

THE SLATE

ALL YOUR BULLDOG NEWS... UNLEASHED!

Pom-poms in paradise



Photo courtesy of Daisy Richards

Seniors Zoe Edwards, Daisy Richards, and Cadence Whalen traveled to Honolulu, Hawaii, to participate in the 82nd Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade. More on page 3.

‘Attack!’ receives rave review from visiting playwright

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

This year, the Northern Lehigh Little Theatre took on a new type of show. *Attack! Of the Killer Man from the Sun*, a sci-fi B-movie comedy for the stage, was the theatre's fall production. This show is very new, with only four schools in the country performing it this season.

Our very own Northern Lehigh was third in the United States to perform this play. I was fortunate enough to be cast as Anne Ion, the pleasant and happy wife of scientist Lou Ion. In addition to getting to perform this show, the cast also got to meet the playwright: David Andrew Laws.



Photo by Kai Grozier
Senior Jalyne Leshner as Alien I in NL's fall play.

After he saw our show, we got to speak with Mr. Laws, who had only great things to say about our performances. I was lucky enough to speak to Mr. Laws about his thoughts on the production.

After coming to see our show, Mr. Laws reflected on

See Playwright, page 4

Soaring costs of holiday joy

Inflation hits gift-giving and family time, leaving Americans debating the true price of the season

By Sam Mack '26
Staff Writer

It's the most wonderful time of the year... or is it? The holiday season is filled with joy among family and friends, but even the jolliest of families have been greatly impacted by price increases this holiday.

Inflation, or the general increase in prices of goods, has become a familiar topic throughout America in the past decade, and that effect is particularly noticeable during the season of giving. Things tend to get pricier around the holidays and it can be very tough on people's wallets.

Toys, clothing, and even groceries became increasingly expensive this holiday, causing Americans to debate

See Inflation, page 5

Marching band captures win with 'Fugitive' performance

By Andi Szwast '27
Staff Writer

Most people know the Northern Lehigh Marching Band for its football tunes and halftime performances, but not many are aware of its competitive side. Mr. David Carroll, the director of the marching band program, says, "The mission of our music department is to teach our students through the creation, development, and performance of great art."

For over a quarter century competition has been the yardstick our marching band program used to measure the success of that mission."

Beginning in early June, members of the marching band devote their weekdays, weekends, and spare moments to practicing, perfecting, and performing the show. As the school year begins, so does the football season, and the NL band becomes a pep band in addition to its numerous rehearsals. This year's student leadership



Evan German in the band's "Fugitive."

Historian McKenna Kirk, Secretary Melody Lindenmoyer, Manager Evan German, and Assistant Manager Aidan Rudolph.

The competition season generally begins around mid-September and ends in early November; however, this season differed from the norm. Two out of three scheduled competitions were canceled, leaving the band with only one competition before Region Championships. With so many new and young band members, many were worried that the NL band was not prepared for Regions.

Nevertheless, the Northern Lehigh Marching Band headed into their first competition of the season at Governor Livingston High School on October 15th, emerging with a winning score of 82.3 against their opponent, Roselle Park High School.

The following Saturday (October 21st) was the Region Championships. After rival high

See Fugitive, page 16

team for the band included Drum Majors Joshua Weaver and Reece Johnson, President Kiley Kennedy, Vice President Taylor Everk,

A lotta buckets

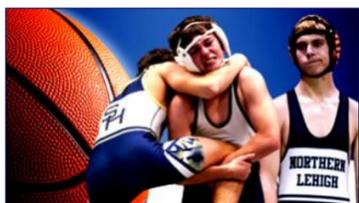


Senior Aubrey Pollard, pictured with her mom Kristina, joins the 'thousand-point' club, page 9.

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My scars do not define me

Understanding the hidden stigmas of self-harm. It does get better, but the reality is tough to navigate

By Lacey Groover '26
Staff Writer / Artist

My intent with this article is to spread awareness and inform others of the struggles that people who self-harm may go through. Self-harming should not be glorified in any manner, nor should it be judged. Self-harm addiction is a very stigmatized and undermined issue among young people. I cannot speak for others on how they feel when they self-harm, and all emotions stated are mine and mine only. I am asking you, the reader, to remove any preconceived notions you may have about self-harm.

Every scar tells a story. Some people get theirs from a fall when they are little, some from a cooking accident, or from a surgery, but there's one type of scar that is different from the others: the self-inflicted ones.

Self-harm is the act of purposely inflicting pain on your body. It is anything under the umbrella of hurting oneself on purpose for some emotional gratification, and is an addictive, unhealthy coping mechanism mainly used by teens and young adults. It is not the solution to one's problems, and I discourage using it at all.

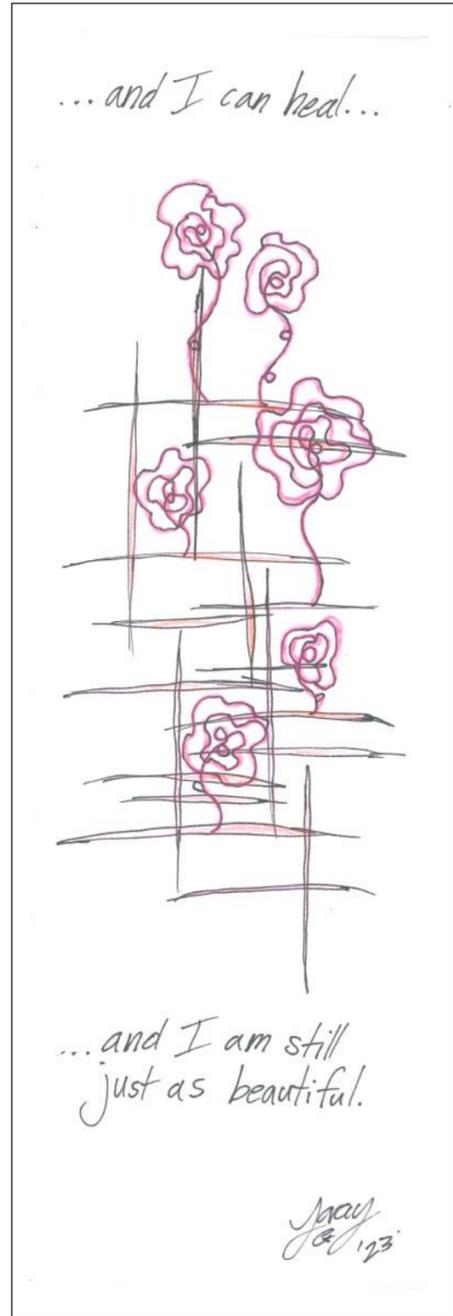
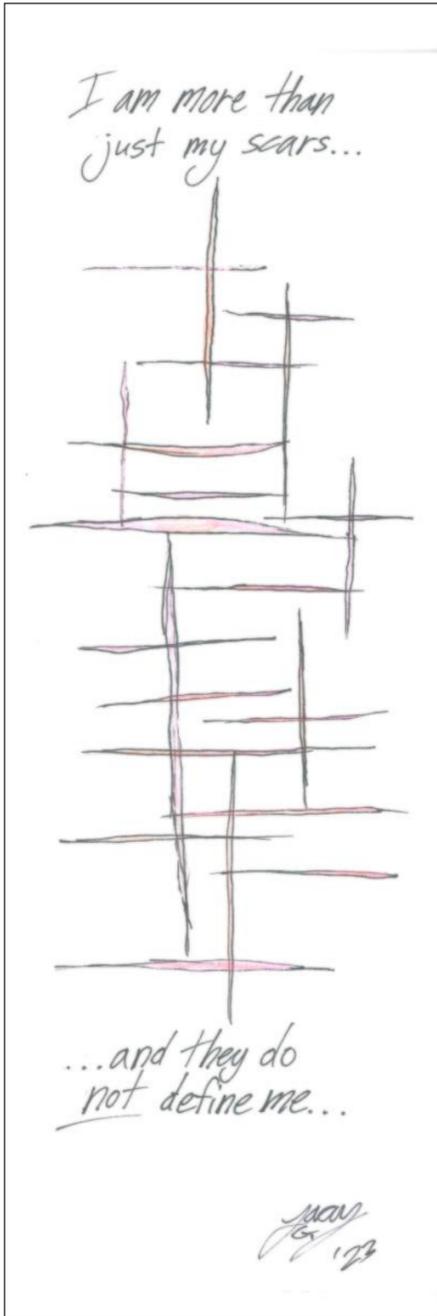
There is not just one reason why people self-harm; many do it as a release for built-up negative

emotions or to get a sense of regaining control over their lives or their feelings. Self-harm has become a bad habit for me to break, and I always regret reverting back to it. There is a cathartic feeling to it, but it never lasts long enough for it to be worth the consequences. The aftermath and guilt of self-harming is never worth the few seconds of release people get from it. It is scary to have to face what happens afterward, especially if someone feels they cannot reach out to anyone around them.

I have been struggling with self-harm for almost three years now, and, for me, many scars are a reminder of that. Most are on my arms and legs, and the fact that I am not afraid to wear clothing that shows my scars has caused many social issues to arise. People stare, they invasively inquire, they will throw insults my way and some decide its their place to comment on my appearance, which can be difficult to deal with. I don't mind a curious question being asked— if it's done in a respectful manner. It can be difficult for someone to figure out exactly what to say if they see these scars, especially if they care about that person.

I understand it can be shocking to see, but there is never a need for staring or constant glances. If the person's marks don't look fresh or fairly recent, the best thing to do is to not acknowledge

See Scars, page 5



Ugly sweaters, pajamas — Festive days were abound pre-break



Photo by the Reflections Staff
Ashley Moyer and Daisy Richards celebrated Ugly Sweater Day with festive ugliness (the sweaters, of course).

Gabriella Gentile and Kyndra Dougherty.



Yup, that's a teacher. Mr. Sam Yadush celebrates the season.

Allen Bellois, Christian Cean, and Novak Lopatinsky.

Cheers to Hawaii's Pearl Harbor parade

By Morgan Smith '27
Staff Writer

Are you so invested in something that you would fly five thousand miles and pay thousands of dollars for it? Zoe Edwards, Cadence Whalen, and Daisy Richards are!

They are the co-captains at Northern Lehigh School District. They have been cheering together for two years and bonded further when some cheerleaders attended a UCA camp over the summer.

The Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) is a large group of highly skilled athletes that hold camps that cheer squads can attend. Every year, staff instructors from UCA host a camp at the middle school that the cheerleaders are invited to.

Usually the camps last three days.

While attending this camp you will learn various skills, a sideline cheer, and a dance. They will also teach you different stunts and how to stunt properly. The last day is also when the cheerleaders get to try out for All American. All American is a title given to a cheerleader when they show superior technical skills and strong leadership.

Only 12 percent of people that attend the camp can make All American, and the individuals that make it are invited by UCA to perform at special events all around the world. Each year, varsity cheerleaders have the option to cheer in either London or Hawaii.

Around 30 cheerleaders attended the UCA camp this year, and of those people, only nine made All American. As seniors, Zoe, Cadi, and Daisy decided that they would go through with the trip

and fundraise for themselves and their coach, Michele, to take the trip to Hawaii.

Senior Zoe Edwards says, "When we all earned the "All American" title at camp this year, we knew it was our last chance to attend an event with cheer because we don't have a next year."

They worked very hard to fundraise, completing five fundraisers in four months and raising approximately five hundred dollars each. Their trip was not just for fun.

Their trip was from December 3-9, and they cheered at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on December seventh. The day before the parade, they had three hours of practice to prepare.

The parade is a little over 1 mile long in which they walked while cheering the whole length.

They also had to learn a two-and-a-half-minute routine that they performed throughout the parade. During their trip, they visited historical sights like USS Missouri Battleship that was used during the attack at Pearl Harbor. The day after the parade, they attended a celebrational luau.

A luau is a Hawaiian celebration where the guests practice traditional Hawaiian cultural staples including dancing and the roasting of a pig.

The girls learned a lot from the trip and met new people from all around the U.S.

Senior Daisy Richards, says "It was a fun experience, and I am glad to have gotten the opportunity to go. Overall, the experience was unforgettable, and I wouldn't trade it for the world." 🐾



Photo courtesy of Daisy Richards

From Slatington to Hawaii — NL was well-represented at the Pearl Harbor parade. More photos on our Instagram: @theslatenews.

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Tik-Tok: The new-age news source?

By Haven Moore '24
Associate Editor

It seems nowadays, in discussions of recent news, the phrase "I saw on TikTok..." (or some form of it) is brought up more and more often. Some may hear this statement and scoff, but as time goes on, this is becoming a modern truth and more widely accepted. A truth regarding where and how people get their information.

The media in general covers area of pretty much any topic on almost all social platforms that can produce and spread current news, so why wouldn't TikTok fall into that category?

According to the Pew Research Center, the number of people who retrieve their news from the app is steadily increasing. The percentage of people who regularly use TikTok for news has quadrupled in the past three years to 14% and is most common among teens and young adults (primarily 18-29).

To that, this rate slightly drops as the age bracket increases. Some groups of people use TikTok and receive information from watching these short clips that quickly deliver condensed stories, appealing to a short attention span and going "viral" reaching a bigger audience since the app is tremendously popular.

Countless niche topics also have a home on TikTok, allowing people to venture into and explore these "sides" of the app, fetching the news they are interested in. Sounds like a sufficient news alternative, correct? Well, many other opposing groups will disagree with that belief, and perhaps for good reason.

It is common knowledge in 2023, approaching 2024, that TikTok has been under quite a bit of scrutiny since its rise in popularity, and has faced many legal challenges in terms of

its content, access to personal information, misinformation, and even national security concerns. Many are still skeptical of the app but it does appear to continue its rise in use, being that the United States comes out on top with 143 million users, as reported by Statista.com.

The majority of those users have most likely consumed and spread information or news heard/watched on the

has since denied this, but many remain unconvinced). What can be said for certain, news on TikTok, even in its wonderfully abundant amounts, can be very unreliable and spread by people who do not possess enough credibility in reporting on news. A news reporter or journalist knows how to accurately deliver what is happening in the world to the public, while an average user may share less of those qualities necessary for sharing

it that the news people get from this app is news at all? That is the hard question that leaves many without an answer, but with the ever-changing and constant user-generated content, it almost feels impossible for people to resist feeding into potentially fake news.

With all that being said, one should always take into account the benefits and downsides of choosing certain sources to access credible information.

This is not just for the sake of engaging with false or inaccurate portrayals of the truth, but also because it can be easily misleading for the audience and whoever it is spread to.

Misinformation or information corrupted by opinion, propaganda, and so on can be even detrimental depending on the news/topic. TikTok has the qualities that made it blow up globally in the first place that users love... along with the side effects that are not so admirable, which can impact the way news circulates on the platform versus a legitimate and acclaimed news service.

The reason a sole dictation is not being expressed here is because the way one finds and digests information online is up to the individual. Hence nowadays people preach credibility and finding/approving sources on the internet. It is a helpful skill to be acquired in the age of technology and the media. So this article leaves the reader with the ultimate decision to remember constantly when seeking word on the news online.

TikTok has its uses that have practically transformed multiple areas of social media as we know it, however, knowing the way the app runs and how anyone can produce content, all users alike should be aware and even weary of the impact it has on the narration of serious news stories. 🐾



app, and now have it acting in the role of news networks and well-regarded news journals. Many worries conspire to surround the fate of a generation so closely used to the world of social media, particularly TikTok, and if this is a better or worse alternative.

Forbes says that 59% of U.S adults view the app as a national security threat, concerns also leading to the Chinese government's direct access to the app and important information (TikTok

information, which is often misinformed for this reason.

Additionally, being that TikTok is a social media platform, notorious for strongly influencing trends, what is in and what is out, and overall, consisting of many individuals spreading opinion-based knowledge with their agenda in some cases, truth and facts are very difficult to come by, or for that matter, to even decipher. So through this whole conundrum of obstacles, how possible is

Playwright visits NL to witness stellar performance



Cast and crew of this year's fall play, including director Miss Kayla Driscoll (far right) and playwright David Andrew Laws (third from bottom left).

Playwright, from page 1

some stand-out moments of NL's production, including the sets, costumes, and performances, noting that it was "clear that everyone onstage was having so much fun living in this world and exploring this humor."

He had "...so many favorite parts: poor Range Parker's body on the forest floor, the Aliens sharing a chair at the dinner table, and of course every single 'What?? Where??'" All of these inside jokes made the show all the more special to both the cast and the playwright, and just made for an enjoyable experience for the audience.

In addition to this, there were plenty of jokes in the show that had very rarely been seen acted out for the stage. With the play having only been produced a handful of times, there were some jokes and moments that were new to audiences. Seeing this story come to life was especially exciting for Mr. Laws, who had never seen his show performed to this scale: "It's very surreal as I sit there following along with every line, seeing what jokes land and what needs to get adjusted, what choices were made by the director and what one-time-only magic happens because of the joy of live theatre."

For him, seeing something that he

had started in college and worked on for over 10 years, workshoping and showing it to people until "it finally ended up at the right place at the right time," was incredibly exciting. That idea had gone from the vision of a college student to being performed in an educational theater setting by students all over the country.

Here at Northern Lehigh, there were some elements of our production that surprised Mr. Laws, including "[the giant TV, some of the pre-existing elements of the montage, the skull during Scientist Number Three's monologue (which, I must admit, was probably the most surprising element of the experi-

ence for me). Really what struck me the most, this only being the second time I've seen this play fully staged, was how much joy could be found. The joy I intended, obviously, but then so much *more* joy and comedy and fun and exploration: that's what the show, and theatre at large, is for. I was thrilled, the excitement in the room was palpable, and everyone involved should be very proud."

An excellent review for our student cast, and excellent motivation for our theater department, as a whole. Congratulations to the cast, crew, and creative team of *Attack! Of the Killer Man from the Sun!* 🐾

Breaking the silence of self-harm

Scars, from page 2

them. Allow the person to decide if and when they want to bring up the topic. It's safe to say that most people with scars would prefer to be left alone about past actions that are potentially regrettable or traumatic.

It is natural to wonder and want to ask questions. Try asking the person beforehand if it's alright to mention and discuss their scars. That leaves it ultimately up to the individual if they want to talk about it or not. Regardless, it's important to remain non-judgmental and make sure they know that you are a safe space for opening up.

Although self-harm can become a crisis situation, most people who do it are not suicidal and are instead looking for a way to cope with their emotions. I – a teenage girl suffering with bipolar disorder – was also looking for a way to deal with my struggles.

Lots of people see the scars and automatically assume that it is because I am/was suicidal. Reports have been made due to old scars on my arms because people see them and worry. These assumptions can be hurtful and detrimental because they create a false narrative about someone who is struggling.

There are many stereotypes of what someone who self-harms looks like. Being stereotyped as a teen can be very difficult because it's already difficult to find a sense of self at that age.

Unfortunately, high schoolers talk a lot, and not always in a positive light. People ask questions about how the scars got there, either sarcastically to mock me or genuinely to ask if I'm alright.

Sometimes it can be difficult to be honest or to think of something other than the real reason. It can be hard for others to understand. We, self-harmers, fear being viewed differently. People can be quick to judge and assume the reason I do not cover my scars is for attention, but I have every right to wear short

sleeves and shorts just as much as anyone else. My scars do not define me. They are a by-product of my struggles, and I have a difficult time loving them most days.

Showing a part of my body that everyone else freely displays is not something I should be embarrassed about, nor try to hide. No one should be ashamed of their skin or their body, but societal standards make me and many others feel like we should be apologetic about something as simple as old marks on an arm.



For some reason beyond my understanding, some think it's "cool" or "edgy" to self-harm and do it intentionally for attention. A self-harm addiction is *not* something that someone should *want*, nor is any mental illness. It causes outsiders to always be on the lookout for attention seekers, and puts a disgusting standard on people who self-harm to do worse things to themselves just to be seen as "valid." Doing it specifically for attention is not a normal behavior, and should be

seen as a cry for help.

On Reddit, there's a subreddit called r/selfharm for people who need to vent, talk about their problems, and seek advice. I have seen many people come out to talk about their issues and how their feelings are affected by others' judgment. Many don't believe they are valid enough due to others' standards of what a self-harmer looks like. It pains me to see people feel the need to hurt themselves more just to be seen as a person with real issues. Self-harmers without scars are still valid and deserve help just as much as anyone else.

We deal with stigma, judgment, and misunderstandings on top of the emotional struggle of being addicted to self-harm. It is absolutely exhausting.

There are many things people can do to create a better understanding of coping with others around them who are struggling with this horrible habit. Please consider researching similar issues, especially if you, or someone close to you, are dealing with undermined or misunderstood problems.

There are resources that can help, and you are never alone. Reaching out to parents, teachers, school counselors, therapists, or mental health professionals at Nulton Diagnostic Center may get you the help you need.

Contact the free crisis lines 1-800-273-8255 if you are having thoughts of self-harm, or call 988 if you're having thoughts of suicide.

I want you to know it *does* get better, and we're all strong enough to get through anything with the help and support of the people around us.

If anyone would like to reach out to me personally, I would love to have a conversation about this topic whether you're looking to learn more, share opinions, or just to talk. In a perfect world, people can learn to accept, help, and love others for who they are, scars and all. 🌸

Holiday cheer vs price hike fear

Inflation, from page 1

the cost of buying certain products. Consumerism is the want of goods and/or products which has been a common trend since the 1950s. The spending culture of the holidays targets this want, and people tend to spend more than budgeted and justify their expenses because they see it as an act of holiday giving. Not only did the cost of food and items cause problems but also the rate of travel fees and expenses were affected. Just visiting family costs a fortune itself this holiday. People were unsure whether visiting family was a good idea because of the amount of money it cost. Family should be appreciating their time together instead of people being worried they are in a constant bankruptcy battle. Are the holidays worth the extra cost or should the money be left for a rainy, or even snowy, day?

CNN Business reports that "According to Gallup's modeling, the new holiday spending estimate of \$975 suggests holiday sales could increase by between 6% and 9% this season" (Egan). This extensive amount of inflation has added extra stress to Americans all over the country. The holidays are already significant, and the increase in prices had Americans spending more money on fewer gifts or sustenance.

Naturally, people spend more money to ensure the happiness of their family, partner, or kids. But, when required to spend more, people are given an ultimatum: spend everything they can on gifts, or maintain the budget. Finding the perfect gift for someone is already hard enough, but when prices went sky-high, it made things harder for middle and lower-class families. The effects of the increased inflation could have determined how people felt about themselves and their family's worth.

Family dynamics were certainly affected by the price increase. Children may not have been satisfied with their total number of gifts while other children were spoiled with insane amounts of material items. Whether rich, poor, or anywhere in between the holidays are supposed to be about a time of giving which some people unfortunately do not get to see or appreciate. In reality, everyone wants a present, but no one realizes the holiday season's true gift until it's too late.

The true gift of the holidays is spending time with loved ones and making memories that will last a lifetime while making other people happy at the same time. 🌸

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EDITORIAL

Time to Rise to the Occasion

Underdaws must step up when seniors pass the torch

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As the school year progresses and graduation looms on the horizon, it becomes increasingly evident that a changing of the guard is upon us.

The senior class, a pillar of leadership within our school, is preparing to embark on a new chapter in their lives, leaving behind a large void that must be filled by the underclassmen.

That void consists of all Slate editors, all Reflections Yearbook editors plus commercial producers, as well as leaders of theater, Debate, Dog Dish, the new German Club, Art Club, Nature Preservers, etc.

It is time for the rising under-

dogs of our student body to step up and lead, ensuring the continued success and vibrancy of our school community.

Seniors have long been the top-tier of a school, providing guidance, inspiration, and a wealth of experience to their younger peers.

Inside and outside the classroom, they have played a pivotal role in shaping the culture and spirit of our educational institution. Who will fill the holes in our Bulldog community?

While it may be intimidating to imagine filling the shoes of the departing seniors, this is an opportunity for growth and self-discovery.

The underclassmen must recognize the power of untapped potential within themselves and embrace the challenge of taking on top-dawg roles.

One of the key areas where underclassmen can make an immediate impact is in student organizations and extracurricular activities. Clubs, teams, and committees are essential components of our school's vibrant community, and the seniors have played a crucial role in their success.

Furthermore, building a sense of unity and camaraderie among students is paramount. The underclassmen have the opportunity to create

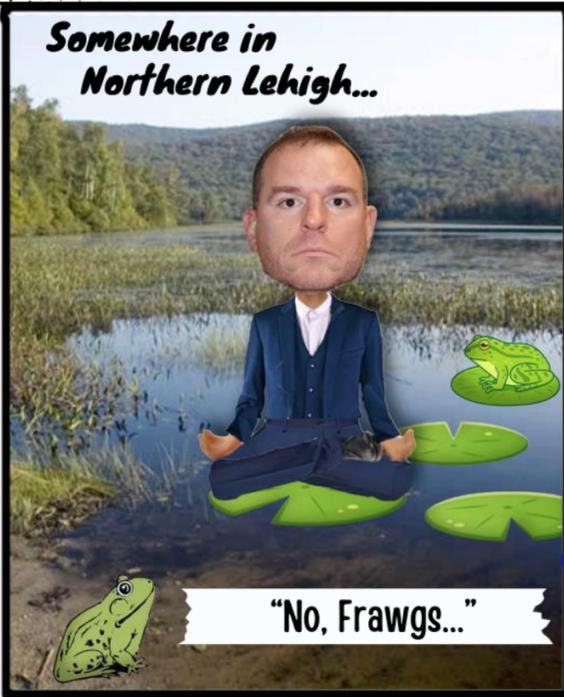
a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the school, fostering a community where every student feels valued and supported. By actively participating in school events, showing school spirit, and embracing diversity, underclassmen can contribute to a welcoming environment for all.

It's only a few months away – seniors close the door on their 12 years of school.

We will bid farewell, so you, the ninth-, tenth-, or eleventh-grader reading this, must seize the opportunity to stomp into a role and shape the future of our school. 🐾

Mr. Strohl's

SEARCH FOR A CATCH PHRASE



BY KYNDRA DOUGHERTY



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Dateline 1955: Gonna go back in time

Our opinion section will return to its prominent stature next issue. For now, please enjoy a bonus 'Slate' pristinely preserved for almost 70 years. Recognize any names? Remember any events? More on the next page!

SCHOLARSHIPS
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SLATE

OF SLATINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Vol. 4

Slatington, Pa., October, 1955

No. 1

INTRODUCING OUR NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Mr. Trollinger our new Senior High English teacher hails from Palm, Pa. He graduated from Muhlenberg College where he was active in the College Dance Band, The Mermail Tavern, a Literary Society; Intermural Sports, and the College Newspaper. This year he is in charge of our Junior and Senior play and Dramatics Club.

Another of our new faculty members is Miss Bamballa, whose hometown is Plymouth, Pa. She attended college in East Stroudsburg, where she participated in many activities including the Art Club, Future Teachers of America, Nature Club, and was on the Dean's list. She is now teaching Sophomore and Junior English.

After graduating from Bethlehem High School, Mr. Reese extended his study at Moravian College, where he participated in football, basketball and baseball. He was a member of the Omecro Gamma Omega fraternity. At present he is teaching Sophomore and Junior History and is in charge of the Sportsman's Club. He serves as an assistant coach for our football team and will coach the baseball team.

I'm sure all of us will endeavor to co-operate with our new teachers so how about giving them a hearty welcome? JK

YEARBOOK OF '56' IS TAKING SHAPE

The Yearbook for the Class of '56' is beginning to take form. Miss Morgan and Mrs. Herrity have chosen the heads for the various staffs. Patricia Hoffman is the editor-in-chief as well as head of the editorial staff. The art staff is headed by Christine Althous. Our photographers are Marjorie Mummy and Carl Fenstermaker. Joanne Hunsberger heads the business staff. In charge of production is Gloria Wotring. The theme has been chosen and approved by the entire staff.

The seniors are having their pictures taken at Conrad Studios (continued on page 3)

JOANNE LORAH WINS ART CONTEST AWARD

Joanne Lorah represented Slatington High School at the annual Red Feather Campaign Kickoff banquet which was held at the Americus Hotel, Allentown.

Joanne was awarded a prize of five dollars for her poster. The poster's purpose was to urge each person to contribute to the Red Feather Drive. AE

STUDENT COUNCIL



STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The induction ceremony of Student Council officers took place on September 20, 1955. Following the Scripture reading, which was read by Shirley Frederick, the officers recited their pledges before Mr. Snyder, our high school principal. The officers are: Mary Lou Gilmer, President; Jake Papay, Vice-President; Shirley Frederick, Secretary, and Patricia Lorah, Treasurer.

Mary Lou Gilmer, our president, hails from Walnutport. Mary Lou has the Academic course and her special activities are Future Nurses, Debate, Reflections and Tri-Hi-Y. She plans to attend the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, and become a nurse.

Jake Papay, Vice President, is a Slatington man. Jake is an all-around sportsman, playing football, baseball and basketball. His clubs are Varsity "S" and Gym Club. Jake will be in college come next September.

Shirley Frederick, Secretary, comes from Slatington R. D. 1.

Shirl belongs to Future Teachers Club, Tri-Hi-Y, Debate, and Library. She is hoping to enter a teacher's college after graduation.

Patricia Lorah Treasurer, also lives in Slatington. Pat is a Commercial student and she belongs to the "Reflection" Staff and Tri-Hi-Y. She plans to enter the Hollywood Beautician School in Allentown after graduation.

The home room representatives are Rose Ann Babyak, 1; Peggy Lakavage, 2; Jayne Bolton, 10; Barbara Smith, 11; Eleanor Harter, 15; Jacqueline Gruber, 16; Corrine Evans, 18; Priscilla Miller, 22; Barry Marshall, 27; Nancy Bear, 28; Dick Thomas, 29, and Ann Bittner, 30. The officers and representatives swore to serve their school and their classmates to the best of their ability, striving to promote good school spirits.

Say, gang, did you know that Student Council is selling football badges in the Rec Room for only fifteen cents? Show our opponents whose team you're supporting by wearing a "SLATINGTON" badge. RB

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS CANDIDATES CHOSEN

Seven high-ranking seniors have been chosen to compete in a multi-million dollar national Merit Scholarship Program. These seniors include: Sandra Hausman, Patsy Hoffman, Joanne Hunsberger, Ruth Wessner, Carl Fenstermaker, Matthew Zellner and Peter Skutches.

On October 26, these seniors will take a preliminary screening test. Students scoring the highest grades will in turn, take the Scholastic Aptitude Test on Jan-

uary 14, 1956. Of these students, two hundred winners, some from each state, will be chosen by a committee. The choices will be made on the basis of superior ability and capacity to benefit from a college education. Eight hundred runners-up will receive Certificates of Merit.

This scholarship program is being conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, an independent, non-profit education organization.

TRI-HI-Y ORGANIZES FOR NEW YEAR

The Tri-Hi-Y of Slatington High School meets every Monday. This organization is composed of both Senior and Junior girls under the direction of Miss Evelyn Naylor. They sponsor many worthy projects during the course of the year. What do you say we meet our newly elected officers?

Our President, Jane Unterlander, hails from Slatington. Jane plans to become a nurse after graduation. We know Jane will be a wonderful president and succeed in whatever she may do.

Vice-president, Shirley Fritz, also plans on going into nurses training. We know Shirley will do a splendid job as vice-president.

Gloria Wotring, treasurer, comes from Neffs. You can always depend on Gloria to do her share of the work and we know she will take excellent care of the Tri-Hi-Y's money.

Small but mighty is our recording secretary, Shirley Frederick. Shirley also plans on becoming a nurse after graduation. To you, we wish good luck.

Mary Ann Oncheck, corresponding secretary.

Pianist, Sandra Hausman. Assistant Pianist, Susan German.

Chaplain, Barbara Smith. Asst. Chaplain, Joanne Hunsberger.

Recently a meeting was held in the Allentown Y.M.C.A. for the Central East District: Hi-Y and Tri-Hi-Y. At the meeting those attending discussed the annual Tri-Hi-Y, Hi-Y rally which will be held in Bethlehem, and also discussed a possible site for the older girls conference. SR

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The Photography Club has been renewed this year under the direction of Mr. Donald Jones who is going to take these members out on hikes to take outdoor pictures, teach them how to develop films, and to enlarge them. They are going to enter several contests, and also have competition among themselves. There will be a study of various types of cameras.

The club is composed of approximately twenty-five members who will be taking some snap shots for the "Reflections." (Watch out kids, they're looking for informal shots of the students.)

We hope to see some of their work in the future. You can be sure that the club is going to do an excellent job and will have a lot of fun doing it. RL

Disagree with us!

TO OUR VALUED READERS INSIDE THE SCHOOLS AND OUT IN THE COMMUNITY:
THE SLATE PUBLISHES A BUNCH OF TOPICS - SOME TOUCHY ONES THAT ARE NOT THE NORM FOR A STUDENT PUBLICATION. IF YOU HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW, SHARE IT! WE WELCOME DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.



Letters should not exceed 200 words and may be sent to: theslatenews@nlsd.org





MEET OUR COACHES

Three cheers for a successful year to Mr. "Fritz" Snyder who has walked into the spotlight and taken over full responsibility of head football coach here at S.H.S. In the short time Mr. Snyder has been on our faculty he has proven to be a very likeable teacher. His past experience as a big, huskie football player will influence the football candidates toward playing to the best of their ability.

Assisting Mr. Snyder is William Horvath. During Mr. Horvath's years with our faculty he has taken much interest in making our school a better one. He is advisor to our Student Council as well as assistant coach and head coach of the J. V. squad.

Mr. Jones, a real joker, is doing a fine job as assistant coach. If the fellows get as much out of his coaching as they do his hilarious jokes, they'll end the season right up on top.

Another new teacher, hailing from Kutztown State Teachers College, is Mr. DeQuinqua. Mr. DeQuinqua did an excellent job as assistant baseball coach, last year, we know he'll follow the same footsteps in football.

Mr. Bill Reese, a Slatingtonian from years back, is a new member of our faculty as well as a new coach. Good luck Mr. Reese at S. H. S. AG

S. H. S. J.V. FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Under the coaching of Mr. Horvath, our J.V. football squad has made a good start for this season. Although they lost their first game to Parkland by the score 28-7, they came back by beating Lehigh 21-7 and swamping Emmaus 33-13. "Dick" Skeath and "Louie" Rauch made the touchdowns in the Slatington-Lehigh game.

The Emmaus-Slatington game proved to be a big day for "Louie" Rauch. He stole the show as he ripped for four touchdowns to lead S. H. S. on to victory. It was a real thriller as he intercepted a pass and went 60 yards for a touchdown. "Dick" Skeath made the other touchdown on a 2 yard plunge.

There are still several more games to go and we're sure that Slatington will be victorious. JK

THE ANSWER

Teacher — What is meant by Hobson's choice.
Pupil — Mrs. Hobson, sir.

SLATINGTON DROPS TIGHT ONE TO EMMAUS

Slatington verses Emmaus, what a thriller !!! And many a loyal fan left Victory Park heartsick after our boys lost by one little point. Along with their heart-sickness however they were proud because their players had played a good hard game and had fought desperately right up to the end. They had the satisfaction of knowing that the boys tried their very best to win that game for their school, coach, and ardent fans.

Victory Park is quite crowded with all the excited and enthusiastic fans eagerly awaiting the kick-off. Finally the long awaited moment arrives and Emmaus kicks-off to Slatington. The boys work hard but their first attempt at the goal line is in vain.

Early in the first period the crowd is brought to their feet when Christofaro of Emmaus scores the first TD of the game.

The second period is full of action, excitement with enthusiasm running high for both schools. Three TD's are scored in this period.

The Slaters trailing 6-0, gain possession of the ball and march 67 yds. for our first touchdown. Babyak plunges over from the one-yard line to pay dirt as shrieks of delight rise from the Slatington fans.

However, shortly afterward the Slatington bleachers are silenced by a run of 80 yards as Emmaus returns the Slaters kick-off right straight up the middle for their second TD. It is at this time that the all-important point is kicked by Emmaus.

But the Slaters never say die, and come back, scoring another touchdown in the last 4 minutes of the first half. This time it's Babyak hurling the pig skin 9 yards to Papay in the end zone.

At half-time everyone is entertained by the S.H.S. band, majorettes, color guards and cheerleaders. Many heads nod in approval as they view for the first time the new, snappy uniforms on the band and color guards. Yes sir they surely look sharp !!!

The second half, even though it is scoreless is far from boring. The Slaters try to score, and break Emmaus' one-point lead, but fail. They must be complimented on the fine job they did of holding Emmaus on their one-yard line.

And so the Slaters are defeated, pointy speaking (13-12) but are victorious in the minds of many fans and coaches for their never ending efforts. SG

S. H. S. FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS

Well, kids, our football season is here once again. Let's outline the games which were played so far.

East Stroudsburg

Our first game of the season was played on September 16 at East Stroudsburg at 8 P. M. Jake Papay ran 80 yards for the first touch-down of the evening. Later, East Stroudsburg got three touchdowns and made one extra point. The final score was 19 to 6 in favor of East Stroudsburg.

Coplay

Our eleven men went on to victory on September 26 at Victory Park at 8 p. m. In the second quarter Jake Papay made our first touchdown and in the last period he outran the Coplay team 90 yards for a touchdown. In the last minutes of the game Terry Stoudt ran 80 yards for a touchdown and insured a victory for Slatington by a score of 26 to 6. That was a game no one should forget.

Lehigh

Despite the rain and mud, the fans cheered the Slaters on to victory on September 30 at 8:00 p.m. at Lehigh. After the half the game became more exciting every moment. Jake Papay and Dick Thomas edged up to the 5-yard line and then Terry Stoudt went over for a tying touchdown. In the last five minutes Dick Babyak inched over from the 2 for a touchdown and Terry Stoudt kicked an extra point. The final score was 13 to 6 and that made our second victory of the season.

Let's support our school and attend all our games to cheer our team to victory in the future. All the luck to our team and coaching staff. BB

ORCHIDS TO:

Orchids to the boys and girls who helped get advertisements for the football programs.

Orchids to Joanne Lorah for the wonderful job she did on the poster for the Red Feather Contest.

Orchids to the football players for the good sportsmanship they showed.

Onions to the fellows who refused to help in the refreshment stands at the football games.

Orchids to Donald Sittler who just returned from the hospital. SR

Good judgment includes knowing the proper joke to tell on every occasion.

PLANS OF OUR SENIOR FOOTBALL PLAYERS

This football season there are nine Senior boys on the squad. Since this is their last year they will be able to play high school football, we'd like to know what they are planning to do after graduation. We want to wish the best of luck to these boys in whatever they may do. Upon being asked their plans after graduation they answered as follows:

Donald Sittler - enlist in the Air Force and then attend some college.

Arthur Schaeffer - enlist in some branch of the service and then go to college. His hobbies are hunting and fishing.

Jacob Papay - attend college. His hobby is living with Staudt and his ranch hands and Lucky Teeter.

Terry Staudt - first go to Michigan to work and then attend college later on.

LeRoy Reitz - go to college to become a chemistry teacher. LeRoy's hobby is basketball.

Richard Welty - go to college. His hobby is trapping.

Richard Babyak - go to Penn State to be a Social Studies teacher. His hobby is sports.

Ronald Fritzing - go to college and then get married. Hobbies—lifting weights and outdoor life.

Kenny Taber - work as a Scout Leader on the Staff of Broad Creek Memorial Scout Camp in Maryland for the summer and then attend college and take a pre-theology course. His hobbies are playing the guitar, singing, and playing any sport.

Not only do we want to wish good luck to those nine Senior boys, but also the whole football team. We hope you have a good season and show the other schools who has the best team. SR

THE NEW LOOK

Do you remember the new rule that was passed at the end of the school term last year concerning the wearing of dungarees? There have been a lot of fine compliments about this change and it has brought quite a different attitude in the school.

Our principal, faculty members, and students were interviewed concerning this matter and the changes it brought. It has not only developed a neat appearance, but also, a different atmosphere in our school. By the way girls, be honest with yourselves and you will be able to say, "The boys in Slatington High School certainly make a neat and better appearance."

All in all, this new look is an added credit to our school. JW

YEARBOOK OF "56"

(continued from page 1)

in Allentown.

After hearing of the progress that has already been made by the entire Reflections Staff, we are sure the finished product will be a great success. However, to make it complete we need the cooperation of the entire Student Body. PS

Protecting Vancouver Island's Sea Wolves

Residing in an Island along the coast of British Columbia is Vancouver Island, a paradise to a variety of animal species. Black bears, various kinds of whale and squirrel species, Roosevelt elk, Vancouver Island Marmots, Columbian black-tailed deer, harbour seals, river otters, orcas, cougars, and most importantly, the Vancouver Island Wolf.

It is often described as a "Bastion of Biodiversity", home to over a hundred of species that wouldn't be able to fit in this article alone.

Unlike their distant inland cousin, the grey wolf, Vancouver Island Wolves, also known as Sea wolves, use the ocean to their advantage. A singular grown sea wolf is capable of swimming 7.5 miles in the cold ocean, being seen far out from land searching for food.

Sea wolves have an incredibly unique diet as well as the ocean harbours 75 to 90 percent of what a sea wolf essentially eats. They also will for-

age for barnacles, clams, mussels, and crabs along the sandy shore. Carcasses ranging from Abalone to entire whales also are on the menu for these swimmers. Things like seals, otters, and their offspring won't be passed up by a sea wolf if needed.

If you choose to take a short hike up along the creek beds, you may be able to find remains of a sea wolf's meal just Sea wolves bite off the heads of salmon they catch, possibly to avoid disease that comes with eating the body. It is also a way to tell that wolves have been in the area.

It isn't just Vancouver Island that you can find a sea wolf on, but other packs have been found on surrounding smaller islands and archipelagos in the Salish sea.

Elementary,



Kristiana Callaby

While these are truly wonderful animals, hunters have been known to find their way onto the island to kill off any wolf they can find; pup or adult, it doesn't matter to them.

Sea wolves aren't in tons of danger, but they will be if we stand aside and allow hunters to shoot down another species, forcing them to extinction as has been done

many other times in the past. Sites have been built to keep watch of the island and try to have balance kept still, but there is no guarantee that this alone will work.

It isn't just hunters threatening these animals. Things like trapping and industry have also given the sea wolf population some harm.

A project known as Northern Gateway Pipelines has a plan to bring over

gigantic oil tankers that could cause harm to everything on the island. If it were to spill, a long-lasting damaging effect of something similar to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska could occur.

Luckily, there is a way for YOU to help and pitch in. There are numerous sites in support of keeping these animals protected and safe. Making donations, no matter how big or small, would help them preserve such a beautiful island of life.

This doesn't just go for Vancouver Island, but every species on earth as a whole. We already have forced these innocent and beautiful creatures to extinction, for what? Money? Property? More factories?

Don't just stand around. Bring this earth back to the way it was before, even a penny could make a difference to an entire ecosystem. 🐾



A 'Grand' Milestone



"I never looked to be a 1,000-point shooter, nor did I ever think I could be one," said senior Aubrey Pollard after recently surpassing four digits of points scored for NL. "It was never my goal.

"I just always loved to play the game, and I want to win. I'm very competitive. When this year approached, and I realized I was only 72 points away, I thought, "Wow, I'm really going to be a 1,000-point scorer. But realizing that made me nervous each game. I would get in my head at times, which put added pressure on myself. When the Palmerton game came, knowing I needed only 5 points, you would think that would be easy. I was nervous, excited, and my mind was going everywhere. So it wasn't easy. I was so much inside my head, I couldn't get a shot to drop if I bought a bucket. At halftime, I stood in front of the basket, zoned out, and just started shooting from my fundamentals that my trainer taught me. I went into the second half with a clear head. Then I scored one basket, and then the final one that was needed. It was overwhelming. I was excited, proud, and emotional. I actually cried. Something I didn't care whether I achieved, became something that I was so happy I did achieve. The weight off my shoulders became so light, that only tears came out from all the frustration and work to get to that point. Something that made it more special was that the assist came from Cadi [Whalen] — someone I have played with for seven years. I want to thank my coaches, the school, Mr. Geist, my teammates, classmates, supporters, and my family for pushing me, celebrating me, and supporting me throughout these years. I'm happy to be able to get my thousand points as a Bulldog, and I wouldn't want to change that."

Photo by Emma Wensing

Wrestling team looks to pin more wins this season

By Delaney Szwast '24
Sports Editor

The wrestling team is back in action, boasting a much larger roster than last season. With more athletes, the team is hoping to be more competitive as a unit this year.

"This season, we are in unfamiliar territory. We have increased participation and youth rejuvenating our varsity lineup. Five freshmen, six sophomores, and five first-year underclassmen are looking to gain experience while improving the team scores," Head Coach Scott Snyder said. "Our captains (Chase Moffitt, Jack Tosh, Sam Frame, and Cody Mazzocca) are looking to help these younger and less experienced individuals navigate their way through unfamiliar waters during their inaugural

varsity campaign."

With this increase in athletes, the team is very close to having a full lineup this season, which will be advantageous for dual-meet competition. "We gave up too many points to forfeits the past several seasons, which really hurt the team scores," Coach Snyder explained. "Our roster now provides us the opportunity to minimize that issue. If our wrestlers can stay motivated, focused, and healthy throughout the season, there's no reason we can't qualify for District duals."

In addition to the goal of qualifying for District duals, several members of the team are setting new personal goals for themselves this season as they seek to improve their individual performances at Districts.

"Chase Moffitt is looking to improve

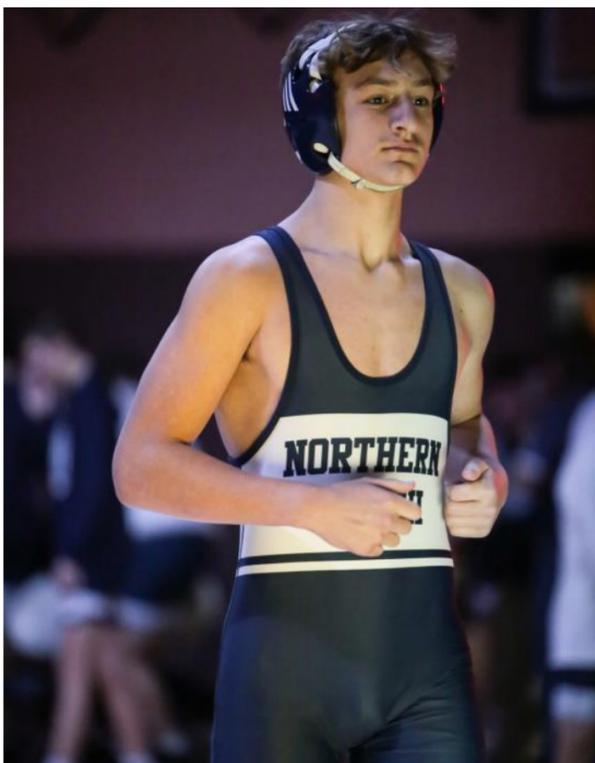
on last year's District XI 6th place finish by placing in the top 4 and securing himself a spot at the SE Regional tournament," Coach Snyder said. "Jack [Tosh], Sam [Frame], and Cody [Mazzocca] all fell short of District medals last season, but are more than capable of not only earning medals but qualifying for the Regional tournament."

Moffitt, Tosh, Frame, and Mazzocca all had notable individual records last season: 23-16, 14-10, 22-15, and 19-13, respectively. Coach Snyder is hoping to continue to see them continue to improve this season, and he is looking forward to watching the less-experienced wrestlers progress as well.

"As coaches, we're excited to see the improvement of our younger and more inexperienced wrestlers as the season

progresses," he said. "I think we have wrestlers who could double their amount of wins from last season." He noted that it would be "very satisfying to see that happen."

Senior Chase Moffitt is looking forward to having a fun time with his teammates this season, and he is optimistic that the team will perform well this season: "I hope as a team, we can win a decent amount of dual meets and overall improve from last year. If we can do that, I think we all can have a good season," he said. "If we can fill up the lineup like we plan to, it will be the first full lineup for Northern Lehigh in a while, and while there's a lot of younger kids, they have a lot of talent and I believe they will do well." 🐾



Chris Frame.

Photo by Lifetouch



Chase Moffitt.

Photo by Lifetouch



(Above) Mason Rothrock and (below) Andrew Rudolph.

Photo by Lifetouch



Sam Frame Jr.

Photo by Lifetouch



Ready to ball with determination, new leadership

By Delaney Szwest '27
Sports Editor

The boys basketball team is back on the court and ready to take on their opponents this season.

“Our goal this year is to be a competitive team that works extremely hard and as a result makes the Northern Lehigh community proud,” Head Coach Robert Fahler said. “Northern Lehigh has a proud athletic tradition and we want to live up to that with our team.”

“I am fortunate to have a great staff of coaches and a team of fine young men. We are all excited to take this journey together,” Coach Fahler continued. He expressed much gratitude for the contributions of his coaching staff, which includes his son, Bobby Fahler; NL high school alumnus and English/history teacher Jake Waylen; Mike Bauer; and Zach Williams.

In addition to the coaching staff, the team is led by senior Nick Buskirk, who was selected by his teammates to represent them as captain. Coach Fahler notes that he believes this was “an excellent choice.”

“[Nick Buskirk] has a superior work ethic and is extremely coachable,” Coach Fahler said. “Nick sets a great example for his younger teammates.”

Joining Buskirk on the varsity roster this season are several other skilled athletes: “The rest of our varsity team includes Connor Simms, a junior who we are counting on heavily to provide scoring and a high basketball IQ. Sophomores Zaid Salih and Coy Daubert are also important members. Zaid with an incredible motor and will to win and Coy with outstanding athletic ability that will blossom over the next three years. The remainder of our team includes Kellen Bauer and Dare-Rious Smith. Both boys are freshmen and provide us with a

bright future. Kel has already established himself as a scorer with an outstanding shooting range, while Dare-Rious has accepted our most demanding role on our team, as our point guard. Dare-Rious is unselfish, hard-nosed, and extremely bright; all qualities necessary to be a great point guard,” Coach Fahler noted.

Sophomore Zaid Salih’s will to win is

playing key roles on varsity and a solid sophomore presence. We faced challenges losing key coaching staff, but Coach Fahler brings a fresh perspective, emphasizing a pressing style and instilling a determination to play hard. Excited about the positive changes, we’re focused on turning things around and making this season a success.”

Salih is eager to watch the team con-

determined group of players, a mix of young talents and experienced leaders. The addition of new coaching staff, especially Coach Fahler, has brought a positive change, and I believe this season will showcase the team’s potential and commitment to success.”

A factor that plays a role in success is support, which Salih encourages from the Northern Lehigh community. “We



(Top) Coy Daubert, Connor Simms, Kellen Bauer, (middle) Dregan Millroy, Rami Ouaziz, Dare-Rious Smith, Parker Schaffer, (bottom) Joseph Chando, Zaid Salih, Nick Buskirk, Landon King, Kayden Novicki.

exemplified by the goals he expressed for the team this season: “This season, our main goal is a significant improvement from last year, aiming to win twelve games and make it to the district playoffs,” he said. “Despite a tough start in the Hamburg tournament, we’ve integrated new talent, with two freshmen

continue to grow with the new coaching staff and young talent, and he is optimistic that the team will be able to overcome any challenges that they are faced with.

“I’m impressed by the resilience and dedication of our team,” he shared. “Despite facing challenges, we have a

need to rally for a roaring student section this year!” he declared. “Your energy and support can make a huge difference in boosting team morale and creating an unforgettable atmosphere. Let’s make our games an experience to remember!” 🐾

Lions Club

OF SLATINGTON

You are invited to join us at our annual fundraisers:

Big Game Event:
Super Bowl Sunday

Comedy Night:
1st Saturday in March

Summer Bash:
4th Saturday in June

Christmas Tree Sales:
Saturday after Thanksgiving until sold-out

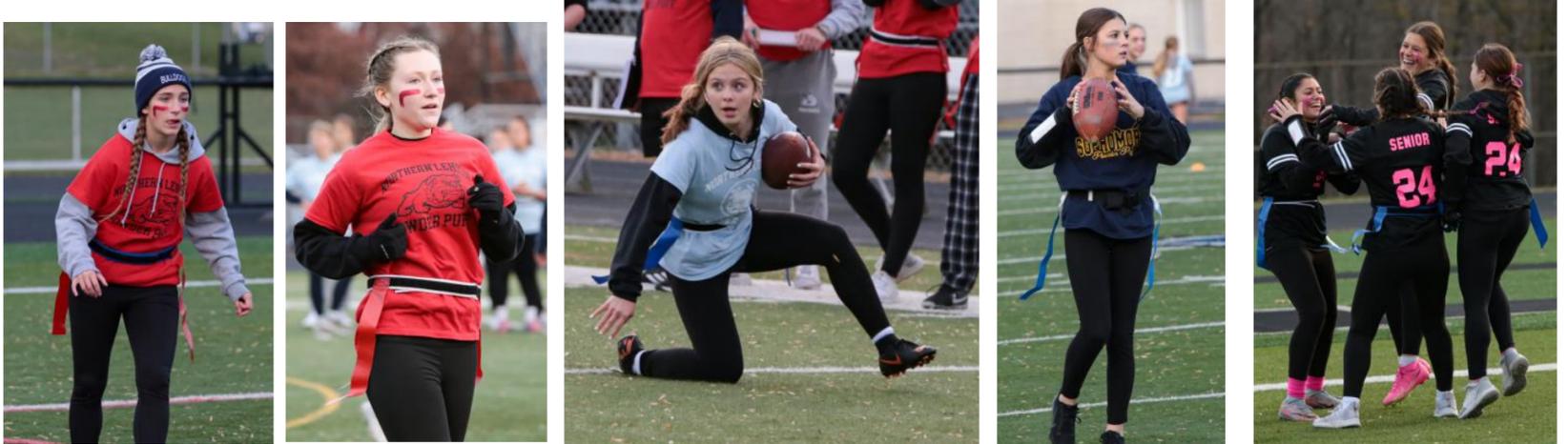


We Serve!

SERVING THE NORTHERN LEHIGH AREA
SINCE 1948

SPORTS

Powder Puff games honor military, showcase girls' grit



Unity and ambitious goals drive season aspirations

By Delaney Szwast '24
Sports Editor

Members of the girls basketball team return to the court motivated to make it to the state championships again this season.

"We made it to states last year, and we hope to make another run this year," Head Coach Christopher Heery said. He shared that he is excited for the season, noting that the team is returning four of its starters. Seniors Aubrey Pollard and Cadence Whalen bring plenty of starting experience to the court as well as juniors Dekota and Katelynn Barthold.

Team unity will be an important factor for success this season, and Coach Heery indicates that the team is well-balanced: "I think our scoring will be distributed evenly. It will all depend on our team chemistry," he explained. If we play together, we should have a successful season."

Senior Aubrey Pollard noted that the team has built "great chemistry" over the years. "I just hope we use that chemistry going forward for the season to improve our record," she said. "My teammates are working hard, and I've always loved how the players that are sitting at times cheer each player on. It is a great inspiration to have your teammates have confidence in each other."

Pollard expressed ambitious goals for both herself and the team this season: "My personal goal is to get my 1000 points, which I'm 20 points away from," she shared. "I would like to be the league MVP, and my team goal is to



(Top) Coach Bill Watkins, manager Emma Wensing, Kylee Snyder, Tegan Simms, Ella Tosh, asst. coach Cadence Peters, Coach Chris Neery, (middle) Jackie Richards, Gabriella Hanna, Naerobys Silverio Dawsey, Leah Wentz, Natalie Moffitt, (bottom) Dekota Barthold, Emily Gad, Aubrey Pollard, Cadence Whalen, Ariana Williams, Katelynn Barthold.

come home with the 1st gold ever in NL basketball."

Sophomore Ariana Williams also set goals for herself and the team: "My goals for the season are to play smart and support my teammates," she said. "I like playing basketball with my teammates because we work hard, have fun, and never give up. I hope our team has a great season and that we make it to

the state championships."

Pollard, who is looking forward to her last year of high school basketball, hopes to not only make it to the state championships, but to also end her senior season with medals.

"I want to cherish everything that happens, knowing that once the season is over, my high school career is over," she explained. "Though I'm really excit-

ed to be playing for DeSales University when I graduate, I want to make my last high school season mean something special to me and Cadence Whalen. I've put in [so] much dedication over the years, that I'm hoping we can come together and bring home a medal this year." 🐾

New era, new coach. Fahler brings new approach

By Fiona Jones '27
Sports Writer

The varsity boys basketball program has a new look this season. This year, the program appointed a new head coach, Robert Fahler.

While he may be new to the coaching position at Northern Lehigh, he started coaching in 1985 at Northampton High School. He was an assistant boys basketball coach at Northampton from 1985-1991, and he became the head boys basketball coach at Northampton from 1992-1996.

After taking a year off of coaching, he became the assistant boys basketball coach at Parkland High School from 1997-2001.

Fahler decided to take a break from coaching and became a principal in the Colonial School District. He retired from

Colonial in 2022 after 38 years as a math teacher and middle school principal. He returned to coaching as an assistant girls coach at Parkland last season.

Fahler is an energetic, motivating, and highly educated coach. His leadership skills transfer from the school setting to the court sidelines: he earned a Bachelors of Science in Math from Muhlenberg College and a Masters degree in School Leadership from Maryland College.

Fahler said his strategy coming into the Northern Lehigh Boys Varsity basketball program is to "share his love of athletic competition and coaching with high school kids, help them grow as young men and basketball players, and promote that daily growth in both of these areas is the goal."

He also expressed that he would like to "work on the fundamentals necessary

to win at the varsity level" and that he "wants to be part of changing the culture of Northern Lehigh Basketball back to the rich winning tradition that existed in the past." He would also like to "deliver an exciting style of basketball that the Northern Lehigh community deserves."

Fahler would like to contribute to the basketball program by "being a great role model to our kids by working hard and treating people with respect."

He wants them to have commitment to make our players better and would like to help them be successful." Fahler wants to motivate the boys by "[helping] them learn how to embrace tough times, learn from them, and never give up."

Fahler's goal for this season is "for the team to continue to improve every day." He wants to represent Northern Lehigh in a way that generates a feeling of school pride, and with. He wants the

members of the team to do their best for each other every day.

The players Fahler coaches speak highly of him. Senior Nick Buskirk said, "I like the fast-paced offense that he pushes us to play. It is different from what we are used to, but I think it allows us to be more competitive than what we have been in years past. I think he is good for the program. He pushes us hard at practice and always encourages the team."

Freshman Colin Karetsky said, "I think Coach Fahler is a good breath of fresh air to this program. His offense is a very fast-paced, hard-nosed basketball that fits our team well. We've had a tough beginning of the season but we are looking to bounce back with a stretch of games coming up." 🐾



By Jameelah Gonzalez and
Chloe Benner

Powder Puff

In November, the annual Powderpuff game took place. All of the girls played their best, but one team came out on top: the juniors! For the third year, juniors took the title of Powderpuff champions. While they did end up enjoying a sweet victory, every team is commended for facing obstacles, playing hard, and pushing all the way through. We can't wait to see who comes out on top next year!

Reward Day

By the end of every marking period, students are offered a break from their everyday classes: A Bulldog Reward Day! These reward days give everyone a brief pause from school work and tests, and allow them to spend time and chat with our friends, which makes a great opportunity to catch up! Whether one chooses to do something active like volleyball, or partake in a more relaxing

option such as painting, everyone can agree reward days are a much needed break from the typical daily schedule.

Basketball

Basketball season has begun and we all hope our girls and boys teams do well this year. They are ready to play their hardest to bring wins home, and appreciate the support of the community. Therefore, it is encouraged that people come to games to root for them as the teams make way through the season. . To stay updated with what is going on with the girl's basketball team, feel free to follow their Instagram page @nl_girlsbasketball.

The Spring Musical

The Northern Lehigh Little Theater program has already started rehearsals for their spring musical: "Footloose!". With so much to look forward to, including a variety of songs and a story that people know and love, they are eagerly awaiting this show! They are currently working long hours to make this a show the au-



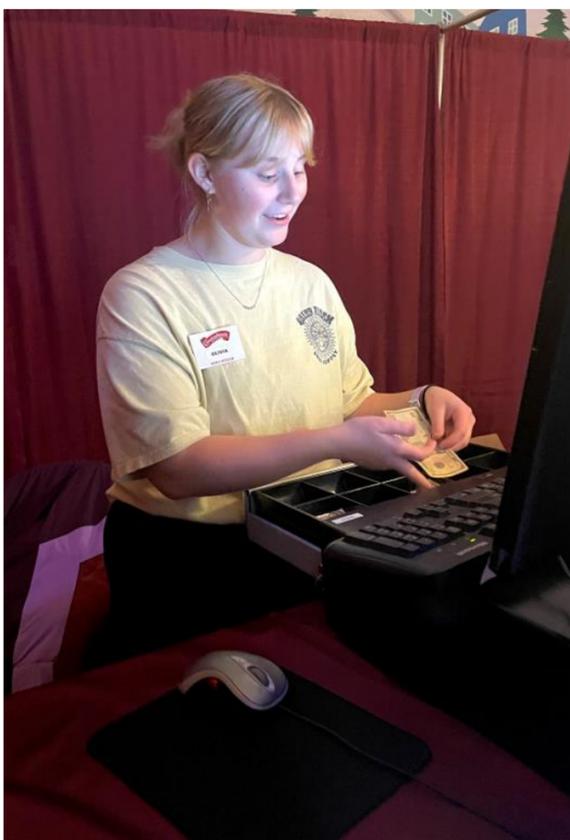
dience will never forget. They would greatly appreciate the support of the community, and hope to see everyone attend for a night of fun!

New Sign (see above)

If anyone has been around the school campus lately, it is evident that there is a new sign near the entrance of the middle school building. With moving imag-

es being utilized to communicate information about goings-on in the district, the school needed this upgraded sign. The old sign wasn't nearly as useful in comparison, being that the school could only put one piece of information out at a time. Now the school can put all the important information out, which is great for students as well as parents!

Christkindlmarkt gets holiday help from NL German Club



Fraulein Olivia Schaeffer



Fraulein Emma Heil



(Above) Fraulein Evelina Mayak. (Below) Frau Doktor [Quay.]



Frauleins Taylor Everk and Natalie Moffitt.



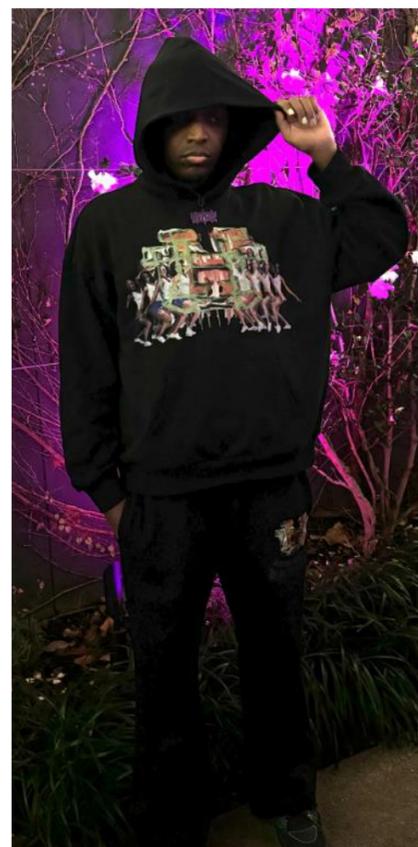
Beste Freunde Breanne Mitchell and Ashley Moyer.

The German Club is a place where students can immerse themselves in the country's rich culture. One of the ways the group really achieved that this year was through Bethlehem's Christkindlmarkt.

German Club members volunteered on Dec. 9, filling various positions such as ticketer, booth sitter, and customer service representatives. The German Club is very grateful to everyone who made this possible, offering such a unique experience. Club members were able to meet all kinds of people, indulge in German cuisine, and immerse themselves in a one-of-a-kind, traditional, German Christmas event. In the future, the German Club hopes to attend this event again and to also go someplace else where they will be able to immerse themselves in a different piece of German culture.

Photos and information courtesy of Ashley Moyer

Clothing brand expands for Bulldog junior



Around this time last year, senior Miguel Betances dropped his first collection for his clothing brand. Since then, his brand, Homage, has been managing to make more than \$1K in profit per drop and now he is finally dropping what, he says, is his best collection. "This collection is an inspiration of college cheerleaders, hence the two groups of cheerleaders and in the back of the design is our own unique university logo," he said. "The sweatsuit is cut and sewn that I personally took the time and gathered the measurements for the right boxy fit on the hoodie and flare on the sweatpants." The colors consist of pink, black and white. The collections name is HomageU and it will drop early 2024. Check out more on Instagram is @Homage.Gallery.

Information courtesy of Miguel Betances



Challenging the status quo

The Controversial Fifty-Percent Rule in Education Undermined Student Accountability in 2023

By Susan Gilsbach '24
Editor in Chief

In 2023, student accountability seems to be considered relatively unimportant. With the goal of simply getting kids to pass, there seems to be little effort placed on responsibility - an increasingly important skill in today's professional climate.

With many paths in place to get students to pass, many schools have resorted to methods that leave responsible students at a disadvantage. One of the biggest examples of this is the fifty percent rule: a new rule being implemented in some school districts that does not allow a student to get below fifty percent on an assignment, even if they turned nothing in.

This rule leaves many students feeling like it is not worth their time to participate or even get work done. This new rule, while well-intentioned, discourages the entire concept of student accountability.

In an article in *The New York Times*, students were asked about accountability in the school setting. Students have begun to feel a decrease in accountability, especially as the fifty percent rule is implemented. If they are doing all of the work, while other students are not and still getting half the credit, then why try?

The article asked students to share their feedback on these rules, positive or negative, and got input from all over the country. Jayden, a student in the Bronx, discussed the positive advantage of a stricter education setting "...strictness is what keeps students in check at all times. Schools with the 50 percent policy do not have this control over students because every student could coast through the school year. If every student could put minimal effort into passing,



why should they aim for the highest?" Jayden's words echo the feelings of other students who have had this rule implemented at their schools. Many schools that have chosen the fifty percent rule route have decided that the students need some sort of motivation to keep their grade up, and the inability to get a zero on any assignment is thought to give students a redeemable grade, and allow them space to redeem their grade point average.

This fifty percent rule can also be seen as a good move for students. Libby, a student from Arkansas, said that the fifty percent rule "...does benefit some

kids who might have a change in their mindset after they've fallen behind because that means that they still have a chance to redeem themselves and show improvement."

It gives students an incentive to catch up in their work and redeem a grade, even when something happens that interferes with their ability and/or motivation to do school work. This can be a grade-saver for students who have complications arise during their schooling, like a rough home life or mental illness.

While the fifty percent rule can benefit some students, it often causes stu-

dents to become unmotivated and lose interest in their schooling. They often see that there is no point in trying if they can get half the credit without doing the work.

The fifty percent rule serves as a problem that gives students an excuse to reduce the level of accountability that students take for their own work. It's time for students to take responsibility for doing their work, and use their own accountability for their grades as motivation to do well. While the fifty percent rule can be beneficial on a case by case basis, it is a detriment to students when utilized across an entire student body. 🐾

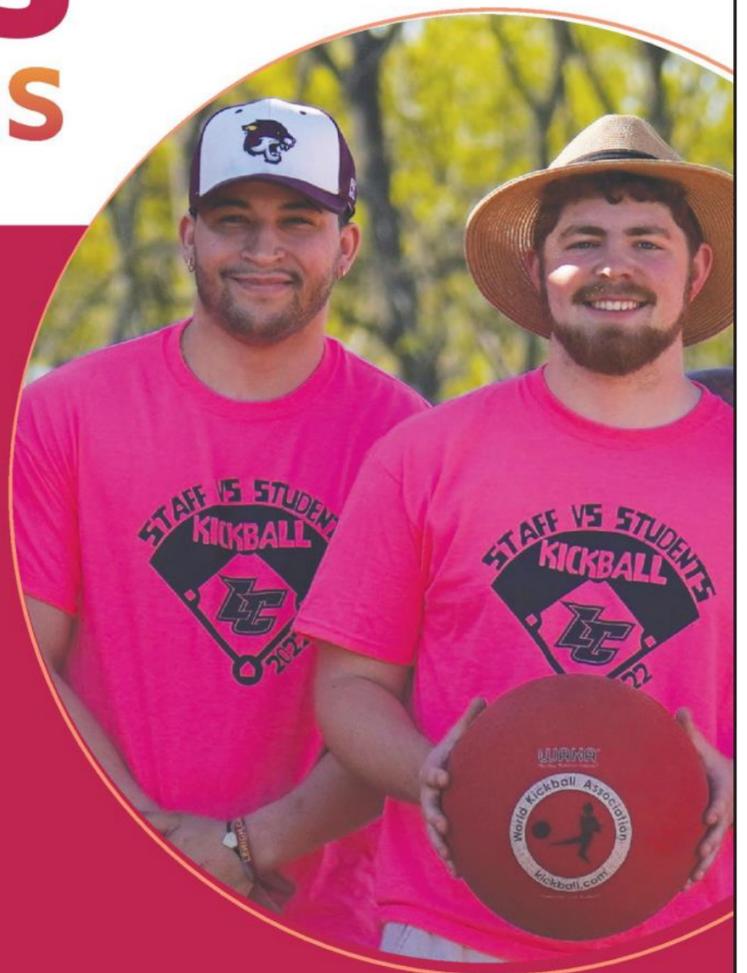
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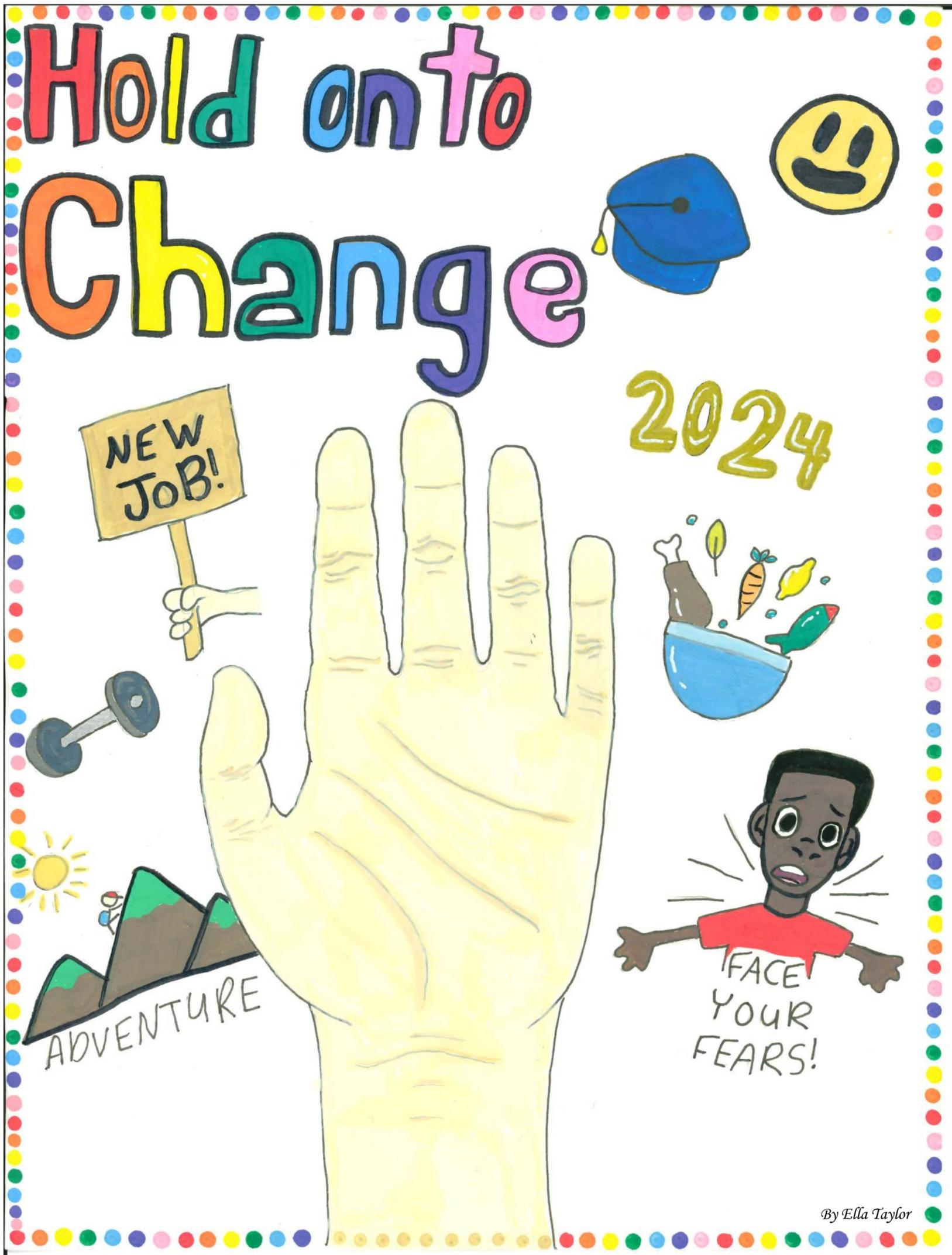
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Reclaiming regional championship in Hershey



NL's "Fugitives" attend the Atlantic Coast Championship at Hershey Stadium in November.

Fugitive, from page 1

school Lake Lehman ended Northern Lehigh's four-year streak of winning Regions at last year's competition, Northern Lehigh was eager to take back their first-place rank with this year's show.

Entitled "Fugitive," the 2023 Marching Band show was loosely based around the 1960s television show "The Fugitive," in which a doctor was wrongly accused of murdering his wife and began

living on the run from his pursuers. Taking inspiration from this show, the band was costumed in orange jumpsuits and portrayed innocent escapees throughout the performance.

Featuring music from the songs "Renegade" by Styx, "Mad World" by Tears for Fears, and "Carry on Wayward Son" by Kansas, as well as a plethora of original music, the show also contained creative drill, intended to replicate the running and hiding of a fugitive.

At the Region Championship compe-

titition, Northern Lehigh finished in first place, narrowly beating Lake Lehman with a score of 88.5 to Lehman's 88.3.

The NL Marching Band attended the Atlantic Coast Championships, the final competition of the season, on Saturday, November 4th at Hershey Park Stadium. After one of the best runs of the season, the band finished in 9th place out of 10 bands with a score of 85.7.

Despite having higher hopes for the end of their season, everyone on the trip had fun, and the band was able to spend

some time at Hershey's Chocolate World after the competition.

Overall, 2023 was a good year for the Northern Lehigh Marching Band, and they hope to continue to improve and uphold their Region Championships streak in the years to come. Mr. Carroll comments, "We have always been proud to represent our school and our community on this big competitive stage, and we appreciate all of the support from the school and community." 🐾