The Rocket Review

Conotton Valley High School
November 2026

Conotton Valley Students Head to Court

Students in Mrs. Wilson's Government class took part in the annual Law Day to learn about the court system and watch a felony criminal sentencing. The event is coordinated by the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center. Area students are invited to the Tuscarawas County Court of Common Pleas, General Trial Division. The Tuscarawas County Bar Association provided students with a pocket Constitution to demonstrate the importance of the nations "Supreme Law of the Land."



Students heard from Court Administrator Rachel Dunfee, Judge Michael J. Ernest and prosecuting attorneys, who shared about their jobs in the court system. Students were invited to ask questions to learn more about the purpose of the justice system. The official proceedings then began with statements from the prosecutor representing the State of Ohio and the defense, including the defense attorney and defendant. Following the hearing, Judge Ernest briefed the students on terminology and explained how he makes decisions in a case.

Wilson says "It is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about the judicial process in action, as well as a chance to learn more about opportunities that exist for students to become involved in their local communities. It is always interesting for the students to hear about other career fields that exist in the courthouse, beyond being an attorney or a judge. Our students were fantastic representatives of Conotton Valley and learned a great deal about our nation's justice system in our visit.

A Spooktacular Event

By Garry Shuss

In This Issue

Page 1-6....Student Features
Page 2.……...Staff Spotlight
Page 7-8…....Rocket Sports
Page 9.….Student Soundoff



This year's 3rd annual Trunk or Treat was a massive success. There were tons of stuff like inflatables, a corn maze, food trucks, coffee carts, and music. This year's Trunk or Treat had the most people so far. Student Council Advisor. Christie Clayton says that "it's the most we've ever had, every year it's getting bigger and bigger." Trunk or Treat went extremely well and everybody had a great time at the event.

Staff Spotlight: Mr. Engstrom
By Ainsleigh McIntire



Mr. Engstrom is our new gym teacher. He went to college at Rio Grande University in Ohio. He has a son who goes to preschool at Conotton Valley. In his free time he “runs and bikes entirely too much.” Mr. Engstrom became a teacher because his physical education teacher let him be who he wanted to be with no questions asked. His favorite color is green. Before he became a teacher he was a recruiting administrator for cable companies and security for a hospital.

Ornaments for a Cause
By Kylie Young

The 6th Annual Ornament sale is underway. The school will be using the money from the ornaments for the program Share-A-Christmas, which will be able to buy gifts for Conotton Valley families. To buy an ornament, an order form will be sent home to all grades or you can get one from the office. Mrs. Alicen Bagozzi says “This year Mr. Blick and Mrs. O’Hara are teaming up with a couple other classes to come up with an ornament.” The design that was chosen is a melting CV snowman and they will cost $15.00. Show your school spirit this year by buying one!



Working to be Better
By Zender Litzenberg

Conferences are coming up on November 24, between 8:00am–7:30pm parents can call the front office to talk to Secretary Alicen Bagozzi or can email a teacher. Principal Danielle Caldwell hopes “to have as many parents come in so we can talk to them about ways that teachers can continue to help their students find success. We always celebrate when we have parents come in and figure out something that will help out one of our students.” With the help of the students and parents, the school can better help them excel in their schoolwork. During conferences, teachers can help students with their work and figure out ways for them to complete their work efficiently and turn them in on time. Classes are less stressful and are more manageable when both the teachers and parents aim in the same direction for students to have success in school.





Fundraising Football

By Zender Litzenberg

This year's powder puff game was won by the and Sophomore blue team The Turtles winning against the Juniors and Freshman pink team Snake Bites. We've made $293.75 from the powder puff game. Student counselor Kari Galigher's thoughts on our fundraiser is that "hopefully we can use that fundraiser to be put to good use and can help a family in need" With this money it will be used for a family that is in need of help and hopefully make it easier.

Separating Feast from Fiction

By Cecilia Adam

Thanksgiving is the second most popular holiday in the United States, falling short only of Christmas. Thanksgiving has been celebrated for over 400 years and was made an official holiday by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. In 2025, the day of Thanksgiving alone totaled over 6 billion in consumer spending according to the National Retail Federation. Thanksgiving is a very significant event in America today, and it has been for a long time. When something has been around that long and celebrated so widely, myths or false ideas are bound to develop around it. Many Americans today believe that the Pilgrims and Native Americans sat down and had a feast called Thanksgiving, where they ate pumpkin pies and turkey. However, that is very different from the true origins of thanksgiving.

The "First Thanksgiving" was not called Thanksgiving until centuries later, but the holiday is still based on the Harvest feast shared by the Native American Tribe, the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims. This was a celebration of the temporary peace between this tribe and the settlers. At this feast, they were limited to the food they had locally. They had foods from the harvest, like corn, beans, and squashes, along with food from hunting and fishing, like cod, bass, deer, and various wild birds, according to *History.com*. The Pilgrims and the Wampanoag interacted peacefully for this period of time. The Natives exchanged knowledge, like how to hunt, that kept the Pilgrims from starving. The peace between these two groups was short-lived. War broke out soon after and drove the Native Americans out of their territory and many were killed, according to the *National Archives*. This side of the original feast is often overlooked. Whether this is done to make the holiday seem more positive or from ignorance, it means looking past a large part of history. Thanksgiving can be seen as a harmful reminder for Indigenous people in the country, and their perspective of history should be considered when discussing the history of Thanksgiving.

Nowadays, Thanksgiving has lost much of the connection between the holiday and the harvest feast that inspired it. Most Americans use Thanksgiving as a way to show gratitude and spend time with family. This is not a bad thing, encouraging people to spend time with the ones they love and express gratitude is a positive thing in society. Despite this, it is still a good thing to try and learn about the history of the feast that inspired the beloved holiday.



Ava Williams Crowned 2026 Homecoming Queen



2026 Homecoming Court
Freshman Cereniti Ash, Sophomore ShaeLee Balder, Junior Bristol Warner, Senior Jaylyn Kimmel, Senior Taylor Salsberry, Senior Bella Andrews, Senior Ava Williams, 2025 Homecoming Queen Gillian George



Ava Williams
2026 Homecoming Queen

Native Americans Celebrate Heritage Month

By Ainsleigh McIntire

Native American Heritage Month is observed every November to celebrate the cultures, histories, and contribution of indigenous peoples in the United States. It was first celebrated in May 1916 in New York, but in 1990, George H.W. Bush signed a joint congressional resolution designating November as “National American Indian Heritage Month.” It also raises awareness on the unique challenges they had to face and continue to face. The reason Native American Heritage Month is in November is because it traditionally marks a time of hard work and harvest for many Native American tribes.



QUARTER AUCTION

To Benefit:

Conotton Valley Band

Sunday November 8, 2026

Conotton Valley High School Gymnasium
7205 Cumberland Rd SW Bowerston, Ohio

Doors open at 1:00pm Auction begins at 2:00pm
Food, Vendors, Chinese Auction, Kids Games and 50/50 will also be available
Paddles $5.00 each
Extra paddles: $2.00 each
An All In Paddle Will Also Be Available the Day of the Auction at the Door (Price to TBD)

Items for Bid:
Gift cards, themed baskets, donated vendor items, craft items, surprise mystery boxes, tickets to various venues, sports items, CV sports pass, and much more!

Tickets available at the door or from any band booster or vendor

For questions, email conottonvalleybandboosters@gmail.com

Call Shannan Boone 330-340-8318 or Jean Siedel 330-432-2682

Conotton Valley Celebrates Veterans Day

By Aubree Archer



Our Veterans Day event will be on November 11 at 9am. There will be a Breakfast for veterans and their guests before the event at 8:15am. The social studies teacher Jenni Wilson has said they make it such a big deal because they are taking time to honor those men and women that have given so much to defend our freedom in this country. We really want to celebrate all the people that have served in the military. Wilson says, “We have always placed a very large emphasis on honoring and remembering our local veterans and heroes that have defended our freedom.” There will be student speakers, presentations from Mrs. O’hara's art class, and music by high school choir and band, and elementary music class. Be sure to go to Conotton Valley's Veterans Day event.

6th Grade Goes Camping

By Kylie Young

The 6th graders got to enjoy great weather while on their camping trip. The students also enjoyed night hiking, large group games, campfires, and hands-on outdoor classes.

Ms. Vickie Bente says “It went very well, the 6th graders had a blast.” Bente says that the highlight was putting cockroaches on their faces, and that the food there was very good, with the favorites being chicken nuggets and pumpkin cake.





All about Veterans Day

By Aubree Archer

Veterans Day is celebrated on November 11th. Veterans Day honors people who are serving or have once served in the military. We honor veterans because we thank them for risking their lives to protect ours. Veterans Day became a legal holiday on November 11th, 1938. It became a holiday to mark the end of World War I. It evolved through congressional acts into a holiday to honor all U.S. military. WWI officially ended with an armistice on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. The president who created Armistice Day was Woodrow Wilson. In 1954, president Dwight D Eisenhower renamed Armistice Day to Veterans Day, according to Blue Star Families. They renamed it because Armistice Day was celebrated only by the veterans who served in World War I, but Veterans day celebrates all veterans. Be sure to give your respect to your Veterans.



Rockets Dress Up for Halloween!





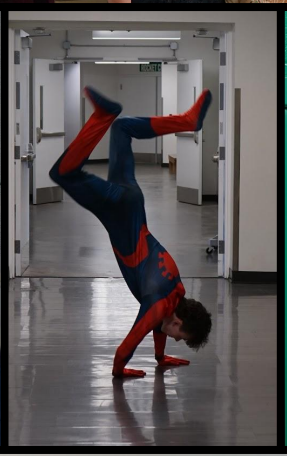


















Rocket Sports

Football Comes to an End

By Kylie Young

The football season came to an end with a loss on senior night. The team ended off with the record 5-5. Coach Derek O'Hara says "Offense has really grown over the course of the year and we've gotten more fluid." O'Hara also said players that did extremely well this season were Kaden Leggett, Garrett Reiter, Nicholas Bolin, and RJ Higgenbotham. O'Hara believes that Dominic Ponzetti was the most improved player this year. Congratulations to the students who have broken school records. Kaden Leggett- career most passing touchdowns at 83. Garrett Reiter-most receptions in a season at 92. Most touchdown receptions in a season at 18.



Cheer Teams Ready for the Season

By Ainsleigh McIntire

Basketball cheer is starting up once again! This year, there is one senior, three freshmen, three sophomores, and no juniors! And for middle school, there is one 8th grader and five 7th graders.The junior high begins their season on November 30th and the first high school game is December 4th at Akron Springfield.

The coach for high school cheer is Mrs. Burky and for middle school the coach is Mrs. Abigail Clark. Mrs. Burky says "We are looking to do a lot of new and exciting things four our player entrance and starting lineup. We hope everyone can come out for our themed home games and spirit night!!" Spirit themes for the home games will be released in the next couple of weeks.

No Time To Spare

By Garry Shuss

The High school boys and girls bowling teams are looking forward to a busy and thrilling season. Conotton Valley's bowling team will be competing against TCC on November 16th and they'll be competing against East Canton on November 23rd. Along with that, the bowling team will be going to Indian Valley on November 19th, they'll be going to Garaway on the 24th, and on the 21st the JV bowling tournament begins. The bowling team has lots of stuff to do this month. Our new members of the bowling team this year are Ella Garrott, Buffy Farnsworth, Alexis Ross, Bella Syx, Sophia Burky, Harper Oszust, Konnor Leggett, Jase Williams, and Rayne Herron. Robyn King says that "We've had some open gyms for both the boys and the girls team and they've been going very well." The bowling team has a lot to practice for these next few months.

Built for the Buzzer Beater

By Aubree Archer

The boys varsity basketball team plans to shoot for winning IVC North this upcoming season. The seniors that are returning from last year are Kaden Leggett, Garrett Reiter, Dalton Edie, and Carson Milburn. There will be two juniors and three sophomores that are returning from last year. Head Coach Zeb Troyer says he wants them to work on defense and work on the transition of the game so they can just play basketball. Troyer says “We as coaches are really excited about this core of guys.” They start their season in Akron on December 4th. Their first home game is December 18th. There will be a basketball scrimmage on November 16th at home so be there.

Playing Around

By Garry Shuss

The Conotton Valley Pep Band is bringing spirit and excitement to the school and they have been a part of the cheerleaders at the pep rallies. The Pep Band played around an hour at the pep rally and everyone who is a part of the Pep Band says that they really enjoy being a part of it. Pep Band Director, Tanya Eller says that “we have a lot of fun in Pep Band, it’s different than marching band.” The Pep Band will be performing during home basketball games and will launch off the season on December 18th.



More Than A Roster

By Cecilia Adam

The Conotton Valley Lady Rockets are in a battle of numbers as they work to secure enough players for the chance to play as the season begins. The coaches and players have been making efforts on and off the court to improve their team and help it grow. After last year they lost three seniors: Delilah Williams, Bella Higgins and Maggie Syx. At a small school, this can be the difference between having a team or not.

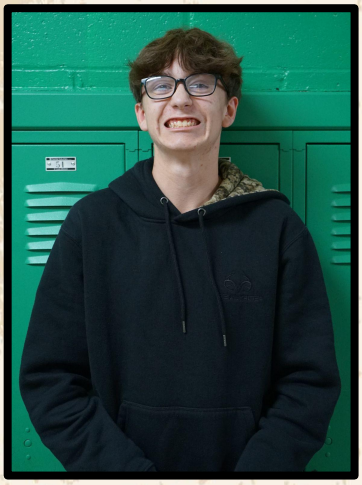
This season the girls are scheduled to play a short Junior Varsity schedule because of the struggles they’ve had to find enough players. The team only has one senior; Bella Andrews. Although it is only Andrews’ second season playing, Head Coach Eric Leggett remarks on the growth he has seen from her last season and in the offseason. Currently, there are five players on the roster: Bella Andrews, Leah Haney, Cecilia Adam, Aurora Miller and Ceriniti Ash. For a full team, there needs to be seven players. Players and coaches are currently trying to grow the team in any way they can.

Despite these challenges, Coach Leggett remains positive about this coming season. He states,”I think that we have girls that want to work, as long as we grind we’ll be fine.” With these high hopes he says he wants to use this year to help the team improve and grow, referring to it as a "developmental year.” Any girls in middle or high school are welcome and wanted at basketball and can reach out to Coach Leggett, Coach Chandice Cottis via CVUL email or players on the team for practice times as the season begins. As this season begins, members of the school and community are encouraged to support by showing up for the Lady Rockets.



Student Soundoff

What's one food you can't live without?



Aydden Beahm
Cheeseburger



Jayden Arnold
Cinnamon Rolls



Ceriniti Ash
Hot Dogs



Kayden Patrick and Hunter Williamson
Taco Bell



Konner Leggett
Salisbury Steak



Mea McCue
Ramen



Erika Wheeler
Chipotle



Kelsey Wade
Chipotle Bowls