

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Spooky Seniors

BY ELLA RITCHART

GUESS WHO...

1. Gianna Amadio 2. Rileigh Krebs 3. Connor Progar 4. Emma Palmieri 5. Aaron Diekhart 6. Mena Catanzarite 7. Ella Ritchart 8. Sam Milligan 9. Thomas Pipkins

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Hopewell's Consolidation Plans: What's the Verdict?

BY: GRACE GOLD

At Hopewell High School, plans of consolidating certain schools and moving grades to different schools has been a main point of discussion in school board meetings since the proposal of this idea. In a recent board meeting, on October 8th, new plans of consolidation have been proposed. These plans include Plan A2, Plan A3, Plan D, Plan D1, Plan D2, Plan E1, and Plan E2.

Each plan includes the adjustment of moving grades 7 and 8 up to the high school, and adapting students and the building to make sure the learning environment is still capable. Plan A2 includes altering the high school's infrastructure to accommodate grades 7-12. This plan also includes the renovation of Margaret Ross Elementary School, making it a building for K-6, at a total cost of \$105.6 million. Similarly, plan A3 also consists of altering the high school to accommodate grades 7 and 8 moving into the building. However, this plan requires the construction of an entirely new building for K-6, rather than using a current building. This plan comes at the cost of \$112.6 million. Plan D is quite similar to A3 as it includes the creation of an entirely new building, but the use of said building will be different. In this plan, the high school becomes a haven for grades

K-6, while grades 7-12 are housed in a new building. This plan comes at the estimated cost of \$125.1 million.

The D1 plan has three phases; phase one entails moving grades 7 and 8 up to the high school and adjusting accordingly, phase 2 describes moving grades 5 and 6 into the elementary schools buildings, and the third phase includes moving grade K-4 into a new building after demolition of the Junior High School. The D1 plan would be around \$115.7 million. Plan D2 has three phases as well. Phase one is moving grades 7 and 8 up to the high school and making big additions and changes to the high school in the process, phase two is moving grades 5 and 6 into the elementary schools, and demolishing the Junior High. The difference between Plan D1 and Plan D2 is that in Plan D1, the changes are just minor alterations, whereas in plan D2, the changes are much more significant, and Plan D2 costs \$163.8 million.

The second to last plan, Plan E1, suggests moving grades 7 and 8 up to the high school with minor alterations, constructing a whole new facility for grades 2 through 6, and putting K-1 at the Margaret Ross and Independence Elementary Schools. The final plan, Plan E2, entails adding grades 7 and 8 to the high school with the same/similar changes as plan E1, and

building a new building for grades 3 through six, and finally putting grades K-2 into the Margaret Ross and Independence Elementary Schools. Plan E1 would cost \$99.5 million, and plan E2 would cost about \$89.8 million. On Tuesday, October 22nd, there was another School Board meeting held, where the Board officially voted on the consolidation plan they felt was best for Hopewell. The official plan they agreed on was Plan A3; the \$112.6 million plan that consists of moving grades 7 and 8 up to the high school, and building a new facility to house grades K-6.

The Board as well as Dr. Beltz, Hopewell's Superintendent, are optimistic about coming up with an official plan of action, and furthering Hopewell's progress into more efficient ways of educating, while maintaining a good fiscal balance, and utilizing/maximizing the space available.



In October We Wear Pink

BY: HALEY THEYS

Over the years, Hopewell has shown amazing support for Breast cancer awareness month. Different fall sports including boy's soccer, volleyball, cheer, and football have continued to raise awareness and even give donations to charities.

This year the cheer and volleyball team sold pink shirts and raised over \$700 and donated it to the Hair Peace Charities. The charity was founded by Bonny Diver in Pittsburgh in 2005. After Bonny's own battle with breast cancer, she decided to start a nonprofit organization to provide financial, emotional, and spiritual support to women who have cancer all over western Pennsylvania. The charity is most known for its support

groups and donating up to \$250 for each wig.

Breast cancer claims 2 million lives a year. Supporting research and supportive non-profits such as Hair Peace Charities are great ways to support those affected. These charities often have support groups, donations for wigs or medical expenses, or even just resources for families trying to support a loved one with cancer.

The volleyball team, boy's soccer team, and the football team all had pink-out themed games. Students supported the cause by wearing all pink outfits and even some had pink face paint and crazy wigs. Players could also choose to wear pink socks or simple pink accessories. Even the cheerleaders wore their pink shirts

from the donations and some even wore pink bows too. The pink-out games are always the most popular and supported by students with having the biggest turn outs compared to other games. Lahna Murray said, "The games wouldn't have had such high energy without the buzz of the pink-out and support of the students."



Fun in the Fall

BY EMMA PALMIERI

For most people, autumn is the best time of the year. There's so many things you can do in October. Pumpkin patches, haunted houses, corn mazes, pumpkin decorating and more. "The weather is the best part of fall," said Ella Ritchart. "It's perfect, not too hot nor too cold."

October is the start of the best three months of the year. With Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Eve, there is a lot to look forward to. To keep busy in between the holidays, football is always something many enjoy and attend. "Football season is amazing and Christmas is right around the corner," says Aaron Dickhart.

Fall drinks are something teenagers obsess over. Starbucks and Dunkin have new Pumpkin drinks that came out in September that people look forward to all year. "My fa-

vorite fall drink is Pumpkin Chai. It tastes like a fall candle in the best way possible," says Mena Catanzarite. Looking forward to the Starbucks Christmas drinks in early November is something also exciting about October because that means the Holidays are right around the corner.

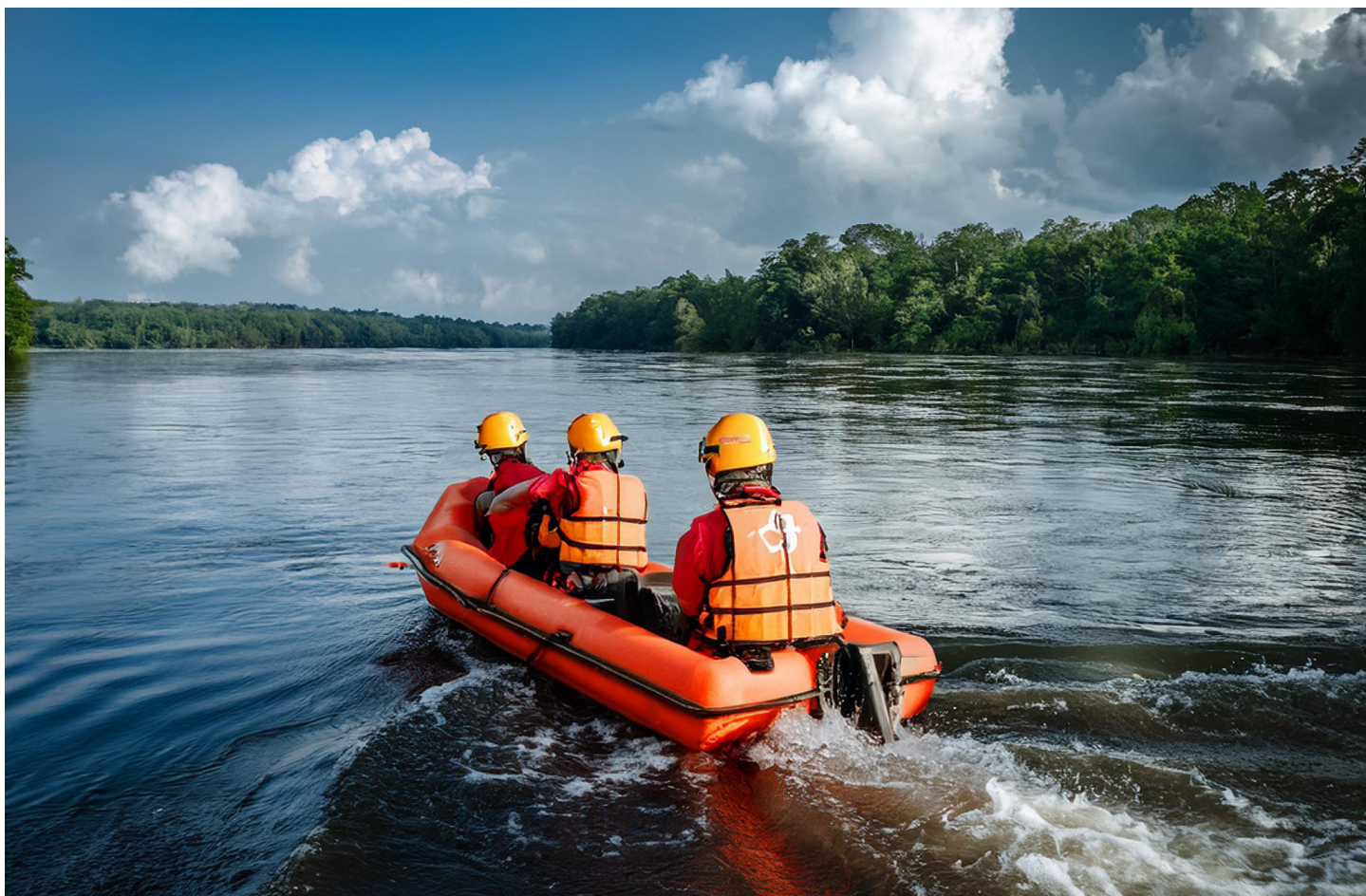
Pumpkins are the main part of fall. There are so many different kinds of pumpkins. Yellow, orange, white, and more. Pumpkin patches are obviously somewhere to get those. Going to the pumpkin patch is such a fun tradition. There are so many different ones to go to and so many things to do there. Face painting, pumpkin picking, fall foods, and taking pictures is something teenagers love to do.

There's many foods that just scream fall. Apple cider, pumpkin and apple pie, pumpkin roll, caramel apples, and more. "My favorite fall treat

has to be pumpkin pie." says Connor Progar. Any party or event in September or October, you can expect any of these delicious foods to be there.

Fall is a great time to do many fun activities and most people's favorite time of year, so enjoy it and make the most out of it.





An Inside Perspective of Hurricanes

BY: LAHNA MURRAY

Hurricane season has officially reached its peak, especially with the back-to-back hurricanes Selene and Milton. It's hard to get a true look inside what actually happens when it comes to hurricane season, as many people just focus on the aftermath and the destruction. Dana Hargest, a resident of Cape Coral, Florida, has had her fair share of hurricane season.

Dana has been living in Florida for about 21 years and has been in five hurricanes. Though she's been in five hurricanes, she has not once evacuated. "Naturally when the hurricane comes across the state, you can't run to the other coast cause you're just gonna get hit anyway," she said. Some of her neighbors evacuate to closer places

such as Fort Lauderdale, while others go all the way up to places such as Tennessee.

Businesses after hurricanes in Florida often aren't set in stone for when they would open back up, according to Dana. Sometimes it could be a week after one hits, while others it could take months. She described that more popular places near boulevards or parkways are able to recover quickly. In contrast, businesses near the beach are trickier because it's up to how much they prepare for the storm and if their buildings meet guidelines.

Living in Florida has its highs, such as a warm environment, beautiful beaches, and diverse culture. But after the horrors of hurricanes, why stay? "Hurricanes may

seem horrific to people up north, and the people in the south may find snow horrific. People on the west coast are used to earthquakes. No matter where you go, there's always something that could happen," she said.

Hurricane season is a devastating time with great amounts of loss, but there are some parts people don't see. Communities after hurricanes come together and help each other rebuild after. While they are a terrific storm, there is always hope that Florida towns persevere each time and try to come out stronger.

DON'T BE A DEAD BEAT, GO TRICK OR TREAT

BY: CONNOR PROGAR

Some like to party, some like to stay home, but the proud and the few like to trick-or-treat. From the thrill of running from house to house to the excitement of getting candy, Halloween is a holiday for the young or confident.

Many would say that once you are in high school your trick-or-treat days are over. But not for Daniel Earley and his group of friends, "19 years old is too old, but high schoolers should make it normal to go trick-or-treating through senior year."

Daniel went with a few friends freshman year to trick-or-treat, but the years following were nothing short of

epic. Sophomore year he and about 7 others in his grade, dressed up as gorillas and bananas. The neighborhood fell in love with them. There were photos all over Facebook and they were the "talk of the town." They also went as far as to wear them to school on costume day which everyone loved. It seemed like anywhere you went there was a banana or a gorilla to laugh at.

The year after that they did arguably the best costumes yet. They dressed as characters from the Mario Brothers series and received laughter at every door. Yet again they were the face of the neighborhood Facebook page for days.

"I love trick-or-treat and can't wait for this year," said Daniel. "We are being Noah's ark animals with Connor being Noah." The themes just seem to get better and better each year. One can only assume that their photos will again be all over the neighborhood's Facebook page.

"Why would I want to end my childhood early whenever trick-or-treating is so much fun," said Nick Emery, one of the group members. Many high schoolers simply stopped trick-or-treating and it is disappointing. This group of kids is a living example that high schoolers should continue to trick-or-treat.



Teachers Who Returned to Their Roots: A Look at Hopewell High Alumni

BY: JACK MEYER

In a world that often steers graduates toward distant horizons, some educators find their way back to the halls of their Alma Mater. At Hopewell High School, we have three remarkable teachers—Ms. Barr, Ms. Meyers, and Mr. Witterman—each with a unique story about their journey from student to educator in the very same school that shaped their futures.

Ms. Barr's Journey: A Warning of the Beaver County Curse
Attending high school “a long time ago in a land far, far away,” Ms. Barr has an interesting backstory. After completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Pittsburgh and earning her teaching degree at Geneva College, she decided to return to her roots. “I serve as a warning to others that this too will happen to you if you don’t escape Beaver County,” Barr humorously points out.

When asked about her motivation for becoming a teacher, she replied, “Cuz I’m stupid,” adding that her grandmother’s two best friends were teachers and had set the path for her career. Reflecting on her high school experience, Barr shares fond memories of her favorite teachers: Ms. Meyers, Ms. Caravella, and Mr.

Longo. Her humor and rich memories make her a relatable figure for students who are navigating their paths.

Mr. Witterman: A Homebody with a Heart for Education
Mr. Witt, a graduate of Hopewell High attended from 1989-1993, has fond memories of his time as a student. He journeyed through two years at Penn State Beaver, one year at Penn State Main, and finished at Geneva College. He later pursued a graduate degree at Robert Morris University. His reasons for becoming a teacher are a little personal: “Because I’ve always felt like I’ve been a part of kids’ lives. I like coming to school to see the kids and help them become better.”

Witt’s dedication to his students shines through in his want to give back to the school that shaped him. Describing himself as a “homebody,” he appreciates the sense of belonging that comes from returning to a familiar place. His influential high school teacher, Mr. Kanitra, served as both history teacher and football coach and had a significant impact on his development. “He was a hard worker and could adapt to the times,” Witt recalls.

Ms. Meyers: The Teacher Who Found Her Way Back

Like her colleagues, Ms. Meyers also returned to Hopewell, though with a more indirect route. Attending high school from 1980-1984, she earned her undergraduate degree at Geneva College and pursued further education at Duquesne, Pitt, and Penn State.

Surprisingly, she initially didn’t want to return, admitting, “Honestly, I didn’t wanna come back to Hopewell to teach, but Hopewell’s the only place I landed a job after applying to many.”

Her journey into teaching began when she taught water safety with canoes for Hopewell Township and found she had a knack for it, sparking her interest in pursuing education as a career. When asked about her favorite teacher, Ms. Byrnes, she fondly remembers the influence that shaped her as a student.

These teachers embody the spirit of Hopewell High, bringing their life experiences back to improve the next generation. As they share their stories, they remind us that returning home can be both a journey and a destination.





Fall Sports Scoreboard

BY: NICK EMERY

Football (4-5)

W 38-25 @ Riverside
 L 42-19 @ New Castle
 W 35-34 vs Ambridge
 L 49-17 @ Beaver
 L 50-19 vs Avonworth
 W 24-7 vs Quaker Valley
 W 56-24 @ McGuffey
 L 35-25 vs Freeport
 L 44-20 @ Central Valley

Girls Cross Country (4-7)

W 15-50 vs Burgettstown
 W 15-50 vs Riverside
 L 28-21 vs Beaver
 L 48-15 vs Montour
 W 15-50 vs Ambridge
 L 33-22 vs Chartiers Valley
 L 49-22 vs West Allegheny
 L 39-22 vs Upper St. Clair
 L 37-23 vs Blackhawk
 L 28-27 vs New Castle
 W 15-50 vs Central Valley

Boys Cross Country (6-5)

W 18-39 vs Burgettstown
 W 27-28 vs Riverside
 L 48-15 vs Beaver
 L 48-15 vs Montour
 W 15-50 vs Ambridge
 L 49-15 vs Chartiers Valley
 L 38-17 vs West Allegheny
 L 53-15 vs Upper St. Clair
 W 28-29 vs Blackhawk
 W 27-28 vs New Castle
 W 15-50 vs Central Valley

Soccer girls (1-9-2)

L 3-0 @ Avonworth
 L 3-2 (2 OT) @ Ambridge
 L 3-0 @ Quaker Valley
 Tie 1-1 (OT) vs Riverside
 L 4-0 @ West Allegheny
 L 4-1 @ Beaver
 W 2-1 (OT) vs Avonworth
 Tie 1-1 (2 OT) vs Ambridge
 L 3-0 vs Quaker Valley
 L 1-0 vs Carlynton
 L 3-0 @ Mohawk
 L 5-0 @ Beaver

Soccer boys (9-7)

W 8-0 @ Ellwood City
 L 2-1 vs Central Valley
 L 2-1 vs Beaver
 L 5-1 vs Avonworth
 W 6-1 vs Riverside
 L 6-0 @ Quaker Valley
 W 7-0 @ Mohawk
 W 3-2 vs Keystone
 W 2-0 @ Central Valley
 L 4-0 @ Beaver
 L 3-2 @ Avonworth
 W 5-0 @ Riverside
 L 3-1 vs Quaker Valley
 W 7-0 vs Mohawk
 W 9-0 vs Ellwood City
 W 3-0 @ Keystone Oaks

Girls Volleyball (14-2)

W 3-0 @ Central Valley
 W 3-0 @ Fort Cherry
 L 1-3 vs Quaker Valley
 W 3-0 @ Northgate
 W 3-1 @ Avonworth
 W 3-0 vs New Brighton
 W 3-0 @ Freedom
 W 3-0 @ Aliquippa
 W 3-2 vs OLSH
 W 3-0 vs Northgate
 W 3-2 vs Avonworth
 L 1-3 @ Quaker Valley
 W 3-0 @ New Brighton
 W 3-0 vs Freedom
 W 3-0 vs Aliquippa
 W 3-0 @ OLSH

Girls Tennis (0-10)

L 0-5 vs Central Valley
 L 0-5 vs Riverside
 L 0-5 vs Aquinas Academy
 L 0-5 vs Keystone Oaks
 L 1-4 vs Carlyton
 L 0-5 vs Ambridge
 L 0-5 vs Moon
 L 1-4 vs Ellwood City
 L 0-5 vs Sewickley Academy
 L 0-5 vs Quaker Valley

Competition Cheer

BY: EMMA MAJEWICZ

As football season comes to an end, our cheerleaders are just beginning their competition season. Their first performance happened Sunday, October 13th, at Ambridge High School.

Coach Kelly Waibel has good thoughts about the team's performance, "Sunday's performance was a great start for this year's team. Also, I was so happy to see them pull together after having a rough start back in September."

Since the beginning of the season, the team has worked on their high energy, stunt sequences, and tumbling. But, a main focus that needs to be worked on is endurance. "Before our next competition, we will finalize our pyramid and add a few upgrades to the

opening section. But mainly our focus will be on building stamina and consistency."

"The judges provided a lot of positive and constructive feedback that we will work on over the next couple weeks," said Kelly.

The team is glad to see the judges opinions on the routine and how to improve for the next competition on November 16th, at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

This com-

petition will have some of the top co-ed teams in the state, which will be both exciting and nerve-racking for the team.



Photo by: Kelly Waibel

NEW COACH ON THE BLOCK

BY: JUSTIN PARSONS

The Hopewell Area Aqua Club (HAAC) is kicking off the 2024-25 season with the new Head Coach, Melanie Buddemeyer. Students of Hopewell Senior High know her better as "Frau."

Frau teaches German 1-4 at the high school level. After winning bronze in the 1985 Pan Pacific Swimming Championships for the women's 100, butterfly she coached swim for 20 years.

HAAC isn't the high school varsity team, but it's still affiliated with the Hopewell school district.

Before HAAC, she coached at Penn Hills, Hampton, Seneca Valley,

and Oakland Catholic. She took the job with HAAC because the position was vacated and her schedule opened up, "Both of my kids are out of the house, so I have more time," said Frau. Frau is excited for the new season and has high expectations, "For this year I would like to see everyone improve their knowledge base, improve technique and learn better race strategies."

Frau wants to teach the kids a couple of values this season. "Have a goal and set little goals to achieve it. You learn more from your failures than you do from your successes. Don't be afraid to fail. Take risks. Step out there and try it." said Frau.



Photo by: Justin Parsons

Hopewell Sports Players of the Month

BY: LUKAS BOUDROS



Kelsey Williams



Logan Triscila



Jordan Siriani



Desiree Shepherd



Rocco Marcantonio



Emma Palmieri



Luca Flitcraft



Mason LaSala

ORDER ON THE COURT!

BY: AARON DICKHART

It's time to lace the shoes back up. Hoops are almost here. Fall sports are going to be wrapping up soon, and that means Vikings basketball is about to take the court. Hopewell finished 7-15 last season, which was an improvement from the previous year of 3-19, the Vikes are looking to keep improving.

The Vikings are led by four returning starters, Zach Gigliotti, Zach Kovell, Aaron Dickhart and Thomas Pipkins, who are all seniors. Guard Zach Gigliotti is ready to get after it. "I'm very excited. I feel very confident in the team, and I really think we can put some wins together and find ourselves in the playoffs."

Like every year, the team has been playing in a preseason fall league to help get ready for the season. "It's been going good so far. It feels great to be back on the court and get back in a groove. The team is starting to bond together. We got some younger guys this year so gotta work on our chemis-

try and learn how to play together and fall league is a good place for that," said Gigliotti. Preseason games are huge to get teams into rhythm before the regular season begins, and Zach is doing his best to help the team gel.

This year's squad is losing two seniors from last year, offensive threat Mason Showrank and lockdown defender Naz Jeter. However, there are plenty of young guys coming up to fill roles.

The Vikings are also losing spot-up sharpshooter Austin Martinez, who has decided not to return to the team. Showrank and Martinez could both light it up from 3. "We are losing a really good shooter [Showrank] from last year, but this year we have plenty of experience with a lot of seniors who will have to step up and lead the team, including myself. Some of the younger guys will help fill roles rebounding and defensively. We should have a ton of depth this year with leadership from the seniors," said Zach.

Hopewell has seven seniors, and six of which are in their fourth year with the team.

Another huge factor going into this season is the section changes. Lincoln Park, North Catholic, and Blackhawk all left the section, and Avonworth and Quaker Valley joined. "We lost some big powerhouse teams in our section. Also some new teams joined and because of that I'm thinking the section should be easier, it's still a very tough section but easier than before," said Zach of the changes. But the mentality doesn't change. "The team goals are definitely playoffs! You can expect us to go out on the court and fight no matter what."

Hopewell boys basketball hasn't been good for awhile. But there has been steady improvement over the last three years, and this group of seniors is looking to end on a good note by getting the Vikings back in the playoffs.



Photo by Devin Paschall



Power Couple Picketts

BY: DANIEL J. EARLEY

The NFL has recently seen many power couples, including Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift, capturing the attention of fans. However, one NFL power couple has flown under the radar: Eagles quarterback Kenny Pickett and his wife, Amy Pickett.

The couple first met in New Jersey, where they crossed paths with little initial spark. Eventually, they trained at the same facility—Amy for soccer and Kenny for football. As they pursued their separate paths, Pickett became a quarterback at the University of Pittsburgh, while Amy played soccer at Princeton University.

It wasn't until a college break that they reconnected at a party and instantly hit it off. Kenny told *People* magazine,

"We never talked, and then she went off to Princeton and I went to Pitt. We came home on a college break and saw each other at a party and hit it off."

The couple started dating in 2021, and it couldn't have been better. "I knew when I first started dating Amy that I wanted to marry her," Pickett said. "Now that the day is here, it's really special to get to spend the rest of your life with the person that means the world to you."

As an athlete, Amy can relate to Kenny and is very supportive. The couple embodies love and success, both as individuals and as partners. They were married on June 24, 2023, and considering both of their accolades, they should be recognized as one of the top power couples in the NFL.





FRIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

BY: KENDRA ONUSKA

As the weather drops and the leaves continue to fall, there is no better time for a scare. Located on a windy, bumpy road, McCune Road, lies Freddy's Haunts. The McCune Family owned and operated the trail, first opened in 1992. Freddy's Haunts is an immersive and enclosed haunted trail that runs for over a half of a mile.

Originally, the trail was named Skull Mountain Haunted Trail, until they had to change it due to "circumstances out of their control."

The trail opened up for

the first time this year on September 13th and is open until the night of October 27th. Freddy's is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 7:00-10:30 pm and Sundays to 10:00 pm. For this Halloween season, Freddy's will be holding a movie screening event on Thursday, October 24th, at 7:00 pm.

Over the years, Freddy's has remained a popular, old school haunt where the owning family can donate and give back to the community. With an average of 8,000 people visiting per year, Freddy's remains a classic, local scarehouse.

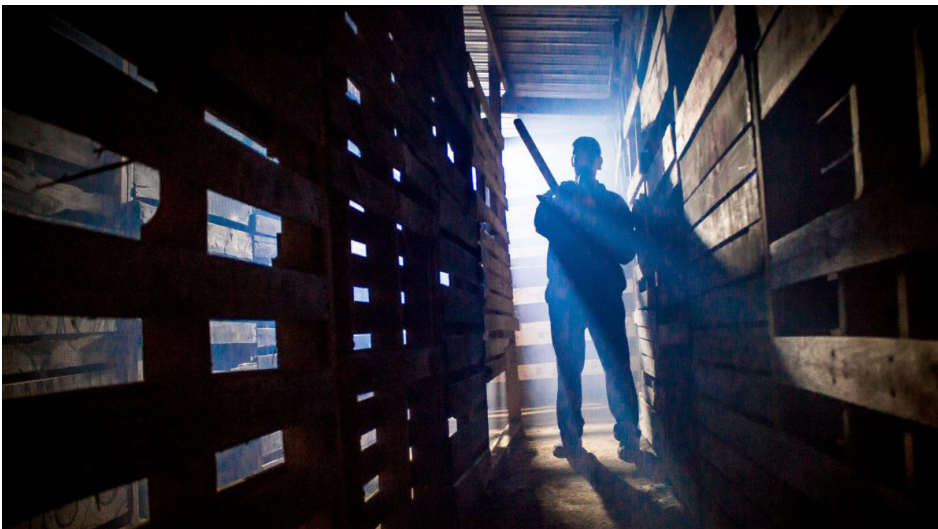


Photo from: freddyshaunts.net

Contributors

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Sponsor

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Pumpkin Spice or Apple Crisp?

BY: ALEXNADRA DIETZ

In 2003, Starbucks released coffee with pumpkin spice in it for their fall menu. Since then, according to a CNN report, over 600 million pumpkin spice drinks have been sold. But on August 24, 2021, Starbucks released a new flavor to their fall menu—apple crisp. Many people have liked it and said it tasted like an apple pie with vanilla. Over the years, people have been getting both throughout the fall menu season because they are both considered a fall flavor. The question is “Which is better: pumpkin spice or apple crisp?”

In January 2003, the flavor pumpkin spice became a drink, and has been a favorite since then. Many people wait every year for the drink to be released. And with the apple crisp flavor being released and making a debut in August 2021, it makes people wonder which is better. Overall both the pumpkin spice and the apple crisp drinks are good, but there is always going to be one that people like the most.

To get people’s opinion about this I have been asking people around the school, “Which is your favorite and why?”. The responses were more flavor based on what they like and what they don’t like. For instance Bayley said, “Pumpkin spice, because I like cinnamon more than I like apples.”, and Gia said, “Apple crisp, be-

cause I like their macchiatos and I like apples.”. And with not just these two comments, eight other people chose pumpkin spice and two other people chose apple crisp. To clear this topic up, there are no right or wrong answers. Everyone has their own opinions about this, they can like one or the other, or both, or maybe none of them.



A JOKE OF A MOVIE

BY: PHILLIP BYRD

The new movie Joker: Folie à Deux came out recently and it’s a big-time flop. The film’s reviews were at an all-time low compared to the original. One major reason for this was the fact that the movie was a musical which caused a lot of people to not like the movie as a whole.

The film has a runtime of 2h 18m. Since it was a musical, there was music at points in the movie that might not have made sense to the viewer. The music was too frequent, which got annoying the further you got into the movie.

Although most people didn’t like the film senior Lizzie Jones did, “I loved how they portrayed the psy-

chological illnesses in the movie, and how you could almost feel the mental illness with how it switched.”

One of the big sticking points is the movie was not advertised as a musical so lots of people went into the theater not knowing what they were getting themselves into but Lizzie liked the musical parts, “The musical aspect did a really great job of showing how the mind works and how you could have daydream-like fantasies.”

Overall the movie was not as big of a hit as the previous movies, but it has people who thought it was pretty good and definitely gained a small following.



BAGS AND BLESSINGS

BY: LIZZIE JONES

Everyone knows someone affected by cancer. The treatments are long, tedious, and tiring. Survivors and current fighters are some of the bravest people.

Bags and blessings is a faith-based non-profit charity set up to help bring hope and love to those battling cancer treatments. It was founded in 2019 based in Beaver County and focuses on Beaver and Allegheny county residents. Spreading a powerful message, God's love and to remind them they don't fight alone. In



2019, they reached Non-Profit Status under the name bags and blessings founded by Robin Redfern.

Each year, they give out bags to people during their chemo treatments in hopes that it uplifts their spirit and instills a sense of hope in them. In 2018, they handed out 100 bags to patients at Magee Women's Hospital and at the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Beaver. The bags include homeopathic and organic products. Things like ginger chews, teas, and natural based deodorants. All products that will aid the patients and journals to keep them going.



Are the Menendez Brothers MONSTERS?

BY: GIANNA HALL

Accused of murdering their parents in 1989 the Menendez brothers filled headlines for months. Many years later they are once again big news thanks to the new Netflix series Monsters. Lyle and Erik Menendez are currently incarcerated as part of their life sentence of first-degree murder sentencing. The new Netflix series might be adding cruel and unusual punishment on top of what they already have been through.

There are many opinions on Erik and Lyle Menendez; some people think they are innocent, but Ryan Murphy, director of the new Netflix series portrays them in a way that they are "MONSTERS." Ryan Murphy is facing severe backlash for his portrayal of the infamous brothers.

Most controversial is that according to Marc Malkin in his article in Variety Murphy has never spoken a word to either of the brothers. Accord-

ing to the article Murphy has no intention to contact the Menendez brothers.

Fan reactions have been strong. Sophomore Katie Withrow says, "I think Murphy did portray them in a way that's unacceptable. I've watched other documentaries on them and he definitely doesn't tell their story in a way anyone would want."

Erik Menendez has spoken out about the show saying that it's all "blatant lies" and the character portrayals of him and his brother were

"vile and appalling."

Ryan Murphy believes differently and says "It's the best thing to happen to them in 30 years." Although the Menendez brothers are extremely upset about the portrayal, the show brought attention to them after years of incarceration. They now have a court hearing on November 29, 2024, with new evidence that was discovered.



HALLOWEEN AT HOPEWELL

BY: NEVAEH PERSI-JONES

As the holidays come around and the trees start to lose their leaves there are many movies to watch as it starts to get cold again. There are many fall and halloween movies to choose from but the most watched is Hocus Pocus.

At Hopewell High school many students love fall movies including Hocus Pocus, BeetleJuice, and Scream. Mrs. Heranic remembers the first Hocus Pocus "it's a classic Halloween movie".

Hocus Pocus a film that was made in 1993 about a comedic trio of witches and a girl who moves to Salem. The second movie came out in 2022 and had around 2.73 billion minutes played by audiences. "Me and my

grandma loved the first one better, it was just more exciting," Bianca Vespaziani explained.

For most movie theaters from October to December are the busiest months. Halloween, a movie based on Michael Meyers, a killer that "never dies," there are a total of 11 movies that came out. In 2018 it was the top selling Halloween movie that made over 150 million dollars. Halloween is a sequel to the 1978 film. Ashley Rivetti, a senior at Hopewell High school thinks, "I think the older ones were better because the newer ones were not scary."

It's proven and studies show there are benefits to watching horror movies like psychological effects

that improve self confidence and can help to ease anxiety by releasing fear. There are over 16 Halloween movies coming out before the end of 2024 so stop by theirs and see one.



October Concerts in the City



BY: KATIE WITHROW

-Billie Eilish - 10/13
-Tori Kelly - 10/14

-Montell Fish - 10/27
-Sunmai preserving underground - 10/25

-for KING+COUNTRY - 10/1
- Laniey Wilson - 10/26

-Bryson Tiller - 10/14
-Ken carson - 10/22

-Cavetown - 10/25
- Christopher Paul - 10/27

- Eliza McLamb - 10/30
-Summer Dean - 10/22

CAUGHT IN HI-LITES



HAPPY SPOOKY SEASON!