

Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

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Follow the Leader

New Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller Encourages Innovation

BY: TANNER MCKAMIN



Photo by Garret Roberts

New Superintendent Dr. Michelle Miller started the year off encouraging an atmosphere of engagement and innovation in our school district.

She has been impressed by the school and community, "There is a Hopewell pride and spirit that not every school district has." In turn, the Hopewell students and staff have accepted her with open arms. "What's not to love...everybody has been so welcoming."

Dr. Miller comes to Hopewell with a wealth of educational ex-

perience. She has a Bachelors in psychology from Chatham University as well as certifications in social studies and elementary education. She earned her master's in administration at Duquesne and her doctorate in administrative and policy studies from the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Miller got her start in education as a teacher in her

hometown, Ellwood City. She then became an assistant principal at Lincoln High School. Most recently, Dr. Miller was a superintendent at Wilmington School District. "All of those experiences, I think from teaching and being a high school principal, to having middle school experience, and my degrees in elementary and secondary teaching have really helped me."

She hopes to promote an atmosphere that is "student-centered, to make sure we're meeting the need of students not just for today but for tomorrow and beyond." She

wants students to graduate ready for life, "That's really my goal--to take any student help them to grow, to be successful not only here, but through life."

The state is currently revising graduation requirements with regard to the state-mandated Keystone Exam. Dr. Miller wants to improve Keystone success by better preparing students. "How do we help our students pass the Keystone the first time? The first thing is we must start in Kindergarten, first and second grade helping students who struggle along the way, so it doesn't just come to a high stakes test in 9th grade."

Dr. Miller's goal of preparing students to be future-ready combines perfectly with the passion of Assistant Superintendent Dr. Maslyk. Under their leadership Hopewell held P3 TechFest 16, a first-ever technology-focused in-service day.

From her first moments with the staff Dr. Miller has shown a purpose to succeed, passion for student engagement, pride in our community.

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Football Finale Renews Past Traditions

BY: TURNER WILSON

In the long history of football in Western Pennsylvania, there have always been heroes. Joe Montana's storied NFL career came after four years at nearby Ringgold High School. Before there was "The Guarantee", Joe Namath played for the Beaver Falls Tigers. Hopewell has their own share of top football talent; Tony Dorsett, Daniel Rains, and Bill Koman had successful careers in the NFL. Paul Posluszny, a linebacker for the Jacksonville Jaguars, represents Hopewell in the NFL today. With great players and rabid following, the rivalries in WPIAL football are some of the most intense in the country. Hopewell's rivals have included Central Valley and Blackhawk, and this year, another historical one has been renewed; Hopewell vs. Aliquippa.

Hopewell first played Aliquippa in 1964. At the time, Aliquippa played their home games on Friday at "The Pit", the affectionate name for Aliquippa's Stadium that has stood since 1937. Hopewell, who didn't have a stadium with lights at the time, played their games in Aliquippa on Saturday nights. There were more people in the area than today. "I had around 330 in my graduating class" says Mr. McConnell, who attended Hopewell High School and played football for the team from 1966-1968. "Aliquippa was much bigger too." McConnell says there were almost 500 students graduating each year at the height of Hopewell's enrollment. It was one of the most prosperous economic times for Beaver County, with J&L Steel thriving and employing many parents of students from both schools. "It was in the late fif-

ties that places like Clearview started being built." McConnell says. Despite the proximity and many similarities between the two towns, there has always been tension between the two. "Aliquippa has always had kind of a bad rap." McConnell says.

It was one of the biggest crowds that McConnell had ever seen at Aliquippa's stadium that Friday night in 1964. McConnell's brother played in the game, one in which Hopewell was expected to lose. Aliquippa had many stars, and went on to win the WPIAL championship that year. But it wasn't the Quips' day, as they fell to the Vikings in a large upset. That was the last year for legendary Coach Carl Aschman, whom the stadium is now named for. During McConnell's years, Hopewell lost once, in 1966, and won the rivalry in 1967 and 1968. "Aliquippa started to fall off as a football team towards the end of my high school career," McConnell says. "Those games weren't as physical as some of the other games; they didn't have as much fire."

A lot has changed since the first Hopewell-Aliquippa game. The steel mills are gone and Aliquippa has fallen on hard economic times, Hopewell isn't as prosperous as it once was either. Aliquippa graduates less than 100 students per year and Hopewell now graduates around half

of the 330 students that they did in 1969. Hopewell has a new stadium with lights and Aliquippa's has seen better days. Despite those differences, however, so much remains the same.

Now, there are still two schools with passion for their football teams in southern Beaver County. Two schools that are so close yet are distinctly separated. All of the tradition and intensity was renewed this when Hopewell travelled to Aliquippa for the first time in years. It was reminiscent of the first time they played in 1964. Hopewell was surely the underdog with Aliquippa hailed as a powerhouse. It was played in the same stadium with the same tradition, and, Hopewell almost pulled off an upset as they did in 1964.



Billy DePaul. Photo courtesy of Mr. Mohrbacher

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



Ian Skal- Boys Soccer

- Senior and team captain
- Section Finest Fifteen
- 21 saves in a 1-0 loss to Moon



Turner Wilson- Cross Country

- Top point scorer this year
- Four consecutive winning seasons
- Multiple personal best times this season



Carinna Lapson- Cross Country

- Leading point scorer this year
- 5th place at Red, White, and Blue Invite
- 4th at Slippery Rock Mack Cooper Invite



Gillian Carr- Girls Tennis

- 4 year, second singles player
- Team Captain
- Won student athlete award



Emilie Hovanec- Girls Soccer

- Goalkeeper
- 2 wins and a tie
- Penalty kick save at South Fayette game (1-0 W)



Joei Ritmiller- Girls Golf

- Team Captain
- Lowest average score on team for 2nd consecutive year
- 10th at MAC Championship

Scoreboard: Fall Sports Final Records

Football:	5-4	Girls Volleyball:	6-10	Boys Golf:	6-6
Boys Cross Country:	8-4	Girls Tennis:	4-4	Boys Soccer:	3-12
Cross Country Girls:	9-3	Girls Golf:	3-9	Girls Soccer:	4-11-1



Trump Visits Beaver County

BY ALEXA BURAK

On September 18th, Donald Trump stepped on stage at Ambridge high school, swinging a Terrible Towel, pleasing almost everyone in the crowd.

Prior to Trump's entrance, he had a long line-up of speakers. Keith Rothfus, Pennsylvania's 12th district U.S. Representative, and former mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani, both talked passionately about Hillary Clinton's "corruption." Both agreed that Trump is the future for America.

During his speech, Trump made points of how "Crooked Hillary" has "failed America" in the past. He also talked about Hillary's email scandals and pointing out that two more boxes of emails and materials are now missing. The crowd responded with "Lock her up."

He continued to say that Hillary had no defense when he talked about her failures in Iraq, Syria and Libya, and she had no defense for calling millions of Americans deplorables.

Outside of the gymnasium, however, a group of protesters gathered in front of Ambridge's school

property. They carried signs that said "NEA For Trump" or simple Hillary and Kane signs. A group of college kids were also marching arounds saying, "Sexist, racist, anti-gay, Donald Trump go away."

KDKA's political analyst Jon Delano expected more Trump appearances in Pittsburgh.. "Everybody is assuming he will lose Philadelphia, he will probably lose suburban Philadelphia and in order to compensate for the large numbers of people who live in southeastern Pennsylvania, he needs a lot of support in southwestern Pennsylvania and it's not clear that there are even the numbers that will allow him to do that."

In the past, Southwestern Pennsylvania has been

primarily Republican. In Obama's second election in 2012, all except Allegheny County, was Republican. But this year's election is different, as 36% of voters support Clinton and 31% support Trump. These are both close numbers but it looks like Clinton is going to win Pennsylvania with an estimated total of 44% over Trump's 41%.



Trump at Ambridge High School by Alexa Burak

Future Ready: Hopewell Junior High

BY MADELYNN FARKAS

The junior high is turning into a whole new place with exciting innovations. The building is collectively looking forward with new electives, creative spaces, and technology. Mrs. Webster, vice principal of Hopewell Junior High School says, "The kids seem to really like it."

The junior high has developed curriculum with electives built to engage the students. Through Edgenuity, an internet-based curriculum, a variety of electives are available to both the junior high and the high school. One of the goals with these new electives is to make the students want to come to school and be excited to par-

ticipate in their classes. "Students get to spend at least part of their day doing something they like."

Another new elective is called InnovatED. All junior high students will be taking some form of InnovatEd. "We want them to be able to think for themselves, not to give up, and be more creative," said Webster, "We want our students to be what we call--future ready."

Another amazing innovation at the junior high is the Success Studio, which provides a designated place for STEAM activities. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. STEAM is a na-

tional movement that often encourages project-based learning--students often collaborate and create some sort of product. The Success Studio is painted bright colors and includes a green screen for video productions. The room is a "maker space" stocked with supplies for hands-on activities. The supplies were purchased through the use of PTSA donations.

Mrs. Webster is pleased with the progress and optimistic about the future of the STEAM program. She said, "Our staff is really student-focused, making sure the students get what they need."



P3: Hopewell Students in Action

BY: ERIN KUNZMANN

Emilie Hovanec and Lauren Shutak are leading the student section this year. They pick the themes for football games. So far, the student section has done a toga party, a black out, an American theme, and more. “Being section leaders gives us the responsibility of getting everyone motivated and having school spirit,” Emilie says. “It makes us proud when the student section is huge and loud. The more students that get involved the better our school looks, and it makes us happy that we are doing a good job at that this year,” Lauren said.

Ian Skal and Jacob Ujhazy will travel to Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair to participate in the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) District 5 Honors Choir Festival. Ian is a Bass 1 and Jacob is the student accompanist. Anyone who auditions has about a month to prepare two pieces of music. The day they audition, they perform in front of a board of judges and they choose the spots in the district. “This is my first year making it in and I couldn’t be more excited,” Ian Skal says. “I worked so hard to get in and it finally paid off. I can’t wait to go back

for the concert. It’s an experience I will never forget.”

Zach Showalter has received a National Merit Scholarship. High school students enter for the scholarship by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT) and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. Approximately 1.6 million students take the test each year, and about 50,000 of the top scorers qualify for recognition and receive an award then or keep moving forward. Zach received a quarterfinalist award.

Students of the Month: September and October



Holly Singer

Travis Sivertsen

Danica Dong

Jillian Skal

Senior **Holly** Singer is an excellent student who has been active in class Club, French club, Student Council and National Honor Society, where she serves as vice president. As a softball player, she has been a three year letter winner and a scholar athlete and a two time Post-Gazette and Beaver County Times all section selection. Holly is also active working with the youth at Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Holly says that an experience that influenced her was the Appalachian Mission Trip, where she spent ten days building houses with over 100 other kids for the Pittsburgh area for people in Booneville, Kentucky.

Travis is also an excellent student. He is a member of the cross

country, basketball and track teams. As a freshman last year, he was a first year letter winner in cross country and track; more importantly though, he was a scholar athlete in all three seasons that he participated in. Travis affectionately refers to himself as T – Money and he is still waiting for Mr. Rowe to accept his challenge and play him one on one in basketball.

Danica is in the top five in the class of 2018. She is a member of NHS, class club and is underclassman president of student council. She also participates in cross country, band and track. Danica says that Mr. Bill Smith is her favorite teacher because he’s a great storyteller, but hopes Mr. McConville doesn’t lower her grade because she didn’t pick

him. She would also like to thank her mom for telling her it’s okay to fail sometimes and her friends for helping her answer these questions.

Jillian is also an excellent student. She is involved in chorus and the musical where she was an integral part of the success of both *You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Catch Me if You Can* last year. Jillian lists two classes as her favorites. “My favorite class is Honors English 10 with Mr. Slapikas because he makes everything fun and it’s easy to learn things. Another favorite of mine is Honors Cultures 10 with Mrs. Kanitra because she is always determined to get out of you what she knows you know. It’s impossible not to learn and have fun in her class!”



Hopewell 'Horror' Stories

BY: TANNER MCKAMIN

Some in the Hopewell community have experienced something more terrifying than Halloween tricks. Hopewell's German teacher Mrs. Buddemeyer has quite the tale to tell:

"A very long time ago, I was with my friends on the U.S.A swim team going through security at the Tokyo airport. When they placed the poster canister I was carrying onto the X-ray belt, I whispered to my friends, 'Like I have a bomb in there.' I was immediately surrounded by eight Japanese guards with guns pointed at me and yelling in Japanese. The guns were never lowered as my coaches tried

to explain my 'mistake' and negotiate my 're-

lease.' Those were the longest twenty minutes of my life!"

Mrs. Buddemeyer is quite the ambassador.

Garret Roberts, an employee of Party City in Monaca, has had a spooky incident himself.

"One night at work, we forgot to lock the doors at 9:00. Shortly after 9:15, a customer ripped open the doors and rushed into the store. When I, the only mean person, approached her to tell her to please leave. She then spun around and told me to 'step off!' After noticing the flashing ankle bracelet, I decided we should let her browse."

Haley Gault, an experienced horror fanatic, had a pretty extreme experience herself.

"One time I took my dog outside at my mom's, and it was about midnight. She lives in Ambridge so being out at night is scary as it is. I heard screaming, then a loud crushing noise. Safe to say, the dog and I ran back inside. Found out that a woman was found dead, and beat up behind a dumpster across from my mom's place."

ALIENS

BY: HALEY GAULT

DNA is the human code. Recently scientists used the DNA of three different humans to create a baby. Several years ago scientists were able to clone Dolly the sheep. In the wake of these recent events a study has surfaced that human gene sequences were altered by past alien visitors. Such theorists have decided to replace the traditional God with a group of beings with vague motivations and advanced technology.

Maxim A. Makukov of the Fesenkov Astrophysical Institute believes we are alien-human hybrids and that human DNA was greatly changed by alien visitors. "Our hypothesis is that a more advanced extraterrestrial civilization was engaged in creating new life and planting it on various planets. Earth is just one of them."

Conspiracy theorists went crazy at the news that our genes appeared to have foreign sequences in it, which could not have occurred through natural evolution. Student Erica Hewitt remains skeptical, "I mean, this kind of sounds true but farfetched. How could aliens so easily change us without anyone noticing?"

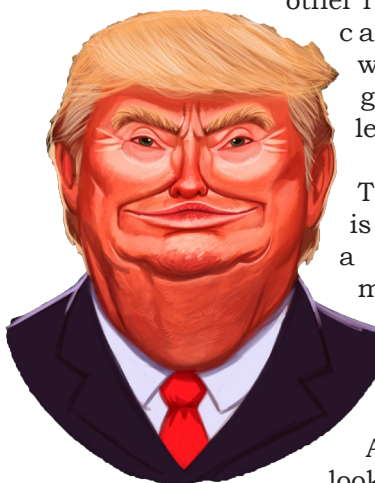
The explanation from scientists is that the foreign sequences are from tiny organisms that were present in the same environment as developing humans. The theorists are convinced that it is the result of deliberate tampering by ancient alien visitors. This sounds like something from *American Horror Story* or a cheesy movie, but it is something that a group of researchers working on the Human Genome Project believe.



Grinds My Gears - Regret 2016

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

Politics is like a box of chocolates: there's always THAT piece. Nobody likes it, it's bound to be thrown away. This is similar to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. Nobody likes them, yet they still won the party nomination and are now our only possible choices for president (aside from the Green Party's Jill Stein or Libertarian Gary Johnson.) With the moral dilemma of a rock and another rock, which candidate will endanger us the least?



Trump is leading a chaotic movement, claiming to be the "God of Politics" America is looking for in the next president.

Everything he says is uncultured, requires little thought, and hurts him in the polls. His support comes from what Hillary Clinton describes as "alt-right racists" and "deplorables." Trump spreads hate and anger, which these radicals latch onto to attack their opponents.

Realistically, Trump's biggest support is coming from middle class voters (a large influence in American politics) and conservatives vouching for free speech. Trump's anti government stance is one that many people support, and wish to see smaller government involvement become a reality. His unscripted speeches and lack of schmoozing has gained him a devout following, which increases daily. He's not one to be underestimated, and is a serious threat to Hillary's campaign. His supporters may be unpolished, but he is saying what people want to hear.

The left side of the argument isn't any better. Hillary is no angel. She has called half of Trump's supporters "deplorables," made Pepe the Frog (an innocent meme) a racist symbol, and has cheated and lied her way to the top. People against her campaign end up dead from "accidents," and somehow an entire email server went missing after it came to the public's attention. Her shady politics have been happening for years, and the large donations from various interest groups haven't made her look any more trustworthy.



Hillary's main appeal is that she is a politician, and has experience. While Donald Trump is very spontaneous and unstable, Hillary Clinton portrays herself as calm, thoughtful, and methodical. A calm leader who can operate under a crisis is a big deal to Americans, especially with the tension in Russia and the the growing threat of ISIS. Most voters either don't care or aren't educated on the topic of her lies, so she has a good chance of winning this election with a 12 percent lead.

We have a civil war in our back yard, and both candidates are "undesirable." If we're lucky, in four years a new candidate who isn't clinically insane will run against them. However, Waka Flocka Flame and Kanye West have announced their run for candidacy, so our chances are slim. Until then, good luck. With this political dilemma, you're going to need it.

Weird Voting Facts

In the 2012 Texas presidential elections, Jesus outperformed Hillary Clinton by a large number of votes.

In the 2005 election for mayor of New York City, Donald Trump received one vote.

In the years following the 19th Amendment, many women voted for their husbands, who were not on the ballot.

Mickey Mouse has the most votes of any write in candidate.

Photos of the political candidates courtesy of Twitter user @psychicpebbles.

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The Best of the Worst Halloween Movies

“Spooky” movies recommended by the Hi-Lites Staff.

BY: GARRET ROBERTS



Jason X (2001)

Set in space, famed serial killer Jason Voorhees must pursue his victims across space stations in the tenth installment of the *Friday the Thirteenth* Series. By the time this movie happened, the series had exhausted itself. It's definitely the good sci-fi and horror cheese blend that finds its home in the early 2000s.

Scooby Doo (2002)

Scooby Doo did a lot of things wrong. Instead of going after fake villains in a cartoon style, the movie takes itself way too serious with demonic gods and dark, moody atmospheres. The appeal for this movie comes from the source material. If you're a fan of the original *Scooby Doo*, it's an interesting to watch how bad a Scooby Doo movie can turn out. "This movie is a Scooby don't," commented Alexa Burak.



Army of Darkness (1992)

A horror comedy set in the Middle Ages, *Army of Darkness* is a Halloween classic. The plot follows Ash Williams (the same character from the *Evil Dead* series, another great Halloween movie) on a journey to find the Necronomicon and get back to his original time period. The over the top action and horrible one liners make it a great movie to watch, but not the cinematic masterpiece you may have been looking for all your life. There's no reason to not watch a man with a chainsaw for a hand fight knights this Halloween. "I think it's a great movie for new horror movie fans," says Tanner McMakin, "This and the rest of the *Evil Dead* series are great movies for new and older fans."



Shark Exorcist (2015)

Shark Exorcist is about a shark that is Satan. That's the entire plot. With horrible camera work, bad dialogue, and atrocious acting, *Shark Exorcist* is a match made in Heaven. The characters throughout the movie all make sacrifices to the "Shark Satan," and many of the actual "horror" parts involving the shark end up falling flat.

Everyone Must Die! (2012)

This is the swiss cheese of horror movies. A movie starring aspiring actor and teacher Nick LaMantia, *Everyone Must Die!* Is one of the worst horror movies of all time. All of the "cheese" elements from the movies before can't add up to the pure amount of horrible this movie is. Horrible acting, special effects, and an even worse rap by the movie's producer makes *Everyone Must Die!* the scariest thing this Halloween.