



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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FFA Big Plans for the Week

By Nathan Moyer

The Selinsgrove FFA has a jam-packed week of activities planned for Selinsgrove Area High School this week to celebrate National FFA Week.

Beginning on February 18, and lasting until February 25, National FFA Week celebrates the National FFA Organization and chapters around the nation celebrate through activities, fundraisers, and awareness events. Selinsgrove is sponsoring various events for the

entire student body happening throughout the week.

There are two major events that occur all week long: a kiss-a-pig contest, and a duct tape fundraiser. All students received an email regarding the pig contest. Six staff members have volunteered to kiss a pig: Mr. Switala, Mrs. Walters-Zimmerman, Mr. Moyer, Ms. Robbins, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Yoder.

There will be boxes labeled with their pictures in front of the main office all week. In order to vote for a teacher, place a non-perishable food item into the box. At the end of the week, the teacher with the most food items will have to kiss a pig in front of the student body.

Additionally, look for FFA members every day at lunch to buy duct tape in order to tape Principal Parise and Vice Principal Roman to a wall. A student may buy one piece for \$1 or 5 pieces for \$4. Sales will occur every day. At the end of the week, they will be taped to the wall in front of the school body.

All food collected will be donated to Meals-for-Seals, and the money raised will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

On Tuesday (today), students are encouraged to look on their cars after school. FFA members will be placing a single sticky note on random cars in the parking lot. If they find a note and bring it to the agricultural wing, they will win a

prize. Students should also notice the FFA sticky note display in the library and office windows.

Wednesday at lunch, look for members stationed at a table in the lobby. Students can participate in various guessing games, such as guessing the number of soybeans in the jar and how heavy a hay bale is. After school, students are encouraged to bring their family and friends to dine at Texas Roadhouse from

3-10pm. There will be a flyer sent through student email that allows 10% of the bill to benefit the Selinsgrove FFA chapter.

Students may pick up a half sheet hanging around the school, print the PDF out, or show the server the flyer from their phone.

Thursday morning there will be a faculty and staff appreciation breakfast. All teachers and staff are invited to join the FFA members in the faculty lounge from 7:30am-8:10am for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast.

On Friday, February 24, students and staff are encouraged to wear blue and gold to support FFA, and results from the kiss-a-pig and duct tape contests will be revealed. At the end of the day, there will be an assembly to present the results in front of the entire student body. Also planned are other surprise activities to get students and teachers involved at the assembly.



Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

News Editors: Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

Sports Editor: Dawson Klinger

Opinion/Editorial Editor: Isabel Bailey

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 March 2nd in Room 222. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

Upcoming Dance bound to be a “Blast”

By Anna Piecuch

On March 25th, the National Honor Society will hold a “Blast from the Past” dance in the high school cafeteria from 7pm to 10:30pm. The admission fee will be \$3 per person or \$5 per couple; free entry will be given to anyone with an item to donate towards Women in Transition.

All students are encouraged to dress from any past decade, such as a flapper, an “80’s Valley Girl,” or even a “90’s Grunge Rocker.”

There will be music from many past decades, but mainly music from between 2000-2010 will be played. Free food and drinks will be provided for all students and will coincide with the arrival of the visitors from Japan in late March.

“A couple of years ago, two students also held a dance for Women in Transition for their grad project, and I thought that it would be a good fundraiser for the NHS,” says senior Dan Napsha, the secretary of the National Honor Society. “It’s a way for people to have fun for a good cause!”

All money and donations raised from the dance will benefit Women in Transition, which is a domestic-violence advocacy group.

Donations that are accepted by Women in Transition include laundry detergent, Clorox wipes, shampoo, conditioner,

bar soap, new socks, duct tape, blankets for single or full beds, and gift cards from Weis Markets, Giant, Wal-Mart or Sheetz.

Be sure to check out posters around the school to see an entire list of possible donation items.

Blast From The Past!

*A school dance to benefit
Transitions of PA*

**Featuring all of your
favorite music**

**MARCH 25, 2017
7 - 10:30 p.m.**

**\$3 per person, \$5 per couple
or **free**
with an item donation!**

Get Creative with Literary Arts Club

By Kiana Brubaker

The Selinsgrove Literary Arts Club has been reestablished and is looking for submissions to its Literary Journal that will be digitally published this year by the club.

The Literary Arts Club encourages anyone to submit a piece to the journal; submitters do not need to be a member of the club. English teacher Mrs. Frantz, the advisor of the club, stressed that “everybody’s work is accepted. The only circumstance under which a piece would not be entered into the journal is if it is extreme in its content.”

The journal is an accepting place for students to share their work, pieces that they typically would not have had the opportunity to share. A common misconception about the Literary Arts Club is that it is only for writers, but in actuality, the objective of the journal is to create an

outlet for students of all abilities.

Mrs. Frantz expounded that when “the Selinsgrove High School had this club a few years ago, before I went to the Middle School, it published poetry, prose, fiction, and non-fiction. It was also open to art submissions. It was basically, anything that could be put in a book. It ranged from photography, drawing, and painting to musical pieces such as lyrics and compositions.”

A website is currently being produced by the Literary Arts Club and will hopefully be online soon for students to submit their works. Digital turn-ins are preferred but there will also be a drop-box and submission forms available near the entrance of the library.

The journal will only be published digitally this year. Next year, the officers and the club are planning to fund-raise and find donations so that they are able to produce physical editions.

The elected officers of this newly reestablished club are sophomores Maegan Bogetti as President, Anna Piecuch as Vice-President, Kiana Brubaker as Treasurer, Owen Moyer as Secretary, and junior Allie Walters as Historian.

Maegan Bogetti believes that “at Selinsgrove, there is definitely an abundance of talented people, whether that talent be in writing, art, photography, music, or other outlets. With a literary arts journal, we finally have a means to showcase that talent. I highly encourage people across the school to support and contribute to this returning club.”

The club encourages any student to take the opportunity to share a piece of themselves through their work.



Photo by
Kiana
Brubaker

Vice president Anna Piecuch and president Maegan Bogetti, colored pencils and books in hand, embrace the creative side of the Literary Arts Club.

Speaking of Selinsgrove Forensics...

By Maegan Bogetti

On Saturday, February 18, the Selinsgrove Forensics Team competed in the Pennsylvania High School Speech League (PHSSL) District 9 State Qualifier Tournament at Danville Area High School, where team members competed in several events in an attempt to qualify for the upcoming State Tournament at Bloomsburg University in March.

Although no one from Selinsgrove was able to finish in the first or second place spot required to move on, the team will use the experience to better prepare for an additional shot at high-level competition as a qualifier for the National Tournament is just around the corner.



The Selinsgrove Forensics Team, prior to their home competition in January, including students from all grade levels and advisors Madame Bunting-Specht and Mr. Gessel.

Sophomore Grant Rowe, who competes in duo interpretation, explained, "Even though none of us qualified, the whole team is really happy with the pro-

gress we have made since the beginning of the season."

The 2017 National Tournament is in Birmingham, Alabama from June 18-23. In order to qualify, entrants must place first through fourth at the qualifying tournament. Some competitors will be busy practicing their pieces for the event in the upcoming weeks, while others will use the time to research and prepare for a new topic in their debating event.

The forensics team grew in numbers this year, much to the delight of the coaches, Madame Bunting-Specht and Mr. Gessel. Whether it be competing in dramatic interpretation, extemporaneous speaking, public forum, parliamentary, or Lincoln-Douglass debate, participation offers opportunities to earn college scholarships, improve public speaking or research skills, and meet new people.

Students establish new teen center

Daniel Napsha

In a small town like Selinsgrove, there oftentimes seems like there are few things to keep teenagers occupied; however, there is a new endeavor underway attempting to solve that problem by improving the community with a new recreational space in town.

Freshman Gina Twilley, sophomore Owen Feiler, along with juniors Brooke Kerstetter and Brandy Inch, have worked hard to get the project up and running. At weekly planning meetings with director Kelly Feiler, the students add their perspective on how the space would best serve the community.

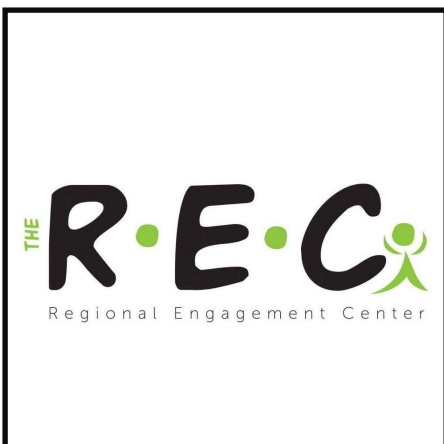
On weekends, it will be a space for high school kids to hang out. Ideas for a movie night or a glow party, for instance, were thrown around.

Taking notes from similar community spaces in nearby towns, the REC hopes to provide space for teens to hang out after school and work on homework. According to Gina, they "plan on having a café, a small library, and maybe an art room."

Organizers hope the café will teach young people business skills, but there will be opportunities for people with all interests. Brooke is looking forward to helping kids with their homework at the REC, which gives older teens an opportunity to serve as mentors, and ultimately, find a purpose.

Students have been out and about for the project. On February 11, they hosted a book drive for the REC's library and far exceed their 150-book goal. Currently, they are looking for donations of any kind, specifically from businesses that would help furnish the building.

The REC will recycle the fire-damaged Christ United Methodist Church in Selinsgrove after its renovation. Located at 439 N. Eighth Street, Selinsgrove, the organizers plan on opening their doors this summer or fall.



It will have "different programs catered to different age groups," Brooke says, "including time set aside for elementary kids to get help with homework."

Fifteen-Year-Old Unknown Hero

By Liz Whitmer

During February, Black History Month, many important, revolutionary figures are forgotten despite their important accomplishments and achievements.

Everyone knows the stories of Harriet Tubman and Fredrick Douglass, have memorized parts of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech, and we are all still reaping the rewards of George Washington Carver's creation of peanut butter; however, there are other figures of importance that need to be remembered.

Nine months before Rosa Parks was arrested for defying bus segregation and changed the course of African American history forever, 15-year old Claudette Colvin was arrested for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, stating, "It's my constitutional right to sit here."

Colvin was a bright, young woman with aspirations to become the President of the United States. She was standing up for every African American person, not only in the town of Montgomery, Alabama where this act of defiance occurred, but also for people nationwide.

She was channeling the courage and strength of previous African American heroes to give her the power to fight for what she knew was right.

She stayed in her seat nine months before Rosa Parks, but Parks is the only one who received recognition in

our history books. Even though the African American community has gained equal rights and freedoms, there are still some things that are deemed unacceptable for the public.

Colvin was not only intelligent and persistent, but she was also snarky and feisty, and many people felt as though a teen with that kind of personality would cast a negative light on African Americans and their equal rights movement. She was rejected and soon forgotten because she was told to keep her mouth closed simply because of her age and passion.

Several historians have admitted Rosa Parks wouldn't have gotten such an immense amount of support if Colvin hadn't taken a stand first.



Claudette Colvin at 15 years old, the age at which she was arrested.

Claudette Colvin started a spark within the African American community in 1955, when she exercised her constitutional rights, and it spread like wildfire. A girl young enough to be a freshman in high school made a difference in American history, but never received the recognition she deserved.

She inspired Rosa Parks and thousands of other African American individuals who were tired of being oppressed, but needed someone to take the leap of faith for them.

Although Claudette Colvin isn't recognized enough in our modern history lessons, every American is still rewarded by the revolution she began 62 years ago as a 15-year old.

Secretary of Education Controversy

By: Savanna Foor

President Donald Trump's recent decision to appoint Betsy DeVos as Secretary of Education has sparked an enormous amount of controversy around the country and only time will tell if the negative backlash to her nomination was warranted.

President Trump's education platform throughout the campaign was centered on expanding school choices. He promised to spend nearly \$20 billion for the school systems, but Congress might stand in his way.

Teachers unions around the country say that DeVos is highly unqualified due to her lack of experience, the fact that she has no school children, and has strongly advocated for private and charter schools throughout her apparent "short" history in this field. Many government officials praise her for her drive to create a more rigid and elite education system.

Some of the main points that President Trump and Secretary DeVos will focus on first are the federal K-12 law, bullying on school campuses, and whether or not to keep Michelle Obama's previous regulations for school lunches.

Officials say that President Trump is considering wiping clean former President Obama's heavily crafted Every Student Succeeds Act due to its funding capabilities and regulations. The federal K-12 Act ensures accountability and testing, teacher qualification, special education, and English-language tutoring.

Finally, many Republican officials claim that the heavy regulations to make school lunches more nutritious created during First Lady Michelle Obama's time are too outrageous, unnecessary, and expensive. The leaders now argue that government officials should not have a say in a student's dietary needs or actions, instead this should be taken up at the state or local level.

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SPORTS

First League Championship for Bball

By Sam Rodkey

The Selinsgrove boys' basketball team (18-5) garnered a regular season PHAC Division I Championship last week with a win over Shamokin High School, the first in school history.

On Thursday, February 16, the team traveled to Shikellamy to compete in the HAC league tournament. The Seals were matched up with the HAC 3 champions, the Central Columbia Blue Jays. The Seals were down by as many as 12 points going into the fourth quarter, but they continued fighting back like they had all night.

With a minute to go, it was all tied up 50-50. After a missed shot by the Seals and a foul with 3.3 seconds left, the Blue Jays made both free throws and the Seals fell short of playing in the HAC championship with the final score of 50-52.

Senior Brice Harro led with 12 points while junior Tony Dressler chucked in 11 points for the Seals. Junior Ricky Cope played phenomenal defense for Selinsgrove as they went on a 16-point run in the fourth quarter.

Ricky Cope summed up the feeling on the team, "It is frustrating to lose a game that close, but we are going to learn from it and prepare for districts". The Seals still have a District Tournament to compete in and hopefully win.

Selinsgrove enters the District Tourney as the top seeded team, giving them the opportunity to play in the Seal Dome one last time this year. That game will take place at 7pm against Montoursville High School this Friday evening at SAHS.



Junior Thomas Kerstetter runs the offense against Central Columbia during the HAC Semi-Final game.

Lady Seals Soar into Districts

By Dawson Klinger

The Lady Seals basketball team is entering the district playoffs as a team ready to compete and will be tested on Thursday, February 23 against Mifflinburg High School.



Junior Courtni Hamm goes for a rebound against Midd-West last week.

The team finished the regular season playing well and has had over two weeks to prepare for the first district game, getting some much needed rest and extra reps in practice.

After finishing 12-10 overall, with a league record of 4-7, they are heading into districts as the sixth seed, matching up with a tough third seeded opponent in Mifflinburg. The team already

played Mifflinburg earlier this season, where they fell 65-37.

Since then, the Lady Seals have improved greatly and are playing better basketball. Senior guards Savanna Foor and Sam Rodkey led the team in scoring, and provided much needed leadership to a team with some young players. Junior Courtni Hamm led the team in rebounding and was a standout on the defensive end.

Sophomore Marley Sprenkel started to come on towards the end of the season with her scoring, gaining more and more confidence each game. If these key players are all at their best, the Lady Seals will be tough to beat in the playoffs.

When asked about the team's chances in the playoffs, Savanna Foor responded, "We have worked extremely hard to get here, and we are not looking to get out early. If everyone plays their role and plays hard, we can compete with anyone".

Be sure to check out the Lady Seals on Thursday, February 23 against Mifflinburg at Mifflinburg High School.

Seals Bowling Wraps up Season

By Keanan Wolf

After a rough start to their season the Seals Bowling teams hit their stride and found winning ways, finishing in the top-10 in the league.

At the League Tournament, the team had some impressive individual performances by members of both the girls' and the boys' teams. For the girls', junior Piper Klinger bowled an impressive game of 223 and finished with a three-game total of 541. For the boys', the top performer was junior Nick Heimbach. He bowled the boys' second highest score of the night with a 180 and had the highest three game total with 485.

Overall the boys' finished with a team accumulative score of 2,102 and placed eighth. The girls' team placed fifth and bowled an accumulative team score of 2,374. The girls notably placed above Mifflinburg and Lewisburg who have been very good this year.

With the season coming to an end for most of the team, junior Nicole Mark

commented, "we've had some ups and downs as a team this year, but we have had some impressive individual performances".

The only bowler still competing is junior Piper Klinger, who qualified to roll at the Singles Regionals Tournament on March 3.



Seals Bowlers make a triple threat during a recent home bowling match in Selinsgrove.

Fravel Sets Epic Pool Record

By Megan Keeney

While competing at the Susquehanna University pool, senior Olivia Fravel broke the pool record with an outstanding time of 2 minutes and 25.1 seconds in the 200-meter breaststroke during the final regular season meet of the year.

Olivia was ecstatic about her new record, saying "I am so excited to hold a pool record as a senior in high school. I've worked hard all season to improve my times and with districts coming up soon, we are training really hard in the next two weeks to prepare ourselves (for districts)."

Olivia's swim was epic because her time was faster than anyone else has ever completed the 200m breaststroke at SU, including all collegiate athletes. Olivia plans to continue her swimming and aca-

demic career in college.

The Selinsgrove swimming team has three representatives: senior Olivia Fravel, sophomore Sarah Fravel, and junior Olivia Lee. All three Selinsgrove swimmers qualified to compete at districts, which will be held at Williamsport High School on March 1 and 2. Each member qualified in two events, with Olivia Lee qualifying in the 100m fly and 100m backstroke, Olivia Fravel in the 100m breaststroke and 200 IM, and Sarah Fravel qualifying for the 100m freestyle and 50m freestyle.

As their season comes to a close, the Selinsgrove Swimming team is ready to compete with the other schools at the District meet and at the State Championship which will begin on March 15, at the Bucknell University Natatorium in Lewisburg.



Swimmers Sarah Fravel, Olivia Lee, and Olivia Fravel after practice at Susquehanna University.

Wrestling Enters the Second Season

By Marley Sprenkel

The regular season for the Seals wrestling team went very well, but their second season, the District and State Tournaments, has just begun.

Based on the results from dual matches and tournaments throughout the season, seniors Garrett Campbell and Bryce Reichenbach, as well as sophomore Shawn Matthews have better than average opportunities to win their weight class during the district matches.

In addition to Matthews, Reichenbach, and Campbell, sophomore Blaise Zeiders and junior Adam Ritter have had a great stretch of matches this year, winning most of their matches by pin. Senior Justin Schooley has also been successful throughout Selinsgrove's season.

When asked what the most im-

portant thing to be ready for districts would be, Zeiders replied that the key is "everyone needs to stay focused and to practice hard. Practicing for weeks without a match can be tiring, and just makes everyone eager to get to the matches".

This year's team has shown throughout the regular season that they have individuals talented enough to make a run in districts.



Sophomore Blaise Zeiders battles in his match against a Lewisburg wrestler.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Austin Rankin, Senior

On a scale from one to ten, how much butter do you put on your popcorn? *0*

What throwback song do you want to be played at the March 25th *Blast From the Past* dance? *"Smash Mouth."*

If you had to dye your hair, which color would you choose? *Baby blue.*

If you were a punctuation mark, what would you be? *A question mark.*

What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment? *Cooking Uncle Ben's Minute Rice in 58 seconds.*



Katie Bowers, Junior

On a scale from one to ten, how much butter do you put on your popcorn? *8*

What throwback song do you want to be played at the March 25th *Blast From the Past* dance? *"Firework" by Katy Perry.*

If you had to dye your hair, which color would you choose? *Red.*

If you were a punctuation mark, what would you be? *A question mark.*

What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment? *Getting a job at Wendy's.*



Noah Schiro, Sophomore

On a scale from one to ten, how much butter do you put on your popcorn? *4*

What throwback song do you want to be played at the March 25th *Blast From the Past* dance? *"Yellow Submarine."*

If you had to dye your hair, which color would you choose? *Pink.*

If you were a punctuation mark, what would you be? *A Semi-colon.*

What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment? *Surviving a year and a half of high school.*



Cally Voss, Freshman

On a scale from one to ten, how much butter do you put on your popcorn? *2.*

What throwback song do you want to be played at the March 25th *Blast From the Past* dance? *"Hollaback Girl."*

If you had to dye your hair, which color would you choose? *Rainbow.*

If you were a punctuation mark, what would you be? *An exclamation point.*

What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment? *Consistently wearing matching attire.*



My definition of a soulmate is...

By Nina Yang

"...someone who you can't picture your life without."

"...someone who you won't kill you no matter how much they want to."

"...someone who is my best friend and I love."

"...someone who is going to be with you for the rest of your life to love you and keep you safe."

"...someone who makes sacrifices for you."

"...a special someone you can't be mad at even if they don't text you back immediately."

"...the principle that there is someone in the world perfect for you."

"...someone that will stay by my side for the rest of my life."

"...someone who will stay with you, no matter what you do."

"...a person who you want to cuddle."

"...there is none. Marry food."



Kiersten Kissinger, Junior

"My definition of a soulmate is someone I have a deep connection with."



Cartoon by Jenna Eberly



My Turn by Isabel Bailey

At lunch the other day I was making my rounds to interview students for the newspaper and the final person I needed was a freshmen girl, so I stopped at a table of three 9th graders, hoping that one of them would be willing to answer my questions.

I noticed that one of the students was transgender who identifies as female. When I said, "I need a freshmen girl to interview" one of the girls at the table said, "any of us could do it." Then, the transgender student raised her hand excitedly, saying, "I'll do it!"

There was something in the enthusiasm of her response that was liberating. It was a feeling of freeness, the way she volunteered, the way her friends were so accepting, and how none of the other students surrounding us seemed phased one way or the other.

It was a great moment for the student body. Often I write about what we could improve upon, but this moment of acceptance really shined a light on our school. I left the interview feeling a surge of happiness. As I walked away, surrounded by animated kids full of life (and lunch) I felt a true sense of acceptance.

This exchange gave me a deeper appreciation for the bravery of trans people. The confidence that this student had in herself gave me confidence about who I was. I understand cisgender people (meaning people whose sense of personal identity and gender correspond with their birth sex) sometimes feel threatened by trans people.

Some feel as if it threatens their identification and their connection to femininity or masculinity. Males and females, as a generalization, do act differently. Often the way in which they handle situations, how they cope

with issues, and even the way they chew their food can be different.

Males and females take pride in what they feel are the identifiers of their gender, and this is sometimes what drives them to feel threatened by a member of the trans community. There is disapproval everywhere, partly because it is difficult to accept change and partly because many of us don't fully understand what it really means and feels like to be a trans person.

I still have questions. Do transgender people know from an early age that the gender they were born with is not matched with their feeling? Can a transgender person reach a feeling of full transformation into the gender they feel they are?

Does physical appearance matter, or does mental identification suffice? How does the physical awareness of ones' gender correspond to the mental awareness? These are all questions I have.

Sometimes it can be scary to have questions, and it makes people feel as if they can't even begin to understand, which translates into a feeling of threat. However, just because I don't have the answers, there is not reason to be scared.

I'm not scared, I'm just uninformed; yet my interaction with my fellow female peer was a step towards being enlightened. We should all move towards this.

The emergence of trans people should not feel threatening to those who are cisgender. This is the same idea that gay marriage should not feel threatening to people with straight marriages. I felt pride in my gender because this student felt pride in being female.

Her energy was contagious and I hope that this energy will continue to grow.

