

# Hopewell Hi-Lites

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## Farewell Vikings

BY: MEGHAN PARRISH

In a time so sad and uncertain, Hopewell seniors are staying strong. Imagine having the most memorable moments stripped away from you, it is definitely not a good thought. They have lost their final spring sport seasons, their final good-byes, their last months with their childhood best friends, their final prom, and so much more. This class now knows to never take anything for granted. The following are some messages from the senior class of 2020:

**To underclassmen athletes:** “Appreciate every minute, practice, game, meet, match because one day you’ll hang up your cleats for good and there’s nothing you can do to get it back.” “Every time you put on that uniform, give it 100% because you never know when you’ve played your last game.” “Enjoy every moment and play every game like it’s your last because you really never know when it’s gonna be.” “Enjoy playing for your school and with your friends. Enjoy the bus rides and the practices because something unexpected could happen.”

**To Hopewell High School teachers:** “Thank you for pushing me and helping me grow. Also thank you for taking extra time to help when I needed it and caring about me as a person not just a student. I appreciate you more than you know.” “Thank you for everything you’ve done for me and the fellow seniors to get us where we are today.” “Thanks for helping me pre-

pare for the rest of my life.” “We can’t thank you guys enough for not only teaching us but asking us how our days went, listening to us complain, and helping us become the young adults we are now.”

**To all underclassmen:** “Don’t take your senior year for granted and make stupid decisions because it’s the last time you’ll ever be able to.” “Enjoy it while it’s here. Make the best of it and don’t take anything for granted or rush it to be done. It sure is the best time of your life. Go to the dance. Do the sport. Get good grades. It’s all worth it in the end.” “Make sure to take pictures.” “Don’t take anything for granted. I know sometimes school can be a lot and you may dread going but cherish everyday because it is all over so quick. Take advantage of all of the opportunities high school has to offer because it plays a big part in your future.” “It goes fast trust me.” “Go to everything because one day you won’t be able to.” “School sucks but high school is where memories are made. Join clubs. Go to the football games on Friday nights and go crazy. Go to the party. Because one day you’ll run into a classmate at Walmart and you’ll wanna look back at the best days of your life.”

**To Covid-19:** “Although you have taken so much away from me that I have looked forward to my entire life, you have also taught me lessons. This has taught me not to take anything for granted and make the most out

of every moment. It has also helped me grow closer to my friends because we all relate to this situation. Lastly it has given me a greater appreciation for all of those people who risk their lives everyday to keep everyone safe.” “Thanks for destroying my senior year.” “I hate you for ruining my senior year.” “You have taken and destroyed lives, I think it’s time to leave.” “You have made people hurt, cry and be angry. We will rise above you and be stronger because of this.”

**To fellow Seniors:** “Thank you for giving me some of the best memories of my life. We have had so much fun and I hope to keep in touch with the friends I have made. I look forward to watching everyone succeed in their futures. It’s been real.” “Well fellas, it’s been one heck of a ride and kinda sucky way to end but we were a pretty fun and close class so let’s go do more stupid and fun stuff at college.” “It’s been a long 12 years but we finally did it. Thank you for all the memories, laughs, and friendships made. We will always be the best class to ever do it.” “We are the class that is going to be remembered.” “Peace out.”

Being born during a devastating time and graduating in one definitely makes the motto “life isn’t fair” a common one right now. Although we didn’t get a happy ending or a final goodbye, we are ready to take on the next chapter of our lives.

From the class of 2020, thank you Hopewell. It’s always a great day to be a viking.

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# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## *Happenings*

# Chinese Cover Up?

BY: LEIA DAY

Recent coronavirus updates, questioning the credibility of Chinese statistics, have led people to ask many questions. Could the global pandemic have been avoided? As healthcare workers risk their lives day and night to slow the spread of the virus in the United States, Italy and many other countries, there is speculation of China even suffering from the virus.

This conspiracy is rooted in the fact that Chinese authorities denied with certainty that the coronavirus could not be transmitted from animals to humans. They continued to deny this fact, even after human transmission had been concluded by doctors in Wuhan. According to the National Review's timeline, the first case they recorded was as early as December 6th. First diagnosed with pneumonia, until doctors in Wuhan finally concluded it was in fact the coronavirus spreading from animals to humans and now from human to human so easily.

On December 31st, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission reports, "the investigation so far has not found any obvious human-to-human transmission and no medical staff infection." As Dr. Li Wenliang in Wuhan, tells others to take precautionary measures against the virus.

The National Review also reported that it was weeks after as they continued to deny, public health expert Tao Lina says, "I think

we are now quite capable of killing it in the beginning phase." After this Dr. Li Wenliang is silenced. Accused of spreading rumors, he signed a document agreeing he was unlawful and promised to be quiet. He later died from the Coronavirus.

On January 19th, the doctors in Wuhan continued to claim that they were unsure of how it was being transmitted. Also on the 19th, according to the Chinese National Health Commission the virus was declared, "still preventable and controllable."

On January 21st, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the first case in the United States had been recorded. Since then the virus has spread like wildfire causing the United States to have the highest amount of cases in the world.

Throughout February and March, cases were on the rise and

so was suspicion against China. The United States eventually issued stay-at-home orders. Now in April, as Americans continue social distancing, the origins of this pandemic remains clouded as different explanations surface.

Among the theories ranging from bats being sold in wet food markets, to United States soldiers spreading the virus, to Wuhan researchers creating it in a laboratory, citizens are still left without answers. Our president continues to question the Chinese Foreign Ministry with little response and cooperation. At the press conference on April 17th Secretary of state Mike Pompeo says, "The mere fact that we don't know the answers - that China hasn't shared the answers - I think is very, very telling."



# Covid 19: The Destroyer of the Economy

BY: MADELINE LUKE

**B**usinesses had to take action when Covid 19 started. Many businesses closed, and others now only have drive thru or delivery. Many people have lost their jobs and filed for unemployment because of the effect of the economy. The smaller businesses are having trouble staying open. Some businesses may close for good because of Covid 19. Non-essential businesses are forced to close in most areas. Newsweek.com states, "Businesses that don't generally make the "essential" cut are more recreational, like museums, theaters, gyms, casinos and salons." The closing of these non-essential businesses has caused many people to be out of work.

"Since March 1, the industry has lost more than 3 million jobs and \$25 billion in sales, and roughly 50% of restaurant operators anticipate having to lay off more people in April," states [restaurant.org/Covid19](https://www.restaurant.org/covid19). At least 2000 people have been laid off in the state of Pennsylvania. The government is giving stimulus checks to Americans to help people who have been laid off. Most local restaurants are closed, except for delivery. You can now or-

der from online. You can use Grubhub to order or the restaurant's website. You can also pick up. Here are some local restaurants that you can order from: Harold's, Eat n Park, Trenny's, Panera Bread, fast food places, etc. Panera Bread now isn't just delivery or pick up. You can also now get groceries from there.

Ashley Coleman is a waitress at Buffalo Wild Wings who has been laid off. She is a single mother

with two kids. Ashley says "this has been a real struggle with two kids. I don't know what I'm going to do if this lasts for a long time." Millions of people are experiencing similar feelings. This disease has affected not only those who became sick. It affects everyone around the globe at some level. With job losses and massive unemployment, the economy may continue to slide further, and it may take years to recover.



## Change During Unprecedented Times

BY: PATRICIA BUTCHER

**M**any at the beginning of 2020 said "This is going to feel like a movie." But did they know exactly which movie?

Courtney Morris from Mount Lebanon says, "It's crazy that we're living in a big part of history. But the sad part is I'm missing my senior year. I will never get to play with my team again. It feels like a rug got ripped out from under me." Students all around the nation are losing their senior year to this pandemic.

"I understand that this pandemic is a big issue, but everyone's making it seem like the world will end. People are being so greedy at stores and not taking anyone else into consideration. I've never seen America be so selfish. It's like they've

shown their true colors," says Kylie Brinza.

At the start of the pandemic many people did not take hygiene, freedom of leaving the house and even human interaction seriously. After this ends, people can either be affected by this positively or negatively. Maybe people won't take seeing their friends and relatives for granted. And enjoy the time they get to spend with people. And maybe come out with some new hygiene habits. Or, they can distance themselves in fear of other bacteria, or not knowing how to interact as well.

But after Covid-19, hopefully it chooses to have a positive turn. When this is all said and done. Maybe the nation will start to recognize

other sacrifices people in this country have made. Saluting our doctors and nurses and saying, "Thank you for your service," as they do for military veterans. They will give them guaranteed health benefits and corporate discounts, and build statues and have holidays for this new class of people who sacrifice their health and their lives for ours. Perhaps they will finally start to understand patriotism more as building the health and life of your community, rather than blowing up someone else's. Maybe the de-militarization of American patriotism and love of community will be one of the benefits to come out of this awful mess.



# A Light in the Bark

BY: PAYTON ROCK

Amidst all of the panic caused by the coronavirus outbreak, there is good news regarding some of our fluffy friends. Recently with the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have been adopting or fostering animals, especially dogs and cats, being a light in this dark time.

New York has been hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The New York animal shelters also have been running low on animals. Over these few weeks, many applications to adopt an animal have been signed. According to the New York Times, "When the Animal Care Centers of NYC put a call out for applications to its fostering program, it was looking to fill 200 available slots, a spokeswoman for the shelter said. Two thousand people applied."

They are not the only state to have a shortage of animals. Many places like Los Angeles have had an uptick in dog adoptions. Essentially anywhere significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has had an increase in dog interest.

This increase in dog adoption is not random. Many factors can come into play. Starting with the fact that a reason people don't adopt an animal is that they are busy. With the pandemic and the lockdown,

many people are alone and adopt a dog to keep themselves company.

Many places like the humane society see this as a great thing. Not only is an animal great for a time like this for people in lockdown, but this is also beneficial for shelters to reduce the potential strain on them.

If the question of where these animals will go after the lockdown comes to mind, you're not alone. But don't worry, many people who work have pets. People have been taking care of dogs and going to their job for

a long time. When this pandemic is over, it will be no different.

This increase in dog adoption is not only great for the shelters but great for support during this time. People are adopting dogs to keep them company and the dogs will gladly do so. But they won't just be there physically they can help you mentally during this hard time. So why not go with the crowd and adopt or foster a cute dog today.



# Free School Lunches

BY: KAIDYN PLOPI

During this COVID-19 pandemic many schools have decided to still give out lunches, and they're free.

One includes Hopewell Area Schools. For some homes these lunches are extremely helpful. A mother of seven Hopewell students says she enjoys these lunches because "They help keep normalcy." She feels these meals are high in nutritional value.

The lunches are provided daily from 11a.m. to 1p.m. at Inde-

pendence Elementary and Hopewell Junior High. Each child receives lunch and breakfast, and they even provide for over the weekends.

The meals typically come with a milk, a juice, fruit, vegetables, and the lunch/breakfast being served that day. The school even provided Easter Dinner, with ham, potatoes, dessert, and more.

Some families may not have time or money to cook every meal for their kids, this program helps solve that problem. Some families just

enjoy having a routine in this crazy time. Children are doing school at home and are missing out on the school experience. The mother of seven says "It gives the kids a piece of school." Having lunches from their familiar school setting can give the kids a sense of security and even help them with school work.

With parents doing most of the teaching, these lunches give a nice break for the parents.

Thank you to all who have helped Hopewell's families.

# E-Learning Reactions

BY: OLIVIA GUZMA

As we know, COVID-19 has affected us in many different ways. Stores are closed, items are out of stock, small businesses are downsized, and traditional schooling has come to an abrupt end; therefore, we have switched over to e-learning which has changed the learning process immensely.

Students have been doing work online now for about four weeks. Surely, there are mixed emotions about this new way of learning. "I think online learning is helpful, but it is also little confusing at times" says Maranda Syrko. "I do

really like that we can stay at home and do work but I feel more people learn better at school in the classroom."

Another student, Greg Barlion says, "I feel that I still learn some from online school but not as much as actual school."

Is online school making it difficult to learn and understand? "I think it is a little unorganized and some directions aren't told well," says Grace Abbott.

Online school is about learning, but what about your friends and teachers. You don't get to see them

everyday and interact with them. "I really miss seeing my friends," says Janet Armstrong. "It is also hard because at school we learn off of each other by asking questions or working together, now you are by yourself."

This new way of education is tough for some students. Some miss the school environment and others would rather stay at home. But the most important part is learning.



# Little Things to Appreciate

BY: MADI PASCIA

As we all know, right now not much is open and there's basically nowhere to go. You, as many others are, may be very bored. Sometimes, we miss the little things in life, and if you're bored it's good to go back and appreciate them.

One of the things that we commonly don't think about in normal day to day life is the sky. If you can, go outside and look at the sky, then do this same thing tomorrow. Notice how the sky looks different everyday, even if the weather is almost the same. This is something most people don't realize everyday. To me, it's something very interesting to watch. Look at the cloud formations. Look at how they change everyday. This is one of the truly beautiful things in life, when you really pay close attention to it on a day to day basis.

In this area of the world, trees and nature surround us almost

everywhere we go. If you look at the nature around your home you can really notice the beauty in it. Maybe, you plant flowers, look at them and notice the unique color of them. Usually, most people don't notice nature because it's always there, we don't really think about it much. In this time, it's really a beautiful thing to appreciate and think about.

Lastly, we have to be sure to appreciate our families/ the people we live with in this difficult time. Family is one of the beautiful things in life, they're always there for you. Now, we have so much time to spend with them. Don't take this time for granted and really try to bond with them, it's a beautiful thing to do.

During this stressful time, it can be really calming to notice little things that we normally don't. Please stay safe during this time, and just appreciate what you have!





# Trying something new!

BY: NADIA REYNA

**E**ver since the pandemic broke out, everyone has been ordered to stay at home if your work isn't essential. Everyone who is stuck at home has no idea what to do. But this doesn't have to be a bad thing. This gives everyone the time to try out new things or start something that you've always wanted to do. Here is a list of the things you can begin that don't mean leaving your house.

**Reading a book-** Picking up a book is good for your vocabulary and brain muscles. It's also a very good way to distract yourself from the world going on around you. Leaving the world to go to one that seems adventurous, romantic, mysterious, and etc is a fun way to pass the time. And if you don't own any, then you can easily download them on the app store, or go to [emergencylibrary.com](http://emergencylibrary.com) and borrow a book for free.

**Spring cleaning-** Research has discovered that when you declutter your environment it brings down your anxiety levels. Take some time to clean around the house, and maybe throw away anything you feel you don't use anymore. This will also give you more room to move around and feel like your not stuck in a square box. You can also redecorate your room so it makes you feel a sense of good change.

**Exercise-** Everyone has been ordered to stay inside. But that doesn't mean you can't exercise in the house. There are tons of videos

on Youtube that have stretching or yoga instructions to follow. This will maintain your weight from staying inside and bring in a good mental state for the future. There's also the option that if you live an off-road neighborhood, you can take your dog for a walk or go for a walk or jog by yourself. Just make sure to stay six feet away from anyone who might have had the same idea.

**Writing-** Nothing fancy has to be published. Just write down how you feel on a piece of paper each day to get your feelings out. Or if you really want to get creative, then you can start writing a story where characters are going through the same problems you're going through. You can always share these thoughts as well. Just go to [Wattpad.com](http://Wattpad.com) or [Quotev.net](http://Quotev.net) to post your own imagination.

**Drawing-** Even if you have printer paper and a single black pen it will be enough to draw something meaningful to you. Not everyone can draw. Some say they can't even draw a stick figure. And that's okay! As long as you try and build up your artistic skills it will be worth it in the end.

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# What NOT to look forward to

BY: AUBRYANNA SCRANTON

Retail therapy is nonexistent, hanging with the boys is ill advised, and school and work are both closed indefinitely.

So while you're confined to four walls of your house, what is there really to do besides turn to your favorite sources of entertainment? Sports, Tv, Movies, Literature; whatever it takes to pass the time. But as we've seen the effects of the virus on our individual lives, what has this meant for the Entertainment Industry?

Well, I'll tell you one thing, it hasn't been great. Economies everywhere have felt the effects of Covid-19, and the Entertainment Industry is no different. Not only are theaters closed, but movie releases have all been delayed or postponed. Take Disney for example, with its schedule packed full with movie releases, now having to revise its calendar. Movies like *Mulan*, *Marvel's Black Widow*, and *Wonder Woman 1984* have all been given new release dates. You also won't be seeing the new James Bond movie or *A Quiet Place 2*.

Of course, movies aren't the only things being postponed. Broadway is expected to be closed until June, if not longer. Hopewell's very own musical *Big Fish* was cancelled due to the virus, and it's a shame to see all that hard work wasted.

The NBA suspended its season after a player tested positive, and the 2020 MLB season has been delayed. Hopewell also felt the loss of its

spring sports. RIP track, boys volleyball, boys tennis, softball, and baseball.

If you were joyfully awaiting your favorite music artist's tour or concert, don't hold your breath, April through June concerts have been postponed. Sadly, there won't be any world tours anytime soon.

Also I hate to break it to you, but you're not going to Coachella. Or the Cannes Film Festival. Or SXSW. Or the Olympics for that matter, which have also been delayed. Forget Fukushima's possible radiation, travel to Japan for some fresh corona!

Unfortunately, if you haven't already noticed an ongoing theme, when it comes to the big events this spring and even some during the summer your new favorite word is "postponed." Delayed indefinitely.

Looking at the big picture, these things may not seem very

important, but the consequences should resonate with you. For many, the Entertainment Industry was their livelihood. This means that for the people responsible for producing, directing, and distributing those works can no longer do so. All the work put into those events is suddenly meaningless, and all the people looking forward to them are left with crossed out dates on their calendars.

Maybe for some this will be a wakeup call. Could it be that we place too much value on outside sources of entertainment? Should we be around the fire telling stories like the good old days? Maybe now, with the quarantine, people will be forced to revisit what really matters to them. Regardless, keep hunkering down because it's going to be a long spring.







# Tiger King: A Weird World

BY REGINA HAFNER

Due to COVID-19 you may want a distraction to keep your mind off of things. Enter, *Tiger King*, Netflix's new documentary series following the wild rollercoaster that is Joe Exotic, his zoo, his team, his enemies, and his criminal charges.

As you watch more and more of the series, you get introduced to the crazy lists of characters. First, *The Tiger King*, Joe Exotic. Joe is a zookeeper, polygamist, country singer and failed gubernatorial candidate.

Then there is Carole Baskin, Joe's mortal enemy. These two heavily bicker about how the other is abusing their tigers. This rivalry goes so far as to Joe putting on a protest outside of Carole's "Big Cat Rescue" dressed as a dead cat. And things even escalate when Carole tries to sue Joe and his parents.

It's not just Carole and Joe being the wildest people in the series. There is Jeff Lowe the "investor," who sneaks in tiger cubs into hotel rooms to make money. Jeff is the biggest players in the series because he is one of the reasons Joe

gets locked up in the first place.

Some other memorable characters include Allen Glover, the failed hitman, and "Doc" Antle, a friend of Joe who, not to mention, has five wives.

You're probably thinking I didn't even know a world like this existed. Or you're thinking what's going on? And honestly no one knows because the Joe Exotic world is so messy.

There is even more to this *Tiger King* story that would just take pages upon pages to get through. But at the end of the day it's really all the abuse the cats have been going through, and how blindsiding profit really is. If you want to know more about this almost fiction-like real world *Tiger King* is streaming on Netflix.

