

HAPPENINGS

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Food and Jazz Band return to Hawks Nest speakeasy

Mia Kalbach - 11

With Covid restrictions slowly loosening up in recent months, the fifth annual Hawks Nest speakeasy will be able to take place in full swing this year with food, drink, and a live jazz band. Mr. Kline, who runs the speakeasy and teaches AP U.S history, described it as something that constantly grew throughout the years, even moving to different locations in the school.

For those unaware, speakeasies were secret illegal bars during the Prohibition era from 1920-1933. With the 1920's currently being of focus in APUSH, the students will be roleplaying people from the time period during a simulated speakeasy in the high school library on March 4th, seventh and eighth periods.

When asked why simulations are important to integrate into a curriculum, Mr. Kline said that they are effective in putting students into the perspective of the individuals they are roleplaying, forcing them to make similar decisions to those people, as well as breaking up the monotony of lecturing. He also believes that the speakeasy is the best simulation of the year in APUSH, just above the Constitutional Convention. When asked how he would advertise the speakeasy to those interested in coming, he only had two words to say: "It's awesome."

APUSH student David Behm, who is going as Louis Armstrong, also shares the same sentiment, stating that the speakeasy might be a new contender for his favorite activity of the year. As for me, I am going to be roleplaying as notorious gangster Al Capone just for the opportunity to feel like a cool tough guy in a suave suit, so I am definitely looking forward to it.

Adolescent driving age under debate

Emily Smith - 11

Turning 16 embarks a new right of passage for many young adults - the most important being able to receive their learner's permit in hopes that they will get their license prior to their 17th birthday. While 16 seems like an age that brings lots of maturity, is a teenager of that age responsible enough to control such a dangerous vehicle? If the legal voting age in the United States is 18, it seems odd that a child two years younger would be able to navigate something that can potentially be a threat to a life. However, there may be factors that suggest 16 is the best age to start driving despite those who argue against it.

Statistics that examine car crashes have concluded that accidents in teens ages 18 and 19 are half the amount as those who are 16 or 17. Fatal crashes could be reduced simply because the driver has aged two more years and developed a more mature mindset. Factors such as peer pressure are less influential at the ages of 18 and 19 compared to when a teen is younger as well. Arguers against raising the driving age suggest that offering the opportunity to drive gives younger teens valuable experience and that the reason crash rates are so high at those ages is because of inexperience. Therefore, by the ages of 18 and 19, these teens will be less susceptible to crashes because they understand how to drive safely and properly due to their time in the driver's seat.

Hamburg students in general prefer to keep the driving age at 16. "I don't know if I would move it because most students are getting jobs around 15 or 16 and it's more convenient for them to drive," says senior Kamryn Smith.

Arianna Barata, grade 11, agrees. "I don't think we should lower the age because kids need independence earlier than 18," says the Hamburg junior.

"I personally would not like it because I have my driver's license and it gives me a lot of freedom, but I think if they did raise the driving age it could prevent more accidents," says junior Angelina Carsto.



Spring sports start

Scottie Dunleavy - 9

Another sports season is beginning to come alive as open gyms started for some of the spring sports. HAHS offers boys and girls track, boys tennis, baseball, and softball. It is a very anticipated season for many athletes as it marks the end of the cold weather, and students can finally get outside without having to bundle up and freeze their tails off. Many seniors are taking their last season as a Hawk in the spring, and they all have high aspirations for their sendoff year. "I am very excited for this upcoming baseball season. I hope I can help our team win a county championship and maybe get us to states this year," shared senior Austin Miller.

Many of our seniors have helped our teams to great feats. Such as our Baseball team making it to the semi finals in the state championship tournament in 2019. "It has been cool seeing what our teams can do even when many other schools sort of look down on us. We have never been that "team to beat" but we have been the underdogs coming through and winning many times," says Miller. Other sports such as track are also a popular sport within the school district. There are many big feats in the track program and have been a solid team dating back to the late 60s when HASD was very young as a school district. "I am looking forward to this spring track and field season. The last two seasons have been affected by covid. Two years ago it was a two week season before the season was canceled. Last year there were fewer athletes participating. So this year I am hoping there is a return to more normalcy, with more athletes and more invitationals so more athletes can compete. Track is a unique sport in that there is an event for everyone. There are speed events, endurance events, jumping events, and strength events. There is a team and individual element to track and field. Open gyms to prepare for the upcoming season will begin in the middle of February," shares Phil Kistler, track & cross country head coach.

Spring Sports is one of the most exciting sports seasons and students are encouraged to try a new sport or just go to events and support the Hawks.



2021 softball

Temperatures are increasing

Grace Cromyak - 9

Winter is wrapping up and spring is just about to begin. This means no more running our electricity with a full blast of heat, and letting the windows open to let in natural air that is both cool and warm. The trees will begin to have leaves growing back, and flowers will bloom with butterflies pollinating including the bees. Spring overall is just a pretty season. Everything beautiful in nature just comes together and is all one big beautiful thing.

The good thing about spring is that we do not have to wear such heavy coats and we also do not have to worry about getting into freezing cold cars early in the mornings. We are able to wear light jackets, shorts, short-sleeve shirts, and sundresses! There are more outdoor activities that are also included such as riding bikes, taking the dog for a walk, playing with siblings, planting a garden, going on a picnic, playing in the rain, looking at the sky, hikes, and festivals.

Personally what I like about spring is the temperatures staying consistent at a range in the high 50's or 60s. I enjoy going out to nice restaurants and eating outside. I love seeing the flowers blossom. I enjoy seeing the birds outside, especially the blue jays. Sun showers are the best part because it gives me that slight sensation of everything that made me sad is now washing away.



Freshman Erica Gerner stated, "Well I am excited about the spring because of the warm weather and my softball tournaments. I love seeing the different trees growing back and all the flowers blooming."

Sophomore Bryce Kamp said, "I don't really do much in the spring, but I enjoy when baseball season comes around and I get to be involved in more outdoor activities. Also including hanging out with my friends."

Why water is better for people than soda

Olivia Kocher - 9

It is a well known fact that water is better for people than soda, but many people might not know why. Water and soda have many differences when it comes to appearance, texture, and health. Water is calorie free while soda is full of it. While water helps people stay hydrated, soda does the exact opposite because it lacks nutrition. Drinking soda while dehydrated can make it even worse than it was because it could increase urine production. In elementary school years the students might have been shown a video of an experiment where someone puts a tooth in soda and leaves it there for a long period of time. It is shown that after a long period of time, drinking soda will cause harm to a person's teeth. It is said to drink about 8-15 of water a day or people could risk becoming dehydrated. The amount of sugar in sodas is not good for a person's health and could cause major problems in the future. Having soda is not a bad thing, just make sure to get enough water.

Freshman Student Ava Kocher says, "I guess water is important, but it is boring with no flavor."



Speak is becoming louder than ever

Ashley Moyer - 9

Speak is a book that is becoming very popular among older students in school. This book is about a young high school student that is not just struggling in high school but also struggling with a traumatic event. This young girl has been sexually assaulted. Throughout most of the book she refers to this one boy as IT. This is the one that committed this crime against her, a senior at school. She is constantly reminded of the pain he caused that night, but that is not the only thing this poor girl is going through. She is also going through social rejection and a very toxic friendship. Her only way to escape all of this is her solace at this school: art class. This book is written by Laurie Halse Anderson and was written in 1999. The setting of this book is placed in Syracuse, New York.

This book can connect with a lot of high school students, male and female, and I feel that a lot of people should read this because I am sure that a lot of people went through something similar. It might help them be able to cope with it and help them learn how to move on. The reason that Farrar Straus Giroux Published this book is because they want people to be able to speak out about this stuff and not just hide away, bottling up their emotions. There are so many other books out there and this is one of those books that should be shared with more people.

Greater review

Deja Wagner-Wakefield- 9

Greater is an inspirational biographical sports movie based on true events about a walk-on college football player, Brandon Burlsworth, who was on the road to become a NFL star. The movie, written by David Hunt and Brian Reindl, was released on Netflix on August 26, 2016. The cast of the movie really added an element of realism to the movie because the starring actor, Christopher Severio as Brandon Burlsworth, looks alike to the actual football player.

This movie is a really emotional and inspirational movie that shows the struggles and obstacles someone will go through for something they are passionate about. The story starts off inspiring and encouraging and then moves to sadness, acceptance, and happiness. I really liked this movie because of this, but I thought it was boring in the beginning, but as it progressed, it became more intriguing. I would rate this movie a 8.5/10 and would highly recommend watching it. I usually do not watch sports movies, but I have to say this was one of my favorites. I did not have high hopes this would be good, but I was definitely proven wrong. Knowing that this movie is from someone's real life made it even more interesting because someone was so determined to do something and they did it even with a lot of obstacles in the way and even when people doubted them.

I think that the start of the movie was kind of confusing because it is set at a funeral and there is no real context on who died, but then the movie goes back in time, progresses through the years, and then it becomes more clear on what happened. The plot has emotional aspects, such as when the main character dies. His brother Marty Burthworth, played as Neal McDonough, has a hard time accepting the death. Then he has a sudden epiphany and realizes that he can not change what happened. After all this emotion the movie ends with a happy scene.



Music affects Students

Genevieve Arena - 9

Students at Hamburg High School are a collage of differences and similarities. One major aspect that separates people is the type of music they listen to and how it affects their mood and overall life. Freshman Kai Roesch states, "My music taste in certain ways can help me express myself. I have music that I've found, and then also songs that my family introduced to me such as bands like The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, and Pink Floyd. I have music for when I'm sad, or happy, or even angry. Music overall such as Jealous by "Eyedress" helps with my moods and emotions. The lyrics and melody fit together perfectly."

Another freshman student, Alyssa Brensinger states some music, such as Girl in Red or Penelope Scott makes her feel empowered and makes her feel like she can do anything. It also helps her to be productive and get chores and things done. Finally Ashley Moyer states that certain music like Jack Harlow, and The Neighborhood helps her to be more social and relate to other people. Overall music has different and lasting effects on different people.

Pennsylvania students take 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 Pennsylvania's 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 talks twins

Hannah Kristiniak - 9

There are two types of twins; fraternal or identical. Identical twins are formed when one fertilized egg separates to make two, producing babies with the same genetic information. Fraternal twins are two fertilized eggs, which makes two babies with a unique genetic makeup.

I am a fraternal twin who was born two minutes after my brother Caiden. Being a twin can look different for everyone, and there are a lot of misconceptions about twins. We cannot read each other's minds or feel each other's pain like some might think, but we do care about each other and have a good sibling bond. My favorite thing about being a twin is I will always have a special bond with the person I was born with. In my personal experience being a twin does not feel any different than just having another sibling.



Fellow Hawk Happenings writer Olivia Kocher is also a twin. She and her twin Ava were born one minute apart from each other. Olivia says that her and Ava are pretty close. For her it is normal to be a twin because it is all she has known. Olivia and Ava are fraternal twins and they do not really look alike. Olivia says, "I think it is really cool that we are twins, but we do not exactly look alike." One thing she likes about being a twin is that they are in the same grade, so she can ask for help whenever she needs it.

As we were comparing our experiences with a being twin, we did find a lot of similarities as well as differences. One of the things that was the same for us was that being a twin just feels like having another sibling.

HAHS' pen preference

Anna DeAngelo - 11

Writing and doodling with pens is very common nowadays and there are many different types of pens. Everyone has a different opinion on the different types of pens, which are gel pens, felt-tip pens, rollerball pens, and ballpoint pens. Upon interviewing juniors Arianna Barata, Chevelle Pinter, David Behm, senior Travis Noecker, and sophomore Aster (Jessie) West about which type of pen is their favorite based on writing ability and ink consistency, they concluded that it was a tie between three of the four choices. The options were felt-tip pens, ballpoint pens, gel pens, and rollerball pens.

All of the pens that are tied are similar in how they write and how long they last. Gel pens, the only pen that has not been voted for at all, have an inconsistent ink distribution and therefore are not the best pen to use for writing and taking notes. Ballpoint pens are the most commonly used, but felt-tip pens and rollerball pens have also been highly reviewed and discussed with good critiques. So, to conclude, the best pen to write with is either a ballpoint pen, a felt-tip pen, or a rollerball pen.

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