



Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

May 2006

Bechtel named Environmental Teacher of the Year



William Bechtel is presented with citations recognizing his achievement from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and Pennsylvania Senate. Making the presentation is Congressman Russ Fairchild.

Science teacher William Bechtel was named the Environmental Educator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation on May 2.

This award recognizes an educator who conducts an educational program that promotes understanding of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

For over 11 years Bechtel has supported Chesapeake Bay Foundation activities, most prominently through his Environmental Science class project which takes students out on canoes to gather samples along the Susquehanna River and then has students study, record and report their findings to the Foundation.

"What really helps is getting outside. We're fooling ourselves if we think kids are going to remember the worksheets they do. But if we take them out on a canoe, they're going to remember that the rest of their lives," Bechtel said.

Bechtel has students complete a personal Chesapeake Bay Action Project, such as stream clean-up or habitat restoration. They have also conducted several fund-

From the Principal –

Another year is coming to a close.

This year we are working on a partnership with Lewisburg for summer school. We will be using our online curriculum for this program. If your child is in need of summer school, the guidance counselors will have more information later this month.

Our guidance counselors work part time during the summer; if you want to discuss your child's schedule, college plans, etc., do not hesitate to call and schedule an appointment.

I want to congratulate all of our students and their accomplishments this year.

I hope you have a safe and productive summer and come back to school ready for a new year.

Some dates for the end of the year:

May 19 -Spring Choral Concert

June 4 -Baccalaureate

June 6 -Graduation

June 7 -Last day of school

raisers. He emphasizes both personal responsibility and action in his teaching.

The Susquehanna River and local environment are major factors in the health of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem.

Kirchner given state TSA award

Charles Kirchner, technology teacher, was given the Dr. Thomas Winter's Award at the annual state leadership conference of the Technology Student Association last month.

Kirchner was chosen for the award on the basis of his leadership and active role in the Technology Student Association. He was previously named Technology Teacher of the Year by the organization nine years ago.

The award is given in recognition of the contributions Kirchner has made to students and to the TSA organization.

Aside from his involvement with TSA, Kirchner has engaged in a number of special projects, including a joint program with physics classes which designs and predicts g-forces in roller coasters and then evaluates their predic-

tions. He has modified the shop programs to emphasize modern industrial practices, including basic robotics, and helped create the Exploration in Technology Education program offered to all ninth grade students.

Edwards receives honors

Harvey Edwards, English teacher, has garnered quite a bit of recognition lately.

Edwards has been selected for the second year in a row as a semi-finalist for Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. He is currently being considered as a finalist in the competition.

Edwards has also won the Virginia Travis Award Lecture in Social Justice at Bucknell University where he presented a talk on social justice with the Tolerance Troupe performing.

Finally, Edwards has been invited to speak at Carnegie Hall in NYC for the National Scholastic Writing Awards ceremony on June 8.

Leadership program aids 34

Thirty-four students and seven teachers participated in the high school's 25th Peer Leadership weekend program in February. The participants shared a number of small and large group activities to break down barriers between groups, build leadership skills, and explore key social issues.

Troupe busy throughout year

The Tolerance Troupe has concluded another active and successful year. Throughout the year, the troupe has performed for various groups and organizations, including the Milton United Way, Wesley Church, Careerlink, Perry/West Perry Elementary School, FCCLA Conference, East Pennsboro High School, and Bucknell University, in addition to Selinsgrove's own Elementary and Intermediate Schools.

Some of the Troupe's most popular topics this year have revolved around requests for programs dealing with racism, homophobia, and respect for others, a presentation which has been newly expanded this year to include recent issues concerning "cyber-bullying."

The Tolerance Troupe completed its last official performance for the school year at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg, in conjunction with the annual Safe Schools Conference on Tuesday, May 2.

The Tolerance Troupe was also proud to be able to donate a total of \$500 to hurricane Katrina relief efforts and to the Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble.

Council concludes active program, elects officers

The Student Council has had quite an eventful agenda. Between sending our student representatives and officers to district and state conferences and planning school-wide events, it has been very busy.

Student Council is all about helping to improve the school's environment in a positive fashion. It has recently

extended students' leadership skills by sending various students to the district conference at Elkland High School and the state conference at Fleetwood High School.

In the past year Student Council has made several donations totaling up to \$1,000 to school club and various non-profit organizations. Over the holiday season it sponsored an Angel Tree to benefit families in need. It also made donations to Haven Ministries. It recently had the luxury of working with The Bloomsburg Theater Ensemble and Project Discovery. This is a beneficial program in which students from the high school can attend plays performed by the local theater ensemble. Project Discovery works with the Council to make the cost more affordable for students. The Council also has recently made donations to the hurricane victims in New Orleans and earthquake victims in Pakistan through various funds which help to rebuild the community.

As the school year comes to a close, Student Council is already planning for next year. It has recently elected its new officers. The new president is Robert Beamon, Vice president is Erik Auker, secretary is Julie Shaffer, treasurer is Cristen Minori, and historian is Emily Knitter. Council members are looking forward to a very exciting and eventful upcoming year.



Stephanie Carstetter, Danver Berrell, and Leanna Carstetter participated in state competitions of the Technology Students Association. The two Carstetters placed in the top ten.

Students win state TSA awards

Two students placed in the top ten in competition at the annual Technology Students Association Leadership Conference April 19-22.

Leanna Carstetter placed fifth in Prepared Presentation and sixth in Technical Research and Report writing.

Stephanie Carstetter took tenth place in Imaging Technology.

The TSA chapter also took a trip to Penn State where they were given a tour of its Transportation Research Center. They were hosted by SAHS graduate Brian Herrold who explained to them an automobile he is working on for the Hybrid Challenge X competition. The vehicle is powered by a diesel engine and a hydrogen fuel plant. Last year's Penn State placed second in the national contest.

Guidance News

This summer, juniors planning to attend a four-year college should consider visiting the colleges they are interested in applying for admission and eventually attending. They should contact the admissions office of the college/university they are interested in visiting and schedule a tour and interview. It is recommended that juniors begin their college search **early** and notify their counselor about their plans. Counselors need to be notified by the student when he or she applies on-line to a college or university so that transcripts can be forwarded. Athletes planning to play a sport in college should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse and visit the website: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The guidance department is available to assist and discuss with any student their college or career objectives.

SAT Test Dates:

October 14, 2006	Register by September 12, 2006
November 4, 2006	Register by September 29, 2006
December 2, 2006	Register by November 1, 2006
January 27, 2007	Register by December 20, 2006

Register for the SAT at collegeboard.com/reg

The guidance department has information available to all students about summer programs that would enhance student academic, leadership, and personal skills as they prepare for post-secondary and career objectives.

Scheduling 2006-07

All students will be given their schedule for the 2006-07 academic school year before leaving for summer vacation. The students' schedule should reflect their future goals of post-secondary education and/or career objective, keeping in mind graduation requirements.

Students that have conflicts in their schedules or concerns should arrange an appointment with their counselor for the month of June and/or the week of August 14th to August 18th.

Students are encouraged to call the guidance office at 372-2219 to schedule an appointment with their counselor early because enrollment in some courses is fixed. No changes will be made to student schedules the week of August 21st to August 25th. Students need to take time now to finalize their schedules so that schedule changes are minimal once the school year begins. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Students excel at Junior Academy of Science contests

Three students took first place at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science regional competition February 25.

Steven Rubin took first place in 11th grade computer science. Jacob Tomaszewski won first place in 10th grade physics, and Ariana Tavakoli took first in 9th grade behavioral science.

The three students competed against others from a ten county area.

In addition, each student received a plaque for having the highest score of any senior high competitor in their respective categories.

Steven Rubin also won the \$100 William E. Levan, Jr. Award for having the highest score at the entire regional event.

All three students will now compete at the state level at Penn State May 14-16.

Student writers earn state recognition at Scholastics

Ryan Ettinger and Janessa Stauffer have received awards for their achievements in the Harrisburg *Patriot-News* Regional Competition of the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards program.

This annual competition reviews thousands of entries from high school and junior high school students in the greater central Pennsylvania area. The creative efforts submitted by Ryan and Janessa were recognized by the judges as belonging to the small percentage of entries that were the most deserving of recognition.

Sophomore Ryan Ettinger and junior Janessa Stauffer both won Gold Key awards for short stories that they submitted. Ryan's story, "Sam and I," and Janessa's story, "Last Photo," were recognized at the regional awards banquet in Harrisburg on Sunday, February 26. Their stories then advanced to the national Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, sponsored each year by Scholastic publications.

The members of the English department, speaking on behalf of the high school, wish to commend the creative spirit in all Selinsgrove students who entered this contest, and we especially wish to congratulate Ryan and Janessa, on their success.

Foreign Language Month celebrated by classes

March is National Foreign Language Month, and in honor of this, various activities were planned in the Foreign Language Department at the High School to create greater awareness of foreign languages. Students at our high school are lucky enough to have the opportunity to study three different languages: French, German and Spanish. All three languages were celebrated in Foreign Language Month events.

As in past years, the department sponsored a poster contest, awarding a first prize of \$30, a second prize of \$20 and a third prize of \$10. This year's theme was *Foreign Languages...Memorable, Meaningful, Magical*. Prize winners this year were, first place: Dane Reggia, second place: Jeremiah Bucher, and third place: Kara Weaver.

In addition to the poster contest, a number of new activities were planned, one of which was a foreign language movie marathon. On three separate nights, three different films in each of the languages taught here at the high school were presented in the original language with subtitles. All students were invited to attend. Movie evenings began at 7:00 pm and students were encouraged to bring munchies to share. Films included the French film *He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not*, the German film *Blueprint*, and the Mexican film *Without a Trace*.

Foreign Language Month culminated with a Foreign Food Day, in which students involved in the language clubs or currently enrolled in languages at the high school were invited to prepare an authentic ethnic food. Students who prepared foods were then invited to sample the things prepared by their peers. They judged their favorite dishes and goodie bags of foreign foods were awarded to the best French, German and Spanish foods. Faculty members were also invited to taste the delicious dishes.

Many thanks to the students and teachers who helped make this year's Foreign Language Month a great success!

Five entries advance to states in History Day Competition

The Social Studies Department would like to thank the 33 students that represented Selinsgrove at regional competition on April 5 at Juniata College.

The following students placed and will advance to state competition this month at Penn State:

Colleen King placed first in the Individual Documentary category for "The Molly Maguires Taking a Stand in History."

Ashley Hook placed second in the Historical Paper category for "Taking a Stand Against Terror: The Passenger Revolt of Flight 93."

Ryan Ettinger placed third in Individual Exhibit for "Taking a Stand While Sitting: People, Places and Events in the Life of Rosa Parks."

In the Group Documentary category, second place went to Alan Heintzelman, Jacob Tomaszewski, Tyler Wolfe and Jeff Bennett for "Martin Luther, a Man of Change."

First place in the Group Documentary category went to the team of Samantha James and Mallory Pope for "The Chesapeake Bay Foundation."

Math team takes third place

The Selinsgrove math team composed of Jenny Peeler, Steve Rubin, and Joe Ruby placed third out of 37 teams at the Gold Math Contest held at Bucknell University. Also, Joe Ruby placed third individually out of over 100 participants. The team received a plaque for their effort and Joe received an award also for his individual effort.

Quiz Bowl team takes second

Answering agricultural health and safety questions about topics such as why clothing exposed to pesticides should be machine laundered and hung in the sun to dry, what to check first when placing a ladder against a building, ROPS (Rollover Protection Systems to those in the know) and how to safely approach a cow, FFA and 4-H teams competed in the annual Pennsylvania Agricultural Safety and Health Quiz Bowl finals at the 2006 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

4-H and FFA each field final-four teams following the semi-finals held at Ag Progress Days in Rock Springs in August. Separate competitions are held for each organization at both events. Prizes range from \$750.00 for the winning team to \$375.00 for fourth place. Team members receive an event sweat shirt in their organization colors: blue for FFA and green for 4-H.

A Selinsgrove Team consisting of P. J. Adam, Brian Gray, Scott Hoover, Keith Kessler (alternate), and Coy Weller took second place in the event.

Teams representing 4-H and FFA groups compete in a quiz show format to demonstrate their knowledge about farm safety and health hazards and recommended practices.

Participants not only learn about farm safety and health, they also increase their leadership and public speaking skills and learn how to promote agricultural safety and health through their organizations.

Outdoors Club has two trips left

The Outdoors Club took a whitewater rafting trip on the Youghiogheny River April 28-29.

The club will round out its year of activities with rock climbing at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia May 10-13 and backpacking in the Seneca Creek trail system, also in West Virginia, May 24-29. Selinsgrove FFA Students Earn State Honors

FFA members earn medals

Seventeen members of the SAHS FFA chapter were awarded fifteen medals at the Pennsylvania FFA annual Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) competition held in February at the Pennsylvania State University.

The following were awarded Gold medals: Brian Gray, Dairy-Beef and Wildlife Conservation; Katrina Moyer, Employment-Farm. Silver medalists were PJ Adam, Ornamental Hort-Breeding Plants, Home Garden; Eric Bauman, Swine-Finishing; Abe Heggenstaller, Improvement; Coy Weller, Poultry-Gamebirds and Dairy-Beef.

Bronze medalists were Dale Barge, Employment-Non Farm; Eric Bauman, Swine-Finishing; Andrew Benfer, Swine-Finishing; Zachary Buss, Dogs-Training/Boarding; Gwen Graybill, Beef-Finishing; and Scott Hoover, Dairy-Beef.

Other participants that received honorable mention were Kyle Fry, Employment-Farm; Scott Hoover, Grain-Field Corn/Grain; Andrew Shaffer, Grain-Field Corn/Grain and Beef-Finishing; Robin Shaffer, Beef-Finishing and Swine-Finishing; Cara Swartzlander, Rabbits-Breeding/Growing.

FFA Members Achieve Honors

Over the last few months members of the FFA club have been busy competing in various competitions and applying for acceptance into a number of summer programs.

Sophomores PJ Adam and Brian Gray have been accepted into four to six week summer programs of distinction. PJ will be attending the PA Governors School of Agriculture to be held at the Pennsylvania State University during July and part of August 2006.

Brian will participate in a Susquehanna River Expedition sponsored by the Chesapeake River Foundation. Brian, along with twelve other high school students from across the State of Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation staff members, will travel the Susquehanna River in canoes learning about the watershed. The trip will take place during the month of July. The expedition will begin at the headwaters of the north branch of the Susquehanna River in Cooperstown, NY and terminate on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.

In other activities, senior Andrew Shaffer placed first at the SUN Area FFA Entrepreneur Public Speaking competition, and freshman Ian Hackenberg placed first in Creed Speaking. Both students progressed to regional competitions held at Penn College in Williamsport. Regional competition allowed these students the opportunity to go head to head with other FFA members in a 16 county North Central Region. Andrew placed fifth and Ian placed tenth at regionals. Andrew will advance to State Competition which will be held at Penn State University in June.

FFA team masters mechanics

In SUN Area FFA Competition held in February at Mifflinburg High School, the team of Eric Bauman, Brad Dressler, Brian Gray and Jed Parker placed first.

As individuals, Eric Bauman, Brad Dressler, Coy Weller and Jed Parker placed first, second, fifth and sixth respectively. The mechanics team will advance to states to be held at the Pennsylvania State University in June.

In the Small Gas Engines competition, Andrew Benfer placed second.

In the Agronomy completion the team of PJ Adam, Scott Hoover, Andrew Shaffer, and Randy Yetter placed fourth. The team of Dale Barge, Keith Kessler, Cara Swartzlander, and Coy Weller placed fifth.



Eric Bauman, winner of the 2006 SUN Area Ag Mechanic Competition, performs a electrical wiring excise as part of the competition.

FBLA offers opportunities

This year the theme for Future Business Leaders of America has been FBLA: Unlock Your Potential.

Junior Amy Bowersox and sophomore Joe White recently had that opportunity while attending the FBLA State Leadership Conference held at the Hershey Convention Center. Amy and Joe earned their trip to the conference after winning regional competitions in Banking and Financial Systems and Networking Technology respectively.

While at the FBLA State Conference, the two students competed in those fields as well as a number of open competitions. Joe White was recognized for placing tenth in the Internet as well as taking a tenth place in The Workplace. There were over 3000 students that competed in a variety of venues from all across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at the State Leadership Conference.

Further unlocking their potential, May 1, 2006, members of the Selinsgrove FBLA spent the day enjoying Washington, DC. While there, members enjoyed Smithsonian Institute museums, war memorials, and a stroll through our National Zoo where there were many reports of "Seals doing Panda Sightings."

Address Changes

Please remember to contact the school office if you have moved, had an address change due to the 9-1-1 updates, or had phone number changes.

Important Note!