



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Journey Bank Crowns 2026 Teen Star Winner!

Bloomsburg, PA – Journey Bank crowned Jaslin Shand the 2026 winner of the 16th Annual Journey Bank Teen Star Musical Competition. Jaslin, a junior at Williamsport Area High School, was one of fourteen high school vocalists who took the stage at Bloomsburg University on Sunday, April 26th to compete for the title. The finalists were selected across twenty school districts located within Journey Bank’s service area.

Jaslin and her fourteen fellow finalists performed songs from a playlist curated by Journey Bank employees. Aside from performing for a panel of expert judges, the finalists also captivated the audience, which included hundreds of friends, family, and Teen Star fans. After the first round of performances, the judges chose three finalists to sing again to compete for the top spot. Enthusiastic fans, who brought along posters and flowers, were full of cheers to support the finalists and had the chance to text their vote to save a fourth finalist during the show, adding even more fun and excitement to the event!

Jaslin performed “A Thousand Years” by Christina Perri for her first song. The judges were impressed by her natural stage presence and ability to draw the audience into the story and meaning of the song. This moving performance earned her a place in the top four, where she sang a heartfelt rendition of “Hold My Hand” by Lady Gaga. In second place, Rian Gephart, a senior from Montoursville, performed a beautiful rendition of “Creep” by Radiohead, followed by an emotional “Open Arms” by Journey. The judges felt Rian had a unique vocal style, something they commented is difficult to find in this day and age. Garnering third place, and the audience save, was Caroline Decker, a senior from Bloomsburg Area High School. Caroline, who loves to perform and connect with her audience, sang “How Great Thou Art” by Carrie Underwood with power and true emotion. She followed with a second song, “What’s Up” by 4 Non Blondes, which displayed her diversity and vocal range. In fourth place, Johnnylee Burd, a sophomore from Columbia Montour Area Vocational Technical School, brought an authentic country vibe with “Travelin’ Soldier” by Cody

Johnson as he accompanied himself on the guitar. He followed with “Til You Can’t,” also by Cody Johnson, stirring up the crowd who was feeling it and clapping along.

All fourteen finalists delivered amazing performances, each embracing the Journey Bank employee playlist theme. The stage resonated with the music of Billy Joel, Josh Groban, Frank Sinatra, Sara Bareilles, and more. There was music across all genres and generations—truly something for everyone.

The Bank will be donating all the ticket proceeds from this year’s event to the high school music departments at the finalists’ home high schools. Ticket sales have yet to be tabulated for this year, but since 2011, Journey Bank has donated more than \$56,000 in ticket proceeds. Journey Bank also awards prize money to the finalists. The first-place finisher won \$2,000. The second, third, and fourth-place finishers won \$1,000, \$750, and \$350, respectively. The remaining ten finalists each received \$200.

Learn more about this popular annual community event on Facebook and the Bank’s website at <https://www.facebook.com/journeybankteenstar> and <https://www.journeybank.com/about-us/annual-teen-star-musical-competition>.

About Teen Star

Modeled after the American Idol® TV show, Teen Star is a musical competition among local area high school students. Journey Bank sponsors this award-winning community event each year to give high school students a unique platform to showcase their talents, to support the music programs at area schools, and to promote the performing arts in the community.

Auditions were open to any freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior who attends a high school in Columbia, Montour, or Lycoming County or in the Warrior Run School District. The competition also invited contestants who are high school freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors who permanently reside in Columbia, Montour, or Lycoming County or in the Warrior Run School District, but attend another school outside of Columbia,

Montour, or Lycoming County or the Warrior Run School District, or are home-schooled or enrolled in a cyber-school.

Photo files attached separately



Teen Star Winner 2026 – Jaslin Shand, Williamsport



Top Four Teen Star Winners – From left to right: Second place finisher, Rian Gephart, Montoursville; third place finisher, Caroline Decker, Bloomsburg; first place finisher, Jaslin Shand, Williamsport; and fourth place finisher, Johnnylee Burd, Columbia Montour Area Vo-Tech



2026 Teen Star Finalists: Top row, from left to right: Johnnylee Burd, Jace Traugh, Jaslin Shand, Jake Butters, Caroline Decker, Alasia Gaines, Chas Rosler, Emma Berkes. Bottom row, from left to right: Morgan Hersh, Taryn Davenport, Rian Gephart, Aiden Mahamadou, Izzy Marks, Camille Cunningham