THE TALON

October 30, 2026 | Volume 61, Issue 3
Cedar Crest High School | Lebanon, PA

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Photo by Tony Forney

Staff win football game

CATCHING: Social studies teacher Logan Horn recieves a pass at the last second. Horn was the quarterback in the senior vs staff football game at the end of Falcon Fair. The teachers ended up winning 28-22. Students really enjoyed their time at Falcon Fair, with the best weather there's been for it in a couple of years. For more information on Falcon Fair, see page 3.

Concert, fall play move to middle school

Elise Badger
Associate Editor

Why are there sounds of jackhammers, power saws and drills coming from the auditorium when there should be sounds of swords clashing, angelic tunes and flowing words?

The auditorium has been under construction since last spring and was planned to open mid October, but the date that it is going to be finished keeps getting pushed back. This has created obstacles for events that were scheduled to happen in the auditorium.

This affects many of the students in the play, orchestra and Poetry Out Loud, so now teachers are needing to find alternative spaces to hold their events.

"The auditorium not being complete is really messing things up," said senior Emily Engle. "I wish that I could have these important events in the auditorium my senior year. We have alternatives, but it's not the same."

From Nov. 20 through Nov. 22, the auditorium was supposed to host the fall play, "The Three Musketeers." With the auditorium (as of Oct. 26) scheduled to open Dec. 1, this has created some challenges.

"It can be hard to block and practice for a show," said senior Olive Fretz, "when you don't know what the stage looks like."

Fretz plays Aramis and Engle plays Porthos in "The Three Musketeers."

The cast had rehearsals in The Roost for the first couple of weeks. They are currently rehearsing on the middle school stage, where the show is going to take place.

"(Moving locations) has certainly been a struggle," said director and English teacher Zachary Minder. "On the other side of struggle, we find strength. The cast has been more than willing to rise to the challenges that came with the change. For that, I commend them."

Moving to the middle school has also created challenges. The middle school wraps up their fall musical, "The Wizard of Oz," on Nov. 9, which gives the cast only 10 days to build a set and have

More ***Auditorium*** on ***page 2***

Students start health care club

Emma Hartman
Editor-in-Chief

Cedar Crest is a place that inspires growth and endeavors to allow students to explore the possibilities of their future.

This initiative was further strengthened with the establishment of a new pre-medical club: the High School Alliance of Future Physicians (HSAFP).

With monthly physician-created curriculum, this club allows students to dive deeper into their potential interests in the healthcare industry.

"I saw all the students involved in science-related courses like AP Biology and AP Chemistry," said senior president Tyler Do. "I wanted to give them the opportunity of finding more ways to prepare for a medical career."

Officers and advisers Cynthia Kreider and Keanu Ybarra plan to have local professionals come and talk about their own experiences, while also teaching members a new skill.

At their first meeting during week four, over 40 students attended. Now, the current number of signees is up to 80.

Just this past Wednesday, members and attendees participated in a suturing activity while also being talked to by a professional surgeon.

Along with the brief lessons and activities, HSAFP will also provide volunteer opportunities at local clinics, hospitals and blood drives.

"I hope students get to see that there's more out there for them in the medical profession than just the well-known nurse, doctor or medical practitioner," said Kreider. "Medicine is fun — students deserve the opportunity to explore that."

"I hope students get to see that there's more out there for them in the medical profession than just the well-known . . ."
- Cynthia Kreider, club adviser

To establish the club, interested officers and advisers had to apply to be a chapter through background information and reading.

Kreider had to work with principal Chris Groff by presenting it to him so he could talk about it at a school board meeting last year. It was then approved for this school year.

"I think students will benefit from this club in so many ways," said junior and vice president Ella Cortez. "It provides an amazing medical community with like-minded people, allowing you to experience what being in the medical field might feel like, and explore your interest freely."

By tracking activities, projects, service hours and lectures from professionals, students can develop a portfolio to assist them in standing out when applying to schools.

"I hope this club continues to grow that way we can get more people interested in the medical field," said Kreider. "Even people that have no idea what medicine looks like hopefully they have a better understanding of what it is, and that their possibilities are endless."

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Homecoming queen

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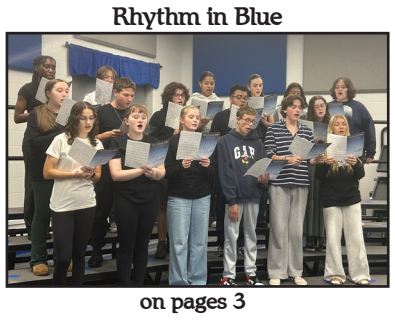
Rhythm in Blue

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Endgame Encore

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Cross country

on page 10

FACE IN THE CROWD

Cameron Conkle
Grade 11
Birthday:
July 6, 2010

Favorite movie:
"Saw" franchise

Life soundtrack:
Another Life by Emotionless and White

Weird food combo:
Hot ham and cheese with rice

Best advice:
If you want something, just do it

Superpower:
Teleportation

Alice Kitchens
Grade 11
Birthday:
March 12, 2010

Favorite Halloween activity:
Dressing up

Favorite movie:
"Mean Girls"

Celebrity crush:
Rob Rausch

Life Soundtrack:
"what's wrong with me" by Olivia Rodrigo

First lottery purchse:
Hot pink Jeep

Senior crowned queen

Josie Hartman and Rhythm Patel
Photographers

With the home stands filled at the newly renovated Earl Boltz Stadium, senior Olivia Cuthie was crowned Homecoming Queen earlier this month.

Cuthie was crowned queen during the Pink Out football game on Oct. 9 against Hempfield.

"I could not believe it," said Cuthie, who was escorted by her father, Robert Cuthie. "It was like a once in a lifetime moment that I'll remember forever."

The moment of Cuthie winning was extremely special for both her and her dad, as in 2025 when Cuthie's sister, Nora Cuthie, was on the court, her dad could not be there to escort her.

Senior Kara Robertson was first runner-up, and senior Emma Stoudt was second runner-up among the 10-member court.

"Being on the court this year was such an honor, and I was really excited to be a part of such a special experience," said Robertson. "It was an extremely meaningful moment to be crowned runner-up, and I'm so thankful that I'll be able to look back at this as a meaningful high school memory. I'm surprised I won, because every single girl on that court deserved it too."

After Cuthie was announced queen at the game, she went around to her friends, hugging them while they congratulated her. Cuthie was crowned by last year's queen, Dania Louis.

"I think every girl on the court had a really good shot to win," said Cuthie. "All the girls on the court are so kind and considering we went through all of Homecoming week together, I was just grateful to have them by my side."

Cuthie is currently in broadcast video, known for her segment "Live with Liv." Louis was also in the broadcast program with Cuthie when she went to Cedar Crest, so having Louis crown her made this a more memorable moment for her.

"BV definitely helped me get votes because everyone sees me on the announcements and also 'Live with Liv', but it genuinely just felt like I had the support from the whole school," said Cuthie. "Winning queen just felt like a high school experience out of a movie and was a big full circle moment to me, considering my mom was queen too."

During the Homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 10, the 10-member court got escorted by someone of their choosing; Cuthie's escort was senior Joe Menicheschi.

"I really enjoyed the walk out with my boyfriend," said Cuthie. "It was really fun and exciting to plan the handshake along with all the other girls on the court."

BV teacher Cody Hassler is one of Cuthie's favorite role models in the school.

"Liv is just kind to everyone, always nice, always positive, always helpful," said Hassler. "So, I think because most people that know Liv or have experienced time around her know these things about her, her win was not surprising at all because the people that usually win these things show its usually earned."

Along with BV, Cuthie is on the volleyball team, swim team and does track and field. She plans to swim at the college level, potentially at Susquehanna University where she wants to major in broadcast journalism.

"I truly do feel like I've made my mark on the school, and once I won I truly did realize the support system that I had, especially with my best friend (senior) Maddie Edwards," said Cuthie. "The first thing she said to me was 'you deserved it,' and it's a wonderful feeling to know I have these people by my side during these special life moments."

Photo from Yearbook archives

CROWNING: Alumna Dania Lewis gives senior Homecoming Queen, Liv Cuthie the Homecoming crown. The previous Homecoming Queen crowning the new one has been a long standing tradition.

Late auditorium renovation

Continued from ***page 1***

the space all to themselves to rehearse.

"It has been somewhat frustrating," said Minder, "but we must take life as it comes. We must deal with the reality that is."

Another event that was scheduled to take place in the new auditorium is the annual fall orchestra concert.

"We are able to move to the middle school, which is nice," said first chair viola Engle. "We have our February Pops Concert in the middle school, which is always fine, but we never sound like we do in our auditorium."

This concert will also be moving to the middle school in the cafetorium on Nov. 2.

"I'm upset," said conductor Richard Baublitz. "There is no reason why this should've been pushed back. Mistakes happen, but constant mistakes are ridiculous. I'm upset for my seniors and the entire orchestra, who all deserve to play in a really nice auditorium."

"I'm upset for my seniors and the entire orchestra, who all deserve to play in a really nice auditorium."
-Richard Baublitz orchestra director

Another change that had to happen was the movement of the school-wide round of Poetry Out Loud on Nov. 24. The new plan is to have the school-wide competitors recite their poem in the Broadcasting and Video production room and have it live streamed to the English classrooms.

"I've done Poetry Out Loud online before," said Fretz, "and it's so much worse than in person. You just don't get the same feeling across when it's done over a zoom call versus in front of an audience."

It is a tradition for English teachers to bring their classes to listen to poetry the day before fall break. Having it livestreamed could have it be a little bit different.

"Some students reciting might prefer not having to get up in front of an audience of their peers," said Poetry Out Loud organizer Amy Haines. "Although, I feel like there will be more of a disconnect between the audience and the performer. It is not as personal."

Another event that was scheduled to happen in the auditorium this fall was the National Honors Society induction on Oct. 21. That happened in The Cage.

Having to move all these events is not ideal for anyone, but there will be a nice new auditorium this winter to look forward to.

"I've had the opportunity to see the new auditorium," said Fretz, "and, let it be known, it will be worth the wait. The space is gorgeous and the sound is so much more resonant than the old auditorium."

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/4 - End of Marking Period 1

11/6 - No school

11/6-11/8 - CCMS fall musical

11/12 - Veteran Breakfast

11/16 - School board meeting

11/20-11/22 - CCHS fall play

11/25 - 11/27 - Thanksgiving break

Photo by Elise Badger

SINGING: The members of Rhythm in Blue practice for their upcoming concert. The group was rehearsing "The Christmas Song" for their winter concert.

Show choir goes acapella

Lucy Saltern
News Editor

Shaking out nerves backstage, singing under the dazzling lights and thick scent of hairspray are something every choir kid knows and loves.

As musical groups begin to prepare for their first concerts, some are changing their formats.

Rhythm in Blue is an auditioned show-choir group consisting of about 20 students, and this year they are changing from their normal routine and are taking a deeper dive on their music.

In the past, Rhythm in Blue focused heavily on movements to go along with songs.

"I think singing in an all acapella choir can really help us grow individually as singers and as a group," said junior member Marina Siebels.

This year, though, they are going acapella (singing without music) and are focusing more on the vocal quality over the movement aspects.

"By singing acapella, the students will gain a deeper understanding of harmony and will focus on blend and harmony," said choir director Leslie Rauchet. "I believe that music should come first and the movement can enhance the music."

This new format for the group will allow the students to spend more time learning and perfecting their music rather than spending most of their time learning choreography.

"I love the new format," said senior member Juliana O'Hara. "It gives us so much more time to focus on how we sound rather than simply getting the moves down."

Rhythm in Blue practices on Thursday mornings from 7 to 7:30 a.m., along with select evening practices, so their time together is very limited.

Now the group can focus on making their music higher quality.

"We were getting to a point where the full choreography became more of a stressor than a positive piece of the ensemble," said Rauchet. "Many of the students involved in the ensemble are involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, and learning and rehearsing full choreography took away so much time from focusing on the music."

Overall, taking more time to focus on the musical aspect of the performance rather than the movement will allow the group to grow in excellence.

This will all come together in May for the group's showcase.

"My favorite part of Rhythm in Blue is all the connections you make," said Siebels. "It is a smaller group than last year, so it really helps everyone get closer and create lasting relationships."

Falcon Fair unites through games, food

Michael Heebner
Assist. Perspective Editor

Holden Smith
Assist. Entertainment Editor

Over the years, Falcon Fair has changed locations and the time of year it takes place.

It has taken place from early in September in the senior parking lot to this year's late October over multiple locations on campus.

This year's 60-degree weather on Friday, Oct. 23, found students enjoying this year's design - food trucks and food stands lining the road behind the home stands of Earl Boltz Stadium and games being played all around the JV baseball field.

"I like the atmosphere here," said sophomore student council representative Landon Zechman. "It's very positive; everyone looks like they're having fun and enjoying their day."

Student Council organized the fair, led by senior student council member Camryn Blouch.

"We had to get all of the food trucks to come into specific places," said Blouch. "We had to talk with all of the classes and clubs to have them have their own stands and/or food trucks."

Student Council spent all morning setting up for the fair.

"The morning of, we had to split up into groups and tackle setting up tables and chairs, food trucks, field games, and chalking the blacktop," said Addie Achenbach, Student Council president.

Long lines could be found at many of the food trucks and stands, proceeds of which benefited school clubs and classes.

"My favorite food truck this year was Cool Beans," said senior Madison Steiner. "They have new seasonal drinks each year that are fun to try."

In the JV baseball field area, students played cornhole, nine square and spike ball.

"I really enjoyed all of the recreational activities they had set up," said sophomore Jamie Buria. "I liked how the food trucks and games were separated, which provided more space."

Photo by Tony Forney

ENTERTAINING: Senior Evan Snavely plays the alto saxophone near the food trucks at Falcon Fair. Snavely has performed at Falcon Fair since his freshman year.

Strength and conditioning teacher Travis Dresch added Kan Jam after he received a request from some students during the fair.

"I really liked how many different options there were for games," said freshman Maggie Britt.

Some students opted to start their own touch football games, too.

"I loved seeing various groups of students coming together to play games and participate in physical activity and also supporting all the different clubs," said assistant principal Emma Lebo.

After the fair ended, students and staff filed into the stadium for the annual seniors versus faculty flag football game.

Commentary during the game was provided by assistant principal Mike Rohrbach and a surprise addition of senior Veronica Castro.

A late rally by the students almost resulted in the first-ever tie of the event at 22-22. However, tech ed teacher Isaac Custer found biology teacher Ryelle Shuey in the end zone on the last play of the game to give the faculty a 28-22 victory.

Governor, U.S. House of Rep. election candidates

Name: Josh Shapiro
Position: Governer
Party: Democrat
Top Issues: Investing in public education, supporting law enforcement officers, creating new jobs.

Name: Stacy Garrity
Position: Governer
Party: Republican
Top Issues: Supporting energy production, transparency in taxes, reducing cost of homeowning

Name: Rachel Wallace
Position: House Representative (District 9)
Party: Democrat
Top Issues: Lower health care costs, root out government corruption, transparency about AI data center

Name: Dan Meuser
Position: House Representative (District 9)
Party: Republican
Top Issues: border security, economic growth, supporting domestic energy

Compiled by Vivian Doster

Cart teachers adapt, grow

OUR VIEW

You're walking to class, when suddenly, woosh - a teacher pushes their cart stacked with papers right by you.

Like last year, certain teachers' rooms are momentarily unavailable due to construction. Also, like last year, certain teachers have adapted to moving classrooms with their supplies on a cart throughout the day.

These teachers do a great job at keeping everything organized and working with what they have. They have the same four minutes that they use to switch classrooms to prepare for their next class.

While teaching on a cart isn't necessarily practical, it allows teachers to make connections they may not have made otherwise and helps them practice staying organized with a small space.

Staying organized on a cart isn't easy. Teachers must have all the things they need for their next class during the previous period or prepared in their office.

If something is forgotten, teachers may have to adapt or change their plans for a class. It is easy to forget things when you are constantly switching supplies from a cart to a desk.

Graphic by Addie Achenbach

This can also be even more challenging with science teachers, as they have to deal with moving lab equipment between classrooms.

Some teachers' schedules throughout the day allow them to have slightly less stressful trips though the school, while others force them to zigzag all around the building. This involves not only a lot of time management and planning, but also physical effort for cart teachers to make it to class on time.

Moving from an office in the library or the 100 hallway to the connector is a common hassle that cart teachers deal with. Getting through large crowds of students, moving halfway across the school, then having to use the elevator in the connector is difficult to accomplish in under four minutes.

A million things can go wrong when teaching on a cart; wheels can break, papers can get lost. Cart teachers have to find solutions to anything that doesn't go to plan.

Borrowing another teacher's cart or items is a common occurrence. This isn't practical for either teacher as they either end up with foreign materials or with a lack of materials.

Little information is provided to these teachers on when they are to receive their official, permanent rooms. Any room would be an upgrade from a cart; whether it's a temporary connector room or their permanent room.

Our cart teachers work very hard to adapt to their strange schedules, hurry across the building and stay organized throughout the day. Hopefully they can all get their own rooms soon, because, needless to say, they deserve it.

College deadlines approach

Vivian Doster
Feature Editor

What's your top school? How's filling out Common App going? Or wait, should you do Questbridge or Coalition Application? You haven't applied for any scholarships yet? What do you mean you haven't started your Smart Futures?

Senior year comes quicker than expected for everyone, and with it a lot of tasks that will determine our futures. It can feel extremely overwhelming for anybody, just with the number of boxes to check on a single application.

However, these forms and administrative hoopla are extremely important, and necessary for our futures, so breaking them down into small tasks can make a big difference.

Seniors who are looking to further their education in a four-year college or trade school should already be working on applications. These applications might include self-reported transcripts, personal information, or a personal statement (college essay).

If a reference is needed, be sure to ask the teacher at least six weeks in advance.

Whether using a platform like Common App or applying directly to a school, most deadlines are in December or late November, so taking action is key. Some schools even take rolling admission, in which case the earlier applied the better.

On a side note, when applying to schools at the top of your list it's important to know the difference between Early Application and Early Decision.

Early Application just means that you are meeting an early application deadline and thus will be given a greater chance of getting accepted. Whereas Early Decision, if accepted, would lock you into that school, so only select it if you are sure that it is your top school.

Graphic by Addie Achenbach

Money is also a big thing to consider. College is expensive.

The earlier scholarships are applied for, the greater chance there is to get them.

Look for scholarships from the college you are applying to and see if they give out need-based or merit-based scholarships.

The state of Pennsylvania also hands out a lot of scholarships which can be applied to online. While they might not be a ton of money, doing a few of them could get you a couple thousand dollars.

That might not seem like much in comparison to the total costs of college, but in terms of perspective, they could cover the cost of furnishing your dorm, or maybe just your food plan.

Lastly, if application waivers are needed, most colleges have a code that you can use if you cannot pay the fee.

That's a lot of steps, and it's just one of the possible pathways you can take after high school.

But there's no point in overstressing even if you are behind. Just take a breath and start where you are.

THE TALON

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The Talon is published 12 times during the school year by the Mass Media II students of Cedar Crest High School. All editorial decisions are made by the Talon staff. All views expressed in the Talon are solely the views of the editorial staff and do not necessarily reflect those of the Cornwall-Lebanon School District or its administrators.

The Talon
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Bird Droppings

What is your favorite thing to do on Halloween?

Alan Medina
Senior
"Going outside with friends"

Ellie DiScullio
Junior
"Watching horror movies with friends"

Sabriel Remlinger
Sophomore
"Eat all of the candy"

Keilanny Verdecia
Freshman
"Dressing up"

Bennett Webber
Phys. Ed Teacher
"Trick or treating"

Compiled by Josie Hartman and Rhythm Patel

Staffer begins final competition season

Sylvia Schach
Entertainment Editor

Photo provided by Sylvia Schach

RIDING: Entertainment Editor Sylvia Schach competes on Balin at an IEA show. Schach placed first over fences in her division at this show.

"Next in the ring is..."

And just like that, my last season in IEA (Interscholastic Equestrian Association) has begun.

I've been showing in IEA since sixth grade, and time has flown. I started out in Future Beginner Walk/Trot/Canter (middle school division) and this year, as a senior, I'm going into my first season in the Open.

IEA is an organization designed for school age riders (grades four through 12) to have a fun, safe and less expensive way to show.

The Open is the highest division of the competition. Competitors have to earn points in the lower divisions to reach this division.

As nerve-wracking as it is, I'm excited for what this season will bring, and I've found myself looking back on my time in the organization.

These shows run in a different format than most. Rather than riders bringing their own horses, participating teams bring horses, and riders show on a horse that they may have never ridden before.

This adds the fun element of challenge, requiring you to learn about the horse as you show. Running the shows this way also means that riders get a more even playing field, financially speaking.

The show is split into middle and high school teams, and divided further within those into different divisions, from Beginner Walk/Trot, which is just a flat class (as opposed to jumping) to the Varsity Open division, which includes both a flat class and a jumping class over 2'6", and riders typically move up through the divisions over the years.

IEA shows run through the school year, with post-season shows (regionals, zones, nationals) running from February to May. Through the regular season, riders show in up to five shows to earn points towards regionals.

The furthest I've gone is Zones, but several teammates, including another Cedar Crest student, sophomore Sophie Musser, have made it to Nationals, and I hope to do the same this year.

As someone who isn't involved in school sports, IEA is a valuable organization that allows students to work towards goals, get stronger and be a part of a close-knit team doing something that they love, without the pressures that can come with a school team.

Senior appreciates family traditions

Vivian Doster
Feature Editor

Graphic by Lucy Saltern

The golden leaves of fall crunch underfoot, as children dressed as witches, zombies, or vampires run from house to house in search of a sweet treat.

Halloween has always been my favorite holiday. Ever since I was a kid it trumped even Christmas.

I love everything about the season. From raking leaves in giant piles, to walking through a corn maze, to enjoying the brisk air.

However, for my family, what always set it apart was our neighborhood Halloween party.

It was a tradition that every year my mother would make pounds of Hungarian halusky and a pot roast. The entire house would smell like sauerkraut and cooking venison.

My father and I would decorate the house with fall decorations, pumpkins all around the outside of the house, and the inside would have Halloween music playing throughout it.

My whole family typically partook in dressing up, my mom usually being a witch and my dad in an inflatable costume of choice and I have frequently repeated pirate outfits.

A few times, a couple of family's in our neighborhood did group costumes together. Some of them have been Alice in Wonderland, Harry Potter, and Decades.

A few people would arrive first, typically mine and my sibling's friends as well as some extended family. Slowly the quiet house would fill with voices.

All the kids would be in costume, and neighbors that we only get to see once a year at this party would show up. Everyone would eat and catch up.

Only afterwards would all the kids leave as group to go trick or treating.

The memories of this party throughout the year have always stood out to me. Halloween was my family's holiday; we didn't do anything of this scale for any other.

In today's world there's so few places where people get together regardless of their differences in viewpoints just to chat and enjoy good food and watch their children have fun. I've always treasured this party as one of those places.

HALLO

Block party unites community

Vivian Doster
Perspective Editor

Once a year, the streets of Lebanon city fill with costumed children, music, theater and just about all the hotdogs in the county.

On Oct. 24, the Fall Block Party was held at the corner of 6th and Chestnut streets. Well over 1500 community members came out together to celebrate.

The block party is always a huge community event that promotes health screenings and local resources, while also being a source of fun and entertainment.

"I'm really proud of this group and the way we work together," said chair of the Fall Block Party committee Maggie Progin. "The block party is a wonderful example of what can happen when people and organizations come together with a shared vision for our community."

Progin was the leader of the many committees and groups that made the block party possible. They started planning six months prior, organizing people and vendors.

"I often think of our community as a patchwork of wonderful organizations, each doing amazing work to support individuals and families," said Progin. "This event is a great example of what happens when organizations come together with a goal of making Lebanon a healthier, stronger and more connected place to live."

Some new activities that were added this year were visiting owls from Raven Ridge Wildlife Rescue, a dance party and a human hamster wheel. Returning activities were theater performances of Disney and other popular media musicals from a collaboration between Saint Luke's Episcopal Church members and LVC theater students.

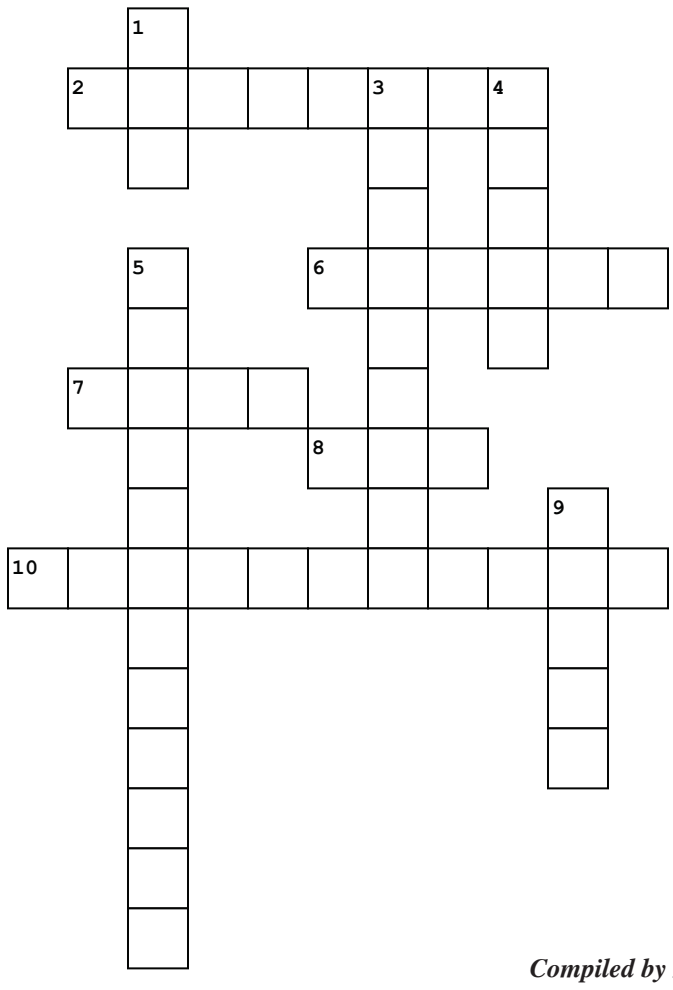
"I love to see the kids in their costumes and look on their faces when we use the smoke and bubble machines as part of the entertainment," said planning committee member Stephen Doster.

Additionally, free food was always available, like hot chocolate, rice and beans and hot dogs.

A key part of what makes the block party so successful is the focus on family wellness. In a quieter area, they offer health screenings and raise awareness about the family support available in Lebanon.

"My favorite thing is seeing the community come together and watching the partnerships in action," said Progin. "I love seeing organizations share what they do, families enjoy time together and commu-

Halloween Crossword



Across

2. Don't cross their path
6. Scissorhands
7. "He did the monster ____"
8. Ghosts say this
10. Main character in Nightmare Before Christmas

Down

1. Nightmare on _____ street
3. Controversial Halloween candy
4. Trick or _____
5. Mary Shelley's monster
9. Hocus _____

Compiled by Elise Badger

CTC hos

Elise Badger
Associate Editor

You usually hear: "trick or treat," but last week, some heard "trunk or treat!"

On Oct. 21, the Lebanon Career and Technology Center hosted its annual community trunk or treat outside the CTC building.

A trunk or treat is when a group of people park their cars in a certain space and hand out candy from their trunks to the children who are going car to car. This is a variation from your normal door to door trick or treating.

Along with the trunks of candy, there was a kid friendly Halloween movie playing, a face paint station, a costume contest and food trucks.

Law enforcement senior Kiana Sowers was one of the many people at the CTC who helped to create this event.

"I just love seeing how many people want to be involved in the community," said Sowers.

Sowers is the parliamentarian for SkillsUSA, which means that her job is to plan everything. She planned the date, planned the meetings, made the posters and made

WEEN

Photos provided by Vivian Doster

SOCIALIZING (clockwise top right to left): During last year's Block Party, free popcorn was served for the community and vendors handed out free candy to create a little trick-or-treat for kids; they continued to hand out candy throughout the night as the block party settled down; performers from the theater group Shawn Hacket, Lisa Herzing and Jason Yannuzzi waved goodbye after their final performance of the night - Phantom of the Opera. This year is the fourth year the block party has been going on.

nity members connect with resources they may not have known were available."

Whether it's families looking for resources, children running to grab some candy, or teenagers searching for a fun night out, there was something for everyone.

"The block party builds connections," said Doster. "Connection to neighbors, connection to organizations and connections to services for families that need them."

ts trunk or treat

> **"My favorite part is seeing everyone come together to do one event for the community, and to see the little kids be able to dress up and be their favorite characters."**
>
> **-Kiana Sowers, senior**

the social media posts for the trunk or treat.

"We got the offer to plan the trunk or treat with SkillsUSA," said Sowers, "so I thought that it would be an amazing opportunity for our community."

SkillsUSA is a national workforce development organization that sponsors a handful of CTC-led events, like the trunk or treat.

SkillsUSA's goal is to empower students to be career-ready and skilled professionals.

Three organizations came together to make this event possible: SkillsUSA, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) and the Builders Association. All of these organizations are partnered with the CTC.

"I decided to be a part of the trunk or treat because I got to share some of my funds to my CTC HOSA medical assistants' chapter," said medical assistant senior Jade Hurtado, "I got really excited when they asked."

Hurtado is the owner of Jade Sweets, and she sold them at the trunk or treat.

"I was excited to go because I was able to hang out with my friends," said medical assistant student Tori Stauffer, "and I saw the impact it had on CTC and the community."

Whether you went to this trunk or treat for the candy or the events, just know that you made a difference in the community.

"My favorite part is seeing everyone come together to do one event for the community," said Sowers, "and to see the little kids be able to dress up and be their favorite characters."

Spooky season upon us

Michael Heebner
Assist. Perspective Editor

Swoosh! The sound of kids jumping in a pile of leaves fills the air with the scent of freshly baked apple pie wafting through the open window - fall has arrived.

Every year around Sept. 22, the fall season begins and brings us on a countdown to Christmas. A lot of people only see the season as a "filler" for the Christmas season, but it's so much more than that.

Whether it's the weather, the sports, the color of the leaves, or the excitement for the holiday season, fall is unique in its own way.

The start of fall brings beautiful weather, and the trees turn into tons of different colors.

"The cooler weather and colorful leaves make fall one of the best seasons," said sophomore Sage Henery. "It has a comforting feeling that the other seasons don't quite have."

Along with the amazing weather, fall brings a special holiday: Halloween. Halloween lies on Oct. 31 every year, with many people celebrating it in a special way. The holiday sets up for the winter season, yet still brings an exciting time of its own.

"You can dress up as whoever you want to be, and that's what makes Halloween special," said freshman Jonah Hoffman.

Halloween isn't just about candy and costumes, it's about festivity and being able to pretend for a day, whether you want to be a superhero, a witch or anything else that you like.

Not only do us students enjoy Halloween and fall, but even teachers at our school and parents enjoy the time.

"Fall brings the changing of the seasons, I can watch my son play football and I love Halloween," said art teacher Samantha Weitzel. "I love doing DIY with my husband and we make really cool Halloween costumes for my kids to wear."

Halloween isn't where the fall specialty ends. There are so many activities that people can enjoy, like apple picking, corn mazes, haunted houses and special fall drinks.

"I love getting lost in corn mazes and ruining leaf piles with my friends," said Henery. "Watching classic movies with them always brings nostalgia."

Thanksgiving is another major holiday and a huge part of fall. It's a time for family and friends to get together and be grateful for what they have and celebrate the special parts of life.

"I love to hang out with my friends and family during this special part of the year," said Hoffman. "Family is very important to me."

Overall, fall is more than just a gateway to Christmas. It's a time for trick or treating, doing fun activities, enjoying the amazing weather and being with who matters most to you.

Photos by Lucy Saltern

DECORATING: Key Club paints the windows outside of the cafeteria to match the Halloween spirit. They do similar paintings for each holiday and season.

Extra scenes intrigue Marvel fans

Juliana O'Hara
Staff Writer

"Everybody wants a happy ending. Right? But it doesn't always roll that way." – Tony Stark

On Sept. 25, "Avengers: Endgame," originally released in 2019, was re-released in theaters. The movie had a runtime of three hours and five minutes, with four additional scenes added to the film to connect it to the upcoming "Avengers: Doomsday."

"Endgame" is a masterpiece that tells the story of the aftermath of "Avengers: Infinity War," and how the people remaining after Thanos snapped his fingers and eliminated half of all existing life worked to undo the damage.

The heroes travel through time to collect Infinity Stones and defeat Thanos, the titan that performed the "snap." The movie concludes with everyone being returned and defeating him, but Tony Stark, aka Iron Man, died in the process.

That movie marked the end of an era for Marvel, where most of the original cast, like Scarlet Johansson (Natasha Romanoff/Black Widow) or Robert Downey Jr. (Tony Stark) left the franchise when their characters died.

Downey hasn't appeared in any Marvel productions since then, but an announcement at San Diego Comic Con revealed that he would be returned to the Marvel Cinematic Universe to play Doctor Doom, the main villain in "Doomsday." This brought about the question: "how can Tony Stark and Victor von Doom have the same face?"

Many theories have arisen, and the post-credit scenes in "Encore" have only fueled the fire.

The first scene appears in the last original scene from "Endgame," after Captain America is dancing in the living room with Peggy Carter after having returned to the past to be with her. Instead of the peaceful ending the movie had in 2019, a knock is heard from the door.

Peggy answers it, asking if she can help the unknown character, who is still hidden by the front door, and a British man replies, saying that he can help them. As he steps through the door, we see Loki, a villain from the first Avengers movie who has his own spin-off series.

The scene then cuts to black, leaving more questions than before.

The second addition is post-credit and takes place in the Time Variance Authority, where the "Loki" TV series takes place and is a group that monitors the space-time continuum, and is centered around the characters of Mobius, Casey and Ouroboros. They witness 3,000 universes collapse, panicking about what this means for the multiverse.

The third scene is focused on Bruce Banner, the Hulk, after the events of "Spider-Man: Brand New Day," where he lost control and locked himself into an underground bunker and is running experiments. The recording glitches, and an off-screen voice says they've come to collect Dr. Banner.

The screen cuts out and the Hulk can be heard roaring, then comes back in to display glowing Latverian (Latveria is the fictional home of Doom) symbols on the floor.

The final new addition to the movie comes after all the credits have rolled. In the original "Endgame," the clanging sounds of Tony Stark forging his mask are heard as the film ends.

In "Encore," however, short flashes of a scene can be seen as the clangs are heard, and Doctor Doom is shown forging his own mask, giving the previously nostalgic ending a sinister twist.

"Avengers Endgame: Encore" was a rousing success and cleverly bridges the gaps between the original and "Doomsday," creating excitement leading up to the December release date.

The Marvel Cinematic Universe may have been falling flat in past years, but if "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" and "Encore" are any indication, "Doomsday" is bound to be a blockbuster masterpiece.

New Swift, Cyrus songs hit charts

Lucy Saltern
News Editor

From hard-hitting, upbeat pop music to soulful and heartfelt, alternative style music, there's new music from a variety of artists for anyone to listen to.

Through the past few weeks, artists have been dropping music, whether as an addition to an already released album, as a part of a movie soundtrack, or just to give fans a new song to listen to.

Artists include Taylor Swift, who released four songs under "The Life of a Showgirl: The Encore" on Sept. 25 and Noah Kahan with "Draw You Out" on Oct. 2 for the new Hunger Games movie "Sunrise on the Reaping."

Miley Cyrus also released new singles in preparation for her new album "Bass Persuades." The singles "Bass Persuades," "Let's Get Married" and "Different Religion" released on Sept. 3, 18 and 26 respectively.

Taylor Swift's newest songs were a swing and a miss. Most fans don't like the new songs because they feel rushed and dry.

The lyricism from Swift that is usually deep and meaningful was instead shallow and basic feeling.

The lead single of "The Life of Showgirl: The Encore," "Patient Zero," isn't a bad song, it just isn't very memorable. None of the lyrics stand out and it sounds like a typical pop song.

Songs from-

Taylor Swift

Miley Cyrus

Noah Kahan

"Cleveland!" is arguably the worst song of these four. Swift went from previously writing about beloved cities like Paris and New York to Cleveland, Ohio, and the lyrics aren't even good enough to excuse this.

Lyrics like, "You only need to find one person in the entire world/Who doesn't find you completely insufferable," sum up the overall vibes of these new songs. These lyric styles, along with the irritating synths and spoken-word sections, make it something that isn't fun to listen to.

Noah Kahan released a single titled "Draw You Out" on Oct. 2 about lovers who will never get to spend their lives together.

The song is deep and emotional, talking about the hopeful love of two young lovers that ends in tragic loss. It talks about the abundant grief that comes with someone that you have known your whole life and what life feels like adapting without them.

The movie is set to release in theaters on Nov. 20, and while Kahan made the lead single, the movie also features the Searows and Lizzy McAlpine.

Cyrus's lead single from her new album is called "Bass Persuades," and it is a catchy pop song with synth-pop that echoes the feel of Lady Gaga. It contains an infectious energy to it that makes it a great listen.

"Let's get Married" is a slower single from Cyrus that is still upbeat and contains hints of finding pure love and joy after harder times.

It uses guitar chords and sweeping piano sounds to draw you in, and lyrics like, "Let's go get married tonight/I'm having visions of white" to draw imagery of two people in love.

Cyrus's last single is "Different Religion" and it's a gothic-leaning, intoxicating pop song that is about devotion and a burning infatuation for a lover.

It shows a heavier aspect of an album, with darker hints than most of the songs that are on the album. These sounds represent the passion and obsession that comes with love.

Overall, these new songs released from a variety of artists are a fun listen for everybody. They all are very different from each other, and each one offers something unique for a listener.

Bryan's new EP somber

Josie Hartman
Photographer

Zach Bryan is the No. 3 country ranked artist right now in the U.S. He came out with an EP called, "Young Manhood and Other Donatable Organs," on Oct. 16.

On Bryan's "With Heaven On Top" tour, he teased unreleased songs from the EP. His fans around this album were thrilled with excitement, especially since one of the songs features singer-songwriter Lana Del Rey.

The EP starts with "Lodi When," talking about how if he were to look back in the past, would he go to a former partner or to a simpler time when he was younger. Also, saying how he was looking for someone to save him, but he realized he could save himself.

The second track is "The Robot Killed The Working Man," Bryan saying, though a 'man' can be experienced, the robot will always take his place. It's a significant step that's happening for humanity, but it's changing everything for the worse.

Zach Bryan

The fans favorite song titled "Lies (feat. Lana Del Rey)," is next. Bryans verse talks about wanting to have support in a relationship, while Rey's verse is saying her partner only says what she wants to hear. Towards the end they sing together asking for the truth even if the relationship is over.

"Dog Days" is the fourth song. This track is about pushing through the hard days (the Dog Days). He confesses he made mistakes in the past and wants to push past them.

The fifth track is "Backwards" this one having a deeper meaning. Bryan says he's going to forgive himself for everything he did. He wants to change and keep pushing through life with better choices.

"Plainsman (feat. Turnpike Troubadours)," talks about how you can take things away, but it will still be with you, "You can take him off the plains, but the plains live in him." Saying how something can never beat hard work and a natural world's beauty.

The last track is "You'll Get By," it's a profound song, giving encouragement to everyone going through a tough time. "So be kind when it ain't easy/don't let the vices in deep." Bryan talks from experience saying how you must practice patience and learn how to grow.

Zach Bryans overall theme is captured by the cover, he's standing in an empty field with a shotgun in his hand, pointing it at his doppelgänger. These 8 tracks were a very somber opening of Bryans mind for fans and what he went through when he was younger. Though he never held back with his other albums, these songs really show something more.

Mini-series latest in line of adaptations

Elise Badger
Associate Editor

"Maybe there isn't a beast... maybe it's only us."

These are the famous lines from William Goldings novel, "Lord of the Flies."

"Lord of the Flies" is a novel that is entwined in most high school curriculums. At Cedar Crest, we read it in the second semester in ninth grade English.

This classic follows the plot of a group of British school boys when their plane crashes on a deserted island and they have to survive in hopes of getting rescued. Conflict over leadership and rule causes the boys to form factions and turn on each other.

There have been four adaptations of "Lord of the Flies" — two movies, one TV miniseries and one graphic novel.

The newest adaptation of "Lord of the Flies" is a TV-miniseries that came out this February. Starring Winston Sawyers (Ralph), Lox Pratt (Jack), David McKenna (Piggy) and Ike Talbut (Simon), this adaptation dives deeper into all the story's variations.

Being a four-episode series, this show had time to highlight into the characters and plot lines. We learn a lot about all the boys' life before the island, and we get more insight into their relationships that don't get shown in any of the other adaptations.

The only problem with the longer run-time is that some of the plot points become way too long. Many scenes that could've taken 30 seconds ended up taking five minutes, which just leads to boredom.

The graphic novel illustrated by Aimée de Jongh came out in 2024. Because the original novel got turned into a graphic novel, a handful of the smaller plot lines got cut, but the overall plot stayed the same.

The last "Lord of the Flies" adaptation that came out was in 1990 starring Balthazar Getty (Ralph), Chris Furrh (Jack), Danuel Pipoly (Piggy) and James Badge Dale (Simon). This adaptation is the most different from the book.

The boys are American cadets in military school and their plane crashes, leaving them stranded on a jungle island. In this adaptation, the pilot (Michael Greene) never dies in the crash, which creates a whole new plot with the boys having to take care of him and making sure that he doesn't get into trouble.

This is the most controversial adaptation. Some love the difference between the book and movie, while others think screen adaptations should stay as true as possible to the original text.

Before all these others, in 1963, the world got its first adaptation of this gruesome story. Starring James Aubrey (Ralph), Tom Chapin (Jack), Hugh Edwards (Piggy) and Tom Gaman (Simon).

This adaptation follows the majority of the original plot, just in black and white movie form and without all the little details you'd get from a book.

While being the most accurate to the book, the movie is considered the worst adaptation. It is emotionally flat; you don't find any of the major character's deaths all that sad, and it's just really boring.

In all the adaptations, the main characters are used to represent allegorical figures. Ralph represents democracy, Jack represents dictatorship, Piggy represents intelligence and Simon represents spirituality.

In ninth grade English, students study these allegorical figures/themes and how they relate to the book and today's society.

No matter what adaptation you choose, each one will teach you about the manipulation of fear, totalitarianism, mob rule and the loss of innocence.

Artists exceed 'expectations'

Holden Smith
Assist. Entertainment Editor

"Ooh, Olivia does remixes now."

This iconic line is the opening to Olivia Rodrigo and Chappell Roan's new remix of Rodrigo's song "expectations" from her album "you seem pretty sad for a girl so in love." The remix was released on Thursday, Oct 15 along with a music video.

The remix did exceptionally well.

It debuted at number four on Spotify's "Global Chart" with 4.6 million streams, and it has re-entered Roan to Spotify's "Top Artists Global," putting her at number 81 and the music video reached number one on YouTube trending.

The remix claimed the biggest debut for a female remix on Spotify in 2026, beating previous records. The music video marked one of the largest western music video debuts of the year with 6.4 million views in its first 24 hours.

"expectations" is a very fun song about outgrowing toxic dating patterns and raising personal standards. It has an upbeat fast melody with electro-pop '80s like instrumentals.

The remix is even more exciting and Roan's parts complement Rodrigo's very well. Roan adds a completely new second verse, a new pre-chorus and amazing background vocals and harmonies to the song.

The music video depicts a retro themed game show titled "The Big Expectations Show." Along with Rodrigo and Roan, the music video features David Byrne, lead vocalist of the band The Talking Heads, as the game show host.

It is a wonderfully weird and creative video. It shows off both Roan's and Rodrigo's personalities perfectly.

Olivia Rodrigo

Chappell Roan

The music video was fun to watch, and it was an effective, unique way to turn the song into a film.

The original version of "expectations" is a really good song, and it already sounded inspired by Roan's music.

In the remix, Roan's background vocals at the end of the song change the mood a bit compared to the original.

The remix is better. It is even more upbeat compared to the original and more fun to listen to.

Rodrigo and Roan are close, long-standing friends, and they did a wonderful job on "expectations."

Songwriter celebrates 20 years

Emma Hartman
Editor-in-Chief

"No, it won't all go the way it should. But I know the heart of life is good."

American singer-songwriter and renowned guitarist John Mayer celebrated 20 years of his album "Continuum" on Sept. 11. "Continuum" represented a sharp pivot in Mayer's career.

The musical piece bridges together blues, soft funk, R&B and pop in its production. Mayer combined these different musical styles into one sound that he distinctly made his own.

Each and every song was carefully constructed, with attention to musicianship and guitar arrangements.

With introspective songwriting, Mayer highlights major themes of love, self-reflection and the uncertainty of life.

The 12-track album begins with the song "Waiting On the World to Change," a call-to-action track that zooms into political and social frustration from a generation that feels helpless. The song bleeds into track two, "I Don't Trust Myself (With Loving You)."

With what sounds like synthesized electric guitar, the song welcomes gentle percussion to begin with Mayer's soft vocals creating a seductive sound. It explores the fear of entering a relationship while noticing your own flaws, questioning your own ability to love someone else.

"Gravity," an emotionally powerful song, allows the lyrics to take center stage with minimal instrumentation, aside from Mayer's soulful guitar improvisation. "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" is another emotional track, capturing a painful realization that a relationship is falling apart.

The lyrics, engulfed in tension, are accompanied by guitar solos that reinforce the sense of heartbreak that the song embodied. These two tracks are some of Mayer's most listened to out of his whole discography.

"Stop this Train" is acoustically driven with delicate melodies that create an intimate quality. The lyrics explore the feeling of getting older, featuring vulnerability that makes the song relatable.

"The Heart of Life" and "Vultures" are two more tracks. The first is less heavy than others with optimism and hopefulness, while the latter stands out with its rhythmic bass line and lyrics that dive into selfishness.

The album feels like home — like breathing in a breath of fresh air from a space that's transparent and soulful.

While being an impeccable guitarist as an alumnus from Berklee College of Music, Mayer is also a phenomenal songwriter. Though this is his third studio album, "Continuum" deserves to be celebrated and further acknowledged as a meaningful message of love, growing up and just being human.

Photo by Kyle Nazarchuk

RUNNING: Senior Zach Margut competes during a home meet on Sept. 15 against Ephrata and Hempfield. The boys' team beat both the Black Knights and Mountaineers with the lowest overall scores, 19-44 and 22-36, respectively.

Boys' cross country places second in League meet

Jackson Martel
Asst. Sports Editor

The Cedar Crest cross country teams have built a season around teamwork, leadership and perseverance, with runners supporting one another through challenges and working toward their postseason goals.

The boys team went 6-1 and placed second in Districts with a best time from Wyatt Wolfe of 16:23 and placed 10, tying for first in the Lancaster-Lebanon League; the girls team went 2-5 and placed sixth in the L-L League.

Both the boys' and girls' teams have relied on strong packs of runners to push each other throughout races. The teams' close relationship have helped create a supportive environment for runners at every level.

"Our team has immense depth from our number one runner to our twentieth runner and that's what wins meets," said senior boys captain Evan Weimer. "We are all like a family and we hang out and do things outside of running which makes our team ever closer."

The senior captains have played an important role in setting the tone for their teams. Captains like Weimer played major leadership roles with the strength and development of the younger classes setting up the team for future years.

The season has also brought challenges, including injuries that have forced runners to find ways to stay involved while recovering.

"My running career has been very challenging in this sport dealing with many injuries throughout my career," said Weimer. "Adversity has taught me how to get back up and keep pushing, even when being injured by cross training on the elliptical or bikes as well."

As both teams move into the postseason, the boys have qualified for districts and are looking to continue their success. Weimer said the team's goal is to reach states as a team, with the top seven runners working toward that goal.

The girls' team has also depended on its team culture and support for one another. Runners have celebrated personal achievements regardless of where they finished, working together to improve throughout the season.

"Everyone is so close and we all have the same goals," said junior Sophie Meli. "We put all the little details every day that will make us a better team."

Meli, who placed 62 with a time of 21:51, said the season is a building year for the girls, with the juniors and seniors focused on helping younger runners prepare to take on leadership roles.

With senior leadership, supportive teammates and a season that has tested their effort, both teams hope to carry teamwork and dedication into the postseason and future season.

Senior commits to Division 1 field hockey

Vivian Doster
Feature Editor

Most seniors are still stressing about college scouts and big choices, but for some the decision has been made.

Last spring, senior Cara Figeroa was confirmed Division 1 for field hockey at La Salle University.

"When the La Salle coach and I spoke in February of last year, I knew it was the right fit," said Figeroa. "During my visit I became certain of that."

Figeroa was one of, if not the first to be committed to a college, let alone committed D1. It has provided her with a feeling of security going into her senior year.

"I was extremely excited and pumped to continue playing field hockey at such a high level but also relieved to end the process [of searching for colleges]," said Figeroa.

Field hockey has always been an extremely important part of her life, both on the field and off the field.

Figeroa has established herself as a talented and skilled player on the field. Her depth of knowledge, and knowing how to react makes her a valuable player.

"Cara really understands the game and doesn't just think about what is going on in the moment; she is thinking multiple passes ahead," said coach Lewis. "Overall, just a very good player with a high field hockey IQ."

There have been multiple seasons where Figueroa couldn't play. She has faced tons of challenges with injury and recovery, even tearing her ACL.

"I've seen Cara keep herself in shape and seen her practicing stick skills," said senior captain

Cara Figueroa

Estella Sanchez. "She also keeps a very positive mindset throughout all her injuries."

Being off the field doesn't stop Figeroa from contributing to the team. As a team captain, she is a strong leader and always keeps the team's spirits up with her infectious positivity.

"Working with her as a captain is truly such a blessing," said Sanchez. "She's a great person to work with on and off the field. We communicate so well and solve problems together."

Figeroa is looking forward to continuing her field hockey career in college and making more connections with teammates.

"I can't wait to play with my fellow recruits and future teammates," said Figeroa. "I have gotten very close to them through the recruiting process as well as playing with and against them in club field hockey."

Figeuroa is still enjoying her team here at Cedar Crest and spending time with girls that she's been playing with all throughout her life.

"High school sports are really special," said Lewis. "You will never get another opportunity to play with and in front of so many people that you grew up with.

Young mountain bike team shows potential

Syliva Schach
Entertainment Editor

As fall rolls on, the mountain bike team just finished out their season with a bang.

The first two weekends of the month saw several Cedar Crest riders on the Lebanon Valley Mountain Bike Team racing in State College and Fair Hill, Maryland for the last conference race and states, respectively.

At races, riders competed against those of a similar skill level, split into divisions based on time and placing at previous events.

This year's freshman-heavy team features riders spread through the JV divisions, but based off of this year's performance, there is potential for growth.

"Every student-athlete improved their skills throughout the season, and a few of the middle and high school riders consistently performed well with some earning podium finishes at races," said head coach Jon Conville. "We also had a lot of fun riding the trails together!"

Freshman Brook Schach raced in the JV2 division and achieved two podium finishes this season, including seventh in the state race.

"I feel great," said Schach. "I feel like I've improved a lot and I'm happy that I'm able to podium now."

The rest of the team has also had a successful season, with high finishes throughout the team, including freshman Brady Smith placing 20th in a large JV3 division at the conference race on Oct. 3.

"I feel good with my performance this season," said Smith. "I think next year will be really good, too."

To prepare for races, riders attend weekly practices with the team, along with riding together outside of organized practices to work on technique and overall skill.

Practices can look like a group ride on trails around Mount Gretna, or they can be more structured, with activities and games to improve riders' skills on the bike. There is also emphasis on making sure riders are prepared both mentally and physically for the races.

"My favorite part of being a coach is watching the riders improve and gain confidence throughout the season," said coach and former rider and CCHS alumnus Cayden Schmidt. "It's rewarding to see them push themselves, accomplish goals, and develop a stronger passion for mountain biking."

Schmidt was still a rider on the team when the current freshmen were in their first year on the team, which contributes positively to the team atmosphere.

"Being a former rider helps me relate to the athletes because I've been in their position before," said Schmidt. "I understand the challenges of racing and what it's like to be a member of the team."

The current group of riders has been riding together since sixth grade, creating a close-knit and supportive team.

"My favorite part of the team is the people," said Schach. "And getting to ride with my friends."

Photo provided by Sylvia Schach

RIDING: Sophomore Brady Smith races at the Rambling Rally at Birdboro Preserve on Sept. 27. Smith has been on the team since sixth grade.

Football to play in playoff game

Emma Hartman
Editor-in-Chief

While only having one more regular season game under Friday night lights, the football team's run is far from over.

With a current record of 6-3 after their game last Friday against Penn Manor, the Falcons are ranked ninth overall in District 6A. With their ranking, they're in prime position to play in the first round of Districts and host the first playoff game.

"I'm looking forward to our team competing in Districts," said senior wide receiver Kai Speaks. "I can't wait to go out and put it all on the line, one last time. We have a good shot winning first round of playoffs and getting a chance to make school history. "

The team has experienced hardships and roadblocks this season - unfortunately, starting senior running back Isaiah Zimmerman suffered an injury to his knee during the game against McCaskey.

Injuries have taken players on offense and defense, but these injuries have showcased the team's ability to adapt.

"Even with the tougher games we have, we still stick together," said senior linebacker Garrett Starry. "Through all the adversity, we still play as one and refuse to fold. We've made it to Districts every year I've played, but I want to go far and do more than what's already been done."

Since last March, players have been coming to practices on Sundays in the spring, a team camp at Lebanon Valley College in July, and lift three days a week in the summer.

The effort and hard work that secured the Falcon's a spot in Districts has been accumulating not just during in-season practices, but for the past seven months.

"They've worked incredibly hard at football for a very long time and that's what it takes to be successful," said head coach Nick Lambros. "You cannot show up the first day of practice and think you've made it — it takes an enormous amount of preparation, and this team has put the work in."

According to Lambros, the team has played "unselfish football" while also being coachable. The players also claim that a major component of their success is the brotherhood they've established.

"We compete and fight for each other and that goes a long way when playing the game of football," said Speaks. "Last year we had a lot of ups and downs, and we let that define us and our season, but this year we push past the challenges and honestly go out and have fun."

Both Starry and Speaks have had an impeccable season so far — Starry has achieved 79 total tackles so far this season, while Speaks has a total of 8 touchdowns and is on track to soon reach 1,000 all-purpose yards.

At the top of the leaderboard in touchdowns, junior quarterback Steven Reyes stands at 20, with 1,642 all-purpose yards as of Oct. 26.

"I could point out the things that affected us and what could've gone better, but I believe everything happens for a reason," said Speaks. "The only goal now is to win first round of Districts and let God handle the rest."

Photo by Rachelle Isgriggs

CATCHING: Senior Kai Speaks receives the ball during a game against Dallastown on Oct. 16. The Falcons defeated theWildcats, 30-8.

Sophomore medals again at State golf

MEDALING: For the second consecutive year, sophomore Bryn Brandt earns a medal at the PIAA Class 3A Golf Championships. After finishing eighth during her freshman year, Brandt placed seventh at last week's two-day event at Penn State's Blue Course. Brandt shot 73 on the first day and a 78 on the second to finish with a 7-over par 151.

Photo by Drew Gates

Girls' soccer finishes .500

Lucy Saltern
News Editor

Despite multiple challenges, the girls' soccer team had a strong season ending with a 7-7-2 record.

At the beginning of the season, the team experienced a coaching change, with biology teacher Ryelle Shuey taking the position of head coach.

"There were a lot of obstacles with the new coaching staff," said senior captain Livia Wright. "Coach Shuey was a great leader and role model for us, and all the girls were easily able to adjust with her."

Shuey played for Lehigh University's Division I soccer team and currently coaches at Lancaster Inferno alongside Cedar Crest.

"Soccer has been a meaningful part of my life: it has shaped me into the person I am today by teaching me countless life lessons and strong values," said Shuey. "With that foundation and framework, it is my goal to provide that care, guidance and support to the next generation."

Overall, the girls' season didn't end quite as they wanted it to.

"I think we could have done better as a team, but some things just didn't go our way," said Wright. "I am proud of how everyone played and persevered during the season."

Shuey's goals for this season was to address issues in an impactful way to maintain strong mental and physical health throughout their season. Through Google Forms, players could receive and leave honest feedback of their week

"The season started strong, but didn't end on the most positive note," said senior Cameron Blouch. "We worked through challenges by being there for each other no matter what."

With the new coaching approaches, a better team atmosphere was cultivated.

"My favorite part of the season was definitely the people," said Blouch. "I am very blessed to be surrounded by such an amazing group of girls who make my experience so much better."

Boys' soccer secures District home game

Vivian Doster
Feature Editor

For the second consecutive year, the boys' soccer team qualified for Districts, this year earning a first-round home game.

The team finished the regular season with a 9-4-3 record, earning the sixth seed in the District 3 4A tournament. The team hosted Hempfield Tuesday night, after the Talon went to print.

"This season has gone very well," said senior captain Grant Reesor. "We have had some low points in the season that hurt us, but we figured everything out and are full steam ahead working hard to make big runs into districts."

Reesor has been playing soccer for 14 years, and this year leads the team as a captain. He plans to further his education majoring in finance at Hood College, playing both soccer and lacrosse.

While the boys have 15 seniors, the leading scorer is junior Jemar Pauleus, who amassed 20 goals during the regular season, including two in their final regular season game against Lampeter-Strasburg. The Falcons won the game, 3-2.

"Scoring 20 goals feels good; it's a big accomplishment," said junior Jemar Pauleus. "Last year I didn't get to reach that goal because the season ended so soon."

The team came in third in Section One of the Lancaster-Lebanon League, narrowly missing the league playoffs.

However, the team entered the district playoffs on a hot streak, finishing up the last six games of the regular season on a 5-0-1 run.

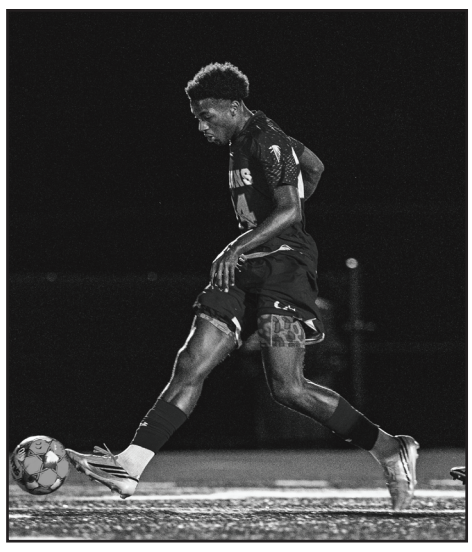


Photo by Kyle Nazarchuk

DRIBBLING: Junior Jemar Pauleus kicks the ball in during the senior night game against McCaskey on Oct. 1. The Falcons defeated the Red Tornados, 4-1.

"We lost a couple of games that we shouldn't have lost," said senior Lucas Schreier, the team's second leading scorer. "The hope is to win Districts and then maybe make a run in States."

During his time left playing at Cedar Crest, Reesor wants to make the most of what has been a challenging season and bring home a trophy cementing a 2027 legacy.

"I will miss all the friendships I have made and all the laughs and good times that made every day of the season the best day ever," said Reesor.

NHS inducts 101 new members

Juliana O'Hara
Staff Writer

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone." – Ronald Reagan

Every October, the Cedar Crest National Honor Society (NHS) welcomes its new members during the annual induction ceremony. This year, it took place on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

However, the event was different from the years past. The construction interfered with the usual location: the auditorium.

This year, the induction was held in The Cage. In years past, new and old members would process in before and after names were called, but this year they stayed seated in the bleachers for the entirety of the event.

Another huge part of the induction ceremony is the guest speaker. This year, Vice President of Communications and Education for Lebanon Family Health Services, Maggie Progin, will be speaking.

"In my process to select someone for the role of guest speaker, I wanted to select someone who had real connecting service to Lebanon County," said senior president Christopher Martinez Mejia. "With her extensive help with medical awareness, substance use and human services for the county she became to me the most viable candidate."

Mejia was elected to the president position in the spring of the 2025-2026 school year and had embraced the responsibility with open arms.

"It has been a mix of challenges and enthusiasm being in charge of the NHS chapter," said Mejia. "I've also had a wonderful time addressing members, both new and returning, about what's expected of them and carefully going through major announcements with everyone, so we're all on the same step."

Mejia, along with vice president Ryan Brophy, social media coordinator Rileigh Lightner, treasurer Tyler Do and secretary Atalia Alnoor gave brief speeches. Mejia spoke several times throughout the night, introducing each speaker and giving opening and closing remarks.

The other four officers each explained one of the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, service, leadership and character. These pillars are what shape the idea and heart of the National Honor Society, reminding students what they should strive for when serving others.

Applications for NHS were sent to qualifying students towards the end of the summer. Juniors and seniors with a minimum of 3.85 GPA were invited to apply.

One hundred and one students were accepted after the deadline in mid-September, with eighteen seniors and eighty-three juniors inducted at the ceremony. Junior Matthew Peelen was one of the many students to commit to NHS.

"One of my big motivators [to apply] was seeing my siblings take action and volunteer through NHS," says Peelen. "From what I've seen, NHS is very well-run and all the student leaders and teachers are great people."

National Honor Society runs several events throughout the year, like the Christmas Party and Challenge Day for the 10 students.

As the year is set in motion, NHS members will be putting aside their valuable time to serve the community.

"Overall, I can't wait to see our members going out to the community to see how much their help can truly impact the county," says Mejia.

FBLA attends state leadership workshop

Michael Heebner
Assist. Perspective Editor

Let's get down to business.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is getting ready for their club trip to the Kalahari convention center this Sunday and Monday in the Poconos. There will be 16 members of the club attending workshops and events for the trip.

This will be for their annual state leadership workshop, which will include a speaker who talks about their experience as a leader. The convention will start with the lead guest speaker presenting their story, and then members will go to conference rooms of their choosing.

"It's an opportunity for leaders across the state to learn more about their responsibilities as members and break up into topics of what they're interested in," said club adviser Amy Sullivan. "We're focused on preparing students for careers in business, developing their skills and giving them leadership opportunities."

Other speakers with experience in entrepreneurship will be present at the conference rooms, each with their own rooms available to the public. They will be available to speak to all throughout the day.

"Whether you're going into the medical field, starting your own business or going into journalism or your own art, it applies everywhere."

- Emma Hartman, FBLA president

"I am very excited for the Kalahari field trip and the workshops that we will be able to go to," said sophomore Anthony Verna. "I joined FBLA for something fun to do with my friends and it's something I can benefit a lot from."

Along with the stories you can hear from the real-life examples of people who took lead and became successful, you can also learn that business can apply to you and that you may not realize it. The convention is an opportunity to teach people about how important business is and how it applies to everyone, regardless of what field you choose.

"I try to emphasize that business is in all realms of your life," said senior president Emma Hartman. "Whether you're going into the medical field, starting your own business or going into journalism or your own art, it applies everywhere."

Along with the upcoming trip, the club is on pace this year for national recognition in what's called the Champion Chapter, which is an award given to chapters (schools) that earn recognition through events from their members. They've won the gold champion chapter for the last four years.

The chapter earns points for every event they participate in.

"The more points we earn the more recognition we get in the state, which is important to us," said Sullivan.

FBLA has a lot to look forward to as far as rankings and learning the fundaments of a leader.

"Last year the people I roomed with are now some of my closest friends, even after they graduated," said Hartman. "It's more than just FBLA, you get to spend quality time with people you care about."

Photo by Gabriella Jean-Philippe

CRAFTING: Seniors Sarah Nassar, Veronica An and Trinity Young decorate clips at the Key Club Social. The Social also had opprotunities to chalk and paint rocks.

Key club hosts picnic social at South Hills

Lucy Saltern
News Editor

With the crisp autumn air, fun games and community projects, Key Club celebrated its new and returning members in style.

On Oct. 22, Key Club held its annual social event after school at South Hills.

"My favorite part of the social was getting to interact with the new members," said junior Key Club Editor Gabriella Jean-Phillippe. "I had a great time at the clip table, and I meant some very creative people who had a lot of great ideas."

Key Club is the school's largest club, with 192 members and places emphasis on serving the school and community through service hours.

"I really enjoy doing service for the community," said club adviser Shannon Reisch. "I also love working with the students and officers, and seeing their strengths as they step into leadership roles and become involved in our community."

One of their ways of serving the school is taking care of its members through events like the social.

The social event was a mix of completing projects and having fun games and snacks for its members. Some of the projects included mulching and painting rocks. After they were finished, attendees played games like basketball, football and volleyball.

The social is planned by members who are involved in club leadership. Senior High School Service Chair Iyanna Obuobisa planned the majority of this event along with her peers.

Obuobisa and fellow senior High School Service Chair Clara Tawadrous reached out to officers and other committee chairs to help with projects.

"Some of these people volunteered to set up their projects at South Hills to be completed at the fair, which is really nice," said Obuobisa.

Key club allows for a community of like-minded students who want to serve to work together to achieve this goal on a wide, impactful scale.

The club has had large impacts throughout Lebanon County, whether at the school with courtyard clean ups or through the larger community with library read-alouds or highway cleanup events.

"Key Club offers support and positivity to the community," said Jean-Phillippe. "Our projects help people in need and give them a chance at getting the resources they don't have. We also participate in interactive activities, which helps to bring the community together by spreading joy and kindness."

The club will continue to work on these projects throughout the year while also creating community outreach with donations and food drives.

"I think leadership is going to help our club grow," said Reisch. "We are up to 21 leadership positions this year. We're increasing these leadership opportunities, which I think is an amazing thing because it gives more people the opportunity to plan and come up with ideas."