

# Hawk Happenings

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## LEO Club fills Easter eggs for elementary schools

Bethany Stuffed - 11

Every year, starting in February, Hamburg Area High School's LEO club begins filling 3,000 plastic Easter eggs for the elementary schools in the district. This has been a tradition for a while and will hopefully continue for many years. The purpose of this tradition is to contribute to a fun Easter event that will allow elementary students to have fun. The club fills the eggs with many types of goodies. However, instead of candy, they fill the eggs with stickers, temporary tattoos, and mini-erasers. Around 3,000 total eggs are filled each year, so each kid gets 8 eggs, which are split up and sent to Perry and Tilden Elementary for the kindergarten and first-grade students. Molly Fox, a sophomore, really enjoyed filling the eggs and thinks we should do it every year. She also said, "It probably brings the kids a lot of joy," and therefore she likes doing it. On a similar note, Molly vividly remembers doing an egg hunt as a kid with the eggs provided by the LEO club. Therefore, what the LEO club does seems to be very impactful.



March 2 Article

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## Cheerleaders take on Atlantic City

Madeline Handwerk - 11

On March 30, 2025, the Hamburg Area High School cheerleading team competed in their final competition of the season in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The competition was held at The Showboat Hotel, which is right on the boardwalk. The Showboat is an extremely popular hotel, which has an indoor water park, an arcade, and even roller skating! The cheerleaders had the option of either staying the night down in Atlantic City or driving down the morning of the competition.

Prep for the competition was difficult, but the work paid off. The cheerleaders spent practices upping their routine, such as adding harder stunts, to improve the routine. The cheerleaders only had four practices to prepare for this specific competition, but they managed to do well.

Many different teams were competing at this competition. However, the cheerleaders took first place in their division at this competition, and they were the grand champions of the school division! They all worked extremely hard to make this happen. Two banners were awarded to the high school for this win, and the cheerleaders got to take beautiful photos at the beach afterward.

Regina Morales, a freshman at Hamburg Area High School, really enjoyed the competition. She leads. "My favorite part about the competition was winning first place and grand champ! It felt like all of our work paid off," says Regina. She will be competing again next year since she loves cheering so much.

Skylynn Binder, a senior at Hamburg Area High School, competed as well. This was her last competition with the high school squad, but she hopes to cheer during her college career. Sky expresses, "My favorite thing about going to Jersey was the boardwalk and the food I got to eat! The hotel was also really pretty, too." Yes, it was sad it was her last competition, but at least she went out with a bang!

This win could not have been possible without the seniors that cheered along side the squad, such as Skylynn Binder, Lily Bentz, Deja Wagner-Wakefield, and Peyton Snyder. The whole cheer squad worked hard to end with a great competition, and they were successful.



## Lack of open gym for track

Elizabeth Carroll - 10

Last year, in the 2024 season for spring track and field, there was a period of about two weeks of an open gym available before the first mandatory practice. This was completely optional, but recommended to athletes for the extra training to get them prepared and started for what the season would bring. This year, however, there was not enough time due to winter track ending later than usual.

Athletes have different opinions for the option of an open gym. Some think it is not beneficial, while others think that it can be. One of these students, Maya Fultz, thinks that it would help prepare the athletes for the harder practices ahead of them. "I have never done open gyms, considering I'm a freshman, but making it something that maybe isn't every day of the week might be helpful." She believes that they should be more lax due to being so close to winter track but to still incorporate them every year for those interested.

On the other hand, Sophomore Alyssa Umberger believes that they would not be entirely beneficial or make a difference to athletes' performances in the upcoming season. "A lot of the team likely played a winter sport, so they would probably want some time off." This would support the idea that a break between the sports played in fall, winter, and spring would be nice for athletes so they are not consistently under pressure all the time.

No matter who thinks of the time before spring track and field as beneficial when there is no open gym rather than having one, or vice versa, everyone's body is different and some may need to condition a lot more and longer in order to maintain the progress they have made.



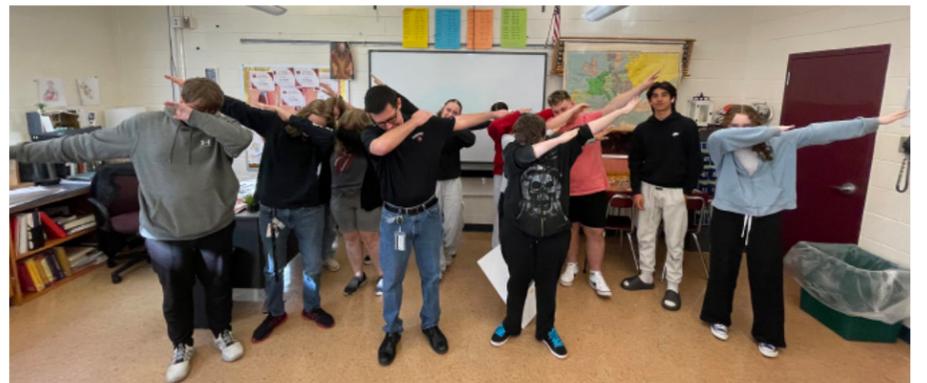
## Mr. Tuite student teaches with Mr. Buggy

Koa Binder - 10

Student teachers are common at all schools, including HAHS. Hamburg often has student teachers, most are local, as well, and from the area. World Cultures teacher, Mr. Buggy, is one of the teachers who will be having a student teacher this year.

His student teacher is Mr. Tuite. He is from Kutztown and he is currently enrolled at KU. Mr. Tuite first arrived at the beginning of the third quarter, Mr. Buggy had him observe for the first few weeks. After a while he was then able to create his own lesson plans and teach World Cultures and PA History all by himself. The classes and Mr. Buggy all welcomed Mr. Tuite with open arms and was very excited for him to be there. "As soon as I got here, students were extremely welcoming. Mr. Buggy was a great support system." Tuite says. Mr. Tuite was glad to have somebody he knew wanted to see him succeed. He was not intimidated to work with 15 and 16 year olds due to the fact that he had previous working experience at camps with the age group which he says helped him greatly.

While looking back at his experience here, Mr. Tuite says, "If I was to say amazing, that would probably be an understatement. It's going to be tough to leave on Friday." Tuite likes to credit the spirit and pride of the students and staff at the school that really made his experience so good. "This experience not only taught me how to work with others, but also create an environment where everyone wants to come to school everyday," says Tuite. Tuite would like to thank his parents for encouraging him to become a teacher. He does not think he would be where he is today without the support of his parents. Although they pushed him towards that career choice, he still wanted it very much and looks forward to becoming a teacher.



# Juniors attend the financial reality fair

Hannah Kristiniak - 12

The financial reality fair has run annually for the past five years. Mr Gaul has organized this event with the help of Mrs. Del Conte and volunteers. The purpose of this event is to give students a realistic view of the financial expectations for their future. This year, the fair ran exclusively for juniors when in the past it included seniors as well. On March 19, students were called down to the LGI by homeroom to watch a 45-minute introductory video. From there, they moved to the new gym to walk through each station. All students are given a paper to track their finances with a salary that was set up a week before with the career they selected. Some of the costs that students had to consider were housing, utilities, phone payment, food, entertainment, car payment, and all other expected expenses. Utilities Employees Credit Union helps run the event by providing volunteers to work the stations. HAHS also received volunteers from Amazon. St. Luke's, Niagara Water, and Hidden River.

One junior who attended this event, Madeline Handwerk, thought that it was helpful. She chose occupational therapy as this is the career she intends to enter. The financial reality fair was not confusing and was easy to walk through since everything was thoroughly explained along the way. Madeline learned that she has to be really cautious with what she spends money on in the future. The financial reality fair will help her make smarter decisions and manage her finances smartly. She thinks it is a great idea and very helpful that HAHS offers this to students.

# Miss Keen joins Mrs. Palerino in the classroom

Hailey Quinn - 12

On March 24, Miss Keen joined Mrs. Palerino in the classroom as a student teacher. She will remain at Hamburg until May 16. Miss Keen is originally from Scranton, Pennsylvania and attended Scranton High School. While in high school, she participated in Show Choir and Spirit Club.

Miss Keen is currently studying at Kutztown University and majoring in secondary English education with a dual certification in Special Education and a minor in Literature. She has known that she has wanted to be a teacher since she was five years old. She notes, "My kindergarten teacher picked me to lead our morning routine one day, and I've known I wanted to teach ever since." It was not until further on in her K-12 education that she decided on English, as her English teachers were always her biggest advocates. As for Special Education, it was included with her program at Kutztown, which she was not aware of initially. She was hesitant at first and even considered dropping that part of the program, but decided that it would not impact her negatively to have the credentials and continued the program. Miss Keen comments, "I fell in love with Special Education as I moved through the program to the point that it does not matter to me if I end up in English or Special Ed for the rest of my career. I enjoy them both equally!"

During her time at Hamburg, Miss Keen is required to do anything that Mrs. Palerino is responsible for in the classroom, aside from her AP Literature and Composition course. Her responsibilities include taking attendance, teaching the classes, planning and developing lessons, and grading. So far, Miss Keen really loves it here at Hamburg, noting, "I wake up excited to come here everyday. People are starting to warm up to me a little bit more, which is really nice and exciting!" Hamburg is her first official English placement as a student teacher. Her last placement was for Special Education, so she is looking forward to working with Mrs. Palerino and her English classes.

Mrs. Palerino is also experiencing a first, as she has not had a student teacher before. She is looking forward to working with Miss Keen and watching her develop as an educator. Mrs. Palerino comments, "Having people who truly want to work in education is not as prevalent anymore, so I am looking forward to helping her be just as amazing as she can be. I am excited for her to see the good sides of the job and the positives that come with it and that can come out of it." As Miss Keen spends more time in the classroom, Mrs. Palerino looks forward to learning from her and seeing how students react differently to different teachers and teaching styles. She notes, "I am excited to learn from her, as I believe that you do not ever stop learning. She has already come up with some really creative ideas, and I am looking forward to seeing if they will work out and how the students will react to that."

In the future, Miss Keen hopes to meet as many students as possible and grow into a teacher that is worthy of great students. As for now, she notes, "I am happy to be a resource to anybody who needs anything. The best teachers are the ones who are there for their students and that's what I'm trying to be. If anyone has any questions please feel free to reach out!"



# Student Spotlight Madeline Handwerk

Zach Spatz - 11

Madeline Handwerk is a junior at Hamburg Area High School. Maddie participates in band and cheer. She has been in cheer for two years, and she's in the back spot where she holds on to the flyer's ankles and makes sure she does not fall. She got into cheer because her mom was a cheer coach. Maddie started band because when she was in third grade she thought the Caroling band that visited the elementary school was really cool. She's been in band since 4th grade, She plays the xylophone.

In school, Maddie takes honors and PS core classes. She enjoys school, and her favorite class is American culture. "I love American culture since Mr. Kline makes it so fun and interesting! He really helps me understand what he is teaching. Her main trio in school is Emily Horvath and Olivia Teles. She's a good classmate she helps everyone and anyone when she can.

When not at school, Maddie is a shift manager and ice maker at Rita's Italian Ice. She loves working there and started back in her sophomore year. Maddie expresses, "Working at Rita's is super fun since it is local and a lot of people I know come in." She hopes to continue working there until she graduates.

After high school, Maddie wants to go into the US Air Force for four years and then get her master's in occupational therapy. College is really expensive, so the military will help her pay for it! She wants to be an OT because she has always wanted to help people.



# March Madness begins

Rylee Strunk - 9

March Madness has officially begun. March Madness got its name because during this bracket there tend to be some upsets among who should have won. March Madness is for mens and womens college basketball teams that have played very well throughout the season. These teams are placed in a 68 team bracket, one for mens and one for womens. The last eight teams picked to play against each other to secure their spot in the bracket. The four teams that win will advance into the 64 team bracket. Teams will play each other, and if they win, they will move onto the Sweet Sixteen then the Elite Eight, and finally the Final Four. The women's final four will be held at the Amalie Arena in Tampa, Florida. The men's final four will be held at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. These games will be held between April 5-7.

There have been many teams being top five all season long for men's basketball, those teams include Duke, Auburn, Houston, Alabama, and Florida. Those are just a few of the all the amazing teams throughout the season. As for the womens, UCLA, South Carolina, UCONN, USC, and Texas have been outstandings teams for them. These teams would not be the team they are without the coach but also some of the greatest players. 23-year-old Paige Bueckers has been a leading factor for the women's UCONN team. As for the men, Duke's youngest player, Cooper Flagg has been one of their best players at the age of 18 years old.

March Madness is not only for the players and coaches, but also for everyone watching. People in the USA can fill out their own bracket of who they think will win to try and see if they will get a perfect bracket or not. "I think the final two teams will be Duke and the Florida Gators for men's basketball," said Thomas Johnson. Thomas does think however that Duke will win because they have been good all season and because of Cooper Flagg. As for Brady Breininger, he thinks the final two teams will be Duke and Auburn. The likely final two for womens will probably be South Carolina and UCLA, but we will have to wait and see. It will be very interesting to see who the final four will be for mens and womens, as well as see if any teams have any upsets.

For more information go to [espn.com](https://espn.com).



# My trip to the Reading Railroad Museum

Kaitlyn Gallagher - 10

Trains are an important part of everyday life, and most might not think about them that way. It is a unique form of transportation where a huge vehicle follows its way from point A to point B on railroad tracks, using coal as a use of energy to power its engine and the controls all the way to each destination it must go. Trains are also efficient to help items from one manufacturer travel to another in an efficient and stable way, whereas getting packages through the mail might damage it or using planes might also ruin the package due to bad handling on the people's end when putting stuff away. But, nobody really knows the fascinating history of trains themselves, especially in the town of Hamburg, and their significance at the Reading Railroad Museum here in their town.

Sophomores Kaitlyn Gallagher and Sheila Kern took a visit this past Sunday to the Reading Railroad Museum for an extra credit assignment in their Honors World Cultures class, unsure of what to expect from the experience. Although, reflecting back on their time there, they both started to become interested in the history of trains and their significance in more than just transportation. Sheila Kern really enjoyed the experience, bringing her two year old sister Twyla along for the journey. "I thought the Reading Railroad museum was actually a really informative experience. I do not know a lot about trains, nor did I ever care about them. However, the museum not only told us how they work, but why they were created and how they were used, and I ended up appreciating them after my time at the museum." Sheila also thought it was interesting how trains were used for militaries or the hospitals and how different trains were created to prevent pollution. "We also got to go on a tour and I made sure to ask the tour guide any more follow up questions, and he even told more about their museum, his passion for trains, and how they go all over the country to show their trains to several different states." Sheila recommends the museum and thinks people should give it a chance before judging it right away. "They will end up knowing a lot more than they will think!"

Sophomore Kaitlyn Gallagher really enjoyed the experience more than she thought she would. "I honestly was never really interested in trains," she states, "but I feel like after going to the museum, I have gained a lot of knowledge about them and have a soft spot for their history." She learned how the trains were closely connected to wars going on at the time, and their importance to the wars and also to the society around them. A fact she learned was that the soldiers would be transported by train to get sent to the hospital near the train station, because it was an easy transportation from one place to another since they were so close.

"I have recently been finding interest in military history and specifically gaining more love for history in general, so the museum and learning all the facts about the military and their connection to trains was a nice touch and really stuck with me." Kaitlyn Gallagher recommends this to those who are also fellow history lovers, but even if people are not, they should try to give the museum a chance. "It is local and does not cost a lot to get in. Even if you are not interested in trains, it is just an easy way to get out of the house but also get some knowledge about where you live, too."

To learn more about the Reading Railroad Museum in Hamburg, click here: <https://www.readingrailroad.org/>



# Students simulate Napoleonic wars

Lilly Gibson - 10

Mr. Buggy is known throughout the high school for running simulations in all of his classes, no matter the curriculum. Most recently, his two honors world cultures classes ran a simulation depicting the Napoleon wars from the early 1800's. The simulation lasted about six days and included buying infantry, national propoganda, and forming alliances with other countries. While these simulations do take a while, Mr. Buggy enjoys running them. "Despite the amount of time it takes to set them up, I do enjoy running them and watching the students implement their own ideas and logics into the simulations," he stated.

Before the simulation even began, the groups decided who their leaders would be and then they blindly chose their country through a random draw. After the leader received their crowns, each group got a "cheat sheet" to help them know their objectives to win the game. The king of Spain was Kaylum Riegel, a student in Mr. Buggy's 4th period class. He had a group of seven alongside him that also represented Spain. Later, Kaylum and Napoleon himself decided to form an alliance between themselves. This alliance lasted throughout the whole game, eventually helping Spain complete their objectives. Someone on Spain's team, Sheila Kern, really enjoyed the simulation. "I personally found it really fun, especially because I was a rogue and got to do a lot of the behind the scenes work," said Sheila. There was a point in the simulation when each team's rogues got to shoot a target and if they hit the target, they got to choose some sort of advantage.

Overall, everyone really enjoyed the simulation. It taught students new ways to communicate and gave them an inside look of what it was like for the world leaders back then. For some like Napoleon, it was all about power but for others like Prussia, it was about keeping the citizens safe. Mr. Buggy says that he plans on doing these simulations, even including doing more to engage the students.

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