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The Panther Press

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Saegertown makes it to States for the first time in two decades

Quinton Burchill
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Finally, after two decades and hard work, the Saegertown varsity boys' basketball team has made it to states. The Saegertown Panthers went down to Pittsburgh to face off against the number one seed in the WPIAL with an outstanding overall record of 21-4, sharing the region championship with Rocky Grove with an 11-1 regional record.

Coach Greco is also very excited about the team's winning. "We are very excited to play and represent Saegertown—both the community and school," Greco said. "Having not been in this position for two decades, it is not something to take for

granted. We are excited to compete against a very good team and are honored to be one of the best 32 teams in the state. We know that we are the un-

The team also had some major milestones this year. "We had one of the winningest seasons in Saegertown boys' basketball history," said Greco.

years. We are one of the top 32 teams in the state in Class AA basketball. Individually, we had two players reach 1,000 points in their careers as Sa-

these individual accolades would not have been possible without the members of the team and the excellent coaching staff, as well as the players that came before the members of this team."

Student athletes also voiced their excitement. Senior Luke Young said, "I'm proud of all the accomplishments that we achieved this year and the history we made."

Senior William Shaffer also added, "I am extremely proud of all of my teammates; we have accomplished this basketball season."

The Panthers faced off against Sewickley Academy on March 7, 2026, being beaten out by their opponents with a final score of 65-25 and ending their spectacular season with a 21-5 record.



Photo Courtesy of JRM Sports

derdog for the game this season, but we are going to compete, play hard, and do many of the same things that earned us a 21-4 season."

"We had over 20 wins on the season, earned a region title, won a first playoff game since 2016, and earned a state playoff bid for the first time in 20

gertown boys' basketball players: Jackson Scott and Luke Young. I was also lucky enough to earn my 100th win as head boys' basketball coach. All of

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Rare blood moon fills the sky over Crawford County

Rorie Howles-McBeth
Social Media Editor

On March 3rd, 2026, a total lunar eclipse, also known as a blood moon, was visible. It was visible only in North and Central America, while in Central and South Asia it was only partially visible.

What is a blood moon, you ask? Well, when the Earth passes directly between the Sun and Moon, casting its shadow on the lunar surface. It appears deep red, orange, or copper because Earth's atmosphere filters sunlight, scattering blue light and allowing only red light to bend around and hit the Moon; hence, it's known as the blood moon.

In different parts of the world, it could be seen at different times



Photo Courtesy of SPACE.com

of the day. I will focus mainly on where we are in PA. It was visible from 6:04 a.m. to 7:03 a.m., with

peak totality, the period between the second and third contacts during a total eclipse, at 6:38 a.m.

The difference between a blood moon and a total solar eclipse is that a blood moon occurs ev-

ery 2.5 years on average, while a total solar eclipse happens about every 18 months, all according to NASA's astronomical catalogs.

The blood moon was also visible in the morning of March 4th in certain places where the clouds did not cover the sky. The entire sky was cast in oranges and pinks. It was a beautiful sunrise with a huge, fully visible moon. Unfortunately, in certain places, dark clouds covered the sky, making the moon invisible. But for those who got to see it, they said it was amazing to see the morning while getting ready for the day. Some people got pictures and videos of the sky that day, showing the beautiful sky. The morning of March 3rd, depending on where you were, was a gorgeous morning with an orange sky and a full moon.

Journalism States Competition: The Attendees and Results

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-in-chief

On March 16, at 9 A.M., three Saegertown High School students attended the PSPA Student Journalism Competition state finals at Penn State Campus in State College, PA. Vladimir Petrie competed in Editorial Cartoons, Aleigha Powell in Newspaper Features, and Quinton Burchill in Newspaper Sports.

Before the competition, some students were asked, "How did you feel going into the competition for states?"

"I felt pretty calm going in because I really didn't even expect to get there," Petrie replied, while Powell took a slightly more care-free approach.

"Going into states, I was excited about just being able to go even if I didn't win because no matter what it's a unique experience for a first year journalist."

While at the competition, the students enjoyed a brief seminar with staff and RA's at PennState College with other competing schools, and a walk around the campus and nearby town during lunch.

After lunch the students played a game of trivia and enjoyed another brief seminar

about social media and advertising before winners were announced, in which Powell and Petrie both placed fifth out of seven.

As the awards wrapped up, students were asked on the return drive, "What was your favorite part of competing?"

"My favorite part of going to states wasn't the competition itself, but being able to walk around campus and getting lost with the class along with listening to presentations to know how to improve my writing so I'll be able to win next year," Powell said, expressing her interest in returning her following year as a junior and year two journalist.



Photo Courtesy of Anna Bradshaw

An overview of the upcoming midterm elections

Vladimir Petrie
Website Editor

U.S. midterm elections are set to take place on November 6th, 2026, and all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats will be contested to determine the 120th United States Congress. Thirty-nine state and territorial U.S. gubernatorial elections (elections related to state governorship), attorney general elections, and numerous state and local elections will also be contested.

The 2026 midterm elections are the first since 1894 to take

place during a nonconsecutive second term of the President of the United States. Incumbent Republican Donald Trump won the 2024 presidential election against Democrat Kamala Harris in part due to campaign promises such as economic renewal from the 2021-2023 inflation surge and American domestication away from foreign entanglements such as the Gaza war and the Russo-Ukrainian war.

Senate Elections

Thirty-five seats in the United States Senate will be up for election, including all 33 Class

2 seats. Republicans gained majority control of the Senate in the 2024 election by flipping four Democratic seats. Two Democratic-held seats, Georgia and Michigan, are in states won by Donald Trump in the previous presidential elections, while Maine is the only Republican-held seat in a state won by Kamala Harris.

House Elections

All 435 voting seats in the United States House of Representatives will be up for election. Additionally, elections will be held to select the non-voting del-

egate for the District of Columbia and the non-voting delegates from 4 of the 5 U.S. territories, excluding Puerto Rico due to its non-voting delegate serving a 4-year term. There are 16 Democratic incumbents in districts

Donald Trump won, while only 8 Republican incumbents are in seats won by Harris.

In conclusion, the midterms are coming, and if you're able to vote, it's probably something you should start thinking about.



The new discovery of dinosaur species: “From roaming the earth to being discovered by artifacts!”

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

As of February 2026, the world has seemed distraught and distasteful, from many celebrity deaths to even political stances and the possibility of a World War III. Despite tragedies, scientists have worked together through bits and pieces to discover the world's newest species of dinosaurs: the Spinosaurus Mirabilis! Founded by the University of Chicago-led team, which is located in Niger's Sahara Desert, the team worked hard for years as its expedition lasted from 2019 to 2022 with the fossils found in the central Sahara of Niger.

Nicknamed the “Hell-Heron,” this late Cretaceous dinosaur was thought to have interlocking



teeth for catching fish and was likely a semi-aquatic wader. It measured the length of a school bus, hosted a scimitar-shaped head crest, and had a diet of fish.

From a comparison within the species from his previous cousins, this predator was discovered to have a long and colorful horn growing out from its skull and

may have been used for communication or attraction for its species.

“A study published in the journal science has revealed this

95-million-year-old dinosaur had a distinctive curved crest on top of its head. The scimitar-shaped bones would have been covered in a layer of keratin, similar to the casque of a cassowary, which would have made the crest even longer in life,” states num.ac.uk, the article published on the freshly discovered relic.

Another source writing about the Cretaceous species, Reuters, states that, “According to UFSM, analysis indicated the species is the closest known relative of Garumbatitan morellensis, a dinosaur described in Spain. Their lineage was European and may have dispersed into what is now South Africa roughly 130 million years ago, likely via Northern Africa, before the Atlantic fully opened, the university stated.”

March scheduling for the upcoming school year begins

Vladimir Petrie
Website Editor

March scheduling is coming up soon, and it's time to pick your classes. Mrs. Mogel and Dr. Howick have made their rounds to talk with classes about your options depending on your grade level, providing students with scheduling papers for the 2026-27 school year.

You get the options to pick your primary courses, which are English, mathematics, science, and social studies, referring to history or government courses. If you're going into your senior year and already have all of your

main credits, then you'll have a variety of electives to choose from—though you still have to take English every year.

Electives include art studies, band, chorus, theater arts, year-book, journalism, world languages (including French and Spanish), business courses (such as intro to business, marketing, and financial literacy), technology education (foundations of tech, CAD, manufacturing, robotics, and multimedia technology), family and consumer science courses (adventures with food, international and advanced foods, and surviving and thriving adulthood), and further social studies (criminal justice

and psychology).

Additionally, internships, volunteerism, and AP courses are available with expressed written permission. AP courses include AP Psychology, AP US History, AP World History, AP Language and Composition, and AP Literature. Crawford County Career and Technical Center courses and affordable dual enrollment options are also available for interested students, who should seek assistance from guidance for more information.

If you don't have all your credits by senior year, you will have to take the remaining required classes that year. If you are in eighth or ninth grade, you'll

have to take health/physical education, so you can choose from three electives for the next year. Tenth- through twelfth-grade students have the optional choice of gym class, but they don't need to take it if their requirements have already been met; it's only required for seventh through ninth grade.

As the grades pass, you'll gain more freedom on what classes you get to take, but you have to get all of your required classes done first so that you can get all of your credits for graduation. If you don't pass all of your required courses, you won't be able to graduate unless you take summer courses to gain the credit

back.

In addition to completing their physical scheduling papers handed out by guidance, students must also submit their online schedule request forms using the class registration tool on PowerSchool. Requests are due by Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Meeting these deadlines is essential in ensuring your choice of courses is met, so don't delay.

In conclusion, scheduling for classes next year is coming up, and you should make sure to choose classes that you think you should take, not just classes that all of your friends are taking, because that will just make the class even harder.



The creepy legends of leprechauns

Sophia Lilly
Social Media Editor
Rorie Howles-McBeth
Social Media Editor

We all know leprechauns as these cute guys that are lucky and live at the end of rainbows with their pots of gold, but in original Irish folklore, they are quite the opposite. They are malicious, solitary fairies with violent tendencies and immense, guarded wealth. They were known for vicious tricks, including kidnapping humans, replacing infants with changelings, which are creatures from European folklore, or, if they were disrespected, they would

use magic to inflict long-term physical harm and bad luck.

These individuals were ruthless in one of the original folktales. At one time, even the word “fairy” was feared, in case it was overheard by one of the creatures and caused offense. Instead, a raft of alternative and more complementary terms were used, such as “The Little People,” “The Good People,” or “The Gentry.” To them, this was a better alternative to being called fairies, trolls, pixies, elves, and more. The leprechauns of today that we all know and love are these sweet little guys that live under rainbows and protect their pots of gold and would never hurt a fly.

In early Celtic folklore, leprechauns were primarily associ-

ated with shoemaking and were often depicted carrying hidden pots of gold, which could only be found through trickery or cleverness. Their reputation for mischief stems from stories where they would deceive humans who tried to capture them or steal their treasure. Early tales emphasized their solitary nature rather than the social, playful depictions popularly known today.

Some of the symbolism that these little guys represent is cleverness and trickery, luck and prosperity, and also the connection to Irish heritage. Depending on what you know, leprechauns are sweet little tricksters, but they can be mischievous and harmful to those who disrespect them.



A fight to be seen despite their gender How Women’s History month came to be

Alegha Powell
Opinion Editor

Have you ever felt overlooked by someone? By anyone, whether it’s a parent, sibling, teacher, friend, or someone else, my guess is that you have. This is the exact same feeling that swept many feminist historians and petitioners in the mid-20th century.

The difference between you and women back then is they felt overlooked as a gender, and they felt this way not only by one person but also by the entire world. For many centuries—up until the mid-20th—men usually dominated history books, with the only exception being accounts of powerful women.

This was a spark for women, especially historians, to look deep into women’s impacts and contributions in American history beyond the “great man” ideas in history books to uncover the full story of America.

In 1972, the first master’s degree program in women’s history was created at Sarah Lawrence. After this program was established, it was pressured to be canceled by administrators at the school with the argument that there wasn’t enough material to cover six weeks of teaching. While this was true, it was because textbooks back then, if they did include women’s history at all, were very minimal and didn’t cover the actual history deeper than the facts. An example of this, as cited by National

Geographic, is that “one text said Congress gave women the right to vote in 1920 without mentioning the work of pioneering suffragists who fought for that civil right.”

As you could imagine, this only pushed more wonder onto why it was this way when women contributed just as much as men did to American history. This led to activists playing a very publicly active role in fighting for what would start as a week for the recognition of women in 1978. These activists started in Sonoma County, California, where both the incorporation of Women’s Week and efforts from organizations such as the National Women’s History Alliance to finally get national recognition of Women’s History

Week began. The recognition of this new week-long holiday was passed by President Jimmy Carter, who declared it be from March second to the eighth in 1980, saying, “Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people.”

With this shift in women’s recognition came a shift in education. This movement provided teachers across the US with materials and curriculum on women’s historical achievements. This weeklong celebration was held annually until 1987, when Congress followed the lead of several U.S. states and passed a joint resolution that declared the weeklong celebration be extended, making the whole

month of March Women’s History Month.

Since then, a national women’s history commission has been created by President Bill Clinton. This commission recommended taking initiatives to find little-known women in museums and archives in order to establish statewide women’s history initiatives and incorporate women’s history beyond education. Even in 2017, a survey pushed out by the National Women’s History Museum found that state educational standards overemphasize women’s domestic roles and overlook the depth of women’s history. Despite this, the effort to recognize women of the past is one that exhibits both persistence and creativity, as it is still celebrated today.

An update on the new face: Student Teacher Miss Helsel

Anna Bradshaw
Editor-in-chief

Teachers come and go throughout the years in high school. Some retire, some move, some are replaced, and sometimes, they visit for a little while. We've had new faces appear in

SHS this year as new teachers, and we've experienced some leave or retire, but one temporary face you may have not noticed in her short time here is the student teacher Miss Blythe Helsel.

Helsel is a student teacher who worked under the supervision of Mrs. Mook. She came to

the school on January 21st and left on March 13th, and in this short time, she gained much respect from her temporary students whom she taught. While here, she taught Mook's ELA 10 classes and helped Mrs. Mook with AP Lang and Comp, all under Mrs. Mook's supervision, and worked to help the students improve, as well as improve her own abilities.

"I want to become a teacher because of the impact that all of my teachers had on me," Helsel said. "They have been positive influences on my life, and I want the opportunity to do the same for others. I also have a strong belief in the power of quality education. As cliché as it sounds, knowledge is power, and children create the future, so I believe in giving students the best chances they can to be successful. I am interested in English as a subject to teach because I connected most with the topic

throughout my life. I have always been interested in literature, linguistics, and all things ELA, so this path made the most sense to me."

Helsel took some time to consider her time here at Saegertown. "My favorite lesson to teach so far was the debates. We did debates in all tenth-grade classes on different subjects, and a lot of the students became very passionate and involved with arguing their sides. I am impressed with all of the classes that I have taught. All of the periods have special qualities that make them exciting to teach. I know this answer is a bit of a cop-out, but each class is full of great students who have so much to offer. I was especially impressed with the "Needs" debate in fourth and sixth period as well as the discussions on morality in *The Great Gatsby* for fifth period. During those activities, students who typically do not share their

perspectives were able to really shine through their work."

Despite her short amount of time left at SHS, Helsel confirmed that she did indeed have a very overall positive experience and enjoyed her time with everyone she met. As a final departing question, she was asked, "When the time comes for you to leave, do you believe that you will leave with more knowledge than you first arrived with, and if so, then what is the most valuable lesson you've learned so far?" To which she had a very thoughtful response.

"When I leave, I am absolutely positive that I am leaving with more knowledge than I arrived with! The most valuable lesson that I have learned is how to interact with students in a way that reaches them. It was tricky connecting with students at first, but I learned a lot about how to work with all sorts of students."



Ms. Heck enters her first month at Saegertown

Kaiya Levesque
Social Media Intern

Saegertown has had a cornucopia of new teachers since the beginning of the year. Recently, another teacher has joined, Ms. Heck. Ms. Heck has filled in as a long-term substitute for Ms. Lyons as the school's music teacher. She will be teaching middle and high school level band, chorus, theater arts, and seventh grade general music.

Starting out as a new teacher can be hard, something Heck is familiar with. "This job is very

involved...it's a wonderful thing to be busy," Ms. Heck says. While it is hard to start out as a new teacher, Ms. Heck noted, "It's very busy, but it's good to be busy. I am learning a lot about every aspect of this job. About students themselves and how they learn, and I can use that to improve my teaching as I go."

The first month is typically a time to settle in and get used to the new job. Ms. Heck took the time to talk a little about her students, saying, "I am seeing wonderful things from the middle school and high school levels. I am seeing a lot of good charac-

ter traits, and I am looking forward to when particular students shine in their positions."

Everyone should be in a job they like so it doesn't feel like working and it isn't just mind-numbing and exhausting work. When questioned whether or not she likes this job she has gotten, Ms. Heck says with enthusiasm, "Yes, absolutely! This is my dream job—a job like this, in a high school like this, where the community is so important to each other. To continue building something will be truly special."



Go Green or Go Home

Why St. Patrick's Day is better than Valentine's Day

Alegha Powell
Opinion Editor

Many people would argue that Valentine's Day is better than St. Patrick's Day. There are a multitude of reasons for this that are pulled from both the holidays' origins and their modernization. However, I'm here to show you all the reasons Cupid gets shot down when Saint Patrick comes to town.

Let's start with their origins, and of course, first is the worst, second is the best, so let's start with Cupid's Day. While both holidays' origins were supposedly centered around honoring people, Valentine's Day honors St. Valentine, while St. Patrick's

Day obviously honors St. Patrick. Both these saints died, but in very different circumstances. St. Valentine was executed around A.D. 270 for defying Emperor Claudius II by wedding Christian couples in secret to keep men from going to war. He did this out of his belief that marriage was a ceremony ordained by God, stemming from his life being a Christian priest in Rome. But don't go thinking St. Patrick wasn't associated with religion. He, too, was a priest in Roman Britain who later served as a missionary in Ireland for 40 years. During this time, he converted more than 100,000 people, and he later died of natural causes in 461 A.D. So technically speaking, both saints helped people through their Christianity; how-

ever, St. Patrick helped far more people, and he did it legally, while St. Valentine's disobedience to the emperor was so great that it ended with his execution.

A criticism of St. Patrick's Day in comparison to Valentine's Day is that it isn't even celebrated the way it was originally, but can you really tell me that traditions from non-American holidays or even American holidays haven't been adapted through the years? For example, Halloween was originally a Celtic festival to ward off spirits, or Cinco de Mayo, which was created to celebrate a Mexican military victory, along with many more holidays. And if we're talking about St. Patrick's Day and Valentine's Day, don't even try to start on Valentine's Day being changed less because

the holiday wasn't even made for St. Valentine and wasn't even a celebration of love. It was created as a Lupercalia celebration that was focused on fertility and the welcoming of spring. The day was later dedicated to him after the death he caused for himself, but it isn't truly his holiday. So yes, St. Patrick's Day was originally celebrated as a religious feast day in Ireland, and it was adapted by American culture into a more secular holiday with a heavier focus on festival celebrations with food and parades, but is that really worse than Valentine's Day going from a day to welcome spring to wasting mass amounts of money on candy, flowers, restaurants, and vacations?

Another criticism of St. Pat-

rick's Day is that it's commercialized. Seriously? Valentine's Day is the third most commercialized holiday in the U.S., with \$29.1 billion being spent on gifts, dining, and cards in 2026, while St. Patrick's Day, as surprising as it may be, isn't even on the top ten list. Now I'm not here to argue that St. Patrick's Day isn't commercialized, because it is, especially in the U.S. with food, drinks, and "everything green" to profit from the holiday, but in comparison to Valentine's Day, it's a leprechaun-sized issue. So while both have been adapted from their origins, and they've both been commercialized, St. Patrick didn't have to steal his holiday.

Here's the scratch: are cats safer indoors or outdoors?

Sophia Pacak
A&E Editor

The debate is hard, and it's a rough decision: should your cats be kept outside or indoors, and why? For some animal lovers when it comes to their ferocious but perfect felines, they would think that letting cats live their lives outdoors is necessary and beneficial. Despite the argument, there is no right or wrong answer. Every owner is different. But what if we see the pros and cons of both sides?

Cats need exercise in every way, from keeping them in shape to bringing out their natural instincts for hunting. But is letting them outside unattended really the solution? There are many

factors. For owners of felines who allow their cats outside, either daily or once or twice a week, studies from Purina state the risks of letting cats outside. They have mentioned the dangerous possibilities, from injuries from cars, sleeping on top of tires and under cars, the risk of getting lost, the increased risk of fighting with other felines and potentially dangerous other animals, and the risk of infections featuring worms, ticks, and fleas. Not only do they assert the benefits of outdoor cats, but they have also claimed alternative ways to let kitties out and about. It gives chubby babies plenty of exercise, helps their mental health, helps to express their natural behaviors, has no worries about cleaning a litter box, and provides

endless entertainment.

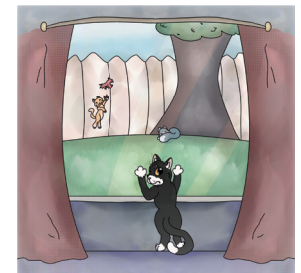
Alternatives and positive reinforcements to keep your felines safe include keeping up to date with vaccines, flea and worm treatments, getting them microchipped, adding cat flaps to your house so your pet can go freely and come back, getting your cat neutered or spayed, buying safety collars and tags with your contact information on them, or simply buying catios if you don't want your fur baby outside: they keep them safe and sound but able to smell and hear everything. For more positive information on keeping your cats inside, arl-iowa.org is well informed as well. They have stated how staying indoors can be stress-reducing, a way to prevent diseases such as feline leukemia

and feline immunodeficiency disease, being sprayed by skunks, being caught in animal traps for hunting, eating dangerous and risky foods that could've been dumped by humans, and how cats who live inside live longer and healthier lives.

Although there are many health advantages to keeping pets inside, how do we keep them entertained and away from scratching furniture or chewing plants and plastic constantly? The Animal Humane Society states that using puzzle feeders and interactive toys, using up vertical spaces in your home, giving your cat window views, using catios, having interactive playtime on a daily basis, making DIY toys and treat dispensers, and finding any way to keep

your feline baby occupied are the best ways to distract your baby from getting too bored around the house!

Despite the debates, both sides are precise, and as long as the owner is taking thoughtful care into keeping their pet safe, it shouldn't matter how they raise and keep their feline occupied.



Is “GOAT” the GOAT?

Claire Harrison
Broadcast Director

The new 2026 animated film “GOAT” is generally praised for its jaw-dropping, “Spider-Verse”-style animation and high-energy, feel-good story. “GOAT” is about a small goat named Will Harris who dreams of becoming a professional roarball player and proves that determination and teamwork can overcome size and societal expectations. The movie has generally good reviews, with an IMDb rating of 7.0/10, and approving audience reactions on Rotten Tomatoes.

The GOAT movie follows a small goat named Will Harris. Will wants to be a roarball play-

er, like his idol Jet Fillmore, the star of his favorite team. Will is encouraged by his late mother’s dreams of his success. However, everyone else doubts his abilities based on his small size. Will wants to prove them wrong, and he gets that chance when the team owner of the Vineland Thorns comes up to him and offers him a spot. Jet is annoyed by this; she wanted a big player, not a small one. Now Will finally has a chance to prove smalls can ball and play with his idol. Can he do it?

Some reviews note the story is predictable and filled with familiar sports movie tropes, but still enjoyable for children and families (CINEMABLEND.com). Positive reviews emphasize its

heartfelt underdog narrative, inclusivity messaging, and humor, making it appealing to younger audiences (Deadline.com).

The cast is Caleb McLaughlin as Will Harris, Gabrielle Union as Jett Fillmore, Stephen Curry as Lenny Williamson, Aaron Pierre as Mane Attraction, Nicola Coughlan as Olivia Burke, David Harbour as Archie Everhardt, Nick Kroll as Modo Olachenko, Jenifer Lewis as Flo Everson, Patton Oswalt as Dennis Cooper, Jelly Roll as Grizz, Jennifer Hudson as Louise Harris, Sherry Cola as Hannah, Eduardo Franco as Daryl, and Andrew Santino as Chuck.



Photo Courtesy of Movie Insider

High school baseball is here

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

The Panther high school baseball team has been going on a spring trip for a long time now. They will be going to North Carolina for a trip with the team on March 23, 2026. The Panthers will be up there for a week before their regular season gets started. The Panthers had a great season last year but a devastating loss to Greenville in the playoffs. Saegertown baseball is now hoping to have a way better season this year, leading to a D10 championship.

After the Panthers get back from their trip, their local season begins. They will be playing Cochran on March 30 at 4:30 pm, away. The Panthers will then be playing Maplewood on April

1 at 4:00 at home. They will be playing North East on April 7 at 4:00 at home. They will be playing Rocky grove at 4:00 away on April 8. Saegertown baseball will be playing Cambridge Springs on April 10 at home at 4:00. Show up to support the 2026 Saegertown Panthers High School baseball team.

The Saegertown Panthers seniors include Luke Young, Everett Gardner, and William Shaffer. Senior Luke Young commented, "Our big team goal is to win the D10 Championship. Some of my self-goals are making a state playoff run and playing very competitive baseball with my teammates." Young continues, "It's sad knowing it's my last high school sport, but I will make the most of it and cherish all the moments and memories I will create."

Senior Everett Gardner followed. "My team goal is to win D10 and make a good run at states. My favorite memories are all the spring trips and last year beating general McLane and Lakeview, holding them to no runs." Gardner continued, "Since this is my last, it makes me realize I'm going to have to step up this year and be a leader and do everything I can to win this year and to reach our end goals."

Senior William Shaffer said that his goal this year, alongside his teammates, is "to win the D10 championship." He continued, "My favorite memory is going on the trip down south every year." Shaffer reflected, noting that he feels "kinda sad knowing it's my last year, but I'm excited for what's ahead of me."



Photo Courtesy of Saegertown Panther Baseball Facebook

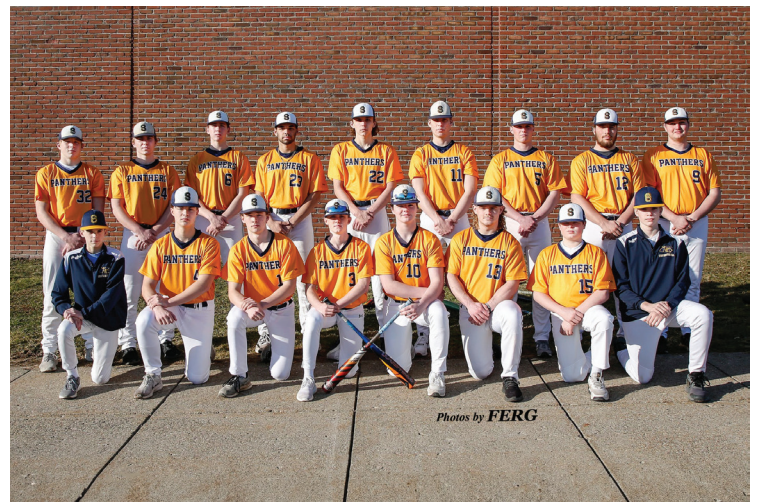


Photo Courtesy of Saegertown Panther Baseball Facebook

Saegertown students and staff pass major milestones

Quinton Burchill
Sports Editor

The Saegertown Panthers basketball team has hit some awesome milestones this year. Greco hit 100 wins this year as a high school boys' basketball coach. Senior Luke Young scored his 1000 points in a playoff game against Sharpsville, and junior Jackson Scott hit 1000 points in the regular season.

Mr. Greco, the coach of the Saegertown Panthers, gave some important information. Greco states that the night of his achievement "was an exciting for both myself, but most importantly, the team. All of these wins would not have been pos-

sible without the players believing in themselves as well as my coaches."

Greco continued, saying, "One of my goals for the team was to lead them to succeed in the best way possible. I needed them to believe in the team concept, play hard, and trust in all of us. I hoped for a region championship, a playoff win, and a state playoff berth."

He continued, reflecting on other elements of the job he's proud of. "My biggest accomplishments are not related to just basketball. It is watching my players walk across the stage at graduation and become successful people in college life. From a basketball perspective, winning three region titles [and] making the state playoffs were great ac-

complishments that would not have been possible without my players and coaches."

Senior Luke Young also hit a milestone, reaching 1000 points in his high school career. Young comments, "My favorite memory this year was the charter bus for our state playoff game against Sewickley." Young continues, saying that after he hit his thousand points, he let out "a sigh of relief as all the hard work has finally paid off."

Young reflected on his memories of his senior season. "My favorite part of this season was accomplishing many of our team goals that were set at the beginning of the season."

Jackson Scott also reached the thousand point club, though he declined to comment.

Canada vs USA Hockey Gold Medal Rivalry

Kaiya Levesque
Social Media Intern

It has been 46 years since the USA last won the gold medal in the men's Olympic hockey tournament. The last time it was won was February 24, 1980. For the first time in 46 years, however, the USA has won its third gold medal on February 22, 2026, against its all-time rival, Canada. Not only did the U.S. men's ice hockey team win a gold medal for the 2026 Olympics, but so did the women's ice hockey team, both beating Canada 2-1.

The game ended with a 1-1 score, forcing overtime. Jack Hughes scored the final goal during the 3-v-3 overtime, slap-

ping the puck past Jordan Binnington in spite of prior injuries sustained during the game, including having a handful of his teeth knocked out.

Goalie Connor Hellebuyck was also a major part of the team's success. "Connor Hellebuyck made save after incredible save against constant Canadian pressure, turning away 41 of the 42 shots he faced," stated an article written by Jeff Eisenberg. It was a dream for the American team to win the gold medal, and to win it against Canada makes it all the more special.

A "winner-take-all" showdown between the U.S. and Canada "has been the most enticing potential matchup at these Olympics," Jeff Eisenberg

writes, but neither hockey team had the luxury of just strolling to the gold-medal match. "The U.S. needed an overtime game winner from Quinn Hughes to survive Sweden in the quarterfinals. Canada rallied to overcome third-period deficits against Czechia in the quarters and Finland in the semis." This led up to the gold-medal matchup that the hockey world has waited a dozen years to see on an Olympic stage. Canada had a slight disadvantage, as Sydney Crosby was unable to play in this very important game due to a lower-body injury, a "Grade 2 MCL sprain," sustained during the quarterfinals against Czechia.

GAME INTENSITY IN ICE HOCKEY

1 **FAST GLIDE**
Ice hockey players glide at high speed on blades, maintaining direction and stability on a slick surface.

2 **PUCK CONTROL**
The game demands full coordination to maneuver the puck while avoiding defensive pressure.

3 **FAST ATTACK**
Attacks are built quickly with short passes, ending in sharp shots toward the opponent's goal.

4 **DEFENSIVE REFLEXES**
Defense in ice hockey includes swift tackles, instinctive blocks, and reactive saves by the goalie.

Olympic tensions show national concerns

Sophia Lilly
Social Media Editor

This year's Winter Olympics have been full of exciting sports moments, but they've also stirred up tensions that go beyond the playing field. As athletes chase gold medals, fans around the world are watching closely not just for competition, but for signs of political disagreement and controversy.

At the center of the debate

is a recent trend involving the national anthem of the United States, "The Star-Spangled Banner." In the lead-up to the Olympics, fans in some Canadian hockey arenas loudly booed the American anthem during games against the US during tournaments like the 4 Nations Face off in Montreal. These "boos" came, though the crowd was asked by announcers to show respect for both countries' anthems, due to the strong feelings some Canadian fans have about recent po-

litical disputes between the two countries.

People say the boos show disrespect, while others argue they show deeper frustrations in the Canada-U.S. relationship. These incidents come at a time when global political strains are influencing how people think about major sporting events like the Olympics.

While the International Olympic Committee promotes neutrality and unity in sport, fans and social media users are

increasingly vocal about their political views at sporting events. Whether people agree with the actions of the fans or not, the anthem controversy shows how

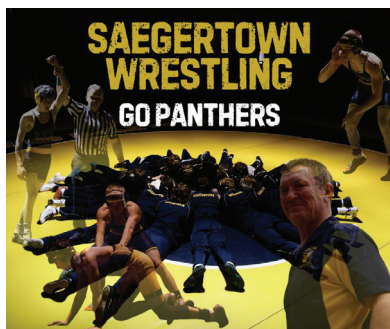
international sport can become a place where not just athletic skill but politics and public opinion are on full display.

As the

Olympics continued, many watched to see whether tensions would grow or whether sports could still bring nations together in friendly competition.



Photo Courtesy of NBC New York



Lincoln Flowers
Panther Paw Editor

The 2025-26 wrestling season for the Saegertown Panthers boys' varsity team has been a long road of wins and losses. Throughout the season, the Panthers went 7-12 with a 4-1 league record. There have been close victories and unexpected upsets, but overall, the Saegertown wrestling team had a fantastic season.

The Saegertown Panther boys' varsity wrestlers started their season with some huge victories and some close losses at the Greenville duals. The season held a tough schedule, featuring

the Powerade Tournament, the Ultimate Duals, and some exciting team duals, including Kiski Area, Cathedral Prep, Chestnut Ridge, and Reynolds. Despite this vigorous schedule, the Saegertown Panthers held their own with a fantastic lineup of wrestlers, including a big group of freshmen expected to return in the following years.

Big wins for the Panthers this season include a 60-16 win against Franklin, a 60-9 win against Maplewood, a 57-15 win against Cambridge Springs, and a 51-22 win against Girard during senior night. Additionally, the Panthers had multiple huge individual wins. Some examples include wins for sophomore Nate Eckart, sophomore Milan Harrison, and Senior Glenn Sample at the 2025 Powerade tournament. Furthermore, many Saegertown Panthers got

Saegertown Varsity Wrestling: The Road to Victory

individual wins at the Tool City Tournament, hosted at Meadville High School. During this tournament, Milan Harrison received a first-place finish in the 127 bracket. Additionally, Caleb Goodwill and Isaac Huya both received 3rd-place finishes. In addition, Pryce Whiteman, Wyatt Douglas, and Glenn Sample received 5th-place finishes, and Mason Groner, along with Matthew Shartle, received 6th-place finishes in the Tool City Tournament.

Post-season results for the Saegertown Panthers were no less impressive. Results for the PIAA District 10 AA Section 2 included a 7th-place finish from sophomore Nate Eckart, 4th-place finishes from freshman Mason Groner and junior Isaac Huya, and 3rd-place finishes from sophomore Milan Harrison and senior Glenn Sample. The Panthers had three wrestlers advance from the following District 10 AA tournament, with a 7th-place finish from Mason

Groner, a 6th-place finish from Isaac Huya, following two injury defaults, and a 4th-place finish from Milan Harrison.

In the following postseason tournament, Milan Harrison advanced, securing his spot in the Pennsylvania PIAA AA State Championships. His advancement to the State Championships preserved Saegertown's record of having a wrestler qualify for States every year for the

past 18 years. Although Harrison unfortunately got out of the tournament early, it is a major feat to qualify for the State Tournament nonetheless, especially as a Sophomore. The Panthers will likely have a strong group of returning wrestlers, only losing one senior, Glenn Sample, leading into the next season.



Photo Courtesy of Heather Mook

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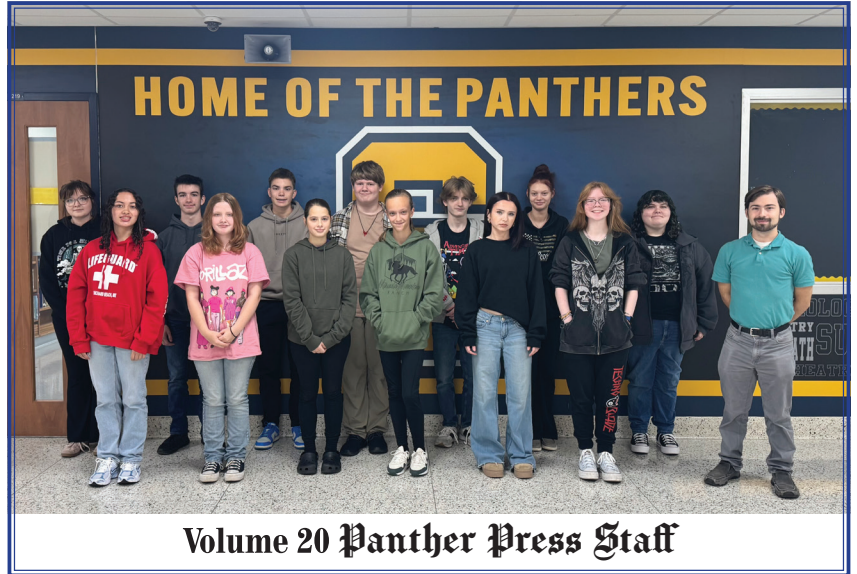
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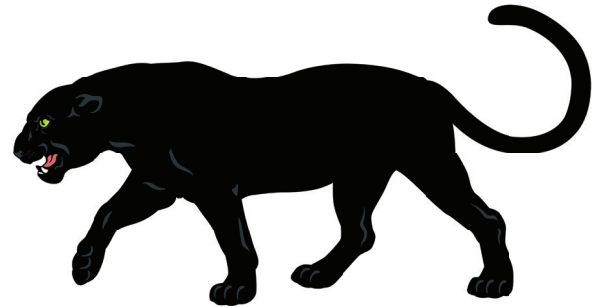


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