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Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Volume 25 Issue 5

GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

Lady Devils defeat D-West, start 11-0

By
Cailin Maley
Staff Writer

The Lady Devils beat Downingtown West 10-0, advancing their record to 11-0-0, on Friday, January 5.

Starting off the game strong, Maggie Sullivan and Skylar Campanile both scored goals for the Lady Devils. Ella Hydutsky, Avon Grove's goalie, had several saves as well.

In the second period, 2 goals were scored by Sullivan and Campanile, along with goals from Brianna Register and Skylar Greene.

The Lady Devils ended strong, with goals from Sullivan and Greene in the third period.

This was their eleventh straight win to start the season.

"I think we are really doing a great job of working together as a team. We have a short bench, but we all communicate. Our strength is definitely moving the puck and working together despite having a relatively small roster," says senior Maggie Sullivan.

As many know, a major part of being successful in any team sport is the relationships you have with your teammates.

"Honestly, I think the biggest thing that has led us to our success is how close we all are. We all have pretty much been with each other for years and whenever we have a 'new comer' we welcome them with open arms and then they are instantly close with us. Almost as if we are a big family, you could call it," says senior Skylar Campanile.

Going along with relationships, communication also plays a key role.

"This year we're really doing great with communication, on and off the ice. We're constantly talking to each other on the ice, making plays and always driving the net. The team is tight off the ice too, always communicating and putting things together to make it the best year we can,"



-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

Junior Lily Schindler has scored 14 goals and 6 assists (as of January 24).

says senior Lillie Maloney.

The win against Downingtown West was also Avon Grove's senior night. Seniors Maggie Sullivan, Ella Hydutsky, Skylar Campanile, Elle Crawford, and Lillie Maloney were all celebrated.

"I've been playing with the girls team for 6 years now, and I'm going to miss making so many memories and really just having a blast on the ice. The thing I'll miss most is having such a great group of girls to work with," says Sullivan.

"I think my favorite part throughout the years is everyone's attitude. We could be losing 10-0 or winning 10-0 and we all are always smiling and having fun and overall that is what this sport is about," says Campanile.

"One of my favorite memories with the team is winning the championship game in the 2020-2021 season. It was definitely a great

feeling that we hope to achieve again this year," says Maloney.

"Me and the other seniors have been playing on this team since 7th grade and I can't believe after 6 years playing on this team it's actually coming to an end. I'm going to miss it and my teammates so much," says senior Ella Hydutsky.

"I've been playing on this team since I was a 6th grader, I'm now a senior. I think the most enjoyable thing about this team is watching our team go from losing almost every game to now being undefeated in our current season. Our team has many unique personalities and they all mesh so well on and off the ice. We always manage to pump each other up before and during games," says senior Elle Crawford.

Students learn on field trips



-Photo by Myles Ruess

FFA attended the Farm Show. A pen of young goats stole the limelight as they raked in a constant crowd of people paying to cuddle the small animals.

By
Myles Ruess
Staff Writer

From Kennett Square, Pennsylvania to New York City, AGHS students embark on exciting field trips. Some are for classes, others for clubs.

These field trip opportunities give students chances to see their lessons and interests in person, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Mrs. Mercer's AP Art History class traveled to the MET to get a more hands-on experience with the art they were learning about in the curriculum.

"The Metropolitan Museum of Art has Pacific, Africa, Indigenous America, Greek & Roman, Asian, Egyptian, etc., work that we all study. Seeing the work that we study in person makes the works come to life," said Mrs. Kara Mercer.

The weather was not in favor of the trip, however, for there were multiple road closures and detours. The drive home was delayed by over an hour.

An 11th grade tradition, Mr. Pizzini turned the lessons on tran-

scendentalism, a philosophical, spiritual, and literary movement that developed in the late 1820s and 1830s in the New England region of the United States, and the value of independent thought and the natural world into an enriching experience at Longwood Gardens.

"The Longwood Trip is wonderful for reinforcing these ideas and encouraging students to disconnect and reflect on their learning," said Mr. R.J. Pizzini. "Avon Grove students set a great example and were very respectful as representatives of our school in the broader community."

AGHS's official FFA club traveled to Harrisburg for the FFA Mid-winter Convention. After receiving their official charter last year, the FFA has started a tradition of attending the convention yearly.

Avon Grove matches lessons from inside of the classroom to aspects of the real world close to home, drawing a more understandable parallel.

These opportunities are hard to pass up on, giving students educational memories with their peers.

Beale competes for Miss America title

AG grad was named Miss Delaware

By
Maddie Butler
Senior Editor

Emily Beale, a member of the 2013 Avon Grove graduating class, took part in the 2024 Miss America Competition in Orlando, Florida from January 9-14.

Although Beale grew up in Pennsylvania, she graduated from the University of Delaware in 2018 with a degree in Marine Science and currently works as a technical applications scientist at

Illumina.

Emily Beale was entered into the competition for Miss America following her win for the title of Miss Delaware in 2023 where she now lives.

Participants are chosen for Miss America through competitions within each state to choose a representative.

For the Miss America pageant, Beale used her background in tap dance and focus on environmental protection for her talent and

community service initiatives.

Miss America 2024 took place from Tuesday, January 9 to Sunday, January 14 with 51 entrants into the competition, and the overall winner turned out to be Madison March who was Miss Colorado 2023.

Over the course of six days, the contestants for Miss America take part in numerous events outside of the competition including a red carpet appearance, breakfast of champions, and visitation with

different celebrity guests.

The Miss America pageant is held annually and gives women the chance to win scholarships and the title of Miss America through a competition with four categories: talent, evening wear, interview, and fitness.

Winners are awarded over \$50,000 in scholarship money and a yearlong tour around the United States to work as a proponent of an issue of their choice, according to Britannica.

Other pageant-based competitions have scholarships as well, and Emily Beale received \$32,000 in scholarship money from winning Miss Delaware.

Unfortunately, contestants can only compete in Miss America once, so Beale will not be returning as a competitor in any more seasons of the competition and Delaware will go another year without ever having their state representative win the title of Miss America.



HERALD SPORTS

● **Jan. 31**

Swimming
at Bishop Shanahan, 3:30p.m.
Wrestling
vs. Downingtown West,
7:00p.m.

● **Feb. 1**

Boys Basketball
vs. Henderson, 6:45p.m.
Girls Basketball
at Henderson, 6:45p.m.

● **Feb. 2**

Boys Swimming vs.
vs. Coatesville, 7:30p.m. at
Jennersville YMCA

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BOYS BASKETBALL

AG defeats Shanahan 67-54 on January 18

Red Devils continue resurgence

By
Will Gorman
Staff Writer

Avon Grove defeated Bishop Shanahan 67- 54 on January 18 to improve to 7-6 on the season and 2-3 in conference play.

AG came into the game on a skid having

lost their previous two games and even lost to Bishop Shanahan earlier in the year.

Even though AG had lost two straight, things had been going much better than the year prior when the team finished with a 4-18 record.

This is when it was time for a change and over the summer came in new head coach Grant Harding.

He has been responsible for the up tempo style of play and winning that has come back to the AG basketball program.

With AG losing two straight, it was important that they win this game and beat Shanahan in this crucial matchup.

One of the biggest takeaways was the scoring from AG and the shots they were hitting as they opened up the game on a 9-0

The Red Devils had big performances out of Josh Cox, Jackson Mills, and Tashaan McClain.

AG also were shooting the lights out at times with many three pointers and big shots when they needed them.

They were also big on the boards and on defense as many of Avon Grove' runs during the game were because of great defense on the other end.

Each of them reached double digits along with Brock Bernstein who had 11 points, providing much of the scoring output for the Red Devils.

Shanahan did hang close through three quarters, as the Red Devils clung to an eight point lead.

Shanahan was led by David Mad-drey-Rylander who had 25 points for the Eagles.

However, when the fourth quarter came around, Avon Grove pulled away with their lead reaching as much as 19 before winning the game 67-54.

"The guys played hard out there, really great. It was the best team win we have had all season," said Head Coach Grant

Harding.
Though AG won, the big story line of the game was the return of senior Adam Ziegler who had missed time with a broken hand.

Although he had limited minutes off the bench, he provided a spark, as Coach Harding added, "It was a big boost to have him back especially after such little rest coming back from the injury."

"It felt good to come back for sure, especially so quickly after the injury," Ziegler commented when asked about his performance after the game.

Ziegler also noted the energy that the team has had through the entire season as why the team is significantly better this season.

"There's lots more energy for sure than last year. I think last year we had it at the beginning and then lost that energy and this year we've had it all the way."

The Red Devils host West Chester Henderson on February 1 and West Chester East on February 3. They will finish the regular season at Coatesville on February 5.

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-Photo courtesy of Tommy Conahan
AG lines up for the national anthem before a game versus Bishop Shanahan on January 18. The Red Devils ended a two-game losing streak.

-Photo courtesy of Jack Calio
Captain Adam Ziegler returns from a hand injury to help solidify a win for the Devils. As of January 24, the Red Devils are 8-8 and sit 21st in District 1. The top 24 teams make the playoffs.

Unified track makes its debut this spring

By
Mary Kate D'Ambrosio
Staff Writer

This upcoming spring, the Avon Grove School District partners with Pennsylvania Special Olympics to become a Special Olympics Pennsylvania Unified Champion School (UCS).

Pennsylvania Special Olympics is an organization that supports year round sports training of 13,000 children and adults who experience developmental and intellectual disabilities through a variety of Olympics-type sports at the local, sectional and state level. According to their mission statement, the goal of the

organization is to provide a safe space for participants "to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in sharing of gifts, skills and friendship" among other Special Olympic athletes and the community.

UCS is a "fully-inclusive program which uses sports and youth leadership to successfully facilitate social inclusion and improve school climate. Students with intellectual disabilities, autism and other disabilities come together and equal peers with students without disabilities to demonstrate and promote the values of inclusion, acceptance, teamwork and empowerment for

all."
As a Unified Champion School, Pennsylvania Special Olympics will provide Avon Grove High School with the funding, resources, and staff liaison necessary to start and support the program within the school.

UCS has three components: interscholastic unified sports high school teams, inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement. These aspects are designed to promote inclusion, develop leadership, increase awareness and improve overall school climate.

At Avon Grove High School, the 2023-2024 spring track and field team will be composed of

both Special Olympics eligible individuals and their peers. Students with and without disabilities will train, as well as compete together, becoming meaningful and equal peers.

The track and field team is to be regarded by students, faculty, staff and the community just like every other interscholastic sports teams at the school.

Similar to each sports team within Avon Grove, all team members will wear uniforms to represent the school with the school name, logo and colors.

Special Olympics athletes will compete and train in a 10-11 week long season, with at least two after school practices and a

minimum of three competitions against other schools in the region. There are to be regional championships that provide the opportunity to advance to state championships that are held within conjunction of PIAA state events.

By incorporating this program, the district spreads inclusion and respect which helps promote the understanding of the need for respect and unifying language.

This upcoming spring season, make sure to show out with friends and family to show your support for the Unified Track and Field team.

Feb. 2-3
Seussical Jr.

Feb. 11
Super Bowl LVIII

Feb. 14
Valentine's Day

Feb. 16
Winter Wonderland
Dance

Feb. 19
Presidents' Day

Feb. 22
Mr. Avon Grove

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ALUMNI

Binstead cuts hair from homes, dorms

By
Hannah Strawhecker
Staff Writer

Thaddeus Binstead is an Avon Grove alum who jump-started his career from his basement with the help of a supportive community.

Thaddeus, or Thad, is well known throughout the area for cutting hair from the comfort of his own house.

For Thad, COVID hit during his junior year.

We all remember the monotonous regularity of the year, and how the days seemed to trickle by with little excitement for most. However, Binstead's year went differently.

"I was bored and I just bought clippers off of Amazon."

Since then, Binstead claims to have cut approximately 800 heads, including brothers Caleb and Sam Strawhecker. The "freshest cut" Thad remembers doing was Caleb's mullet.

According to Caleb Strawhecker, Thad "provides great local cuts at an affordable rate." Community members are grateful for Thad's business because they are able to "support his dream."

Thaddeus' life has been greatly



-Photo courtesy of Thaddeus Binstead
Thaddeus Binstead began cutting hair during the pandemic.

impacted by the Avon Grove community. He enjoys "being able to meet new people from the town and connecting with kids from Avon Grove."

After graduating with the class of 2023, Binstead began his college education at West Chester University where he continues to cut hair in his dorm. His major is business management, which will set him up for a successful future in which he hopes to manage his own barbershop.

Thaddeus suggests that readers follow his Instagram page (@thads_fresh_cuts) in order to stay up to date with his latest work.

TRENDING

Stanley tumblers overwhelm social media, school

By
Joe Lewis
Staff Writer

Stanley cups are the new obsession, and we're not talking about the famous hockey trophy.

According to RetailDive.com, the Stanley tumbler amassed 20 million views on TikTok.

The Stanley tumbler comes in various sizes and colors. The cost ranges from \$35 to \$50.

Stanley tumblers come in 20, 30, 32, 40, and 64 ounces.

But why are people going so crazy about this tumbler? Is TikTok to blame for the brand's resurgence?

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, a 16 year old Tiktoker, Amelia Awad, says that her parents spent \$3,000 on 67 Stanley tumblers. Awad says that she is "obsessed."

Stanley partnered with Target to release limited edition Valentine's Day tumblers. The cups come in red and pink.

Customers were only allowed to buy a maximum of two of the limited time tumblers.

Other Tiktokers that captured footage say that the lines were reminiscent of Black Friday.

According to BusinessInsider.com, the Valentine's Day edition of the Stanley Tumbler is reselling for over \$100 on Ebay and Posh-



-Photos by LeeAnn Baker

Many Avon Grove students use a Stanley water bottle.

A man sold a set of the two limited edition cups for \$190.

"I think Tik Tok is to blame for the Stanley cup's popularity," says Avon Grove senior Payton Brown. She adds that Stanley collectors are inspiring others to do the same.

Collecting the Tumblers is going too far, Brown adds. She says that buying the cups just to collect the cups is "a big waste of money."

Avon Grove senior Delaney Stein illustrates that TikTok was the leading factor in starting this

ruckus. "If Stanley didn't come out with the limited edition cups, there would be less madness."

Avon Grove senior Adriana Buck gave a different opinion on the tumblers. Buck says that she enjoys having her tumbler because it helps her drink a good amount of water every day.

Buck adds that having a Stanley tumbler is worth it despite the price.

New year inspires new ambitions

By
LeeAnn Baker
Staff Writer

As the year resets, Avon Grove students take on the challenge of "New year, new me" by beginning their 2024 New Year's resolutions.

"My goals for the new year are to stay on top of school work by maintaining a B+ or higher," stated sophomore Grace Hicks.

Grace is determined to achieve this goal by staying on top of school work as well as studying for important tests and quizzes.

The reason for this goal is because "I wanted to be able to do better than I did last year," stated Grace.

Another goal that Grace set for herself was to get her driver's permit.

"I want to be able to drive myself around and be independent."

Many students such as Morgan O'Donnell, Charlotte Sabol, Sienna Kleinguenther, and Peyton Baker also feel the same way.

Sophomore Morgan O'Donnell stated, "I want to get better at *Fortnite* because I feel like a noob whenever I hang out with my friends and don't feel confident enough to play since I struggle with working the controller. I am hoping to get about thirty Victory Royales by the end of this year."

Morgan explained that a way she was going to improve was by "practicing at my house and staying consistent. I want to go

up against other players who are more skilled than I am so I can learn from them."

Junior Gianna DeLio's resolution is to get her driver's license this May.

Gianna said that the steps she will take to achieve this goal is by "driving multiple times a week with my parents—especially on the highway which is my biggest challenge."

"Last year I was on JV and I felt like I could've done better to get on varsity."

Ava explained that the steps that she will take to achieve this goal are by working out at least

run consistently for better endurance."

Another highlighted resolution was to be able to manage time better.

Sophomore Maddie Robinson stated, "I want to stop procrastinating whether it's about homework or studying."

I chose this goal because I have noticed that I do worse in classes where I wait until the last minute to finish an assignment. I hope to be able to avoid having my phone near me when doing schoolwork and completing homework as soon as I get home from school.

As these students set New Year's resolutions for the 2024 year, their goals can shed light onto others in order to influence fellow readers to do the same.



"I want to be able to get my license so I can go anywhere without having to ask my parents to take me."

Sophomore Ava Travalini explained that her goal was to "make varsity for the Avon Grove lacrosse team."

three times a week as well as doing Tru Performance training.

"I also want to practice my lacrosse skills with my friends and

Good books can inspire you during the winter months

By
Ella Bartnik
Column

Commencing a new year often prompts resolutions and a good commitment to make is to embrace more reading throughout the upcoming months.

Reflecting on the past year, delving into books has proved to be a fulfilling resolution for me, especially during the cold, sometimes dreary winter months before the blossoming of spring.

So, in order to help you trudge through these first cold and barren months, here are some book suggestions that I believe will help to make your winter days more enjoyable:

January calls for a novel that embraces change and reflection, making Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar* a perfect fit for these themes.

Following Esther Greenwood's life in 1950s New York society, the reader witnesses her mental decline as she navigates harsh societal expectations.

The cold, bleak atmosphere of January aligns with Esther's emotional landscape, metaphorically representing the isolation invading

her mental space.

Despite its often depressing themes, the novel ends with Esther's acceptance of her power for self-discovery, symbolizing reflection and the stark realities presented by winter.

February, a time often associated with love and relationships, best aligns with the underlying tensions and suppressed relationships depicted in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*.

Following the life of Newland Archer, a young man engaged to the seemingly idealistic and perfect May Welland, the reader will soon find his world to be upturned following the arrival of May's unconventional cousin, Ellen Olenska.

Exploring themes of societal expectations, love, and the consequences of looking past societies assigned norms, February becomes symbolic of the societal constraints that characters such as Ellen Olenska must navigate alongside the rigid social expectations of 19th century New York society which mirror the restraint and formality associated with winter months.

Characters within this novel



grapple with the societal norms that dictate their relationships, with the month most closely connected to love adding complexity to the work.

Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* resonates greatly with the month of March, sharing a thematic connection with March's invitation for renewal, growth, and the potential for change during the transitional phase between winter and spring.

In the novel, protagonist Amir

embarks on his own self-journey of redemption and acceptance as the changing seasons reflect the dynamics of Amir's relationships, specifically his relationship with his childhood friend Hassan.

The kite-fighting tournament, functioning as a significant plot-point in the story, takes place around Nowruz, the Afghan New Year, which occurs around mid-March.

The kite tournaments encapsulate the spirit of the month of

March, mirroring the highs and lows that are experienced not only by Amir, but by Hassan as well concerning life, friendship, and betrayals.

As you embark into the new year, consider some of my suggestions to navigate the sometimes barren and boring winter months, and I hope these selections will bring a little light and warmth to your New Year!

SPORTS

NFL rookies surprise fantasy managers

By
Connor Graber
Staff Writer

29.2 million people in the United States played fantasy football according to Statista Research. Only a few million were crowned champions of their league.

In fantasy football, a league can vary in the amount of managers. Each manager drafts a team consisting of current NFL players.

Each manager sets a lineup from the players they drafted each week and the managers will get points based on the stats from the real-life NFL games. The managers are in a one-versus-one matchup each week and have to score more than their opponent to win.

On top of the draft, there is a waiver wire. This consists of players that were not drafted but are still available to pick up, but the manager must drop a player they drafted.

Some of the best players come from the waiver wire this year

were players like Kyren Williams and Puka Nacua, both from the Los Angeles Rams. They were overlooked and many managers fought for to pick them from the waiver wire.

The waiver wire was the most helpful thing to Avon Grove senior Nick Heckman. Puka Nacua was his main contributor throughout the season and Nacua proved to be one of the best wide receivers in the league, finishing fourth in receiving yards.

For Heckman, injuries did not really affect him, but underperforming players that he drafted high killed his season.

Injuries are a negative part in any sport and are unpredictable. This was not a good season for injuries, with a number of players having season ending injuries.

Injuries were the main problem for Avon Grove senior Tyler Gent. His first pick, Justin Jefferson, was injured for most of the season, but was still his main contributor.

"I think my season went bad because a lot of my players got in-

TOP 5 TOTAL POINTS LEADERS

- 1 JOSH ALLEN, BILLS
- 2 JALEN HURTS, EAGLES
- 3 DAK PRESCOTT, COWBOYS
- 4 LAMAR JACKSON, RAVENS
- 5 JORDAN LOVE, PACKERS



jured and couldn't get me points," said Gent.

Although he drafted his team, he still struggled because of injuries. This was his fourth year playing fantasy football, and it was a down year for him.

There were a lot of players who broke out this year, giving managers more options, making teams more even across leagues.

Tight end has been a scarce position in recent years, but with Evan Engram, Trey McBride, Isaiah Likely, and breakout rookie, Sam LaPorta, the position's depth

increased.

The NFL rookie class this year provided many fantasy superstars. Rookies like Jahmyr Gibbs, C.J. Stroud, Puka Nacua, and Kyren Williams made immediate impacts. Many of these were players who fantasy managers did not draft at the beginning of the season.

These rookies exceeded expectations and can only excite fantasy managers for next season.

Falcons rookie Bijan Robinson didn't have the season every-

one was expecting. Atlanta Head Coach Arthur Smith, who has already been fired, has misused his star talent and all Falcon's players were underperforming.

There is a lot to look forward to next season, as there are a lot of exciting rookies that could be great fantasy options. Top players coming back for injuries and all the breakout players are shaping next year in fantasy to be one of the best.

New year is meaningless in astronomy

By
Adam Swift
Column

January for us is a time of new beginnings as it signifies a new year, however, in astronomy, it is an arbitrary measurement.

For the average person, the calendar year is used for scheduling and planning future events, though it has no bearing on the happenings of space.

You may have heard that we are in the same place in our orbit around the Sun once every 365 days.

This is slightly inaccurate for a few reasons, for one, there are really 365.25 days in a year, hence the leap day this year.

Another inaccuracy being that we do not only orbit the Sun, our solar system orbits the galactic center.

Every year we travel around 940 million kilometers through the galaxy. With the holiday being somewhat arbitrary in a scientific sense, you may be questioning why we even celebrate the New Year.

In the face of an uncaring, meaningless universe, the only proper way to

live is to forge your own meaning of this life. Whatever makes you happy, helping others or enjoying other's company, you can find meaning in any of it.

In regards to the monthly events, this is an uneventful few months as compared to

the usual fare.

There will be a full moon on the 25th of January.

The full moon of January is and was referred to as the "Wolf Moon" by some Native communities in North America. The

term "Wolf Moon" came to be from the packs of wolves that would howl at the full moon this month.

In February, before the next edition, there will be a new moon phase on the 9th. The new moon occurs when the moon lies nearest to the Sun in the sky, setting with the sun and rising adjacently. This phase is best for deep sky stargazing due to the lack of moonlight scattering through the atmosphere that would obscure fainter objects like nebulas and galaxies.

Editor's Note: All data and information sources are from the National Aeronautics and Space Agency's website (nasa.gov).

