



# The Leopard Tales

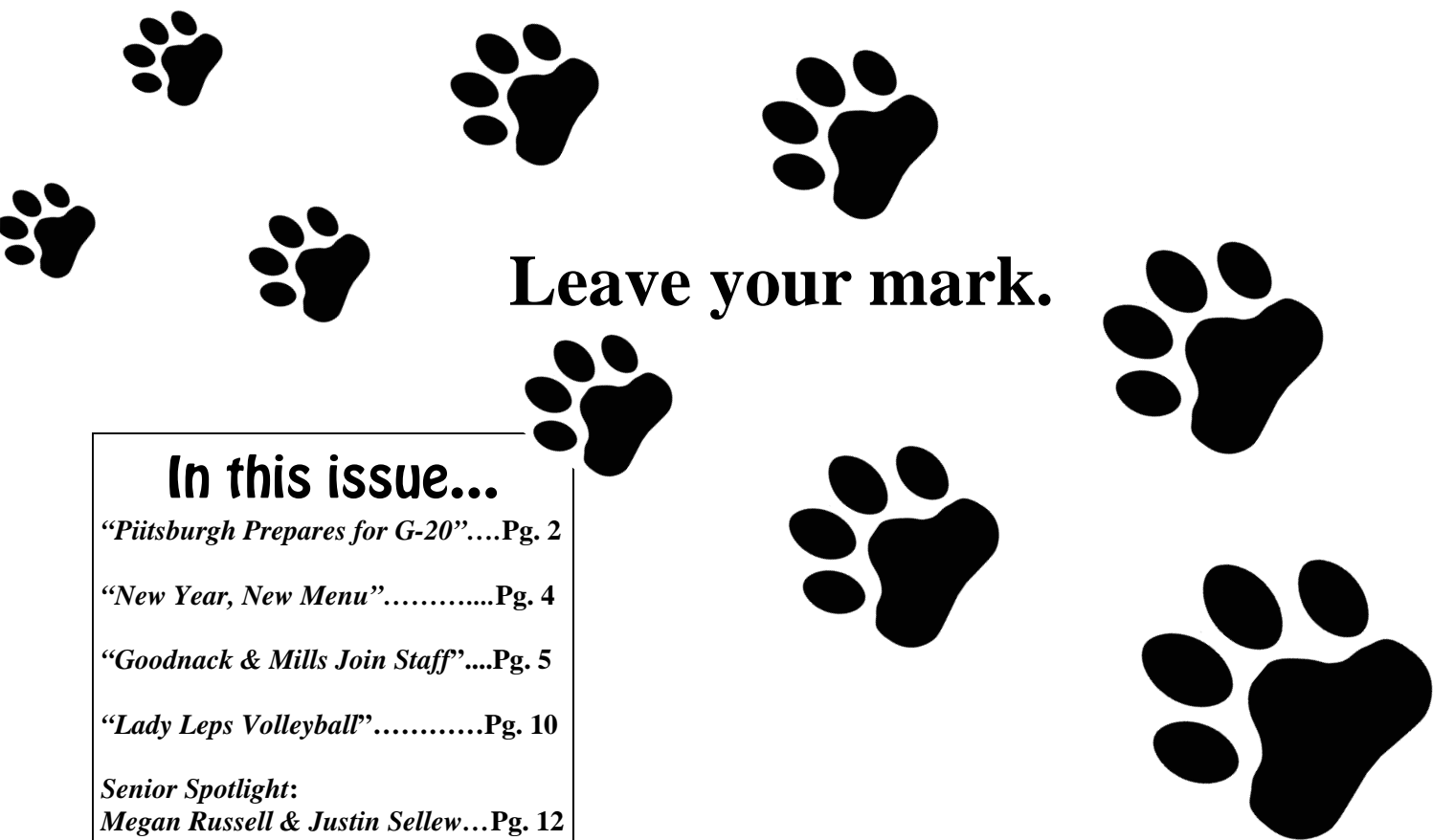
*Prison Match*

Vol. XIX, Issue 1

September 11, 2009

25 Cents

# Welcome Back LEOPARDS!



Leave your mark.

## In this issue...

*"Pittsburgh Prepares for G-20"....Pg. 2*

*"New Year, New Menu".....Pg. 4*

*"Goodnack & Mills Join Staff"....Pg. 5*

*"Lady Leps Volleyball".....Pg. 10*

*Senior Spotlight:*

*Megan Russell & Justin Sellew...Pg. 12*



# Pittsburgh prepares for G-20 Summit

**Nicole Kemmerling**  
LRN EDITOR

City schools are closing, weddings are being canceled, and most businesses in the city of Pittsburgh are shutting down for the G-20 Summit, which will be held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center on September 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The question everyone seems to be asking is: "why Pittsburgh?"

Dennis Yablonsky, the CEO of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, answered this question, telling the *Huffington Post*: "the city of Pittsburgh is a turnaround story of economic development and revitalization; urban leaders from around the country are turning to Pittsburgh as a successful case study in

building a new economy."

BVA teacher Mrs. Jennings added, "Of all the places for it to be, the G-20 Summit being in Pittsburgh is very prestigious---Pittsburgh has such a rich history in industry with our steel mills, coal mines, and glass plants. The past is impressive, but it is now our opportunity to show the world all the potential we have for the future. One of the areas we are growing in is 'green technology'. The David L. Lawrence Convention Center is one of the largest 'green' convention centers in the world; hopefully the world will take notice of this and Pittsburgh will boom again."

G-20 is an organiza-

tion made up of not only leaders, but finance ministers and central bankers as well. The twenty participations countries include: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The leaders represent 85 percent of the

world's economy.

At Pittsburgh G-20 Summit, the main issue that will be discussed is finance; leaders will review the progress made since the previous summits and discuss further actions to assure recovery from the global financial and economical crisis. French Prime Minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, also told reporters that measures already taken will also be scrutinized. To learn more about the summit, visit the website at [G20.com](http://G20.com).

## Swine flu cases increase

**Stephanie Taylor**  
STAFF WRITER

The time has come and we're back to school. What's one of the first things that come to mind when you hear back to school? Some of you may say: supplies, clothes, seeing friends, seeing favorite teachers and the list goes on. Have you ever stopped and thought about germs? Unfortunately, back to school usually means getting sick. One of the most popular illnesses going around is H1N1, which is more commonly known as the Swine Flu.

BVA school nurse, Mrs. McCullough stated, "Everybody can get it. But the elderly and the very young are affected the most severely. People with poor immune

systems are at a greater risk. A vaccine is to be available in mid October. As of now, there are no documented cases." As for the symptoms of Swine Flu, McCullough went on to say, "fever, cough, congestion, cold symptoms, body aches, vomiting, sore throat, runny nose, and diarrhea. It's different from the seasonal flu, the Swine Flu is all year around."

To prevent the spread of the flu; cover your cough, wash hands frequently and regularly or use hand sanitizers, regularly clean and disinfect areas and items that are likely to have frequent hand contact.

For more information visit: [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), or [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).

## The Leopard Tales

425 CREST AVENUE • BELLE VERNON, PA 15012  
[HTTP://WWW.BVASD.NET/HS/LEOPARDTALES.HTM](http://www.bvasd.net/hs/leopardtales.htm)

**Nicole Kemmerling**  
Local, Regional, National

**Dylan Galper**  
Sports

**Katrina Brooks**  
School News

**Jill Conrad**  
Entertainment

**Emily Gauden**  
Features

**Krystal Page**  
Senior Spotlight

**Julie Gouker**  
Advisor

CONTACT US:  
[theleopardtales@yahoo.com](mailto:theleopardtales@yahoo.com)

# Where were you that September day?

## *Remembering 9.11.01*

**Lauren Swisher**  
STAFF WRITER

The numbers 11, 77, 93, 175 all have something in common. These were the flight numbers of the four planes that crashed 9 years ago on September 11, 2001. An estimated 2,617 people died in New York City alone according to CNN. Those were people who thought it was going to be just another normal day at the office. Parents, service workers, and children died while the rest of America sat and watched in horror exactly eight years ago today

"I was in 2nd

grade. I remember my teacher turning the TV on, and I remember watching what happened and I thought how could anyone do that," stated Paige Maiolini. Junior Brandon Dugan was in Mrs. Zundel's class, and freshman Julian Monticelli was in Mrs. Povlish's 1st grade. Most of us sat in classrooms, too young to fully understand what just happened, but our teachers knew something had gone terribly wrong. Teachers like Mr. Poindexter remembered, "I was actually here teaching. I don't remember what period or when I found out exactly but it

was relatively early." Mrs. Gouker was only in her first year of college when all of her classes were cancelled due to the disaster.

The first plane down was flight 77 which crashed into the Pentagon then flight 11 the first plane into the World Trade Centers as said by the New York Times. The next crash came a little too close to home though. Flight 93 crashed in Somerset County not too far from Pittsburgh.

Although the passengers and crew are gone, the memory of their dreadful accident will last

forever with the help of the 9-11 memorial in Somerset. Recently, the government has gotten 9.5 million dollars together to make sure that the memorial is finished by the ten year anniversary. In an interview with CNN, officials from Washington say that a land agreement has finally been settled to acquire the land needed to finish the flight 93 memorial. Secretary Salazar said that by going through park services, they will be able to start work in the fall. Once the memorial is completed the names of those who died will never be forgotten but will always be remembered.

## Star athlete saves the day on Mississippi school bus

**Rachelle DiYanni**  
STAFF WRITER

On September 1, 2009, Kaleb Eulls, an 18 year-old star athlete and now local hero, came to the rescue when a 14-year old girl armed with a .380 semi-automatic handgun walked onto the bus. Eulls and his three younger sisters were among 22 passengers on that school bus heading towards Yazoo County High School in western Mississippi.

Eulls had fallen asleep in the back of the bus listening to music on his mp3 player when one

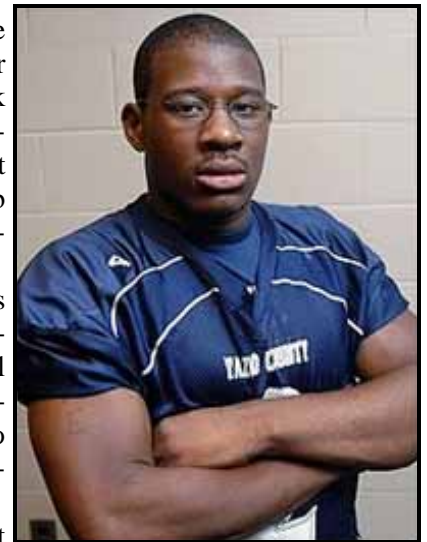
of his sisters woke him up and he realized what was going on. "She was pointing it back and forth at other people and the little kids that were sitting at the back. I just thought real quick and tried to grab her attention before she pointed the gun at anybody else. I wanted her to point it at me so she wouldn't point it at anybody else," Kaleb Eulls said.

Eulls opened up the emergency door and began evacuating students and then tried to reason with the armed female. He had tried to

calm her down, but she continued to get louder and louder. For a quick second, she got distracted and looked out of the window. Kaleb then tackled and disarmed her.

Kaleb Eulls had not been concerned for his own well being that day; he selflessly risked his life to save the other 22 passengers on the bus.

"I was just scared for the younger kids and my family that was on the bus," Eulls said.



***Eighteen-year-old hero, Kaleb Eulls, saved the lives of 22 classmates last week.***

[www.postchronical.com](http://www.postchronical.com)

# New year, new menu, better BVA

**Katrina Brooks**  
SCHOOL NEWS  
EDITOR

Have you noticed something different about the lunch menu this month? Every day of the week has a different meal, and nothing is repeating itself. Plus, there is a new item on the menu this month: walking tacos! The reason for these changes is because Belle Vernon has a new food service, and *The Leopard Tales* was able to speak to the man in charge, Monte Maugle.

Before working with schools and upon graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, Mr. Maugle was in the restaurant business for a company based in Beverly Hills. He then opened his own restaurant that he ran for thirteen years. He says, "With this background, I have a different apprecia-

tion of the students and adults that dine in our cafeterias. It is my philosophy to treat everyone as a "customer" and we will do what we can to earn your respect." Maugle states that he works for BVASD and reports to the Board and Superintendent. He says, "Therefore, anything we do at BVA our own creation and not that of a company."

Maugle worked with another school district for five years before working with BVA, and both the breakfast and lunch counts in that district grew. He sees no reason why the same could not happen with BVA. He also says that the lunch staff is great and works very hard to prepare so much for so many. They are very receptive to change and willing to try new



*Members of the food service staff with new manager Mr. Monte Maugle, far right*

ideas. He also compliments the board, Mr. Russell, and the entire staff that they have been very receptive and can assure all have the best interest of the students in their thoughts.

For the future, Maugle envisions a salad bar to ease some of the congestion in the lunch lines. He also says Mr. Zborovancik has made

some suggestions. Of course, any ideas and suggestions for the future must be discussed with administration and the board.

Mr. Maugle encourages all who have suggestions to approach him, Mr. Z., or any other board or administration member. Students can also follow Maugle on Twitter! Yes, that is right, Twitter, at BVA cafe!

# Prosoft eyes are watching you!

**Lauren Swisher**  
STAFF WRITER

Cards are gone! The school's new Prosoft software has eliminated the old attendance cards with the use of the internet and new technology. The program has brought teachers, guidance, and the office closer together, as stated by Mrs. Bickerton: "the best thing is that we are finally

working together."

With Prosoft, homeroom/first period teachers take their attendance on their computers, which automatically gets sent down to the office and to the rest of the teachers in the building. This software will also help with discipline. Students planning on skipping classes this year should just change their

minds now or certainly end up facing the consequences. Being able to track whether students were on time, late, or even left early by everyone of those students' teachers; they will not be getting away with much.

Teachers will be sending their disciplinary referrals directly through a web portal to the office. Although the teachers

have an easier way to report to the office, the punishments will still be the same for the most part. Either Mr. Zborovancik or Mrs. Weightman will decide on an appropriate punishment for the misbehaving student. Most students will hopefully never have to personally have to deal with this new software but it will still be a change for the high school faculty.

# Goodnack & Mills join BVA faculty

**Kandice Rudy & David Sickler**  
STAFF WRITERS

Each new school year means new schedules, new students, and yes, new faculty members. With the retirement of history teacher, Mr. Volpi, and Mr. Kerekes moving to the middle school setting, two other teachers took on these now vacant positions. Ms. Laura Goodnack is the latest addition to the science department and Mr. David Mills has now joined the mathematics department.

Ms. Laura Goodnack in room 107 teaches chemistry, biology, and life science. She is looking forward to working with unique students and is continually finding ways for students to relate with her so they can learn these sciences the best.

Ms. Goodnack graduated from Gateway High School. She went on to attend college at Penn

State for her undergrad and Pitt for her graduate work. While she was a student herself, she was involved in many activities, such as volleyball, musical, choir, and student council. Before joining the BVA staff, Goodnack taught at McKeesport High School.

An interesting fact that most students do not know about Ms. Goodnack is that she loves to karaoke, and she likes to go kayaking. For students currently taking her class, she advises you to not be afraid to ask questions, be prepared to be active, and also participate in class discussions.

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” This is one particular quote that Goodnack lives by because being kind can make a difference. Also, she points out that being kind is not that hard to do and it does not take much effort!

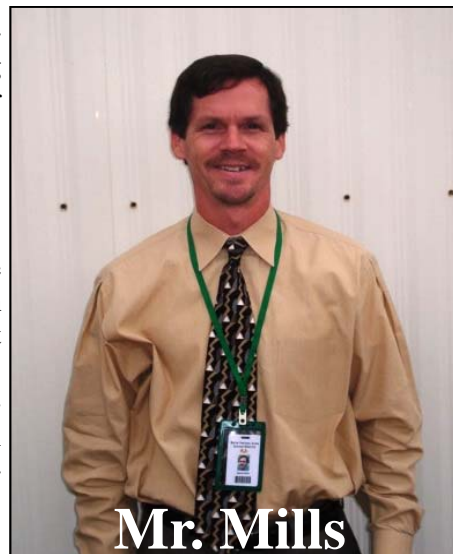
Compared to her previous positions, Ms. Goodnack feels that Belle Vernon is different because everybody has different interests that makes them exciting and fun. She went on to mention that her co-workers have

been very supportive and welcoming (especially her lunch buddies: Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Null, and Mrs. Gouker)!

Belle Vernon Area High School’s newest math teacher, Mr. Mills, is an accomplished musician and was a production manager for Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild before coming to Belle Vernon. Mr. Mills teaches algebra I, algebra II, and algebra/geometry B in trailer 1.

Mr. Mills graduated from West Genesee High School in Syracuse, New York. He continued his study at Duquesne University earning a bachelors degree in music, piano pedagogy. Most recently he earned a master in Education from California University. At the same time he was studying, he was the production manager at Manchester Craftsmen’s Guild, which is a non-profit multi-discipline organization—a position he held for fifteen years.

Our new math teacher is living proof that hard work and determination allows one to reach their goals. He is apparently one who lives up to his own quote to live by “Do the right thing.” His desire is to see his students excel at



**Mr. Mills**

math. He will accomplish this by challenging them to embody his quote.

With all the work and studying of the last few years, Mr. Mills is looking forward to spending more time involved in adventurous sports. You may see Mr. Mills using his free time quad riding the trails in the area, hiking through the countryside, and mountain biking off road. This man of diverse interests also teaches private piano lessons to those desiring to learn to play.

Mr. Mills has experienced a friendly staff and a very supportive administration at Belle Vernon. He looks forward to seeing his students excel in math and challenging them along the way. His advice to his students is to participate in class and do your homework while taking his classes this year.

**Welcome to BVA!**



**Ms. Goodnack**



# I spy... BVA handbook changes

**Kilee Holomshek**  
STAFF WRITER

Anyone who has read the BVA Student Handbook this year may have noticed a few changes made for the 2009-2010 school year. These changes have been made in areas such as driving privileges, tardies, senior day, and senior commencement. So, *The Leopard Tales* interviewed Mr. Zborovancik to bring you, the student body, the scoop on what new is going on this year.

For those of you who have parking passes, this year for your first tardy to school, you will lose your parking pass for a total of ten days; two tar-

dies to school will result in permanently losing your parking pass for the rest of the year without refund. Last year the rule was much less harsh and required more tardies for the punishments to take place. When interviewed about this new rule, Alison Radic stated,

“I believe that the new rule is pretty harsh and that now I have to leave earlier to school because I was tardy only once last year.” On the other hand, she feels that the rule is well thought out so that students will have less tardies so she guesses that everyone will just have to get use to it!

Both Jessica Leadbitter and Emily Necciai believe that the rule is pretty harsh though they know why the rule is in place for the 2009-2010 school year.

Also, this year in the handbook, it states, “if we have a senior day.” When I asked Mr. Z about the “if” in the sentence, he stated

“Yes, we will be having senior day this year. Though the seniors need to understand that whether senior day will be a whole or half day, all seniors are required to stay in school until the end of the day unless they have a medical excuse to get out of school.”

There is also a new rule with commencement this year. As some may know, commencement last year was, in few words, chaotic. This year, the school board would like for all persons attending the ceremonies this year to know that there shall be no distractive items such as silly string, balloons, smoke bombs, beach balls, etc., allowed until after all names have been called.

All in all, with time comes change, and this also applies to our school handbook. So, abide the rules Leps and all shall be well at BVA!

---

## Four easy ways to get organized this school year

**Jill Conrad**  
ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

In high school everything counts and the teachers expectations increase each year. From tardiness, late homework, and laziness aren't exactly allowed. Not only do teachers expect more from you, but also so do your parents and things get hectic quickly. The number one secret to not getting lost in all of this is to get organized. Four easy steps to get organized for school are use a planner, get separate notebooks for each class, organize your locker, and develop good habits.

1. First is your planner, our school gives every student a free planner at the beginning of the school year so why not put it to good use? A planner is a necessity for high school. The pages hold what you have for homework, club meetings, sports practices, games, parties, and more. The idea of the planner is, you have to use it! A planner should be your number one tool. Anytime something important comes up like homework or a test, write it down in your planner. Look at your planner every day before you go home to see what you have to do

that night. Also look at it everyday before school to make sure you know what you have to do that day.

2. Second is getting a separate notebook or binder for each class. It seems like a good idea to have a five-subject notebook for every one of your classes, but do you really want to bring three classes worth of notes and homework home if you only need the things from one? And, do you really want to have to tell your teachers you lost your homework in your giant notebook? The best solution is separate notebooks and binders for

each class.

3. The third important tip is getting your locker organized. The number one reason for losing your homework isn't your dog; it's your locker. It's impossible to find anything or even consider yourself organized if your locker is jammed with loose handouts, old folders, and old gum wrappers. Clear everything out! Throw all the obvious garbage away and then sort through the rest. Use a locker shelf to make the most of the tiny locker. You can find locker shelves at Wal-Mart and Staples. Keep up the

**See Pg. 7**

# Fall 2009 Fashion Forecast

**Emily Tenuta**  
STAFF WRITER

Is choosing your outfit for the next day of school a factor in your life? School is back in session and everyone wants to start the school year off with the newest fashion trends. According to *Seventeen* magazine, this year's back to school fashion has been inspired from the 80's. 1980's fashion was about breaking boundaries and emphasizing individuality through metallic, lace, ruffles, and bright clothing. These elements are influencing fall 2009 fashion.

Plaid, metallic, animal print, lace, and bright clothing have been the newest fashion trends seen on Belle Vernon students back to school. The halls of B.V. have been covered with students wearing plaid! Freshmen Angela Iacoboni states she views plaid as the biggest fashion must have this year. Students have been found wearing plaid shirts, dresses, vests, shoes, and more in plaid. Not only students but teachers have

been wearing plaid.

Metallic, animal print, lace, and bright colored tops, dresses, and more have been another popular style found on students this year. As seen in teen magazines all of these colors and textures can be combined with one another to form not only one but multiple outfits. Layering clothing has been a popular trend in the past and will continue to be this year according to teen magazines. Teens can dress in layers during the school day to accommodate the change in school temperature. They can also mix an outfit a bit dressing for a football game, meeting up with friends, or even going to a party. Plaid, metallic, animal print, lace, and bright clothing have been found in students favorite stores such as American Eagle, Pac Sun, Charlotte Russe, and Rue 21.

For back to school, one of the most important things to have besides clothing is shoes.



*Above, BVA students show off the latest trends for the fall season.*

This season there are a variety of shoe trends to choose from such as gladiator sandals, flip flops, ballet flats, heels, tennis shoes, and boots. This summer, gladiator sandals became a huge trend and are still being seen on students back to school. In addition flip flops, ballet flats, and heels are still a popular style. Tennis shoes are always a back to school trend. Converse shoes have been a popular tennis shoe this year. Converse have come in wild

colors and crazy prints. Boots were a huge trend last year and still this year. Ankle, knee high, and cowboy boots have been shown in stores and teen magazines.

Accessories are an important must have in every girl's wardrobe. Scarves are still in especially those with bright colors and bold patterns. What better way to make an outfit stand out than accessorizing with a pretty scarf? Purses of this year

**See Pg. 8**

## ***"Four easy ways"***

Continued from pg. 6

organized locker by throwing away your trash and keeping old assignments at home. Get into the habit of putting binders and books into your locker by the period.

4. And last is to

develop good habits. Come up with a set time to do your homework every day, and putting back into your book bag when you're done. Every night set out everything you'll need for the next day or put it into your book bag. Make sure you look at your planner to

check to see if you have everything. And, be efficient and punctual, and try not to waste time because you'll always pay for it later.

Being organized can really help you in high school and get you ready for college because things will most likely be

even more hectic. Remember organization can help you get to class on time and your grades will go up. All you need to start on the road to organization is using your planner, getting separate notebooks for each class, organizing your locker, and developing good habits.

# Band. Marching band.

*Fans will be shaking and stirring to this year's marching band show*

**Dylan Galper**  
SPORTS EDITOR

What do you think of when you hear the name James Bond? Is it the well-known line "Shaken, not stirred" he uses to describe his preference for how he wants his martini made? Is it his uncanny ability to charm and eventually seduce any girl he meets? Or is it the music from the Bond movies, more notably the catchy and exciting Bond theme? Well for those of you who are a fan of the movies and its music, this year's James Bond themed BVA Marching Band halftime show is for you.

The marching band has played a number of great shows over the years. They've played everything from an "I Love the 80s!" show last year in which they played songs from the 80s such as The Police's "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic" to a Stevie Wonder show the year be-

fore that. Yet, this one promises to be one of the best shows yet, or at least one of the best shows in Head Drum Major Breanne Bachovchin's three-year Marching Band career.

"I feel the show this year is very upbeat and entertaining," Breanne said. "The marching band has great instrumentalists this year and has the potential to be the best group within the past couple of years."

The show begins with the well-known Bond theme, followed by a piece entitled "Vesper" about the Bond girl Vesper Lynd in the 1967 version of *Casino Royale*. That is followed by a drum break and the closer of the show is the popular Guns and Roses version of the song "Live and Let Die."

"The show is going very well so far," band director Mark Surrovchak said. "It is not finished yet, but the show

itself might be the most creative approach we've taken so far. It allows us a better opportunity to do more things that we couldn't do with the other shows we've done over the past few years. And once the closer is added, people will that creativeness in full effect."

The entire show is not completely ready to be put on the field (the band only performed the Bond theme and "Vesper" at last Friday night's football game), despite the band's having worked very hard over the summer to learn the music and drill. In addition to regular Monday practices all throughout the summer, the band also has a two-week long band camp in August to work on the show.

Most members, including trumpet section leader and four year marching band member Clint Skibo, are very optimistic as to how the show will turn out. "I

feel that this show will be just as good if not better than the other shows when we get everything complete," Clint said.

In addition to playing their show at every football game, home and away, the band will perform their show at three band festivals this year. On September 12th at South Allegheny, on September 19th at Norwin High School, and they will be hosting a festival for the second year in a row on September 26th.

They will also be marching in a number of parades this year. In addition to the Kennywood parade on August 23, they will also be marching in the Pioneer Day Parade in Perryopolis on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, the North Belle Vernon Halloween Parade on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, the Veteran's Day Parade in Monessen on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and the Memorial Day Parade in Fayette City on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May.

## "Fall Fashion"

Continued from pg. 7

have resembled the style of the clothes. Jewelry is always a accessorizing must have. Large oversized necklaces, rings, and bracelets are a sure hit!

This year's back to school fashion trends have

been inspired by the 80's. Plaid, metallic, animal print, lace, and bright clothing are the new popular fashion trends at BVA this year. Remembering these popular fashion trends should make picking your outfit for tomorrow easy!

**NHS**  
**CANNED FOOD AND**  
**MONETARY DRIVE**  
**Benefiting...**  
**The Westmoreland County Food Band**  
**September 25th BVA Football Game**  
**Donation Centers Located at All Gates**

## Fall into television's new series and seasons

**Emily Gauden**  
FEATURES EDITOR

With the start of the school year comes new entertainment. TV series and movies are kicking off the fall season! The season is looking to be a very promising one as far as entertainment goes. According to EW.com, some shows are being cancelled, and new ones are moving in. Also, the new movies coming this fall season seem to be bursting at the seams with excitement.

Returning television favorites for this autumn season are as follows: *The Bachelor*, *Cold Case*, *Ugly Betty*, *Scrubs*, *Lost*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Dancing With the Stars*, *Gossip Girl*, *Ghost Whisperer*, *One Tree Hill*, *90210*, *The Biggest Loser*, *Friday Night Lights*, *24*, *Family Guy*, *House*, *Survivor*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Greek*, *Smallville*, *Supernatural*, and each *CSI* are all renewed and will be returning for another season.

Unfortunately, the following TV shows are now officially cancelled:

*Cupid*, *Pushing Daisies*, *Samantha Who?*, *Eleventh Hour*, *Harper's Island*, *The Unit*, *Without A Trace*, *King of the Hill*, *Prison Break*, *Kings*, *Knight Rider*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, and *The Reaper* have all have been cancelled.

According to About.com, there are

plenty of new series that are expected to be hits with viewers this year. The new show *Flashforward* is based on the sci-fi novel by Robert J. Sawyer. Because of a cataclysmic event, the whole world is knocked out for two minutes and 17 seconds all at the same time. During this, everyone sees several months into their futures.

*Melrose Place* is a spin off from successful series that was aired in the 90s. Although she "died" immediately following her wedding, Sydney Andrews seems to be alive and back to her blackmailing. Sydney is the landlady of the complex and will be at the center of all the drama as relationships form, lies are exposed, and major secrets unfold.

*The Vampire Diaries* starts out with the character Elena Gilbert trying to piece her life back together after her parents passing. However, her life is completely changed when a mysterious boy, Stefan, moves to her school. Little does she know, he's a centuries old bloody-thirsty vampire.

Set in our very own Pittsburgh, *Three Rivers* revolves around the life and times of an organ transplant team. But always keeping the well being of their patients, each surgeon has



*Above, the cast of the new television series, Flashforward (sharetv.org)*

*Below, the new cast of the nineties hit drama, Melrose Place (www.tvfanatic.com)*



their own personal and professional lives as well.

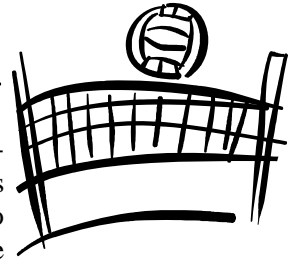
Hoping to be a successful replacement of the beloved ER, *Mercy* follows the lives of a group of nurses working at Mercy Hospital. As stated on About.com, "Imagine *Grey's Anatomy* told through the eyes of the nursing staff -- oh the

stories they could tell!"

Senior, Emily Tenuta stated "As for TV shows, I'm most excited for *Grey's Anatomy*!"

This fall seems to be another promising season with new shows and old favorites providing plenty of evening entertainment.

# Lady Leps are back on the prowl



**Katrina Brooks**  
SCHOOL NEWS  
EDITOR

Volleyball season is back once again! Since the beginning of February, the Belle Vernon Lady Leps volleyball team has been working hard with the new members to the team throughout the past six seven months. Four new members have joined the team, and one is returning. The ladies and the coaches expect great things of themselves because they want to be on top in the section this year!

To start off, the *Leopard Tales* caught up with Coach Christy Lewis, who teaches at Ringgold and coaches the varsity girls. She always has high expectations for the girls

on both junior varsity and varsity. Both her and J.V. Coach Alyssa Kerekes, who is a BVA alumni of the volleyball team and of the school, expect hard work, team work, dedication, and commitment. Coach Lewis says,

"A person can be dedicated but not com- mited." The coaches agree that with these four qualities from the girls, they could be a play off team this year.

Though the team has their "off days," Coach Lewis believes the team has bonded very well over the past couple months and have become great teammates.

"We are a good team, however, we must not be content. We constantly work to make ourselves better than we are

today in volleyball and in life," says Coach Lewis.

Senior Cerria Vasquez said, "We are not just a team, but we are sisters, too." The coaches see that the girls have become more than just a team, as well.

To be more than just a team, though, there are things that are needed to be worked on together. Coach Lewis tells the girls every practice and every game, "It's the little things make us a good team." She also told the *Leopard Tales*, "You don't have to be strongest, but you have to be the smartest." Playing smart instead of strong gives the girls more of an advantage against other teams in the section.

The Yough Cougars, for example, are

r i -  
vals  
t o  
the  
Lady Leps. Both coaches agree that Yough has always been a close battle for the girls. "We give all we have," says Coach Lewis. "We feel we may have a team the can come out on top and that this could be the first play off run in BVA girls volleyball history."

With the hard work they put into the practices upon their games against Yough on September 17th (away) and October 8th (home), the possibilities are high that this will be the year the Lady Leps girl's volleyball team will come out on top and pounce the Cougars! Good luck, girls!



*Above, senior captain Mark Tomich*

*Right, BVA boys soccer team huddles before Saturday's Labor Day tournament at James Weir Stadium*

## 2009 Soccer Shots



# Changes abound for 2009 BVA football

**Ty Naulty**  
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again Belle Vernon, football in BVA is back! The Leps are a new look football team this year with an entirely new coaching staff headed by the youngest head coach in the WPIAL, Aaron Krepps.

When asked about how he thinks the 2009 season will go, Krepps replied:

"We had really good workouts this summer and I'm very anxious for my first season as head coach for Belle Vernon. I hope we do well and we will have to see how the season goes."

Belle Vernon opened their season play-

ing an old conference rival in Laurel Highlands with the result a convincing 45-17 win for BVA. The Leps next game is at Southmoreland on Friday, September 11th. The team then travels to Chartiers Valley for their first conference game of the season on September 18th.

BVA returns several starters this season; Seniors Jared Pawlak, Tyler Sellew, Spencer Lynn, Cody and Cory Williams, Andrew Spate, Joe Walko, and Brandon Dillmore. The returning juniors are: Alex Atkinson, Matt Green, Grant Curran, Matt Naylor and Mike Thayer.

The coaching staff picked four captains

to lead the Leps to victory this season, seniors Spencer Lynn, Cory Williams, Tyler Sellew, and Andrew Spate, all of whom are returning starters. This is Lynn's second season serving as a captain for BVA. The four senior captains gave their thoughts on how they think the 2009 campaign will go.

"We worked really hard this offseason, lifting, conditioning, and working on plays," Lynn said. "We are going to surprise a lot of people this year."

Spate believes that the team had a very successful offseason and thinks that they will have a great year. "Things are going to be different this

year. We are going to bring the respect back to Belle Vernon football," offensive lineman/defensive lineman Sellew said.

As for Williams, he said, "We are a much improved football team this year. Our new coaches are great and just as motivated as we are." Then he added, "And we can't wait to beat TJ so Mr. Z can get a Mohawk!"

The team won their first season game on Friday, September 4th, against Laurel Highlands. They face Southmoreland tonight.

The team attitude is clear, Belle Vernon wants to be a powerhouse football team again. There's only one thing left to say: Let's go Leps!

## BVA MULTIPLEX OPENS

*Pictured below, the Belle Vernon Area Multiplex building opened over the summer. The former 84 Lumber building, located on Finley Road, was purchased by the school district. The site now houses the transportation and athletic offices, along with a new weight room.*



*Above, football team members Cody Williams, Jeremy Tietze, and Cory Williams speak to students at the fall pep rally held on Friday, September 4th.*



## Megan Russell

**Full Name:**  
Megan Russell

**Parents & Siblings:**  
Jim & Luann Russell;  
Jimmy, Ryan & Nolan  
Russell

**Birthday:**  
July 3, 1992

**Activities:**  
BVA Swimming

**Favorite Teacher:**  
Mr. Plewniak

**Who/what is your biggest influence in life and why?**  
My mom, because she

knows everything

**What are your goals for senior year?**  
Get into a decent college

**What do you do in your spare time?**  
Swim always

**What is something you want your fellow leopards to know about you?**

I grew two inches!

**What is your "perfect" BVA lunch?**  
I couldn't tell you. The lines are always too long.

**If you could switch places for a day with anyone, who would it be and why?**  
Kosty, just look at him.

**Is there anything you would have done differently in high school?**  
Stopped caring before my junior year, hahaha

**What are your future plans?**  
I don't make plans any more than one week



ahead of time.

**What is your favorite memory from BVA?**  
That one Tuesday... ;)

**Quote to live by:**  
"Take a lap."

## Justin Sellow

**Full Name:**  
Justin Alexander Sellow

**Parents & Siblings:**  
Mark & Karen Sellow;  
Shannon & Jeremy Sellow

**Birthday:**  
September 21, 1991

**Activities:**  
Football, Interact Club,  
NHS, MIC/SADD, BVA  
Broadcast Staff

**Favorite Teacher:**  
Mr. Curcio

**Who/what is your biggest influence in life and why?**  
The energizer bunny. Because he keeps going and going...

**What are your goals for senior year?**  
To get it done.

**What do you do in your spare time?**  
Climb trees and raise sunflowers

**What is something you want your fellow leopards to know about you?**  
I can write poetry.

**What is your "perfect" BVA lunch?**  
Steak hoagie

**If you could switch places for a day with anyone, who would it be and why?**

No one. I like me.

**Is there anything you would have done differently in high school?**  
Ran for class officer.

**What are your future plans?**  
Attend college.

**What is your advice to underclassmen?**  
Put a teaspoon of butter in your Ramen noodles.

**What is your favorite memory from BVA?**  
Garrett Santori getting



backed into the school parking lot.

**Quote to live by:**  
"A small leak will sink a great ship, unless the boat is not in water."