



# Seal Sightings

Selinsgrove Area High School's quarterly newsletter

Selinsgrove Area High School

October 2009

## Fall play offers intriguing plots

On a cold, clear, moonless night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover in the star-filled sky above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend—almost—in this delightful midwinter night's dream.

The high school's fall play production, *Almost, Maine*, will be presented November 4, 5 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Adult tickets are six dollars; student tickets are three dollars.

Cast members include Hannah Aurand, Aly Banks, Andrew Burd, Francesca Damiano, Jake Edmunds, Jetta Harrison, Abby Kerstetter, David Martin, Josh Perdue, and Katie Richards. Stage managers are Melinda Inch, Kaitlyn Matusheski, and Madeleine Waltman.

## Troupe enters 15th year

The Tolerance Troupe opened its fifteenth year of performing with a program for the Unity Jam: Peace Rally in Lewisburg, September 28.

On Thursday, October 1, they did an encore performance for the freshmen class in the high school promoting respect and dignity.

Upcoming performances in October will include a trip to the Mid-West School District and Bucknell University. Auditions for new members will also be held on dates to be announced later in the month.

## Yearbook photos now online

Lifetouch, the yearbook photograph provider, has added a new service for candid pictures.

Whenever Lifetouch comes to an event to take pictures for the yearbook, the photos will be available online for parents to view and purchase. These pictures will be posted for 90 days before they come off the site. The web-site is [www.lifetouchevents.com](http://www.lifetouchevents.com) and the login is MJSEZ.

Currently, field hockey, football, band, cheerleading, and soccer are posted. Band and Cheerleading are under the football folder. Other fall sports will be posted soon, so keep checking. We hope you enjoy this new feature.

## From the Principal—

I want to thank everyone for a successful start to the school year.

We are continuing to urge all parents to register online to monitor their children's progress. Information can be found at our web site, [www.seal-pa.org](http://www.seal-pa.org). Click on Tech Services and then eSembler and follow the instructions.

We would encourage you enroll in the Giant APlus program. Revenue from this program supports activities and field trips.

Also, if you have not returned opening day information requests and sign off sheets, please do. We are mailing reminders soon to those who have not done so.

For a variety of reasons, this year we are not having our fall Open House in October. In place of that day, we will be offering November 11 for parent-teacher conferences. We will be coordinating times with the middle school so that you may easier coordinate visits if you have children in both buildings, and we will using a flexible schedule so that working parents will not have to take off work. We will be getting information to you as to how to schedule these conferences. If you would like to meet with a teacher sooner than that day, you should contact the teacher or the main office to schedule a conference. However, we usually arrange those conferences during the teacher's preparation period.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call the main office or the guidance office.

Reed Messmore  
Principal

## Math classes ace AP exams

The AP Calculus and AP Statistics classes once again scored very well on last May's AP exams. The Calculus class recorded an outstanding average of 4.33 for 21 students. Twelve students scored the top score possible on the exam, a five, and five others scored a four. Both scores are high enough to earn the students college credit at any university. Some even accept a three for college credit.

Students scoring fives in Calculus were Nabeel Akhtar, Jon Becker, Brad Billings, Doug Curatola, Dustin Folio, Scott Gehman, Matt Heintzelman, Laura King, Amanda McNichol, Keegan Miller, Jimmy Peeler, and Josh Schrawder.

The AP Stats class also did very well, recording a class average of 3.54 for 13 students. Students scoring a five on the Stats exam included Corinne Aucker and Robert Bingham. Congratulations to all students for a job well done.



*Members of the AP European History test displayed their knowledge of history and culture on the national exam.*

## Eight excel on history exam

Eight students earned a perfect five (the highest score) on the annual European History Advanced Placement exam last spring.

Those earning the highest score were Kevin Biallas, Mike Briskey, Hope Burke, Nate Cover, Emili Delp, Sarah Goodling, Alex Knitter, and Matt Ruby. These students exhibited an in depth understanding of European History and its impact on the rest of the world.

This past year, 101,359 students took the national exam which tests students' knowledge of the history of Europe from 14th Century to the present. Students must answer multiple choice questions, write two essays, and use a series of documents to answer a third essay. Students earn a composite score between one and five, with a three being a passing score. The national pass rate this year across the country was 67 percent, with only 14 percent earning a top score. Selinsgrove earned a 90 percent pass rate and had eight students achieving the perfect five score.

## TSA prepares to host regional conference

The Technology Student Association (TSA) is finalizing its membership and beginning to prepare to host the regional competition scheduled for February 20, 2010. About 300 students from middle and high schools in our area will come here to compete with one another in a variety of contests and competitions to qualify for the state leadership conference in April.

TSA is a nationally recognized organization that prepares its members for the challenges of a dynamic world by promoting technological literacy, leadership and problem solving skills through competitive events, confer-

Yearbook sales will begin the week of October 19. The sale will run Monday through Friday and students may purchase them during lunchtime ONLY. The "early bird" price is \$50. We will hold other sales, but the price will increase each time.

Don't miss out!

ences and chapter programs resulting in personal growth and opportunities.

Friends and families of student competitors are welcome to attend this day-long event which will culminate in an awards ceremony at the end of the day.

## Bucknell to honor Edwards

Bucknell University has selected English teacher, Harvey Edwards, for its Distinguished Citizenship Award. It is one of three annual recognitions presented to an alumnus by the Bucknell University Alumni Association. He will be honored over the Bucknell Homecoming weekend, October 23-25.

## Submit photos to the yearbook

The yearbook staff is pleased to announce a new feature to make it easier for parents and students to submit pictures for the yearbook.

If you have any pictures that you would like to submit for consideration, you can submit them electronically through IMAGE SHARE. These can be pictures for the younger years, sports, groups, work, around town, or whatever. To submit pictures, log on to [images.jostens.com](http://images.jostens.com). Enter the Login Id: 400004933. Then enter the password: seals. Browse to select the pictures you wish to upload, then click on "Image Share." Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information. Click "Save Details," and they will be sent directly to the yearbook website.

## FFA members earn top awards

A number of Future Farmers of America (FFA) members won awards at the annual SUN Area Career Development Events at the Beaver Fairground September 22.

Kolby Kessler earned first place in Tractor Driving, while Brent Womer placed second.

The first place individual Dairy Judging award went to Jonelle Wetzel. Kayla Dreese, Ashley Wetzel and Jonelle Wetzel were all members of the first place team.

Chris Radel placed fourth and Elizabeth Lauver placed fifth in the Livestock Judging event. The team of Dustin Baney, Michelle Gehers, Chris Radel and Cody Rathfon placed third overall, while Abby Knepp, Elizabeth Lauver, Brittany Mathers and Payge Pretz's team placed fifth.

Career Development Events cover a variety of agriculturally-related career choices stretching from Busi-

ness Management to Forestry Skills. Any student enrolled in an agriculture course may participate in these activities. Contact the high school agriculture department for more information.

## Council heads to conference

Student Council officers Kevin Rynearson, President; Courtney Lester, Vice President; Megan Stauffer, Treasurer; Tyler Long, Secretary; and Kaitlin Matusheski, Historian, will accompany their advisor, Harvey Edwards to the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils at Pennridge High School near Philadelphia.

The students will participate in workshops on leadership, organization, school spirit, fundraising and more.

Parents of Seniors,

You should have received a letter in the mail from the yearbook staff concerning Parental Pride notices. Please pay attention to the deadlines. These deadlines are in place because the number of Parental Pride notices changes the number of pages in the yearbook.

Although the book does not come out until May, the staff has a series of strict deadlines, and since these pages are in the front of the book, they are part of our initial deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Todd Myers at the high school.

## SUN Area Career & Technology Center

### Public Awareness Day Open House

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

9:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

*Invites you, your family and friends to attend and see first-hand the technical learning experience that is available to the students from our district.*

## Food Service News

The Division of Food & Nutrition allows students to make some ala-carte choices at lunch time. Some of these choices include granola bars, pretzels, baked chips, and of course the famous big chocolate chip cookie. We also offer a variety of healthy drinks such as spring water, vitamin water, 100 percent fruit juice, Gatorade and a variety of teas. Of course these choices come with an additional cost to the students, and sometimes this fact can cause parents and guardians frustration as they try to figure out where all the lunch money is going. Please be aware that if you do not want your child purchasing these extras, you can request a "block" on the student debit account of all ala-carte purchases other than the school lunch. If your child occasionally would like to purchase extras, even though a block has been established, he/she can always purchase items by paying cash. Any questions or requests can be emailed to the High School kitchen at [hscafe@seal-pa.org](mailto:hscafe@seal-pa.org), or you may call them directly at 372-2238.

We have some exciting news! You as parents/guardians now have the ability to pay for your child's meals via an on-line credit card payment site. Not only can you save time, but you now have the ability to receive email alerts when your child's account is getting low. You will also be able to have more control over your child's account by having the option to view your child's purchasing history which will help you monitor what is being purchased. You can access this information on our school web site at [www.seal-pa.org](http://www.seal-pa.org) and click on "Food Service" and then scroll down to "Paying for Lunch via Credit Card." You can also go directly to the site at [www.mySchool-Bucks.com](http://www.mySchool-Bucks.com) to set up an account.

Please remember that there is a wealth of information on the Food Services section of our school web site. Please refer to this site because it will help to answer many of the questions you might have. As always, it is our pleasure to serve the students and families of the Selinsgrove Area High School.

Kevin Oswald  
Director of Food Services

## Guidance News

The Guidance Department has been busy scheduling college representative visits with juniors and seniors. Six schools visited during September, and the following chart shows the October and November schedule.

Lebanon Valley College	Monday., Oct. 5	2:30
University of Pittsburgh	Monday, Oct. 5	8:20
Mansfield University	Thursday, Oct. 8	8:15
Gettysburg College	Tuesday, Oct. 13	10:30
Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology	Tuesday, Oct. 13	9:00
University of Scranton	Tuesday, Oct. 13	9:45
McCann School of Business	Wednesday, Oct. 14	2:30
Luzerne County Community College	Thursday, Oct. 15	10:30
Central Penn College	Thursday, Oct. 15	8:20
Juniata College	Thursday, Oct. 15	1:00
Messiah College	Friday, Oct. 16	2:00
Clarion University	Friday, Oct. 23	11:00
Saint Frances University	Monday, Oct. 26	1:30
Penn State	Tuesday, Oct. 27	8:15
Lycoming College	Wednesday, Oct. 28	12:00
Albright College	Monday, Nov. 13	8:20

Seniors need to complete a Transcript Request Form before the guidance office can release their records to schools. Applications, financial aid and scholarship information are available in the guidance office.

College Night will be held Monday, October 12, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Gerhard Field House of Bucknell University. Up to 85 Schools will be represented. Come meet with school representatives and streamline your college search.

### SAT Information

SATs will be given here in December and May. Please contact the guidance information for further information. You may register online at [www.collegeboard.com/mysat](http://www.collegeboard.com/mysat).

Test Date: December 5, 2009

Regular Registration Deadline: October 30th

Late Registration Deadline (requires a late fee): November 12th

Test Date: May 1, 2010

Regular Registration Deadline: March 25th CEEB Code 394460

Late Registration Deadline (requires a late fee): May 13th

### PSSA Re-testing

All seniors who are not proficient in Reading, Math, Science, and/or Writing on the PSSA exams will be re-tested during the testing window of October 26 to October 30, 2009.

### SUN Area Career & Technology Center Information

Mr. Geoff Schmitz, Counselor at the SUN Area Career & Technology Center will visit the high school and present information to interested juniors on Wednesday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m. His presentation will assist students in recognizing the value of a technical education and explore the many exciting programs available at SUN.

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009 juniors will have the opportunity to visit three programs of their choice. The SUN AC&TC offers programs in the following areas: Advanced Precision Machining, Advanced Wood Products, Advertising Art and Design, Auto Technology, Carpentry, Collision Repair Technology, Cosmetology, Dental Health Technology, Diesel and Truck Technology, Drafting CAD Technology, Electrical Systems Technology, Electronics Technology, Food Service, Health Professionals and Related Sciences, HVAC & Plumbing Technology, Information Technology, Masonry, Police Corrections and Security Sciences, and Welding.

Students attending this visitation will leave Selinsgrove High School at 9:15 and return at approximately 2:30. Bus transportation will be provided. For more information please contact the guidance office.

