

THE ROHISTAT

The latest Rockwood news, views and announcements

NEWS & FEATURES

Christmas Around the World

Rockwood's Music Program

Student Events

Senior Projects

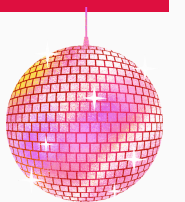
FFA Activities

Winter Sports

Creative Corner

Soph-Senior

BY: NATALIE GARY



On November 11, the class of 2026 hosted the "Light Up Night" Soph-Senior dance. The dance lasted from 7:00 to 9:00 in the high school cafeteria. Tickets were sold for ten dollars each. There were no professional photos taken at the dance, but there was a free photo booth with a shimmery background that students enjoyed! The music was provided by After Hours Entertainment.



Fall-Formal

BY: ADDIE BARKMAN

This year, the Fall Formal was held on the third of November in the High School cafeteria. The Fall Formal is an annual dance here at Rockwood for students in grades seven through nine. The theme was "Hollywood" and students got to dance the night away in superstar fashion! Students also enjoyed the music played by Afterhours Entertainment. The decorations were made possible by Rocket Vision and the organization's supervisors Mrs. Hay and Mrs. Brant.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

By: Mariam Poghosysn

Giada Missiroli: Italy

Christmas holidays in Italy start with the Day Of Immaculate Conception on December 8th. On the day before Christmas, lunch or dinner can be organized with friends and relatives. Many families can go to Christmas mass at 11:00pm which ends exactly at midnight. Then, everyone can choose whether to open gifts on the morning of the 25th or open them on the evening of the 24th. Another tradition is Santa Claus arriving between the night of the 24th and the 25th through the chimney. The most important moment is lunch on the 25th, relatives and friends meet together to eat and spend hours together. The main meal is definitely roast. Pork, beef or lamb are all typical Italian Christmas meats. Finally, the 26th is the day of Saint Stephen, the first Christian martyr. The last day of holidays is the 6th of January: the Epiphany or “La Befana” (the witch). Legend has it that Befana was an old Italian lady who wanted to bring gifts to Baby Jesus but got lost. Since then she has been trying to find her way to Bethlehem each year on January 6th, flying from one house to another on her broom. With that broom, she’s said to sweep away any unhappy thoughts or bad deeds of the previous year.

Mariam Poghasyan: Armenia

In Armenia people celebrate Christmas on the 6th and 7th of January. They put up a Christmas tree in the middle of December. The opening of Christmas starts on the 5th of January. In the evening people go to church with candles and light those candles with a blessing. After they walk home carrying those lighted-up candles, if you look out of the window you will see people walking with bright lights in their hands and it looks really beautiful. On the 6th of January people usually have dinner with their family. They sit next to the table and have dinner with dishes special to the message of the day: fish, raisin pilaf, and wine. It's a holiday when families gather to celebrate the Warmth of Surb Tsnund (Holy Birth) which means Christmas in Armenian.

Alex Reifs: Spain

Spain at Christmas is almost the same as in America. The whole family gets together and talks about how everything is going. They have seafood for dinner, then they play board games and have a great time. They put up a Christmas tree and decorate it with lights and ornaments. In Spain Papa Noel brings the children gifts, but in the Basque Country, where Alex is from, Olentzero brings the gifts. Olentzero enjoys the cookies and hot chocolate that children leave for him.

Rockwood's Music Features

JSO Feild Trip

By: Tyler Stahl



On November 14th, elementary students from across the area were invited to attend the “Young People’s Concerts” put on by The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra (JSO). Several senior high students also attended the performance, which took place at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center at UPJ. The concert included classic repertoire including Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy,” which hundreds of elementary students played along with on recorders. The Johnstown Symphony Youth Orchestra joined the JSO on stage for their last two songs: Mars, from Holst’s “The Planets,” and the main theme from Star Wars.

Christmas Concert

By: Chloe Weaver

This year the Christmas Concert was held on December 12th. The band performed arrangements which included “White Christmas,” “Angels We Have Heard On High,” and “Feliz Navidad.” The band and chorus then came together to perform “A Festive Christmas Celebration” which is composed of many different holiday classics. Some of the songs the Senior High Chorus performed included “Silent Night” arranged by Pentatonix and “Joyful, Joyful/ Mary Had a Baby” arranged by Emerson. The Junior High also performed songs including “The Drum Carol (With Patapan)” arranged by George L.O. Stird, “Noel, Noel” arranged by Heritage Music Press, and “Where Are You Christmas.” Solo parts for band and chorus were performed by Maci King, Anna Hinzy, Chloe Strezywilk, and Faith Millin.



Rockwood Music Features

County Band

By: Tyler Stahl

On November 29 and Friday, November 30, students participated in Somerset's county band festival, in which several band students from across the county come together to rehearse for two days and perform a concert. This year's festival was held at Berlin Brothersvalley High School. For the concert on Friday night, students performed five high-energy songs, including Chasing Sunlight, which may be recognized from the senior high portion of Rockwood's spring band concert this past year. Chloe Streczywilk, Devin McCauley, and Tyler Stahl also qualified to attend the District Band festival in January.



County Chorus

By: Chloe Weaver

Every year, Rockwood students passionate about singing are selected to attend the County Chorus. This year, the County Chorus was held at Conemaugh Township High School. Rockwood had a strong group of eleven Senior High students. These students are Jordan Pyle, Rachel Lambert, Anna Hinzy, Lily Edwards, Journey Escontrias, Emily Hutchison, Abby Phillippi, Emma Pletcher, Makayla Peck, Elizabeth Haer, Levi King, and Paul Sembower. The Junior High students are Isabelle Schmuck, Leah Foreman, Lilly May, Emory Gould, Mason Foreman, Annah Sechler, Terry Sanner, Faith Millin, Maci King, and Kaitlyn Latuch. The Senior high director was Mr. Christopher McCallister and the Junior High director was Mr. Brett Keith. The Somerset County music educators hope to keep this program going for many years.



Light Up Night

By: Mariam Poghosyan

Light-Up Night opened the Christmas season on November 26th. During this, magic had been spread all over Somerset Township. During Light-Up night people saw a wonderful parade and spent their evening walking in a decorated street. Every year school districts present their projects. Turkeyfoot, Berlin, Somerset, Northstar, and Rockwood schools presented their hard work in a competition. Rockwood presented the project “Fruitcake.”

The process of making the “Fruitcake” required hard work.

Ms. Berkebile’s life skill students started the project by making the base out of used 2x3 lumber reclaimed from the old dividers in the shower room. After that, students would work after school and on Saturdays to build the project. Once the frame was completed they put thin plywood on the exterior. Next, the holes were cut for the cherries to fall into, and then an angled baffle on the inside was built to return the balls to the player. Next, the two cable winches were put on the top and they did a test to make sure that the idea would work for the game.



Then some community service students helped to extend the electrical wires for the winch they learned how to use waiver strippers a high-temperature soldering gun and hit shrink tubing. Next, they tested the electronics again to make sure it worked. The art department designed the front and painted the drywall compound to give it a texture that made it look like a cake. The main students who participated were Matt Truszka, Lilly May, Abram Minor, David Murphy, Alex Reifs, Noah Hunt, Jocelyn Kreger, Christian Schrock and Ms. Picklo’s Art Students.

Rockwood got 1st place and won 500 dollars. The winnings were split between The Art Department and the Engineering and Technology Club.

2024 Senior Projects

By: Emily Hutchison

As the first semester comes to an end, the 2024 seniors are completing their senior projects. Every year, each senior has to complete a project on their future career plan, including their personal background and what they've done during their high school career to prepare for professional employment. They outline their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, volunteer experiences, and requirements for their future career field. The students then present this information to a panel of teachers, administration, and community members. The panel offers advice to the students and the teachers judge the students' presentations according to a rubric. The students must receive a passing score on this project in order to graduate. This year, the seniors presented on January 15th, and everyone passed! We are so proud of our senior class, and wish them luck in their future endeavors. Congratulations to the class of 2024!

Below is a summary of the seniors' post-secondary plans:

Healthcare: 11

Trades: 19

Sciences: 10

Law/Business: 7

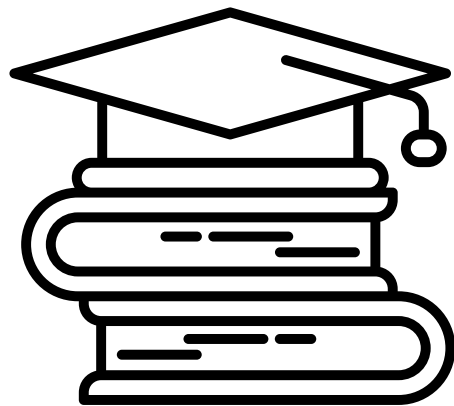
Education: 2

Art/Design: 6

Technology: 4

Other: 1

Military: 3



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23rd: Semester 2 Begins

February 19th: ACT 80 Day (No School)

March 8th-9th: Musical "Back to The 80's"

March 26th: Early Dismissal- Easter Break

SPRING MUSICAL: "BACK TO THE 80'S"

By: Chloe Weaver

This year, Rockwood theatre department will be performing the musical "Back To The 80's." This musical includes songs such as "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," "Lost in Your Eyes," "Never Gonna Give You Up," and much more. Be ready to sing-along with some of your favorite hits!

Some of the leads for the production include Paul Sembower, Levi King, Alexa Lintz, and Chloe Weaver. This year's musical will be held on Friday March 8th and Saturday March 9th.

The cast of "Back to the 80's" is so excited to showcase their talent, and they hope to see you there!



FALL SKILLS

By: Emma Pletcher

On November 16th, Rockwood FFA took a field trip to the Somerset County Technology Center (SCTC) for the Fall Skills competition. There were six events including Wildlife, Horse Judging, Small Gas Engines, FFA Knowledge, Vet Skills, and Tractor Diving. Our students placed 1st (Audrey Marko), 5th (Kyle Cramer), and 6th (Makayla Peck) in Wildlife. In FFA Knowledge, our team placed 4th (Amelia Beener, Hunter Berkey, Tessa Smith, Pyper Lytle).



Mid-Winter Convention Keystone Recipients



FARM SHOW 2024



Community Projects

By: Jake Barkman

Everyone in The Allegany College of Maryland (ACM) Sociology classes ended their semester with a community service project. Students were tasked with picking ideas for community service, and then splitting up into groups who represented the project. Some of the groups formed were involved with organizations such as animal shelters, food drives, and wildlife preservation. One group worked with the Humane Society in the fashion of a bake sale to raise money to be donated to help aid in their mission.

The Humane Society group contained six members, Mollie Wheatley, Aidan Ream, Roger Wilson, Hunter Whipkey, Tyler Stahl, and Jake Barkman. Each member worked hard to prepare and organize the sale. They researched the organization, purchased supplies, and then baked enough goods to be sold at two locations. Half of the group set up a booth outside Tractor Supply in Somerset, and the other worked inside Jar the Zero Waste Store uptown. On Tuesday, November 28th, the groups started selling to any customers entering or exiting the establishments, as well as taking donations to all who wished to aid in the cause. The Tractor Supply group received \$212 made up of sales and donations while the Jar group had a total of \$359. In addition to the two groups' gathered funds, Jar the Zero Waste Store also included a \$300 donation. Overall the group was able to donate \$871 to the Somerset Humane Society, and many of the group members plan to donate their time and work to the shelter in the future.

Another group conducted a mixture of language teaching and backpack programs. The group included Dustin Dran, Joshua Wagner, Chloe Streczywilk, Journey Escontrias, Alexa Lintz, Rachel Lambert, Skylar Atchison, Natalie Gary, Lauryn Jones, Hannah Nedrow-Galway, and Samson Ross. The groups organized a lesson plan for younger children to learn foreign languages, a skill that many of the group members say is incredibly important in life. Dustin Dran stated, "Learning a foreign language is important to help learn more about other cultures and countries, it's important to be inclusive of all kinds of cultures, and learning a new language is a good way to start."

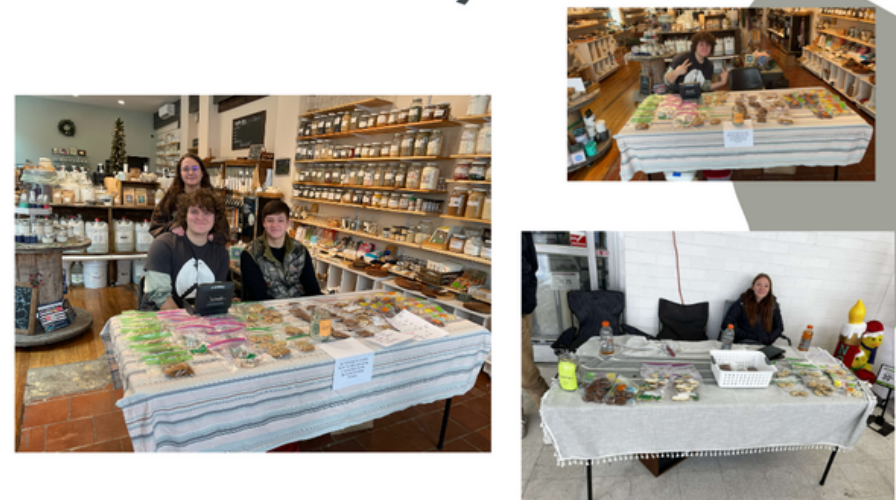
In the backpack program, the group worked hard alongside Mrs. Andrea Minor to fill bags with food which would then be distributed among students throughout the elementary and high school. The program helps aid children and families by collecting donated food to hand out to students via other students who volunteer to help. The project was incredibly important and helped a very noble cause, so the group was very quick to start working with Mrs. Minor to reach their volunteer hour goal while helping other students.

The class encouraged multiple other groups of students to begin volunteering and participating in causes that will help their community or their classmates. The project was overall very successful, and each student learned more about their community, and about how they can become more involved.

The Backpack Program



Humane Society



SCIENCE FEATURE

ANCIENT ANIMALS THOUGHT TO BE EXTINCT HAVE BEEN REDISCOVERED

BY: SHELBY SHIPLEY

During an expedition to the Cyclops Mountains on November 10th, 2023 a group of Oxford researchers discovered an animal that has not been seen for 60 years! James Kempton led the expedition in the mountains of New Guinea, Indonesia, in which one of the 80 trail cameras that he and his team set up caught the very first photo of Attenborough's long-beaked echidna named after David Attenborough. Cyclops Mountain is the only known place to inhabit Attenborough's long-beaked echidna. To place the trail cameras to catch evidence of this supposedly extinct creature the Oxford researchers had to climb more than 11,000 meters (roughly 36,000 feet)

This egg-laying mammal was thought to be extinct, as the only other evidence of its existence is a decades-old museum specimen of the dead animal. Due to not only the evidence of Attenborough's long-beaked echidna existence, but to all of the other creatures found on the mountain, scientists are fighting to preserve the Cyclops Mountains to protect those that inhabit it.

In an interview with James Kempton, he stated “ With 83 percent of Indonesian New Guinea's old-growth forest still intact, we are at a critical moment to ensure the preservation of the world's most biodiverse island.” Fascinatingly enough, Attenborough's long-beaked echidna was not the only animal that the researchers had discovered. They had also discovered two species of frogs new to science and dozens of new insect species! They also discovered a new genus of terrestrial shrimp.



ROCKWOOD SPORTS

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

By: Elizabeth Haer

The Lady Rockets started their season with a scrimmage at Forest Hills High School. On December 1st and 2nd, they played in the Ridley Banks Memorial Tournament. On December 1st, the girls played Ferndale. The end score was a 44-25 with a Rockwood win. Mollie Wheatley had 19 points and Elizabeth Haer added 10 points. After winning this game, the team had a ticket for the championship game.

On December 2nd, they won over Meyersdale with a score of 41-30. Mollie Wheatley was named tournament MVP and Elizabeth Haer earned a spot on the all-tournament team as well. The Lady Rockets started their season with a record of 2-0. The team has a total of 13 players, five of which are seniors. The captains are Elizabeth Haer and Mollie Wheatley. The head coach is Patrick Wheatley and the assistant coach is Linda Mershot.



VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

By: Josh Wagner

There are 13 students playing Varsity and JV basketball this winter season. Games started December 6th with an away game against Blacklick Valley. They are physically a very small team this year, but they are looking to play fiercely and make each game competitive. The team is coached by Dale Foy and Nick Foreman. Seniors on the team are Christian Schrock and Josh Wagner.

BERLIN WRESTLING

By: Aaron Show

This year Brayden Miller and Cody Kimmel are the seniors from Rockwood who are wrestling. Other team members from Rockwood include Devin McCauley, Seth Kimmel, and Lukas Smith. The team is coached by Braden Fochtman from Berlin. Austin Lee, a former wrestler from Rockwood who placed in states, also helps coach the Berlin team.

The team had their first match at the ICC tournament at Claysburg Kimmel on December 2nd. Lukas Smith took third in his weight class and Seth Kimmel took fourth place in his weight class. Devin McCauley led the team by taking second in his weight class. The team has many more matches coming up, where they hope to place in the top three.

Districts will be held on February 25 where the wrestlers hope to place in the top three to qualify for regionals. If the wrestlers place top 6 in regionals they will move onto states. Seth Kimmel said, "I think the team will do better than last year. We have a young team with a lot of talent. I am very excited about the 2023-2024 season." As the season moves on the boys hope to make it far into states.



ROCKWOOD SPORTS



VARSITY RIFLE

By: Hannah Galway



This year's Rifle team consists of five members; Dustin Dran (Senior captain), Noah Hunt, Hannah Nedrow-Galway, Kendall Younkin, Violet Straight, and Kylee Grimes. The coaches are Mr. Rich Stoner and Mr. Gregory King along with Mr. Woolslayer's assistance. Dustin, Hannah, and Noah have qualified to shoot on the varsity team. The team's first match was on December 12th at Sculton. For the first match, Kylee shot prone while Dustin, Noah, and Hannah shot Prone, Standing, and Kneeling, the 3 positions varsity shoots. As a team, they lost their first match. The team members' personal bests so far this year are Dustin with a 272, Hannah with a 258, Noah with a 261, Kylee with a 71, and Kendayll and Violet both with an 81. The Rifle team is hoping to improve as the season progresses.



VARSITY/JV CHEERLEADING

By: Juli Barto

This year there are two cheer teams at Rockwood, Varsity and Junior Varsity. The Head Coach is Amelia Gross, and the Assistant Coach is Lacey Snyder. The varsity team has fifteen girls, six of whom are Seniors. The Seniors are Chloe Gary, Olivia Goulding, Abby Phillipi, Emma Pletcher, Sarah May, and Giada Missiroli.



Each team has a permanent captain for all seasons and a rotating captain which will change throughout the season. The varsity's captain is Olivia Goulding, and the Junior Varsity's captain is Helena Trimpey. The first rotating captains are Juli Barto for the varsity team and Lauren Faidley for the JV. The cheerleaders have been practicing and learning new things to show at basketball games this year. Both teams are excited to cheer on the basketball players to have a fun and successful season!

CREATIVE CORNER

By: Delaney Gould

Whereabouts of the Sun

*Where there is the sun
For where has it gone
Where is the sun
How can it be found*

*Has it gone and grown legs
To be with the people
To reap the rewards of its labor
Does it hide in the mountain's shadow*

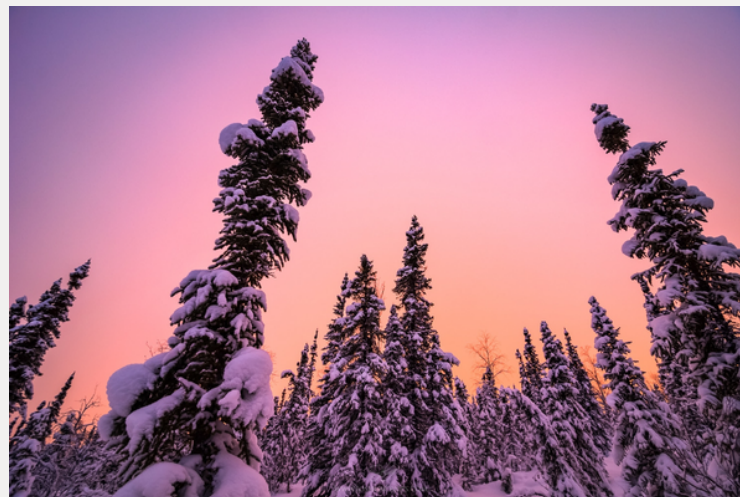
*Has it gone and joined the moon
Does it not know
That it shines just as brightly
Does it hide in the eclipse*

*Has it gone to dance with the comets
Amongst Ceres, Vesta, Pallas, and Hygiea
Do they compel the heavens to covet them
Do they hide together among the moons of Jupiter*

*Has it gone to brighten the constellations
To free Andromeda from her chains
And play with the Great Dog in the sky
Does it hide at the Southern Cross*

*Has it gone to gift its light
To the outer reaches of the Milkyway
To Tucana or Andromeda
Does it hide in Andromeda's effervescent embrace*

*Or has it gone to be with the white dwarfs
Within the dust and shadow
Of nebula and nebulae
Does it hide in dark inevitability*



*For where there is the sun
If there is not shadow
To cave in upon itself
To give up its own light*

*To give up not only its light
But its shadow
Light without contempt
To scorn the earth*

*In its inexplicable entirety
A supernova of the sun is its beginning
But an extinction is its end
An extinguished light in the endless
universe*

*But may the sun
Be forever and eternally waiting in the
billow
Waiting in the East
Walking to the West*

