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June 2026

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Students Build Personal Libraries



Students in Mrs. Stewart's reading classes visited The Paper Garden in Indiana. This field trip, funded by a classroom innovation grant from the Indiana Area Education Foundation, was designed to help students build their own personal libraries while supporting local business. Students shopped for books with a budgeted amount, and many students were able to purchase several books from the store that may be used in May for an individual reading project. More importantly, this project served as the beginning of home libraries and book collections for these students, which can support a lifelong habit of reading and learning.

Thank you, Indiana Area Education Foundation and The Paper Garden, for supporting this incredible experience for students.

Principal's Message

Congratulations to our IHS Class of 2026! We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments and contributions to the Indiana Area Senior High School community. They have strengthened all aspects of our school community including academics, arts, athletics, advising, and extracurricular opportunities. Our seniors have worked to become college, career, and life ready while exemplifying the highest standards of work ethic, scholarship, integrity, and service. These young people have made IHS a better place during their tenure at IHS and are leaving an impacting legacy.

We will miss seeing and working with our seniors on a daily basis but are comforted to know that their promise and potential as young people will serve them well for many years to come. On behalf of our IHS faculty and staff, as well as our Operational Principal, Mr. Doug Johnson, and our Dean of Students, Mr. Michael Bertig, we congratulate our IHS graduating Class of 2026 and extend the very best wishes in all of their future endeavors!

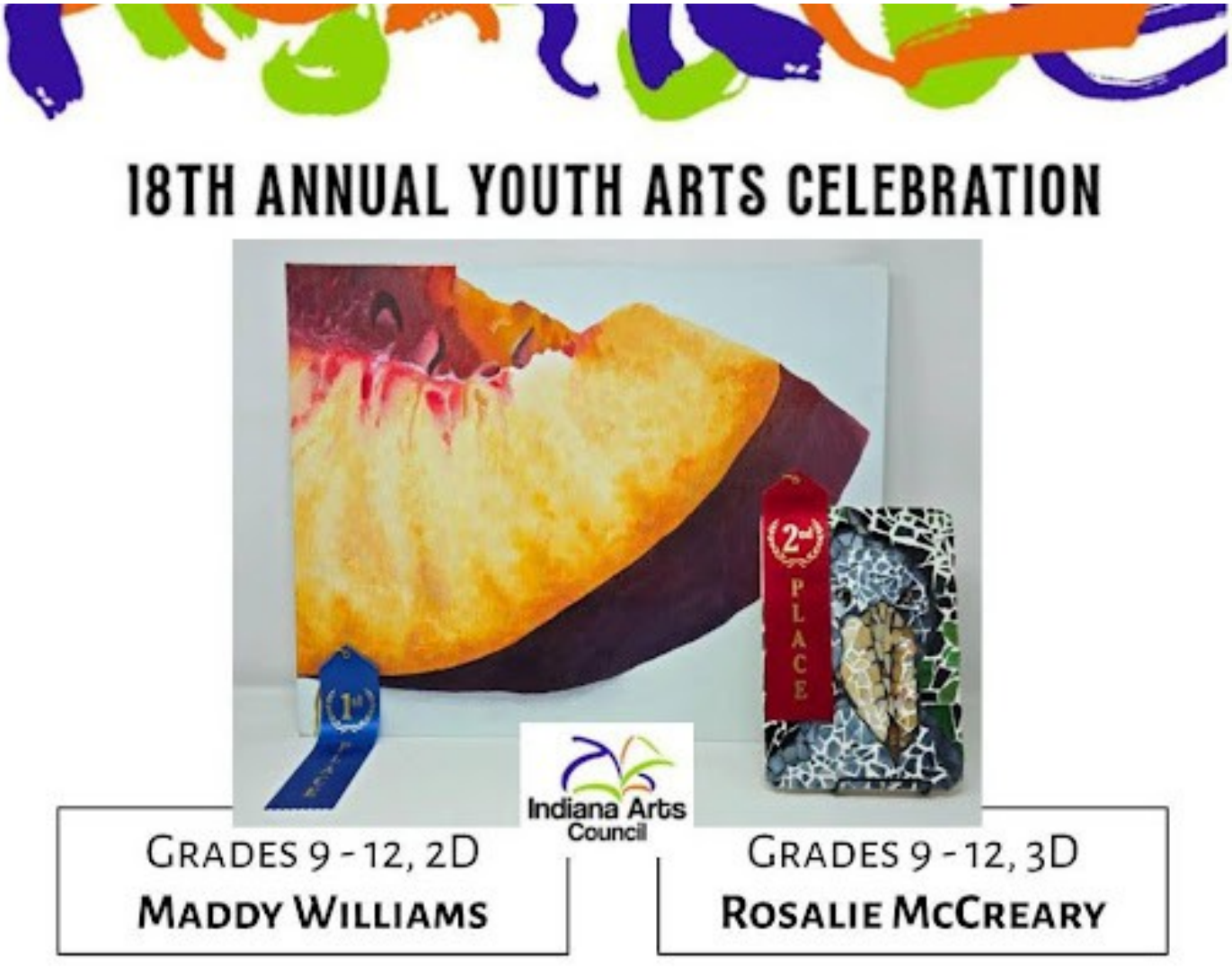
Indiana Proud of Our Students,

Wade McElheny

News from the Art Department

The Indiana Arts Council's (IAC) annual Youth Arts Celebration (YAC) took place in the community from April 18 - May 2. IAC partnered with downtown Indiana to bring artwork to area businesses and organizations. Indiana High School students' work was displayed at the Indiana Free Library as well as Skin Art Works. The IHS artworks that were featured proudly represented our school. Local artists judged the artworks in the celebration, and two IHS students were awarded prizes for their work:

Maddy Williams - 1st Place, Grades 9-12, 2-Dimensional Art
Rosalie McCreary - 2nd Place, Grades 9-12 3-Dimensional Art



IHS ATHENA Hosts Young Women's Summit



The IHS ATHENA Club proudly hosted its annual *Voices of Tomorrow Leadership Summit "Becoming Her,"* welcoming more than 100 students from five local high schools: Indiana High School, Marion Center High School, Purchase Line High School, River Valley High School, and United High School. Planned and led by IHS ATHENA members, the event focused on empowering young women through leadership, confidence, and community connection.

Students had the opportunity to hear from four inspiring women from the Indiana County community: Laurie Kuzneski, Ellen Ruddock, Melissa Jones, and Gabrielle Myers, who shared their personal journeys to success and offered meaningful advice for the future. The day also featured a self-defense course led by Elite Combative Systems and a "Power Words" session facilitated by Dr. Holly Rougeaux of Indiana County ATHENA and Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

As part of the summit's mission of leadership through service, the IHS ATHENA Club also coordinated a donation drive to support the Chevy Chase Community Center. The donation drive was a powerful reminder of the impact young leaders can make when they come together to inspire, support, and uplift one another.







Science National Honor Society Inducts New Members

The Indiana Area Senior High School chapter of Science National Honor Society welcomes the new class of 2027 inductees. These students have demonstrated scholarship in science

academics as well as a continuous pursuit of knowledge through scientific investigations.



Front: **Addison Porter**, **Marlie Mangold**, **Heather Paul**, **Sahana Mehta** (President), **Liliana Manzi** (Vice President), **Julia Weber** (Secretary), **Sarah Shahin**, **Brionna Szalkowski**, **Liliana Vello**, **Angelo Gentile**, **Andy Hao**, **Liam Hunter**, **Samantha Lawrence**, **Allison Lichtenfels**

Back: **Joshua Reed** (Treasurer), **John Cross**, **Daniel Trevorrow**, **Brayden Stevens**

Missing from photo: **William Herr**, **Rachel Livermore**, **Ashlyn Schweissing**, **Tyler Yount**



Officers

Eva Nealen (Outgoing President), **Sahana Mehta** (President), **Joshua Reed** (Treasurer), **Audrey Yang** (Outgoing Treasurer), **Liliana Manzi** (Vice President), **Edmond Lin** (Outgoing Vice President), **Julia Weber** (Secretary), **Elizabeth Major** (Outgoing Secretary)

IHS Ambassadors Welcome New Students and Freshmen





As a group of students who strive to make a difference in our school, Ambassadors help all new students and freshmen to adjust and feel comfortable and confident at IHS. They give tours to new students; plan, organize and run Welcome Day and Freshman Orientation for incoming 9th grade and new students; and work with Athena Club, Pep Club, and SGA to welcome our 8th graders on Move-Up Day. From connection groups to events, we have been working to make our school a more welcoming and friendly community.

Ambassadors organized four different connection groups for our freshman class this year. This provided time for upperclassmen Ambassadors to introduce themselves to 9th graders, in an effort to help them feel comfortable, connected, and informed at school. Ambassadors explained scheduling, clubs, and other senior high activities. For Quarter 4, we organized activities to celebrate our 9th grade class including card making, sidewalk chalk, pickleball, kickball, basketball, and ping pong. Freshmen enjoyed a fun event and were able to destress, relax, and be calm for all of the upcoming testing.

If you know a current 8th grader, please remind them of Move Up Day on June 3 and Welcome Day at the beginning of the next school year. These events are for incoming 9th graders to meet some of the upperclassmen as well to help them become comfortable with and excited for high school. At Welcome Day and Freshman Orientation, students run through their schedules, meet their teachers, learn about the senior high, and get a feel for their first day and first week.

Summer School 2026

It's hard to believe, but the end of the school year is in sight! Because the end of the school year is in sight, it's time for students to consider Summer School 2026.

If your student is interested in taking **Geometry, Pre-Calculus**, **Computer Applications**, **Personal Finance-Career and Work Readiness**, or **Health and Physical Education 9/10/11** for **CREDIT ADVANCEMENT** purposes this summer, they should check out the Summer School website. If your student has not yet earned credit for one of the aforementioned courses, taking the course during Summer School could provide your student an opportunity to "make room" in their schedule for other classes during the regular academic year.

If your student needs to **recoup** credit for a course they failed to successfully complete during the regular academic year, they should check out the **CREDIT RECOVERY** information on the Summer School website. Students are able to retake a maximum of two (2) classes through the Summer School credit recovery program. The Summer School website will feature an extensive list of credit recovery courses that will be offered during Summer School; credit recovery coursework is offered in **all four core subject areas**, and students may also pursue credit recovery for **Computer Applications**, **Personal Finance-Career and Work Readiness**, and **Health and Physical Education**.

There is a fee for credit advancement Summer School coursework. If a student is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, though, the fee is waived. There is **no** charge for students taking credit recovery coursework. Fees for Summer School coursework are addressed on the Summer School website.

All Summer School 2026 classes mentioned above, with the exceptions of Credit Advancement Geometry and Pre-Calculus, will begin on **Monday, June 16, 2026**, and conclude on **Friday, August 7, 2026**. Credit Advancement Geometry and Pre-Calculus will begin on **Monday, May 25, 2026**.

Use the following link to access Summer School information and registration forms on the district website: IDEAL Summer School. If you have questions about Summer School operations or details, please contact the secondary Summer School coordinator, Mr. Steve Cochran (scochran@iasd.cc). If you have questions about your student's specific coursework needs, please contact your student's school counselor.

Parent Alert: Parents of the Class of 2026

On behalf of Indiana Area School District's support staff, faculty, administration, and Board of Directors, we extend to you, the parents and guardians of the Class of 2026, our sincerest congratulations on the upcoming graduation of your students from Indiana Area School District. Commencement is a celebration of the Class of 2026's many achievements, and we look with joyful expectation to all the opportunities that lie ahead for this class. We join with you in wishing the members of the Class of 2026 much happiness and success in all their future endeavors.

Also, on behalf of the Class of 2026, administration, and the Board of Directors, we take this opportunity to extend our thanks to Indiana University of Pennsylvania for permitting us to use the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC) for our commencement ceremony. We

especially want to thank Mr. Ian McIsaac, Ms. Kristen Santoro, and the KCAC staff, who have been most gracious and cooperative in making the planning of this year's graduation ceremony an enjoyable experience.

Baccalaureate Information: The baccalaureate service for the Class of 2026 will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at St. Thomas More Parish. Baccalaureate is a nondenominational service that is planned and conducted by a committee of students from the Class of 2026. The service will include student performances, motivational speeches, and a baccalaureate address. Attendance is optional. Seniors are to report (with their graduation gowns) to the church at 2:40 p.m. No caps are to be worn. It is customary for students to wear dress clothes under their gowns.

Graduation Information: Graduation practice for all seniors will be held on June 4, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Kovalchick Convention and Athletic Complex (KCAC). Seniors will not report to the senior high that day.

The commencement ceremony for the Class of 2026 will be held in KCAC's Ed Fry Arena on Indiana University of Pennsylvania's campus at 7:00 p.m. on June 5, 2026. Seniors are to report (with their caps and gowns) to the PNC Room between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Parents/guardians and guests will be admitted to KCAC beginning at 6:15 p.m. Admission is by ticket only. Each senior will be given ten tickets for admission to the commencement ceremony at the end of graduation practice. Seniors must attend graduation practice to get their free admission tickets. **Extra tickets will be available at the end of practice on June 4 and also at commencement on the evening of June 5**. Please be assured that there will be enough tickets for all your guests.

You are encouraged to park in the KCAC lot, the parking lot behind Eberly College of Business, the R & P Band Lot behind the IUP tennis courts, or the IUP parking garage. **Parking is free, but tickets will be issued to those attending graduation who park in any reserved parking spaces.**

Handicapped parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to KCAC. but it is limited. Vehicles displaying a valid, state-issued handicapped placard or license plate may park in any available handicapped space.

The office also has a limited number of reserved parking passes for the VIP lot. Students who need a VIP handicapped parking pass may request one from the high school's main office during business hours (7:20 a.m. - 3:20 p.m.) during the week of May 25, 2026. Due to the limited number of spaces, only one pass will be issued per student, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Handicapped seating in KCAC is at the top of the arena. The elevator is located beside the main entrance. Guests using the elevator will be admitted beginning at 6:15 p.m.

Yelling, catcalls, etc., by members of the class or by audience members during the graduation ceremony are inappropriate! Please remember that this is a happy but dignified ceremony. When you make noise for your graduate, it keeps the next student's name from being heard. Please be considerate!

A photographer from Grad Images will be at graduation to take a candid photograph of each senior as they cross the stage. You will receive information in the mail within two weeks following the ceremony. If your student submitted email information, you will receive this information digitally and even more quickly. **No one is permitted to take pictures or videos of the graduation ceremony**

from the aisles of the bleachers or from the arena floor. This regulation will be strictly enforced. You are permitted to take pictures and videos of the ceremony from your seat.

Diplomas: Diplomas will be issued in the PNC Room following commencement. **Any senior who has an outstanding obligation (library books or parking permits not returned, fines not paid, calculators lost or broken, textbooks not returned or damaged, yearbook balances still outstanding, etc.) will NOT be given a diploma the night of graduation. All outstanding obligations need to be settled by 11:00 a.m. on June 4 in order for a senior to receive their diploma the night of commencement! Seniors who do not attend graduation may pick up their diplomas in the School Counseling office starting on Monday, June 8.**

Cap and Gown Information: Caps and gowns were distributed the week of May 18. Seniors received a black gown with a red stripe on the sleeve and a cap and tassel. These items are theirs to keep. National Honor Society members will be given a gold cord at graduation practice to wear over their gowns. The cords are theirs to keep.

Graduation is a formal ceremony. Males are to wear dress shoes and dress pants, preferably with a button-down shirt and a tie. Females are to wear dress shoes or dress sandals and a dress or dress slacks and blouse. If these guidelines are a hardship for any family, please call Mrs. Sexton at the high school at 724-463-8562, and reasonable accommodations will be made.

Students may adorn their graduation gowns only with award pins and/or honor cords that demonstrate accomplishment or achievement through accredited educational, civic, military, athletic, or social organizations. **Any requests must be made in writing and submitted to the high school principal. Graduation caps must be free from any additions other than the approved graduation tassel.** All graduation adornments must be pre-approved (by school administration or their staff designee) in order for students to wear them at the graduation ceremony. Remember that participation in the graduation ceremony is not a RIGHT. Seniors who are not properly attired will not be permitted to participate. Contact Mrs. Sexton if you have any problems or questions.

UPCOMING SENIOR CLASS EVENTS

May 29, 2026: Senior Class trip (Cedar Point)
Seniors participating in the senior class trip will board coach buses promptly at 6:30 a.m. Please arrive early. Students should return to the high school around 12:00 a.m. (May 30).

May 31, 2026: Baccalaureate (3:00 p.m., St. Thomas More Parish)
Seniors report at 2:40 p.m. with gowns only.

June 4, 2026: Graduation practice (9:00 a.m., KCAC); speakers practice to follow afterward.
All senior unpaid obligations must be cleared in the main office by 11:00 a.m.

June 5, 2026: Musical performers graduation practice (11:30 a.m., KCAC)

June 5, 2026: Graduation (7:00 p.m., KCAC)

Seniors should report between 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

IHS Chopped is a Success!

Taught by Ms. Jackie Cupp, IHS Chef's Corner students recently participated in an IHS CHOPPED! cooking competition. Students utilized their teamwork and problem solving skills, combined with creativity and time management, to create recipes for one-dish meals. Each dish had to include a randomly assigned meat item, two self-selected additional leftovers, and up to six additional ingredients. Students also received a mystery ingredient which had to be incorporated into their dish in some way.

Congratulations to each of the students and their class period winners!

DELICIOSO TACOS AND MEXICAN RICE



Period 1:
Genesis Andino, Caliana Hauck, Jonathan McFetridge, Owen Stiffler

VINEGAR STEAK



Period 2:
Carter Augustine, Samuel Pittman, Jahmir Reason, Eythan Schrecengost

SOUTHERN COMFORT



Period 3:
Darrick Brewer, Sydney Hirsch, Chase Jones, Sienna Quinn

SWEET AND SALTY AMERICAN BREAKFAST



Period 4:
Aitana Di Lorenzo Lopez, Katharina Finzel, Eleonora Pellegrini, Brooke Singleton

KOREAN BOWL

Period 7:

Tenley Anderson, Madison Hertweck, Lena Magolis, Charles Spells II



FORK OF JULY



Period 9:

Liam Hetheron, Ian McGlinn, Bridgette Petersen, Linus Petersen

Voted **MOST PROFESSIONAL PLATING** by students in classes.

MUD PARTY PIGS



Period 9:

Rose Derisma, Caleb Katula, Kolton Ream, Liam Van Leer

STEAK AND DESSERT



Braylen Carter, Baylen Peter, Omar Sultan

Voted **MOST CREATIVE** by students in the classes.


IHS
MARCHING BAND
REGISTRATION!
See Mr. Olear for more information!
jolear@iasd.cc

ALERT

adagio health

NEW PRODUCTS, TRENDS, AND MARKETING TECHNIQUES

To support your ongoing efforts to promote student health and safety, we are sharing this important alert to raise awareness of rapidly emerging vaping trends, new products, and substances that are increasingly accessible to youth.

As the nicotine marketplace continues to evolve, products are becoming more discreet, more potent, and harder to detect in school settings. Your partnership is critical to early identification, prevention, and response, and this alert is intended to provide timely information, warning signs to watch for, and practical considerations to help protect student health and well-being.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE NEWS: TIANEPTINE "GAS STATION HERION" HAS BEEN LINKED TO AN OVERDOSE DEATH.



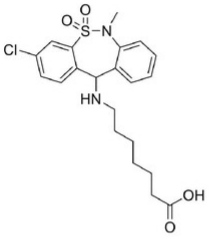
The Fayette County Coroner is warning residents about the growing dangers of tianeptine, an unregulated and highly addictive substance often referred to as "gas station heroin," which has been linked to at least one death in Pennsylvania.

"It's readily available, extremely dangerous, and currently unregulated," said Dr. Bob Baker, Fayette County Coroner.

According to Baker, products containing tianeptine are increasingly being sold in vape shops, smoke stores, and some convenience and gas station retailers.

"We're seeing these products widely available in vape stores, smoke shops, and some small gas stations," Baker said. "I've been told that overcoming addiction to this substance can be even more difficult than overcoming heroin addiction."

At least a dozen states have already enacted bans or restrictions on products containing tianeptine. Baker said he hopes to see stronger federal action, including either a nationwide ban or classification of tianeptine as a controlled substance.





What is Tianeptine?

Antidepressant that has been around since the 1960s and used in Europe, Asia, and Latin America, but is NOT approved by the FDA for use in the United States. Effect duration is relatively short, which can lead users to take repeated doses or higher doses.

In the US, it is marketed as a supplement for mood and cognitive enhancers or stress relief and energy "shots" under names like "ZaZa", "Tianna Red", "Pegasus", and "Neptune's Fix". FDA does NOT approve for supplements either.



At high doses, tianeptine can behave like an opioid-like drug and can cause:

- **Warmth relaxation**
- **Mood elevation**
- **Reduced emotional stress**
- **Dependence and withdrawal**
- **Respiratory depression**
- **Sedation**
- **Seizures**
- **Coma or death: especially when mixed with alcohol, benzodiazepines, kratom, or other depressants (these are common poly use cases)**

adagio health

Information provided by: Shawn Knepper Drug Recognition expert of Ligonier Valley Police

FDA FLAVORED VAPE APPROVALS THREATEN PROGRESS IN YOUTH TOBACCO PREVENTION



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized four additional flavors of Glas G e-cigarette pods through the PMTA pathway: Classic Menthol, Fresh Menthol, Gold (mango), and Sapphire (blueberry). Glas' Gold and Sapphire pods are the first non-tobacco, non-menthol-flavored e-cigarette products to receive FDA authorization. FDA had authorized the Glas G2 device and associated Blonde Tobacco pods in March, which was covered in a prior email alert.

The approvals create potential challenges for tobacco prevention programming and public messaging. Prevention efforts over the last several years have focused heavily on educating youth about the risks associated with flavored nicotine products and supporting policies restricting flavored tobacco sales. The FDA's recent policy shift may complicate these efforts by creating public confusion regarding the safety of flavored vaping products and potentially weakening perceptions of harm among youth and young adults. Additionally, the FDA recently announced it would ease enforcement actions against some unauthorized vape products currently under review, which may further increase the availability of flavored nicotine products on the market.

CALL TO ACTION
PARENTS AGAINST VAPING E-CIGS (PAVE)

Public health advocates and families remain deeply concerned about the FDA's continued authorization of flavored vaping products, citing the significant role flavors play in youth nicotine addiction. Many parents and prevention organizations believe the approval of fruit-flavored products, including mango, risks repeating the same patterns that contributed to the original youth vaping epidemic driven by products like JUUL.

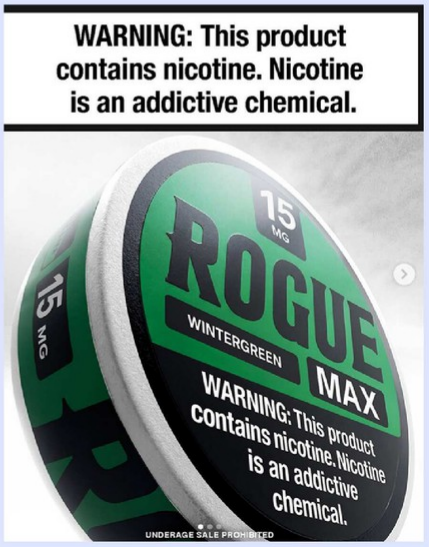
Help us urge the FDA to put kids first and reconsider the authorization of flavored e-cigarettes before more young people are drawn into addiction.
Add your voice (click the PAVE logo) and write to the FDA today.

NEW PRODUCT NEWS



The new Rogue Max was announced on Instagram, offering 9mg, 12mg, and 15mg "full strength" nicotine concentrations in Wintergreen, Citrus, and Spearmint flavors. Previously, Rogue nicotine pouches have only been available in 3mg and 6mg. The post says that the products will be available in stores this month.

In an email to customers, Zone announced a new flavor, Cranberry, available exclusively on Nicokick.com. The email included a limited-time coupon offer for 50% off the new product.



NEW PRODUCT NEWS CONTINUED

UT BAR ECO 50K



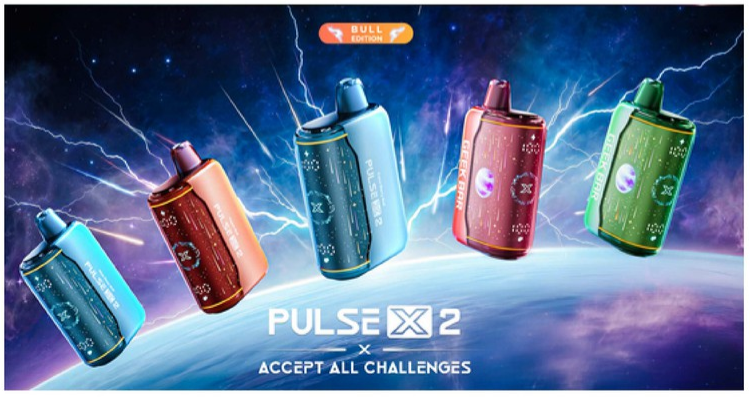


The UT Bar ECO 50K is a newer high-capacity disposable vape gaining popularity among youth and young adults because of its customizable "flavor control" technology, sleek digital display, and extremely high puff count. The device allows users to switch between or blend two flavors in one vape, with adjustable intensity settings and "Eco" or "Turbo" modes that can deliver up to 50,000 puffs. Bright packaging, candy-inspired flavors like Watermelon/B-Pop and White Peach/Lemon Head, and rechargeable features may increase its appeal to adolescents. Public health experts continue to express concern that highly flavored, tech-style disposable vapes like these can contribute to nicotine addiction among youth due to their high nicotine content and discreet, easy-to-use design.

GEEK BAR



Geek Bar announced the upcoming arrival of the Pulse X2 model on Instagram, the next generation of their popular Pulse X model. The product is set to release on May 11.



Geek Bar announced a “Bull Edition” flavor lineup for the new Pulse X2 on the brand’s website, with copy that suggests an energy drink theme: “Pure kinetic energy. Fuel your cosmic momentum.” Flavors include fruity offerings like “Watermelon Bull” and “Coco Berry Bull.”

GEEK BAR SUMMER PLANS



Geek Bar has added a new page to their website, Geek Bar Vibe, which promotes upcoming brand appearances at various summer music festivals and a themed giveaway. The giveaway is hosted on Instagram and TikTok, and invites fans to post videos holding their Geek Bars for the chance to win festival merch and Geek Bar products as prizes.

NEW HIDING SPOTS: UNDER THE RADAR













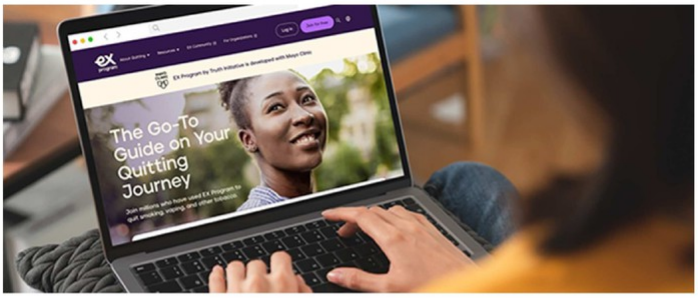


These Products are being sold on vape websites and are priced $11.99-$19.99. They are designed to look like everyday household items, such as soda cans, energy drinks, shaving cream containers, and even salt or snack packaging are increasingly being marketed as “stash” or diversion safes used to conceal vaping devices, nicotine products, drugs, alcohol, or other substances. Because these items closely resemble common products, they can be difficult for parents, educators, and school administrators to recognize.

Increased awareness and vigilance are important, particularly when items appear unusually heavy, have hidden compartments, or are found in inappropriate settings such as backpacks, lockers, or bedrooms. Open communication, prevention education, and familiarity with emerging concealment trends can help adults better identify potential concerns and support youth health and safety.

adagio health

ENDING ON A POSITIVE NOTE



Truth Initiative's EX Program has reached a historic milestone with 1 million young people ages 13 to 24 enrolling in its free, evidence-based quit vaping and nicotine cessation support. The program was designed to meet young people where they are, on their phones and online, through personalized quit plans, text-based coaching, and a supportive digital community. This milestone reflects both the growing demand for quitting support and the importance of accessible, science-backed tools to help young people break free from nicotine addiction.

SCAN

Scan the QR code to join the mailing list.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE #4, MAY, 2026

Road Ready CTSP News

INSTITUTE FOR RURAL HEALTH & SAFETY

AMY M. SHELLHAMMER, CTSP PENNDOT DIST. 10-0 ARMSTRONG, BUTLER, CLARION, INDIANA, & JEFFERSON COUNTIES



IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EXPECT:

National Bicycle Safety Month

511 PA Day

National "Click It or Ticket" Enforcement

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

National Police Week/ National EMS Week

And more...

RIDE SMART, RIDE SAFE - BICYCLE SAFETY MONTH

From children riding to school to older adults staying active and healthy, bicycling is both a pastime and a mode of transportation for thousands of Americans. The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is urging everyone to be alert to keep cyclists safe. It takes drivers and cyclists alike to ensure safety on the roads.

It is imperative that we keep our bicyclists safe, as they are an integral part of our communities. People of all ages use bicycles to commute to school, work, and other activities. Cyclists, like all road users, have the right to safe streets. We encourage bicyclists to become familiar with area laws, practice safe habits, and always wear a helmet.

In 2023, 1,166 cyclists were killed and an estimated 49,489 were injured in traffic crashes. Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. Vehicle drivers should always give bicyclists plenty of room on the roads, and cyclists should always be aware of their surroundings.

States consider a bicycle a vehicle when it is operated on the road. For this reason, cyclists are required to follow the same traffic laws as vehicle drivers. NHTSA and offer the following tips to keep cyclists safe.

Tips for Cyclists — Before Heading Out

- Ride a correctly fitting bicycle. It is difficult to control a bike if it's not the right size.
- In addition to a properly fitting bike helmet, a bicyclist should wear bright clothing during the day and reflective gear at night to make them more visible on the road.
- Affix a white front light and red rear light and reflectors to the bicycle for nighttime riding or when visibility is poor.

Tips for Cyclists — On the Road

- Drive in the same direction as traffic. Obey street signs, signals, and road markings.
- Do not drive distracted. Keep eyes, ears, and focus on the road and traffic.
- Watch for pedestrians and pass them with care by first announcing "on your left/right" or by using a bell. Bicyclists should ride in the same direction as traffic.
- When crossing a street, slow down and look for traffic (left-right-left and behind). Be prepared to stop, follow traffic signals, and never assume drivers will see the bicyclist.
- It's best to avoid riding on the sidewalk, but if that is the only option, bicyclists should check their state's law to make sure it's legal.

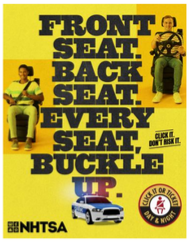


511 PA DAY - KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

The 511 Pennsylvania website is part of a statewide travel information service which provides reliable traffic, weather and transit information to travelers to reduce congestion, and improve safety and mobility in Pennsylvania.

Using real-time traffic data from various sources throughout the state, we are able to provide current information to commuters, travelers and commercial carriers so they can make informed decisions regarding their next drive to work, trip or delivery. By providing this information to travelers, 511 Pennsylvania helps to keep traffic moving. 511PA is accessible 24/7 via the 511PA website (www.511PA.com), the 511PA mobile app (iOS/Android), or by dialing 5-1-1 on any phone.

CLICK IT OR TICKET: WHY BUCKLING UP IS YOUR BEST DEFENSE ON THE ROAD



·Drivers will see more law enforcement on the road as part of the ***Click It or Ticket*** high-visibility seat belt enforcement campaign.
·If law enforcement spot someone unbelted, they will pull the driver over and issue a ticket.
·Law enforcement write tickets to save lives.
·One of the safest choices drivers and passengers can make is to buckle up.
·Buckle up all the time — for short trips and long trips, and in every seating position.
·The right seat belt fit matters:
o The shoulder belt should lay flat across the middle of your chest and away from your neck.
o The lap belt should fit across your hips, not your stomach.
o Never put the shoulder belt behind your back or under your arm.
·Seat belts are the best defense against impaired, aggressive, and distracted drivers. Being buckled up during a crash helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle; the seat belt slows you down and spreads crash forces over the strongest parts of your body.
·We have come a long way with increasing seat belt use over the years, but we still have a problem to address considering that seat belt use varies by time of day, seating position, and region of the United States.
·Despite steady increases in observed seat belt use, approximately half of all passenger vehicle deaths are unrestrained.
Avoid the Consequences – Buckle Up
·Buckling up helps keep you safe and secure inside your vehicle, whereas not buckling up can result in being totally ejected from the vehicle in a crash, which is almost always deadly.
·Improperly wearing a seat belt, such as putting the strap below your arm, puts you and your children at risk in a crash.
·Air bags are not enough to protect you; in fact, the force of an air bag can seriously injure or even kill you if you're not buckled up.

MAY IS FOR MOTORCYCLES - A SEASONAL REMINDER TO SHARE THE ROAD



The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration calls on drivers and riders to commit to sharing the road through safe driving and riding practices and by recognizing that ***Motorcyclists' Safety Is Everyone's Safety.***

Motorcycle ownership and miles traveled have shown steady growth over time, and motorcycle rider fatalities have gone up. Road safety for motorcyclists should be a concern and priority for every road user. Every year, a disproportionate number of motorcyclists are involved in traffic fatalities. These fatalities can be prevented through consistent safe behavior from both drivers and riders.

Tips for Motorcyclists

·Observe all traffic laws and always obey the speed limit.
·Wear a DOT-compliant helmet and other personal protective gear. NHTSA estimates that helmets saved the lives of 1,872 motorcyclists in 2017. An additional 749 lives could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn their helmets.
·Never ride while impaired or distracted. A DUI costs an average $10,000 and can lead to jail time, loss of your operator's license, and higher insurance rates.
·Complete rider education courses and ride with a current motorcycle license.
·Drive and ride defensively.

Tips for Motorists

·Remember that motorcyclists have the same rights on the road as any other motorist.
·Observe all traffic laws, use signals, and always obey the speed limit. Yield to motorcyclists, especially when you are turning at intersections.
·Motorcycles are smaller than most vehicles and can be difficult to see. If you are turning at an intersection with an obstructed view of oncoming traffic, wait to see around the obstruction, scan for all roadway users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists), and proceed cautiously.
·When following a motorcycle, allow for plenty of space around the motorcycle to maneuver or stop in an emergency, change speed, or adjust lane position to avoid hazards.
·Never drive distracted.

THE MOVE OVER LAW: PROTECTING OUR FRONTLINE HEROES DURING NATIONAL POLICE AND EMS WEEKS



This May, we pause to recognize the dedicated professionals who serve on the front lines of our communities. May 2026 brings two significant observances: **National Police Week (May 10-16)** and **National EMS Week (May 17-23)**. As we honor their service, we also reinforce our commitment to their safety on Pennsylvania's roadways.

Established in 1962, *National Police Week* is a time to honor law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

- Peace Officers Memorial Day: Thursday, May 15, marks a solemn day of remembrance where flags are flown at half-staff.
- National Events: Ceremonies in Washington, D.C., including the Annual Candlelight Vigil on May 13, pay tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our nation's 800,000 law enforcement officers.

Following Police Week, we transition to *National EMS Week*, celebrating the 52nd anniversary of this vital observance.

- 2026 Theme: "*Improving Outcomes, Together*"—highlighting the collaborative effort between paramedics, EMTs, and the healthcare system to save lives.
- Daily Tributes: Local agencies will host events to educate the public and show gratitude for the practitioners who provide life-saving care 24/7.

The greatest gift we can give our first responders is a safe environment to do their jobs. In Pennsylvania, it isn't just a courtesy—it's the law. The ***Pennsylvania Move Over Law*** (formerly the Steer Clear Law) requires specific actions when approaching an emergency response area:

- Move Over: On multi-lane highways, you must move into a lane that is not adjacent to the emergency vehicle if it is safe to do so.
- Slow Down: If you cannot safely change lanes, you are required to slow down to 20 mph below the posted speed limit.
- Applicable Vehicles: This law applies to all vehicles with flashing lights, including police cruisers, ambulances, fire trucks, tow trucks, and even disabled vehicles with hazard lights or road flares.

What's at Stake?

Failure to comply carries heavy consequences aimed at deterring reckless behavior:

- Fines: First-time offenders face a $500 fine. Repeat offenses can reach up to $2,000.
- License Suspension: A third or subsequent offense results in a 90-day license suspension.
- Points: Violators will also have two points added to their driving record.

Let's show our appreciation by staying alert and giving our first responders the room they need to return home safely at the end of their shift.

CRUISING WITH CAUTION - THE START OF SUMMER SAFETY

As we gear up for warmer weather, May serves as a critical month for safety awareness. From protecting our most vulnerable passengers to ensuring our young drivers reach their milestones safely, here are three essential topics to keep on your radar this month.

May 1: National Heatstroke Prevention Day (and all summer long)

Vehicular heatstroke is a leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related death for children 14 and younger. Even on a mild day, a car's internal temperature can rise 20 degrees in just 10 minutes.

- Stop. Look. Lock. Always check the back seat before walking away from your vehicle.
- Keep it Locked: Ensure your car is locked when parked so children cannot climb in and become trapped.
- The "Back Seat Habit**":** Place a necessary item, like a phone or purse, in the back seat to ensure you check it every time you park.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo Impaired Driving Campaign

Cinco de Mayo is one of the year's top drinking holidays, making it a high-risk time for alcohol-impaired crashes. NHTSA reminds everyone that "*Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*".

- Plan Ahead: Designate a sober driver or use a rideshare service before the festivities begin.
- Amigos Don't Let Amigos Drive Drunk: If you see a friend who has had too much to drink, take their keys and help them find a safe way home.

May is Global Youth Traffic Safety Month

May is a season of major milestones like prom and graduation, but it is also one of the deadliest months for teen drivers. Inexperience combined with celebration-related distractions increases the risk of accidents.

- Prom & Graduation Safety: Talk to your teens about the "Fatal Five": speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, low seatbelt use, and carrying too many passengers.
- Lead by Example: Parents are the primary role models for safe driving; avoid using your phone or speeding while your teen is in the car.
- Take the Pledge**:** Organizations like **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)** and National Organizations for Youth Safety (NOYS) encourage teens to lead peer-to-peer safety projects throughout the month.

IRHS SPOTLIGHT

BUTLER COUNTY SAFE KIDS WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD





DON'T MISS OUT

TRAFFIC CONE COLORING CONTEST WINNERS









PENNS MANOR HS ABATE MOTORCYCLE SAFETY /DISTRACTED DRIVING PRESENTATION







Thank you for reading!

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER BREAK!

1ST DAY OF 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR: AUGUST 27, 2026

LIFETOUCH SCHOOL PICTURE DAY: SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

IHS