



Gabrielle Giffords Back in Action

BY: LAUREN ZATWATSKI



It was a sunny morning on January 8, 2011, near Tuscon, Arizona, but the events of the day were not as bright. Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords and approximately

30 of her supporters met at Safeway Supermarket for a constituent meeting called "Congress on Your Corner". Around 10 A.M., twenty-three year old Jared Loughner walked into the crowd and fired until he was

eventually subdued by some of the attendants of the meeting. He shot Giffords and 18 other people, six of which died. Giffords was shot in the head, and was rushed to a nearby hospital. Although she was left in grim condition, after multiple surgeries, the hospital said her outlook was "optimistic."

The act of violence against the congresswoman shocked many, as she was reported to be the target of the shootings. Although it was also viewed as miraculous, she survived the horrific events, even after being shot in the head. The caliber of her injury was intense, considering she had to have parts of her skull removed to prevent further damage, and was placed into a medically induced coma for four days. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1.7 million people

experience traumatic brain injuries each year; of them, 52,000 die. So, it is rare that a survival story such as this occurs; however, there still is more to her story. Just a few weeks after being shot, she began showing signs of recovery, such as being able to stand on two feet, and smiling. She even was well enough to give her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, a backrub! He added, "It's so typical of her that no matter how bad the situation might be for her, you know, she's looking out for other people."

Continued on Page 5



Above Right

Post game congratulations for Giant's quarterback Eli Manning who orchestrated a 21-17 victory on Sunday, making it New York's second victory over New England in three years. The first matchup being Superbowl XLVI when the Giant's ended hopes of a perfect season for Brady and his Patriots.

STEEL CITY SPORTS

BY: LAUREN ZATWATSKI

Everyone is familiar with Pittsburgh Sports. The teams are some of the best out there, but lately they have been having some problems. There's good news and bad news for Pittsburgh, however. The bad news is: the Steelers are out of the playoff race after their first playoff game against Denver, and Pitt basketball had their seventh consecutive loss January 16, 2011, but there is good news. There is still a glimmer of hope left for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

They have finally broken their six-game slump, after defeating the Florida Panthers 4-1 on a lucky Friday the 13. Some fans began to loose hope during the slump, thinking the Penguins may not clinch a spot in the playoffs. The Pens have since proved them wrong, ascending to the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference. Hopefully, they will continue their climb. Penguin's General Manager Ray Shero is certain the Pens will make the playoffs, stating: "We're making the

playoffs, put it that way. Anything less is unacceptable." The team must have received the memo, considering they not only won, but dominated the past two games they played. Geno Malkin, in particular, has been standing out, which isn't suprising, considering he is an All-Star player. On January 15 he had his second, described as "natural," hat trick over the span of one month. He seems to have been the spark of the Penguins comeback, yet still remains humble. Following Sunday's game, he told an interviewer, "I didn't think about playing a great game..."

The list of good news goes on. Defenseman Kris Letang was cleared for contact and skating, ensuring a return in the near future. This is good news for the Penguins, considering the slew of injuries they have had over the past few months, including Jordan Staal, and Sidney Crosby. Even though Sidney Crosby's injury is extensive, and he is still unsure when he will return, his teammates and fans have remained faithful. His teammates taped "C's" on their jerseys at practice on January 13th, and fans followed suit by taping them to their jerseys as well. Some fans even added them to

their Twitter and Facebook pictures.

Unfortunately, there isn't good news for everyone. On the other side of sports, the Steelers are out of the playoff race after a disappointing 29-23 loss to Denver on January 8. Their loss is somewhat understandable, considering The Steelers have had their fair share of injuries. For example, Running Back coach Kirby Wilson was injured in a house fire January 7, 2011, and was unable to make it to the Denver game. That alone must have been fairly emotional, so it's understandable if the Steelers were distracted. It wasn't pleasant watching Denver play against the Patriots this past Sunday, because fans were left

wondering how well the Steelers could have done if in the Bronco's place. Although it's frustrating we won't be able to cheer for the Steelers anymore this season, we can still hope they will rest up and come back strong for the 2012-13 season!

Finally, the Pitt basketball team had their seventh consecutive loss January 16, reminiscent of the Penguins recent losing streak. In their last game, Pitt went 12 for 23 from the free-throw line, and the official count for missed layups was 13. Senior guard Ashton Gibbs stated, "Missing 13 layups isn't acceptable at all." Even

Continued on Page 3



WHAT'S INSIDE
2: SPORTS
3-4: SCHOOL NEWS
5-6: WORLD NEWS
7: VOICES

**SATURDAY
DETENTION**

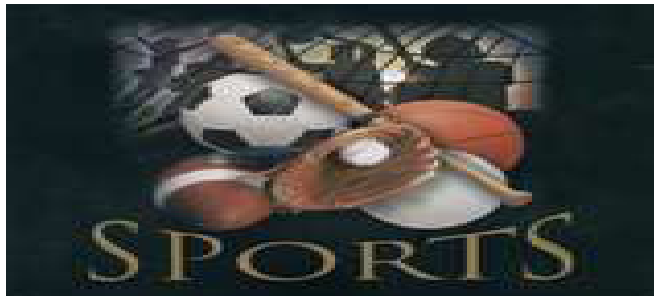


**THE HUNGER
GAMES**



**WEIRD
WEATHER**





Eat My Bubbles!

BY: LAUREN ZATWATSKI

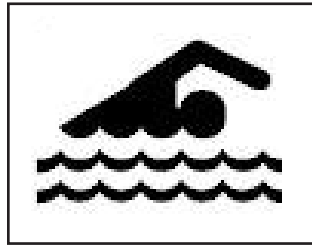
The Hopewell Swim Team is no stranger to success, especially since last year 75 percent of the team qualified for both MAC's and WPIAL's, an impressive accomplishment. And even more impressive, they sent 11 swimmers to the PIAA State Championships. This season, they are already on the right track for qualifying. Even though it is only halfway through the season, they are already dominating, as the girls are 5-2, and the guys are 6-1. Senior captain Justin Beech stated: "We hope our hard work pays off at WPIAL's and States," a statement that reflects the dedication of the team. Sophomore Lia Kopar also noted, "We work very hard." Some swimmers have already made their qualifying times in MAC's or WPIAL's, some even both. The swimmers who have made their

qualifying times are as follows:

Swimmers who've made their MAC times: Hannah Palochak, Kara Walker, Taylor Miller, Elizabeth David, Jake Smallwood, Noah Repman, Logan McCrory, Nate Burak, Ronnie Debiec, Brianna Morrison, Lia Kopar, Vanessa Rohm, Justin Beech, Jake Kennedy, Eric David, Alex Guzma, Sam Desalle, Jeana Stehle, Regina Finegan, Victoria Rohm, Kelsey Miller, Gabby Ruttinger, Cody Boring, and Alex Barna.

Swimmers who've made both MAC and WPIAL times: Elizabeth David, Jake Smallwood, Noah Repman, Hannah Palochak, Justin Beech, Alex Guzma, Eric David, Ronnie Debiec, Vanessa Rohm

Come out and support the Viking Swim team at one of their meets, or even at the MAC competition on February 11, 2011, at Moon High School. A schedule is available online at the Hopewell school website under Athletics.



guide the team this year and will hopefully return to the WPIBL with other teammates this year.



Senior, Breanna Jestat bowls in one of her first matches

Bowling Team Strikes a Section Spot

BY: KATELIN MCCALLAN

This year the Hopewell High School Bowling team clinches the third sport in their section. Led by captains, Zach D'Agostino and Lecksi Durinsky, the team has produced great results. This year the team is also represented by seniors: Zack Gula, Angela Gurchak, Breanna Jestat, Dan Klacik, Jessi Komack, Jess Pontis, and Libby Rosenstern. The team has proven to be victorious. While the boys have an untarnished record, the girls only last two matches as of January 30, 2011. Hopewell High School's Bowling team beat many teams such as Sewickley Academy, Quaker Valley, Rochester. This year Hopewell's biggest competitor has definitely been Beaver Falls. Both Lecksi and Zach have helped

HE SHOOTS, HE...get's injured?

BY: SAMANTHA MARCKIONI

Just when things were starting to go right for the Pittsburgh Penguins, a disarray of injuries hit the team faster than you could say "Stanley Cup." Team captain, Sidney Crosby, made his long-awaited return to the team back in late November. This celebration, however, seemed to not last long, as he announced that he was having concussion like symptoms, and would be back on Injury Reserve (IR) until further notice.

Along with team captain, almost an entire line of defense-men, Kris Letang, Ben Lovejoy and Zybenk Michalek, would also be put on IR. Richard Park, was also put on IR just a few days later with a fractured foot. Shortly after, defenseman, Paul Martin, was out with a leg injury. Fellow defenseman Pascal Dupuis and Right Wing Arron Asham were out at the beginning of January with Lower and Upper Body injuries, but returned shortly after.

The first weekend of the New Year, was not a pleasant one for the team. Jordan Staal who returned from his previous day-to-day injury was hit hard from a fellow Penguin, now New York Ranger, Mike Rupp, and was taken out of the game. Later that night the Penguins Press released that he would be out until further notice with a knee injury. Within the next two days of practice, new found hockey star, James Neal, would be out for "weeks" with a foot injury, and forward Craig Adams would also be joining the rest of the growing injured roster with his lower body injury. Rookie, Simon Depres, injured his knee during a game, and was also out until further notice.

All Pittsburgh fans hope seemed to be lost, the word "devastating" was thrown around more than usual, even the Pensblog was speechless. A silver lining came through when James Neal, a hockey player who wouldn't let something like a broken foot get in the way of missing a game, announced he would come back to the lineup for the upcoming game against Ottawa; it turned out the initial diagnosis was much graver than the actual diagnosis. Now with almost everyone recovered, only time will tell when we will see our entire full line up back and ready to bring home Lord Stanley.

Boys Basketball Rebounds

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

The Blackhawk Cougars finished the Hopewell Viking game by a final score of 61-56 in Tuesday's league game. With the loss, the boys now have 4-11 to the year. Up next, the Vikings host the Ambridge Bridgers in a WPIAL AAA game on Friday, January 27, 2011. With a win possible the boys have to advance strong in hopes for a win. There season so far hasn't been up to par with the teams expectations. Junior Bryce Smith says "we had a rough start trying to readjust to our new coach and new style of play. We have the potential to win but haven't been able to fully execute. Our effort is there but it isn't in the right areas. Once we can get our effort working with execution we will be able to manage our games and win much more. Coach has been preaching that the whole season. We just have to get it done." With this attitude the team will be able to pull it together to get where they need to be.



Reaching for Records

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

With the Hopewell Lady Vikings at a 13-2 record the girls are looking for wins. This season the girls have had ups and downs but pulled through every opportunity that they had. In their previous game vs. Ambridge, the girls achieved their win with a 63-43 final. The girls will now advance to play Lincoln High School for a WPIAL AAA contest. When asked what junior forward Kady Becker would like to come out of the rest of their season she said "hopefully either section champs or state champs" and at the rate they're at they definitely could fulfill that wish.



Senior Spotlight

BY: AUDREY ZANATH



The January and February Senior Spotlight goes to Sarah Michalik. Sarah is a member of the band, NHS, and French Club. She also holds a position at C&I Hardware. On top of being a part of many activities and finding time to study, she also volunteers at Beaver Elder Care and Rehabilitation. Sarah is motivated to do well in school because she wants to outshine her older brother and get into a private college. Her parents are very supportive; they want her to do her best and have a happy life. Her favorite subject is Chemistry and she hopes to attend either Bucknell University, Washington and Lee University, or Carnegie Mellon University to major in chemical engineering. Good luck to her in the future!

Students of the Month

BY: JERRIB WILSON

In December, we honored sophomore Laura Butts and junior Alexandra Garrand.

Laura is a member of both the French and Latin Clubs. She also participates in Mock Trial and Student Council, all while keeping up her GPA and remaining a great student. Plus, Laura has participated in the High School's Musicals for the past two years and Alter Serves at her church. Currently playing on two soccer teams, Laura also involves herself in track. Keep up the great work, Laura!

For December, Alex Garrand was also named student of the month. Alex is a member of the Class of 2013 as well as involved in Student Council and Latin Club. After school, she actively participates on the high school varsity cheer team and a competitive cheer team, Coyote All-Stars. Continue the great work in the future!

Next are January's

Students of the Month, Freshman Rachel Falk and Senior Jason Bost.

Rachel Falk, nominated by Mrs. Shadle, is a dedicated student, (she has a 3.91 GPA,) while participating in multiple extracurricular activities. Some of Rachel's other activities include marching, concert, and jazz bands with the school along with much volunteer work with the Caring Café, and participation in the bible study and praise team at her church. Way to go, Rachel!

Jason is a fantastic student, keeping up a 3.5 GPA while playing Varsity Soccer. Nominated by Mr. Short, Jason is described by Mr. Rowe as having, "great leadership skills and sportsmanship." Congratulations, Jason! Much luck with your college preparations.

Senior Project Takes Center Stage

BY: NATASHA JACKSON

My name is Natasha Jackson and I have chosen to do a creative senior project. For this project, I took down pieces of the ceiling down, and turned them into educated art. I'm modeling this particular ceiling to be an actual Periodic Table. I took meter sticks, stencils, and a pencil with me for the first half hour to hour. Then, it's on to painting. Depending on the element, the colors vary. So, I have to be very careful. I have messed up plenty of times. Then, I sprayed it with polyurethane so the paint won't chip over time. However, my favorite part of my project was not the regular tiles. It enjoyed painting the light fixtures. I did the same process, but I had to paint on poster board, and then put the poster board underneath the clear fixture. They are really beautiful when the lights are on, because they have a beautiful shine to them. It may seem like a really simple project and process, which it kind of is. However, it can get to be really long and tedious at the same time. One little thing wrong on a tile, fixture, or area would look completely different from the other ones around it. And the idea here is for a uniform project. There is no problem getting hours for my project. I knew going into this that I would have my hours done before even finishing the table. Completing my Periodic Table is my goal. I want to leave this school, knowing that I accomplished that goal.

Athletes of the Month

BY: AUDREY ZANATH

The athletes of the month for January and February are both top members of the girls' and boys' bowling teams: Lecksi Durinsky and Zach D'Agostino.

Lecksi started off the season hoping to improve on the great accomplishments she already achieved last season. In her junior year, she made it to states, and it looks like she'll make it back this season. Earlier in the year, she bowled her highest score of 267 and at the first match of the season bowled her highest series of 704. With these scores, it's no wonder that she's ranked first in the section.

Lecksi's motivation to do so well is the desire to improve at every match. She credits Matt Mowad, Coach Brunette, and her uncle, Ed Kovach, for teaching her everything she knows. Her favorite part about bowling is spending time with all of her friends. She will be attending Penn State Altoona for bowling next year.

The other athlete of the month is a member of the mens' bowling team: Zach D'Agostino. Like Lecksi, Zach made several impressive accomplishments last season that he hopes to repeat this year. He was Western Pennsylvania

Interscholastic Bowling League (WPIBL) MVP, Northwest Section MVP, named to the WPIBL 1st team All Conference, and WPIBL League High Average (which was 227). His goals for this season are to repeat as high average and for both him and his team to go to, and win states. He has done well so far this year; he shot a 699 in the first week of the season.

Zach's motivation to always improve his game comes from wanting to be one of the best bowlers in the region and to eventually be able to compete in the professional league. He credits many adults for helping him to build his game, including the Lane Mechanic at Sheffield Lanes, Rich Wahlster, Coach Brunette, and professional coach, Fred Borden. His favorite part about bowling is to hang out with friends, having a good time playing the sport he loves. After high school, he plans on going to college and bowling on that school's team, as well as in a few local mens' leagues.

He has a positive outlook on the rest of the season and is very optimistic about the potential the entire team has since, he says, that the team has a large amount of extremely talented bowlers, compared to the three or four that most other teams have. Good luck to him, Lecksi, and the rest of the bowlers for this season and beyond!

Continued from Page 1

though they are in the midst of a losing streak, Pitt still has exceptional players, such as forward Nasir Robinson, who is shooting at an Eastern best at 60.4 percent. All fans can do for Pitt at this point is to continue to support them, even in hard times such as this.

All in all, sports teams are not perfect, and everyone needs to be more accepting of that. We all have our bad days, even bad weeks, and if everyone just took that into consideration more, the fan bases would be a lot stronger. There is a huge amount of talent in all areas of sports in Pittsburgh, and in good and bad times, that will never change.





Classroom Calls for Substitutions

BY: STEPHANIE JOHNDROW

As Hopewell High School said good-bye to both English teacher Monica Zaremba and Geometry teacher Jerry Tagg, they welcomed Miss Crossey and Miss Evans.

A graduate of Avonworth High School, Miss Crossey enjoyed singing in chorus, but it was her English class that caught her eye. Miss Crossey went on to attend undergraduate school at Duquesne University and graduate school at Robert Morris University. She has a bachelor of Art of English with a concentration in writing and a Master of Science in Instructional Leadership. Miss Crossey's "love for reading and writing has been lifelong," she remarked when asked on what influenced her to become a

teacher. She added, "That coupled with my passion for public speaking made teaching English the obvious choice."

Math and Chemistry interested Miss Evans when she attended Mansfield High School. Inspired by her mother and grandmother, whom were both teachers, Miss Evans grew up thinking it would be fun to someday have a classroom of her own. After conferencing with one of her math teachers and realizing teaching math would be her ideal career, Miss Evans graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a secondary degree in Mathematics Education and a minor in Educational Psychology.

Both teachers try to focus their classrooms around their students having fun while learning. Each enjoying Hopewell thus far, we look forward to Miss Crossey and Miss Evans' futures at Hopewell High School.

New Beginnings or Old Ways?

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON

People rang in the New Year with shouts, noise makers, and of course their New Years resolutions. These resolutions are made every year by people all over and they all say they are going to stay true to their commitment. In reality, few people actually follow through.

I am sorry to break it to you but just because the date changed when the clock struck twelve doesn't mean you will be this whole new person. People say they are going to lose weight, spend more time with their family, or even get organized. Yes it's a new year but you are not a new you. You are the same person you were December 30. It doesn't matter whether you would make this goal on December 29, August 4, or February 6. You will not reach your goal any faster or easier by setting it in place on New Years. Also, say your goal is to go on a diet, sticking to your resolution for a month or two, although it is impressive that you are one of the few to stay with it, isn't really fulfilling your goal. A study was held by the University of Bristol and they concluded that out of 3,500 participants 89 percent failed. This means 3,115 people made a resolution they didn't keep.

On the bright side, there are that other 11 percent that give hope to the rest of the population and hold the meaning to a new year and a new beginning. Seventy five percent of people that make these resolutions can persevere through the first week but by week four only 43 percent remain. Making resolutions can be successful, although they most often aren't, if you are serious about your

resolution for the new year.

Semi's Memorable Moments

To the right, Seniors Natasha Brinkley, Hannah Smith, Isabella Vavrek, Taylor Belcastro, Molly Bell, Courtney Kress, Allison Colangelo, Lecksi Durinsky, Paige Levinger, Emily Marvich, and Chelsea Telez hamming it up at The Holiday Inn in Moon Township.

Pictured right, a group of Seniors posing at the last of their Semis!



Principal's Corner: Saturday Detention is Ridiculous!

BY: DOUGLAS C. ROWE

Saturday detention. For those of us of a certain age, these words evoke humorous and poignant scenes from the classic John Hughes film

The Breakfast Club. For those who have never seen the film, watch it. If you spend any time in a public school, you can probably relate to some aspect of it. Here at Hopewell High School, Saturday detentions are typically issued for arriving to school tardy six times (or more) in a semester. Some students and parents feel that this punishment is ridiculous. I couldn't agree with them more. It is ridiculous that any student ever serves a Saturday detention for being late. Instead, they should be more punctual.

The definition of punctual is, "arriving or taking place at an arranged time; prompt." Being punctual takes no talent whatsoever. It requires making a commitment to punctuality and the understanding that doing so is important for two reasons: what students lose and what they gain by being tardy. Losing direct instruction that they will eventually need to do well in their classes, on finals, PSSA's, SAT's, college applications, and even scholarships, in addition to the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities is a lot I think, but it's gaining four hours of time at school on a Saturday that really baffles me. I refuse to believe that most students couldn't think of ten things they would rather do, given the choice, than be at school from 8-12 on Saturday.

I get it though. There are a myriad of obstacles to being on time in the morning. I make this statement as a former non-morning person who has struggled with punctuality; however, I have

learned from my mistakes and am able to maintain employment. My hope is that students who are continually tardy do not have to learn the hard way by being fired from a job, or not getting hired at all. Jeff Belsky, owner of

JW Halls Steak and Seafood Inn in Hopewell told me, "Someone could be the best worker, but if they're not here, they're not helping me." His expectation for employees is simple, "Either be on time, or find someplace else to work."

Employers expect their employees to be on time? What a ridiculous notion.



Editor-in-Chief:

Katelin McCallan

Editors

Brian Zahn- Layout

Taylor Skelton- News

Jerry Rooney- Copy

Sammi Marckioni- Features

Paul Hurni- Sports

Breanna Jestat- Photos

Alexis Rains-Cover Art

Staff Writers

Ryan Aires

Megan Barber

Megan Connelly

Britten Denkovich

Kyle Gum

Mackenzie Hartman

Shane Inches

Stefanie Johndrow

Erika Kraus

Rachael Kriger

Alyssa Manfredi

Jess Pontis

Lib Rosenstern

Luc Saunders

Chris Skeriotis

Mackenzie Thomas

Jerrib Wilson

Audrey Zanath

Lauren Zatwatski

Sponsor: Mrs. Giroski

Cartoonist: Noah Ondik



A Sad Day For Happy Valley

By: KATELIN MCCALLAN

On January 22, 2012, former Penn State University Football coach Joseph Vincent Paterno passed away in a Pennsylvania hospital from lung cancer. Prior to his death, CBS ran the story of his passing based on a tweet by Onward State, an online Penn State news outlet. For Paterno, this year alone has been strenuous. After being linked to the Penn State scandal, resigning as head coach, and being diagnosed with cancer, Paterno can now rest peacefully.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Paterno made a name for himself as both a cornerback and a quarterback at Brown University. Deciding against a law profession after college, he signed as an assistant coach for Penn State in 1950. Six years later, he became head coach and led his team to two undefeated regular seasons in 1968 and 1969. Later, he went on to win two national championships and 24 bowl games. Throughout the years he has declined many NFL jobs from teams such as the Pittsburgh

Steelers and the New England Patriots.

Because of his many years of hard work and dedication to the Penn State community, Joe Paterno became a well-known and beloved figure. After his death, his Penn State family mourned his loss and attended the funeral at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Even after one year of accusations tarnishing his record, Joe Paterno will be remembered as an iconic football coach dedicating his life to his beloved university.



Pennsylvania Weather

Winter at a Glance

By: BRIAN ZAHN

Anyone living in southwest PA this year has obviously noticed something strange about this winter; there hasn't been much winter! According to an Associated Press report, the Global Snow Lab at Rutgers University has found this January the third least snowy winter for the Continental U.S. They also found snowfall levels to be at their lowest since 1967. So far, Pittsburgh has received around 18.6 inches of snow for the season so far, a total of 5.1 inches below average. Temperatures haven't been much different. Our average

temperature for January was six degrees above average. As far as February goes, not much in the way of changes are expected. Due to the weather pattern continuing with a moderately strong La Nina, February is expected to be slightly warmer than average. According to Accuweather, temperatures will be 1-2 degrees above average, and precipitation is also expected to be above average. As a result, several large storm systems are expected to develop. While temperatures are expected to be above average, if a brief cold snap does occur, it is possible to see one more significant winter storm before the season is over. As for March, temperatures should be around average with precipitation also near average. On the other hand, several of Pittsburgh's biggest winter storms have occurred in March, so it's not quite safe to call an end to winter yet.

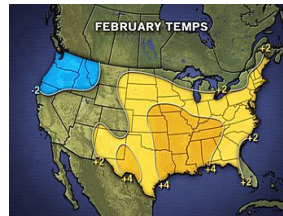
continued from page 1

Gabrielle Giffords Back in Action

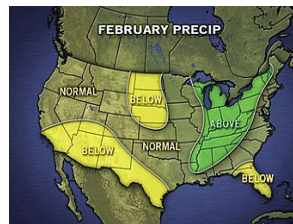
By: LAUREN ZATWATSKI

This past month, the one year anniversary of the shooting occurred. Giffords and her husband attended a candlelight vigil at the University of Arizona, in memory of the lives lost one year ago. Her most recent update was on January 22, 2012, when she posted a video to her Youtube channel announcing her resignation to continue on with her recovery, and ensuring a future return. She stated: "Thank you for your prayers and for giving me time to recover. I have more work to do on my recovery, so to do what is best for Arizona I will step down this week. I'm getting better. Every day, my spirit is high. I will return and we will work together for Arizona and this great country..."

Day by day, she gradually continues to improve. Gabby will continue to be an inspiration for everyone across America.



February Precipitation Outlook and Temperature Outlook, courtesy of Accuweather.com



Syrian Uprising

By: LUC SANDERS

Syria, one of the countries involved in Arab Spring, is still struggling to grasp independence from Bashar al-Assad. The uprising began on January 26, 2011. Many resistance groups have formed since that day in January.

This protest started as a nonviolent revolt against the Ba'ath party in Syria who have been in control of the country since 1963. They claim the protest started when Hasan Al Akel poured gasoline on himself and lit himself on fire. The protesters have faced violence from the government. The military has shot at them and many civilians have died. The protesters disagree with the governments economic policy and claimed the government has committed numerous human rights abuses.

Assad has tried to make changes in the government to try to make the protesters happy. Such as increasing public sectors salaries, lowering forced armed service time, cut personal tax rates, lifted emergency law, allowed local elections, and freed anyone who committed crimes in the context of uprising.

Even though the rebellion has been nonviolent for the most part there are a few violent groups. The Free Syrian Army are Syrian military defectors who are armed and claim to be protecting the protesters from the military. They are also insurgents in the northern parts of Syria.

Many have died in this conflict. The Syrian government claims only 3,562 total people have died while other groups say the death toll is well above 5000. The Qatar based news network Al-Jazeera has covered this conflict fantastically anyone who is seeking more information I suggest checking out some of Al-Jazeera's coverage.





Around the World

BY: CHRIS SKERIOTIS



North America

- Ahead of the Florida Primary, Republican candidate Romney is leading with double digits according to recent polls, with former Speaker Gingrich in second and Santorum a distant third.
- Occupy D.C. protestors have disregarded the order mandating that activists cannot sleep in the parks in which they occupy. Protestors have instead taken 24 hour shifts in staying awake to defy the eviction order and several local churches have even allowed those not on the night watch to sleep within their facilities
- Dr. Michael Clair of Massachusetts, a now former dentist, was jailed for one year after he was charged with assault, witness intimidation, and defrauding of Medicaid. Former patients claims he inserted pieces of paperclips during root canals, possibly in a bid to save money over the conventional metal posts usually employed in dentistry. Clair has pleaded guilty.

South America

- Argentinian government officials sour over the recently released statement by British authorities that the HMS Dauntless is to be deployed and stationed near the Falkland Islands.

- Recommended by a judge, Former President Jean-Claude Duvalier of Haiti "should face trial for corruption but not for rights abuses."
- Bolivian President Morales faces growing unrest after protests were sparked over a cancelled project for road construction through part of the amazon. Arguing that the road would bring economic growth, Bolivians defy indigenous populations who say that any development of the amazon will destroy their homeland.

Europe

- Both the Czech Republic and the UK refused the EU agreement that would allow the union to apply stricter fiscal rules to its members.
- A recently released report from December shows that unemployment in the E.U. has risen to 10.4 percent this past year, an ominous sign for EU officials as they continue to search for a solution to their crisis.
- Greeks riot after information slipped that Germany would propose a measure that would allow EU officials to regulate the fiscal policies of Greece, some arguing that now is not the time for Greeks to worry about fiscal independence.

Africa

- Opposition leader and activist Alioune Tine was released after spending two days in detention as a Senegalese facility after participating in protests against the government.

Asia

- Ethiopian Christians face deportation from Saudi Arabia after Saudi authorities said that they had illicitly "mingled" with locals.
- With the win of the Ivory Coast over Angola, [North] Sudan qualifies with a historical win over Burkina Faso, winning their first match at the African Cup in 42 years.

- Burmese political candidate and Nobel peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi continues campaigning for her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) after military authorities have begun instituting political reforms.

- Indian authorities have banned the film "The Girl with a Dragon Tattoo" after local censors urged for the removal of "explicit" scenes from the movie.

- China tightens security in Tibet after bloody revolts occurred recently in the Sichuan region; authorities are closely monitoring street and monastery activities.

- Iran launches a Spanish TV network as Ahmadinejad seeks closer relations with South America.

Australia

- Djokovic emerges victorious from the Australian Open, a five-set match in which he had to contend with tennis star Rafael Nadal.
- Prime Minister Gillard opposition leader Mr. Abbott, while meeting, are said to have instigated a riot during Australia Day celebrations. Meeting near the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, an encampment dating back to 1972 supporting the rights of indigenous peoples, PM Gillard's counterpart Abbott is said to have suggested that the camp should "move on now." Protestors quickly encircled the Prime

Minister and Abbott, and it was 20 minutes later that security guards escorted both to safety. It is reported that PM Gillard lost a shoe during her escape.

Violent Crime in Your Backyard

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON

Every time someone turns on the news a broadcaster is preaching about a new violent crime. People are beginning to believe that the world is no longer safe, but in reality the number of crimes being committed is similar to the past years. The crime rate has not gone up but the publicity of crime has.

Violent crime trends were studied in 2009 that showed in 2012 the crime rate should decline. The study was looked at again in 2011 and it looks like the crime rate has been slowly deteriorating. Don't be fooled though, violent crime is still a prominent issue in society. Living in Pittsburgh you have a 1 in 20 chance of being involved in a violent crime. On January 7, 2012, a rape was reported near Independence Square. Then on January 13, 2012, a man was charged with aggravated assault and terrorist threats after beating a woman in Aliquippa. Three days later, on January 16, 2012, a nine-year-old boy was shot in McKees Rocks. In 2011, violent crime such as aggravated assault, rape, murder, and robbery dropped six percent in the United States.

Violent crime is occurring all the time and it always has been. People seem to think that the rates have increasingly gone up but really it hasn't. News stations are just broadcasting more and more about these crimes. Unfortunately when it comes to television, horrible crimes get more air time than positive, feel-good stories.



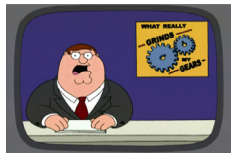
Voices



“Grind My Gears”

BY: PAUL HURNI

Am I Old Enough Yet?



Do you know what really grinds my gears Hopewell? When you are eighteen years old and your parents treat you like your ten. It happens to nearly all of us. We grow up and assume adult responsibilities, we are accepted as adults by our peers. But parents don't always see us as adults. For example, I was at Texas Roadhouse the other day. When I went to order my mother kept interrupting me asking me what side dish I wanted or how I wanted my steak. Come on mom, I could handle that when I was ten. That is just a small example but there are others. Over Thanksgiving break I went to my cousins for dinner. I got my food and drink and sat down at the dinner table. My mom said “ Why don't you go sit downstairs and sit with the kids?” Are you serious, why would I want to go downstairs and talk about the newest army toys or Barbie outfits? I want to be apart of relevant conversation. I mean its not bad talking about that with your little cousins but not really at Thanksgiving dinner at the multi-colored baby table. I don't know about all of you that are eighteen, but I am proud of the way I handle myself. Parents need to realize that we need to make decisions for ourselves. If parents don't let us do simple task like ordering food then some of us wont be completely prepared for the small things that come after high school and living with your parents.

Single Awareness Day

BY: PAUL HURNI



I know what you are thinking Hopewell. “Who let this kid write more than one article?” Well its happening so just read. Valentines day, love is in the air, also the smell of chocolates and flowers... Yum. But why do most people see Valentines Day as a singles awareness day? So you don't have that special someone to be with on the day of love. IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY. You don't need to lock yourself in your room and eat ice cream all day. If you don't have someone to hang out with find a friend to hang out with. There are over seven billion people on the planet. The chances that everyone has someone to lean on are slim. Go out and see a movie with a friend or walk around the mall and laugh at the funny couples. For guys, a good choice of movie would be to go see *The Vow* with that girl you have been crushing on. Get out of the friend zone without going to MTV for a shows help. I don't really have any advice for girls besides you can text that guy you like and see if he wants to take you out! So I don't want to see nine hundred post and tweets about “ugh I hate Valentines Day it just makes me know I am single.” Get out there and make the magic happen ladies and gentlemen.

Dr. Jess



Dear Dr. Jess,
As you're well aware Valentine's Day is coming up. There is someone I'm interested in and I've been wanted to do something nice for them, but the thing is, I'm almost positive that this person doesn't like me back. I don't want to seem over bearing and pushy, but I want them to know how I feel. Do you have any idea on how I should go about asking them to be my valentine?

Sincerely,
Forever Alone

Stop SOPA

BY: LUC SANDERS

The Stop Online Piracy Act also known as SOPA is seen as threat to the Internet in the case that would censor the web.

This bill was proposed by Representative Lamar S. Smith so that U.S. law enforcement could stop Internet piracy. If you are not aware of what Internet piracy is it is downloading, viewing, and uploading copyrighted material without having permission to. For example many people use the popular website Thepiratebay.org because they are able to download music, movies, games, and even books for free, that is basically what piracy is.

Support for this bill comes from Democrats and Republicans but people have criticized these politicians saying they do not know enough about the web to argue over this bill. Most of the support for this bill comes from companies like Viacom and NbcUniversal. Organizations like the Motion Picture Association of America and Recording Industry Association of America support this bill.

Politicians such as Nancy Pelosi and Ron Paul have signed letters against this bill. Companies such as Google, Mozilla, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and Wikimedia Foundation have spoken out against this bill also the organizations American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch have also stated they are against this bill.

The opposition claims this bill will create censorship over websites that thrive on user content because law enforcement

would have the right to shut down an entire website over what one person posted. Critics of the bill claim that the wording is so vague that if one person complains about a website it could be shutdown. Many critics also state that this will not stop piracy because those websites will just show up again later under different names. As of my experience I've noticed websites hosting pirated content such as thepiratebay.org be taken down and reappear within hours.

Many protest have been started because of this bill. The most famous being the blackout where over 7000 websites, such as wikipedia, shutdown for a 24 hour period. Google blacked out its logo and put a link to a petition against SOPA. If you visited Wikipedia during the blackout it would help you get the phone numbers of your congressmen. Another notable protest is Black March. Black March is a protest saying do not buy , records, books, songs, movies, any magazines basically any media material in the month of March so that the Entertainment Industry will take an economic hit during its first quarter.

The Senate will vote on this bill January 24, 2012, so if you are against it or for it write to your congressmen to tell them how you feel.



If you don't have a class with that person, try giving a gift to a friend that does have a class with them. You could also tape your gift to their locker, and wait for them to find it. I wish you the best of luck on your Valentine's Day endeavors.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jess

**Please Watch
Joseph Satterfield,
Mara Palmer, and
Jonathan Hughes
on KDKA's Hometown
High-Q on Februaury
18, 2012!**

Dear Forever Alone,
When it comes to Valentine's Day you are in fact, not alone. Tons of people have been put in the same situation that you are currently in. Sometimes it's an inconvenience when Cupid's arrow strikes, especially when you don't know if that person feels the same way. However, there are many ways to win over a valentine. For starters, if you have a class with that person, maybe try and get there a few moments before they do and leave a nice present on their desk, like a rose or a nice card. Be sure to leave a genuine note with your gift, saying how great you think that person is. Unless that person is a heartless jerk, the gift should be much appreciated.

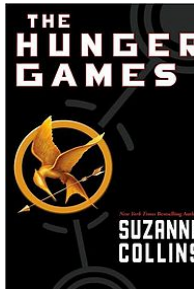


Entertainment

The Hunger Games Becomes Instant Hit

BY: KATELIN MCCALLAN

Rating: ★★★★★



The Hunger Games, written by Suzanne Collins, is a young adult fiction novel that was published in 2008. This book is the

first novel in the trilogy and has a plot that is a combination of nerve-racking tension, thrilling action, and an engaging love story. Although many young adults may not be able to literally relate to the story, it has many underlying themes that permeate through our society today.

At the start of the novel, Panem, once North America, is divided into 12 districts and ruled by one harsh, overseeing government located at the Capitol. Sixteen year old, Katniss Everdeen, steps up to represent her district when her sister, Prim Everdeen, is chosen as one of the 24 tributes for the yearly televised Hunger Games at the Capitol. The object of the Hunger Games is simply to be the only one that comes out alive. During the course of the games, Katniss meets many competitors, one of which being Peeta, a boy from her district. Not only must Katniss survive the Games, but she must also deal with a romance between her and Peeta, all the while deciding if she is willing to kill strangers her own age as a pawn of an oppressive government.

In the end, both Katniss and Peeta will make many decisions that influence their future and only one will supposedly return to the District 12. This novel has many themes such as the struggle for self-

preservation and an over controlling futuristic government. Throughout the novel, readers will experience an adrenaline rush keeping them on the edge of the seats the whole time. Suzanne Collins' novel, *The Hunger Games*, is a quick read for young adults. It provides an enthralling storyline for all ages and will hit

theaters March 2012.

Madonna Makes Super Come Back at Super Bowl

BY: CHELSEA SUNDY

The famous film star and pop singer, Madonna, performed as halftime entertainment at Super Bowl XLVI. The game scheduled for February 5, was played at Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Madonna was raised in a strict Catholic household. However, after her mother died from breast cancer, the five year old Madonna's Catholic principles were no longer apart of her life. Her new stepmother always made her take care of her younger siblings, making Madonna rebel at a young age. Going to night clubs, rejecting

her religion, and wearing revealing outfits was her way of insurrection. The absence of her mother is why Madonna believes she is able to express herself, and to not be intimidated.

Even though she was rebelling, Madonna still kept straight A's, was active in cheerleading, and a disciplined dancer in high school. After her years in high school, she went to the University of Michigan. Here, she got an amazing opportunity to go to Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City, on a six week scholarship. Madonna didn't pass up the opportunity. This was her ticket in.

At the start of her career Madonna's first hit song "Everybody" was charted number one in 1982. Madonna's first album was called *Madonna*, and didn't make any significant records, but her follow up album, *Like a Virgin* did. When it came out in 1985, it was an instant hit. The album sold eleven million copies when it was first released, and since then it sold over twenty-one million copies worldwide.

Now Madonna is performing at Super Bowl XLVI. Rumors spread of her performing with the "Party Rock Anthem" hit band, LMFA, however, she performed a song with MIA and Nicki Minaj. This song is rumored to be a new track from her next album. Until then, we will have to count on her Super Bowl performance as a preview for the future.



SSX Preview

BY: RYAN AIRES

For this month's article, I've decided to do a preview of a game that I've been looking forward to: SSX. This series is finally being revived after not having a sequel for a few years and this reboot looks breathtaking. SSX is a snowboarding game that has a wide array of characters who compete on some insane slopes. This game is actually using geotags from NASA to help create the levels based on new locations. If you have ever played an SSX game before, then you know there are some sweet characters and gear, and many of the fun favorites like Mac, Elise, and Psyman

are making their return. The game has a wealth of single-player and competitive multiple modes, including races, trick events, and survival. New gameplay mechanics include oxygen tanks, the ability to grab helicopters in mid-air, and wingsuits. The game also includes hundreds of crazy tricks and stunts to pull off. SSX is scheduled for release February 28, 2011, for Xbox 360 and Playstation 3, and is definitely a game worth checking out.



Libby's Kitchen

BY: LIB ROSENSTERN

It's almost near Valentine's Day and time to prepare some sweets. If you like Almond Joys or Mounds, you are bound to love the soft and chewy, chocolate-covered coconut macaroon. With only five ingredients, they may be simple; however, they are a very sweet and tasty treat!

Coconut Macaroons

Ingredients

- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 (14 oz.) bag flaked coconut
- Melted chocolate
- Pecans or Almonds

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 325°.
2. In a large bowl, combine sweetened condensed milk and vanilla.
3. Stir in coconut
4. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets
5. Bake 12-15 minutes
6. Cool completely on wire racks.
7. Melt chocolate chips (semi-sweet, white, or milk)
8. Cover top of cookies with chocolate and top with a nut



Want to make a difference and get involved in your school community? Team-up with Service Learning. If interested, see Mrs. Grandovic or Bobby Catley immediately!