



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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Transgender Rights Fight

Maegan Bogetti

Almost 300 Selinsgrove students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members packed the Selinsgrove Area Middle School on November 30, to attend a public forum addressing the district's policy regarding the rights of transgender students to use the restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity - and the discussion did not end at the conclusion of the school board meeting.

In mid-October, the district administration sent out a letter informing parents of the district's compliance with Title IX, with an official announcement given on October 17. Even though the announcement was not made immediately, the district had been following the policy's interpretation under the direction of superintendent Chad Cohrs, without a vote from the school board.

Defined by the NCAA, Title IX is "a federal law that states: 'No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.'"

The November 30 public forum was filled with discussion and debate from people on both sides of the conversation - those supporting the rights of the transgender students and the district's decision to comply with Title IX, and those in disagreement.

Superintendent Cohrs stated at the meeting, "If the Supreme Court changes the interpretation, the board could revisit the issue again. It is not policy; it is

procedure based on the current legal interpretation."

One Selinsgrove student who attended and spoke at the meeting was



Photo by Owen Moyer

Sophomore, Chris Kalcich desires to be treated like everyone else in the school.

sophomore Chris Kalcich. Chris is a transgender student who has had first-hand personal experience with those supporting his use of facilities matching his gender identity, and those confronting him with backlash directly. Regarding the forum, Chris said, "I was surprised. I was expecting a lot more hate from adults, but there were several who went up there and supported us."

Chris explained how the public forum shone a spotlight on the recent discussion and how that spotlight has affected him directly. "Students have been a lot more vocal lately with what they're saying," Chris said. Chris described how attention to the topic has engendered an outcry from his peers and older members in the community, saying, "before I wouldn't get hate in school, but now I'm having students call me thing like "tranny freak" or "it". On the other hand, I've had several parents and older community members approach me and tell me I'm very brave for standing up for what I believe to be right."



Article continued on the next page

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Sports Editor: Dawson Klinger

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Graphics Editor: Sydney Reibschied

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 Thursday January 5th, in Room 222. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

Transgender Rights Fight continued...

Although the debate was expected to continue into the New Year, at the January school board meeting, the District announced in early December that they had finalized their decision. They will comply with Title IX, which the board interpreted in June to include rights for transgender students.



Selinsgrove's transgender issues and policies have garnered attention throughout the valley, including extensive coverage in the *Daily Item*.

Though it's a victory for supporters of the district's policy, Chris still fears for himself and peers that he will not be treated with respect. Kalcich has suffered continuous personal attacks from those who do not support the measure or transgender rights, and backlash from speaking out. He described how some students still refer to him as a girl, "even though [he changes] in the guy's locker room."

"Before the forum," Kalcich said, "I could just walk into a bathroom without

anyone saying anything. Now if I say I have to go to the bathroom and someone overhears, they get defensive. I felt almost safe before the forum and now that a big deal has been made about it, I honestly feel terrified."

Much of the resistance from the community and nation has been based upon the concern that any student or individual could choose to abuse the title's interpretation and use whatever facilities they choose, possibly resulting in abuse or violence. The general response from the transgender community and supporters has been defining that being transgender is *not* synonymous with being pedophilic, threatening, or harmful. Many who are against the measure also worry about their own right to privacy.

Yet, many believe that the transgender students would face more harm being forced to use the restroom opposite their identity than they would pose to others using the same facilities as them. Hate crimes against members of the transgender community are staggeringly significant. In 2015, the Human Rights Campaign found that at least 21 deaths of transgender people were due to fatal violence, and 21 more transgender deaths due to violence were recorded in 2016, as of October.

Chris Kalcich says in regards to the transgender students, individuals, and community: "People are saying we want special treatment. We don't. We only want equal treatment."

Band Concert Brings Holiday Cheer

By Kiana Brubaker

On Thursday, December 15, at seven o'clock, Selinsgrove Area High School and Middle School bands performed a joint winter concert together at the Selinsgrove Area Middle School.

During the second half of the performance, the High School band played the pieces: "Triumphant Fanfare", "With Quiet Courage", "The Holly and The Ivy", "Happy Xmas", and "Christmas Declaration." These pieces included two solo performances played by Selinsgrove's very own talented students.

"With Quiet Courage," written by Larry Daehn, is a moving piece that he wrote about his ill wife who passed away. It's about her struggle fighting leukemia, and as hinted in the song title, the courage it took her to finally let go and be at peace. This piece featured a solo performed on the trumpet by Senior William Lapetina.

"Happy Xmas" also featured three soloists; junior Angela Reigle, sophomore Spencer Cook, and freshmen Becca

Sharpless. Both Angela and Becca performed clarinet solos, while Spencer had a trumpet solo. This upbeat Christmas hit by John Lennon was well received by the audience as the concert was nearing an end.

The night ended with a combined piece between the middle school and high school bands. They performed the well-known song, "Joy to the World." It is an exciting experience for the middle school students to be able to play next to experienced high school students.

Looking back at the concert, junior Sarah Van commented, "The concert went really well. It sounded great, and we're going to have a really nice turnout of eighth graders next year." Will had the same view as Sarah, reflecting, "All the work was worth it."

The winter concert is the first of two concerts performed by Selinsgrove Area High School concert band, with the next show coming in the spring.



Photo by Owen Moyer

TSA Takes On Regional Competition

By Liz Whitmer

On January 28, 2017, the Selinsgrove Area High School's Technology Student Association (TSA) under advisement of Mr. John Aument and Mr. John Jarrett, is competing against other schools in Region 7.

TSA not only allows students to work with computers, but it also teaches them what happens behind the scenes in the technology we use every day and helps them achieve better problem solving skills.



TSA advisers, Mr. Aument and Mr. Jarrett prepare for another hands-on demonstration.

The vice president of TSA, sophomore, Miranda Beaver is pleased with the experiences she has gained from TSA in the two years she's been involved and said, "before I joined [TSA], I didn't know anything about computers or what went into

making them, but my first competition last year really opened my eyes to how complex the technology we take for granted is."

Selinsgrove members of TSA will be competing against other schools in Region 7 including Midd-West, Warrior Run, Shikellamy, and Line Mountain at Mifflinburg Area High School at 8:00am on January 28.

The events available for students competing range from making a dress to designing your own website and there's something that can appeal to everyone. Judges will grade the entries that are turned in by an individual or group of TSA members from the same school, thus gaining points for the students and their school.

Not only are there hands-on projects for the students to create for the judges, but the entire day of the competition is also based upon intense problem solving to get the best possible score for the members' school.

The TSA Regional competition helps all students in every aspect of their lives and allows them to continue to grow as students.

Aleppo Crisis Continues in Syria

By: Savanna Foor

The Syrian city of Aleppo continues to be contained by rebels, while civilians (including thousands of children) still try to flee.

The Syrian internal conflict has been going on since July of 2012. The recent air strikes and recapture of the city of Aleppo is a result of the rebels blocking supply lines back in July 2016. Many groups from the government and the rebel forces are involved in the fighting.

This past weekend, several buses were burned by the retaliation that were supposed to be taking hostages out of Aleppo. Without this transportation, the civilians have no way of escaping the fighting.

The majority of the city is in ruins, shelter is limited, and the people are trapped hiding underground. With air strikes occurring almost daily, if the children and other citizens do not escape now, death will come sooner rather than later.



Medical and food supply lines to the people within Aleppo are also limited. It is estimated that over 31,000 people have died in the Battle of Aleppo. According to UNICEF, approximately 21% of those deaths are children. Thousands of children are now orphans due to their parents either being killed or captured.



Children of Aleppo face daily death and torment

Weather is also an issue, as colder temperatures touch the country and many of the citizens are without proper clothing or protection from the elements. Major news broadcasting stations have received videos of the children of Aleppo begging for help and the creation of a safe haven.

It is evident that Aleppo needs immediate help to save its citizens. The following website was created by UNICEFUSA in order to accept donations to provide sanctuary for the people:

<https://www.unicefusa.org/>

SPORTS

Boys' Basketball is Booming

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove boys' basketball season is officially underway, and the Seals have started off with an impressive 2-1 record in the first three games of the 2016-17 season including some important wins.

As expected, senior Hunter George has been off to a phenomenal start. His height underneath the basket is an obvious force that teams can't seem to stop. George has averaged 19.6 points in three games.

Against Midd-West (a 72-22 win), George equaled the entire offensive output of Midd-West alone, by racking up 22 points. Another threat for the Seals is senior point guard Brice Harro. Harro's vision and fantastic ball handling has been key in creating plays for the Seals in transition. He is averaging six points per game for the Seals, with quite a few assists as well.

Keep an eye out on the junior duo of Thomas Kerstetter and Tony Dressler. Both are outstanding players who will look to create and score points, as well as do the dirty work on the defensive end.

The Seals took third in the annual season opening tournament at Berwick High School. They fell short to Wyoming Seminary in the first game of the tournament, losing 61-55. The next day, the team took on the Tigers of Southern Columbia, which resulted in their first win of the season, 51-37.

The Seals had their first home and league game on Tuesday, Decem-

ber 13, handling Midd-West without much of a problem. They followed that up with a come-from-behind victory at Shikellamy High School this past Friday night.



Senior "Big Man", Hunter George sinks one of many foul shots against Midd-West.

When asked about how this good start will affect the next few games of the season, junior Drew Gabrielson stated "I'm excited about how the season has started for us, and we are always looking to get better in practice and compete with all the teams on our schedule".

The Selinsgrove boys' basketball team will be back in action away on December 20th against the Lewisburg Green Dragons.

Seals Bowling Anxiously Waiting

By Keanan Wolf

Despite the Bowling team having their first match on December 17 cancelled, they continue to work hard in practice in preparation for another run at a state title.

Junior Nicole Mark summed up the general feeling of the team: "As the practices keep going I feel both the guys and the girls' team are becoming more rounded as a unit. We all feel very confident and prepared for our first match."

These extra practices give players such as senior Preston Ziegler and junior Piper Klinger chances to really expand their skills. Preston is a key player for the boys' team while Piper has already proved her abilities in past years for the girls.

Head coaches Jeff Herman and Karen Herman have put a lot of time and effort into making sure that

this year's Seals bowling team performs well when their time comes. "We have amazing coaches and we really do owe all our success to them. They are a huge help to us and we really couldn't do it without them." said junior Piper Klinger.

The Seals are going to have to wait a few weeks until they can play in their first match on January 7 against Lewisburg High School at the Best Bowl Lanes on Route 522.



Ashley Naugle, Piper Klinger, Kailey Cigic, Nicole Mark, and Kathryn Zeager show off their flashy Seals Bowling uniforms

Senior Seals Leaders Scorch Opponents

By Dawson Klinger

The Lady Seals basketball team is now 3-1, with their latest win coming over talented cross-river rivals Shikellamy on December 14.

Seniors Samantha Rodkey and Savanna Foor led the way against Shikellamy, combining for 30 of the 43 points, and 20 rebounds. Rodkey also got it done on the defensive end with three steals. Sophomore Anna Piecuch had a major impact in this contest, scoring 10 points and pulling down seven rebounds herself.

After the game against Shik, Foor commented on the team's performance by saying, "The team had great communication. Our defense was much better tonight. We won the Rally in the Valley, you can't ask for more." This was a marquee win for the Lady Seals, one that they can look back on and realize how good they can be this season.

Thus far, Rodkey has been running the offense, leading the team in points and assists. As a team, the Lady Seals have been stout on the defensive end, allowing just 36 points per game through four games. Freshman Emily Swineford has been a nice addition to the roster, logging a consistent amount of playing time each game.

Against Midd-West in the team's opening tournament, Swineford scored 13 points en route to the Seal's first win of the season. Since their loss to Southern Columbia in season opener, the Lady Seals have ripped off three straight wins against some quality opponents they may see again during the playoffs.

The Lady Seals basketball team will play at home on Thursday, December 22, at 7:30pm in the Elementary School against Southern Columbia High School.



Senior, "Slammin'" Sam Rodkey throws a lob pass to teammate Senior Savanna Foor in the team's win over Shikellamy.

Wrestling Season Strong for Individuals

By Marley Sprenkel

The Selinsgrove Wrestling team opened their season against a very powerful Central Mountain squad on December 14, which allowed several wrestlers to notch their first individual wins of the season.

The final score of the match was 50-21, with the Wildcats taking the win; however, Selinsgrove senior Garrett Campbell earned his first win of the season, coming out on top in the 170-pound weight class. Following Campbell, senior Bryce Reichenbach won the 132-pound weight class, sophomore Blaise Zeiders won the 195-pound weight class, and junior Adam Ritter got a pin for the win in the 220-pound weight class.

When asked how the season is going, Zeiders could only think of encouraging things to say, "It's going great so far." Zeiders explained how they work hard in the mat room and this team is one of the best they have had. "Campbell and Reichenbach really push us to be the best conditioned team in the area, and it's great".

The next home match will be against Williamsport High School on December 22, in the high school gym, starting at 7 pm.



Photo by Megan Hoffman



Photo by Megan Hoffman



Photo by Megan Hoffman

Photos from top to bottom: 1. The team warms up prior to the Central Mountain match. 2. Senior Garrett Campbell about to throw his opponent. 3. Junior Hunter Croman grapples with his rival

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Carly Winn, Senior

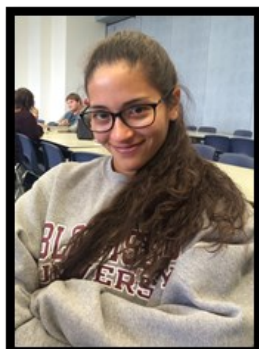
If you could go to any school in our area, besides Selinsgrove, which school would you choose? *Shikellamy.*

What is your favorite type of Christmas cookie? *Snickerdoodle.*

What gift do you hope to get for the holidays this year? *Colorful jeans.*

What would you choose to have a pep-rally for? *Field-hockey.*

If you could hack into anyone's email account, whose would it be? *Lana Del Rey's.*



Akeeam Ruhl, Junior

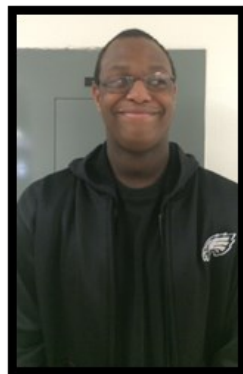
If you could go to any school in our area, besides Selinsgrove, which school would you choose? *Shikellamy.*

What is your favorite type of Christmas cookie? *Peanut-butter.*

What gift do you hope to get for the holidays this year? *Snow... Let it snow, let it snow.*

What would you choose to have a pep-rally for? *Shikellamy.*

If you could hack into anyone's email account, whose would it be? *Ricky Drum's.*



Trinity Marencik, Sophomore

If you could go to any school in our area, besides Selinsgrove, which school would you choose? *Milton.*

What is your favorite type of Christmas cookie? *Forgotten cookies.*

What gift do you hope to get for the holidays this year? *Fuzzy socks.*

What would you choose to have a pep-rally for? *Halloween.*

If you could hack into anyone's email account, whose would it be? *Mackenzie Brown's.*



Thomas Barajas, Freshmen

If you could go to any school in our area, besides Selinsgrove, which school would you choose? *Shikellamy.*

What is your favorite type of Christmas cookie? *Gingerbread.*

What gift do you hope to get for the holidays this year? *Books.*

What would you choose to have a pep-rally for? *Football.*

If you could hack into anyone's email account, whose would it be? *Quinn Tomko's.*



Two Things I Would Like for Christmas This Year....

By Nina Yang

“...no homework and food.”

“...transgender rights across the country and a music stand.”

“...happiness and clothes.”

“...stopping Muslim discrimination and a turntable.”

“...world peace and some art supplies.”

“...to win the Selinsgrove Basketball District Championship and a motorcycle.”

“...equality and two front teeth.”

“...to stop discrimination against Muslims and a Mac-Book.”

“...equality for “Black Lives Matter” and money.”

“...world domination and a hoodie.”

“...to have my dad attend one of my concerts and Overwatch.”



Mya Billheim
Freshmen

"The two things I want for Christmas are world peace and boots."



Skyler Landis
Freshmen

"The two things I would like for Christmas are love and a rifle."



Reasonable Resolutions for 2017

By Sydney Reibschied

As 2017 is approaching and 2016 is ending, it is a great time to think about a New Year's resolution that will better your life. Here are five resolutions that I believe, if followed, can make for a wonderful 2017.

Become confident—whether it is becoming comfortable speaking publicly or becoming more body-positive, the New Year can allow you to change your mindset. Confidence is a characteristic that many people have a hard time attaining, but with a change in attitude, 2017 might be the year you can feel comfortable in your own skin, helping you to become more self-reliant.

Become more kind—kindness has become a forgotten characteristic in the past year and many people tend to forget this basic part of society. Be mindful about respecting others, caring for others, and supporting those around you.

Remove negativity from your life—with negativity looming around in the form of negative people or situations, your life can become twice as stressful.

Remove this negativity in the New Year by taking a new focus progressing towards the betterment of yourself rather than having others influence your life in the wrong way.

Spend less time on social media—technology has become integrated in every aspect of teenage life. While it is important to stay in touch with friends and family, try to avoid checking Twitter and Facebook to see who went to dinner at Applebee's and who is watching what program on TV. Instead, try to have an actual conversation that will improve social skills and help you connect with people on a different level.

Master something—this year, try something new, perhaps you'll find what you are truly passionate about. Take a cooking class, learn pottery, teach yourself how to play the violin, learn about politics, or study 14th century art. Finding a true passion is something that people struggle with their whole lives. In the New Year, you can gain a new skill or knowledge that can spark the meaning of your future.





My Turn by Isabel Bailey

I am in New York City right now looking out my grandfather's apartment window. I see the black of the night and a million other square windows with yellow patches of light. I wonder who is behind that light?

Earlier today I was sitting around the table with my family and I asked them which phrase—"Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays"—is more appropriate to say. Meanwhile, the Christmas tree sat behind us in my uncle's apartment and we had already exchanged early Christmas gifts.

After some consideration, my aunt said that she typically asks people she works with what they celebrate before saying one phrase or the other. My grandmother offered that it would be nice if people used whatever greeting they were affiliated with (if you are Christian and say "Merry Christmas" to a Jewish person, they could say "Happy Hanukkah" back).

My Uncle said "Happy Holidays" felt rather plain, and that in a way it was tossing out the specialness of "Happy Kwanzaa" or "Merry Christmas". My brother said that there is a larger picture. In his view, "Happy Holidays" recognizes that not everybody in America shares the same cultural and religious narrative.

My grandfather had a hard time imagining anyone would actually care either way.

Tonight, I went to see the

Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center. Thousands of other people were there as well, surrounding the skating rink, though I can't imagine they all celebrate Christmas. Yet they, too, were there taking pictures while Christmas music sounded through the crowd.

It felt magical, partly because of the energetic atmosphere of the city, but also because we were all strangers amongst each other sharing a Christmas spirit. That spirit is not exclusive to those who celebrate Christmas—it is an energy passed down from the millions of colored lights wrapped brightly around the tree to the people who stand below watching the skaters and listening to "All I Want for Christmas is You."

Perhaps it is slightly superficial in some ways, but it is also fun. It wasn't about celebrating one type of holiday, it was about celebrating people, and the spirit we can bring to each other.

Perhaps what it means to say "Merry Christmas" is not so much forcing a certain narrative on another person, as much as it is the sharing of a happy spirit from one to another. "Happy Holidays" seems generic and neither here nor there. It doesn't have the same ring or the same feeling. It doesn't come from any experience or culture.

Saying "Happy Hanukkah," "Merry Christmas," or "Happy Kwanzaa" is a way to include each other in our differences. It's an offering from one city window to another.



The iconic Rockefeller Christmas Tree—a New York City legend

