

# HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

## Hamburg’s Indoor Soccer is striking the season

Eliza Hunsicker - 11

Hamburg, as well as other schools in the county, has an indoor soccer team for the junior varsity and varsity soccer players. Indoor soccer is the time after the fall season to stay in shape for the upcoming soccer season. The indoor soccer team’s record is 5-1-2. In the first session the players made it to the championship, but lost in the final game.

The indoor team is the same as the regular season team and has pretty much the same varsity starters as fall. During the regular season, Hamburg’s soccer team’s record was 5-11-2. Though the team had a rough regular season, they are improving for the upcoming fall season.

High school junior Austin Hinkle says that his favorite thing about indoor soccer is “getting a feel for who you will be playing in the fall.”

To improve for the fall season, the team has been having practices every week to make sure they are better for next season and so that they are ready for any competition that would stand in their way.

The indoor season games are played at Body Zone in Wyomissing. It is run through the school, but is not played in Hamburg. The soccer coach is Chris Zalasky who is also a teacher at the middle school. The only requirement to be on the team is to be a part of the regular outdoor season. Not only is this a thing for the boys soccer team, the girls team plays their own games too. Girls also have their games at Body Zone and have the same requirements.



## Student Spotlight: Patrick Hanlon

Lauren Shebby – 11

Patrick Hanlon is currently a junior at Hamburg Area High School and the brother of Hamburg alum, Sarah Hanlon, who currently attends Hofstra University.

In the fall, Patrick plays football for the school. This year, he was the quarterback and helped the team improve their overall record from 2017’s 1-9 record to 2018’s record of 4-7. Patrick’s football highlights can be found on hudl.com.

In the spring, Patrick is a catcher on the baseball team. In the 2017-2018 season, the Hamburg baseball team’s overall record was 12-9. Patrick also donated his time to younger players and coached a summer baseball team, passing on his wisdom and expertise.

In school, Patrick is a well-rounded student. This year, he is taking A.P. United States History with Mr. Kline, as well as Anatomy and Physiology with Mr. Commisso. He claims that his favorite classes are APUSH and English with Mrs. Palerino. Although balancing school and sports is challenging, Patrick is able to manage his time wisely and sort his priorities, so that the most important work always gets done.

Although he does not know where he wants to attend college, Patrick intends on pursuing a career in sports management. Sports management includes jobs like an athletic administrator or director, facility operations manager, or guest relations manager.

## Students talk about protecting their brain

Paiton Albrecht - 11

March is the month to raise awareness of taking care of the brain. Little do students know the brain is the most complex organ of the human body. The human brain has the capacity to generate approximately 23 watts of power when awake. There are some key things to do as a student to maintain a healthy brain and lifestyle.

Sleep is the best thing anyone can do for their brains. Sleep is necessary for learning and allows the brain to repair itself from the stress of daily life. Sleep deprivation causes an individual to produce more cortisol and stress hormones. This “stress response” results in inflammation that causes cell death in the brain. Teens recently have been experiencing more depression and anxiety than ever before. More sleep and less screentime could be a great solution to a happier life.

Students talk to how they care for their brains as full-time students, “I sleep a lot and exercise” says Senior Miranda Madara, who is an intern at St. Lukes. Senior Adam Palko says he drinks a ton of water and stays away from too much technology to stay focused throughout the school day.

Movies, video games and phones have been the leading cause of sleep loss and are heavily damaging brains. Technology is relatively new and the world does not fully know what staring at a screen will do to the brain over years and years of overuse. In excess, video media can have a detrimental effect on brain function. Studies show that watching movies, TV and playing video games induces alpha or slow wave activity in the brain.

Where technology can have an effect on teens, the real problem is how much it takes away from students forming relationships, working, and leading a healthy lifestyle. The human only gets one brain, and it is a huge responsibility to treat it right and get help when it is needed through a family/neuro doctor.

For more information:  
<https://superscholar.org/features/ten-ways-to-keep-your-brain-healthy-in-college/>

## Class Officer spotlight - Makayla Baessler

Ashley Perlaki - 10

High School fundraising and talking with students from the class is all a part of being a class officer. Makayla Baessler, the Vice President of the Sophomore class, does this exact thing. Makayla is in one AP class and all honors classes along with being a class officer. She finds that being a class officer is very beneficial for not only talking to new people, but also is great for college applications. Although everything can be quite frustrating sometimes, she finds communication is the best way to agree, because then everyone is on the same page and there is less arguing.

While running for class officer in eighth grade, she found that it was very intimidating, but when asked why she wanted to become a class officer, Makayla stated, “I wanted to become class officer because I knew I had some ideas that would be good in growing our school spirit, along with promoting our school spirit as a sophomore class. I also wanted to be a part of the process of raising funds for our class.” Along with the boost of school spirit, Makayla also enjoys being a class officer and working with her fellow officers. She finds that the most difficult part of being a class officer is being able to form ideas that interest the students. Overall, Makayla enjoys being a class officer and plans on pursuing the role next year as well.





# Ellen Degeneres: Hero

Julia Doklan

When someone thinks of Ellen DeGeneres, they think of someone who makes dreams come true. In 1994, Ellen DeGeneres’ own dream came true. Her first television show, Ellen, went on the air. She was ecstatic because once she found she loved comedy, she began a long trek to the big screen. Her television show becoming a reality made all of her hard work and odd jobs worth it. However, her dreams all came crashing down in 1997 when she “revealed that she was a lesbian”, and her show was not renewed for another season. It is heartbreaking to think that the Ellen DeGeneres we know today, someone so kind and generous, once had her livelihood ripped out from under her. When the world beat her down, she did not go cold. When she felt hopeless, she did not stop helping others. Because she overcame the world telling her that she was not good enough, she helps others to be confident in themselves. She uses her fame to bring happiness to others.

There are many famous people in the world today that do not use their fame and fortune to spread wellness to others. This makes the world seem like a cruel place. Some people have more money than they know what to do with while others are struggling to find their next meal. Ellen DeGeneres gives back to others; making the world less cruel of a place. The basis of The Ellen DeGeneres Show is spreading love, making dreams come true, and giving humility to famous individuals.

Ellen was born January 26, 1958 and grew up in New Orleans. She was 23 when she started comedy; she found that she lit up on stage and could make people laugh. She went on many talk shows such as The Late Show and The Tonight Show before she earned her own. When the show was cancelled, she was devastated, but she would not let that stop her. She came far from that place of despair, being was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016. It was the highest civilian award given in the United States. It is an extreme honor, and Ellen received it by having patience and kindness.

Ellen has paved a path for the LGBTQ of America. People recognize the cancelling of her show as unfair and believe that it should have never happened. This will make companies more aware of the message they are sending, and less apt to side with the public right away. She was in multiple commercials for JC Penney despite many conservatives disapproving. Instead of firing her, they came to her defense. JC Penney was one of the companies that stood by Ellen’s side despite criticism.

Ellen overcame hate and criticism in 2003 when The Ellen DeGeneres Show aired. It is still running today and is extremely popular. It showed the LGBTQ community that it is possible for them to be confident in themselves. It proved to them that whatever dreams they want to achieve, being lesbian or gay will not hold them back. She has her own record label, 4 books, and a brand of lifestyle products. It is easy to imagine that Ellen has mass amounts of money because to be famous and to be rich are equivalents in society today. She uses this money to bring joy to the world, and that is what makes Ellen DeGeneres so different from any other famous individual. She says to her audience, “I don’t think you have to have a talk show to be nice to people, to do what I’m doing. I just think kindness is something that we all should have”. Ellen lets the world know that she is not doing these things because she is famous, to boost her reviews or ratings; it is just who she is. She is also encouraging others to be kind. This is so important because people often follow the examples of what they see on TV; if people could learn to be kind and generous from all TV stations, there would be much more happiness in the world.

A shining example of how Ellen changed the world and individual lives is Talia Joy Castellano. Talia was diagnosed with cancer in 2007, and she was obsessed with makeup. Ellen became a spokesperson for CoverGirl in 2008. Talia came on The Ellen Show in 2008. Not only did Talia get to be on live TV and promote her YouTube channel, she also got to become an honorary CoverGirl. Ellen used her connections and fame to help Talia, making her dreams come true. Not many people would do what Ellen did, maybe out of laziness or greed. Ellen does do it though, every single day, and that is what gives others hope for humanity. Talia lost her battle to cancer in 2013. Ellen sent her condolences to the family and truly grieved the loss. It shows how much Ellen really cared; it was not a farce or to gain fame. Helping others is what motivates her; it should be what motivates all of us.

Comitatus is an Anglo-Saxon word that means companionship and brotherhood. It represents people sticking together in hard times. Comitatus is shown throughout a poem called “Beowulf” composed in 750 AD. Beowulf is the name of a hero who is extremely strong and fights off evil with the help of his side-kick warriors. An example is when Wiglaf, a young warrior, came to Beowulf’s side when fighting Dragon. After this, Wiglaf was known as extremely respectable. Comitatus is important to Anglo-Saxon culture, and the people respect those who go out of their way to help their brothers. When Ellen hosted the 2001 Emmy Awards after the 9/11 attacks, the audience was devastated, yet she is praised for her performance because she was able to handle the somber attitude of the people. She was able to pull them from the horrific event. She brought together the nation, caring about others, even though she was also struggling to deal with the death and destruction from the attacks.

Ellen being able to host the 2001 Emmy awards shows her strength. She has extreme emotional strength. The Anglo-Saxon hero Beowulf has physical strength, but they both use the strength to bring peace to others. Beowulf uses his strength to bring an end to the monster, Grendel, bringing the mead hall peace. Anglo-Saxon culture praises those who are physically strong; they believed that it was a sign of power. These men with large muscles were the ones who protected their countries and families. There is not much need for physical strength anymore since we no longer have to hunt and gather, and we are far from nature in our development houses. Modern Day heroes still possess strength, except it is the emotional variety. Ellen uses her emotional strength to help entire nations, “breaking down social barriers and for acting as the vocal advocate for the LGBTQ community”. Even after her show was cancelled, she did not stop fighting. She always uses her voice, even when it is shaking, to bring fairness to others. She gives people better lives, just as Beowulf did.

The reason that Beowulf fought for others was LOF. LOF was the equivalent of fame in Anglo-Saxon times. They believed that this fame would give them immortality. Beowulf completed his swimming match with Breca, the fight with Grendel and his mom, and the fight with the Dragon all for LOF. Ellen has donated 50 million dollars over the span of 13 years. The money has gone to help make the world a better place; she gives it to charities or people in need. Ellen did not do these things for LOF; she did them out of the kindness of her heart. Fame is not what is important to her, she only uses fame to bring wellness to others.

Ellen DeGeneres is well-known, beautiful, rich, and famous. However, these things are not what makes her a hero. It is truly her DeGeneres heart that makes her a hero.



# thank u, next by Ariana Grande

Milannys Busquets Rivera – 12

Ariana Grande dropped the thank u, next album on February 8, 2019, just six months after Sweetener. The album consists of 13 songs, and it is her best album yet. Grande used her energy to make Thank U, Next in only two weeks. Sweetener was more of a self-conscious wide-scale pop statement, while Thank U, Next is focused on life after a break-up, making it perfect for karaoke sessions. In Needy, she expresses that she plans to turn her emotion into a spectacular mess. In the past two years Grande has been through a lot – Manchester bombing, mac Miller’s death, and her messy and public break-up with Pete Davidson. In this new album, she wanted to reflect her new determination to move on fast. She stated that she was to talk to her fans, write music, and sing.

When the song Thank U, Next was dropped last fall, no one expected that it would be more than a quick celebrity-shade novelty, but it turned out to be a song with grace and resonance, and the album lives up to that. The album has the energy of a hip-hop mixtape; it has no guest stars and no duets. The song Ghostin’ is a beautiful ballad about death, grief, and recovery. Just three years ago, Grande was singing about needing a man to make her feel dangerous in Dangerous Woman, these days, Ariana does not need anything from anyone. She expresses that in Make Up. In 7 rings she sings about treating herself and her friends like superstars, buying expensive jewelry.

NASA is a song about her emotional solar system and how her orbit changes over time. In Fake Smile in a very deep song, in it she sings about how she cannot hide how she feels and she does not want to anymore. The last song in the album is Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I’m Bored, it is the perfect way to end the album. After all the feelings that she expressed in the other songs, she shows that she is ready for more. The album is already one of the best albums of the year and it is only February, it is definitely a sign that the best of Ariana is yet to come.



# Chuck E Cheese conspiracy

Ashley Perlaki - 10

As child many kids would go to enjoy a pizza party at their favorite establishment. There would be a combination of music, games, pizza, and of course the iconic mouse, that as a kid everyone knew and loved.

Recent conspiracy theories have risen about Chuck E Cheese taking leftovers of pizza and combining it with “freshly” made pizza. Shane Dawson, the famous YouTuber known for his famous conspiracy theory playlist, has provided some pictured proof of the pizza sizes not lining up, almost as if they were not from the same pizza.

This conspiracy has made the company of Chuck E Cheese not very happy since sales have been declining. The company could even result in taking legal action against Shane Dawson. The company stated that “No conspiracies here — our pizzas are made to order and we prepare our dough fresh in restaurant, which means that they’re not always perfectly uniform in shape, but always delicious.” As of right now many people are still skeptical of the peculiar shape of the pizza and have not been too inclined to take their children to Chuck E Cheese since.

Since the 14 million viewed video has aired many people have tried to also uncover the mysterious size of the pizza slices, all have resulted in the evidence being pretty accurate. Many kids at Hamburg Area High School are exposed to many forms of slander or conspiracies, some even follow Shane Dawson’s youtube channel. Timazia Schaner a sophomore at Hamburg stated “I love Shanes videos, they are very entertaining and give me a lot to think about.” Timazia like many others has fallen into the conspiracy that Chuck E Cheese is in fact taking leftover pizzas and combining it with others. Timazia is not the only student at Hamburg that has reached this conclusion, many can say that YouTube is a very powerful platform and is a way for students to connect their interests

Although the Chuck E Cheese conspiracy is quite controversial brings up a good light hearted debate. One can only hope that the Chuck E Cheese establishment is not holding onto a dark secret, rather a faulty pizza cutter that just cuts every piece differently.

## Next Spirit Days

March 15 - Wear Green for St. Patty’s Day

March 22 -Hawk Spirit Day

March 29 - Funky Socks Friday

## Graduation Project Meeting March 18, 2019