

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Morris Morrison: An American Icon

BY LEAH KNAUFF

Going to Hopewell Jr. High School means you're more than familiar with the yearly assemblies we see over and over and over again. These speakers would normally keep things pretty short, light and simple.

But at the high school we've had speakers talk to us about gun violence, racism, online predators and drug addiction. Those subjects are slightly more intense than a couple twenty-somethings singing to us about bullying and personal hygiene.

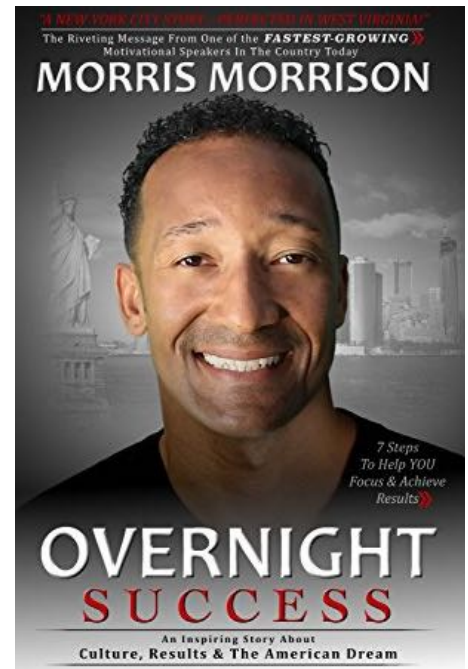
Last month we welcomed a man by the name of Morris Morrison into our school. The first thing you may have noticed when he got on stage was that he was African American. It was very appropriate for a person of color to talk to us about discrimination and racism.

Morris didn't necessarily have a set moral to his presentation, though. There were multiple underly-

ing lessons to our time with him that included not being a victim, to take ownership of your life, and to never expect people to give you things.

What made Morris even more inspiring is that this man has not had the most ideal life. Both of his biological parents are dead, his adopted father got arrested for a crime he didn't commit, his adopted grandmother died right after that, but more recently his wife has lost multiple children. Despite all of these struggles life threw at him, Morris was a very happy and optimistic person. He told us to forgive and forget. He reminded us how important your family is.

If you happened to miss Morris Morrison's assembly last month, I greatly suggest you make it a point to learn his story. The best way to do that, read his book *Overnight Success: An Inspiring Story About Culture, Results & The American Dream*.



Meet the Newest Teacher in Hopewell

BY:INDIA SIMS

Mrs. Schieb is Hopewell's newest special education teacher. She is from the South Hills in Pittsburgh. She attended Mount Lebanon High School.

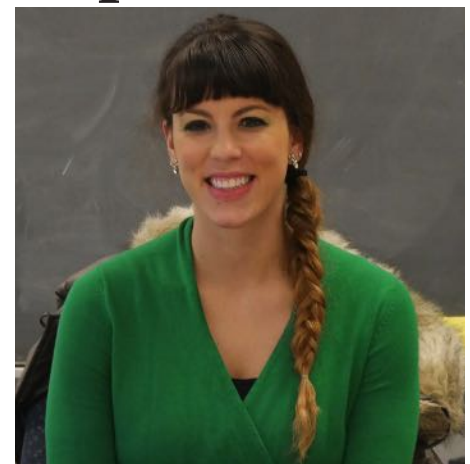
After graduating, she attended Washington and Jefferson College and then to Duquesne for her master's for special education.

She took a year break from school between grad schools and got involved with the AmeriCorps. They participate in community service and mentor high school students.

She volunteered for Big Sis-

ters and Big Brothers. She mentors a 15 years old and has been mentoring her since she was 6 years old. They do fun things such as attending live concerts, bowling and museums.

Before coming to Hopewell she coached track at her old school. She is an active person. She used to play rugby for 6 years for an all-girls team while she was in college and after. She is now playing for a Pittsburgh Sports League. She plays kickball and flag football.



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Hopewell Wrestling Team

BY HALEY GAULT

Recently Hopewell hosted an assembly that featured the wrestling team going against Montour.

The assembly was designed to get students more involved in supporting or joining the wrestling team. Lately the team isn't seeing as much support as it has had in the past. They are missing quite a few kids that make up other weight classes which causes them to take an automatic loss for that match.

The wrestling team hopes to build themselves in the way of getting more recognition for the sport and to add members to the team. Jacob Ealy is the best on the team and is looking to go forward to WPI-ALS. His personal best as of right now is 19-0, an undefeated wres-

ler. Gianni Bertucci claims his personal best is 12-8 which is a great improvement from last year where he was 12-17. Gianni says, "The Hopewell's biggest rival team is New Castle, we always have a tough time beating them". He is only in his sophomore year and hopes by

his senior year, the team will have grown and become even closer.

Bertucci says "Overall the Hopewell team is happy with the way things are going this year but hope in the future that the team will grow and become popular once again in the community."



The Sauce is Back! - Bocce

BY PAITON MCSHANE

The Hopewell Viking Bocce Team is back in action and stronger than ever. This is Hopewell's second year competing in the Special Olympics for Bocce and the team is determined to make it to Hershey this year.

Last year during the bocce team's first season, they dominated at matches with a 4 - 0 streak heading into the finals at Central Valley High School. They faced three opponents in finals. They won their first match but lost in the last two rounds

not making it to the final match. But Hopewell did not walk away feeling beat down. The Bocce team walked away ready to dominate again the next year and make it to Hershey.

With many new people on the team, all are excited, especially junior Madison Maxwell who is new to the team. Madison heard through other bocce members how fun it is and was excited to get started. "So far I love it and everyone has a ton of fun," but with fun Madison had no idea of the difficulty that came with

the game. "Rolling a ball shouldn't be too complicated, however I definitely have some bad rolls." Madison thinks she brings personality to the team and is ready to start.

The Bocce team needs a couple more members! Practices are every Tuesday after school by the health room from 2:30 to 3:30 and games are scattered throughout. As Hopewell Bocce team says... Keep the sauce rolling!



Students of the Month

BY PAITON MCSHANE



Senior Mitchell Heranic is a scholar student who is part of the National Honors Society, student council and class club. He is also a scholar athlete and is a member of the soccer, basketball and baseball team. The past three years Mitchell has been a letterman in baseball and plans to further himself and play baseball in college. But for this baseball season Mitchell hopes for all around team improvement from last year.



Freshman Kazia Krotec is an outstanding student who is part of class club and French club. In addition to her academic pursuits, Kazia has lettered in both cross country and soccer.

Opioid Crisis

BY HALEY GAULT

Recently in the United States, there is a resurfacing issue that has struck the country and struck hard. Since the 1990s, doctors have prescribed opioid pain relievers to patients due to surgery or chronic pain. Ever since they were readily available at the pharmacy patients have abused the drug prescribed to them.

In an article from drugsabuse.gov it states that 21 out of 29 will misuse the opioid prescribed to them.

In 2015 the epidemic hit the country harder than it ever did. More than 33,000 people died from overdosing on drugs. Now in 2018 it only seems to be getting worse with the statistics and deaths rising 10% a year. Whether it was a prescription opioid or a drug they had bought on the street. Overdose statistics have quadrupled since the 90s nearly killing 91 people a day.

Recently, a deadly drug has surfaced that has a tighter grip on people than heroin ever could. Along with the already terrifying crisis that hit this country, a new one is rising.

A drug that goes by the name of Flakka has become increasingly popular. Nicknamed the “zombie drug,” police and EMT workers have also called it the “\$5 insanity” due to the way it affects the human body and how easily it can be bought. Its high is worse and more dangerous than any opioid combined.

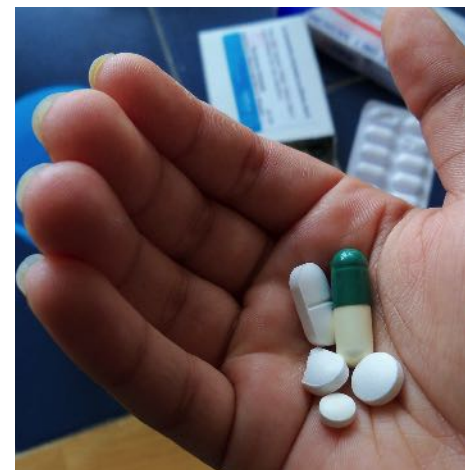
Flakka causes the person who takes it to become extremely paranoid and act “inhuman” and psychotic. Police have reported that when a person on Flakka feels

threatened, they get a super human like strength that causes arresting and restraining extremely difficult.

The drug contains a form of an opioid called fentanyl which gives the body a feeling of drowsiness, euphoria, and lethargy. Doctors say it is 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine administered in hospitals. People struggling with addiction and money issues will turn to easily accessible drugs such as Flakka because they are searching for that content feeling.

Even when addicts get clean from such drugs, the long term effects make their lives so much harder than it ever should have been. The damages done by these harmful opioids range from severe brain damage to collapsed veins to worst of all, death.

The people affected by these drugs and their families all agree, in the end, the drug abuse is not worth the damage it causes and they are not solutions to the problems in life.



Hope for 2018 from Happenings in 2017

BY ALEXA BURAK

On social media platforms and on TV, we tend to only focus on the negative aspects of life. Whether it be news about tragic events or the political unrest happening in the world, positive news is rarely discussed or is not given as much attention

In 2017, it was hard to be positive when many horrific occurrences happened. Hurricane Irma, the Texas shooting, the Las Vegas shooting and many more events created a very gloomy feel on the news. But there were positive events that happened this year that didn't get as much attention as it should have.

“One Love Manchester”

On May 22nd, Ariana Grande fans excitedly exited the Manchester Arena in Manchester, England after seeing her live in concert on her Dangerous Woman Tour. Outside, a bomb went off, killing 22 people and injuring 60 more.

It was the deadliest attack in England since the 2005 London bombings. The world was horrified. Many of the victims were young fans who came out to enjoy Grande's music. The artist was deeply shocked that something so terrible happened at one of her events.

Two weeks after the bombing, Grande held a benefit concert called “One Love Manchester.” It was held in honor of the victims and the victims' families. She performed a number of songs and also had Coldplay, Justin Bieber, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus, Nial Horan, Pharrell Williams, Usher and the Black Eyed Peas perform.

Katy Perry during the show asked the crowd to choose love. She ended with, “It's not easy to always choose love, is it? Especially in moments like these, right? It can be the most difficult thing to do. But love conquers fear and love conquers hate. I encourage you to choose love, even when it's difficult. Let no one take that away from you.”

The benefit was deeply moving and while it will take much more than a concert for the families to heal, Grande has definitely helped start the healing process of mourning for loved ones lost.



Women March to End Sexual Misconduct

As we got deeper into 2017, Hollywood horror stories came to light as women finally ended the silence on sexual misconduct. Actresses, artists and more opened up about their own experiences with sexual misconduct.

The floodgates of stories opened after producer Harvey Weinstein was accused of sexual misconduct. Dozens of women came forward backing up the accusation with their own experiences. In total, 84 women came forward with stories that ranged from sexual harassment to rape. The women that came forward to accuse Weinstein sparked a revolution. They inspired millions of more women to open up about their own experiences with sexual misconduct.

At 2017 Golden Globes, women made a decision. Almost every woman attending wore black in honor of those brave enough to

share their stories and to support the victims unable to come forward. Actress Alison Brie stated, “I am wearing black to stand in solidarity with all of the women who have come out about being sexually harassed and abused. I'm so in awe of the bravery it took for the first few to come forward. They are heroes.”

Though, action is starting to take place against sexual misconduct in Hollywood, there is still a lot of work to be done. An initiative called Times Up! by the National Women's Law Center is a legal defense fund especially made for cases dealing with sexual misconduct and rape. The fund will help pay for victims to go to court if they apply to the guidelines. Times up in Hollywood for predators and women are on the march to end sexual misconduct.

Hope for 2018 from Happenings in 2017

iPhone X Debuts with Face Recognition

Twelve days after the long-awaited iPhone 8 was released, Apple released another product called the iPhone X. It featured the basic iPhone qualities but had a screen that covered the whole front from edge to edge.

Having a full-screen phone was nothing new. Samsung released the Galaxy 8 Edge earlier that year and actually had the screen curve over the sides with the phone. Still, many iPhone fans were shocked and raced to the nearest Apple store.

The phone also features facial recognition. Goodbye passwords! Instead of typing a password in to unlock your phone, the iPhone X has to just get a clear view of your face and it will unlock. It doesn't matter if you have different makeup or even a different hair color, the phone will be able to recognize its owner.

The iPhone X is definitely the future for smartphones but the phone is a bit pricey, though. At almost \$1000, the phone is the most expensive phone released by Apple. This does not hold back consumers, however. The iPhone X has received great reviews and many buyers. It was definitely one of the coolest products to be released in 2017.



When Harry Met Meghan

Prince Harry was the notorious bachelor of England but this year he had a change of heart. He is now engaged to American actress, Meghan Markle.

The two met back in July in London and then confirmed their relationship in November of 2017. On their multiple outings together, the couple seemed very in love as they held hands and strolled down the streets of London. It is no surprise that they have been engaged so soon in their relationship.

The couple is set to marry on May 19th of 2018. The wedding

will be held at St. George's Chapel with the Queen's permission. Prince George and Princess Charlotte are also said to have a role in their uncle's big day.

If you didn't receive your save-the-date invitation, don't worry. The wedding will be televised. The couple stated that they wanted to share their big day just like Prince William and Duchess Kate did. Most girls at a young age, dream of becoming a princess and very few have that dream become true. But for Meghan Markle, dreams do come true.

Love is Love in Australia

In 2015, the U.S. was never prouder as all 50 states legalized gay marriage. However, in the rest of the world, only 26 countries out of 195 legalize gay marriage. In 2015, Germany, Malta, and Australia officially legalized gay marriage in 2017.

The switch had been long awaited in Australia. Only 3 out of the 150 parliament members voted against legalizing gay marriage. However, when the change was official many members broke into proud tears and happily waved their LGBTQ flags.

Before this, there had been 22 failed attempt to legalize gay marriage since 2004. The country celebrated heartily while advocate and founder of an American gay rights campaign, Evan Wolfson, said, "This is a big victory. It is a huge affirmation of the dignity of gay people in yet another country, and that will reverberate in the lives of people across Australia and the world."



Embryos Have More Rights Than Women

BY LEAH KNAUFF

With the society we live in, the government cares more about saving unborn lives rather than fixing gun violence, race issues, police brutality and equality.

First things first, if you're a male, you should not have a say in abortion rights. You will never understand pregnancy. You will never have to deal with carrying a child for nine months. You will never know what it's like to be a mother. You should not have a say in it. But, you can nicely support women in their decisions.

And who's to say I have a right in choosing for other women? I'm a sixteen year old girl in high school. I don't know what it's like to have a child either. So the **ONLY** people who should be able to make decisions on abor-

tion is the woman carrying the child.

The Roe v. Wade case in 1973 deemed abortion legal by the supreme court. But that doesn't mean individual states can't make their own laws. According to the New York Times, abortion is prohibited after 24 weeks in about half of the states. Compared to what our laws used to be, this is progressive.

There are hundreds of reasons pregnancies can go wrong. The birth could be harmful to the mother, the father of her child could also be her rapist or she could be in poverty, not capable of giving a child the life they deserve.

If you consider yourself pro-life, ask yourself this: if you force the mother into giving birth, will the child have a suitable, happy life?

If the baby isn't wanted there's hundreds of things that could go wrong. Maybe it goes into foster care. That's yet another issue that needs to be fixed. Children in foster care do not get the attention and love they deserve. Maybe the mother keeps the child, but it goes to bed starving every night. Maybe the father is abusive. Maybe the mother is abusive. Would you rather save a premature life rather than someone who has been alive for much, much longer? A woman should have the right to choose. It's a basic human right. It is her body. More than not, she knows what's best for herself.



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Grinds My Gears: Adults Playing Teens

BY ALEXA BURAK

As teens go through puberty and the other challenges of life, they may look to sources such as media or books to find someone they can relate to. They turn to TV, movies and fiction, looking to find one relatable character.

They can look to shows such as *Riverdale*, a show loosely based on the famous Archie comics. The show's high school sophomores try to juggle high school and try solving mysteries in their hometown at the same time. However, there is one thing that is quite bothersome. Why do these actors look so good? Nobody in high school looks so put together and, well, perfect.

Sure, it's television. People in TV always look amazing due to makeup and stylists but what about the awkward stages of high school? Where is my lead female actress with acne and ill-fitting bras? Where is the male lead with his arms too long for his body and his hair looking a bit greasy? These actors do not fit the bill of an average high schooler.

TV networks and producers have been cheating the system for years. These actors supposed to be playing "17 year olds," are actually in their 20s. They have already gone through the awkward stages of life and are now beautiful butterflies who have emerged from the cocoon of puberty gorgeous. It's almost unfair! Teens look to these characters and idolize them.

For example, the actors of *Riverdale* play high school sophomores who are usually 15 or 16 years old. Not a single actor playing a supposedly 15 year old is under the age of 20. Cole Sprouse, who plays the iconic role of 16-year-old Jughead Jones, is 25

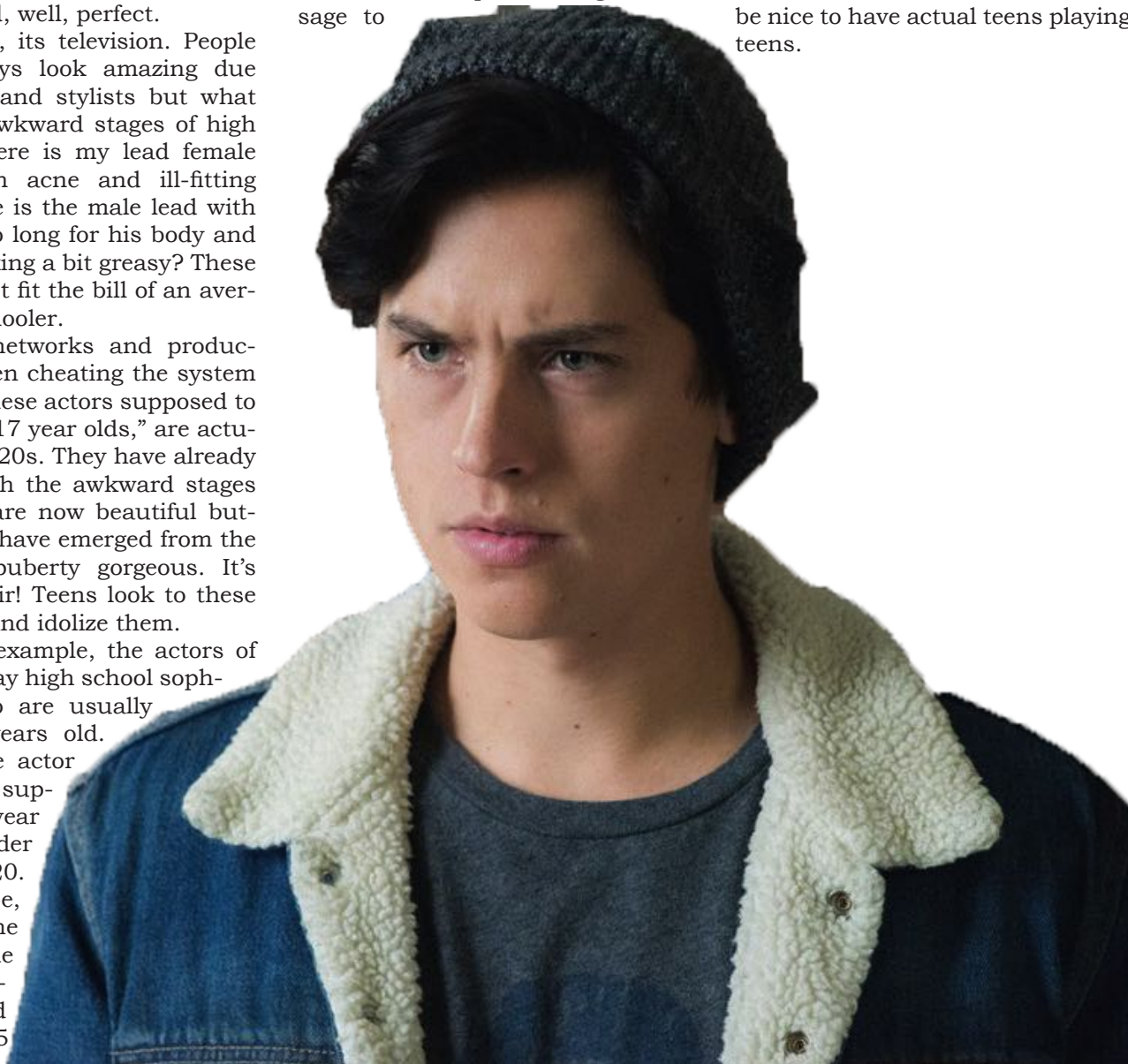
years old. He plays a character he is almost ten years older than. How does he even pass as a teen? It gives teens false pretenses of what kids their age should look like.

However, there are reasons producers tend to avoid hiring younger actors. Actors under the age of 18 have to have a guardian on set at all times and have restrictions on how many hours they can work due to child labor laws. This also calls for much of the remaining cast and crew to have clearances to work with minors.

Though they have a decent reasoning for why they hire adults, it still does not pass the right message to

teens. If you are going to write a show about teens, be prepared to cast teens. If anything, there is a lack of shows and movies that feature college kids. Go write about college kids with appropriately-aged actors.

This is not going to change any time soon. Teens will just have to deal with the fact that their on screen crush is possibly 10 years older than them. They will still have to struggle to find characters they can actually relate. Though it may be hard, it's harder to deny that these shows are not good. Trust me. *Riverdale* is one of the best teen shows out there, but it would be nice to have actual teens playing teens.



Caught in Hi-Lites

