



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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Forensics Team Qualifies

By Maegan Bogetti

The Selinsgrove Forensics Speech and Debate team has been busy lately with tournaments -- tournaments that proved opportune for two Selinsgrove debaters who made the final cut to the national competition in Sacramento, California in late May.

At the National Catholic Forensics League (NCFL) National Qualifier Tournament hosted at Shikellamy High School on March 5, the public forum debate team of juniors Isabel Bailey and Sydney Reibschied ranked in the top five overall, earning them a ticket to California.

Bailey and Reibschied spent the day debating a topic revolving around United States military presence in Okinawa, a Japanese island located in Eastern Asia. With four rounds of competitive debate

throughout the day, the girls worked hard for their place at the prestigious tournament. Reibschied stated that she and Bailey "were very emotional when they announced [their] names as qualifiers."

Other Selinsgrove students have been hard-working participants on the team as well. At the State Qualifiers hosted in Danville on February 20th, two public forum debate teams, one parliamentary debate trio, and two duo dramatic interpretation teams represented Selinsgrove.

Joining the speech and debate team definitely has its benefits—and there are events that appeal to everyone. From

speech events that highlight public speaking or writing skills to intense, fast-talking debate, the team has endless potential. Students do not have to be a professional debater to join the team either, as the forensics adviser, Mrs. Bunting-Specht (along with team members) can provide information and answers to questions.

Joining the team offers many benefits: improving writing and research skills, shaking out nervousness in public speaking, and even academic opportu-

nities for the future. Some Selinsgrove former team members have attended top colleges and universities such as Schreyer Honors College at Penn State, Wellesley College, and Oberlin College, just to name a few.

In the past four years, students have qualified to attend the NCFL National Tournament in Philadelphia, Chicago, Fort Lauderdale, and Sacramento. To Reibschied, it is beneficial because "it is the perfect mix of academics and fun, and it combines a social aspect with current events."



The three public forum debate teams at the National Qualifier tournament. From left to right: freshman Zach Frey and Maegan Bogetti, juniors Sydney Reibschied and Isabel Bailey, and seniors Aidan Finnerty and Zach Lentz.

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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 **Thursday, March 31st** in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

March Madness Saves Lives

By Liz Whitmer

Each year 40 million people fill out brackets betting on which team they think will win the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball tournament, also known as March Madness, in the hope of winning honor and glory.

The average American bet placed on each bracket is \$29, but the Selinsgrove chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) is only asking for a donation of \$5 to enter a bracket in our school's contest; however, 100 % of the money collected is being donated to the American Cancer Society. The American Cancer Society provides hundreds of millions of dollars each year to fund cancer research and treatment.

Anyone attending, working, or knowing someone at SAHS will be able to enter a bracket choosing the one college basketball team out of 68 they believe will win it all. The winner of the NHS bracket challenge will be announced the day after the National Championship game on April 4th.

Brackets can be found in the main office, library, cafeteria, outside of Room 222, or from any NHS member. A person merely has to choose the winner of each game on the bracket and then turn their sheet in with a \$5 donation to Mr. Switala (in Room 222) by 12 noon on

Thursday, March 17th. Each round of the tournament is worth an escalating amount of points, so choosing the later round winners helps more than just getting the first round correct.



As if donating money to a charitable cause and bragging rights for choosing the correct winner is not enough, National Honor Society is also offering prizes to the top three winners. The following local businesses have donated gift certificates and prizes for the winners totaling nearly \$300: Texas Roadhouse, Bounce Away, Burger King, Sunset Skating Rink, Villa Teresa, Rocco's Pizza, Country Creamery, Red Robin, Rita's Italian Ice, KFC, Auntie Anne's, Dairy Queen, and Weis Markets.

As spring approaches, many people will start to think about their March Madness brackets, so instead of entering a bracket with another group, submit one through National Honor Society to help a charitable cause and support local businesses.

Luck of the Irish: A Quick History

By Nia Thomas

Though a widely celebrated holiday in America, the true origin of St. Patrick's Day and why it is celebrated as a holiday are often cloaked in mystery.

The holiday is based on the patron Saint of Ireland, St. Patrick. While most of his youth is unknown, his adulthood has been well documented. Believed to be born outside of Ireland around 400 AD, the young saint was captured in his youth and sent to work in Ireland as a slave.

It is believed that about six years later he escaped to Britain, which is where he found his religious calling. After training with the St. Germaine in France, Patrick had a dream that he was being called back to Ireland, to convert the Gaelic country to Christianity. By the end of his life, believed to be March 17, 461, St. Patrick was a legendary figure for his orthodox writings and for myths that have popped up in their wake.

The first documented celebration of this day was in Boston in 1737, to celebrate the large community of Irish immigrants who were once believed to have lost their roots. On this first celebration,

the holiday was simply celebrated as a religious tradition. The New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade came into effect in 1762, when a disgruntled group of Irish soldiers joined to march down Broadway.

In Ireland the holiday is regarded as a religious festival. On this day, first celebrated in 1903, the most widely used form of celebration was a parade. The parade lasted for one day, with more modern parades lasting as long as five.

Saint Patrick's Day is also littered with traditions. One of the most popular traditions is heavy drinking. During the first celebration in Ireland, the people were prohibited by law to drink on this day (a law that wasn't lifted until the 1970's). The tradition is believed to have come from the fact that on March 17th those who observe Lent are allowed to abandon their observation.

It has also become a tradition to wear green. The idea of wearing green came from the belief that St. Patrick used a green clover in one of his sermons to display the Holy Trinity. This is also why people wear shamrocks on this day.

Foreign Friends Returning to the 'Grove

By Kiana Brubaker

Exchange students from Japan will be arriving on Sunday, March 20, 2016, to experience Selinsgrove's everyday culture.

Since 2002, when the Japanese exchange program was first established, many of our students have been given a unique cultural experience. The program promotes a cultural exposure that comes in many forms -- students visiting Japan, hosting visitors, or merely interacting with one of them.

Junior Paige Hepner has experienced all of these situations. She opined, "It's neat in both regards because you not only get to learn about their culture, you also get to see how our culture and customs compare to those that they have."

The main goal of having the exchange students visit America is to provide them with a glimpse of our daily life. The students will be visiting from March 20th to the 30th, though they only will be attending our school on the 21st, 22nd, and the 23rd. The Japanese high schoolers will join some Selinsgrove kids on a trip to the U.S. capital, Washington, DC, on March 24th.

This year there will be five female exchange students, and one male: Riko, Nana, Minako, Minori, Erika, and Masaya, respectively. They will be brought by two chaperones, Yoshi and Koz. The chaperones will stay with faculty, while the students will stay with the families of Selinsgrove students.

Paige will be hosting the exchange student Nana Ogawa. To introduce exchange students to American culture, Paige's family takes them to a variety of locations in the area, including Susquehanna University, a local farm, the mall, and a Hershey Bears hockey game. Comparatively, Americans also have a very different diet than the Japanese, so to introduce them to local favorites, host families like Paige's, choose to cook popular Pennsylvania Dutch dishes.

When the exchange students are visiting, Selinsgrove students are encouraged to interact and start up a conversation with them, rather than just staring at them from afar. One of the hosts, junior Markie Reiland, advised to "treat the Japanese just as you would a fellow Selinsgrove kid. Once you start talking, you realize that they are just like us."

Meet our Japanese Guests



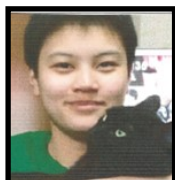
Ricko Bande

Ricko is fifteen years old. This is her first trip abroad and she is looking forward to meeting new people and trying lots of new things.



Minako Yamazaki

Minako is seventeen, and her hobbies include drawing, playing video games, and reading books. She hosted Senior Nour Haj Mabrouk in the fall and will now be hosted by Nour during her trip to America..



Minori (Mino) Ishii

Minori, or Mino as she prefers to be called, can be shy at first, but she likes many American things, including video games and movies.



Nana Ogawa

Nana is seventeen, and currently instructs tennis club members at her junior high, where she played the sport during her time there. She is an only child who is musically talented, as she plays the piano and guitar.



Erika Otsuki

Erika will be hosted by junior Sarah Long. She likes Avril Lavigne and One Direction, and this is her first trip to the States.



Masay Namekawa

Massay belongs to an English Conversation Club, and he enjoys watching NBA games.

SPORTS

Boob Medals at PIAA Championships

By Angelo Martin

Senior standout Andrew Boob wrapped up his high school wrestling career on Saturday, March 12th, at the PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships in Hersey, PA where he took home sixth place in the 220 pound weight class.

With his finish, Boob became the first Selinsgrove wrestler to medal at State's since Spencer Myers did in 2011. "It feels so sweet. I have put in countless hours working with Coach Martin trying to perfect my wrestling. It's nice to know that I have forever left a mark on this program," said Andrew Boob after his final match.

Suffering a torn ACL and meniscus in a preseason football practice, it seemed like an impossibility that Boob would be healthy enough to take the mat. Nearing the coveted 80 career win mark, Andrew Boob decided it to give it a shot.

"I was so close to 80 wins that I couldn't not wrestle. You only get one senior year and I wanted to make the most of it given the tough situation," noted Boob.

Not only would he achieve the 80 win mark, Boob would go on to finish

the year with an outstanding record of 28-2, including 18 pins, both team highs. In February, Boob notched his 100th career win against Central Columbia, becoming the sixth Selinsgrove wrestler to do so.

"I think getting that 100th win helped me believe that medaling at State's was definitely within my reach," said Boob.

Boob would later go on to take 1st place at both the District and Northwest Regional Championship in late February and early March. A 1st place finish in the 220 pound weight class at Regional's would set Boob up with his third straight appearance in the PIAA Class AAA Wrestling Championships in Hersey, PA.

Boob would win his first match at State's with a 5-2 decision over Gavin Caroff of Quakertown. From there, Boob suffered two losses. Yet, not all was lost, as Boob's performance was enough to earn him a sixth place finish and a medal.

"Obviously I was shooting for first but I can't say I'm disappointed at all in my finish," said Boob.



Senior Andrew Boob wraps up his opponent during a match at the PIAA State Championships



Congratulations to Wrestling Senior Andrew Boob

Seals Baseball Going for Gold

By Dawson Klinger

After a solid 10-11 season where the team was able to make the District IV playoffs, this year's team is ripe and ready to make a run at District IV gold.

Although they lost three key players in Isaiah Rapp, Zach Hendricks, and Manny Little, the team is bringing back a lot of talent and experience. The Seals will boast a strong senior class with outfield seniors Ben Kuhns and Colin Hoke headlining Selinsgrove, and seniors Aaron



Photo by Michelle Sears

Senior Logan Sears makes the catch

Zechman and Tyler Showers the starting one-two combo on the pitching mound. On defense, seniors Logan Sears, Ian Weaver, and Zach Broome outline a strong infield.

"Losing to Shik last year in District's was not fun for any of us. Luckily, a lot of our core talent is back this year. I have been playing with most of these guys since I was 7 years old, so the chemistry is obviously there," said senior Logan Sears.

At catcher, Selinsgrove returns junior Jake Nyland, who hit for a .282 average, the highest among the returning players. The Seals also will get much underclass help from junior Evan Poust and freshman Logan Hile.

Hile has been praised throughout the preseason for the strong heat he puts on the ball from the mound. "(Logan Hile) will be huge for us all season long and makes our pitching depth very strong," noted Sears.

Led by head coach Brent Beiler, Selinsgrove will open its regular season on April 1st against cross-river rival Shikellamy.

New Start for Selinsgrove Softball

By Dawson Klinger

Coming off a 7-14 season last year, the Selinsgrove softball team is hopeful to get back to its winning ways and build on the experiences from last season.

Key returners this year include sophomore Marlo Ptacin in the outfield, junior Abby Ettinger on the mound, and senior Hunter Smith at third base. The 2016 team will be pretty young, however, having lost Jess Kerstetter, Sara Reibschied, Katie Spriggle, Jordan Wilt, Katie Rice, and Lizzie Mosely.

All six started last season, leaving many open spots to be filled by some younger players.

"We lost a lot of great players from last year's team. We do have a young team, but I still expect an even better year than last year and I'm excited to get this season rolling. I am confident that

my teammates will step up and play well in the open positions left by last years' seniors, and I am very optimistic about our chances at making Districts," said sophomore Marlo Ptacin.

Fortunately for the Seals, the incoming freshman shows much promise, with the likes of Paige Smith, Brooke Longacre, and Sam Artley all looking to make an immediate impact.

Smith, Longacre, and Artley all showed tremendous strides throughout the offseason.

"I think our freshman class is one of

the strongest ones we've had in years. I am really excited to see them develop," said Ptacin.

The team will be led by head coach Joel Rogers, and their first home game is on March 29 against Montoursville.



Photo by Brian Fees

Marlo Ptacin hits one against Midd-West during the 2015 season

SAHS Lacrosse Looks to Bounce Back

By Marley Sprenkel

Last season, both the girls and boys lacrosse teams fell in the District IV playoffs and are looking to return to championship form.

For the boys, their loss was at the hands of arch-rival Lewisburg in the District IV championship game. For the girls, lost to Danville in the District IV semifinals. With a handful of talent on both teams, Selinsgrove lacrosse will enter the year again as strong conference and district contenders.



Photo by Lindsey Trusal

Senior Megan Kahn battles against Lewisburg

Having lost program greats in Andrew Sickle and Zach Adams, the boys team will hope to build strong leadership and chemistry in the early-going. Juniors Gabe Ludwig, Cross Kantz, Ethan Crissinger, Ryan Bucher, and Bryce Reichenbach all return this season having gained

a lot of experience last year. In the senior class, Ethan Troutman, Nick Swineford, and Nick Conrad will provide the Seals with veteran experience, having contributed to the varsity squad in the last two seasons.

In addition to the key returners, freshmen Joe Kahn and Ben Swineford have stepped up too and have shown great promise in the winter and preseason practices.

“Joe (Kahn) and Ben (Swineford) have looked really good in the winter league at Sportszone and have contributed their progress in the first couple pre-season practices. A strong underclass will really give us a lot of depth that we need,” said senior Nick Conrad.

The Lady Seals lacrosse team is also hoping to have a successful season. The team will be led by key juniors Savannah Bucher, Megan Kahn, Megan Keeney, Savannah Foor, and Sam Rodkey. The defensive end will be led by senior Grace O’Malley. Other players to watch are freshmen Taylor Schon and Lexy Hunselman.

“Last year, we really went from a team without much chemistry to a strong contender in the league and district. With more and more athletes coming out for lacrosse, this program will only continue to grow,” said junior Sam Rodkey.

Both teams will open their seasons on March 25th against Crestwood.

Seals Boys Track – a Plethora of Talent

By Angelo Martin

As always, the “Legend Continues” for the Selinsgrove Boys track and field team, which is led by head coach Ryan McGuire, and will enter the 2016 track and field season as strong PHAC and District IV competitors.

In the distance events, the Seals return senior standout Brody Beiler. Beiler, a two-time PIAA AAA State competitor, will look to build from his results last year and hopes to take home a State medal when all is said and done.

“I have had a lot of success around the area but this year I want to prove to myself that I can compete with the best in the state. A medal at Shipensburg (where the PIAA Track and Field Championships are located) is definitely something I want to accomplish before I end my high school career,” said Beiler.

Returning with Beiler in the distance events will be juniors Brice Harro and Garrett Campbell. Both Campbell and

Harro provided much depth for the Seals in the distance events but this year they will be called upon to score big.

Perhaps the Seals biggest strength will be in the field events. Returning for Selinsgrove are seniors Jack Gaugler and Jacob Strickler and sophomore Keith Dreese. Last year at Districts, Strickler was a runner-up in the javelin throw while Dreese and Gaugler both put up top-five finishes in the shot put.

In the jumping events, the Seals will boast a strong senior class in Ben Kuhns, Dylan Whitmer, and Romeo Patterson. All three athletes showed strong performances down the stretch last year and will look to be top competitors across the league and district.

Senior sensational Juvon Batts will head the Seals in the 100, 200, and 400m races. Batts, who missed last season but finished fifth at Districts as a sophomore, will chase program records in the 100 and 200m races.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Dylan Dunn, Senior

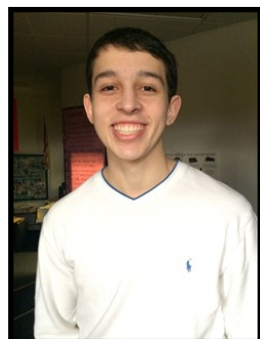
What is one thing you must do before the end of this school year? *My senior prank.*

What is still the same about you since kindergarten? *My face.*

What is your lunch hour pet peeve? *Teachers on lunch duty.*

Who in the school do you owe an apology to? *Every teacher that had to put up with me.*

What one thing can you not do without in a school day? *Chocolate milk.*



Savanna Foor, Junior

What is one thing you must do before the end of this school year? *I still need to pull a few all-nighters along with boosting my grades.*

What is still the same about you since kindergarten? *I still have my mom help pick out my outfits.*

What is your lunch hour pet peeve? *During lunch I always plan to do my homework and end up socializing with my friends.*

Who in the school do you owe an apology to? *I should apologize to Jess "Kodi" Kuhns for always saying she looks like Jesus.*

What one thing can you not do without in a school day? *I always need my friends to have fun during school!*



Austin Davy, Sophomore

What is one thing you must do before the end of this school year? *Get a good grade in Spanish.*

What is still the same about you since kindergarten? *My level of intelligence.*

What is your lunch hour pet peeve? *The high volume of the freshmen.*

Who in the school do you owe an apology to? *Owen Yetter... we're friends but I make fun of him.*

What one thing can you not do without in a school day? *Seeing my friends.*



Freshmen, Ciara Zacek

What is one thing you must do before the end of this school year? *Get straight A's.*

What is still the same about you since kindergarten? *I still look like my mom.*

What is your lunch hour pet peeve? *When people eat with their mouth open.*

Who in the school do you owe an apology to? *Mrs. Pancher since I had my phone out during class.*

What one thing can you not do without in a school day? *My phone.*





My Turn by Isabel Bailey

Last Saturday, my forensics partner Sydney and I went to the national qualifiers debate tournament. The winners would go to Sacramento, California in May.

During our four rounds of debating we wrote on-the-spot speeches, rebutted arguments, and came up with clever questions for our opponents. By the end of the day we were pretty exhausted. We figured we hadn't placed, and went to the nearby Dunkin Donuts in the hour between our last round and the awards ceremony, to treat ourselves to powdered-sugar donuts, lamenting the fact that our names wouldn't be called.

Back at the awards ceremony, we sat amongst many ambitious kids who had competed in events such as Congress, Duo Interpretation, and Policy. The announcer called winners up from each category to receive their trophies.

At the table across from me, a girl sat with her head in her hands, her knees shaking up and down, scared to death her name might not be called to claim a trophy. Many of those who were called walked swiftly and confidently up to the front. Others whooped and hollered all the way. Sydney and I didn't have to worry about how we would approach the prize.

Nonetheless, when the announcer began to list the winners for debate, I felt a little lightheaded. As the list of names dwindled down, I reminded myself that I could have been home watching *Mama Mia* for the fortieth time; instead I had put myself into a tournament on a Saturday, waking up at the crack of dawn to go home empty-handed. I thought of worse case scenarios: we get last place and they announce it, or we do place, but it's actually a mistake because they've mixed up our ballots with another team.

In the midst of this pessimistic thinking, I heard the announcer say "from Selinsgrove," and then our last names resonated through the speakers. Sidney and I got up in slow motion, and then propelled ourselves down the aisle. The announcer shook our hands, smiled, and handed us each a trophy.

The trophy is now sitting on my bookshelf, and though it is a hollow figure of a man wearing a blazer, and has a somewhat tacky, gold and green shimmer, I am scared it might fall, or that the little plastic man who perches on top of the shiny cylinder might crack off.

It seems sort of strange that this trophy means so much to me. I mean,

there are a couple of other little gold men perched on my bookshelf.

When I went to fifth grade camp, we had an Olympics Day. I remember there was Kickball, Frisbee, and Three-Legged Races. In my cabin of about five girls, we got hardly any ribbons, possibly a few green participation ribbons.

I was too shy to play kickball (I had issues with a public display of large motor skills) and wasn't about to dive into the freezing pool to compete the relay. I had to participate in something, though, so I chose the three-legged race, where everyone would be embarrassing themselves.

For several years, after fifth grade camp, my friend, who had been in a different cabin than me, hung her Olympic Day ribbons, many of which were first and second place, on her closet door. I remember being quite impressed by these ribbons, as I had shoved my green participation ribbons deep into the corners of our junk drawer.

I would have trouble throwing out the trophy that I was given from the debate tournament and I don't think I should. Neither do I think my friend should throw out her ribbons from camp, nor the dozens of other awards she's won since then.

But even if my trophy did get broken or my friends ribbons were lost, in the end it wouldn't matter, I would still have the memory. For now, I am happy to have the little man perched on my bookshelf, reminding me that accomplishments can be unexpected, and that it's worth trying.

