



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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PMEA Superstars Shine

By Liz Whitmer

Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Music Festivals give musically talented students the opportunity to learn more about what they love to do and be surrounded by people with the same skill levels while competing to advance to the next level of competition.

Every year students from across our district audition with the goal to be chosen for the PMEA State Band. The first step for each musician is to be selected to represent their district. For the students in our school's band, they had the opportunity to audition against hundreds of other musicians in Williamsport for the PMEA District 8 Band.

Although many talented musicians tried their best, the field was cut to 150 students to represent District 8, seven of whom proudly came from Selinsgrove Area High School (SAHS).

On January 27-29, those 150 students representing 40 schools in District 8 competed at Jersey Shore Area Senior High School for the opportunity to be chosen to advance on to the PMEA Regional Band. Seven Selinsgrove students competed valiantly, with two qualifying for the next level.

Juniors Noah Wise and Jacob Bodinger will be representing Region IV when they perform with the Regional Band at Marywood University in Scranton, Pennsylvania, from March 10-12. They will be performing with, while also auditioning against, 150 students from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre areas.



Juniors Noah Wise and Jacob Bodinger will represent Selinsgrove at Regional Band, where they will perform and compete to participate in the PMEA State Band.

For most participants, these programs provide an outlet for teens that share the same interests. Junior Noah Wise, who has a tremendous amount of musical experience, says, "It's always fun to play with other musicians that care as much as I do about music."

Students from each Regional Band across the state will perform in the coming months and then

150 will be chosen, in total, to play in the PMEA State Band. Noah and Jacob hope to be among those chosen to move on to the next and final level of the PMEA process.

Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

News Editors: Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

Sports Editor: Angelo Martin

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The *Grove Gazette* is a student organized newspaper. If you are interested in working for the *Grove Gazette* as a writer, editor, or photographer, please join us during the first half of lunch on **Friday, February 19th** in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

ACES: An Educational Memory for FFA

By Nathan Moyer

During the first weekend of February, four freshmen from the Selinsgrove FFA chapter travelled to Harrisburg to attend the Agricultural Cooperation Establishes Success (ACES) conference.

The Pennsylvania State Officer Team has hosted the conference for the past eighteen years to promote team building, social, and leadership skills among students. It is held over three weekends and boasts a student attendance of 1,400.

Advisor Mrs. Fry took four freshmen, Shawn Mathews, Kerry Bingeman, Nathan Kline, and Zeb Dreisbach, to the conference. Saturday was eventful as the students rotated through five sessions, each focusing on leadership or social development. After the workshops, students feasted at a sponsored dinner.

The evening closed with a dance and reflections about the past, present, and future of agriculture. Selinsgrove students loved the experience as freshman



From left to right: freshmen Shawn Mathews, Zeb Dreisbach, Kerry Bingeman, and Nathan Kline prepare for their first session at the ACES conference.

Zeb Dreisbach emoted that he “looked forward” to applying what he learned at the conference to help Selinsgrove’s chapter.

Following a large breakfast on Sunday, the students wrote letters of encouragement to the dancers of Penn State’s IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, also known as THON. THON is a yearlong effort to raise funds and awareness of pediatric cancer. The letters will go to the families enduring the treatment and struggle of facing cancer.

SAT Changes to be Put to the Test

By Savanna Foor

The general Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) format and scoring guidelines are changing in March, which will impact teenagers looking to go to college.

The first change can be seen through the grading system. It will now be scored based on a 400-1600 point scale, unlike the previous test where a total of 2400 points could be earned. Additionally, points are not deducted for wrong answers given, instead, more points are added when a correct answer is chosen.

There is also a change with the essay portion as it will be given at the end of the exam, opposed to the first section like in the past. Scoring for the essay will also

change, in that it will be reported to the test taker separate from the math and reading sections.

The questions themselves will be reformatted to test more logic based, as opposed to memory or impression based, material. The reading sections will include less strenuous vocabulary that students most likely haven’t seen before. Instead, it will include words that can be interpreted by the text; instead of a lone word and definition. For mathematics, more graphs and charts will be added to help accompany students on word problems.

Students can prepare by embracing the new mindset and format of the test, which was written to be better suited for today’s learning styles.

The Next SAT Testing

MARCH 5, 2016

Visit the Guidance Office for more details or click on this link:

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat?navid=qh2-sat>

Gearing Up for the Cabaret Concert

Daniel Napsha

Selinsgrove High School students are preparing for the annual Cabaret Concert, featuring student musical talent employing both voices and instruments.

More than 30 students, ranging from 9th to 12th grade, will perform in the concert. The audience has the chance to enjoy many familiar songs, both new hits and old classics. For instance, the set list includes freshman Asher Stuck, who will sing Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours," while freshman Hannah Doll will be joined by junior Raechel Councill in a rendition of "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," from the 1946 musical, *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Besides covering songs, three acts will perform original works, including juniors Emma Lewis, Rowan Miller, and Jonah Roth. Roth will appear with his band, the Silver Linings, consisting of juniors Jacob Bodinger and Max Troppe, senior Austin Paca, and a guest accompanist, Heather Beveridge.

All of the students have been practicing continuously to strengthen their work. Although the Cabaret showcases student talent, it is not a talent show, a strict distinction made by choral director Ms. Bartol. In Ms. Bartol's view, the Cabaret is a way for students to excel on their own as an individual. The concert and preparation beforehand, including lessons with Ms. Bartol, ultimately makes the chorus better as a group.

The Cabaret is a favorite of students, who view it as an opportunity to display their talent to friends and the com-

munity. In particular, junior Kyle Mertz noted that the Cabaret allows "people to express themselves differently through choosing their own piece of music." Mertz will sing the Neighborhood's "Sweater Weather" with fellow junior, Reed Messmore.



Juniors Kyle Mertz and Reed Messmore jam it out in preparation for their performance at the concert.

This year's Cabaret Concert is bittersweet for music students, as it marks the last Cabaret helmed by longtime choral director and music teacher, Ms. Kathy Bartol. Ms. Bartol, who is retiring at the end of this year, expressed that she "wants to make this year's concert the best it can be." She praised the student performers, and hinted at what audience members will hear. "Maybe I'll sing a goodbye song," she smiled.

The music department invites the whole community to come and enjoy the concert. It will take place next Tuesday, February 16, at 7:30pm in the Middle School auditorium.

Music Courses Possibly Cut

By Markie Reiland

On February 3, Selinsgrove Area High School students were informed at a class selection assembly of changes that would be made in the music department.

Next year, the music courses Women's Ensemble, Musical Theatre, and Piano 1-4 will not be available. Logistically, the middle school and high school may have to share a music teacher who would split their time between the two buildings. Consequentially, with no equivalent position, a music teacher may be less available to help students via chorus lessons.

The topic was addressed at a scheduled school board meeting on the night of February 8. Selinsgrove students, parents, teachers, and community members came before the board to discuss their thoughts on cutting the classes. Many shared personal and touching experiences, such as junior Miranda Hayes, a member of the school band.

Hayes relayed how music helped her through difficult times in her life. Drummer Jeremy Hummel, of the band Breaking Benjamin, shared his thoughts on the importance of music and argued that cutting their opportunities was not right.

The speakers at the school board meeting also discussed how music affects

high school students. They mentioned that music is the only subject that activates both the left and right side of the brain, combining mathematical skills with creativity.

The classes cut -- Piano, Musical Theater and Women's Ensemble -- give students the opportunities to experience what it is like to learn an instrument, to write a musical, or to sing in front of a crowd. Not only do these classes help make students more well-rounded by allowing them to participate in something other than academics or sports, but they can also help set students up for success.

Junior Lauren Rowe explained that the small class size of women's ensemble is beneficial because it gives students the opportunity "to receive more individualized attention, so they can better understand the music and overall improve their musical techniques."

As of the publication date, no final decisions have been made. According to Ms. Bartol, Superintendent Chad Cohrs claimed these courses were not cut for financial purposes. Low class enrollment is said to be a reason for cutting the courses. The board has yet to decide whether to cut the courses; however, that is usually determined at the administration level.

SPORTS

Boob - 6th Wrestler to Notch 100 Wins

By Marley Sprenkel

Senior Andrew Boob won his 100th career match in the 220 lb. weight class against Central Columbia on February 3rd, becoming only the 6th Selinsgrove wrestler to notch 100 career wins.

“It feels good to know that I will have forever left my mark on this program. My coaches and teammates have been pushing me ever since day one. I couldn’t be any more thankful for the opportunities I have been given. It has been sweet, but I’m still looking to complete several other goals of mine before the season ends,” an excited Andrew Boob said a day after the match,

On the season, Boob holds a record of 23-2, including 18 pins, a team high. While many may look at those numbers and expect nothing less from Boob, one cannot overlook the fact that Boob has been reaching these milestones with a significant knee injury he suffered during football season.

“Obviously it (the injury) has affected the way I wrestle and train. I wouldn’t say it has put me at a disad-

vantage, but it has forced me to have to work harder to compensate for the pain and awkwardness of the brace I have to wear,” noted Boob.

With the regular season coming to a close, Boob has his eyes set on the District IV and Regional tournaments where he will be a heavy favorite to win both. After Regional’s, Boob will look to take on state-level competition where he has competed to end the last two seasons.

For Boob, the goal has never been more clear: “Sophomore year at State’s was a big learning experience for me. Last year I got a taste of what it’s like to win there (at State’s). This year I want to place and hopefully prove that I can wrestle with the best of them.”



Senior Andrew Boob battles his opponent from Central Columbia

Cheerleading Returns to the Hardwood

By Angelo Martin

While many in the community come to Selinsgrove athletic events to watch high school athletes compete at a high level against other area schools, often the school spirit and passion of the Selinsgrove cheerleaders is over looked.

While traditionally always at the football games, the cheerleading squad has been present at neither basketball games nor wrestling matches since 2011. This year however, the cheerleaders have returned, and many are excited at the direction and future of the squad.

“It’s certainly nice to have something people can get involved with to show their school pride and support,” said senior cheerleader Cameron Meckley.

The squad holds practices Monday-Thursday, from 4:15 to 4:30. From practicing cheers to coordinating pyramid formations, the cheerleaders work diligently to come up with methods to boost crowd morale during games and matches. With a 13 person squad, the biggest difficulty the

cheerleaders have faced has been building confidence and chemistry with one another.

“It takes an equal effort from everyone in the group to learn and master the dances, cheers, and stunts. For us, we are so used to the football environment that it has been difficult to adjust to the smallness of our gym and with the fans right on top of us,” explained Meckley.

With both the basketball and wrestling teams exceeding expectations heading into the year, perhaps credit is owed to the cheerleading squad for their dedication in attending every home basketball and wrestling event.

“The students have showed a great deal of support for us and we couldn’t be more thankful for that. I’m glad I am a part of a senior class that has brought back cheerleading to basketball and wrestling events,” said Meckley.



Varsity Cheerleaders fire up the crowd during the boy’s basketball game against Lewisburg.

Boys Basketball Poised for District Run

By Sam Rodkey

As the 2015-2016 regular season comes to a close, the Selinsgrove boys' basketball team looks to continue making positive strides while competing for a District IV title in the process.

The Seals, with an impressive overall record of 12-8, have the potential to improve last year's record by 5 wins and enter into the District IV tournament as a top five seed.



Photo by Megan Hoffman

Senior Javon Batts looks to dish the ball to sophomore Thomas Kerstetter on the wing.

All season, it has been the duo guard of junior Brice Harro and senior Juvon Batts leading the team and coming up big when they needed it most. Harro leads the team in scoring while Batts is first in assists. The deadly duo have provided the Seals with some of the best backcourt play in years.

"Juvon (Batts) and I play really well together on the court. After playing with each other all of last year, I think we have built a strong chemistry on the court," said Harro.

In addition to an excellent backcourt, junior big men Griffin Kirchner and Hunter George have been critical for the Seals underneath. George is second on the team in points while leading the team in rebounds. Fellow junior forward Griffin Kirchner has also been a spark plug for Selinsgrove, combining a strong low post game with the ability to shoot well from deep outside the three point arch.

While the Seals starting lineup often gets the ink in the paper, one cannot overlook the depth and contributions from the Selinsgrove bench. Seniors Jake Strickler and Brenden Carner have been important contributors for Selinsgrove, giving the team valuable minutes scoring and defending in the post.

"Our bench has been huge for us. Coach Stebila has been able to keep a lot of us fresh late in games because of guys like Strickler and Carner," noted junior guard Brice Harro.

With just two regular season games left, the Seals hope to finish the season strong and build momentum for the District IV playoffs.

Lady Seals Basketball Stays Strong

By Dawson Klinger

The Lady Seals Basketball team has run into a tough stretch of games, losing to Susquenita, Shamokin, and Lewisburg (teams with a combined 43-15 record); however, they have continued to play hard and will look to finish out their season on a positive note heading into the District IV playoffs.

Junior Sam Rodkey leads the team in scoring, averaging 11.8 points per game. Senior Emily Breheny leads the team in rebounds per game (8.7) and blocks per game (2.4). At 7-12 overall and 5-9 in the conference, the team has clinched a spot in Districts and is fighting for a higher seed.

"I am excited to see how strongly we finish. A good finish means an even better mindset heading into Districts. We ran into a tough stretch of games recently, but I don't think that defines us as a team," junior captain Savanna Foor commented.

The Lady Seals are young, only three seniors are on the team, so the younger players are gaining positive experience. Sophomore Courtnei Hamm has asserted herself into a starting role this season, with sophomore Marlo Ptacin seeing plenty of minutes off the bench.

The team has performed well in both meetings this season with Central Mountain, coming out with two wins. They were also able to take two wins out of three meetings with Midd-West.

With only a few games left in the regular season, the Lady Seals will hope to finish strong and enter the District IV playoffs with a fighting chance to win.



Photo by Megan Hoffman

The Seals defense proves tough once again.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Brina Romig, Senior

What would you do if there was no more access to your source of education? *I would read a lot more.*

How do you measure your success in school? *Good grades and my friends.*

How do you think public schools differ from private schools in terms of students and atmosphere? *Private schools are more strict and students seem to be more uptight.*

Do you feel high school is going to prepare you for college? *Absolutely, due to the education I have received and how I have learned to deal with social cliques that will arise in college.*

How are you spending Valentine's Day? *At home eating a bucket of ice cream.*



Nick Mendler, Junior

What would you do if there was no more access to your source of education? *I would read books.*

How do you measure your success in school? *By what I get out of school in terms of how much I learn.*

How do you think public schools differ from private schools in terms of students and atmosphere? *In private schools kids seem more focused because it's more of a choice to go to private school while public schools are made up of a broader range of kids with different focuses.*

Do you feel high school is going to prepare you for college? *Yes to a certain extent but the rest is up to you.*

How are you spending Valentine's Day? *Probably just hang out alone.*



Reagan Tull, Sophomore

What would you do if there was no more access to your source of education? *I would sleep.*

How do you measure your success in school? *My grades.*

How do you think public schools differ from private schools in terms of students and atmosphere? *Private schools seem more serious and strict than public schools.*

Do you feel high school is going to prepare you for college? *Yes, because sometimes you have to teach yourself material as you do in college.*

How are you spending Valentine's Day? *With Kaylee Rishell.*



Freshman, Will Switala

What would you do if there was no more access to your source of education? *I would be homeschooled by my mom and dad and possibly take courses online.*

How do you measure your success in school? *By how much respect I've gained from my teachers and friends and what I've learned.*

How do you think public schools differ from private schools in terms of students and atmosphere? *Public school seems to have more diversity of people while private school seems to be one type of person.*

Do you feel high school is going to prepare you for college? *Yes, by taking the classes such as WAGHlish, honors, and AP.*

How are you spending Valentine's Day? *On my computer playing games.*



Valentine's Day Change of Plans

This year I won't be getting a bouquet of flowers or a teddy bear with chocolate from my significant other.

In other words, nothing has changed from my previous year's Valentine's Day. But it's 2016. I came to the conclusion that I'm glad that I'm not being showered in sugary treats, roses, and cards.

This year I have decided to celebrate a different aspect of love: the love of myself. While this sounds conceded, I have realized that this holiday should not only represent the love between two people, but the overlooked piece of loving yourself.

Many people believe that they need someone to trust in, rely on, gain at-

tention from and share affection; however, I believe that no matter what age you are, you do not need a relationship to create self-worth, happiness, or confidence. Valen-

tine's Day is overrated by the never-ending flood of what society deems "love" is.

But as cheesy as it sounds, loving yourself is the most essential element in the powerful emotion of love.



This year I will embrace my single-ness and I urge all of you single people reading this to do the same. This holiday should not be a self-reflection of your loneliness or a feeling that you're not complete without someone else. This holiday is for embracing love, which is what I believe we should do.





My Turn by Isabel Bailey

For now I smooth my shorts over my thighs and grab my towel, while checking inside the flowery bag that I'm a little embarrassed of...because it contains everything I need, everything I'm afraid to forget.

Kate and I both open the sides of the car and I smile at my grandfather, thank him for driving us here. We walk towards the foot bridge that leads to the beach and suddenly I feel like I'm in one of those elementary school books in which the illustrator draws a chaotic scene and labels the buckets, towels, and umbrellas in French.

Mothers sit with their babies by the little pools of water, the runoff from the ocean, their breasts sagging slightly over their stomachs while they pull up the swim trunks of their child and hand them a small purple shovel.

We pass volleyball players, groups of girls and guys that got here early to set up the net, planning to be here until the sun sets, and maybe even longer than that, nursing their bottles of beer before it's time to go home. Older men with baked chests, brown themselves under the unforgiving suns. They lie at an angle in the chairs they've always brought to the beach, dark blue and green striped chairs, the plastic of the legs rusting at the sides.

Cheese curls, Fritos, cokes, salami sandwiches, grapes, and ice cream bars fill up coolers and day packs while mothers offer snacks to their boys, trying to fatten them up a little; she can see his ribs!

Older women lie on their own, their dark pink towels swarming around the oily brown of their legs, the little white scars and sunspots on their skin, like a marble countertop. Their visors tell the story that they really just want to be under the sun, they love the heat against their aging bodies, can even get used to the disturbances of children squealing.

Teenage boys watch girls, the sand in their swimsuits bothering them. They get up, their toned arms flying behind them as they run towards the waves, diving in, but the girls don't notice or even care.

Belly rings glisten on tan girls, their light orange bikinis complementing their sun-streaked brunette locks, their sunglasses hide their eyes so that it looks like the side of a Pepsi can is covering the tops of their face - silver aluminum. The lifeguards tanned neck is spotted between the red of his warm t-shirt to the beginning of his sandy blonde hair.

His hair that is actually brown in the wintertime, he's surprised how fast it got lighter, thankful even.

We put down our towels in one of the open spots, in front of a group of boys and two girls, their radios playing hit songs and advertisements for automobiles. In front of us is a family who has a black blanket spread out with veggie chips and melon, the mother has a sort of light scarf tied around her waist. She and the little boy are reading *Tin-Tin* books in French while the man sits in the chair next to them and half-listens.

Next to us is an older woman sitting upright in her chair, her fingernails gripping a novel, but I can't make out the title. She has buried her feet under the sand and an iced tea perches in the cup holder next to her.

We lie our towels out on the sand, the breeze kicking them back at our feet so that we have to lay them out carefully, folding the corners up to look at the sun. Kate pulls out a lollipop from her bag, crinkling the wrapper in her fist and tossing it back in her bag before lying down on her towel.

I prop myself on the backs of my elbow, face up, scanning the shore, witnessing the waves. They come crashing down hard and fast on the people, while foam rumbles along the sand. I want to go in, but the waves look threatening, larger than life. Kate says how hot it is, and I tell her we should go in the ocean.

"In a minute," she says, the lollipop hanging on the side of her mouth. She has her t-shirt thrown over her eyes to shield the sun, and her long skinny legs are draped over her towel. I lie down, throw my t-shirt over my eyes, and move my back so that it eases into the grooves of the sand.

The noises on the beach are so close, yet they feel distant, like a murmur you know you are surrounded by. I can hear the mother speaking in French like a light wave coming up to my ear, and the boys music ricocheting in my ear. I wonder what I look like on this towel, what it would look like if a helicopter took a picture of all of us at this beach; all sharing this vulnerable side of ourselves so that it didn't matter - so much so that standing in the snack-shack line almost naked was okay, almost freeing.

When I open my eyes again I realize that Kate is up, her hands wrapped around her knees, watching the boats out on the horizon. We decide to go in, walking towards the waves and then running, laughing at ourselves as the sand is so hot it burns our feet.