

# Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

Issue 46: October 2023

## CUTIES IN COSTUMES

BY: BELLA GOLD

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.



### Guess Which Cutie is Who:

Eric Sheller

Liesl Schultz

Aaron Dickhart

Suzanna DePace

Kendra Onuska

Mrs. Buddemeyer

Connor Progar

Nola Watters

Bella Gold

Annaliese Schultz

Grace Gold

Answer Key:  
1. Suzanna DePace  
2. Eric Sheller  
3. Connor Progar  
4. Liesl and Annaliese Schultz  
5. Mrs. Buddemeyer  
6. Aaron Dickhart  
7. Kendra Onuska  
8. Nola Watters  
9. Bella and Grace Gold

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Caught in Hi-Lites





# Get To Know Homecoming Court

BY: REESE MURRAY



**Ella Morelli**

Activities: Varsity Cheer, Track

Job: Starbucks

Plans: 4-year college, nursing major to become a NICU nurse

What are you most excited for?

"I am excited to see everyone on court dressed up and look their best."



**Emma Ford**

Activities: Volleyball

Job: McDonald's

Plans: 4-year college, biomedical engineering

What are you most excited for?

"I'm most excited to create lifelong memories with my friends."



**Gia Merendo**

Activities: Volleyball, Track

Job: Mac's Donuts

Plans: 4-year college, sports medicine

What are you most excited for?

"I am excited for being able to participate in all of the fun homecoming activities."







**Haley Hineman**

Activities: Volleyball, Track

Job: Hopewell Windmill

Plans: Core classes at CCBC and transfer to a bigger college, undecided

What are you most excited for?

"I am so excited to get all dressed up and celebrate with my friends for all the festivities."



**Mia Gargiulo**

Activities: Varsity Cheer, Hopewell Competitive Cheer, Track

Job: Host at Bravo Italian Kitchen

Plans: 4-year college, undecided

What are you most excited for?

"I'm excited to watch the football game as a student, not a cheerleader."



**Reaghan Cody**

Activities: Dance, Bocce

Plans: 4-year college BSN to become a travel nurse or an aesthetic nurse

What are you most excited for?

"I am excited to see everyone's dresses for the assembly and to ride in the convertible in the parade."



**Kendall Hineman**

Activities: Volleyball, Track

Job: Forever 21

Plans: 4-year college, undecided

What are you most excited for?

"I'm excited to be a part of the assembly and be on the field at the game."



**Olivia Sedlacek**

Activities: Varsity Cheer, Hopewell Competitive Cheer, Gymnastics, Track

Job: Host at Bravo Italian Kitchen

Plans: 4-year college, undecided

What are you most excited for?

"I'm excited to go in the student section for the game because I'm usually on the sidelines cheering."



# American Shutdown

BY: ALINA URQUHART

**B**ack on December 21st, 2018, the U.S. government shut down. The shutdown lasted for 35 days, and resulted in the furlough of 800,000 federal workers. On October 1st, it nearly happened again. Here's why you should care:

When the government shuts down, it means they have to decide which federal employees are considered essential workers (such as the military or the post office) or non-essential workers (like park rangers or janitors). The workers deemed non-essential are furloughed, and the ones deemed essential have to keep working without pay.

But why does the government

shut down? It's most often because congress cannot approve and pass a budget. This can happen for a variety of reasons, but it has most recently been due to opposing political parties refusing to find common ground. On October 1st, the shutdown was narrowly avoided when the speaker of the house and member of the Republican Party, Kevin McCarthy, compromised with the Democratic Party to get the budget passed.

It's an issue in politics that every citizen may want to be aware of and pay attention to, regardless of if they're federally employed or not. Even if they're not federally employed, they still interact with federal workers every

day who could be at risk. A shutdown could mean a complete stall in the economy and a slowed workforce, and this would affect every citizen.

Next time there's talk about a government shutdown, it's best for Americans to have their ears open and keep up to date on the situation, as it could change anyone's plans.



# Let's Go Golfing

BY: SUZY DEPACE

**F**un times are happening as par as the eye can see at Smash Factory, a new golf driving range located in Kuhn's Plaza.

Smash Factory opened toward the beginning of August 2023, located at the corner between Hot Deal Liquidation and Sherwin Williams.

Founded by Jarod Wachtel, Max Schmierer, Nate Bible, and Bob Bible, this store was opened with dedication and passion. "Three out of our four partners are lawyers, and we all golf together a lot. In the off season we would travel to a golf simulator in Mars and Top Golf in Bridgeville to get some golf in. We talked about wanting to have a simulator near us and wondered why no one has opened one in Beaver County," says Jarod.

"We talked about opening our own for about 2 years before we decided to take the chance and open a golf simulator in Beaver County." Finally the perfect location was found right in the center of Hopewell. "We finally found a great spot in the Hopewell Shopping Plaza."

Smash Factory is unique be-

cause it provides a virtual yet realistic and interactive display of a real golf course. It is perfect for people who want to try something new, or are returning golfers. It provides an opportunity for fun regardless of the weather.

As the idea was running through the mind of these partners, it wasn't as easy to make a reality. "Most of the struggles were due to building code compliance and technical difficulties that we had to figure out," says Jarod.

As times change, so does the ability to grow a new business. "We also struggled to get the word out about Smash Factory. Especially to the older golfers who aren't as active on social media." Whether you're a pro golfer, or a complete amateur, this store provides a fun, new, and unique experience for all customers.

"Honestly, people should come here because it's a ton of fun! Whether you are an avid golfer or have never golfed before, you can have a great time with your friends or family in our private bays."

are able to play music on provided Bluetooth speakers and bring your own food and drinks.

For more avid golfers, there is a fun new experience available to play. "We have over 100,000 courses to choose from as well as a virtual driving range and short game practice areas. But, the people that would love this the most are the avid golfers who want to be able to play famous courses they probably would never get the chance to play in real life like Pebble Beach, Augusta National, etc., and who want to play no matter the weather or time of year."

What are you waiting for? Quit puttering around and stop by the Smash Factory!







# So Long, Suzy

BY: MIA GARGIULO

**B**and senior, Suzanna DePace, has been a part of the Hopewell Drumline for 4 years. She is one of the Drum Captains and is center snare. Along with being drumline captain, she is editor-in-chief for Hopewell Hi-Lites, a writer for That Sports Podcast, and is secretary of the National Honor Society and Class Club.

Outside of school, Suzy has danced at Carol Leone's Dance, Gymnastics and Child Care Center for about 14 years. She's a dance and gymnastics coach there as well.

"I love where I work because I get to shape young minds at the place where I grew up. It's nostalgic because I'm teaching the same things that I was taught when I was younger. Seeing the kids improve is super rewarding, and I'm glad to be a part of their journey."

Football season is an important, time-consuming part of the band. They spend hours daily preparing for pre-game, their half-time show, and making sure they sound great in the stands. Suzy looks forward to playing in the stands and with the other band

members during football games.

"Getting a good view while doing what I love is perfect during Friday night football games. Hearing us all play together and sound our best is super rewarding, especially after all the hard work and dedication we put into our band."

With the season coming to an end, Suzy is dreading the last game. "Since I'm a senior, having to experience all of my 'lasts' is surreal. Not being able to be with my people every Friday is going to be like a hole in my chest," she says.

However, the end of football season does not mean the end of the band season. They are taking a band trip to Washington D.C. and to Williamsburg, Virginia.

"I am very excited because almost everyone in the band was never able to make it to their 8th grade D.C. trip, so it's going to be lots of fun for everyone."

The student section will miss Suzy keeping the rhythm, or should we say DePace.



# HALLOWEEN POLL

Which Halloween Candy is the Best?

- A. Snickers
- B. Twix
- C. Kit Kats
- D. Milky Way

Which Halloween Movie is the Best?

- A. Hocus Pocus
- B. Hocus Pocus II
- C. The Nightmare Before Christmas
- D. Ghostbusters

Best Haunted House/Trail?

- A. Humane Society Haunted Trail
- B. Freddy's Haunts
- C. Hundred Acres Manor Haunted House
- D. Haunted Hollow

Which is the Classic Halloween Costume?

- A. Ghost
- B. Witch
- C. Superhero/Superman
- D. Clown

Which is the Best Gummy Halloween Candy?

- A. Gummy Worms
- B. Gummy Bears
- C. Trolli Worms
- D. Sour Patch Kids

Which Halloween Horror Movie is the Best?

- A. Halloween
- B. Scream
- C. Nightmare on Elm St.
- D. The Conjuring

Which Spooky Song is the Best?

- A. Monster Mash
- B. Ghostbusters
- C. Spooky Scary Skeletons
- D. This is Halloween



## Twinning: The Roches

BY: LAHNA MURRAY

**D**akota and Kamryn Roche, freshmen at Hopewell High School, are twins from the outside: but how do they feel about it on the inside?

They agree on many things, such as their favorite part about being a twin. "Probably always having someone," Kamryn says. Knowing there's always someone there for them, they never have to worry about being alone.

Appearance-wise, they're very similar, but if you take a closer look, you'll see some differences. Dakota has darker hair, a deeper voice, and is

shorter, while Kamryn is blonde, has a higher pitched voice, and is taller.

Unlike *The Parent Trap*, Kamryn and Dakota said they have never switched places. Although Kamryn says, "Sometimes when I go through the line, I'll enter Dakota's number and the lunch ladies don't notice."

Being a twin isn't always fun. One of the biggest struggles has been with their friends. They feel like when they're invited to places, their friends feel obligated to invite the other. "As we've gotten older, things have kinda separated. Everybody kind of realizes

that if it's not one of us, the other one doesn't have to come," Dakota says.

The biggest pet peeve for them is when people buy the same gifts, but in a different color. Just because they're twins, doesn't mean they like the same thing.

From the outside, twin life may seem simple. Take a deeper look, and you'll see the positives and obstacles of twin life through Dakota and Kamryn Roche.



# Just for the Health of it

BY: EMMA DICICCO

One thing that many gym teachers and professional trainers believe is that health and overall wellness should be prioritized. Hopewell High School's gym teacher, Mrs. Heranic, enjoys watching her students engage in physical activity. With loads of homework and tests to study for, having the motivation to workout and eat healthy is hard to do. Mrs. Heranic has her own personal view on fitness and some tips and tricks in ways to get and stay fit: create a routine for yourself, and make healthy, easy snacks.

Mrs. Heranic believes that there is no exact definition of fitness because everybody in the world perceives fitness on their own personal level. "Everyone has their own likes and dislikes about activities, it's merely being active," she says.

Students can get exercise from many different types of physical activity. A student might be interested in weightlifting while another may enjoy intense cardio sessions. Other examples such as contact sports, rock climbing, yoga, pilates, running, or taking brisk walks in nature are great ways to incorporate physical activity into one's daily life.

When it comes to the importance of physical activity, the obvious answer would be health-related. However, Mrs. Heranic says, "My answer would be physical activity is fun." She believes that physical activity should be entertaining and a fun experience for students instead of a strict, miserable workout that discourages movement.

Additionally, exercise doesn't have to run on a tight schedule or be a grueling, three-hour-long process. She stresses that exercise can happen anywhere, "Simple things such as parking further away from entrances, taking the stairs instead of an elevator, are simple ways of incorporating physical activity."

Mrs. Heranic incorporates music into her gym class to make an

entertaining environment for students to workout in. Working out in a fun environment can help pass the time during an exercise session. She recommends students turn exercises into games, "Try to change up the way you do simple household chores...sing and dance when clearing off the table, make it a race to make your bed."

However, if you can't readily think of new games to play, SHAPE America has some valuable information and monthly fitness calendars that can incorporate fun into daily routines.

Some benefits of creating a routine include time management, stress management, boosting energy levels, and relieving stress. Alleviating unnecessary clutter in a student's schedule helps them achieve their goals and tasks on hand. Journaling, writing to-dos in a planner, meal prepping, and dividing your time into segments are effective methods of creating a straightforward routine to follow daily.

However, your routine should take into account only your own life and schedule. Do not compare or change your routine according to a friend or family member. Do what works for you. "It's not being better than someone else...it's about being better than you used to be." Mrs. Heranic states.

It is hard to dismiss the irresistible temptation of the cafeteria's

snack line. Shelves stocked with various chips and candy, warm soft pretzels, cheesy nachos, chewy cookies, and creamy ice cream are tempting snack options for students during lunch. Even though these snack options are delicious, consuming them on a daily basis creates bad eating habits.

Bad eating habits can lead to weight gain, obesity, dental issues, and other chronic health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, or strokes. Mrs. Heranic recommends trail mix as a healthy but tasty snack option, "When I think of healthy snacks, I think of trail mix."

Trail mix contains a wide variety of nuts and dried fruit. Nuts being the main ingredient provide healthy fats, protein, and fiber and something sweet can always be added such as dried cranberries, blueberries, or dark chocolate.

Mrs. Heranic also recommends fruit, crackers and cheese, peanut butter and celery sticks, cucumbers and hummus, and air-popped popcorn.

Starting your own fitness journey will pose a wide variety of obstacles and challenges. However, in the long run, having sufficient health will help you achieve everyday tasks and goals. "It's about finding the right fit for yourself!" Mrs. Heranic says.





# Underappreciated Occupation

BY: ALEXIA BRUNTON

“I want nothing else from this job. That people are safe, and if I can put a smile on someone’s face.” Mr. Demich, the Hopewell Senior High School’s primary crossing-guard cares.

As a crossing guard, Mr. Demich’s main focus is making sure that buses are not backed up and that the walkers can safely use the crosswalk. He explains that one of the main issues of being a crossing guard is that student drivers and drivers in general do not pay attention to their surroundings and that drivers do not understand some of the simpler rules of the crossing guard.

An example of this is when he is directing one lane of traffic, but turns and walks to a different section of the street to direct traffic. Most people continue driving, even when they are not supposed to. Mr. Demich explained that even when he is directing traffic, drivers should be aware that stop signs are still in effect.

“We all well know the light at five points,” he explained. “So there’s a light there.” The light at five-points

is similar to the exit at the highschool where Washington Street, Perry Street, Longvue Avenue, and the school’s drive all intersect in one area. “I’m the light here. Here, there are five points,” he said.

Five points of incoming traffic aimed at one area could be called the definition of congested. “People do not want the headache of being up here. It’s just so congested and dangerous.”

Mr. Demich explains why he enjoys working as a crossing guard. “It’s a paid job, it’s a part time job, and it keeps me in shape.” In between the high school and middle school buses all he does is walk. He estimates he walks approximately twelve miles everyday, six miles in the morning and six more in the afternoon.

He also appreciates the flexibility of his work schedule, “It gives me a chance, I have a mom who lives with me. She’s ninety-three years old and I take care of her. So it gives me the chance to spend a lot of time with her.”

In addition to being the cross-

ing guard for the High School, Jr. High, and Margaret Ross, he also coaches baseball for Moon High School. Mr. Demich confirms that being a crossing guard gives him the flexibility he needs in his life.

Mr. Demich appreciates helping young people, “I love students. I don’t have any children - kids of my own or any grandchildren. So these kids and the kids I coach in baseball, they are my kids.” It’s not just about getting paid for doing a job well done, it is about caring about what you do and how your job affects people.

He explained that showing support to every and all of the students is important. For example, he will attend the Jr. High Musical to support the students who walk to the high school for rehearsals. He says that the students are the future and if he can have a positive effect on at least one person, he made a positive effect for the future.

“If I affect one person in this whole wide world. One person, then I helped,” Mr Demich emphasizes.





# Sports

## Swishing for Playoffs

BY: AARON DICKHART

There is a new sense of hope after years of losing and disappointment for Hopewell Basketball could come to an end this season. Junior point guard, Zach Kovell, is certainly a believer of that.

"I think we might have something special and if we can put the pieces together a playoff run potentially," says Zach Kovell

The team was in a preseason fall league, and finished 3-4, and even in one of the losses the team went to overtime with 2022 1A State Champion, Bishop Canevin. Despite the average record, the team is looking competitive.

There is one major concern for the team this year: the size, or lack thereof. "We gotta play gritty. We gotta play like we have nothing to lose. We have to really commit to crashing the boards together as a team, not just having one big dude get all the rebounds," says Zach. He believes if the team can do this, then they will be alright. The team lost all their height from the graduating class of 2023. "Last year the seniors were big. That's definitely going to be missed is the height and the rebounds. But, I feel like our squad this year has improved some of the things we were missing last year."

In order for success to happen though, you must have a winning mentality going into each practice, work-

out, and game. "Everyone is gonna come in playing us thinking they are gonna beat us. We have to get that out of our heads. We have to think, let's do our own thing and let's go win." Mentality is a huge part of any sport and Zach and the team has to have the right mindset in order to stack up the wins this year.

Making the playoffs would mean a lot to Zach. The goal for the team and himself this year is to win.

"That would be so sick. I might cry if that happens. But that's definitely the ultimate goal, so we'll have to see where we go." Zach and his teammates are hungry this year. They are tired of losing and have been putting in work. It's time for this basketball team to finally start bringing success back to the community.



# Bouncing Back

BY: SADIE LUBERT

**D**ribbling, shooting, scoring, the Hopewell Girls Basketball team does it all. In previous seasons, the girls have had some successes and some struggles, but some of the upcoming freshmen believe this will be a good year for the team.

"I think it will be hard in the beginning to adjust and get back into the groove of things, but after we start playing and working together, I think we will do great," said freshman Amelia McCloskey.

She has been playing basketball since third grade and has always had a passion for the sport. Excited about getting to see some of her old teammates who are upperclassmen, Amelia can't wait to start playing. She is a post player. In this position

she guards the hoop and receives rebounds. Playing an aggressive position means there will be injuries, and she has had a lot of them throughout the years, however her passion and supportive parents allow her to continue improving.

Another freshman, Alana Covalt, has similar views. She thinks that the team will do good this year and make it to the playoffs. Adjusting to the new atmosphere may take a bit, but she is confident that she will get better this season. Alana has been playing since third grade and has loved it ever since. She is very fast which is why she is a point guard. In this position, she dribbles and passes the ball up the court. Skill and determination will allow Alana to be triumphant this season.

The Hopewell Girls Basketball team is going to be gifted this season with hopeful and passionate freshman that will definitely be a good addition to the team.



# Shooting For The Best

BY: ELLA RITCHART

The Hopewell Girls Soccer Team had a challenging season, but the team worked hard all season to get better.

The team has faced lots of change throughout the season. Losing key players mid-season and getting a new coaching staff has had an impact on the team.

Senior captain Bella Gold said, "We worked to improve our communication and connecting pass-

es. Overall we needed to learn to trust each other." With a younger offense, the team struggled to score. In this situation, communication and connecting passes are crucial to get the ball in the net.

Losing was hard on the team morale, but the girls continued to keep their heads up. "We tried to use our losses to try and get better and learn from our mistakes."

Even though their record says otherwise, there have been some positive aspects of the season. "We have built a relationship as a team. I have gotten closer with all of the girls, especially being the only senior," said Bella.

Good luck to senior Bella Gold as the returning players look to improve in the offseason.





# Big Sport in Pittsburgh Nothing Sport in Hopewell

BY: BRANDON CLARK

The Big 3 American sports have always overshadowed hockey. Young kids in the US just don't care much about hockey. Baseball football and basketball are the only sports on some kid's radar along with the occasional soccer. This is something that will never change but everyone deserves to know about the great sport of hockey and the unsuspecting kids who play it.

Hopewell is far from a hockey town, yet only around 5 kids playing hockey in the high school is a sadly low number. More people are needed to field a team. A competitive high school would need at least 14 or so players. In other sports just grabbing some random semi-athletic kids to fill out a roster makes sense but in hockey, this is entirely unattainable. Due to the stupidly high entry cost involved in playing due to the amount of equipment needed. And well the ability to skate well enough is not something that can simply be learned quickly. Access to facilities to hold practices and

games is also sparse with only 2 ice rinks within 30 minutes of Hopewell High School. There is one alternative though which grants the option to play hockey at the high school level. Play for rival school Central Valley.

Gavin Svaranowic, junior at Hopewell is a perfect subject for the discussion of hockey players at Hopewell a lifelong hockey player and a 3-year varsity hockey player at Central Valley. Along with a long high-level travel/Club hockey career, Gavin knows what he's talking about." I was

introduced to hockey at 3 years old." Gavin has been living hockey for his whole life. Gavin on the topic of playing for a rival school says, "It isn't that weird since I know everyone on the team and have been playing with them since 6th grade." Owing to CV also allowing Hopewell Middle School to join their middle school team. Gavin says "I think more people should try hockey but it's not for everyone." In all hockey isn't what it should be in Hopewell, but sadly the room to grow just isn't there either.







# How is Hunting Important to People?

BY: ANTHONY FRATANGELI

Have you ever had a nice moment alone that puts you in a good mood? When you're hunting, every distraction of the modern world is forgotten. The cold air of a fall afternoon seems to be one of the best stress relievers for thousands of Americans. Not every hunter goes to get out of the house, but most do. A new wave of hunters has hit the US, more and more people are wanting to get out and have some quality time with themselves.

As an avid hunter Jim said, "I go to get meat, time away from my wife and think to myself." Many older men like to teach their sons how to hunt. This is another reason older hunters like to go out to teach their sons and bond. But, for most, they spend their evenings out and alone. Jim also said, "I like to get out and see some

nice scenery and get some alone time." He said that it gives him a nice break from the annoyances of life.

Also, the memories are another big reason they go out. He said, "The biggest buck ever got was last year he was an 8 point and had the

widest rack I've got." He said the memories make great stories and they could spend hours residing them.







# Chills or Thrills?

BY: OLIVIA SEDLACEK

**B**oo! Halloween is coming up and there is a lot to love and hate about it. Haunted houses and trails, trick-or-treating, scary movies, and carving pumpkins are some of the many activities to do around Halloween.

"I love Halloween and I think getting scared is fun. There is so much to do around this time of year," said senior Nevaeh Jaquay. Nevaeh shared her thoughts on the holiday and why she enjoys it so much. "I like Halloween because there's a lot to do around this season, like haunted houses, corn

mazes, and trails."

Trick-or-treating is another popular thing to do during Halloween. "It makes me feel like a kid again and I just love seeing how creative everyone is with their costumes," said Nevaeh.

On the other hand, some people may not enjoy Halloween as much as others. "I hate being scared. It does not excite me in the slightest, and I do not find being scared fun," said junior Alaina Kelly.

"I think Halloween ruins fall. I love fall weather and going to pumpkin patches, but I find the scary part

of Halloween to be unnecessary," said Alaina.

Alaina also shares her thoughts on trick-or-treating, "As a kid I liked trick-or-treating, but as I get older I started to not like it as much. I like the dressing up aspect, but I don't prefer to go out and get candy."

Overall, there are mixed opinions on Halloween. Some people enjoy the scary aspects of Halloween, while others do not. Either way, there are many things to do during Halloween to make it enjoyable for everyone! Which side are you on?

# Crazy for Candy

BY: NEVAEH PERSI-JONES

**C**andy is one of the biggest components of Halloween. Over 600 million pounds of candy are bought in preparation of the day. 85% of people in America consume candy on Halloween.

The most popular candy in America happens to be Reese's Cups. At Hopewell High School, 6 out of 10 students said Reese's Cups are their favorite candy.

Many other popular candies such as Skittles, M&M's, Starburst, Hot Tamales, Sour Patch Kids, Hershey Kisses, and Snickers are at the top of the list for best selling. An average person will eat about 3.4 pounds of candy which is about 3 cups of sug-

ar on Halloween night. That is about 2,319 calories. It would take any average person 2 and half hours of working out to burn that many calories off.

Mr. Nee, one of our gym and health teachers, thinks, "It's okay to eat that amount on Halloween, but any other day would be a problem."

The start of Halloween can be traced all the way back to 17th-century British politics: the Celts, a pagan group of people, celebrating and welcoming the harvest at the end of summer, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to

ward off ghosts. Many "celts" started off in Western Europe but as people came over to America, they came and with them the holiday now known as Halloween.





# Hoo-Rey for Lana

BY: ALLISON HONEYWILL

An audience wearing hair bows, heart-shaped sunglasses, veils, flower crowns, tons of lace, and vintage dresses packed the Pavilion at Starlake for a sold-out Lana Del Rey concert. On October 2nd, star Lana Del Rey played a nearly ninety-minute show composed of eighteen songs.

Lana strutted onto the stage wearing a cream mini-dress embellished with black embroidery and knee-high black boots, while the crowd erupted to her singing the title track of her 2019 album “Norman (f) Rockwell.” Afterwards, Del Rey wasted no time diving into shortened versions of “A&W” and “Arcadia.”

After a brief introduction, Del Rey sang the classic “Young and Beautiful,” which most definitely excited the lively audience. Another fan-favorite part of the show was when she performed “Videogames.” The performance aspect of the song brought it to the next level. “My favorite part was when she sang ‘Videogames’ and swung on the swing,” said Mary McGrail, an avid Lana Del Rey fan.

While the majority of the concert was stripped down to pure vocals

and minimal visual effects, Del Rey’s timeless voice and impassioned lyrics made for an elegantly crafted show. Explosive moments included the bright red strobe lights that shined while she sang and danced to “Cherry,” following “Bartender,” which she sang while sitting down two songs before. During another popular song, “Pretty When I Cry,” Del Rey laid on the stage with her dancers, performing for an overhead camera.

“I wanted to go to the concert because I like her music and she is very inspiring,” said Mary. Known for her ability to connect with a large audience both with her music and personality, Del Rey certainly created a lasting bond with the sold-out crowd at Starlake.

Reflecting on her personal dreams, Del Rey took a moment to inspire, “I just wanted to say a quick little blessing to the powers that be that every single person who has their own individual dream, may they know every person’s heart desire is a God-given desire, and it’s not selfish to want to live it.”

After acknowledging her dancers and crew on the second-to-last

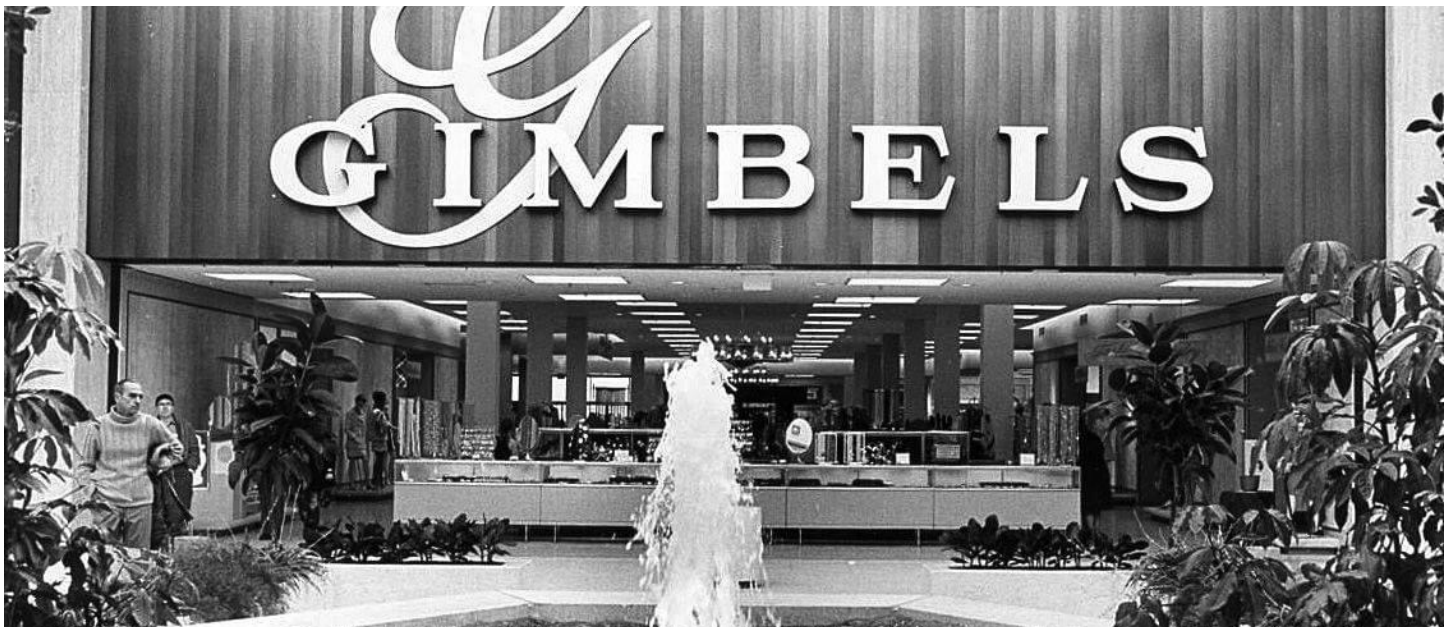
stop of the ten-show tour, the concert came to an end after she sang, “Did you know that there is a Tunnel Under Ocean Boulevard,” the title track of her latest album. A breathtaking display of flashlights illuminated the pavilion and lawn, bidding farewell to Lana Del Rey.

This was Del Rey’s first time playing in the Pittsburgh area, after her mainstream burst to fame in the early 2010s. “We’ve waited a really long time to be here,” Del Rey admitted to the crowd of 22,000.

“The concert was an 11/10,” said Mary. Despite the lack of extreme production, Mary felt “It was awesome, and I didn’t get bored at all.” The only thing Mary would change about the show was the setlist. “I wish she would have played more of her popular songs, especially Radio!”

Even though Del Rey confessed it would probably be a while until she toured the Pittsburgh area again, the night at Starlake will not be easily forgotten. The perfect October night will go down as one of “The greatest” concerts of the 2023 season.





# The Fall of the Beaver Valley Mall

BY: KENDRA ONUSKA

Many locals in the Beaver County area are familiar with the Beaver Valley Mall. The mall first opened in 1970 and was a popular location that has over 100 stores and a food court. As the popularity of the mall grew, people made long road trips from the local tristate area just to visit the mall.

The mall had many successful years holding stores that didn't turn over, serving as the shopping mecca of the Valley. However, in 2015, as online shopping grew, stores nationwide began to close their locations. It was then that RadioShack was the first impacted and left the Beaver Valley Mall.

It seemed as though the mall was keeping its head above water until its closing. Once RadioShack left, the mall hit a major decline in stores yearly. A handful of stores including Sears, Macy's, Foot Locker stores, PacSun, Justice, Victoria's Secret, and many more were all surprisingly closed or consolidated at other locations.

With the decline the mall has had, it impacted individuals from Beaver County. "I miss the days of having multiple stores to select from," said Jennifer Onuska, who currently has office space

within the mall. "Relying on standard mall favorites like a pretzel from Auntie Anne's or our once famous Antony's pizza should be a must." Hopewell High School teacher Mr. Vallecorsa grew up in Beaver County. Vallecorsa said, "I lived by the mall and I walked there very often." He shared how teenagers of his time would go to the mall to socialize with people from other school districts. "It was just packed with people everywhere," said Vallecorsa. "I used to go up there to meet with girls and go on dates."

Although the Beaver Valley Mall has had a major decline in stores and customers throughout the years, it has held great memories for the people of Beaver County. The once popular and successful mall still continues to run to this day. Some stores currently in the mall include JCPenney, Dicks Sporting Goods, Boscov's, Bath and Body Works, and Rural King. The Beaver Valley Mall has reached its success in the past, but as time moves forward the mall has become nearly nothing but a memory to Beaver County and its locals.

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