

Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

Issue 53: December 2024



Connor Buxton

Every year Connor's favorite Christmas memory is what he looks forward to finding in his stocking. Though it's usually filled with small gifts and candy, Connor looks forward to getting his favorite, chocolate covered oranges. This has been a tradition that his family has followed ever since he could remember and originally came from the UK where Connor was born. Connor said, "This treat often reminds me of my heritage and even though I never really got to experience life over there, the oranges make me feel as if I was a part of it."



Kamryn Burks

Kamryn recalls her favorite Christmas memory as being the first time she got a black Barbie doll. When she was about 8 years old, Kamryn was so thrilled when she got this present. Kamryn had loved playing with Barbie dolls and dressing them up, but this one was so special to her. Kamryn stated, "I was so excited to get my favorite doll, and for it to look just like me, and the doll even had braids too."



Mr. Slapikas

Around his 3rd or 4th grade year, Mr. Slapikas had his most memorable Christmas ever. During that year, his father had lost his job and it had been a pretty lousy time overall. Even being so young, Mr. Slapikas was pretty aware that this Christmas was expected to be slim to none due to money being tight.

Though he didn't know that his uncle had lent his parents some money for gifts for him and his sister. So when he woke up Christmas morning he was shocked that there were presents sitting under the tree, and as he was unwrapping his gifts, he was completely astounded. Mr. Slapikas said, "I got these 3 lego sets that were martians and astronauts themed that were super expensive, and I probably wouldn't have gotten them under normal circumstances."

Mr. Mohrbacher

On Christmas Eve when he was 8, Mr. Mohrbacher and his family were sitting in church. While in service Mr. Mohrbacher kept hearing a scratching noise from the lady who was sitting in front of them.

Being a curious kid, he looked down under the seat to see that a lid from a takeout cup had got stuck on the heel of her shoe through the straw hole. Everytime she moved and made the scratching noise, Mr. Mohrbacher and his siblings would giggle.

As the church service continued, some of the kids were performing music and one kid specifically was playing the tuba. Mr. Mohrbacher recalled, "It was a young kid, and it was pretty clear he hadn't been playing tuba for a long time, so when he began to play it just sounded like someone passing gas." So between the two events, he and his siblings were ready to burst into laughter, but they didn't want to ruin the service or embarrass their parents. "It wasn't very sentimental, but it was so funny that it's always been a Christmas memory of mine," said Mr. Mohrbacher

Nazheria Johnson-Jeter



Nazheria's all time favorite Christmas memory is when her older brother, Nazhamere, told her that Santa Claus isn't real. In the early morning, Nazheria and the rest of her family had begun to open their Christmas presents, and she had opened one of hers and was ecstatic.

Nazheria even said, "I can remember the exact gift I had opened, it was a little remote control dog." Seeing that she was so happy, her brother decided to tell her Santa wasn't real and Nazheria began crying. After her parents had talked with her, explaining that Santa was just a fictional character, Nazheria was still excited to play with her new gift. Though she didn't find it very humorous then, she and her family are all able to laugh about it now.

Frau Buddemeyer

Frau Buddemeyer's favorite Christmas memory is actually about her kids' Christmas and not hers. Frau stated, "My favorite part of Christmas every year was watching my kids come running down the stairs to see what Santa had brought them, and so excited to open their gifts."

Frau felt that Christmas was a little more special when her kids were younger and still believed in stuff like Santa. She also said, "As a mom, nothing puts a smile on your face more than seeing your kids that excited."

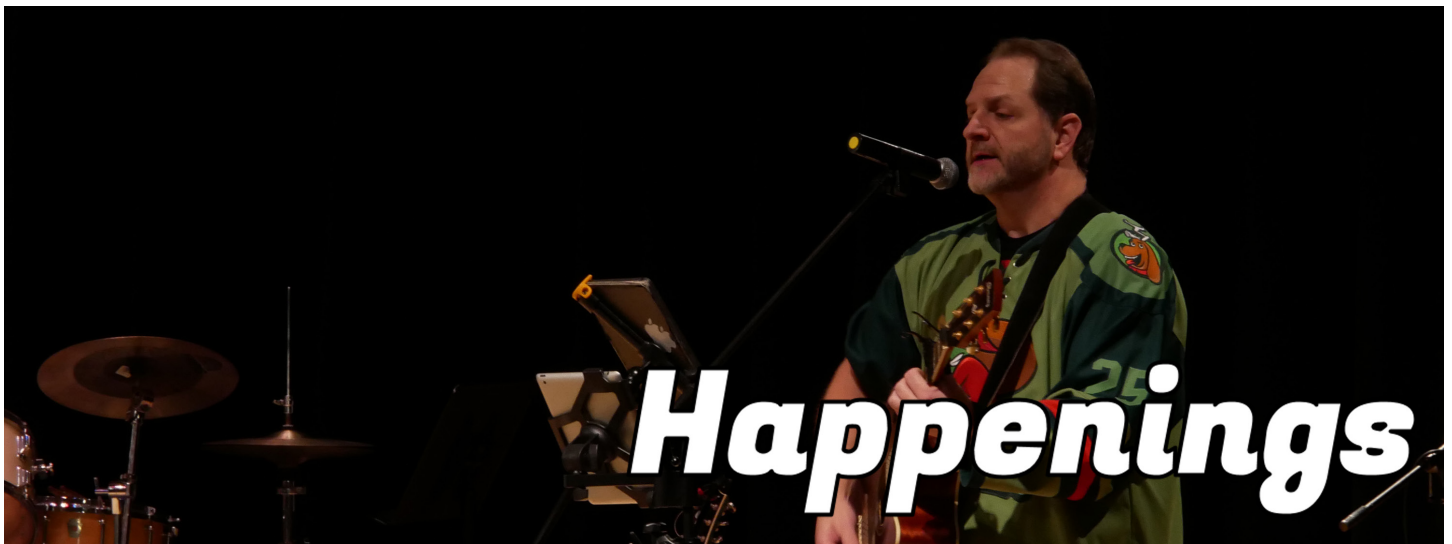
What's Inside...

Happenings
Sports

Pages 1-2
Pages 3-8

Voices
Culture

Page 10-11
Pages 12-16



THIS CHRISTMAS...

BY: EMMA PALMIERI

Christmas is here. Everyone is filled with cheer. There are so many fun things to do in December.

“December is up there as my favorite month,” says Daniel Earley. “We get free things and there is Holiday cheer.” Christmas is very eventful for Hopewell as it has a Semi Formal every year right before Christmas. This year we also did a Christmas lip dub, to get in spirit for the Holidays and show school spirit.

When you’re bored and don’t want to go out but still want fun? Go see some Christmas lights. You don’t have to get out of your Christmas pajamas. You just hop in the car, and drive to see lights with your family, friends or significant other. There are many places to see lights around. Clinton Light Up celebration, Enchanted Lights Pittsburgh, Hartwood Acres, and many more. They are kind of far, but worth it!

Pittsburgh is such a great place to visit during the day, or at night to get in the Christmas spirit. There’s a botanical garden filled with lights and great places to take pictures. There are so many restaurants and shops, and ice skating at PPG Arena around a Christmas tree.

This Christmas, the Steelers are playing the Chiefs at Acrisure Stadium at 1:00. Many traditions are changed this year to be able to attend the game. Ella Ritchart says, “I am going to the game, and I’m super excited. I really want to see Taylor Swift there.

It’s one of the reasons I am excited to go.”

Merry Christmas! Enjoy the time with your family and go hangout with some friends over break, doing some of these activities!





Putting on a Show

BY: NEVAEH P-J

Running down the court to the 2024-25 season, girls basketball is off to a promising start. They started their home opener with a win.

The team consists of 13 girls along with the only senior Alyssa Spang and head coach Jeffery Homziak. "In the game of basketball, some days you may not shoot the ball well, but you can always bring effort on the defensive side of the ball to keep your team competitive." The girls have a lot of new talent and hope to make it far. "If you play hard, show oppo-

nents respect, and are always thankful for the opportunity to represent the people of this community, they will support the teams of our school district." Head Coach Homziak explained.

Alyssa is captain and has played all 4 years of high school and has played for ten years "my hope is to have a winning season and be section champs"

Along with Alyssa our rising juniors Maya Richburg, Caylee Sundy, Alie Ramaley, and Aubrey

Cumpston and 8 underclassmen.

This year the girls will have 10 regular home games this season. Avery Boyd, a sophomore says, "Having home games is better especially when we have a student section." As the team stacks wins they hope to draw more support from their fellow students.

Perhaps even the cheerleaders or the band could support the girls hoops team. Cheerleader Lalia Kish says, "I would definitely love to cheer at their games, it could motivate everyone else to come see them."

Zach Kovell, captain of the boys teams and our Viking mascot, is big on support, "We try to make it to all the games and pass off the good energy to them when we finish our practice, and they get started."





Rolling Into a New Year

BY: LAHNA MURRAY

It's the new season, which means bocce season is up and running again. Last season was a success, but can they keep up their winning streak?

The team has high expectations from previous years. The past two seasons, they have had a record of 3-1. Payton Korker started playing bocce his sophomore year, and is now preparing for the season as a junior. "I think the challenges this year are going to be to keep winning. We have to

be consistent and smart with every roll and just win against other teams."

The new players on the team seem to have promise as well. Practices have shown that the rookies seem to have a natural talent for bocce. "The older team has lost to the newer team every time but you know...beginner's luck," he said. While their team has potential, it doesn't mean the season will be easy. Payton said, "There's always room for improvement, whether it's being more consistent or having a

smarter roll."

Hopewell's bocce team is full of passion for the sport, and while talent is great, the best part is that they're having fun. "Both teams enjoy bocce a lot and have fun competing against each other in practice. I think it will be a good season."

Defrosting Records

BY: ELLA RITCHART

The Hopewell Track and Field team works all year round to make sure they come out on top for the spring season. They practice and compete all winter to prepare for the spring.

The team practices three days a week and has harder, lactate workouts on the weekends. Senior runner and high jumper, Daniel Earley says, "I do specialized workouts to help me get better. I do plyometric workouts that focus on jumping. Practicing and hard work is essential for improvement."

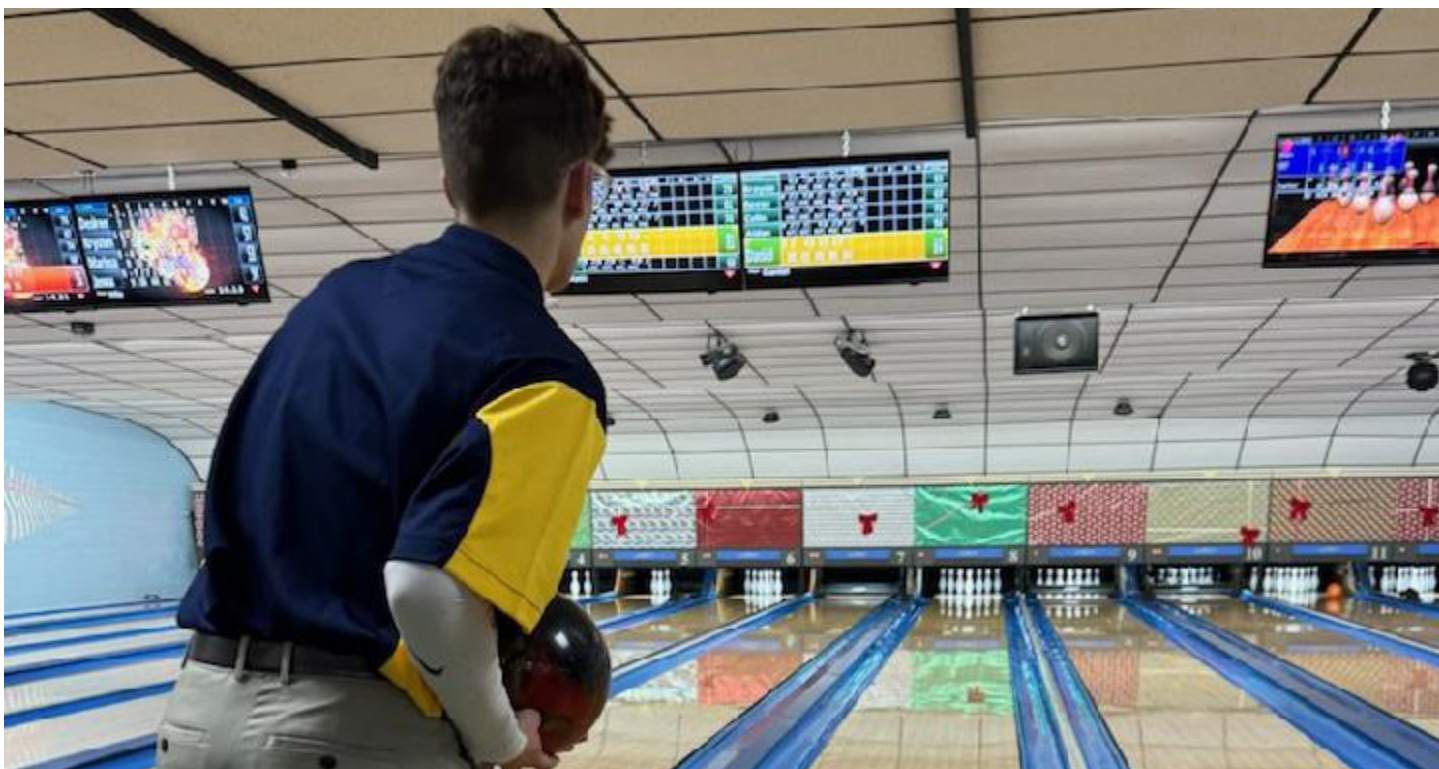
Many of the seniors have big

goals to accomplish. Emma Palmieri says, "I want to work to be continuously under a minute in the 400 for indoor." She wants to beat the school record for both the 200 and the 400. The current school record for the 200 is 25.77 seconds and the record for the 400 is 57.64. With times like 25.81 and 57.93, Palmieri is not too far off from achieving these goals.

Along with Palmieri, pole vaulter Connor Progar works hard to be better. "My first goal is to beat the indoor record which is 12'6. I also want to get back to where I was at the end of the last season or higher." Progar

is looking forward to this indoor season. "I am excited to pole vault inside. The weather is controlled and that is a great thing." He also goes to Steel City Pole Vault to practice. "It's great to have somewhere to practice during the winter. The coaches are also really good and experienced."

There is no off-season for the track team. They put in the work year-round to get ready to compete in the spring. Many of the seniors hope to participate in track and field in college. So, they work especially hard to improve their times and to get the attention of college coaches.



Senior Spotlight: Daniel Earley

BY: JUSTIN PARSONS

Daniel Earley's journey with bowling began as a lighthearted choice in 5th grade when he signed up as a joke in Mr. Sundy's room. This decision sparked an unexpected passion that shaped his high school experience.

Bowling came naturally to Daniel, but he finds motivation in constant improvement. "It's always been easy for me," he says. Daniel has enjoyed the social aspect as well as the competitive nature of bowling. The friendships he's made through the sport have further enriched his high school years. "It's been a cool experience," he notes about the connections with teammates.

His training routine involves practice every Monday, where he gets into the zone with his favorite music, often listening to Future. Recently, Daniel triumphed at Kennedy Lanes, scoring an impressive 287 pins. This is just three pins shy of the school record and only two strikes away from a perfect game. This score stands out as one

of his proudest accomplishments.

Balancing academics and bowling is manageable since practices are just twice a week, which allows him to stay on top of his studies. The support from coaches and teammates has been essential. "Coaches keep me in check when things start to go south," he explains.

Looking forward, Daniel hopes to bowl casually after high school and encourages younger students to give the sport a try. "It's a really fun program," he says.

As a captain, representing his school means a lot to him. "I've always wanted to be a leader," he reflects.

Daniel Earley's high school bowling career exemplifies not only his talent but also his growth as an individual and leader. It's clear that bowling will remain a cherished part of his life.



Searching for a Championship

BY: AARON MINEARD

On December 20, 2024, college football will enter a new era of the College Football Playoff with 12 teams instead of the previous 4-team playoff that lasted for 10 years.

The College Football Playoff, otherwise known as the “CFP”, will enter a new era. For the last 10 years, the College Football Playoff has had numerous teams and countless national champions. The College Football Playoff, which started in 2014, crowned its first national champion, THE Ohio State Buckeyes, which finished the season with a 14-1 record and ended up knocking off Marcus Mariota and the Oregon Ducks with a final score of 42-20.

For the next 4 years the game would be played between Alabama and Clemson. With the Crimson Tide and

the Tigers winning 2 championships apiece. The Tide won in 2015 and 2017, while the Tigers won in 2016 and 2018. In 2019, the Clemson Tigers made it to the playoff again, this time against LSU, which were led by quarterback Joe Burrow, running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, and wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson. The LSU Tigers prevailed 42-25. This year the matchups will be No. 5 Texas vs No. 12 Clemson, No. 6 Penn State vs No. 11 SMU, No. 7 Notre Dame vs No. 10 Indiana, and No. 8 Ohio State vs No. 9 Tennessee. These teams will play in the first round while No. 1 Oregon, No. 2 Georgia, No. 3 Boise State, and No. 4 Arizona State all get a bye week to the quarterfinals.

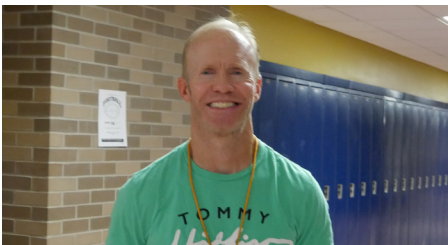
The SEC continued its dominance in the championship the following year, with Alabama, led by Heisman

Trophy winner Devonta Smith, who massacred the Ohio State Buckeyes 52-24. Then the Georgia Bulldogs won back-to-back national championships in 2021 and 2022, going 29-1 in that 2 year stretch. The Big Ten conference finally knocked off the SEC with the Michigan Wolverines beating the Washington Huskies 34-13. In this 10 year stretch, the SEC has won a total of 6 national championships, and the ACC and the Big Ten splitting the final 4 games with 2 championships apiece. Along with the rest of the world, some teachers have given their opinion on who will win it all and what their opinion is on the new 12-team format. The College Football Playoff has seen its fair share of winners and contestants, but this one might be the best one yet.

Teacher Predictions



History teacher and Ohio State fan Mr. Weiss said, “You already know who I’m going to root for, THE Ohio State University.” He also said, “I love it, but I wish there were more teams in it. I like how most other college sports have a bigger playoff than college football and I want them to replicate that, just like Division I FCS football or college basketball and other sports.”



Astronomy teacher and Penn State fan Mr. Vestal said, “After seeing what I saw, I think Oregon will win it all. They have a great offense and a good defense.” He also said, “I like the new format because I think it really grabbed the attention of the whole country. It is something new for college football fans to enjoy.”



Journalism and English Teacher Mr. Mohrbacher said, “I think it’s going to be Boise State and Texas for the national championship. And I think Texas is going to win it all. Hook’em horns.”



REVIVE AND RECOVER

BY: KENDRA ONUSKA

As the new wrestling season approaches, Hopewell High School's wrestling team is filled with anticipation and determination. Despite facing a significant challenge with a recent outbreak of impetigo, causing them to miss about a week of practice, the team remains optimistic about what they can accomplish this season. Impetigo has tested their hardiness and unity, but the wrestlers are now more focused than ever on achieving their goals and making their school proud.

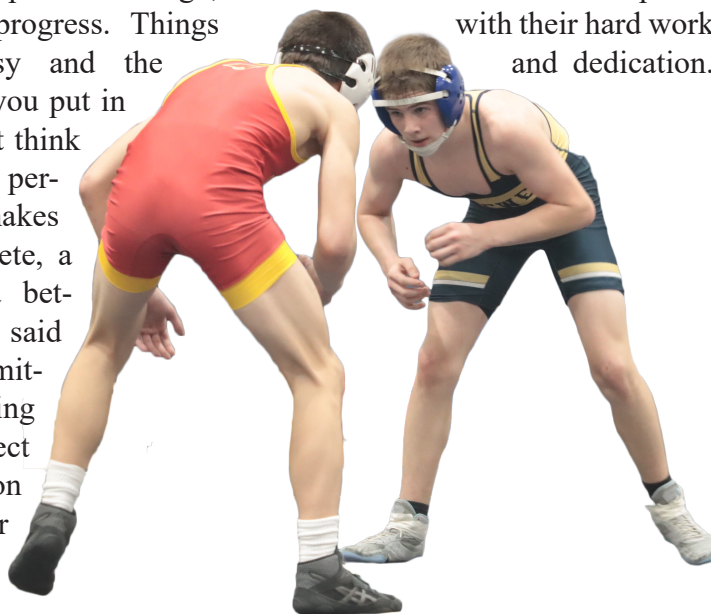
This year, the wrestling team is led by its senior wrestlers: Gavin Price, Hank Berner, and Austin Gouza. These athletes have played essential roles in driving the team's success over the past few years. Their experience and leadership on and off the mat are critical, setting a strong example for the younger wrestlers. As they enter their final season, Gavin, Hank, and Austin are more motivated than ever to lead their team to new heights.

Wrestling has introduced an amazing work ethic in senior

wrestler Gavin Price, pushing him to strive harder and set new goals for himself. Wrestling demands a high level of dedication and discipline, traits that Gavin and the other wrestlers have embraced wholeheartedly. He believes that the most challenging aspects of wrestling are the required physicality and the intense cardio. These components to the difficulty of the sport have not only tested his limits, but also fueled his drive to improve. "I learned that if you practice enough, it makes great progress. Things don't come easy and the amount of work you put in will show. I don't think practice makes perfect. Practice makes you a better athlete, a better student, a better everything," said Gavin. His commitment to overcoming challenges reflect his determination and passion for the sport, setting a power-

ful example for his teammates.

After spending time recovering from impetigo, the Hopewell High School wrestling team is ready to show their enthusiasm in the upcoming season. The wrestlers have shown incredible resilience and are now more focused than ever. With their spirits high and their eyes set on success, the team is eager to make this season their best one yet. They are determined to overcome any obstacles and make their school proud with their hard work and dedication.



March To Madness

BY: AARON DICKHART

College hoops are in full swing, as conference play either has started already or is about to start for all the teams. The top teams are starting to solidify themselves at the top, and there are many other teams that are threats to pull off some upsets.

The AP Top 25 is led by Tennessee, Auburn, Iowa State, Duke, and Kentucky in the top five, followed by Marquette and Alabama at six and seven. Kansas, the previous number one, dropped all the way to number 10 for the week of 12/9.

"I think Duke has the best chance to win it all, because Cooper Flagg is the best player in the nation," says senior Nick Emery. Nick certainly has a good point, as the 17-year-old freshman leads No. 4 Duke in points, rebounds, steals, and blocks per game. He is projected to go number one over-

all in the NBA Draft as a freshman.

"I also think Marquette is a sleeper team to win the tournament, and a lot of people are overlooking them," says Nick. No. 6 Marquette is led by senior guard Kam Jones, who is a candidate for Naismith Player of the Year. Jones is averaging 20.3 points per game (second in the Big East) and 6.5 assists, along with almost 2 steals. The Golden Eagles are 9-1 and first in the Big East.

"A sleeper to win March Madness I think is Arkansas. They have very little pressure on them to win it, and now they have Coach Calipari," says Daniel Earley. Arkansas is still ironing some things out, as they fell out of the Top 25, but once they do, they are a dangerous team. They play up-tempo and can score the ball well, with a lot of good athletes. Not to mention having one of the most prestigious

coaches ever, Coach Calipari. Forward Adou Thiero and guard Boogie Fland lead the team in scoring. The team is 7-2 and first in the SEC.

College basketball is all the way back, and there is a lot of parody around the country. It is going to be exciting to see how things shake out, who wins what awards, and how teams will do as conference play begins. The road to march has begun, everyone wanting to be a part of the madness.



Diving Into The Swim Season

BY: LIZZIE JONES

Hopewells' girls' swim team is currently 1-1, with a win over Carlynton 82-59 and a loss to Mars 52-34. Seniors Aleena Gray and Mia Blakeslee are confident in this year's season and hope to make it to the WPIALS.

"We have a pretty good girls' team, we lost one of our best swimmers this year, but I think we're still able to win a lot of meets and make

it to WPIALS," said Gray. Since Aleena's freshman year, they have made WPIALS each year. Sophomore year Aleena got to go as an alternate and in her junior year, she swam in the 200 free relay.

Mia joined Hopewell Swim in 2021 for her freshman year. Since doing so Mia is swimming varsity and setting goals. She is confident in her abilities to compete in WPIALS for

her senior season. "My goal for this year is to get a couple of MAC cuts," said Blakeslee.

During the summer Aleena and Mia coach little league swim teams for Treehaven. As senior swimmers and coaches Aleena and Mia hope to leave a lasting mark on Hopewell for future years.





BY: GRACE GOLD

Candy Cane
Christmas Eve
Elf
Garland
Jolly
Noel

Carols
Christmas Tree
Festive
Gift
Merry
Santa

Christmas
December
Fireplace
Hot Coco
Mistletoe
Sleigh





HOPEWELL, WE DON'T HAVE THE MEATS!

BY: CONNOR PROGAR

High school cafeteria food has had a bad rap in the US for a long time. It has been a subject of disgust from Hollywood movies, to classic novel portrayals. No one raves about high school cafeteria food, at least not here. Praise for cafeteria food is hard to find, from bad chicken sandwiches to gross beans.

However, in 2021, the Hopewell spicy chicken sandwiches were awesome. Some might say they were comparable to Chick-fil-A, a huge fast-food restaurant that is praised by millions of people. Imagine a Chick-fil-A sandwich being used in the Cafeteria at Hopewell High School. Well, only a few years ago, that was reality—kind of.

Despite the whole-grain wheat bread and inadequate white cheese, the sandwiches were something to crave. They rivaled Chick-

fil-A for goodness' sake.

And then they died. About 4 years ago, the decision to change the spicy chicken sandwiches forever crippled the overall rating of our food. Now, the sandwiches feature disgusting ground, processed chicken patties. Not only were the old spicy chicken sandwiches better tasting, but they were also a lot healthier. They used real chicken meat--it was incredible.

The Nutrition Group Inc., our food service provider, changed the spicy chicken sandwiches to save money. So forgive my lament. I've lost 2 pet fish, but honestly, I miss the chicken sandwiches more.

Money is the reason why the sandwiches stopped being ordered. It wasn't specifically the school that stopped the ordering, but the Nutrition Group Inc. that made this outlandish decision. "It is not us lunch ladies that make the decisions on the food being served. Trust me, if it were up to us, we would bring back the old spicy chicken sandwiches," said Julie Progar, a current lunch lady.

Something needs to change, whether it's a simple cut in certain food items like the beans or if it comes down to it, even a petition.

But we Hopewell students deserve the best, and the best isn't being served. So maybe serving out a petition is just what is needed.

Contributors

Editor-in-Chief

Nevaeh Persi-Jones

Grace Gold- Happenings

Aaron Dickhart - Culture

Daniel Earley- Sports

Kendra Onuska-Graphics

Nicholas Emery

Gianna Hall

Elizabeth Jones

Aaron Mineard

Lahna Murray

Connor Progar

Katie Withrow

Lukas Boudros

Phillip Byrd Jr.

Alexandra Dietz

Jack Meyer

Haley Theys

Emma Palmieri

Sponsor

Mr. Mohrbacher



FORTNITE

Where Are We Dropping?

BY: NICK EMERY

Another day, another victory for the OG's. On December 6th, Fortnite released an OG Fortnite season to replicate Season 1. They hit 1 million players within the first 15 minutes after releasing the season. It's safe to say bringing back OG seasons brought back lots of memories for high schoolers and college students who had great times playing when they were younger.

Justin said his favorite season was, "Chapter 1 Season 5 because it was the most fun, I was good, and it

was the most fun." On the other hand, Dan said his was, "Season 4 because it was the season after I joined. I picked up things and got better and played with lots of my friends." One of the best things about Fortnite is that you can wear your own kind of skin, and there are lots of options. Justin's favorite skin is Rogue Agent, and Dan's favorite skin is Nog Ops.

Fortnite is now considered a game for young kids. When you ask what season they started playing, they never say any seasons from Chapter 1.

If you ask kids from high school and college, they were around to play the game when it first came out. Justin, for example, started in Season 2 and Dan started in Season 3.

Justin's favorite part of the new season is that, "They added all OG guns and especially the grenade launcher." Dan's favorite part is that, "They brought back the old fog and double pump." Make sure you play the new season!

How to Build the Perfect Gingerbread House

BY: ALEXANDRA DIETZ

For people who have built gingerbread houses in the past, you know it's always a struggle. The icing melts, the walls fall over, the candy decorations fall down, and the roof caves in or it slides down. If you have ever had any of these struggles in building gingerbread houses or if you have never built one and need help, then this article is for you.

When building a gingerbread house, you open the box, take everything out, put walls up, glue it together with icing, glue decorations, and then you are done. This may seem easy but people still struggle with it. 5 out of the 10 people that were interviewed said that they have difficulty building gingerbread houses. Most people have trouble with the roof sliding down or the walls falling down. A tip that would help with the walls falling down is that before you put the walls up, decorate it first and then put the walls up. By do-

ing this, you also don't have to sit in an awkward position to put on the M&M on the window and the peppermint on the front wall.

So you are probably wondering how do you build a perfect gingerbread house? And the answer is that yes you can build a perfect gin-

gerbread house. The main thing that makes people not build a perfect gingerbread house is not having enough patience, because you have to be so careful placing decorations to not knock anything over. So in the end, the real answer to the question is yes you can. Just have patience



Culture

BOYS CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE

BY: DANIEL EARLEY



\$20.00

AS MUCH AS WE MEN HATE TO ADMIT WE ALWAYS NEED SOCKS, THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE YOUR SON, BOYFRIEND, HUSBAND, OR FRIEND SOME SOCKS.



\$25.00

FOOTBALL/ANY SPORT BEANIE, THIS GIFT IS ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR THE WINTER.



PRICE \$35.00

EVERY MAN LIKES TO SMELL GOOD AND THIS SCENT SMELLS AMAZING.



\$28.00

A PAIR OF CLOGS NO ONE SAID THEY HAD TO BE UGG, GET YOUR MAN A PAIR OF CLOGS THIS CHRISTMAS.

It's that time of year when the hardest person to look for gifts is the man or boy in your life. I can help you figure that out today. I'll give my unbiased opinion and give you the best gift ideas for this holiday season.

CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE FOR GIRLS

BY: GIANNA HALL

Presents for mom:

- Blankets
- PJs
- Jewelry
- Perfume



Where to shop for mom:

- Target, Walmart, Marshalls
- Aerie, Target, Victoria's Secret
- Evry Jewels, Pandora, Kendra Scott
- Bath and Body Works, VS/Pink, Sol De Janeiro



Presents for Girlfriend:

- Perfume
- Clothes
- Jewelry
- makeup/skincare
- Hair products



Possible places:

- Bath and Body Works, Macy's, Sol De Janeiro
- Pacsun
- Pandora, Kendra Scott, Evry Jewels
- Ulta, Sephora, Target, Walmart
- Ulta, Sephora, Target, Walmart



Homemade gift baskets:

- Fuzzy socks
- Candy
- Stuffed animal
- Soap
- Gift cards
- Blankets
- Picture frame (homemade)
- Hair oil
- MONEY



Wrapping Up the Fall Season

BY: KATIE WITHROW

Wrapping Christmas gifts can be one of the most dreaded parts of the holiday season. Paper tearing, odd objects that can't be wrapped perfectly, and time consuming when you have cheap paper. How do you prefer to wrap up the fall season and roll into the holiday season?

Many people think it is worth the small splurge to buy the higher quality wrapping paper because the difference is almost unmatched. Senior Phillip Byrd said, "Yes, I think it is worth it because bad quality wrapping paper rips easily." Which is true because the more pricey wrapping paper tears way less around corners of

presents causing less frustration and waste of paper. The more expensive paper is thicker and has grid lines for easier cutting compared to the cheaper paper that has no lines and tears very easily. Phil buys his paper at Walmart because "They have the best colors and designs." Although Phil doesn't enjoy wrapping presents he said "It's much more bearable when I have the right paper."

Impress everyone with your amazing wrapping skills this season by splurging and getting the right paper for you.



DASHING INTO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

BY: PHILLIP BYRD

Every November 1st, Christmas songs are immediately in. Many people can agree that half the time, music gets them in the holiday spirit. What causes this phenomenon, and why do people begin to celebrate it so early?

When you put on holiday music, what causes you to get into the spirit of the season? A Google search found that Christmas music often triggers nostalgia and happy memories, which sends signals to the brain. The brain then begins to release dopamine. Which one of these songs is most nostalgic? Sophomore, Katie Withrow, said, "It's either I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas, or Dominick the Donkey because my mom used to play those for me when I was little." Senior, Connor Buxton, said, "Happy Xmas War is Over because

it is a good song. It is my favorite."

The nostalgic feeling of Christmas is spread through music, so many people love it and many agree that it gives them that nostal-

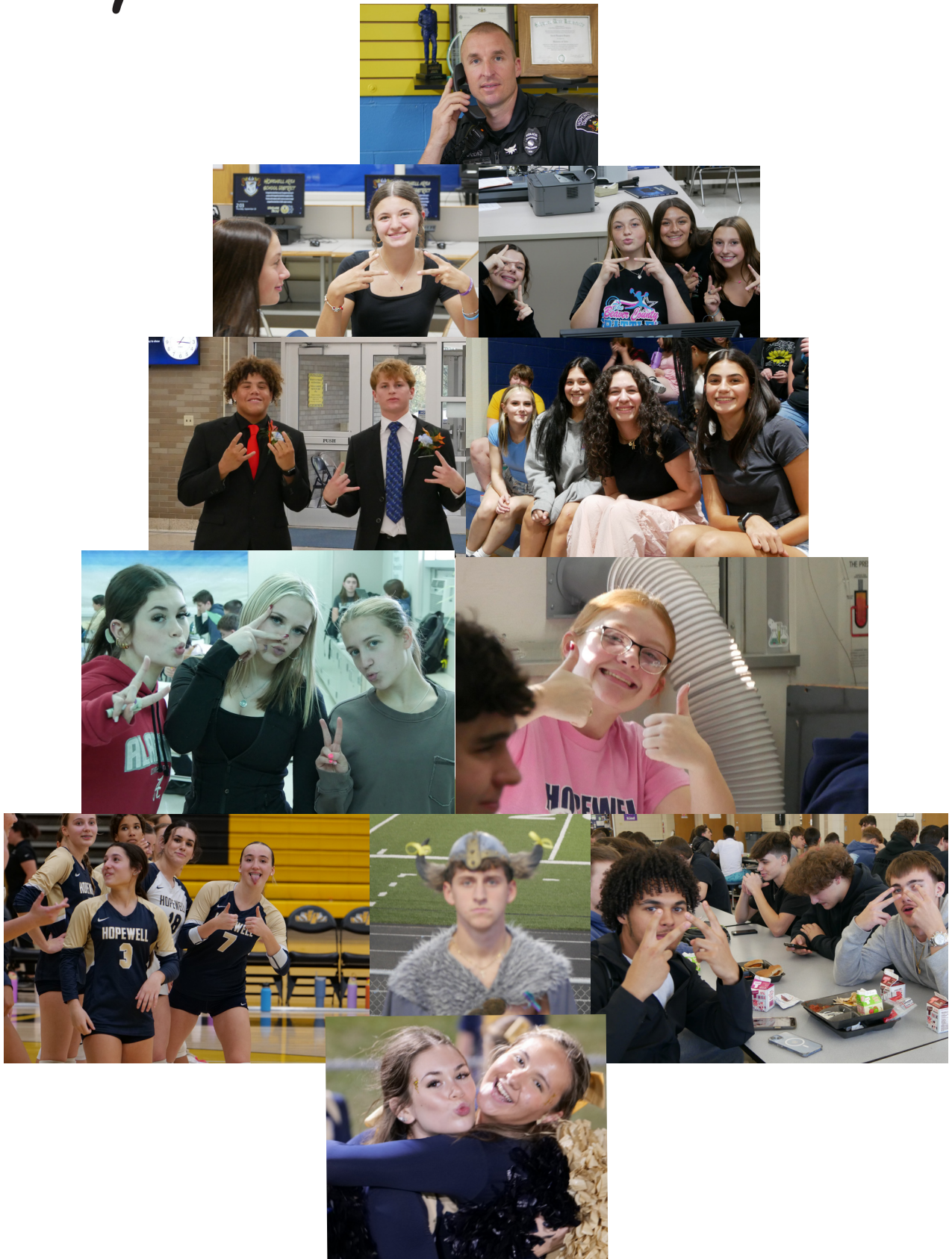
gic feeling. I think it is safe to say that this nostalgic, happy feeling is the reason people celebrate Christmas in November.



Best Christmas Lights Hopewell Edition



CAUGHT IN THE HI-LITES



MERRY CHRISTMAS!