



THE GROVE GAZETTE

Selinsgrove Area High School Student Newspaper

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No Backpack...No Problem

Markie Reiland and Nathan Moyer

Last year, the Selinsgrove Area School District School Board declared that students would no longer be allowed to carry backpacks in the halls or classroom at the high school beginning with the 2014-15 school year.

In May of 2014, Principal Krause and Assistant Principal Longwell cited the problems backpacks caused the administration involving students bringing contraband

into the building as one reason for which the rule was created.

Dr. Krause told students that the new rule would benefit them because they wouldn't have to walk around "looking like turtles" anymore.

The news was met with mixed reactions from the students. Some remained indifferent, but others were outraged at the thought of carrying around their books and traveling to their lockers at the beginning and end of the day. Once the year began, many students realized that being free of backpacks to carry around school wasn't too bad; however, for others, it felt worse.

When asked about how she feels about not being able to use her backpack, sophomore Alexis Hoffman said, "I was confused about the reasoning behind taking [the backpacks] away, but now I see how much easier it is to walk in the halls without tripping or getting hit with them."

Sophomore Paige Hepner also shared some of her thoughts on the matter. "I didn't like the fact that backpacks were no longer going to be allowed... It was a freedom that I had waited until high school to be allowed to have and now it is gone. I feel as though I am on the same level as the middle school-ers. My routine at school has changed a lot due to the fact that I now have to travel to my locker because I can't carry all my books and things at once," said Paige.

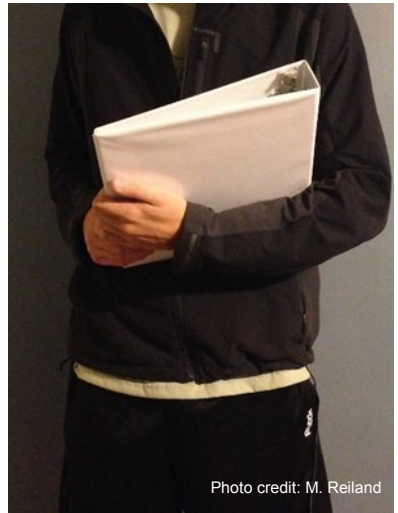


Photo credit: M. Reiland

Sophomore Chris Tirpak, takes the backpack situation in hand.

Some students, like sophomore Christopher Tirpak, claimed to not experience many difficulties with the no-backpack rule. "The only problem I really have is that sometimes I leave things in my backpack in my locker, like Chapstick and pens. Then I don't have them when I need them during class."

When Max Troppe, a sophomore, was asked his opinion on not having backpacks, he said, "I don't mind it. I have to go to my locker now but I kind of like it. The only thing I don't like is rushing in the morning."

Overall, the majority of students do experience some small inconveniences due to the ban of backpacks, but most seem to have adapted well.

Grove Gazette Editorial Staff

News Editors: Savanna Foor & Dan Napsha

Sports Editor: Angelo Martin

Opinion/Editorial Editor: Isabel Bailey

Photography Editor: Claire Oreskovich

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, October 2, 2014 in Room 222 for our next meeting. You can also email Mr. Switala at wswitala@seal-pa.org if you cannot make the meeting.

The Elementals of Spirit Week

Emily Johnson

To get the Selinsgrove Area High School Homecoming celebrations kicked off this year, the Student Council will be hosting the annual Spirit Week competitions between the grade levels starting on October 6th.

The festivities will be based around the theme of the “Four Elements”. Seniors should reminisce about all of the swimming they did this summer because their theme is **Water**. Juniors can let the sparks fly, for **Fire** is their theme of choice. Sophomores will be on Cloud 9 when they hear they have **Air**. Lastly, the Freshman can get in touch with their natural side because their theme is the **Earth**!

On Friday, October 10, Spirit Week will come to a close in the gymnasium where the student body will participate in the annual pep rally. Besides announcing the Homecoming Court and cheering for our sports teams, the Student Council promises to switch things up to keep it fresh during the assembly by providing some new “secret” activities.

According to Student Council Advisor, Mr. Edwards, “Spirit Week is all about coming together as a school community to celebrate ourselves. It is about fun competition to enliven students, faculty, and staff.”



Photo Credit: L. Trussal

High School students show their school spirit before the football game on September 18th.

Sapphire Making Some Blue

Savanna Foor

Students who have been used to checking their grades online using PowerSchool have been surprised this year as the Selinsgrove Area School District has opted to change over to a new program for grade reporting known as “Sapphire”.

The first time Sapphire is accessed by a student it could cause quite a shock. Compared to PowerSchool, there is a completely different design to the look and functionality of the screen. Both teachers and students alike are finding the new system a bit confusing.

Freshman, Courtni Hamm, stated, “I think it is confusing and I miss using Power School. I was so used to it and I wished we hadn’t switched. The setup of Sapphire is going to take a lot of getting used to.”

On the other hand, some students have adapted quickly and see some advantages to Sapphire, including Sophomore, Dawson Klinger, as he explains: “I personally like the new program. It is easier to navigate my grades and the assignments.”

Sapphire can be accessed on the student gateway portal through the district website, or directly at:

<https://selinsgrove-sapphire.k12system.com/CommunityWebPortal/Welcome.cfm>

Before accessing grades for the first time, a student or parent must register using the links on the page.

Sapphire Software

FFA Brings Home the Gold

By Nathan Moyer

On September 16, 2014, the Selinsgrove Future Farmers of America (FFA) participated in the Beaver Fair Career Development Events (CDE) contests which included Dairy Judging, Livestock Judging, and Tractor Driving.

Our school's chapter of the FFA took 18 members who participated in the week-long event.

Results for Tractor Driving are as follows: Joey Radel, blue ribbon, 1st place; Kyle Sassaman, white ribbon, 7th place. Along with taking 1st place, Joey also received a trophy that will be displayed in the AG hallway.

Dairy Judging results are as follows: Kevin Dressler, blue ribbon, 3rd place; Kaitlynn Gordy, blue ribbon, 4th place; Cheyenne Walters, blue ribbon, 10th place; Callie Heimbach, red ribbon, 13th place; Megan Wetzel, red ribbon 15th place; Kayla Shaffer,

white ribbon, 21st place; Anthony Kratzer, white ribbon, 27th place; and Wyatt White, white ribbon, 31st place.

Livestock judging results are as follows: Nathan Moyer, red ribbon, 11th place; Michael Huggins, red ribbon, 14th place; Hannah Ross, red ribbon, 16th place; Kayla Lenig, red ribbon, 18th place; Alyssa Landis, red ribbon, 19th place; Dalton Walter, white ribbon, 26th place; Alexis Roush, white ribbon, 28th place; and Elizabeth Perkinson, white ribbon, 31st place.



The team takes a moment to relax during the competition at the Fair

The Newest Threat to the US is ISIS

Savanna Foor

It seems like just yesterday that the United States had finally terminated Osama Bin Laden, leaving the United States with a feeling of confidence and safety; however, the threat of another dreadful war is back, but not from the infamous al-Qaeda terror group, this time it's ISIS.

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is a group of fighters in Iraq who wish to create a unified Islamic-based country in-between the borders of Iraq and Syria. The rebel group has recently proven to be just as violent and fierce as al-Qaeda as they sent the United States chilling videos of the executions of an American journalist, James Foley, and British aid worker, David Haines.

The Obama Administration has ordered air strikes throughout Syria to try to put a halt to ISIS activity. This action has created controversy in many ways, from people saying that American boots need to be planted on the ground throughout ISIS territory in the Middle East, to people thinking that we need to try to find a peaceful solution to resolve the issue stemming from a fear that American will become embroiled in another Middle Eastern conflict resulting in a full-out war.

Several other countries have stepped up to join the United States' defense of the Iraqi people, including France. The French have been conducting their airstrikes primarily in Iraq. ISIS is now spreading farther into Iraq and the threat continues to grow.

On September 24, 2014, President Obama addressed the United Nations about his plan for ending the ISIS threat. He asked the "world to join in this effort...for we will not succumb to threats, and we will demonstrate that the future belongs to those who build, not those who destroy."

How much do your classmates know about ISIS?
[Click Here to find out!](#)



Captured above is the ISIS flag. Photo by <http://heavyeditorial.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/isis-flag-meaning-cover.jpg?w=640&h=360>

SPORTS

Seals Football – A Year of Comebacks

By: David Klinger

The Seals Football program is looking to regain their competitive edge and championship status this upcoming season thanks to the return of several key players in the backfield.

The football season of 2013 will not be remembered for the 6-6 record, rather, it will be remembered because of the loss of some of the team's greatest assets. The loss of both junior Juvon Batts and senior Zach Adams really hurt the team's morale and ability to compete against teams across the valley.

Last year, right before the second scrimmage against Central Mountain, the team was devastated to learn that sensational tailback Juvon Batts would be out for the season because of a rare heart condition.

"The whole thing was really tough for me to deal with. I didn't know what to say or do. I was extremely disappointed. It was the worst news I'd received in my life," said Batts

Five weeks later, the team also lost star fullback Zach Adams to a broken leg. It was an absolute nightmare for the team and for head coach Dave Hess.

Fast Forward to the current season: Both Juvon Batts and Zach Adams are back and better than ever.

"This season has been so exciting, I was so pumped heading into the first game and just couldn't wait to get out there with the team again," said Batts.

The team subsequently stomped Central Columbia in their season opener with a 43-6 win setting the tone for what the season would become thus far.

The following week saw many in the valley turning their heads in attention. Facing a tough opponent in Mount Carmel, the Seals rallied together in a crushing 61-6 victory. The Seals were led by the incredible 1-2 punch of Zach Adams and Juvon Batts, who each had three touchdowns.

The Seals are currently 4-0 after dispatching Shikellamy 28-7 and Shamokin 49-0 in the is the most recent weeks.



Photo Credit: L. Trusal
Junior Juvon Batts uses his speed to score

In addition to the running attack, freshman defensive tackle Tony Dressler has really stepped up this season for the team, recording a number of sacks for an aggressive Seals defense. Newcomer to the team, junior Christian Muniz (having just moved to Selinsgrove from New Jersey over the summer) has shown great flashes and has helped lead the way in the Seals pass rush.

The Seals will face the Berwick Bulldogs tonight under the lights in Selinsgrove.

The Lady Seals Acing the Competition

By Katie Pauling

Led by a handful of seniors, this tennis season has produced nothing but stellar achievements for the Selinsgrove Lady Seals as they have become an absolute powerhouse at 13-1, currently dominating their division.

The Seals varsity singles squad is led by seniors Liza Smith and Brittany Auker, and sophomore Savanna Foor. Together, they have had to play the toughest three individuals from each opposing team. Foor is currently undefeated in league play and Smith has already qualified for singles districts on October 11 at Bloomsburg University.

The doubles team for Selinsgrove has also been key thus far. Seniors Laura Long and Emily Feldman make up the number one doubles team and senior Jess Kerstetter and sophomore Olivia Fravel make up the second team. However, the Seals

have also had contributions from sophomores Isabel Bailey and Maddie Hostettler, and senior Chrissy Edmunds.

As a team, the Seals have already qualified for the doubles districts tourney at Bloomsburg University on October 18.

"I couldn't be any more proud of our team. Together we have accomplished what everyone thought was impossible. I hope as the rest of the season progresses we will continue to achieve all of our goals," senior Laura Long said.



PhotoCredit: J Long

The team celebrates a victory at the Bloomsburg Tournament.

Snake-Bitten Soccer Team Defies All Odds

By: Grace O'Malley

The new head coach for the Lady Seals Soccer team, Cheryl Underhill, started off the season in an impressive way by leading the girls to victory in the championship game of the Bellefonte Tournament, their fourth title in four years at that venue.

Coach Underhill moved into the head coach's position due to the retirement of former head coach, Matt Metzger. In addition to getting a new head coach, the Lady Seals also brought Mrs. Tracy Hepner and Mr. Brian Derr onto the coaching staff as assistants.

Along with building chemistry with the new coaching staff, early on the girls were dealt a bad hand with injuries of all sorts. Before the season opener, three key players had sustained injuries that have led them to miss all or most of the year.

Mackenzie Apple, a key senior midfielder known for her speed and tenacity, has been battling a high ankle sprain that has kept her in a walking boot for weeks. Natalia Brown, a sophomore who had a great preseason, tore multiple muscles in her knee and broke her femur. Erin Beaver, a junior goalie hoping to step up and fill the big shoes left by graduate goalie Jess Lawton, suffered a broken collarbone, putting her

out for the year.

"I'm not one to complain, but this really has been a disappointment. I was really looking forward to finally proving myself this year," said junior Erin Beaver.

A new coaching staff coupled with countless injuries would seem like something that would rattle a team to the point of not performing to their best. However, that is not the case for this year's Selinsgrove team. The Lady Seals have jumped out to a remarkable 7-3 start. Needing just two



The Lady Seals capture the Bellefonte Tournament title

more wins to clinch a birth to districts and with half the season still to go, things are looking up for the Seals. In their upcoming games, they will look to the power duo of sophomore Sam Rodkey and senior Nicki Krebs to lead the team to victory.

Boy's Soccer Team Rolling After Rough Start

By Jonah Markle

The Selinsgrove Seals Boy's soccer team has won four straight games after starting the 2014 season with a record of 1-3. Over this four-game winning streak, the Seals have recorded 240 consecutive scoreless minutes and have scored 11 goals.

When asked about the direction the team was headed, senior defender Sam Bailey was very positive. "Things are really clicking right now. After a rocky start, we have buckled down and worked hard. The chemistry on the team is great, and I think that is translating into the games," said Bailey

The start of the 2014 campaign was not a promising one when the season opened with two losses at the Clinton County Commissioners Cup in Lock Haven, PA. The Seals had to wait until September 3 to get their first win at Shamokin.

In every game they have played this season, the Seals have appeared to play better. In a big win over Milton, the Seals scored a season high five goals. Leading the scoring was senior forward Manny

Little and sophomore forward Gavin Keller.

Currently, Selinsgrove sits alone atop League II of the Pennsylvania Heartland Athletic Conference. With almost half the season finished, the boys will look to finish strong as they have to play each league member at least once more.

The Seals will be back in action on Monday September 29, when they take on the Shamokin Indians at Steffen Memorial Field on the campus of the Selinsgrove High School.



Senior Derek Menges looks to shoot against Shikellamy

Field Hockey...Continuing the Legacy

By Angelo Martin

Another season for the Selinsgrove Field Hockey team is underway and Coach Cathy Keiser's team is off to a fiery start as they are 8-1 exactly one-half of the way through the season.

With a starting lineup dominated by upperclassmen, this year's team has drawn a ton of comparisons to the 2009 team that finished their season as Runner-Ups in the State Championship Game.

Selinsgrove's only loss to date came in a 2-1 nail-biter against perennial power Crestwood. The Comets were last year's State-Runner-Ups and expect to be in the hunt with Selinsgrove for a state title this year.

The Seals are led by senior captains Emily Klinger and Nora Aucker. Klinger, a two-time 1st Team All-State Honoree and Penn State field hockey committed future player, leads the team in goals. Aucker, who also earned First Team All-State last year and was the 2013 Daily Item Player of the Year, heads a Selinsgrove back field that includes a star-studded cast. Senior Megan Wetzel, a 2013 Second Team All-



Photo Credit: L Trusal

Senior Emily Klinger attempts a shot against Shikellamy.

Star honoree, and juniors Lindsey Trusal and Carleigh Charles, have been the backbone of a traditionally tough Seals defense.

On the offensive end, Selinsgrove

has also gotten much help from other forwards senior Brooke Zeiders and junior Lexi Horst, who were both All-State Honorable Mentions last year. Perhaps the biggest surprise this season has been the play of sophomore forward Megan Keeney. As a first year starter, Keeney has stepped up and taken the pressure off of other Selinsgrove forwards. This dynamic combination of Klinger, Horst, Zeiders, and Keeney has been the driving force for a Seals offensive attack that is averaging a little over 4 goals per game.

The biggest win of the season came on September 18th in a 3-2 overtime win over Lewisburg. In that game, Zeiders and Keeney tallied goals, but it was junior Lexi Horst who had the game winner in overtime. Junior midfielder and three year starter Tesa Hoffman was highly praised for her defense in that game, stifling a Lewisburg attack led by area standout Cassie Sumfest of Lewisburg. If the Seals hope to win their 10th straight district title, they will most likely have to beat Lewisburg again in the championship game.

"Lewisburg is an extremely fast team. They have talent all over the field. You can't let your guard down for one second against them. In order to beat them again, we'll have to continue to pass well and communicate on the field," said junior midfielder Tesa Hoffman.

With the skill and experience this year's Seals team has, there is no question that the Seals have a legitimate shot at taking home Coach Cathy Keiser's 22nd district title. In addition to claiming a district title, all the pieces are in place for a major run through the state playoffs. While the tradition of Selinsgrove field hockey has already been stamped into history, all of the Selinsgrove faithful have one thing on their mind for this year's team: a State Championship trophy.

Cross Country Off to the Races Once Again

By Angelo Martin

The Selinsgrove Seals Cross-Country team is off and running with their 2014 campaign under Boy's Head Coach Ryan Maguire and Girl's Head Coach Mike Stebila and a team loaded with individual studs.

On the Lady Seals side, several underclassmen have had incredible starts to their season. Freshman Skylar Maurer broke the school's freshman record at the Midd-West meet. Sophomores Brittney Carnathan and Ashley Blair have also had outstanding seasons so far and have broken times of under 20:00. All three girls

have been asked to compete in the highly competitive Paul Short Invitational coming up on October 4th at Lehigh University.

On the men's side, junior Brody Beiler has led the way. At the Midd-West meet, Beiler ran a time of 16:16, a personal best. All of the top 7 runners have hit times under 19:00, with five runners (Brody Beiler, senior Johnny Cope, sophomore Garrett Wolf, sophomore Brice Harro, and sophomore Charles Walters) all accomplishing times under 18:30.

Continued on next page

Cross Country Off to the Races Once Again cont.

The boy's team was hit heavily early on when it learned of the injury of senior standout Ethan Fadale. Fadale suffered a foot injury early in the season and will not be able to come back until the week before districts. This will be extremely difficult for Fadale, who will only have a week to get back in running shape.

"Without Ethan, we have a good team. With Ethan, we have a district championship team," said junior Brody Beiler.

In order to win districts and make it to state's as a team, the boy's will probably have to avenge their loss earlier in the season to Mount Caramel. To do this, the Seals will be counting on Fadale to come up big at districts.

"Ethan is our golden ticket to state's. I'm really hoping we can get him back at the end of the season and have him come through for us at districts like I know he can," included Beiler.

For the boy's and girl's cross-country



Junior Brody Beiler outpaces the pack at Mid-West

teams, the whole season comes down to one meet: the District IV District Championship meet. With so much exciting drama, it will interesting to see who will rise to the top.

"Cross-country is different than most sports in that your whole season comes down to one race. But this gives you all the extra adrenaline needed to perform to the absolute best of your ability," said Beiler.

Golf Sears Up the Competition Thus Far

By Angelo Martin

Under Head Coach Lonnie Groce, the Selinsgrove golf team has had a promising start to their 2014 season with a record of 22-3 through the first five matches.

Playing in a league and district that is not as strong as in years past, the Seals are the favorite to win their league and also repeat as district champions.

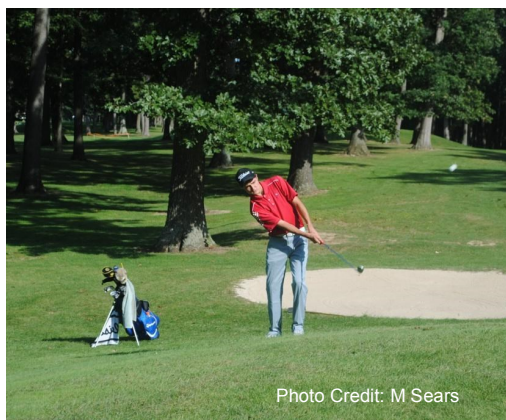
Selinsgrove is captained by junior Logan Sears. Having competed at the varsity level since his freshman year, Sears is an experienced veteran and an area standout. He is responsible for having the team's best stroke average.

"I'm happy with the way the season has started. I think we are primed for a great finish. With the league and district matches ahead, we just need to find more consistency", said Sears.

In addition to Sears, Selinsgrove has also received major contributions from junior Aaron Zechman and sophomore Kyle Mertz. Both players have chipped in good scores for the Seals in every match. Behind Sears, Zechman has the team's second best stroke average.

"Mertz and Zechman have been huge for us this year. What we need to find is a good number 4 who can throw in a good score under 100 as we approach our two most important matches. I have a lot of faith in Roman Reeder, Reid Betsker, and Griffin Kirchner and believe they will make great strides moving forward," said Sears.

With the district match on October 2nd, the Seals will need a complete team effort in order to capture their second straight district title and bring home another piece of hardware to the Grove.



Junior Logan Sears attempts a birdie.

ENTERTAINMENT

Student Profiles

Alexis Martina: Senior, Female

What are your plans after high school?

I would like to go to college and study to become a veterinarian.

What is your favorite class?

Intercultural Communications at Susquehanna.

What is your dream vacation?

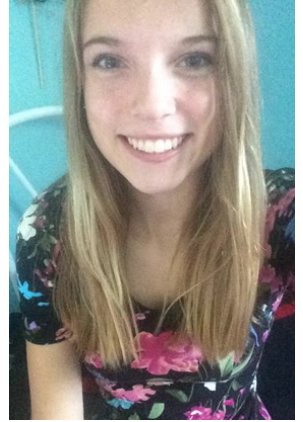
I want to tour all of Ireland.

What is your biggest fear?

Starting over somewhere new.

What is your favorite food?

Grapes



David Klinger: Junior, Male

What are your plans after high school?

I want to go to a four year school to study either medicine or something with computers.

What is your favorite class?

Spanish

What is your dream vacation?

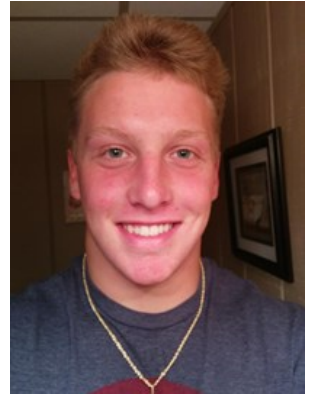
I want to go on another Disney cruise to Castaway Bay.

What is your biggest fear?

Failure

What is your favorite food?

Buffalo wings with ranch dressing.



Lauren Rowe: Sophomore, Female

What are your plans after high school?

Going to college.

What is your favorite class?

French!

What is your dream vacation?

Going to Hawaii.

What is your biggest fear?

Bad grades.

What is your favorite food?

Mac n' cheese.



Kole Miller: Freshmen, Male

What are your plans after high school?

I want to go to college...and be a superhero.

What is your favorite class?

Environmental Science.

What is your dream vacation?

Going to Canada.

What is your biggest fear?

Being hit by a car.

What is your favorite food?

Mac n' cheese.



OPINIONS

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Initially upon hearing the news of the ambush at the Blooming Grove barracks, my father, Corporal Thomas Trusal of the state police, reacted emotionally in a way that I don't typically see from him.

He was sitting at my computer the next morning reading negative comments about the event and after anonymously responding to them, he went outside and sat alone for about an hour. When I asked him to state what he thought about the situation he responded "This is one of the most disgusting and cowardly acts perpetrated on a police officer in my twenty one plus years of law enforcement."

A similar reaction came from other troopers such as Major Angelo Martin, who used to work at the barracks where this

occurred so he has a more personal connection to the situation.

After the identification of suspected shooter Eric Frein, law enforcement officers from Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey went on a massive manhunt, all determined to capture and convict this man. The unity displayed by the State Police is tremendous. This brotherhood is composed of men and women who all may not know each other, but will go to great lengths to defend each other.

I think we all should recognize it and take a moment to recognize the bravery and selflessness displayed in this situation.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Trusal, Junior



My Turn by Isabel Bailey

Think back to a specific day and time, something that is engrained in your memory. Visualize it as a picture, one scene in your brain. Now think about how long ago that was...and put yourself there again. It may depend how long ago it was, but have you changed since then? Who are you now? Were you different than you are now?

In all of my years in middle school I felt like I was different person each year. Of course, I was still just Isabel, but it felt like my personality had changed, and looking back on the year before, I was always puzzled at some of my ideals or what was important to me back then.

I have been thinking about this for a while and I'm trying to figure out if humans are constantly evolving. Do we change, as I felt that I did, year- to-year? Or subconsciously do we change day-to-day?

I overheard a conversation in the grocery store the other day, some woman saying, "well, yes, they've both changed so much from last year." Then I began to think that maybe this "they" the woman in the grocery store was talking about was a couple, and I said to myself that yes, relationships can change people, possibly day-to-day, or month-to-month.

Then I thought that maybe the "they" were her two children and I said to myself, "of course siblings influence one another and could change each other." But through this whole thought process I realized that

change in people is everything. Because *change* to people eventually starts to make up who they are.

I'm not talking about moods, because moods are quite a different story and whose mood doesn't change frequently? But character change is a development and what we need to realize to figure out who we are is to try out different ways of thinking, acting, and living. Otherwise, how can we know how we want to act?

I think this is especially true in teenagers, which would make a lot of sense, since teenagers tend to be the ones that are still figuring themselves out. But also, many adults are figuring themselves out too. Maybe you never really know who you are until you've lived for a long time? And possibly not even then. That could be what keeps us going; the hunger to decide who we are, and in that, there is life.

Change happens daily, not always as impactful as year-to-year change, but we are all going through our own roller coaster of our ideals, thoughts, and interests. Change isn't easy, but for most, change is what leads us to live fully, to experience everything we need to, and it allows us to experience it when we're ready to. So take yourself to that certain scene you were in, take a mental picture. Now take a mental picture of yourself right now in this exact moment, and then take a mental picture of what you could be in the future.