

# Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

Issue 43: September 2022



## Win or lose- Hopewell needs spirit

BY: PAYTON ROCK

**B**right lights, Friday nights, and the crowd roaring with a new sense of school spirit. Hopewell High School's football team won their first game in almost two years, and it was an incredible win, 41-0.

The community, and more importantly, the football team, has received a boost in morale. Coach Weiss experienced this win firsthand, and as a Hopewell teacher, has really been impacted by the team's success.

"Whenever the kids are involved and we have a big win, school spirit's really high. When the student section stormed the field, that was awesome, we want more of that."

The turnout on September 2nd's Friday night game was incredibly huge. With full stands and a community coming together, you have to think, what other sport could do that? The

honest truth is that there isn't one; no other Hopewell sport has the crowd or grip on school spirit that football does. Mr. Mohrbacher, a teacher at Hopewell High School, can comment on that.

"I don't know if it is for better or for worse, but public perception and the public school district is connected to the success of their athletic programs, and at least in Western Pennsylvania, there is no bigger athletic program than the school's football team."

This phenomenon of football's influence on our school spirit has been with our community for years. Mr. Allison, a member of the PIAA board, tells new athletic directors and new principals every year the same piece of advice:

"Your jobs will be a lot easier when your teams win than when you lose."

Unfortunately, this influence goes both ways. Mr. Mohrbacher has seen firsthand this negative effect, since last year was a losing season.

"Last year, it was frustrating. I know quite a few people started the season and didn't finish it. So far this year there is a lot more energy, a lot more players in general, and a willingness to work."

The impact of the school football team's performance and school spirit is an undeniable connection. The best is wished for the Hopewell football team, but the pressure to uphold school spirit being left solely on their shoulders is a weight no student should have to carry. Students should strive for all-around school spirit, regardless of the school's athletic performance.

What's Inside...  
Happenings

Pages 2-7

Sports  
Culture

Pages 8-9  
Page 10

Voices  
Page 2

Page 11  
Jack the Viking



# Happenings

# Jack The Viking

BY: OLIVIA GUZMA



Knowing that I wear the viking costume better than most people could ever do makes me feel pretty good.”

Cross country star, math genius, and now Hopewell’s finest viking, junior Jack McGrail is bringing back school spirit better than ever this year.

Jack’s job as the viking is to pump up the crowd and encourage our football players.

“There’s a lot of attention. A lot of fame comes with it.” said Jack. All of the fans’

eyes are on him. “Sometimes it does get to my head, but I mean I am Jack McGrail.”

Jack believes he’ll be famous in the future for being the best viking in Hopewell history.

“I like to do the HHS cheer because I’m actually in it.” said Jack. Our viking is so dedicated he practices with the cheerleaders.

“Well you know I’m kinda also part of the cheer team because I go to their practices and I do stunts with them.” Jack is seen on the sidelines at the

football games and he appears at pep rallies.

Jack’s favorite part of being the viking is wearing the costume. “I love the cape. It’s just THE cape. It’s dope, I like the metal on it.” Dressing the part helps Jack get into character and makes him feel like a real life viking. “It makes me feel good.”

Jack wants to go down in history as “the best viking Hopewell has ever seen.”



# The New Girl in Town

BY: GIOVANNI KREBS

New year, new start, new faces. What better way to start the year than with a friendly new addition to our math department? Dana Maurer, former long term substitute, is back and ready to kickstart her official full-time teaching position.

Before Maurer's teaching began, she obtained her undergraduate in secondary education at the University of Akron with a focus in math, then later on received her masters in school counseling. Soon after, she began working at a charter school in Akron, OH, then did a year of counseling internship while she was getting her masters degree, and began her long term subbing taking a three-year hiatus for a trip to Belgium.

Not only is Maurer getting

involved in afterschool activities and programs such as the Freshman Class Club and Book Club, now that she is here to stay, she has strong hopes for this year.

"I hope to get to know my students well and have them know me. I also want to get involved in knowing other students."

In spite of the fact that Maurer has an entire new group of students this year, she is still happy to see the old faces she taught last year while filling in for Mrs. Caputo and is seen to have a lasting effect on them.

"I think that they're excited. I've had students come to me for help in their new math classes. I have students excited to stop by in the morning or in the hallway. I think mostly, they're happy."

Even though Maurer may miss the excitement she had while being a substitute, she is more than happy to finally have a room to herself after bouncing around for so many years.

"I'm excited to be here full time, everyday, and have my room and my students. It's kinda nice to say that I have a classroom and that you can come to my room during this period and that I have my students."

Even after all the hardships of long-and-part-time subbing, Maurer couldn't be happier with where she is in her career, and couldn't be more thankful for the student and teacher relationships she has formed, and will continue to form.

# Give Me Moh

BY: JOSHUA FRANK JR.

Give me “Moh” of Mr. Mohrbacher! Mohrbacher is in his 21st year of teaching and has loved every second of it! His intense commitment to everything he participates in school and life shows students how passionate someone can be.

One of Mohrbacher’s greatest achievements outside of school is family. He has been married for 19 years to his wife, Abigail. He has 3 kids, Nora (9), Truman (7), and Mack (2). Speaking on the importance of family, “That’s what makes a family, finding time and spending it together.” The value of time with family has driven him to become a better father and husband.

From playing soccer to coaching, Mr. Mohrbacher has been the head coach for the boy’s soccer team for 13 years. He started off as an assistant coach in college then transitioned to the head coach. Assistant wasn’t enough, he wanted to make the team better for Hopewell, “I was frustrated with what was going on.”

When he was the head coach, he could truly show his hopes and ventures for the team. He puts everything into coaching, leading the team to become more prideful in the game. Along with soccer, Mohrbacher felt as if he could always do more when it came to the students.

“We needed something better for orientation.” Moh remarked. Link Crew is a program to help 8th grade students transition into Freshman year. Mr. Mohrbacher is the one who leads the program. He wants to build relationships better with students and Link Crew is one of the ways to do it.

Moh teaches three main classes. He started off just as an English teacher but then ventured out into video and journalism. Journalism gave

Moh an opportunity to enhance his likings. The positive effects of Journalism has been shown on his life, “It helps me think of the media and writing in a different style.” With new classes and students this year, Moh plans on making this year a remarkable one.

The experiences of Link Crew, soccer, his classes, and family have made him into the man he is

today. He has been able to make everyone around him comfortable, a major reason why he is beloved. He has brought a sense of uniqueness to his craft, leading students to be more involved in his classes. “Hopefully, students will know that I cared.” Mr. Mohrbacher has shown students that he means business when it comes to giving his full 100%.





# Say HI to the IT guy

BY: LIZZIE JONES

Graduating from Hopewell High School, then coming back to work for Hopewell must be an interesting experience. That's what Darrian Zuccaro, our new IT guy did.

Darrian started working for Hopewell in June of 2022, right before the school year ended. At first, he didn't really know if he wanted to come back. Most seniors who graduate say that they're never coming back and would never expect themselves to. That was the case for Darrian

"Younger me would tell you this would never happen ever. I would have told you I was going to the NBA."

Darrian went to CCBC for college and majored in CIS/Networking. He always had a knack for technology growing up, and made a side hustle out of fixing broken screens and rebuilding iPhones. He realized he had a fine skill set for fixing technology so he could just apply it to his career and everyday adult life.

Working for a school IT department and an IT department like Microsoft is very different.

"So school wise it's a different ballpark, there's a lot more priority. The main priority is students, making sure they're maintaining the technology... in a kids' well-space you kinda have to be willing to put in the extra time even if you don't get

paid more, you just kinda have to for the sake of the school and the students and teachers. There's a lot more importance in the K-12 than the corporate."

Darrian's favorite part of work is interacting with the people in the school.

"You know me, going out and fixing something and them being appreciative gives you a sense of gratitude and allows you to be happier, like it makes my job a lot happier."

When Darrian was still a student here, he played basketball and lettered his freshman year. Right after freshman year he dislocated his shoulder during a basketball game. He waited awhile before getting surgery and missed his sophomore season. Then he broke his foot and missed his junior season. By se-

nior year, he was back on the courts. He was the captain of the basketball team and started despite his time off. He also played soccer his senior season and Mr. Mohrbacher was his coach.

Darrian ended off our great interview with this quote by Michael Jordan: "The key to success is failure."

If you're successful all your life and something bad does happen, you aren't gonna know how to react to it.

"Being surrounded by failure and just grinding through it and turning myself into who I am today, you know that quote really just resonates with me, and it's what I look back to when I'm thinking this didn't work out for me, but at the end of the day I'm gonna be successful, so you just keep moving along."



# Help Wanted: Teachers Needed

BY: BELLA GOLD

Throughout America, schools are experiencing a teacher shortage crisis. The number of people enrolling into teacher training programs are at an all time low, and the amount of teachers who are considering ending their careers early are rising. This is not only a big problem in the country, but also throughout Hopewell.

Compared to 10 years ago, the Center for American Progress states that one-third fewer people are actively enrolling into teacher programs.

If this continues, it will impact everyone. Teachers are a necessity and without them, students' livelihood will suffer.

Italian Teacher Lisa Cedro says, "I understand why teachers are leaving, or why people don't even want to go into the profession, because it is very demanding. And there is a complete lack of respect for the teachers by the students." She explains that people often assume they know what a teacher does on a day-to-day basis, but actually underestimate what they go through.

Last year specifically, more responsibilities were put on teachers, especially when students constantly were in and out of school because of quarantining. "Now you have to make sure that someone who's going to be gone from your class for 5 days has access to the exact same stuff as everyone in



class, and it just feels impossible," Nicholas Slapikas, a language arts teacher at Hopewell High School explains. Teachers have had double the work and worries trying to make sure all the content is constantly accessible to everyone in and outside of school.

However, if a student ever falls behind, it always seems to be the teachers fault. "People were getting really mad at us and it just wasn't very fair," Slapikas shares. This added more pressure to Slapikas and his coworkers, on top of the numerous other responsibilities that the occupation gives.

Slapikas talks about how he and his fellow teachers had a speaker at an in-service day. He explains the discussion about trying to make advancements in machine learning. The speaker said one of the jobs that is the furthest away from being translated into machine learning is teaching. Teachers are essential and students need a personal connection that cannot be replaced by a machine.

Cedro and Slapikas both share that times have changed and being a teacher sometimes isn't easy. But they don't plan on giving up. They want future teachers to know that students will still need teachers, and that won't go away.

Cedro emphasized, "It is important that, as a teacher, you guide students to know how to find facts or how to get to whatever truth they are looking for."

Slapikas adds, "The most important thing you can do is to keep a good heart. I think that's more important than content or anything else. Because that's the only way you get people to trust you and how you get people to respond to you in class or else all the information is just stale."

Schools all around are experiencing a teacher shortage crisis along with Hopewell. It is our job as students to put in the work and make sure teachers are appreciated because at the end of the day, we will always need our Viking teachers!



# Is it our community or is it us?

BY: AUBRYANNA SNYDER

**T**alk's cheap. It seems that more and more people watch a community take a turn, or have no problem sharing complaints. It is our job as a community to take the steps to make our town a place we want to live in.

According to headlines, Beaver County is unsafe, and overrun with drugs and violence. Yet Beaver County has produced people that have made a mark in the world- take Tony Dorsett and Jesse Steinfield for example. In every place there's good and bad, and it's up to the community to determine which dominates. It can be hard to see the good in a community, with all of the violence that happened just this past summer, such as the shooting of policeman Jonnie Schooley in Aliquippa or the murder of William Dawkins in Center. However, the people who have lived in Beaver County for many years can reflect on just how far we've come.

"I think Beaver County has changed in a lot of ways," says Mr. Allison, principal of Hopewell Senior High School.

"If you look at the populations in every school it reflects changes in demographics in our community. People have moved away."

In the 70s Beaver County revolved around Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, more commonly known as J&L Steel. According to the Carnegie Institute, up to 9,000 people were employed at the mill. When the mill shut down in '84, US Airways took

over as the main source of employment in town, until that too went away in the early 2000s. Now, the Cracker Plant, which has brought people in from all over the country, will soon cause people to look elsewhere for work.

Why does this matter?

It matters because jobs bring people, and people bring culture, children, and all around life to the community. The city of Pittsburgh has transformed from a steeltown to a city fueled by top universities and medical facilities. Yet Beaver County is still reliant on the workforce for support and life in the community. When the workforce is lacking, the overall morale of the community is brought down.

But census change isn't the only thing that affects the community.

In our society, information is brought to us instantly by the news and social media; two things that thrive on negativity. While the quick spread of information can be a good thing, it also has a profound influence on the way people view the community.

Brittany Rock, a mother in Hopewell Township, can attest to this. She graduated from Center High School and has lived in Hopewell for the past 16 years. Her 3 children are enrolled in the Hopewell school district.

"I think stuff was always going on, but social media is making you more aware. Just from the past ten years, where I've been more aware due to social media, I think violence has grown in all parts of Beaver County."

Mr. Allison agrees that there's a change in community image, and he credits it to news and negativity. "News used to celebrate community and great things that were going on. The nature of the news today is reactionary."

There are many things that affect the way people view the community, but instead of being reactionary people we need to come together, have pride, and support one another.

"Don't forget where you come from," says Mr. Allison. "Be proud of who you are."

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# Run For The Hills

BY: NEVAEH PERSI-JONES

The cross-country season of 2022, as school starts up again the season is beginning again. With two seniors this year the one and only Dom Flitcrft, Vincent Anskate and Klya long . This year there are 8 girls and 15 boys. This year the team added one new freshman, Keria. At the first meet at Cal U University, Dom placed 2 around 200 boys. The team had their first scrimmage in September and won with Dom breaking the Hopewell trail record with a time of 16:37. We have are team captain Dom and Monske and coach Wolfe are two amazing dedicated coaches. Monske has been coaching since 1981, and Wolfe started last year but has helped improve the team a lot. Monske says he loves the people and "the team is why I keep coming back year after year and has made me a better person over all."

For Wolfe, he grew up with amazing and good coaches.

"I wanted to be that coach for everyone and my medical

experiences helps everyone."

For our seniors' last year, Dom has many offers and many places he would love to go but his top choice would be Oregon for college and will continue to run and go into business and finances.

V i n c e would like to attend Pitt for nursing. Kyla wanted to be a nurse.

As for the team, this year they have many goals, but as much as the team loves to run, the friends and bonds over the years everyone has made has made it more than just a sport.

W h e n asked, everyone on the team said they like how open every-

one is when doing this sport from the other teams to parents. Everyone is always so supportive.





# Reaching Their Goals

BY: GAVIN LYSCIK

The Hopewell Boys Soccer Team is back in action for the fall season and ready to kick some balls!

The team feels particularly strong about their chances in the upcoming section games, with defender Landen Mukanos-Kramer saying “I feel like we’re definitely going way better than last year. Out of all the years I’ve been here, we haven’t started out this well and had as bright of a future.”

Goalkeeper Richy Polovina agreed, adding “I do think we’re prepared for the upcoming section games. With all the fresh-

men coming up, and all the work people are putting in, I feel like we’re up to it.”

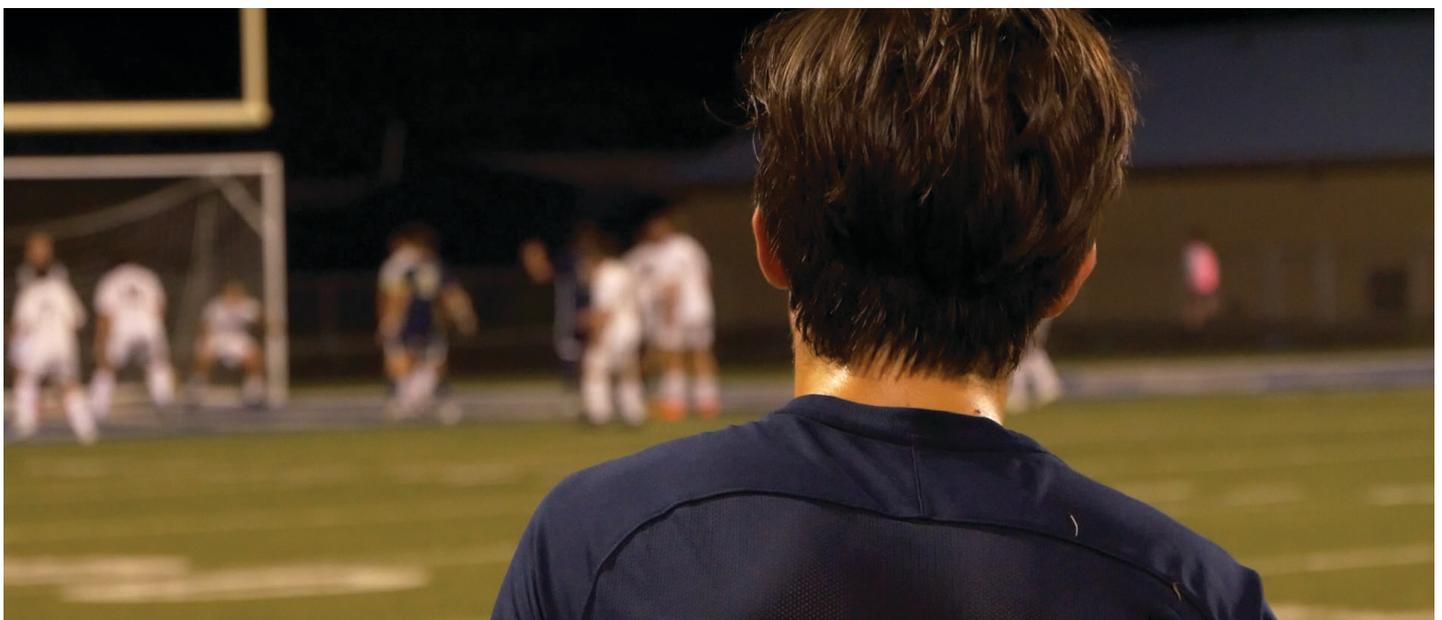
Head Coach Nicholas Mohrbacher acknowledges they still have skills they need to improve on.

“There’s just a lot of times where we could make a better decision by trusting our teammates and moving the ball, and we’re just sometimes too direct. We’re just a little too quick to try to go down the field. Instead, you need to move the ball, open things up, and then attack.”

Landen concurred, noting how communication and leader-

ship needed to be improved the most. “A lot of people don’t talk on the field, or you don’t communicate. There’s no set leaders that young kids could look up to, so I feel like those we could work on.”

In spite of their faults, Landen noted that “We’re all pretty close, y’know, we’re all a team. At the end of the day, we’re still a family.”





## ‘DRUMLINE MOM’ BEATS HOMELESSNESS

BY: ISABELLA TIMPANO

Many of you may know her as “drumline mom” as she coaches our very own Hopewell Drumline. But this is only a fraction of her life, as Marie Timpano pushes towards the next step to safe housing in our communities.

By day, Timpano is the Executive Director of The Cornerstone of Beaver County, a program for those who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. As of recently, The Cornerstone of Beaver County has taken on the challenge of opening a 24-hour men’s shelter in Vanport, as Beaver County has been without a men’s shelter since June 2019.

“Men who were facing homelessness in the county had absolutely nowhere to turn. At that time, the Cornerstone assisted with something we call atypical shelter. We used hotels and motels in the community, and we looked at out of county shelters.”

Timpano acknowledges that this was not a great solution in many circumstances, such as mental health and drug related issues, but she sheds light on one hard truth many men face in these situations.

“So, it wasn’t a great answer, but it was the only answer that we had in getting through winter and inclement weather to shelter in place, when they had no place to shelter.”

Timpano explains how homelessness isn’t always a tent under a bridge, but can become a more invisible beast.

“In Beaver County what does it look like? It often looks like people

doubled up, staying in apartments, oftentimes in public housing communities, where they are not only at risk of themselves being on the street, but also putting the person with whom’s home they are staying to potentially be violating their lease.”

So although there’s not always homeless camps, homelessness is its own public health crisis in every community, even Beaver County. Such invisible struggles are some of the things that drove Timpano and her team to the goals they have for this shelter moving forward.

“Our desire was never to serve as a warehouse for homeless individuals. It was always to provide a safe, secure environment, where people could find hope, and begin to rebuild their lives.”

Timpano plans to grow further by bringing in external programs to reach her goals. “[...], those not only provided by the Cornerstone, but of other partners who have joined on in this journey with us to not only help to stabilize the guys in the immediate situation, but to provide opportunity to return to the community to seek and secure safe, stable, affordable housing, and to be able to sustain that housing.”

With such massive goals for the future, Timpano admits her appreciation, and sometimes need, for donations and assistance as a

non-profit organization.

“Spread the word that it can happen to anyone. They can donate, we’re building the shelter, we’ll be looking for ongoing financial support to operate the shelter. They can volunteer, once the shelter opens we will have volunteer opportunities. Cook a meal, come down and share in a skill or a talent that you have, lots of ways people can get involved.”

No matter the challenges she faces or the hardships of reality, Timpano has hope. Hope for the shelter, hope for the community, but most importantly, she has hope in the young generation in Beaver County.

“Your generation gives us a lot of hope. You’re a compassionate generation, you’re an active generation, you’re an engaged generation. That kindness, that compassion, can sometimes change the direction of the trajectory of someone’s life in a positive way.”





# Yeat Album Review

BY: DANIEL FOISTER

Yeat has been an artist that has dominated the last year, with his breakout mixtape 4L that had tracks like “Sorry Bout That” and “Money Twërk.” After releasing his debut album Up 2 Më, and his second album 2 Alivë, he became an established name in the industry.

His new album, called Lyfë, is a strong 12-song addition to his catalogue. With only one feature, from frequent collaborator Lil Uzi Vert, it leaves Yeat to pull a lot of weight on each song, which he delivers in a very good album.

Although this album isn’t anything revolutionary from Yeat, what it does bring to the table is a rage-fueled Whole Lotta Red-influenced sound that has been dominating hip hop for the past year and a half. Whole Lotta Red set the blueprint for many new artists to build their sound off of, and we have seen artists like the aforementioned Yeat and other artists like Ken Carson and Kankan use the album as an inspiration.

Compared to his last project, 2 Alivë, which was a very strong project, though suffered from bloating due to too many songs, Lyfë is a more bite-sized project filled with quality songs from start to finish.

The album’s lead single, called “Talk“, is a classic rage song with a wavy, hard-hitting instrumental. The

song blew up on TikTok before it was even released, with thousands of videos being shared about unreleased snippets of the song months prior. This track is a stereotypical Yeat song; nothing life changing, but good nonetheless.

Another strong song of this album is the first song, “Flawless“, with Lil Uzi Vert. Everytime Yeat and Lil Uzi have collaborated, it’s been amazing, and this time is no different. With a catchy chorus, and a great feature from Uzi, it sets the bar high for the rest of the album.

A standout track is “Out the way,“ which is a slower, methodical song. This song is very unique because

it has Yeat using his voice as part of the instrumental while he masterfully flows over the beat.

Yeat’s regular rage formula finally was switched up with the song “Can’t stop it.“ It starts out with a slow flow along a drum and guitar beat, quickly changing the beat and upping the tempo for a few lines before slowing back down. It really shows that Yeat can do more than just rage/mosh-pit songs.

I can talk on and on about the positives of this album. Although Lyfë isn’t perfect, Yeat has proved once again with this album that he is paving his own way and making a name for himself. I’d rate it an 8 out of 10.





# CAUGHT IN THE HI-LITES

