



### LOVE ON THE ROCK

From acquaintances to best friends, many of these couples are still surprised to have married someone from their high school!

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### SKY MAMMAL

Land Mammal turns Sky Mammal! Learn why Chris Doyle loves to fly and how he successfully completed his first solo flight at 16 years old!

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### SOOT BOYZ

Ever spot diesel-spewing trucks rolling down our streets? Soot Boyz follow an unwritten set of rules and enjoy a unique lifestyle.

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THE INLET

Vol. 4, No. 3

Shelter Island School

March 2016

## DECA MAKES ITS MARK

BY MARGARET MICHALAK

On the chilly morning of January 6th, 13, eager, sharply dressed Shelter Island DECA students boarded the ferry at 6am. We met up with the Greenport DECA club and took the long trip to Suffolk County Community College in Selden to compete with the rest of Suffolk County in the annual DECA competition. With categories ranging from job interviews, to marketing tests, Shelter Island Students came home with a few awards. Being Shelter Island's first year going to the DECA competition, not everyone had very high hopes. Seeing students from much bigger schools have DECA clubs with ten to twenty people in each was intimidating, to say the least. Most of these schools have multiple winners in different categories annually.

I will admit, I was unsure walking into my first DECA experience. I walked into the Human Resources holding area with President Serina Kaasik at my side, ready to handle whatever the judges threw at us. With about 15 other people in our room, Serina and I looked at each other expectantly. We were the last two to be prepped and interviewed. We were re-

lieved and proud when we were finally finished. Henry Lang, one of the winners in the "Job Interview" category felt

work categories, so they chose to take a test on financial terms. Little did they know they would end up performing

other students, and presented a test that they had two hours to complete. "Walking out of the room, I thought I had completely bombed it," Julia told me laughing. Elizabeth Dunning was our final award winner this year. She participated in "Visual Advertising." All of the participants were presented with a prompt which was, "make an advertisement to steer people away from texting while driving." After an hour and a half, Elizabeth was satisfied with her work and turned it in. Her poster said, "Last year, over 1.5 million crashes that occurred involved cell phone use. We have been trained to pick up our phones at the sound of a buzz... be stronger than Pavlov's dog."



The sharply dressed Shelter Island DECA Club at the DECA awards ceremony. PHOTO BY MARTHA TUTHILL

"extremely confident" leaving his mock job interview. He presented his resume to the judge and was interviewed like you would be for a real life job, for about 10 minutes. "The judge told me that he was really impressed with my resume and communication skills," Henry commented.

Olivia Yeaman and Julia Labrozzi weren't intrigued by any of the public

in the top 10% of all the students who took the test. Olivia told me, "I get too nervous when talking to people I don't know. I figured that the test was the best option for me." Julia felt similarly and was glad she chose the test route. "It was much more laid back then I had imagined. I figured it would be much more uptight," Julia explained. The two girls were brought into a room with about 20

awards ceremony, the Shelter Island DECA club members met up with the Greenport program and sat together to congratulate everyone. Elizabeth, Henry, Olivia and Julia were Shelter Island's only winners, but that's a great way to start. Every member of the Shelter Island DECA Club was very proud of their fellow DECA members on their accomplishments.



### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Shelter Island Indians forward/center (and The Inlet's very own) Tristan Wissemann for surpassing the 1000 point mark! He accomplished the feat on January 2nd in the Indians' victory over the East Rockaway Rocks. Wissemann is only the 6th basketball player in Shelter Island history to have done it. Well done, Tristan!

PHOTO BY MATTHEW DUNNING

### TEAM SPIRIT

At a home basketball game, students cheer on varsity players Jack Kimmelman, Semaj Lawrence, Billy Boeklen, Peter Kropf, Tristan Wissemann, and Henry Lang with handmade signs.

PHOTO BY KELLY COLLIGAN





# The millennial revival

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Millennials succeed boomers as the electorate's largest generation. Many believe because more millennials than ever voted in the Iowa Caucus, this could mean trouble for front-runners Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, but can this truly affect the outcome of the election? Well, it is likely too soon to tell, but the increase in young voters' involvement has been overwhelmingly apparent over the past several months.

The youth turnout for the Iowa Caucus was the second-highest in the last 20 years at 11.2 percent. The youth turnout for the 2012 Iowa Caucus was a mere 4 percent. But, why is this? I, myself, have never considered myself politically-opinionated, nor very involved in previous elections. Older voters seem to believe that we millennials are uneducated on politics and the future of our nation. They have a very good reason to believe so, considering how uninvolved voters from the ages 18-24 were in the 2014 election.

However, this year is different. Not sure if should credit television personality Donald Trump or the ambitious Bernie Sanders, or perhaps both for this shift. Love him or hate him, Trump's volatile campaign has resulted in a political uprising among young people. He has caused youths to get involved in the political race as they never have before, even during President Obama's initial campaign in 2008. Although it was reported that 28 percent of Trump voters in the Iowa Caucus were not college-graduates, this does not mean some college students and

young people alike do not rally around him. Many appreciate Trump's "brutal honesty," (even though he places second on the list of candidates after Ted Cruz who report false information at 76 percent, according to the New York Times). Other young people, on the other hand, now believe it is their duty to educate themselves on the election to do everything in their power to prevent Donald Trump from becoming our nation's next president. Either way, Trump sure has a way of getting young voters more involved.

The same holds true for Bernie Sanders. Whether you're "feeling the Bern" or left cold, Bernie has drawn an immense number of young voters to the polls, which was proven by the Iowa Caucus. This demonstrated the strong potential of young people shaping the outcome of the November election. "The fact that young people turned out in pretty large number for Bernie Sanders may be an indication that he is a candidate that can turn out a person that would otherwise not come out to vote in primary and Caucuses," says Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University. Bernie Sanders attracted 84 percent of young votes, whereas Hillary attracted only 14

percent.

But why is this? The majority of youths reportedly do not trust Hillary Clinton and her ties to Wall Street. (Not to mention the hundreds of millions given to her from big banks like Citigroup and Goldman Sachs). Although she resists affiliation with these groups, a large percentage of the general public believe otherwise. Sanders, even at the age of

much more progressive than Clinton. "I do not know any progressive who has a super PAC and takes \$15 million from Wall Street," Sanders claimed. In response, Clinton retorted, "I know what I've done but I don't think it helps for the Senator [Sanders] to be making those kinds of comparisons because clearly we share a lot of the same hopes and aspirations for our country." Vague? Yes. Hillary's struggle to defend herself in terms of honesty and her connection to Wall Street could be why young voters are shying away. Although many more experienced voters are confident that Hillary will prevail, only time—and the results of the New Hampshire primary—will tell.

The impact that millennial influence has had on these candidates is undeniable. As far as the highest concerns for young voters, USA Today reports, "The top issue by far for millennials is the economy, including concerns about jobs, the minimum wage, and paid leave. Their second-ranking issue is specific to their stage of life: college affordability and student debt. That's followed closely by foreign policy and terrorism, health care and guns." Because millennials replace "boomers" as the largest electorate generation, the candidates left standing should focus in on these key concerns of young people. Hillary confessed, "I know I have some work to do, particularly with young people." By the looks of it now, in order to swing the votes of these young people, Clinton and Trump will undoubtedly need to change their approaches.

## IOWA CAUCUS FRONT RUNNERS

ACCORDING TO YOUNG VOTES



BERNIE SANDERS 84%  
HILLARY CLINTON 14%



TED CRUZ 27%  
MARCO RUBIO 24%  
DONALD TRUMP 17%

74, has found a way of (rather ambitiously) inspiring millions of young people through his visions of education reform, ranging from the issues of student loan debt to tuition-free education. Whether Bernie's visions are plausible considering our nation's demographics and size is debatable, but he sure has young people believing in him.

Many young voters see Sanders as

# Confidential informants on college campuses: Immoral and inexcusable

BY BILLY BOEKLEN

In a recent English class, Mrs. Treharne showed us a "60 Minutes" segment on college students being recruited to be confidential informants for law enforcement on college campuses. A confidential informant is someone who works with the police to go undercover to expose criminal activity. Currently on college campuses, police are using college students (in trouble for often minor drug possession charges), to work for them as confidential informants to catch other college students selling or buying illegal drugs. To say the "60 Minutes" segment is disturbing is an understatement. The lengths to which law enforcement is manipulating and using college students is appalling.

In the segment, police interrogation video is shown to exhibit just how a college student "CI," as they are called, is made. Take the case of college student Andrew Sadek. He was caught selling \$80 worth of marijuana. Chief Jason Weber, head of a four-county drug task force in eastern North Dakota and Minnesota, warns Andrew on tape during a police interrogation that he is facing up to 40 years in jail unless he wants to "help himself" and work as an infor-

mant. Andrew Sadek appears shaken and mentions he does not want his parents to find out about his arrest. He is 20 years old, has never been in trouble with the law before, and has no idea that he would never actually spend 40 years in prison for a \$80 marijuana sale. (As a matter of fact, after a court appearance with a lawyer, Sadek most likely would have wound up with community service and fines.) Instead of asking for a lawyer, Sadek agrees to become a CI. He signs a contract with no legal counsel when he is under extreme stress which says he agrees to purchase drugs from 3 other dealers while wearing a wire. The deals will need to increase in quantity and he must purchase so-called "hard drugs," in addition marijuana. Sadek signs because he believes this deal will save him. The police have told him if he successfully completes his responsibilities as a CI, Sadek's arrest will be erased, gone, no one will ever know. Over the course of 6 months Sadek struggles to figure out how to make the drug buys he needs to. The police do not tell him where to buy or how to buy and he becomes increasingly paranoid and distressed. After completing 2 of the 3

required buys, with the police hounding Sadek to find and score the final "hard drug" purchase, he is found in a nearby river with a bullet in his head. His death was ruled a suicide. His parents refuse to believe Sadek killed himself, and believe he could have been murdered due to his work as a CI. The work his parents had no idea he was doing until after he went missing and was found dead.

Sadek is not the only story told in this "60 Minutes" segment. There is Rachel Hoffmann who was killed by drug dealers when trying to make a purchase as a college campus CI at Florida State. There are countless anonymous college students from Ole Miss who recount the abuse they endured from campus police after agreeing to become CIs and then failing to complete their "contracts" in a timely fashion. The news segment was shocking and eye-opening. Mrs. Treharne showed it to us so that we would be informed, so that we could understand that this is standard practice on some college campuses. I was outraged.

It is clear that college students should not be CIs. The work is dangerous, it is coerced, and it should be left to professional investigators. The kids on the

videos shown on this tv news program are afraid and intimidated by the police. The police do not read the students their rights, since they are not "technically" being arrested. The police purposefully time and again tell the student offenders that they are facing sentences in prison that are the absolute maximum and may be for repeat offenders only, when the relatively small crimes the students are facing would never result in prison times they are being threatened with. These students are not savvy enough to ask for lawyers and have no idea that they are agreeing to "contracts" that will endanger them and use them to do police work they are not in any way trained to do. Students are not fit to do police work and minor drug offenses should not result in death. This use of students as CIs on college campuses today must stop. In the meantime, I am glad to have been informed about this procedure. If you or your family members do not know about this program, be sure to inform them so no one you care about winds up in the same position as Andrew Sadek.

We would love to hear from you!  
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THE INLET is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Len Skuggevik and the Board of Ed..



# Love on The Rock

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

"I could never date someone from the island," this is a common refrain heard in the Shelter Island High School hallways. Yet, maybe we should not be so fast to dismiss our fellow Indians. We were interested in finding out more about how married Shelter Island couples wound up together--turns out some were high school sweethearts; others were classmates who took a bit longer to realize they could be more than just friends.

Middle school Science teacher Sharon Gibbs and her husband, Jeffrey, have been married for 26 years now. The two waited until nearly the last minute of high school to admit their true feelings for each other. According to Mrs. Sharon Gibbs, the two began dating "the day of

they had something very special. "During the first year that we dated, while I was a senior," Sharon shares, "Jeffrey told me 6 months into the relationship that he was going to marry me. Five and a half years later, he asked me on Dec. 24th, 1989." After marrying, Sharon and Jeffrey lived upstate for some time, before returning to their hometown of Shelter Island. Here, they enjoy proximity to family (more than 100 Island relatives between them!) and the community that raised them. Reflecting upon their 25 years of marriage and 30 plus years together, Sharon says, "I am the happiest person on the planet. I love my husband more everyday. Our true friendship is the basis of our happiness.

Shelter Island is a special place. I would not change a thing!"

Another couple that began in high school and is still going strong now is Ken and Donna Clark. Beginning in 1976, while both were only 16, they saw something special in each other. "She knew how to open scallops, and that's all that mattered," Ken says about a 16 year-old Donna. Donna remembers it a little bit differently, "I helped him with his homework. I did my work, then his. I wrote two high school thesis papers. Mine and his. He got a higher grade. I was so annoyed." In a more serious moment, Ken admitted that he and Donna have been a good fit for

so long in large part because they are both life long islanders. He says, "Being a fisherman, Donna accepted my lifestyle. Fishing comes first and then all after that." Donna echoed Ken's sentiment in saying, "Yep. Fish, scallops, and all that come first. Believe me, it was not easy and still is not easy, but I accept it." Yet, even a "salty fisherman" has his romantic and thoughtful moments. In thinking back on their time together, Donna recounted some of Ken's most memorable gifts. "One year I received a scallop knife with my name carved in it for Valentine's Day. Then, I received a cookbook. Finally, I received a jewelry box. Scallop knife, cookbook, jewelry box, in that order." But, perhaps, the best symbol of the love they share for each other and for the island they call home is the most special gift Ken has given Donna. "A gold locket cast from a Shelter Island coeles shell. Inside is a clam pearl from a clam Kenny caught. It is so special. Even a salty fisherman can be sentimental."

The Gibbs' and the Clarks may have found love while still in the hallways of S.I.S., but for other alumni, it took a bit longer to realize they were meant to be. When Mallory Wissemann graduated in 2005, she never envisioned becoming a Clark nine years later.

Though Sean Clark and Mallory were only a year apart in school, and were friends, they never dated during high school. Mallory admits, "I'm not sure that I gave any thought to us being together in the future." In fact, it was not until 2010 that their romance began. Looking back, their winding up together

seems natural in that Sean and Mallory have quite the shared history. Sean's father, Roger, and Mallory's father, Gunnar, grew up together and have always been close friends. Mallory says, after she and Sean began dating, "We didn't have to go through the whole introduction process with our families, since we've all known each other forever." Also, both Sean and Mallory lived in the same home (at different times) in Sylvester Manor during their childhoods. Their paths seemed bound to cross, and now, over a decade after high school, Sean and Mallory are happily married, living in Virginia, and raising their 17 month old son, Colton. About their childhood home, Sean says, "There is no place like Shelter Island to raise a family. Plus, everyone we know and love lives here."

That is why the couple plans on moving back to Shelter Island in the future to give Colton the upbringing they themselves experienced.

Beau Payne and Alexandra Binder "had no relationship at all while in school," according to Alexandra. Beau graduated in 2003, and Alex in 2007, which "was too big of an age difference while in school for us to be in the same circles," according to Alex. In retrospect though, Beau says, he "might have believed it [that they would wind up together]" because Alex "fit his type," though for Alex, "my high school-self



Beau and Alexandra Payne on their wedding day in Stowe, Vermont, on October 19, 2014. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX PAYNE.

though Beau and I both grew up on the island, we had very different upbringings and life experiences." These differences, however, do not extend to their plans for the future. Beau and Alex got married in 2014, and have made a life together here on the island. According to Alex, "Beau and I share a very deep and rather 'unexplainable' connection to the Island. Neither of us were the type of young people who 'hated living on the Island' and wanted to leave right after high school--hence why we are still here." Beau's and Alex's individual pasts and their united future lie on Shelter Is-



Donna and Ken Clark, the couple that scallops together, stays together. PHOTO COURTESY OF DONNA CLARK

Jeffery's high school graduation." She explains, "He asked me to dance with him at his graduation party--they had The South Ferry Band playing. While we were dancing, he told me he had liked me for a long time and wanted to date me. I was flattered and surprised--we spent the next three hours talking and laughing. It began our relationship." Though Sharon and Jeffrey had attended school together since Sharon started Kindergarten (Jeffery was one year ahead of her in school) they had never dated



Mallory and Sean at the Marine Corps Ball. PHOTO COURTESY OF MALLORY WISSEMAN

before or shared their feelings for one another. Sharon admits, "My friends, in the beginning, were surprised, as Jeffrey and I were involved with two different social circles at school." Though it took them all of high school to "find" each other, it didn't take long for the two to realize



The transformation of Jimbo and Mary Theinert. PHOTO COURTESY OF JIMBO THEINERT

would have been a bit surprised since we were so different at the time." It was not until 2009 that Beau and Alex realized they had something special. At the time, Alex was taking the North Ferry everyday, and she would often catch the boat Beau captained while she was coming home late at night. This is how they "met" again, Alex explains. (In a funny coincidence, the ferry seems to be a regular Match.com for Alex's family. Alex's mom, Kathy Doroski, "met my father while he was working on the North Ferry," then Alex's mother remarried and her husband, John, began work on the ferry. And, in addition, "my stepmother met my father because he was still working on the ferry," Alex shares. So, it seemed almost natural that Alex and Beau first found sparks on the ferry as well.) Alex acknowledges, "al-

land, and this couple is perfectly content with that.

Jimbo and Mary Theinert are yet another couple who took their time realizing they would be great together. Though they attended school together for years, and graduated together in 2005, it seems they missed what was right in front of them for some time. Mary describes she and Jimbo as "friendly classmates," though she admits that she "had a big crush on Jimbo throughout high school" and "her friends knew it, though we didn't see each other outside of school much." Jimbo on the other hand, came to the realization that he liked Mary as more than a friend all at once. Jimbo explains, "I can remember the exact moment that I looked at Mary and realized I

LOVE CON'T ON PAGE 5



# El hombre misterioso de Mexico

BY JUSTINE KAREN

The tenth grade class has a new member: Roilando Carbajal from Mexico. While Roi's three younger sisters Maria, an 8th grader, Janet, a third grader, and Dulce ("Candy"), a first grader, have already been enrolled at Shelter Island School for a couple of years, Roi has been in San Juan Calmecca, Mexico, a town which he describes as being "peaceful and calm." According to Roilando, San Juan Calmecca plays host to "many traditional dances," as well as a festival called "Tiquanes," which lasts



Sophomore Roilando Carbajal  
PHOTO BY DEVON TREHARNE

from December 17th to 21st. San Juan Calmecca is also home to the Popo Catepe volcano. When asked what he misses most about San Juan Calmecca, Roi answers that he "misses his family first, and his friends second." Only 7 members of Roilando's family currently reside in the States. Although, they, "love him very much." Along with the three younger sisters formerly mentioned, Roi also has a younger brother. In regard to his relationships with his siblings, Roi says, "My siblings are fun. We play

soccer together." Soccer, being Roi's passion. Roi has been avidly playing soccer since he was ten years old. He says that his favorite position to play happens to be "mid field." And though he loves to play the sport, Roi has little patience to watch it. While Roilando has not yet been able to join a league and play as much as he would like to, Roi has kept busy teaching his sister, Janet, how to play.

As for how he is adjusting to life in a new country, Roi admits that living here these last few weeks has been "overwhelming." Mostly because he has yet to gain fluency in the English language, therefore Roi is having some difficulty interacting with his peers and understanding his classes. Despite this, however, he has noticed that more students pay closer attention to their teachers than students where he comes from do. Another tough adjustment has been American food; it's not Roilando's favorite. It is an unheard of notion in America not love the taste of pizza. But to Roilando, the flavor is not very appealing. On the other hand, Roi has had the chance to try Chinese

food, which he very much enjoyed. Regardless of feeling overwhelmed at times, Roilando does like Shelter Island as a whole. "It's very beautiful," he says, "I had never been on a boat or seen the ocean before." Summertime and fishing season will also supply Roi with plenty of opportunities for new experiences, no doubt. Roi goes on to say that he hopes to one day, "see the Statue of Liberty because [he] has never seen it up close." He also wishes to, "see where the Twin Towers were" and experience the American history that goes along with those extremely meaningful locations. He would also like to go to the New York Public Library and a zoo, as he has never before been to one.

With any luck, Roi will be able to check off all of the activities that make up his wish list.

As Roi tightens his grasp on the English language, he will soon be able to participate more readily in lessons and extracurricular activities. Until then, we wish Roilando a smooth time adjusting to his new life.

# Larry Bird, the Jets, and history: Mr. Miedema

BY PETER KROPF

Peter Miedema has been teaching history at Shelter Island School for the past eight years, and has also left his mark on the sports scene, coaching basketball and baseball. We know he is fun, passionate, and knowledgeable in the classroom, on the hardwood, and on the ball field. But how much do we know about him, really?

Born in Kingston and raised in Accord, both towns in the Hudson Valley part of upstate New York, Mr. Miedema knows what it's like to live in a "very rural" place. Throughout his childhood, it would be common to see "mountains, fields and dairy farms." The history teacher attended Rondout Valley High School, a large school district with fairly small classes, serving about 10 different towns and with approximately 150 students to a grade. Home of the Ganders, Rondout Valley was a somewhat close-knit school. He compares it to our school, saying, "You really knew everyone and could recognize last names."

Mr. Miedema's family included his mother, father, two brothers, and a sister. He remembers that his mother "took care of us and was warm and loving." His father was "easygoing, worked really hard, and took pleasure in talking to people." The history teacher is convinced his father's behavior rubbed off on him, since he believes he gets along with people the same way. His brothers were about 18 years older than he, but he notes that "a lot of their interests became my interests." He adds, "My sister was my rock. She was very bright, and made it a point to make sure I was successful in academics."

"Working a lot" during his childhood, Mr. Miedema found his real joy through sports. The upstate New York native played "a lot of baseball from a young age" and kept it up until he graduated high school. He continues to stay involved on the diamond today by coaching our high school baseball team. Mr. Miedema also competed in football and basketball up to the junior-high level. When not playing organized sports, he would get involved

in pickup baseball and basketball games, whether with his brothers or friends. As a fan, the teacher always made it a priority to "stay on top of the latest sports events" as best he could. Mr. Miedema is a die-hard fan of both the New York Jets and the New York Yankees. But his favorite sports moment ever was Larry Bird's fantastic performance with the Boston Celtics in Game 5 of the first round of the 1991 NBA Playoffs against the Indiana Pacers, in which Bird came back in the middle of the third quarter despite suffering a concussion in the second. This sparked a Celtics rally, and they would win a nail biter 124-121, thus clinching the series. Mr. Miedema would also enjoy Bird's next season, which would be his last. The current varsity girls basketball coach loved the way Bird would "find a way to will victory and perform in the clutch." In fact, Mr. Miedema's favorite book is the Basketball Hall of Famer's autobiography, Larry Bird: Drive.

After high school, the history teacher would attend the State University of New York at New Paltz, a "solid academic" school that was "relatively close" to where he lived. He majored in secondary education with a minor in history, and made some friends along the way in his four years there. So why did Mr. Miedema become interested in history? Well, his parents "often talked about politics" and he adds, it was a subject area that came easy to me, and one that I really enjoyed." At first, he "taught at several schools upstate," but then, through friends and other connections, found himself teaching on the east end of Long Island at the Child Development Center of the Hamptons (CDCH) Charter School. In

2007, he found out there was a junior varsity basketball coaching position open on Shelter Island, and he quickly jumped at the opportunity. Then, Mr. Miedema began filling in for high school history teacher Mr. D'Angelo, who had become ill. When Mr. D'Angelo sadly passed away, Mr. Miedema stayed on. The rest

of the year, when my desk is clear, my students did well on the Regents, and I've earned a break."

During his time off, Mr. Miedema likes to watch the television shows "Columbo," "The Sopranos," and "Breaking Bad." Other favorite things? His favorite movie is "The Godfather," which he emphasizes is much better than its sequel, "The Godfather II." When it comes to music, the history teacher loves jamming out to The Who. Mr. Miedema even attended the band's 50th Anniversary Tour concert in Connecticut. His favorite sports moments as a coach on Shelter Island were beating Stony Brook to win the varsity girls basketball Class C-D Championship and watching Kelsey McGayhey score her 1000th point. As for food, Mr. Miedema's favorite meal is a Vermont cheddar burger from O'Malley's Restaurant in Southold. If he needs to snack on something, the

teacher can never turn down a blueberry Italian ice.

Mr. Miedema has taught many classes and coached many games here on Shelter Island. He has always gotten the best out of his students and players, and it doesn't look like he is about to stop anytime soon. Having had him as a teacher for the last four consecutive years (Global History 9, Global History 10, AP U.S. History, and currently Economics), I think the entire high school would agree when I say that Mr. Miedema makes every school day one of learning, excitement, and fun. His enthusiasm and sense of humor, often delivered in a deadpan manner while striding back and forth in front of the class, makes for many laughs, and for me, many lasting memories.



High school history teacher Peter Miedema working diligently at his desk.  
PHOTO BY PETER KROPF

is "history."

Mr. Miedema's favorite period of history to teach is the Progressive Era (1890-1920) because he admires how "the citizens thought enough was enough and then promoted change." He's shocked at "how little people expected of the government" before the Progressive Era. Winston Churchill is his favorite historical figure because "he could make important things happen, was a great speaker, and had a poetic type of common sense. He was playing chess, while everyone else was playing checkers," he explains. Mr. Miedema describes his teaching style as "practical, strict in some areas, but casual in others. I like to emphasize the important points." The SUNY New Paltz graduate notes that his most satisfying feeling is "at the end

# Dr. Dibble demolishes world record

BY PETER KROPF

James Dibble has been Shelter Island School's psychologist for the last 14 years. But, did you know that bad moods aren't the only things he beats? On December 5, Dr. Dibble broke the world powerlifting record for his age group in an International Powerlifting Association competition in Ronkonkoma. Before we talk further about the record, let's dive deeper into our school psychologist's love for one of the most strenuous and intense sports in which one can compete.

Thirty years. That's about how long Dr. Dibble has competed in powerlifting. His endurance is almost unmatched, since most people can only powerlift for 5 to 10 years before their

bodies can't take it anymore. But why did he go into the sport in the first place? Well, Dr. Dibble loved to play sports as a young person, his favorites being basketball and soccer. When college rolled around, he couldn't continue to pursue them as organized sports, but he still had his competitive drive. So, he decided to participate in a sport that was even more physically challenging than the ones he had played. Powerlifting requires, as Dr. Dibble puts it, "a very intense 4 to 5 days per week of training, with a heavy day and a competition lift." He adds that his training "provides an outlet" for him, helping him not only physically, but mentally too (remember, he's a psychologist, so

he knows all about that stuff). With a wife and two sons, you may ask how Dr. Dibble's family feels about the amount of time he spends in the gym. Well, they are "very supportive" of him, which helps the school psychologist succeed in his passion.

Back to the record. At the aforementioned competition in Ronkonkoma, Dr. Dibble lifted a total of 1815 pounds (squat, deadlift, and bench all combined) to beat his age group's record by 5 pounds. The original high mark was set by Brian Yoder, who had lifted for a total of 1810 pounds. That record stood for approximately eight years before Dr. Dibble broke it. The psychologist was specifically aiming to best Yoder's

performance, and he notes that he had "no room for error." When asked how long he thinks his record will stand, he said, "It might last for a little while, just because the sport will beat you up, decreasing your longevity."

Powerlifting is the perfect sport for Dr. Dibble, as he "loves to set goals and try to achieve them," which fits with his dogged determination. The "training and coaching aspects" of powerlifting also intrigue the psychologist. And we can't end this article without hearing Dr. Dibble's message for fellow powerlifting competitor and Shelter Island history teacher, Peter Miedema, so here it is: "It's now your turn—so step it up!"

## From "Land Mammal" to "Sky Mammal"

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

"I've always wanted to fly. My dad was a pilot, he took me flying, and I always loved it," explained Chris Doyle, when I asked him why he decided to start flying planes. "I started flying on when I was 13, for my school science fair project," he said. Chris's project studied different wing span designs and he built his own wind tunnel from scratch. During the project, his dad suggested to Chris that he take a flight in an actual airplane. That was the beginning of a new passion. "I started flying in Easthampton, and I [have] kept going up ever since."

Chris normally goes flying on weekends, but occasionally he'll be able to go up on a Friday or a Tuesday. "I fly whenever I can," he shared. On his flight days, Chris takes a cab to the airport from his boarding school, which is only a few miles away from campus.

When learning to fly, Chris explained, there are many details to remember and processes to learn. "The first phase of learning to fly is to take off, cruise, and land the airplane. Then, you begin learning basic maneuvers, navigation, and instrument flying. When you have all of that down, you solo for the first time, which normally is just doing takeoffs and landings for the first time before going out to maneuver and

cruise on your own." Chris mastered these skills and soloed for the first time when he was just 16.



Chris poses with his favorite plane. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS DOYLE

After mastering the basics of solo flights, "You then learn to fly cross-country, going from one airport to another and back, and how to fly at night. When that training is done, you do a one hundred mile cross-country, and a one hundred and fifty mile cross-country; both are solo flights. When those

are done, you begin preparation for a checkride to get your license." Chris clarified that there is a lot of groundwork that needs to be completed throughout this process. "You need to know the airplane you're flying and become intimately knowledgeable about it." Chris also told me that there is a written test that the pilot needs to pass which includes weather, navigation, aircraft systems, aerodynamics, and weight and balance in order to become licensed. "I spent three months this summer studying for it, and was able to pass the text back in August," he proudly shared.

Chris had his first solo flight at Republic Airport in Farmingdale, Long Island on July 18, 2014. "I was flying a Piper and practicing landing with my instructor. After three good ones, he got out and told me to do three touch-and-go landings." Chris's longest solo flight was from Lancaster Airport in Pennsylvania to Hagerstown Airport in Maryland which was 70 nautical miles both ways. This proved to be a harrowing trip. "On the way back, clouds were in, so I had to deviate from the altitude I was set to fly at. I went down lower and soon I was on a collision course with another airplane. Both of us turned away from each other, but I looked at him when

he was next to me, we both looked at each other, and waved." This experience didn't deter Chris or scare him out of the air for one minute. "Solo flying is great, because it is just you and the airplane. No one else is there to tell you what to do and you are in charge. It is real freedom," he said.

Chris's favorite part about flying is maneuvering. "I love making the plane twist, turn, bank, climb, and fall." Chris especially enjoys practicing his maneuvers right over his school, so sometimes his friends can see an airplane doing steep turns or flying low. "At school, I like to fly because it's a chance to get off campus and break away from campus life. When most of my schedule is structured and set, flying helps me get out of dodge and do my own thing. It's always the highlight of my week."

When Chris is back home on Shelter Island, he flies at East Hampton Airport. "I fly over the island a lot, however, I have never landed on Klenawicus Airfield. The plane I was flying wasn't insured for grass field landings. I look forward to one day landing on the island."

After high school Chris would like to go to the Naval Academy and become a fighter pilot on an aircraft carrier. If he does not get into the Naval Academy, he plans to go and be a bush pilot in Africa and fly supplies around wherever needed. "To me," Chris says, "flying is something that is not optional, I just need to keep going up. I don't know what life would be like if I wasn't a pilot and I never want to know."

### LOVE CON'T FROM PAGE 3

needed to be dating her. It was senior prom out at the Mashomack Manor House, and Mary was not my date. Despite the fact that we had been friendly, it did not occur to me to ask her as my date. I felt supremely foolish that night, because she was easily the most beautiful girl there, and she has since heckled me many times stating that, "If you had asked, I would have said yes." The prom was a magic moment which began Jimbo and Mary's summer romance in

2005 following high school graduation. That wasn't the end of the story, though. As they went off to college, Jimbo and Mary, "kept in contact, but [we] would not say that we were dating during our college careers. After initially spending some time together after high school, college was sort of a break, and then we really got together when we both came home to Shelter Island after college; me for graduate school, Mary for work opportunities associated to her art career," Jimbo shares. When they finally did get married in 2015, it seemed everyone

had the same reaction: what took you so long?! Jimbo says, even back when they first began dating, and years later got engaged, "For the people in our lives it was sort of a 'duh' moment, where they had that realization, 'yeah, why wouldn't those two weirdos hang out with each other? That makes perfect sense!'" Jimbo and Mary may have taken a while to realize their futures were each other, but when they did, they knew that future would unfurl on the island on which they were raised. Mary explains, "When we moved home in 2012 from a year of trav-

el, we decided to stay because Jimbo got his dream job of teaching at Shelter Island. In 2013, we bought our first house on Shelter Island, and it could not be better. We both love the short commute to the school, and it's a place all our own that we can grow in for the next 30-40 years." Love Shelter Island style seems to have one thing in common: a shared love of a very special hometown.



# Hot Netflix

BY SERINA KAASIK

Need something to do during the long, cold winter ahead? Here are some binge-worthy shows to keep you entertained!

**“The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt”:** Kimmy is a 29 year old young woman who has just been saved after being held captive underground by a cult for 15 years. Sounds serious, trust me, it isn’t. Kimmy has a tough time adjusting to a whole new world with new technology, slang, appearances, etc. With the help of her friends, this sit-com comedy will no doubt keep you entertained. Written by former SNL star, Tina Fey, this comedy makes you laugh even when you know you probably shouldn’t.

**“Jane the Virgin”:** 22 year old Jane has vowed to remain abstinent until marriage. Recently engaged to the love of her life, Jane is set on having the perfect life. That is, until she gets accidentally inseminated. With lots of plot twists and growing new romances, “Jane the Virgin” is a must watch.



**“Master of None”:** An Aziz Ansari original that revolves around 32 year old, Dev, (played by Aziz Ansari) who attempts to make his way through New York City. With lots of new friendships and awkward situations, “Master of None” is a classic sit-com that’ll definitely make you laugh.



**“Making a Murderer”:** Based on true events, this documentary show follows the case of Steven Avery who was convicted of rape and sentenced to serve 35 years in prison. After 18 years, Avery was released from jail after DNA evidence cleared him of the conviction. A life behind bars is far from over for Avery, however. Watch this controversial documentary over 15 years in the making and try not to scream at your television. Prepare to binge and then find yourself asking, “What!?” at the unbelievable conclusion to this gripping piece of filmmaking.

## Hot books

BY ELIZABETH CUMMINGS

### HUMANS OF NEW YORK: STORIES BY BRANDON STANTON

You have probably heard of “Humans of New York” through its massive Instagram following, but the book is still worth a look. “Humans of New York” is a collection of alternately adventurous, heartbreaking, and incredible stories told by average people approached by the author on the streets of New York.

### MODERN ROMANCE BY AZIZ ANSARI WITH ERIC KLINENBERG

In this nonfiction page turner, Aziz Ansari explores the world of dating through the digital age. In his introduction, he analyzes the dread we all feel over someone not responding to a text. This would not have happened ten or twenty years ago. Meeting

people at bars and falling in love just is not as common anymore. Aziz tours the new romantic (digital) frontier with the help of modern technology and includes his signature brand of sarcastic humor.

### THE AMAZING BOOK IS NOT ON FIRE BY DAN HOWELL AND PHIL LESTER

If you are into the world of YouTube, you have most likely heard of the popular Dan and Phil. The best friend YouTubers have created a world of their own. They created what they call the “Phandom,” meaning fans of Dan and Phil, who come together to support each other and talk about awkward situations and embarrassing moments to make you feel a lot better about yours. Dan Howell has five million

subscribers and Phil Lester has three million subscribers. So, this book on which they collaborate will no doubt have big sales.

### THE 5TH WAVE BY RICK YANCEY

Another dystopian novel, you ask? Yup, and it’s a good one. It’s also coming to theaters near you soon, so grab it before it does. The 5th Wave details the devastation Earth will face when five waves of destruction that wash over the world. The first wave is an electromagnetic pulse in the planet. The second, a metal sent from space crashing into Earth, causing a tsunami. The third is disease, and the fourth wave brings aliens to hunt the rest of the remaining humans. And if you want to know the fifth wave, you will have to go out and get it.

### THE GIRL WITH NO PAST BY KATHRYN CROFT

Leah Mills lives like a fugitive. She is on the run because of one terrible day from her past. Leah has no connections. Longing for a friend, Leah meets Julian. For the first time, Leah leads a normal, contented life. She builds a regular life, until one fateful day. On the fourteenth anniversary of her terrible, life changing day, Leah gets a letter. The letter explains that someone knows the truth about Leah. Someone will not stop until they destroy the life Leah has created for herself. Does Leah deserve what is coming to her, or does she deserve a normal life? Pick up The Girl With No Past to find out.

## Podcasts: The new Netflix?

BY KENNA MCCARTHY

If you don’t know what a podcast is, you’re missing out. Podcasts are the new Netflix. Binge-listening is a great way to pass the time while driving, running, or just when you’re looking for something to do. Podcasts are a new/old concept. They are digital (radio-style) programs that can be downloaded over the internet and listened to in episodes. Some podcasts are like radio shows, some like collegiate lectures, some investigative reporting-style.

So, where do you find podcasts, and how do you get them? The app comes on all smartphones. On an iPhone, look for the purple icon with a small microphone surrounded by concentric circles. All you have to do is go into the app, search, and download your podcast episodes, just like you would a song or book. You can also access podcasts via their websites if not listening to them on a smartphone. And the best part? Podcasts are free!

According to the Podcast app, the current top 10 Podcasts are:

- 1) Serial
- 2) Stuff You Should Know
- 3) This American Life
- 4) TED Radio Hour
- 5) Reply All
- 6) Radiolab
- 7) Freakonomics Radio
- 8) Fresh Air
- 9) Making a Murderer
- 10) Wait Wait... Don’t Tell Me!



SERIAL



## SIX WORD FIELD TRIPS

BY BILLY BOECKLEN

### DISNEY TRIP

warm weather, friends forever, love together

### SCHOONER TRIP

Boyd toy, loud noise, ships ahoy

### KAYAK TRIP

wet fun, hot sun, journey begun

### WRITES OF SPRING

beautiful words, poetry nerds, voices heard

### ROMEO & JULIET ON BROADWAY

Orlando Bloom, faced doom, inside tomb

### ROPES TRIP

bonds made, ropes frayed, heights slayed



# The Drowsy Chaperone: A laugh and a half

BY SERINA KAASIK

“When people leave this show, I hope they will leave feeling happy, not to mention a pride in the kids and all the hard work they’ve done,” says ten-year S.I. musical directing veteran, John Kaasik. This year’s spring musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, is something that has never been done before here on our small stage.

The play starts with a rather nerdy narrator called, “the Man,” who is obsessed with musicals. On a blue day in the 1920’s, the Man decides to listen to his favorite show, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. The *Drowsy Chaperone* follows many different plot lines. There’s Robert Martin, who is set to wed the talented show girl, Janet Van De Graaff, with the help of his best man, George. However, if Janet married Robert, then Janet’s producer, Mr. Feldzieg, would not have his leading lady. Thus, he does everything in his power to prevent the wedding from happening. Alongside Mr. Feldzieg throughout the play is the



Director John Kaasik blocking a scene with cast members. PHOTO BY CHANIN INTURAM

dimwitted Kitty, who wants nothing more than to replace Janet as the star in “Feldzieg’s Follies.” Mr. Feldzieg attempts to retrieve help from two gangsters who pose as pastry chefs, and Aldopho, the foreigner who has a passion for all things romantic.

While all this is happening, there’s the Chaperone, who is Janet’s confidant, but can not manage to be sober, even during prohibition. With lots of plot twists, surprise guests, and constant interruption for wry commentary from the Man, *The Drowsy Chaperone* will no doubt keep you entertained.

When asked about what to expect from this musical, Mr. Kaasik says, “expect to be transformed back to the 20’s, to escape into a whole new world for two hours, and feel happy and warm inside.” So save the date, April 7th through the 10th, *The Drowsy Chaperone* coming to a theatre near you.

## How to achieve an (almost) perfect bracket

BY BILLY BOEKLEN

Last year my bracket was 99.1% correct, and yet still there were thousands of people whose brackets were better than mine. March Madness is a national phenomenon, and what most people don’t know is that you don’t really have to know that much about basketball to compete. Achieving a perfect bracket is almost impossible, but I’m optimistic. Just so you really know the odds, here are some things you are more likely to occur than achieving a perfect bracket:

- Getting killed by a falling coconut (1 in 250 million)
- Being killed by a vending machine (1 in 112 million)
- Naturally having quintuplets (1 in 60 million)
- Getting killed by a shark (1 in 3.7 million)
- Having to visit the ER for a pogo stick related injury (1 in 115,300)

But enough about how hard creating a perfect bracket is, you can always improve your bracket, and here’s how:

- 1) Ignore the rankings. Just because a team is ranked #1 does not mean that they are automatically going to win. For example, my favorite team, the UConn Huskies were ranked #7 when they won the national championship in 2014.
- 2) Always go with your gut. Follow your favorite team as far as they can reasonably go.
- 3) The home team ALWAYS has an advantage. Most upsets happen at home. A crowd can greatly affect the outcome of a game.
- 4) Check winning streaks. If a team is

hot, they have a great advantage and upsets are more likely.

- 5) Look at teams’ statistics. For example, in a single game if one team leads the NCAA in fouls, and the other in field goal percentages, go with the team that is successful at the foul line.
- 6) Make sure you check a team’s schedule strength, meaning the quality of teams they play. A team may win every game against weak teams, and another team may lose every game by 1 or 2 points, but to some of the highest ranked teams, this is very important information.

## Soot Boyz

BY BILLY BOEKLEN

You’re probably wondering: What is a soot boy? A soot boy, by popular definition, is a guy who owns a diesel truck, often spends countless hours and dollars on it, tends to perform many burn-outs, and blows a lot of smoke out of their exhaust. A “soot boy” must drive an American-made truck, preferably a Chevy, Ford, or Dodge. Around Shelter Island, you’ll find a soot boy in a uniform of work boots, a sweatshirt advertising their favorite local (“townie”) business, Wrangler grease-stained jeans, and a t-shirt with their favorite truck company’s logo to top it off. Soot boyz aren’t just a local phenomenon, however. The Instagram hashtag #sootboyz has thousands of followers and there is something of a soot boy culture. According to senior, Aidan Mysliborski, “if you see a fellow soot boy on the road, [you need to] roll some coal to let them know you care, or at the very least, you give a wave.”

To get some real inside “soot,” I had to reach out to some hometown soot boyz, Aidan Mysliborski and Tommy Lenzer. Lenzer

says, “A soot boy is someone who rolls high amounts of coal and burns a lot of tire.” Aidan, on the other hand, explains that soot boyz, “usually have some sort of female in their vehicles, as soot rigs attract a lot of female attention.”

Being a soot boy has its benefits, Aidan says. His “’93 Cumdawg that pours soot” really attracts the ladies. Aidan said, he often encounters a “10 minute delay wherever I go because girls are constantly asking me for a ride.” Tommy’s c4500 dirty Max, on the other hand, “doesn’t

attract too many ladies, just carts around the ol’ wood chipper,” he says. In order to keep their soot rigs in working order, the soot boyz need to invest a lot of time and money into their rigs. Tommy has been lucky, saying lately, he’s only had to invest “ten dollars for some grease tubes.” Tommy’s soot rig doesn’t require much maintenance to perform. He says, “when you load her with wood, she roars like a lion.” Tommy acquired his soot rig in 2012 from his father. He plans to drive this soot rig “until the

day she dies.” Aidan explains, “that part of being a soot boy is working on your truck. Keeping the rig going, upgrading it, and keeping it looking good for the soot girlz is a priority.” Aidan has invested “more time and money in my rig than I can count.”

At Shelter Island School, we have many soot boyz at heart, such as, myself, Zach Renault, Rich Ruscica, and Henry Lang. We may not drive dirty diesels, but we treat our rigs with love and care, just like authentic soot boyz do. According to Tommy and Aidan, this isn’t enough to be an official soot boy, but we can dream.



Local soot boys showing their rigs some love. PHOTO BY WYATT FOKINE

### SOOT BOY GLOSSARY

- Roll Coal -- to blow black soot out of your exhaust
- Cumdawg -- a Dodge truck with a Cummins diesel engine
- Dirty Max -- a Chevy Duramax diesel engine
- Soot Rig -- a diesel truck
- Ol’ wood chipper -- an actual wood-chipper



# Another year at Lincoln Center

BY MARGARET MICHALAK

Every December, the eighth grade class hops on the Hampton Jitney at about six in the morning and takes the trip into the Big Apple to see The Nutcracker Ballet. Thanks to the Education Foundation, every eighth grade class for about the past thirty years has been able to share in this wonderful experience. This ballet is based on the story written by E.T.A Hoffeman. The story begins at the Stahlbaum house on Christmas Eve. Their godfather, Drosselmeyer, presents them with the gifts of two life sized nutcracker dolls. Clara's doll soon becomes more popular than Frintz's and he becomes jealous resulting to breaking the nutcracker. Clara brings her doll to her godfather, and he promptly fixes it with a magical handkerchief. Once the clock strikes midnight, the Nutcracker comes to life and has to fight off the army of mice lead by the Mouse King.

Ms. Bosak has been organizing the Nutcracker trip for the past five years. According to Ms. Bosak, "The Nutcracker is usually the first live perfor-



The eighth grade class eager to watch the Nutcracker. PHOTO BY JESSICA BOSAK

mance they've [8th graders] seen, or even the first time they've been to New York City." She went on to say, "Through music and dance, you can really get into a deep understanding of a story. There is no dialogue in this show, so in order to not be lost, you really have to pay close attention to all of the actions being performed in the show." 8th grade attendee Daniel Martin shared a little bit of serious reflection, along with some levity, explaining, "it takes a lot of skill and training to be able to dance like that. I give the men in the show a lot of credit for being able to wear tights for that long. I can't even imagine wearing them." Following the performance, the 8th graders spent a little time adventuring around the city, grabbed some pizza for dinner, and headed back home to the island.

## Fight the freeze

BY RICHARD RUSCICA

Winters can be long and drawn out. It is imperative that people stay active in order to stay in shape and maintain their physical and mental health. There are a ton of fun and exciting things one can do in the winter. Things like skiing, hunting, hiking, or even just helping out your community by shoveling snow are beneficial activities one can do.

Cross country skiing is a fun and exciting way to see nature. It is an excellent way to exercise, because it forces you to use almost all of your muscles. There are a few local spots one can go cross country skiing including: Mashomack Preserve, Goat Hill Country Club, and all along the beaches. Skiing with a water view? You can't beat that! High school Math teacher, Mr. Brigham, says cross country skiing is one of his favorite outdoor winter activities, among many other things. "I also like to hike, run, go to the gym, and bike whenever possible," he added.

Downhill skiing is another very fun

winter outdoor activity. Downhill skiing keeps Mrs. Treharne and her family on the go in the winter. "We ski in the Berkshires at least 2 weekends a month once the snow starts falling," Mrs. Treharne explains. "It keeps us active and strong and allows us to get fresh air, when we might otherwise be inside, staying out of the cold." Ice hockey and ice skating are other great winter sports. Head over to the Greenport ice rink or a local pond (only if it is firmly frozen) and lace up some skates. Ice hockey is so much fun to play with friends. With the competition that ensues when a game begins, it is easy to stay warm.

Why the push to keep up with physical activities in the winter? Two reasons: First of all, most of us have an increased caloric intake in the winter. Come holidays like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, we tend to eat more food and much of the food is not exactly healthy. Comfort foods also take center

stage in winter and with the excuse of staying warm and cozy, we indulge more than we normally would in high calorie foods. Mrs. Colligan shared, "I definitely tend to eat more comfort foods during the winter months, plus, I walk less." Second, most of us just don't move as much in the winter. It's cold outside and we just don't want to go out. It gets darker earlier, so the time we have to be outside is shortened. Don't let these be your excuses. Staying active is imperative to our physical and mental health. Try one of the sug-

gestions above and I promise not only will you get a good workout, you'll have fun while you're at it.



Mrs. Treharne's kids stay active in winter by hitting the slopes. PHOTO BY DEVON TREHARNE

## College experiences unlike any other

BY JUSTINE KAREN

Not all of the members of the 2016 graduating class are choosing to pursue a completely orthodox collegiate experience. Such soon-to-be-graduates include Aidan Mysliborski, Richard Ruscica, and Zach Renault. The alternative programs the guys have been accepted into are, in Zach and Aidan's case, individual two year tech programs at a New York State trade school. And in the case of Richard, a small liberal arts college located in Maine that centers around nature studies where he plans on earning a bachelor's degree in Conservation Law Enforcement.

Come next September, Aidan and Zach plan to begin their first semester at

Alfred State, Suny College of Technology, located as the name suggests in Alfred, New York. Alfred State is a school that operates under the philosophy of teaching its students "How to think, not what to think." Once at Alfred, Aidan will enter a two year diesel tech program where the focus will be on "fixing specifically diesel engines." Zach, meanwhile, will study to be a heavy equipment operator. The class sizes at Alfred are not unlike those at Shelter Island. The average amount of students per class is "approximately 20 to 25," says Aidan, which is quite small compared to most colleges and universities. At Alfred, Zach will be learning how to properly operate

heavy machinery and earning a license to professionally operate equipment such as "Payloaders, frontliners, bulldozers, backhoes, tractors, etc." Zach believes that this program will put him at an advantage over his Shelter Island peers because, "after two years of school, I'll be able to get a job right out of college that pays well, and I will enjoy the work." Unlike Aidan who did consider a non-trade school route. As well as Penn State, Zach did not consider any other schools. "It [Alfred state] was the only school that offered the program that I really was interested in," he shares.

Richard Ruscica, on the other hand, is planning on attending Unity college in

Unity, Maine. Enthusiastically described by Richard as being "awesome!" Unity is a very small school, home to approximately 650 students. Unity is a well-known, four year college with about 10 to 20 students in a class and a reputation for focusing on nature-related studies. One very unique aspect of campus is the fact that students may have "up to three guns so that you may hunt throughout your college experience." That certainly isn't typical on college campuses today, most of which ban firearms completely. Richard is planning on studying Conservation Law Enforcement, which happens

**UNIQUE CON'T ON PAGE 11**



# New elective teaches lifesaving skills

BY RICHARD RUSCICA

If there was an emergency, would you know what to do? This is a question that many high school students feel unprepared to answer. However, now there is a class in which students are being taught how to attend to all types

of emergencies. The class, entitled “Wellness,” is taught by Nurse Mary. This class teaches its students the necessary steps needed to save someone’s life. It is a class I think everyone should take. This year is the first year Wellness has been of-

fered. Some of the things that are taught are first aid and CPR. After taking the class, students are certified and prepared to treat anything ranging from a cut to an allergic reaction. Students are further prepared to stop bleeding, give an epipen to a person who is going into anaphylactic shock, perform the Heimlich to a person who is choking, and even give someone CPR and use an AED. Currently enrolled in the class are Richard Ruscica, Zachary Renault, Shawna Goody, Adrian Sulahian, Evan Thilburg, Alexis Perlaki, and Roy Carbajal. According to Zachary, he is taking the class because “I wanted to be certified in first aid and CPR.” Zach also shared, “I enjoy this class very much. I look forward to it every other day. Nurse Mary is a great teacher and projects the information in a way that sticks.”

Wellness is allowing students to learn practical, vital life saving techniques. Students have even gotten the chance to see pieces of equipment used exclusively in the ambulance and hospitals. For example, Nurse Mary brought in a device that gives constant chest compressions to

a person while being transported in an ambulance. By watching the machine in action, Wellness students were able to see just how hard one has to compress a person’s chest in order to perform proper CPR. Wellness also includes plenty of hands-on practice. In class, students practice on each other. Bandaging cuts, splinting broken bones, and the proper procedure to follow when someone is unconscious have all been rehearsed. Physically practicing these skills helps students remember the information and will make them better prepared, should the need arise.

One of the goals Nurse Mary has for the class is to talk about areas of health that are usually not taught. She said “if the curriculum is flexible, students will be able to learn about the things they want to learn about or are interested in.” Another goal she has her sights on is for Wellness students to teach hands-only CPR to the whole school. Not only is Wellness better preparing the students in the class, but creating a group of students who will teach others.



In this picture the students of wellness are learning about child and infant CPR, and proper procedure and pad placement for the AED. PHOTO BY RICHARD RUSCICA

# Seniors learn to teach physical education

BY PETER KROPF

During the first semester of their last year as Shelter Island students, seniors got the opportunity to teach physical education. Rick Osmer, their physical education teacher—who, by the way, has taught most phys. ed. classes to these same kids starting in kindergarten—assigned the seniors a project in which they would have to introduce and teach a sport or physical activity to younger kids or their own class. Many students selected activities they’ve enjoyed; others chose ones they didn’t know much about. Either way, a lot of fun was had. Here are the students and their project topics: Emily Hyatt and Elizabeth Dunning: P90X yoga; Kenna McCarthy and Serina Kaasik: tennis; Maksym Moroz: bowling; Zachary Renault and Adrian Sulahian: badminton; Billy Boeklen: weight lift-

ing; Colibri Lopez and Shawna Goody: soccer; Tristan Wisemann: basketball; Margaret Michalak and Kelly Colligan: volleyball; and Peter Kropf and Richard Ruscica: baseball. Aidan Mysliborski and Jack Kimmelman were undecided about a project topic at press time.

If you’re wondering why you haven’t heard about such senior projects in the past, it is because the last time they were assigned was 20 years ago. Why is this? Well, Mr. Osmer explains, “This is the first year in a while that I’ve got one class, girls and boys, together.” The assignments in 1995 and in 2015 had the same purpose, according to the physical education teacher: “To show different interests, to let the students portray those interests to their peers, and maybe to inspire someone to go into teaching or

physical fitness.” He does note, though, that the “criteria was slightly harder this time than it was 20 years ago, since I asked the students to do more research and have more of a plan going into their projects, but that change did result in better projects.” Mr. Osmer does not know if other schools on the East End also provide their students with this opportunity, but does know that “our school is unique in that it has so few students, so that allows us to do these projects and not take a whole year to finish them.” The fitness legend adds, “I enjoyed watching these projects, and I understand that it can be difficult to teach your peers.”

As for the seniors, they learned a lot about different physical activities and how to prepare for and teach a physical educa-

tion class. Jack Kimmelman said, “By watching and being a part of these projects, I gained a better sense of what a gym teacher’s daily responsibilities are.” Richard Ruscica realized, “how hard it is to teach younger kids.” He adds, “I got a new perspective on what it means to be a teacher, and I have an even greater respect for what Mr. Osmer and Mr. Becker do.” Richard’s favorite part of the project was “seeing the joy on all the children’s faces while they were playing the sport of baseball.” Adrian Sulahian stated, “The senior projects helped build trust among friends, helped us learn the hobbies of those around us, and taught us the basic principles of teamwork.” Adrian enthusiastically noted, “It was an experience I won’t soon forget!”

# Thanksgiving: More than just turkeys and pilgrims

BY PETER KROPF

During parts of November and December, Shelter Island Elementary School’s first-grade class, taught by Cheryl Woods, undertook a Thanksgiving-inspired project that introduced students to our world’s natural resources. The goal was to learn about and partially recreate how Native Americans used the resources around them to help build their communities hundreds of years ago. Each student created a diorama depicting Native American villages that would later be presented to other elementary classes. Emphasis was on teepees, huts, and use of the buffalo. The first graders even went outside searching for sticks and leaves that would help make their projects even more authentic and accurate. Through this experience they saw how different life was like for the Native Americans, and how aware and resource-

ful the tribes had to be to survive. Not only did the class get more in touch with nature, but they also improved their writing and computer skills, since they wrote mini-reports to accompany their dioramas. First-grader Abraham Roig learned that “Native Americans built their homes with dirt and mud.” He added, enthusiastically, “I had fun using glue, sticks, and clay to make teepees and stuff.” Fellow classmate Samantha McDonald noted, “I would live in the teepee. Natural resources are useful things.” Cayman Morehead learned about “where the Native American tribes lived and all about the buffalo... the buffalo are awesome!”



1st graders preparing to present their “natural resources” dioramas. PHOTO BY PETER KROPF



# Ellie's Country Store: A store not to ignore

BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

Imagine being on call 24/7, all year-round for your business...this has been the responsibility of Amanda Ellioff, the owner of Ellie's Country Store since June 2014.

Amanda grew up outside of the United States in South America, England, and south of France. She moved to Florida when she was thirteen, and then to New York City when she was twenty. It wasn't until her mother bought a summer house in Cutchogue, that she moved full-time to New York and became familiar with the Shelter Island. Amanda says, "I never thought I would end up on the island, but it is a place that provides everything I always wanted growing up." She adds, that although she was able to travel a lot as a kid, she "always wanted to have the American experience in a small town." Amanda admits she has, "always had a passion for cooking." Before buying the store, she worked in the fashion industry for Heidi Klum. After this, she became an Executive Assistant and House Manager for a family in the city. Amanda explains that she wanted

to "work towards setting up my life," so she planned to buy the store after it became available. Her main focus was to "buy a business where the property was also for sale, so I wouldn't have a landlord to worry about." Amanda comes from a family of business owners, so her brothers' previous successes motivated her. She "had never owned a store," but when she fails at something, she has a way of trying until she succeeds. "With that mentality and the support of my family," she explains, she wasn't worried.

Recently, the

island was shaken up with the closing of Bella Vita, (which now may be returning), however the second Amanda heard of this, she "immediately started working on a pizza menu."

She states that "in such a small town we [the store] want to fill any need that our customers have, and we knew a lot of our customers were also Bella Vita customers, so we wanted to please them." She adds that, "the sales have been great," and "we couldn't have hoped for a better turn out." Running the store has its challenges, says Amanda. "The biggest challenge



Ellie's Country Store providing the island with gas and quality food.  
PHOTO BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

for me has been that I'm on call 24/7," she also says, "and like any other business, just finding people that you really trust to build a solid team of employees." Despite the challenges, she loves that her hard work is going into building her dream. The best part about being an island business owner is "being a part of the community." She "loves everyone that comes into the store," and getting to know them. Amanda believes that, "the store is best known for its hours." Amanda remains very enthusiastic about the future of the store as it continues to grow. The goals of the store are "to try our best to upgrade the store as much as we can in the next year." The big goal is to get new gas pumps, but for now, "all the money that is made continues to go back into the store." Amanda is truly amazed by all the support the store has been given. On a final note she says, "the community has been so wonderful to us and we couldn't be happier about how everyone has accepted us!"

## Helping hands back in Orient

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

Back to Orient! After a successful "Cardboard Campout" was held in November, students were able to fundraise \$1500, which allowed NHS members and Student Council members to help out in a Habitat for Humanity winter build. Students travelled back to the house they worked on last April in Orient on Saturday, December 18th, to lend helping hands.

Unlike past years, the opportunity to participate in this year's build was opened up to Student Council members, making this volunteer work a combined effort. A total of fourteen students participated including: Liz Larsen, Richard Ruscica, Will Garrison, Rodrigo Barros, Emily Hyatt, Melissa Frasco, Domily Gil, Julia Labrozzi, Zoey Bolton, Sophia Strauss, Elizabeth Dunning, Olivia Yeaman, Nicolette Frasco, and Kenna McCarthy. Adult volunteers included Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Weir, Mr. Reardon, and Mr. Skuggevik.

Students were excited to hear they would be working at the same house they did in April. After already installing insulation to the outside several months ago, it was time to move on to the interior. Participants were separated into two groups to work on the upstairs and downstairs. The upstairs worked on

flooring, painting and tiling, while the downstairs installed sheetrock and insulation. Students did face a minor setback, though. "There was a hot water leak, so half of the house was soaked," says NHS

organized than I expected," says Student Council Advisor Mr. Reardon, first year volunteer. "I was very impressed with the number of students that came. It was an excellent turnout." NHS members

stopped working, it was much nicer to work inside," explains NHS Secretary Elizabeth Dunning. "It was less labor intensive and it involved more finishing work," Ruscica says.

It is rare that students are able to work on the same house more than once. "It was really cool to see how far the house had come in just several months," says McCarthy. Students were able to build on skills they already knew, while helping the community. "It was enjoyable to share the little bit I know with the students," says Reardon.

The skills these students learn from Habitat for Humanity will be essential, especially for those looking to construct homes in the future. "Learning how to build a house from the bottom up is a great skill to know," says Ruscica. "Plus, helping those in need gives me a great feeling." After a successful December build, students are looking forward to another build this spring. Mr. Reardon says, "There's no doubt I will be participating again." Habitat for Humanity is a great tradition for Shelter Island students, and we hope upcoming students will reap the benefits of participating in the years approaching. Richard Ruscica says, "It's a win win for everyone."



Students and faculty were all smiles after completing a long day's work.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF JANINE MAHONEY

Treasurer Kenna McCarthy. "We had to suck up all the water before we could start to put down wood flooring."

This was the first year in which Student Council and NHS combined forces to help out at Habitat. "It was far more

were especially appreciative of the extra help. "Many hands make for light work," says NHS Ambassador Richard Ruscica.

It was to students' benefit that they were able to work on the interior this time around. "Even though the heat had

## Introducing... the new internship class

BY NICO SEDDIO

This year, a new class has been added to the syllabus: Internship. "The creation of the class was a joint effort between Ms. Rylott, Ms. Corbett, and myself," stated Ms. Tuthill, who got the idea from her old district. The class is meant to give students the opportunity to experience different trades and see what they like before they join the workforce or choose a school. So far, Internship students Aidan Myslibor-

ski and Zachary Renault have gone to work with the Shelter Island Highway Department, have sat in on a board meeting at town hall, gone to Hap Bowditch's shop, and done some work at South Ferry.

Aidan believes Internship is an important new class "because you get to learn things that you can't learn in the classroom, such as how to work certain jobs." Aidan learned a lot about the be-

hind the scenes work it takes to maintain the island when "on the job" with the Highway Dept. Zach agrees with Aidan, adding, "it is important to get some experience doing what you like." So far, Zach's favorite experience was "working with Jimmy Lenzer." The Internship class is a great addition to the SI school class elective options. Aidan explains, "We are most likely to use the lessons we learn through this class,

that's why it is a good option for us." Zach echoes Aidan, saying, "In my life, I'm not going to sit down and write a paper, I'm going to be doing hands-on stuff out in the field, that's why this elective is good for me." Aidan and Zach have gone beyond the classroom and now they can't wait to see where the class takes them next.



# New Year's resolutions

BY NICO SEDDIO

On January 3rd, I wandered the halls in search of Shelter Island students and faculty to share their New Year's Resolutions.

Luke Gilpin: "To dunk on James Lawrence."

Mrs. Frasco: "To become more organized."

Dan Martin: "To get my grades up."

Owen Gibbs: "To get in shape and lose my man boobs."

Mrs. Brigham: "To not go to Schmidt's more than once a day."

Billy Boeklen: "I want to wear less and go out more."

Stephen Murphy: "To increase my max bench by 20 pounds."

After two weeks, I checked back in with participants to find out how they were doing on their goals.

Luke Gilpin: "I have not yet dunked on James Lawrence."

Dan Martin: "I have reached my goal of getting my grades up."

Billy Boeklen: "I have indeed been wearing less and going out more."

Stephen Murphy: "I have increased my max bench by ten pounds, and I am continuing to get better."

Mrs. Frasco: "I would say I have become 25% more organized and I am still improving."

Owen Gibbs: "I still have my man boobs, but I am working towards getting fitter."

Mrs. Brigham: "I have cut down my visits to Schmidt's from five to two trips per day."

# The first ever Reindeer Games

BY LINDSEY GALLAGHER

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# Senior thesis topics

BY JACK KIMMELMANN

Seniors are getting busy (they are actually doing work!) on their senior thesis projects that will have to be presented later this year. The thesis is the basis for the O.C.E. (Oral Comprehensive Exam) which is required of every senior in order to graduate. Here are the interesting topics this year's seniors are currently researching:

MARGARET MICHALAK: How the assassination of John Lennon, attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan, and the murder of Rebecca Shaeffer have been attributed to The Catcher in the Rye

AIDAN MYSLIBORSKI: Which performs better: Inline six diesel engines used in pickup trucks, or tractor trailers V8 diesels?

BILLY BOEKLIN: Professional athletes: Learned violence on and off the field

MAX MOROZ: How the U.S. government should shift funding away from prisons and towards college education to cause a ripple effect that will fix

many problems

COLIBRI LOPEZ: How NLD (necrobiosis lipoidica and diabetic corum) is not a valid sign that predicts diabetes diagnosis

SHAWNA GOODY: How authorities on college campuses are complicit in covering up sexual assaults

HENRY LANG: Why government agencies must reduce the farmed fishing industries and increase funding for conservation policies that support wild caught fish

JACK KIMMELMANN: Why college athletes should be paid

RICHARD RUSCICA: How the New York Safe Act directly violates the 2nd amendment

ZACH RENAULT: Why diesel engines outperform gasoline engines in fuel efficiency

CONNOR RICE: Why computer science should be a daily course for all high school students as a core academic subject

ADRIAN SULAHIAN: How solar power will make the world of tomorrow a much more clean and less hostile world

KENNA MCCARTHY: Young adult heroin use: an epidemic that must be the

primary focus of drug and alcohol prevention

KELLY COLLIGAN: How active procrastination can be a productive and even essential career tool

PETER KROPF: Why education in America is suffering

SERINA KAASIK: Child slavery in the chocolate industry

EMILY HYATT: Why GMOs are not necessarily bad for you

ELIZABETH DUNNING: Theoretical physics: validity and why it matters

TRISTAN WISSEMANN: How to combat the problem of concussions in the NFL

# SCVCA Awards

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

On December 7th, 2015, members of the Shelter Island volleyball team traveled up to the Suffolk County Volleyball Coaches Association Awards Dinner in Wading River. After enjoying a hearty meal of chicken parmesan, players received the following awards:

**Margaret Michalak, Senior:**  
All-league, All-classification, League 8 Player of the Year, 5th Team All-state

**Kelly Colligan, Senior:**  
All-league, All-classification, Class D Tournament Team MVP, All-county Academic

**Kenna McCarthy, Senior:**  
All-classification, 4th Team All-state

**Amira Lawrence, Junior:**  
All-league, All-classification, Class D Tournament Team

**Colibri Lopez, Senior:**  
All-league

**Emily Hyatt, Senior:**  
All-league

**Serina Kaasik, Senior:**  
Honorable All-league

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FROM PAGE 8

to be "the biggest major on campus" up at Unity, according to

Richard. His career aspirations include pursuing either a job as a Game Warden, or working for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

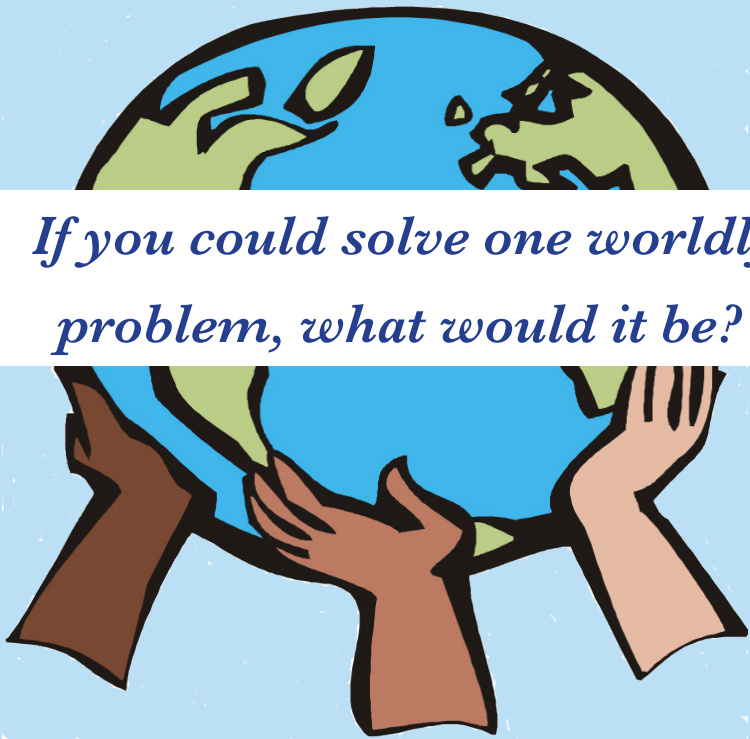
Where to go after high school is not an easily made decision and there are lots of variables related to personality, preferences and interests. But these

three seem to be making well reasoned choices regarding their futures and where they potentially will be the happiest.



# AROUND THE HALLS

BY JACK KIMMELMANN



*If you could solve one worldly problem, what would it be?*

NASIR HAZEL, 1ST GRADE  
“The high price of candy.”



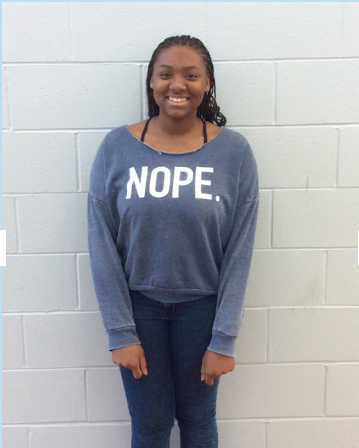
RICHARD RUSCICA, 12TH GRADE  
“Gun control. Guns keep us free.”



ELIZABETH DUNNING, 12TH GRADE  
“Donald Trump.”



CONNOR RICE, 12TH GRADE  
“Junk-mail and pop-ups because they are annoying.”



AMIRA LAWRENCE, 11TH GRADE  
“Child abuse.”



LUCAS QUIGLEY-DUNNING, 8TH GRADE  
“World hunger, because so much food is wasted.”

## HIGH SCHOOL COMPATIBILITY

Have you ever wondered if the people you spend the most time with carry the same traits as you? Students took a survey to discover similar personality traits among themselves. Students that are “compatible” with each other had at least 60% of the same responses.

Tristan Wissemann Serina Kaasik Sophia Strauss Rodrigo Barros Caitlin Binder Ella Mysliborski Mason Marcello Camryn Page Elijah Topliff Julia Labrozzi Adrian Suliahan	Billy Boeklen Margaret Michalak Michael Payano Nico Seddio Ray Karen Liz Larsen	Henry Lang Max Moroz Kenna McCarthy Alex Hernandez Nick Young Liz Cummings Owen Gibbs David Neese	Kelly Colligan Danny Boeklen Josh Green Madi Hallman Pheobe Starzee Lindsey Gallagher	Emily Hyatt Connor Rice Amira Lawrence Chanin Inturam Olivia Yeaman Joe Lupo Kyle Burns Kimberly Chica Mia Clark	Richard Ruscica Chris Corbett Bianca Evangelista Francesca Frasco Devon Bolton Paul Murphy Stephen Murphy Peder Larsen Dan McCafferty Emily Strauss
Elizabeth Dunning Will Garrison Justine Karen Darien Hunter Sarah Lewis Ethan Renault	Peter Kropf Colibri Lopez Melissa Frasco Nicolette Frasco Zoey Bolton Lily Garrison Taylor McNemar Hayley LL	Aidan Mysliborski Tommy Lenzer Lucio Martinez Wesley Congdon Rudy Noj Carup	Sydney Clark Domily Gil Alexis Perlaki Roy Carbajal Zach Renault	Shawna Goody Luke Gilpin Jack Kimmelman Evan Thilberg Erik Thilberg Stephen Cummings Nichole Hand Jack Lang Isabella Sherman	