



# The Student Times

Volume 83 Issue 1

1100 Fowler Ave. Berwick, PA 18603

Winter 2021

## Winter Formal Royalty to be Announced Virtually



**Abigail  
Calvert**



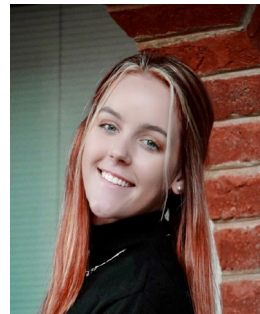
**Marina  
Ferro**



**Claudia  
Geiser**



**Hannah  
Hess**



**Emily  
Novicki**



**Angeni  
Peters**



**Isabella  
Segura-Suarez**



**Dylan  
Francis**



**Robert  
Hubley**



**Ethan  
Hughes**



**Mason  
Laubach**



**Blake  
Maurer**



**Kevin  
Powers**



**Tegan  
Shortlidge**

**MAYA KILE**  
*Features Editor*

In 2021, our traditional Winter Formal dance celebration may look a little unusual. Amidst multiple snow days in January, the senior class voted on the Winter Formal Court. Princesses on the court include **Abigail Calvert, Marina Ferro, Claudia Geiser, Hannah Hess, Emily Novicki, Angeni Peters, and Isa Segura-Suarez.** Princes on the court include **Dylan Francis, Robert Hubley, Ethan Hughes, Mason Laubach, Blake Maurer, Kevin Powers, and Tegan Shortlidge.**

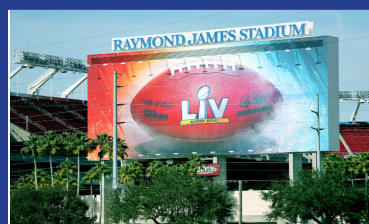
The 2021 Winter Formal King and Queen will be announced on BASH TV during a live production on Tuesday, March 23. The announcement will be broadcast live to the school and community. Details will be posted on the high school webpage via the BASH link: <https://www.berwickisd.org/domain/528>.

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# President Joe Biden's first 30 days in office

DYLAN SMITH

*Editor-in-Chief*

Joe Biden enacted a record number of executive orders and actions within his first thirty days as the newly inaugurated President of the United States. After swearing an oath to uphold the Constitution and protect the US against foreign and domestic threats, President Biden immediately went to work in the Oval Office, revoking many Trump era policies. Topics for his actions include from immigration, climate change, COVID-19, and cultural issues.

President Biden signed over 30 executive orders and actions within his first week in office, setting a record. Many of his orders and actions, per usual, are lauded by his supporters though decried by his detractors.

One of the first actions he took included sending immigration reform to Congress that set up a pathway to citizenship for illegal

aliens residing within the country after an eight-year process. Biden expanded on his perspective on immigration through further executive orders and actions that directly contradict policies former President Donald Trump signed into law. One of the more consequential of those reversed policies incorporates illegal aliens into the 2020 Census, which Trump vehemently opposed. Biden also ended the national emergency the 45th President declared in order to divert cash to fund the wall on the US-Mexico border. Biden's immigration reform does not end there, however. He promised to end Trump's travel ban on countries that are hubs and sponsors of terrorism. More recently, on February 4th, Biden signed an executive order directly targeting more Trump immigration policies, as well as greatly expanding refugee programs. Biden's focus turned towards the environ-

ment, as well.

President Biden professed a need to hone in on climate change. He accomplished this goal in a variety of ways. Arguably the most controversial of these involves revoking the permit for the Keystone Pipeline. One would assume only workers on this project and conservatives would become enraged over this action, though Canada also announced its displeasure, as the northly neighbor relied on this pipeline. The President rejoined the Paris Climate Accords as well after Trump pulled the US out in 2017, citing its economic costs greatly outweigh any environmental benefit. Biden signed several executive orders targeting climate change in many different ways, such as one that diverted \$30 billion from farmers towards climate change purposes. In addition to this, Biden's environmental plan for the future spans many years past his term. As part of the pitch,

Biden's plan comprises of phasing out all oil, natural gas, and coal as electricity sources by as early as 2035. Furthermore, this plan prevents the government from purchasing or extending any gas or oil leases on federal property. Biden's actions do not end with these two topics, though. He took action regarding many coronavirus and cultural issues.

The 46th President stressed the need to wear masks by mandating all federal workers to wear one on government property. Moreover, Biden authorized the TSA to fine any individual that refuses to wear a mask within their jurisdiction. Additionally, the President ensured vaccinations would continue as quickly as possible following the deaths of hundreds of thousands. However, Biden did not forget the cultural side of issues. He reversed Trump's ban on transgenders in the military, mandated government employees abide

by the Supreme Court decision that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 encompasses transgenders and denounced via an executive order any and all discrimination. Regarding abortion, Biden reversed a policy which prevented tax dollars from going to international organizations that provide other countries with abortion programs, as well as revoking many executive orders and actions Trump made in order to limit access to abortion.

President Biden promised change going forward in America, and after removing much of former President Donald Trump's policies, he certainly accomplished this goal. Many detest the current President's actions, just as many praise them. If the first thirty days are a precursor, Biden will enact many more policies, actions, and laws that may alter America's position in the world and how other countries perceive the United States.

## Coronavirus troubling many in meat industry

ANNA RINEHIMER

*Sophomore*

COVID-19 has brought many challenges throughout 2020. It forced cities to be shut down, schools to go virtual, businesses to close, and endless restrictions. In addition to this, the virus has affected the meat industry, a complex that determines much of what individuals purchase and consume in terms of meat.

In general, most people get their meat from the grocery store. Most of the meat products from grocery stores are produced by commercial farms. These farms carry hundreds to thousands of

animals in mostly confined areas that work systematically and are on a very strict time schedule. Most of the time, animals raised for meat are arranged in pens according to size. Once the oldest animals have been sent for processing, the animals are all shifted to the next age pen and younger animals are brought in. This cycle continues almost flawlessly, where new animals are brought in and the old ones are sent out.

However, due to COVID-19 regulations and restrictions, this cycle broke. Commercial sized butchers were getting shut down due to workers contracting the coronavi-

rus, thereby backing up the production chain. The United States Department Of Agriculture, (USDA), requires a certified inspector to oversee the butchering process in order for the product to be sold in cuts. This left the commercial farms with no place to send their older animals, and nowhere to put the young ones. Some farm owners tried to send animals to smaller, USDA inspected butchers, however this was not effective due to the large amount of animals and the small size of the butchers. Because of this backup, older animals were being euthanized in order to create room

for younger ones.

Due to this process, the meat found in grocery stores was in short supply. So how does this affect consumers? The meat products that filled the shelves were no longer American products, but imported meat from China and New Zealand. Due to the USDA being only based in the U.S, how do we know how this meat is handled? What are we actually consuming?

This is why it is extremely important to know the exact source of your food. Know the answers to where it is from, how it is raised, and the mission of the farmer. Eating

locally grown products of any kind will almost always be the better option. Most small farms process less, and provide a fresher, healthier product filled with nutrition simply from the product with nothing else added. They also care for animals more personally and allow them to live a life where they are raised with enough space, unlike most commercial farms.

It is incredibly important for you to know where your food is coming from in order to know exactly what you are eating. As the old saying goes, you are what you eat. Do you really know what you are?

# What do Berwick's students think of global warming?

**MAKAYLA MASLINSKI**  
*Sophomore*

With the growing concerns and controversy involved with global warming, students and staff at the Berwick Area High School were asked for their opinions on the subject, such as their personal fear of its effects on the economy and environment.

When asked a basic definition of the phenomenon, ecology teacher Mike Rochford defines global warming as, "an increasing temperature on the Earth's surface."

Student Zackary Bedwell elaborates on this definition, saying that global warming is, "where greenhouse gases spread by pollution reflects the sun's radiation on to the Earth in the atmosphere, and causes an overtime increase in heat. This is called the greenhouse effect."

Furthermore, Bedwell declares that the main causes of global warming are the use of, "power plants, factories, transportation, and fracking."

Similarly, junior Zachary Conrad lists, "Greenhouse gas emissions, carbon emissions, and holes in the ozone layer," due to their contributions to air quality.

However, student Andon James holds an opposing view. He says, "Global warming is mostly caused by the natural pattern of the planets motion, as we all know the earth will get slowly hotter and colder over the course of many years." Rochford agrees, explaining that although burning fossil fuels may contribute to global warming, it is only a small amount.

Some students show clear worry for the possible effects global warming may have in the future. Senior Dakota Welch expresses his disapproval by explaining the effects of the rising sea levels across the

world due to this issue, saying, "When the Earth warms, ice caps melt."

He further goes on to explain, "That is enough water to flood coastal and highly populated cities in places such as Shanghai, Hong Kong, and almost, if not all, the country of Japan. Plus, a majority, if not all of South Korea, many US cities including most of Florida, and a ton of European cities." These floods could result in millions of deaths across the world along with greater debt for many countries.

Student Arianna Morris also displays concern for the possible effects global warming could have in the future. With increasing temperatures and melting ice caps, she says many animals, especially those in cold habitats, may become endangered and go extinct. Morris then goes on to explain that global warming may ruin biodiversity, which is vital to the farming industry.

Although some students express mounting fear for the subject, a couple individuals do not believe global warming to be much of an issue. Rochford and James both agree that global warming is "naturally caused" and is not something the country should worry about.

Rochford assures, "There are numerous pieces of evidence from Earth's past that indicate times of warming and cooling of the planet throughout history of the Earth." Just as Rochford suggests, warm periods have occurred through the Earth's history with greater temperatures than today in a shorter span of time. Examples include the Roman Warm Period, the Minoan Warm Period, and the Medieval Warm Period.

While not everyone believes global warming is an issue, all the participants recognize pos-

sible long-term effects it could have on the environment. Bedwell says that global warming could cause many animals to go extinct, which will, "mess up the food chain."

James, in another perspective, says that climate change could make it harder for farmers to rely on weather patterns to grow crops, which may also affect the economy.

Yes, global warming can affect both the environment and the economy. "We are already seeing effects [in the economy] from [global warming] because of the loss of jobs related to fossil fuels." Rochford states.

Similarly, Conrad declares that "rash actions taken by politicians to fight global warming" will not only harm the economy in the US by taking away jobs, but it will also be, "adding even more reliance on other countries."

Welch, however, sees the possible damage the debatable issue can cause differently. He explains that global warming and its contribution to the rising sea levels and forest fires may cause the destruction of "millions of homes" which would cost, "trillions of dollars in damage worldwide," overflowing the market and causing a state of chaos for the economies of many countries.

Furthermore, whether or not global warming is a big enough issue to shut down fracking and factory related businesses remains one of the biggest controversies in politics and the science community. Fracking is when high pressure water is shot into the ground where deposits of oil or natural gas is located in order to extract the fossil fuels. Due to this, fracking is hotly debated even presidentially.

In continuation to his previous statements, Welch says that shutting down factories and fracking in combat of

global warming would be worth the job sacrifices because "The deaths of hundreds of millions and even billions of lives cannot be justified by losing maybe a few ten thousand jobs."

Morris has a similar opinion, stating that although she agrees in closing these businesses, "I do not agree with immediate elimination of jobs because this hurts the economy."

Bedwell, on expansion of these ideas, offers a solution: "Companies can be used to support other forms of energy to produce goods, and workers can be laid off with the help of the government and supporters," he says, "Then, companies over time can decrease the number of workers' occupations to not take away jobs, but to transition into the new age of energy."

On the other hand, Rochford believes that there is no need for change or a solution, because the use of fossil fuels is, "only a small reason as to why temperatures increase."

Plus, Conrad believes that eliminating fracking and factory jobs is not worth the fight since, "millions of people in the United States will lose their jobs." On top of his main point, Conrad points out that these jobs are, "too crucial to the economy," and taking them away from people and companies will have too large an impact financially.

Yet, despite the constant controversy and disagreement of whether global warming should be tackled- let alone how it should be tackled- students at have faith in the way their generation will handle the issue in the future.

James voices his confidence in the future leaders of his generation and their abilities to help "this glorious county and help solve some problems"

involved with global warming.

As to how the future generations can help slow global warming, many of the survey participants suggest harmless ways to help the environment.

For instance, Morris says, "As a population, we can convince each other to do better and change the way we live. Individually we can clean up the world around ourselves and donate to worthy causes."

Welch, building off the same idea, says, "I personally try and help by reusing things as much as I possibly can before recycling them."

To take this idea a step further, Welch adds, "The government could mandate recycling and put more restrictions on factory and car pollution, as well as creating a whole field dedicated to just the environment [to help with the lost jobs of fracking and factories] and stopping the spread of more pollution."

"[I'm] not sure we can have a large impact on the slowing of global warming, but we can slowly move away from fossil fuels. We need to do this anyway due to the fact that they are something that will run out in the future," Rochford inputs.

While the world is currently already seeing the effects of climate change due to the loss of jobs and increasing temperatures, each student agrees that it will be a very long time until the country sees serious and noticeable effects from the subject.

However, what shows importance is that even with disagreement, the students at the high school remain hopeful for their generation. They believe that they will find ways to combat the controversy and issues surrounding global warming and climate change. They believe that their generation will change the world.

# Black History Month: Impacting the Future

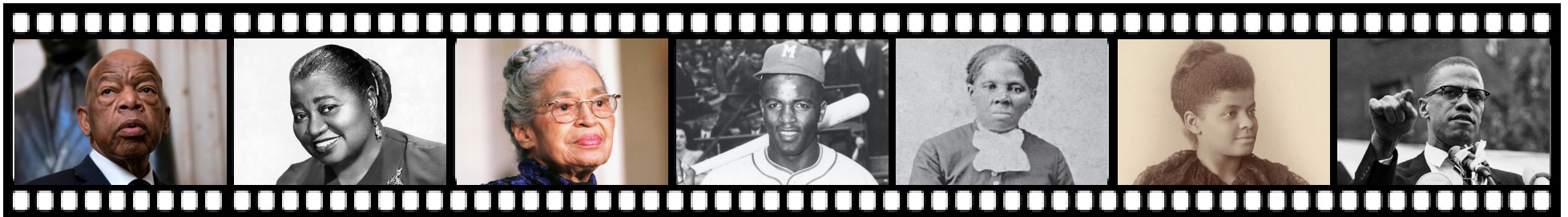
EMILY GETTY  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

## Remembering



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|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Muhammad Ali</b><br/>Professional Boxer<br/>(1942 - 2016)</p> <p>Largely considered to be one of the greatest and most iconic figures of the 20th century.</p> | <p><b>Maya Angelou</b><br/>Poet<br/>(1928-2014)</p> <p>Widely celebrated author with a career spanning over 50 years and dozens of titles to her name.</p> | <p><b>Chadwick Boseman</b><br/>Actor<br/>(1976-2020)</p> <p>First African American headlining character in an MCU movie and a recognized director and actor.</p> | <p><b>Gwendolyn Brooks</b><br/>Poet<br/>(1917-2000)</p> <p>Wrote about the triumphs of common folk. Was the first African American to win a Pulitzer Prize.</p> | <p><b>Frederick Douglass</b><br/>Social Reformer<br/>(1818-1895)</p> <p>Escaped slave, became a social reformer, made great progress for the Civil Rights Movement.</p> | <p><b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b><br/>Minister<br/>(1929-1968)</p> <p>One of the most influential leaders of the Civil Rights Movement; gave the I Have a Dream Speech.</p> | <p><b>Coretta Scott King</b><br/>Activist<br/>(1927-2006)</p> <p>Advocate of African American Equality and singer. Wife of Martin Luther King Jr.</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|

## Remembering



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|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>John Lewis</b><br/>Politician<br/>(1940-2020)</p> <p>Served in US House of Representatives for Georgia's fifth congressional district for over thirty years.</p> | <p><b>Hattie McDaniel</b><br/>Actress<br/>(1893-1952)</p> <p>Multitalented performer. First African American to win an Oscar for her role in Gone With the Wind.</p> | <p><b>Rosa Parks</b><br/>Activist<br/>(1913-2005)</p> <p>Refused to give up her bus seat to a Caucasian man, inciting the Montgomery bus boycott.</p> | <p><b>Jackie Robinson</b><br/>Baseball Player<br/>(1919-1972)</p> <p>First African American to play in Major League Baseball, breaking the baseball color line.</p> | <p><b>Harriet Tubman</b><br/>Abolitionist<br/>(1821-1913)</p> <p>Former slave who escaped, then went back into slave territory and rescue around 70 more people.</p> | <p><b>Ida B. Wells</b><br/>Journalist<br/>(1862-1931)</p> <p>Teacher and Co-founder of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.</p> | <p><b>Malcolm X</b><br/>Minister<br/>(1925-1965)</p> <p>Human rights activist, best known for his work as a vocal spokesman for the Nation of Islam.</p> |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|

## Moving Forward



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|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Guion Bluford</b><br/>Aerospace Engineer<br/>b. 1942</p> <p>Retired Air Force officer and fighter pilot, first African American person in space.</p> | <p><b>Misty Copeland</b><br/>Ballet Dancer<br/>b. 1982</p> <p>First African American ballet dancer for the American Ballet Theatre, one of three major companies.</p> | <p><b>Lebron James</b><br/>Basketball Player<br/>b. 1984</p> <p>Widely considered one of the best basketball players of all time, avid civil rights activist.</p> | <p><b>Mae Jemison</b><br/>Engineer<br/>b. 1956</p> <p>Physician and former NASA engineer. First African American woman to travel to space.</p> | <p><b>Michael Jordan</b><br/>Basketball Player<br/>b. 1963</p> <p>Activist and widely considered one of the best basketball players ever.</p> | <p><b>Barack Obama</b><br/>44th US President<br/>b. 1961</p> <p>Politician and attorney. First African American to serve as President of the United States.</p> | <p><b>Oprah Winfrey</b><br/>Host<br/>b. 1954</p> <p>One of the most iconic TV personalities and philanthropists of the 21st century.</p> |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|--|

# Tom Brady and Tampa Bay Buccaneers win Super Bowl LV

ZANDER SWITZER  
*Sports Editor*

Tom Brady continues to prove that age is just a number, as he and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers dismantled the Kansas City Chiefs with a score of 31 to 9. Throughout the entire game, Tampa Bay found numerous ways to limit Kansas City's offense and capitalize on scoring opportunities when the ball was in their hands. The Chiefs could not score a single touchdown while the Bucs did the opposite.

Confusions arose when Tom Brady decided to leave his longtime home on the Patriots for new pastures in Tampa Bay, but it was clearly the right decision as they have won their second Super Bowl in franchise history. Brady picks up his 7th ring in his long career, and all-star tight-end Rob Gronkowski, Brady's number 2 option back in New England, earns his 4th ring. Despite a great performance

from Gronk, Tom Brady earned his 5th Super Bowl MVP award.

The Chiefs' woes began early on in the first quarter. Their star quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, was completely shut down and

could not complete simple passes. This came in part by the Buccaneers' defense locking down Mahomes' top targets, wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight-end Travis Kelce. Even when the two were open, Mahomes was throwing too long or too short, or they simply could

not make the catch. The Chiefs managed to pick up a field goal, but Gronkowski

on offense and could not stop Tampa Bay on defense. Gronk scored yet another

touchdown, followed by wide receiver Antonio Brown doing the same. In the latter half of the 2nd, Mahomes stepped up his passing, completing more and more, but it was not enough to get Kansas City

this year. However, they did not score a single touchdown during the whole half, and Tampa Bay continued to cook. Running-back Leonard Fournette got his team a touchdown in the 3rd off a pretty pass by Tom Brady, who played spectacularly. He continuously found the open man and made good plays that got his team ahead early. After Fournette's touchdown, more of the same occurred. Once the 4th began, Tampa Bay got more stops and put the game in the bag with time to spare.

Super Bowl LV may not have been the closest game in recent years, but it still had its memorable moments. Between the referees calling multiple penalties on the Chiefs and Tampa Bay causing detrimental damage to the Chiefs' offense, Tom Brady and the Buccaneers were able to silence the doubters and prove they belong in the league as they raised the Lombardi Trophy.



(Photo by Stephen M. Dowell, Sports FBN/TNS)

fired back with a touchdown shortly after. Brady and Gronk made history with that possession by becoming the duo with the most postseason touchdown connections in league history with 13. Entering the 2nd quarter, the same issues kept occurring. The Chiefs' were overwhelmed

At halftime, they were left with two field goals-6 points-compared to the Buccaneers' 21.

Fans expected a comeback from the Chiefs since it is something they have done before in this postseason and the last, which resulted in them winning it all, unlike

## Berwick's winter sports affected by coronavirus protocols

ZANDER SWITZER  
*Sports Editor*

With most events around the world, they are often hindered by COVID-19 and the safety protocols that come with the virus. Berwick is no exception, and the winter sports season has been affected heavily.

Girls' Basketball faces its own challenges when it comes to protecting their players against COVID-19. Coach William Phillips says "the protocols have changed our practices and games slightly." This includes the proper sanitization techniques to prevent a spread of bacteria. "We provide

hand sanitizer, sanitize the basketballs, and can no longer provide community drinks." Perhaps the biggest and most important change to the games is the addition of wearing face masks while playing. While it may make it more challenging for the players, it is all just to protect themselves and others from the virus. Phillips believes in the current protocols and thinks that they do not need to be altered. The team has had a few postponements and cancellations, but hopefully they can get back on track by following the safety guidelines.

The Boys' Basketball pro-

gram has also hit a wall due to the virus and its overbearing safety ramifications. Coach Bob Calarco states "Obviously the pandemic has had a dramatic effect on our team, as it has with everything else." Furthermore, he says "we have not been able to practice as much as usual, which has made it difficult to implement new things and make new corrections." He also writes that the wearing of masks during practice and playtime is hard on the players, but since it has become such an integral part of everyday life, all of them are becoming used to it. Calarco said "I don't believe any extra

precautions are needed. The only thing I would have liked to see different is a consistent set of protocols implemented either by the state or our conference." He hopes for sports to return to a more-normalized state by next school year, but expects screenings and cleaning protocols to remain a part of the program.

The Swimming team encounters issues in their practice as a result of COVID-19 as well. Coach Stacy Banyas says "we have to split out practice lanes. Half the team starts in the deep end and the other half starts in the shallow end." Aside from meets themselves, practices are the

next thing to suffer the most from safety protocols. The Swimming team has only had 2 in-person meets, and the rest have been virtual, which is "very different and strange from what we are used to." Over a 7 day period, each team swims their own meet and then at the end of the period, they merge times to see who comes out on top.

Obviously most athletes and fans want their sports to be the way they were last year, but unfortunately the virus makes that simply impossible and the only thing they can do is bear the costs and hope for a better future in sports.

# Coronavirus sparks new ways for love to blossom

MAYA KILE  
Features Editor

There is no doubt that dating has changed significantly over the years. Some may say that it is better now, but others believe that modern dating has grown to be cheap and tacky. Regardless, change is constant and imminent.

Dating and relationships have been heavily influenced by social media. There are numerous dating apps and websites available such as Tinder and Bumble. However, these services are only available to those that are at least eighteen years old. Nevertheless, there are plenty of opportunities on other apps for teenagers to start relationships on. This can happen because of a Direct Message (DM) feature. Apps such as Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Twitter are common places that allow for communication.

The birth of social media is known as a paradox of progress. While we are progressing as a society with advanced technology, there

is no doubt that it also opens a Pandora's box of problems. This largely affects modern dating.

For example, social media allows for people to instantly connect with others that share similar interests. This is also seen with dating apps and websites such as FarmersOnly.

com and Christian Mingle. It is faster and more convenient to make a connection with another person when they are both already grouped in a similar interest. Unfortunately, there are concerns that come with this. The very

first rule of internet safety is to be wary of strangers. Online dating and communi-

years old. Instagram is not filtered for adults like Tinder is. Any person of any age

can contact someone else via an Instagram DM.

When it comes to teen heartbreak, technology has also opened many new doors. Social media has made it easier to, break up over text, or completely call it off with

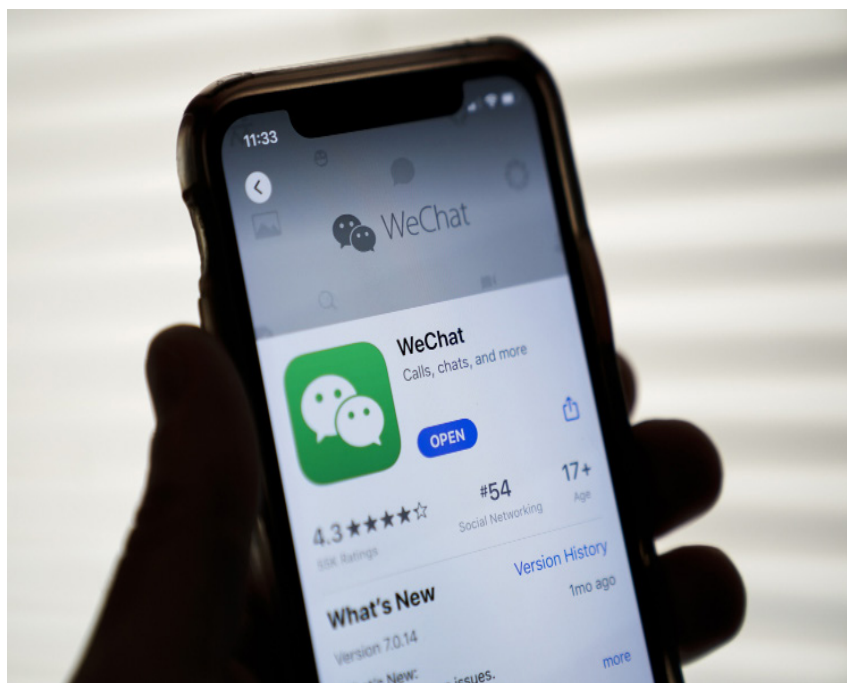
someone by

“ghosting”. “Ghosting” is a common way of suddenly ending a possible relationship without giving an explanation. It is done by blocking or unadding an account, and then never interacting with that person again. These new

possibilities test trust, loyalty, and compassion in relationships.

When it comes to confidence, modern dating has given introverts an upper hand. “Shooting your shot”, or telling someone that you like them, has been made a lot easier thanks to a Snapchat extension known as YOLO. YOLO's purpose is almost self-explanatory. It is a platform that allows for people to send anonymous messages to each other, fulfilling the YOLO acronym that “you only live once”. Because of this extension, it is more convenient to express feelings for somebody. In general, it is easier to talk to someone else behind a screen.

As can be seen, there are plenty of pros and cons to dating in 2021. If you are looking to start something new, do not be discouraged. Just be cautious. There are multiple paths to help you find that special someone. Take a chance. Will it be a hit or miss?



(Drew Angerer/Getty Images/TNS)

cation completely disregard this. In terms of safety for teenagers, online communication via apps like Snapchat or Instagram is even more dangerous. For example, the minimum age to have an Instagram account is thirteen

years old. Instagram is not filtered for adults like Tinder is. Any person of any age can contact someone else via an Instagram DM.

## Valentine's Day still a day to love despite COVID-19 shakeup

CARLY HILL  
Sophomore

These times prove difficult for many holidays. Many people found their 2021 Valentine's Day challenging to plan. However, finding ways to enjoy dates during this pandemic is not as impossible as one may assume.

Streaming dates on television services allow couples to watch the same movie from different houses. Partners laugh together at comedies or enjoy cheesy romance movies together from a distance. The activity includes the benefits of experiencing a film with the proper safety precautions

of today.

People appreciate music of all types of genres. Making playlists of all one's favorite songs or music groups shows interests to a date. Music apps, such as Spotify, produced group sessions where people in different places can listen to music together. Connect on a personal level with music, which a couple might not make time for otherwise.

If partners want to have a nice dinner with their significant other, they could video call. Homemade meals enjoyed from separate houses over a conversation make for a wholesome time. Or

the couple could order each other take out to surprise one another. A friendly, chatting meal without concern for safety proves suitable.

Companions also deliver gifts or cards to their dates to stay socially distanced while exchanging presents. It remains important to appreciate your significant other, especially during this challenging epidemic.

If partners insist on meeting in person, alternative dates that avoid going out remain without compromising safety. Although it transpires as less than ideal, these in-person dates are more

secured and regulated when isolated.

The classic meal at home makes a romantic date while staying at home. Find a common fondness towards similar carryout meals and order delivery. Whether homemade or ordered in, having dates at home keeps dates away from public, unsafe places.

Creative projects also produce exciting dates. Make a day out of Valentine's crafting or baking as an artistic activity. Have a game night to stay in and enjoy each others' company with friendly competition. Movie nights occur every year. However, with

the pandemic, this method allows dates to remain at a house for safety.

Stay connected with your significant other by going on socially distanced, safe dates. Streaming movie dates, music group sessions, video call dates, and delivered gifts help build enjoyable dates from separate places. Meals from home, Valentine's crafts, game nights, and movie evenings create delightful moments with companions while keeping them away from public areas. Although it may look different, Valentine's Day is still a great way to spend with partners.

# New superintendent arrives among coronavirus pandemic

**OLIVIA GOMEZ**  
*Business Manager*

During all the chaos of these unprecedented times, Berwick Area School District welcomed a familiar face in the administration office as the new superintendent, Wendy Kupsky.

Prior to Kupsky's current position, she was Assistant to the Superintendent. Also,, she has always been a prominent member of the faculty, serving as Director of Student Services and Director of Special Education.

The onset of COVID-19, as a time of change for Kupsky she acquired the title of Superintendent right before March 13th, 2020 when the entire country shut down. It became apparent that the district needed a plan.

"When I started Aug. 11, 2020, I knew I still needed to use my leadership skills to move forward." Kupsky said, "Every day that we are able to come into the buildings and educate students is monumental. Normally it takes a coordinated effort to engage in any school year. With the pandemic it takes true commitment from everyone."

Wendy Kupsky has become a new role model for the Berwick Area School District students to depend upon and strive to be. Taking on the challenge of superintendent, is challenging for anyone let alone during a pandemic. Nevertheless, Kupsky continues to fight for the students, trying to give everyone the school year they

deserve. Kupsky describes "standing behind your decisions with knowledge and data" as important for the



(Photo by Student Times Staff)

role of superintendent. She has learned that there are two opinions in any circumstance,

and one must determine that if one way leads to a mistake, they must try to find a different route.

"It is important to be your own leader" said Kupsky.

The most important part of the superintendent's position is to determine not only a current plan, but a long term one as well.

While COVID-19 has proven difficult for the Berwick Area School District, Kupsky has kept one main goal in mind.

"I want our students to know that my priority is the education and well-being of our community youth. To be in education you are committed to being a life-long learner. My immediate goal is to keep

everyone safe and healthy while educating them. I want as many enjoyable and happy memorable moments during this time." Kupsky said.

The position of superintendent requires a passion to help the youth of the school and determine the fate of their futures.

"You can easily Google the role of a superintendent, but it isn't just about identifying needs and policies, developing regulations, provide leadership, and manage the day-to-day operation of the district. It is the role of making sure children are educated. Don't ever lose sight of the children and education. It makes everything else worth it." Wise advice from the new superintendent of Berwick.

# Berwick High School welcomes new Vice-Principal Palmatier

**MADelyn BROWN**  
*Sophomore*

This year Berwick Area High School has a new Vice Principal, Trevor Palmatier. He is very excited to get involved in our school and its students.

Before coming to work at Berwick, Palmatier got his Bachelor's Degree at Lock Haven University. Then, Palmatier went on to earn his master's degree in Curriculum Instruction at Bloomsburg University. Palmatier started his career as a fifth-grade teacher in the Milton School District. Later, he worked as an elementary principal at Bloomsburg School District. Then, he worked at Bloomsburg University for a year before becoming part of the Berwick High School administration.

Initially working as a teacher, our new vice principal

wanted to get into the administrative aspect of education. He enjoyed "working with the students and making a difference in the students that were struggling." However, he felt he could make a "bigger impact" in their lives and learning if he held a more supervisory role in the schools he worked.

Palmatier has had a unique and challenging experience due to starting as Vice-Principal amid the coronavirus pandemic. He began work in June to prepare for the upcoming school year. It was a "crazy summer" as he created a plan for the upcoming school year while abiding by the continually changing CDC rules and regulations. Palmatier said, "We knew we wanted to get students back in the building as much as possible, but we had to do that safely."

Palmatier's goal for this year is to get to know the students and the teachers and become acclimated to the school. His favorite thing about the high school so far is the feeling of independence



(Photo by Student Times Staff)

instead of the dependency he experienced at the elementary level. He also really enjoys that there are "options for everybody" in high school.

Students can choose from a variety of different activities to get involved in. That way, everyone has people they get along with and feel included. Mr. Palmatier feels it is "hard to gauge" what improvements need to be made in the school.

However, if anything were to change, he would like to get students even more involved by providing additional clubs and activities. This proposition would surely be greatly appreciated by the students.

Palmatier's favorite part of his new job is working and getting to know people. He also enjoys being part of a team. He said, "I really like working with people, helping to solve problems."

The new addition to the faculty is involved in a variety of different activities, just like he encourages his students

to be. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, exercising, and "pretty much anything outdoors like hiking and camping." He also enjoys playing baseball and watching football, and although he lacks musical inclination, he does wish that he could play an instrument. Perhaps one day, Mr. Palmatier.

Very much a people person, Palmatier, is very family oriented. He is motivated by the desire to be a good role model for his two nephews. Also, he has always looked up to his grandfather and is continuously inspired by him.

The high school's new Vice-Principal is very excited to get to know Berwick's school and students better.

He will certainly be a spectacular role model and wonderful addition to the BASD staff.

# He Said/She Said: Valentine's Day Edition

Should you celebrate Valentine's Day when single?  
If so, how?

Madelyn  
Brown

Gabriel  
Hook

What is your opinion on Valentine's day as a whole?

Absolutely! Valentine's day is about love, and there is so much more than just romantic love. You can find fun things to do, and don't forget to love yourself!

No. You shouldn't even celebrate it when you're not

I think it's nice that Valentine's Day gives people an occasion to celebrate their love. However, this celebration should not be solely reserved for February 14th.

It's like a Monday, insignificant and I forget they exist.

Is Valentine's Day about love or big corporations making money?

Valentine's Day is about love. While corporations may profit from it, if you look into the history of the day, it is obvious that Valentine's Day is more than just a money-making scheme.

It is sweet to some people I guess, but if I was a big corporation, I would be pumping out chocolate for sure.

Chocolates. You can never go wrong with candy.

Chocolates I guess, if they have mint.

What is your favorite Valentine's Day/romantic movie?

Pride and Prejudice is definitely my favorite romantic movie. It is beautiful and shows the pureness of love in a different time period in contrast to today.

Idk... Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets?

What is your ideal way to spend Valentine's Day?

There are a variety of activities you can participate in, but as long as it is one you can enjoy with a loved one, that's the ideal way.

Watching Star Trek and ignoring the fact you're going to die alone.



# World of Warcraft wows with new expansion Shadowlands

**BRYCE SMITH**  
*Freshman*

World of Warcraft: Shadowlands is a massively multiplayer online roleplaying game (MMORPG). It has a vast player base of exactly 4.88 million players. The game is better to play with friends, family, or just other people in the game, but it can be played solo. It has a perfect artistic theme with many very talented artists in the company, Blizzard Entertainment. The game should be played by people 14 years or older because it includes connecting with real people in the game, crude language, and a certain level of violence. However, it should be noted there is little to no gore.

Shadowlands has an excellent leveling experience, with the maximum level being 60. There are several races and classes to choose from, such as an Orc Hunter, for example. There are activities in the game called dungeons, raids, and player versus player, or PVP for short. Dungeons feature the act of queueing up with a group of four other players; you try to succeed at defeating all bosses in the dungeon, which usually amount to five or more. Also, there is a potential to gain loot to get better gear, mounts to ride on, or bags to carry more in-game goods. Raids are like dungeons, with almost the same concept, except you are in a group with 39 other players to compete for loot. Raids have special features such as legendary equipment, the highest rating of gear in the game. Player versus player is usually 10 or 15 real players against another group of 10 or 15 total players. The most common modes are capture the flag where you have to get the enemy team's flag and bring

it back to your base, and domination, where there are three bases to capture. The more bases, the more points you get.

Another thing to note is that the graphics are immaculate with the immersive armors and the number of details they put into the gear sets, the textures such as the trees, grass, or even water. You can tell that they care about the game's performance from the effort they put into it. The details progressed so far over the years. The first expansion had poor graphics, but they really put up all production costs.

Also, the questing experience is really good, with over 10,000 of them to complete. The game has a lot of things to do when you are bored. You can

mindlessly sit back and do a quest for a short while and collect experience points to level up your character from 1 to 60. Even when you reach level 60, you can still do a lot of daily quests that reset every day so you can redo them when you complete them for the day. The many quests give you experience points to level up your character, armor and weapons to give your character better gear, and also give reputation points with a faction to increase your notability with

them, which gives even more rewards when you increase your reputation with a faction. These rewards include: tabards of the faction or city's insignia, mounts to ride on to get to places faster, and special gear to get the character stronger.

The experience I had when playing the game was amazing. The game really appreciates the player base. The company, Blizzard Entertainment, gives attention to the people who play. They

mouse. You may also look into the settings, which are easy to navigate, and make the game the way you want to play. There are many keybinds to select, which are just keys you can change to make it the way you want. For example, if you do not like the button "B" to open your bags, you can change it to the key "I" for inventory.

The reason the game is meant for people 14 years and older is that you are playing with actual people from around the world, and typically parents do not want their 8-year-old child connecting with some 40-year-old man from Europe. Also, people type what they want. The game itself might just say mild cuss words, but people playing usually do not censor themselves for some random person they don't even know.

It is much better to play with many people, as the game is basically designed for it; I myself have played with a group of people, and it alters your gameplay immensely. For instance, when I was fighting a tough enemy, it was really difficult by myself. However, once I started to get people to help me, it got remarkably easier, almost as if it was some ordinary enemy you can defeat by yourself. The game can be played by yourself, but you would be making the video game harder than it has to be.

The experience I had when

playing the player versus player section of the game was kind of one-sided as the player with better gear always wins, which makes sense, but when you are in a 15 vs. 15 game, it's oddly frustrating having to deal with these players who play nonstop 24/7 every day of the week, just crushing your team. This makes it an almost unfair experience in some cases, but I guess it would encourage people to upgrade their gear before going into battle.

There is a downside to playing this game, and it is the price. It being \$12.99 a month is utterly ridiculous, but I would say it is definitely worth the price. The game is costly, so keep that in mind as you are thinking about playing; you can play for free, but the game only allows you to play until level 20, which is sort of low compared to the max level of 60. The price is the worst part of the game but if you are willing to play the game and pay the \$12.99, it is worth it.

The overall review I would give World of Warcraft: Shadowlands, published by Blizzard Entertainment, would definitely be an 8.5. This game is absolutely great. The reason for this rating is because: it has amazing graphics, great player interaction, fantastic gameplay, and probably the best dungeons, raids, and player versus player of all MMOs on the market. Also, there are things I condemn, such as the prices being outrageous for playing a game you purchased. You must pay a subscription. All in all, though, the Shadowlands expansion makes a great addition to the World of Warcraft game, and I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys games.



(Lutsenko Oleksandr/ Dreamstime/ TNS)

respond to the players with bugs (in-game glitches). The game is easy to navigate if you were to be a new player. The game has many tutorials and prompts to help the player actually compete in it. When you play, you have to use the mouse and keyboard to move and look around the game. There are action bars on your screen with abilities specific to your character's class; to use such abilities, you need to either click the numbers on your keyboard or click on them with your

# Fight childhood cancer by joining the Cause-A-Thon

**ALLIE SHULTZ**

*Sophomore*

These days, not a lot of positive events are happening. In typical bad times, people usually sit around a television waiting for the hero to save the day. What most people don't realize is that they can step up and be a hero in even our small town of Berwick. The Cause-A-Thon is used to raise money for families that have a kid with pediatric cancer.

This event spreads positivity in our community because "it allows everyone

to come together and work for the good of others", said Kaite Caladie, a Youth Action Board member. Who wouldn't want to get involved in something fun and simple that benefits people in need?

Not only does one make a difference in a child and family's life, but they can also make a difference in the community. This event gives "teens a chance to make a change in their own community", said Youth Action Board member Camila Amaya. This year will be

quite different from others, but the cause is still the same. Activities and games will remain part of the event, however this time they will now follow CDC guidelines. Music and food will also still be included for those that wish to partake in those. The main difference this year is the event will not be a lockdown like it has in previous years. People can leave when they wish, so if one gets nervous and overwhelmed easily but still wants to help raise money and have a good time, they can. If one must

quarantine or does not feel safe attending in person, they can join activities virtually and still feel like part of the event. Donations can be done through a telethon, as well.

Why should one get involved? Why should someone do something that doesn't directly benefit them? Getting involved means having the chance to make a difference in your community. Childhood cancer is a terrible affliction that people face head-on and don't ask to undertake. A community that rallies behind someone

makes that difference in life that truly shows the patient they are not alone. Financial difficulties come with fighting a disease with everything you've got, and "the main purpose of Cause-A-Thon is to provide financial support to families battling cancer", said Caladie, Youth Action Board member. Getting involved and raising any bit of money will have a tremendous impact on that child and family. During the challenges of modern society that we face, why not make a difference?

## Lady Dawgs Win WVW Conference Division 1 Championship



(Photo Courtesy of Bill Phillips))

Congratulations to the Berwick Girls Basketball team on winning the Wyoming Valley Conference Division 1 Championship.

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

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