

January 12, 2016  
Volume 5 Issue 3



# Observer

*Bringing News Close to Home*

# 2016

## Fiddler on the Roof

Everything you need to know about the upcoming show

## Bottled Air For Sale?

Pollution problems in China are larger than you think

## Passenger Space Travel

Learn how a private company is working to make this dream a reality

## It's a New Year!

Time for New Year's resolutions







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## Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers of the *Observer*,

On behalf of the *Observer* staff, we would like to welcome all of you to this new year and this new issue of the *Observer*. Even though it's a new year, our mission has not changed.

We will continue to cover topics and issues that are informative and entertaining to you, our audience. In this issue we start the new year with news on local events, a new school production, new developments in fields such as bottled air and space exploration, continued coverage of the presidential race, and much more.

Thank you all for your continued support; we value your commitment to our paper. We hope you all have a prosperous and successful new year.

### Have an idea for the paper?

Contact the *Observer* staff:

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## Mission & Vision

### *Bringing News Close to Home*

Our mission as *The Alfred-Almond Observer* is to become a high quality source of informative and entertaining news that relates to the members of the Alfred-Almond community. The goal for the paper is to expand the knowledge of our readers and to contribute to the development of a more informed community.

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# Welcome Back



## Spelling Bee January 21 at 6:30 p.m.

If you're interested in participating in the annual Alfred-Almond Spelling Bee, go to the main office and sign up! The Spelling Bee will take place in the high school auditorium.

By  
Brooke Jefferds  
Public Relations Manager



## SEMI FORMAL 1/23 @ 7:30pm

Come dance the night away with all your friends in the high school gym! Tickets available all lunch mods January 20-22!

## International Night

International Night is on January 14 from 6-8pm. Join classmates and their families in the high school cafeteria to experience different cultures. Check out festive posters while getting a bite to eat of food from around the globe.

The literary festival is coming up! Don't forget to give the librarians your final piece by	4pm on 2/11 for a chance to win! Award recognition will be on March 15 at 6:30pm.
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## Spirit Week 25th - 29th

**THEMES:** 'Merica Monday  
Tropical Tuesday  
All White Wednesday  
Throwback Thursday  
Blue + Gold Friday

### All-County

	● Band Auditions
	● Grades 7-12
	January 30 at 8am
	Canisteo-Greenwood



# Fiddler On The Roof

By:  
**Michelle Feenaughty**  
Staff Writer

It's time for Alfred-Almond's school play again! This year, the school play is *Fiddler on the Roof*. The musical is about life in a small village called Anatevka, in Russia during the year 1905, between the Jews and Orthodox Christians living there. The story is set around Tevye and his family, and his fight to keep to "tradition."

His eldest three daughters wanted to marry for love, which went against the established tradition of marriage. The first daughter wanted to marry her childhood love, the second daughter, her radical teacher, and the third daughter, a Russian who shared her passion for reading. As his family slowly moves further away from Tevye's comfort zone by challenging tradition, it

## Performances:

Thursday, March 10 @ 7pm  
Saturday, March 12 @ 7pm  
Sunday, March 13 @ 2pm

**\$5 General Admission tickets**



Photo from [udpac.org](http://udpac.org)

becomes harder for him to accept each daughter's choice. The story is set in the past, but can be applied to situations even in our time. Appropriate for all ages, everyone can understand the simple message: sometimes tradition isn't always right.

With a cast, crew, and pit of more than 60 students from grades 6-12, the production is bound to be a hit. Jesse Crosby, actor for Tevye, said "A play creates a community. We all sink or swim together. It's fun being able to transport yourself into a different world and become a different person. And then try to bring others into your world."

This funny, yet serious, show will hopefully be a hit and bring in as big a crowd as last year. Here's to beginning our very own new tradition here at A-A!



## Cast

<b>Tevye</b>	Jesse Crosby
<b>Golde</b>	Maeghan Rodd
<b>Yente</b>	Katlyn Guild
<b>Lazar Wolf</b>	Wyatt Ames
<b>Tzeitel</b>	Abby Kelly
<b>Motel</b>	Joey Milletti
<b>Hodel</b>	Taylor Fox
<b>Perchilka</b>	Logan Whittall
<b>Chava</b>	Anyia Wilds
<b>Fyedka</b>	Noah Briglin
<b>Shprintze</b>	Ryann Donlon
<b>Bielke</b>	Mirra Robbers
<b>The Constable</b>	Greg Boardman
<b>The Rabbi</b>	Justin Berry
<b>Rabbi's Son</b>	Paul Drake
<b>Innkeeper</b>	Jesse Berry
<b>Bookseller</b>	Jake Schultze
<b>Grandma Tzeitel</b>	Mirra Robbers
<b>Fruma-Sarah</b>	Emelie Enke

## Villagers

Alexandra Whittall	Talynn Rodd
Amni Kabae	Miles Mulheisen
Caroline Ding	Isabella Long
Ryleigh Ormsby	Claire Volk
Amber Trudell	Ethan Sick
Isabella Powell	Anastacia Miller
Emily Campbell	Grace Hildreth
Shannon Heinig	Lily Clark
Jordan Ormsby	Star Clark
Amber Weiner	Grant Watson
Allyson Campbell	Angel Kenyon
Ella Napolitano	Reagan Comer
Kiara Wisniewski	Chris Mormino
Scott Mills	Garret Paine

## Dancers

Aeowyn Kendall  
Kerstyn Sage  
Amya Snyder  
Annie Lloyd  
Maimi Fearick  
Kayla Snyder  
Lauren Kelly  
Grace Yarnal  
Mackenzie Ormsby  
Jessica McMahon





# Art Force Five

By:

**Darnell Love Watson**  
**Marketing Manager**

## **DRAWN TO DIVERSITY**

Dan Napolitano, Alfred University's director of student activities, has been granted a 2016 leave of absence to further develop Art Force Five.

The Art Force Five (part of the Drawn to Diversity program) is a group of five Alfred University students, who use the power of creativity to advocate equality, with the goal of encouraging diversity, reducing violence and strengthening communities. The Drawn to Diversity program, founded in 2006 by Napolitano, received numerous national awards, and participants have been invited to present throughout the country.

They travel to schools and museums all around the country. The first school they visited was Alfred-Almond Central School in 2007. They come to AACS every school year and present to Alfred-Almond's second and third graders. Last spring they presented to Alfred-Almond's fifth-eighth grades as well.

Art Force Five has travelled to Washington DC, New Orleans, Indianapolis, and New York City. When Art Force Five isn't conducting school workshops, they are creating community-based art to help people in various communities express their different emotions.

The group was influenced by the city of Ferguson, Missouri and other cities where frustration turned into violence without any other way to express it. They plan to make nine mosaics with the help of 3,000 members of the communities they travel to. Each person that helps with the mosaic will be designing a little tile that will be added to the mosaic. During the workshop the community members will engage in constructive discussions about diversity. Art Force Five will also bring topics such as education, incarceration and poverty. Each mosaic will reflect each community's issues.

The goal of these mosaics is to help the communities express their frustrations, and to show the benefits of useful discussion as opposed to violence and fighting. Art Force Five has already made an impact on a lot of people's lives and hopes to continue this in the future.



**Alfred University Director of Student Activities**  
**Dan Napolitano**

*Photo from [alfred.edu](http://alfred.edu)*

Each member of the group has a unique name that speaks to their "talent" or skill.

The names include:

- Graphite, the illustrator
- Brushstroke, the painter
- 3D, the sculptor
- Runway, the fashion designer
- Zoom, the photographer



Click link below to listen to  
Dan Napolitano's radio interview  
[wxnews.org](http://wxnews.org)

For more information about  
Drawn to Diversity and the Art Force Five  
Click the link below  
[www.DrawntoDiversity.com](http://www.DrawntoDiversity.com)

Click link below for any inquiries  
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# Athlete of the Month: Levi B.



By:  
**Hannah Henderson**  
Photo Editor

The athlete of the month for December 2015 is Levi B. Levi plays on Alfred-Almond's boys varsity basketball team, coached by Mr. Weller.

Coach Weller states that he feels that Levi was a great choice for the Athlete of the Month, saying, "He is a team leader during practices and games. He works hard and gets very few breaks, without complaint. More importantly, he's a very good student as well; even when things aren't going well, he keeps his composure, the way a leader should."

Weller states that Levi is "averaging in double digits in basketball and hasn't been turning over the ball very much. He is also very quick and aggressive on defense, which keeps us in every game, whether we are ON offensively or not."

The boy's varsity basketballs record as of the beginning of January is 5-6. Weller states that "we have quality wins over Andover and Arkport - Canaseraga." Weller's expectations are for a very strong rest of the season after the return from break.



**Athlete of the Month: Levi**  
*Senior varsity basketball player Levi was chosen as the athlete of the month for Boys Varsity Basketball*  
*Photo courtesy of ALCEN*

**"How do you feel about being chosen for Athlete of the month, and have you ever been chosen for Athlete of the month before?"**

Levi: "I have never been chosen for Athlete of the month before so it's pretty cool."

**"When did you start playing basketball?"**

Levi: "I started playing basketball at the YMCA in second grade."

**"Do you plan on playing basketball in college?"**

Levi: "I don't think I will play basketball in college but maybe on an intramural team."

## 2015 Athletes of the Month

**Caitlin**



**September:**  
Girl's Varsity  
Soccer

**Noah**



**October:**  
Boy's Varsity  
Soccer

**Levi**



**November:**  
Boy's Varsity  
Soccer

*Photos courtesy of ALCEN*





# Retiring Pro Athletes of 2015

**By: Elizabeth Allen**  
**Staff Writer**

## **Jeff Gordon**

NASCAR's no. 24 Chevrolet driver has retired after a 23 year career. He has 93 wins, including three Daytona 500 wins, and five Brickyard 500 wins. He is a four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup Series champion, and finished the year off placing fourth overall.

## **Ed Reed**

Reed played for the New York Jets, Houston Texans, and the Baltimore Ravens, who he helped lead to a superbowl championship in 2012. He is known as one of the best safeties to ever play in the NFL, as well as a nine-time pro-bowler and an eight-time all pro selection. He was the 2004 NFL Defensive MVP and the 2004, 2008, and 2010 NFL season interception leader.

## **Troy Polamalu**

Arguably the best defensive player in the NFL, Polamalu helped bring the Pittsburgh Steelers to two Super Bowl championships. He is a six-time pro-bowler, and a three-time first team all-pro, as well as 2010's NFL defensive player of the year.



**Troy Polamalu** *Diving for an interception against Chargers* **Photo from steelers.com**

## **Abby Wambach**

This highly respected professional female soccer player is the all-time leader in international goals. She helped lead the U.S. women's team to a gold medal against Brazil in the 2004 Olympics. She won the FIFA World Player of the Year award in 2012, as well as the 2015 FIFA World Cup with her team.



**Abby Wambach** *celebrating after a World Cup win*  
*Photo from usatoday.com*

## **Steve Nash**

A two-time NBA MVP, eight-time NBA all-star, and third overall for career assists, Steve Nash retired after playing 19 seasons as point guard for the Phoenix Suns, Dallas Mavericks, and the Los Angeles Lakers.

## **Steve Smith Sr.**

Eleventh overall in career receiving yards, the wide receiver is a five-time pro-bowler and two-time first team all-pro. He played twelve years with the Carolina Panthers and two years with the Baltimore Ravens. It is rumored, however, that Smith will return to the NFL for the 2016 season.

## **Jason Giambi**

A twenty-season MLB first baseman and designated hitter, Giambi retired after playing eight seasons with the Oakland Athletics, six seasons with the New York Yankees, four seasons with the Colorado Rockies, and one season with the Cleveland Indians. Giambi retires at 44 years old and with a total of 440 homeruns.

## **Tim Hudson**

A four-time all-star, and a 2014 World Series Champion, Hudson played six years with the Oakland A's, nine years with the Atlanta Braves, and two years with the San Francisco Giants. Hudson is retiring after a seventeen season career, with a total of 2,080 strikeouts.



**Tim Hudson** *Throwing a pitch against the Miami Marlins* **Photo from ajc.com**

## **Patrick Willis**

Considered to be one of the greatest linebackers in today's NFL, Willis spent his entire eight year career with the San Francisco 49ers. He is not only a NFC champion, but a seven-time pro-bowler, a five-time first team all-pro, and the 2007 and the 2009 NFL tackles leader.



## Details on the New Education Law

By: Priya Rao- Copy Editor

### What is it?



- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed on December 10, 2015, is a major education bill that gives states more power over education
- It replaces the controversial No Child Left Behind Act in place since 2002
- The law has bipartisan support

### Possible Advantages



- Reduces overtesting resulting in fewer "teaching to the test" strategies
- States will have more accountability and power over education. They can set their own academic goals and evaluation standards
- Increase in access to high quality preschool

## The Every Student Succeeds Act

### Possible Disadvantages



- States may be less willing to fix failing school without the involvement of the federal government
- Underprivileged and minority students may still be left behind
- Significant amount of time may pass before the law has far-reaching effects

### Possible Impacts on Alfred-Almond



### Students

- There will still be required annual testing on math and reading for students from third to eighth grade
- May be less standardized testing



### Teachers

- Teachers will have more flexibility on how and when to test their students
- Standardized testing scores will be less of a factor in evaluating teachers



### District

- Districts will have more freedom and more local control over accountability standards
- There will be no requirement to adopt academic standards such as the Common Core







# WORDS FROM THE WOMEN CANDIDATES

By: Kelsey Cline- Photo Editor

**Next Republican Debate:** January 14

**Next Democratic Debate:** January 17

In the 2016 election, both the democratic and the republican sides have a female candidate. Hillary Clinton and Carly Fiorina are both in the race for the presidency.

With the upcoming primaries, which begin in February and run until May, the candidates are working to get their main views out for the voters to see. The opening statements given in debates are often summaries of the candidate's background and ideas.

These are two examples of Hillary Clinton's and Carly Fiorina's opening statements:

## Hillary Clinton

### Opening Statement from the CNN Democratic Debate in Las Vegas on October 13, 2015:

"I'm Hillary Clinton. I have been proud and privileged to serve as First Lady, as a Senator from New York, and as Secretary of State. I'm the granddaughter of a factory worker and the grandmother of a wonderful one-year-old child. And every day I think about what we need to do to make sure that opportunity is available, not just for her, but for all of our children. I have spent a very long time, my entire adult life, looking for ways to even the odds, to help people have a chance to get ahead. And in particular, to find the ways for each child to live up to his or her God-given potential..."



Hillary Clinton At the Democratic Debate  
Photo from [theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)

## Carly Fiorina

### Opening Statement from the Fifth Republican Debate in Las Vegas on December 15, 2015:

"Like all of you I'm angry. I'm angry at what's happening to our nation. Citizens, it's time to take our country back. Bombastic insults won't take it back. Political rhetoric that promises a lot and delivers little, won't take it back. All of our problems can be solved. All of our wounds can be healed by a tested leader who is willing to fight for the character of our nation. I have been tested. I have beaten breast cancer. I have buried a child. I started as a secretary. I fought my way to the top of corporate America while being called every B word in the book. I fought my way into this election and on to this debate stage while all the political insiders and the pundits told, "it couldn't be done." I've been told, "no", all my life. And all my life, I've refused to accept no as an answer. Citizens, it is time to take our country back from the political class, from the media, from the liberal elite. It can be done, it must be done, join me and we will get it done."



Carly Fiorina At the Republican Debate  
Photo from [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

# ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS IN CHINA

By: Tayler Fox - Editor in Chief

In Beijing, China, the wind has stopped blowing, creating a massive smog crisis. This “toxic haze” has occurred plenty of times before, due to the millions of people producing emissions everyday. However, without the wind blowing it away or at least thinning the smog, Beijing had to issue its first ever red alert on December 7, 2015.

The four-tier smog warning system was created two years ago. The warnings are issued when the levels of PM2.5, the smallest and most harmful particles in the air, are predicted to exceed 300 particles for over 72 hours. December 7 was the first time the red alert was issued since the warning system was introduced, followed by a second use on December 18. The red alert caused people to be urged to stay indoors and school to be cancelled. To help reduce the smog, officials decided also to temporarily shut down factories and attempt to take half of the city’s vehicles off the road.

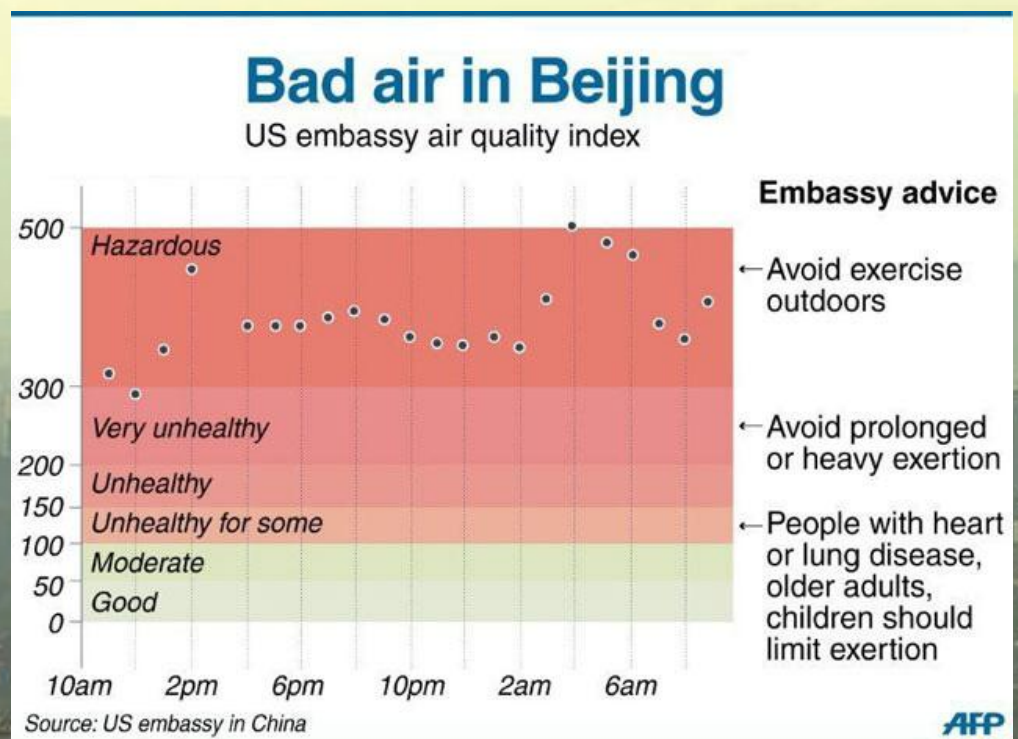
The city is using giant water cannons to try to combat the crisis as well. The water cannons shoot thousands of liters of water into the air in hopes that the water droplets will stick to the pollution particles and “literally “wash” the air clean.” The government is being accused of wasting money, \$90,000 to be exact, because scientists have concluded the cannons are useless in fighting smog. They are, however, a good idea to use on construction sites to control dust, but they are only a temporary fix.



**Smog affects everyone**  
*In order to avoid the harmful effects smog has on the human body, people are urged to wear pollution masks when outdoors. Photo courtesy of theguardian.com*

There is a humorous side to this though, even if it is a little dark. Someone is selling bottled air. Not just anyone, Canada. Starting as a joke, Moses Lam and Troy Paquette sold baggies of air. Now these two are co-founders of Vitality Air, selling “fresh air from the Rocky Mountains,” for around \$15 for 7.7 liters.

While you may think the whole idea of bottled air is ridiculous, or thought “Who in their right mind would buy a can of air,” that is exactly what people once thought about bottled water. Think about this the next time you buy a bottle of water, and the next time you drive your car when you could have ridden a bike or walked.



Beijing Air Quality A graph explaining the ranking of air pollution and the levels in Beijing, Jan 13-14, 2015. Photo from phys.org





# New Year's Resolutions



By: Paige Schmidt - Staff Writer

At the beginning of the year, people make goals for the New Year. These goals or resolutions can be anything you want them to be. Sometimes they are not always successful. The reasoning for that is people tend to make resolutions that are hard to achieve or that are too big of a challenge to handle.

According to the Statistic Brain Research Institute only 8% of Americans achieve their New Year's resolution and roughly 24% never succeed at achieving their resolutions. That percentage is low compared to the percentage of Americans who actually make a New Year's resolution every year, which is about 45%, and the percentage for those who infrequently make a New Year's resolution is 17%.

Ways to make it easier to achieve your goals are by keeping them simple, making them tangible, and having a strong willpower. Keeping the resolution simple will allow the goal to become more realistic. Also, making the resolution tangible will be easier to handle. An example of a tangible resolution is listen to my favorite music more often. This is a small but simple goal which will be easier to achieve than something that is a tough and huge goal, for example, losing 20 pounds. That resolution is very hard and can easily discourage a person.



Happy New Year's!!

*Photos from [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org) and [blog.quintcareers.com](http://blog.quintcareers.com)*

Another factor involved is strong willpower. Believe it or not, resolutions take willpower to stick with them. Those who do not have strong willpower don't usually achieve their resolutions.

A resolution takes time and effort. Without effort, the results will not be as effective as results that have had effort put into them. So, do not give up on your resolutions, and do not stress over them.

Then there are some who don't make a New Year's resolution. Some reasons for not having one are they do not stick with it, or others always have the same one for each year. Their theory for having the same one each year is they don't keep it, so the next year they will do it.

## New Year's Resolutions Stats



- infrequently make one (12%)
- never makes one (28%)
- those who succeed (6%)
- infrequently succeed (36%)
- never succeed and fail (18%)

Some say they keep the same one every year, but they improve it or slightly change it so it will be easier to achieve their goal.

Here are some New Year's resolutions from the students and staff members of Alfred-Almond:

- "I'm going to add and create more raps."  
~Michelle F.
- "Get better grades"  
~Kerstyn S.
- "Recycle more often"  
~Riley P.
- "Save more money"  
~James S.
- "Go skiing"  
~Mr. Rech
- "I start the program"  
~Mrs. Decker
- "To be healthier"  
~Mr. Mac



# Blue Origin

By: Levi Bayus - Photo Editor

You have probably seen rockets take off before, but have you ever seen one land? Blue Origin, a privately - funded aerospace company, has developed a New Shepard spacecraft. The spacecraft is a reusable suborbital rocket with a capsule that launches passengers to the edge of space. The spacecraft does not go completely out of Earth's orbit, rather it goes to the very edge. On launch, the passengers experience almost 3 G's and reach a speed of Mach 3. After two and a half minutes of ascending, the rocket and capsule separate. The capsule keeps coasting into space, free falls for a few minutes, and then the rocket returns back to the launch site. While in freefall, the tourists will get to feel weightlessness while also getting to witness some of the best views anyone could ever experience.



Blue Origin Out of this world views.  
Photo from bizjournals.com



Blue Origin Would you go to space? Photo from  
makeuseof.com

There are two parts to the New Shepard spacecraft: the capsule and the rocket. The capsule holds six people and has the largest windows in spaceflight history, giving the tourists the best possible view. The capsule also gives the tourists a few minutes to experience zero gravity. Once back underneath the Karman line, which is the boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space, the parachutes on the capsule deploy, bringing the passengers back to Earth's surface a few miles away from the launch site.

The rocket has a BE-3 liquid rocket engine that gives the rocket 110,000 pounds of thrust. The rocket is also equipped with ring fins and wedge fins which provide stability to the rocket when falling back to the earth; there are also drag brakes and art fins. The drag brakes decrease the rocket's descent speed by half and the art fins stabilize the rocket on ascent and descent.

When falling back into Earth's atmosphere, the rocket's drag brakes open up and the engine reignites. Once the rocket is a few hundred feet above the landing pad, the booster ignites and brings the rocket to 5 mph and the landing gear gets deployed.

There is no official price tag on this adventure. Blue Origin says that they need about another year until they can set a price. However, it is estimated that the whole thing could cost you up to \$250,000. Blue Origin has a website where you can sign up to be put on a waiting list. Once all the details are figured out, Blue Origin will send out ticket information through email.

People who are interested can also go on to Blue Origin's website and experience an animated journey of spaceflight.

Astronaut's Experience: <https://www.blueorigin.com/astronaut-experience>





# Uniting Body, Breath, and Mind



By: Caitlin Cook- Copy Editor

Breathe in... breathe out. To the common bystander, yoga may seem like a waste of time. *What could possibly be the point of meditating and stretching?* Little do many know, yoga is a practice that combines breathing, balance, strength, and flexibility, and promotes overall body health.

For over 4,000 years, yoga has been practiced around the world as a means of relaxing the entire body. This is done by focusing solely on steady breathing and finding peace of mind. Seen as a sort of meditation, those performing yoga try to breathe steadily in through the nose, and out through the mouth, clearing the mind of the stresses of everyday life. Many scientific researchers have linked breathing practices to reduced anxiety, muscle relaxation, and lowered blood pressure.

Yoga can also increase muscle strength, muscle stamina and flexibility. More advanced yoga poses put the body in difficult positions for extended

amounts of time. Practicing yoga for a long period of time can lead to an increase in stretching ability throughout the entire body. Yoga is extremely helpful to those who suffer from inflexibility, chronic back pain, muscle soreness, asthma, arthritis, insomnia, Multiple Sclerosis, post-traumatic stress disorder, and much more.

Yoga is a practice that is friendly to all who wish to try it. There are modifications for a majority of common yoga positions, so those with injuries, or those who are just unable to put themselves into the instructed position, can still participate. It can be practiced by means of a yoga class with an instructor, or you can perform the practice in the solitude of your home either on your own, or by watching an instructional video. It's never a bad day to improve upon your physical and mental health, so grab yourself a mat and try yoga today!



**A User-Friendly Practice** *Even the typical high school student can practice yoga anytime, anywhere*  
*Photo Courtesy of Bailey Comer*



## From Cook's Kitchen: Berry Green Smoothie

*This drink may look purple, but it's filled with healthy, leafy, greens!!*

- 2 tablespoons of oats
- ½ cup of milk
- 1 cup of spinach leaves or kale
- ½ cup of blueberries (fresh or frozen)
- ½ cup of raspberries (fresh or frozen)
- 1 banana
- 1 tablespoon of sugar

Mix ingredients  
together in a  
blender until  
smooth and enjoy!



**The Finished Product**  
*Photo from diyready.com*

# Night of The Golden Globes

By: Noah Holmok - Technology Advisor

The Golden Globes are some of the most prestigious awards given out every year for film and television. This includes both foreign and domestic productions. Each year they are held in Beverly Hills, California in mid-January.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), which includes 93 members, chooses from five nominees in 15 different categories to take home a Golden Globe. The seventy-third award ceremony took place January 10 and was hosted by Ricky Gervais, a comical actor from the UK. It is not possible to include all the categories and all of the nominees, but here are some of the more well-known categories, their nominees, and the winners.



Golden Globes One of the biggest film/tv awards  
Photo from Filmmella.com

Actor in Motion Picture Drama

Bryan Cranston  
Michael Fassbender  
\*Leonardo DiCaprio\*  
Eddie Redmayne  
Will Smith

TV Series, Drama

Empire  
\*Mr. Robot\*  
Game of Thrones  
Outlander  
Narcos

Motion Picture Drama

Carol  
\*The Revenant\*  
Mad Max: Fury Road  
Spotlight  
Room

Foreign Language Film

Mustang  
\*Son of Saul\*  
Brand New Testament  
The Fencer  
The Club

Actress In Motion Picture Drama

Rooney Mara  
Cate Blanchett  
Alicia Vikander  
Saoirse Ronan  
\*Brie Larson\*



Leo and his Globe *The Revenant* wins Big with Leonardo DiCaprio  
Photo from theguardian.com

\*winners\*



# Charles the Aviator

**By: Joe Kenyon - Editor in Chief Lite**

Ever wonder what it would be like to fly a plane? Local Alfred-Almond student, Charles E. doesn't have to wonder. After a trip to Florida to visit his grandfather, Charles was fascinated by planes and flying. Charles takes pilot lessons along with his dad, in order to learn to fly and control planes.

Charles and his father have been taking lessons for about two years and five months. They have learned the basic maneuvers, including: turning, climbing, and descending. They have also learned how to land and navigate to other airports such as Greater Rochester International Airport. Charles takes off from the Hornell Airport, and navigates to other airports.

When flying, Charles usually has full control over the plane, unless he does something wrong. If Charles does something incorrectly, the instructor will take control, and fix the mistake.

It isn't always smooth flying; Charles has scary moments all of the time. His scariest experience while flying occurred when he was attempting to perform a stall. While beginning the stall, the right wing stalled before the left, and the right side of the plane dropped, and caused the plane to fall and roll. Charles was shaken by the rolling of the plane, but still managed to recover and continue to fly.



**Captain Charles** *Standing in front of a beautiful bird*  
*Photo Courtesy of Charles D. E. (Father)*

Charles loves to fly, and says that it is one of his favorite things to do. His favorite part of flying is when he lands, and his favorite moment of flying was when he pulled off a perfect landing. He stated, "It was so smooth, you couldn't feel a thing."

Charles' father is his biggest supporter, and Charles is greatly thankful for all of his dad's support, and is happy that they are doing it "side by side." He wants to use his skills in flying as a hobby, not a future job.

Charles' instructor, Jim Caneen, teaches Charles and his father all they need to know about flying, and the plane, which is a Cessna 172.

From the air to the ground, Charles and his father can properly control planes and love to do so. Charles says that he loves to have control, and also likes to capture the amazing views on camera.



**Ace in Place** *Charles in the pilot's seat*  
*Photo Courtesy of Charles D. E. (Father)*



# Advice Corner

By: Bailey Comer - Copy  
Editor

*How do you deal with  
bullying throughout your  
high school years?*  
-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

The first thing you should do when someone begins to harass you is to **walk away**. Bullies want to get a reaction and like to be in control of how you feel. Ignore them and walk away; they will not be able to control you then. If they follow and it is hard for you to walk away, being able to **protect yourself** is important. Your safety should be your top priority.

**Reporting the bully to a trusted adult** is also a very important step. Whether it is a parent, teacher, or even a coach, it is important that you do so with someone you trust. Just because you tell them does not make you a so-called "tattle-tale." Telling someone about a bully is about your safety.

**Repeating this process may have to happen multiple times.** You may have to report every bullying incident that happens until it stops, but remember that you never have to put up with bullying. If you have any more questions, you can visit the following site:

<http://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/dealing-with-bullying.htm>

*Sincerely, Observer Staff*

*What is a tip to help  
improve study habits?*  
-Emily A

Dear Emily A,

Underlining important events, dates or information is always a great way to start. Even highlighting the words or phrases throughout your notes can help when you need to quickly skim your notes for pieces of information.

Sometimes making your own notes may help. If your teacher tells you to write something down in your notes, using words in a way you would understand and help you to remember is going to be of use.

When dealing with dates, vocabulary, or even people, flashcards will come in handy. Try color coding them to help even more. For example; purple for vocab, orange for dates, and blue for people.

Organizing your materials is important. You want easy access to your notes. Make it fun and personalized. Studying does not have to be boring.

Don't forget to mix it up while studying. You don't need to always review your notes. Try quizzing yourself with flashcards one night and then a self-quiz with notes the next. You do want to stay awake while studying.

*Sincerely, Observer Staff*

*How do you not get a 65  
on every test?*  
-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

The first step is to pay attention in class. I found this to be easiest when sitting in the first or second row of class. This forces you to focus and listen as the teacher delivers the lesson to the class.

While the teacher is feeding the seed of knowledge to you, put the devices away. You need to know what they're talking about. If you don't, ask questions. The teacher will be able to clarify any confusion you may have.

The best way, however, is to review your notes. Not just the night before, but days prior to refresh your memory. Studying can go the distance if you focus and review the subjects you don't know.

Don't slack, and do your homework. The homework is almost like practice, and the test is the big game.

Remember, no one wants to sit the bench during a game.

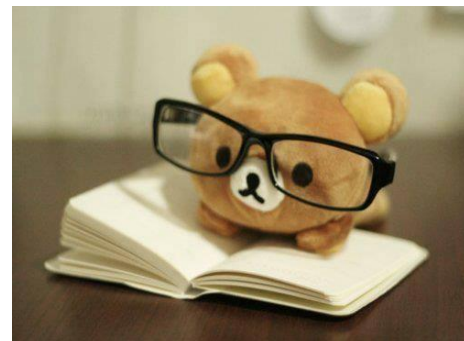
*Sincerely, Observer Staff*



**BE A HERO  
STOP A BULLY**  
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SAY IT, DO IT.

Have a question and want some advice from an AA senior? Visit this web address and ask away!

<http://goo.gl/forms/pVQ6sKKfyX>







# January Seniors

By: Gracen VanDyke  
Copy Editor

Happy Birthday!

Jan  
7

Elizabeth



Elizabeth Senior

Q: If you had to choose one, what is the most challenging high school course you have taken or are taking?

A: AP U.S. History

Q: What is your favorite part about senior year?

A: The "Freedom"

Q: When we graduate, what will you miss the most about A-A?

A: The teachers

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

A: Sleep and watch Gossip Girl

Q: What is your favorite school lunch?

A: Mozzarella sticks

Jan  
8

Hunter

Q: If you had to choose one, what is the most challenging high school course you have taken or are taking?

A: Any English class.

Q: What is your favorite part about senior year?

A: Senior area, obviously.

Q: When we graduate, what will you miss the most about A-A?

A: The people here.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

A: Run

Q: What is your favorite school lunch?

A: Mozzarella sticks



Hunter Clark Senior

Jan  
21

Mathew

Q: If you had to choose one, what is the most challenging high school course you have taken or are taking?

A: AP Biology

Q: What is your favorite part about senior year?

A: The teachers don't care where you are anymore

Q: When we graduate, what will you miss the most about A-A?

A: The interesting people

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

A: Sleep

Q: What is your favorite school lunch?

A: Pizza



Caitlin Senior

Jan  
22

Caitlin

Q: If you had to choose one, what is the most challenging high school course you have taken or are taking?

A: AP Calculus

Q: What is your favorite part about senior year?

A: Having free time and knowing I get to leave soon

Q: When we graduate, what will you miss the most about A-A?

A: High school sports, being around my friends 5X a week

Q: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

A: Soccer, cook, and paint

Q: What is your favorite school lunch?

A: Mozzarella sticks, but I never buy lunch



Mathew Senior



## Administrative Interviews



**Mrs. Bain-Lucey**  
High School Principal



**Mr. Calkins**  
Superintendent

By: Kylie Faulkner -Copy Editor



**Mr. Woughter**  
Elementary Principal

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?**

A: "I enjoy reading, gardening, and kayak fishing."

**Q: What was your favorite subject in school and, why?**

A: "I really liked English and reading. I love burying myself in stories and books."

**Q: What sports and positions did you play during high school?**

A: "I never played any formal sports, but I did intramural sports like field hockey and ping-pong. I was in about every sport I could."

**Q: What made you decide to work in public schools?**

A: "I decided I wanted to be a teacher in 7th grade, volunteering with special education kids and I wanted to work to help as many kids as I could."

**Q: What is your favorite part of the job?**

A: "Seeing everybody learn, students and teachers learning new ways of teaching and seeing everyone feel good and confident."

**Q: What is the most challenging part of the job?**

A: "Filling out the paperwork for all the new regulations"

**Q: What is one thing you want the student body to know about you?**

A: "I believe everyone has great gifts to offer and I want to see everyone graduate and do great thing."

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?**

A: "I love being outdoors, hunting, fishing, and woodworking. I love being with my family, watching soccer, wrestling, and track. I love giving back to the community and think it is very important too. My all time favorite hobby is reading."

**Q: What was your favorite subject in school and why?**

A: "English because I had an amazing teacher that opened my eyes to literature and the power of the written word."

**Q: What sports and positions did you play during high school?**

A: "I played soccer and I was a stopper, wrestler and wrestled at 170 pounds, and JV lacrosse just to be a target for my brother."

**Q: What made you decide to work in public schools?**

A: "I had great mentors and people that gave me guidance to go into education. At the State Police Academy they told me that if you want to do something with your life every day, go into education."

**Q: What is your favorite part of the job?**

A: "I love working with everybody to a common purpose to support staff, students, and teachers with a common focus in the community to solve problems in a creative way."

**Q: What is the most challenging part of the job?**

A: "Working with Mrs. Calkins... just kidding. I have listen to what the state and other parties have to say about what we can and cannot do."

**Q: What is one thing you want the student body to know about you?**

A: "I want them to know I am extremely proud of every single one of them, not just in achievements in the arts and sports, but their respect they show. They all do good things when people are not watching them and, they are all becoming amazing people."

**Q: What are your hobbies outside of school?**

A: "I love hiking in the Adirondacks, backpacking in the woods behind my house, making trails with my four wheeler, reading, doing crosswords, and cooking."

**Q: What was your favorite subject in school and why?**

A: "I would have to say P.E. because Mr. Holmok would let me come in three times a day, and Math was another good subject of mine."

**Q: What sports and positions did you play during high school?**

A: "I swam distance freestyle and the 200 IM."

**Q: What made you decide to work in public schools?**

A: "I had been a coach and both of my parents were teachers and I loved the life they both led."

**Q: What is your favorite part of the job?**

A: "I love being a part of the community and working with parents and teachers. Alfred-Almond is a unique place and I love being a part of it."

**Q: What is the most challenging part of the job?**

A: "Making sure the decisions I make have the students' best interest in mind and that is not always easy to do."

**Q: What is one thing you want the student body to know about you?**

A: "I am true blue Alfred-Almond, attended and work here. Alfred-Almond has made an amazing place for myself and my boys and A-A will prepare you for success."





## New Addition at Alfred University

By: Tyler Vecchio- Staff Writer

Check out the upcoming Alfred Museum of Ceramic Art! Alfred University will now have a place to display ceramic art for all to see. The building was designed by Kallmann, McKinnell, and Wood of Boston, and was a gift of a patron of the Arts, Marlin Miller. The space will feature nearly 8,000 ceramic objects created by American artists. It will also be a place to display the works of Alfred University students.



Alfred Museum of Ceramic Art Building under Construction.

*Photo from alfred.edu*



Museum Design What the Museum will look like after construction. *Photo from alfred.edu*

## Acknowledgements

By Dylan Thayer  
Marketing Manager

The Observer staff would love if you the reader would send your acknowledgements to the drop box outside Mrs. Backer's or by using the link below. We would greatly appreciate your support!

### Ms. Soule

"I just recently started helping with Adaptive Physical Education (APE) this year and I find that Ms. Soule is the perfect person to teach this class. She is very good with the kids even if they are being naughty. She is also very appreciative of the work we do to help her. She always makes our time together fun. She could always use more help so if you want to join APE just ask."

-Mackenzie Ormsby

### AACS Administrative Staff, Teachers, and Students

"I would like to acknowledge everyone from the administrative, teachers, staff, and students for making me feel "right at home" coming back to AACS for the remainder of the school year. Thank You"

-Mr. Vance

### The Observer staff

"For providing a fun read during finals week <3"

-Dr. Jaesuk Lee

If you wish to acknowledge anyone, go to this link:

<http://goo.gl/forms/deFL9sO5Sy>

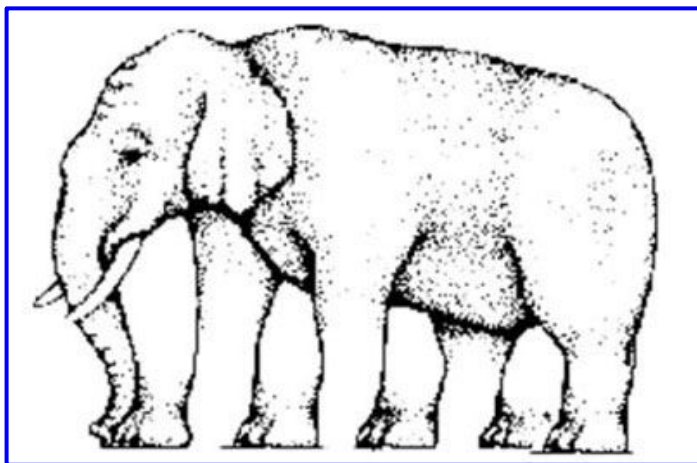


# 2016

## A Puzzling New Year

By  
Levi Lawrence  
Public Relations  
Manager

How many legs does this elephant have?

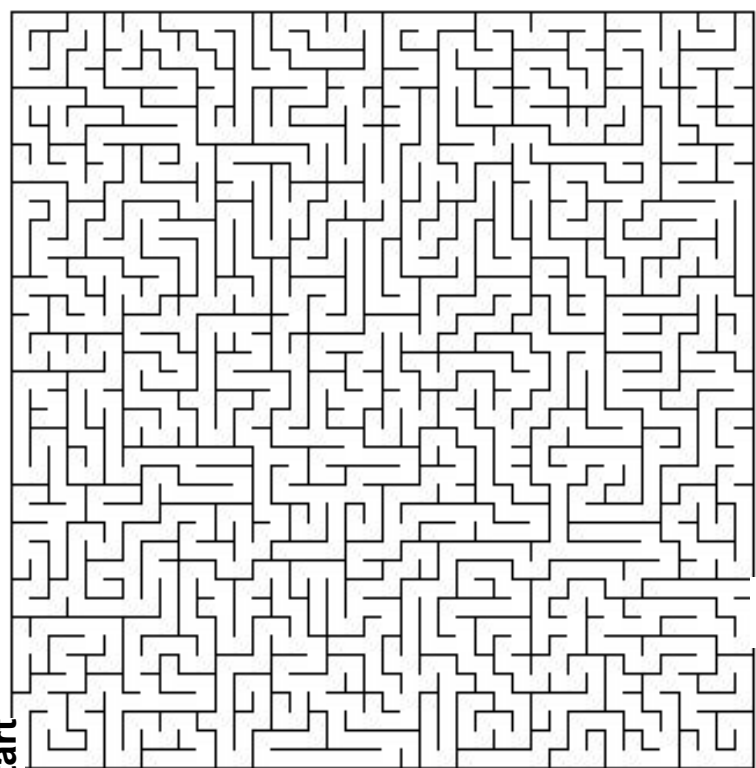


There are 15 words to be found!

I	C	C	Q	E	C	N	A	D	T	T	I	P	W	F
S	A	A	R	T	I	O	M	U	S	I	C	I	U	N
D	L	H	V	M	O	I	F	E	J	H	S	N	O	C
R	E	F	L	E	C	T	I	O	N	H	N	I	O	K
A	N	I	P	K	X	A	W	G	E	X	T	I	D	B
C	D	W	E	N	X	R	M	S	K	U	B	Y	A	W
W	A	K	R	S	A	B	S	I	L	L	T	D	E	M
O	R	Z	P	I	X	E	N	O	D	R	O	K	W	U
M	Q	M	B	N	M	L	S	T	A	N	N	O	B	E
T	D	Q	S	G	K	E	M	P	S	E	I	Y	S	C
A	K	I	H	M	R	C	D	W	Q	A	U	G	H	L
A	L	D	U	R	V	K	H	B	P	Y	E	R	H	Q
E	R	J	I	D	X	N	T	R	A	D	I	F	S	T
S	U	B	U	C	G	C	R	X	Q	L	S	S	G	O
Q	D	L	R	K	T	H	N	A	R	G	L	K	A	T

BALL  
CALENDAR  
CARDS  
CELEBRATION  
DANCE  
FEAST  
FUN  
MIDNIGHT  
MUSIC  
NEW  
PARTY  
REFLECTION  
RESOLUTION  
SING  
WISHES

Test your navigation skills by figuring out this maze!



Will you be the one to find all 6 differences between the two graphics?

