

January 2018



THE BULLDOG REPORTER

Upcoming Winter Musical: "The Drowsy Chaperone"

By: Madeline Carleton

"I hate theatre. Well, it's so disappointing, isn't it?" That's how senior Thomas McLaughlin will soon open HVCHS's winter musical as the cynical and hilarious "Man in Chair," who provides hilarious narration throughout the course of the show.

The Man, feeling a sort of "nonspecific sadness", shares with us his solution for the state which he likes to call "blue" - listening to his music. The Man takes us on a journey back to the dazzling 1920's with his two-record set of his favorite show, "The Drowsy Chaperone."

This show depicts the chaos ensuing when leading Follies showgirl Janet Van de Graaff (senior TaylorRae Carter) decides to give up her life of glamour to marry the charming Robert (junior Owen Harrison), whom she has just met. In

a desperate attempt to keep his leading-lady and save himself from gangsters disguised as pastry chefs (junior Jimmy Waltman and senior Emmie Collins), producer Mr. Feldzieg (senior Tim Granzow) sends the rollicking Latin lover Aldolpho (senior Donovan Kazakoff) to seduce the bride-to-be. Things take an unexpected turn, however, when he ends up seducing Janet's boozy chaperone (junior Caroline Herbert).

This show boasts a cast of quirky, Vaudeville mockup characters ranging from a stony-faced butler (freshman Caleb Briggs) to a brainless leading-lady wannabe (junior Maeve Merzena).

See the full cast list at <http://hvdrama.blogspot.com/2017/12/the-drowsy-chaperone-cast-list.html>.

It may seem like an odd premise on which to base a musical, but "The Drowsy Chaperone" is an eccentric and hysterical show that you simply can't

miss. It will run for a total of four performances: Friday, March 2nd, Saturday, March 3rd, Friday, March 9th, and Saturday, March 10th. All shows will start at 7:30 PM in the PAC.

Tickets can be purchased at the door on the night of the show or in advance at <https://www.showtix4u.com/>. The staff and students involved in this production are already hard at work. Be sure to come out to support all their efforts, both on-stage and behind the scenes!



The dancers are practicing a dance to the "Cold Feet." Photo provided by Madeline Carleton

League of Well-Dressed Gentlemen

By: Sophia Stivala

Have you ever been interested in dressing up for school? Then the League of Well Dressed Gentlemen might just be the club for you!

This year, the League of Well Dressed Gentlemen was started by freshmen Caleb Briggs (president) and John Maclean (vice president). This club is basically for anyone who enjoys dressing up for the fun of it. "It's kind of a dying art, the act of getting dressed up for events and looking nice," Briggs said.

It all started towards the end of their eighth grade year, where Briggs and Maclean began to dress up for fun and wearing suits to school. It was through this that the two of them found out about the common interest in dressing up nicely. It got to the point where the freshmen were planning to dress up in suits every day once they reached the high school, which hasn't always been the case.

This interest of dressing up soon morphed into the idea of creating the League of Well Dressed Gentlemen. Here, guys would be able to come together and dress up together as a big group.

In meetings, the members would be able to swap information and discuss several different kinds of dress. "It's a club where we can dress well, or at least learn something new," Briggs said. They would also discuss about what other things that needed to be done, such as how to tie a bow tie, and educate each other.

Although this club is still in its beginning stages, Briggs says that the plan was to become a more engaged club.

If you are interested in this club, which is hosted by Mr. DeVone, it meets on Wednesdays at lunch in Room 317.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Science Club at Regionals

By: Sophia Lo

Once winter break ended, members of the Science Club are building models of towers and proteins, poking around “crime scenes”, using chemistry to improve their forensics skills, and studying skeletons to learn about human anatomy.

This month, the Science Club will be competing in one of NJ Science Olympiad’s three regional competitions. The competition will take place on Thursday January 11th at Camden County Community College. There are typically around 20 to 25 teams at each regional competition, and the top six teams from each region will compete in the state competition in March.

Science Olympiad competitions encompass

a number of events, including Experimental Design, Disease Detectives, and Astronomy. Some of the events are tests while others are lab practicals. Regardless of what field of science you’re interested in, there’s certainly an event for you.

Senior Anyi Qian said, “ Science Olympiad offers the opportunity to explore science outside of the classroom. If you like biology, you can compete in Microbe Mission or Protein Modeling. If you like physics, you can try Helicopters or Hovercraft. There’s something for everyone.”

Last year, Hopewell’s Science Club placed within the top six teams and was able to compete in the state competition. This year, they’re hoping to do the same, and team members have begun to study and prepare for their tests and practicals.

Senior Catherine Zhang said, “The Science Olympiad competitions have always been a really fun way to apply concepts we learn in

school and to learn about more esoteric fields of science. Our team had a great time at states last year, and we’re hoping to do so again this year.”

Even after the regional competition, Science Club will be hard at work. In addition to the regional competition, members of the Science Club will begin participating in Science League.

Students in the Science League take tests at the level and field of science they’re studying in school. For example, a first-year biology student would take the Biology I test. Science League tests are conducted once a month from January through April. Students travel to various schools to take the tests. Overall, students that score in the top 10% for their level and field are given awards.

If you’re interested in participating in Science League, contact Catherine Zhang at catherinezhang@hvrtd.org.

HV Connect

By: Emily Wang

In October, an email was sent to junior and senior students about a program called HV Connect. The program would allow students to connect with local businesses in the form of mentorships or job shadowing experiences. Students could learn about a wide range of topics from university level education or laser physics, to orthodontia or construction consulting.

Although the email was from counseling supervisor Dr. Abrahams, the mind behind HV Connect was HVCHS senior Mia Zang. She developed the program with Dr. Abrahams, as well as Mrs. JoAnn Markiewicz and Mrs. Nancy Barich from Helpwell.

Mia was inspired to create HV Connect because of her own search for work experience. “The lack of an easily accessible way to see all the fields of work available to high school positions motivated me to reach out to the school with the suggestion for a new program,” says Mia.

Other students have experienced similar difficulties, leading to an impressive response to the program. Mia said that she was “thrilled to see all the students, both juniors and seniors, interested in participating.” The opportunities offered through HV Connect attracted many juniors and seniors who wanted a chance to further their interests.

The process of launching the program began with “several surveys and lots of communica-

tion back and forth between us and the businesses,” said Mia. As interest grew, she also attended municipal meetings to present her idea to a larger audience of businesses. “We got a great turn out in regards to businesses willing to offer positions.”

After a steady group of businesses were organized, an application was sent out for eager juniors and seniors. Mia, Dr. Abrahams, Mrs. Markiewicz, and Mrs. Barich then matched the students to the businesses they expressed interest in before providing contact information.

In the few months since the initial introduction of the program to the student body, there have been a few difficulties. The primary issue has been the disconnect in communication

between the students and business. “Delayed responses from either side can make it a timely process,” says Mia. “But we work with both sides as best we can to make communication as efficient and direct as possible.” This problem will more than likely be resolved in the future.

As HV Connect is a relatively new program, there is room for expansion. Mia stated that her end goal for HV Connect is for it to become “a direct way for students to network with local businesses and find job shadow opportunities in an easy and convenient way.” Along the way, she also hopes to create a database that’s easily accessible for students and businesses and allows them to check on and connect with each other. Perhaps in the future, HV Connect will become an important facet of Hopewell’s identity.

Teen Pep

By: Julia Drake

On January 11th, HVCHS students and family got together for Teen PEP's annual family night. Teen PEP stands for Teen Prevention Education Program and it is a club that runs outreaches with the sophomore classes to educate them about sex and how to make smart decisions in different scenarios.

In order to extend these outreaches outside of the classroom, Teen PEP created family night as a chance for parents, students, and teachers to learn more about Teen PEP and to promote communication between par-

ents and teenagers about sex and relationships.

Family Night has the same format as the in-class workshops, but there is more of a focus on parent and child communication. These workshops include skits, small group discussions and an open platform for questions all accompanied by a spread of great snacks!

Most importantly, Teen PEP's family night strives to make talking about sex a more comfortable topic between parents and their children because this promotes healthy relationships and smart decisions.

Senior and Teen PEP member Tim Granzow says, "I joined Teen PEP to teach

the sophomores some of the most important things they'll learn in high school: sexual health and smart decision making. I had an impactful experience with Teen PEP when I was a sophomore and I love that I got the opportunity to give back to this year's sophomores."

Teen PEP's focus on helping HVCHS students make smart and informed sexual decisions has been a key part of sophomore health education and family night is a great way to connect with Teen PEP members who are happy to provide advice and answer questions.

Grab your parents and head to family night to get more informed!

Horoscopes

By: Michael Stivala

Capricorn December 23-January 20: You might think this horoscope is a further invitation into delusion-ville, but it's more like a cry from the Universe for you to stop whining. Consider: how big is the brain of a goat?

Aquarius January 21-February 19: If others reward you this month for doing almost nothing, wipe the Al Gore syndrome out of your eyes and do something real to help heal the school, like actually doing your homework for once.

Pisces February 20-March 20: Your fluid, intuitive energies are ideally suited for poetry, divination, and energy healing. Unfortunately, the world is consumed by business, industry, and war.

Aries March 21- April 20: This month your leadership skills are like Pat Robertson's. Instead of selling your soul to the devil for a buck, consider contemplating who you are without titles or material objects.

Taurus April 21-May 21: Pizza is a beautiful thing, with endless combinations of flavors and colors, circular in form and dynamic in texture. If you find yourself this aesthetically enamored by pizza, stop eating so much.

Gemini May 22-June 21: This month it's like you've got a solar panel on one side of your head and Cthulhu

tendrils on the other: You know which twin to pick.

Cancer June 22-July 23: What's got a hard protective exterior shell and soft, gushy, vulnerable insides? You know exactly who I am referring to.

Leo July 24-August 23: When the Moon visits your sign this month, you'll see your reflection everywhere. Just make sure you don't visit a nice restaurant with four-way mirrors in the bathroom because you'll never come back.

Virgo August 24-September 23: Rumor has it you're extremely concerned about the potential of flunking an assignment. If anything starts to get too real in your life, calculate the potential of large-scale Alien abduction.

Libra September 24-October 23: This month, the scales are tipped in your favor by cosmic energies, but no amount of planetary influence will keep you from being a human seesaw if you listen to Snapchat more than your gut.

Scorpio October 24-November 22: No need for a New Years Resolution. Stay exactly the way you are. You are perfect in every conceivable way.

Sagittarius November 23-December 22: Among the unique representations of horses, we have talking horses, flying horses, one-horned horses, and then there's you: a horse with a human head. Sounds like a backward congress.

Going Swimmingly: Shark Tank Presentations

By: Eva Nee

On January 19th, the annual Shark Tank presentations will begin in the Entrepreneurship class. Based on ABC's television show *Shark Tank*, students in the Entrepreneurship class create a product, service, or business, and compete against each other in hopes of winning.

Students produce a five-minute formal presentation that they give to a panel of "sharks", who are professional business people from the community. Students must pitch their ideas, explain how they will make money, and describe what they need the money for, as well as address their marketing, financing, and uniqueness of their product. Requirements aside, the students are free to present their product in any way.

At the end, the Sharks ask questions and vote for the winner. Ultimately, the Shark Tank presentation allows Entrepreneurship students to construct a company

from nothing, a process which started in the first marking period.

Prior to the Shark Tank presentations, students spend time learning about business plans, the entrepreneurship process, putting together a pitch, and who potential customers may be. In addition to this, students meet with outside business consultants twice. During these meetings, students receive feedback on their projects and ask for suggestions in order to devise the best possible business.

There has been a multitude of interesting products, businesses, and presentations that students have invented over the years. Some groups have dressed alike, wore shirts with the logo of their company on them, or displayed a commercial. Last year, one of the winning businesses was a service where the consumer could rent clothes.

Entrepreneurship teacher Ms. Morgan says, "Some of the presentations have been creative, fun, and get the attention of our sharks. There's a lot of different ways students have done their presentations, but all have done wonderful[ly] every single year."

A Step-by-Step Guide: Acceptance to NHS

By: Abby Van Selous

In order to be eligible for the National Honor Society (NHS), one must first know what it is.

NHS is a nationwide program which acknowledges outstanding high school student achievement. Students across the country have been recognized as high-achieving individuals since 1921, when the program was first established.

While many wish to become a part of NHS in order to check off a box on their college applications, the National Honor Society can serve more purpose in a student's life. English teacher Johanna Claps, an advisor for the program, explains such

benefits by stating, "It really is a reflection of character, in addition to academic excellence."

It is important to note that students must be entering either eleventh or twelfth grade to be eligible for the National Honor Society.

Step One: Get good grades. A student's GPA must be at least 91.01 if they wish to be considered for the program.

Step Two: Students should become involved in their communities. Ms. Claps suggests students should "find opportunities to volunteer your time... at a library, religious organization, soup kitchen, or elementary school" so that they may become eligible for NHS.

Step Three: Complete the required appli-

cations. These applications will illustrate to the program's faculty panel, composed of four teachers and a guidance counselor, a student's leadership and service in his or her community.

Step Four: Provide documentation. It is necessary for students interested in NHS to provide evidence of their past service work and leadership positions.

Step Five: Write an essay. Students who desire membership in the National Honor Society must write an essay to portray to the faculty panel their perception on leadership.

Step Six: Get letters of recommendation and faculty responses. Such documents are used to better illustrate a student's character and personality.

CAMPUS

Concentrating On Concentrated Study

By: Eva Nee

Although Concentrated Study has been a class offered at Hopewell Valley Central High School for ten years, it is one of the most hidden courses. However, this class can be the most rewarding in a student's high school experience. This year, Concentrated Study is headed by Mr. John Grimaldi, who is also a German teacher.

In this course, a student who has an academic interest in a class that is not offered in Hopewell Valley Central High School, for example AP Psychology, can apply for Concentrated Study. If a student's request is approved, the student can take the course the following year, specializing in that topic.

There are some requirements. For instance, 150 hours of work must be completed over the course of the school year (this may include taking a class at a college, helping to teach a class at school, or playing in a regional orchestra), and there are presentations at the mid-year point and again at the end of the year to a panel of judges. A journal of the student's progress must also be kept. That being said, Concentrated Study has many benefits that makes it worth the effort.

One of the advantages of Concentrated Study is the nearly limitless amount of courses that a student can take. Whatever a student is interested in, there will, more than likely, be a course to suit their interest.

Mr. Grimaldi says, "[Concentrated Study] allows you to take something that you're passionate about... and do what I consider college level research or performance...it's something that you typically don't get in a normal class, and it's going to be put on your transcript. So it gives you kind of a step up when you move on to the university."

Aside from the requirements, Concentrated Study gives a student a great deal of independence and freedom. Courses range from sociology to macroeconomics to dance education. Students may set up experiments around the school. Sixteen students currently take Concentrated Study.

Senior Lucas Carsky-Wilson builds 3D assemblages and researches artists like Louise Nevelson in Sculpture and 3D Design, while Senior Zoey Wheeler takes AP Psychology to prepare for college and pursue of her love of psychology. Senior TaylorRae Carter follows her passion for dance by observing and teaching dance education. Clearly, Concentrated Study offers a variety of courses adapted for a unique student.

If you are interested in the Concentrated Study, the process to apply is easy. After speaking with your counselor, visit the Hopewell Valley Central High School's website and click on "Counseling Services" in the drop down menu underneath "Students." Next, in the sidebar on the right hand side of the screen, click "forms." You will see "Concentrated Studies Application." Simply fill out the form to apply.

OP-ED

A Turn for the Worse in Zimbabwe

By: Paul Frank

In late November, the Zimbabwe military declared it would oust strongman Robert Mugabe, who had destroyed the country through tyranny and economic incompetence, and return to a constitutional government.

Mugabe is still president, in name. The 93-year-old dictator gave a speech in late November in which he was widely expected to announce his resignation. He didn't. Impeachment proceedings are underway, and Mugabe has already been removed from his leadership of Zanu-PF, the major political party.

There was a long struggle between Mugabe's wife and Emmerson Mnangagwa, an early ally of Mugabe, who would soon succeed Mugabe. In early November, Mugabe fired Mnangagwa from his job as vice president — paving the way for Mugabe's wife to succeed him. Mnangagwa fled to South Africa and appeared to have orchestrated the coup d'état, led by his close ally, Constantino Chiwenga, the head of the military.

Now Mnangagwa has returned and is calling for Mugabe to "accept the will of the people" by stepping down. He may be interested in maintaining the appearance of a graceful transition, but the coup

The Progress of Capitalism and Democracy

By: Sanskar Agrawal

In global politics, there have been major changes regarding the progress of Western society or, in other words, democracy. This is because Western society is composed of capitalism and democracy, two major ideas which have spread throughout the world.

One such change is that existing democracies are taking on dictatorial tones. It may be hard to believe, but it has already happened. Certain countries like Russia, Philippines, Turkey, and more recently, Venezuela, have already taken to using dictatorial ideas along with their democracies. There are various explanations as to why various countries are turning in the rightward direction. One reason is the massive globalization enabled by low shipping cost, internet and e-commerce, and low wages in certain countries.

Brexit is also another example as it shows how countries are becoming more protectionist. Another reason could be that in certain countries, the previous democracies were ineffective in dealing with various issues, or lost much of their power and, as a result, are overthrown by tyrants or the people themselves.

There have also been countries leaning to the right. These countries would include Austria, India, the U.S, and many others. The U.S is a prime example. The new and current administration is

has ended and Mnangagwa will be the next dictator of Zimbabwe. Mugabe and his wife's close allies have been fired from Zanu-PF, and they are reported to be in exile in Namibia.

So who is Mnangagwa?

He was involved in Mugabe's Zimbabwe rebellion, rising through the Zimbabwe regime from bodyguard to intelligence chief to enforcer. Once Mugabe took over Zimbabwe, Mnangagwa oversaw the Gukurahundi campaign, which involved the genocide of the Ndebele people, in order to exterminate the supporters of Joshua Nkomo, Mugabe's main rival. Over 500,000 Ndebele were tortured and slaughtered by Mnangagwa's forces.

While Mugabe may have been flamboyant, Mnangagwa earned his nickname, "the Crocodile", by being cold and ruthless. He has supported Mugabe's agricultural "reforms" that plunged Zimbabwe into economic devastation. Although, in order to appear changed, he has proposed constitutionalist policies, promising sound economic reforms.

Personally, I don't buy it. Now, don't get me wrong, predictions are very difficult, especially about foundations of governments, but my money's on the Zimbabwe crisis taking a turn for the worst, rather than the best.

from a right-wing party. Furthermore, many of the global agreements signed by the previous, left-wing administration are being undone, like the Paris Climate Agreement. Countries like the U.S are leaning toward more conservative ideas.

These right-wing ideas are also affecting communication with other countries as certain countries are breaking away from various trade agreements because they that they can be self-sufficient and are moving toward protectionism.

In addition, capitalism is also being threatened by these ideas, for example, the Occupy Wall Street movement. This movement was made to combat the income equality that was occurring as a result of the United State's capitalistic society. This movement and others have also spawned up to battle against the capitalistic ways of western society. These movements are the anti-capitalist and anti-globalization movement.

Despite the fact that these are not very significant movements, it still shows that some people feel that capitalism and globalization are a negative and instead, the country should become protectionist or replace capitalism. It therefore goes to show as it stands today, the very thing that Western society is built on, is now starting to crumble in various places around the world.

Global Warming isn't a Conspiracy

By: Sanskar Agrawal

Based on old and current news plus the recent weather here in New Jersey, it seems that some people believe that Global Warming is a conspiracy. A conspiracy is defined by the Oxford dictionary as, "Two or more people doing something bad, illegal, or against someone's wishes." This would make climate change a very huge conspiracy as many scientists have proved that climate change is real using various tests, evidence, and other experiments.

In 2007, 3,500 scientists in the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change, representing over 130 countries, were given a Nobel Peace Prize for their work on climate change. That means over 3,500 distinguished people and 130 countries have done work on one subject to make it seem like a conspiracy. Makes sense? Probably not, considering that so many people, and countries are involved. It therefore cannot be a conspiracy.

It's Time for a New Approach on North Korea

By: Paul Frank

After another North Korean missile test in early December, Ambassador Nikki Haley made a declaration at the United Nations. If war comes, "the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed." If China doesn't cut off oil to the Hermit Kingdom, "we can take the oil situation into our own hands."

The declaration would have been great in 1996 when nations that signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty were reluctant to violate it; when North Korea hadn't tested a single nuclear weapon; when the US would cut a deal with Iran to overlook past nuclear transgressions for a temporary pause on the latter's nuclear program.

In 2017, Haley and President Trump's statements are not grounded in reality. It's important to remember why the president and his ambassadors are threatening North Korea to begin with. All of this is the retreading of a discredited policy to not allow North Korea to obtain a nuclear weapon. This policy included the idea of threatening, coddling, and tempting Kim Jong Un to start negotiations to abandon any pursuit of a nuclear arsenal.

The US and its allies have been using this policy for over two decades, and the North Koreans burn us every time. Now North Korea needs to perfect a nuclear warhead that can survive re-entry into the atmosphere to be a credible nuclear threat. As Michael Auslin, Professor of Asian Contemporary at the Hoover Institution, said, "It's only a matter of time. It's a technical issue at this point. They are going to get it."

Usually a conspiracy consists of a few people and definitely not several thousand. Furthermore, those who think climate change isn't real also feel that if it did exist, there would be major regulatory changes in various industries. This would include severe restrictions regarding industry emissions, or in oil, mining, fisheries, coal, etc.

According to the NOAA, each disaster that occurs due to weather or climate change costs the U.S more than \$1 billion in damages. These events include one drought, two floods, one freeze, seven severe storms, three tropical storms, and one wildfire all occurring from the beginning of 2017 to this past October. It also resulted in the death of close to 300 people. These events have significant economic effects on the areas impacted and show that climate change is a devastating thing and is no conspiracy.

It's time for a new approach: give up the insanity of pressure and negotiation.

Rather than waste the resources of the State Department, The US diplomats should focus on improving our deterrence against North Korea. American diplomacy and military capability should be devoted to countering China's militarization of the South China Sea and broaden its economic strategy. If he were to give up in the future, President Trump wouldn't have to meet with the Chinese over their client state. That would become China's problem. Meanwhile, President Trump would be able to relax as new defensive technology is inevitably developed to shoot down North Korean missiles.

Then, there's credibility. In the past, the US would have taken a hit with a "give up" strategy. However, North Korea has changed this. Despite President Trump's threats, it's hard to believe he will order a pre-emptive strike. Even if he did, it would probably not be all that effective. The fact that North Korea tested its missile on a mobile launcher makes it that much more difficult to track let alone target these sites. This says nothing of the risk that Seoul, the capital of South Korea, would face in the case of a northern retaliation.

Moving on, countries already integrated into the global system face consequences and threats that criminals like North Korea manage to evade time after time. As such, we need more creative options to deal with North Korea. No longer will President Trump have to worry about how Kim Jong Un will react to officials speaking the truth about his autocracy. He wants nukes so his regime can survive. Nuclear negotiations

were nothing more than the assurance that the US only has an interest in the nuclear threat of North Korea, not in freeing its people.

We will not have this problem anymore.

Think of the opportunities. President Trump could emphasize and call attention to North Korean dissidents and their stories. He could encourage and start plotting a Korean democracy. With a little luck, maybe a constellation of dissidents could form a government in exile. Giving up on stopping a North Korean nuke means getting United States on the right side of Korean history.

To close, a "give up" stance would bring stability. Kim Jong Un would no longer have the ability to throw the region and the world into crisis every time he tests a weapon. Kim would lose his ability to get the world to focus on his threats whenever he wishes. Meanwhile, the US should continue to sabotage his program through cyber and conventional means.

Giving up, it's something President Trump should consider while dealing with North Korea. Maybe the next time Kim decides to trigger the world, the U.S. response can be clear and concise. The Pentagon should say the US denounces Kim's latest move, and that North Korea knows what awaits if it ever attacks the US or its allies. It may not sound like much, but it sure beats empty threats and seemingly dead-end talks. It's time for the United States to take a step back from the insanity of negotiations, take its intensity with North Korea down a few notches, embrace its inner zen, and then draft clear policy that expresses its ideals with specificity, not intimidation.

INTERNATIONAL

Global Effect of Human Activity on Planet Earth

By: Sanskar Agrawal

Over the course of several centuries, the human species has become progressively more advanced. However, the many scientific marvels that we see today also come at a cost. Our surroundings are being changed, in many cases irreversibly so, as a result of our sophisticated lifestyles.

One such example of this is the endangerment of various species. According to the Center for Biological Diversity and World Wildlife Federation, it is estimated that by the year 2050, 30-50% of all species that ever lived on this planet will be extinct. It took millions of years for these species to evolve, but it will take less than 30 years for them to become extinct.

Over the last two centuries, several species have already become extinct, including the west African black rhinoceros, passenger pigeon, Caribbean monk seal, sea mink, and tecopa pupfish. According to World Wildlife Federation, some of the future candidates for extinction include bees, pandas, bald eagles, polar Bears, and elephants.

Part of the reason for extinction is that humans have kicked many animals out of their habitats and claimed that habitat as our own. This has a huge impact on us because all these creatures are vital to the ecosystem and also the food chain. If one creature goes extinct, then others will as well. Our food sources depend on complex ecosystems and when these ecosystems are disturbed, some food sources that we use may be gone forever.

As an example, without the bees, plants will not be able to grow and create fruits, leading to a massive problem regarding a healthy diet. It would be a critical blow to the human way of living.

There is also light pollution. We live in large cities that use lights on streets, houses, commercial buildings, parking lots, and airports. This creates another problem, as the sky is obstructed with less ability to see the stars. With so many lights coming from massive skyscrapers and the rest of the city, we cannot see the night sky clearly. As a result, people and researchers who are fond of nature, particularly the stars and the sky, have to set up their telescopes in increasingly more deserted locations.

Cities from where starry night skies were visible only 100 years ago can no longer see them anymore. According to many sources, it is entirely possible that in another 100 years, we may not be able to see the night sky from any major city and rely less more

and more on telescopes set up in space or on radio telescopes. In many cultures, the night sky is considered man's connection to his creator. When the skies are no longer full of stars to the naked eye, that connection will be lost.

In addition, there is sound pollution to consider. This is a result of vehicles and other machines running everywhere. There is so much sea traffic of cargo and passenger ships that it is increasingly difficult to study the sound patterns of animals, like whales and dolphins. The sounds also interfere with the communication of sea creatures and their reproduction process since sound is key to animal communication at the time of mating.

There is already a great deal of discussion about global warming. As a result of CO₂ emissions created by cars and other machines, the climate is changing dramatically. For one thing, the winters are getting warmer. There is also a deterioration of the ozone layer. The polar ice caps in Antarctica are melting. This means that the ocean will rise and flood coastal cities. The reason we discuss this issue the most is that when coastal cities are flooded, human habitats are affected. However, other issues are less discussed when the animal habitats or other environmental factors are affected.

One more factor in environmental damage is the increasing area occupied by landfills. This is because waste from these landfills can sometimes spoil the groundwater underneath it and therefore make contaminate the water. This makes it impossible for the water to be used by the locals there. Further, rotting waste produces methane that is 20 times more potent than CO₂.

These along with other inefficient methods such as burning waste, which spews dangerous chemicals, could further damage the environment. In fact, many cities such as New Delhi and Beijing have a pollution level that is 10 times higher than an acceptable level of particulate matter in the air as measured in ppm (as reported by US Embassy AQI Index in these cities), some of which is from the burning of waste. Almost 3,000 people die in a city like Delhi of pollution, as estimated by scientists and as reported by major newspapers like the Indian Express.

Overall, human activity has really had a negative impact on the global environment that was once here. Many species that were here are now gone or endangered. Light and sound pollution may well be the downfalls of the civilization we have built. Meanwhile global warming is affecting the climate, and landfills are hurting our environment. In several of these cases, we may have well reached beyond the tipping point where the harm is now irreversible, but it is still not too late to take notice so that the tenure of human species on the planet is not cut off.

U.S. Military Presence in Middle East Increases as Autumn Concludes

By: Paul Frank

President Trump has increased the number of U.S. troops and civilians working for the Department of Defense in the Middle East by 33 percent. This number, however, doesn't account for the rise in troops stationed in Afghanistan since President Trump announced a new strategy for his fight against the Taliban. This number also came from the Pentagon's quarterly reports on personnel, raising questions over the minimal discourse taking place in the Middle East.

Here are the number of troops in each Middle Eastern country as of November 23, 2017, according to the Department of Defense: Egypt, 455; Israel, 41; Lebanon, 110; Syria, 1,723; Turkey, 2,265; Jordan, 2,730; Iraq, 9,122; Kuwait, 16,592; Saudi Arabia, 850; Yemen, 14; Oman, 32; United Arab Emirates, 4,240; Qatar, 6,671; Bahrain, 9,335.

In comparison, here are the number of soldiers back in September: Egypt, 392; Israel, 28; Lebanon, 99; Syria, 1,251; Turkey, 1,405; Jordan, 2,469; Iraq, 8,173; Kuwait, 14,790; Saudi Arabia, 730; Yemen, 13; Oman, 30; United Arab Emirates, 1,531; Qatar, 3,164; Bahrain, 6,541.

As these numbers suggest, every Middle Eastern country experienced an increase in the presence of U.S. soldiers between September and November 2017. This expansion of military presence in the Middle East has been kept under the radar.

"The expansion in overseas troop deployments, and a vast increase in airstrikes everywhere, was totally consistent with what Trump promised as a candidate," Micah Zenko, a Chatham House Whitehead senior fellow said. "Yet, I think it now has more to do with long-standing preferences of Mattis and the [Defense] Secretary and other senior military officials. That's why Mattis uses 'annihilationist' phrases to describe ISIL and contends all of America's enemies can be militarily defeated, by doing more of everything."

In short, Zenko believes the increase was linked to a mentality that the military serves as the best solution for every problem. For instance, despite ISIL's major land losses in the two countries, Syria and Iraq have experienced the largest increase in U.S. military presence, raising questions about the purpose of such actions.

Interestingly, it appears that some officials in the U.S. military are unaware of the increase in power. For example, in mid-November, Joint Staff Director Lieutenant General Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. told *The New York Times* that the military has "about 503 operating in Syria. And in Iraq, we have approximately 5,262. I believe in these numbers, so those are the numbers." However, based on the Pentagon's numbers, the United States has 1,720 troops in Syria and 8,892 in Iraq.

With President Trump in the White House, there has been an increase in U.S. troops and civilians killed in action overseas. In fact, by the end of August, President Trump had killed more civilians while fighting ISIL than Obama had in his entire second term.

President Trump also exponentially increased the number of airstrikes and soldiers in Afghanistan. By the end of October, the United States dropped 3,554 bombs on Afghanistan during 2017, nearly tripling the 1,337 bombs dropped in 2016. According to Afghan officials, President Trump's new strategy in the country has increased civilian deaths by 50 percent.

Beyond the Middle East, President Trump doubled the presence of American soldiers in Somalia, sending 500 soldiers. In May, a Navy SEAL died during a raid on an ISIL compound, marking the first SEAL's death since 1993. Similarly to Afghanistan, President Trump has also increased the number of airstrikes in Somalia, conducting the first-ever airstrike against ISIL in Somalia.

As President Trump expands U.S. military operations overseas, there has been a severe lack of public discussion over the efficiency of said operations.

As Trump Announces US Stance on Jerusalem, Many Fear Further Conflict Over Capital

By: Paul Frank

It has been 50 years since the Six-Day War, the June 1967 conflict that continues to define the Israeli-Palestinian Jerusalem. Back then, the world saw this co-ownership outcome as temporary. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, the backdrop to what was to become a diplomatic solution to the problem of the stateless Palestinians, was adopted some five months after the war ended. But what began as temporary has lasted for over five decades.

This is the context in which President Trump declared that the United States recognized Jerusalem to be Israel's capital. President Trump stated that the United States was not taking a position on the final status of Jerusalem, including "the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty." Throughout his campaign and first year in office, President Trump made clear that the United States would support a two-state solution if agreed to by both sides. His attempt to cover his change of US policy while arguing that little had changed did not persuade many. Most Israelis were pleased with the new US stance, and most in the Arab world and beyond were incensed.

Why President Trump chose when he did to make this decision is a matter of con-

jecture. The President implied it was a recognition of his predecessors' policy failure to do so. It had failed to bring in any diplomatic prospects. Others have attributed the US announcement to American domestic politics, a conclusion supported by the unilateral US statement's failure to demand anything of Israel or offer anything to the Palestinians.

Trump appears to believe the view that Saudi Arabia and other Arab governments are more concerned with an Iranian threat than an Israeli one. As such, he gives these governments a central role in peacemaking. As a result, President Trump seems to believe that they are all prepared to put aside any hostility toward Israel, a country that shares several ideas that could be considered Iranian. It also looks like he thinks the Saudis will use their financial resources to persuade the Palestinians to agree to make peace with Israel on reasonable terms.

The problem with this is that the type of plan which Israel historically agrees to will fail to quench the Palestinians' appetite for equity. If this comes to fruition, the Palestinians may determine it is safer to refuse to sign any treaty and leave themselves vulnerable to radical groups than hand over the city to their rivaling faction.

The Saudis may also be reluctant to be associated with a plan that many will deem a sellout option. The new Saudi leadership under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has prioritized the consolidation of

power, attacking corruption in the Kingdom and pursuing a nationalist, anti-Iranian foreign policy. But their tactics seem to be not as effective as previously believed. The Saudis' anti-corruption efforts have dropped in popularity after selective prosecution of offenders and reports about the crown prince's own lifestyle, alienating the hierarchy from the commoners. The anti-Iran efforts have become inseparable from what has become a genocide in Yemen and a diplomatic embarrassment in Lebanon and Qatar. Meanwhile, ambitious plans to reform the country are proving easier said than done and are sure to anger conservative elements of the Saudi government.

The problem that appears to be affecting President Trump's decision is that the Saudis are likely to prove much less of a diplomatic partner than expected. If the new crown prince is worried about his domestic political standing, he will be reluctant to stand shoulder to shoulder with an American president seen as having Israelophilia, unwilling to grant Palestine statehood.

This gets us right back to Jerusalem. President Trump asserted that recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital was "a long overdue step to advance the peace process and the work towards a lasting agreement." However, it appears that President Trump's move will lead to further bickering over the sovereignty of Israel and Palestine.

Global Adoption of EVs

By: Sankar Agrawal

There is a major transformation occurring in the American car industry. This would be the transition into more efficient, powerful, and green electric vehicles (EVs). Some companies, such as Tesla and Chevy, have already tried to get ahead in the race and have already designed various electric vehicles to get there. Though they are not the only ones. Many other international automakers such as Mercedes Benz, BMW, Volvo, and Nissan have also been committed on getting their own versions of electric cars on the road to compete in the EV race. Despite them

competing in the American car market, they also compete in their own countries. This in turn helps the global adoption of EVs in the global car market as well. This is because if automakers are rushed to meet the American EV race, they also progress in their own countries as they then have an EV available to their own country too.

However, the global EV market will only have significant progress and influence once it is being charged and covered. This is because if the energy produced to meet the demand of EVs is not produced in the right way, it will be as bad as internal combustion engine vehicles roaming the streets. Electricity

can be produced in a variety of ways with some being green such as wind, water, and solar. The other side being the creation of electricity using dirty methods such as natural gas, which can cause pollution. One such example is in France, which has taken a clean way to produce electricity with only 9% being produced from coal. On the other hand, India produces 60% of its electricity via coal. The point being that if any country decides to go green and transform their car industry to EVs, more clean electricity must also be produced to meet it in order to truly harness the potential of the green vehicle that is an EV.

LOCAL

Meet Our Congresswoman: Bonnie Watson Coleman

By: Anna Salvatore

What were your favorite activities in high school?

Choir, field hockey, and volleyball. I also loved Spanish and French, although I don't speak them very well any more. It's a shame.

How much has your job changed now that a Republican president controls the White House?

We have less hearings now due to the Republican president and Republican-controlled Congress. We used to have oversight committee hearings all the time, four or five of them each week, just tearing apart some aspect of Obama's agenda. With all the controversy swirling around this president, we are not able to get very many committee meetings or hearings to look into that.

How do you stay connected with your New Jersey constituents?

Well, I'm home three days a week. I try to go and visit districts, attend club meetings, meet with interest groups – Moms Demand Action Against Gun Control, for instance. Social media is also helpful, since I can send Facebook videos back to my district.

Which news outlets do you follow the most closely?

I read *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. I also watch CNN News online and NJ.com to see what's happening in my district, and every once in awhile, I'll read *The Trentonian*.

How have strong writing skills helped you succeed in politics?

When my father was in the legislature, I used to write the majority of his speeches. After I was elected to office, then someone else started writing the majority of my speeches. I would collaborate on them, but they would actually put the finishing touches on them. My communications director will say that most of the time, though, I'll read their stuff and then I speak off the cuff on the issues that are most important to me. I tell them, 'Maybe so, but your materials are informing me.'

Just yesterday, there was a major partisan gerrymandering case called Gill v. Whitford before the Supreme Court. Have you been following that case lately?

Well, we all know that over the past few years, Republicans have taken back state houses, legislatures, and governorships. We clearly have districts that are drawn in a major way for

those who probably wouldn't succeed in diverse districts.

That's a very important undertaking of the Supreme Court. I actually just ran into – almost literally ran into – Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I was just like, "Oh my god! You're one of my heroes! I'm so glad to see you," and I shook her hand. I said, "Please just stay well. Take care of yourself."

Why does she inspire you?

Because she's honest and forthright, and because she puts the law of the Constitution in a way that I think is fairly representative of what the intent was going to be. I think she's absolutely brilliant. I almost fully embrace her position on issues.

What's your impression of the newest member of the bench, Justice Gorsuch?

I don't know yet. There's this expectation that he's going to be ultra-conservative. Maybe in the mold of Justice Scalia. By the way, did you know Scalia's from Trenton? And his aunt was my Spanish and French teacher? It's a small world.

What is the biggest mistake that new Congressional representatives make?

I think there are two main issues. One is being so afraid that you don't realize that you have a right to speak and ask questions. The other is thinking you know all the answers when you really don't. This is a very different environment. When I was in the state legislature, there was order on the floor. Here, I don't know if people can hear it on C-SPAN, but the only difference between Congress and Parliament is that we don't throw chairs. That's because we can't pick up the chairs. There's just conversations everywhere – it sounds like chaos.

Were you too afraid to speak, or were you over-eager when you first came into Congress?

I was more reluctant to speak. I wasn't comfortable, so I did a lot more listening. I got frustrated, though, when I noticed how slowly we were moving.

What advice would you give to a high school student who's interested in politics?

I would encourage them to learn who their local and state elected officials are. The person who is my chief of staff approached my father in church when he was eleven or twelve years old and my father was in the state legislature. He said to my father, "I really love politics, and I want to learn so much." So my father started letting him come to the office, attend meetings with him – just be there. The older you get, the more mature you get, the more involved you get, and you'll climb the levels.

A Conversation with Peter Baker– NYT Chief White House Correspondent

By: Anna Salvatore

How much has Twitter affected your work schedule over the past few years?

It's certainly affected my work schedule this year. You're up early waiting to see what might be said on Twitter on any given morning. That means you might end up writing stories before 8 in the morning, which we never would have done in the old days. It depends on the week, the day, and the mood of the President.

Do your articles have a similar structure, or does it change a lot with each story?

It depends on the story, and obviously depends on the time you have to write it. If it's something that's breaking news, you might have to crash it out very quickly. Sometimes even just two or three paragraphs to get it on the website right away, and then you come back and keep building the story.

I was wondering about an article in the Times last Tuesday [November 14th] about Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Your name wasn't on the main byline, but it said that you contributed reporting from Washington. What does that mean, exactly?

In that case, our foreign correspondents were writing about an important figure overseas, but people in Washington have a perspective on that issue as well. We wanted to make sure we explored the American government's point of view and Prince Mohammed's relationship with the Trump administration. So for this article, I interviewed people from the administration, people from around Washington, and experts on the issue. I typed up my notes and sent them to my colleagues.

How many sources do you consult for that kind of article?

Regarding that story, if you added up all the people they interviewed and I interviewed, I imagine there would be several dozen. Every story is different. There are literally stories where you talk to scores of people, and then there are stories where you talk to two or three people.

If you could give the President truth serum, what one question would you ask?

That's a good question [laughs]... Well, I think I'd want to ask about what he knows about last year's campaign and its interactions with Russians. There are so many elements to explore. I would want to think carefully about to frame the question if I was only getting one.

I'm curious about your time in Russia, when you were the Times' Moscow Bureau Chief for four years. What was the most surprising thing you learned?

The great thing about being a foreign correspondent is that you learn about a different part of the world in a way that goes beyond the superficial. You also come to appreciate how the freedoms and the opportunities we have in the United States are not available in a lot of places around the world.

Is the Russian press saying drastically different things than the American press about Russian involvement in Trump's campaign?

Oh, certainly. They live in a very different world, and they actually

kind of agree with the 'hoax' line that the President has. There's a very anti-American tone right now in the Russian media overall, and that's really striking.

How rampant was the anti-Americanism when you and your wife lived there?

During our first few months, there were some expulsions of spies. That got pretty intense. But then after 9/11, for a while, there was this moment of renewed friendship. I'll never forget the day after 9/11, going to the American embassy in Moscow and seeing acres of flowers and icons and crosses and notes that had been left by Russians who were feeling great solidarity with the United States. I remember somebody wrote, "We were together at the Elbe. We're together again now."

So your next adventure with your wife is writing a biography of James Baker. Now, I'm kind of in awe... how are you able to compile hundreds of interviews into a coherent profile?

[laughs] Well, we haven't done it yet, but we're working on it. He's a fascinating case study. He was not only Secretary of State during the Cold War, which by itself would be worthy of a biography, but he also ran five presidential campaigns. He ran the White House for Reagan in his first term and got him reelected. He was Secretary of the Treasury. He was the last guy to genuinely reform and rewrite the tax code.

If a young James Baker took over as chief of staff for President Trump right now, what would be his first move?

I think a younger Jim Baker would probably do more to reach out beyond just his own party. He would try to find more common ground in order to pass important legislation that would have a more sustained future.

How is your writing approach for a biography different from "Days of Fire" and "Kremlin Rising"?

Well, it is different. A biography has to tell you about a person, not just a set of events. And you have to be able to explore what makes the person. What about his or her childhood was formative, what about his or her experiences early on – before they get to whatever station that makes you care about them.

Did James Baker have any particularly formative events in his childhood?

He was the son and grandson and great-grandson of Houston aristocracy. I think that was a gift and a burden at the same time. There were great expectations for him from the beginning, and all of us would struggle, I suppose, to live up to those expectations. As a young man, he then lost his wife to cancer when he was forty. He was left with four sons to raise by himself. That's a formative moment for him, and actually kind of propels him into politics. Up until that point, he really hadn't been that much involved. It was friend from the tennis club, George H.W. Bush, who pulled him in and says, 'Come work with me on my Senate campaign in Texas.' It clicks.

If you could have a beat other than the White House, what would it be?

If I weren't covering the White House right now, I would just be writing books. I find that very enjoyable. But the White House is the best beat, no question about it.

Gabe Fleischer: Journalist, and High Schooler on the Side

By Anna Salvatore

Gabe Fleischer is a high school sophomore from St. Louis, Missouri. He first began writing a political newsletter at eight years old; now called "WakeUp2Politics." It reaches over 50,000 subscribers each morning. He aims to provide cogent, fact-based explanations of political current events.

There are thousands of political newsletters out there. In your mind, what sets WakeUp2Politics apart?

I'm pretty aware of my audience and how diverse it is. If you read something like Politico Playbook or Mike Allen's Axios, those newsletters have specific audiences in mind: people in the Beltway, policy-makers, and those who spend their whole day keeping up with the news cycle. There are definitely people like that who read WakeUp2Politics, but a lot of my readers write to me and say it's the only thing they read about politics in the morning. For me, it's about explaining politics in a way that allows all kinds of people to understand it.

What are some of your techniques for writing concisely?

At this point I've been doing the newsletter for a long time, and I constantly look at the news thinking about how I'm going to be presenting what I'm reading. How I can thread it together, what sources I might want to quote from, and how I can present things in an orderly manner.

What was it like to attend the 2015 Democratic debate as the only teenage journalist?

In 2016, I actually attended two debates during the caucus season in Iowa. I was credentialed for the Democratic debate in November 2015 with Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley. It was such an exciting experience to go to Des Moines and be where all the action was, and to interview key players like Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Martin O'Malley.

And then also in the spin room I struck up a conversation with Sean Spicer, who was then the communications director for the Republican National Committee. He said to me that if I wanted to see a real debate, I should go to the Republican one in Des Moines. And then a few weeks later, I emailed him to take him up on that.

Were you nervous to talk with people whom you're constantly reading about and seeing on TV?

I definitely was, especially in the spin room atmosphere. But over time, you lose that by necessity. There's not enough time to be nervous, because you're racing around and elbow-

ing for space. It's overwhelming at first, but if you're too nervous then you don't get your questions answered. So you have to just jump in.

A couple weeks ago, you also covered Trump's speech in St. Charles. What were your expectations heading into the event?

I didn't really know what to expect. That was my first time viewing a speech by President Trump, although I've seen many on TV.

When he started talking, you could clearly see his prepared remarks ~ he talked about Main Street America and St. Charles businesses. My favorite moment, though, was when he described tax reform as rocket fuel, which immediately jumped to "Rocket Man," which is not a connection I made when he said 'rocket', but you could clearly watch, in a way I never had before because I'd never been in the room, as his mind went to Kim Jong Un.

One of the striking things from that newsletter was at the end, when the President's supporters were heckling the press and selling 'fake news' t-shirts. What was going through your mind during that experience?

I've been to many events with press credentials for Democrats and Republicans, statewide politicians and national politicians, and never once has a politician even remarked on the presence of us journalists in the back of the room. And then suddenly to not only be pointed out by the President of the United States, but then to be booed by the people in the room... it was a moment I'll never forget.

If you could ask the President one question and receive a guaranteed honest answer, what would it be?

I get that question a lot, actually, and every time I'm asked, my answer changes a little bit. I think it would be something related to his rhetoric about fake news and maybe how he came to that observation of journalists, and how he squares that with analyses about the falsehoods he has told since becoming president.

Name a couple of the best political biographies you've ever read.

The one writer who I have particularly admired and loved reading for a long time is Doris Kearns Goodwin. Another political book that I've read kind of recently is *What it Takes* by Richard Ben Cramer, which is about the 1988 presidential campaign. It's unlike any other that I've read about politics, and it gets at who the candidates are in a really remarkable way. I read it over the summer, and I'm constantly seeing things in the news that make me think of a line from Richard Ben Cramer because he's such an amazing writer.

SPORTS

Dribbling Back to the Court — HV Girls' Varsity Basketball

By: Marissa Liu

As the holidays draw to a close and the temperatures continue to drop, Meanwhile, one group of girls are putting on their jerseys, tying their sneakers, and returning to the court in full force.

Last year, Hopewell's girls' basketball team experienced varying levels of success. In an upset, they were knocked out in the first round of the Mercer County Tournament, but the girls are still ranked as one of the top schools in the conference.

Unfortunately, this year, Hopewell will have to make up for the loss of two great players: Kristen Long and Sabrina Schrader. Long was a huge scorer for the Bulldogs, and reached her 1,000-point milestone in February of last year. Schrader, who played guard alongside Long, was a key defender on the team.

Despite these losses, the team returns with a strong line of players, led by seniors Bailey Coughlin and Kira Atkinson. Other returning players includes juniors Nicole Apai, Katee Kemether, and Meggy Wiley, and sophomores Charlotte Hare and Ally Oldfield — all of whom have the experience and potential necessary to make a promising varsity team for this winter season.

Competing in the Colonial Valley Conference, Hopewell has to face tough competitors, including Ewing and Notre Dame, who are some of the top teams in the state. However, the girls are unfazed, looking forward to another winning season.

“Our team has very hard workers and I think we will rise to the occasion,” Kemether says confidently. “I think this is going to be a great season because we have a great group of girls and we are all really close. When we play together and at our hardest, we can take on anyone.”

Winter Track Sprints Into the 2017 Season

By: Julia Drake

As the holiday season winds down and the weather gets colder, the winter track team also prepares for their next season.

Team members can choose between different events such as pole vault, hurdles, high jump, and long jump. They can also choose between different distance events including 200, 400, 800, 1600, 3200 meters as well as relays. Under coaches Mr. Aaron Oldfield and Mr. Nicholas Johnson, practice and workouts are run throughout the week to prepare for meets.

During practices, the workouts are centered around

improving individual strength, speed, and agility, and the team puts lots of hard work both in the weight room and on the track.

Senior Tim Dolan, who runs the 800, 1600, 3200, and relays, says, “What I love most about winter track is that you're able to race for yourself but you can also work hard for your teammates. Coach Johnson and Coach Oldfield really push us and gives us any opportunity to race and challenge ourselves. Next year, I am going to miss my coaches and teammates.”

Winter track is a great way for students to stay in shape, get stronger and meet new people.

Go out and support the winter track team as they start off their 2017 season!

Ice Hockey Squad Off to Excellent Start

By: Anna Salvatore

After one month, the HVCHS ice hockey team leads the Colonial Valley Conference (CVC). Strong performances from both underclassmen and upperclassmen have vaulted the Bulldogs above rivals like Princeton and Notre Dame.

Sophomore Ethan Block is building off his fourteen-goal rookie year with five goals and one assist through only three games. He cites the Bulldogs' 5-3 win over Notre Dame as the team's most crucial victory so far.

"Every year, it's always 'We have to beat Notre Dame,' and we usually don't. It was a real confidence booster for the entire team," Ethan said, "and it showed that Hopewell came to play this season."

Perhaps that's an understatement. Not only has Hopewell come to play, but it has received key contributions from a wide variety of players. The diverse group of talent is a scoring threat no matter which lineup takes the ice.

Consider the team's opening night 7-0 rout of High Point. The first goal was scored by freshman Sean Amon, playing in his first high school contest (he also contributed an assist in the second period). The second goal was scored by senior captain Chandler Habig, assisted by fellow senior Vann Adrian-Hage; the third by Ethan Block.

Hopewell is also benefiting from senior Harry Meredith's goal-keeping. Although Harry is better known for being a stalwart of the lacrosse team, his ice hockey debut has been a boon for the Bulldogs.

Harry joined the team last year. Lacking experience, he was

Boys' Swimming Starts Season Strong

By: Eva Ondreyka

Hopewell Valley Boys' Swimming season is off to a strong start, winning their first three meets. They are lead by three captains, juniors Matthew O'Boyle and Nick Pietrinferno, alongside senior Alexander Wurtz.

Even early on in the season, it was clear the competition between other schools was stiff. On Tuesday December 5th, they had a meet against Steinert, winning by only four points with a score of 87-83.

After trailing behind by only a few points for most of the

assigned to filming games rather than starting them. His observations and hard work led to an overhaul in his mechanics. Describing the process as a "complete 180," Harry said that the most difficult adjustment involved moving in the crease, which is the goalie's designated area around the net.

"In hockey I have a higher arc and also have the options of sliding, shuffling, or t-pushing," Harry explained, "while in lacrosse I simply walk a shallow five step arc and step from post to post."

His adjustments have clearly paid off. Through five games, Harry has 71 saves and a 1.183% scoring percentage.

Although last year's team featured several dedicated members, the Bulldogs struggled to rise above the .500 mark. Their overall record was 12-13-2 with a disappointing five losses in six conference games. The 2017 team is beginning the season with renewed determination, maturity, and an infusion of new blood. Heads are turning.

The Dawg Pound, a community of rabid Hopewell sports lovers, is just one example. They have filed into the stands game after game to support the electrifying new squad.

"The crowd cheering on big hits and goals is always a confidence booster," attests Ethan. This contributes to an especially lively atmosphere during inter-conference games, where turnout is bigger and teams tend to be more physical.

These games may not be the prettiest, but Harry says that the team "finds a way to win through hard work, good team play in both zones, and smart hockey."

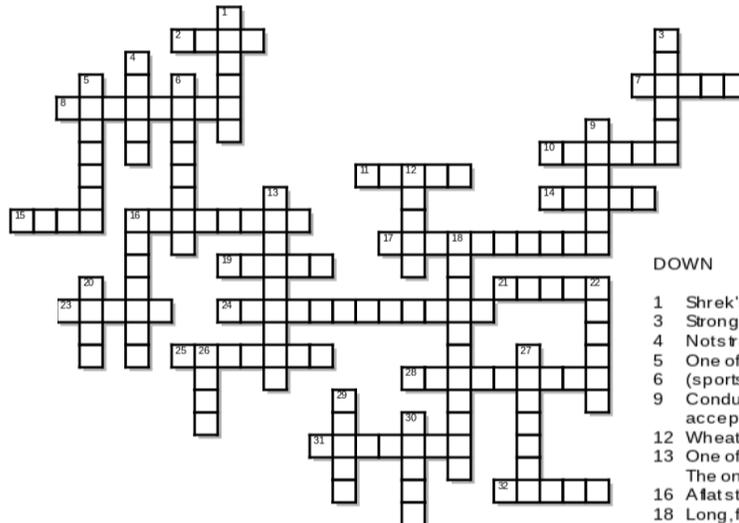
Our ice hockey players deserve encouragement and support for their fantastic efforts. All Hopewell students are encouraged to cheer the Bulldogs as they pursue a playoff berth in the coming months.

meet, they came within reach of winning by the last race of the day: the 400 yard freestyle relay. They needed a first and third place finish to win and the pressure was on. With a first place win by the relay of Ethan Hammett, Charlie Kessel, Alexander Wurtz and Ethan Anderson as well as a third place finish, the boys were victorious.

The Hopewell Valley boys swim team will be competing at MCT's on January 26th at West Windsor Plainsboro North.

Hope to see you there!

PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 2 Water's frozen form
- 7 Having a quality similar to being fluffy, frizzy, or flayed texture or appearance
- 8 What Cinderella rode in
- 10 Fruit with a pit and a type of coke
- 11 A person who does not eat or use animal products.
- 14 A lizard with no arms or legs
- 15 What hammers hit in
- 16 Open or accessible to reason, feeling, argument, etc.
- 17 Having or showing a strong or unreasoning desire for revenge.
- 19 Being unable to see
- 21 Drink this daily
- 23 A precious stone
- 24 An ester formed from glycerol and three fatty acid groups.
- 25 Not being fair or level
- 28 Beautiful, attractive, lovely
- 31 Similar to a cabbage. (ex: Romaine or iceberg)
- 32 What the third little pig's house was made of

DOWN

- 1 Shrek's annoying companion
- 3 Strong, or with good support
- 4 Not straight
- 5 One of the 7 dwarves, (embarrassed)
- 6 (sports team) Golden State _____
- 9 Conduct one's elfin accord with the accepted norms of a society or group.
- 12 Wheat is one of these
- 13 One of the three branches of government. The ones who enforce law.
- 16 A flat stretch of land
- 18 Long, full sideburns or mutton chop whiskers.
- 20 Apple or banana _____ (the party you take off)
- 22 The best part of elementary school where you go outside
- 26 Where birds live
- 27 Cheese and _____ (food name)
- 29 What your body creates to keep cool. Normally seen after a tough workout or gym
- 30 Having a thick layer of dust on something

The Bulldog Reporter

Executive Editors:

Julia Drake
Sophia Lo
Sophia Stivala

Contributing Writers:

Sanskar Agrawal Madeline Carleton
Julia Drake Paul Frank Marissa Liu
Sophia Lo Eva Nee Eva Ondreyka
Anna Salvatore Michael Stivala Sophia Stivala
Abby van Selous Emily Wang

Layout:

Sabrina Russo Ruby Reynertson
Sophia Stivala Nat Valenza

Puzzle:

Michael Stivala

Interested in joining the newspaper? Stop by 217 during lunch on Wednesdays or email sophiastivala@hvrsd.org for more information.