# 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, Daregen Motto, continues his athletic career by pushing through the emerged obstacles from the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Daregen 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. Daregen 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 Daregen 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, Daregen is hoping for a normal season, but because "2020 so far has been a roller coaster" for Daregen he has his doubts. According to Daregen, 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. Daregen, 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, Daregen 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, Daregen 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.



#### Branding Barbarians

Justin Hoy - 11

This TV show, Barbarians, would interest the people who enjoy watching political intrigue within either governments or other political settings (for political or economic gain), since the show displays political differences, cultural and family relations, and differences between each character in personal moral beliefs.

Created by Netflix and released to the public on October 23, 2020, this German centered TV show describes the semi-historical events during one period of time, mainly the end, of the Roman expanding of influence (mainl for political and economic gain) as well as conquering new territories in present day Germany (Germania as the Romans called the region of territory). The show has six episodes in its first season, and the series has been well received by many people, although references can be made between nationalistic biews of Germans by German nationllist sympathisers with part of the historical events that the TV show displays. The show has been



well viewed and has, mostly, positive responses to its first six episodes of the first season. During the 10 B.C. decade, the Germanic "barbarian" tribes were continuously in conflict with the Roman Empire's efforts into gaining more influence over the region for economic gain of taxing the people in those Germnaic tribes (while also using the land for agriculture again and potential trade with other civilizations/ tribes in the region) and for expansion as well. Around 8 B.C., one of the tribe's leaders, Segimer of the Cherusci tribe, gave his son, Arminus in Roman, to the Romans as a servant/ slave. Arminius was forcibly taken to Rome, integrated into the Roman society, educated in military and Roman tactics/ traditions, and became a decisive leader to the Roman legionaries. While in the TV show, attempting to have more of an emotional and dramatic impact, Arminius is adopted by Varus, "governor" in Germania at the time of Roman occupation during this era in 6 A.D. Varus, being named the Roman governor of Germania after the death of the previous one, did not actually adopt Arminius, as recorded anyway, but was involved in small Germanic raids of continued occupational integration of the Germanic tribes into semi-autonomous tribes within the Roman Empire's political influence.

The show explains the rising tensions between the Romans and the Germanic tribes, as well as political divisions and differences with each person, by the stealing of the Staff of Mars (a Roman god symbol of war) which the Romans attempt to find and forcefully take back. In historical accounts, there were always tensions between the two cultural groups due to Roman expansion and forced integration of the Germanic tribes, not abiding by Roman law and traditions from forced integration due to the lack of Roman influence in the region. In the story, the Romans take back the staff, Arminius being the main person that has influence in the retrieval operation. Arminus blames the stealing of the staff on one of his friends, leading to more dramatic political disagreements. Arminius, although not respected by certain Germnaic people within the tribe, decides that he should plan a Germanic revolt against the Romans, decreasing Roman influence and forced occupation/ integration of the Germanic tribes after he learns that Varus only protected him and treated him like family after he was assigned to by the Roman emperor. Arminius (in the story) eventually, through his political connections with his friends but opposed by certain "pro-Roman" Germanic tribe officials and leaders, decide to have Arminius become the leader of the Germanic Cherusci tribe, leading multiple other Germanic tribes to revolt against the Romans. Where the history and the show seem to be accurately similar to one another is during the controversial and planned Battle of Teutoburg Forest in 9 A.D.

Although only have a few hundred to possibly one thousand soldiers against the Romans, Arimius within the Roman base in Germania, convinces Varus to attack a specific Germainc rebellious tribe that was killed multiple Roman soldiers and tax collectors by traveling through the very narrow and quicker path through the Teutoburg Forest with three legions. Through Arminius's known tactics by the Romans and the specific strategy of a narrow path abush against the outnumbering Romans, Arminus killed over 20,000 Romans with only a few hundred German casualties. He also kills multiple Roman generals, having Varus and a multiude of other generals commit suicide in the Roman, accepted traditional way. The Battle of Teutoburg was one of the most important battles in history, having the Romans leave Germania and leading to the decrease and eventual fall of the Roman Empire from this turning-point battle. Although other battles against the Romans directly affected the influence of the empire, this battle is the main distinction and decrease in Roman influence in Germania and over its other occupied territories in Europe and Africa. This show, while grue some but interesting, shows a controversial, political, militarily, and culturate of the controversial of the cally important event in history, while also showing the political intrigue and drama incorporated inaTVshowandexplainingoneofthemostinfluential situations in the history of the entire world. For more information visit:

https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-the-Teutoburg-Forest https://www.ancient.eu/article/1010/battle-of-teutoburg-forest/



### Dorian Electra releases sophomore album - My Agenda Gigi Doklan - 12

Dorian Electra is an experimental pop artist best known for their unique, genderbent presentation and the political themes interjected into their music. Electra's debut album, Flamboyant, was self released in July 2019 to critical acclaim, but limited commercial success. Electra is still a relatively small artist, with just above 330,000 monthly listeners on Spotify. For comparison, the biggest pop acts such as Ariana Grande and Taylor Swift receive around 40 million monthly listeners. Despite this, Electra's fans were ecstatic when My Agenda was unveiled on October 16, 2020.

My Agenda capitalizes upon the "hyperpop" trend popularized by the social media app TikTok. The tracks are much shorter than those featured on Flamboyant, with the entire project clocking in at 25 minutes. Despite this, the album manages to explore themes

of toxic masculinity and patriarchy to a depth unparalleled in other artists' work. The darker tone and sound of the album can most clearly be heard on the track Edgelord, featuring Rebecca Black. On My Agenda, Electra is both evolving their sound and songwriting, and cleverly adapting to trends in modern music.

Mikayla Slichter had not heard of Dorian Electra before listening My Agenda. She stated, "The sound is not for me, but I can appreciate what the music is trying to



say." Some of her favorite tracks include Gentleman and Edgelord. Mikayla will probably not keep up with Dorian Electra, but she is happy that she gave their music a try.

To watch the lyric video for My Agenda, go to: https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=FDB7tlFffuU

### Mental Health Awareness: **Anxiety**

Orion Holl - 9

Anxiety, an emotion that everyone has felt at some point in their life, whether it be a



presentation in class or learning how to drive a car for the first time. Anxiety to a point can dominate over any other feelings felt and end up anxious all the time. Especially as the youth grows they should be warned about this, as only 7% of children between ages 3 and 17 experience this emotion. Children have a lower rate of experiencing this emotion if at all since they are usually under less stress. But as they get older, there is more responsibility and there is a more likely chance that they could have anxiety. Some general emotional symptoms of anxiety are feeling of apprehension or dread, feeling tense, restlessness, and anticipating the worst. Last-

ly some physical symptoms of anxiety are pounding or racing heart, shortness of breath, sweating, headaches, upset stomach, and insomnia.

Over 40 million american adults have anxiety, as there is a 19.1% chance that they could have anxiety. Learning about anxiety should be introduced to younger generations, so if they were to ever feel this emotion they could handle it in a more efficient way. Anxiety can be useful in situations like driving a car on a highway, letting people be more cautious and more aware about what is around you. Another example is if you are taking care of a younger child and not letting them walk around a town, or a city by themselves without being an adult or older teenager. When you feel anxious about maybe a few things that are completely normal. Anxiety in most cases is not harmful, and very common, the worrying part is when you always feel more of the deepness of anxiety. When the emotions of intense fear and distress become overwhelming, they prevent us from doing everyday activities. Having anxiety, you are worried and may get stressed about what will happen.

There are many types of anxiety as there are three main disorders. Generalized Anxiety Disorder is when you feel chronic, exaggerated worries about everyday things. Worrying can consume hours each day, to make working hard because you can not concentrate. Someone suffering from GAD may become exhausted by worry and may experience headaches, tension, and nausea.

Social Anxiety Disorder, this is more than shyness as this order causes intense fear about social interaction. This often is driven by irrational worries about being humiliated. Someone with this disorder may not take part in conversations, contribute in class discussions, they may become isolated.

The last one is Panic Disorder, this is characterized by panic attacks and the sudden feelings of terror sometimes striking repeatedly. They can be often mistaken as heart attacks, a panic attack causes physical symptoms including chest pain, heart palpitations, dizziness, shortness of breath and stomach upsetness.

After learning the information above if you find that you would like to learn more visit www.Nami.org.

Adviser: Mrs. Terri McCarthy-Wright; Editor in Chief: Emily Smith; Issue Layout Editor: Emily Smith; Writers: Gi Doklan, Alison Gassert, Wyatt Holl, Orion Holl, Justin Hoy, Emily Smith; 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.