



The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

Sayre sails to the top

BY ERIK FABER

As of this month, senior Rasmus Sayre is the windsurfing world champion. He participated in the Kona One Windsurfing World Championships from November 1-6. Rasmus beat out 105 other competitors from 13 countries including Denmark, Sweden, Egypt, and China, in a windsurfing regatta held in Islamorada, Florida. At 17, Rasmus is the youngest world champion ever. He decided not to use a coach for the race, but it didn't show in his performance. He's been windsurfing since he learned how to walk, thanks to the encouragement of his father, Nevin Sayre. "When I was 18 months old, my dad constructed a sail for me to use," Rasmus said. "He put me on the board and sent me adrift.

That's kind of how I learned." Mr. Sayre, an avid windsurfer and current North American windsurfing

"He's such an incredible windsurfer and has such an amazing love for the ocean." Rasmus's sister, Solvig



champion, raced against Rasmus in the Kona World Championship this year. He took in third place. "It was really cool to beat the person I've looked up to for so long," said Rasmus.

Sayre, a Martha's Vineyard Regional High School graduate, placed in 11th in the race. Their mother, Stina Sayre, is also an experienced windsurfer but did not compete due to an injury.

However, she supported her family from the beach during the entire event. "It's great when you can share something with your children because it can be hard for parents to find something the whole family enjoys," Ms. Sayre said. Rasmus is also the captain of the high school's sailing team and an accomplished kiteboarder. "No one saw this coming," said Nevin Sayre. "I thought something like this could happen someday, but I never thought it could happen this year. I was thinking he could finish in the top 10, maybe even the top five. But warming up with him the day before the competition, I realized he was really fast." HSV

Teens avoid drunk driving

BY ERIK FABER

Vineyard teens feel safer when trying to get home on weekend nights, thanks to the student-run Martha's Vineyard SafeRides program. It offers free rides home to high school students on Friday and Saturday nights from 10 to 2. The service began running last Saturday and will continue until May. Martha's Vineyard has had a history of drunk, reckless, and distracted driving. Since SafeRides will take any high school student home, the potential situation of students being pressured into entering a car with an impaired driver is reduced dramatically. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), thousands of people die annually in alcohol-related

traffic deaths. Discouraging drunk driving is vital, but offering accessible alternatives is what really saves lives. "I feel a great sense of satisfaction knowing that our services help to keep the community and our students safe," said senior Anne Ollen. Anne has been volunteering for the SafeRides program for three years, and is the co-president. Gail O'Brien, the parent of a senior and Island physician, said, "I think that this is a great program for the Island teens. It is important that they know there is a way to get help in a difficult situation and get home safely. The unfortunate reality is that teens do have access to alcohol, and sometimes things get out of control. We should strongly encourage people to ask for help rather than driving impaired."

Other volunteers include dispatchers who answer calls, drivers who pick up teens and bring them home, and driving partners who come along for the ride to assist the driver. Teens who use the SafeRides program are asked a few basic questions, but are not required to tell the driver or driving partner why they need a ride. This policy allows stranded teens to feel comfortable using the SafeRides service to escape uncomfortable situations. "The Martha's Vineyard SafeRides program is always looking for new members," said Anne. "If anyone is interested in joining they can reach out to one of the board members and attend one of the training sessions. We're hoping to have another training session soon." SafeRides volunteers consist of local high schoolers, as well as Ben Retmier, the adult supervisor and Depu-

ty Chief of Tri-Town EMS. The program operates out of the Hebrew Center in Vineyard Haven. SafeRides is an example of Vineyarders reaching out to one another in order to face a community wide problem. Some students volunteer for the program out of sheer kindness, and others to uphold a tradition. Senior Michael Mussell, co-president of SafeRides, said he was inspired to volunteer by his older sister, who was also involved in the program during high school. But he doesn't do it just for show. "SafeRides makes a safer community," Michael said. "Knowing that I'm helping my peers is a gift in itself." Mr. Ben Retmier said, "I've just been a part of the program forever. I like the program. I want to keep it going. It does a good thing. It does a good service for the Island. That's why I keep doing it." HSV

STEM stimulates success

BY ELIE JORDI

Anna Cotton, an alternative education teacher at the regional high school, is at the forefront of introducing an integrated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program to the high school curriculum. Ms. Cotton has been teaching for 11 years at the regional high school and the Charter School. She has completed the Professional Teaching Certification (PTC) program and is now certified in leading summit presentations and teaching educators and school faculty members the value of the STEM curriculum. The STEM program is the integration of science, technology, engineering, and math. Instead of considering each department of the school as individual sectors, the STEM curriculum encourages teachers across different disciplines to integrate. Incorporating different areas of study provides a holistic approach of learning for the students. Ms. Cotton has brought

many of the STEM teachings here to the high school in her alternative education program. She said, "The STEM curriculum is all about tangible application. One can learn real world skill within the bounds of the classroom. I was surprised by the amount of integration between departments at the high school that had previously been established in the school by Mr. D'Andrea, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Island." High school principal Gilbert Traverso, who has had a positive experience with the STEM program, is promoting its presence in the school. He said, "Each student learns differently. Shifting the classroom from textbook theory to real life applications engages many different learners." The theories formed in the classroom are then applied to our daily lives, thus giving students a well-rounded understanding of the teachings. Mr. Traverso sees the future of the high school with the expansion of STEM into the academic and vocational programs. HSV

Comfortable in class



(Left to right) Juniors Courtney Howell, Belle Dinning and Sara Poggi posed for a picture in pajamas on Monday for Spirit Week.

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