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Avon Grove High School, West Grove, Pa.

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HOMECOMING

Possible change in Homecoming schedule leaves many uncertain



-Photos courtesy of AGHS Yearbook

Students, teachers, and families helped run the Homecoming booths last fall.

By

LeeAnn Baker

Staff Writer

Many people believe that Avon Grove has always celebrated Homecoming with special festivities.

The Daily Local has written about Avon Grove's Homecoming in both 2015 and 2017. "The conclusion of Spirit Week on Saturday was the biggest day of all with a parade, a football game, a Homecoming dance and the parking lot carnival."

But will this tradition change? How will the community react? A breakdown of the potential options are necessary to under-

stand why.

On Wednesday, February 28, Activities & Athletics Director Mr. Kyle Christy posted a survey to the Avon Grove High School's Schoology page.

This survey was for students to put in their input for the Homecoming schedule. Within the survey, there were three options to choose from.

The first option was to keep the current schedule: the Homecoming football game and booths during the day on Saturday, followed by the dance Saturday night.

This schedule has been met with criticism due to school board

members and families feeling that "there are too many events packed in one day," according to Christy. "Many people don't get the opportunity to participate in the parade or booths."

The second option for the potential Homecoming schedule is the football game Friday night and the parade and booths on Saturday during the day with the dance that night. There would not be any sporting events on Saturday.

SEE CHANGE PAGE 2

AG LIFE

Club, sports participation improve after pandemic

By

Maddie Butler

Senior Editor

The effects of COVID-19 on the social aspects of Avon Grove High School lasted long after students went back to in-person schooling, but participation in most areas seems to be finally starting to pick up again.

Mr. Christy, who became the Activities & Athletics Director right after the spring season of sports was canceled in 2020, recognizes that "we're definitely at the point where we were before COVID, especially on the activities end," which he largely attributed to the work of the coaches and advisors.

A big issue in getting more students to join sports teams after COVID was that many "students were not exposed to the sport in middle school" because of canceled seasons and social distancing efforts.

"The coaches did a really good job of having more voluntary workouts after COVID for both high school and middle school students, so that kids could experience the sport and then tryout," according to Mr. Christy.

The improvement in athletic participation has been incredibly important to Mr. Christy who stresses the value of the lessons taught in responsibility from joining sports teams including time management, making sure you're there for your team, dedication to improve, and holding each other accountable.

Mrs. Reynolds, the advisor for

the Sewing and Yearbook clubs as well as the Assistant Activities Director, shares that "after COVID there was a big decrease, and then when we moved here to the new school I noticed participation started to pick up again."

The new school provides the space for clubs to gather as well as the mindset of "fresh building, fresh start" that Mrs. Reynolds believes was crucial to move past the lingering effects of COVID.

The addition of I/E (intervention and enrichment period) has also been helpful, adds Mrs. Reynolds, as "clubs are able to meet during the day instead of after school," which always sparked problems with jobs, sports, and students finding transportation.

This increase in participation in athletics and clubs at the high school is also evident in this year's edition of the yearbook, which has greatly benefited from having access to a "larger pool of people to pull from for different jobs" and more activities to include pictures of.

Not all aspects of student life at AG have been brought back, however, as many events still face smaller audiences and trouble gaining signups.

In her role as Secretary for the Class of 2024, Kaylei Starsinic has seen firsthand that "it's a push to get people to actually do things because of a lack of interest in school events."

SEE PARTICIPATION ON PAGE 2

HOMECOMING

Homecoming change could affect boosters

By

Cailin Maley

Staff Writer

Avon Grove has a very unique Homecoming day schedule, where the game is played first, usually starting around 1:00p.m., and the booths start at 9:00a.m. and they stay up until the game ends, which can be 3:00p.m. some years.

But this schedule does not seem to be very popular amongst other schools. This is because it can cause issues for the players, cheerleaders, and band members who have less time to get ready for the dance.

In order to rectify the situation, Activities and Athletics Director

Mr. Kyle Christy surveyed the student body to see if a change should be made.

The majority of the over 200 respondents would like to hold the football game on Friday night, with the parade and booths on Saturday morning and the dance on Saturday night.

"When it comes to the time between the game and the dance, it becomes a little chaotic. We normally leave the game after the third quarter so we have enough time to get ready," says junior Abby Hanes.

If this change happens, it will benefit the athletes, cheerleaders, and band members, but will it be bad for the booths? When the booths are out

before and during the game, they attract many people because lots of people are there to watch the game, and in turn, give money to the booths. But without the game, would the booths make as much money?

"Booth sales would definitely be affected if the football game is on a separate day because the excitement of the game draws people in," says sophomore and Class of 2026 Treasurer Giada Bonnet.

This change won't only affect clubs, but it will also affect sports teams who make a majority of their money from the Homecoming booths.

"It is important that both the game and booths happen at the

same time. Some people might just be planning on going to the game or just walking around the booths, but while they are, they may decide to check out other things that are happening.

"If they were on separate days, not as many people would come, and therefore, sports, activities, and clubs would not raise as much money. Having both events at the same time is what makes them successful," says sophomore and volleyball player Emma Poser.

But, not having any game could also cause even more attraction to the booths.

"I think with booths, you might get even more people out to purchase things because during

the day on Saturday there are around 100 kids who are on the football and cheerleading team who aren't able to purchase anything," says Mr. Kyle Christy.

The parade would also take place during the booths, which could also cause more traction to the booths.

"I think that the football team would take part in the parade, and therefore, the parade ends at the State Road campus which would then filter all those people to purchase things from the booths to boost the activities," says Christy.

HOMECOMING

Administration investigates HOCO schedule

CHANGE FROM PAGE 1

"I think that the game should be on Friday because the whole point of Homecoming is for people to go to the football game," stated Avon Grove varsity cheerleader Hannah Rappa.

When the game is on Saturday, people who are in other sports or clubs have prior commitments like running the booths and can't support the game.

"It doesn't provide adequate time to get ready—especially for people who are participants in the game like cheerleaders and players. Many students get pictures before Homecoming and it is difficult to get ready and take pictures before the dance if you stay for

the whole game," said Rappa.

Rappa also believes that this option would be "less chaotic for the people in sports and clubs, which is the majority of the student population. Having the game on a Friday night also adds to the atmosphere rather than having it during the day."

Some students have also expressed their preference for the second option.

"I prefer the second option because the football game is on Friday night rather than Saturday. I always have to leave before the game ends so I'm able to get ready for the dance in time," stated sophomore Maddie Robinson.

Another student, Maggie Dun-

kel, also stated that she has to leave prior to the game ending in order to get ready and take pictures.

The third option is for the football game to be Friday night, with the parade and booths on Saturday during the day along with another sports contest: field hockey, boys soccer, or girls soccer.

"Each year the sports contest would change," stated Christy.

Avon Grove football player Jose Sabastro states, "Everyone leaves the football game at half time. I think that it will be easier for me to get ready for the Homecoming game."

"Dr. Snead and I collectively came up with these options. We

want whatever the students feel is best," stated Christy.

"I think we should keep the booths immediately after the parade," stated Principal Dr. Snead. "I believe participation with the booths will increase as people will be able to spend more time at the booths instead of running to the game."

Dr. Snead has been working at Avon Grove for 21 years.

"Since I arrived in 2003, the schedule has always been the same. Prior to AGHS having a football team, the game was a soccer game—this was before my time at AG."

Dr. Snead shed light to those who might feel uncertain about

what the 2024 Homecoming schedule might entail, "I don't think it is a specific element that makes AG Homecomings special. The AGHS students make Homecoming special."

As of early March, the survey has received 215 responses. Option two with the game Friday and parade and booths on Saturday has the majority vote with 113 votes. Following the current schedule had 56 votes and option three with 46 votes.

Will a new tradition begin next fall? Homecoming is slated for the weekend of October 4-5.

AG LIFE

Student Council seeks to increase participation in activities

PARTICIPATION FROM PAGE 1

Starsinic mentions the Family Feud Game Show fundraiser that was introduced this year unfortunately struggled to gather teams and brought in only a small audience to watch.

This decline in event participation is a concern for Mr. Christy as

well who believes that the "lull of two years has especially impacted larger events such as the Holiday Holla and Mr. Avon Grove" because "students forgot how fun those events are and how great they can be if students participate."

One way that Mr. Christy plans

on promoting an increased attendance next year is by showing "previews of Mr. Avon Grove during I/E the week leading up to the event to motivate students to attend and watch the full show."

Starsinic thinks it's important that students remember that fundraisers and events are held

to "raise money for fun events such as Senior Sunset, Senior Sunrise, and Prom" and they also can "evoke school spirit that help us come together as a community rather than just remaining peers."

Despite setbacks in large event participation, many at AG recognize the improvements that

have been made in the levels of involvement since COVID, and recognize the potential to go even further than the numbers seen pre-COVID by continuing to think innovatively to come up with strategies that make students realize the merit of participation.

Look for a pink moon this weekend and a partial eclipse in April

By
Adam Swift
Column

April is national astronomy month. Fittingly, this is going to be an eventful month for astronomers.

Even in the last days of March there will be some things to look out for. A bright comet is passing near the sun, as it will be most visible on March 22. To learn more, research how to see Comet 12p/Pons-Brooks.

In planetary news, Mercury will be most visible after sunset as it reaches its farthest elongation east of the sun on March 24. Look to the horizon for a faint speck after sunset to see Mercury. It is

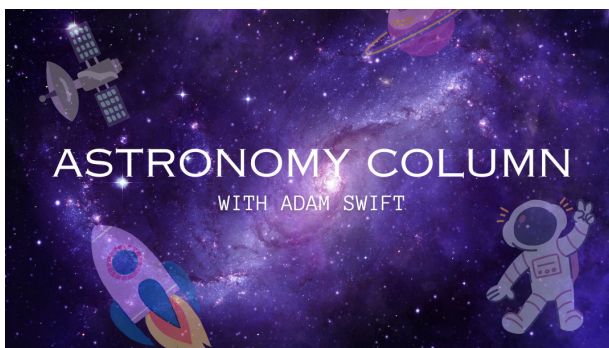
made of rock, and its distance to the sun makes it very bright for its small size.

On the same day in the eastern sky, instead of the western, you will see the worm moon (because of the earth worms that appear this time of year).

The moon will not be in its usual grayscale tone on March 24, it will be pink. This is due to the penumbral lunar eclipse during the full moon of March.

A lunar eclipse like this is always preceding a solar eclipse.

The position of the moon's orbit causes the lunar eclipse to happen on the full moon before or after a new moon. The new moon is



in position to cover the sun's light, hence the solar eclipse.

Speaking of solar eclipses, on

April 8, the skies over Pennsylvania will be just a bit dimmer. If you have proper viewing glasses, you will see a partial eclipse, but if you drive up to Erie, you will see totality.

This is the first time in a long time Pennsylvania soil has seen totality. Interestingly enough, the worm moon of March will be a micromoon.

This just means it is farther away from Earth than usual in its orbit. Since the new moon is opposite a full moon, the new moon in April is a supermoon, when it is closer to Earth.

If the new moon wasn't a su-

permoon, we would have a "ring of fire" solar eclipse like back in October. The ring of fire is caused by a lack of totality that is caused by a supermoon, so it leaks sunlight the entire eclipse, causing a "ring of fire" around the moon.

That was the most of it, but two eclipses make up for any lack of stargazing events. Besides those, there is the Lyrids meteor shower which lasts throughout the month faintly, but peaks on the night of April 21.

Until next time, happy stargazing.

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

OPINION

Opinion content in *The Devil's Herald* expresses the singular view of the writer. *The Devil's Herald* invites letters to the editor. Please email Mr. Gregory (rgregory@avongrove.org).

Spring book recommendations

By
Ella Bartnik
Senior Editor

The chill of winter has finally started to melt away and the arrival of springs brings with it feelings of renewal, change, and growth. It's a great time of year to pick up some books that match the spirit of rejuvenation and new beginnings. Here is my list of book suggestions for you to enjoy this spring season!

April represents a time of reckoning and self discovery, which is why Albert Camus' *The Plague* serves as perfect representation for the month.

In *The Plague*, April becomes a crippling period in which the town of Oran is grappling with the rapid outbreak of a deadly disease.

The novel follows a plethora of characters. Dr. Bernard Rieux is the most significant as they grapple with the moral issues posed by the epidemic.

The changing seasons are metaphorically represented by the cyclical nature of life, reflecting on the resilience of the human spirit to move past hard times in the face of crisis.

Similarly to how spring brings forth new life and growth, the characters in *The Plague* confront their existential dilemmas and come to understand the intricate complexities of human existence.

Flowers blooming, picturesque weather, and warm undertones are all factors that make up the month of May which is why I believe Jane Austen's *Emma* to be the perfect novel for this month.

Following the story of Emma Woodhouse, a well-meaning but rather misguided matchmaker for both her family and friends, the novel explores Emma's

attempts to set up romantic relationships amongst her companions and her navigation of the

complexities of societal expectations in 19th century England.

As spring unfolds, it mirrors Emma's own development from a well-intentioned but rather overstepping matchmaker for her friends and family into a more self-aware and mature individual.

The warmth and beauty associated with May symbolize the powerful and positive transformations and genuine connections that begin to unfold in Emma's life, serving as a metaphor for the growth the protagonist undergoes.

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* relates to the month of June through the novel's exploration of decadence and the passage of time.

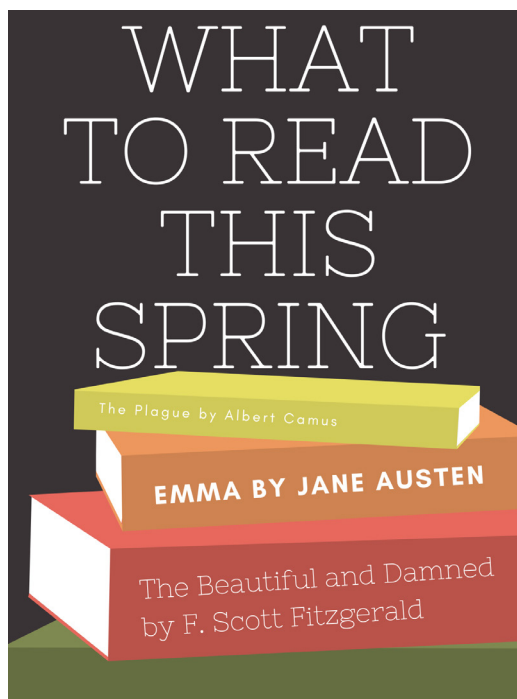
June, representing the arrival of summer, aligns with both the vibrant and

indulgent atmosphere depicted in Fitzgerald's work.

In the novel, June becomes significant as Anthony and Gloria Patch navigate the glamorous and tumultuous world of the Jazz age, serving to represent the fleeting nature of their youth, beauty, and sometimes reckless lifestyle.

The warmth brought forth by the month of June helps correspond with the character's pursuit of hedonistic behaviors, wealth, and societal success with the intensity of these wants heating up with the June weather, reflecting the escalating tensions of Anthony and Gloria.

As the chill of winter gives way to the warmth of spring I hope you find rejuvenation and growth in the selected novels. Albert Camus' *The Plague*, Jane Austen's *Emma*, and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Beautiful and Damned* serve as the perfect reading companion this spring!





HERALD SPORTS

● **March 25**

Baseball
vs. Downingtown East,
3:45p.m.

Softball
@ Downingtown East,
3:45p.m.

● **March 25**

Boys Lacrosse
vs. Penncrest 7:00p.m.

Girls Lacrosse
@ Ridley, 7:00p.m.

Boys Tennis
@ Great Valley, 3:30p.m.

● **March 26**

Boys Volleyball
@ Downingtown East,
3:45p.m.

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Wrestlers make it to States

By
Riley Wiercinski
Senior Editor

The word "Hershey" to most people signifies roller coasters, being surrounded by your best friends, the joy of summer, and all the chocolate you can eat. To Avon Grove's wrestling team, however, "Hershey" is the opportunity to prove yourself as one of the best wrestlers in Pennsylvania.

After a strong showing at the PIAA District 1 AAA Boys Wrestling Championship at Oxford Area High School, AG sent three wrestlers to the Southeast Regionals.

Senior Christian Ford led the boys as he placed first in the 133 pound weight class. Ford finished the regular season with a record of 38-5 to round off his high school

career at 94-25.

Junior Jagger Vitelli and freshman Noah Parsons also advanced to regionals by placing third in the 189 and 107 pound categories. Other district placers included Joey Herman's 172 pound fifth place finish, and several sixth place finishers including Noah Smith at 114, Connor McCullin at 152, Matt Meorder at 160, and Wyatt Holdren at 215.

While the district tournament may have marked the end of McCullin's high school career, he will continue to pursue wrestling at Shippensburg University.

The following weekend, Ford took fourth place in his class and Vitelli placed fifth, securing their trips to Hershey.

"My freshman year, I couldn't wrestle in the postseason because of COVID," reflected Ford. "Sophomore and junior year, I made it to regionals and went 1-2."

Even more impressively, on the girls' side, Kaitlynn and Emma Arnold punched their tickets to regionals in the first ever PIAA District 1/12 AAA championship.

Sophomore, Kaitlynn Arnold placed fourth in the 155 pound weight class, while her freshman sister, Emma Arnold, placed third at 130.

At regionals, Kaitlynn placed third and Emma placed fourth, securing their place in States.

While Kaitlynn was unable to compete in last year's postseason due to injury, Emma "was a [Middle Atlantic Wrestling Association] national placer" and placed in States in middle school.

Up in Hershey, Ford and Emma Arnold placed in the top twelve. Kaitlynn Arnold was the only AG wrestler to place at States as she took home seventh place.

While this was the last season for



-Photo courtesy of AG Wrestling Instagram

Senior Christian Ford took home first at Districts and placed fourth at Regionals.

Ford, he will be continuing his wrestling career at Delaware Valley University, where he will be studying criminal justice.

For the Arnolds, however, this season just marks the beginning of their high school careers.

"My goals for next season are to place in the top five at States," said Kaitlynn. "Wrestling the boys all season helps me with the girls postseason, and I just want to show other girls that even though you get beat up by the boys, you never quit or you never give up."



-Photo courtesy of the AGHS Yearbook

Emma and Kaitlynn Arnold made history in competing in the first-ever PIAA Girls Wrestling Championships in Hershey.

Baseball ready to run it back to States

By
Brooke Bellaver
Staff Writer

As spring sports start up again, teams are excited to get back on the field, especially the Avon Grove baseball team. Last year, the team went 17-8, making it to States, but are confident that they can go even farther this season.

Before the team's season opener on Tuesday, March 19, the team had two scrimmages: one against Delaware Military Academy and another against Haverford. These scrimmages were "a great way to get a feel for the season," according to varsity head coach John Bellaver.

The team has many returning players from last season, including 13 seniors, all excited to have an impact on their last high school season.

"I'm really excited for this season. We have a lot of returning players and I believe that we can return to States," said senior Caleb Strawhecker.

Strawhecker is one of the many seniors committed to play in college, attending West Chester University next fall.

The team also consists of underclassmen including freshman Brendon Baiocco and sophomores Ryan Fuller, Nick Campese, and Logan Nelson, who have all stepped up to the challenge of being on varsity.

"We have a lot of incoming players who are really good," said senior Brayden Gregg. "We have a lot of good things to come this season."

Gregg is a starting pitcher who will continue his baseball career at Hofstra University.

The Red Devils believe that they can go even farther than last year, but this doesn't come without hard work. According to Bellaver, the team needs to "put in the work if we want to see the results."

Bellaver believes that with enough practice, the team can reach the level they expect to be at.

"I think we're going to be really strong this year," said senior Trevor Dosenbach. "We can definitely be better than we were last year."

Dosenbach plans to go to the University of Richmond to continue his baseball career.

The expectations are set high for the team this season, but they have what it takes to overcome challenges thrown their way and be the team they are expected to be.



-Photo courtesy of Jack Calio

Brayden Gregg looks to lead the Red Devils to another standout season.

WINTER SPORTS

Girls ice hockey, boys basketball lead winter sports teams

By

Connor Graber & Joe Lewis
Staff Writers

The boys basketball team ended their 7 year play-off drought, the girls ice hockey team looked to win another trophy this year, and the swimming team sent five swimmers to States.

The girls ice hockey team ended up going 17-1 and had a 108 goal differential during the regular season.

The Lady Devils won the Bob Anderson Memorial Bowl against Downingtown East-Shanahan 7-3 in the final.

Unfortunately, they came up short against Downingtown West in the Flyers Cup Final on March 18, as they lost 6-4.

"Our key point as a team was to swing back this year after losing closely in both championships last year. We knew what we had to do and we did it," said senior Lillie Maloney.

The girls team was the one seed in the tournament, and won their game against Conestoga 10-0.

"One struggle we had this year was learning to play better as a team and not just as an individual. Each player on the team is valuable and good at separate things. We just had to learn to put it together," said Maloney.

Senior Skylar Campanile led the team with 57 points. Skylar Greene led the team in assists with 28.

Senior Ella Hydutsky only allowed 24 goals on 156 shots. She had a save percentage of 0.846 and didn't lose a game she started.

The team will be going to a national tournament, and it is the first time for all of the players.

The boys ice hockey team finished the season in third place, going 10-9-2. They were able to make the Ches-Mont Final as the four seed. They were able to beat the five-time state champion West Chester East Vikings 5-1 in the second round.

"We were a very young team and it took our younger guys some time to get their feet wet. But when they did, we went 6-2 in our last 8 games," said senior Jacob Schindler.

The team ended up losing to Central Bucks South in the first round of the Flyers Cup.

The key to their season was the team's ability to play creatively, and go out of position to positively affect the team.

Senior Brendan Chandler led the team with 33 points. Will Gorman was close behind with 31 and led the team in assists.

In the goal, senior Owen El-Attar only allowed 72 goals on 513 shots with a save percentage of 0.860.

The swim team was able to get five swimmers to qualify for States.

For diving, Alena Kurtz finished 13th in the district.

Overall, the team finished 9th out of 45 teams in District 1.

Senior Ava Pfaff will look back at the season and remember "the Coatesville meet when the boys and girls teams came together and supported one another to take home a win."

The team's key point to their season was their versatile swimmers. The team had to be tightly connected and support each other.

"Our team did not have enough depth this year to beat out two of the top teams for the Ches-Mont

Championship," said Pfaff.

The five state qualifiers were freshman Kyle Burk, sophomore Cailin Maley, junior Kaitlyn Burk, and seniors Ava Pfaff and Lily Perrin.

The girls swimming and diving team ended their season 6-2 and the boys 1-7, with their win coming on Senior Night.

At the state swim meet, freshman Kyle Burk placed 25th in the boys 500 yard freestyle, and 20th in the boys 100 yard backstroke.

Sophomore Cailin Maley placed 18th in the girls 200 yard individual medley, and 19th in the girls 100 yard breaststroke. She also placed 20th in the 200 yard medley relay along with Lily Perrin, Ava Pfaff, and Kaitlyn Burk.

Kaitlyn Burk also placed 20th in the girls 200 yard individual medley, and 28th in the 100 yard butterfly.

For the boys basketball team, the focal point of their season was to focus on their defense. Their defense was a leading factor in getting the program's first playoff berth in seven years.

Big man Adam Ziegler suffered a wrist injury during the season, but the team stayed afloat while handling adversity.

"That was one of our two obstacles during the season," says sophomore guard Tashaan McClain.

"Winning 2 important games after a losing streak was pivotal for us," adds McClain.

The girls basketball season was tough. Despite their 5-15 record, a lot stands out from the season.

Sophomore forward Naiya Murphy had an outstanding season. During the season she dropped a new season high in points with 33.



-Photo courtesy of Tommy Conahan

Sophomore Tashaan McClain had 3 steals in Avon Grove's blowout victory against Downingtown East.

The best game of the season was when Avon Grove defeated Central Bucks West in early December, 37-32.

"We just played together as a team that game," adds Murphy.

The winter season for AG track and field was a good one. There were a plethora of highlights during the season.

The boys 4x200 team broke the school record. The team featured freshman Joey DiCrecchio, junior James Billig, senior Sam Balick, and senior Lucas Dusseau.

Junior Kellar Cimini broke the school record for pole vault, with a 14 foot jump.

Lexi Boiardi broke the girls high jump record with a jump of 5 '6".

James Billig broke the 60 meter

hurdles record.

Six students represented AG during the state meet at Penn State. Kellar Cimini (pole vault), Lexi Boiardi (high jump), Eden Veenema, Zaida Caulder, Lilly Schindler, and Briget Keegan all made states for the 4x400 relay.

The season was a big success and included multiple personal records, and Head Coach Mr. Eric Broadbent couldn't be more pleased with how the team performed during the indoor season.



-Photo courtesy of Tommy Conahan

Senior Owen El-Attar saved 441 shots during the regular season for the boys ice hockey team.

PROFILE

Delivering more than mail

Wayne Prewitt retires after 43 years of serving his community

By
Giselle McCullough
Staff Writer

Firefighter, doctor, astronaut—those are the occupations children tend to say they want as their future jobs. But what about other jobs like an auto mechanic, a cashier, and a mail carrier?

Most people don't tend to aim for those jobs because they don't produce enough income or they're considered boring jobs. But what they don't realize is how significant and impactful these jobs can be to both their communities and the world around us.

Wayne Prewitt has been a mail carrier for the United States Postal Service since 1981 and he just recently retired on the last day of February.

For about the first two years as a mailman, he was also working for Chrysler as he and his wife, who also happened to be a mail carrier for USPS, had a sick son at home they needed to care for.

Before USPS issued its own means of transportation, Wayne drove a 1973 Dodge Coronet that got seven miles to the gallon. Until 1987, he delivered for the auxiliary route of Southern Chester County with this car along with many other personal cars during that time.

"I would deliver from 8:00a.m.-noon

or 1:00p.m. before working at Chrysler throughout the evenings. Sometimes, I'd work until 2:00a.m. at Chrysler and then run back home quickly and then off to the post office to be there by 8:00a.m.," he says.

Over the last decade, he cumulatively delivered 500 boxes a day over a 40 mile radius. At one point, a 50 mile radius. This would take him about 8 hours a day.

In other words, Wayne spent his day serving his community. But not just in the way of delivering their mail. Wayne has some interesting stories from his time on the job.

Two elderly brothers lived together and the eldest brother, Clarence, went for a fateful walk during a snowstorm one day in November. Wayne was on his usual route and saw what looked like just a flannel coat in the snow. Thankfully, he still stopped, and when he reached the gulley, there was Clarence.

"Even though I thought it was only a shirt, something told me I should still stop, so I did, and there he was."

Clarence had been lying in the snow for over an hour. Wayne was kind enough to help him up and take him back home to his younger brother.

Another dire snow storm caused a car to break down. A mother and her two children had begun to trek out in the cold with her children to find help when Wayne stopped and offered her a ride. He took them to the gas station so that they could make a call for help, get warm, and get some food.

"Each house that I've delivered to has its stories. Sometimes the case has been I've helped them out or they've helped me out.

"I've been to weddings, I've been to memorial services. It's like having an extended family. I've known some of these people for 40+ years."

Wayne's last day of work was Feb-

ruary 29, 2024 and the community showed their love and appreciation.

"My last day at work was very emotional for me. I had tears from the beginning to the very end because I knew I won't see some of these people again and they've meant a lot to me over the years. I love people and that's one of the reasons I stayed on the job for as long as I did. I just enjoy people," he says.

Many of the neighborhoods Wayne served had some sort of last day surprise for him to show appreciation for the hard work he's done for the community for over 40 years. Some had special surprise cards and signs for him, others had balloons tied to the mailboxes, and some left a tip of gratitude for his non-gratuitous job that he did with passion.

Even without the 500 families he would see daily, he still has a positive outlook on his retirement.

"Just spending more time with the fam-



-Photo courtesy of Bill McCullough

Wayne Prewitt started working for the United States Postal Service in 1981. Residents decorated their mailboxes and made signs in appreciation of his service.

ily. Practice a little guitar, a little banjo, and some piano. I enjoy reading. And looking forward to taking day trips with my wife. We have time for things we didn't used to have time for," said Wayne.



COMMUNITY

Big Yellow Mug promotes fellowship

By
Tucker Ross
Staff Writer

A place where every mug has a history, the Big Yellow Mug exists to provide for the community. A coffee shop and lounge located at the Christian Life Center in Lincoln University, the Big Yellow

Mug has been serving Pennsylvania residents since 2018.

With "more drink options available than at your local Starbucks" as the owner of the establishment, Laurie Boiardi remarked, the Big Yellow Mug has only the best to offer for every one of its customers.

One of its signature decorations is a wall of mugs, each one unique in its own way. The story behind this is that when the Big Yellow Mug opened, community members would donate mugs to hang on the wall, so everyone could grab a different mug off the wall and enjoy some free coffee.

The Mug credits "fellowship," one of the driving factors for the Christian Life Center, to be a huge motivator for them, and considers its mission to be "to help people find community," says Laurie Boiardi.

After establishing it in 2018, a pastor at the Christian Life Center's vision for the Mug was similar in that it would give people a sense of fellowship.

Laurie Boiardi labeled her Americano or Cuban coffee with brown sugar and sweet cream espresso as her bestsellers. Kids also love the popping bubble tea.

"It's a very relaxing and welcoming space with plenty of



-Photo by Tucker Ross

The Big Yellow Mug is a coffee shop and lounge at the Christian Life Center in Lincoln University.

games and puzzles beckoning," said Lisa Hauser, a Big Yellow Mug customer.

Upcoming events at the mug include a community puzzle competition with teams of 4-6 people on April 6 at 3:00p.m. That night is also Game Night, so there will be many different games to play, such as chess or Scrabble.

On April 13 there is an Open Mic Night as well as a Coffee Flight Night.

Connect on Wednesdays, or COW, is every Wednesday night until June 5. Dinner is served from 5:30p.m. to 6:15p.m. and is only \$5. If you can't afford a meal, there are prepaid coupons hanging on a wall, which are bought by previous customers to help out those in need.

Bus drivers and teachers also get 20% discounts and free brew coffee until 10:00a.m. every day, while students get discounts until

close, which is after school.

The Mug also has a mobile unit that you may have seen on route 896 for a while, but now moves around from school to school. It will be coming to Avon Grove in May this year.

Only a six-minute drive from Avon Grove High School, the Big Yellow Mug is a close-by, cozy, and quiet hangout place where you can study or hangout with friends.

