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E-NEWSLETTER

SidneyAlumni.org

WIPE OUT COVID-19 WITH VIRTUAL 5K RUN/ WALK

Led by Teri Schunk, Sidney Chamber of Commerce President and Vice President, Strategic Planning, SCSAA, the chambers of commerce of Afton, Bainbridge, Unadilla and Sidney have collaborated with Bainbridge's My Home Gym to organize and present Wipe Out COVID-19 Virtual 5K Walk/Run. The run will take place May 23-31.

In April, the Sidney Central School Alumni Association Board of Directors voted to back the cause and is encouraging all alumni and friends to do so, too. All proceeds from the event benefit area small businesses struggling with the effects of COVID-9 and stay-at-home orders.

In a written statement, SCSAA President Doug Sheldon said, the Wipe Out COVID-19 Virtual 5K Walk/Run offers "a very positive idea in service to our community and its small businesses."

"This goes hand in hand with our recent collaboration with United Way and Sidney Federal Credit Union to form the SCSAA/United Way Covid-19 Relief Fund, to support area nonprofit organizations," he said.

Similarly, Schunk called the Virtual 5K Walk/Run a "great opportunity for all SCSAA alumni to support their hometown."

The \$30 registration fee qualifies entrants for contest prizes and gift certificates to participating local businesses. For businesses not offering gift certificates, run organizers have collaborated with WCDO to provide no-cost radio advertising. Registration also includes a Wipe Out COVID-19 Virtual 5K Walk/Run T-shirt, to be delivered before the event's May 23 start.

Anyone can participate from anywhere and,

Continued on Page 2

SCSAA COLLABORATES FOR COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

Two tri-town area groups are teaming up to better equip local nonprofit organizations in handling the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to an April 1 letter, Sidney United Way has "organized a fiduciary fund entitled 'Sidney Area COVID-19 Relief Fund' to serve the needs of Sidney-area nonprofit organizations that may be unable to fulfill their missions in serving others as a result of the economic distress resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic."

The Sidney United Way, the letter notes, seeded the fund with \$10,000 before inviting SCSAA to "join them with a similar donation."

The SCSAA Board of Directors voted unanimously on Saturday, April 4 to contribute \$10,000 from its general fund, for a combined \$20,000. According to the minutes from that day's virtual board meeting, the contribution underscores the association's mission "to serve alumni, school and community" and is "consistent with (the group's) past pattern of donating to the Sidney Veterans Memorial Park and the Sidney Center Improvement Group."

The two groups have partnered previously, collaborating on flood recovery efforts in the early 2000s.

Sidney United Way has established a dedicated checking account for the fund, to be managed by the United Way with help from a joint advisory committee. The committee, the letter notes, will include representatives from various local contributors. An April 4 resolution drafted by the SCSAA said that the association will appoint one member and one alternate to the relief fund committee. The fund, the United Way letter states, will be "fully established" later this month.

Sidney-area businesses, the letter said, are invited to contribute, with requests for aid and distribution taking place in May and June, respectively.

Continued on Page 3

VIRTUAL 5K, continued from Page 1

because it's ongoing for seven days, the run/walk doesn't have to be completed in one go. Participants and non-participants can purchase a \$30 raffle ticket and receive a T-shirt, without performing the walk/run.

For more information or to sign up for Virtual 5K Walk/Run visit runsignup.com/myhomegym2020 or find the Facebook event "Wipe Out COVID-19 Virtual 5K" via the My Home Gym Facebook page.



SCSAA Names Newest Leadership Fellow

Megan Youngs, SCS '21, Joins SCSAA Board as Leadership Fellow

Megan Youngs, recently interviewed by Doug Sheldon and Jon Jay DeTemple, SCSAA President and Vice President, has been selected and named to the Sidney Central School Board of Directors as a Leadership Fellow.

Megan has been a High Honor Roll student since middle school, honored for academic achievement and excellence in grades nine and 10 and named to the National Honor Society as a junior and matriculating senior. Megan plans to attend college and graduate school, where she will pursue a doctoral degree in clinical psychology while also studying neuroscience.

Megan is member of the Spanish Club and an active dance student, working as a demonstrator for Johnson City Dancescapes as well as a concessionaire at the Kirkwood Five Mile Speedway. Through her participation in Interact Service Club, Megan has worked with ELF, Pancake Breakfast, Warrior Winter Wonderland and Sidney High Concessions.

Megan served on the Sidney High Student Council as Junior Class Vice President, has been a consistent member of Students Against Destructive Decisions and she attended Teen Institute, a New York State youth leadership program offering intensive leadership training that empowers students to help their peers make responsible choices about drugs and alcohol.

Megan Youngs joins SCSAA Leadership Fellow and classmates Glenn Rogers, '20, Sarah Bessett, '21, Kaitlin Bookhout, '21, and Meghan Worden, '21, in the Alumni Leadership program that brings students and alumni together in service to school and community.



COVID-19 RELIEF FUND, continued from Page 1

Donation and recipient guidelines can be found at sidneyunitedway.org.

Contribution checks should be addressed to Sidney United Way, with "COVID-19 Relief Fund" in the memo section. Mail to P.O. Box 14, Sidney, N.Y., 13838.

For questions, contact Sidney United Way Executive Director Dennis Porter at dporter@binghamtonwireless.com.

Sports Hall of Fame Announces New Scholarship

As plans for the 18th annual SCSAA Sports Hall of Fame Induction Weekend take shape, the SHOF committee is excited to announce formation of its \$750 sports-related scholarship honoring a graduating senior athlete or sports participant in June 2021. The presentation of this scholarship will take place at the induction dinner and ceremony in September.

Eligible scholarship recipients include athletes or a student manager, videographer, photographer, scorekeeper, volunteer official or student reporter. Each applicant must participate for at least three seasons on one or multiple teams, carry at least an 80% GPA and provide written recommendations from a coach or physical education teacher and a classroom teacher.

The SCSAA Scholarship Committee reviewed the general scholarship proposal at its April 18 meeting, conducted via Zoom, and will present it to the SCSAA Board of Directors for ratification. An ad hoc committee of Bob Finnegan, Mike Boyce, '84, and Anne Mott, '83, will, with the assistance of the high school guidance counselor and athletic coordinator, recommend the final candidate to SCSAA's Scholarship Committee.

This is the newest scholarship created via Association means since 2013 and brings SCSAA's total annual scholarships to eight.

Started in 2003, the SCSAA/SHOF dinner has generated funds used for donations to the school of computerized field-lining equipment, custom Sidney Warrior chairs, a scorer's table for gym-hosted events, portable scoreboards to host wrestling tournaments and custom Sidney Warrior canopies.

Recently the SHOF committee collaborated with SCSAA's Strategic Planning/School Relations Committee to develop with the school a new, innovative and highly useful touchscreen monitor display. Input in the TouchPro system features all yearbooks from 1950 through present and most of the SHOF induction biographies and data.

The SCSAA Sports Hall of Fame committee: Chairman Greg Davie, '76, Larry Halbert, '75, Alana Grays Bailey, '80, Mike Boyce, '84, Tim Doyle, '79, Bob Finnegan, Shirley Pierce, '79, Grace Payne Smith, '99, Shane Eaton Armstrong, '98, and Anne Mott, '83.

Alumni Weekend Schedule of Events:

Friday, July 17:

7:30AM: AM Shotgun Alumni Golf Tournament – Sidney Golf and Country Club - \$75/PP

1:00PM: PM Shotgun Alumni Golf Tournament – Sidney Golf and Country Club - \$75/pp

6:00PM: Golf Tournament Banquet – Sidney Gold and Country Club (Catered by Club 55) – If not playing in tournament, it's \$25/pp

8:00PM-12:00AM: Ice-breaker Social – Sidney Elks Lodge – Band “Splash” to perform - \$5 cover charge

Saturday, July 18:

8:00AM-11:00AM: Pancake Breakfast – TBD – Sidney High School - \$10/pp

9:30AM-10:30AM: Field hockey match – Alumni Field

10:45AM: March of Classes lineup

11:00AM: March of Classes

12:00PM-5:00PM: Meet at float pickup location at noon to be taken to Wells Bridge for put-in; see sign-up sheet for details

1:00PM-5:00PM: Cornhole Tournament – Awestruck Ciders – Limit 32 teams - \$20/per team

8:00PM-12:00AM: Saturday Night Social – American Legion – DJ to spin - \$2 cover charge

Sunday, July 19:

10:00AM-10:45AM: Memorial Service – Veterans Memorial Park

11:00AM-12:00PM: Alumni Reception/Social Hour – Club 55 - \$10/pp (light snacks/hors d'oeuvres)

12:00PM-2:00PM: Wall of Fame Awards Ceremony – Club 55 – Included in cost of reception

SCSAA Salutes Sidney's Club 55 Restaurant

Sidney sisters and restaurateurs Jeannette Stevens and Erika Briggs, affectionately known as “the girls,” recently struck out on their own, opening Club 55 at 55 Union St., Sidney in December 2019.

For nearly two decades, the pair managed the Sidney Golf and Country Club.

Now, Jeannette and Erika, together with their roughly 10-person staff (many of whom followed the sisters from the country club), are offering the American-style fare for which they're known from their new, renovated site. The restaurant is a former Masonic hall, constructed by Bob Wake-man in 1964. Local and visiting alumni will enjoy the sisters' cuisine during the various Alumni Weekend and Sports Hall of Fame events taking place at the restaurant.

The girls serve from-scratch breakfasts, lunches and dinners and offer on-site catering and banquets. Through the pandemic caused by the spread of the new coronavirus, Club 55 is offering far-reaching delivery service as well as curbside pickup.

Their homemade soups and cream puffs, Jeannette said, are customer favorites, with the latter often selling out daily.

To view a full menu or check hours, find “Club 55 Restaurant” on Facebook or call 604-4033.

Congrats, girls!



18th Annual Alumni Sports Hall of Fame Induction Set for Sept. 18-19

Your Alumni Sports Hall of Fame committee always presents an induction class of which we can all be proud. The Class of 2020 may be considered among the best ever. Weeks of vetting and in-depth discussion led to a quintet of incredible athletes and one record-setting coach.

Induction Weekend will be Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18-19**. The coinciding home football game this year features Sidney versus Bainbridge-Guilford. At halftime, all honorees will be presented to the school and community. An open-invitation reception for inductees, their families and alumni will follow at the VFW.

This year's class features inductees of extreme quality: a brother-sister tandem; both females were teammates with All-State credentials; an alumnus and coach with gigantic victory totals; and a multi-sport All-State performer who came within a whisker of becoming a professional at the highest level.

Here now, a look at your Class of 2020:

- **Mike Brazee, '76/Coach** – A 30-year basketball coaching mark of 425-206 (67.4%). Two-time NYS Class C Champions (1998 and 2007) and one-final four appearance (2000). Seven league and Division titles, and Basketball Coaches Association of New York Coach of the Year. Varsity softball coach since 2000, League champions 2015, many Section IV tournaments. As varsity golf coach, (2013-'18) his teams won three league titles, going unbeaten in league matches (2014-'16) and finishing with an overall coaching record of 64-3.
- **Paula Foote Breese, '03** – Part of a group of Lady Warriors known for excellence in whatever sport was in season. Set school mark for goals in a season (26 in 2002). Topped 1,000 points in basketball while leading team to a Class C finals appearance during 26-1 junior season of 2001-'02. Two of her relay school records – 400 m and 4 x 100 m shuttle hurdles – still stand. Won Mary Morrison Sportsmanship Award and a decorated, four-year career playing basketball at William Smith College.
- **Michael Graham '01** – Lettered in tennis, soccer, basketball and outdoor track & field. In five years on varsity soccer, became all-time leader in goals (42) and assists (38) upon graduation. Member of 1997-'98 basketball NYS Class C champs as freshman and 1999-2000 State semifinalist as junior; Sus League MVP 2000-'01, graduated second all-time leading scorer. On 4 x 100 shuttle hurdle relay school record quartet in 2001. In four years of playing Williams College basketball, won 2002-'03 Division III National Championship as "sixth man." Team went to national Final Four all four years.
- **Caitlin Graham Polnaszek, '02** – Eventual Division One Track standout, played four sports at Sidney. Soccer: 63 goals and 41 assists. Set new standards, highlighted by record 21 goals in 2001. Defensive catalyst on 2001-'02 NYS basketball finalist team. During indoor and outdoor track (1998-2002), qualified for NYS meets every season. Ten Section IV titles. Holds four school records. Earned Morrison & Redmond senior Awards in 2002. At Monmouth University, set Penn Relays triple jump relay record.
- **Patrick Simonds, '06** – Versatility personified, playing three varsity seasons each of football, basketball, baseball and indoor track. Established six school records for receptions in football, earning All-NYS honors twice. Led Sidney to its only NYS crown in 2005, best known for key interception to secure a semifinal win in the closing seconds. Solid hoops player, especially rebounding and blocking shots. All-State in baseball, with high marks for career offensive stats. A talented high jumper in winter track meets. Played four years as wideout at Colgate, and still holds several records for receptions. An undrafted free agent with the NFL Philadelphia Eagles.

The **2020 Legacy Award** is connected to our two female inductees. It's the record-setting 26-1 Girls Basketball team that that went unbeaten to the NYS Class C finals before losing their only game of the season. Paula and Caitlin were integral parts of that unit, which saw tons of community support everywhere they played. The head coach was Loraine Flyzik, assisted by Donnie Pierce and John Silvernail.

Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 19 will be at the new Club 55 Restaurant in Sidney. Details will be announced in mid-July. Tickets will also be made available following Alumni Weekend.

** Note from Chairman Greg Davie: Due to COVID-19 concerns, all plans are pending. The SHOF committee has discussed possible alternative plans based on the nation's health status in September. Organizers are nearly certain that a social gathering-style celebration of some kind will take place. Watch the website, Facebook page, touchscreen system and eblasts for updates.