

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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The New Face of Snapchat

BY: JENNIFER CRANMER

Social media is a huge part of teenagers' lives. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat are some of the most popular social media sites today. Snapchat is one of the newest and fastest growing trends with over 100 million active monthly users. Recently, however, Snapchat has grown from a simple teenage hobby to an important form of education.

Snapchat has utilized its "My Story" function to keep its users on top of local and even world events. People present at these events can take pictures or videos of up to ten seconds and post them to the event's story. Once posted, any Snapchat user in the world can see it. This gives teenagers the ability to feel like they

are at the actual event. Although this capability is usually used for college football games, parades, and award shows, it has also been used for global events.



One recent example of this was its coverage of Je suis Charlie.

Je suis Charlie was the result of

a massacre in France that occurred on January 7, 2015. This massacre, the Charlie Hebdo shooting, was caused by the printing of cartoons in a French magazine depicting Islamic religious figure Muhammad in a demeaning manner. Je suis Charlie was the unification of French people

and other world leaders in a show of support for freedom of speech. Snapchat took ordinary citizens to the middle of the protests.

With the Je suis Charlie Snapchat story, teenagers were able to learn about one of the major events of recent times. It took sharing pictures and made it into something meaningful. Ordinary teenagers who may have never paid attention to this event otherwise were educated in an interesting way. It was like being at the actual historical event.

The Snapchat stories of world events present a new face of education. What originally started as simply another social media trend has evolved into something of substance.

Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Valentine's Day Poll

BY: LAUREN TRIMBER



Photo courtesy of Google Images

1. Is Valentine's Day romantic or overrated?

- A. Romantic 36%
- B. Overrated 64%**

2. What is the best Valentine's Day Gift?

- A. Flowers 19%
- B. Chocolate 48%**
- C. Jewelry 11%
- D. Personal Note 22%

3. Should men or women be more pampered on Valentine's Day?

- A. Men 24%
- B. Women 76%**

4. Is Valentine's Day a good day to ask someone on a first date?

- A. Yes 37%
- B. No 63%**

5. What is the most cliché thing to do on Valentine's Day?

- A. Candlelight dinner 37%
- B. Propose to girlfriend 11%
- C. Buy excessive gifts 52%**

6. Which is the worst Valentine's Day date?

- A. A date with bad breath 22%
- B. A date with body odor 78%**

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Midseason Boys' Basketball Update

BY: JUSTIN MARCHIONDA

With the start of the second semester, the basketball season is in full swing. The boys team got off to a nice start winning two of their first three contests with wins against Neshannock and Keystone Oaks.

The Vikings opened section play by dropping their first four games, until rebounding with a win against Sharpville 89-65 in the Shenango Christmas Tournament. The team was led in scoring by Cole Meeker who had 33 points.

The team dropped its next section game against Beaver Falls before getting their first section win against Ellwood City in a thriller 54-48. The team then lost versus rival Central Valley, then avenged their previous defeat against Blackhawk 83-69

The team has been led by seniors Nate Bell and Cole Meeker, who both average double figures in points per game. Bell had a question mark coming into the season with a torn ACL suffered in Summer League play. Bell has been a four year contributor and has been starting since his sophomore year. As expected the team needed contributions from underclassmen and the have answered the call. Juniors Griffin Curry and Austin Zuppe have both performed well in starting roles and point guard and small forward respectively.

The team has six section games left. The will have to win at

least five in order to be in contention to make the WPIAL playoffs. Coach Doug Williams still believes this team can accomplish great things. The season will wrap up on February 9th against Moon in a non-section game. The last section game is against rival Central Valley at home on February 7th.



Photo Courtesy of the Beaver County Times

Striving for Greatness

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

Hopewell High School has always had a legacy of greatness when it comes to girls' basketball. In 2006 and 2007 the team won the State Championship. This years' squad led by Captains Noelle Henry, Jazmyne Boyd, Bailey Salvati, Chelsea Sundy, and other seniors Abby Losco, Ashley Matthews, and Kayleen Schwegler, are out to continue Hopewell's legacy.

Forward Noelle Henry, a

senior, understands the success Hopewell has had. "We as a team don't want to let Hopewell, and the student body, down. We want to represent Hopewell the best we can." Henry has been playing basketball for six years, starting when she was 11 years old. Her personal goals for the season are to help contribute to make the team successful. She says it all starts with her teammates when it comes to influencing her play. "I don't want to let my teammates down and make the same mistakes," she said. As for team goals she hopes the team can make it as far in the playoffs as possible.

As for team goals, Henry hopes the team can make it to the playoffs, and hopefully get far. However, according to Henry, the have to get past their toughest opponents in Central Valley, New Castle, and Ellwood City. Sophomore Amber Falletta agrees saying that "we play in one of the hardest sections. It provides consistent challenges for our team."

Falletta has been playing basketball since she was in kindergarten, starting at a YBL league in Sewickley. She, as well as Henry, takes great pride in the program and understands its success over the years. She enjoys playing hard and representing her family while she is on the court. She says that the team's goals are to work hard and improve every day, but her personal goals are to "play as hard as possible, while doing everything possible to be a good teammate and helping the team be successful."

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Falletta credits her coach for getting the team on track to where they are right now. "Coach Homziak is different than other coaches that I have played for, which presents growth opportunities for our team." Coach Jeff Homziak had been an assistant coach for Hopewell from 2003 to 2007, but was promoted to head coach in 2007 and has held that position since. He, and fellow coaches Mr. William Hetzer, Ms. Melinda Suprak, and Mr. Mike Sundy, try to aim for "the same team goals that we always do. Even though you may not achieve all of them, you should aim high," says Homziak.

Their team goals are to first qualify for the playoffs, then become section champions and then WPIAL champions, then qualify for the state playoffs and make it as far as they can. He believes a key component to their success is the "next girl up" mentality. "The loss of Chelsea Sundy has provided opportunities for other girls to gain valuable experience." Coach Homziak has also been surprised with the play of Amber Falletta. "The addition of [Falletta] has helped us provide scoring for a starting group that includes other new faces [Bailey Salvati, Noelle Henry, Emily Cropper, and Kayleen Schwegler]. Our sophomores and freshmen have also shown tremendous improvement this year."

In order to see that improvement, you have to be in the standstoseeit.Comeoutandsupport the Hopewell girls' basketball team!

LeBeau Out;

Butler In

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

After 16 seasons with the Pittsburgh Steelers, defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau has resigned from his position. LeBeau started with the Steelers in 1992 as the secondary coach, which he held until 1994. After that he became the defensive coordinator in 1995 until 1996 as he then left the team to become the head coach of the Cleveland Browns. After his stint with Cleveland, came back to Pittsburgh in 2004 and held the defensive coordinator

position until his departure from the team this month.

In his time as the Steelers' defensive coordinator, LeBeau helped lead the team to seven division titles, four AFC Championships and was there when the Steelers won two Super Bowls. During LeBeau's tenure, the Steelers have made the playoffs nine times. "I want to publically thank Coach LeBeau for his many contributions to the Steelers organization over 16 seasons. I will always be grateful for what he has taught us about the game of football and about life," Steelers owner Dan Rooney said.

LeBeau has made it clear that he is only resigning, not retiring. LeBeau and the Steelers mutually parted ways and now LeBeau will look for a new job in the league. Many Steelers players, and NFL players in general, took to Twitter to thank Coach LeBeau for his contributions to the team. Many players like Antwon Blake, Brett Kiesel, former Steeler Ryan Clark, and several others put up memorable pictures with LeBeau with captions such as "Thank you Coach Dad."

The Steelers have already filled the void of defensive coordinator by promoting linebackers' coach Keith Butler to the position. Butler has been the linebackers coach for 12 years. Previously he was also the linebackers coach for the Cleveland Browns for four seasons from 1999-2002. He also coached with Mike Tomlin at the University of Memphis.

In his first interview with the Steelers in his new position, Butler said that he would use LeBeau's 3-4 defense, but also throw in the 4-3 defense that is commonly used among the league. Butler is taking over a position that was held by a legend. Butler shared with the Steelers official website about his relationship with LeBeau. "He's a great man; great defensive mind. Always tried to do what was right by the players on the field. Loved the players. Loved what he did. It was a great opportunity to learn from him."

Even with the new change at defensive coordinator, the Steelers and Steeler nation will never forget all that Dick LeBeau has done. He not only founded his famous 3-4 defense, but he also led his defense to greatness throughout his tenure.

As Cool As the Other Side of the Pillow

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

After three battles with cancer, ESPN analyst and commentator Stuart Scott passed away at the age of 49 on January 4th, 2015. Scott, who won the Jimmy V. Perseverance Award has been paid tribute to by many teams, coaches, players, and practically everyone in the sports world on social media.

Scott made sports fans excited to watch ESPN when he was on. As ESPN President John Skipper noted, Scott "changed everything" with the way he talked about players. Scott also brought levity to the sports show by coming up with different phrases such as "As cool as the other side of the pillow," "He must be the bus driver cuz he was takin' him to school," and his own "Boo-Yah!" chant.

Tragedy struck the Scott family in 2007 when Stuart was diagnosed with a rare form of appendix cancer. After he was in remission, he was yet again diagnosed twice again, in both 2011 and 2013. When winning the Jimmy V. Award he presented his struggle with battling cancer. Sadly, ESPN fans and sports fans altogether said goodbye to Scott this January.

Scott leaves behind two daughters; Taelor, 19, and Sydni, 15. However, he also leaves behind his legacy. When receiving the Jimmy V. Perseverance Award, Scott spoke proudly and confidently, "When you die, it does not mean that you lose to cancer. You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and in the manner in which you live." It was that type of thinking that made Stuart Scott the inspiration he was.



Superbowl XLIX

BY: SANTINO CICCONI

After 21 weeks of tough matchups, only two teams battle for the championship. This year, it is the New England Patriots and the defending Super Bowl champions, the Seattle Seahawks.

For the NFC Championship, Seattle played at home against the Green Bay Packers. The Seahawks were favored but throughout the beginning of the game, it seemed that Seattle should not have been.

Green Bay got off to a quick start, but they played conservative, kicking two field goals. By the end of the first quarter, the score was 13-0 Packers. Green Bay kept their foot on the gas and had a lead at halftime. After the third quarter, Seattle shortened the lead to 16-7. Green Bay was the first to score in the last quarter with a 48 yard chop shot, extending their lead to 19-7. For the next four minutes, Green Bay and Seattle punted back and forth without much ball movement. Russell Wilson quickly drove down the field and punched it in for six.

A successful two-point conversion, made it 22-19.

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers had 1:25 to drive win or at least tie. Rodgers took the team down to the 31 yard line where they were stopped and forced to kick. Mason Crosby drills the 48-yard field goal and sent the game into overtime. Seattle won the toss and Russell Wilson takes his team

down the field in 6 quick plays with a game ending 35-yard touchdown

pass to Jermaine Kearse.

New England defended their home turf against the Indianapolis Colts. The Patriots were favored. New England kicked off to Indianapolis and the strong Patriots defense put a quick stop to their drive and forced a three and out. It did not take New England long to score. They drove down the field



and LeGarrette Blount punched the ball in from the 1-yard line, giving his team an early lead. Bill Belichick kept his offense going as they marched down the field and got another six before the first quarter expired, giving them a 14-0 lead.

The Colts proved that they were alive and scored, late in the second quarter with 4:54 tightening the lead to 14-7. With just under five minutes left, Brady took his team into

field goal range and with the leg of Gostkowski, the Patriots took the lead 17-7 at halftime.

In the third quarter, New England blew the game out of the water, with two passing touchdowns from Brady and another run from Blount in the third quarter, giving them a 38-7 lead. New England's first drive in the fourth quarter resulted into a touchdown from Blount, giving them a 38 point lead, 45-7.

New England is tied for the most Super Bowl appearances, with eight. Although New England won this game by a landslide, there is still controversy about the game. The NFL reported that 11 of the 12 footballs used by the Patriots were under-inflated by two pounds. The controversy began when Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson, intercepted a pass from Tom Brady and when he gave the ball to the Indianapolis equipment manager, he noticed that the ball was under-inflated. The Patriots have been caught cheating before, so everybody is jumping to conclusions, claiming that it must be New England's fault, although, the discussion could go either way.

Two hours prior to the game, each team has to submit a dozen footballs to the referees to be approved for inspection. Due to the fact that the case has not been solved yet, there isn't anybody to take the blame. If New England gets is found guilty, charges will not be tacked on this season, but the next.

Super Bowl XLIX will hopefully be more competitive than the previous Super Bowl. Seattle and New England will travel to the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona to face off for the game of the year. Seattle will attempt to defend their Super Bowl title and go for a repeat; meanwhile, New England will be playing for their fourth Super Bowl. If they lose, New England will hold the record for the most Super Bowl losses. Belichick's powerhouse offense, led by veteran quarterback, Tom Brady, will go up against arguably the best defense in the league, the Legion of Boom. Tune in to NBC on February 1st, at 6:30 Eastern Standard, commentated by Cris Collinsworth, and Al Michaels with sideline reports from Michele Tafoya and a halftime performance from Lady Gaga.



Black History Month

BY: DONALD MASON

Black History Month originally started as Black History Week in 1916. It was started by Carter G. Woodson and the idea was sparked at the local YMCA as he watched a racist film based on the birth of the nation. Black History Week quickly became a big thing in the African American community and became a whole month of activities.

Woodson was an inspiration back in the 1900s and continues to be an inspiration to black and white citizens to help spread equality throughout the nation. People continue to have a controversy for whether Black History Month is necessary but agree that it is needed to teach new generations.

Hopewell students sounded off about how they feel about Black History Month and its importance. It's important because it helps us learn about the past and not be judgmental towards each other," senior Megan Welsh said. Fellow senior Demetri

Loncar agreed saying, "It's important because it represents a darker time in our country's past that we look back on now and pay tribute to all of those who fought for equal



photo courtesy of Google images.

rights and the better of mankind and also honor all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. It shows how far we've come as a country." Corey Horgan also agrees with Lon-

car and Welsh with that fact that the "we as a nation need to recognize a not so bright past. We have made strides in combating racism."

Sophomores Ashton Morse and Chris Jones also weighed in on the topic. "Black History Month is important because for a long time African Americans have been looked down on, and it is a time to look at the good they have done." Chris Jones agrees with Morse saying, "It is good for our youth and others to understand the history of the African American community. I believe that it is a tribute to the men and women that fought for our rights as free Americans."

From 1916 to present day ,America has evolved to respect people by their personalities and the way they act, not the color of their skin. Black History Month started as a week and is now a month but even when the month is over that does not mean people should disrespect anybody, no matter what race they are.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: JANUARY

BY: JENNIFER CRANMER

Congratulations to the January students of the month sophomore Megan Ramaley and senior Jacob Weiland.

The underclassmen student of the month is Megan Ramaley. Megan has an outstanding track record at Hopewell. She maintains a 4.13 GPA while balancing class, extracurricular activities, and sports. Megan has a full

schedule of advanced courses. She was recently inducted into National Honor Society and participates in French club. As a sophomore, Megan is already a two-year letter winner for the girls' soccer team.

The upperclassmen student of the month is Jacob Weiland. Jake keeps a 4.12 cumulative grade point average while taking challenging classes and being an

active member in many aspects of Hopewell and the community he is the treasurer of National Honor Society and a member of French club. During his time at Hopewell he has earned three varsity letters. Jake runs track and field as well as cross country.

Congrats to Jake and Megan for this well-deserved honor!

Chinese New Year

BY: MARY-JANE HOUSTON

The Chinese culture celebrates the new years on February 19. Although they do a lot of celebrating, similar to American culture, they have many different traditions.

The Chinese New Year was a time to honor household and heavenly deities and ancestors. The Chinese calendar is based on Chinese zodiacs and solar solstices and equinoxes. Each New Year was marked by the characteristics of one of the 12 zodiacal animals: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

The traditional Chinese New Year's was the most important holiday of the year. Most businesses closed, and the main focus was cleaning and preparing the house for the household gods. Printed scrolls with lucky messages would

be placed on the gates of the house and fireworks were set off to scare away evil spirits. The most significant part of this holiday was the feasting where the entire family would come together. Long noodles were eaten to represent a long life. Round dumplings, like the shape of a full moon, were eaten to represent family and a sign of perfection.

Chinese New year now is still celebrated but is much different. It is commonly known as the Spring Festival. Although it is a time for family, the younger generations seem to be losing the traditions. The Spring Festival Gala is an annual variety show that features contemporary singers, dancers, and musicians. With new generations the holiday has evolved from a time to renew family ties into a time for relaxation.



Courtesy of Google Images

New Laws in 2015

BY: JUSTIN MARCHIONDA



Courtesy of Google Images

With the beginning of the new year comes the enacting of some new laws, both at the state and federal levels. The most important law for working teenagers is the minimum wage law. The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. At the state level 11 different states including Washington D.C. In California the city of Oakland raised their minimum wage to \$12.25 an hour. On the other end of the spectrum Georgia has just met the federal standard by raising their minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

While gas prices around the country have dropped to below \$2 a gallon many have wondered why Pennsylvania has yet to follow suit. The simplest reason is a tax on gas. Of course other factors including the distance the gas has to be trucked matter. However nothing compares to the mark up on gas like taxes. On January 1st a 10 cents per gallon tax went into effect. Pennsylvania was the only

state to enact a higher tax on gas in the country.

In Pennsylvania a big law that went in to effect is the Child Protective Service Law. This law comes in response of the Jerry Sandusky scandal at Penn State. The law requires that any employee or employer who works with children for a job in required by law to report any suspected abuse or mistreatment. Penalties for failure to report include fines and criminal charges punishable by up to five years in a state detention center.

Back to the Future

BY: LAUREN TRIMBER

Thirty years ago, audiences streamed into theaters to see Marty McFly travel through time in his now famous DeLorean in *Back to the Future*. Grossing over \$200 million in the box office, the movie became an instant classic. Viewers then may have thought that the year 2015, the time in which *Back to the Future Part II* takes place, was the distant future, but it has finally come. With the movie's 30th anniversary approaching, companies involved in the trilogy are planning ways to celebrate.

Dehydrated pizza, self-drying jackets, and flying cars are only a few of the clever inventions the movie's writers pictured for the future. While we are no closer to creating a few of them than we were in 1985, one item has already been created and will be available to the public this year: Nike's self-lacing shoes. With just the press of a button, the laces will tighten around the wearer's foot. The design and exact release date of the shoes are still unknown, but Nike has confirmed that they will be in stores before 2016.

Possibly the most well-

known piece of technology from *Back to the Future Part II* is the hoverboard. The pink skateboard that floats a few inches above the ground quickly gained fame, and now, as the anniversary approaches, fans are begging for one of their own. A crude prototype has been created, but, according to



Courtesy of Google Images

telegraph.co.uk, it only floats over smooth metal and costs \$10,000. However, one American company is planning on selling five minute hoverboard rides to those who can't afford one of their own.

A cinema organizer called Secret Cinema has also joined in celebrating the movie. Secret Cinema is known for showing movies in unique ways. In 2014 the company built a replica of Hill

Valley, the fictional town where Marty McFly lives, in London and showed *Back to the Future*. They officially announced that they would be building the town and playing the movie in L.A. this summer. The Hill Valley recreation will have real shops and extras who will wander around the town in character.

Those who worked on the set of the movie plan to celebrate as well. According to cinemablend.com, the movie's co-writer Bob Gale spoke about the anniversary, "We've got some books in the works, and some fan celebrations. And I hope some other things are going to come to fruition...*Part II* takes place in October 2015, so there are a lot of people looking at that angle, saying how accurately, or inaccurately, did these guys predict the future. It's amazing how people still love that movie as much as they do, maybe even more than when it came out." There has even been recent news of a *Back to the Future* musical, but production has been delayed, so it will not appear in theaters in time for the anniversary.

Recreated towns and awesome technology make the *Back to the Future* anniversary perfect for dedicated fans and newcomers alike.

"Cray-Cray" Banned Words

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

As of January 1st, 2015, the word "swag" has officially been banned by Lake Superior State University as part of their annual "List of Banned Words." Before you start panicking, this doesn't mean the police will track you down and arrest you for saying, or writing, the words mentioned on the list. The list is more of an annual joke that is done entirely for entertainment, so there is no reason to worry. This is the same group that initiated the Unicorn Hunters Association, so you can imagine they don't take anything too seriously.

With every generation, new words are created. In the 1800s, the only "text" received was a written work on paper. When we say text now, usually we're talking about a text message. We can't use the

same words forever. How often do you hear people say "fax?"

That doesn't stop some "unique" words from popping up, though. To our generation, words like "bubbler" and "sock-hop" sound like a foreign language. Words like "bae" and "swag" make sense to teenagers today, but are totally confusing to our parents. This list makes fun of this and the changing times by mocking new, often useless words we make up each year.

To give an example, one banned word was "polar vortex." The reason for this phrase being banned was that "winter is descriptive enough," and "is cold-snap out of date?" The entries are submitted through their website and Facebook page, and the top words and comments are put on

the list. The top voted for word this year was "bae," with "polar vortex" and "hack" following close behind. I suggest reading the full list as a good laugh. Some of the reasons are extremely nitpicky and sometimes aggressive.

So, don't get your "knickers in a twist" and rush to tell your "bae," this list is just a "funny." The list is actually really "swag" to read for fun, especially since it's so "cray-cray."



Courtesy of Google Images



Shogun: Hibachi and Sushi Bar

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

The new hibachi and sushi bar restaurant Shogun has replaced the Mexican restaurant that used to be at the Beaver Valley Mall. Shogun is a little smaller than places like Ichiban and Saga, but it is very convenient for anytime you are in the mood for Japanese food.

One good thing about Shogun is that it is only about 10-15 minutes away from Hopewell, so you do not have to travel all the way to Robinson for Japanese food. If you are done shopping at the mall one day and are looking for a place to have dinner, Shogun is connected to the food court.

Both times I ate there, there was no wait. We went one time on a Saturday night to go sit at the sushi bar. It was pretty cool to watch the people make our meals and the sushi was delicious. The waiters and waitresses were pleasant workers, and they kept our drinks refilled. Whenever we

went to go eat hibachi, the cooks are fun and entertaining. They were throwing pieces of broccoli into people's mouths. The food, cooked in front of us, tasted spectacular.

Now that you have heard all of the good things, it is time to turn to the bad side of the restaurant. Whenever you get hibachi, you are only allowed to order either rice or noodles, instead of getting both. If you want to get both, you have to pay \$3.25 for the extra side. I guess it matches Ichiban's and Saga's prices, because at Shogun, hibachi meals are around \$18, and at other places they are over \$20.

Another bad thing about Shogun is that their soups and salads are proportionally smaller than the ones at Ichiban and Saga. Also, the dishes they put shrimp sauce and ginger sauce in are connected, so if you want to pour shrimp sauce on your rice, most likely you will spill on the other food.

Usually when I go to hibachi places, I order scallops because they are sweet and tender. When I went to Shogun, they were shaped in perfect circles and thinner than usual. I put one in my mouth,



Courtesy of Google Images

and it tasted as if it had been pumped with air.

They were either old or not cooked right. The scallops really disappointed me. My mom got the same scallops, and she could not even swallow them. The rest of the food was good though, so it was strange.

Shogun has already had a fire scare, where one of the grills caught on fire. Hopefully that does not happen again. Also, I dislike that they make you pay full price on Sundays and do not offer the lunch special prices.

There are always good and bad things about new restaurants. If you are ever in the mood for Japanese, I would recommend trying Shogun. Just do not order the scallops. From my experience and point of view, I give this restaurant a rating of 3 out of 5. I am excited that we now have a local Japanese restaurant.



Courtesy of Google Images

Get Fit for the New Year

BY: BRIE MILLER

The right gear can help with motivation, and the fitness industry has made several innovations stemming from the basic gear.

The Fitbit Charge. Fitness watches have steadily grow in the market stemming from the basic pedometers. The Fitbit Charge tracks steps taken, calories burned, floors climbed, daily active minuets, and even the wearer's sleep cycle. It includes several features including Wireless Syncing to see your data, Caller I.D. and a silent vibration alarm to gently wake you. The watch face offers the time of day on a slim LED screen. The watch retails for \$129.99 on Fitbit.com

Quality headphones are an important accessory for everyone but can be especially helpful during

working out.

Skullcandy Chops. At \$19.99 the ear buds offer sound quality in an over-the-ear format that make sure to stay put while in motion.

Jay Bird Sportsband. The Bluetooth enabled wireless headphones retails for \$99 and offer amazing sound quality in a snug-fitting wireless design. The Slimline contemporary design has an adjustable band and rotating ear pads for comfortable fit. The buttons on the side of the device allows the user to adjust the volume and change the song all from the device itself.

Hydration is a major key to fitness and should be taken very seriously. Reusable water bottles

are the more eco-friendly option compared to plastic water bottles.

Kor One Water Bottle. Made from BPA-free Eastman Tritan heavy-duty plastic, the KOR ONE features a hinged cap and ice cube-friendly, threadless spout. At \$25 it is one of the highest rated reusable water bottles on the market.



Courtesy of Google Images

GRINDS MY GEARS: ICE

BY: GARRET ROBERTS



Courtesy of Google Images

Ice is an extremely aggravating substance that has absolutely no traction at all, and I hate it. Stepping out of your house at a freezing temperature is truly living life on the edge. You never know if you will make it a short distance or end up writhing in pain a step from the door. In Pennsylvania, it is a guarantee that every year we will have ice. People, however, still act like ice is a new concept every time they see it.

I dare you to drive when there is ice on the ground. People will drive slower than frozen molasses. A completely normal person will turn into a snail with the snap of the fingers. It is OK to be afraid of sliding on ice, but it will not suddenly flip your car over like it's the Incredible Hulk. Go steady at a normal pace, do not cut people off and

drive like you are on your way to the knitting circle.

The roads aren't even the worst part! Stores are always packed with people buying five gallons of milk. The stores are sparse after the tidal wave of people fearing this new, foreign concept called winter. While being prepared is perfectly fine, fighting with other people over the last loaf of bread is ridiculous. What do you think will really happen if the weather is bad and you have no bread? It is OK to have a Pop Tart instead of toast for breakfast! You will see neighbors fighting like it's Black Friday in January. It's snow, not the apocalypse.

To make a long rant short, ice is horrible. The entire winter season is ruined by even the thought of ice. If ice was a person, it would be that kid who always tries to trip people when they head back to their seats. Ice probably doesn't even like other ice it is so bad. That being said, people do not help. If you act like a maniac as soon as ice is mentioned, you make the roads worse than they actually are. My last piece of advice for is this: don't be stupid, it's ice.

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Cracking Cellphones

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

Hanging up on her mom as she was trying to open the door, my friend's phone slipped out of her hand. The iPhone did not even drop two feet. It landed on some ice, and as she picked it up, we saw that the whole screen shattered. She was not worried about her cell phone being cracked; she was worried about her parents freaking out.

Why did that cellphone crack so easily? Maybe there was a sharp peak in the ice, or maybe it was dropped with some sort of great force. The drop was not severe, so you would assume that the phone would not have cracked. It still works, but the screen looks like a spider web.

Most people in this generation have a touchscreen cellular device. Whether it is an iPhone or a Galaxy, screens are capable of cracking. It seems as if newer devices seem to break easier than older ones. The iPhone 3 and 4 are smaller, thicker, and more durable. The iPhone 6 is bigger, but the phone is so thin that it has a greater chance of breaking.

The number one way people break an iPhone is by dropping it on a hard surface. People also

break their phones by dropping them in a source of water, sitting or standing on them accidentally, leaving them on roofs of a car, or



Courtesy of Google Images

their own children break them.

My other friend from Chicago on twitter direct messaged me and said she dropped her iPhone 6 on her driveway by accident and the whole thing shattered. She was not upset about her phone, she was upset about her parent's reactions. Believe it or not, when people's phones break, their first response is "My parents are going to be so mad!" She saved up about \$400 from her birthdays and Christmases for the past 2 years, and was going to spend it on meet and greets or concerts. Now her

mom is making her either pay for a new phone, or getting the screen replaced. There goes her \$400.

Whenever kids break their phones, many annoying people and parents always say "You should have had a screen protector on there!" Either that, or they say that you should have a stronger case. The screen protector is not going to help the force of a drop, it just adds an extra layer. People should realized that companies tell you they protect so that way you can spend more money. Quality phone cases that cover up the front and the back could cost about \$50.

It seems like Apple and Samsung make phones fragile, so people have a better chance at cracking them. The more phones that are cracked, the more phones are replaced, which means the companies get more money for making new phones. They have probably already came up with an unbreakable phone; they just will not release it because they are making money from people cracking phones every day.

UFC Grandpa

BY: DONALD MASON

Dan Henderson, a 45-year-old-legend in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), is in the final days of his career. After his last fight, he was named "UFC Royalty." He has been in the UFC for over 20 years, and has 30 wins and 12 losses.

That may not sound like many wins, but think about how many hits to the face he has had and how many hours he has put in the octagon. Because he is old and run-down, even some of his diehard fans think he is coming to the end of his career. Dan Henderson is one of the oldest UFC fighters in history, beating former street fighter Kimbo Slice at

the age of 43 before Kimbo retired. Henderson has a TKO (Technical Knock Out) record of 14-1 and a submission record of 2-4.

The next few months will determine how long he will

continue fighting for the UFC. He has lost four of his last five bouts, so he must win three of his next four to remain in the UFC. Fanatic fans may have

to say good-bye to the legendary Dan Henderson. (<http://www.ufc.com/fighter/Dan-Henderson>)



American Sniper

BY: SANTINO CICCONI



Photo courtesy of Google Images

American Sniper, directed by Clint Eastwood, has been receiving positive reviews and also climbing in the box offices grossing \$64 million.

Starring Bradley Cooper, it is based on a true story about Chris Kyle's autobiography, *American Sniper: The Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History*. Kyle is the deadliest marksman in U.S. military history, with 255 kills, and 160 confirmed by the Department of Defense. The film stars Bradley Cooper and Sienna Miller, with others, including Luke Grimes, Kyle Gallner, and others.

American Sniper's world premier was on November 11, 2014, at the American Film Institute Festival. It was first released in the United States on December 25, 2014 but was not kept quiet. On January 16, 2015, it was widely released and set box office records for highest opening for a

film released in January, and gave Eastwood the biggest opening of his career. It has become the second highest-grossing war film. Also, it received six nominations at the 87th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, and more.

Although this movie is booming with good reviews, there is controversy. On HBO series *Real Time with Bill Maher*, Maher questions Kyle receiving the title of 'hero' as he proceeds to read quotes from Kyle's autobiography such as "I hate the damn savages (talking about the Iraqis) and I've been fighting and I always will," and "I love killing bad guys." Maher continues and calls Kyle a "Psychopathic Patriot."

Although this game is receiving negative and positive reviews from many different people, the only way to determine if its good or bad is to go and view it.

The 3Doodler

BY: KYLIE CHICHESTER



Photo courtesy of Google Images

The 3Doodler is the world's first three dimensional printing pen. It's a little bit larger than a regular pen, and the possibilities are endless when it comes to what you can create.

The 3Doodler has been around for a while, but is just now becoming popular. The first model has already sold out, and the 3Doodler 2.0 is now being funded on Kick Starter. The 3Doodler 2.0 Kick Starter page has received \$1,500,000 out of a \$30,000 goal. It is much slimmer and easier to handle than the original model, and is half the weight of the first 3Doodler. Many people have started posting pictures of their three dimensional creations online. There's a huge variety different 3Doodler art: dream catchers, jewelry, animal figurines, flowers, and keychains. The pen isn't all just fun though, it is also being used as an aid for teachers, especially in schools for the visually impaired. With the 3Doodler, students and teachers can learn to write in braille.

The pen can be bought on the3doodler.com. The 3doodler 2.0 Kick Starter has expired, but it will be online and ready to sell by April 2015.



2015 Breakout Artists

BY: KYLIE CHICHESTER

1. Wolf Alice- They got their start in 2010, but are just now starting to break into the alternative rock scene. Their music is folk meets grunge rock meets off beat indie, and they're often compared to bands like The XX, Elastica, and Hole. Wolf Alice's biggest songs so far are "Bros", "Fluffy", and "We're Not The Same."

2. Rae Morris- She's played with indie and alternative legends like Bombay Bicycle Club and Noah and the Whale. Her debut single "Don't Go" was featured in the season six finale of popular UK television show *Skins*.



Image of Rae Morris courtesy of Google images

3. Mikky Ekko- He's an American singer/songwriter and producer. Ekko has appeared alongside French Montana and David Guetta, and was also featured in Rihanna's popular single, "Stay."

4. Shura- Music with a futuristic dance sound, paired with husky vocals. She was inspired by Madonna, Pixies, and Portishead and describes her own sound as "An 11 year old with a guitar trying to write like Mariah Carey."

5. Raury- At the age of 18, Raury is being compared to Lorde in terms of projected success. He's already played his music for music giant Kanye West, and Kanye has said good things about him. Raury's self-released album is called *Indigo Child* and is available now.

6. Francesco Yates- Another 18 year old artist who has been taken under the wing of musical legends. His mentor is "Happy" singer Pharrell Williams, and his biggest fan is none other than Justin Timberlake. He's currently working on his debut album which will be released later this year.

7. Shamir- The artist was described as "kind of like R&B Yeezus by label founder Nick Sylvester. His voice is often compared to Janice Joplin, Michael Jackson, and Prince. His debut EP, "Northtown," was released in June of 2014 and has stellar reviews by music critics.

8. Years & Years- Their debut single "I Wish I Knew" was released in July 2012. Their sound is synth meets alternative, stuffed with catchy lyrics and dance beats.

9. Ryn Weaver- Raspy but light voice meets heavy pop background music. Weaver was discovered two to three years ago while she was homeless and living out of the back of her car.

10. James Bay- An indie artist with a soulful voice and a cool, collected coffee house sound. Bay toured with Hozier, and is starting to climb the charts in the UK.

Strong Hand... New Band

BY: ABBY HIGHBERGER

In music you can be one of three things: an overnight celebrity, a person whose popularity blows up in what feels like a day. Someone who "buys" their fame, and or is a walking advertisement just so they can feel well-known. Then there is the hard-workers, the kids who start out in audition line after audition line, or that group of kids that started out by playing some strange noise in their dad's garage. Hard workers tend to start out with a small following behind them, but soon enough they blow up and pretty soon are one of the next big things. Some of today's most well-known bands such as The Ramones, The Kinks, and even Nirvana started out by just messing around with some instruments in a garage.

To this day many bands and musicians who haven't found their 15 minutes yet use the whole garage band scene in hopes of someday becoming something big. Strong Hand is a band with the potential of becoming something huge in the near future and they are actually from the greater Pittsburgh area. Strong Hand, a four member, indie/post-hardcore band featuring members Jonathan Oncken, Mark Dietrich, Alex Talkowski, and Brandon O'Rourke. They are definitely climbing their way up on the fame chain. Forming in 20-- the band has already played several shows, toured with fellow alternative band Tiny Moving Parts, and are about to release their first EP "Dear Friends & Gentle Hearts."

Even More Concerts

BY: ABBY HIGHBERGER



Courtesy of Google Images

2015, It's a fresh new year, and a new year means new music. Whether it's new music from your favorite artists, or new music from someone up-and-coming, it all comes back to one thing and that's tour dates.

To kick off concert season Garth Brooks will be at CONSOL Energy Center February 5-8. In the midst of all of Garth's shows, Machine Head will be at Mr. Smalls theatre on the 7th. Then for two days Sleeping With Sirens, and Pierce The Veil will be at Stage AE for their conjoined tour on the 10th and 11th. February 15th Flyleaf will

be at Alar Bar. Motionless In White with special guests For Today and Ice Nine Kills will be at Mr. Smalls Theatre on February 21st. Civil Twilight will be at The Club at Stage AE as well on the 21st. Lastly for the month of February in Pittsburgh, Kongos will be at Stage AE on the 24th.

The month of March includes the following artists:

March. 5 - Lights with X Ambassadors @ Mr. Smalls Theatre

March. 10 - Ariana Grande with Rixton @ Petersen Events Center

March. 11 - Sarah McLachlan @ Benedum Center

March. 13 - Maroon 5 with Magic! @ CONSOL Energy Center

March. 15 - Andy Grammer with Alex & Sierra @ Altar Bar

March. 19 - Excision @ Stage AE

March. 26 - tobyMac @ Cambria County War Memorial

March. 26 - Barry Manilow @ CONSOL Energy Center

Then for April the only acts listed so far for the greater Pittsburgh area are Neil Diamond and Dan + Shay who will both be here on the 7th. Neil Diamond at CONSOL Energy Center, and Dan + Shay at Stage AE. On the 15th The Devil Wears Prada will be at Mr. Smalls Theatre. Up-and-coming band Shakey Graves will be at Mr. Smalls Theatre. On April 18th. Then to finish up the month so far, The Maine will be at Altar Bar on the 30th.

And Cut

BY: AVA JODIKINOS

With every New Year we look forward to the upcoming movies. This year is going to be a big year with Hollywood studios releasing about 88 movies out of 165. Hollywood major producers didn't have a very successful year in 2014 but are hoping that this year will be much more successful. The new marvel title and sequels to past movies should make big money.

Some of the most anticipated movies this year are based upon popular books. *Mockingjay* part two by Suzanne Collins and *Paper Towns* by John Green are two of the many movies coming out in this year. Upcoming movies release dates people have been raving about:

February 6, 2015 SpongeBob: Sponge Out of Water
March 13, 2015 Cinderella
March 20, 2015 The Divergent Series: Insurgent
April 3, 2015 Furious 7
April 17, 2015 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
May 1, 2015 The Avengers: Age of Ultron
May 15, 2015 Pitch Perfect 2
June 5, 2015 Insidious: Chapter 3
June 5, 2015 Paper Towns
June 12, 2015 Jurassic World
June 26, 2015 Ted 2
August 7, 2015 The Fantastic Four
November 20, 2015 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2
September 18, 2015 Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials
September 25, 2015 Hotel Transylvania 2
December 18, 2015 Star Wars: The Force Awakens



Courtesy of Google Images

I'm Crazy Crazy Crazy For You

BY: MADDY HOPKINS

It's nothing new. Everyone knows that with every season on the popular reality TV show *The Bachelor*, at least one of the girls is crazy. Maybe she's obsessed or clingy. Sometimes they get into catfights.

But in the nineteenth season, the odds are already against Chris Soules, the sweet farmer hunk. Where there are typically 25 each vying for the Bachelor's affection, Chris gets surprised with a whopping 30. This gives way to what seems to be an unusual number of nutty girls.



This season's Bachelor, Chris Soules. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

First up is Jillian Anderson. She seems pretty normal and level-headed at first. Funny, even. In the first episode of the season she jokingly shows off her impressive guns, insinuating the other girls better not mess with her. Then she takes a turn for the worse when she and Megan sneak into Chris's house while he's not there. Jillian continues this pattern when she also sits in the hot tub outside of the house, waiting as he squeezes some one-on-one time with another girl. She is a strong-willed woman, not afraid to take charge and get what she wants.

Next is Mackenzie. With her obvious love for her young son Kale, she is very sweet and warm. Yet, on her first date with Chris, she reveals a slightly offbeat side of herself when she tells Chris that the thing she finds most attractive about a guy is a big nose. Clearly weirded out, Chris just laughs it off. Mackenzie, though, continues to ask if he believes aliens. In the latest episode, she even confronts him about kissing other girls as if they're currently in a monogamous

relationship! Although she has a bubbly, upbeat personality, she sometimes gets a little out there.

Tara Eddings definitely gives off the crazy vibe from the first night. Trying to be original, she shows up in a flannel, jean shorts, and cowboy boots. She tells Chris this is the real Tara and that's what she wanted him to see. Later that night, though, she fails to reign herself in, downing drink after drink. By the Rose Ceremony, she can barely stand and Chris even stops to reconsider keeping her. He eventually decides to give her another shot, but she once again disappoints. At the second Rose Ceremony, he lets her go.

First impressions are always important. Kaitlyn Bristowe definitely makes one the first night when she makes several stunningly inappropriate jokes. The other girls and even Chris are shocked by what comes out of her mouth. She even at one point teaches him a dance in her cocktail dress after slipping on a pair of leggings. Kaitlyn first came off as potentially crazy, but she's starting to grow on Chris and viewers alike. Lastly is the queen of crazy: Ashley Salter. This girl is by far the most entertaining on the show.



Kaitlyn talking with Chris (the Bachelor). Picture courtesy of Google Images.

On the first night, she starts off normal. As time goes on, though, she begins slipping into "Crazy Ashley" as the other girls have dubbed her. Not only does she interrupt one-on-one time between Chris and another girl by offering her own yellow rose, but she later begins a rant about onions. Most know the famous comparison between people and onions. Ashley S. went in a dif-

ferent direction with it. Rather than peeling back a person's layers, she states, "You cut them." Then, she begins ordering around the cameramen. "Look at the freaking onion!" she demands, pointing off-camera to an onion that actually turns out to be a pomegranate that makes her feel "powerful."

As if that's not bad enough, on the group date where they basically play a video game in real life, she struggles to understand the rules: don't shoot the other girls with the paintball gun and do shoot the zombies. While she claims she would never shoot someone, Becca later asks if Ashley S. shot her ankle, to which Ashley responds, "Maybe it ricocheted." Ashley also seems to live in a whole other world. Walking over to a candle, she asks what it is and then determines that maybe, it's an angel. When the other girls then ask her who they think will get the rose, she responds the angels.



"Crazy" Ashley Salter receiving a rose from Chris Soules. Picture courtesy of Google Images.

Then, she gets alone time with Chris, where he gets to experience her crazy side. She constantly rambles and then stares blankly at him when he asks a question. It's like something out of a horror movie. She even hunts him down while he's filming his separate interview to rattle off wacky things. Chris asks her if she's okay, and she says, "I honestly don't know what you're saying to me." Then she leans close to him and whispers, "You don't want to lose the whole world. But really you don't want to gain the whole world." With cryptic babble and Exorcist-like behavior, it's no wonder the other contestants have nicknamed her "Crazy Ashley."

Galavant

BY: MADDY HOPKINS



Courtesy of Google Images

Typically, I'm not a fan of musicals. When I was little, I went to see the Nutcracker ballet every year, sitting through hours of twinkling piano music with no dialogue. Somehow, at the age of six, I was supposed to decipher the meaning of each pirouette and bourree. After about the seemingly millionth time I went to see the ballet, I developed a distaste for musicals in general. To me, it's never made sense how everyone conveniently knows all the spontaneous words and choreography.

But throw in Joshua Sasse as the pompous, self-absorbed hero named Galavant and I'm on board. The show, only four episodes long, centers around Galavant's quest to win back his true love, adding in bits of humor and singing. Galavant, though, is in for a surprise.

His one true love Madalena, played by Mallory Jansen, is kidnapped by King Richard (Timothy Omundson) to be forced into marriage. Being the heroic Galavant that "all the poets praise," he rushes to save her, singing all the while. He bursts into the wedding, bowing, and says, "You can offer her great fame, you can offer her great fortune. But only I can offer her great love. And that is what she chooses."

Except it's not. Instead Madalena replies, "Actually..." and the heartbroken Galavant returns home. He begins letting himself go until one day Princess Isabella Lucia Maria Elizabetta of Valencia (Karen David) arrives, begging him to resume his heroic ways and rescue

her parents from King Richard. He refuses until she goads him into it by saying Queen Madalena wishes to be saved.

Together, they and Galavant's squire Sid (Luke Youngblood) embark on a quest, complete with jousting and pirates. John Stamos and Ricky Gervais even make appearances. With humorous spins on clichés and clever lyrics, the show is certainly entertaining.

Netflix Craze

BY: MARY-JANE HOUSTON

Between child cartoons and horror films, Netflix offers a wide variety of shows and movies. Netflix started in 1997, but took its leap in 2007 when they started with video on demand via the Internet rather than just renting DVD's. Ever since 2007 the number of subscribers has grown. In 2014, Netflix had 50 million global subscribers, 36 million being from the United States.

With the New Year passing, Netflix has added new shows and movies as well as made announcements regarding the releases of Netflix original series. Indiewire.com votes these 9 Netflix original series to be most excited about in 2015.

1. "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"
2. "Bloodline"
3. "Daredevil"
4. "F is for Family"
5. "Grace and Frankie"
6. "Marseille"
7. "Marvels A.K.A. Jessica Jones"
8. "Narcos"
9. "Sense8"



Courtesy of Google Images

These shows will be released scattered throughout the 2015 year. As indiewire.com puts it, "These nine are the ones you should already be prepping to binge."

SUPER SMASH BROS. FOR WII U REVIEW

BY NOAH ONDIK



Courtesy of Google Images

Hey it's everyone's favorite pale sarcastic shut-in Noah, here with a video game review. I'm going to review Super Smash Bros. for the Wii U and you're going to read about it.

Super Smash Bros. is one of my favorite games that were released in 2014, mostly because of its vast amount of content, insane gameplay, and wide selection of characters to fight as. In this game, you start out with a large roster of characters from all the games Nintendo has made over the years, such as Mario and Kirby. The roster of fighters expands as you compete in various matches. You can play solo, with friends, or even online with people across the globe. As you win matches, you collect coins that can be used for a variety of purposes, like buying in-game trophies of various video game characters. You can even build up a collection large enough to give you a false sense of being better than your friends. There's so much content to this game, I can't fit all of it into this one article. Overall, Super Smash Bros. is an amazing game to play with a large group of people. If they enjoy the sight of a bunch of colorful video game characters pulverizing each other. It's like TV wrestling, but not scripted.

**FINAL SCORE:
5 out of 5**

Caught in Hi-Lites

