

HAPPENINGS

A PUBLICATION OF HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL

Emma Ritchie takes on high school track and field

Delani Remp - 9

Upcoming track and field record breaker, Emma Ritchie, is adjusting well to Hamburg's indoor and outdoor track and field team. Emma is a freshman at the high school and loves playing sports for the school. Her first sport is track and field which she excels at as a freshman. She likes track because it is an independent sport and when someone does not work their hardest there is only one person to blame. Ritchie runs the 55m and 200m in indoor and the 100m, 200m, 4x1 and long jump in outdoor. She has lettered in indoor track, and she has earned enough points so far in track for her letter in outdoor this year. Ritchie says that she strives to do the best she can without comparing someone else's fame to her accomplishments.

On the other hand Emma also plays soccer in the fall, "I like that it gives me skills on how to work and communicate with other people, skills like those I can use throughout life. When playing soccer, everyone wins and loses together."

Besides sports Ritchie is also very family oriented and she is surrounded by what she describes as a not so typical family of her brother, Wyatt, and her mom and dad. She looks up to her parents and her goal is to make them proud of the person that she has become. Ritchie is very devoted to Christianity which centers on her whole life, making her a better person. That is why she looks up to Alison Felix, an Olympic track and field gold medalist who is also a very strong Christian who says "My mom is great and I make sure that we pray together before every race. She helps me put everything in perspective and remind me of the real reason I run." Ritchie would describe herself as consistent, active, and motivated to do her best at what she loves. Although Ritchie is just a freshman, she has big plans for herself athletically and she says keeping up with her school work are the most important things because education comes before anything else. Emma works hard every day to get better at her craft and students and coaches alike are excited to see what barriers she can break in track in the future.

Students prepare for the upcoming AP exams

Ashley Lojko - 12

The Advanced Placement (AP) tests are beginning for all high school students in the first few weeks of May. For some students taking these tests for the first time, the idea of compiling all the information taught throughout the year can be daunting. However, this experience can be reflective of studying for large tests in college, making this an important learning opportunity. Different classes call for different study techniques, but there are some general tips that can be helpful for any high school student taking the AP exams.

Experience is important in preparing for the exam, so asking the teacher who teaches the class how they would recommend to study might bring about a more expert opinion. They can give a direction in which to head while overviewing a year's worth of work. Along with talking to teachers about the test, ask former students what they think is important to do before taking the exam. They might have more insight to the questions themselves and what would be best to do to prepare.

In general, going through notes from the entirety of the class will refresh old information that may have been lost over the months of learning. In certain subjects, going through old homework and possibly doing some of the work again may help rebuild those skills that may have been lost. For specific exams, Khan Academy is an excellent resource to help practice skills that repeatedly show up on old AP exams.

For additional help, visit <https://www.khanacademy.org/about/blog/post/163503591115/khan-academy-is-the-official-practice-partner-for>

Caitlin Ramsey gets ready to further her education to lead to success

Erik Shinton - 11

Caitlin Ramsey is a senior at Hamburg Area High School and after graduating, she plans to further her education to eventually lead to her success in the workforce. Before Caitlin leaves Hamburg, she wants to try to spend time with her friends while she can. She also says that she is going to miss her friends she made over the years and the parties she went to. Caitlin also mentioned she wanted to play more sports before she leaves, but the school year is coming to a close quickly. Though she is graduating she is not nervous at all and quite confident.

Caitlin said that she has applied to various colleges and was accepted at Kutztown University, RACC, and Bloomsburg University. She visited these campuses and decided Kutztown was a good option for her. "I plan to go [for] Pre-Med", she said. Her main goal is to focus on nursing. She says that her education here at Hamburg helped her get ready for college with knowledge and understanding of how much harder it can be in higher education.

After she leaves, she says she will miss the school. She really enjoyed her science classes as they helped her with her nursing studies and wants to come back on an alumni panel to remember some of the fun moments she had. She says she, "made valuable memories and friends."



The newly inducted members of National Honor Society - 2018. Spring flowers introduce medicinal properties

Quinn Holl - 10

Spring is near, which means the earth is in preparation to produce flowers of brilliant pigments.

For several centuries, medical practitioners have recognized the therapeutic properties of certain flowers. They offer completely natural medicinal properties, often lacking the detrimental side effects the most modern medicines boast.

Flowers that are common to most, such as dandelions, lilacs, lotuses, sunflowers, honeysuckles, roses, jasmine and snapdragons all retain medicinal properties that assist in various discomforts.

Dandelions are very effective for cleaning the blood and aid in related issues, such as anemia. Lilacs can reduce fever and rid the body of internal parasites. Additionally, skin burns or wounds heal rather well when a paste made of lilacs is applied. A syrup of lotus flowers are proven to be very effective against fever and more serious illnesses, such as cholera and bronchitis. Sunflowers or honeysuckles made into a brew help to soothe a sore throat. Roses contain Vitamin C and are very safe for human consumption. The petals can be eaten raw to increase blood circulation as well as relieve depression. Lastly, jasmine tea can assist in battling insomnia and helps to relieve stress.

It is rather intriguing to know the alluring spring flowers most adore are in fact, medicine. Amber Miller finds interest in the medicinal properties of flowers because "it's incredible how all of these resources are literally right in front of us and most of us don't take any notice."

For more information visit: <https://www.proflowers.com/blog/medicinal-flowers-and-uses>



Alvernia University holds Berks County Spring College Fair

Meghan Eisenhauer - 12

On March 6, 2018, Alvernia University held the Berks County Spring College Fair. This event is held semi-annually in order to help undecided Juniors and Seniors find a college that is right for them. This event typically hosts around 1,600 high school students, and features over 115 colleges

and universities across the eastern United States. The fair is always co-sponsored by both the Berks Area School Counselors' Association and Alvernia University.

The event began at 11:15 a.m., and a large multitude of Hamburg Students enthusiastically attended. Ryan Kemp, Daniela Perez, and Starr Dove were just three of them. Ryan, a junior, is still considering his options, but because of the college fair, he has been pointed in the right direction.

Daniela, a senior, states that College Fairs "are great for students to attend because they really help you make your very first decision." Before she attended Alvernia's Spring Fair, she had no idea what direction she would take. Now she decided that a community college would be the right place for her.

Starr, another senior attendee, claimed that she now knows that she will "be attending Cedar Crest College this fall."



Zodiac sign spotlight - Pisces

Grant Doklan - 9

February 19 - March 20 marks the astrological season of Pisces. Pisces is a water sign, meaning they are ruled by emotion. They are represented by the fish and tend to be dreamers. Artistically driven, Pisces are very intelligent and gifted people. Unlike their neighbor signs Aquarius and Aries, they avoid conflict at all costs and are compassionate creatures.

While Pisces tend to be a sign without much edge, the date a Pisces is born can tell a person a lot about them. Pisces born close to the cusp between Aquarius and Pisces tend to be edgier and less gentle than typical of their sign. Along the same vein, Pisces born near the Pisces-Aries cusp are more ambitious than is usual for Pisces.

Pisces' compatibility is usually with their fellow water signs and earth signs. The most compatible signs with Pisces are Cancer, Scorpio, Capricorn and Taurus. The least compatible signs with Pisces are Sagittarius and Gemini. Fire and Air signs cannot match Pisces' knack for empathy and emotional nature. Pisces looks for groundedness in earth signs because of Pisces' tendency to be indecisive. Other water signs comfort Pisces with their ability to understand and sympathize with the Pisces. Overall, Pisces look for stability and sympathy in relationships, whether they be platonic or romantic.

The opposite sign to Pisces is Virgo. Opposite signs can either be a balanced pair or signs that have too little in common to get along. Pisces and Virgo is a water and earth pairing, meaning it is easier to attain than usual for opposite sign pairings. Virgo will balance out Pisces' inner procrastinator with their orderly way of going about life. Pisces' artisticness will fascinate Virgo and Virgo's organized way of life will fascinate Pisces. A relationship between the two is sure to be interesting as they navigate understanding each other's unique points of view.

Alexandria Baum is a Pisces and identifies with her sign quite a bit. She describes herself as, "the most stereotypical Pisces." Miss Baum identifies with Pisces' intuitive and emotional sides. She is empathetic and shares Pisces' escapist tendencies. However, she does not describe herself as weak-willed or tolerant as most Pisces are. Alexandria is a Pisces-Aquarius cusp so that could explain her less tolerant nature with the influence of Saturn and Uranus under Aquarius. She also mentioned that she has a lot of fire signs in her chart, which would make her more motivated than Pisces' usual wishy-washy attitude.



For more information on Pisces, visit <https://www.ganeshaspeaks.com/zodiac-signs/pisces/traits/>
For a daily horoscope, visit <https://www.astrology.com/>

Graduate Tyler West talks about life after high school

Delani Remp - 9

Tyler West is an 18-year-old Hamburg graduate from the class of 2017. Tyler already jumped into the spotlight by auditioning and being accepted into Re-Creation USA, a full-time volunteer performance group that has performed in different veteran care facilities across the United States. Re-Creation USA was founded in 1976 and performs a stir of songs from the 40's to now in a mix of different genres from show tunes to country to Christmas. Re-Creation is a 501(c)(3) charity which means it is a private, non-profit public organization. Tyler is part of the 43rd Re-Creation team and he said his former district superintendent Dr. Mextorf, who participated in Re-Creation eight, encouraged him to audition. Tyler is a tenor two lead in his group of nine performers and two technicians. The current group does 320 shows a year. Tyler says the thing he misses about high school the most is his friends and him goofing off in the choir room and performing in 13 musicals. The thing he says he will not be missing at the high school is having to worry about his homework or getting good grades. Tyler says that he will stay in the group for the next year to make two years total. After he is finished with Re-Creation he will be auditioning with a program at the New York Film Academy, where he will study and get connections to hopefully perform on Broadway.



For more information Visit: <http://re-creationusa.org>



Harley Ludy performs at Regional Chorus

Sarah Gould - 12

Harley Ludy, a junior at Hamburg Area High School, attended the regional chorus at Annville Cleona High School from March 1 to March 3. He sang ten different songs, including Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms: Movement 1." That was the audition piece, and it was

also one of the most difficult pieces the chorus performed. He says he loved the experience and was able to provide insight into what led him to this situation.

Harley got involved in music during third grade when he picked up the string bass through school, but his mother had supported his interest from a much younger age. Additionally, Dr. Ryan, the music teacher who is currently out and recovering after her surgery, also helped him throughout his musical career.

"Regional chorus was by far one of the best festivals I've ever attended," Harley said. "Every student that is there wants to be there. They're all conditioned musicians. They all know how to count rhythms and do solfège, as well as work hard to make their sound better." Harley adds that the conductor, Dr. Jeffrey Kern of Philadelphia University, was outstanding. He gave Harley a "new outlook" on singing, and he feels that he strongly benefited from his instruction.

Despite the 13 hour rehearsals, Harley felt that this festival went very fast. While leaving him exhausted, his voice stressed and incredibly nervous from the auditions, he was elated to be a part of this experience.

From here, Harley says that "sky's the limit." He plans to become a music educator. His short-term goals include making regional orchestra on the string bass in his senior year, as he has only made it to districts so far.

After learning from the best directors in the region, Harley is incredibly grateful for the support he has received, and he is excited to be a part of such an outstanding experience.

Exploring above and below Blue Marsh Lake

Alyssa Marzili - 12

On April 12, a group of students consisting of Physics class and Wilderness Club members, went to Blue Marsh Lake for a scientific study. They were met with a park ranger who told them about the history of how the lake was created.

Then the group walked over to the dam, where the ranger explained how they checked the water level in the lake. They use silver poles that measure where the water level is that is going through the dam. There also was a small pond, which they use to know when the lake water filtering through the dam is too low or too high.

After that the ranger led the students down in to the utility tower. The first floor was the operating room, where everything about the dam was regulated like the height the gates were raised to. The second floor was the gate control. There the students were able to walk through a submarine door. Inside they got to see a gate and how large they actually are, which weighed about 5 tons. The third floor down, the group went out onto the observation deck. There were grates used to filter out any wastes that landed in the water, to maintain water quality. After, they descended to the final level. There they were below the water by 32 feet.

The students set off on the hike. Due to the light drizzle, they did not eat their lunches at the Basin as planned, but instead back on the bus or under a tree.

Back at the school the students worked in small groups to solve the problem the ranger presented: the birds would keep eating the caulk the rangers would coat the gap on the trap doors of the utility tower. Some of the solutions they came up with were covering the caulk, placing a cage around it, or putting up a scarecrow of sorts.

The trip was all around very enjoyable for everyone. James Francisco, stated, "Going into the tower and learning of the gates was really interesting to see." Not many people have the privilege to get to see behind the scenes as the students had today, which made it that much more fascinating to learn about.



May Day Thursday May 24, 2018

Talent Show after homeroom

Club Stands activities approx 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Safety Presentation 12:30 pm - end of day

Bring your dollar bills and quarters so you can play the games and purchase the foods that the HAHS clubs are organizing.