

HAPPENINGS

Volume XXVI
April 6, 2021
Issue 9

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

New President of the Health Occupations Student Association at BCTC: Kylee Missimer!

Alison Gassert - 12

Each year one member of the Health Occupations course at BCTC (Berks Career and Technology Center) is selected as President of the Health Occupations Student Association or HOSA. This year's President is Kylee Missimer, a junior attending Hamburg Area High School. This is an amazing accomplishment that highlights the many leadership opportunities for students at BCTC.

After sitting down with Kylee and talking with her about her new role as President of the HOSA, it became clear that her accomplishment is one to marvel at and aspire to.

How were you selected for this position?

"When I first found out about applying to be a HOSA officer, I had to originally fill out a paper with all of my information and then the position I wanted to run for. After that, I gave a speech in front of all of the level one students, and they selected the candidate that they wanted to win. I competed against one other student for the spot of HOSA President."

What does it mean to be the President of HOSA?

"To me, being the President of HOSA means bringing a group of people with one common goal together. All of the students who are associated with HOSA, have the same common goal as me and my fellow officers, and being able to help them succeed and being a good role model means a lot to me. I am so happy that I get to work with the group of officers, that I have to make sure everyone's ideas and thoughts are heard and expressed."

What responsibilities do you have?

"This year our HOSA responsibilities are a little bit different due to Covid. When we learned that our state leadership conference (SLC) that we attend every year would be virtual, my fellow officers, our advisor, and myself knew that we had to do something for the students who never got a real SLC experience. As of right now, I am helping to plan an in house SLC, we are putting together our own competition and prizes for a fun two day experience. As the HOSA President, I run our monthly HOSA meetings and make sure that we always have a fun HOSA icebreaker. Along with my other responsibilities, I keep the communication between the students, our advisors, and the other officers running smoothly."

This is Kylee's first real taste of leadership experience, but definitely not her last. Her confidence, drive for success, and compassion for others will ensure that every leadership position she holds will be met with poise and grace, inspiring those around her. Hamburg Area High School is so proud to have Kylee Missimer as a student and is excited to watch her grow into the fantastic leader she is becoming. Congratulations Kylee!



How to save a life - Richard Fisher's story

Emily Smith - 10

While the year 2020 will go down in the history books for most people, many of which for the same reasons, Richard Fisher's will be remembered a little differently. What could be more drastic than a global pandemic, political standoffs, and racial injustices? Perhaps saving the life of a loved one.

In the summer of 2020, Richard Fisher and his family were canoeing and kayaking on what seemed like a regular, summer day. Surprisingly, though, this day would not seem as ordinary as he had expected it to be, as saving a life is rather spontaneous. The kayak that his mother was in hit some rocks due to the rough waters, causing her leg to get wedged between the rocks. Richard was compelled to act right away, which left little time for him to consider the danger that this event posed. "The first thing I did was make sure my sisters were beached and safe off the river. Next I looked to the railroad I saw earlier to run upriver faster." Richard's quick thinking did not stop there. After he made sure of other's safety, he went to work trying to reach his mother. "I jumped in the river ahead of my mom and slowly walked down in order to not get stuck in the current and walked my mom to safety." Thanks to her son's bravery her injuries consisted only of bruising.

Fisher is genuinely proud of himself for saving a life under such tense and demanding circumstances. He advises anyone who may be put into a situation similar to this is to "stop thinking and start acting," but warns that a person must be prepared in order to dive into something as threatening as this experience. Thankfully, the river that he and his family were traveling across had been shut down a few days later due to the danger of the rough water. Being focused and of a calm mind was truly a life-saver for this Boy Scout.

The National Heroism Award is one of three life saving awards presented by the Boy Scouts of America, the others being the Honor Medal and the Honor Medal with Crossed Palms. The requirements for the Heroism Award are saving or attempting to save a life with minimal personal risk, which Richard executed exceptionally well for his age. Fisher's accomplishment was awarded at the Frontier District Roundtable where he had a court of honor. Be sure to congratulate this courageous Freshman the next time you see him.

For more information on the National Heroism Award, please visit: <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/08/29/bsa-reinstates-heroism-award-one-of-three-national-level-lifesaving-awards/>



Three Sport Athlete: Shane Conrad

Alison Gassert - 12

A senior who has played three sports his entire high school career, all the while maintaining high honors in school is a rarity that deserves recognition. Shane Conrad, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, is a three sport scholar athlete with a bright future ahead of him. In the past four years, Shane has competed in cross country, winter track and field, basketball, and spring track and field. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, winter track and field

did not have a season this year, but Shane did not let this stop him from playing a winter sport his senior year. He joined the basketball team, and as he told me, "I have done Cross Country for six years, I did winter track for three years, and decided to do basketball my senior year because I felt like I needed to do something other than running, and I have done track and field for five years now." When asked about Shane Conrad, Phil Kistler, cross country and track coach at Hamburg Area High School, stated, "Shane is a very hard and motivated worker, doing what is necessary in season and in the off season in order to reach his full potential during the track and cross country seasons. He has been a captain multiple times, leading by example. His work ethic and character make him a model student athlete who I am pleased to say I have the opportunity to coach." Shane has received a varsity letter for each sport he played each year of high school and has been a captain for the cross country team his junior and senior year, as well as the captain for the track and field team his senior year. Some awards that Shane has received include the Three Sport Scholar Athlete award, which he has won the last three years and anticipates winning again this year and several medals at both cross country and track invitationals.

On top of being an honor student and a three sport athlete, Shane is also the President of the Engineering and Technology Club, President of the Lacrosse Club, Vice President of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Secretary of the class of 2021, and a member of the National Honor Society. Of course, one has to be curious about what the schedule of a busy athlete like Shane Conrad looks like. When asked this Shane stated, "My schedule is busy at points between school and studying late at night, playing sports and doing extra training after practices, and figuring out things to do for clubs. I hardly find time during the week to do anything other than these things; though I still find a way to manage my time well, taking breaks to not stress over anything and to clear my mind." As for Shane's future, he has committed to Penn State Main Campus to study mechanical engineering while also participating in the Navy ROTC program offered at Penn State. He is also not opposed to playing sports while attending Penn State and has said, "If I decide that my first and second semesters were not too busy and were manageable I will plan on doing club sports as well or potentially try-out for the varsity teams." It is safe to say that Shane will no doubt accomplish anything and everything he pursues, evident from his tireless work ethic, and do so with the same confident and zeal attitude that has made him extremely successful these last four years.

Spring 2021 is here

Orion Holl - 9

Spring is a very important time of year especially when it comes to students. This is the last season of the school year. Students become more excited for the end of year because of the warming weather. The students are excited to end the school year and have summer and spring break.

Spring of 2021 starts on Sunday March 20th, and ends on June 20th. This is the time of year when main flowers such as tulips, daffodils, primrose, and azaleas start to bloom.

The trees will regain leaves and the perfume of flowers will leak all throughout the town. Many people such as the students at Hamburg enjoy springtime because the memories of old times are rejoiced and remembered. After a long cold winter, especially this winter of 2020-2021 and all the snow we received we are all in need of a little warmth. This is the season at which all the animals come out of hibernation and begin to reproduce and create more nesting. The birds especially are affected and migrate from the North and South pole in response to the warm weather. This is the time of the year to look at birds flying across the sky in flocks.

Instead of being out in the cold we can finally start to play games outside with the warming weather. We can all enjoy the cooling breezes during those warm bright sunny days. Not only is spring starting soon, clocks move forward one hour on March 14th. On the morning of March 14th at 2:00 a.m. the time will spring ahead one hour. This change greatly affects people because whilst you're sleeping it just jumps ahead by one hour, so in other words everyone will be losing one hour of time.



1 Year Anniversary

Justin Hoy - 11

Congratulations everyone! We have all made it through our one year anniversary of living through and with the Coronavirus pandemic!

All joking aside, 1 year ago, around the same time of writing this article, I would have never anticipated living through a world or global affecting pandemic. I would have also never imagined that during the pandemic, I would still be living through it one year later, possibly even longer. There have been political alterations, social movements, psychological fatigue, economic insecurity, unemployment increases, and familial or personal losses caused by this disease in this past year. This pandemic, some could argue, has caused so much political radicalization and increased tension, economic decreases or losses, and continuous death, but it has also brought some positive effects as well. These positive effects can include revitalized social movements, the issues financially and organizational with our health response to certain national or global health crises, and a new appreciation for what lifestyle people previously had before the pandemic. Within this article, I will not describe the controversial social or political alterations and events that occurred while in the pandemic, having very influential effects for the entire nation and world, but instead write about the personal experiences and social alterations that everyone has potentially been through (experienced) or has needed to adjust to.

On March 13, 2020, I had just finished school, as if it had been any other normal day for the past 11 years. People had known that there was a potential threat of a world pandemic occurring by this time since the Coronavirus had been rapidly spreading throughout China, Italy, and Spain. About three to four weeks before this specific date, the states of Washington and California began to increase in these Coronavirus cases. I had left school and prepared to practice for Track and Field that day. After completing the team lap around the high school track, everyone

stood around one another and spoke to each other for the five minutes that we waited for the coaches to instruct what to do. Most of the coaches had arrived, so we decided to stretch. After finishing, one coach ran up to the track and announced to the entire team that we were going into a lockdown for two weeks due to the potential threat of the Coronavirus spreading through the area, mandated by the CDC and state of Pennsylvania. I spoke to my friends for the last time, in-person, for the next two weeks, although I had assumed that this lockdown would last much longer. Two weeks passed with accomplishing the assigned work from our teachers during this unorganized and unprecedented time with a message stating that we would be continuing the lockdown until the beginning of May. That specific date came and that school year had been officially concluded, in-person, after a second Email or the continued lockdown and restrictions. For the next 3 months, and previously for the past two months on that specific date in May when receiving the continued lockdown E-mail, I had left my house, possibly, six times. During the entire five and a half month period, I was completely isolated in my house, only being able to communicate and converse occasionally with friends through social media or speaking on the phone. The next time I regularly left my house was when the school board announced that Hamburg would be returning to in-person learning which I gladly and excitedly waited for the next two weeks to return. Although with certain CDC regulations or mandates, as well as with an organized response to certain outbreaks, when occurring, during school, I was excited to learn and converse with my friend in-person for the first time in almost 6 months.

While I am thankful of my immediate family not getting the coronavirus or having any other severe reactions or health effects from it, I, and I am sure other people know, of other people or families affected financially and with health concerns from this pandemic.

This pandemic has caused mass amounts of social, economic, and political alterations to the United States, other world countries, and the people that it intends to protect from this world affecting and influencing pandemic. This day is to commemorate the over 500,000 people who have lost their lives to the Coronavirus, as well as to reminisce or learn about our own personal beliefs, decisions, and our perspective (which is taken for granted) of life before this event.



Musician Spotlight: Anna DeAngelo

Emily Smith - 10

HAVA sophomore Anna DeAngelo has been playing instruments ever since she was seven years old, and it has been love at first sight ever since. DeAngelo's playing experience extends way back to when she was in third and fourth grade, when trying out musical instruments was new for early elementary students. "I picked up violin in third grade and baritone in fourth," says the sophomore. DeAngelo is also in various musical ensembles, all of which help her perform with the best of her ability. "I'm a part of the school orchestra and concert band. I got into junior county orchestra last year, too."

Despite having a packed schedule, DeAngelo still tries to find as much time as she can to practice. "I practice both instruments once a week, if not twice. Due to my intense amount of dance classes, I don't have ample practice time." However, even though she does have other interests, music is still one of her greatest passions. Anna's passion stems from her aspirations of violinist Lindsey Stirling, whom DeAngelo calls "soulful and passionate." "She puts everything into her pieces, and I want to have that passion and drive with my instruments," says the talented musician. There is no doubt that a violinist would inspire her in this way because her favorite instrument to play is the violin. "I love both my instruments, but my violin just comes more naturally to me since my older sister, Hamburg alumni Megan DeAngelo, played violin while I was growing up." DeAngelo's childhood was filled with inspiration even from her family members.

Covid-19 has definitely posed challenges for this musician, as DeAngelo had decided to stay home this school year to keep her and her family safe. "It is definitely strange and difficult to play from home because of the technical issues that come from using Zoom, but I feel safer and more in control at home." Anna enjoys looking back at old musical memories from year's past, when the world was not filled with as much craziness as today. "My favorite memory from playing my instruments was the last note of the last song in orchestra of my last middle school concert. It felt like I'd grown and matured and that I deserved the absolute bliss I felt in that moment." This sophomore did deserve every moment of recognition because of the dedication she has to music.

Anna advises any aspiring musicians or people who consider playing music to "give it a try" and promises that no harm can come from a new experience. "If you don't like it, you don't have to do it again next year. If you do like it, keep going with it until the passion runs out." The musical passion will never run out for Anna DeAngelo, who works very hard at perfecting her craft. "Anna is an excellent band student," says Band teacher Mrs. Kline, "She has a wonderful work ethic, she's very organized, and she always has a bubbly, positive attitude." Mrs. Dowd, the Orchestra teacher, agrees wholeheartedly. "Anna has worked very hard to keep up with Orchestra and violin lessons throughout the pandemic. I was so proud of her for auditioning and making Junior County Orchestra last year."

Anna DeAngelo's hard work and dedication to music help her strive for success everyday.

RuPaul's Drag Race UK Series 2 becomes a fan favorite

Gigi Doklan - 12

Television competition series *RuPaul's Drag Race* is a global juggernaut, featuring installments in five different countries including Canada, Holland, and the United Kingdom. In late 2019, the first season of the UK Series premiered on BBC Three to critical acclaim, consistent with the praise US seasons garner. Fans enjoyed the fresh take



on *Drag Race* that the first season of UK offered, and it often got compared to *Drag Race* in its infancy. Nostalgia for earlier seasons is something that keeps fans coming back to the show, so UK's resemblance to early *Drag Race* came as a pleasant surprise to many.

On January 18, 2021 the first episode of *Rupaul's Drag Race* UK Series 2 premiered. Twelve queens competed this season, which was upscaled from only ten on the season previous. Unlike the first series, UK Series 2 was filmed during the Coronavirus pandemic. Due to this, for the first time in *Drag Race* history, the queens were given a seven month break mid season. A special episode was aired showing home videos from the competitors while in lockdown, highlighting the difficulty of finding work for performers during the pandemic. Clubs were closed, so many of the queens had to move in with family, or find a day job to pay their bills. Thankfully, they were able to return to the show and finish out a phenomenal season.

Finalists include Bimini Bon Boulash, who has been making waves on social media as of late. They identify as transgender nonbinary, and openly discuss their gender identity on the show. They have had a very impressive run on the show, winning four challenges. Another finalist with a shot at the crown is Lawrence Chaney, the resident comedy queen who has amassed three wins during her run on the show. Performers Ellie Diamond and Tayce round out the top four. In conclusion, *RuPaul's Drag Race* UK Series 2 is widely loved by fans and will go down in history as one of the best seasons of modern *Drag Race*.

For more *Drag Race* content, visit <https://www.wowpresentsplus.com/browse>

April Spirit Days

April 9: Hamburg Hawks Apparel

April 16: Concert Shirt and Jeans

April 22: Earth Day

Juniors/Seniors wear Green

Freshmen/Sophomores wear Blue

Faculty wear Brown

Stress Meter: Are you feeling it?

Level 1: I've got this. I am ok.

- I am settled, relaxed, and comfortable.
- I am able to focus on what I need or want.

Level 2: I am feeling it, but I am keeping it together.

- I sometimes feel tightness in my body or headaches or stomach issues.
- I am feeling stress, but I am coping and am able to focus most of the time.

Level 3: I'm not so good. I need to talk.

- I frequently feel tightness in my body or have headaches or stomach issues.
- I am stressed and anxious about my problems and have trouble clearing my mind to focus on what I need to do.

Level 4: The struggle is real. I need support or help.

- I almost always feel tightness in my body or have headaches or stomach issues.
- I have experienced a change in eating and/or sleeping habits.
- I feel panicked and I cannot go about my day normally.

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.