

HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVI
February 9, 2021
Issue 7

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

President Joe Biden becomes Inaugurated

Gigi Doklan -12

Since November when Joe Biden was declared the newest President-elect, many have wondered what his inauguration would look like. To put it bluntly, the last few months have been a political firestorm, which culminated in this centuries long tradition. Accusations of voter fraud from former President Donald Trump and the riots



at the capitol building are just some of the obstacles the new administration had to face thus far. Despite this, Biden's inauguration on January 20 went over smoothly.

Due to the pandemic, the ceremony was closed to the public for the first time in American history. Many political leaders were in attendance, abiding by CDC mask wearing and social distancing guidelines. Not among these was Donald Trump, who boarded Air Force One to his Florida home earlier that morning. This is the first time in American history that a former President has not attended his successor's inauguration. Another first comes in the form of Vice President Kamala Harris, who is the first woman to be elected to national office and the first black VP.

The ceremony was full of star studded performers as well, including Lady Gaga performing the National Anthem. Jennifer Lopez was also in attendance, delivering an equally as stunning performance. Both singers were outspoken about their support for the Democratic candidate throughout the election, so it is no surprise that they made appearances. Other notable musical acts include Bruce Springsteen, Demi Lovato and John Legend. Finally, youth poet laureate Amanda Gorman recited a poem, tying in the theme of unity that President Biden emphasized throughout the program.

LeighAnn Gesicki watched the inauguration live from her television at home. She was impressed by how many firsts for America happened in such little time, but also with how smoothly the procedures went. She says, "I was expecting something to go wrong, with the level of unrest that's been going on." However, she was happy that it went well and enjoyed the musical performances. "Lady Gaga's rendition of the National Anthem was really good," she commented.

To watch the inauguration of Joe Biden, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39vj3oALMDM>

New Year's Resolutions; Will 2021 be a better year?

Emily Smith - 10



The start of a new year means lots of different things for people, whether they find new motivation to reach their goals, or they resolve to simply do better in every area of their life. New Year's Resolutions have been a time honored tradition for approximately 4,000 years. New Year's traditions vary depend-

ing on culture, as the Babylonians rang in the new year by crowning a new king, the Romans sacrificed to the god Janus who was believed to look back on the past and ahead to the future, and Christians would read Scripture and sing hymns. No matter the celebrations, each religion used the coming of the new year as a time to reflect on the mistakes of the year past and resolve to make changes in the future.

Rather than making promises to the gods, people today prefer to focus on self improvement. While this tradition is common among all people, a very few percent actually go through with their resolutions. According to the Statistic Brain Research Institute, out of the 45 percent of Americans that make New Year's resolutions, only eight percent are successful in achieving their goals. After all, January 17 is National Ditch New Year's Resolution Day, making it seem rather difficult for Americans to break their old habits.

2020 has been a year filled with hardships of every kind, and while hope feels necessary, sophomores Angelina Carsto and Lola Folk do not feel like 2021 is going to be much different. "I feel like everyone thinks that everything that happened in 2020 is going to disappear, but it probably won't. I do have a New Year's resolution though, my family and I are doing a six month challenge to see who can lose the most weight" says Angelina Carsto, 10. "So far 2021 feels like a 2020 part two" says Lola Folk, 10. Whatever 2021 brings, let's hope that positivity makes this year better than last.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.history.com/news/the-history-of-new-years-resolutions>

No school for students on February 15, 2021; President's Day Holiday Recess

Athlete Spotlight: Daregan Motto

Wyatt Holl - 11



Local Hamburg High School student, Daregan Motto, continues his athletic career by pushing through the emerged obstacles from the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Daregan has been participating in Hamburg athletics for many years up to this point and intends on holding steady until the end of high school. Daregan believes that there are many

benefits when it comes to enrolling in sports. He explains how they give him "new opportunities in high school" that provides an edge over others. However, the recent pandemic is sweeping new ideas into Daregan's mind on what will happen next regarding athletics. More and more schools begin to shut down again due to Covid-19, and the winter sport Daregan is participating in is quite contrary to Covid-19 safety protocol. Daregan is a wrestler, weight lifter, and football player so if school is closed and sports are canceled, he will miss out on some great opportunities and experiences. On Daregan's football season that already took place, he explains that, "Covid has affected the length and number of games we have been allowed to attend" and "I didn't have an outstanding season but I did my best to block and do what was needed of me, I'm not a D1 or anything but I do what's asked." Clearly Daregan is passionate about his sporting experiences and is very content playing through the downfall brought with Covid-19. Although, now wrestling season is around the corner this winter which is sure to pose a possibility of cancelling completely.

One of Daregan's favorite sports is wrestling, however, the participation of wrestling, ignores every precaution retaining Covid-19. In wrestling, two men are essentially fighting one another with no face covering or protection to keep germs out. This means that no matter what anyone does, if one of the participants has Covid-19, it will be spread. Overall, Daregan is hoping for a normal season, but because "2020 so far has been a roller coaster" for Daregan he has his doubts. According to Daregan, If wrestling goes to plan "this year I'm giving up a significant amount of weight but I'm not too worried as long as I try my best and do what's best for the team."

Besides sports, this young student athlete has always excelled in all courses of academia even with the burden of Covid-19. Daregan, along with many others, is still trying to step over the blockade that is virtual learning to contain his grade level and learn to the best of his abilities. Even so, Daregan states, "I never knew what to expect and what was going to happen" which to him concludes as a summation of 2020 in general. Uncertain of the future, like everyone else, Daregan will simply continue his course of school and life for a brighter future.

The newest binge-worthy Netflix show

Alison Gassert - 12



For anyone who is looking for an escape from reality, the new netflix tv show, Bridgerton, is exactly what they need. Bridgerton is a period drama series created by Chris Van Dusen and produced by Shonda Rhimes who is also the producer of Grey's Anatomy, Scandal, Private Practice, How To Get Away With Murder, and many others that are beloved globally. Bridgerton is based on Julia Quinn's novels set in the competitive world of regency London during the season where debutantes are presented at court. This show was released on Christmas Day with eight, one hour episodes. The drama centers around the Bridgerton family: Violet, Anthony, Benedict, Colin, Gregory, Daphne, Eloise, Francesca, and Hyacinth. Some other featured characters include Portia, the Baron, Philipa, Prudence, and Penelope. Members of the cast include Rege-Jean Page, Phoebe Dynevor, Nicola Coughlan, Jonathan Bailey, Julie Andrews, Claudia Jessie, Luke Newton, and Ruby Barker.

The series was awarded a Rotten Tomatoes approval rating of 92% and a general 7.89/10. Richard Roeper of Chicago-Sun Times "gave the series four out of four stars and said, 'A show that will give you that unmistakable binge twinge that will have you activating that 'Next Episode' time and time again until there are no more 'Next Episodes.'" As for how the audience felt about the show, Netflix announced that the series is projected to be watched by 63 million households within 28 days of its release, which would make Bridgerton the fifth most watched Netflix original series of all time.

Overall, this series is of a different era which allows viewers to leave this time and escape into a different reality, one of elegance, charm, and beauty. Anybody who watches will be unable to deny its timeliness considering the current state of the world, which is why Bridgerton is the perfect show to binge watch.

For more information about Bridgerton visit this site, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bridgerton>.



