

*Congratulations and Good Luck, Class of 2016*

# Hurricane Happenings

Schuylkill Haven Area High School Student Newspaper

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MAY 20, 2016



## Legalize recreational marijuana? Sure

Schuylkill Haven senior Britnee Schneck, center, stands next to state Sen. David Argall, right, during the Senator for a Day program held Thursday, May 12, at Penn State Schuylkill campus. Eleven students from Mr. Grabusky's AP Government class and the National Honor Society participated in the event.

## Haven grabs drama honors

### 'Into the Woods' musical captures Majestic Awards

Over the years, the Schuylkill Haven High School musical production has been among the best in Schuylkill County.

This year was no different.

The cast and crew members of this year's musical, "Into the Woods," and the sellout crowds that came to see it April 8-10, would rank it right up there with some of the best.

The judges from the Majestic Theatre Association ... well, they didn't like it enough.

Schuylkill Haven won a pair of awards during the 11th annual Majestic Awards presented Monday, May 16, at Pottsville Area High School.

The awards show, presented by BB&T Bank, recognizes excellence in musical theater across Schuylkill County.

Schuylkill Haven received top honors for Outstanding Orchestra and Outstanding Scenic Design. Lydia Nestor was selected

Please see **WOODS**, Page 3

## Hey underclassmen, listen up

As seniors bid farewell, they offer some advice to those who follow them

By **CLASS OF 2016**  
GRADE 12

### An open letter to the underclassmen, from the Senior Class:

High school is the place where you find yourself. For those who were and for those who could still be lost, your journey isn't over yet.

Graduation isn't a finish line, it's a fork in the road. It's where one path ends and another begins. Leave here the parts of you that you don't want to continue living with in your future.

If you haven't found who you are entirely, that's fine because none of us truly has either. No one leaves

here exactly the same person as they were when they started.

It is because of this that we are a little wiser and have these few words of wisdom for you before we leave and take on our new path of self-discovery:

### Contrary to popular belief, we don't have it all figured out

We don't know how the next four-plus years are going to play out. Most of us don't even know what our major will be.

That's okay and you're okay, too, so take a breath because it will all

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### School Schedule

**Today-Monday, May 23** --- Senior Final Exams

**Sunday, May 22** --- Baccalaureate, 4 p.m., Bethesda EC Church, Route 183, Reedsville

**Wednesday, May 25** --- Class Night, 7 p.m., Zwerling Auditorium  
**Thursday, May 26** --- Student early dismissal, 1 p.m.

**Friday, May 27** --- Last day of classes, 10:30 a.m. dismissal

**Friday, May 27** --- Graduation, 7:30 p.m., Rotary Field

## STUDENT COMMENTARY/OPINION PAGE

# Recent superhero movies show major improvement

Technology has helped modern producers enhance traditional classics

By TAYLOR KAISEN  
GRADE 11

Wherever you go, you are prone to see advertisement, and amongst these advertisements you are likely to see promotions for various movies. The most recent movies that come to mind are superhero movies such as Captain America Civil War and comedies like Keanu and The Boss. Movies have been on a decline in popular culture, and this could be due to the increase in alternative media sources.

A similar thing happened when home television came out, because just before television came to a wide audience, a very large amount of movies were released. These movies were not inherently good, but many consider this to be the golden age of film. The reason why there are so many good movies from this era is because of the sheer amount of films released, and the fact that the art of filmmaking was in its infancy.

If you were to watch films from that era and compare them to a modern film with a similar plot you would most likely prefer the new version. For example, we'll take True Grit, a movie released in 2010 that is a remake of a movie from 1969 by the same title.

If you were to watch both movies back to back, you would see that, not only is the acting better, but the way it is filmed is vastly more advanced and arguably better. The acting is better due to the fact that as time goes on, acting is

## Correction

The Alethia Club was not responsible for Joel Penton's appearance at the school. This information was incorrect in a recent commentary.

becoming a more viable career choice leading to developments in the field. Also, two of the main characters are played by Jeff Bridges and Matt Damon, arguably two of the best actors still alive.

In the original, those two characters are played by John Wayne and Glen Campbell, the former being an actor famous for playing the same character archetype in many movies and the latter being a country singer.

The filming is rather obvious, as the technology has evolved over the years into something that is almost unrecognizable from its predecessor. Many of the shots used in the 2010 version are vastly superior to the 1960s version, from the quality produced to the angles used.

Another fascinating part of modern films is the fantastic superhero movies that the industry is releasing. These mostly coming from the Marvel universe and studios such as Twentieth Century Fox and Disney's Marvel studios. Whereas Universal studios has left something to be desired with their two most recent entries, these are still better than the films of years previous.

This massive difference is in part due to the fact that at this point in time, special effects are so much

better than they were even 10 years ago. However, this is only a small part of the problem, as there are several effects that stand the test of time, even today.

One excellent example being the ghost from the library scene in Ghostbusters. This stands proud as a testament to the care put into the film, even though it is more than two decades old.

The majority of the problem of why superhero movies only recently have been getting better is the generations that made these films. In 1978, the first big-budget superhero film was released: Richard Donner's Superman with Christopher Reeve playing the man of steel. This series of movies, although entertaining and innovative, has with it many flaws. Let's remove the nostalgia blinders for a moment and take an objective look at these movies.

First up, the dialogue, the way the actors portray the characters is very good and true to the comics. However, the words said in these movies are very simplistic and at times are given like cardboard, especially in the final film. There are some notable exceptions, being the speeches and monologues given by Lex Luthor.

Next is the aforementioned special effects. To keep from repeating too much, they're awful. Finally, the care put into these movies is rather sub par. The final movie in this series looks and feels like an awful money grab, and this movie was released three years after Ghostbusters.

Go and watch the clas-

sic, then follow it up with a chaser of Superman IV: The Quest For Peace you will soon see what I mean.

There were then the endless Batman movies, and a few exceptions withholding, they were just poorly done. Marvel tried to make many movies such as The Punisher, Captain America (1991), The Fantastic Four and Blade. Let's not even get started on the pre-Tobey Maguire Spiderman movies.

We have been seeing these movies increase in popularity because they are being made better and more complex. The Avengers, for instance, is a movie that had several years, almost a decade of buildup, it's individual character movies being some of the highest acclaimed superhero movies of all time.

This is a symptom of actors, producers and directors knowing their source material. This is because the people who are making movies now were children when these comics came out and were popular, so they grew up with these characters that they now have the opportunity to adapt to film.

An interesting and similar thing is happening in the realm of video game movies. With the recent release of the Ratchet and Clank movie, video games are finally getting good movies that stay true to the source and are decently made.

If this isn't just a fluke, it is possible that we could see good movies come about from classic video games that are as good as today's superhero movies are.

## Be proud of what America stands for

By COURTNEY LUNDERVOLD  
GRADE 8

What comes to mind when you hear the word America?

America is the country we live in. Whether you were born here or moved here, the air we breathe and the land we walk upon is American land.

We pledge to the flag every morning while facing the great banner of stars and stripes.

The National Anthem is played before every sports game.

However, patriotism for this country has been questioned lately.

Recall what you thought about the word America. Did you think of politics? Did you think about the Revolutionary War? Did you think about how this country is changing, whether it is for the better or the worse?

If your thoughts about the word America were negative, hear me out. If the complications about who our next president is going to be are getting to you, think about how they will affect your everyday lives.

True, the president makes important decisions and takes care of his/her responsibility the way he/she thinks is right, but the president does not keep his/her title forever. Even if the president you are rooting for does not get elected, the one who does claim the title will only be president for four years at the least.

Please see **PRIDE**, Page 3



PHOTO BY MRS. MASINICK

## Excuse me miss, have you been drinking?

Hurricane Happenings Editor-in-Chief Katie O'Toole is questioned by Schuylkill Haven Police Department officer Vince McDonald as she appears intoxicated during the annual Prom Promise drill April 20. The SHPD and Schuylkill Haven Fire Department put on the annual drill for those students attending the prom April 23.

## Musical grabs pair of awards

**WOODS**, From Page 1 as Schuylkill Haven's Spirit of Theater award-winner.

Cast and crew members from "Into the Woods" had high hopes after receiving 14 nominations. In addition to the two award-winners, Haven was nominated in the following categories:

**Outstanding Leading Actor** -- Nathan Bates, The Baker

**Outstanding Duet** -- Nathan Bates and Lydia Nestor, "It Takes Two"

**Outstanding Small Ensemble** -- Nathan Bates, Leeanna Gretskey, Sarah Hasenauer, Madison Hess and David Zimmerman, "Your Fault"

**Outstanding Production Number** -- "Prologue"

**Outstanding Director** -- Gloria Evert

And the following categories: Outstanding Ensemble, Outstanding Lighting Design, Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design, Outstanding Achievement in Hair/Makeup, Outstanding Graphic Design, Outstanding Stage Crew and Best Overall Production.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of "Into the Woods" on a fine production.

## Underclassmen, listen up!

**LETTER**, From Page 1 play out how it's meant to, in the end.

**What they say is true, you'll regret the things you didn't do more than the things you did.**

So go out for the play or the musical. Go out for the track or softball team.

Do what makes YOU happy and try the things YOU want because no one will remember who did what or why this or that was so "lame" in 20 years because truthfully, **it doesn't matter as much as it seems right now.**

**Don't allow your "label" to define you.**

Because it doesn't and it never did and it never will -- until you say so.

**Always, always, always stay organized.**

As the year goes on, it becomes really easy to just throw papers and other school-related objects around. But trust us, **KEEP IT IN ORDER** because when it comes time to hand in papers or note cards for your senior research presentation, and you can't find them, you will rip your hair out and probably cry when you can't find ANYTHING.

And finally

**Respect the seniors.**

You have no idea what we're going through. There is no greater stress than the stress that comes with senior year. We are trying to find a college, trying to find time to apply to college, or trying to figure out what we're majoring in at college.

If we're not doing that, there are PLENTY of other things we're stressing about and we really don't need you on top of that.

When you're a senior, you'll understand. We respected the seniors that came before us and all we ask is you do the same.

**To the future seniors,**

Each one of you will have your turn at this coveted position in the high school hierarchy. Each of you, when it is your turn, do not abuse this position.

You were once where the underclassmen are and although it is all too easy to forget, go out of your way to remember to include younger classmates and teammates. You may never know what kind of impact you could have on someone.

And may everyone remember to leave these hallowed halls a little better than when you found them.

# Have pride in America

**PRIDE**, From Page 2

If the public does not appreciate how he or she runs it by then, they are capable of voting for someone else.

How about the negative thoughts that aren't about politics? There can be a lot of reasons why America doesn't seem like the great country it set out to be. Look at America's National Debt clock, if you want to see one of the reasons why we have taxes. But, with all the downsides of our country, how about we look at all the things that make America great!

The next time you are doing the pledge or stand for the national anthem, take a closer look at that flag. It doesn't even have to be during a patriotic moment; you can take a look anytime you want if there is a flag about.

Look at the stars and stripes. Look at the red, white and blue. True, they are logically just the pattern and colors of the flag, but look a little deeper. Those patterns represent something important to the country.

The 13 stripes represent the first 13 colonies that broke away from Great Britain. Citizens of this time fought long and hard for their independence. Imagine those soldiers being represented in every single one of those stripes. Think about the pain, anguish and patriotic pride from those soldiers. They completed their goal successfully, and every single one of those stripes means the world to them.

Now, think about the stars. There are 50 of them, one for every single state. Those stars have all earned their place on the stretch of blue one way or another. Whether they were from peaceful trade or fierce battles, every single one of them had to be earned.

The colors also play an important part in the flag, probably more than you think. Some people already know that white symbolizes

purity and innocence, red symbolizes hardiness and valor, and blue symbolizes vigilance, perseverance and justice.

Think of the colors and how they are represented within the patterns. The blue on the flag surrounds all 50 stars. It can represent that every state is ready to do what they need to do both fairly and efficiently with as much efficiency as possible or else the people of the country will either have too much or too little freedom. The blue represents that we are free to do what we want without ending up acting like a fool without notice.

Now think about the red. Whenever anyone is in trouble, we are ready to help out. Whenever we are threatened, we face those threats without the hint of doubt glinting in our eyes, ready to show them that they are threatening America.

Think about the white. It is the symbol of purity and innocence. Have you ever noticed that the white separates the red lines and are dotted throughout the blue as stars? Have you noticed, but never thought about the reason why?

Without purity and innocence, we will end up acting like a hostile and overpowering nation. The white strengthens the honor in the blue, and it also gives the symbolism of red a glow of pride.

What do you think about the word America now? If you feel indifferent, just remember, I have only used the flag as a reason why you should be proud of your country. There are many different symbols of America to think about, such as the American eagle or Washington D.C.

The reason to be proud of this country doesn't even have to be a symbol or item at all! Who knows? Maybe pride for your country can help you see a whole new light for everyday life.

## Did you know?

Mrs. Schwenk's Biology Club raised \$1,757.78 in its annual Penny War to benefit the Hillside SPCA and Ruth Steinert Memorial SPCA. Those students and faculty who donated \$5 or more, and the students in the homeroom that raised the most money, received a free Dairy Queen ice cream sundae, with certain donors receiving a T-shirt from the event sponsor, Thrivent.

Mrs. Nelson's sophomore homeroom --- rookie teacher wins, huh? --- raised the most money with \$113.22. Mrs. Bedford's freshman homeroom was second at \$111.95, with Ms. Whalen's homeroom (M-Z) taking third in \$87.87.

Congratulations to Mrs. Barrall on the birth of her son, Jackson Rolland, on Monday, April 25. Jackson weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

Mrs. Keyworth's Your Employability Skills class was among 282 students that attended the annual YES Northeast Certificate Program Recognition Breakfast May 12 at St. Nicholas Hall in Primrose. Those students attending included: Madalynne Schaeffer, Mathew Hafer, Evan Gerhard, Kassidy Svenson, Emily Stine, Calista Carl, Trevor Smith, Madison Felty, Nate Bausher, Sarah Hasenauer, Jodie Mattern, Callie Dreher, Leeana Gretskey, Gabrielle Rhodes, Mitchell Soeder and Jason Tang.

Schuylkill Haven senior David Zimmerman was honored April 28 by the Schuylkill County Commissioners at the Schuylkill County Courthouse for receiving the SKIP (Schuylkill Keep it Pretty) Dr. Harry A. and Mary Jo Crosswell Environmental Citizenship Scholarship. The award carries with it a \$1,000 prize.

Schuylkill Haven senior Megan Ditzler was honored May 3 at the 14th annual Arnold Delin Awards held at Penn State Schuylkill. Students from 13 schools were recognized for their contributions to the community. The awards, started in 2002, are named for Delin, who passed away last March. Ditzler received \$500.



PHOTO BY REPUBLICAN-HERALD

Senior Noah Fritz heaves the shot put during the Schuylkill League Track and Field Championships held May 11 at Mahanoy Area High School. Fritz won Schuylkill League and District 11 Class AA gold medals in the event, breaking the school record with a top throw of 54 feet, 5.5 inches. He will compete at the PIAA Track and Field Championships on May 27-28 in Shippensburg.

# Fritz garners league, District 11 shot gold

## Baseball, softball teams qualify for district playoffs

Second straight Schuylkill League title? Check.

Second straight District 11 Class AA title? Check.

PIAA state medal? That's next.

Schuylkill Haven senior Noah Fritz continued his superb track and field season by winning Schuylkill League and District 11 Class AA championships in the shot put. Fritz's best throw of 54 feet, 5.5 inches at districts at Whitehall High School on May 18 was a personal best and broke the school record.

Fritz will conclude his scholastic career at the PIAA Track and Field Championships set for Friday-Saturday, May 27-28, at Shippensburg University.

Fritz was part of an impressive spring season by the Hurricane sports teams. Let's take a look:

### Baseball

The Hurricane baseball team won

its second straight Schuylkill League Division II title after compiling a 17-3 overall and 10-2 league mark during the regular season.

Schuylkill Haven qualified for the Schuylkill League playoffs, but was defeated by Tamaqua 3-1 in the semifinals May 16. Next up is the District 11 Class AA playoffs, where Haven is the defending champion. The Hurricanes, seeded third, open Wednesday, May 25, with a home game against Panther Valley.

### Softball

The Hurricane softball team had its best season in recent memory, compiling a 13-7 mark that included a thrilling, 5-4 victory over Division II champion Williams Valley.

The Hurricanes open District 11 Class AA play with a first-round game Tuesday, May 24, at Northern Lehigh.

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## Happy Retirement Mrs. Maberry!

Congratulations to Mrs. Maberry, who is retiring after 29-plus years with the Schuylkill Haven Area School District. Mrs. Maberry started as a lunch room aide in the South and East Ward elementary schools and worked in the Elementary Center before covering study halls and lunch duty in the high school for the past three-plus years. Best wishes from the Haven family!