

# THE GROVE GAZETTE

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# NEWS

## Spirit Week

By Kelly Schmidt

In the beginning of October, the Selinsgrove Area

High School dressed in anything but ordinary clothes and filled the Valley with school spirit. The reason for the outrageous fashion: it was Spirit Week, leading into the Homecoming football game. Spirit Week was Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> through Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Spirit Week started on Tuesday with the theme of Jersey Day, when students were encouraged to show some spirit for their favorite sports team by donning their jersey. Sweater Weather Day, Wednesday, students and faculty showed off their favorite sweaters. That was followed with Trick or Treat Thursday in which students wore their Halloween

Kyana Sanchez takes a selfie in her spirit day costume.

costumes to school. Finally ending the week with Flannel Friday where the school was filled with flannel.

To encourage students to participate in Spirit Week, each grade competed for points. The grade with the most points earned the Spirit Stick. Every day, students participated in the theme of the day, a point was added to their grade's class total. The results from the week showed that the Freshman class had won the Spirit Stick. Congratulations!



Photo by Kyana Sanchez

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# OPINION

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## This Election is Critical—and Many of Us Don't Know the Facts

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By **Tori Ross**

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We can all agree that 2020 is a year for the history books. With so many disasters and frankly bizarre occurrences happening simultaneously, it can be overwhelming, and you may want to just sit back and let the storm roll on by.

But the truth is, this is not all out of our control. There is a sure way that you can help relieve some of this chaos: do your research, vote if you can, and encourage others to vote.

Despite being the very backbone of American democracy, the right to vote is under attack. Media outlets, unmindful citizens, and political figures and organizations take part in this assault by spreading misinformation across social media platforms. It is no surprise that many find themselves believing everything they come across on social media—after all, it provides a feeling of control and confidence in such an uncertain time. But however tempting it may be, we must not let ourselves sink into the warmth of this bed that

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### ***GROVE POETRY CORNER***

#### **An Appreciation**

A wonderful Place  
Where I go but twice a year  
And when I must leave  
I will shed many a tear

Year-round, I wait to go  
To this Place of happiness  
A place I can go  
That has no malice

I see pictures of myself  
At this wonderful Place

No matter what happens  
There's a smile on my face

Thankfully for me  
I'm never without  
A bit of this Place  
To carry about

It's in my pocket  
And it's in my head  
If I were without it  
I might just be dead

#### **By Anonymous**

This Place of wonders  
Has changed me for the better  
It's made me feel good  
Through rain and bad weather

I don't know if this Place  
Will ever know  
How much I appreciate it  
And love it, oh so

But here's to the date  
When I can go there again  
I just cannot wait  
To see you my friend.



# OPINION

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has been so slyly made for us.

From inaccurate to fraudulent, the 2020 election has been called many things—and none of them are true. Ironically, however, these words are the perfect descriptions for the people and organizations who scorn and mock the real facts.

In fact, this is a classic move by none other than President Trump, who incessantly spouts false claims about his enemies to distract from the fact that the same case can be made—with actual evidence to back it up—against him.

For example, on October 8<sup>th</sup> in an interview with Sean Hannity of FOX News, Trump said of the election that “It’s going to be a disaster the likes of which we’ve

never seen. We will never have seen an election like what’s going to take place. Thousands of ballots all over the country are being reported, some thrown in garbage cans with my name on them. Some thrown in trays in a river. What’s going on is absolutely crazy.”

This is not the senseless ranting of an aging politician. This is the purposeful corrupting of infor-

## AllSides™ Media Bias Chart

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content.  
Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



Fig. 1: Media Bias Chart. *AllSides* 2020.

mation by a threatened egomaniac. In reality, voter fraud is incredibly rare, and there is ample evidence to back this up.

In uncovering the facts of this year’s election, it is best to reference sources that are as unbiased as possible. Figure 1 shows the sorting of various news outlets into categories of general political

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affiliation. Sources found in the center are the best options when it comes to getting facts about the election.

One of these central sources—USA Today—recently conducted a study of the Heritage Foundation’s Election Fraud Database, which catalogs incidents of voting fraud and is frequently referenced by conservative media outlets and representatives, including Sean Hannity, who conducted the interview from which the above quote is sourced.

USA Today reported in an article published this week that “The Heritage database does not include a single example of a concerted effort to use absentee ballot fraud to steal a major election, much less a presidential election, as President Donald Trump has suggested could happen this year. Though Trump has repeatedly claimed

that absentee ballot fraud is widespread, only 207 of the entries in the Heritage database are listed under the fraudulent absentee ballot category.”

And as for these 207 entries? The report states that the vast majority of the cases they outline occurred at local levels and were caught quickly—and some even “do not match the online definition of absentee fraud as stated by the Heritage Foundation itself.” Plus, many cases did not result in the accused being convicted, and case numbers were not based on the number of incidences—rather, they were based on the number of people involved in the cases. So, a case involving five people

would count not for one entry, but for five.

Thus, the investigation concluded that mail-in voting fraud is not as significant of an issue as President Trump has made it to seem. “Far from being proof of organized, large-scale vote-by-mail fraud,” it states, “the Heritage database”—arguably the main source of evidence for President Trump’s unfounded and exaggerated claims—“presents misleading and incomplete information that overstates the number of alleged fraud instances and includes cases where no crime was committed.”

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# OPINION

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In addition to claiming that citizens frequently partake in absentee ballot fraud, President Trump insists that ballots often contain technical errors, and results of elections relying on mail-in ballots are faulty and very slow to be produced. In general, in the isolated cases when there are technical issues in ballots, voters are sent replacement ballots, and the media hype is much worse than the actual event. As for a delay in election results because of mail-in balloting, this could indeed be the case—but as before, it is unlikely to be as bad as President Trump makes it seem.

In states such as Pennsylvania, mail-in ballot results will not be counted until election day, which has elicited much protest from local election officials, as this could cause a delay in election results.

It may be concluded that the

longer it takes for votes to be counted after election day, the greater the window of opportunity for President Trump to stir up conspiracies of voter fraud. This is compounded by the fact that in Pennsylvania, Democrats are taking part in mail-in voting at a much higher rate than Republicans. This may cause what is largely referred to as a “red mirage” in which in-person voting will be done primarily by Republican voters and thus, their votes will be counted first. As mail-in ballots are counted, Democratic votes will come in at increasingly rapid rates, potentially dampening any lead that President Trump may have.

This is perhaps why President Trump is spreading so much misinformation: so that if this happens, he has an opportunity to say, “I told you so,” that this is proof the Democrats are cheating. While he may make this claim, it is in fact untrue; in actuality, the votes will take

## ELECTIONS



longer to count because of measures put into place to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the tally.

With all the claims that President Trump makes, it can be overwhelming to think about sorting through them all to find the truth. But the facts are all there. It's just up to you to take ownership of your right to be properly informed.

This is no perfect storm created in a miraculous feat of nature. This is manufactured turmoil that has been purposefully aggravated by real people with real

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# OPINION

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## The Attack on Women's Healthcare

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**By Sarah Leason**

Thirty-three years ago, Congress voted to make March Women's History month, commemorating all the achievements and triumphs of American women throughout our history. From Amelia Earhart's momentous solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean to Rebecca Lee Crumpler who fought against racism, sexism, and prejudice to graduate from New England Female Medical College in 1864 to become the first female physician of color in America.

Women throughout American history have been through a lot, up until recently women haven't

had the same opportunities of men- even now women still have boundaries do push through throughout their lives.

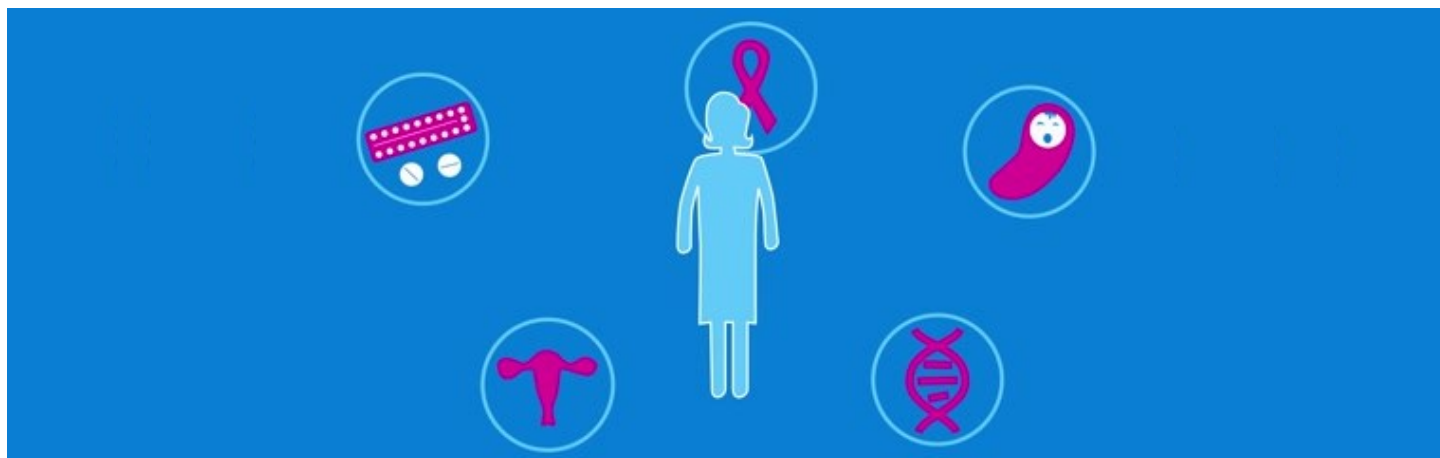
Although life has improved considerably for women, there is still a war waging from the Conservatives in this country against Women's healthcare- the battle against access to safe abortions to the funding of Planned Parenthood.

First, abortion should remain safe and legal. Last May, Alabama created a near-total abortion ban (with a vote of

25-6, all those 25 votes belonging to a white man) along with other bans in Georgia, Kentucky, and other states. Fortunately, those bans were blocked in court last October, but the attempts to ban abortions by conservatives in those states proves the relentless fight to disarm women of their right to an abortion (Madeline Hislop).

This article's focus is not here to convince you of the moral right or wrongs of abortion, but the fact of banning abortion puts women and their fetuses at higher risk of death. Why would keeping women from aborting

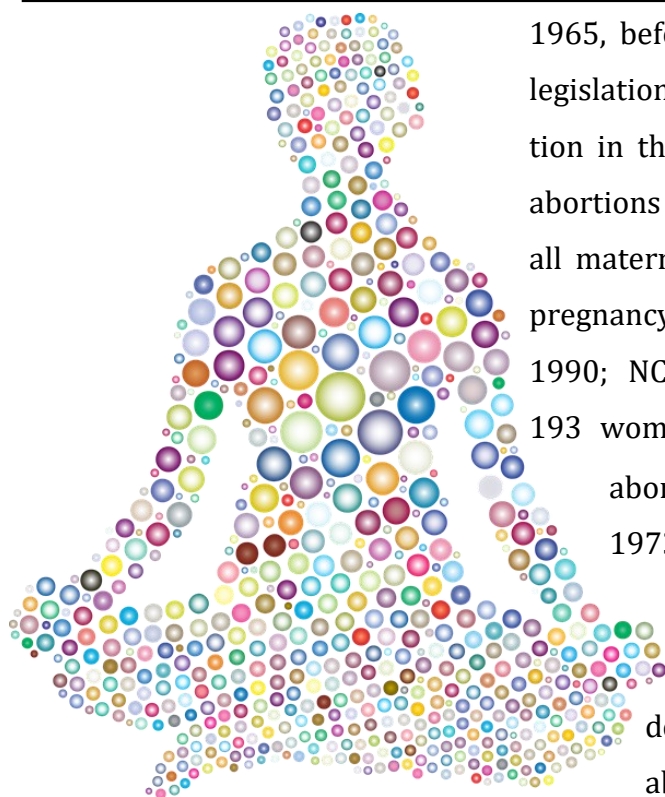
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# OPINION

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increase the mortality rate of abortion? Allow some use of conservative logic- most conservatives are against gun control and sometimes use the point that even if the government bans guns, people will still find ways to get them.

This is the same with abortions. Banning them won't stop women from getting them but will instead take away the safety regulations that abortion legality instituted. Don't believe me? In

1965, before Roe v. Wade, the legislation that legalized abortion in the early 1970s, illegal abortions accounted for 17% of all maternal deaths relating to pregnancy and childbirth (Gold, 1990; NCHS, 1967). Around 193 women died from illegal abortions back then. In 1973, the mortality rate for legal abortions was about 3.4 deaths per 100,000 abortions and that

dropped to just around 1 death in 1977 as abortions became more common (Gold, 1990; NCHS, 1967).

Even more surprising that nearly all the states who have been recently pushing for stricter abortion laws rank among the top 10 states for maternal and/or infant mortality (Panetta, Business Insider). It is clear to see the actual benefits for women to keep abortion legal in the US- for the sake of the women's life. But with this

unrelenting attack from the right, the future of women's healthcare is becoming bleak, which is why we need to educate and inform others on this assault to protect abortion for many years to come.

The second assault on women's healthcare was the defunding of Planned Parenthood- specifically one of the first acts President Trump did while in office. Planned Parenthood gets a reputation of only an abortion provider and should be shut down, which is a product of misinformation.

Planned Parenthood plays a vital role in many women's healthcare- providing not just abortions, but around 700,000 Pap tests (which tests for cervical cancer), 1 million breast exams, and 4.1 million STI tests (Planned Parenthood). One might think that Planned

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Parenthood provides mostly abortions, but this is also incorrect. In 2014, 42% of PP services were STI/STDs treatments, 34% were providing contraceptives, 11% were other women's treatments, 9% were cancer screenings, and a mere 3% were abortion services.

Contrary to popular belief, Planned Parenthood does so much more than just abortions—they play a vital role for many women's healthcare and if they

lose funding, millions of women could lose their main source of contraception and cancer screenings that Planned Parenthood makes easy (Planned Parenthood).

President Trump is running for re-election, and very soon the United States will have to make the choice on whether to keep him in office. I argue that for the safety and protection of female healthcare, President Trump should be removed from office. Since the death of

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, , nominee to replace her spot, conservative Amy Coney Barrett, has actively voiced her pro-life views during her professional past as an appeals judge (Liptack, NY Times).

If President Trump is re-elected, the attack on women's healthcare will become a much more pressing and desperate issue. For the sake of many American women's lives and healthcare, I hope President Trump will not return to office next January.



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# OPINION

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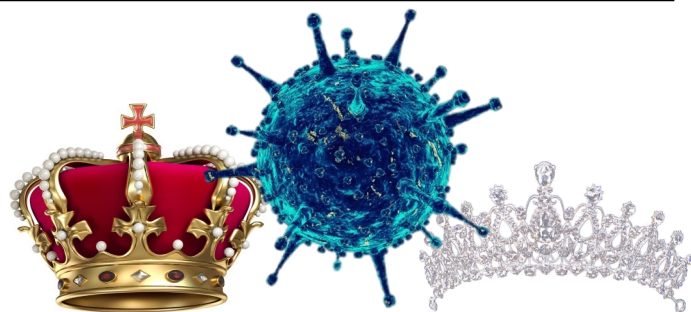
## Homecoming: COVID Strikes Again

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By Cierra Adams

In early October, the Selinsgrove High School Student Council decided to postpone this year's homecoming dance to the beginning of 2021 due to the pandemic sweeping the nation. Many students, especially the Seniors, are skeptical on how a homecoming dance can be pulled off. With the rules of masks and social distancing, many people do not feel as though it is safe to hold the event.

Even though suspicion is hovering over the students of Selinsgrove, students like Kirsten Yoder,



Selinsgrove Area High School Sophomore, believe this to be a good idea.

When asked what she thought of homecoming being moved to early next year, Yoder replied, "I like this idea because we would still have some things back to normal since so much has already been taken away from the students."

For the Seniors, this is one of the last highlights of high school. COVID-19 has already negatively impacted the high school experience for all students. Therefore, by holding a homecoming dance the students will avoid missing out on yet another high school experience. Will you be walking the red carpet at homecoming this year?

Photo by Chris Markle



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Sophie Markle and Eli Markle were crowned Queen and King at the October Homecoming Game.

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# SPORTS

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## Selinsgrove Boys' Soccer

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By Lily Strocko

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The Selinsgrove Boys' soccer team has had a successful season so far! As of October 14<sup>th</sup>, they had 10 wins and 1 loss overall, and had 7 wins with 1 loss in the league. Along with Selinsgrove, their league includes Athens, Jersey Shore, Shikellamy, Mifflinburg, and Shamokin Area.

On October 14, Selinsgrove played Loyalsock at home on the turf. In just the first half of the vari-

ty game the score was already 2-0, with the Seals winning, with an assist by #3 Jamison Bohner, and a goal by #9 Ryan Mangles. The team scored another 4 goals the second half, a brace by Sophomore Nick Ritter, one by #25 Aidan Hunt, and another by #9 Ryan Mangles. This left the score of 6-0 by the end of the game, which was an impressive shut out for the Boys' Varsity team. The Boys' Junior Varsity soccer won 1-0 against Loyalsock, with a goal by Logan Rodkey.

Selinsgrove Boy's soccer is aiming for back to back district titles this season. As one team member stated, "If you believe in yourself, no one can stop your victory."

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**When:** Join us this Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> during Seal Time. (Distance learners: E-mail Mrs. Frantz for the Teams Meeting Link.)

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# SPORTS

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## October Football Highlights

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By Veronica Stanford

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The Selinsgrove varsity football team was missing a key component to its offense to start the 2020 season: Junior quarterback Danny Shoch. The two-year starter recently moved to Georgia and is currently playing for the East Coweta Indians. Shoch's replacement under center is Senior Coy Bastain, and this year the team is looking to him to help guide the Seals offense to a successful season.



The Seals kicked off the season with a 42-6 victory over the Milton Black Panthers, but then proceeded to lose the next three games to Central Mountain, Shamokin, and Jersey Shore; the Seals did not score a touchdown in these games. They snapped their losing streak in a 28-0 win against rival Shikellamy and avenged their loss to Central Mountain at home in a 9-7 victory. The Seals sought revenge on the Shamokin Area Indians for a shutout loss earlier in the season on October 23rd with a final score of 20-7. Even if the offense is having trouble adjusting to a new quarterback, the defense and special teams have been a crucial part of the Seals' success. In their first game, the Seals blocked three punts, and this defensive presence carried through to the Central Mountain game, as the Seals only allowed 7 points.

A few weeks ago, when the Seals played Jersey Shore at home, the team ran out not only with the American flag, but a Blue Lives Matter flag. There were mixed reactions in the community; some supported this move, while others were disappointed. To some, the Blue Lives Matter flag can be seen as a controversial symbol because many people believe it goes against the Black Lives Matter movement.

One of the students who was completely against this action is Freshman Ella McGlaughlin. She has been very active on social media, arguing on behalf of the Black Lives Matter movement. McGlaughlin said, "If they (the football team) real-

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ly believe all lives matter, they could have run out with their blue flag, American flag, BLM flag, or LGBTQ flag. ... It doesn't portray our school as a safe and inclusive environment for people of color. ... Everyone deserves support, but in a time where human rights are consid-

ered controversial, it should not have been allowed."

Although some people in the community did not agree with this action, many football players stand behind their actions. Multiple people turned to social media to post their support, with one player commenting,

"(We're) not here to please everybody."

McGlaughlin and others hope that politics stays off the field for the remainder of the season, as the Seals hope to build on their two-game winning streak in the last two games of the year and look to build momentum heading into the post-season.

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## Lady Seals Tennis

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By Maddie Rowan

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The Lady Seals Tennis Team, led by captains Avery DeFazio (Junior) and Fiona Finnerty (Junior), wrapped up their strong tennis season with a loss to Loyalsock with the score 0-3 in the district IV quarterfinals. With a season record of 10-4, the ladies celebrated a year of teamwork and progress even though they were unsure of the outcome of the season.

Ending the regular season with five straight wins, Fiona Finnerty commented that she felt satisfied with the season and that they "had the best record in a decade of Lady Seals tennis." Finnerty also qualified for the Girl's District IV singles tournament. She defeated Destiny Jones from Mifflinburg 6-1 and 6-2 to advance, but then fell to Dana Lee

Photo by Avery DeFazio



Fiona Finnerty (left) and Avery DeFazio (right) compete for a win to advance the Lady Seals to a district birth.

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from Bloomsburg 6-0 and 6-4 in the quarterfinals. When asked about what she was looking forward to in her Senior season, she replied, "I think that with a lot of the team developing this year, we

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# SPORTS

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agendas.

The results of this year's election will determine whether we will see relief from or the continuation of this chaos. While we may differ on our opinions of which candidate would cause which outcome, we can all agree that true beliefs should be backed up by facts.

Don't sit by and watch the storm. Stand up and act.



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will improve our record even more than we have, and advance further into districts come next season."

Finnerty and DeFazio represented the Seals in the Girl's District IV doubles tournament. They beat Ryck/Maynard from Towanda 6-3 and 6-1, but then lost to Barbour/Saar in the quarter final 6-4 and 6-1.

As a Senior on the varsity doubles team, Emeline Snook recapped her final season by ex-

pressing that, "I really enjoyed playing with all of the girls on the team. I'll definitely miss them next year. It was great to finish up the season with team districts, and I'm excited to see where the team will go.

When asked about her Freshman year, Murphy O'Brien stated that "I simply just went out and played my best in every match. Our coach had confidence in me as a Freshman to step up and play at a varsity level and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to play with so many encouraging up-

perclassman, especially my doubles partner Maddie Rowan." She also expressed how she thinks the team will adapt to the loss of two Senior doubles players. She added, "It won't be easy to fill the shoes of our Seniors, Emeline Snook and Natalie Imhoof, but I think that with hard work in the off season we can continue to compete at a higher level and continue to qualify for districts."

Congratulations to all Lady Seals tennis players who represented Selinsgrove Area at this year's District IV championships!

# SPORTS

## THE FUNNIES

Seals Gone Wild

*Don't Fall For It*

By  
Logan Adams

