

# Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Photo by: Olivia Asvestas

## Senior Spotlight: Danica Dong

BY PAITON MCSHANE

**D**anica Dong who is a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Danica got a 1500 on her PSAT's which is nearly a perfect score.

She was nominated as a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. Of the 1.6 million chosen each year 50,000 have the highest scores and 34,000 (approximately one third of the 50,000) are notified they were chosen as a semifinalist.

To get into the finals, contestants have to have high academic standards and follow all the requirements given and only 15,000 come out as finalists. Where only 7,500 of the 15,000 win a variety of scholarships. Danica is part of that 34,000 with the highest academic promise, making this a pretty big deal.

Danica gave some tips on how to prepare for tests and studying habits. She studies an average of 2-3 hours per school night. "Honestly, I am a big procrastinator but Quizlet is a great tool for studying," and when things start to get hard she doesn't give up and always asks for help.

Time management plays a big part as well, "I'm very bad with time management but having a planner helps", Danica also said making lists can help. Lists can help you remember what you need for a project or is planners aren't your thing you can have a list of what you need to do that day to keep in order. Danica's future plan is to attend college for chemical engineering.

## New Vikette Coach

BY ALEXA BURAK

**K**nowledge, of rifles, flags, and marching. These requirements might describe a drill instructor but for Hopewell, these are all qualities of new Hopewell Vikette coach, Carol Morse.

Coach Morse was in a dance team when she was in high school. She has background in flags, dance, and pom work. Her team was part of her high school's marching band but she also participated in winter-guard, a winter sport for color guard.

She continued on to dance on her college's dance team. As an adult, she had the opportunity to take dance classes such as ballet, jazz and tap. One interesting fact about Coach Morse is that she is actually trained in belly dancing and teaches classes at a local studio.

Coach Morse is also very excited for this year and hopes to make good changes for the team. "I am just looking forward to people having just an amazing time on their drill team."

She has already made a huge difference in the team's performance. She has scheduled more practice and some much needed changes to the past choreography. The Vikettes have already learned two more dances, including a stand dance, dances the Vikettes perform in the stand during football games, and a parade routine.

The girls on the team are very excited for the new change. For the past year, the Vikettes have been through two different coaches. The team and Mrs. Morse are both happy about potentially adding some stability to the position. We wish the best of luck to the new Vikette coach!

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# Ready, Set, Swing!

BY HALEY GAULT

Senior, **J**oei Ritmiller has had quite the outstanding career in golf. She has recently made it to States and in recent years been featured on a magazine cover. Joei explains she has been golfing since age ten, and very much enjoys it. "I was going through stuff in my basement and stumbled upon my dad's old golf stuff. I was interested by them, so I decided to try the sport out."

Out of all the sports she plays, she believes this one is the most relaxing. Out of all the clubs she uses, Joei

says she loves the 7-iron "it is like my old reliable, it's consistent on my 160 yard shot." Even though Joei has golfed on quite a few courses her favorite is Allegheny Country Club. Due to Ritmiller and her ability to score well in golf, she has been fortunate to play past regular season. "Golfing while its fall has to be one of the best times of year because its typically cooler and the courses look ten times prettier," Joei explains that golfing in 60-70 degree weather is prime golfing weather.

Typically on a golf course

of 9 holes, it should take someone roughly 36 strokes to make par, meaning that it should be 3 to 5 strokes per hole. The best score in one of the matches was a thirty nine for Joei. "For me, golf is an escape because it's just you and your team out there. Its peaceful and you get to just live in the moment." Ritmiller says she isn't one hundred percent sure if she would like to continue golfing in college, but would voluntarily play in a club team, or just for fun, for the rest of her life.





# Current Events

BY: LEAH KNAUFF

If you've been living under a rock for the past month, you've missed a lot! From the hurricane devastation in Puerto Rico, to the biggest mass shooting in American history, to the terrorist attacks in Somalia, and the unsurprising sexual assault case from yet another famous man in Hollywood.

Alongside America's worst mass shooting this month, On October 14th, two car bombs exploded in Mogadishu, Somalia, causing the worst terrorist attack they have ever seen. At least 300 were killed, hundreds more injured, and the number will undoubtedly rise. With people still missing and not having the medical resources they need, Mogadishu's population will be down maybe a couple hundred more within the next few weeks. Somalia was already dealing with a life-threatening issue: starvation. The country is currently in a severe drought and 3.1 million people are in danger between the food shortages and violence caused by terrorism.

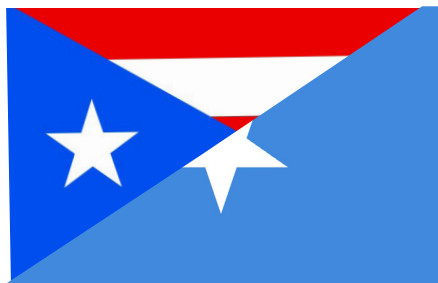
Four weeks since the tragedy in Puerto Rico and the entire island is still a nightmare. The death toll is now up to 51 people, and this number is still growing, yet most of the deaths were, and are, preventable.

According to the New York Times, 19 were killed directly from the storm, the rest from disease, heart attacks, and lack of medical help. Only 63 percent of the island can access water, most not even the clean, drinking kind.

The sad fact is, there was far more destruction than any of us expected, this U.S. territory is populated with mostly brown people, and above all, they were already poor and living in unhealthy conditions. America seems to continue to ignore the fact that all of these people struggling for basic human needs are still U.S. citizens. Yet for some reason everyone seems to care more about a mass shooting that, unlike a hurricane, could have been prevented.

On the night of October 1st, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock opened fire on a country music fest in Las Vegas, Nevada. After hundreds of rounds were fired within 12 minutes, an hour later, the terrorist was found dead by a self-inflicted gunshot wound on the 32nd floor in his hotel room. Fifty-eight people were murdered, an additional 546 injured. This was the biggest mass shooting ever recorded in American history.

Harvey Weinstein, American film producer and Miramax co-founder, was fired on October 8th after being accused of multiple sexual harassment cases. Only a week after Weinstein resigned, more than 30 women came forward, sharing their own experiences with his harassment. For decades, the Weinstein Company has been involved in sexual harassment and rape allegations against Harvey Weinstein. The only reason action was actually taken against him this time: Harvey has lost his power. The Weinstein Company has not won an Academy Award since 2011 and this year it's extremely unlikely for them to be up for anything. Because he doesn't have much power left, women have felt more comfortable coming out and this time they're actually being heard because no one cares enough to defend him anymore.



Puerto Rico flag/Somalia flag



Harvey Weinstein



# You Can Help- Crisis in Puerto Rico

BY PAITON MCSHANE

While students are more worried about who or how they are going to ask someone to homecoming, people in Puerto Rico are wondering when their power will come back on. On September 20, a category four hurricane named Maria hit Puerto Rico leaving people without running water and electricity. Hurricane Maria is the strongest to hit the island in 80 years. One million without running water and three million without electricity; this is a month after the storm. Much of the island feels like it was just hit by Maria yesterday, not a month ago.

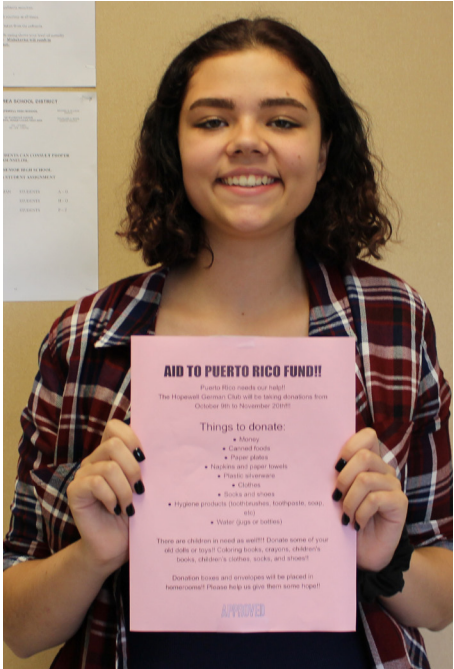
Puerto Rico from the beginning has the United States because they are one of our territories. We are a “big brother” to them, but President Trump has done little to help. When Puerto Rican Mayor asked for more help from the U.S., Trump stated, “They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort,” making Puerto Rico seem helpless and even greedy. Trump stating that Puerto Rico has the money to do it themselves but don’t want to spend it. Even though Puerto Rico has been in debt for years.

. But when Trump finally decided to help, was found throwing paper towels into crowds of people. Puerto Rico is still in distress but it only takes one amazing person to make a small difference and that person is Kaitlyn Chichester.

Kaitlyn, a senior here at Hopewell High School started the Aid to Puerto Rico and is doing it through the German Club. “I started it because no help was getting to them and someone needed to do something” said Kaitlyn. The Aid to Puerto Rico is through the Red Cross and the purpose is to collect items and necessities that people still don’t have. Some of the things she is asking for are money, food, toiletries, hygiene products (toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.), cases of water, clothes for both adults and kids, as well as coloring books and crayons for kids.

Kaitlyn is trying to take this county-wide and get schools around us involved and donating. She’s also been contacting supermarkets all around asking if they would donate anything. Although this seems like something small, you can make it big. The more donations received the more we help and make a difference. Once you start getting

involved with the things going on around you, your phone won’t matter as much anymore. You will be busy thinking about the huge difference you just made in someone else’s life





# Aloha to Ms. Aloia

BY: INDIA SIMS

Meet Ms. Aloia the Family Consumer Science (FCS) teacher. Ms. Aloia came from Brentwood School District where she taught for five years. She grew up in central PA in a small town called Carrolltown.

Ms. Aloia won many awards for teaching but the most recent one she won was New Achievement Award through American Society Of FCS. "It was really exciting to be the second person in Pennsylvania to receive the award. It was a true honor." She said.

Aloia has many exciting things in store for her classes this year. Her classes have already made hats for

premature babies and made bags for cancer patients. She teaches every grade level so every grade has a chance of experiencing her class.

"The best thing about teach-

ing family consumer science is teaching kids life skills they need to become independent," said Ms. Aloia.

If you don't have Ms. Aloia, I highly recommend taking her class.



# Breast Cancer Awareness

BY INDIA SIMS

During the month of October, high school and professional athletes wear pink for breast cancer awareness. It is easy to see everybody in pink but the issue is deeper than the color. Breast cancer starts when the cells in the breast begin to grow out of control. These cells form as a tumor that you can see on an x-ray or you can feel as a lump.

According to U.S Breast Cancer statistics in 2017, there were about 252,710 cases of breast cancer. One out of eight women will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of their lifetime; about 40,610 women will die each year is known from breast cancer.

The cause of breast cancer is still unknown but according to the Mayo Clinic there are ways women can protect themselves: limit alcohol, don't smoke, control your

weight, be physically active, breast-feed, limit dose and durations of hormonal therapy, avoid exposure to radiation and environmental pollution.

There are many different ways you can make a difference by supporting breast cancer. One option to donate money to the Susan

G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation at [WW5.Komen.org/Donate](http://WW5.Komen.org/Donate).

Next time you're wearing pink in the month of October just remember there are women somewhere struggling with this every day.





# Grinds My Gears – Right Side Rule

By: LEAH KNAUFF

There is nothing more annoying than someone in your way when you're in a hurry. Your body fills with rage and by the time you get to a staircase, you're more than ready to give them a slight nudge causing them to fall down a flight or two.

The right side rule: a widely understood American system when in a crowded group of people all going different places, you stay on the right side. We drive on the right side of the road, we're *supposed* to walk down the right side of the stairs, use the right side door, and walk the right side of the hallway, it's an American thing.

Yet for some reason, Hopewell kids do not understand this. And I'm not picking on freshmen. They're new, and even though you should've done this in middle school as well, high school is a big change. In all honesty, I see more upperclassmen walking on the wrong side, using the wrong door, going down the wrong side of stairs, etc. far more often than underclassmen.

Do you not have the slightest bit of human decency? Have you no heart? I know I surely do because 1) I follow the right side rule and 2) when I see someone not following the rule, my heart beats so fast with rage it may just burst out of my chest.

It's really not a hard concept, just go with the crowd. I understand you may be in a hurry and for some unknown reason you think walking against the traf-

fic is a good idea, but it's not, and you're slowing other people down.

We have four minutes between each class. Maybe you're just making one turn down a hall and your journey is over with. Others have to walk from the first floor all the way up to the language hallway on the third floor. Not to mention they most likely have to stop at their locker, fill their water bottle, or text back their parent. It's a hard thing to do. We don't need an inconsiderate person hitting our shoulders or playing the "I go left you go right" game in the hall.

And maybe you understand the right side law, good job, you deserve a gold star for having the slightest bit of human decency.

But if you're a slow walker, stop in the middle of the hallway, kiss someone while walking, horse around with a friend, or do anything else that disrupts me from getting to my class, you've lost all decency.

Why can't you just kiss whomever you want at literally any other time? It's not very enjoyable watching you and someone else make out while also trying to walk to class. You'll most likely trip on something, tumble to the ground, knock other people over, bite your lip, tongue, maybe even someone else, then your blood and bodies will be everywhere, then I slip and I'm late to class.

And for slow walkers, I have one question for you: Why? I get you're tired, walking twenty feet is more than a challenge, and all

you want to do is go sleep. Think of it this way, the faster you get to class the more time you have to take a power nap before class starts.

And if by all means you're just a slow walker and cannot speed up to the natural current, please be respectful and move to the side or try your best to not get in the way of others. Be considerate and kind. We can all do better.

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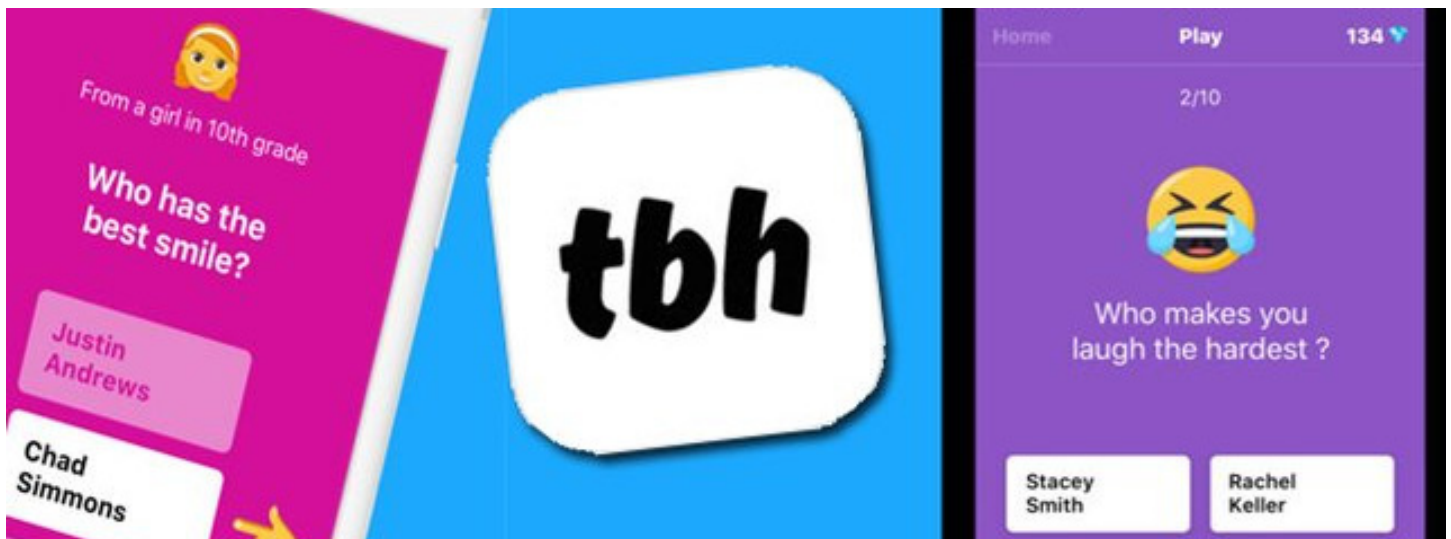
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# To Be Honest About TBH

BY ALEXA BURAK

It seems as if overnight the app, TBH, has exploded among Hopewell students. The app's name stands for To be Honest. The free app promotes kindness and friendship.

Users are given a prompt. For example, they could be given "has the best smile." They are then given four random names of their followers. They then choose the person that fits the description. The person chosen will get an alert that a boy or girl chose them. Followers can then see that that user received a prompt.

It is almost like getting a superlative. All of the prompts are

nice and actually funny. They can range from "puts the toilet paper on the wrong way" to "will win an Oscar someday." Users can create prompts but they have to be approved by the app. They cannot have swear words or be anywhere near cyberbullying. Junior Hannah Rishak's only complaint about the app is the amount of information it asks for. To sign up, you need to give your school, age, and location. These questions are a bit personal and Rishak is not going to take any risks with internet security.

TBH is not the first app to have this platform in the past 10 years. Apps like Ask.fm, YikYak,

and Sarahah feature the same communication ability with anonymous users like TBH. They tend only last for a few months before becoming a fad and losing popularity. However, those apps tend to lose popularity because it has no cyberbullying policies like TBH.

TBH is a great app that is open to all ages. It influences kindness and helps people make friends that maybe would not happen in the school setting. TBH is only available on iPhones but developers are on the way to making it available on Android.

## Students Should Be Thinking, Not Memorizing

BY HALEY GAULT

It is said by USA Today that this generation of teenagers are under the most pressure to succeed in life. In a study, adults reported teen's average levels of anxiety seem higher than normal in the past month. As a result of stress, 40% of teens report feeling irritable or angry; 36% nervous or anxious. A third say stress makes them feel overwhelmed, depressed or sad. (<https://www.usatoday.com>) Overwhelmed with school work, jobs, and the pressure of family, teens are more stressed than ever.

In the classroom students are taught to memorize countless points from teachers to be tested on. In an article U.S. News writes, "The

amount of material covered is overwhelming; the 1,280-page textbook is way too big." Students go through the motions of their lab assignments without grasping why. Students go day to day learning about materials without fully grasping what it means because they are taught to memorize instead of using their brains to think and solve. As students, we wonder whether the material being crammed down our throats will eventually help us succeed in life, and in some cases it will.

During certain classes, the thought of "will this ever end" is shared by various students. Along with the feeling of how useless some of the information you learn is. Leah

Knauff says, "Sometimes I wonder if I will ever actually need to know how to find the area of a triangle in my life but for now I'm just trying to pass." That could be considered as an issue in the schooling system, students aren't trying to learn anymore, they are simply trying to pass.

A simple solution to this seemingly big problem is to invest time in reading on the studies of anxiety in teens due to the excessive homework.





# Caught in Hi-Lites

