

the Current

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Sayville High School

West Sayville, NY

www.sayvilleschools.org

Immigration Debate Rages in Washington

By Vincent Vertuccio

On September 5th, President Trump and United States Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced they are terminating DACA with a six-month delay, and immediately ceasing acceptance of applications for the program. DACA or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, is a program started by President Obama via executive order that shields young, undocumented immigrants who entered the country illegally as children with their parents from deportation. Recipients of DACA, known as “Dreamers,” number around 800,000 nationwide with about 42,000 in New York and 7,000 in Suffolk County.

A common misconception about dreamers is that all or almost all of them are from Mexico or Central America. While 76% of DACA recipients are from Mexico or Central America, there are large amounts of dreamers from South America, Africa, and Asia. Along with terminating the program on a delay, President Trump has urged Congress to pass a law protecting the dreamers, although agreeing on the terms of such a law is proving difficult. The President's actions have drawn the ire of many elected officials and immigration groups.

Dreamers also play an important part in the nation's economy, and a report by The Center for American Progress found that deporting them could cause the United States to lose \$460.3 billion over ten years and that New York could lose as much as \$2.6 billion each year. A portion of these losses is from taxes, which, despite the murky legal status of Dreamers, they are still required to pay.

Sayville's representative in the House of Representatives, Peter King (R), who is a supporter of the President, was opposed to DACA when the program was created but says that he would like a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. He was quoted as saying, “I have said that I hope the Dreamers who obeyed the law, have gone to school and/or served the military get a path to citizenship,” New York's Senator Schumer (D), who also serves as the leader of the Senate Democrats, has been in talks with House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and President Trump on a deal exchanging border security funding (which does not include a wall) for DACA protections, and has remained quiet on DACA with the notable exception of a joint statement with Rep. Pelosi describing the contents of the possible deal. The deal in its current form, however, appears to have stalled in Congress, with Republicans angry with the lack of wall funds and Democrats making clear they won't fund a wall.

Mr. Trump has been meeting with Republican leaders as well, attempting to find common ground for a deal. In protest of inaction on DACA, Democrats sunk a normally unnotable FAA extension and have attempted to work with moderate Republicans to circumvent GOP leadership and bring the path-to-citizenship plan known as the “DREAM Act” to a vote. This effort has largely been unsuccessful so far.

New York's other senator, Senator Gillibrand (D), in contrast to Senator Schumer, has been vocal about her displeasure with the President's decision, releasing a statement after Mr. Trump's announcement which condemns his decision and calls on Congress to pass the “DREAM Act”. New York's attorney general, Eric Schneiderman (D), has joined 16 other states in a lawsuit against the Trump administration relating to DACA. New York's Governor, Andrew Cuomo (D) and the speaker of the New York Assembly, Carl Heastie (D), also condemned the president's actions.

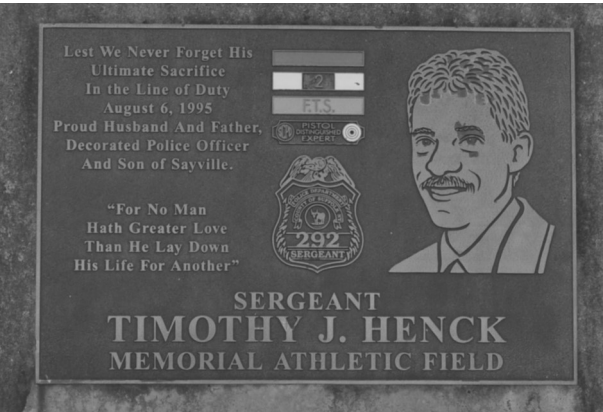
Sayville Dedicates Timothy J. Henck Memorial Field

By Jilleen Barrett

On August 6th, 1995, the life of Timothy J. Henck was lost while he was serving for our county as a Suffolk Police Officer. Several years ago, a plaque was placed in his memory near the Sayville Boy's Soccer Field to honor his love of sports. Now, in 2017, the Sayville School District has constructed a turf field and scoreboard that bears the name of the fallen officer.

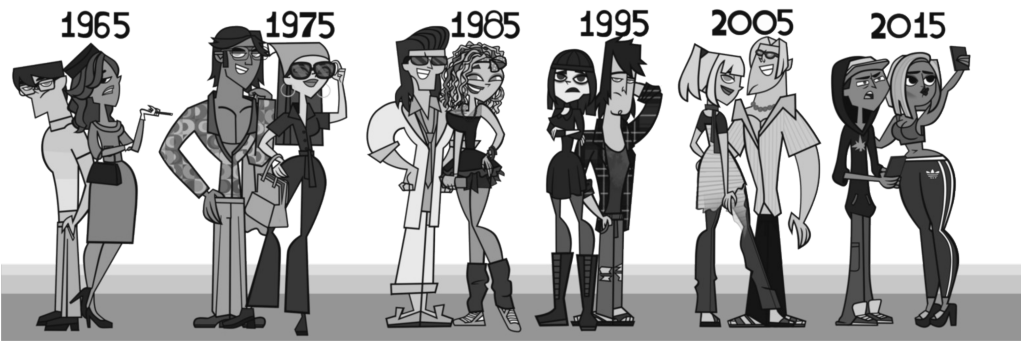
Although the field had always been dedicated to Officer Henck, it wasn't nearly as known as it is now. Previously, as mentioned before, there was a plaque with his name, picture, and a blurb about who he was. Now, however, anyone who witnesses a game at that field- which is covered in turf, a supposedly stronger surface for athletes to play on- will know that the field is for him. Henck was survived by his daughter and wife after he passed, and they seem thrilled with the decision to create the field. The Suffolk County News displays a picture with the two holding sunflowers amongst other Suffolk officers.

Funding for the scoreboard was donated to the district by the Suffolk County Police Department. Funding for the field and bleachers was raised by a bond referendum passed by the district in 2015. Sayville School board member Thomas Cooley, who knew Henck personally, provided Sayville Schools with the idea of creating the field and for that, the whole community is grateful.



Homecoming 2017 October 23—28

Monday: American Day Tuesday: Hawaiian Day Wednesday: Flannel Day
Thursday: Decade Day Friday: Sayville Pride / Purple and Gold Day



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New Teachers at SHS



Current Staff

Upperclassmen wandering the halls this year have noticed several new staff members here at the high school. In this issue of *The Current*, we'll feature three teachers who are new to our building.

Ms. Cuozzo (top) might be familiar to students who were in Mr. Aronsen's class last year. She covered his Social Studies classes at the beginning of the year, and we are very happy to welcome her back this year. Ms. Cuozzo is teaching Global 9, Global 10 and Economics.

Anyone who went to Frost Valley in 8th grade will recognize Mr. Anzalone, (middle) who has joined the high school Special Education Department after spending the past 20 years in the Middle School. Mr. Anzalone will be working with the functional academic students in their kitchen, garden and greenhouse.

Ms. Methven (bottom) has spent the past several years teaching in Glen Cove Middle and High School. She's joined the English Department at the high school, teaching AP Language and Composition and English 10. She has taken on the role of Freshman Class Co-advisor with Mrs. Perlin. We wish her and the Class of 2021 good luck next week at homecoming!

In the next issue of *The Current* we will feature several more of the staff members who are new to our building. In the meantime, help us welcome all of our new staff to Sayville High School.

Book Review

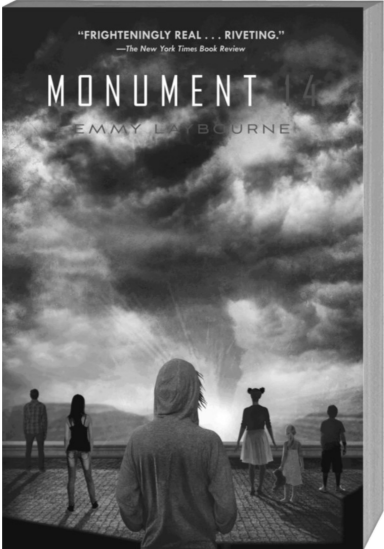
Current Book Critic: Nora O'Donnell

MONUMENT 14 by Emmy Laybourne

Over the past few weeks I've been fortunate enough to read an amazing novel that happens to fall under the category of Science Fiction. One the books that I was fortunate enough to read was called *The Monument 14* written by Emmy Laybourne.

This action-packed novel takes you on an adventure following fourteen children ranging from ages 6-18 fighting to survive after their world has been turned upside down. After an inexplicable hailstorm that in which causes an accident with one of the school buses the children are forced to take cover in a mall. The children soon realize that there is more going on outside the walls of the mall than they know. There has been a chemical disaster that is effecting everyone outside in a way depending on their blood type. In this new world, if they breathe the air they could become angry and able to attack beyond the capabilities of any normal human, or they become paranoid and believe that everyone is out to get them. They may also develop rashes and blisters which could be life threatening. The older children now must care for the younger children and find a way to survive and find help in a world gone wrong. Read this amazing novel about survival in a world gone mad to find out more.

Monument 14 is available from the school library.



A Painting a Day for October

Senior Sophia Denaro has been participating in the Gore-tober art contest, creating a different work, every day, on a Halloween theme. Here is her entry for October 4, when the theme was *Keeping a Trophy*.



Halloween Cupcake War

Bring your best Halloween themed cupcakes on October 31.

Judging during lunch

Bake sale outside the Gym during 10th period

See Mrs. Wittman or Mrs. O'Hoppe for details.

Key Club

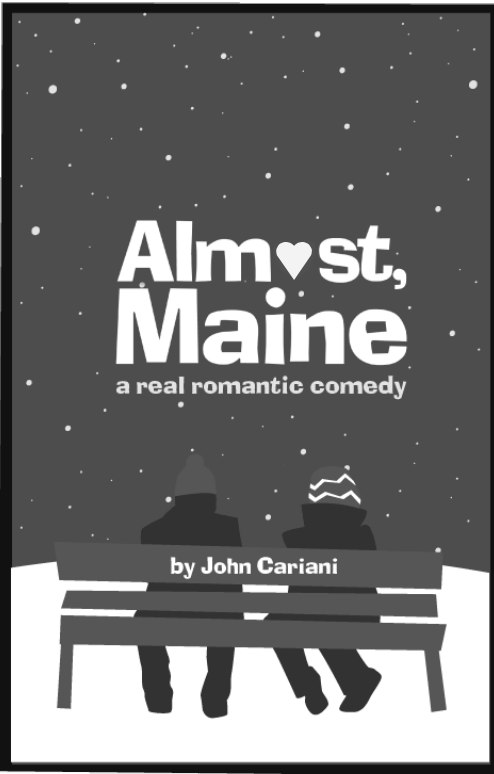
Forensic Team Fundraiser

Student Planners
\$10.00

Available during lunch periods

Sayville Players Explores Love in ALMOST, MAINE

By Mikayla Zeman



Love is a powerful thing. Love can make people happy and sway their opinions. To some people, love is why they wake up in the morning, to others it is motivation to reach a goal. Love can come in any shape or size, and *Almost, Maine* demonstrates this. With nine different stories of authentic love, there is proof that love does not discriminate. When two souls are in love there are no boundaries that can contain them. This play is relatable to everyone because no matter who you are in this world, you are truly loved. The dates of this wonderful play are November 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th. Come see how love can be a beautiful thing for these couples and how love can be expressed in many different ways.

November 8, 9 @ 7:00 pm

November 10, 11 @ 8:00 pm

Special Benefit Performance for Veterans, Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 2:00 pm

In the Little Theatre

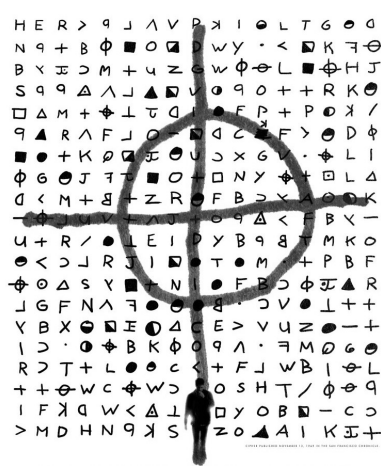
10 Movie Recommendations for October

By Thomas Faughnan

The Witch (2015) [4.5/5 stars] - Set amongst the desolation of a remote 17th century New England farmhouse, Robert Eggers (in his directorial debut) conjures a mood of vice-like tension through god-tier production design and sweeping cinematography. The film effectively rejects the typical three-act structure so common to modern cinema, opting for a slower, more continuous sense of mounting dread. As a historical piece, *The Witch* is a supernatural take on a classic American folktale. As a work of horror, it's a grim exploration of one's inner demons. While it's not the kind of film that will make you scream aloud, it's ability to unnerve is chilling to say the least.



Zodiac (2007) [4.5/5 stars] - For those who are fascinated with crime, this is a must-watch. David Fincher (known for House of Cards, The Social Network, Gone Girl) pulls out all the stops in his adaptation of Robert Graysmith's true crime novel about the 1960s/70s murders by the infamous Zodiac Killer. Jake Gyllenhaal, Mark Ruffalo, and Robert Downey Jr. team up to investigate the crime spree that terrorized the San Francisco Bay Area for years. Each man is affected differently by the mental stress of the case: some are emboldened while others deteriorate under pressure. Throughout its 3-hour runtime, Zodiac barely gives the audience a second to breathe, and when it does, it's a decidedly nervous exhalation.



The Thing (1982) [5/5 stars] - John Carpenter's Antarctic monster flick is the epitome of 80s gross-out horror. It chronicles the struggles of a group of south pole researchers as they try to defend themselves from an extraterrestrial parasite that can inhabit the body of its victims. Confined to their small laboratory by the sub-zero conditions outside, the scientists soon turn on each other in one of the greatest depictions of paranoia ever committed to celluloid. Combining practical effects with a career-best performance by Kurt Russell, The Thing is a masterpiece of horror and it's what I personally watched last Halloween.

Les Yeux Sans Visage (1960) [4/5 stars] - This French film (whose English title is Eyes Without a Face) is a no-nonsense work of horror that is conventionally scary in just the way you'd expect. It's about a mad scientist who surgically removes people's faces and transplants them onto his own daughter's scarred countenance. It's not a perfect film (suffering mostly from pacing issues), but it's a reliable choice if you're looking for a decent scare.

Night of the Living Dead (1968) [4.5/5 stars] - There is no shortage of zombie movies these days. Why not check out the one that started it all? This 60s portrayal of the undead was written and directed by independent filmmaker George A. Romero (who passed away in July 2017) on a shoestring budget. It is widely considered one of the most influential horror films of all time, pioneering the use of gory special effects for a mainstream audience. Because it's in the public domain, you can find Night of the Living Dead on YouTube for free.



Nosferatu (1922) [4.5/5 stars] - This is the king of vampire movies. F.W. Murnau's horror classic is based on Bram Stoker's famous 1897 novel, Dracula. However, the title character's name was changed to "Nosferatu" to avoid copyright infringement. In its time it marked a major shift in cinema, placing an emphasis on the use of editing as not just a chronological necessity, but an additional method of expressing emotion through what is seen and what is not. Disclaimer: *Nosferatu* is silent, German, and nearly 100 years old. It's not for everyone.

Eraserhead (1977) [5/5 stars] - David Lynch, the master of cinematic absurdity, crafted what is maybe the most perfect use of industrial sound design in his debut film, *Eraserhead*. Here we follow a hopelessly disturbed man named Henry, watching him deal with such inconveniences as the birth of his mutant son and his recurring hallucinations about radiators. This is as surreal as it gets and it's still one of the strangest films I've ever seen.

Mother! (2017) [4/5 stars] - Javier Bardem and Jennifer Lawrence play a couple of newlyweds traversing the tumultuous ups and downs of an inherently flawed marriage. Their home soon becomes host to an unexpected party of strangers that gets way out of hand. *Mother!* is a deftly written allegory with strong societal commen-



Continued on pg. 4

A Day in the Life of Green's Creek

By Katie Webber

Have you ever wondered what a single day in the life of a creek is like? I can safely say that prior to last Thursday, I never did. However, after spending a single day wading through the Green's Creek watershed and collecting various data, I can't seem to stop thinking about what each day in the life of this creek is like.

Before I enrolled in AP Environmental Science, I'd done research in Green's Creek for RISE so I did know generally what to expect from our scheduled field trip, but I was excited to do study the creek with my classmates as opposed to alone. Once we changed into our field clothes and made our way to the first testing site, I was already looking forward to the science- and subsequent fun (yes, nerdy)- that this trip would entail. We started at the bay, and separated into groups as to collect different sets of data on a myriad of things. My group's goal was to collect data on the water chemistry of the site (dissolved oxygen, salinity, temperature, pH). We spent perhaps an hour at this particular location, and I enjoyed every bit of it. Next, we stopped at another site on Main Street and I elected to collect more data on the water chemistry as I deemed it pretty fun. We then left to have lunch.

After this, we made our way to the salt marsh, which accounts for perhaps my favorite part of the field trip. Once arriving at the Maritime Museum, we each donned our waders and made our way to the dock, then jumping off into the muddy grass beneath us. We trekked through mud to the edge of the marsh at which there was a small beach of sorts, and were then allowed to venture off and explore this type of ecosystem many of us had never been in before. It was an amazing experience simply existing in a space I'd never witnessed much before. Monarch butterflies were migrating, flying ever so delicately, landing on the yellow flowers scattered around us- the scene was something surreal. I'd witnessed species of fish and birds I'd never seen before, and there was something about seeing the wide open marsh and the tall grass blowing in the breeze that made my day.

I realized towards the end of the trip how much of my stress actually left me while I was outside focused on nature- not a single one of my deadlines or due dates popped into my head, and I was allowed to enjoy being by the water for the entire day. All in all, this field trip currently sits as one of my absolute favorites. I suggest that anyone who would like to experience what I did sign up for AP Environmental Science. If nothing else, it'll make you more aware of what the daily life of a creek is like!



College Applications

More Challenging for Design Students?

By Taylor Laurie

College is stressful. For most people it's having to worry about their essay, filling out the applications, getting their transcript and asking teachers for letters of recommendation. For myself and many others it's having to worry about all of that *and* creating a unique and complete portfolio. In my case I am constructing a fashion design portfolio and this means I have twice as much work as everyone else. Not only that, but each school I apply to requires a different format for their application portfolio. Creating a design portfolio is stressful yet at the same very entertaining because you get to let your imagination run wild and your mind be free and creative. After you finish each design, you feel more and more confident about yourself as a person and as a designer, at least I feel that way. Creating new things is exciting. The process may seem difficult and stressful but when it's all said and done, you wish you could go back and do it all over again.

The Current is a publication of Sayville High School.

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The Current welcomes letters to the editor and article submissions.

Please drop off with or email either faculty adviser.

October Movies, continued.

tary. I won’t spoil what that allegory is because most of the fun is in figuring it out for yourself. This is the only new release on my list, and it’s worth checking out while it’s still in theaters.

Tucker & Dale vs. Evil (2010) [4/5 stars] - Two hillbillies cross paths with a group of airhead college campers. Humorous misunderstandings occur. Though horror-comedy is a crossover genre that is notoriously difficult to do well (ie: the Scary Movie sequels), *Tucker & Dale* executes with great success. Its strengths lie in its clever situational humor and layered plot. Essentially, it’s satire with an actual story.

Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009) [5/5 stars] - If you’re not into horror but want an Autumn-themed movie, you can’t go wrong with Wes Anderson’s quirky stop-motion animated hit. George Clooney and Meryl Streep star as a couple of wise-cracking foxes fighting back against the local human bullies. What more could you want? Fox is worth checking out for the stop-motion alone, consisting of extremely detailed puppets filmed with the most intricate of tracking shots, sharp pans, and subtle zooms. This is my go-to “feel-good” movie.



Seven Tips for An Excellent College Application Essay

Adapted from www.petersons.com Current Staff

1. Analyze the prompt carefully. Figure out what the admissions officers are trying to figure out about you from this essay.
2. Organize your writing. College essays can be creative and fun, but they still need some kind of structure. It might not be Introduction, Body, Conclusion ... but it must be something!
3. Show, don’t tell. Pick anecdotes that illustrate the qualities you want the admissions officers to see in you.
4. Use appropriate vocabulary. Your essay should reflect your grasp of college level vocabulary, but be careful of words that have “shaded” meanings.
5. Write succinctly. You have only 650 words to tell your story. A strong specific verb, for example, can replace a string of adverbs.
6. Have a careful and deliberate sentence structure. The majority of the sentences in your essay should be compound or complex, but don’t deny the impact of a short, declarative sentence.
7. Seek second opinions. We are often blind to the mistakes we make the most often. Find a second reader, preferably someone whose communication skills you respect, and have them read your work.



WHERE IN SAYVILLE?

Sayville it filled with artifacts from its crazy history. Can you identify the location of this Sayville landmark? The first student to deliver the correct answer to *The Current* in the Little Theatre will receive a free acai bowl from Souper Bowls!



The Current Editorial By Vincent Vertuccio

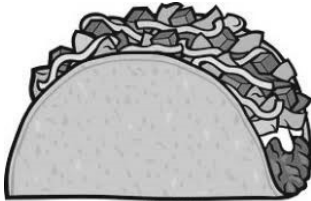
Thoughts and Prayers?
How About Policy and Change?

On October 1st, gunshots rang out on the Las Vegas strip. 59 people were killed and 489 people suffered injuries in the deadliest shooting in American history. Mass shootings occur once a day in America. The Vegas shooting wasn't even the only mass shooting to occur that day. America has a serious gun problem, and it's killing innocent people. Shootings of the magnitude that struck in Vegas aren't exactly uncommon. Just last year, Omar Mateen shot and killed 49 people in an Orlando gay nightclub. We see mass shootings happen again and again from Sandy Hook to Virginia Tech to Aurora, yet nothing ever seems to be done about the root of the problem. Guns. Anti-gun control advocates will spend hours explaining and joking about how "Guns don't kill people, people kill people," never stopping to think that maybe those people wouldn't be able to kill as many people or any without having access to those guns. In the United States you can buy as many semiautomatic weapons as you want without a permit or license, without any training, without giving a reason, without being required to store them safely. You can avoid any background checks using the gun show loophole, and you can be mentally ill (President Trump actually has been making it easier for this to happen) or even on the no-fly or terrorist watch list. While many states, like New York, have gun control laws to stop those problems, many do not. Of course, these issues could easily be solved if Congress simply passed some of the common-sense gun control that could solve those problems, like universal background checks for all guns (90% support from the public) or banning people on the terrorist watch list from purchasing guns (77% public support). But when presented with endless gun control legislation, congressional Republicans block any of these issues from being solved. Congressional Republicans even banned federal gun-control research. Why exactly do they block these proposals? Mainly due to the fact that they receive lots of donations and political support from the NRA, a far-right, pro-gun group that represents the gun industry. Semiautomatic weapons can fire about 30 rounds in around 10 seconds. Automatic weapons (which have been banned in the United States since the 1980s) can shoot around 90 rounds in ten seconds. (Neither of these gun types should be legal, but semiautomatic guns are currently federally legal.) The Las Vegas shooter used a legal device, called a bump stock, to modify his semi-automatic weapons to shoot almost or as fast as an illegal automatic weapon. Upon this discovery, a bipartisan piece of legislation banning bump stocks has been gaining steam in Congress, and even the NRA threw their weight behind reviewing the legality of the devices. The only problem with this is that it's mainly a PR move. This is probably the only recorded use of a bump stock in a mass shooting, due to the negative effects on aim and it's general obscurity. Of course, that doesn't mean they shouldn't be banned. After all, they still are a dangerous loophole that was used to kill many people, but just banning them and doing nothing else will have almost no effect on gun deaths. That's mainly because sweeping gun control measures are needed to make significant effects in gun violence rates. Gun control reduces gun crime, gun deaths, and mass shootings. There are an endless amount of positive effects caused by gun control, whether it be that states that have it having lower gun violence and mass shooting rates, or reduced suicide in places with gun control. That's why Congress needs to take immediate action and enact common-sense gun proposals, like background checks and bans on assault weapons. Respectfully, enough with the "thoughts and prayers." How about some "Policy and Change" instead.



Taco Tuesdays

Brought to you by the Junior Class
Every Tuesday in October, outside
the Gym during 10th period.



HELP WANTED !

Join *The Current*

Meet us Wednesdays,

10th period in the Little Theater