

Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Hopewell, PA

Issue 1: September, 2015

Welcome To The Well!

BY: LAUREN TRIMBER

“He reminds me of Vin Diesel,” senior Jennifer Cranmer said of Hopewell’s new assistant principal Mr. Milanovich. Although Milanovich isn’t part of an underground racing team, he did come from a very long and busy career in Aliquippa, and his first impression of Hopewell High School was a positive one. “I was amazed by how nice and beautiful the grounds and facilities are,” Mr. Milanovich said. “The buildings looked great. They’re bigger than I was used to.” More importantly, Hopewell’s community impressed him. “The biggest difference between Hopewell and Aliquippa is the willingness of parents and students to be in communication. It’s wonderful for the school and community, and it will only help perpetuate Hopewell’s excellence.”

While at Aliquippa, Milanovich worked a myriad of jobs. “First, I was an emotional support teacher in the high school. I taught Algebra, Geometry, English Literature, and Composition. I used to teach Earth Science, Biology, and US and World History. I was the junior and senior class sponsor, so I helped organize

prom and homecoming. I was also the ski trip sponsor and the transition coordinator. I coached football, basketball, and baseball, and I tried to get involved in powder-puff games. My job doesn’t end at 2:30 because their lives don’t end at 2:30, so I was very involved.”

His dedication at Aliquippa allowed him to interact with several levels of staff, which helped prepare him for the relationships he would build at Hopewell. “I’m definitely most excited to get to know the kids here,” he said. “I’ve already built some relationships at Hopewell. The maturity level and the personality of the kids makes it easy to get to know them. I miss the relationships I had with my kids in Aliquippa. Some kids grew to be an extension of my family, and it’s my intention to build those rela-

tionships I had here, and to never lose the ones I had there.”

With Mr. Rowe stepping into the principal’s position this year, Milanovich has big goals to accomplish as the assistant principal. “I want to improve communication between students and staff to include custodians, maintenance, and paraprofessionals. I want to help perpetuate an environment of teamwork.”

Milanovich’s hard work at Aliquippa portends he will help turn Hopewell into a more enjoyable place. We are very fortunate to have him here, and we extend a warm welcome to Hopewell’s newest edition.

Mr. Milanovich sitting at his vice principal desk. Photo courtesy of Lauren Trimmer.



What's Inside...

Sports	Pages 2-4
Happenings	Pages 5-6
Voices	Pages 7-8
Culture	Pages 9-11
Fun Page	Page 12

Page 3

Aliquippa Compared to Hopewell
“Getting to Know Your Neighbors”

Page 5

Changes Coming to Hopewell
“A Township in Motion”



I Believe That We Will Win

BY: MADDY HOPKINS

Hopewell's football team spent the summer trying to lift the weight of last season's disappointment. For seniors Tim Sabo and Griffin Curry, they have never worked harder.

With a truck driving dad and a mom serving school lunches, Coach Mark Washington knows hard work. Committed to excellence, Coach Washington and his staff push the team in every aspect. "They have put in a lot of time and effort trying to make us better players as well as young men," said senior tight end Tim Sabo. "They spend a lot of time away from home and their families to be with us and do their best to hold us accountable for ourselves and our teammates."

This personal dedication carries into his coaching style. "Coach Washington is very fiery and passionate as coach," said senior captain and wide receiver Griffin Curry. The coach even practices a little tough love for his team with a "Just Do It" kind of mentality. "His favorite motto is 'no excuses' which pretty much sums up his attitude and how we are expected to perform day in and day out," said Sabo. Coach Washington even switched up the way things are typically run in the summer. Instead of two practices a day like in previous seasons, this year's team saw the heat, sweat, and exhaustion of three-a-days. Between intense workouts in the newly-equipped weight room and running hills, Curry believes the team is much more in shape this year.

Yet, for all the emphasis on



Chaz Bruce, 10, and Tim Sabo, 27. Image courtesy of Times Online.

hard work, Coach Washington isn't against having a bit of fun. "I've never been a victim," said Sabo, "but he has some obsession with dishing out 10-yard bear crawls as minor punishments, which is unique and pretty funny because all of a sudden across the field you will just hear 'No! You got bear crawls!'"

The coaching staff wasn't the only change to the team, though. With transfers and new young talent joining the team, the dynamic is certainly different. Along with the changes comes a newfound sense of optimism among the players. For them and the school, the season is looking up. "We have a lot of depth at all positions," said Sabo, "so we can expect that all 11 men on the field will be the hardest worker at their position and give us a good chance at success." More specifically, some of the hard workers to look out for this season are seniors Kyle David and AJ Tempalski and junior

Billy DePaul.

"Kyle David has just turned into a completely different player this year," said Curry, talking about players' improvements this season. "He worked hard in the off-season and is the leader of our defensive line." He also advises to keep an eye out for DePaul at quarterback and Tempalski at free safety.

For fans, games to watch out for are Moon and McKeesport, two showdowns sure to be interesting. Sabo said, "I think Moon will be an intense game just because our coaches are from there and there will be a rivalry," while Curry said, "McKeesport, a Quad A powerhouse, will be our toughest game."

Whoever the opponent, Hopewell football will take them on as a team. As for Curry, he said he simply looks forward to "just running onto the field on Friday night, playing the game I love."

Mr. Byrnes Talks Girls' Soccer

BY: JENNIFER CRANMER

As the Hopewell Girls' soccer team gears up to compete for a section title and a place in playoffs, the question on everyone's mind is, how far will they go? Head coach Mr. Byrnes has created a girls' soccer program at Hopewell that has an elite reputation of success. With the backing of the school and community, everyone is hoping for another sensational season for the team.

Mr. Byrnes' goal is to get the girls to the postseason. It will not be an easy road, however, as the team will need to get through many challenging opponents. Mr. Byrnes said "With defending WPIAL champs Montour, a tough Central Valley, a difficult Blackhawk team, and always challenging QV, a section title will be extremely hard." However, he has belief in the capabilities of his team. He said, "I have confidence in our players and their work ethic, but it is reassuring to know that we have a reputation as a talented, difficult team to play against."

It is no secret the team lost some key starters last year with the graduation of Abby Losco and Kayleen Schwegler among others, but it still has a multitude of great players to rely on. Mr. Byrnes said, "We'll need scoring from a variety of players, when, in the past, we really relied upon one or two for the bulk of



Shannon Shawgo settles the ball. Image courtesy of Mr. Mohrbacher

our scoring."

Some returning key players for this season are seniors Shannon Shawgo and Briana Losco who went all section in the 2014 season. Juniors Megan Ramaley and Lauren Shutak and sophomore Samantha Hysong are also expected to compliment the team. Every player will be important to the team's success. Mr. Byrnes said he "expects everyone to contribute at some time or another."

If you go out to watch a game you may see some new faces on the field. Mr. Byrnes expects "dynamite" ninth graders Katie Callan and Cris-ty Senskey to have an impact on the team.

This year's team captains picked by Mr. Byrnes are seniors Maddy Hopkins, Nicole Grimm, Shannon Shawgo, and Briana Losco. When selecting captains, Mr. Byrnes looks for "leadership and communication skills above all. A certain positivity goes a long way also when I consider captains. Talent and soccer smarts, honestly, are secondary."

Mr. Byrnes plans to instill "Hard work, fitness, a never-say-die attitude, and confidence under pressure" in his team this season. Hopefully we see these qualities on the field and the girls' have another successful season. Come out to a game and support the team this year!

Getting to Know Neighbors

Aliquippa Transfers Feel Welcome at Hopewell

BY: SANTINO CICCONE

In addition to Mr. Milanovich, two new students Deseante "Doodah" Hines and James Kimbrough have kept the same zip code but have transferred from Aliquippa to Hopewell. The two school buildings exist minutes from each other, but according to those who've experienced both, the communities and districts have some noticeable differences.

"It's something different," Hines said, "you don't have kids bothering you here. There are a lot more people in this school and they are nicer too." Hines misses his

friends back at Aliquippa, but as a member of the football team, he hasn't felt alone. He is excited to be wearing blue and gold on Fridays. "I get in the game more." To some, Aliquippa is perceived as a rough place, but Hines disagrees, "It's only rough for the people who want to do bad things."

"Some days I enjoy it more here than Aliquippa," said Kimbrough, "The only thing I miss is seeing my old friends everyday." Kimbrough, also a member of the football team, claims that football is tougher in Aliquippa, but the goal is

still the same. "I'm looking forward to winning some games," said Kimbrough. With only going to Hopewell and Aliquippa, he is surprised by the amount of school pride we have but he went on to say "The key differences are that there are more classes to choose from and the school and student body is bigger."

Although Aliquippa High School and Hopewell High School are about two miles apart, the new students seem to be comfortable and adapting to the new school system.

Hopewell Fall Sports Preview

BY: TURNER WILSON

Football:

Key Players: WR/CB Griffin Curry (Sr.), WR/S A.J. Tempalski(Sr.), TE/LB Tim Sabo(Sr.)

New coach Mark Washington from Moon will look to turn a team around that has only won one game in the last two years. New QB Billy DePaul (Jr.) has accounted for three scores so far, and the passing game appears to be much stronger than last year. The defense will ultimately decide the team's success, as setbacks in the defense have been detrimental in recent years. A key matchup is Blackhawk.

Boys' Cross Country:

Key Runners: Gregory Nero(Sr.), Brian Reisker(Sr.), Cole Janicki(Jr.)

The team is looking to defend its section title after losing three of their top four runners. New runners Travis Siversten (Fr.) and Zachary Hall(Jr.) success will be vital to beating rivals New Castle, Moon, and West Allegheny.

Girls' Cross Country:

Key Runners: Carinna Lapson(So.), Bri Losco(Sr.), Lauren McCoy(So.)

The girls look to improve on their best season in years. With most of their

top runners returning, it is shaping up to be a good season. Central Valley, Moon, and Ambridge will provide tough competition.

Girls' Tennis:

Key Players: Singles #1 Krista Kasunic(Sr.), Singles #2 Casey Atwell(Sr.), Singles #3 Jennifer Cranmer(Sr.), Doubles #1 Mary Jane Houston (Sr.)

The team's roster includes seven seniors and 17 total players, enough to field both a varsity and JV team. This will be their second year under head coach Ms. Grow, and also the second playing on the new courts behind the junior high.

Boys' Golf:

Key Golfers: Gusty Skeriotis(Sr.), Jordan Zipfel(Jr.), Tanner Palocsik(Jr.)

New coaches Mr. Collins and Mr. Tapler lead a golf team of 14, with nine new members. The team will look to rebound from a tough season in which they won only a few or their matches.

Girls' Golf:

Key Golfers: Vittoria Crivelli(Sr.), Shannon Langton(Sr.) Joei Rittmiller(So.)

The girls' team is coached by Mr. Homziak and will seek to pull off upsets over perennial favorites in the WPIAL.

Girl's Volleyball

Key Players: Alexis Graef(Sr.), Amanda Mike(Sr.), Cassidy Senskey(Sr.), Lexi Hill(So.)

The team has had a long run of success, and, this year, they will look to continue their winning ways. For the team to make the playoffs, the seniors must step up to fill the void left by graduated players.

Girls' Soccer:

Key Players: Bri Losco(Sr.), Shannon Shawgo(Sr.), Lauren Shutak(Jr.), Megan Ramaley(Jr.), Emilie Hovanec(Jr.)

Hopewell's soccer team has lost an All-State player (Abby Losco), and will have to fill her spot and goal-scoring skill. Although the team has experienced a few tough losses, they still are hopeful to reach the state playoffs for the second straight year.

Boys' Soccer

Key Players: Devin Wayne(Sr.), Avery Levinger(Sr.) Mason Basile(Fr.),

Starting goalkeeper Ian Skal about this year's team, "We have a solid lineup this year. We have the potential to go to the playoffs. We just have to realize it and act on it." Key matches are Beaver, Blackhawk, and Ambridge.

Girl's Tennis: Seniors Lead Way

BY: MILES COLLINS

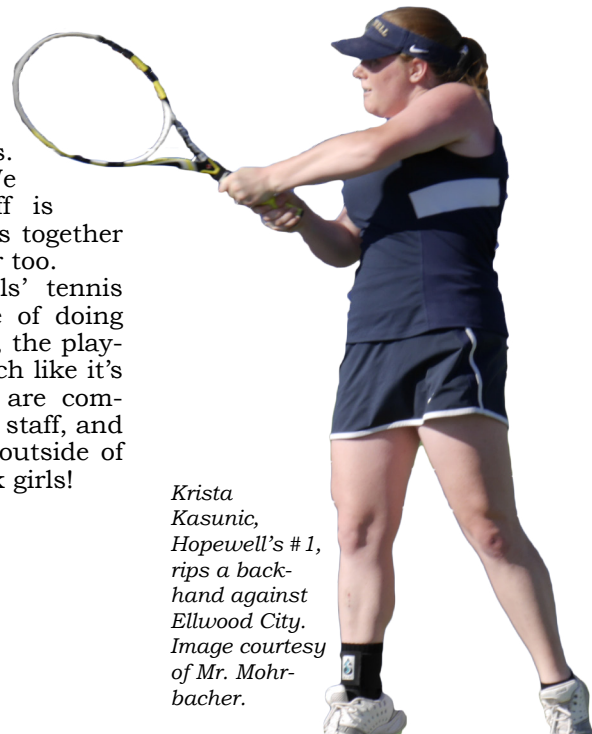
Last year, the Hopewell girls' tennis team finished the season with a satisfying 6-8 record. The boys' team rebounded from a one-win season with a run to the State playoffs and a third place finish in WPIALS. Now that the girls' tennis season has started, Hopewell's team will hope to do just as well if not better.

Due to the fact that 5 of their 7 starters are seniors, they have a good chance to finish with a record above .500. However, the tough section is one of the obstacles in their way. One of the seniors, Jennifer Cranmer, says she is feeling the pressure. "The boys' team set a high bar last year."

The girls' tennis team has a chemistry existing that is hard to

come by in many places. Cranmer even said, "We think the coaching staff is friendly." The team works together over the course of the year too.

The Hopewell girls' tennis team has a good chance of doing very well this year. So far, the players have played each match like it's their last. The members are comfortable with the coaching staff, and they get together to play outside of official practice. Good luck girls!



Krista Kasunic, Hopewell's #1, rips a backhand against Ellwood City. Image courtesy of Mr. Mohrbacher.



U.S. Criticized; Syrian Refugees in Need of Help

BY: JENNIFER CRANMER

In a time of war and chaos in the Middle East, millions are fleeing from Syria. These people have been trying to escape the dangers of civil war and the extremist terrorist group ISIS since March of 2011. This civil war has already cost them over 220,000 lives, with many other people being misplaced. Many countries across the world immediately began helping refugees, but it took the United States considerably longer to really step up to the plate.

As of right now, we have approximately 1,500 refugees finding asylum in the U.S. Compared to

other countries, it is a startlingly low number. Usually, the U.S. is one of the first countries to provide help. While the administration has offered financial support, the U.S. is currently the largest financial donor to Syria, we were hesitant to really open our borders to refugees.

The debate was over whether providing humanitarian aid is worth risking U.S. citizens' safety. An influx of refugees increases the probability of terrorists sneaking in. Nevertheless, a petition had been started to attempt to get the U.S. government to let more refugees come in. It had

over 54,000 signatures. In an effort to keep American people safe, the U.S. has a strict security process in effect that refugees have to go through before they are admitted. The problem is this process usually takes up to 18 months.

In September, Obama made his decision clear; beginning in October the number of refugees in the U.S. would rise to 10,000, if not more.

A Township in Motion

With businesses moving out and residences moving in, Hopewell is a place in flux.

BY: TURNER WILSON

With the summer dwindling to an end, and the school year upon us, the lives of all students have changed. The landscape around Hopewell has changed too, as many mainstays have left, and new and exciting things have been brought to the spotlight.

Perhaps the greatest example of this is the construction of two new housing developments: Clairmont Manor and Graystone Apartments. Maronda Homes will be building Clairmont Manor off of Brodhead Road behind Harold's Inn and The Windmill. The neighborhood is expected to boast 107 single family homes. This will be the third neighborhood in the township built by Maronda, with Sweet Briar and Autumn Ridge being the other two. Construction will also begin on the Graystone condominiums and

apartments complex, at the former site of the Kane Road Drive In. A total of 192 apartments will be built, complete with a swimming pool for residents to use.

Two large employers have left the area. American Airlines has moved hundreds of employees to Dallas, Texas. Service Link will take approximately 600 workers to their headquarters in Moon. While this won't take effect immediately, when they do move, Hopewell will be left with an empty business park, and will lose money from the lost tax revenue.

The Dairy Queen has been forced to close its doors after over two decades. Rose's Express and Pat's Hallmark Store at the Hopewell Shopping Center are also going out of business. Pizza Joe's is now Fox's Pizza Den, maintaining a large number of pizza options in the area.

Fox's has employed a number of Hopewell students, including junior Joe Basile. "I enjoy working at Fox's." Joe said "I'm thankful for the opportunity they have given to me." Another new business, The Pennsylvania Coin Operated Hall of Fame and Museum, debuted in the spring. Located in the Hopewell Shopping Center, the museum features over 400 arcade games and pinball machines, most of which are able to be used by visitors.

While it is sad to see classic places like the Drive-In and the Dairy Queen go, the new housing and attractions may bring an economic boost and new people to Hopewell. Whether you agree with them or not, changes are coming to our township, and it feels as if our hometown is becoming different every day.

Cycling for a Cure

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

Over the summer of 2015, senior Gregory Nero cycled 430 miles across the state of Pennsylvania for part of his senior project. The purpose of him biking across the whole state was to raise awareness for Alzheimer's. Greg rode about 430 miles over the course of seven days, biking anywhere from 40 to 80 miles a day.

Greg and his family drove to the border of New Jersey, and then he biked across Pennsylvania by himself. It was his first time carrying gear by himself on the trip. While he biked, he wrote in his personal journal and wrote on his blog about this trip. "The hardest part about this trip was trying to map out everything. I had to find places to sleep for the night and trace the trail." Also, Greg's family has been biking so long that instead of getting a new bike, they just built one out of different pieces they had from before. They combined different bike parts

together into one.

For his project, Greg is raising awareness for Alzheimer's because his grandmother has an early stage of it and so does his Pap. His goal was to raise money for research on Alzheimer's. So far, Greg has raised over \$5,000 for his senior project. "It was my goal to raise around \$5,000 for the project, but the money is way more than I expected. People have been donating money left and right to the Alzheimer's association. I have a link, but I don't want to take it down you know, since people love to help donate."

Raising awareness has been pretty flexible for Greg so far. "Well first, the Beaver County Times newspaper came and interviewed me for an article, and then people that follow my blog saw what I was doing too. My blog doesn't have very many followers, but even that small amount of people still counts." Greg also got to go to many cool places,

but also very many scary places. "I got to go bike on the abandoned turn pike, which was pretty cool. I will also never step foot in Lancaster again, because I got attacked by a dog and the people there are creepy."

Greg's senior project has been a greatly successful one. Helping for Alzheimer's is making a big difference in the community. If you would like to help donate to the Alzheimer's foundation, or help Greg out, you could donate too www.alzfdn.org/



Photo Courtesy of Turner Wilson

Living Well in Beaver County

Bye U.S. Air, Hello Shell

BY: MILES COLLINS

Beaver County used to feature bustling steel towns. However, some areas may become fossil fuel towns in the future. This is because the possibility of Shell's cracker plant is looming large; there may be an additional influx of them that are looking for work around our area. That may decrease the amount of population loss in the area after the U.S Airways employees move to Dallas. This makes Betty Loncar a very happy civil engineer. Debra Dong owns China Grill in Aliquippa, and her restaurant has been highly touted for its quality.

The USA has the fourth largest work force in the world, according to www.dlt.ri.gov. This work force would be even bigger if those unemployed were constructing bridges and fixing roads under the supervision of civil engineers. Mrs. Loncar works as a civil engineer, installing electrical equipment in large buildings where many people live and work each day.

Mrs. Dong, a believer in her successful business said, "Yes, a lot of family members and friends of ours come to the restaurant." For this reason, she believes she won't

be personally affected. However, so many local businesses will lose customers because a large number of U.S Airways employees are moving to Dallas. This will add on to the 10,000 that were cut from their workforce since 2001 and includes the 600 employee flight operations center. Mrs. Dong thinks "It will negatively affect business in the area overall."

Surprisingly, Mrs. Loncar said almost the exact same answer when questioned about the issue, "It will negatively affect business in general." Another year from now, all of them will be gone, but it is their choice, employees are spending long hours talking with their families deciding whether to go or not, commute back and forth, or stay in Dallas permanently.

There is a possibility that Shell Oil will commit to and finish a Cracker Plant in this area. Mrs. Loncar hopes they do, creating local jobs. Mrs. Dong thinks her business will be unaffected. Maybe even more businesses will come to the area and make Hopewell and other areas of Beaver County better places to live, work, and play.

Editors-in-Chief:

Jennifer Cranmer
Lauren Trimmer

Staff:

Sophia Stokes
Santino Ciccone
Maddy Hopkins
Julia Crawford

Garret Roberts
Miles Collins
Turner Wilson

Sponsor:

Mr. Mohrbacher



Grinds My Gears: "Trumping" The Presidency

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

The United States is a major world power. From our military strength to our "stable" economy, the world is always watching America. Our Presidents are partially to thank for that, having carefully planned and (mostly) good decisions on how our nation could grow. From George Washington to Barack Obama, every president has had at least some positive impact on the nation. For the 2016 Presidential Race, we have Donald Trump as our glowing beacon of hope. In other words, the United States is doomed.

When the nation heard that Trump was running for President of the United States, we all collectively laughed at the idea. This was the same year that Waka Flocka Flame was running for the title of Commander in Chief, so another joke candidate wouldn't hurt. As soon as you stopped laughing, Trump rocketed in approval from the Republican Party. The nation, and Trump's toupee, were both blown away by the results. Suddenly, silly old Donald Trump started to talk politics, and for some reason people began to agree with some of his ideas. As a nation we entered the Twilight Zone, where anyone can be president if they believed hard enough that they can.

Trump goes on and on, talking about how only he can fix the economy because he has more money than the average person. However, economics won't simply work because you're thrifty. The United States is in so much debt that even Trump's bank account cowers in fear of the massive bill. Trump also

promises to be a honey badger and act hostile to every country that doesn't have a flag with stars and stripes on it. He wants to build a giant wall at the border of Mexico and then force Mexico to pay for it. He wants to stop sending money to China for our debts, and then tax China heavily for trade. Watching Trump try to convince you he would be a good president is a lot like watching a clown try to get a crowd of people to clap. None of his ideas make any sense as to why they need the excessive force to enact. His ideas are often illogical and have no planning behind them. Trump is basically telling any other nation, "Come at me, Bro!"

So why do people want to vote for Trump? One reason is he is by far the loudest. Trump has the money to advertise everywhere he can, whenever he can. So, people see him hamming it up almost 24/7 at this point. Abraham Lincoln didn't have a Twitter to tell people his networth, but today anyone can do that for no cost at all. Then there are the other candidates he is against. When your main competition is Hillary Clinton, the wife of the second ever impeached president Bill Clinton and main focus of a scandal herself, and Deez Nuts, a 15-year-old kid who submitted his application for entry online, you can pretty much take the office now. Other Republican and Democratic candidates are great options, but we don't hear much about them due to the Unholy Trinity hogging the limelight.

As of August 31, Trump has a 25.7% approval rate, which is a 14.7% lead over the next candidate Ben Carson.

While that doesn't seem like a large number, the race is between 15 candidates with their own cult followings. The Democratic poll has six main candidates, so their numbers are much larger in polls. For example, Hillary Clinton, who is currently under major bad press for purposely hiding emails, leads with a 47.8% approval rate. However, some people have seen the light and are voting for Deez Nuts. They are voting for Deez Nuts out of protest to the way the presidential race is held. Deez Nuts himself has said that his entire reason of entering was, "I realized I could."

You shouldn't say "I support Trump!" loosely to someone. His numbers are rising and your approval could make him the Republican candidate. Don't shoot yourself in the foot because "LOL, Trump is so crazy! I want him to win!" Trump is a joke, not a leader. If the next president of the United States "actively tries to avoid riding bikes," is he really cut out to lead the nation?



Courtesy of Google Images

High School Movies Always Lie

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

Movies never have an accurate portrayal of what high school life is like. Either the content is astonishingly outdated, or they make people believe high school is an amazing, magical place. It's almost surreal when you watch Grease and everyone's happy and full of energy, while on a Monday here at Hopewell it looks like Night of the Living Dead. Some of the award-winning movies of legend with high school settings are riddled with laughable errors about school culture. How wrong are some of your favorite movies about high school life?

One of the most critically acclaimed high school movies of all time, The Breakfast Club, gets high school wrong in multiple ways. Detention isn't held in a library where you can socialize unsupervised with others. It's a boring place you don't want to be. No bonding of any kind happens in TOC unless you're talk-

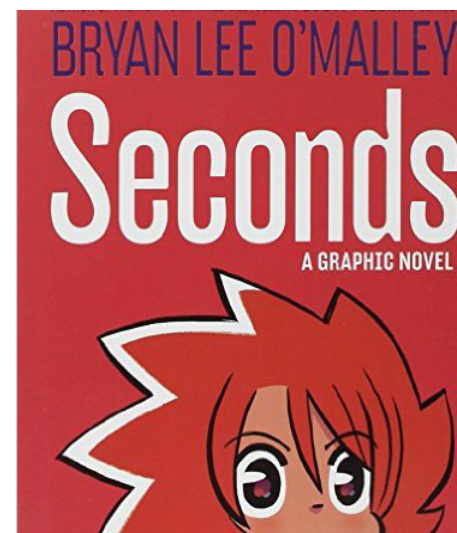
ing about chemistry homework on chemical bonds. Another problem is the divides between social groups. "The social groups at Hopewell aren't mean to each other," says junior Dalton Pifer. "People just talk to who they want to. High school is not some mystical entity that prevents you from talking to other people like a decent human being." The High School Musical franchise is one of the fakest representations of high school. Obviously, no one breaks out in song to express their feelings. If they did, you would hear the new hit single "I Don't Want To Do This Assignment" coming from 50 rooms all at once. Also, no one discriminates if you're in the musical. The basketball team won't shun you for expressing yourself. The biggest problem you have to face is getting to both musical and basketball practice without excessive amounts of caffeine.

Bullying is a major part of

high school movies. Even though this is a serious problem in today's culture, it is not at all like how it is in movies. In movies like Karate Kid and Back to the Future, bullies leave kids with stitches for scuffing their shoes. If they weren't fictional characters, they would be arrested on the spot. High school students are treated as young adults, so anything they do to harm one another is a crime. For bullying not done physically, a counselor's door is always open so you can get help. Bullying is not just a rite of passage like movies try to portray it. It's illegal.

While movies make high school look glamorous or terrible, we as high schoolers know the truth. High school is a boring place, where not much happens. You go to school so that you can earn your high school diploma. There's no singing and dancing, and no rampant bullying or social divides. So live your life in high school peacefully, and keep the singing at home.

complex? Throw in an angry, white-haired house spirit, a superstitious waitress, the "perfect" boyfriend, a slew of mixed-bag employees, plenty of sharp-witted humor and you get a perfect. Maybe problems help a person learn from their mistakes. Does Katie ever realize this, or does she ruin everything? Seconds is well worth the read to find out.



Courtesy of Google Images

ing along the river. It seems perfect, Katie can see her perfect eatery coming-to-be someday soon. She and her business partner run into a few issues with contractors and construction along the way. Disheartened, Katie makes herself busy by injecting herself into her old job. She had hoped to leave her tryst with the new head chef at Seconds, her first restaurant, behind when she left. Living above the dining room of Seconds makes that a bit difficult, however.

When her ex arrives one day to talk, Katie freaks out and overreacts. With a magic mushroom she is granted a second chance. She chooses to erase her relationship with Andrew and start again. When Katie finds many more mushrooms she goes on a perfectionist spree. Every time even the slightest thing goes wrong she panics and erases it. While her first choice is centered on a relationship, the next few relate to all kinds of major and minor details. But does erasing her mistakes make her life easier or more

Seconds: A Spoiler-Free Book Review

BY: JULIA CRAWFORD

"Bryan Lee O'Malley's Seconds is adorable, haunting, funny, and beautiful. A perfect recipe for a great graphic novel." Scott McCloud, the author of Understanding Comics says about the dynamic new book. In this statement, McCloud manages to capture every emotion that went through my head as I read this amazing collaboration of art and literature. Everything great about the acclaimed Scott Pilgrim series, also by Bryan Lee O'Malley, is repeated in this 2014 graphic novel. The panels are beautifully simple, yet filled with detail. Unlike many comic books or graphic novels, this book has a natural rhythm. The colors and structure draw your eyes along the page with the story, there is no searching to find the next part of the narrative.

The actual plot is just as fantastic as the layout. Katie, a short, sarcastic, spunky chef, is growing tired of working at the restaurant she started with friends years ago. She dreams of opening her own place. She's picked a decrepit build-



Uncommon Thursdays

BY: JULIA CRAWFORD

She stood on the small stage in front of large glass windows; one hand clutching the microphone; the other raised with her palm facing up. As she finished up "Sixteen Tons" by Tennessee Ernie Ford and began to step off the stage, everyone stopped their quiet conversations and applauded. Half the Cafe had been singing along with enthusiasm. Lydia's a regular at the Uncommon Grounds Cafe's weekly Open Mic Night, and people have come to request "so they can sing along. Some weeks she sings, some weeks she comes to listen and meet up with friends. Open Mic night is popular among almost all demographics. From the mom ordering the milkshake for the seven year old to the cluster of teenagers sitting in the courtyard, everyone shares one common feature: a smile. You'd be hard pressed to find a person without a smile on their face at any point in the night. Music isn't the only reason people are smiling though. Spoken word performances occur on occasion, as well. Mostly original poetry is recited, and it's often really well done.

I asked Lydia what she liked best about coming to Open Mic Night each week.

"I love how accepting everyone is. You don't have to be a good performer to be wildly applauded and appreciated. Not many places are like that." She went on to talk about more positive elements found in Uncommon Grounds' weekly Thursday event.

"It's a place to meet new people and enjoy old friends. It's



Courtesy of Google Images

a platform to perform and space to hear other people do so." Local bands occasionally make appearances as well. It's a great practice gig for high school groups to showcase their talents. All that's required to get a spot on stage is putting your name on a sign-up sheet. If you want to do several songs, it's not a problem. There is a full set of instruments at the Cafe but people love bringing their own as well.

"Some people will sing the same three songs every time they perform. It's fun because the audience learns them and can soon sing along." Lydia Hart, a home-school graduate, said with a smile.

Open Mic Night starts at 7:00 and runs until 12:00. Nobody minds the repetition because of the sense of community that everyone just gets used to. After my first week, I was able to clap along and sing along with ease.

For people who are afraid to miss their evening meal, there's a dinner special every week. For people who have allergies, the cooks

are completely willing to accommodate.

"I have my favorite Thursday night cook who makes me garlic honey chicken and vegetables. I'm gluten-free and they are very considerate of that," Lydia said about the food.

If you've already eaten there is an extensive drink menu available. If you aren't

in the mood for the special, there's a pretty great food menu as well. The list of favorite items ranges from a simple cup of coffee or milkshake to a personal pizza or a Panini. Someone is always worried about price, but that's not much of an issue at Uncommon Grounds Cafe. Almost everything is listed at \$10 or less, hardly anything comes over the \$5 mark.

The cafe is a fantastic place to plug in. It's a place families feel safe enough to bring their kids, but it's also a popular hangout for teenagers.

"It brings all sorts of people together and gives them a common ground."

That's the whole purpose behind Uncommon Grounds. Kids sporting Aliquippa jerseys sit laughing with a girl from Lincoln Park, a homeschooled graduate, and a few Hopewell students. Uncommon Grounds Cafe is a great place for people to unwind and to just spend an evening with friends, or be recognized for talents you might want to show off. Either way, Uncommon Grounds is a great place to spend Thursday nights.

Pittsburgh High-Schooler Daya Can't "Hideaway" Much Longer

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

A Pittsburgh music artist is on the rise to becoming known. She has been interviewed on multiple radio stations, including Radio Disney. Her success path keeps on growing as she is gaining more fans. Sometimes you might hear her song "Hideaway" playing on 96.1 kiss.

She goes by "Daya" and is a senior at Mt. Lebanon High School. Over the summer, Daya went to Los Angeles to record her song "Hideaway" and her Extended Play (EP) record. "Going to L.A. was a lifetime experience that I'll never forget, and hopefully I'll be able to go again soon."

Her new hit single "Hideaway" is relatable towards teenage girls and young adults just like her. "Many boys that come across girls in a relationship treat them badly, or break up with them for no reason," Daya states, "A good boy that you might find will most likely never break your heart, but usually it's hard to find them. That's why my song is asking about where the good boys go to 'hideaway.'"

Her new Extended Play (EP) on iTunes, which is called "Daya-EP," came out on Friday September 4. There is a total of six new songs on the EP. "Most of my songs relate to



Courtesy of Google Images

typical relationships, but they were written in a way that is my style." Daya said. "My style is more like flowy and kind of soft, but it has a bit of pop to it. I mean, you don't want the whole song to be a party song, there has to be a meaning behind it."

She has a total of 887,721 views all together on YouTube, with only two videos uploaded. One video on her channel is a lyric video for "Hideaway." She has a total of 4,500 followers on Instagram and 4,000 followers on Twitter. Her username for both social media sites is @theofficialdaya. She may not seem to have many followers, but she is starting to gain about 200-300 followers per week.

Madden 16

BY: SANTINO CICCONE

One thing that gets people excited for the NFL season is Madden 16. This year, there have been more improvements than the yearly roster updates and better graphics.

When the player enters the game, they go straight into the tutorials. The player selects to learn the Madden basics or the new skills of Madden 16. This year, the focus has been on passing and receiving as pass of coverage. Instead of doing drills on an empty field, the game opens with the user playing with the Pittsburgh Steelers against the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl 50. Losing in the fourth quarter, it instructs the user how to intercept the ball and start the game-winning drive. From there, it introduces the different types of catches: aggressive, possession, and run after catch (RAC).

After winning the Super Bowl, the user selects their favorite team and then entering tutorials to practice the new catching and passing skills. The user selects their favorite team and uses them against their division



Courtesy of Google Images

rival to practice the new skills. Quarterback can throw five types of passes now. The bullet and lob passes return and it introduces the touch pass and how to intentionally throw high or low. Also, when practicing passing, receptions are practiced as well. The tutorial gives different types of passes to demonstrate when to use each catching style.

In addition to the big changes in offense, defense has a few changes as well, specifically for coverage. When covering a receiver, the defender can press the receiver, which is useful to

prevent first downs. Also, when catching the ball, the defender is more aggressive and instead of going for an interception every time, the defender will simply deflect the pass or tip it to another defensive back nearby.

Madden has also added a new game mode, Draft Class. This is when the user is given a random team which has a low overall rating and they build up from there. From there, the user drafts 15 cards, but not cards like Ultimate Team. There are 15 rounds and each round the user selects from three random cards. In the first round, the head coach and their offense is selected. The next 13 rounds are players and the last round is a past legend. After the team is picked, three games are played against a computer generated and operated team. The teams played get better as the games pass. Each game played earns coins and other perks to build an Ultimate Team.

Madden has improved this year by adding a new game mode and enhancing the graphics significantly. Is it too early to ask, what better can EA Sports do next year?

New Beginnings

BY: LAUREN TRIMBER

With school back in session, some students already feel the inevitable pressure of the upcoming year. While many offer more sleep or an organized locker as a way to deal with stress, Hopewell students have different ideas.

Kristina Celeste, a senior and class president at Hopewell, offered advice to anyone hoping to meet new people. "For any new students, my advice would be to start off by simply introducing yourself to students in your homeroom. Ask those kids or your homeroom teacher what extracurricular activities Hopewell has to meet new people. Become involved in the school!" Hopewell offers a variety of electives, clubs, and sports perfect for people to meet others who share their interests.

Another senior, Ava Jodikinos, talked about the best ways she dealt with school. "Learn to be friendly toward everyone, do your homework quickly instead of waiting until the last time, and make sure to take time for yourself and your friends. Enjoy your time in high school be-



Courtesy of Google Images

cause it will fly by." Hope Bowden reflected both girls' thoughts, "Be involved and have fun, because soon enough, you'll be going off to college."

With this generation coined "America's most stressed generation," schoolwork can easily keep kids from enjoying the year. According to psychotherapist Susan Stiffelman, who interviewed with Huffington Post, students need to follow

five rules to make their school year more enjoyable: Take time for self-care, learn to change your thinking, take assignments one baby step at a time, lower your goals, and stay balanced during exam periods.

School can be a great source of stress, but it is manageable. Follow the advice of Hopewell students and Stiffelman to start a great school year!

Living Healthy, Eating Good: Zucchini Pizza Bites

BY: MADDY HOPKINS

One of my New Year's Resolutions for 2015 was to eat healthier, whether that meant cutting down on sodas or doing the 21 Day Sugar Detox (I advise against this; it was like eating cardboard). So, as I began getting tired of the same salad my mom made me for lunch every day, I began searching Pinterest, my addiction, for healthy recipes. That's when I came across zucchini pizza bites. I know. I had the same initial reaction as you probably are, because, frankly, it *sounds healthy* which usually means bland or downright gross. But one of my favorite foods out there is my mom's spaghetti squash. The first time she made it, I refused to eat it, until finally she wore me down. And I loved it. It actually tasted just like spaghetti, maybe even better. So I figured zucchini isn't all that different from squash. I gave zucchini pizza bites a chance. And guess what? They're awesome.

Not exactly like pizza, but it's pretty close and you can feel pretty good knowing it's even good for you.

Ingredients:

- **Measurements do not have to be exact. You can use as much or little of everything as you'd like
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 zucchini, cut into 1/4 inch thick rounds
- 1/3 cup marinara sauce
- 1/2 cup finely grated mozzarella
- 1/4 cup pepperoni minis
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to broil.
2. Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add zucchini rounds and cook until golden on both sides. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Put the cooked zucchini rounds on a large baking sheet. Top each with marinara, mozzarella, and pep-

peroni minis or whatever toppings you prefer.

4. Put baking sheet in the oven and bake until cheese is melted.

5. When done, serve with Italian seasoning.



Courtesy of Google Images

Caught in Hi-Lites

