovery and will continue to keep the Lukes family in their thoughts.

Seniors Share School Suggestions

by Madi Jarnot

College Signing Day is May 4th, and every senior is ready to hear their name echoed through the auditorium while they walk on stage. Before the spring, seniors spend months applying to, emailing, and playing phone tag with the schools of their dreams. After all of that, seniors have to choose which school they're going to give thousands of dollars to. Deciding on a school can be confusing, but a few seniors have offered their experiences to help some underclassmen out for the years to come.

A postsecondary education is important for everyone, because it keeps students from "being limited by poverty," as senior Cameron Flodine said. Community college is a perfect choice for seniors who want to earn college credit while saving money. Cameron decided upon the Community College of Allegheny County's Boyce campus to have less debt and live near home.

"Even if you will go to community [college]," Cameron recommends to "start now. Try to get high SAT scores and grades to keep potential options open."

Other students may be entering a field which requires a four-year undergraduate degree. For example, Lillianna Duff has a "passion for math" and is attending the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg for Applied Mathematics. Without a degree, Lillianna would likely be unable to get a job in the math field.

Lillianna also opted to attend the University of Pittsburgh's Greensburg branch campus instead of its main campus in Oakland. Many schools offer options to attend branch campuses, which are smaller and less expensive. For her, UPG's size, price, and suburban surroundings were the deciding factors. Lillianna wants juniors to know not to "pick a college because it sounds cool or seems prestigious," but to "do what works."

Another good way of saving money is to opt for living off-campus. Many students choose to commute to local schools instead of living in a dorm, which can save thousands of dollars. Heather Wright will be commuting to Shadyside next year to attend Chatham University for pre-medical studies. Once she's saved money commuting her first year, Heather plans on living on campus her sophomore year.

When deciding where to go, "take your time," said Heather. "You need to feel right in the community and place you're going."

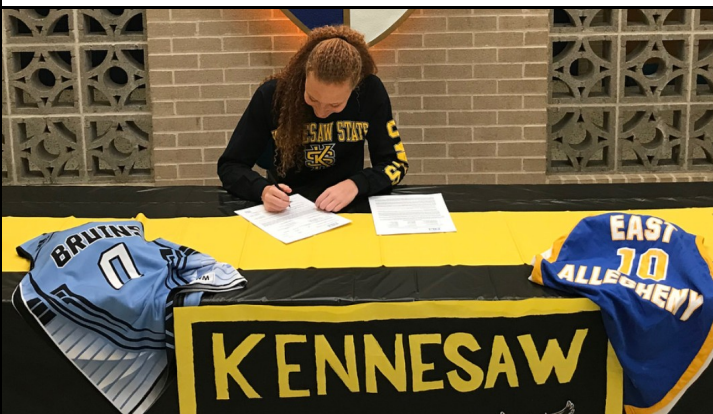
Students also have the option of attending private universities or state universities. Jessica Stevenson is attending Saint Vincent College, which is a private, Catholic college. Although private schools can be more expensive, Saint Vincent was the best choice for Jessica. It has smaller classes, keeps her close to her Catholic faith, and is a perfect distance from home.

"Whether it's college or trade school, it's important to make sure you're more marketable in the job world," said Jessica. "I'm going [to college] to further my education and find where my best career path will be."

Best friends Malik Jones and Connor Keiffer chose to dorm together at the state school Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). State schools are less expensive and can have larger student populations, which they were looking for. They also wanted a school that had a high career placement rate and offered their majors.



Katie Peddicord is officially a Chatham Cougar! She decided upon Chatham University for Pre-Med studies. Photo courtesy of Katie Peddicord.



Amani Johnson accepted a full-tuition scholarship from Kennesaw State University earlier this year. She was extended the offer to play Division I Basketball on their collegiate team.

Connor thinks underclassmen should try to "pick your major before you pick your college. I researched [IUP's] department of communications, which was filled with accolades." Knowing what he wanted from his school helped Connor make his decision.

Malik, who is studying Accounting, thinks students should "go somewhere that best fits you and not where your friends are going." Although he was lucky enough to dorm with his best friend, choosing a solid career path and school came first.

Even after all the stresses of choosing a school, College Signing Day stands as a reminder to seniors and underclassmen alike that many things are possible.

Senior Christian Dutrow looks forward to College Signing Day because "it reminds" him "of what's to come. Although initially overwhelming, confusing, and expensive, an education is something everyone can obtain to change their lives forever.

The Freshest Freshmen

**COO-COO
For Rubik's Cubes**



by Haley D. Novak

Right, left, up, and down. Fingers gracefully make their strategic movements. Making sure each color is perfectly coordinated and placed. Turning and turning until, BAM! In 20.29 seconds, the Rubik's Cube is solved with ease. This isn't some story about this genius kid living in another world. Freshmen Trent Cornell (aka T.J.) is like any other student of East Allegheny... except he can solve something in 20.29 seconds that most people could barely solve in a month.

T.J.'s passion for Rubik's Cubes began when he was casually watching YouTube videos and stumbled across videos of people solving them quickly. He was scrambling and messing around with his neighbor's cube when he felt the urge to "fix" it. Ever since then, he has been intrigued with the way the cubes turn and the wide variety of shapes they come in. Now, he owns close to 100 cubes!

Studies have shown that solving a Rubik's Cube will help to improve your problem solving skills. Along with that, it will also help with hand-eye coordination and patience. This answers the question of: Do Rubik's Cubes make you smarter? According to some studies, yes. Studies conclude that solving the cubes will sharpen the mind and prepare people to solve challenges.

Some teachers in the school would agree that there is a correlation between the two. While English teacher, Mrs. Gaskell only had an interest in the cubes for about a week in the 1980s, she still believes in the connection of intelligence and Rubik's Cube ability. She says that "there has to be a part of the brain that gets exercise every time you have to think to solve the cube."

However, geometry teacher, Mr. See believes that there is hardly a correlation, if any at all. He says that solving the cubes relates more to "spatial geometry and pattern analysis," and that if anyone does anything enough, that person will get good at it. Ironically enough, Mr. See is a big fan of brain puzzles. As for Rubik's Cubes, See says he wasn't much of a "sticker peeler" and more of a "bust them open" kind of guy.

T.J. himself believes that a person needs to have a certain level of intelligence, but not that much. He says that solving the cubes is more about memorizing algorithms than actual intelligence, but for T.J., solving Rubik's cubes made him feel smarter and gave him a "big boost of confidence." According to T.J., the Rubik's Cube has inspired him to think innovatively when solving any puzzle in life.

Young YouTuber Shares Humor

by Haley D. Novak and Riley Nedz



Everybody has something that they do for fun. For Bryce Schmeltz, that's making videos for his YouTube channel. When he first clicked upload on his iPad, he would've never imagined that it would become so big for him. He was just a kid around the age of 10 without a single fear of judgment crossing his head. It was fun for him, and he quickly became enthralled into the life of being a content creator.

Bryce is a very unique and creative person. His talent was recently displayed in his performance as one of the lead storytellers in *Once On This Island*. He described his experience as "amazing" and said that everyone was kind to him. Since musical is now over, Bryce will have more time to focus on creating his content. This will be extremely helpful, considering it can take up to five hours of filming and editing before uploading a video.

Bryce's most viewed video, titled "I'm so bored," has 1.3k views! This video was released 2014, and he was just around 10 years old. In that video, Bryce walks around his house looking for something to do. Bryce has a subscriber count of about 130 which is a fairly good amount for a beginner in the YouTube community.

Bryce may not have the expensive cameras to film his videos, but he is able to create entertaining content with just his phone and iPad. After filming, he uses an app on his iPad to add the effects that he thinks best suits the video. As for how he comes up with such unique ideas, Bryce's one of a kind personality makes coming up with them quite simple. He usually will go for a walk, or just sit in his room and think. He says "the inspiration just finds me; I really don't know where it comes from."

Connor Locklear, a fellow student and fan of Bryce's channel, says that Bryce's YouTube has potential to be very good. He also says that all of his videos are family friendly. If Bryce was to ask Connor to be in one of his video, Connor says that he would be more than happy to do so. Connor says that Bryce should advertise his YouTube videos so he can get more subscribers. He also thinks that Bryce should make more video to help bring attention to his channel.

The real question is, where is his channel going from here? In the future, Bryce plans to keep making videos and trying to expand his YouTube channel. He plans on getting himself out there on not only YouTube, but other forms of social media such as Twitch.



Sophomore Breaks High School Track Record



by Tyler Getsy

Sophomore track star Ana Biertempfel just broke a school record for the long jump in track. The old record was 17 ft, and Ana broke it with a 17.1 ¼ ft jump. While this may not seem like a major jump ahead, inches and seconds mean a lot in track. Ana went through a lot of training and preparation to get there.

“It’s all just a process. You just have to be patient and trust the process,” Ana said. Now some of you might be confused by what the process actually is.

In simple terms, this means a series of acts that have led to her success. These acts are mental training and physical training. The mental training aspect is simple for Ana.

Ana says to “stay confident, relax, and focus.” This sharp and strong mindset has helped her complete her goals and ultimately better herself.

The physical training aspect is a real challenge for anyone. This involves weightlifting and cardio. Ana trains with the coaches after school at practice, and she also sometimes goes to the gym. When she works out, she does a lot of leg workouts to build much stronger legs. This would be leg machines at the gym, squats, calf raises, and leg presses. The cardio she does to improve her stamina are sprints and continually running for a long period of time to push herself to the limits.

Her goal overall for track is to try and make it to the Olympics. Track coach Mr. See says that Ana is a very positive and very coachable young athlete that he can see getting an offer from a D1 college. It will take a lot of preparation, hard work and focus. The process will continue and she will continue to better herself until she gets to where she wants to be. Ana lives by the quote “hard work beats talent when talent doesn’t work hard.”

Art Club Showcases Their Work at Manchester Craftsmen's Guild

by Aona Williams

From the moment that she could pick up a pencil, she knew she would be an artist.

Art club President Nicole Ellwood is a senior who was recently given the opportunity to showcase her art for the second time at the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild Art Show. Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild is a school that showcases local Pittsburgh artists and awards them with scholarships. All Pittsburgh public schools, as well as East Allegheny, are given the chance to submit their artwork and have it showcased. Unfortunately, not all students who submit their work get the chance to have it showcased due to the tough competition.

Former art teacher Mrs. Lane informed art teacher Mrs. Hallick of the show. She then presented her students with an opportunity to participate. Mrs. Hallick has been participating for six years, and she prepares her students for this event by giving them a summer art packet geared towards it. She says that this will help her students “prepare for college,” and that “it’s a good opportunity to meet other artists.”

During Mrs. Hallick’s class, each student who is participating lays their artwork out for their classmates to critique. This allows each artist to get more than just one person’s opinion on what they can do to perfect the work they intend to submit.

Typically, Manchester chooses up to two pieces of art, but they have a maximum of four. Getting more than two pieces accepted is a challenge, so having two is a big deal. This year, EA had eleven students whose artwork was chosen, making this the first time that all the students who entered got accepted. These students include: seniors Courtney Crystol and Solomon Wilson-Kirkalnd and juniors Taya Tassone, Larrissa Bloom, Madisyn Montgomery, Makenzie Freed-DePastino, Marissa Riggs, Athena Hicks, Sierra Marts, and Jenah Slabe. Teachers also had the choice to submit two pieces of art, in which Mrs. Hallick chose pieces from sophomores Jiahna Bracy and Sydney Marts.

One artist in particular, Nicole Ellwood, is not a new face at the Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild. Her work, which she describes as “realism,” has been showcased before.

Last year, Nicole entered four pieces of art, but only two were accepted. With “being surprised they got accepted,” she was very proud of the work she had completed, which also won her a scholarship to attend the school.

Most of the art she creates is based off her inspiration of black and white photography, which coincides with the pieces she submitted this year. She refers to her pieces as “tatted action,” due to the tattoo work they include. Throughout the week, Nicole sharpens her drawing skills, using different utensils and blending tools.

Since Nicole was young, she knew she had a passion for art and that pursuing an art career would be in her best interest. After graduating high school, Nicole plans on attending Edinboro University to pursue a career in either art therapy, art education, or some form of art.

Her work, along with other students and artists, will be showcased at the Manchester Craftmen’s Guild from April 23rd to May 11th. They are also holding an awards ceremony and reception on May 2nd at 6:00 PM, where some students will be receiving awards.



Nicole Ellwood’s piece titled “Tatted action” won best in show.



Once On This Island

Behind the Curtain



Photos courtesy of this year's cast



May Horoscopes

by Abby Delisi and Haley D. Novak

Aries (March 21-April 19): Even when the weather finally heats up, don't take that as a sign that you too should warm up. You tend to blow up on people without thinking about the consequences. Take some time to consider how you want people to perceive you, and act accordingly.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): It's Taurus season! This month is mainly for the Taureans, but you won't let that get to your head! You have finally found the perfect balance of focusing on yourself and others. Now, try to add in wealth. Once you can balance all three of these, you're set!

Gemini (May 21-June 20): To get some balance in your life, take some advice from a Taurus or two, and try to actually remember what they say. You have the tendency to forget what people tell you, which only makes things harder. Listen, or suffer from the consequences.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You can sometimes be too emotional. You try to run from your problems, but that doesn't work. Face them head on with a positive attitude. You are fully capable of solving your problems if you think with your brain instead of your heart.

Leo (July 23-August 22): It's time to step back. The attention is almost always on you, which is something you enjoy, but sometimes it's better to be out of the spotlight. Instead of having everyone else focus on you, take some time to focus on bettering yourself.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): You tend to focus on making sure all the small details in life are perfect. This can lead to stress and built up emotions. Learn to accept that sometimes, life isn't perfect. Instead of harping on the bad moments, learn to embrace them because they made you who you are!

Libra (September 23-October 22): Your life is pretty close to being balanced already. Why are you reading this for advice? The only

thing you need to work on is to trust your intuition and to not be so indecisive. You know what's best for you!

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): This weather has been getting you down lately. You aren't feeling like your typical self. Don't let the weather make you become vain. The world doesn't *always* revolve around you. Now that the sun is finally starting to come out, relax and let the good times roll!

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21): You enjoy entertaining people with your humor, but sometimes it can come across as ignorant or blunt. You have good intentions but that quality is hidden behind your joking manner. Try to show more of your emotional side, and don't be afraid to do more than just make a joke.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19): You're beginning to become more interested in things you previously didn't care about. Your surroundings are becoming clearer and everything is starting to make sense. Who knew being more open minded would make everything less confusing? Keep it up. Things will only get better as you open your mind.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): You always see the best in even the worst people. Be careful; this can let people take advantage of you. Your instinct is to trust, but instead of trusting others, trust yourself. You have a good intuition, so don't let people change your mind once it's set.

Pisces (February 19-March 20): You may be going through some tough times right now, but as the sun finally appears, so will some positivity. It will be a breath of fresh air, and be sure to take advantage of it. You never know how long this burst of positivity will last, so have as much fun as you can while it lasts!

School Moms Raise Children One Class at a Time!

by Abby Delisi

Mrs. Hallick is a school mom in more ways than one.

Although she only has three kids to shower her with love and appreciation at home this Mothers' day, there are plenty of students that love and respect Mrs. Hallick like a mom that will be sure to celebrate this special holiday with her during school.

Mrs. Hallick motivates her students to do their best and helps them when they feel like they can't, which is why many of her students consider her to be their school mom. A school mom is a teacher that you can always count on in times of need, just like a mom.

Since she has children the age of some of her students, Mrs. Hallick has known a lot of her students since they were young, which has allowed her to form a motherly bond with them.

"Many [students] know me outside of school and call me 'mom' then," says Mrs. Hallick. She also says that she expects the same from her students as she does her own children. This allows her to tell them what they need to hear openly and honestly, which is something her students respect.

Junior Sierra Marts says that "she makes sure that I get my work done and gets disappointed in me when I do dumb things." Sierra appreciates that Mrs. Hallick doesn't treat her as just a student and is always there to talk to about problems.

Not only does Mrs. Hallick help out with what students may be going through outside of school, but she also helps students get their artwork out for people to see. She helped by getting art club member Taya Tassone's artwork into competitions to help for college.

With her thoughtfulness, straight-forward advice, and willingness to help whenever, Mrs. Hallick is truly the definition of a school mom, which is something she believes is very important.

She says that she feels "like the old saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' is true. My sons have inspiring teachers who guide them" such as Ms. Sippey and Mr. Goldstrohm, and they often value their opinions over hers when it comes to math and English.

Mrs. Hallick's son, Brandon, says that Mrs. Crystal and Madame Woods also remind him of his mom and that overall, he enjoys having his mom be a teacher.

Mrs. Hallick forms a bond with her students that will likely impact them for the rest of their lives. She not only ensures that they do well in school, but also in life.

As Maya Dorfman says, "She always motivates me to love myself and the art I create. She'll always be my favorite teacher."