Les Miserables earns rave reviews

Gianna Manzo, as Eponine, lies in the arms of Mateo Lopez, as Marius, in the spring production of Les Miserables. The cast received a total of eleven nominations for Excellence in School Theater Arts Awards (ESTA). The cast was nominated for best overall production, best set, best vocal ensemble, best acting ensemble, and best show-stopping moment for their number “One Day More.”

Valedictorian Kirsten Mascaritola

Student of the Year Julia Betti

named for the Class of 2017

Congratulations to the students at the top of their class.
Top Ten Most Influential Seniors selected by faculty

Julia Betti Senior Editor-in-Chief

Each year the Top Ten Most Influential Seniors are chosen by the Mid Valley High School teachers. The high school teachers vote for who they feel are the most influential seniors for the Class of 2017. This year voting was open to all high school teachers, not just seniors.

The named students are involved in different school or outside activities and are dynamic individuals. Students play multiple varsity sports, belong to clubs such as Mock Trial, Student Council, Drama Club, Leo Club, etc. and are active members in the Spartan community. Every student selected has represented Mid Valley in a positive light and will leave an indelible mark on the school for years to come.

JULIA BETTI
Julia Betti is senior class secretary, president of the Leo Club, president of Future Business Leaders of America, and a member of the National Honor Society. She was a member of the Mock Trial team where she served as a lawyer. Julia also volunteers her time at Leadership Lackawanna and Make-A-Wish, and she was the head of the Spartan Closet this year. She also holds a part-time job at Wegmans.

“It is very humbling for me to receive this recognition from my teachers. I feel very honored that they nominated me for this award because of my hard work and service to our school.”

Julia will be attending the University of Scranton in the fall to study environmental studies.

BECA CHIEFFALLO
Beca is the senior class president, vice-president of the student council, a member of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Future Business Leaders of America. Her work with the Drama Club, Science Club, and AV Club is highly recognized by the Mid Valley community. In addition to her academic endeavors, Beca plays tennis for Mid Valley and has been a Mid Valley cheerleader for both football and basketball.

“I make it my goal to be the best I can be in all I put into school. My spot as class president gave me the opportunity to create change, and I believe that is why I have been chosen as one of the most influential seniors,” commented Chiefallo.

Beca will attend Penn State Main to major in biology and neuroscience.

EVAN COLLINS
Evan Collins may be best known for his witty humor and outstanding factual knowledge. Collins has been a four-year member of the track and field team and played varsity basketball.

He has served on Student Council where he held the position of Sergeant-at-Arms his junior year. This year he served as a member of the Scholastic Bowl team.

“I am humbled and appreciative that I could be selected for this, that our teachers felt that I made an impact in our school,” says Collins.

Collins plans on attending King’s College to study political science with the intention of pursuing law after graduation.

REGAN FIUME
Regan may be known around the community as a stand-out football and tennis player, but few know that he is also a dedicated student.

“It means a lot to me to be among the most influential seniors and to be someone that the younger students can look up to,” remarked Fiume.

“I am honored to be able to make a difference in the school that shaped who I am,” said Hughes about being named an influential senior.

Regan will attend Penn State University with hopes to declare a major in criminal justice or history.

ERICA HAEFELE
Erica Haefele has been noted for her dedication to the Spartanettes basketball program and enthusiasm towards her academics. She has been a member of the varsity girls’ basketball team for four years and was captain her junior and senior years.

She serves as the Student Council secretary and is the vice-president of FBLA. Haefele is also a member of the SADD Club, yearbook, and Busted Club.

About receiving this honor, Haefele said, “To get this honor is another achievement that I can look back on from my high school years. I always wanted to be a good role model and inspire others, so to be one of the few chosen for this honor is a great accomplishment for me.”

Haefele will further her education and basketball career at Misericordia University as an occupational therapy major.

Corey will attend King’s College to study digital media and neuroscience.

LANEY HOLT
Corey’s hard work has been recognized by her teachers and peers.

“I am very blessed to have been awarded this honor. It means a lot to me to know that what I have done for Mid Valley has not gone unnoticed by my teachers and peers.”

In the fall, Holt will attend the University of Central Florida to major in exercise science.

COREY JACKSON
The quiet personality of Corey may keep everyone guessing about his ideas; however, his friends and teachers know that still waters run deep. Corey is a member of the National Honor Society, the Scholastic Bowl team, and the Science Club. He appeared in the Drama Club’s production of Les Misérables, and participated in soccer and track and field.

“I never really thought of myself as an influential senior, but maybe my grades are what helped me to receive the honor,” commented Corey.

Corey will attend King’s College in the fall as a mechanical engineering major.

ALEXIS KILLINO
Alexis Killino is known throughout the school for her bubbly and vivacious personality. While representing the senior class as vice-president, Killino has been involved in numerous other school and community activities.

Killino serves as the president of the Science Club, secretary of FBLA, vice-president of the Family Consumer Science Club, and co-president of Busted Club. She has also been a four-year member on student council.

She has been a varsity cheerleader for four years. Outside of school, Killino is a “buddy” for the PRIDE Squad.

“This is truly an honor to receive this recognition from my teachers. It shows that they have noticed my hard work throughout high school as a reliable and responsible senior,” commented Killino.

After graduation, Killino will attend Marywood University to major in biology with the plans of becoming a physician’s assistant.

JUSTIN KUCHARSKI
Throughout Mid Valley, Justin Kucharski is known for his school spirit and friendly personality, but Kucharski holds many talents that set him above his peers.

Kucharski made headlines his senior year in his jaw-dropping performance in Les Misérables as Javert after four dedicated years with the Drama Club and served as treasurer his senior year. He is also a four-year member of Student Council, and he served as president his senior year.

He also is an eight-year chorus member. Kucharski also plays guitar in the widely known band “Nothing Yet.”

Kucharski commented, “I really do love Mid Valley and being here with my classmates brought out the best in me, which helped me to be chosen for this award.”

Kucharski will attend Marywood University in the fall to study Digital Media and Broadcast Design.
Prom 2017 roars in the Gatsby era

KRISTEN CHORBA
Senior Staff Writer

Senior prom is an event that the seniors yearn to attend. The special night finally happened on Friday, April 21, 2017, at the Radisson in Scranton. The event, themed the Great Gatsby, ran from 6 to 11 with the customary pictures by Karin Dorman, dinner, and dancing.

After a gourmet meal of lasagna, chicken, or steak, students rushed to the dance floor. Constant dancing was only interrupted by the announcement of the 2017 Prom King and Queen and their court. The senior couples were Angel Ortiz and Queen Larissa Chmielewski, Devan Slocum and Evan Collins, Logan DeSanto and Jon Dellia, Jessica Davies, Jordan Kucharski and Dylan Tackley, Kaitlyn Griggs and Justin Kucharski, Jessica Zielinski, Mr. Kovaleski, Mr. Vinansky, and Mr. Sheehan.

The students were also treated to the use of a photo booth, which included silly hats and glasses. Even the teachers joined in the fun.

Senior Sierra Batcha noted, “The prom was full of people who wanted to make the most of the last school dance.”

Overall, prom was a good time, and the seniors left with memories that would last a lifetime.

Geoff Sekelsky and Larissa Chmielewski won the titles of Prom King and Queen during the Gatsby-themed prom.

Sekelsky commented, “I felt honored being named King of the 2017 prom; I was in shock for the rest of the night.”

The prom is hosted by the Mid Valley senior class, and the officers created a fun evening for all. The candy bar favors were a delicious twist to the traditional ideas.

Senior class officers are

President Beca Chieffallo, Vice-President Alexis Killino, Secretary Julia Bettii, and Treasurer Regan Hughes. Their advisors are Mr. Jeff Kovaleski and Mrs. Robin Runco.

Prom attendees were excited to see their teachers rock the dance floor. Prom chaperones included Mrs. Graff, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Runco, Miss Laboranti, Miss Phillips, Mrs. Carey, Mrs. Zielinski, Mr. Kovaleski, Mr. Vinansky, and Mr. Sheehan.

PROM selfies were the rage of the age

Senior girls strike a pose in their spring colors. Left to right are Lauren Williams, Madison Macknosky, Erica Haelefe, Alexis Killino, and Beca Chieffallo.

Pictured left to right are Jess Kasper, Heidi Betz, Marianna Gerrity, and Noelle Arcaro.

Left to right are Gabby Rotell and Serena Bennett.

Left to right are Larissa Chmielewski and Brendan Davies.

Senior girls smile pretty for their selfie. Pictured from left to right are Nikki Bocan, Julianna Aulisio, Sierra Batcha, and Brittney Cesari.

Town hall meeting hosted at Mid Valley

ELIZABETH PIORKOWSKI
Senior Staff Writer

On April 4, the Mid Valley auditorium was used to host a town hall meeting with Mr. Frank Forgione from the NEIU as the moderator. The panel of speakers also included District Attorney Shane Scanlon, pharmacist J.J. Lick, and Scranton Counseling Center’s representative Tim Benedict. The topic for the evening was the opioid epidemic.

“The town hall meeting was very informative and offered many eye-opening facts about drugs in our community,” said Jesse Doyle, a Mid Valley senior.

Approximately 170 people sat quietly and listened to the information presented about the opioid problem. The discussion focused primarily on the abuse and overdoses of heroin. District Attorney Scanlon noted that the death rates are at an all-time high for heroin overdoses. J.J. Lick added that children and adults get pills and abuse them in a number of ways. Tim Benedict added information about the mental health issues associated with drug use.

“The speakers were excellent. They gave people an idea of where they can get help and that there is hope,” said the school nurse, Mrs. Zielinski. “Opioid addiction is a very serious issue, especially in our community. This was a wonderful presentation to have at Mid Valley so that the community could come together and learn.”

Parents and children sat side by side to hear the important messages from the experts. Sadly, there has been a rapid rise in use, abuse, and deaths, especially in our community. Making people in our community aware and allowing dialogue among families are important if people want to end the epidemic. Habits can be broken, and people can be helped if others know the signs and dangers of opioid and heroin use. 
Opinions

Tips for surviving senior year and moving on with ease

JULIA BETTI
Editor-in-Chief

Senior year is a time in a teenager’s life when he or she is preparing to embark on the next chapter in life after graduation. Many of you will part ways and begin the journey down the next path in your life. Some of you may only see your classmates once a year and before you know it, you will be leaving high school.

Are you ready for the stress of senior year, you will wake up every morning counting the days until you graduate. For some seniors, you may be counting the days until you graduate. But you will have to be ready to face the challenges of senior year. Here are just a few tips I wish I had before starting my senior year.

First, get your SAT/ACT testing done before senior year. SAT and ACT testing is a crucial aspect of the college admission’s process. By getting your testing done in your junior year, you will have yourself a lot of headaches and stress from worrying about actually taking the tests. Do not wait until the fall of your senior year to take these tests for the first time because you may want or have to take the tests again if you do not receive your desired score, during the college application process. You will start to feel the pressure when you have to review for these tests right in the beginning of senior year on top of other responsibilities.

Second, apply to college during the fall of your senior year. Applying to college is a very lengthy and tedious process, but applying early relieves lots of headache.

Applying early not only means you are meeting required deadlines, but also you have an opportunity to receive higher amounts in scholarships for college by submitting your application early. If you prolong the process, money may already be awarded and you can lose out.

Also, by applying early you alleviate the constant burden of completing and submitting applications and can start to enjoy senior year even more.

Third, colleges look at your senior grades. It is a misconception that colleges do not look at senior grades, but they do. Colleges want to ensure applicants are maintaining a high level of intensity throughout high school, but especially during senior year. Taking a diverse set of classes and keeping grades up during the second semester bestows a student’s chances of admission to a particular school because colleges look for well-rounded students who take an array of different classes.

Fourth, get involved and volunteer. Colleges love students who are involved in a range of different activities, but especially students who make your senior year count.

My friends know that you should make memories that you will never forget. To do that you should participate in all the senior events: senior tree decorating, senior class trip, yearbook, class day, class night, and of course bandquets. These events, as silly as they may seem now, are the last times that you will be with your classmates.

Cherish all the friendships you have maintained since kindergarten because no matter where you go you will always need those special people who helped you along the way. The friendships that I have created will be the ones that I cherish the most no matter where my path leads me.

Your friends know what you like to eat, what kinds of movies you watch, who your crush is, and your deepest secrets. They know your mistakes, your achievements, and your happiest and saddest moments. They know the kid in you. The time you spent together creates a trust that cannot be broken no matter what else may come into your life.

To those taking our place...

Sierra Batcha
Senior Editor

As a member of the class of 2017, I want to express helpful hints to the class of 2018. Most of you will leave Mid Valley next June and not walk through the front doors of this school again. Many of you will part ways and begin the journey down the next path in your life. Some of you may only see your classmates once a year and before you know it, you will be leaving high school.

People say that you are the class of 2018, but especially students who take an array of different classes.

Fourth, get involved and volunteer. Colleges love students who are involved in a range of different activities, but especially students who make your senior year count.

My friends know that you should make memories that you will never forget. To do that you should participate in all the senior events: senior tree decorating, senior class trip, yearbook, class day, class night, and of course bandquets. These events, as silly as they may seem now, are the last times that you will be with your classmates.

Cherish all the friendships you have maintained since kindergarten because no matter where you go you will always need those special people who helped you along the way. The friendships that I have created will be the ones that I cherish the most no matter where my path leads me.

Your friends know what you like to eat, what kinds of movies you watch, who your crush is, and your deepest secrets. They know your mistakes, your achievements, and your happiest and saddest moments. They know the kid in you. The time you spent together creates a trust that cannot be broken no matter what else may come into your life.

My friends are my greatest assets as a high school student. You are now the class that must fill our shoes; it is your job to strive to be better than the class of 2017. All of the responsibilities of being the respected senior class will soon be yours. Continue to respect your teachers and administrators. Set a good example.

Fourth, get involved and volunteer. Colleges love students who are involved in a range of different activities, but especially students who make your senior year count.

My friends know that you should make memories that you will never forget. To do that you should participate in all the senior events: senior tree decorating, senior class trip, yearbook, class day, class night, and of course bandquets. These events, as silly as they may seem now, are the last times that you will be with your classmates.

Cherish all the friendships you have maintained since kindergarten because no matter where you go you will always need those special people who helped you along the way. The friendships that I have created will be the ones that I cherish the most no matter where my path leads me.

Your friends know what you like to eat, what kinds of movies you watch, who your crush is, and your deepest secrets. They know your mistakes, your achievements, and your happiest and saddest moments. They know the kid in you. The time you spent together creates a trust that cannot be broken no matter what else may come into your life.

Betti and Jackson win Piper Scholarship

Julia Betti
Senior Editor-in-Chief

On Thursday, May 18, the Roy W. Piper Foundation held its annual scholarship awards ceremony at the Ramada Hotel in Clarks Summit. The Roy W. Piper Foundation gives scholarships to local students in need to help the recipients financially throughout college. Each year approximately twenty-five students are awarded this prestigious scholarship. There is a $40,000 a year for college and Jackson received $15,000 a year for a total of $60,000 for college.

“My experiences at Mid Valley have been great. I was really worried about paying for college. Now, I do not think I have to worry anymore.”

The Roy W. Piper scholarship application can be found in Mrs. Liparulo’s office and is made available to senior students in December. The application deadline is in mid-March. The application emphasizes volunteer and community service work immensely. There are three essays and a resume a student must write and submit. If chosen as a possible candidate for the scholarship, a student must attend an interview with the trustees before final decisions are made.

In the fall, Jackson will be attending King’s College to study mechanical engineering and Betti will be attending the University of Scranton to study environmental science and political science.
Opinions

Class Favorites announced for the Class of 2017

ALEXIS KILLINO Senior Staff Writer

Each year the senior class chooses their “Class Favorites,” and they have fun playing every- one into the appropriate category. This year the ballots were close, but the ballots finally came down to the top boy and girl.

Rebecca Chiefillo, the senior class president, reports, “I really had to think about each individual in our senior class, so many people could fit the different categories.”

Most Likely to be Late to Graduation
Anthony Giovagnoli Katie Gallagher
Most Athletic
R.J. Gouldsbury Anjali Holt
Best Smile
Brendan Davies
Most Classy
Colin Munley
Best Personality
Jon Delila Alexis Killino
Nicest Eyes
Austin Clark
Vanessa O’Boyle
Most Dramatic
Brandon Wallo Gabby Rotell
Most Photogenic
Nick Bauer Erica Haeefe
Best Dressed
Colin Spager Simon Kropo

Most Likely to succeed
Corey Jackson
Most Athletic
Brendan Davies
Best Dressed
Colin Munley
Most Photogenic
Nick Bauer
Best Personality
Jon Delila
Most Classy
Colin Munley
Most Likely to Succeed
Corey Jackson
Most Athletic
Brendan Davies
Best Dressed
Colin Munley
Most Photogenic
Nick Bauer
Best Personality
Jon Delila
Most Classy
Colin Munley
Most Likely to Succeed
Corey Jackson

“Voting for class favorites is a good idea because it includes everyone in the senior class, and everyone gets to have a say in who gets picked,” senior Vanessa O’Boyle explains.

The voting is all in fun; every senior is involved in the voting. They have a lot of laughs and a great time while choosing who belongs in each category. In fact, the ballots become a priority. Ironically, after the final decisions, some students are not expecting the results they see.

Senior Elizabeth Piorowski says, “I was surprised at the results. People were telling me they were voting for me, but I thought they were kidding, and I was shocked with the results.”

Other students felt that they deserved the titles they received. I saw it coming to a certain extent because I was honored with the Spartan Spirit Award my junior year, so I thought maybe I may get the Most Spiritual Award for the yearbook,” Justin Kucharski commented. “Nonetheless, it was still a great honor, and I’m happy the class voted me to win,” Kucharski added.

The seniors are very busy with their final year and something such as Class Favorites is a great way to ease the stress. The yearbook staff, advised by Mrs. Runco, conducts the voting every year.

Learn to live in the moment

KIRSTEN MASCARITOLA Senior Editor

It is senior year, the last year of careless “teenage fun” before life takes a turn into the difficulties of adulthood. Do not wish the time away, take the advice from a current high school senior.

Too many seniors start the new year ready to end the year before it happens. They see the time as insignificant compared to the unfamiliar adventures they are going to face in the future. Being a college freshman can wait. College comes hand-in-hand with many different yet exciting challenges, but do not forget how scary the inexperience can be. High school is comfortable and familiar; these feelings should be cherished. By the end of the year you will be starting completely new which is an unsettling feel.

Going into senior year, the nerves you feel will be appropriate. The year consists of a long, important to-do list. Full of lengthy and numerous college applications, difficult schoolwork, time-consuming practices and clubs, important volunteer work, and seemingly-impossible sleep and social life, senior year can look dreary. Learning to balance these activities will be helpful. The overload amount of stress you will feel will fade after your college applications are finished. Sightseeing in relief, the enjoyment of senior year can begin.

The most important advice I can offer is create as many memories as possible. Get yourself out of the daily routine of going to school then leaving and staying home. Go to the Friday night football games, support everyone in your school’s sports teams, go all out for spirit week, even attend prom. Having the chance to be with your whole class can instead of recycling it, they need to think again and recycle instead.

No matter where people go, they almost always see a green bin with arrows in the shape of a triangle printed on it. Recycle instead.

The American Geoscience Institute explains that “the best advantage” is that recycling reduces pollution. It does this by reducing the manufacturing of fresh materials, littering, and in the community as much as possible. There will be many opportunities at Mid Valley for the new seniors to become active in school and in the community. Remember that this year will be the last time to make your impact, so do not miss out on offering your talents to others. Get involved with the yearbook and school newspaper. Take part in Spirit Week activities and the Leo Club. Mid Valley has something happening every day of the week. You need to be part of it all.

Lastly, do your homework and study. Now is the time to let your grades slip. Keeping grades high will help you get into a top college, and it will help with scholarship and letters of recommendation from your teachers. Good luck!
**Rewarding Times in Middle School**

**National Junior Honor Society inductees recognized**

Jessica Pahoski  
Middle School Staff Writer

April 10 was a memorable night for the eighth graders who met the qualifications of the National Junior Honor Society. The ceremony was a candlelighting ceremony held in the high school auditorium. Senior Elizabeth Piorkowski, who is the Vice-President for the National Honor Society, served as the master of ceremonies for this event. National Junior Honor Society advisor Mr. Smolley was present along with vice-principal Mr. Kovaleski who spoke at the ceremony.

Inductees made a pledge of the NJHS and lit candles. After reciting the pledge, the flames were extinguished.

Acceptance certificates for the National Junior Honor Society were passed out by Mr. Kovaleski and Elizabeth Piorkowski. Heartfelt remarks were given by Mr. Kovaleski to the inductees. The inductees departed from the stage and enjoyed light food and refreshments in the cafeteria with friends and family.

In order to be inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, the students must earn six consecutive quarters on the honor high roll, starting in seventh grade and ending in the eighth grade. To gain acceptance into the NJHS, students also had to fill out forms listing all of their extracurricular and community related activities.

Teachers, coaches, volunteer advisors, etc. also have to sign the forms provided by the student to make sure the student is actively involved in the club or organization.

Such signatures can be from service projects, church groups, and other outside school activities in which the honorees may participate in. An essay is written to be turned in with the signatures.

“I am excited for the middle school National Honor Society inductees. Their hard work and study habits mean that they are on the right track for high school,” commented Mrs. Powell.

The middle school teachers and new inductees encourage all seventh graders to continue working hard and doing their best, so that they can become part of this fundamental organization recognizing achievement.

Inductees of this year’s NJHS include: Christian Snee, Christian Riccardo, Connor Kocsis, Jeremiah Wållo, Jake Yanoski, Emma Yusavage, Colby Hughes, Jessica Pahoski, Lydia Gilpin, Vanessa Mancuso, Mikayla Dukiweitz, Bria Beggan, Bella Oakley, Krista Morris, Daelyn Karboski, and Gabby Cibrosky.  

**Ready, set, lock in the middle school students**

**BETHANY BROWN**  
Middle School Staff Writer

The Middle School Student Council and SADD Club ran a fun-filled Lock-in with the help of Student Council advisor Mr. Rovinsky and SADD Club advisor Ms. Zielinski.

While preparing for the lock-in, Nurse Zielinski commented, “This takes about three months of preparation.”

Prior to the start of the lock-in, the students were asked to dress according to the Hawaiian theme and abide by the school’s dress code rules.

This year’s three movies were chosen, all from different genres. The movie genres included horror, comedy, and lastly a Hawaiian themed movie. The horror film shown was The Boy, the comedy film played was Central Intelligence, and the Hawaiian themed film displayed was the animated film Moana. All three movies were depicted to hopefully appease the different tastes of all students attending.

Students enjoyed pizza, snacks, and other treats.

**Baseball scores on the diamond**

**DAMEN CHMIElewski**  
Middle School Editor

Spring is here, and everyone knows that means baseball season is in full swing.

“We put in a lot of work this season, and it really has paid off. Everyone can tell that we made a lot of improvements just from the looks of the field,” says Tyler O’Connor, grade 8.

The grade 8 team includes Jonathan Strelecki, Michael Perri, Donald Healy, Tyler O’Connor, Ryan O’Boyle, and Ryan Evans. The grade 7 roster includes Zach Kalinowski, Justin Longo, Michael Novak, Devon Budzinski, Gabie Balfracio, Collin Chapman, Vincenzo Iccavazzi, Jayson Lowe, Jacob Scott, and Aiden Wolak.

The boys have a huge passion for playing ball, and the fans can tell that they are committed to the game just by watching them at a practice.

Although baseball is a hard sport, the middle school team makes it look easy.

“You know what people say, ‘practice makes perfect,’” says Healey.

Overall, baseball is a bonding experience that the team enjoys. Every time they walk on the field, one hundred and ten percent is put into their work.

SADD Club members helped out with the event. Members Liz Piorkowski, Mia Pawelski, Jesse Doyle, Gianna Manzo, and Jess Slocum planned the event with Ms. Zielinski. The event was a lot of fun.

The Junior High Spartanettes are smiling after they beat Riverside in their final game of the season. The Spartanettes ended regular season play with a record of 7-3. Pictured above, from left to right on top, are Emma Yusavage, Avery Rebar, Gianna Magliocchi, Gabby Snee, Lindsey Jason, Liliana Davitt, Emma Kobylanski, and Colby Hughes. Pictured, from left to right on the bottom, are Zoe Zieleinski, Emily Hedglin, Bethany Brown, Katie Glinsky, Janie Cortazar, and Jasmine Demeyer.
Eighth grade takes annual trip to Harrisburg

Bethany Brown
Middle School Staff Writer

The eighth grade took its annual class fieldtrip to Harrisburg this past May. On the trip the students visited many numerous sites. The trip began at the Civil War Museum. The museum holds eighteen exhibits related to the Civil War. There were mannequins displaying various types of soldiers such as artillery and infantry soldiers. Mannequins recreating slavery were displayed as well. Also within the exhibit, were artillery and ammunition from the Civil War era. Recreations of the Battle of Gettysburg and scenes depicting medicine and medical equipment used in battle were also part of the exhibit. Uniforms worn by soldiers in the Navy, along with their weaponry and flags recovered from the war were displayed.

At the Civil War Museum, gift shop, students could purchase, if they so chose to, various items that were prevalent to the Civil War.

Students ate their lunch at the Harrisburg Mall food court and they were given time to make purchases at the various shops within the mall.

Another stop on the trip was the State Museum. Various scenes here were prevalent to Pennsylvania State History. Weaponry, pictures, and maps, along with various important historical individuals were displayed. Students saw many artifacts recovered from the Paleo-Indians and the Late Woodlands.

There were animal bones and various pieces of history used for the construction of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. The PA Turnpike exhibit included the invention of nuclear power, a display of antique cars, old style license plates, and many other objects used for the construction of travel and transportation over the years.

Students walked through the planetarium and saw various species of animals and their bone remnants.

At the State Capitol, students were taken on a tour of the Capitol and exposed to information about the construction of the building. The students learned a multitude of facts pertaining to the Capitol building, such as the steps were derived from the Pyrenees Mountains in Southern France.

Students also experienced a live session taking place in the Senate. The room where the Senate is housed is an amazing site to see with twenty-four karat gold leaf painted on the ceiling and on the trim.

Next, the eighth graders went and sat in on a meeting in the House of Representatives. This room also had beautiful chandeliers that each weighed four and a half tons and were coated in gold.

For some students it was his or her first time in Harrisburg and at the State Capitol. Everyone had a great time touring the various museums and exhibits and took awe at the breathtaking taking Pennsylvania State Capitol.

The eighth graders returned home later in the evening that day after many fun-filled hours. Everyone who went on the trip felt it was a very informative and enjoyable trip that they were able to spend with friends and teachers while exploring a Pennsylvania’s state capital. Special thanks go out to the chaperones.

Middle School STEM competition requires scientific knowledge

DAMIEN CHMIELEWSKI
Middle School Editor

Every year the middle school girls from Mid Valley attend the STEM Competition. The grade 8 honor students who attended this year were Gabby Cibrosky, Emma Yuvavage, and Emily Hedglin.

The young scientists competed against students from other schools around the county.

This year the students competed by building an amusement park ride out of K'Nex. The ride that the Mid Valley girls entered into the competition was the Tower of Terror, a thrill ride at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The girls started by making blueprints, an itemized list of necessary expenditures, and pictures of their creation.

The girls place high enough in the competition that they attended Johnson College to compete again.

“I enjoyed constructing the ride. The activity and competition let me show my creative ability through an actual construction project,” said Yusavage. “This STEM competition was a fun bonding experience that made me and my friends gain experience.”

The STEM competition was a successful scientific learning experience.

PJAS students shine at regional and state competitions

Noelle Arcaro
Senior Staff Writer

On Saturday March 4, 2017, Mid Valley students from grades seven to twelve competed in the fifty-sixth annual Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region Two Meeting. The competition took place at Wilkes University and is organized by PJAS, a statewide program sanctioned by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. The mission of this organization is to provide students with the opportunity to conduct and present research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The students were sponsored by seventh grade science teacher Mr. Rovinsky.

Mr. Rovinsky said, “PJAS is one of the best tools that prepares our students for the “real” world, encouraging students to use different skills to develop presentation skills.” He was very proud of the student’s accomplishments in the competition.

He continued, “Over the past several years we have had a great deal of success at the state and regional levels.”

Mid Valley earned a total of sixteen first place awards at the regional competition. Furthermore, freshman Carly Gambo received the Junior High Excellence Award in microbiology for her research on antibiotics on bacterial strains implicated in sinus infections.

An Excellence Award is given to the student who conducted the best research within their category. Additionally, Laney Gray earned two first place awards in two different research categories. Finally, seniors Jessica Kasper and Noelle Arcaro received Perseverance Awards for competing for all six years at the regional meeting.

Senior Jessica Kasper said, “After six years and eight research projects with PJAS, receiving the Perseverance Award was an honor to me.”

Kasper has competed in the category of behavioral science since the seventh grade and highly values the experiences PJAS gave to her.

She continued, “The experience and knowledge I have gained from my PJAS experiments is the true reward after these six years.”

The following students competed at the state competition: Makenzi McDermott, Jackie Pinto, John Piorkowski, Kacey Durkin, Carly Gambo, Laney Gray, Tess Reilly, Zachary Blau, Jacob Vitaly, Samantha Shelesky, Gianna Manzo, Khaya Fuller and Noelle Arcaro.

The students conducted research in various categories such as behavioral science, botany, chemistry, mathematics, and microbiology. At this level, students Jackie Pinto, Khaya Fuller, Kacey Durkin, Laney Gray, Zachary Blau, and Samantha Shelesky all received first place awards.

Competing in PJAS offers students various opportunities to gain insight into different scientific fields and allows them to challenge themselves in a rigorous academic setting.

Science rocks!
**Mr. Buza and Mr. Smolley find lessons in Costa Rican rainforest**

**REGAN HUGHES**
Senior Staff Writer

Mid Valley science teachers traveled to Costa Rica to study the biodiversity of the rainforest. Mr. Bill Buza and Mr. John Smolley left for 10 days to live in the rainforest at OTS La Selva Research Station in Heredia, Costa Rica. Mr. Buza and Mr. Smolley studied alongside rainforest scientists to learn the effects of climate change on the rainforest environment.

“I hoped that this trip would give us insight on how to instruct our youth to be more aware of climate change,” Mr. Smolley said.

Costa Rica is one of the most biologically diverse areas on the planet, providing scientists with a unique and live laboratory to study life. Scientists travel from many parts of the world to study this remarkable area and publish scientific articles every year. The Mid Valley teachers took advantage of this unique experience to have a chance to bring back some wonderful insight about the impending issue of climate change, hoping to teach the youth about what they can do to save the beautiful planet.

According to Mr. Eduardo Antonetti, Mid Valley’s Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, this field-based research collaboration is the brainchild of Mr. Buza and Mr. Smolley.

“As a result of their initiative and vision of science education, Mid Valley students will have opportunities to move beyond simply learning about scientific research and inquiry-based learning with real-world applications,” praised Mr. Antonetti.

Mr. Buza and Mr. Smolley were part of a 15-person team of professors, teachers, graduate and undergraduate students making the trip. The trip was a joint effort between the Organization for Tropical Studies and Pennsylvania State University. Following the trip, the teachers plan to work with Penn State faculty members to create and implement a research project at Mid Valley. The project will focus on the climate change and be based on the study done in Costa Rica. This wonderful opportunity will provide the Mid Valley students with an opportunity to take part in a real-world scientific study.

“I think this research could be the cornerstone of a new program at Mid Valley. I was very excited about this opportunity,” remarked Mr. Buza.

members of the high school book club take a break from an intense book discussion in the school library

**Reading Competition: a novel idea for M V Book Club**

**MARIANNA GERRITY**
Senior Staff Writer

The Mid Valley Book Club, under the direction of Mrs. Sue Piorkowski, did an outstanding job at this year’s reading competition held at Western Wayne High School. The team ranked fifth among the competing schools.

Sydney Scott, a freshman and avid reader, commented, “I’ve been a member of the book club for two years and joining was one of the best decisions that I have ever made. The club offers a great opportunity for students to put themselves out there and find others who enjoy reading as well. The variety of books we read is incredible and there is an option for everyone. Every year we travel to the NEIU Reading competition to represent Mid Valley. It is a great way to show knowledge about literature and to show pride in our school.”

**Slop on the sunscreen and open your summer novel**

**JESSICA KASPER**
Senior Staff Writer

Senior Brittany Davis, a recent CTC graduate, recently enlisted in the Army National Guard as a 42 Alfa Resource Specialist, which will build her reponsible for providing support that affects soldiers’ welfare and also includes assisting leaders to keep soldiers combat ready. Although a decision this big is never easy, Davis knew this was the right option for her.

“It has been in the back of my mind for a little over a year now,” Davis said. “Finally, I said let’s do it, and I enlisted.”

Many people who know Davis know that she has the characteristics that will help her in the military.

“Brittany is smart, a great leader, and is independent,” explained Heidi Betz, a senior classmate.

Betz even went on to say, “Brittany has an amazing work ethic. I know she will succeed in the military.”

Although the future may be rocky for Davis, she knows she will not stop until she succeeds because of her drive and determination.

**Davis headed to the military**

**BRITTANY DAVIS**

International trips can cost a great amount of money; however, Ms. Petrimi knows that fundraising will be the key to keeping the costs down.

“Although we haven’t thoroughly discussed our fundraising options yet, the possibilities are endless. We plan to explore community outreach in support of expanding the minds of our future generations,” added Ms. Petrimi.

Some of the traditional fundraising choices are car washes, pasta dinners, and coin drops. Ms. Petrimi’s goal is to make the trip a reality for as many students as possible.

David Slachtich, a senior, remarked, “It’s always been a dream of mine to travel to a different country.”

Spanish Club member, Mia Castellano, is one of the students planning to attend the trip.

“Going to Spain is a great idea for a trip. I would love to shop at different stores and be able to see things that we do not have in the United States,” commented Mia Castellano.

Interested students should speak to Ms. Petrimi as soon as possible to help start the fundraising.

**Around the Library and across the Globe**

**ELIZABETH DEPEW**
Senior Staff Writer

Summer vacation is quickly approaching and that means it is almost time to pick your novels for the Summer Read of 2017. The English Language Arts faculty added new titles to the classic list to keep interest high.

The purpose of the Summer Read program is to keep students reading with the hope that they will develop literary knowledge, better vocabulary, vicarious experiences, and increased comprehension of events, themes, characters, and settings.

“Students can lose some knowledge over the summer if they do not read. The summer read program is designed to fight that with the help of high interest novels. The books for each grade level are chosen kind of like a movie trailer. They connect to what will be studied the following year in class,” says Mrs. Graff, the junior ELA teacher who is an avid reader herself.

Each year students in grades 7 to 12 read a required number of novels based on their academic level and take a test on each novel during the first two weeks of school in the fall. Students are asked to take quality reader’s notes for which they may receive extra-credit on the objective or subjective tests.

Each student receives a handbook with a book list and instructions for the program. There are two changes to the program this year. First, only the special education students will be allowed to complete programs; regular educations students will be required to take a test. This is the reason that reader’s note is so important to the process. Second, the Advanced Placement seniors will complete literary analysis essays on their novels instead of taking a test. The 2017-2018 Advanced Placement students will be able to jump start their curriculum with the summer work instead of delaying classwork with test taking.

To locate the novels, students have options. They may visit the Valley Community Library, the Scranton Public Library, Books-A-Million, or any other book store that offers the titles. Students may borrow or buy their books. In some cases, the English teachers may have a few copies of the titles. Students should ask their English teacher about a school book on loan. If a student want to buy their own books and pay minimal money, such websites as ThrillBook.com offer new and used books at a minimum price. Students may also share books among friends. Discussing the books over a cool lemonade may also be a great idea.

Questions may be emailed to Mrs. Powell, the English Language Arts Chairman at powellp@mvds.us. Note that no extensions will be allowed.
Arcaro named March student of the month

ABIGAIL MILLS
Senior Staff Writer

Noelle Arcaro earned Student of the Month honors for the month of March. In school, Noelle is a two-time member of the National Honor Society and has maintained high honor roll status every quarter. She participates and has placed first in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition and has been doing so for the last six years.

She is also a member of the Science Club, the French team, and the Mock Trial team, since her freshman year in high school.

Arcaro’s musical ability derives from her dedication to the school band. Not only is she in concert band, but she participates in Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Spartan Steel.

Arcaro has also been a dedicated member of the tennis team throughout her high school career.

Arcaro’s musical ability derives from her dedication to the school band. Not only is she in concert band, but she participates in Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Spartan Steel.

Arcaro has also been a dedicated member of the tennis team throughout her high school career.

2017 NHS inductees recognized

Erica Haeefe
Senior Staff Writer

The National Honor Society: one of the greatest achievements a student can reach during their high school career. The National Honor Society consists of students that have maintained the high honor roll for six consecutive quarters and have shown behavior reflecting scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

The 2017 members include: Jesse Doyle, Liz Piorkowski, Julia Betti, Anielly Holt, Jessica Scolum, Lauren Williams, Lucas Demian, Jon Della, Evan Collins, Corey Jackson, Amanda Varaksa, Vanessa O’Boyle, James Urso, Zachary Fiume, Kamirav Singh, Erica Haeefe, Alexis Killino, Sierra Betcha, Samantha Kropa, Regan Hughes, Rebeca Chieffallo, Christina Szymczyk, Abigail Mills, Brittany Cesari, Kirsten Mascariotla, Madison Mackosny, Noelle Arcaro, and Alissa Chorba.

The 2017 inductees include: Colleen Varni, Frank Tanano, Maria Bonacci, David Slachtish, Nick Borgaceci, Mark Mele


Zach Fiume stated, “The National Honor Society means a lot to me because it is something that I have worked hard for and it looks good on college applications.”

The NHS is led by four officers. The officers include: resident Abigail Mills, vice-president Elizabeth Piorkowski, secretary Vanessa O’Boyle, and treasurer Corey Jackson.

“Being President means a lot to me because I am not necessarily at the top of our class. I am not the valedictorian or salutatorian, but I still get to represent every- one in the NHS. Everyone in the NHS earned their spot through hard work in and out of the classroom,” said Noelle Arcaro.

After the short cer- emony, refreshments fol- lowed. The group of mem- bers in the NHS also share a special bond. Everyone on that stage are the “overachievers” of their class, which results in everyone knowing what it takes to have a good work ethic.

Alexis Killinno explained, “Everyone shares similar aspirations and all want to achieve future goals throughout their lives.”

The members of the NHS do not care about wearing an extra tassel or a stole on graduation day. Being a part of an organization like this means more to all of the members and it is something that they can look back on and admire throughout their lives.

VANESSA O’BOYLE
Senior Staff Writer

As the month of April came to a close, the April Student of the Month was chosen by the senior teachers. Liz Piorkowski earned the honor of April Student of the Month. Liz is an active member within both the school and community.

Piorkowski is the secre- tary of the SADD Club, the vice-president of both Na- tional Honor Society and the Book Club. She is an ac- tive member in Spartan Steel, chorus, and Women’s Choir. She is also a four- year member of the varsity soccer team and was team captain her junior and senior years.

After high school, Piorkowski plans on further- ing her education at Marywood University and plans on obtaining an under- graduate degree in speech pathology.

After graduating college, she would then like to obtain her doctorate degree in audiology. She wants to become an audiologist because she “likes helping people and wants to make a difference in their lives.”

Piorkowski said she was surprised that she received the April Student of the Month award. “I was not expecting it at all,” she remarked, “but I do appreciate it very much.”

With Piorkowski’s outstanding grades on her high honor role throughout high school, and her hard work ethic, the teachers recog- nized these qualities and made their obvious choice by awarding Piorkowski with the honor of being April Student of the Month.

NOELLE ARCARO

Upon receiving this accomplishment, Noelle commented, “It was defi- nitely an honor for me to get, and it is a great pro- gram that our school has to recognize everyone’s hard work.”

After high school, Noelle will be attending Hofstra University in Long Island, New York, to major in Neuroscience. Arcaro would like to work in a lab and conduct research in college. For the future, Arcaro wants to eventually get the opportunity to re- search music and psychol- ogy and its effect on Alzheimer’s disease.

ELIZABETH PIORKOWSKI

Piorkowski announced April student of the month

LAUREN WILLIAMS
Senior Staff Writer

Jesse Doyle was nomi- nated to be May Student of the Month by her high school senior teachers. She earned this accomplishment for various reasons, including her in- volvement within the school, an outstanding student in the classroom, and also her com- mitment outside of school.

Doyle is a member of nu- merous clubs around the school. She is the president of the SADD Club, vice- president of the Photography Club, and secretary of the Leo Club. She is also a mem- ber of the AV Club, French Club, FCS Club, and the Sci- ence Club. Jesse is also a peer mediator, yearbook editor, and a two-time member of the National Honor Soci- ety.

Other than the numerous clubs Doyle is involved in at school, Doyle is a seven year member of the Mid Valley Twirling Team. Doyle exhibits her twirling talents not just on Friday nights during football season, but she takes her talents elsewhere for the Double ‘R’ Twirllettes. Doyle has been a member of this group for twelve years.

Doyle stated, “Being se- lected as Student of the Month is a great honor. It is nice to know that all of my hard work and accomplishments have not gone unno- ticed. I put my best effort into everything I do, and it feels very rewarding to be recognized for it.”

Jesse will be furthering her academic career after graduation at Marywood University to major in Com- puter Science.

A trip down History Lane becomes the 4th AP class

AMANDA VARAKSA
Senior Staff Writer

A new AP class will be added to the schedule in the fall for those students who love history. The class will focus on specific conflicts, events, and people who helped shape the nation.

Mr. Snyder, the AP American History instructor, states, “I would like to see students be able to thoroughly and smartly discuss and debate why the United States is the way it is today and why Americans think the way they do.”

Mr. Snyder expects stu- dents to complete projects like newscasts, trials, and “win- dowss into the past,” which is a visual documentation of dif- ferent eras. Students also make Facebook pages for his- torical figures, and listen to and interpret Lin Manuel Miranda’s “Rap Blues” for the Broadway musical, Hamilton.
Spartans run strong into state tournament

ZACHARY FIUME
Senior Staff Writer

Making the state tournament is nothing new to Coach Abda and the boys’ basketball team. After clinching the second half title and winning the league title outright, the fans of Mid Valley basketball had high hopes for the boys heading into district play.

The Spartans first opponent in district playoffs was the Carbondale Area Chargers. Playing a scrappy team like the Chargers, the senior-led Spartans knew they would have to bring the intensity to the Lackawanna Junior College Center. The Spartans came out firing and brutally defeated the Chargers 70-0.

Noah Tanner led the Spartans with a team-high 20 points. Co-captain, RJ Gouldsbury, played extremely tough inside and finished with 13 points.

Tanner noted, “After having a couple close calls with Carbondale Area in the regular season, it was not a guaranteed win. We knew we had to go in there and get the job done and that is what we did.”

After defeating Carbondale and advancing to the district title game, the Spartans faced the Holy Redeemer Royals at the Mohegan Sun Arena. The large venue of Mohegan Sun proved to be a challenge for Mid Valley. Going into the game, the boys knew they would have to be prepared for an athletic team like the Royals.

Junior guard JJ Glinsky stated, “Playing in a place like Mohegan was new to all of us. Everything from all of the fans to the seats behind the backboard definitely was not like anywhere we played this season.”

Although the Spartans were leading much of the game, they could not get the job done. The Royals defeated the Spartans in the heart-breaking loss, 38-36. RJ Gouldsbury and Noah Tanner both had 11 points for the Spartans.

RJ Gouldsbury noted, “They started chipping away at us, and once we were down in the fourth quarter, we couldn’t find a way to come back.”

Nevertheless, the Spartans still make the state tournament.

In the final round, the Spartans traveled to Shamokin to play the Southern Columbia Tigers. The Spartans proved to be too much for the Tigers, defeating them 62-41.

Brendan Davies finished with 14 points, followed by Brad Kalinowski with 13 and RJ Gouldsbury with 12. Davies exclaimed, “It was a great team effort and we worked together and got the job done.”

Next, Mid Valley would travel to Liberty High School to face Valley Forge. Valley Forge was one of Mid Valley’s toughest and largest opponents yet. Valley Forge beat the Spartans 65-47. Brad Kalinowski led all scorers with 27 points.

Kalinowski named All-Region Basketball

MADISON MACKNOWSKY
Senior Staff Writer

Mid Valley senior, Brad Kalinowski, was selected to be a Lackawanna Division 3 First Team All-Star. Kalinowski claimed, “I am honored to be chosen as all-region. It was a goal of mine, and it’s amazing to have achieved [the recognition].”

Brad is a four-year member and three-year starter for Mid Valley. He helped the Spartans win the Lackawanna Division 3 title and the PIAA Class 2A second round this past season. Kalinowski scored a total of 867 points in his career with an average of 16.6 points per game.

“It feels great to follow the footsteps of three of my role models growing up: Ronny Tomasetti, Alex Prislupsky, and Jason Kenny,” added Kalinowski. Kalinowski was lucky enough to play alongside two of the three players named.

Big year for boys’ tennis team

SAMANTHA KROPKA
Senior Staff Writer

The Mid Valley boys’ tennis team ended their season with a 5-9 record. Despite multiple changes throughout the season, the boys still made the matches work.

“This season the boy’s tennis team was very competitive. We were in every match right to the end. A break here or there, and we could have found ourselves in the playoffs,” praised Head Coach Matt Grandinetti.

The Spartans faced many challenging teams this year and fought very hard for a playoff spot. The boys’ tennis team never made the playoffs in school history. They needed to be one of the top eight teams in the Division, but six matches with a tough score of 2-3 resulted in just missing the eighth spot.

“I saw the boys fight really hard for every win at every match. No one ever gave up until the end. They all wanted to be a part of playoffs and make history this year, but competition was very hard,” remarked team manager, senior Madison Macknowsky.

The team changed dramatically since the start of the season. After the first two matches, the team gained some new recruits, including Brad Kalinowski, James Urso, Noah Tanner, Zach Fiunte, Thomas Betz, and Jason Kline. The Reece brothers rallied the team to keep the season going.

“I was honored to be called up and to become a part of the boys’ team. It was upsetting that they did not have enough guys to complete the team, so we all stepped up with our school spirit and joined their effort,” commented double player James Urso.

As the season came to an end, the boys pulled off an impressive win against Wallenpaupack. They won the match 5-0, not losing a single game.

“Our win against Wallenpaupack was our most impressive win. It was a very windy day, and it was their senior day. We came out strong from the start and didn’t lose one set as a team,” praised Coach Matt Grandinetti.

JOG for JUDE

Pictured as the Spartan Mascot is senior Justin Kucharski with fellow Spartan James Urso as he finishes his run for Jude. Justin’s personality and dedication to volunteerism merited him the Spirit Award at Mid Valley. Proceeds from the run aided a local youth.
Track and Field Post-Season: 
Malandri ousts Mr. Rebar as recordholder

JON DELLIA
Senior Staff Writer

The Mid Valley Track and field team had a very successful post-season with many medalists. The medalists included the 400m relay team, consisting of sophomore Joey Chylak, senior Austin Mizerak, senior Jon Dellia, and senior Colin Munley with a 3rd place medal in the Jordan Relays and 5th place in Districts. Senior Tommy Milandri received a 6th place medal in discus and 1st place in shotput during Districts. Sebastian Brudnicki, a sophomore, received 6th place in the 800m for Districts, and senior Colin Munley received a 3rd place medal in Districts Long jump. 

Colin Munley put it perfectly when he said, “I love the fact that our team was very motivated to get each other better for the post-season.” 

Along with two medals Tommy Melandri also broke Coach Rebar’s shotput record by throwing a total of 47.1. Mr. Dave Rebar set the record in 1988 as the only shotput member of the team. He official record became history in 1991. Mr. Rebar stated that he is happy for Malandri, especially since he coached Malandri, and was here to see the athlete break the record. “I was happy to be able to shake Mr. Rebar’s hand,” commented Mr. Rebar. “I went to all of the meets, and I prayed that he would set a new record. I love to see good students like Tommy surpass the teacher’s goals.”

The girls’ varsity also had much success with personal records.

“Toward the end of the season [the team] worked hard every day to set individual records, and all of the hours of practice counted,” said junior Logan Desanto. Evan Collins concludes that “the post-season is the best time of the season. It is a time where the entire track team rallies around each other and strives for individual success.”

Baby Got Track!!

Track and field makes school history

EVAN COLLINS
Senior Staff Writer

The girls and boys track and field teams entered the season with high hopes, as both a team and as individuals. The track team has a total of fourteen seniors: five on the girls team and nine on the boys team. The season’s early goings were anything but according to plan, as Winter Storm Stella offset the season’s opening meets by almost two weeks, and after an early Saturday practice of shoveling and clearing off the track, the season was off and running.

The first meet of the Lackawanna Track Conference regular season began at Riverwood. Avenging a one-point loss from last season, the boys team came out with a vengeance against the Vikings, defeating them with a final score 93-54. The girls fought valiantly on the track, but fell 58-73 to the Lady Vikes.

The next meet on the schedule for the Spartans was against the reigning league champion Lackawanna Chiefs. Both teams fell in the final away meet of the season with the boys going down 46-104, and the girls losing 36-105.

Bright spots were found in the loss; however. The girls team took home their first victory of the season, winning 83-57.

In this meet, Logan Desanto took home two first place finishes in the 100 meter and 200 meter dash events, and the first place finishes in the jumps by seniors Colin Munley and Austin Mizerak contributed to the win.

Lauren Williams broke the girls school record in the javelin with a throw of 100’ 6”. In his first time hurling, Jon Dellia took third place in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 18.6 seconds.

With both teams looking to bounce back from the loss, the Chargers of Carbondale were next to face off against the Spartans. They did just that, as both teams took home victories. They boys team won by a sixty-three point margin in the 106-43 rout.

The girls finished with a record season. Matt Stankiewicz, and Adam Beradelli swept the Discus for nine points, and took eight points in the Shot Put. The girls gave the Lady Bucks everything they could handle, but fell 44-97. Records were shattered once again as Larissa Chmielewski broke the school pole vault record with a vault of 7’ 9”, and Kaiti Mulea broke the 300 meter hurdle record with a 52.6 second run.

The girls team finished with a record of 1-4, and the boys finished 4-1, good for second in the Lackawanna Track Conference.

A total of fourteen seniors: five on the girls team and nine on the boys team.

Chmielewski and Williams set school records

JESSICA SLOCUM
Senior Staff Writer

Larissa Chmielewski and Lauren Williams, both seniors, set school records at the first meet of the season. Williams broke the school record in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 18.6 seconds. The girls school record in the 300 meter hurdle was set by graduate Kelsi Collins at 52.6 seconds.

Chmielewski pole vaulted a height of 7 feet, 6 inches against Holy Cross. The girls team fell 34-116 in the one-point loss from last season.

“Toward the end of the season [the team] worked hard every day to set individual records, and all of the hours of practice counted,” said junior Logan Desanto.

Evan Collins concludes that “the post-season is the best time of the season. It is a time where the entire track team rallies around each other and strives for individual success.”

Chmielewski and Williams set school records

Chmielewski remarked, “I’ve been working really hard to get better at the pole vault, and it’s exciting to be able to see my name on the plaque to show my accomplishment.”

The previous record for the javelin was set by graduate Katie Chowanec at 97 feet, 1 inch. The record for the javelin was held by graduate Kelsi Collins at 97 feet, 1 inch.

Mr. Kazinetz, the head track and field coach, praised, “I’m so happy for what the girls are accomplishing and how the other coaches are helping them improve. But what’s ironic to me is that Kelsi Collins was the previous record holder for the javelin and now she is one of Lauren’s coaches.”

Williams also participates in the high jump, discus, and shotput. Chmielewski runs in the 4x1, 100-meter hurdles, and 300-meter hurdles.

Along with two medals Tommy Melandri also broke Coach Rebar’s shotput record by throwing a total of 47.1. Mr. Dave Rebar set the record in 1988 as the only shotput member of the team. He official record became history in 1991. Mr. Rebar stated that he is happy for Malandri, especially since he coached Malandri, and was here to see the athlete break the record. “I was happy to be able to shake Mr. Rebar’s hand,” commented Mr. Rebar. “I went to all of the meets, and I prayed that he would set a new record. I love to see good students like Tommy surpass the teacher’s goals.”

The girls’ varsity also had much success with personal records.

“Toward the end of the season [the team] worked hard every day to set individual records, and all of the hours of practice counted,” said junior Logan Desanto.

Evan Collins concludes that “the post-season is the best time of the season. It is a time where the entire track team rallies around each other and strives for individual success.”
Spartanettes clench District II title Class 3A tile

JESSE DOYLE
Senior Staff Writer

Spartanette softball coach Michael Piercy and his staff led the Spartanettes to a District II championship game in which the athletes found redemption against Holy Redeemer with a win of 6-4 that earned them the District II championship and sent them to States. The 1-2 punch over the left-field fence at the top of the eighth inning on Thursday, June 1, ended Holy Redeemer’s 2-year claim as number one in softball. Mid Valley grabbed the title and ran with it.

The game was played at Wilkes University, and it turned out to be Mid Valley’s first title since 2002.

Coach Piercy told the Times that his team was “calm, cool, and collected.” That confidence and experience against Holy Redeemer made the difference for the team.

“This year’s team has shown themselves to be very balanced. Our pitching, defense, and offense have all excelled throughout the year. We believed that we had enough talent and experience to contend for a league, district, and state championships. To reach these lofty goals we knew we would have to limit out mistakes and catch a little bit of luck along the way,” says Coach Piercy.

In season play, Mia Pawelski helped to secure the victory over the Carbondale Area Chargettes, striking out five girls. Pawelski stepped up to bat with bases loaded in the fourth inning. She swung hard and ended the game for the Spartanettes with a grand slam and a score of 16-0.

The Spartanettes put on the plate knowing that the bases were loaded made me kind of nervous. Although this pitcher, was not the fastest in the league, she was not the slowest either. As she pitched the ball, it seemed to be a big meatball flying right down the middle. I knew that pitch was meant for me. I just swung the bat hard and hoped my timing was right. As the ball came in contact with the bat, I heard the loud smack. I just knew the ball was going over the fence. It felt pretty amazing to hear all of the fans cheering and screaming for me as I crossed home plate,” commented Pawelski.

On Tuesday, May 16, the Spartanettes outshined the Lakeland Lady Chiefs, 11-5. Following the game, the Spartanettes were presented with the 2017 Nick Bolick Sportsmanship Award from the Lackawanna Chapter of PIAA Softball Umpires.

“Every year we start the year off talking about attitude and not doing anything detrimental to the team. This award encompasses everything we stand for as a program,” says assistant coach, Joe Bour.

The Spartanettes beat Mountain View 15-0 and 26-0, Dunmore 14-5 and 7-1, Riverside 4-0 and 7-3, Old Forge 21-6 and 8-2, Lakeland 14-5 and 11-5, Carbondale 16-0 and 11-0, and Holy Cross 6-3. The Spartanettes fought hard, but lost 9-5 to Holy Cross the first time the two teams faced off this season. The Spartanettes faced off for a third time on May 20 to battle for the title of 2017 District III league champions. The Spartanettes won with a score of 5-4.

Senior Amanda Varaksa commented “We are always clapping, cheering, and overall motivating each other, and that is extremely important for our team. We have great chemistry together and I really believe that the bond we all have is what helped us to win so many of our games.”


In post-season play, the Spartanettes played North-Penn Liberty on June 5, and won by the game with a score of 2-1. Mackenzie Mitchko kept the game alive on the mound with Danielle Jason’s RBI gaining the win.

Second-round of States found the athletes at Patriot Park in Allentown on June 8, against Brandywine Heights. Senior Abbie Mills led the Spartanettes to a 4-2 win in the Class 3A quarterfinal game. At presstime, the Spartanettes were set to play District II champ Pine Grove in a semifinal on Monday, June 12. Check Mid Valley Twitter for results.

Junior Emily Moran, left-fielder and Scranton Times Athlete of the Week, was on fire when she stepped onto the field for the game against Holy Redeemer. She blasted the ball over the left-field fence for a two-run homer in the eighth inning that sealed the 6-4 deal for the Spartanettes against a tough rival, and they took home the medals. Mid Valley boasted a record of 17-1 going into States. The Spartanettes faced District 4 fourth runner-up North-Penn Liberty on Monday, June 5. After the win against North-Penn, the Spartanettes faced Brandywine Heights for the second-round of States. The game on Thursday, June 8, resulted in a 4-2 win for Mid Valley after Jason, Mills, and Kalinoski rounded home plate.
Spartan baseball bids farewell to strong seniors players

LARISSA CHMIELEWSKI
Senior Staff Writer

The 2017 Spartan baseball team is comprised of members that have shown what hard work and playing as a team really encompass. The current team ranges from freshmen to the many seniors who each possess different talents to help the Spartans accomplish their goals. The team is coached by head coach Ryan Kropa and assistant coach Kyle Chuff.

To start off regular season play the Spartans faced off against cross-town rival Holy Cross. The Spartans put up a valiant effort, but it was not enough to ward off the Crusaders in a 1-0 heartwrenching loss.

Next, the Spartans traveled to Western Wayne where they clinched the win at 13-6 over the Wildcats.

Mid Valley continued their way with a score of 6-0.

The Spartans played a phenomenal game, but their efforts fell short in the 7-6 loss.

After the loss to Dunmore, the Spartans had their game faces ready to face off against the Riverside Vikings. In a tough game, Mid Valley pulled through and beat Riverside 6-5 to gain the win.

Since the Spartans won their last game against the Vikings, they wanted to carry that momentum into the next game. The team did just that as they beat Old Forge at home with a score of 7-5.

After the Old Forge game, the Spartans lost to a very skilled Lakeland team in a 2-0 loss, but their efforts did not go unrecognized.

As the Spartans entered the second round of season play, the team had their eyes set on Holy Cross once again.

The wrath of the Spartans proved to be too much for the Crusaders as Mid Valley avenged their previous loss and won with a score of 6-0.

Mid Valley continued their momentum to secure wins over the Carbondale Area Chargers in back to back games with scores of 12-1 and 13-2.

Mid Valley beat Western Wayne again 3-0 and Dunmore 8-3 to continue their four game winning streak.

After beating Western Wayne and Dunmore, Mid Valley blew out Riverside 16-3 during the away game.

In the final two games of regular season play, Mid Valley faced off against Old Forge and lost 5-4. Then against the Lakeland Chiefs, the Spartans fell short in the 7-2 loss.

Starting out conference play, Mid Valley squared off once again with the Chargers. The Spartans secured their first playoff win of the season to beat the Chargers 10-3 to advance to the second round of playoffs.

Class of 2017 enjoys graduation week...
banquets, class night, class day, parades, and practices

Evan Collins, Tom Betz, Sam Kropa, Justin Kucharski, Larissa Chmielewski, Anthony Giovagnoli, Brendan Davies, and Corey Jackson gather at Class Night on Wednesday, June 7, at the high school. The “Once upon a time” wording is a fitting mantra for the end of high school. Parents enjoyed watching their sons and daughters bring the year to a close by singing their class song, “I’ll Be There for You,” sharing memories through a slide show, and class speeches. Senior chorus members sang “Corner of the Sky.” Beca Chieffallo, senior class president, served as Master of Ceremony. Senior Regan Hughes, treasurer of the senior class, read the class history. After the activities with the parents, the seniors enjoyed a meal, catered by Nina’s, in the cafeteria. The students heard the class prophecy while they dined together for the last time. Mr. Vinansky and Mrs. Sholtes, the high school secretary, played a major role in the lives of the students as they traveled through the doors of Mid Valley Secondary Center.

Mrs. Cindy Sholtes will fondly be remembered by the class of 2017. She is seen here on the left posing with Beca Chieffallo at the Honors Banquet on Tuesday, June 6, at the Regal Room in Olyphant. Mrs. Sholtes handles all of the organization for the event. She was also the go-to-person for all of the students’ needs throughout the high school. Mrs. Sholtes, the high school secretary, played a major role in the lives of the students during an away game. The team had their eyes set on Holy Cross once again.

The Spartans pose with their coaches after an intense season. Pictured in row one, left to right, are Shawn Lahey, Ryan Kasper, Brandon Wallo, Matt West, Aaron Polon, R.J. Gouldsby, Lucas Demian, Brendan Davies, and Colin Spager. In the second row, left to right, are Coach Ryan Kropa, Julian Hanicak, Jordany Cardenas, Mark Longo, Gio Lopez, Brendan Kucharski, Justin Gohsler, Anthony Colvin, Mario Bonacci, JJ Gilmisky, Craig Mercanti, and Coach Kyle Chuff.

The final two games of regular season play, Mid Valley faced off against Old Forge and lost 5-4. Then against the Lakeland Chiefs, the Spartans fell short in the 7-2 loss.

Starting out conference play, Mid Valley squared off once again with the Chargers. The Spartans secured their first playoff win of the season to beat the Chargers 10-3 to advance to the second round of playoffs.

Julia Betti and Ani Holt could not contain their joy after parading through the halls of the Mid Valley Elementary Center. Considered a motivating gesture for the elementary students, the Parade of the Graduates turning out to be a gift to the graduates instead. Many remarked that the joyful feeling was one of the best parts of graduation week. Elementary students lined the halls, and the graduates received high-fives, smiles, small gifts, and cards from the teachers and the students.

Class Night provided a great opportunity to thank the teachers, the school personnel, and the parents for their hard work and dedication during the students’ high school years.

Heidi Betz, one of the CTC graduates, receives her award during the CTC Senior Awards Night at the Lackawanna County technical school on June 5. Heidi not only earned recognition at CTC, but also she excelled at her home school. Heidi will continue her studies of medicine at the University of Scranton.
Art Show 2017

Artists take their designs to new dimensions

GIANNA MACKRETH
Senior Staff Writer

As the end of the school year approaches, many students and teachers begin to dream of summer vacation. However, for the art students at Mid Valley, their hard work continues in order to pull together the biggest event of the entire year. The fourteenth annual Mid Valley Art Show took place on Friday, May 26 in the high school lobby.

The event was three hours long and music and snacks were provided for those in attendance. Friends, family, and faculty all came out to support the program and the hard work put in by the students and art teachers, Ms. Phillips and Mrs. Rabel, throughout the school year. Setting up the art show can be considered a struggle, yet the outcome is always worth it. Students and teachers involved must gather all projects and organize them for the viewers to see and enjoy later that day.

Jessica Kranick, who was involved in the organizing process, explained her favorite part about setting up with other artists. Kranick replied, “I love seeing other people’s work being as I am an artist myself. I like looking at how hard people work and how much love and passion they have.”

The hard work and effort put into the event can be attributed to Mrs. Rabel and Ms. Phillips as well as Mrs. Kranick.

Music is also a huge part of the arts program at Mid Valley. There were performances by Madison Riccardo and the Mid Valley Spartan Steel Band. Riccardo played a piece on the piano and voiced her vocal talent as well. The Mid Valley Steel Band, also known as Spartan Steel, performed an hour-long set in the auditorium for guests to enjoy after the Art Show 2017.

Angel Ortiz, drummer for the Pans, commented on what art and music mean to him as well as how the band played at the show. Ortiz stated, “Music and art are very big parts of my life. I am happy that Spartan Steel was able to provide entertainment and make the night even more memorable and enjoyable; it has been a joy and a pleasure to be a part of our attempt to keep arts alive at Mid Valley.”

The artistic abilities at Mid Valley are very impressive. The Arts Show, balanced with the musical talents, offers the community a real taste of the creative atmosphere at the school. All grade levels participated, and the interest in artistic endeavors is intense. Art, music, and theater flourish.

Mrs. Powell added, “I am very proud of the creativity displayed at Mid Valley. Teachers nurture the students to bring forth visual and auditory enjoyment.” Projects displayed included: paintings, drawings, baskets, graphic design prints and portraits. Individual projects held individual meaning to the artist, and therefore, many of the artists attended the event. The art show is a way for these artists to present their work and show the meaning behind each project as well. The event allowed everyone in the community to support the arts. As a result of the hard work, the 14th Annual Mid Valley Art Show was a huge success.
**Underwood Players and director bring home Excellence in School Theatre Arts Awards**

**NICK BORGACCI**  
**Junior Staff Writer**

The Mid Valley Underwood Players brought home two awards from the fourth annual ESTA Awards gala held on June 6 at the Ritz Theater in Scranton. Gianna Manzo and Mateo Lopez won the award for Best Small Vocal Ensemble for their performance of “A Little Fall of Rain.” The Underwood Players were also given the award of Best Set, designed by the director, Mrs. Patricia Powell. Winning two of their eleven nominations is a small testament to the talent shown by the Underwood Players’ production.

The set consisted of many special effects, including a revolving stage and custom lighting. The revolving stage was handled by senior Zach Fiome, and the lighting was managed by junior Jessica Kranick, the chief lighting technician.

Senior Justin Kucharski was invited by the ESTA adjudicators to perform his signature number, “Stars.” The packed house offered him a standing ovation.

Other memorable moments for the club included seeing dozens of family members and friends in the audience, congratulating fellow actors from other schools, and gathering for one last time in the lobby of the beautifully renovated Ritz Theater.
First place in PMEA’s Music in the Parks

STAFF REPORT

The 2017 Pennsylvania Music Education Association (PMEA) held the Music in the Parks festival at Dorney Park in May, and the Mid Valley High School mixed chorus and men’s chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Linda Orseck, brought home the first-place trophy in their division. Plus the mixed chorus won overall best choir. Kelli Pegula was named best student accompanist for her flute performance.

Music in the Parks provides a year-end assessment by outside panelists with the hope of reinforcing music skills among the students. Experienced instrumental and vocal teachers offer feedback to the competitors on how they may improve their performances. The master teachers evaluate hundreds of ensembles throughout the festival season. The students face nationally-known adjudicators, and the feedback has a great impact on the singers.

“Receiving first with both choirs was a great achievement accomplished by our program, and I’m proud of everyone who competed,” remarked senior Devan Raniello, who not only sings with chorus, but also is a member of the Underwood Players. Devan is also a band musician.

Bringing home a trophy means that the school has an excellent music program.

Borgacci at Regional IV Chorus

ADAM KASPER
Senior Staff Writer

Junior Nick Borgacci placed third at District 9 Chorus auditions.

“It was a great honor to participate in Regional Choir,” commented Borgacci.

The Region IV Chorus Festival to place from February 22 to 25, 2017 and included singers from the PMEA’s Region IV.

“I want to thank Mrs. Orseck for her help throughout this experience,” Borgacci added.

Although Borgacci did not qualify for the All-State Choir, he anticipates being a strong competitor next year.

Spring Concert draws excited crowd

This year’s mixed choir includes Adam Kasper, Jessica Kasper, Noelle Arcaro, Geoffrey Sekelsky, Nathaniel Taber, Klarissa Cwynar, Mackenzie Pryzant, Elizabeth Piorkowski, Justin Kucharski, Danielle Lasewicz, and Kristen Mascaritola. The seniors in the men’s choir are Justin Kucharski, Devan Raniello, Geoffrey Sekelsky, and Nathaniel Taber.

One Last Look... Farewell Seniors!

JULIA BETTI
Editor-in-Chief

Kudos to Ryan Repecki, grade 5, for his stage talent and for his ability to juggle two rehearsal schedules at the same time. Plus, Ryan is a top student who puts extra time into his homework.

According to Mrs. Powell, Director of Les Miserables, “Ryan never missed a scheduled rehearsal. When he was on stage, he gave our show 100% of his energy. His great attitude meant that he was willing to understudy the role of Gavroche plus dominate the role as a gang member for Both Gavroche and Thenardier.

In Seussical, Jr., directed by Mrs. Michelle Mazak Wilson, Ryan played the role of the Cat in the Hat for two performances and a Wickersham Brother for one performance.

After the spring theater season at Mid Valley, everyone can see that Ryan Repecki is a star.

Starright choir member, Klarissa Cwynar, holds the Music in the Parks trophy that the students brought home to Mid Valley. Pictured with her from left to right are Codi Day, Jeodlyn Sonielly, and Dolly Martinez.

Senior choir member, Klarissa Cwynar, holds the Music in the Parks trophy that the students brought home to Mid Valley. Pictured with her from left to right are Codi Day, Jeodlyn Sonielly, and Dolly Martinez.

 Members of the Mid Valley Steel Pans ensemble pose for a final picture after the spring concert. The innovative group of musicians, under the direction of Mr. Chuck Wilson, traveled across Pennsylvania and New York to share their style of music with a community of music lovers. One trip took the musicians to Ithaca College.

Elementary Center’s Repecki plays Les Miserables and Seussical, Jr. in one season

Ryan Repecki, as the Cat in the Hat, poses with senior Devan Raniello who played Thenardier in Les Miserables. Raniello was nominated for an ESTA as best villian.

ONE LAST LOOK... Farewell Seniors!

Seniors Julia Betti, Brittnay Cesari, Kristen Chorba, and Alissa Chorba jump for joy on their last day of school at Mid Valley as they prepare to graduate and say farewell to Mid Valley.