



# Hopewell Hi-Lites

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## A Close to the '00s

By Dan Gladis and Kate McCallan

As clocks around the world chimed in the New Year, many people celebrated the hope that rests in the future. However, with those chiming clocks more ended than another year on the planet Earth. The first decade of the second millennium anno domini has also passed. It is now only fair that we should all look back for a moment and review the some of the major events that shaped the world, the nation, and ourselves over the past decade.

### The Olympics-2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008

The Olympics bring together athletes from all over the world to compete in various athletic activities. There are summer and winter Olympics that alternate every two years. There have been five since the new millennium began. Sydney, Australia welcomed the first Olympics of the new millennium. With 199 countries participating that year, the United States took home the most medals as well as the most gold medals. Two years later (2002), 78 countries came together to meet at Salt Lake City, Utah for the winter Olympics. That year the U.S. once again won the most medals; however, Norway took the most gold medals. The summer Olympics were held in



The World Trade Center on 9/11. Courtesy of Google Images

Athens, Greece in 2004 and 220 countries united for this event. The U.S. received the most gold medals as well as the most medals. In the winter of 2006, 80 countries participated in these athletic games in Turin, Italy. The United States tied with Austria to have nine gold medals while Germany had the most gold medals with a total of 11. The most recent Olympics were held in Beijing, China. In 2008, 204 countries were involved in this worldwide event. That year China had the most gold medals, but the United States still had the most medals. Michael Phelps, an American swimmer, received eight gold medals. Phelps currently holds the record for the most gold medals won in a single Olympics. The next series of games will be held in 2010 in Vancouver, Canada.

### Elections-2000, 2004 and 2008

Politics of partisan bickering have been the main theme in the United States government in the past decade. No time more than the three great elections of 2000, 2004 and 2008 has this been observed. In 2000 a hotly contested race saw then-Vice President Al Gore win the popular vote over Texas Governor George W. Bush. However, due to the Electoral College system, Al Gore lost by five electoral votes. Most critical was Florida where a mere 537 votes gave Bush all twenty-five of Florida's electoral votes and therefore the presidency. The election of 2004 was marred by fierce partisan bickering and so-called 'swift-boaters' who tore through the

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## New Assistant Principal Comes to High School

By Catey Burget

December held many exciting events here at Hopewell, and one of the most exciting was meeting our new assistant principal. After sadly saying goodbye to Mr. Weaver, we gladly welcomed Mr. Rowe.

Mr. Douglas Rowe graduated from Rochester High School in 1995. He was a member of the football and baseball teams. He was also a news editor for Rochester High School's newspaper. After high school, Mr. Rowe fulfilled his first four years at Slippery Rock which led him to specialize in education and become a teacher at Rochester for ten years. While teaching, he taught mostly 9th and 11th grade English classes. In addition to teaching, Mr. Rowe also coached football at Rochester and Beaver Falls for ten years. After Slippery Rock, he furthered his education at the University of Pittsburgh to receive his principal's papers.

Mr. Rowe has future goals of one day becoming a principal, or even a superintendent. Since he has been a part of Hopewell, Mr. Rowe has been very impressed by our close-knit community and the way everyone pulls together during times of crisis or need. He says, "I am very glad to be here at Hopewell. So far I've had a very positive experience interacting with students and staff. I look for good things in the future."

Aside from being our assistant principal, Mr. Rowe spends the majority of his free time with his wife, Natalie and 8 month old daughter, Maryn. He also enjoys golfing, karate, reading, and cooking. We are very excited to have Mr. Rowe here at Hopewell, and we look forward to the future with him.

"If I leave this Earth, I want to leave this Earth just knowing I've tried to give something back and tried to do something worthwhile with myself," Swayze told Walters, when asked why he decided to do the show. "And that keeps me going, that gets me up in the morning. My work... is my legacy."

## 2009 Celebrity Deaths

By Kate McCallan

This past year people have seen the passing away of many beloved cultural icons. When we look back into 2009, we will be reminded of those individual who have touched our lives and helped transform our society. With a new year comes new deaths and with that we shall finally put them to rest.

Among those great are:

### Natasha Richardson

Natasha Richardson was famous for her roles in films such as The Parent Trap and Maid in Manhattan. Richardson suffered a head injury while skiing. At first she seemed fine, however; hours later she was hospitalized after having a head ache. She died two days later on March 18 from an epidural hematoma. Richardson left behind a husband and two sons. She was 45.

### David Carradine

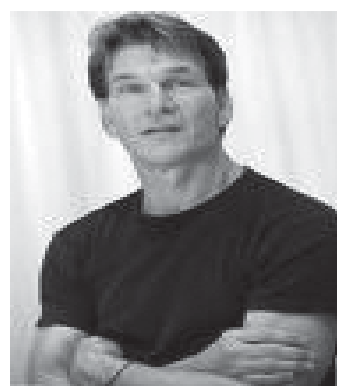
Combining his strengths of acting

and martial-arts, David Carradine made a name for himself in the television series "Kung Fu." Later he appeared in the '90s sequel, "Kung Fu: The Legend Continues" as well as Kill Bill and 100 other film titles. Actor Carradine was found dead in a Bangkok hotel room on June 4.

### Ed McMahon

Ed McMahon started as a pitchman for Johnny Carson on "The Tonight Show" and later he became his side kick. Over the

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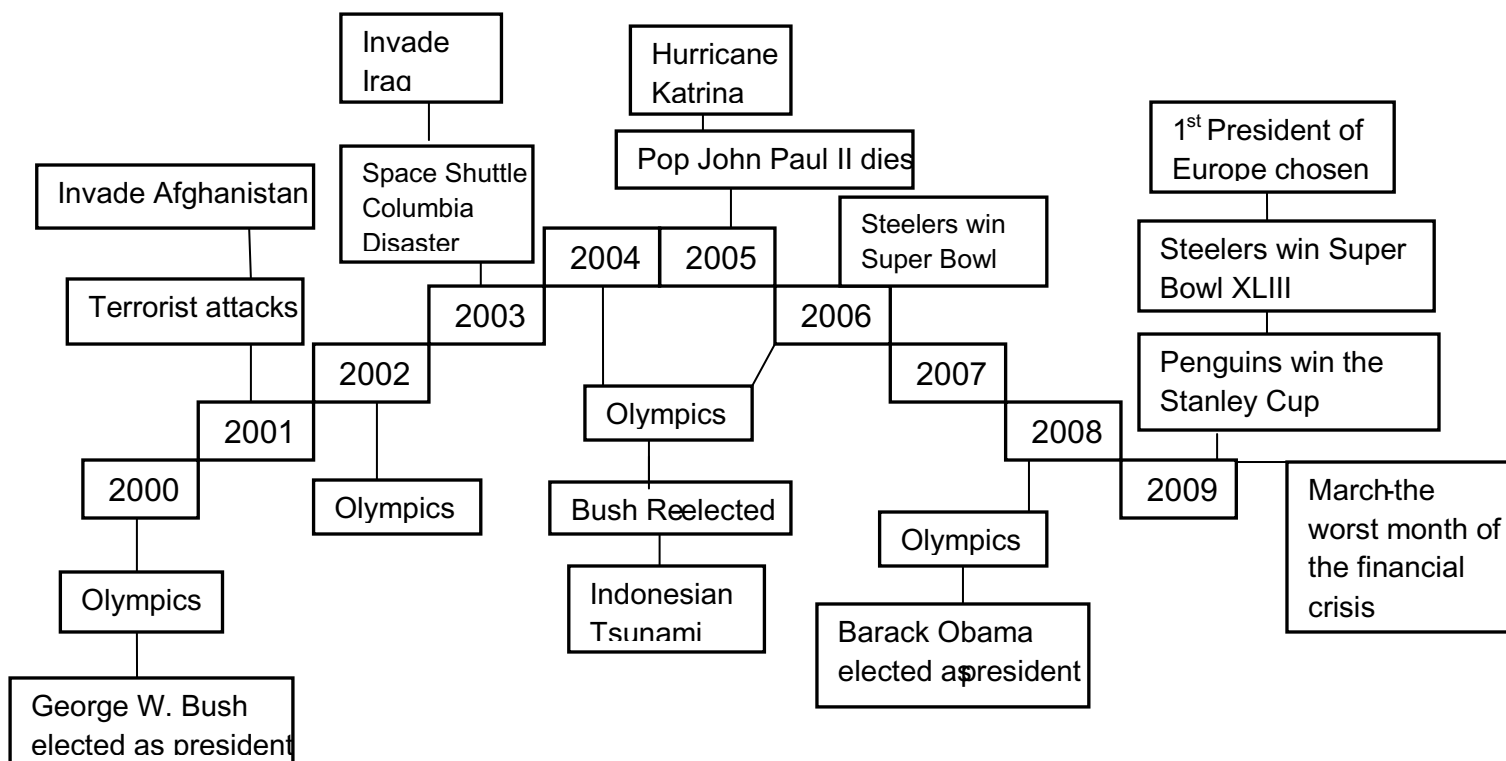
Patrick Swayze. Courtesy of Google Images

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# News

## Major Events of the Decade



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candidacy of John Kerry of the Democratic Party. Bush won in the re-election despite controversy over the Ohio vote with a wider margin than in 2000. The election of 2008 made history where Sen. John McCain of Arizona lost to Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. Obama became the first African-American President when a record turnout of voters ushered him into office by a 9.5 million vote margin.

### 9/11

Perhaps the most significant event of the 00s decade is the attacks on the United States by terrorists on September 11, 2001. On that day nineteen hijackers under the auspices of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization took control of four commercial jets and changed the course of American history. Two of the planes slammed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City where the buildings collapsed within two hours. The third plane crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia just outside Washington D.C. but still well within the beltway. The fourth plane was intentionally crashed in a field near the little town of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people from 90 countries, overwhelmingly American, died that day. As a result, the United States invaded Afghanistan in December 2001 and later Iraq in March of 2003 though questions as to the legitimacy of the Iraqi invasion remain. September 11 remains one of the darkest days in American history and marks the beginning of the 'decade of terror' that encompasses from 2001 until the present.

### Afghanistan and Iraq-2001 and 2003

The decade of 2000-2009 has seen America become involved extensively with two overseas conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. The war in Afghanistan saw the ousting of the ruling radical Islamic militants known as the Taliban. Eight years later the United States still maintains a significant presence in Afghanistan helping the people to rebuild and resist another take over by the Taliban. This war was entered upon and continues without as much of the fierce criticism that the newer Iraq war has inspired. The Iraqi conflict, whose aims this article shall not discuss as the author can still not quite find any honest answers, began in March of 2003 when President Bush issued a declaration of War against Iraq and her dictator Saddam Hussein. Within a few weeks actual combat operations ceased. Since, bloody sectarian strife has claimed thousands of US lives plus tens of thousands of Iraqi lives. That includes former dictator Saddam Hussein, who was hanged December 30, 2006 after he was found guilty of crimes against humanity. The conduct of the war brought much criticism to the sitting President in the years thereafter and is factored as a strong reason as to why the Republican Party was not successful in the elections of 2008. Neither conflict, despite recent announcements by the current president, has any definable date when they will end and US troops will finally return home. The Space Shuttle Columbia Disaster-February 1, 2003 With seven crew members on board,

the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated as it reentered the Earth's atmosphere over Texas. It was supposed to conclude its twenty-eighth mission that day. The break up was caused by a piece of insulation foam from the Space Shuttle External tank which separated and then hit the left wing during launch. When the space shuttle was first sent into space, safety concerns were not expressed. Even if the crew members would have found the damage, there would have been nothing the crew could have done to repair; it was doomed from launch. The Space Shuttle Columbia broke 16 minutes before it was supposed to land in Florida.

### Requiescat in pace-2005

On April 2, 2005 the late leader of the world's one billion Catholics, Pope John Paul II, passed away at age 84. Pope John Paul II is remarkable not only for his length of reign but for his apologies. On separate occasions, Pope John Paul II formally apologized to almost every possible group that the Catholic Church had offended, shunned or attempted to kill off in the past. From the crusades, to Jewish persecution to suppressing women, the Pope apologized on the church's behalf. This, along with his many world travels, brought great adoration of him from Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In addition to his apologizing, John Paul II had time to canonize, or make saints, out of 483 people. When he died, his funeral garnered the largest attendance for heads of state in history. Four Kings, five Queens, over seventy presidents and prime ministers, fourteen heads of the world's other faiths and over 300,000

others came and witnessed the events of the funeral. its inception in 1999, even surpassing the American Dollar. In 2004 and again in 2007, the supranational, or "above-nation", government of Europe accepted a dozen new member states. The European Union seeks to tie member nations in economic and social contracts so that no one member nation can be outcompeted in trade by another, and that in times of crises the member states are bound to defend one another. The position of President European Council, in effect the de jure President of Europe, is a post recently created after the passing of the EU-reforming Lisbon Treaty in late 2009. The first President of Europe is the former Belgian Prime Minister Herman van Rompuy, a man noted for his ability to affect compromise in a Belgium divided by ethnic conflicts between Flemish and Walloon peoples. His term will expire at the end of May in 2012. It is fair to say that the first decade of the new millennium was a rocky start for the planet. For the past ten years, Earth has been fraught with crises, wars, terror, fear, partisan bickering, and ethical corruption. However, what must be realized is that each and every decade has elements of danger and to expect a time and place where utopia will exist is simply ludicrous. What, then, do we do as people have to hold onto? Hope. Each year, each decade, each century, each millennium has begun filled with a spirit of hope. It is that sense of hope which still drives us onward towards the distant future, and it is that sense of hope which shall remain with us forever.

# Perspectives

## Why fix what's not broken?

By Dan Gladis

In the past, this section of the *Hopewell Hi-Lites* has dealt with such stirring subjects as No Child Left Behind and the overhaul of the American healthcare system. However, this month, the perspectives page will be going in a different direction. Though as important as they are, the previously mentioned issues perhaps do not stir up as much heated debate among Middle America as the great BCS controversy in college football. For the uninitiated, this article shall explain.

In college football, there is what is known as the BCS, or 'Bowl Championship Series.' The BCS is basically a system designed to award the top teams from selected college football conferences a chance to play in the most prestigious bowl games (Orange Bowl, Fiesta Bowl, Sugar Bowl, Rose Bowl and National Championship game) at the end of the season. The BCS also determines what two top teams would face off in the National Championship game. There is much controversy, as many familiar with and fans of college football would prefer to see a playoff system put in place instead of the BCS. However, in this writer's opinion, the system that is in place now is working just fine. The logic is simple; if it isn't broke, don't fix it! What is more important to note is that the BCS is not officially sanctioned by the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, as the determiner of a national champion. Matter of fact, the



NCAA does not endorse any team as a national champion of college football.

There are good reasons for keeping the BCS system in place, in addition to the NCAA not cooperating. Firstly, under the BCS system a single loss is greatly detrimental to a team's chances of making a BCS bowl. This provides more incentive to win games and perform better on the field. If a team is in the hunt for a bowl and they are down late in a game, it is simply better television to watch them scramble to try to win the game rather than just sit out knowing they've locked up a playoff birth. Also, the BCS allows football to return closer to its roots if only in a few small ways. Because each and every game is so vitally important to a team, the star players are rarely going to see rest. Football is not about playing for a set amount of time and then sitting out because you don't have to play.

Little doubt is left that this issue will simmer on in the American consciousness for quite some time. Recently, the BCS has been cited under the Sherman Anti-Trust Act for breaking monopoly rules in business. It is another assault on a system which is not really all that bad, and which has received a bad shake without real reason. So it is this writer's suggestion that everyone just calm down and go watch some TV. Better yet, read a book.



## A Playoff System is needed.

By Amy Kraus

Unlike other college sports, football is the only sport to have a champion not declared by an NCAA approved event. Determined by polls and computer rankings, the top teams participate in the Bowl Championship Series. Instead of leaving the title of champion to opinions, the NCAA should instigate a playoff system that would determine an official national champion.

Beginning with the 1998 college football season, the BCS tries to provide competitive matchups with conference winners. Although the NCAA does not formally endorse the BCS, the winner of the BCS national championship game receives the AFCA National Championship Trophy. Winners of the Atlantic Coast, Big 12, Big East, Pacific-10, Big Ten and Southeastern conferences have an automatic bowl bid.

However, non-automatic qualifiers have a chance to compete if they rank in the top twelve of the BCS standings. This system unfairly punishes teams losing even one game and eliminates the possibility

of the leading teams resting their players for fear on injury. Nevertheless, the BCS system provides for many controversies. Because it is easier for an automatic qualifier to enter a bowl game, the opportunity arises for an undefeated team to be ineligible to compete in a BCS bowl game. Although Boise State went undefeated in 2004 and 2008, the team did not receive a bowl bid. While Boise State did not qualify for one of the more important bowls, Ohio State was able to play in the 2008 Fiesta Bowl with two losses. Obviously, the biased standings of the BCS do not deserve the power to crown a national championship without explicit recognition of the NCAA.

Since the BCS is not a system where the top two teams will always make it to the national championship game, the NCAA should create a playoff system similar to that of the NFL. The system that is now currently operation is simply not fair to the teams not from the chosen few. With millions of dollars in sponsorship and prize money at stake, a fair system would benefit not only college football but the reputation of collegiate athletics in general.

## Ask Dr. Dan

Dear Dr. Dan,

I'm a student here at Hopewell High School whose parents treat me like a little kid. Whether it's what I'm watching on TV or going to see a movie with my friends, they are always checking in to make sure it is OK for me to see. And of course it's more than that. All this babying drives me insane! I don't want to tell them off because I don't want to have a screaming match. I don't want to hurt their feelings. Please tell me how to convince my parents that I'm not a little kid anymore!

Signed,  
Not a Kid

Dear Not a Kid,

*Well, it seems here that your parents are doing what parents do best. Worry. However, do not get overly worried yourself about this behavior. It is very irksome; I understand when they do those things which would drive any of us teenagers 'up a wall.' What your parents may be doing is trying to hold onto the times when you were a little kid. When you were small, they did things just like what you describe and after years this becomes a habit parents aren't willing to give up. A good way to go about bringing them to*

*the realization that their actions make you this irritated can be very simple. Talk to them, in a calm or neutral setting, and try to state as honestly as you can how you feel. Don't be overly emotional, as the way you carry yourself into this conversation will greatly affect how they react to what you are saying. Above all, be nice about it and DO NOT try to act like you know more than they do, parents hate that. Good luck and keep in touch!*

Signed,  
Dr. Dan

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# Sports

## Lady Vikings Undefeated on the Court

By Paul Rosenstern

There has been a lot of excitement surrounding the Hopewell girls' basketball team this season, most of that coming from the fact that they are 13-0 overall and 3-0 in section play (as of January 20). Both experience and youth have lead Hopewell to this point. The experience coming from seniors Paige Alviani, Elise Farris, Amanda Tocci, and Sam Fisher; while the youth coming mainly from freshman Shatori Walker-Kimbrough. Walker-Kimbrough has been one of the leading scorers along with Alviani and Farris. These three have led the offense to an average of 64.2 points a game, and they have helped hold opponents to just 43.6 points per game.

The season began on December 12 at the Butler Tournament. Hopewell beat both Mercyhurst Prep and Butler to capture a tournament win. The season continued with games against West Allegheny, Slippery Rock, Beaver Falls, and Moon. Each game resulting in dominant wins for the Hopewell girls. Sitting at 6-0 the girls then jumped on a play to Disney World, Florida where they were to play their next three games in a tournament. Hopewell won all three games, and won the final game 60-32 to take the tournament. When the girls traveled home section play began. After nearly a two week layoff of games Hopewell beat Blackhawk 58-56 in their first section game. They

followed that up with a 79-48 victory over Ambridge. The girls then beat North Catholic in the Geneva Coaches vs. Cancer tournament 70-45, and then came one of the most exciting games in high school basketball this year.

On January 18 Hopewell took their undefeated record into a game against New Castle. After four quarters, the thrilling back and forth battle was yet to be decided, and the teams were headed for overtime. In overtime Hopewell took a 45-40 lead with 2:17 left, but New Castle battled back to tie the game at 47-47 with 14 seconds left. Hopewell's Elise Farris then grabbed a rebound off of a missed foul shot attempt and drove down the court. Farris missed her shot, but the rebound fell into the hands of Amanda Tocci who was fouled on her attempt at scoring. This sent Tocci to the line with 3.3 seconds remaining in overtime. After missing her first free throw, Tocci settled in and sank her second shot to give Hopewell a 48-47 lead. The girls held on for the victory as well as their undefeated season.

With eight section games still remaining on the season there is a lot yet to be decided. Hopewell leads in the WPIAL AAA Section 2 with their undefeated record, while New Castle trails with its 3-1 section record. In the remainder of the season Hopewell will match up against every team from their section at least once. The outcome of these games will help determine what the 2009-2010 girls basketball team is really destined for. One thing that's sure is that there will be a lot of excitement down the road to the playoffs.

The Hopewell High School Varsity Swim team's season is taking a positive turn this year. The team consists of 32 swimmers: 28 from Hopewell and 4 from Center. They are coached by Steve DeLatte and Dave Drake.

During the team's preseason conditioning, their pool pump broke. This left them unable to train for several days while it was being shipped from Florida. Once the pool was fixed the team took full advantage of their pool. They even practiced during the Christmas break and on Saturdays.



The Lady Vikings' on their Disney Trip.

## The Lady Vikings' Triumphant Trip to Disney

By Tricia Marsick

The Hopewell Lady Vikings' basketball team flew down to Disneyworld this past December. All together the trip took twelve hours to arrive in Florida. In Washington D.C., the team was rerouted and delayed an hour in Charlotte.

The girls visited the Magic Kingdom and Universal Studios, which shut down half the park as a special treat for players in the tournament. Other amazing sights seen by the team were the Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, and Cinderella's Castle.

Carmel High School from New York was the first team Hopewell defeated in the yellow

bracket on December 28, 2009.

The following day Hopewell conquered Immaculata High School from New Jersey. On December 30th the championship game took place. In the first half Hopewell outscored Corbin High School from Kentucky 35 to 16. By the end of the game, Hopewell gained yet another victory 60 to 32, naming them champions.

The trophy presentation awarded the victorious teams of seven brackets total, and the Lady Vikings came together for a picture with Goofy afterward. Paige Alviani (senior) was the leading scorer for Hopewell and received the MVP award.

## Gymnastics

By Alaina Altieri

The girls' gymnastics team competed in their first invitational of the season and placed 5th out of 12 teams. Kelly Burak placed first all around in four events which include floor, beam, bars and vault. The team is currently 2-3 splitting the series against Center with one win and one loss. They also won against Montour but lost to Baldwin and Pine Richland.

The girls compete at Monaca Turners for their home meets. They can qualify for WPIALs in February. They also have the Judges Bronze Invitational and the PA Classic Individuals in February. The PA Classic Team is in March.

## Swim Team Dives into New Season

By Kate McCallan

Because Hopewell no longer has a diving team, they have a point disadvantage at certain away meets. However, this is not stopping the Hopewell Varsity Swim team from tearing apart the pool and winning their meets. Because they gained more people this year, there is opportunity to acquire more points. The swimmers are working very hard to win meets as well as trying to qualify to go to WPIALs.

The following swimmers made it to WPIALs: Justin Beech, Tyler Gaydosik, Alex Guzman, Zach Kearns, Julie Marki, Logan McCrory, Brendan Miller, Kelsey Miller, Taylor

Miller, Brianna Morrison, Frankie Muia, Hannah Palochak, Vanessa Rohm, Sheri Symosko, and Kara Walker.

As of January 20, both the boys' and girls' swim team have a section record of 2-0. With seniors Tyler Gaydosik, Andrew Pappas, Ed Sivy, and Sheri Symosko to lead, the Hopewell Varsity Swim team will continue to strive for victory in their section. Hopewell is sure to see good things this year with a majority of the team already on their way to WPIALs.

# Sports

## Wrestling Team Full of Strong Competitors Again This Season

By Paul Rosenstern

In high school wrestling it's always tough to win a big tournament. This year Hopewell's wrestling team has repeated that feat by winning the MAC tournament for the second straight year. This year's tournament proved to be a two horse race between Hopewell and West Allegheny. The tournament wasn't decided until Hopewell's final wrestler Brandon Fedorka pinned his man in the 215 pound class to secure the victory.

Hopewell sent five wrestlers into the final round. Getting wins from junior Tim Dusch in the 112 pound class, senior and team captain Matt Hundenski in the 160 pound class, and the deciding victory from Fedorka in the 215 pound class. The other two wrestlers to reach the final round were Ryan Carson (152) and Austin Woolsey (189).

Earlier in the season the Hopewell wrestling team also competed in the annual Powerade Christmas Tournament held at Cannon McMillan High School. The Powerade tournament is one of the toughest tournaments in the country with 44 high schools from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Georgia, Ohio, Maryland, Virginia, and Florida all competing for the championship. The Hopewell team took fifteenth out of the 44 schools in its first year at the tournament.

Hopewell also had three wrestlers place in the top eight of their class. Hundenski finished third in the 160 pound class, senior Brian Foy finished eighth in the 171 pound class, and Fedorka finished seventh at the 215 pound class. When Hundenski won his consolation round to finish third he also won match number 114 of his high school career, setting the Hopewell High School record for most career wins.

In the regular season the Hopewell wrestling team finished 10-0 overall and 4-0 in section play. This marks the second consecutive undefeated season. This year they have proved to be competitors in the WPIALAAA, and next up for Hopewell are the team wrestling playoffs.

## Vikings Charge Toward Post-Season

By Paul Rosenstern

As of January 20, the Hopewell boys' basketball team is sitting at third place in the WPIALAAA Section 2 with a record of 4-1. Hopewell is 9-5 overall with eight games remaining in the regular season. Seven of those games will be important section games that will decide the WPIAL playoff teams. "We are working together as a team, everyone is contributing." Team captain Kevin Welsh said of the season. Welsh along with fellow seniors Dayne Smith, Derek Petronzi, and Mark Ross have played a key role in Hopewell's success. Smith being Hopewell's leading scorer. To go along with the strong play from the seniors Hopewell has gotten a nice boost from junior Christian Farris. "I'm comfortable playing with the guys around me. I have really learned a lot from them." Farris says of his senior teammates. Farris has been one of the leading rebounders on the team, and has done his share of the scoring as well.

Section play began on December 17th where Hopewell

beat New Castle 53-57. The strong play continued in the next game, a section win over Ellwood City 51-36. The Vikings then went on to win two non-section games against Shaler and Brashear, but followed up with back-to-back losses against South Fayette and Peters Township. Still both games were non-section losses, and Hopewell rebounded with a win over Monaca.

Section play resumed for the Vikings on January 12th at Beaver Area. The Vikings beat the Bobcats 48-37. Hopewell then was set to match up against Blackhawk. Up until this point Blackhawk was also undefeated in the section, but thanks to 18 points from Dayne Smith, 16 from Welsh, and 14 from Ross Hopewell prevailed 57-47 to remain the only undefeated team in section to at the time. A non-section loss in the Geneva Coaches vs. Cancer Shootout to North Catholic ended Hopewell's streak, and the Vikings followed the loss with their first section defeat.

Hopewell lost to Center 63-46, and plummeted from first place to third in the section.

For Hopewell the most important games are yet to be played. After the loss to Center, Hopewell will play section games against New Castle (January 22nd), Ellwood City (January 26th), and Ambridge (January 28th). Hopewell will then play North Allegheny in a non-section game on January 29th, and section play will resume after with games against Ambridge (February 2nd), Beaver Area (February 5th), Blackhawk (February 9th), and the regular season will end on February 12th with a game against Center. Though in Hopewell's case the season may just be getting started come playoff time.



## Teacher's Pet

By Sarah Bohy

A teacher in Hopewell's science department, Mrs. Signorelli is the proud owner of two yellow labs. The older of the two is named Sigmund, and the younger is Homer. They are brothers, both purchased from the same breeder in Ohio. During their spare time, Sigmund and Homer enjoy chewing on their many toys. However, once these toys fail to interest them any longer, they will often resort to wrestling one another. Mrs. Signorelli had a very hard time choosing just one of the many fond memories she has of her dogs. However, after much thought, she decided that one of her favorite memories of Sigmund and Homer is the time they jumped into the Signorelli's pond and tried to eat all of their new goldfish. "It was really funny... and kind of alarming at the same time," Mrs. Signorelli explained with a laugh.

Mrs. Signorelli has been teaching at Hopewell for 13 years. In addition to teaching Biology II and AP Biology, she sponsors the class of 2010, and student council, she is a member of the senior project committee, and is the assistant coach for the girl's basketball team. Mrs. Signorelli received her diploma from Plum High School and received both her graduate and undergraduate degrees from The University of Pittsburgh.



Homer (right) and Sigmund(left) enjoy a walk in the woods by their home.

# Entertainment

## Movie Review

By Alaina Altieri

In a lively new version of author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous characters, Sherlock Holmes and his strapping partner Dr. John Watson take on their latest challenge. After finally catching serial killer Lord Blackwood, Holmes can close yet another successful case but when Blackwood strangely returns from the grave, he is on the hunt again to find him. With this hunt, it will lead Holmes to unravel clues that will direct him into a twisted web of murder, dishonesty, and black magic. Robert Downey, Jr plays Sherlock Holmes and Jude Law plays his side kick Dr. John Watson. Other actors include Rachel McAdams who plays Irene Adler, Mark Strong who plays Lord Blackwood, Kelly Reilly who plays Mary Morstan. This action movie is directed by Guy Ritchie and is

rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, some startling images according to Motion Picture Association of America.



*Leap Year* is a romantic comedy where Anna, played by Amy Adams, has been expecting a marriage proposal from her boyfriend Jeremy, played by Adam Scott, but does not get one. Old Irish tradition

says that women on the 29 of February can propose to their men and they have to say yes. Anna is planning on taking that step and traveling to Dublin to propose.

All through the city, Anna faces many challenges to get to where she has to be. Along the way she meets Declan, an Irish bar man who helps Anna get through the tough challenges. He is played by Matthew Goode. Amy Adams does a great job in this film with her energetic personality and keeps you laughing. The movie was directed by Anand Tucker.

*Scene from the movie, Sherlock Holmes. Courtesy Google Images.*

## College Preview

By Sarah Bohy

Waynesburg University, along with the Southwestern Pennsylvania town in which it is located, was named after General Anthony Wayne, a Revolutionary War hero. Chartered in early 1850, Waynesburg University was founded by the merging of Greene Academy, a Presbyterian academy in Carmichaels, Pennsylvania, and Madison College, a Methodist college in Uniontown, Pennsylvania. Joshua Loughran, the reverend of Greene Academy, was named Waynesburg's first president.

Today, Waynesburg is recognized as one of the top private, Christian universities in the nation. Aside from being fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Waynesburg has been a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) for six years. Founded in 1976, the CCCU aims to further foundation of Christian higher education by relating scholarship to biblical integrity. Over 100 Christian institutions across the nation are members of the CCCU.

Waynesburg's enrollment has reached approximately 2,500 students from 21 states across the country. Undergraduate students account for 1,500 of these, while graduate and professional adults make up an additional 1,000. Waynesburg has approximately 130 faculty members, for a student to faculty ratio of 13:1 and an average class size of 25.

Waynesburg offers over 70 degree programs. Their top five most commonly studied majors are Business, Communications, Education, Nursing, and Law. In addition, Waynesburg offers several graduate and doctorate degree programs.

As a general education requirement, all students enrolled at Waynesburg University must complete 30 hours of community service for any non-profit organization during a semester. Cumulatively, Waynesburg students provide 1,200 hours of community service per week to local non-profit organizations. In addition, students are given the opportunity to travel to other states and countries during breaks.

About an hour from Hopewell, Waynesburg is the county seat of Greene County, Pennsylvania. Built around the turn of the nineteenth century, Greene County is rich with American History. One of the main attractions of Greene County is their fall



*Picture of Waynesburg University. Courtesy Google Images*

foliage. Peaking in mid-October, people come from miles around to see the beautiful scenery and take part in the annual Covered Bridge Festival, which takes place during the third week in September. In addition, the Waynesburg University campus is home to the Paul R. Stewart Museum. Named after and founded by a former WU president, the museum features fossils, minerals, and rocks from area coal mines, early Monongahela pottery, and several

newspapers and other records dating as far back as the early 1800s.

Waynesburg is still accepting applications for the fall 2010 semester. To apply, visit the "Future Students" section of [www.waynesburg.edu](http://www.waynesburg.edu).

# Features

## Hopewell, How Do You Feel?

By Megan Sirko

Would you rather see college football have a BCS system (bowl system) or a playoff system?



Craig Fontana-Playoff



Nathan Simpson-Playoff



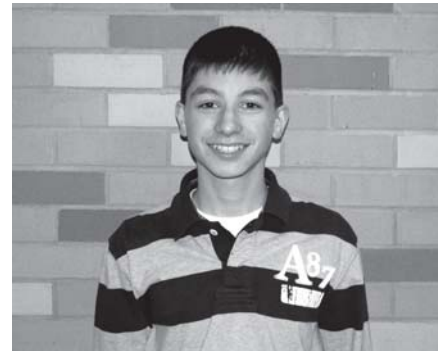
Richard Snarey-BCS



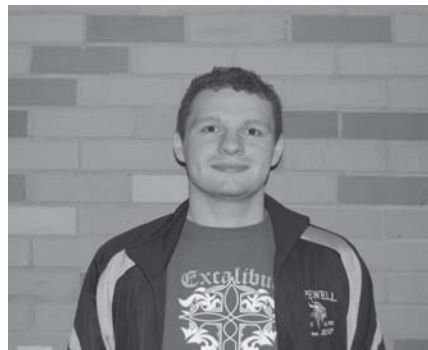
Mr. Samek-Playoff



Matt Hundenski



Brian Zahn



Andrew Pappas



Evelyn Moss

place in the consumer science category of his 7th grade science fair at Hopewell. His project tested the accuracy of KDKA, WTAE, and WPXI's weather forecast, which then moved him on to the Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering fair. From there, he received an award for excellence in presentation and received a medal along with a \$50 prize from a quality control company. In the future, Brian plans on getting his degree in meteorology and hopes to one day become a broadcast meteorologist.

Andrew Pappas was chosen as January's upperclassman Student of the Month because of his hard work and unique talents. Andrew is a senior this year, and he would like to attend the University of Pittsburgh for Arts and Sciences. He would like to get a degree in Art, Japanese and also teaching. He hopes to someday become an art teacher. After meeting his first goals, Andrew has further goals of becoming a comic book artist and then having his own successful comic book. Andrew takes Japanese II, which is also his favorite subject, because he is very interested in the Japanese culture and language. In addition to Japanese II, Art IV is another one of Andrew's favorites. Aside from school, Andrew enjoys hanging out with his friends. This school year has brought him many new opportunities, and he has explored many new interests. A huge accomplishment for

Andrew was going to CMU to study over to summer and shooting a gun for the first time.

Evelyn Moss, a sophomore, was awarded with January's underclassman Student of the Month award. Her favorite subject in school is computer programming. "It's the most fun I've ever had at school. The smaller class size means that we all know each other well and can joke around like family, and it's cool to be able to write my own programs and games. It doesn't even feel like work to me." Aside from school work, Evelyn loves playing video games, writing stories, and listening to music. She enjoys things that test her reaction time, aiming, and puzzle solving skills. She is also in Jazz Band, Book Club, and she would like to eventually join Dream Scapes. Music is a huge inspiration to her, and she has been around it her entire life. She feels way more comfortable at the high school no longer being a freshman. Evelyn is extremely excited to have now be able to structure a sentence in Japanese, which makes it easier for her to understand the language. She believes her unique feature is the fact that she is a much better listener than speaker. In the future, Evelyn has goals to become a video game programmer and maybe publish a few books of her own.

Congratulations to all four students and keep up all of your hard work!

## Student of the Month

By Catey Burget

Senior Matt Hundenski was awarded with December's Student of the Month award due to his athletic talent and academic efforts. Matt Hundenski is a member of the baseball and wrestling team, and he was one of four captains of this year's football team. He enjoys these sports because he loves to be competitive and have a challenge. His favorite subject in school is Speech because he says, "Mrs. Dufalla is by far the best teacher." This school year is a reminder to Matt that he is ready to open the next chapter of his life and begin college. Right now, Matt is looking at the University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University, and the University of Maryland in addition to a few other colleges. Matt has set goals for himself to be an NCAA wrestling All-American, and to be successful at whatever he does no matter what he does. Throughout his life, he has achieved many things including: two-time All Conference DB, First Team All State DB, two-time Team Wrestling MVP, two-time Section Wrestling Champ, WPIAL Champ, and two-time PIAA Qualifier.

Brian Zahn, otherwise known as THE weatherman, was awarded with December's underclassman student of the month award because of his hard work in and out of the classroom. His first year of high school has been a very rewarding experience so far. He has most enjoyed informing the weather to the students of Hopewell every morning on the announcements. Brian's favorite class in school is history. He enjoys learning about then government and how our country is run. Aside from school and weather, Brian loves music. He plays the piano and saxophone. He says he enjoys these because, "I like being able to play songs that I have heard before on the piano, and I like playing the saxophone because I get to be in the marching band." In Brian's free time he plays video games and participates in a few clubs and extracurricular activities including: French Club, Encore, Jazz Band, and Marching Band. He also takes piano lessons and searches the weather. Brian has accomplished many things. He is most proud of winning first

# News

## Continued from page 1

years, McMahon had several health issues. McMahon died at age 86 on June 23.

### Farrah Fawcett

Farrah Fawcett, the 1970s icon, became famous for her part on the original television series "Charlie's Angels." After the show ended, she did some smaller movies and guest appearances on other series. For several years, Fawcett struggled with cancer. She died at the age of 62 on June 25. She is survived by son Redmond O'Neal, her father, James, and good friend Ryan O'Neal.

### Michael Jackson

"The King of Pop" started out as a member of the family band, The Jackson 5. Later he ventured off to peruse his career as a solo artist where he acclaimed "17 #1 hits and 13 Grammys" as well as hundreds of millions of albums sold. On June 25, Michael was sent to the hospital after going into cardiac arrest. He was not able to be resuscitated. He is survived by his three

children as well as other numerous family members. Michael was 50 years old.

### William Darrel "Billy" Mays, Jr.

Known for his career as a pitchman for many televised products, Billy Mays was pronounced dead in his home on the morning of June 28. Mays was born and raised in McKees Rocks. He was 50 years old.

### Eunice Kennedy Shriver

Eunice Kennedy Shriver dedicated most of her life to improve the lives of those who have health and disability issues. Shriver created the Special Olympics in 1962. She also established numerous health-care facilities throughout the country, one of which was renamed in her honor (Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development). On August 11, Shriver died at Cape Cod Hospital. She was 88 years old; the oldest living Kennedy (with the exception of her mother, Rose).

### Edward M. Kennedy (Ted Kennedy)

On August 25, United States Senator Ted Kennedy died at the age of 77 in his Massachusetts residency. Kennedy had several health problems leading up to his death. He survived by his wife and three children. Kennedy started in politics in 1960 working for his brother John's presidential campaign. He was elected into the senate in 1962 where he remained until his death. Kennedy also ran for the Democratic nomination for president in 1980, but he lost to incumbent Jimmy Carter.

### Patrick Swayze

Dirty Dancing and Ghost star, Patrick Swayze, died on September 14. He had been struggling with pancreatic cancer

for 20 months. He was 57 years old. The 90s heartthrob was survived by his longtime wife, Lisa.

### Brittany Murphy

Actress Brittany Murphy starred in movies such as Clueless and 8 Mile. Throughout the years, she appeared in smaller films. She was pronounced dead in her home on December 20 after going into cardiac arrest. Murphy was 32 years old. She survived by her



husband

People will say good-bye to the celebrities, politicians, reformers, and noteworthy newsmakers that have touched the lives of many this year. While they will be laid to rest in the year 2009, their legacy shall live on. We will never forget the work they have done and the accomplishments they made.

## Three Million Lives Affected in Haiti Earthquake

By Dan Gladis

On January 12, 2010 at 4:53 PM local time, a massive earthquake struck the impoverished nation of Haiti. The earthquake, measuring a stunning 7.0 magnitude, struck the island nation sixteen miles from the capitol and population center of Port-au-Prince. The earthquake was so violent that it destroyed the Presidential Palace, the National Assembly Building, many hospitals, and Port-au-Prince Cathedral. The shockwaves of this impressive quake continued for nine more hours according to the U.S. Geological Survey, wherein over 26 aftershocks were recorded with a magnitude of 4.2 or greater.

Of the people affected, the Red Cross estimates forty to fifty thousand dead while Haitian authorities offer the astounding figure of 200,000 casualties. Among the dead are the Archbishop of Port-au-Prince,

several important government ministers, and at least six Americans so far. In total, over three million people have been affected by this deadly earthquake.

Haiti is one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere, if not the world. Though President Rene Preval survived the earthquake, the massive infrastructure damaged has left him powerless to help his people. Within days if not hours after the quake, nations around the world pledged to aid Haiti in the process of rebuilding. Ninety sovereign nations, five supranational bodies, and dozens of aid associations have pledged money, human resources, and material to assist Haiti.

At the time of writing, Haiti is just in the process of receiving that aid as the airport and harbor infrastructures around Port-au-Prince are almost totally destroyed.



Wreckage from the quake in Haiti. Courtesy Google Images.