

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Vapers Beware

BY: OLIVIA GUZMA

It is no secret that students at Hopewell High School use vape/tobacco products. In the bathroom, during class, at lunch, basically any chance they get. Walking into a stall that smells like fruit kind of gives it away...

According to the Annual National Youth Tobacco Survey, more than 2.5 million kids in America vape in school (including middle school and high school students). Here at Hopewell High School, it's no question that student's use vape devices.

"It's usually students reporting a concern to a staff member. And at that point then we go and investigate," said Dr. Kartychak, our new assistant principal and former superintendent.

"I'm mostly concerned about the long-term health consequences of vaping. They've actually said vaping is worse than smoking cigarettes just because of how concentrated the tobacco and what-not can be."

According to John Hopkins Medicine, they don't know exactly what chemicals are in e-cigarettes. Dr. Blaha says, "There's almost no doubt that vaping exposes you to fewer toxic chemicals than smoking

traditional cigarettes." However, In February 2020, there was an outbreak of lung injuries and deaths associated with vaping. The CDC confirmed 2,807 cases of e-cigarette or vaping use-associated lung injury and 68 deaths attributed to that condition.

Even if you think it's healthier than a cigarette, it can still have the same addictive properties. "While I was superintendent I wrote a grant for \$50,000 to get vape detectors in every bathroom in the junior high and high school, as well as additional cameras, so when the vape detector would go off we would be able to actively see what student was coming out of the restroom." Dr. Kartychak has a plan to help the stopping of tobacco use at school. He cares about the health issues, addictiveness, and safety of our students. "Students in high school are still developing physically and it's the long-term health concern I'm worried about for the most part."

Punishment is part of vaping at school too. Getting caught with a vape on you can lead to serious repercussions. "Currently if you are caught with a vape it is 3 days in TOC and then you have a citation issue to go

before the magistrate, and there could be a financial fine as well." Dr. Kartychak also references the use of a metal detector wand and searching student's bags or lockers if there is suspicion of them vaping.

Vape detectors vary and may have different functions than others; like a car."There's different ones, they're not all—I mean it's almost like a car where there's different brands and they do different things." You can talk about fancy vape detector features but basically they all have one task; detect smoke/vapor. "When something comes in even if it's like scented or flavored—whatever, it'll know there's something going on here. It will trigger it and set the alarm off."

Dr. Kartychak wrote the grant for the detectors in October of 2022. He still isn't positive if he obtained the grant or not. "I haven't found out if I got the grant or not. We should find out hopefully in the next couple of weeks if I was successful. So once we find out if we're awarded that grant, then we'll be looking to see when we get the vape detectors and cameras put in for the safety of our students." Stop vaping in school. Save your money.

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Fasten your SeatBeltz

BY: PAYTON ROCK

Times change and so do administration and staff. Recently teachers and administrators have left, joined, or swapped positions. However, one of the most impactful changes has been the superintendent position. Dr. Jeff Beltz joins Hopewell School District as the new superintendent.

Dr. Beltz's leadership and various educational experiences are what piqued Hopewell's interest. Prior, Dr. Beltz worked in the Moon Area School District for two years. Specifically, he oversaw all five elementary buildings.

"You try to get entrenched into the district because there are a lot of people that have been here, families and staff, for a long time. I am trying to learn the traditions and expectations of the district."

One way of learning about the district is communication. Interacting with students and staff is an important aspect of the job for Dr. Beltz. Previously, at Beaver Area School District, he had helped with the creation of a STEM program and was even the head football coach for 20 years.

"More than anything in my career, I look back on the relationships that were built and the comradery. As I've moved from one district to another, I've been able to hold onto those

friendships. Those relationships you establish last a lifetime, they really do."

So far, Dr. Beltz has attended a variety of local events involving students from elementary to high school, and even adults. These span from athletic events to band concerts and our local STEM event with the elementary students.

"I enjoy the pride that families have here, not only the students and staff, but the community at large, the tradition of Hopewell."

Dr. Beltz, Beaver County born and raised, is back and doing his best to integrate himself into the community. As he is seen at many Hopewell events, athletic and more, the district will surely see that Dr. Beltz cares about

the community and is here to support the students.



Students of The Month

BY: RAYLA NEFF



Emma Miller is a kind and enthusiastic with a healthy sense of humor.

Emma also likes to paint in her free time.



Thomas Pipkins is a positive role model and plays basketball and football.

Thomas looks up to his sister.



Alyssa Spang is a conscientious student, and she plays volleyball and basketball.

She likes to watch tv shows in her free time.



Sonny Kasanzale is genuinely a nice person. He plays football and basketball.

Sonny looks up to his dad.



Ty Eberhart plays on our baseball team, and recently committed to play at Tiffin University.

Some of his favorite hobbies are making art and playing baseball.



Lacie Slavinsky is always smiling and always wants to learn.

Lacie says she looks up to pop superstar Taylor Swift.



Jack McGrail shows massive school spirit and bright personality as our Hopewell Viking.

Jack's favorite hobby is running.



Sharen Chen is a responsible, kind, and intelligent student who is very involved in school clubs.

She looks up to her karate instructor Master Homschek.



MADAM PRESIDENT

BY: JOSHUA FRANK JR.

Senior Bella Leseiko has impacted Hopewell High School. She is known for her hard work and determination.

Bella has a certain level of seriousness when it comes to school. She puts her full effort into it to make sure these past years have been as eventful as someone could make it.

Along with being a part of many clubs, a member of NHS, and second in her grade level, she has a note-worthy list of accomplishments.

She also became the 2023 Class President in a hard fought race. "It made me feel very liked by my classmates. I was very happy I had the opportunity to represent the class."

Her successes and hardships have shown that she has given her all, truly becoming an inspirational figure among her peers.

Abby Oldham saying, "I truly don't know what I would do without her. She has worked so hard throughout high school."

Bella isn't just respected for her smarts but she is also a responsible friend. Sophia Pulvino said, "Bella is a great friend and an amazing student. She always goes out of her way for her friends and never fails to make anyone laugh. A true role model to a lot of people."

Madi Krah agreed, "She has

always been close to my family since we were little kids, so she will always feel like a sister to me. She is extraordinarily smart and can do absolutely anything she puts her mind to."

Zach Landry said, "One of the most easy going people I've ever met, but what really stands out is that she is easy to be around. Bella doesn't judge you or look down on you in any way."

She has been a help to everyone she surrounds herself with including family.

Her loving grandmother, Carole said, "She is caring, beautiful, witty, and intelligent. I'm so very proud and happy she is my granddaughter."

Her cousin Dominic said, "Bella is probably one of the most unique people I know. She can be the most stubborn person, yet also the most willing to listen to you at the same time. Don't think there is another person I'd rather have as a cousin." Her friends and family are her biggest supporters in her next steps in life.

Bella is one to have dedication in schooling, which will help her for college. She plans on going to Penn State for engineering.

"I am honestly very sad about leaving high school considering all of the friendships and memories I have made along the way. However, I am very excited to enter this new chapter

of my life."

The accomplishments she has received have given her pride. Always two steps ahead as she takes the values of life and applies them to outside activities.

Bella works at Shop-n-Save in Ambridge where she has many responsibilities. Working there for two years, she has made the store a better place.

Her mother Nicole even had to say, "She is very good at her job. It amazes me how smart she is. She is a definite asset to the store. It will be a great loss when she moves on."

She is someone who has been through the ringer in life. Someone who brings care and attention to helping anyone out.

Bella said, "Coping with self doubt can be exceptionally difficult, but all you can really do is reflect on your accomplishments and focus on your growth."

Bella has done it all in high school with no plans on slowing down anytime soon. A person that will accept any challenge and give her best at every single chance she is given.

She is far-deserving of the title of someone who understands the importance of never giving up nor letting people down. Good luck Bella!



HOPEWELL'S CHAMPION

BY: ASPYN BEHR

Josh Frank Jr. is known by many different names, including the BDW World Champion or Bangazno; but I think one that all students can agree on is inspiration.

In the ring of life, Josh is a champion. Unfortunately, he has endured many hardships. A few of them are the passing of his mother at age 11 and the more recent passing of a very close friend Takoda Eaton.

Josh says, "It's terrible that these things happened. But, I try to look at them as blessings in disguise because if I'm gonna take one thing away from these events, it's gonna be that they taught me a hard lesson in life. I wouldn't be the person I am today without them."

Josh is very thankful for everyone who has ever helped him and showed him kindness in life.

He is especially thankful for his grandma. "My grandmother is very strong and pushes me to be better than I was the day before."

With everything that Josh has been through, he has still manages to have a nearly perfect attendance record.

In fact, he says that school is

one of the main things that has impacted his life so far. Josh enjoys going to school and being a part of the community.

He is also a member of a variety of clubs including PA, Newspaper, Italian, Class Club and Link Crew. Josh hopes to be an inspiration for other students at Hopewell High School.

"I want people to look at me and the things I've been through and think, if he can do it, then I can do it too."

Josh is very excited about what's to come. In the future he hopes to be a professional wrestler.

He organized a show called "BDW: Star Kingdom." The hard work and dedication to this project is something he's very proud of. It's one of his biggest accomplishments.

Through the ups and downs of life Josh has managed to still be an extremely optimistic person. He has been able to realize the joys of life outside of the bad experiences.

Even though it is terrible he had to learn these lessons at such a young age, Josh says he's grateful nonetheless. It made him look at life from a whole different perspective.

He says "It's made me tougher, more humane, and more understanding towards people. I always try to find out what people are going through before I make any judgments about them."

Hopewell High School is very fortunate to have a student like Josh Frank Jr.

He is always reminding us that even though life throws us curve balls there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Josh is and will continue to be an inspiration for all students and staff at Hopewell High school for years to come.

Mr. Allison said, "Josh Frank is a legendary student in the history of Hopewell High School. Not only is he an accomplished filmmaker and videographer, he is also an icon of fashion. Sporting faux fur jackets, the occasional skinny pants suit and the championship belts prominently displayed. He is the Hulkster, American Dream, and the Nature Boy rolled into one package, an everyman for the students of HHS. The true people's champion."



New year, Same You

BY: MARY ADAMS

New Year, new me is a mindset that resurfaces every year around December. There is no better day to start a new habit and try to be more efficient than on January 1st. Department stores are filled with planners, journals, and all types of products helping a consumer organize their life for the new year. Weight watchers and Beachbody have a spike in sales and the splurge of unhealthy habits that many practice over the holiday season are now wished to be condemned.

New Year's resolutions have become the way to start the New Year off right and get a person's life back on track and this tradition dates back to four thousand years ago. The controversy though is-who actually sticks to it? Statistics show that 164 million

Americans make New Year's Resolutions every year. It has become a common tradition for people ranging from elementary school students hoping to remember to wash their hands to senior citizens hoping to use their silver sneaker membership. Many plan, but not many people are consistent with their original goal and accomplish their intention by the end of the year.

NC.com shows that on average by the end of the year 91% of people that set a New Year's Resolution goal have failed within the year. Discoverhappyhabits.com broke the statistics down and stated that after one week only 75% of people are still sticking to their goal. After one month the total is 64%. By six months only 46% of Americans have still stuck to their goal. The decline will increase

into the end of the year.

If almost everyone fails, is there really a point to creating a resolution? Gianna Amadio, a sophomore at Hopewell High school said, "I don't even make a resolution because I never can commit." It is hard to create a goal and stick to it for 365 days. Habits are hard to create, but Kayleigh McCabe is a junior at Hopewell and she said, "I want to try and better myself." Her goal is "to try and make healthier choices."

Resolutions can be beneficial, but what is the point of waiting for the new year? A new habit can be started today, tomorrow, or next week. Either way goals take time to accomplish. Have you stuck to your New Year's Resolutions?



Generation Allergy?

BY: BELLA GOLD

Our world is changing, not only in technological advances but also in the way we prepare food. Because of the way we prepare food, the amount of people with food allergies have doubled in size compared to the generations before, according to Food Allergy Awareness.org. As a whole, we need to work together to stop this.

Sarah Gold, a school nurse of 7 years and a food allergy liaison, has seen this firsthand. From seeing kids on a day to day basis in the school setting with life threatening allergies to personally helping with diets for children at overnight summer camps, she has been up close to the world of allergies.

“I have noticed that in both the school setting and on average that there are an increasing number of kids each and every year that have developed allergies and are limited by their restrictions from these allergies.” Sarah accounts. “I have a couple of thoughts and have come by some research on why allergies have become so relevant.

I think part of it is the food that we had available when I was a kid was of a different quality. There are more chemicals in our foods now and I believe that some of these chemicals,

when introduced to these kids early on, cause their bodies to respond by kind of like an immune reaction and it causes them to develop these sorts of allergies.”

According to BMC Medicine, “Hypersensitivity is induced by the food additives via a direct mast cell activation.”

This means that the additives in our food can trigger hypersensitivity causing reactions including allergies, which directly proves what Sarah was saying. This explains why the number of people with food allergies has doubled throughout the generations.

“In a way our society is digging ourselves into a hole but there is a good movement of foods going organic which takes those chemicals out. However, there are still things that have those chemicals in them like the plastic that wraps these organic foods or the plastics that are in our clothes, shoes, and everything we have. There just has to be an overall stop as a whole, and not just one administration or company because they can always be bought and bribed,” said Sarah.

Sarah points out the good that our society is trying to accomplish, but she also believes that there is a gap or a lack of knowledge of food in general.

“People have no idea where their food comes from, what’s in their food, or how to prepare it safely for everyone and I think that’s something that’s missing in this next generation. Just in the general public, it would be helpful for everyone to learn these things and know how to handle a situation when somebody is going into anaphylaxis.”

Although it isn’t always easy for people with allergies, Sarah wants to give advice for people struggling. “Never assume that something is completely allergen free and always double check, be the person that brings the snack and the food because you’re the one who has the allergy so why not bring the safe snacks, and always be careful and stay positive.”

It is clear that our world is changing, specifically in the chemicals added to food and the amount of allergies developed from this. But that doesn’t mean we as a whole cannot move in the right direction and try to cut out these things causing these reactions. It is up to the upcoming generations to see this through.



What To See In 2023

BY: ALLISON HONEYWILL

From “The slap heard around the world,” to Depp v. Heard, the death of Queen Elizabeth, and Kanye’s total meltdown, 2022 was a whirlwind of a year. 2023 would have to be pretty crazy to top the madness of 2022.

There’s no doubt that an abundance of random things will happen in 2023, but what will happen exactly? Taking into account everything that happened in 2022 and some imagination, I am going to make predictions on what is going to happen in 2023. From new movies to celebrity relationships, my predictions will cover all of the things that could potentially occur.

Released in 2003, “Freaky Friday” has stood the test of time as a classic movie. Starring Lindsey Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis, the relatable and eventually heartwarming relationship between Tess and her teenage daughter Anna have touched the lives of many.

Taking that into consideration, my first prediction for 2023 is that there will be a “Freaky Friday” remake. It is fitting, considering 2023 will be the 20th anniversary of the film. In fact, Jamie Lee Curtis has said,

“Freaky Friday remake? Absolutely.”

The remake is very much wanted and in today’s entertainment world would not be a huge surprise as revivals of old television shows and remakes of movies is the new trend.

While Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsey Lohan might not be the stars of the remake, the film will most likely follow the same story as the original with an extended amount of characters. If my prediction is correct, the movie will probably be released via Disney Plus.

My second prediction for 2023 is Taylor Swift will win all of the Grammys she is nominated for. Her nominations include Music Video and Song of the Year for “All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (The Short Film),” Song Written for Visual Media for “Carolina,” and Country Song for “I Bet You Think About Me.”

Taylor has recently won a ton of awards including music video, album, and female artist at the People’s Choice Awards. After releasing her latest album *Midnights* and selling tickets for *The Eras Tour*, Taylor is at the height of her popularity.

It is totally possible that she

will win all of her nominations at the 65th Grammys. I mean, Taylor does have a lengthy history with the Grammy’s, as she has won the coveted Album of the Year award 3 times.

“All Too Well” is most certainly the song of the year. According to Spotify, the song debuted at number 1 with almost 7 million streams in a single week.

Not to mention the *All Too Well Short Film*, which has more than 80 million views on Youtube and has consecutively won music video awards at multiple different awards shows. “Carolina” perfectly fits the movie “*Where the Crawdads Sing*” and “I Bet You Think About Me” was an amazing return to country music for Taylor.

Next on the list is that Tom Brady and Emily Ratajowski will be spotted out together or will publically announce that they are in a relationship.

On October 28, 2022, Gisele Bündchen and Tom Brady filed and finalized their divorce. This clearly took quite a toll on Brady, as the superstar quarterback has led his team to a lackluster season. Emily is recently

“What to See”continued:

divorced too as she filed for divorce from Sebastian Bear-McClard in September of 2022.

One thing that Gisele and Emily have in common is that they are both models. Would it really be crazy to think that a recently divorced grieving Tom Brady would go for an also recently single supermodel? I don't think so.

Whether the two are only spotted together or if they formally announce a relationship, I think that there will definitely be some kind of romance between Emily and Tom in 2023.

Now this one is a little random, but my next prediction is that there will be a public altercation between the former members of One Direction. This will likely take place on Instagram through a series of posts and live streams.

Liam Payne will likely start the argument and will mainly target Louis Tomlinson. Most of the 1D fan base has a grudge against Liam, as he has done some pretty controversial things since the band's dismantling in 2015.

He has cheated on his fiancée and has shamed his former bandmates multiple times. Louis vs. Liam would be completely unexpected as Louis and Liam are said to have remained close friends.

Even though it may be unlikely, nothing is impossible. Louis has recently sold tickets for his world tour and has received overwhelming support. Maybe the failing Liam will become a little jealous of his friend's success and decide to start an argument.

If this were to happen all of the former members of One Direction would act very differently, but they would all side with Louis.

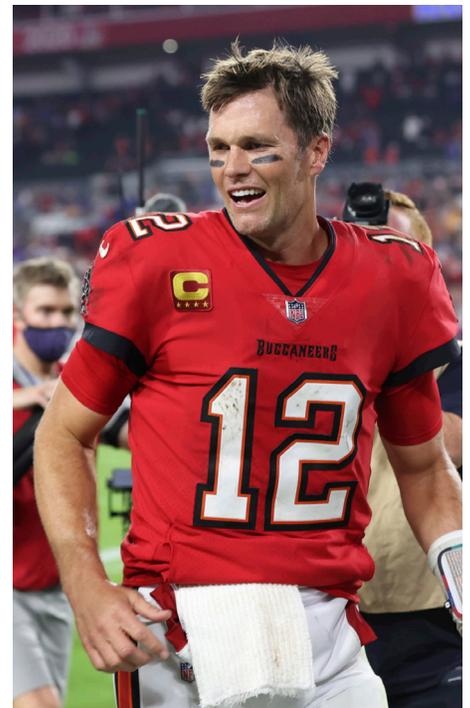
Zayn Malik will probably post or say something about the argument and Harry Styles will say something very brief and or cryptic about the situation. Niall Horan will be oblivious to the conflict and then will post a TikTok about the altercation once he figures out what is going on.

And last but not least, my final prediction for 2023 is that President Joe Biden will be hospitalized. Everyone can tell that President Joe Biden is

very old. With white hair, heavy eye bags, and frail limbs it's not hard to believe that Joe is 80 years old.

I think we all remember Joe falling while walking up the stairs of Air Force One. And don't forget the infamous bike accident. Old age and clumsiness usually don't pair well together. Obviously, I hope that this does not happen but, I definitely would not be surprised if the 80-year-old became ill or injured himself and ended up in the hospital.

While I can't guarantee that any of these things will happen in 2023, I can ensure that some pretty crazy stuff will go down. Despite all of the madness that is bound to happen, 2023 should be a pretty good year. The Chinese Zodiac records 2023 as the year of the rabbit, the luckiest animal of all. Symbolizing beauty, wealth, mercy, and elegance, my main prediction and hope for 2023 is that you have an amazingly extraordinary year.



Photos from Google Images

Anytime Fitness

BY: GRACE GOLD

Do you feel like getting back in shape in time for spring sports? Well, you're in luck; there's a new Anytime Fitness that recently opened in Hopewell. Reviews have been made about the gym, as well as some of its other locations. But how can you differentiate between a good gym that's worth your money, and a gym that's scamming you?

Anytime Fitness has a relatively positive reputation. After reading many reviews from many different locations along the East Coast, the majority of people agree that Anytime Fitness is a great gym that is kept very clean, the staff are very friendly and positive, and the gym has an abundance of different equipment and tools that are useful for a great workout. But of course, every gym and place of business has their bad reviews, but in this case, this fitness center seems to

be very well-liked. Overall, this gym seems to be worth the money people pay for a membership. But, how do you spot a good gym and a bad gym?

These are some factors that should be taken into consideration when discerning between gyms to choose: are the staff and trainers friendly and positive, is the equipment generally clean and well-maintained, and do they have a somewhat moderately diverse variety of workout equipment and machines?

"It's sometimes pretty tough finding a good gym that's worth your money these days. What's important is that it works for *you*, and that the gym works for *you*." said an anonymous source.

These three questions are some of the most important factors that need to be taken into account before you fully commit to this gym. If the answer is no to some/all of these questions, that

gym most likely isn't for you, and is more likely than not scamming you. If the gym machines and equipment are constantly dirty, there's always a good few machines (treadmills, ellipticals, etc.) that are always out of order and aren't repaired in a moderately timely manner, it's strongly suggested you should avoid that gym.

What ways can you tell if the fitness center you're trialing is worth it? Well, there are several factors that play into a gym being perceived as a good one. For starters, this all depends on your standards and opinions, but this is generally what you will find in a good gym: look for friendly and positive employees, trainers, etc, a moderately wide variety of machines and equipment, and if the machines need fixed, and they are fixed in a timely manner. These factors are usually the main general things people look for in a gym that's worth their money.

A Brewed Awakening

BY: AVERY ELIAS

Did you know there's a new coffee shop brewing in Hopewell? A Brewed Awakening has recently opened up and it offers more than just coffee.

They sell hot and cold drinks including iced coffees, macchiatos, lattes, teas, frappes (etc.). There are foods such as muffins, small and jumbo cookies, cupcakes, scones, cake pops, banana bread, and cinnamon rolls. They have Oram's donuts on Fridays, and Macs donuts on Tuesdays.

A Brewed Awakening also supports Brunton's milk and not only that, they make specialty drinks not found anywhere else with it.

All of their foods and beverages are made locally around Hopewell, besides the coffee. The coffee comes from a small coffee roasting company

that's family owned in Philadelphia.

The shop is open on weekdays 6:30 to 4:00, and weekends 9:00 to 2:00. It is located at 2236 Broadhead Road, Aliquippa PA. Inside there are tables, chairs/couches, and even wifi making it very cozy. They would love to get high school students to stop by after school hours.

"My favorite part was learning more about coffee, and also having everybody enjoy it as much as they are,

that is very rewarding", the owner of the shop shared. With a few struggles to open the business, they overall love it here and are excited for the journey of their shop.

There's a lot of power in small businesses, and this is a great opportunity to support locally. If you find yourself needing a pick-me-up, head down for a wake-up treat at A Brewed Awakening.



You Spin Me Right ‘Round

BY: ALEX ELIAS



Mr. Spinnenweber is an English teacher at Hopewell High School. Most students take his class Sophomore year. A lot of people liked Mr. Spin when taking his class but there isn't a lot known about him.

Mr. Spin said the reason he became an English teacher is because he wanted to teach people about theater.

"I didn't have the money to move out and become an actor," he said. Since he was trained as an actor, he went back and became certified to be a teacher and now teaches theater to students.

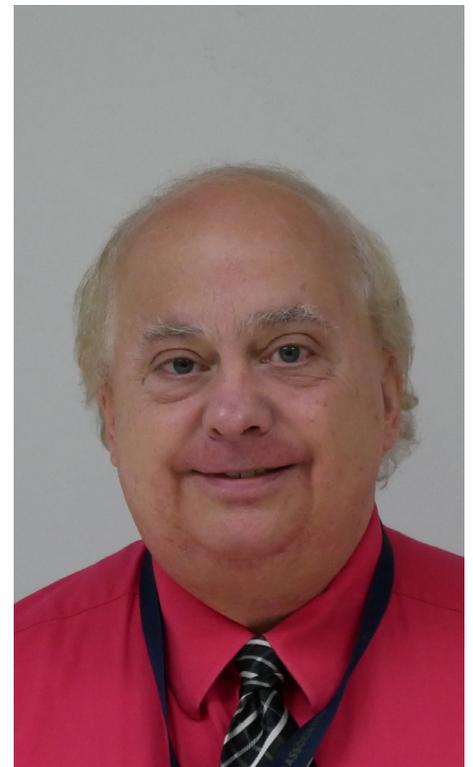
His favorite moment from being a teacher is having one of his students he taught go to college for

theater and already know a bunch from him .

"I had a student in my drama class that graduated and I ran into her mother and her mother said she told her I know all this already"

His favorite author to teach about is Charles Dickens his favorite novel by him is a *Tale of Two Cities*. Mr. Spin has been all over the world he says

"I've been to Ireland, England including Wales and Scotland, Paris, I've been to Normandy, I visited the D day memorial, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Czech republic, Iceland and Russia." He says his favorite place is probably London.





Bocce and Beyond!

BY: SUZY DEPACE

Bocce season is back up and running once again. The Hopewell Vikings have made a strong return following the first game of the season against Aliquippa with a score of 2-0, Hopewell.

Bocce is a Special Olympics sport that Hopewell has taken part in for seven years, even making it to States in their last season. The sport combines special needs and non-special needs students together to use skill and intellect, rather than physical ability.

Bocce isn't just a sport to these players, but it is also a family. Junior, and three-year player, Ean Maxwell, mentions the bond that Bocce has brought to the team.

"I've worked with special needs kids my whole life, and that's why I wanted to be a part of it. I've participated in Bocce since my freshman year, and I plan to be team captain for my senior year." One of his favorite team members is Katie Muskes, a sophomore who has participated in Bocce for the past 2 years.

"My favorite part about Bocce is seeing Katie's face light

up when she's able to make a beautiful point. We built this ramp for her, she loves it, it works so good. It was a lot of fun building the ramp so she's able to push the ball onto the court," Ean says.

One of the team's favorite memories is making it to the States last season. "We made it to State Champs and got to go to Clarion University, it was a lot of fun, and definitely one of my favorite memories from Bocce. Even though we got 7th place, we did get a cute purple ribbon and that's Katie's favorite color." Ean says.

Ean takes inspiration from

Katie during the games. "Whenever I go to roll the ball, I think, 'What would Katie do?' and I try my best. And no matter what happens, I know we tried."

Bocce is not only a fun sport, but it is also inspiring. It is a positive, welcoming environment, bringing students together that normally would not have gotten the opportunity to. The administration and staff have been very supportive of the sport, and would love to see the students show their support as well. So come on out and cheer on your Hopewell Vikings Bocce team this season!



Gymnasts Double Up

BY: OLIVIA SEDLACEK

Vault, bars, beam, floor, here we go let's do some more! The Hopewell gymnastics team only has four gymnasts this season: senior Meghan Kelly, junior Olivia Sedlacek, sophomore Alaina Kelly, and freshman Emily Bauknight. Even though there's only four gymnasts this season, there is still hope that the team will do well.

Hopewell's first meet was January 5th against North Allegheny at Jewarts. The team has been preparing for weeks trying to get all of their routines solid. They have been practicing at Monaca Turners Gymnastics along with a few other teams. The girls have to get in two practices per week to be eligible for

meets.

All four of the team members are also a part of the cheer team and have limited time between both sports. As their gymnastics season is starting, their competition season for cheer is coming to an end.

Some days are harder than others for the girls when they have to double up both cheer and gymnastics.

"Going from school for about seven hours, to cheer for two and a half hours, then gymnastics for three hours is really exhausting, but the fact that we have each other brings us closer together," said Alaina Kelly.

The team had WPIALS for

cheer on Saturday, January 7th. They got a bid to states in Hershey, PA. The team is going to face challenges when preparing for cheer, while focusing on gymnastics.

"It gives us motivation knowing there's only four of us," said Meghan Kelly. They are trying their best to encourage teamwork as this month is extremely stressful for the whole team.

With more gymnastics meets coming up and three more weeks of cheer practices, the team has a long month ahead of them. They are committed and willing to give everything they have to this season.

According to Emily Bauknight, "Hopewell's back."





The Quips Fall Short

BY: AARON MINEARD

Aliquippa, Pennsylvania used to be known for 2 things: steel and football. Now, Aliquippa is down to just football.

This past December, the Aliquippa Quips made their 9th appearance in the PIAA State Football Championship. The Quips are known for winning championships and having NFL Hall of Famers. They've won a record 19 WPIAL championships and 4 state championships.

Aliquippa has been winning championships since shortly after World War 2. Along with the championships, you need to have legends. Aliquippa has produced several NFL players like Mike Ditka, Sean Gilbert, Ty Law, Darrelle Revis, and Tommie Campbell.

Along with these past legends, the Quips have created some new ones. With a bunch of 4 and 5-star recruits like Tiqwai Hayes, Cameron Lindsey, Donovan Walker, Brandon Banks, John Tracy, and Quentin Goode.

This past year in the state championship, the Quips got a taste of their own medicine.

The Quips played Bish-

op McDevitt, who in the previous season, lost to the Quips 34-27, and the Quips claimed their 4th title. This year though, had a different outcome, McDevitt came out swinging and never stopped.

The Crusaders beat the Quips 41-18. It was one of the worst defeats in Aliquippa's football history. When you look at Aliquippa football, you might think "Do these guys ever lose?" To answer this question, yes the Quips do lose, but not too often.

Aliquippa has actually had some pretty bad losses in its history. New Castle beat the Quips 53-0 in 1970, Southern Columbia beat the Quips 49-14 in 2015, Clairton beat the Quips 52-16 in 2017, and Central Valley beat the Quips 45-6 in 2019.

The Quips are losing a lot of seniors, but also have returning guys. The key players returning are Cameron Lindsey, Tiqwai Hayes, John Tracy, Demarkus Walker, Quentin Goode, Brandon Banks, and Braylon Wilcox. The Quips are also losing some key guys too, like Donovan Walker, Naquan Crowder, Jason McBride, Neco Eberhardt, Isaiah Martinez, Dorius Moreland,

and Nathan Lindsey.

The Quips always seem to find a way to win even though they have a class smaller than before. They have made it to Acrisure Stadium for the past 15 years even with a bad senior class. But other than that the Quips since shortly after World War 2 have proven that they have been one of the best football schools in the country and they are also one of few schools to go to states in both football and basketball.

Last year the Quips won the football state championship, but lost the basketball state championship. They have done this a couple of other times. They won states in basketball in 2015, but lost in football. They won states in football in 2021, but lost in basketball.

Great legends, history, and lots of championships, what other small western Pennsylvania school can claim this feat?



NFL Play-Offs 2023!

BY: COLTON LITFIN

The NFL season is heating up going into week eighteen. The AFC has the Chiefs on top at 13-3 with the 12-3 Bills on their heels for the 1st seed. In the AFC North, the Bengals have clinched the division and the Ravens have clinched the play-offs. Also the Steelers have charged back from the brink of a losing season to 8-8. The chargers have also clinched the play-offs at 10-6 meanwhile the Jags, Patriots, Dolphins, and Steelers are 8-8 and in the hunt for the play-offs.

Over in the NFC, The Eagles have the first seed being 13-3, the Cowboys and the Giants have clinched the play-offs while the commanders are eliminated. Its Disappointment for the LA Rams fans as the defending Champions

have sunk to 5-11. The team has had the most disappointing run of a defending champ in recent history.

No surprise though for Broncos country, having a miserable ride in the back of a garbage truck going 4-12. Broncos country... Maybe try jumper cables? The hometown steelers have had a late season surge to 8-8 after 2-6 at the week 9 by. Lead by Kenny Picket these last 2 weeks especially, they have had 2 incredible back to back wins with 4th quarter comebacks.

An important note to mention is the Damar Hamlin incident that has greatly affected not just the play-off picture, but the NFL community as a whole. Needless to say these tragic events are thankfully few and far between and the cancellation of the game was the right

decision. This however, goes to show the risk that is run by playing sports. In the modern era sports have gotten increasingly good at equipping players with the gear they need to stay safe, however it can still be just as dangerous and will remain so as long as people suit up to play them.





A Kid From The 412

BY: DANIEL EARLY

As I sat down to watch the highly anticipated week 17 match up against the Buffalo Bills and the Cincinnati Bengals, I ended up witnessing something I have never seen on live TV. Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin tackled Cincinnati's wide receiver, Tee Higgins. Damar took a hit to the chest and after tackling Higgins he collapsed. Damar soon was given CPR on the field while Buffalo trainer Denny Kellington continued to save his life. Hamlin was rushed to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and was tended to by the medical staff. He was in critical condition not breathing on his own. Emotions were high, Bills and Bengals players joined in prayer and eventually the game was canceled. The next morning the world found out Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest during the week 17 game. However this article isn't about the tragedy that almost ended a young man's life, it's about the character of that young man.

Damar Romeyelle Hamlin was born on March 24th, 1998 in McKees Rocks, PA. He played football at Central Catholic High School and was named first-team All-State and the Class AAAA Defensive Player of the Year. He was a 4 Star recruit and he chose to stay close to home and play at the University of Pittsburgh. He played 3 games as a freshman but then suffered an injury and ended up red-shirting his freshman year. Later in his college career he led the Panthers "sniper gang" with 77 tackles, 2 interceptions and was named honorable mention All-ACC. Damar earned his Bachelor degree in communication from the University of Pittsburgh.

He was selected in the sixth round of the NFL draft by the Buffalo Bills. He became a starting safety in 2022 when Micah Hyde suffered a season ending injury. Damar performed and he led the team with 12 tackles and a sack against their loss to the New York Jets.

Even while succeeding in

the NFL Damar didn't forget about home. Damar created The Chasing M's foundation. The foundation supports toy drives, back to school drives, kids camps, and much more. Because of recent events the Gofundme has blown up. The goal of the Gofundme was to raise \$2,500. Currently it's at \$8,539,210. Damar is known as a kind and loving kid. Pat Narduzzi, (Pitt Panthers Head Coach,) wrote "Damar Hamlin is far more than just a football player, he's a loving son, brother and friend. Damar is a hero to thousands of Pittsburgh kids."

Damar's recovery is looking good. He is now breathing on his own and when he woke up he asked the doctors through writing who won the game. The doctors responded saying "You won. You've won the game of life." Damar is now talking and he facetimed his teammates.

Please continue to pray for Damar. Love for #3.

The Boy From Madeira

BY: LANDEN MUKANOS-KRAMER

Who is the guy that made the number 7 famous? It's Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro. Cristiano Ronaldo is a Portuguese Soccer player that is arguably the best player or athlete of all time. He has won the UEFA Champions league 5 times, 7 league titles spanning across England Spain and Italy, the UEFA European championship, he has won the Ballon Dor 5 times from 2008-2017, and Euro 2016, Along with a community shield, along with scoring some of the most iconic goals and much more. The only trophy that he hasn't won was the World Cup.

Ronaldo was born on February 5th, 1985 in the little town of Sao Pedro on the island of Madeira. His childhood was rough to say the least. His mother tried to abort him multiple times because she already had 3 children and his father was an alcoholic.

He worked with his mother as a cook and a cleaning servant. He and his siblings would help their mother with her job to help provide for the family. His siblings babied Ronaldo and did most of the chores so this helped him focus on what he wanted to do, play football.

He started out playing for Andorinha when he was 7 and then he moved to Nacional when he was 10. Then when he was 12, he went on a 3 day trial with Sporting Lisbon.

Cristiano started his professional career at Sporting Lisbon in 2002 when he moved up to the first team from their academy. He scored 25 goals in the 2002-2003 season

for Sporting. Then he made a huge move to the huge English club, Manchester United where he would be until 2009. This is where Ronaldo would grow and evolve into one of the best young stars the world has ever seen.

After bagging a total of 196 goals for the Red Devils, and winning 3 Premier League titles, a FA Cup, and a Champions League title, he made another huge move to the Spanish giant Real Madrid. He would be at the club from 2009-2018. At Real Madrid, he would go down as one of the best players of all time. He would win 4 Champions League titles, 2 Copa del Reys, 2 La Liga titles and would be the clubs all time goal scorer. Then he would go on to play at Juventus in the Serie A and would win the league twice. In the 2021-2022 season, Ronaldo would come back to Manchester United hoping to bring the club some more silverware. He would score 24 goals that season, but he and the club would not have the best relationship. After a lot of back and forth stories and Piers Morgan interviews, the club and Cristiano would part ways. On November 22 of this year, the club would release the superstar after a long battle between the two sides.

While doing all of this Ronaldo was still hungry for winning the most prestigious trophy in all of sports, the World Cup. Even with his amazing success in club play, in international play, he would only win the Euros in 2016, and no World Cup. Ronaldo was apart of the Portuguese team that went to the world cup in 2006 when they

got fourth place which would be his best finish in the tournament, 2010 when they were eliminated in the round of 16, 2014 where they didn't make it out of the group stage, 2018, and 2022 by a shocking loss to the "Fairy tale" team of Morocco, 0-1. This would be the last time Ronaldo would step on a pitch for his country at a world cup. Recently, Ronaldo announced that he is aiming to play in the 2024 Euros for Portugal if everything goes as planned.

Even though Cristiano Ronaldo has won almost every team and player award in the game of football, he will never lift the golden trophy, but he will still go down as one of the best soccer players to ever step onto a pitch.

Number 7





Playoff Bound?

BY: ELLA RITCHART

With the start of a new season, Hopewell girl's basketball is back and better than ever. In hopes to make the playoffs this year, the team practices hard and plays even harder.

"Hopefully we can make it to playoffs. Last year we were just one game away." says sophomore guard, Emma Palmeri.

Last season the playoffs were within reach, unfortunately the team lost a few important games.

This season, winning is the main focus. With upcoming games against Central Valley, Quaker Valley, and Beaver the girls need to win to get into the playoffs.

The addition of seven new players helps the team a lot.

"The freshmen really help us out." Emma says. "We also get along really well. I think that helps, we have good communication."

Having good communication and trusting each other on the court is crucial to win. While team bonding and making

the freshmen feel welcomed is important, the teams main goal is playoffs. Hopewell girl's basketball hasn't seen the playoffs in years.

"I think we are capable of winning and making it to the playoffs. We just need to work hard and focus."

In a recent tournament, the team won both their games and senior, Lauryn Speicher got the all tournament award. The team has had a good start to the season and hopes to finish it even better.



Voices

AP is NOT for me

Advice for the underachieving honors student

BY: AUBRYANNA SNYDER

High school is arguably one of the hardest times in a person's life, and the better you are at school, the more grueling it can be. That being said, here's my advice: don't waste your time taking AP courses.

As an honors student, I regret taking as many AP courses as I possibly could. I think more students should take advantage of good old honors courses and dual enrollment.

As an ambitious sophomore and junior, I was obsessed with the idea of taking the most academically challenging courses for the boost on my GPA. In reality, there are some honors courses weighted the same as their AP counterparts, such as Advanced Social Studies and AP Government and Politics at the senior level.

Now as a senior, I remember years ago when Dr. Metz advised my chemistry class that GPA wasn't real, and to not let it influence you too much. Lesson learned.

The other advantage of an AP class is the chance for a college credit. It's true that students who are more academically inclined deserve to be challenged, however, students who want college in high school experience would be better suited taking dual enrollment. By doing so, you are guaranteed a college credit, unlike AP courses where you can pay \$98 dollars per test and not score high enough to

get any credit.

When it comes to Advanced Placement classes, the workload is not designed to support high school students.

In my experience, the class becomes more about rushing through the curriculum while simultaneously preparing for the exam. College level work is expected both inside and outside of the classroom, yet becomes unmanageable without college level time.

A high school student spends 35 hours a week in school compared to an average college student who has 15-20 hours of class time a week.

For high school students, the CDC recommends adolescents ages 13-18 get 8-10 hours of sleep, and 60 minutes of activity a day, and about 7 out of 10 (72.7%) did not get enough sleep on school nights.

Honors students who take demanding classes are also the students involved in extracurricular activities, sports, and possibly jobs.

My point is, it would take pretty impressive time management for a teenager to balance all of that in a week.

When it comes down to it, I think that students benefit more from taking advantage of dual enrollment and honors classes rather than AP courses.

Editor-in-Chief:

Aubryanna Snyder

Design Editor:

Payton Rock

Staff:

Olivia Guzma

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Landen Mukanos-Kramer

Avery Elias

Jaden Campbell

Aaron Mineard

Madison Gerard

Emmet McCowin

Colton Litfin

Taylor Roberts

School Is A Two-Way Street

BY: ISABELLA TIMPANO

Crap, I'm so late to school!" That is a phrase heard in most cars, every morning, every day, as the drivers of Hopewell High School sit and wait in the inevitable lines just to park. 30 of Hopewell's top students park in the honors lot every morning, and every morning they fall victim to the incessant waiting that follows this "privilege".

Is it really a privilege if the top students end up late to school anyways?

So the question I pose is this, why is the school drop off zone not marked as two lanes, yet it attempts to operate as such? Why must student drivers, which are a collective of relatively new drivers, be subject to attempting to understand the school drive with no instruction? But above all else I ask, what is the right answer?

I am a senior in high school. I've waited my four years, quite literally through a pandemic, to finally get my senior rights. One of those rights is parking in the honors lot, closest to the overhang, where I can get in easily and (hopefully) leave first. My struggle comes in the mornings, on my way into said parking lot.

The drive by the school, the road from the office entrance to the student drop off door, can be a painful experience. That 100 foot stretch attempts to function like a two lane pass through, but this "two lane" system is not communicated. There are no road lines, nothing separating the two sides. Many new drivers would assume that to just be a very wide lane, and a lot of

drivers (parents and students alike) still think that. The middle school has separations between lanes, and they don't have students and faculty trying to get through on a time crunch. How does that work?

People cannot help the sizes of their cars, but on multiple occasions I have been unable to pass through due to larger SUVs and trucks blocking the second lane, yet having more than enough space on their right side. This lack of understanding leaves me, and many other students, stuck behind the cars of kids getting dropped off, leaving us idle, waiting to get to our own parking lot.

Then comes the other issue. Once people are able to get through, the hypothetical "two lanes" converge into one. No one knows how that happens, it just does. As a driver, and as one who personally doesn't want to get side swiped at

seven in the morning, I tend to go with the flow of traffic according to the drop off lane, even if that means sitting there. I've been told that the "correct" flow is to have the drop off lane yield to the moving lane, which would make sense, but that's never how it works. Cars could very easily collide there if people do not look, and the fact of the matter is that most people don't. How can the higher ups expect Hopewell faculty and top students to figure it out every morning?

I'm not a traffic coordinator, nor did any of us build the school, but I feel it is safe to say that the current flow of traffic is not a good solution. What the "right answer" is, I'm not sure, but I know separating the lanes and having definitive markings is a good place to start. I can't learn if I can't even get to my parking spot.





Unarmed Means Unharm

BY: GIOVANNI KREBS

While looking down at your buzzing phone, the pit in your stomach sinks as another notification about a tragic mass shooting appears on your screen.

Whether it takes place at a school, night club, or even a church, the same thought always comes to mind: “I hope everyone is okay.” Mass shootings don’t seem to be stopping anytime soon, therefore it needs to be harder to get a firearm as well.

Seeing as the mass shooting rate continues to climb, people are beginning to question why it is so easy for troubled people to obtain these weapons.

Well, it’s fairly simple. One of the most significant restrictions is age, and that restriction is often worked around, especially in cases of school shootings.

Considering there is no tangible solution to this problem and that the entire process of purchasing a firearm is filled with holes, there are a few other issues that don’t pertain to age that can be solved. Even though age is a prominent

restriction, individual buyers, people with underlying mental health issues, and suspected terrorists are still able to obtain a firearm.

Another leading problem is defining terrorism. As long as the person has not actually committed a terroristic act or made a plausible terroristic threat, they are free to purchase a gun.

In 2015, a heavily armed couple previously reported on the FBI watch list for suspected terrorism purchased firearms, killed 14 people, and harmed 17 at a social services event.

Preventing this purchase is fairly easy. If an individual has any type of terroristic violation on their record, they should not be able to purchase any type of weapon.

A common misconception about purchasing a firearm is that a person would first have to complete a background check. However, that’s not exactly true. When submitting a background check to purchase any type of firearm, the FBI must first complete a “thorough” background check. Yet, if the background check takes longer

than three days, that restriction is lifted, and weapons become available for purchase.

In 2015, a Nazi sympathizer struck a church in Charleston, North Carolina. Due to the FBI not completing his background check in three days, on the fourth day the killer purchased a handgun and took nine lives.

In order to put situations like this to an end, the background check process for the FBI should have an extended time limit, and should not expire. The value of people’s lives should not be determined by three days.

As gun violence becomes increasingly more aware to the public, people truly start to question how much leeway there is in purchasing a firearm. Whether this means being more aware of suspects on the FBI watchlist, or just understanding what is truly happening with background checks, things need to change. Things have to change.



Culture

Top 5 Movies of 2022

BY: TAYLOR ROBERTS

From Wakanda to Pandora, there were a lot of amazing movies in 2022. While it may be hard to pick a top 5, here are a few movies that really made an impact on the box office and movie goers.

5. Olivia Wilde's "Don't Worry Darling"

Though this psychological thriller has many famous faces, including Chris Pine and Florence Pugh, the storyline and twist is what makes the movie a winner. We can't ignore Pugh's incredible performance in this film. It also featured Harry Styles' second major role in film. Although his performance was basically good, his classic good looks made his performance worthwhile.

4. Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis"

This biopic about the King of Rock and Roll is a must see, even if you don't think you are an Elvis fan, you may become one by the end of the film. Austin Butler embodied Elvis perfectly and deserves an Oscar for his performance.

3. James Cameron's "Avatar: The Way of Water"

The 13 year wait was totally

worth it. While this is a longer movie (3h 12m), the visuals and the world of Pandora sucks you into the story and makes you want to watch it again for another 3 hours. This film is a real tear-jerker, so I recommend bringing a box of tissues with you.

2. Joseph Kosinski's "Top Gun: Maverick"

After 30 years, Maverick is back. After tragically losing Goose, Maverick has a new wingman named Rooster, Goose's son. The movie dives into their relationship while showcasing some awesome action and plane scenes.

1. Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"

With three MCU releases in

2022, Wakanda Forever definitely wins the number one spot. The storytelling, production, and acting of this movie is what makes it a beautiful tribute to the late Chadwick Boseman and his legacy with the franchise. It is the perfect ending of a beloved character and setup for the rest of the Black Panther and Marvel storylines.

Some honorable mentions are "Where the Crawdad Sings", "My Policeman", "Thor: Love and Thunder", "The Adam Project", "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness", "The Batman", "Bullet Train", "Amsterdam", "The Woman King", and many more.

2022 was quite a year for movies, and 2023 is bound to bring many more outstanding films.





Friday Night Spotlights

BY: AUBRYANNA SNYDER

What does it mean to be a part of a team? High school is full of pressure, but for the Hopewell football team this goes beyond homework and test grades.

Football is America's sport. No other sport comes with a spotlight like the one on the football team on Friday nights. An entire student section filled with peers ready to witness it all, win or lose.

This means it comes with the pressure to not just perform, but perform well, and in-turn the success of the school and student body rests on their shoulders.

Hopewell's seniors know this feeling, and they've dealt with it for the last few years. The football team has not had an easy fight.

With a few hard seasons under their belt, they need tough skin on and off the field.

"I wish they knew how hard football really is," says senior Sonny Kasanzale. "How with every other sport you could have a cou-

ple good players and be good, but with football it has to be 11 guys on the field doing their job. And I just wish people would know football is just not like any other sport. It's not easy, and it takes a lot to win."

Sonny has played for the last 3 years, initially joining the team initially as a kicker his sophomore year. After his first season, Sonny went all in.

"You learn a lot about yourself, especially when you're that low and every week you're just getting blown out and beat on and you come to school and everyone's making fun of you. You're gonna learn a lot about yourself. You know when you're 9-0 no one has anything bad to say," says Sonny.

Hopewell football may get a bad wrap, but like any sport, the game isn't just about wins and losses.

"I mean I like to win, but I like football more than any of that," says Cameron Fedorka, an 11-year football veteran. He has been on

Hopewell's team since his freshman year.

"You just gotta have fun with it. Don't think about anything else and just have fun with it."

Sonny agrees, "I just thought like oh alright, I've got nothing to lose I might as well give it a shot and try to make it better."

Whether it's recognized or not, the players on the football field are the same people sitting in 5th period class, or at the other end of the lunch table. Hopewell's football team works hard to enjoy their sport, no matter if it's a winning season or not, and not feel pressured by friends and family.

It's up to the underclassmen to show their support for their peers on the team.

Best Rap Albums of 2022

BY: DANIEL FOISTER

With Young Thug's YSL label being arrested, the returns of artists like Kendrick Lamar and Lil Uzi Vert, and a lot of newer rappers trying to earn their place, it made for a very wild year in hip hop. Along with the crazy events of the year, there were a lot of phenomenal albums that were released.

Ken Carson's *X* is an explosive project. He proved himself once again. Everything from the beats, the vocals and the lyrics scream rage. Executive produced by Playboi Carti himself, and with production from F1lthy, Starboy, Outtatown and more, it's a great listen with decent replayability.

Destroy Lonely's *No Stylist* is his best album yet, with him reinventing his sound along with some incredible production. With only his fellow labelmate Ken Carson being featured on the album, it allows Destroy Lonely to really shine and be versatile on each song.

A debut album is the most important album of an artist's career, it is a make or break for an artist's success. With Homixide Gang's *Homixide Lifestyle*, they made a great album. Homixide Gang is a duo from Atlanta featuring Homixide Beno! and Homixide Meechie. The duo provides a great balance on each song, with each having their own unique style of rapping. With fellow labelmates Ken Carson and Destroy Lonely being featured and having incredible verses, it really put the cherry on top of an already good album.

Heroes & Villains is producer Metro Boomin's second album and it features an ensemble of different artists, ranging from The Weeknd to A\$AP Rocky and Travis Scott. Metro built his own universe with this album. An extremely planned rollout was set in place for this album, a short film

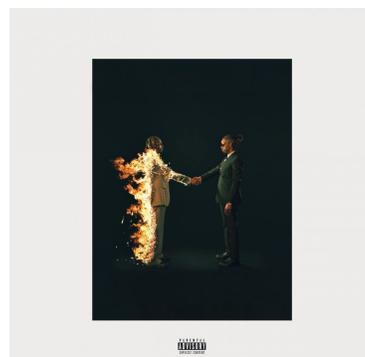
along with the features being revealed on social media in a comic book style. Metro exceeded expectations on an already extremely anticipated album.

Kendrick Lamar is not an artist that drops albums very frequently, so when he drops, it is a special occurrence and this time is no different. This album is what you would expect from an artist like Kendrick, pure quality and it sounds amazing. This album has a lot of meaning, with some songs you don't commonly hear in rap, like "We Cry Together." This album is an experience and is a must listen.

Red & White is a short, 9 song EP/mixtape by Lil Uzi Vert, released

for the build up of his upcoming album *The Pink Tape*. This short mixtape succeeds in what it sets out to do, it's short and sweet and is filled with quality music. Some of the songs like "For Fun" and "I Know" were teased for years before release. This small project is a great return for Uzi, with them returning to an older 2016-2017 era sound.

With 2022 being such a good year for rap, it'll be hard for 2023 to be better, but with artists like Lil Yachty, Trippie Redd and Playboi Carti being close to dropping, we can expect another great year.





METAL ALBUMS:2022

BY: JADEN CAMPBELL

This year was an amazing year in general for music, with covid restrictions lifting, many artists getting into the studios to record. This is highlighted well in the metal community.

Probably one of the most anticipated albums of this year would be Slipknot's "The End, So Far". After the 2019 album "We Are Not Your Kind", the fans of Slipknot have been wanting more.

Slipknot came out with this new album, receiving relatively good reviews and the fanbase feeling sad about rumors of their retirement, I'd say it was a pretty good album.

Megadeth, one of the pioneers of thrash metal, being in the big four, I was hoping for this album to be great. While it's not bad, I feel it was way over-hyped.

As front man Dave Mustaine

likes to do, he blew the album way out of proportion. Saying it'll be just as good as their older albums, Ex. "Rust in Peace" or "Countdown to Extinction" fan favorites. While what we got, sounded like uninspired old men trying to make Thrash metal.

I will say, the worst song off that album is still better than Metallica's newest release "Lux Ætera".

Another not so great album being Machine Head's "Of Kingdom and Crown". As a huge fan of Machine Head's older music, All I could say is I'm disappointed. While being heavy and having good moments, this album also has a 10 minute song with an almost 4 minute opening. For such a boring and skippable intro, the rest of the song is pretty much just as boring.

Not to say the album didn't have amazing moments. An example is

when the second song kicks in "Choke on the Ashes of your Hate", immediately with that crazy fast drum fill to just the sound of madness.

My favorite metal album this year would probably be Lorena Shore's "Pain Remain," mixing black metal elements with Deathcore, this makes a pretty amazing album if done right. The execution of production in the mixes are done well.

This album, while sounding so brutal, tears in your heart if you can understand the growling lyrics. Lorena Shore has been on my and many others' radar since their release last year "... And I return to Nothingness", specifically the song "To the Hellfire". After its monumental explosion in popularity on Tik Tok.



Origins of Danny Murillo

BY: MADISON GERARD

Daniel Rose Murillo aka Danny, joined the band Hollywood Undead in 2009 as a vocalist and guitarist. With almost 14 years spent in the band and 7 albums done, he has been on an epic journey.

Before Hollywood Undead, Danny had his first band called Lorene Drive. Stephan Fisher, Justin Smith, and Kris Comeaux along with Danny formed their band back in 2002. Danny talked about his path to success with Hollywood Undead, "Being in Lorene Drive was a great learning experience to how the music industry worked, that was when I signed my first record deal and went on my first tours, first everything."

Lorene Drive differed a lot from Hollywood Undead with how music was written and touring, "In Lorene Drive it was more like some guys jamming in a room until we had something going. Then we would finish the music by recording the vocals and melodies. Then re-record the song professionally." In Lorene Drive it was a longer process for them to record a song where as now in Hollywood Undead it proves to be much faster, "With Hollywood Undead we

usually create the song from scratch in the studio and finish it all at once."

Now the touring process was majorly different as well. In Lorene Drive they didn't have all the luxuries that they have in Hollywood Undead currently. Danny said, "In Lorene Drive we had to drive a 15 passenger van pulling a trailer with the gear everywhere and load our own equipment on and off stage. Shower a lot less. Haha, but it was great because all we wanted to do was be on the road at that age."

Even though Hollywood Undead was a major change for Danny, it was a great one. "When I joined Hollywood Undead I had made it. A driver, on a beautiful tour bus with great beds and food and drinks everywhere, people that do everything for you and tell you where to go. Nice hotel rooms all to yourself. Either way being away from family is hard but the main difference is that with Hollywood Undead the level of responsibility is a lot less."

In Hollywood Undead the responsibility was a lot less because of all the people helping the band now. Danny just tries his best on stage, but

in Lorene Drive they had to worry about much more, "In Lorene Drive I had to do my best and then load out all the equipment, then drive 8 hours through a snowstorm, sleep in a van, and play 6 shows a week for maybe 100 people. I'll never trade it for the world. It made me who I am."

Even with all the struggle that Danny went through, he wouldn't change a thing. Everything was a learning experience for him and he's living his dream. "I was literally homeless for a while there while trying to get Lorene Drive off the ground. Being a musician can be one of the hardest things to become successful at. Definitely a passion project." His passion has paid off with Hollywood Undead's second album (Danny's first with the band), *American Tragedy*, which peaked at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 and sold over 66,000 copies in its debut week. They are still going strong today, selling over 1.6 million albums in total.

Danny is not only a must-hear talent, but also proof that passion can unlock dreams. He has brought life to Hollywood Undead.

The Wait Is Over

BY: ELIZABETH JONES

Sza is an American singer and songwriter. She began making music in the early 2010s. She co-wrote “Feeling Myself” with Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé.

In 2016, she was featured on Rihanna’s song “Consideration”. SZA’s debut studio album, *Ctrl* (2017), was released. It debuted at number three on the US Billboard 200 and was certified triple platinum by the RIAA.

At the 60th Annual Grammy Awards, the album earned her four nominations, including Best New Artist. She collaborated with Kend-

rick Lamar to create the Top 10 single “All the Stars” for the Black Panther soundtrack, for which she was nominated for the Golden Globe Award and Academy Award for Best Original Song.

On December 9th, 2022 SZA released her newest album *SOS*. *SOS* reached number-one on the Billboard 200 chart, and broke the record for the biggest streaming week ever for an R&B album.

Szas’ album was eagerly anticipated and proved to be worth it. It broke the record for the largest streaming week for an R&B album.

After 5 years SZA proves to come back stronger than ever with another great album. Leaving 2022 with a great accomplishment and fans with great music to listen to.



Put the AI in Artist

BY: GAVIN LYSCIK

Throughout America, there’s been a rapid increase in the use of artificial intelligence (A.I.), from making art in the style of notable production studios, to mimicking the writing styles of popular internet blogs. But what does this mean for the country going forward?

A.I.-generated art is produced by algorithms. These algorithms try to mimic a specific style or aesthetic by analyzing thousands of pre-existing artwork from various creators. They then generate new images based on prompts that correspond to the styles it has learned. A.I. can then be used to generate art, such as pictures of Harry Potter characters in the style of animation company Studio Ghibli, or hyper-realistic re-imaginings of cartoon characters.

With this comes the possibility of using artificial intelligence in replace of actual workers. In a world where art can be made for free by machines, and businesses are always looking to cut costs and increase profits, why bother to pay human artists?

In response to the recent trend in A.I.-generated art, software company Adobe expanded its stock art collection (Adobe Stock) to permit the sale of A.I.-generated artwork submitted by creators. Described as a major leap forward, it would leverage “machine learning’s incredible power to ideate faster by developing imagery using words, sketches, and gestures.”

Similarly, illustrations of characters from *The Nutcracker*, generated by A.I., were used by the San Francisco Ballet to promote their December performances.

But not all companies have been so quick to embrace the future of artificial intelligence. On December 22nd, fundraising platform Kickstarter suspended a highly-backed A.I. generation project. In an official statement, Kickstarter CEO Everette Taylor reported that “Kickstarter must, and will always be, on the side of creative work and the humans behind that work.”

Public opinions regarding A.I.-generated art are mixed. Supporters, such as Canadian musician

Grimes, claim that it can be a great tool for creating concepts from scratch, and a much better creative alternative than humans.

Grimes, specifically, predicts “A.I. can replace humans. I feel like we’re in the end of human art. They’re gonna be so much better at making art than us.”

On the contrary, people against A.I.-generated art believe that it will lower the value of artists, with artwork able to be made at the drop of a hat. There’s also concerns of copyright infringement, with the artificial intelligence analysis models, where existing art is fed to programs to try and recreate their styles, seen as being blatant copies, and not falling under fair use due to the lack of transformative work being done.

While the future of artificial intelligence’s place in society is uncertain, one thing remains clear: the power of artificial intelligence, and the potential that comes with it, will only continue to increase in time.



CAUGHT IN THE HI-LITES

