

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Battling Until the Last Out

BY: ERIN KUNZMANN

The 2017 Viking baseball team is out to prove to the WPIAL that even though they are young, they are tough. Unfortunately, the team lost two potential starters to injuries, Anthony Bonavita and Tyler Pigoni. Despite these significant losses the team has proven their tenacity with several late-inning feats of heroism.

The first official practice was March 6. "My goals for this team are to make it to the playoffs and make sure everybody gets better every day for a successful season," says catcher, Mitch Heranic. "Losing Anthony and Tyler to injuries is going to hurt the team, but some of the young guys need to step up and fill the holes. I feel that our team is going to be the underdog, but we will pull through."

The team began preparation in Myrtle Beach. "I love going down to the Ripken Experience in Myrtle because that's a time for the team to come together and bond. I think the games we play there will be a nice

learning experience for our younger guys to play teams from around the nation. I think we will do fairly well," Mitch said.

Blackhawk has been the baseball team's greatest competition for a few years, and some things don't change. Blackhawk is undefeated in section play.

The first section win was against Quaker Valley. Alex Kunzmann and Mitch Heranic pitched a combined nine scoreless innings. The team's three runs scored were earned in a dramatic way.

With two outs in the bottom of the ninth Kunzmann hit a walk off homerun.

In a key matchup against South Fayette, Kunzmann once again proved valuable as the winning run on a Josh Miklos walk-off single.

The team is 5-3 in section and a playoff spot is definitely within reach.



Striking Success

BY: ALEXA BURAK

Collin Whiteman is the most decorated bowler in Hopewell High School history.

Collin, has been bowling since he was seven, and his dedication to the sport helped him finish 5th at the state tournament.

During the season he helped the team finish with a 7-3 record, good enough for second in the section. The team finished 9th at regionals and 13th at WPIAL's.

Individually, Collin won the regionals tournament and took 6th at WPIAL's.

Before states, Collin said, "I've got to be confident in myself." At states, he had extreme success with an average of 217 and a total score for the day of 1307.

On June 25th Collin will head to Nashville to compete with over 200 bowlers in the national tournament.

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Life After High School

BY: ERIN KUNZMANN

With graduation right around the corner, seniors are thinking about what they really should be doing after high school. Whether they plan to go straight into the work force or go to college, the job market and job availability have a great impact on their decision. In 2017, the job market is expected to take a huge step in the right direction for new college graduates. The job market in the last year has been the hottest job market in years for the expected 1.9 million students who will graduate this year, according to CNBC. Nearly 75 percent of employers plan to hire graduates fresh out of college this year. This is the highest it has been in about a decade.

The nation has more job openings and is in high demand for students right out of college. These students are also very willing and eager to work. Employers tend to favor graduates with an internship experience. Researchers at the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce found that 63 percent of students who have interned

receive a job offer during the time they were still in school, compared to 35 percent who have not interned.

When planning their college years, four in five students said they considered job availability and employment rates in the major they chose. With the job market always shifting and changing, different jobs will have different employment rates.

However, college is not for everyone. There are jobs and professions out there that don't need any sort of education. A lot of these jobs are in high demand. According to the Business Insider, farmers, ranchers and agricultural managers make at least \$70,000 a year. Through 2022, there is projected to be 150,200 job openings in the field. These jobs don't require a college education and there is always a job available.

Jobs that require an associate's degree are also always in high demand. Because students will have two years of education and experience, employers will be interested in hiring them because they have the skills and education needed to ful-

fill their abilities at the job. Air traffic controllers require an associate's degree. The average salary is \$122,000 a year, and through 2022, there will be 11,400 job openings in the field. The availability for these jobs is not as big, but they're better paying because they require some education.

Jobs that require bachelor's degrees, four year degrees, aren't always high demand, but not everyone goes into college for a bachelor's degree. That makes things easier because they don't have as much competition, but finding a job might be harder. Computer engineering is a field that is in high demand right now. Computer engineers make \$110,000 a year and there will be 6,000 job openings.

Whether or not going to college is your plan, there is always an opportunity out there for you. The job market is always changing, so there is always a possibility that the job you are looking at will eventually be exactly what you want. The job market in the past few years has been the best it's been in years, and it is still on the rise.



Students of the Month

BY:TANNER MCMAKIN



Alana Hough is February's Student of the Month at the Lions Club. Alana Hough is involved in NHS, Student Council, the French Club, and the Robert Morris University ice crew. Alana was honored by

The Beaver County Chapter of the American Association of University of Women's STEM initiative program for young women pursuing a career in science, technology, engineering, and math. She has also been an Academic All-Star Five times in the Pittsburgh Amateur Hockey League. She plans to major in engineering at either the Rochester Institute of Technology or the University of Pittsburgh.



Ellen Davis is a runner is on the Cross Country and track teams where she has earned the title of a scholar athlete. She holds a position as a secretary of the German club, and she will be inducted into the Delta German Honor Society. She is also part of Hopewell's chapter of National Honor Society.

Ellen will also be taking the position of Junior Drum Major in Hopewell's marching band.

If you could be any super hero, who would you be?

Wonder Woman!



Noah Shultz is currently the President of the German Club and is a member of Delta German Honor Society. Noah is also a starting doubles tennis player, and a member of the unified bocce team. Noah is the lead singer of Hopewell's resident band Night Frog. He is also a participant in the Seaperch team Swag Daddy and His Crew.

If you could be any Star Wars character, who would you be?

Luke Skywalker.

Taking Mathematics to New Veights

BY:MADELYN FARKAS

Mr. Veights may have become famous from his duet with Mr. Slapikas, but there's a lot more to him than that.

He grew up in Mount Lebanon, and left his hometown for college at St. Francis University in Loretto, PA. He started his teaching career in Loudon, Virginia at Freedom High School, he says, "While teaching in Virginia, I applied to Hopewell and was fortunate enough to get an interview."

Other than Mr. Veights's teaching background, he also likes to play guitar and cook. During his free time he says, "I coach football but also enjoy playing any sort of pickup games like basketball." Also he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. His future goals may be surprising, saying "I do not have any pets but I would love to have a dog in the future."

Being here for two years, Mr. Veights says, "My favorite thing about Hopewell are the coworkers and the students."





Running, Throwing, Jumping and Hurdling

BY: HALEY GAULT

Track and field at Hopewell High School is a sport that definitely has a lot of students and one of the largest sport families in the district.

Conditioning and training begins with the end of the cold weather and the start of spring. Students in track say that the conditioning is intense but it is set up that way to prepare them for the upcoming season.

Junior Frank Veri has been running since his freshman year. During the school season he does quite a few events, including hurdles and high jump. Veri says during the summer he runs the decathlon which is his favorite. He said, "First place is five points, second is three and third place is one point," explaining how the events are scored during a meet.

Frank says, "Personally I think the hardest event is the pole vault and learning how to run and use the pole properly." The easiest for Frank is throwing and the best, or favorite, is the 300 meter hurdles. Frank who has great interest in track said, "I want to continue track after college at the Division One collegiate

level in the decathlon." His personal best at 4,500 points in the decathlon and 5:02 in the mile.

Students are encouraged to join track and become a part of one of the most liked sports in the high school. Senior Rachel Ciccone says, "Even if you join track your junior or senior year to be in a sport, you'll enjoy yourself no matter what and learn something new in the process."

She has been running since she can remember much like her brother, Clark, who has graduated from Hopewell. Clark says "I planned on continuing track after high school but learned that it takes a lot more effort to be in a college level sport. You have to make sure you really want to do the sport and be serious about it when it comes to college."

Even though Clark didn't continue he still loves running and misses Hopewell track and field. Both Ciccone siblings agree that being part of a team is an easy and fun way to make new friends.



Top: Frank Veri, Rachael Ciccone, Alex Keriotis

One Team, One Dream

BY: MADELYNN FARKAS

Girls softball is one of the underdog sports in Hopewell, but one of the most loved sport by the players.

Coached by Amanda Moore, the softball team has 15 girls, and practices all week Monday thru Friday for two hours. Senior, Holly Singer, says "We always warmup with stretching and throwing and then days are split up into hitting, outfield and in-

field." The team is working hard to improve from last season. Last season the team was 7-8. "The past seasons have been rough but we never gave up even when the outcome wasn't the best." says senior Haley Bedalota. The girls are continuing the positive outlook for this season. Andie Baughman, says "This season will be the best we will have since my freshman year."

Hopewell Softball can be a very tight knit group, "My favorite thing about softball is being with my sisters and growing with the underclassmen," says Haley Bedalotta. The girls know how to improve this season with more than their skills but also their outlook, Andie Baughman says, "We can improve our outlook by working together as a whole and not giving up when we are down."



NFL News and Notes

BY: TURNER WILSON

Recently, many players with local ties have been making waves in the NFL, whether it be at the combine or in the free agency market.

The most local, and most intriguing, story to Hopewell students is Rushel Shell's journey to the NFL. At Hopewell, he set numerous high school state rushing records, even breaking the national record for consecutive 100 yard games with 39. Shell certainly achieved success in the college, but it didn't come without bumps in the road. His fallout at the University of Pittsburgh and eventual transfer to West Virginia wasn't the intended path for the five star high school recruit, but after five seasons, Shell has carved a solid college career, finishing his WVU career with 4.5 yards per carry and 20 TD's. Shell's combine performance was neither outstanding nor devastating, as he ran the 40 yard dash in 4.71 seconds and completed 21 reps on the bench press. He projects anywhere from a late round pick to going undrafted.

Malik Hooker is another former WPIAL star available in the 2017 draft. Hooker graduated from New Castle in 2014, and after two years playing for Urban Meyer at Ohio State., is set for be an NFL star. Hooker has all the tools to be a top of the line safety, speed, athleticism, and talent in pass coverage. Experts

project Hooker to be a top 10 pick, and some are even saying he could go second overall to the 49ers.

As usual, there are a number of players with ties to Western Pennsylvania that will be selected in the 2017 draft. The most notable is James Conner, the star running back from Pitt who won a battle with cancer his sophomore year and now, just two years removed, is a top ten running back available in the draft. Another member of Pitt's backfield, quarterback Nathan Peterman, has been one of the biggest risers in the field, going from an unknown talent to a possible third round pick. Four other Pitt players were invited to the combine, including Adam Bisnowaty of Fox Chapel and Ejuan Price of Woodland Hills. Including Shell, there are five players from West Virginia on teams' radars.

In other news, free agency and two major trades have changed the landscape of the NFL. Houston dealt Brock Osweiler and picks in the second and seventh rounds to the Browns for a fourth round pick. For Houston, the move frees up space to potentially sign Tony Romo, who has been displaced in Dallas. Cleveland isn't expected to hand Osweiler the starting job, but now have an option if they are unable to draft a quarterback or sign New England's backup Jimmy Garoppolo. The Patriots were at the center of the other major trade,

giving up a first round draft choice for Saints WR Bradin Cooks.

In free agency, a number of familiar faces will be on new teams in the upcoming years. Most notably, the Vikings have cut ties with Adrian Peterson, replacing him with the younger Latavius Murray, formerly of the Raiders. Eddie Lacy has signed with the Seahawks, leaving the Packers with only Ty Montgomery at the position. The Packers have, however, upgraded at the tight end position, signing Martellus Bennett. Terrelle Pryor has signed with the Redskins, who lost DeSean Jackson to the Buccaneers. The Cowboys may have taken the biggest hit, losing both of their starting cornerbacks to free agency, with Brandon Carr going to the Ravens and Morris Claiborne going to the Jets.

The Steelers have had a relatively uneventful offseason to date. They have been able to keep both Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell, signing Brown to a long term contract and placing a franchise tag on Bell. Lawrence Timmons, who led the team in tackles, has departed for Miami. While the Steelers looked into Patriots LB Dont'a Hightower, he has resigned with New England, leaving Vince Williams as a starter for now. With the Steelers still unsure of Martavis Bryant's availability, they signed former Titan WR Justin Hunter to a one year deal.

Clockwise: Rushel Shell, Malik Hooker, James Conner. Photos courtesy of Google Images.



Grinds My Gears - Media Meltdown

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

Swiping right on your phone shows you a list of headlines. Twitter displays the top trending stories. Countless news sites add to the media storm we are bombarded by every day. Can we trust these sources? Is the media doing their job properly, or do they only produce fake news?

To clarify, there is a difference between fake stories that enter the news and what Americans hear Donald Trump talk about. Trump calls news against him (which uses substantiated facts) “fake news” out of spite. The real issue we face is media organizations’ agendas taking. Exceptions like Grinds My Gears are meant to entertain, not be a primary source of information. There needs to be a clear divide between Grinds My Gears and the daily White House report, yet we keep seeing the border get destroyed.

Fake stories have a clear angle, fitting the writer’s beliefs more than the actual facts. Using purposely negative language isn’t the way to report facts. Twenty years from now, almost any source will be rendered useless, as news organizations used opinions, not facts, to describe an event. History will show the juvenile screaming of children, not a partisan view of the situation. It’s a sign of the changing face of media: money and clicks

over quality.

Increasing with time, more reporters make their headlines and stories more controversial to get clicks and subscriptions. This includes telling lies and “half-truths.” When Trump announced his conspiracy theory that Obama “tapped his wires” at Trump Tower, CNN made their article’s headline “Trump Falsely Accuses Obama of Wiretapping Him,” despite the case being ongoing. They know like-minded people will rush to the article and rally behind it, gaining them more and more clicks, and even more money. Visiting a news site bombards you with ads, and trying to use Ad Block gets you kicked off the site.

The biggest case of omitting facts for clicks and manipulation has to be the Wall Street Journal’s coverage of YouTuber PewDiePie (Felix Kjellberg.) In their controversial article, they claim that Felix is an alt-right leader and fascist for making anti-Semitic jokes in some of his videos. What is important to note is that all the examples they used were taken out of context. In one such example, in a cruel case of irony, PewDiePie dressed in a Nazi Halloween costume in response to the Sun (a discredited joke newspaper akin to the Onion). The sun article had claimed he and other YouTubers were fascist government supporters.

Despite context or intent, PewDiePie was painted in a negative light and his connections with Disney’s Maker Studios as well as YouTube’s Red program were severed. After backlash to the article, many organizations then tried to explain what constitutes a joke, and how only professional comedians have the right to make jokes. Twitter blew up with like-minded readers agreeing to leave comedy to “pro-

fessionals.”

The problem we face is a struggling media battling to stay afloat, as competition is better than ever. They use dishonest tactics and fake news to get clicks and subscriptions, regardless the greater effect it has. There’s little bipartisan coverage of an issue, because nobody cares to read it, so it doesn’t sell well. News outlets would rather affirm their readers’ beliefs and scream to the void to sell copies. Our media isn’t run by corporate overlords controlling us; we’re being reaffirmed by toddlers with typewriters.

Editors-in-Chief:

Turner Wilson

Garret Roberts

Staff:

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Haley Gault

Madelynn Farkas

Sponsor:

Mr. Mohrbacher

*Felix Kjellberg,
aka PewDiePie.
Courtesy of
Google Images.*





Cracker Plant and Beaver County Economy

BY: TURNER WILSON

The development of the shell ethane cracker plant has brought economic hope to Beaver County. Recent investments in real estate have provided evidence that Beaver County is expected to attract new jobs. Hopewell has “The Kane” in the process of being built and a Maronda Homes housing plan in construction behind the Windmill off of Brodhead Road. Chippewa has recently announced that construction will begin on a 200 home development. Such endeavors certainly make it seem that Beaver County is on the rise because of the economy, but there still remains the possibility that the Cracker plant is not going to live up to economic expectation.

While there is many indicators of possible downfall, the most daunting is that Beaver County may not be equipped to adequately handle the wants of needs of companies associated with Marcellus Shale. A competition with Butler County seems to be a losing battle. Butler County’s population is rising, has bigger schools, more land, more economic sustainability, and over seven times the new private structures being built. Beaver County’s population is declining and has primarily smaller schools, which are seemingly losing luster as parents choose the opportunities that are associated with larger schools. Roads and infrastructure are newer in Butler, and still it seems that all of Beaver’s businesses are banking on natural gas to be an economic boon.

The initial effect of the cracker plant will surely give a boost to Beaver County. At the height of construc-

tion, 6,000 people will be employed. This will give an instant boost to the economy, but after it is built, only 600 people are expected to work in the plant. Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald has said that the economic effect will be felt mostly in downstream companies, but a likely possibility is that Beaver County is not a base for those companies. The natural gas is mostly in Butler County, the processing and shipping facility will be in Beaver County (which requires only 600 employees), and the downstream companies will be scattered across Western Pennsylvania. Beaver County, for reasons described above, is not currently equipped to allow those downstream companies to thrive.

For Beaver County to be able to succeed in the long term, the apartments, businesses, and housing plans being built must have a need after the 6,000 temporary employees are finished building the cracker plant. If not, Beaver County will end up a “boomtown,” with more apartments, houses, and businesses than are needed. There is surely enough time for Beaver to revamp their industrial capacity. It would, however, require a great deal of spending. The infrastructure in the county is certainly outdated, but with federal spending promised to update locks and dams in Beaver County, progress is being made. Beaver County has been the center of the steel industry before, and with commitment, it can be an important part of the natural gas and oil industry. Beaver County residents must realize we are not there quite yet.

New Sheffield Cafe: A Fresh Start

BY: ALEXA BURAK

Located In Aliquippa, right on Sheffield Road, the New Sheffield Café has had an update. With a change of owner, the café has undergone some changes. It features a new coat of paint and an updated menu. But do not worry. The menu still features its classics such as the chicken salad, the steak salad, and its great chicken wings.

When I stepped into the building, the smell of fresh popcorn wafted in the air. I was seated and brought a tray of the buttery popcorn. I ordered their classic chicken salad with tomatoes, provolone cheese cubes, and no chicken.

If you ever order one of their salads, I highly recommend ordering a small. The bowls the small salad is served in could pass as a large in other restaurants. My father happened to order a large salad and didn’t even eat a half of it. The salad comes with a breadstick and extra dressing if you need it. The salad has piles of fries, chunks of cheese, fresh tomatoes, onions, and lettuce, and a big pepperoncini on the side. There is also a wide variety of salad dressings available. I ordered the sweet and sour dressing. I could tell it was store bought but it was still good. The salad was very tasty overall and I enjoyed it immensely.

Opening at 8 a.m. now, they serve breakfast until 11. It was a bold move adding breakfast due to their close location to the famously-known George’s Restauraunt. I ordered an omelet, which had over 20 different options for the filling. I ordered spinach, tomatoes, and mozzarella cheeses. The meal also came with home fries or hash browns and two pieces of toast. The omelet was average. It was a bit soggy but had a great fluffy texture. The omelet was not the star of the meal, however. I ordered the hash browns, and they were quite tasty. They were buttery but still crispy inside.

If you too would like to try the New Sheffield Café, its hours are 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. Its address is 2211 Sheffield Rd, Aliquippa, PA 15001.

Movie Review: The Great Wall

A Taste (and Feeling) Akin to Bad Chinese Food

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

The Great Wall, which is located in China, was intended to protect China from their Mongolian invaders. Matt Damon thinks it's intent was to protect magical black powder and aid in the defense of China from monsters. This is all presented in one of the worst movies of 2017, staining not only Matt Damon's career, but ruining a potentially exciting concept for a movie.

The plot of this movie is non-existent. Matt Damon is only there to steal gunpowder, but willingly helps defend the wall from aliens(?). They don't give him any justification, backstory, or even motivation to help the Chinese, yet he does it because they need a movie and money. It feels like a slapdash attempt at making a plot work, not intending for it to leave a lasting impression on viewers.

The bad writing in the plot applies to the humor as well. All of the one liners are cheesy and fall flat on their face. In a theater full of people, not a single person laughed during my seating. The bland delivery and lack of empathy for the characters makes the comedy feel like a boardroom decision, not something the character would say to each other.

The Great Wall seems to suffer from the CGI disaster that other movies released this year have suffered from. The difference between other films and the Great Wall is effort. Star Wars had miniatures that were easy to see, but there was clearly an effort to make it look realistic and intricate. The Great Wall presented us with worse graphic design than a PlayStation 2. The monsters are glossy and have janky movements, making them funnier than scary.

For a monster movie, no focus is put on the monsters. You never find out their origin or behaviors, and are never given any reason to fear them. The creatures could be described as "goobers," not really accomplishing anything but providing a reason to have action scenes for the trailer.

Muddled plot and horrible CGI burden the movie to the point of absurdity. Matt Damon may have saved China, but nothing can save this disgrace of a movie.

Movie Review: Logan

A Dark Ending to a Long Series

BY: TANNER MCMAKIN

The X-men series feature plenty of interesting mutants, yet their cream of the crop is the Wolverine series. Featuring some amazing action, they have made a name for themselves as great films. *Logan*, the next sequel in the line of Wolverine movies, is based in a future where mutants have been hunted into extinction.

Logan, is a very plot driven movie. Unlike the other Wolverine movies, *Logan* is driven by action rather than plot. The movie's plot gives the audience a run for their money, with suspense, twists, and raw Wolverine. *Logan* stands out because of its emotional moments, not seen in the other films in the series. This movie relieved the anxieties fans had voiced about ruining the Wolverine series with the ending. However this movie was the complete opposite. *Logan* gave fans the bittersweet ending the hoped for.

However no movie can escape criticism. *Logan* had some really good opportunities to elaborate on characters that they had introduced in the story. This left the average movie goer will questions about who these characters

were. Without knowing any of the lore, it made it hard to understand the point of these characters. Despite having an awesome storyline, it is explained very little before to give the viewer a good understanding of the background. Again it's not that viewers can't figure it out, but it takes away from the experience. *Logan* also leaves an open ending for another X-men movie. Understandably most fans want another movie, however the series is starting to feel stale. Milking this series is causing some of the movies to subpar, such as X-men 3 being a disaster.

Logan offers a good storyline, and is complemented by great acting from Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart, and Boyd Holbrook. With a ninety-two percent on Rotten Tomatoes and eight point six out ten on IMDb, *Logan* is sure to be the movie it was built up to be.

“X-Men movie franchise connections aside, *Logan* is a grisly and somber character drama that sends off Hugh Jackman's Wolverine on a high note.”

~Sandy Schaefer,
Screen Rants

