

## New Schweitzer principal sets clear goals for future

By Connor Menzel

“As a principal you really do get to be a change agent and impact student learning” said Amy Orlando, the newly appointed principal of Albert Schweitzer Elementary School. The decision to give her the job took place on July 19 at a school board meeting, called after

the news that Clarke Stoneback, the previous principal, would be abdicating his position to go back to teaching music in the classroom.

Orlando is among the most qualified people to run Schweitzer Elementary. Her education began with a Bachelor of Arts, English major, degree from Penn State University in 1993. She then continued to earn her Masters of Arts in Teaching: Elementary Education from Trenton State College and received a Doctorate of Philosophy: Educational Leadership and Learning Technologies from Drexel University’s PhD Educational Leadership Program in 2005.

In addition to her extensive education, she has about 15 years of hands on experience in the classroom, teaching grades three, four and five. She was also an assistant principal in a Hatboro-Horsham School District elementary school and a technology specialist and K-12 supervisor in another school district.

“I grew up around the Neshaminy School District and have always been familiar

with many of the things happening in Neshaminy,” said Orlando, still a Bucks County Resident. “I’m looking forward to sharing my experiences with the Schweitzer staff and families. I’m excited to be working for such a great school district!”

Orlando is very adamant about her priorities as the new principal, focusing mainly on beneficial interactions between the teachers, staff, and families of the school. “The goal is to build relationships with the staff, families, and community at Schweitzer to make the school a safe, fun, and engaging place to learn,” she said proudly.

She is also planning to focus on the use of educational technologies in the classroom throughout her time as principal to ensure that the learning environment of the school is the best it could possibly be. “My goals include helping to support teachers in best practices in classroom instruction, utilizing technology in the classroom, and building a positive and caring school culture.”

Orlando stated that her favorite thing about being the principal of an elementary school is working together with the community towards a common goal. “I enjoy working with staff at all levels to

help the community work together with the same end goal.” She is also very clear about her desire to keep the best interests of the students in mind while fulfilling her duties as principal, stating, “The focus is always what’s best for the students.”

In addition to her full-time position at Schweitzer, Orlando also serves as an Adjunct Professor for the School of Education at Drexel University, teaching classes from multiple educational disciplines, and is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education and Phi Delta Kappa International Professional Association in Education, further demonstrating her aptitude for this new position.

She also maintains close personal ties with the school districts, because she still lives with her spouse and two daughters in Bucks County.



Amy Orlando grew up in Neshaminy School District and is excited to “build relationships with the staff and families” this school year. Photo/ Neshaminy.org



Albert Schweitzer’s staff and students welcome a new principal this school year. Photo/ Catherine Hilliard

## Community holds hands after hate crimes cause turmoil

By Sydney Crocker

Many people from all walks of life have come together in unity, in spite of several incidents of racist vandalism in the Middletown Township area.

On Aug. 18, racist graffiti was found on the welcome sign of Herbert Hoover Elementary School, which lies in Neshaminy School District. Additionally, male genitalia graffiti was discovered on nearby Middletown Trace Apartments.

Middletown police and Neshaminy School District officials were alerted of the vandalism, which local residents had cleaned off shortly after reporting the incidents. The Peace Center, a local organization “committed to peaceful conflict resolution” was notified and immediately stepped in.

The Peace Center is a local nonprofit that has been “working for peace and social justice for [the past] 35 years,” according to Bullying Prevention Resource director Kate Whitman. She says The Peace Center has seen hatred and intolerance “significantly increase” over the past year, and the organization has “coordinate[d] a community response that includes dialogues and vigils.”

The Peace Center has stepped in on multiple occasions to help unify the

disrupted community.

The organization has held two town hall meetings in the last few months to discuss the vandalism. Both meetings, held on August 25 and September 28, were hosted by the Middletown Township Municipal Building. “At our town hall meetings,” said Whitman, “some solutions includ[ed] racial equity in the school curriculum, having a clean-up committee when incidents like this happen, and writing cards to the kids.”

These cards, which The Peace Center titled, “Cards for Hope and Healing”, gave community members the chance to write positive messages to the students of Herbert Hoover. The cards were collected and distributed to the students in the first few weeks of school. Whitman mentioned that The Peace Center received over 100 cards for the students.

Additionally, The Peace Center took part in the March Against Hatred on Sept. 13 at Herbert Hoover Elementary School. The candlelight vigil was held to unify the community once again, with the candles a symbol of peace and love.

Marchgoers journeyed from the Hoover school building to Middletown Trace Apartments, where an African American student’s car had recently been



Teachers and students of Herbert Hoover Elementary school gather to show their support for The Peace Center. Photo/neshaminy.org

marked with racist slurs. At the end of the night, the March crowd returned to the Hoover building.

Members of The Peace Center, Neshaminy School District, and Middletown Township are still shaken

from the graffiti. They continue to remain optimistic for the future. “We need to change attitudes while kids are young,” says Whitman. “[We need to] teach them how to accept all and treat one another with dignity.”



# Las Vegas mass shooting kills 58

By Catherine Hilliard

Thousands of concertgoers gathered in Las Vegas, Nevada for the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival on Oct. 1, hearing country singer Jason Aldean's headliner performance drowned out by gunshots. Aldean rushed off stage amid gunfire as the terrified crowd scrambled for cover, some stopping to help the injured, making make-shift stretchers from police barricades.

The shooter, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock of Mesquite, Nevada, overlooked the crowd of spectators from 400 yards away in the 32nd-floor window in the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino, killing 58 people and injuring 527. Paddock had set up multiple hidden surveillance cameras in and around his hotel room to watch for approaching SWAT teams; officials

believe that Paddock killed himself prior to their entry into the hotel room. Officials found Paddock dead in his hotel room with 23 guns, a dozen of them equipped with bump stocks that would allow for rapid fire among thousands of rounds of ammunition that was never fired, in addition to 19 more firearms found in his residential home.

Two broken windows can be seen from the 32nd-floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort, as law enforcement officials believe Paddock smashed out both windows with a hammer to either get a better vantage point on the crowd or to avoid return fire. The worst mass shooting in modern American history, Paddock was "solely responsible for the heinous act," Assistant Clark County Sheriff Todd Fasulo told reporters.



This graphic demonstrates the realative position of the Las Vegas shooter to the Route 91 Harvest Music Festival on Oct. 1. Graphic/Connor Menzel



The shooter was positioned on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas when he killed 58 people and injured 527. Photo/ commons.wikimedia.org



## Neshaminy students' thoughts on the Pledge of Allegiance

By Zachary Parson

Recently in the United States, especially when it comes to sports, there has been a developing controversy over the National Anthem and #TakeAKnee has become a trending topic. In a rather silent protest, players would take a knee, or now recently link arms throughout the National Anthem.

The teams of the Seattle Seahawks and Tennessee Titans opted out entirely by remaining in their locker rooms. They explained that their intent was not deemed to be disrespectful, but President Donald Trump had something to tweet otherwise.

On September 25th, he tweeted "Sports fans should never condone players that do not stand proud for their National Anthem or their country. NFL should change policy!", which he carried on extensively via his Twitter.

Colin Kaepernick of the San Francisco 49ers, who advocates and essentially established the movement in the NFL, even states that it was never about the military or disrespect, but about

the racial injustices in the United States.

Kaepernick explained he was "not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Similarly, students across the nation have been performing the Pledge of Allegiance, while others refrain from doing so, which is their right.

During the Cold War, former President Eisenhower decided to advance the statement "under god" into the pledge, which some oppose this as simply as propaganda and feel as if they don't recite it, there will consequences that accompany. Some claim that the president's decision contradicts the first amendment rights stated in the constitution.

This controversial issue went to the Supreme Court, in which they ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and stated that forcing students or anyone for that matter, is against the first amendment of the United States Constitution.

# State expands vaccine requirement for seniors

By Leanne Khov

Beginning of the 2017-2018 year, many seniors at Neshaminy High School were threatened to face exclusion from the school. Surprisingly, the reason was not for violating school rules. Rather, it was because of the student's inability to meet the health requirements initiated this year.

Starting in Aug. 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Health has changed the immunizations regulations for attendance in Pennsylvania schools. These new regulations are to ensure that students are protected from any potential outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

For students entering the twelfth grade, they are required to have at least one dose of the Meningococcal conjugate vaccine that is administered at 16 years of age or older. The students are required to send a copy of their immunization record to the school's nurse. Seniors had until the fifth day of the school year, Sept. 7, to show their completed vaccination requirement or else the school is forced to exclude the student from attending school.

According to the New York Department of Health, vaccination for the Meningococcal disease is necessary due to the concern of spreading the infection. The disease can spread easily in large groups of people, especially through sneezing, coughing, and etc. Since teens and young adults have the highest risk of contracting the disease, it is necessary for them to receive the vaccination to prevent meningitis (infections of the linings of the brain and spinal cord) and sepsis (infections in the blood) from occurring.

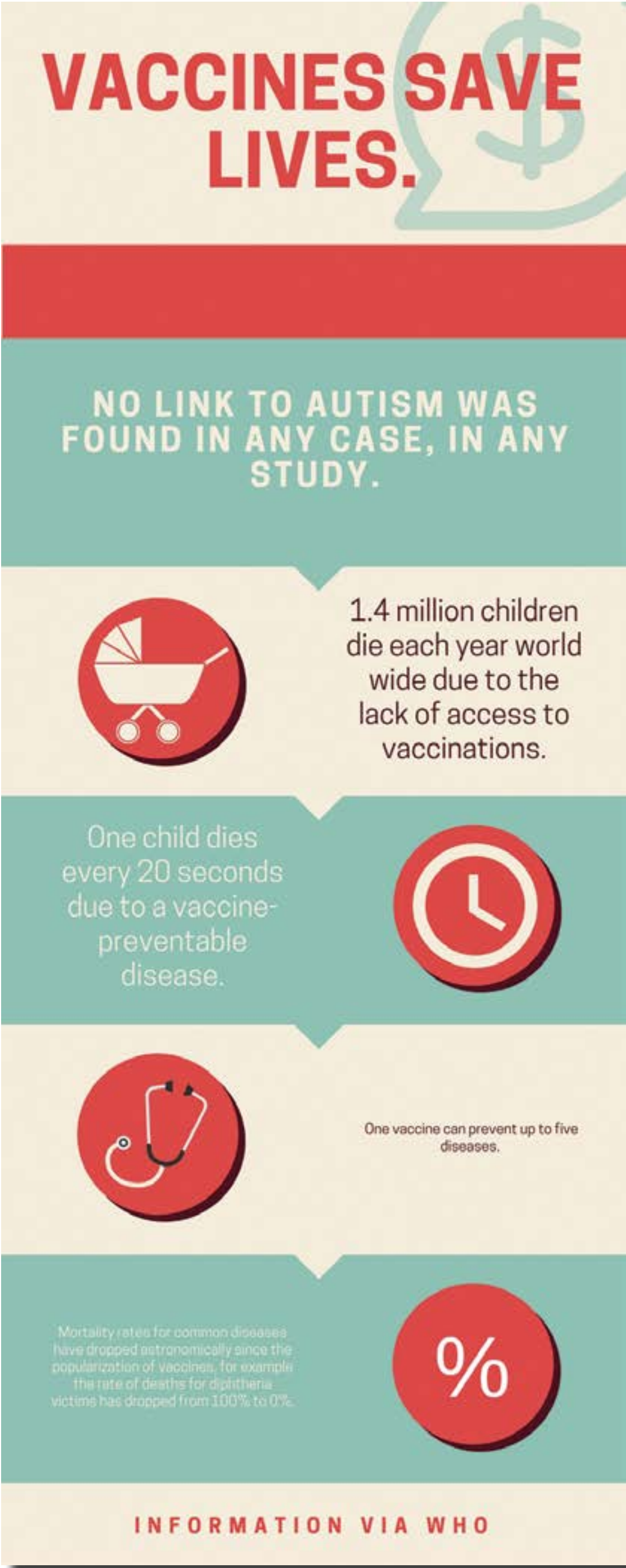
"The vaccination is very important for kids. We are ensured that they are protected from meningitis before they officially head off to college," stated NHS nurses, Joanne Strack and Cynthia Wells.

At the start of the school year, this new vaccination requirement left students in a predicament; they were forced to choose between receiving the vaccine or becoming excluded from school. Plans to receive the vaccination and proof that the shot was administered were needed by the due date to prevent that possible retention from school.

Many seniors are still left without receiving their required shots. Although NHS was very strict with their requirement, it has yet to carry out their warning they had pressed to the students earlier this year. Despite the imposing threat to be excluded from school, none of the seniors were forced to leave.

Pennslvannia has required vaccines for public schools students for decades, just recently adding the meningitis vaccines to its requirements. Photo via Google under creative commons

Inphographics made via Canva.com





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The following is an excerpt from Policy 600, which the Playwickian staff must follow. The excerpt is not representative of Policy 600 in its entirety. The Playwickian has been directed to publish this excerpt of the Policy in its masthead. The staff feels this section of the policy is also important to be featured in the masthead. It is the intent of the Board of School Directors of the School District that School District publications be considered government speech for purposes of the First Amendment and to the extent permitted by the First Amendment. Playwickian Policy: The policy of the Playwickian which shall be published as part of the masthead of the newspaper shall be as follows:

Policy. Subject to applicable law and the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in Policy 600 of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District and this policy statement, it is the policy of School District that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the Playwickian. Except for advertisements, all content shall be prepared by students, subject to editing by others. Students: (a) strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness; (b) review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation; (c) check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and (d) in the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate. As examples, and not limitations on the proper authority of school officials, the following types of expression will not be approved for publication: (a) material that is obscene; (b) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; (c) indecent or vulgar language is not obscene; (d) material that violates the legal or constitutional rights of others; (e) material that will cause a material and substantial disruption of school activities; and (f) any other material that the school authorities reasonably believe should be prohibited. Within the terms, conditions and limitations of Policy 600 and this policy statement, students are free to express opinions. Specifically, a student may criticize school policy or the performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and other school employees. The viewpoints expressed by anyone in this paper shall not be deemed to be the viewpoints of the School District, any official or employee of the School District, or any student other than the student or students who expressed the viewpoint.

# Did you know...

## (LUNAR EDITION)



### Project A119

In the 1950's the USA considered detonating a nuclear bomb on the Moon



### Dark Side

The dark side of the moon is a myth. In reality both sides of the Moon see the same amount of sunlight



### Lunar-quakes

The moon experiences quakes caused by the gravitational pull of the earth.



### Far far away

The Moon is moving approximately 3.8 cm away from our planet every year



### Luna 1

The first spacecraft to reach the Moon was the Luna 1 in 1959, launched by the Soviet Union

# Why the United States should annex the Moon

By Sean Sanko

The United States may be “of America” but that hasn’t stopped us from owning/claiming territories in Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Central America, etc. Whether talking about the Louisiana Purchase, Mexican American war, Spanish American War, or even the Trail of Tears, America has always sought to manifest its destiny by gobbling up everything from Puerto Rico to Alaska to any island covered in bird poop (so long as it is not under the current jurisdiction of another government.) While uninhabited islands and barren tundras are nice, we as a nation can do much better. As the first and only country to send a man to the Moon and stick our flag in it, the U.S. is in a unique position to simply lay claim over the entire celestial body. Now, I know what you’re thinking: “Article II of the Outer Space Treaty states ‘Outer space, including

the Moon and other celestial bodies, is not subject to national appropriation by claim of sovereignty, by means of use or occupation, or by any other means.’ according to <https://www.state.gov/t/isn/5181.htm>,” or at least something along those lines.

To that I say “so what?” As the sole global super-power, America is faced with the unparalleled possibility to do whatever it wants anyway. In fact, not only should the Moon officially become part of our great and powerful nation, it should become the 51st state in the Union. Just imagine how glorious our flag would look with the moon on it. At the same time, it would prompt other countries like Turkey to remove the moon from their flag or risk an annexation of

their own. In conclusion, the United States possesses not only the ability, but the right and duty to swallow the Earth’s Moon into its glorious union in the name of freedom, justice, and Manifest Destiny.



## Look at it our way: Does our dress code do more harm than good?

Dress codes are a necessary element of any public school system. When they are too loose adolescents are left to find the social norms of clothing on their own, likely facing more regret when reflecting on their teenage years later in life that would have been necessary. When they are too strict, students are unable to express themselves through their clothing, stunting their personal development. Between these two extremes, in most scholastic environments across the country, problems still often remain.

There are very few subjects in which anecdotes serve as the best support, the superior means of finding a common ground, but it seems that this is one such subject.

In any given american high school, three students could walk in wearing the same knee-length, keyhole dress in their respective size: one an average female, one a student with a large bust, and one who was born a biological male. In this scenario, in most high schools-- but more specifically at Neshaminy--, two of the three students would be asked to change, to “not wear that outfit again,” or even given demerits for their violation of dress code.

Although most see the problem in this standard immediately, it has become apparent that the administration of Neshaminy High School is having a bit of a

vision issue, and has had such for many decades; they do not note, or simply do not care, that the vastly different, oftentimes unclear standards for male and female students within Neshaminy High School not only echoes the old days of sexism run amuck in the public school system, when the girls’ sports teams were set apart from their male counterparts by their team name of the “Neshaminy Squaws,” but also makes self-expression a punishable process for transgender and genderfluid students, and encourages the shaming and sexualisation of many others.

The dress code states that girls’ necklines “should be conservative,” leaving interpretations of appropriateness up to school staff, who would, in fact, have to consciously deem a student’s body as a sexual distraction to their peers to determine their clothing to be inappropriate; this encourages school staff to view students in an inappropriate light, and creates an air of shame for the girls who are told to cover up, despite the fact that their parents approved of their chosen clothing enough to allow them to purchase it.

The dress code states that boys cannot wear “tank tops/sleeveless or muscle shirts,” both allowing future, less understanding staff members to punish trans-

gender and gender fluid students for their simple self expressions, and perpetuating that male and female students should be treated differently solely on the basis of their gender, furthering the idea that men and women stand on different ground.

The dress code, however loosely defined, specifically allows teachers and administrators to deem clothing as inappropriate on whim, where it says that “high school administration reserves the right to determine the appropriateness of student dress.” This means that however conservatively a student dresses, whether they be male or female, administrators can deem it inappropriate; some schools do not allow students to wear certain colors, others do not allow students to wear clothes which are associated with movies, artists or movements that they find vulgar. How fair can a dress code claim to be if it is allowing the prohibition of federally guaranteed rights of self expression?

This unsigned editorial represents the unanimous view of the editorial board.



# Saudi arabianwomen gain right to drive freely



Saudi Arabian women gained the right to drive in their own country this year. Photo via google under creative commons

by Kezia Joseph

Learning to drive. It's something every typical American high school student has to go through eventually; it is like a rite of passage. Maybe you are at that point in your life right now as you read this.

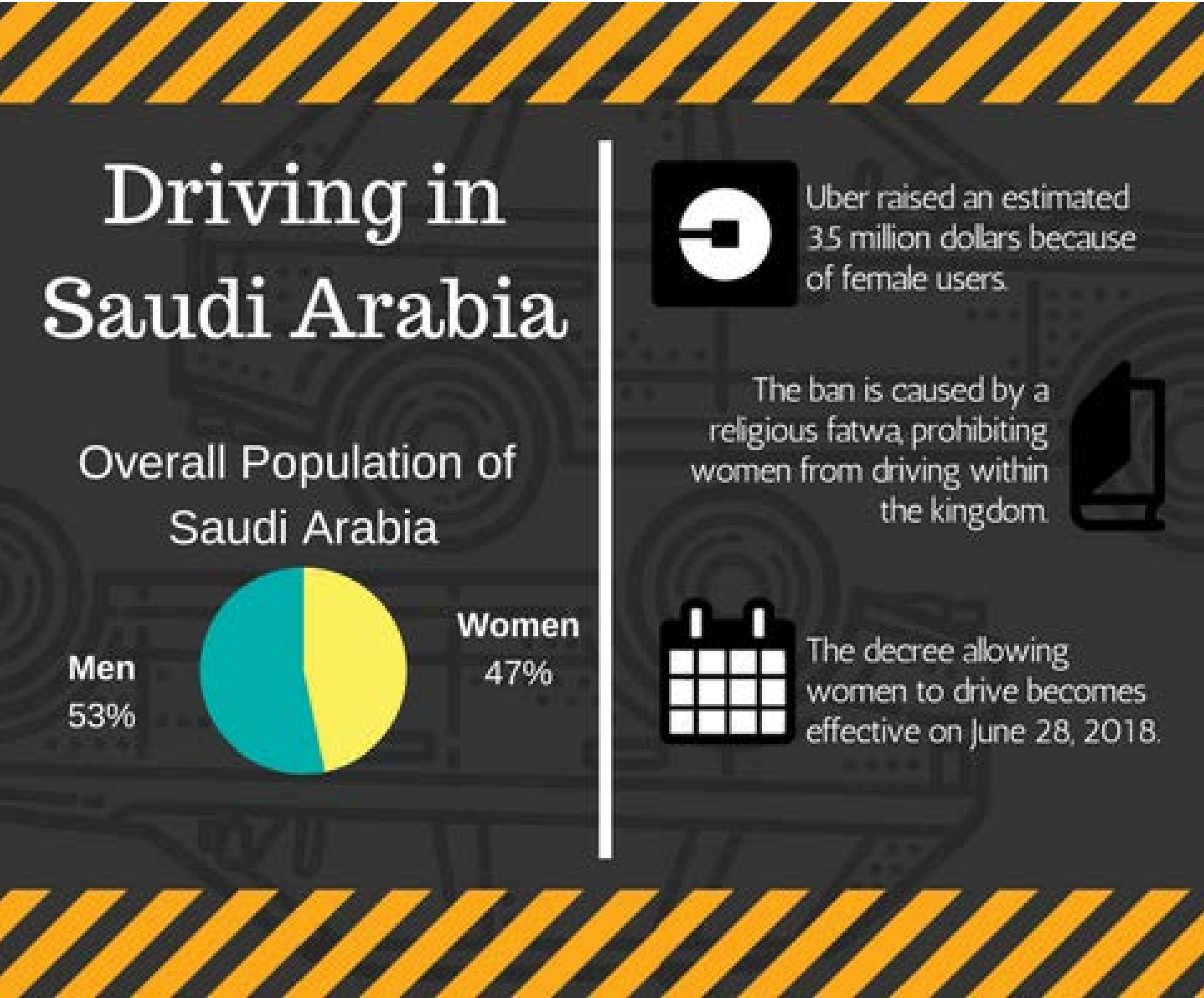
What you might not know is that now, you actually have that in common with the women of Saudi Arabia.

Saudi women were not allowed to drive until September 2017, when a royal decree from the King of Saudi Arabia stating that next year, women will be allowed to get their driver's licenses. Saudi Arabia was the only country in the world with this restriction. Before, families had to either hire a driver for them if they had enough money or depend on a male relative to drive for them.

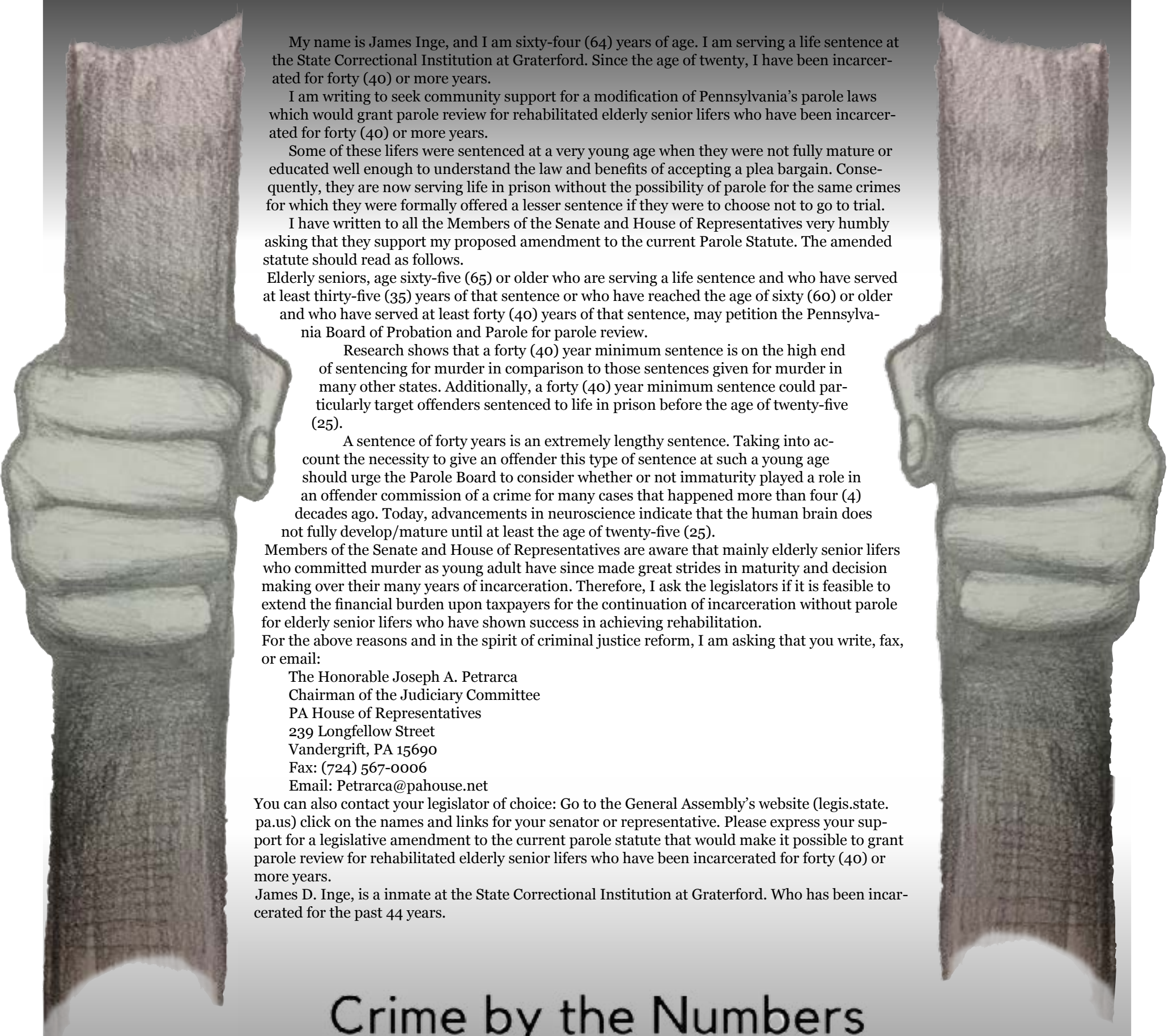
The reason for disallowing women in Saudi Arabia to drive until now were questions about whether it violated the Quran or not, as driving would require the removal of the headscarf, along with other such concerns, and the fear of the erosion of traditional values that are deeply enriched in Saudi Arabian culture.

The women in Saudi Arabia have been fighting for the right to drive for a long time. Women's rights activists such as Wajeha al-Huwaider and Manal al-Sharif have filmed themselves driving in rural areas (where the rules about women driving are usually stretched due to necessity) to bring awareness to this issue and to ask for this right from the government. In 2011, a woman was sentenced to be whipped for driving in Saudi Arabia. After much protesting, she was pardoned, but this situation illustrates the seriousness of this law.

Of course, Saudi women are overjoyed. Many believe that this is an influential step in gaining more rights for women and equality in Saudi Arabia. And, after all, everyone gets excited when they take their first turn behind the wheel.



# Letter to the editor: Give graying lifers a break



My name is James Inge, and I am sixty-four (64) years of age. I am serving a life sentence at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford. Since the age of twenty, I have been incarcerated for forty (40) or more years.

I am writing to seek community support for a modification of Pennsylvania's parole laws which would grant parole review for rehabilitated elderly senior lifers who have been incarcerated for forty (40) or more years.

Some of these lifers were sentenced at a very young age when they were not fully mature or educated well enough to understand the law and benefits of accepting a plea bargain. Consequently, they are now serving life in prison without the possibility of parole for the same crimes for which they were formally offered a lesser sentence if they were to choose not to go to trial.

I have written to all the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives very humbly asking that they support my proposed amendment to the current Parole Statute. The amended statute should read as follows.

Elderly seniors, age sixty-five (65) or older who are serving a life sentence and who have served at least thirty-five (35) years of that sentence or who have reached the age of sixty (60) or older and who have served at least forty (40) years of that sentence, may petition the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole for parole review.

Research shows that a forty (40) year minimum sentence is on the high end of sentencing for murder in comparison to those sentences given for murder in many other states. Additionally, a forty (40) year minimum sentence could particularly target offenders sentenced to life in prison before the age of twenty-five (25).

A sentence of forty years is an extremely lengthy sentence. Taking into account the necessity to give an offender this type of sentence at such a young age should urge the Parole Board to consider whether or not immaturity played a role in an offender commission of a crime for many cases that happened more than four (4) decades ago. Today, advancements in neuroscience indicate that the human brain does not fully develop/mature until at least the age of twenty-five (25).

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives are aware that mainly elderly senior lifers who committed murder as young adult have since made great strides in maturity and decision making over their many years of incarceration. Therefore, I ask the legislators if it is feasible to extend the financial burden upon taxpayers for the continuation of incarceration without parole for elderly senior lifers who have shown success in achieving rehabilitation.

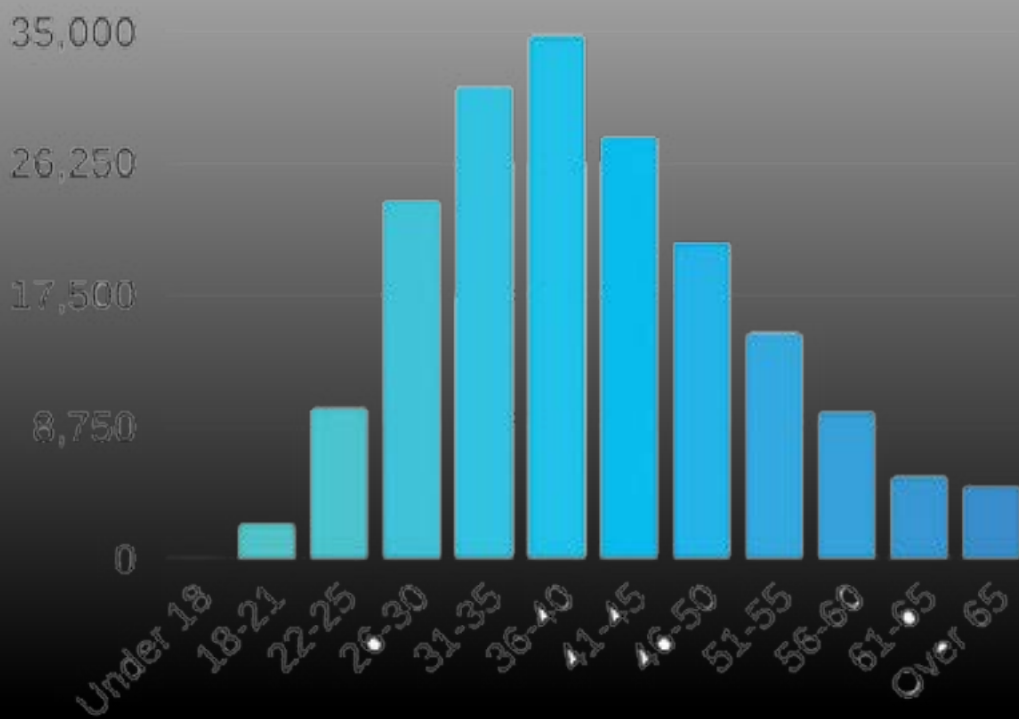
For the above reasons and in the spirit of criminal justice reform, I am asking that you write, fax, or email:

The Honorable Joseph A. Petrarca  
Chairman of the Judiciary Committee  
PA House of Representatives  
239 Longfellow Street  
Vandergrift, PA 15690  
Fax: (724) 567-0006  
Email: Petrarca@pahouse.net

You can also contact your legislator of choice: Go to the General Assembly's website (legis.state.pa.us) click on the names and links for your senator or representative. Please express your support for a legislative amendment to the current parole statute that would make it possible to grant parole review for rehabilitated elderly senior lifers who have been incarcerated for forty (40) or more years.

James D. Inge, is a inmate at the State Correctional Institution at Graterford. Who has been incarcerated for the past 44 years.

## Crime by the Numbers





# 2, 8 5 2, 9 0 1 +

## Lives lost at war, how it affects those at home

Julia Capaldi

1939, it was not until 1941 that the United States joined the war after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The war began with Nazi Germany's attack on Poland, Hitler was planning to take over the world and rid the world of Jews, and anyone else who didn't fit his idea of a perfect race. The life Americans know today is much different than what life was like for Americans during the War.

"I was 10 when the war broke out and 14 when it ended. We had air raid warnings, they were sirens, they [United States Government] were all training us in case we got hit. Whenever you heard the warning siren everybody had to be inside, all lights off, and especially at night even if somebody lit a cigarette outside they [the bombers] could see that from the air" Harriet Capaldi said.

The air raid warning drills became a part of Americans' everyday lives. Civilians were constantly reminded of the importance of having all lights off when the air raid sirens rang. A burning candle can be seen up to 30 miles away in the dark. Any sign of light could give away a town and cost entire neighborhoods of innocent civilians their lives.

"They had black curtains they'd use at the boardwalk so that the enemy ships couldn't see" Capaldi explained.

In part of the conservation efforts, rationing came into effect. Food and gas was divided amongst citizens in order to save fuel and food for the war efforts. Families were issued ration books and would have to live off the food and fuel that had been given to them. Many people had victory gardens where they would grow food to send away to the troops.

"It was hard to get butter and sugar, you had to stand in line for long periods of time. Cigarettes, cause my father smoked, we had to stand in line for them. The butter line, my mother used to make three of us go stand in line cause she liked to use butter and you were only allowed one pound each" Capaldi said.

Capaldi used to write letters to her friend in England, during the war mail was monitored. The United States government would read the letters being sent and black out any information that was censored. They didn't want any information about the war to get into the hands of the enemy.

"They always told us 'the slip of a lip can sink a ship'" Capaldi recalled.

While many of the men were away at war,

women worked in industries, such as the metal factory, that were a man's job at the time in order make materials that were needed for the war. Rosie the Riveter became a symbol of women going to work in these industries.

"A lot of women got their independence then because they were on their own and were feeding their families." Capaldi said.

Even the children took part in the war effort. Schools would have the students make supplies to be sent over to war.

"At school I would knit little squares that were camo colored and they would sew them together to make blankets and send them over to the troops. When I was 12, I worked in a hospital making eye sponges that they would send over to the soldiers. We would also help harvest the crops in the gardens" Capaldi said.

The radio became a huge outlet where President Franklin Roosevelt would broadcast important information and connect to the American people. Roosevelt managed to bring the country together and calm many despite the fact that there was a war going on.

"We were scared but our president, President Roosevelt, he made everybody feel so secure, like that it could never happen to us" Capaldi explained.

Over 60 million people were killed during World War II, that was approximately 3% of the world's population at that time. Many of the American that were sent over were very young. Of those lives over 40,000 were American casualties. Many Americans had family and friends that were in the war. Even for those who weren't fighting, everyone took part in helping the war effort. For American citizens, their lives revolved around war.



Photo Credits: Google Commons

American Revolutionary War  
Northwest Indian War  
Quasi-War  
First Barbary War  
Other actions against pirates  
Chesapeake-Leopard Affair  
War of 1812  
Nuka Hiva Campaign  
Creek War  
Second Barbary War  
First Seminole War

First Sumatran Expedition  
Black Hawk War  
Second Seminole War  
Mexican-American War  
Cayuse War  
Rogue River Wars  
Yakima War  
Third Seminole War  
Second Opium War  
Coeur d'Alene War  
Civil War:

Dakota War of 1862  
(Little Crow's War)  
Shimonoseki Straits  
Snake Indian War  
Indian Wars  
Red Cloud's War  
Korea (Shinmiyangyo)  
Modoc War  
Great Sioux War  
Nez Perce War  
Bannock War  
Ute War  
Sheepstealer Indian War  
Samoa crisis  
Ghost Dance War  
Sugar Point

Pillager Band of Chippewa Indians  
Banana War  
Spanish-American War  
Philippine-American War  
Boxer Rebellion  
Santo Domingo Affair  
United States occupation of Nicaragua  
Mexican Revolution  
Occupation of Haiti  
World War I  
North Russia Campaign  
American Expeditionary Force Siberia  
China  
World War II  
Greek Civil War  
Chinese Civil War

Berlin Blockade  
Korean War  
U.S.S.R. Cold War  
China Cold War  
Vietnam War  
1958 Lebanon crisis  
Bay of Pigs Invasion  
Cuban Missile Crisis  
Dominican Republic  
USS Liberty incident  
Iran  
El Salvador Civil War  
Beirut deployment  
Persian Gulf escorts  
Invasion of Grenada  
1986 Bombing of Libya

Invasion of Panama  
Gulf War  
Operation Provide Comfort  
Somalia  
Haiti  
Colombia  
Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Kosovo War  
Afghanistan War  
Iraq War  
Operation Inherent Resolve  
Raid on Yemen





Bonner expresses his creativity through writing with a pencil and paper in hand.

Photo/Regina Thomas

## Finding an identity through words

By Eliyana Abraham

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but what are words worth? With the introduction of a Creative Writing course in 2016, many students have seized the opportunity to try their hands at the art of writing. One junior—Billy Bonner—has since found a home in words. He crafts uniquely hilarious short stories, in addition to exercising his talents within a gamut of other genres.

Bonner is an active member of Howler Lit, Neshaminy's literary magazine, where he expresses his passion for creative writing with others who share the same affinity for language.

Bonner describes his style as comedic and straightforward—which is visible in his short story, “Hillbilly Encounter,” which was set for publication in Howler Lit, but pulled from the magazine due to concerns from

administration regarding the language in the piece. Bonner performed the piece at Late Nite with Howler in Oct. 2016, earning laughs and praise from the audience.

Being in his second year of Creative Writing, Bonner cites Mr. DiCicco as one of his greatest influences and inspirations. He credits DiCicco as having helped him mature as a writer over the past two years.

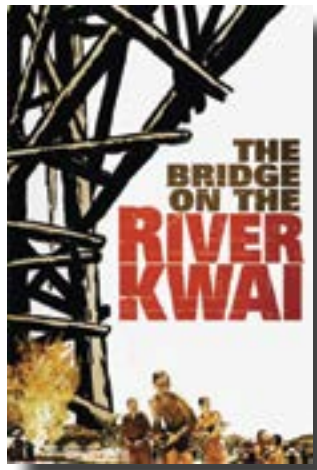
When asked when he first began writing creatively, Bonner replied, “I’ve always been fairly interested in writing since I was younger, but it never really took off until sophomore year. My piece was briefly published in Howler, and I had a realization that I do enjoy writing, and that writing is genuinely entertaining.”

While only in 11th grade, Bonner hopes to attend college to study Political Science and Creative Writing.



## Must-see thrilling war movies

By Daniel Reiss



This World War II film tells the story of a group of prisoners-of-war captured by Japanese forces who are instructed to build a bridge in order to help bring across more Japanese troops. The film, directed by David Lean, and starring William Holden (Network) and Alec Guinness (Star Wars), asks deep questions to the audience about honor and leadership.



This Vietnam war film follows a private and his comrades' time fighting off Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Featuring early performances from Charlie Sheen, Willem Dafoe, and Forest Whitaker, Oliver Stone's war film depicts the transformation that war causes to the soldiers in war, and occasionally, the descent into savagery.



This landmark World War II film tells the story of a group of soldiers tasked to locate a private whose three brothers have been killed in battle. Directed by Steven Spielberg, and featuring a star-studded cast, led by Tom Hanks, the film contains some of the most intense filmmaking in cinema history but never forgets that there are characters at the heart of the film. “Saving Private Ryan” is the perfect ode to the veterans that fought in World War II.



This war film tells the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II from the Japanese perspective. The film (a companion piece to Clint Eastwood's previous World War II film, Flags of our Fathers) stars Ken Watanabe (Inception) as a general who is trying to command his troops for as long as possible even when he knows there is a very little chance of victory. The film asks viewers to empathize and look at enemies in war as just other people trying to defend their country, too.

## Dual iPhone release excites Apple fans

By Andy Nguyen

The public has been waiting months for the release of the new iPhone, and Apple has finally delivered. The new iPhone was announced on Sept. 12 at the Steve Jobs Theater. Not only is there a new all-glass design and OLED display, but Apple surprised the public with two new models.

The iPhone 8 will come in two sizes, 4.7-inch and 5.5-inch. It will also feature a brand new feature that Apple users have been wanting ever since the iPhone 7; AirPower allows the user to charge their new iPhone 8 simply by placing it down on the mat. The AirPower mat is not just for iPhones; It can charge both the Apple Watch and AirPods. Many Apple fans are very excited for this concept even though it will not be released until 2018.

The brand new iPhone X is a celebration of Apple's ten year anniversary of creating iPhones. The new phone will contain all the same features as the iPhone 8 and is set to release on Oct. 23. Both phones will feature True Tone, a screen that adjusts the white balance according to the light around

you to make colors appear more vibrant.

The iPhone X features a new screen and new lock system. The iPhone has a screen that wraps around the shape of the phone and the complex front-facing camera. The front-facing camera contains the technology to scan one's face and uses its far more sophisticated sensors to allow the user the unlock their phone with just a simple look at their iPhone. Apple calls this technology and programming TrueDepth.

The newly released iPhones have been creating plenty of buzz in the Apple community. However, there is more of a build up surrounding the iPhone X. Many customers have been waiting for the iPhone X to release instead of the iPhone 8 and due to a smaller stock of the iPhone X, it is guaranteed to sell out. Anyone looking to stay up to date with Apple's devices better keep a close eye on iPhone X's sales, or they could be stuck with their old phone until Apple restocks.



The new iPhone X by Apple features incredible new designs which fans are eagerly waiting for. Photo/Google Commons

## Swift leaves a blank space on her social media

By Regina Thomas

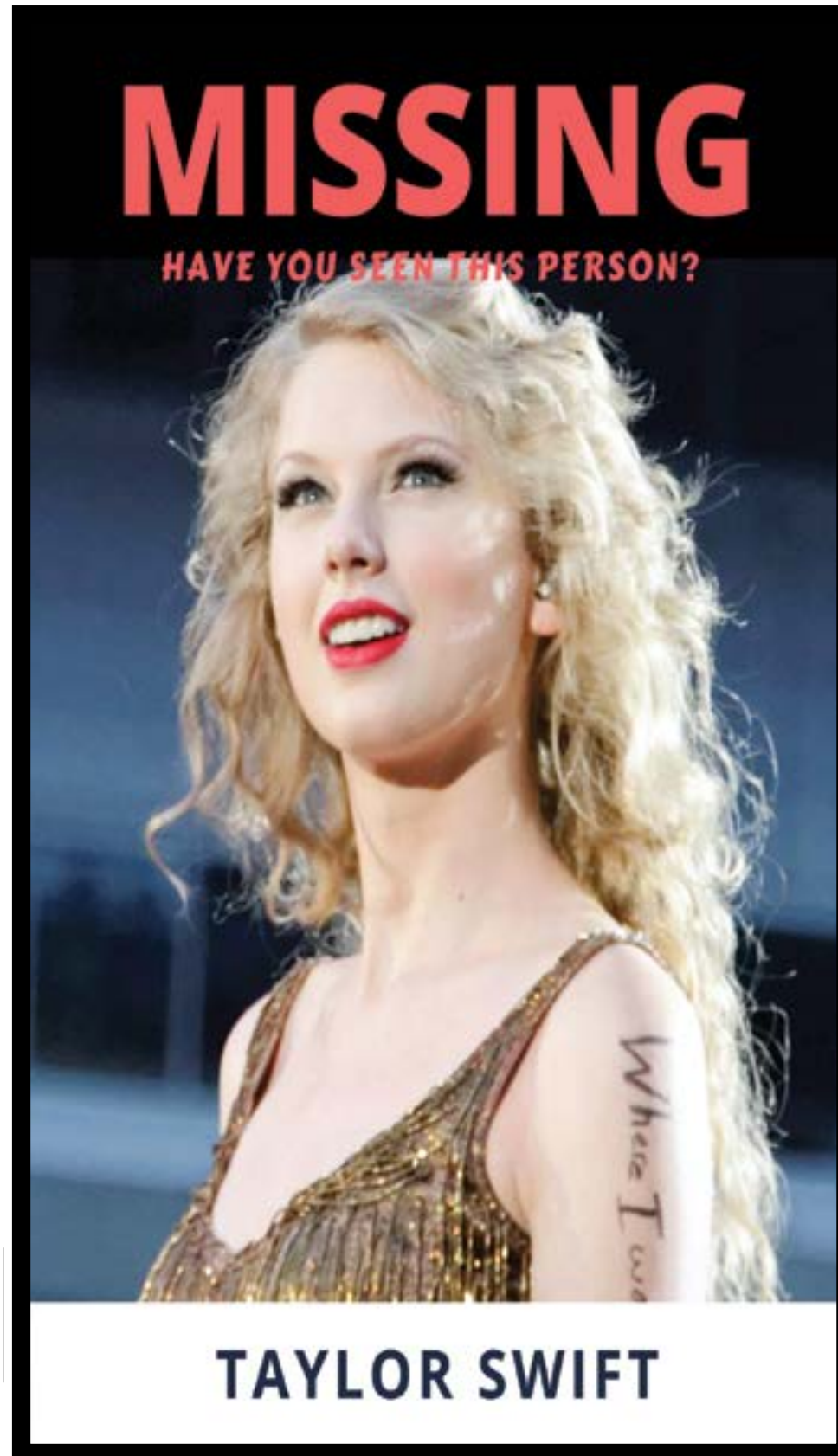
Zero posts, zero followings, and 102 million followers: this is what the mega popstar, Taylor Swift's, instagram account looked like back in August. Fans were left utterly confused when they clicked on Swift's social media pages, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, just to find a blank profile picture, deleted header, and no feed. Even her website turned black, stripped of all content. Many wondered if she was taking a break, dealing with hackers, or preparing for her new album.

This online disappearance didn't last long though, as a few days later Swift posted a mysterious clip of a snake slithering back and forth on her social media pages. Fans took this as a sign of a new album release. Since her 2006 debut, Swift has been consistently releasing a new album every two years. However, her last album, 1989, was released nearly three years ago, so fans have been anxiously waiting.

Swift isn't the first to vanish from social media to promote a new album. Back in 2014, Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, turned all his profile pictures black and wiped all his feeds clean to promote his album Because The Internet. Also, The Weeknd deleted all his instagram posts in Sept. 2016 to promote his album Starboy.

Fans' theories of a new album were confirmed Aug. 24 when her song “Look What You Made Me Do” was released. According to Billboard, it was an instant success as it was Swift's fifth Hot 100 No. 1 song, broke the 2017 record for highest weekly streaming and sales sums, and broke the record for highest weekly streams ever for a song by a woman.

Regarding the rest of her upcoming album, Reputation, not much information is known as Swift has been denying interviews and avoiding paparazzi. Fans will have to wait until Nov. 10 when her album releases to see what Swift has up her sleeve.



Fans were left confused after Swift's mysterious disappearance back in August. Photo/Google Commons





# Cheerleader forced into doing splits

By Brianna Herder

Outrage unified the nation when video surfaced of high school cheerleaders being forced into doing the splits. One of the young girls in the video had asked teammates to record the exercise in order for her to show her mother, who in turn demanded an investigation of the situation be launched. The coach, Ozell Williams, has since been relieved of his duties as coach for the team. Williams is Founder and CEO of “Mile High Tumblers”, a group of athletes who aim to “develop strong athletes and well-rounded citizens by teaching discipline, responsibility, respect, sense of ownership and other characteristics that mimic upstanding citizenship.” The website also states that the group aims to “prepare” each member both “mentally and physically.”

According to the Mile High Tumblers website, Williams is an “Olympic Athlete having won three Team USA first place rings in preliminary games.” It also lists Williams as a cheerleader for the University of Colorado Buffs, along with having made appearances at Broncos and Nuggets games, as well as “other events in Colorado.”

Despite all of his qualifications, Williams’ teaching methods were deemed too inhumane in order

for him to maintain his job, not only at East High School in Denver, but in other areas he coached where he forced girls into similar positions. According the the Washington Post, Denver Public Schools Superintendent Tom Boasberg said of the viral videos, “I have watched all of the videos. And as a superintendent, and as a father, and as an athlete, they are deeply disturbing.” Boasberg continued, “What happened was wrong. Under no circumstances should a young person be in a situation where they are suffering physical or emotional harm. Under no circumstances should a young person be forced to continue any activity beyond their desire to stop.”

One of the young girls shown in the video, Ally Wakefield, 13, claims she is now being cyber bullied and accused of faking her injuries, according to KTLA. Wakefield pulled her hamstring as a result of the abuse she received in the video. However, many critics are discrediting her injury and even urging her to commit suicide. Wakefield refuses to allow the naysayers get to her. “The world is a scary place and the people you think you can trust, you can’t always, and that you just have to be conscious of who you are with and just trust your gut feeling,” Ally told KDVR.

## Fall Sports Wrap Up



Photo/JS Garber

**Senior Ross Kujdych finishes first in districts for his second year in a row.**



Photo/Bill Shearn

**With an overall 9-1 record, Neshaminy football advances to their first play-off game after defeating Pennsbury last week.**



Photo/JS Garber

**A hip strain can occur leading to the potential need of a hip replacement later in life.**

**Groin injuries such as the tearing of the adductos or inner thigh muscles may arise.**

