

SENECA



*Protesting at home*

**About 50 pro-choice supporters gathered in front of Seneca City Hall on Wednesday afternoon.**

# Protesters rally outside of Seneca City Hall

**BY NORM CANNADA**  
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — A crowd of students and adults protested in front of Seneca City Hall Wednesday afternoon over the U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* last month.

More than 50 people were out in front of City Hall shortly after 3 p.m., in protest of the ruling that sent the issue back to each state.

A brief, heavy rain left many people running to their cars, earlier, and went inside the building until it ended and 20 came back out after afterwards.

Organizer Cadence Braunsdorf, a 16-year-old Seneca High student, said she was pleased with the crowd and had students from Seneca and Walhalla high schools there. Her mother, Beverly Braunsdorf, and stepfather, Gabriel Gallimore, joined her for the protest.

"It's awesome," Cadence said of the crowd. "It actually made me really happy and proud that so many people



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**Hayden Laye stands across the street from Seneca City Hall to support the right to life on Wednesday afternoon.**

here in our small town could show out and show their support.

"I'm angry. A lot of these people out here are angry," she added. "We're going backwards. We shouldn't have to be fighting for these rights again that people fought for over 50 years ago. We've actually had older people come out here and be like, 'I can't believe you're

having to fight the same thing we did.'"

## **PEACEFUL PROTEST**

While Braunsdorf said she and others were "angry," Seneca Police Chief Casey Bowling said the crowd was "peaceful and there were no problems." A pro-life teenager held up a sign that read

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# PROTEST: Roe overturned in June

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“Stop Abortion” across the street from the larger crowd, but there were no tense encounters between the two sides of the hot-button issue.

The teen, Hayden Laye, a Walhalla High School student, said they learned about the event on social media. Laye was alone most of the day but was expecting others to join later.

“I’m a Democrat. I recognize the scientific fact that 96 percent of biologists agree that new human life begins at the moment of fertilization, that fertilization creates a new distinct living human being and as a Democrat, I think that all human beings deserve equal rights,” Laye said. “Whether it’s by myself or with a group of 50 or

so people, I’m still going to come out here show my support for the unborn, show my support for equal rights.

“Abortion is, in my view, a tool of the patriarchy and a tool of the ruling class, and the majority is not always the one that is morally correct,” Laye added. “I believe that killing human beings is wrong, and that’s why I’m out here whether I have anybody else.”

Kayli Hoover, 16, a Seneca High student, worked with Braunsdorf on both of the protests, one which happened earlier this month. “I just feel like, overall, it’s not right that we don’t have a right to our bodies,” she said. “I feel like it should be our decision and that the state and other people shouldn’t be

able to decide what we do with our bodies. I’m just so happy that a lot of the older people are fighting with us.”

Recent Walhalla High graduate Sydney Payne agreed.

“I deserve the right to choose what I do with my body,” she said. “I don’t think men should be able to decide whether I carry a pregnancy to term or not.”

Among some of the adults at the protest were Frank and Jane Powell, who were there with 8-year-old Labrador Retriever with a sign around the dog that read, “I didn’t have a choice. I was fixed.”

Frank said he was at the protest “remembering a time when we didn’t have a choice (before Roe).”



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**Pro-choice protestors stood along the sidewalk in front of Seneca City Hall with home-made signs on Wednesday afternoon.**