

HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVII
January 26, 2022
Issue 10

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Red (Taylor's Version)

Sara Fitzgerald - 10

The album Red has been released for the second time, except this time, it is Taylor's version. Taylor has re-released her own albums due to conflicts with her record company and not being able to leave the contract she signed. Red was first released on October 22, 2012, and Taylor's version was released on November 12, 2021. With the release of Red, a short film was made for Taylor's song, "All Too Well" starring Dylan O'Brien and Sadie Sink. Taylor starred in and directed the film herself. The short film and song is based on Taylor's personal experiences. Most of the music Taylor produces she lived through. She draws her inspiration from her own personal emotions and pour them into her music.



While comparing two albums a student noticed several differences. One major difference being that the original album had only 16 songs while Taylor's has 30 songs. The deluxe album that was released contained 19 songs and three different demo recordings. As Red was first released in 2012 and Red (Taylor's Version) was released in 2021, Taylor's voice has changed and along with it the pitches. Taylor is re-recording her music because of the fact that "artists should own their own work for so many reasons." Her fans can enjoy her voice while Taylor can claim and be paid for her music.

Taylor had been singing since 2004, age 15, when she signed her first record deal. She has come a long way since and continues to inspire people of all ages around the world. She is not quite done impressing us.

For more information go to <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/arts/music/taylor-swift-scooter-braun.html>.

Healthy habits to start the new year

Emily Smith - 11

The start of the new year often begins the same for most people; creating a New Year's Resolution that usually only lasts until the middle of the month, which inevitably results in old patterns and habits resurfacing because of a lack of motivation or burnout. Rather than creating unattainable goals that will likely result in failure, it is more important to focus on daily habits that can be accomplished which promote overall health. While these changes may seem miniscule compared to larger goals such as saving enough to buy a new car or starting a dream job, they can make a difference in mood and physical wellness, both of which can help in the long term.

Taking care of physical health is a goal that should be prioritized throughout each year. Small steps each day such as drinking plenty of water, consuming less sugar, waking up early, and even taking walks are each important steps that can be taken as a precursor to long term health goals such as getting in better shape. Overall wellness also means that the brain and mind are taken care of as well. Spending more quality time with loved ones, listening to music, exploring the outdoors, and meditation are all great ways to boost one's mood and productivity throughout the day and can set the tone for one's outlook on the rest of the year.

If a better financial status is more of a priority in 2022, it is also important to set realistic goals when it comes to saving money for vacations, large purchases, or even day-to-day spending. Keeping track of spending is a key step to financial success. Writing in a log or even downloading apps that record each purchase is an easy and efficient way of knowing how much money is leaving one's wallet at a time. While housework and chores may not seem like the most enjoyable way to earn money, they can be a quick way to store some extra cash or spending money rather than dipping into money set aside for emergencies or more important occasions.

Once one is old enough, summer jobs are also a great source of income that will ensure one has enough money to simply grab a coffee with friends or help save up for their dream car.

"I think we should be setting goals all year," says junior Mia Kalbach. "When you're setting too many goals at the beginning of the year you are bound to fail." Much like others, Mia has attainable goals that will help motivate her throughout the whole year. "My goals for this year are to try and get straight A's, start a summer job, and save up money for college materials in the future." Kalbach agrees that

New Year's Resolutions should be relatively attainable and should stem throughout the entirety of the year.

Starting with small steps like these each day are what can set one up for success not only in 2022, but for every year to come. Happy New Year!

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.minimalismmadesimple.com/home/happy-habits/>

<https://www.moneyunder30.com/how-teens-can-save-money>



Pajama pants enter current fashion

Mia Kalbach - 11

As the weather becomes colder and the sleepiness of the winter months settle in, it becomes more tempting to prioritize comfort instead of donning a more professional look.

Recently, the classic plaid and checkered pajama pants have become a staple in people's everyday wardrobes. Versatile, effortless, and comfortable, pajamas are an easy way to complete an outfit when the day looks too tiring to put that much effort into appearances. Typically, pajamas pair best with crew neck sweaters or hoodies on top with crocs, moccasins, or Ugg slippers as footwear. Red and black pants are the most popular design, but it is not rare to see other color types. Some people even stray from the crowd altogether and wear pajamas with patterned graphics. Either way, this trend communicates how it is sometimes best to fashionably cut some corners if it means saving a bit of energy on a tired day, though it is preferred to avoid any sleepwear for more proper occasions.

What is it like being quarantined?

Anna DeAngelo

Whether it is from close-contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or someone gets the virus themselves, they can be quarantined from school for up to 14 days and proof of a negative test result is needed before they can return. Junior Angelina Carsto has unfortunately gotten the virus and been quarantined so she has an inside perspective of the life of someone who has to be distanced from everyone else.

Carsto is in 11th grade and has been quarantined since December 3, 2021. She came back to school on December 14 so she did not stay home for a full 14 days, but she provided proof of a negative test result so she has been allowed to return. While being isolated, she did not have to sign in to Zoom calls like everyone does when the entire building is closed and everyone is operating on a virtual schedule. Alternatively, Carsto checks Schoology and her email for her missed work and then completes what she can while she is home. Anything she could not do or did not have the resources to do, she reached out to her teachers who helped her along in finding a way to complete the assignments. Upon Angelina's return, she will cooperate with her teachers and make up for any missed exams or assessments during her open flex periods or class time.



All in all, Angelina Carsto says that virtual schooling while being quarantined is different than when the entire building is virtual, but gets the work done nonetheless. While it is effective, she prefers in-person classes where she can get hands-on instruction and that social interaction of high school that she missed while she was being isolated.

How brands use influencers to advertise products

By Skylynn Binder

Social media has become a part of our everyday lives, and now it is even a part of our shopping choices. People have been paying attention to social media influencers when it comes to shopping advice and purchasing recommendations instead of traditional advertisement. These Instagram and TikTok stars' words are being trusted more than celebrities. Companies have taken notice of this and are using it to their advantage to gain more customers and money.

It is difficult for brands to have the amount of trust that social media influencers have in their fans. Brands are seen as big companies that sell products, whereas influencers are a lot more relatable and in touch with normal people. Because of this, brands have instead been using this fact to their advantage. Brands have been using influencers to speak on and promote the products themselves. This provides customers with real reviews of the brand and makes them think that if these real people are using these products, then so should they.

"I'm more likely to buy something from a brand if I've seen somebody on social media use it. It gives me a better idea of the product and what type of quality it is rather than relying on advertisement alone," was Kirra Goetz's response when asked whether or not she was more likely to buy something if an influencer made a post about it.

People no longer care about traditional advertisements or whether or not celebrities use a product. They care about what their favorite influencers have to say about a brand now, because they are so much more relatable and they can see themselves in them. Now, brands are getting their product out there whilst gaining good reviews and customers at the same time.

Rising Covid cases with rising maskless individuals

Carol Cegarra - 9



Covid-19 is not just an issue for the people around us, but also an issue for the entire world, and only because it causes deaths, but also because it is a very infectious virus. In the US alone there have been 61,584,415+ cases and 839K deaths. Recently there has been a rise in the number of Covid cases due to individuals acting as if the high risk of transmitting Covid has just vanished.

During the last two years, hospitalization rates have increased due to Covid. The last few weeks the Covid related hospitalizations had stayed constant with around 120,000+ people per day in the United States. In Pennsylvania alone 90% of hospitalized individuals are not vaccinated. Data from Our World in Data or Center of Disease Control and Prevention Both show that unvaccinated individuals have a higher risk of getting infected and ending up hospitalized.

According to Our World in Data only 74.25% of the population is fully vaccinated or has received at least one dose of any of the American Covid Vaccines.

Even with the Covid rises this year. Out in society we still witness individuals not using proper protection towards themselves or others. For example In crowded areas there are maskless people. One of the biggest issues seen at many work areas and schools is individuals will show up to their daily activities while being sick and showing clear symptoms. Another issue could be people going on about their day when they were being tested for Covid-19. This does not only affect the individual but everyone else around them. This is why it is very important to use the proper equipment and protections towards yourself and others.

At Hamburg Area High School there is an optional mask mandate. This can be an issue due to backtracking close-contact but it can also help. It can help because Student Ashley Moyer said that when wearing masks gives her anxiety and it gives her trouble focusing in class.

Semester one ends at Hamburg

Lonasia Tolbert - 11

January 20, 2022 marks the last day of the first semester here in Hamburg. Quarter two at Hamburg has been filled for everyone including staff, this quarter has seen two-holiday breaks, seven virtual days, and one snow day. As this semester is ending, everyone is gathering their things together and getting ready for what the new semester may be like.

Sara Fitzgerald, a sophomore shared that she thought this semester went really fast but overall she accomplished a lot. She said this semester, she was in and out of school which made it a little harder than usual, but she is ready for the new upcoming semester. Preparing for the end of a semester or quarter always brings a little stress and Sara said she goes through old assignments and puts them in a safe space for future reference. This also gives her space for new assignments. Sara shared organization is a key step when keeping up with assignments and the daily schedule in general. Sara said she writes down all of her homework from each class in order and once she finishes an assignment she highlights it.

Junior Madison Starr uses her agenda to manage her schedule, and this helps with the organization of her work. A tip she gave was keeping schoolwork organized from the start of the quarter lessens the possibility of problems at the end of it. She is excited for the end of this semester and is ready for the new and upcoming semester to start " One step closer to summer," she said.

Why Pennsylvania students take the Keystone exams

Lonasia Tolbert - 11

It has been common for students here at Hamburg Area High School to want to know why we take The Keystone exams. The keystones could be a graduation pathway at Hamburg. It is also required by the state to see if the school district students attending are meeting state requirements. " Failure to do so will affect a Local Education Agency (LEA) and school's participation rate," according to Pennsylvania's Department of Education.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) launched the PSSAs (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) in 1992. They are standardized tests administered every year and are based on state standards for what students should know and be able to do at their grade level. In Pennsylvania students in grades, 3 through 8 take the PSSA for Language Arts and Math. The Keystone is a state-wide exam that all Pennsylvania students have to take in high school; this test was created in 2011 after the PDE voted to establish the end-of-course exams, according to Noe Ortega secretary of education. The tested subjects are Literature, Biology, and Algebra 1.

July 15, 2019 writer Kristen A. Graham released the article "Should Pa. dump its Keystone Exams for high school students and save millions? One state official thinks so." The article argued that the Keystone exam should be replaced by the SAT or the ACT. If the switch is made, research shows that mandating SAT or ACT testing for all high schoolers "increases the rate at which students attend post-secondary education of some kind, particularly lower-income students who might not otherwise realize they could fare well in college," Graham said. Adam Edgerton, a researcher and doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvanias Graduate School of Education, noted that losing the keystones in favor of the SAT could have unintended consequences: The SATs only math knowledge, writing, and reading. "That would get rid of science testing, and I think it would reduce the emphasis on science in high school," Edgerton said. "If you're not testing something anymore, you're not measuring it, and you're not valuing it."

Student Madison Starr a junior agrees Pennsylvania should dump Keystone testing. She shared this year has been stressful with balancing the Keystone exams and the SATS. "These are both very important tests for me this year and they both cover many different areas, and it always feels like I am studying for one or the other," she said. Madison disagrees with Adam Edgerton, she thinks the value of sciences will not go away because we have exams on the regular course material.



HAHS holds first ever Java Jam

Hannah Kristiniak - 9

Hamburg Area High School is holding its first ever Java Jam on Thursday, January 20, 2022 in the school library from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m and the admission is free. There will be live performances to view. Anyone can come to the Java Jam and there will be music and art. Anyone can sign up to perform and can do open mic, karaoke, poetry, or play an instrument and acts must be approved ahead of time. All the money made from sales of coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and baked goods will go towards this year's prom and graduation.

Mr. Haegele, the co coordinator of the Acoustic Guitar Club is the main coordinator for this event, but so many other people were involved and made this happen. Mr. Haegele got the idea from when he was in high school. His school would hold an event like this very similar and it was even called the Java Jam as well. He loves music and has played many instruments like violin, trumpet, and guitar. He was in many music groups and bands in middle school and high school. Mr. Haegele will be at the Java Jam and plans to play a song. He is most excited to get kids involved and show them something they might really like. When he was in high school he knew the teacher that was in charge of the Java Jam and now he is excited to be a teacher and start the Java Jam here at Hamburg. Mr. Haegele says that even if students do not play an instrument, they should still come check it out because there will be other interesting things like artwork and a place to socialize.

Mr. Laughlin will also be a part of the Java Jam. He is very excited that it is the first one Hamburg has ever held. He is also excited that there will be cool activities for kids to be creative. Mr. Laughlin is looking forward to the Java Jam and will be performing as well. He says he is not sure what to expect except fun.

Programs to do at BCTC

Wayne Wolfe - 9

Every year students at Hamburg Area High School and other school districts across the Berks County area, decide to go to BCTC to study and practice for a career. There are two BCTC campuses: the East Campus in Oley and the West Campus in Leesport.

One of the programs that is in the East Campus is Construction which usually includes Masonry, HVAC/Refrigeration, Building Construction Occupations, Cabinetry & Wood Technology, Carpentry, Electrical Occupations, Heavy Equipment Operations, Horticulture, Painting & Decorating, and Plumbing & Heating. All of these programs are important in the world today because these are the people that are helping heat homes and they make sure that the person's home is safe and is working in its proper way. Usually all of these programs in the construction field at BCTC come together and make a human livable home that usually sells from \$300k-\$400k.

One of the programs at the West Campus is Engineering & Manufacturing Technology which include Drafting Design Occupations, Mechatronics Engineering Technology, Precision/Computerized Machining Technology, and Welding Technology. There are also two Healthcare programs at the West Campus which are Health Occupations and Medical Health Professions.

There are also a bunch more programs at both campuses that a student can go for, this is a good chance to show someone what they're really good at and what that person can be capable of doing.



An Evening with Silk Sonic

Olivia Kocher - 9

On November 12 2021, Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak came out with a new album called An Evening with Silk Sonic. Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak recently became a superduo called Silk Sonic, and this album is their first one together. On this album there are nine songs, the most popular songs amongst these are Leave The Door Open,

Smokin Out The Window, and Skate. Leave the Door Open was the first song off the album that was released, which was in March of this year. When the album came out, it debuted at number two on Billboard 200. Mars and Paak have said that the album was inspired by old-school music, like the 70s. If you enjoy this album you may also enjoy music from the 70s or other music from Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak. Since they make their own music the sounds and lyrics may be similar, but they will also have their own feel to them. Since this album is based on 70s music, people who like the sound of this album might really enjoy the sound of songs from the actual 70s, not just music based off of it.

Freshman Student Ava Kocher, says "It's not really my thing, but maybe I could if I listened to it more."

For more information go to:

<https://ew.com/music/music-reviews/an-evening-with-silk-sonic-bruno-mars-anderson-paak/>

Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Emily Smith; Issue Layout Editor: Sara Fitzgerald; Writers: Genevieve Arena, Kaitlyn Barry, Skylynn Binder, Carol Cegarra Baptista, Grace Cromyak, Anna DeAngelo, Scottie Dunleavy, Sara Fitzgerald, Isabella Forte, Mia Kalbach, Olivia Kocher, Hannah Kristiniak Jordan Monroe, Ashley Moyer, Cora Rodriguez, Emily Smith, Lonasia Tolbert, Deja Wagner-Wakefield, Wayne Wolfe; *Hawk Happenings* is a weekly publication created by the students in the Publications class at Hamburg Area High School. It is distributed free of charge throughout the Hamburg Area High School community. A PDF is available at <https://www.hasdhawks.org/domain/181> and an online version at www.hawkhappenings.org. The opinions in this newspaper represent those of the student writers and do not represent the opinions of the faculty, staff, administration, or school board of the Hamburg Area School District. HH is a member of the Pennsylvania School Press Association (PSPA), the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), and Quill and Scroll. If you have any questions or comments regarding anything that appears in its pages, or if you would like to sponsor our paper with a donation, please contact Terri McCarthy, *Hawk Happenings*, Hamburg Area High School, Windsor Street, Hamburg, PA, 19526. Our email address is termcc@hasdhawks.org and our phone number is 610-562-3861, x2327.