

# Future Problem Solvers continue success

By **MICAIAH WISE BILGER**  
*Sentinel reporter*

Every year, teams of Mifflin County students willingly take on some of the most challenging problems in life.

And for more than a decade, these students have successfully solved these problems and received state and international recognition for their work.

These are the Future Problem Solvers, teams of students in middle and high school who dedicate their time to studying world issues and creatively developing solutions for the problems. Since 2000, the junior, middle and senior teams have been winning state and international championships.

This year's senior team at Mifflin County High School includes seniors Nihar Suthar, Zachary Moon, Ben Fowler and Suruchi Sheth.

Their challenge is great: Teams receive a general topic to study. It may be coral reefs, immigration, alternative energy, nano technology or health care. Without knowing the problem scenario they will face at competition, the students delve into piles of research about every aspect of the topic.

The current topic is human rights. Their research is extremely diverse - from how technology has allowed society to learn more about atrocities and how social media is used to gather for protests, to United Nations resolutions that address human rights violations.

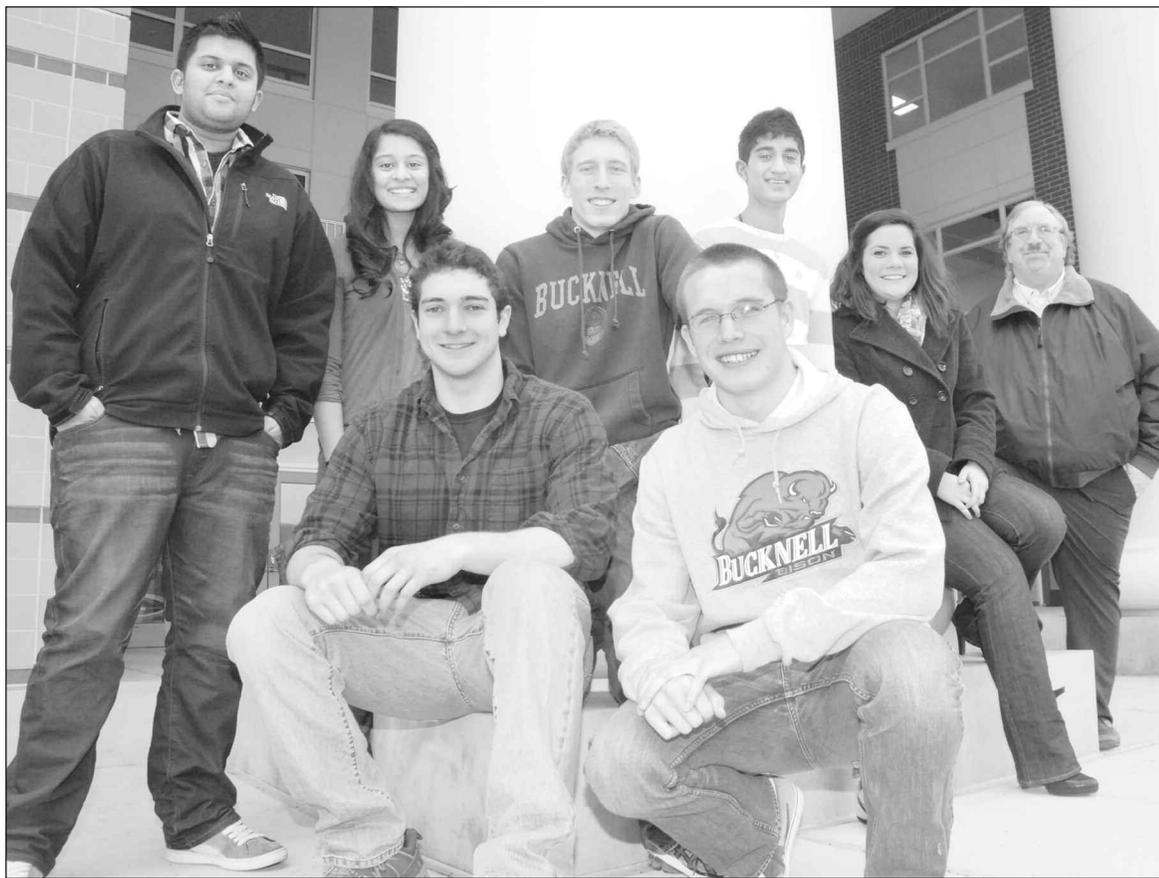
Adviser Jack Anderson says the students receive a topic and suggested reading list, but they do not receive the actual problem scenario until the competition begins - and sometimes those throw teams for a loop.

One year, the topic was immigration, but the future scenario took place on a different planet.

Each student speaks modestly but astutely about their team. Most of them have been in FPS since elementary or middle school.

Suruchi Sheth, the only female member of the senior team, says to tackle the mounds of research they usually latch on to a good, all-encompassing website that touches on many of their topics.

Ben Fowler says they make



Future Problem Solvers current and former members are, from left, front, Ben Fowler and Zachary Moon; back, Suchir Sheth, Suruchi Sheth, Drew Picketts, Nihar Suthar, Samantha Wheeler and Jack Anderson, advisor.

*Sentinel photos by*  
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