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KIDSDAY

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By CAROLYN BADALUCCO, SHAWN BILLERMAN, MICHELLE DUBUKE, CHRISTINE ELLMAN AND YURI HANADA.
KIDSDAY REPORTERS, AGES 15, 16 AND 17, FARMINGDALE

STUFF KIDS DO

Farmingdale heads to national Envirothon

BY CAROLYN BADALUCCO, SHAWN BILLERMAN, MICHELLE DUBUKE,
CHRISTINE ELLMAN AND YURI HANADA. KIDSDAY REPORTERS, AGES 15, 16 AND 17,
FARMINGDALE

The end of May was an exciting time for the five of us, who are students at Farmingdale High School.

Our team won the [New York](#) State Envirothon. We became the first downstate group to beat the upstate teams since 1991, when the state inaugurated its competition. There were 52 teams representing different counties. This was the third time our team had gone to the state championships representing Long Island, and we finally won top honors.

Two of us - Shawn and Christine - were part of the original team that won [Long Island](#) and then went to the state competition in 2002 and finished No. 22.

Last year, we added Carolyn, Michelle and Yuri and moved up to No. 11 in the state, before we finally achieved the state championship this year. The national competition began yesterday and continues through Aug. 1.

About 25 years ago, the first competition took place in [Pennsylvania](#) and was known as the Environmental Olympics. Now called Envirothon, the competition is designed to promote awareness of environmental issues and develop citizens who can make informed decisions that balance quality of life issues with the environment.

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The competition is based on five subject areas: wildlife, aquatics, forestry, soils and a topical issue. Each team completes a series of tests to evaluate its knowledge in these areas. This year's topic was the conservation of urban greenspace. For the local and state level, the same oral presentation is used and prepared well before the competition.

We think we gained experience at our previous appearances at the state competition, particularly in the oral presentation segment, giving us an advantage this year. The North American Envirothon, sponsored by Canon, is being held on the campus of Wesleyan College in [Buckhannon](#), W.Va. Winning teams - about 250 students from the [United States](#) and [Canada](#) - are competing for a share of \$30,000 in scholarships.

For the five of us, there is a lot at stake. It would be great for us to win for New York, for Long Island and for Farmingdale. But regardless of what happens, we have acquired a lot of skills - the ability to collaborate, present ideas and solve problems - as well as specific knowledge about the environment and its importance to all living things.

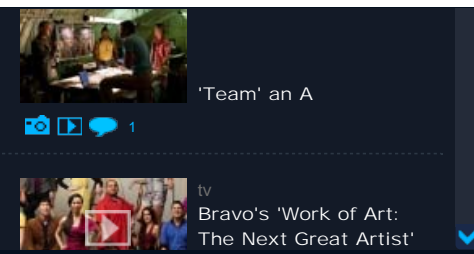
Plus, we have had a lot of fun together.

To learn about the Canon Envirothon visit the Web site:

<http://www.envirothon.org>

To follow the progress of the Farmingdale team, go to www.newsday.com

[/envirothon](#)



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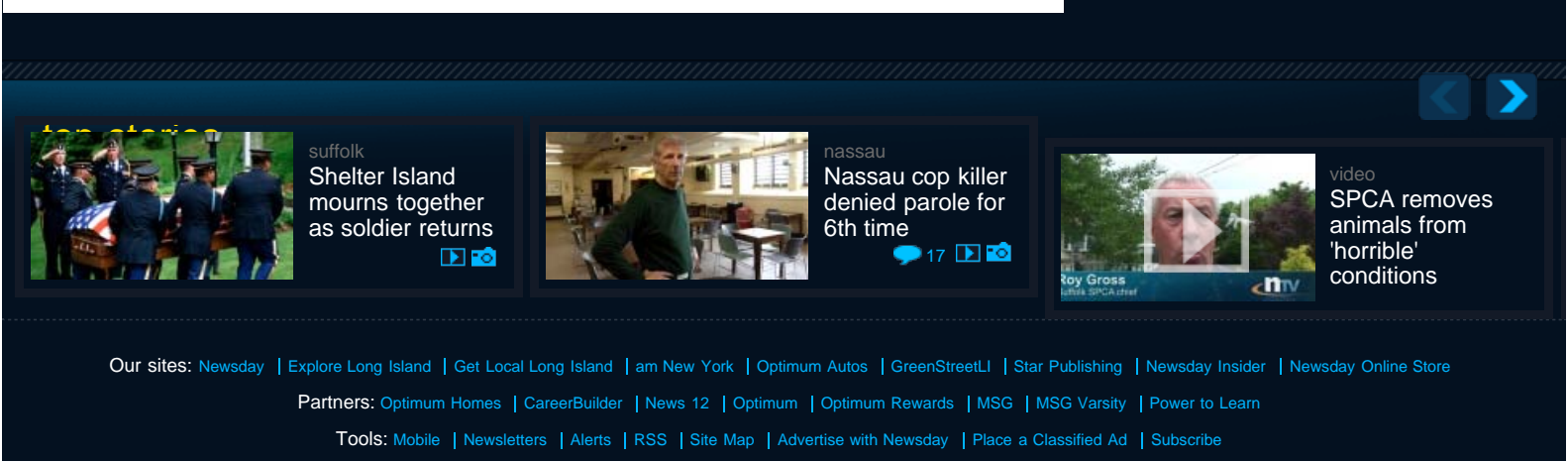
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