



The High School View

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Artist paints mural; others showcase at Featherstone

BY LILY BICK AND KATHERINE DONEGAN

Senior Hannah Moore finished transferring one of her works of art to a larger medium--a classroom wall. It's not often students are allowed to paint murals on classroom walls. However, at the request of English teacher Bill McCarthy, Hannah completed a seven-by-five-foot mural inspired by Herman Melville's novel Moby-Dick.

The idea for the mural began last fall in Mr. McCarthy's junior English class during a unit on Moby-Dick. As part of the unit, Mr. McCarthy assigned a project called the "Quote Book," in which students choose 25 quotes they find provocative and organize them in a book that is aesthetically pleasing and, possibly, illustrated.

Mr. McCarthy found one of Hannah's sketches both captivating and symbolic of the entire book. "I was smitten with her cover art, so I asked her to recreate it as a mural for my wall," he said.



Hannah Moore stands next to the mural she painted in her English teacher's class, room 419, at the regional high school.

Hannah agreed and began to work on it last fall.

Said Hannah, "I was elated by the idea. I had never created a mural before. I instantly accepted."

The process of designing and painting a mural is a long

one, especially for a busy student like Hannah. She worked on it throughout the year, often coming in after her cross country and lacrosse practices in the fall and spring, respectively. She often worked until 7 pm after her practices but

said, "I enjoyed the solitude." After the summer, she resumed painting this past fall.

Mr. McCarthy is grateful and excited to have this new addition to his classroom. He said, "Moby-Dick is the centerpiece to my junior

year curriculum. It is a great American novel. It is excellent to have an emblem of this and a symbol of Melville as a writer."

Students in his current classes also appreciate the new mural. Said Jessica Campbell, a junior in his honors English class, "I think it helped engender enthusiasm and excitement for the book within the class. At the very least, curiosity."

In high school it is not often that art and aca-

dem classes have opportunity to intertwine, but this mural is the quintessential example of the value a visual can have.

Hannah, who plans to go to Syracuse University to study art in the fall, was

also given the opportunity to present her work at an art show at Featherstone Center for the Arts in Oak Bluffs that began on March 16 and lasted the weekend. Also in the art show was senior Forrest D'Olympia, who plans to go to Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). The next weekend, seniors Aoife Estes, who is also going to SCAD, and Samantha Valley, who is going to Wellesley College, also had an art show.

At the beginning of the year, art teacher Janice Frame scheduled these shows for students who she felt would continue with their art. "For each show I chose artists who were very different so that we could have the juxtaposition of different styles of art. I wanted to choose artists who had a body of art, who had worked hard and who had a lot of art to display."

This weekend seniors Ella Mahoney, who plans to go to the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and Victoria Sadowski, who hopes to go to Maine College of Art, will have their art displayed Saturday at Featherstone beginning at 4 pm. **MSV**

Student pursues dream to become tugboat captain

BY JASON GRUNER

While most students his age are learning to drive cars, junior Shane Metters is learning to drive tugboats.

He is taking advantage of a unique opportunity that may shape his future, through working as a deckhand and driving tugboats.

Shane works for a company based out of Vineyard Haven called Tisbury Towing, as well a Company called Offshore Engineering, which builds docks, dredges, transports equipment, and salvages boats. Shane has been working for both for about four years. Island entrepreneur and Shane's employer and mentor, John Packer said, "Some people

want to be firemen, or whatever it is that makes them itch. Maritime is in his blood. It's different and it's a challenge."

Mr. Packer first met Shane when his son had him over for a play date. Mr. Packer brought the boys fishing and on the boats. Shane was extremely enthusiastic. "Even today that attitude is reflected," Shane's mother Maria Metters said. "Shane even as a young boy always wanted to be around the water. He is so intent on owning his own Nordic tugboat someday."

Shane's resume as a maritime worker is exceptional for his age. He hopes to attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzard's Bay. Ms. Metters said, "Dur-

ing Shane's freshman year we went to visit the Mass Maritime school. Shane walked around the campus with a grin the whole time." According to Mrs. Metters, Shane is working hard in school to make his goal come to life.

John Packer said, "It teaches him to think of all the different forces that affect the boat, like wind and currents. We're very proud that he's notched up his academic studies to get into Mass Maritime. He's taking it very seriously and working hard to become a licensed captain. It's a gift to know where you want to go and to have a passion and go for it."

Working on a tugboat requires a lot of discipline. Mr. Packer said, "By and large



PHOTO BY DAVID PACKER

Shane Metters operates a tugboat through Buzzard's.

about two-thirds of mariners are older than 40. There's not a lot of young blood out there. We need guys like Shane. He's an outstanding guy."

As with most maritime jobs, working his way up on these boats has been a journey. Shane said, "It's the type of job where you learn something new every day and I've learned so much from John Packer and the tugboat captains. I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Shane's experiences working for these companies has been invaluable. Mr. Packer said, "He's in command on the boat and he has control. I'm just there to offer whatever knowledge I can give him. The other day Shane took the barge through the Lagoon Pond Bridge which is 29.5 feet wide and the barge is 28.5 feet wide. That was a pretty big accomplishment." **MSV**

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